

St Brigid & St Patrick

December 20, 2020

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Pastor: Fr. Charles LaCroix
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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

(ANY CHANGES, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.)

Floyd Helgoe, Fr. Finnestad, Loretta Lovcik, John Christianson, Betty Novak, Pauline Dusek, Patricia Rodvold, Jane Zidon, Marla Zidon, Dorothy Snell, Heidi Gustafson, Adriane Wellman, Isabelle Copeland, Tracy Letzring, Kelly Morrison, Jody Deibert, Allison Bleick, Dale Hultin, Bob McCartney, Lonnie Guderjahn, Susie Dimsha, Sherry McDonald, Shelbie Goodoien, Oliver Goodoien, Brent Collins, Merle Larson, Robert O'Toole, Ruth Rieger, Melanie Fischer, Ruth Ivesdahl, Mae Jackson, Carol Smith, Mary Louise, Bernard & Aletha Schommer, Brianna Fernandez, Brett & Rick Letzring, Jane Grazadzieleski, Rick Kilichowski, Donald Denault & Gary Olson.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION! On break until January 6th! Then, we will dive into Chapter Twelve!

Extra Confessions! Mon (Dec 21) 6-7pm St. Brigid (w/Adoration); Tues (Dec 22) 6-7 pm St. Patrick

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. **December Church Cleaners:** Isaac & Christina Burrell, Paul & Eileen Rinde, & Kari Phelps. **Collection:** Diane & Melissa (Dec 20); Sherri & Kari (Dec 27). **Reader:** Jim (December). **Sanctuary Lamp:** Young Family (Dec 20); Emma Olson (Dec 27). **Sacristan:** Melissa (Dec 20); Mary T (Dec 27). **Rosary:** Jim Y (Dec 20); Volunteer (Dec 27)

ST BRIGID ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pray the Rosary: Sundays at 10:00 AM. **Adoration with Confessions:** Wed and Fri at 11:00 AM; **More Confessions:** SAT. 4-5:00 PM, MON 5-5:15 PM. **December Church cleaners:** G-K. **Collection:** Larry & Kay (Dec 20); Scott & MEK). **Readers** (Dec.): Sat.-Mike H; Sun.-Matt F. **Sanctuary Lamp:** Chale Horsely (Dec 20); Megan Puppe (Dec 27)

*We are now filling in the *2021 Sanctuary Lamp List!* If you would like to **honor a loved one** (living or deceased), contact *Deidre* at 701-520-1443 or *dokeefe@polarcomm.com*

Looking ahead: Jan 1st Masses: 5pm, Dec 31, St. Brigid; Jan 1: 8:30 am (St. Patrick), 10:30 am (St. Brigid)

Reminder: As with Sundays, there is **no obligation to attend the *Christmas Masses*.

Mon	St Peter Canisius	Dec 21	5:15 pm	St Brigid	+Janzen Peterson
Tues		Dec 22	8:00 am	St Patrick	Special Intention
Wed	St John Kanty	Dec 23	Noon	St Brigid	+Cyndi Schill
Thur	Christmas	Dec 24	4:00 pm	St Patrick	Galadriel & Harrison Young
			6:00 pm	St Brigid	Both Parishes
Fri	Christmas	Dec 25	8:30 am	St Patrick	Both Parishes
			10:30 am	St Brigid	Rodvold Family
Sat	St Stephen	Dec 26	9:00 am	St Patrick	Both Parishes
			5:00 pm	St Brigid	+Everett DeMars
Sun	Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph	Dec 27	8:30 am	St Patrick	Jim & Melissa Young
			10:30 pm	St Brigid	Both Parishes

Stewardship (as of 12-13-20)	St Brigid	St Patrick		St Brigid	St Patrick
Adult Envelope	3535.00	975.00	St Patrick's Care Collection Dec		205.00
Plate	93.00		God's Gift Appeal Goal 2020	23,768.00	8,928.00
Weekly Total	3628.00	975.00	God's Gift Appeal Actual	16,323.82	8,743.70
Yearly Actual Total	10,7519.48	41,188.09	Percent of Members Participating	48%	73%
LAST YEAR TOTALS at this time	110,824.83	44,218.42			
Monthly Envelope Building Fund	855.00		Cemetery	3,340.00	5,338.50
St Pat Tuckpointing \$54,955.00			Care & Share	210.00	139.00
St Patrick Sidewalk Repair	Total Cost	66,035.00	Immaculate Conception	265.00	65.00
Funds Raised for both Projects		60,788.90	St Bernard Cemetery		235.00
Monthly Envelopes Building Fund		5,235.00	St Anthony Cemetery	920.00	
Balance needed for Sidewalk Repair		311.00	St Helen Cemetery	870.00	



BORN TO DIE...FOR US!
(The Patience of God)

We begin by observing that patience is the **willing** endurance of suffering. We may somewhat loosely speak of someone being patient without actually suffering; yet the **true** meaning of patience implies first the experience of pain, which is suffering.

That is why, properly speaking, we should not speak of animals as *suffering*; they have pain but they **do not** reflect on, or in our own human sense are not aware of, do not, properly speaking, experience the pain. Only a person who has a **mind** and a **will** who is enduring pain can suffer. People can experience agonizing suffering, even though the actual physical cause of the pain may be minimal. That is not to say that suffering is mainly in the imagination. No. But unless I am aware as an **intelligent** being that I am enduring pain, I am not properly speaking, suffering. Only **human beings on earth** can suffer.

But while all human beings suffer, no exception, not all human beings suffer willingly. The **mind** being aware of the pain I am enduring: that is suffering. The **will** accepting the suffering: that is patience. With the **Incarnation**, a totally new mystery of the Godhead was revealed. *God became Man in order to suffer.*

Why suffer? Because when man sinned and God then inflicted all kinds of penalties on the human race as the result of sin, He already in the third chapter of *Genesis* (which we sometimes call the first gospel or the primary gospel or the proto-gospel – the gospel meaning the good news), God already revealed in the *Book of Genesis* that man, the sinner, **would be redeemed**. It takes simple childlike faith to believe it, to continue to believe it in spite of the sophisticated and overly learned objections raised by some of the strongest minds of those who maybe having believed, ceased believing.

Namely, God became Man **voluntarily**. God with the use of his **free will**, the same free will which he exercised when he created the world, with his free will God chose to become Man. God became Man not only, though obviously, that he might have a **human body** in which he could experience pain and a **human soul** that could suffer. God didn't have to, but God assumed a mortal human nature so that the body and soul united in Christ might be able to separate, which they did on the cross, and thus cause the Man Jesus, who is God, to suffer **the agony of death**.

Remember we began by defining patience as *not merely the experience of pain*. Patience is the willing, the voluntary endurance of pain. The main reason that God became Man was that he might have a human will. **Let me repeat.** The main reason that God became man was that like us he might have a human will, so that as Man, being capable of suffering, but having a human will, a free will, he might voluntarily, freely, **willingly** choose to suffer.

When we speak of Christ choosing to suffer, we are saying *far more than meets the eye*. We human beings descended from fallen ancestors. We do not have a choice on whether we are going to suffer or not. We have to suffer whether we want to or not. But Christ, being God, **did not have to** become Man. He **voluntarily** chose to take on our human nature, which would then enable him to suffer.

But more still. Might God have become incarnate, might he have redeemed the world without the endurance of any pain? Absolutely speaking, yes. But as God, having justly laid on man the penalty for man's sin, then, out of love for man, *this infinitely just God underwent in his own person the suffering* that as God he had imposed on a sinful mankind. Suffering has a divinely ordained purpose in our lives. By our ready acceptance of pain, we become more and more like God, who became Man in order to endure suffering. **God became Man** so that he, God, might experience pain.

All the patience we are talking about in this meditation, *the willing endurance of pain*, has a **purpose**. What's the purpose? **To prevent souls from going to hell.** That's why, faith tells us, God became Man.

By: Fr. John Hardon