

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
(ANY CHANGES, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.)
Bridget Grindahl; Aidyn Vondal-Rinde, Brad Tokach, Larry Omdahl, Michael/Bonnie Lewis, Madi Letzring, Marilyn Cuccia, Lukas Falk, Sean DuPre, Michael Blevins, Cori Hartje, Troy Scharmn, Marlene Stremick; Richard Mitchell, Carol Olimb, Christine Berger, Carol Scholler, Judy Hultin, Jim Dunnigan, Lori Hill, Lucy Rieger, Patricia Rodvold, Heidi Gustafson, Adrienne Wellman, Allison Bleick, Dale Hultin, Sherry McDonald, Brent Collins, Merle Larson, Robert O'Toole, Melanie Fischer, Ruth Ivesdahl, Carol Smith, Bernard/Aletha Schommer, Brianna Fernandez, Rick Kilichowski, Gary Olson, Joan Kerian, Robert Winkler

ST PATRICK ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Pray the Rosary: Sun at 8:00 am. Adoration with Confessions: Sat at 8:00 am. More Confessions: Sun 8:00 am. Feb Cleaners: Dumas/Rinde/Reilly. Collection: Al & Dianne (Feb 23); Don & Duane (Mar 2). Reader: Nick (Mar) Sanctuary Lamp: Polly Dusek (Feb 23); Br. Joseph Thoecke (Mar 2). Sacristan: Mary W (Feb 23); Mary T (Mar 2). Rosary: Richard W (Feb 23 & Mar 2). ***“Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord”***—for Carol Ann Rinde Lewis, mother of Julianne Flaten, a member of our St Patrick family. Carol passed away on February 18th. Our prayers are with Carol, Julianne and the whole extended family.

ST BRIGID ANNOUNCEMENTS
Pray the Rosary: Sat @ 4:40 pm, Sun @ 10 am. Adoration with Confessions: Wed & Fri at 11:00 am; More Confessions: Sat 4-5:00 pm, Mon 4:45-5:15 pm. Feb Cleaners: S-W. Collection: Scott & Mary Ellen (Feb 23); Doug & Gary (Mar 2). Readers (Mar) Sat-Mike H; Sun-Michael B. Rosary: Volunteer (Mar). Sanctuary Lamp: Cynthia Brehmer (Feb 23); Ruth Ann Schwartz (Mar 2). Food Basket: please: food items/donations for food box. Prayer Groups-St Brigid: after Sunday Mass; Tuesdays 7 am for Rosary! Check your e-mail to find your 2024 Church **Contribution Statement** for your taxes. Any questions, contact Fr Charles.

St Patrick Women Book Study! “*See Yourself Through God’s Eyes*” by Marie Paul Curley (FSP), **every 3rd Saturday (10 am)** of month

St Brigid Women Book Study! Mondays of Lent! See Dawn Holm for details. **Free books** (“*Fig Leaves Are Not Enough*”) have now arrived for you ladies! If you are interested in the class, take a book home with you today!

Save This Date Too! Lenten Catholic Dads Seminar, Saturday, **April 5th**, at St Brigid at noon! Dads, this is for you!

Mass Intentions: Mass is the best way to help souls on Earth and in Purgatory: “*The angels surround and help the priest when he is celebrating Mass.*” – Saint Augustine

Annual St Brigid Fish Fry! Save the date (Walleye Dinner)! This annual event is **Friday, March 21st**. Get your lines in the water!

Catholic End-of-Life forms available: Truly Catholic Advanced-Directive Healthcare Forms are available in the church lobby.

Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Italy : Join Bishop Folda on a Jubilee Year pilgrimage that will take us through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica and a special Jubilee exposition of the Shroud of Turin. October 28, 2025-November 6, 2025. Call 701-356-7900.

Family Faith Formation! @ St Brigid, Wed the 26th, Grades 1-8 @ 5:45; high-school @ 7! St Patrick=home lesson.

Tuesday Evenings: Confessions and **Silent** prayer time with Jesus in the Monstrance on the Altar at St Brigid from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Help the Pro-Life movement in our state and country. Come for a minute, the whole hour, or somewhere in between.

SEARCH Retreat Weekend: Peer-to-peer ministry for teens (starting at age 16) to deepen your relationship with God and His Church, and to make Catholic connections that last a lifetime. Next SEARCH: **March 7-9**; call 701-356-7902.

Calling All Catholic Men: Join more than 250,000 men around the world true freedom. Go to **Exodus90.com** to join.

Holy Hour for Fallen-Away Catholics: Every second-Sunday of the Month, from 3-4 pm (the Hour of Divine Mercy) at St Brigid.



This week on **formed.org** learn about: St Polycarp-Feb 23; St Gregory of Narek-Feb 27; Sign-up, it's **free** for you!



Mon		Feb 24	5:15 pm	St Brigid	Everett DeMars
Tues		Feb 25	8:00 am	St Patrick	Tanner/Madison Johnson Family
Wed		Feb 26	Noon	St Brigid	Betty Brunswick
Thur	St Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church	Feb 27	8:00 am	St Patrick	Larry Puppe Family
Fri		Feb 28	Noon	St Brigid	Vernice and Cindy DeMars
Sat		Mar 1	9:00 am	St Patrick	Parishes of St Brigid & St Patrick
			5:00 pm	St Brigid	Yvonne Motl
Sun	The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mar 2	8:30 am	St Patrick	Parishes of St Brigid & St Patrick
			10:30 am	St Brigid	Randy/Cindy Miller

Stewardship: as of 2-16-25	St Brigid	St Patrick		St Brigid	St Patrick
Weekly Total	1,015.00	598.00	St Patrick's Care Collection		925.00
YTD Total	9,389.00	5,052.00	Gods Gift Appeal:	8,730.00	3,988.00
Building Fund YTD	1,635.00	3,825.00	Cemetery: St Anthony 1,855	5,735.00	5,381.69
Holy Day	710.00	360.00	Cemetery: St Helen 2,925; St Bernard 362		

Pastor: Fr. Charles LaCroix
charles.lacroix@fargodiocese.org



In the Old Testament the Jews were told to love their neighbor. What “*neighbor*” meant was one of their own fellow Israelites. “*Neighbor*” meant someone who was related to you by kinship of blood, or the “*neighbor*” is one who was close to you; closely acquainted with you. But Christ’s teaching is super humanly **higher**.

We never give a second thought to the fact that in all the languages of the world, including English, we speak of some people as being loveable and other people being unlovable. Obviously, loveable people are those we can love. Unlovable people are those who we cannot. In one sentence, this is the heart of Christian morality: we are told to love unlovable people. To repeat: we are told by Christ to *love unlovable people!*

Who are unlovable people? They are: those who don’t love us, those who are not kind to us, those who are not thoughtful of us. **Who** are unlovable people? Those who offend us. Those who speak unkindly to us and about us. **Who** are the unlovable people? All those people **who**, except for God becoming man and dying on the cross and meriting for us the grace to do the humanly impossible, we could not love. They are the unlovable people.

We are living in the most convulsive age in human history. We are living in an age where there have been more martyrs for Christ than all the nineteen hundred years from Calvary *put together*. Yet, as deeply and as terrifyingly as our Faith is being challenged, let’s make sure we know what Christianity really is. Of course we must believe. We must be strict believers. We must believe that Christ is the living God who became Man. We must believe that His mother is the Mother of God. We must believe that Jesus Christ is on Earth in the Holy Eucharist. We call that orthodoxy. But, orthodoxy is not enough. An appropriate phrase here is: “*orthodoxy without charity is not Christianity*”.

In other words, yes we must have a strong and heroic faith in our day. When bishops are not on the same page, we’d better have a strong faith. But faith, otherwise known as orthodoxy is not enough. It must be faith joined with **selfless** charity. And that is what will convert a paganized world, including America. Once a Christian nation, millions have lost their faith in Jesus Christ. But if we’re going to retrieve these lost Christians, some sadly, members of our own families, people who are nearest and dearest to us; then we must not only believe strongly, we must love selflessly, and of the very ones who don’t love us.

It is, then, faith combined with Christ-like charity that will convert. And how our country needs re-conversion!

The followers of Christ loved not only one another, but even their worst enemies with an affection that could only be explained by the influence of more than human power at work in human hearts. Left to it’s own devices, the human heart is selfish. Left to itself the human heart is cruel. The principle moral miracle that God came into the world to work is the miracle of melting human hearts. And enabling them to love.

“*Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you.*” Luke 6:27. This is the opposite of what we are naturally inclined to do. Raw human nature is kind to the kind, and loving to the lovable. And what do you expect? Hostile to those who are hostile. Instinctively we treat others in the way they treat us. They smile: we smile in return. But if they are abrasive, you mean that I’m not supposed to be resentful to that person!? Bless those who curse you. To bless or wish well to those who wish us evil and to pray for those who mistreat us. This is not difficult; it’s **impossible** to naked human nature. That’s what grace is all about.

Prayer: “*Lord Jesus, make us channels of your grace to others. Deepen our faith in you as our God; our trust in you as the source of all the strength we need in today’s unbelieving world. But above all, dear Jesus, give us something of your selfless love so that like you, we too, may be willing to lay down our lives for those who do not love us, because in loving them we will be communicating grace from you through us to them, because dear Jesus, only faith and love can convert a sinful world. Out of love for you we want to love those who do not love us, because in loving them we are showing how deeply we love you who died on Calvary out of love for us. Amen.*”

(excerpts from: *The Real Presence Association*)

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
PO Box 280
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St Brigid & St Patrick

February 23, 2025

The Essence of Christianity: Loving the Unlovable