



# Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

*Veritatem Facientes in Caritate*

[www.institute-christ-king.org](http://www.institute-christ-king.org)



## Church of Saints Cyril & Methodius

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### Clergy & Staff

#### **Institute Superiors**

Msgr. R. Michael Schmitz, S.T.D., J.C.D.

*Vicar General of the Institute*

Reverend Canon Matthew Talarico

*Provincial Superior*

#### **Church Staff**

Reverend Canon Francis X. Altieri IV

*Pastor & Rector*

Dr. Samuel Schmitt

*Director of Sacred Music & Organist*

[samuel.schmitt@carlschmitt.org](mailto:samuel.schmitt@carlschmitt.org)

Mrs. Laurie Furey

*Office Manager*

[stscyrilandmethodius@institute-christ-king.org](mailto:stscyrilandmethodius@institute-christ-king.org)

**Office Hours:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Monday to Friday (except Wednesday)

### Mass Times

**Sunday:** 8:30 a.m. Low Mass

10:15 a.m. High Mass

**Monday-Saturday:** 7:45 a.m. Low Mass

**Holy Days:** *please consult the bulletin*

### Confessions

*30 minutes before Mass every day (until 7 minutes before the start of Mass)*

### Regular Devotions

**Every Thursday:** Holy Hour at 6:00 p.m.

**First Friday:** Additional Mass at 6:00 p.m., followed by Devotions & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

**First Saturday:** After Mass, Adoration with Holy Rosary, 15-minute meditation & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

## Masses this Week

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:30 a.m. - Pro Populo

10:15 a.m. - ✠ Ferdinand Rogel (in memoriam)  
*requested by Michael & Lenore Opalak*

Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

**Saint Damasus**

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Leo Whitmore  
*requested by George & Nancy Whitmore*

Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

**Our Lady of Guadalupe**

7:45 a.m. - ✠ My Son  
*requested by Alberta Leone*

Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

**Saint Lucy**

7:45 a.m. - Lisa Seeley LaRowe  
*requested by Thomas & Lisa DeFelice*

Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

**Mass of the Immaculate Conception**

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Guadalupe T. Castillo  
*requested by Gary & Diana Burt*

Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

**Mass of the Immaculate Conception**

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Mary Tkacik  
*requested by John Tkacik*

Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

**Saint Eusebius**

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Thomas J. Monks  
*requested by Lydia DeCastr*

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

{ *O Sapientia* }

8:30 a.m. - Pro Populo

10:15 a.m. - ✠ Thomas J. Monks  
*requested by Grace Monks*



## Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

Vespers & Benediction at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

Holy Hour & Benediction at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

First Holy Communion catechism class at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

GAUDETE SUNDAY { *O Sapientia* }

Solemn Mass at 10:15 a.m., with guest celebrant  
Father Peter Lenox

Solemn Vespers at 6:00 p.m., followed by  
"Sapientiatide" reception with seasonal treats

December 18<sup>th</sup> to December 23<sup>rd</sup>

Vespers in church everyday at 6:00 p.m.

*Extra Advent Confessions available afterwards*

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

ADVENT EMBER DAYS

Traditionally days of fasting (no longer obligatory)

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday Low Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Prime & Martyrology at 9:45 a.m. { *no confessions* }

Sunday High Mass at 10:15 a.m.

*No Vespers or Benediction*

Christmas Carols at 11:30 p.m., followed by  
Midnight Mass

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

CHRISTMAS DAY

*Church does not open until 8:00 a.m.*

Low Mass at 8:30 a.m.

High Mass at 10:15 a.m.

Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Holy Hour & Te Deum at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Solemn Mass at 10:15 a.m. { *no early Low Mass* }

Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

Young Adults Epiphanytide brunch after Mass

## **From the Rector: Christmas is Coming! Let's make the most of it**

As I mentioned from the pulpit a few weeks ago, Advent this year is as short as it possibly can be, since Christmas falls on a Monday. The Fourth Sunday of Advent is occupied by the Vigil of Christmas ("Christmas Eve" Day). That means we need to make special efforts to prepare for Christmas and not to let the graces of Advent pass us by! The Advent season was off to a beautiful start with the annual Novena of the Immaculate Conception, which in fact began a few days before the start of the new liturgical year. Special thanks to all those who made an effort to attend and who invited friends! We are grateful to our visiting preachers for sharing their time and their wisdom. The beautiful shrine of the Immaculate Conception will be set up for your personal devotions all week, and the ex voto heart offered on the occasion of the feast day will remain displayed on the altar until it is transferred to the wall panel at the end of the octave. This extended celebration of the feast of the Immaculate Conception forms a beautiful moveable "mini-season" within the season of Advent, and after a gap of one day, it leads us to the culmination of Advent, the week of the Great O Antiphons. Speaking of this link, Cardinal Newman remarks: "close upon its Octave, which is kept with special solemnities in the Churches of this town, come the great Antiphons, the heralds of Christmas." The O Antiphons are sung every night at Vespers during the last week of Advent. Our seminarian and I will sing Vespers in church every night that week (**December 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**), after which there will be **extra time for confessions**.

Next Sunday is **Gaudete Sunday**, and at 10:15 a.m. that day we are happy to welcome Father Peter Lenox, Director of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Bridgeport, as our guest celebrant for Solemn Mass. We will be inaugurating our beautiful new set of rose vestments, with gratitude to the kind benefactors who enabled us to purchase them. That evening we will begin the season of the "O Antiphons" with **Solemn Vespers & Benediction at 6:00 p.m.** After the ceremony, you are all invited to the church hall for a festive reception featuring seasonal treats like mulled wine and cider, mincemeat pies and sugar plums (please sign up to bring an item to share!).

Since **Christmas Eve** falls on a Sunday this year, the **Office of Prime** with the announcement of the birth of Christ from the Roman Martyrology will be chanted at 9:45 a.m., before the High Mass. Consequently there will not be confessions before or after the High Mass, but the additional confession times every night the week before will more than compensate. **Christmas Carols will begin at 11:30 p.m., followed by Midnight Mass.** This is certainly one of the most beautiful occasions of the year!

On **New Year's Eve** there will be a **Holy Hour & Benediction at 6:00 p.m.**, in place of the usual Sunday Vespers. The *Te Deum*, the traditional hymn of thanksgiving in the Roman liturgy, will be sung as part of this service, and the Church grants a plenary indulgence for this devotion on the last day of the year.

The high point of the Christmas season is the feast of the **Epiphany**, which liturgically has an even higher rank than Christmas itself. Epiphany celebrates especially the manifestation of Our Infant King to the Gentile peoples in the persons of the Magi, but also his "manifestations" at his Baptism and at the wedding of Cana. We will have a Solemn Mass for the feast of the Epiphany on **January 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m.**, followed by the traditional blessing of chalk, which you can use to bless your homes by writing the Epiphany blessing on the doorpost. We are happy to welcome as our guest celebrant Father Cyprian LaPastina, rector of Saint John's Basilica. After the ceremony, we will have an Epiphany party in the church hall. As Epiphany falls on a Saturday this year, that makes it all the easier for everyone to make plans to attend! Observing the liturgical high points of the true Christmas season is the best thing we can do to oppose the spirit of secularism at this time of year.

The Christmas season does not end until **February 2<sup>nd</sup>** with the feast of Candlemas. There will be a **High Mass with the blessing and procession of candles at 6:00 p.m.** (as a result there will be no other First Friday devotions that evening). Between Christmas and Candlemas, we should continue our Christmastide cheer and keep up our nativity sets! And of course, plan to attend the many special events!

## We welcome you today to Saints Cyril and Methodius Oratory!

If this is your first time here, we look forward to meeting you. We hope you will be able to join us for our next coffee hour. If you are interested in registering as a parishioner, forms are available at both entrances.

Holy Mass and all the sacraments at Saints Cyril & Methodius Oratory are celebrated in the traditional Latin Rite. This form of worship, which developed many centuries ago, is a priceless treasure of our Catholic faith. On Sundays and feasts, there are handouts containing English translations of the Propers (the prayers and readings proper to the day). If you are unfamiliar with the traditional Latin Mass, please do not hesitate to approach the clergy of the Oratory with any questions you may have. The pastoral care of the Oratory has been entrusted by the Bishop of Bridgeport to the clergy of the Institute of Christ the King, a Catholic priestly society founded in 1990 and currently ministering in dioceses across the United States, Europe and Africa.

Holy communion may be received by practicing Catholics in the state of grace. In the traditional Roman Rite, holy communion is received kneeling at the communion rail (unless you are impaired from doing so) and directly on the tongue. The mouth should be open with the tongue slightly extended. You do not reply when the priest places the host in your mouth. The sacrament of confession is available every day 30 minutes before the start of Mass (ending approximately 7 minutes before Mass begins).

The church narthex (vestibule) functions as a cry room during Mass. As a courtesy to others, please feel free to make use of it when you have a crying child by exiting quietly down one of the side aisles. Everyone is kindly reminded that all conversations should be held outside.

Out of respect for God's house, please bear in mind the importance of modest and decent attire. Ladies who wish to do so may borrow a veil to wear at Mass (available in baskets by the entrances).

If you are not a Catholic, you are warmly invited to learn more about our faith. The Catholic Church was founded 2000 years ago by Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to carry on His work for the salvation of souls. If you are interested in becoming Catholic or simply want to learn more about the Catholic faith, please do not hesitate to contact us. The Oratory offers individual instruction. We look forward to hearing from you.

### **REJOICE! ADVENT SOLEMN VESPERS** **Gaudete Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

During the last week of Advent we celebrate a special season dedicated to the "Great O Antiphons."

Join us for Solemn Vespers in celebration of "O Sapientia - O Wisdom," followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

*There will be a festive Advent reception afterwards in the church hall; please sign up to bring treats to share if you are able!*

### **Christmas Oplatki for Sale**

Oplatki (traditional Christmas wafers) are for sale in the narthex and will be available while supplies last. Cost is \$3.

### **Christmas Spiritual Bouquet for the Bishop**

If you wish to participate in a spiritual bouquet for His Excellency Bishop Caggiano, please fill out a sheet at one of the church entrances or e-mail the office, indicating the number and nature of the devotions you wish to offer for our bishop. Please make sure to let us know by Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>!



December 10<sup>th</sup> 2023

Second Sunday of Advent