

At Saint Brigid of Kildare, nourished by the Word and Sacraments, we find life in Christ by gathering disciples for worship, service, and education.

From the Principal's Desk



This past weekend, my children had friends over and they were talking about traditions that each family has around Christmas. In our family, we have many. Leading up to Christmas, we would spend Black Friday decorating the house instead of shopping. We had the children place straw where baby Jesus was to lay for each good deed they did. We watched a month's worth of Christmas specials, The Nativity Story, The Santa Clause, Prep and Landing, and more. We light our advent wreath weekly. On Christmas Eve, we have pork pie, a tradition my husband brought to our marriage. As we cooked, we would always watch the Polar Express during which time we were usually visited by elves bringing the children new pajamas. This was followed by games, reading, or napping before Christmas Eve midnight Mass. Christmas morning, we take turns opening gifts and then eat cinnamon rolls for breakfast. This is often followed by family games (or building Legos) and a nap. We would have a ham dinner and trimmings for dinner, followed by more sleeping.

Important Dates

- 12/18: 4th Grade Mass-8:00am
Boys Basketball Game-7:15pm
- 12/19: Staff Appreciation Lunch
- 12/20: Red & Green Free Dress Day
Christmas Classroom Parties-1:30pm
- 12/23-1/3: CHRISTMAS BREAK!!
- 1/6: First Day Back to School
Re-Enrollment Begins for 2025-2026
- 1/8: 3rd Grade Mass-8:00am
- 1/9: Student Council & Student Leadership Spirit Day
K-5: Buddy Activity: Upper Elementary does Activity with Lower Elementary
MS: Pajama Day
- 1/10: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
Coffee with the Principals-8:05am
- 1/13: Middle School Student Leadership-7:15am
PTO Meeting-6:00pm
- 1/14: Kindergarten Open House
- 1/15: 2nd Grade Mass-8:00am
- 1/17: St. Brigid Spirit Day
Battle of the Books Intra-School Battle-1:30pm
Faith Formation Friday-2:30pm

Some of their friends, in contrast, had very few if any traditions. Traditions are important. They can provide stability and predictability for children. They are comforting and add to a family's culture and community. They give you a sense of identity. There are even studies that show that traditions can help people to be resilient.

This is no less true of the traditions that we have within our Catholic Church. You can go into a Catholic church anywhere in the world, and, even though you may not understand what is being said, you know what is happening because there is predictability and order to the mass. The gathering of people at mass forms our community. Our belief in Jesus gives us a sense of identity. And certainly, it is our faith that helps us to be resilient when things are difficult.

As we await Christmas Day and the arrival of our Savior, let us find Joy in the traditions we have and in the traditions the Church provides for us, as these will serve as reminders that we are wonderfully made in the image of God and that we can maintain hope that we will one day be reunited with God and that He will walk with us on our journey, no matter what we are going through.

May your Christmas be filled with tradition, joy, hope, peace, and love! May you rest with Jesus and your family and return renewed. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Laura E. Wilkowski

Letter from Fr. Stephen

Friends,

In these final days of Advent, I offer my prayers and blessings to each of you as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior. As we approach the great Solemnity of Christmas, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your decision to entrust your children to St. Brigid School. I truly believe the Lord is accomplishing beautiful and exciting things here, and I am deeply grateful to share with you the privilege and responsibility of forming and educating your children through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In just the short time I have been with you, I already hold many fond memories close to my heart. From the Mass of the Holy Spirit on the first day of school, consecrating our school to Our Lady of the Rosary in October, celebrating All Saints Day with Mass and the living wax museum in November, dressing as St. Nicholas, to making my drumming debut with the Shamrock Band at the Christmas concert – these extraordinary moments have been a joy. Yet, it's the more ordinary moments that have also left a profound impression: visiting classrooms to discuss the daily Mass readings, witnessing the environment of joy and academic excellence in the classroom, making connections at pick-up, and seeing your children's sincere faith at Mass as they sing, pray, and serve. These, too, are memories I hold dear.

Please know that you and your families are in my prayers this Christmas season. As we join Pope Francis in celebrating the inauguration of the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope on Christmas Eve, marking 2,025 years since the Incarnation, may the Holy Spirit fill your hearts and homes with the enduring hope and joy of the Good News of Christ's saving work.

AMDG,

Fr. Stephen Blaxton

Pastor, St. Brigid Parish and School

Classroom Christmas Parties

On Friday, December 20th we will have our classroom parties from 1:30-2:45pm. Students may wear red and green free dress on this day. K-3rd grade will hold a book exchange so please send in a wrapped book for the party. 4th-8th grade participate in Secret Santa. Remember that ALL volunteer requirements must be completed in order for you to attend the classroom party. If you are unsure or need clarification on requirements, please contact Jeannine Hovey at jhovey@stbrigid-midland.org.

Emerald Evening Cash Raffle Sales

Thank you to everyone who has been busy selling cash raffle tickets! We have sold 36% of our 1,000 tickets. If each family continues to work hard at selling their 10 tickets, we will meet our goal quickly! ***Holidays are a great time to ask family and friends if they'd like to buy a raffle ticket!*** If you need some help selling tickets, we have some Mass sale times available to sign up for:

St Brigid: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CA5AC2DA6F8C25-53700724-stbrigid>

Blessed Sacrament: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CA5AC2DA6F8C25-54062443-blessed>

Assumption: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CA5AC2DA6F8C25-54062194-assumption#/>

If you haven't already put a social media post out regarding this fundraiser, consider doing so. This has proven to be a very successful sale approach for families! Reminder, tickets can be purchased with a credit card online at <https://charityauction.bid/emeraldevening2025> or you may collect cash or check and turn it into the school office in exchange for a ticket. Please remind people who are purchasing online to list your family name in the comments section so you receive credit for their purchase **There will be another classroom party winner on January 8th along with a seller incentive drawing for \$1,000! Sell those tickets!**

Coffee with the Principals in January

I'd love to continue to meet with anyone who has questions, concerns, or new ideas about the new year. Coffee with the Principals in January will be held on January 10th as it is our first Friday back!

Re-enrollment Begins January 6, 2025

It seems crazy to think of our next academic year, but we are doing just that! Monday, January 6th, marks the beginning of our re-enrollment period. As you may know, our Kindergarten through 2nd classes are capped at 22 students, and our 3rd through 8th classes are capped at 25 students. Because our current families get priority, we are giving current families three weeks' head start to begin enrollment paperwork. January 27th will mark the beginning of the open enrollment period for new families. Please submit your paperwork ahead of January 27th so that we can continue to prioritize our Saint Brigid families!

Re-enrollment forms will be available to access through your Digital Academy account on Monday, January 6th. Once you log into your account, you will see a yellow attention box on the right side of the screen with a link to access the forms. If you have any issues, please reach out to Angelina Mitus amitus@stbrigid-midland.org.

Kindergarten Open House

Mark your calendars! Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 6pm we will hold a Kindergarten Open House for those interested in learning more about our 2025-2026 Kindergarten program! Tell a friend and watch for flyers to go out closer to that date!

Invitation to Grow in Your Faith for the New Year

Parents, you are the most important people in your children's lives. The foundation you give them is vital for their flourishing. If you find yourself wishing you knew more, had a more vibrant prayer life, or had more resources for your own faith to grow as you pass it along to your children, please join us for **Faith Formation Fridays the 3rd Friday of each month**. During these brief 30 minute gatherings (right before pick-up) we'll meet in the Atrium and prayerfully explore one topic related to Scripture or the Liturgy and have time for questions and discussion. It will be informal. Please, come as you are to grow in faith together and make meaningful connections with other parents in our school community. St Brigid, pray for us!

Atrium Updates

We recently received some beautiful new Saint books. Our 4th graders started reading them and writing down cool facts about the Saints holy lives as soon as we opened the box.



As we lit our 3rd pink candle of JOY on our Advent wreath, the students chose one thing in the Atrium that helps them remember the true meaning of Christmas and the joy that Jesus wants to give them. Some of the things they chose and their reasons why:

- The Good Shepherd (because we sometimes wander away from God but He always finds us and brings us back)
- The angel (they sang for Jesus when He was born)
- The stable and the manger (there was no room for Him anywhere else)



Our 8th graders, visiting Riverside for weekly Bible Study.



2024 Advent & Christmas Schedule



Advent December 1st-24th

Reconciliation

Sunday, December 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th: 4:15-5:00pm
Wednesday, December 4th, 11th, 18th: 7:00-8:00pm
Tuesday, December 17th (with school): 1:30pm

Communal Reconciliation

Sunday, December 15th: 2:00pm
at Assumption of the Blessed
Virgin Mary Parish

Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24th:
5:30pm-Vigil Nativity of the Lord with Children's
Procession
December 25th:
12:00am Midnight
10:00am

Octave of Christmas Mass Schedule

December 29th:
9:00am, 11:30am, 5:30pm
December 31st: 5:30pm Mass
January 1st: 12:05pm Mass

Come Join us!



St. Brigid Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship

Who: Boys & Girls, ages 9 – 11 and 12 – 14

Where: St. Brigid School Gym

Date: January 15, 2025

Time: 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Registration (& practice) starts at 5:00pm

Winners eligible for the Knights of Columbus State Championships

1st and 2nd place prizes, plus certificates for all

For more information, contact Gary Billotti at billotigary@gmail.com or 989-600-9311



MERRY
CHRISTMAS
& Happy New Year

Merry Christmas to you and your family, and best wishes for the New Year. Have a fun and safe break and we will see you back on January 6th!