

St Brigid Ministries

Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA

An Old Catholic Church

Mailing address:
1750 W. 103rd St.
Chicago, IL 60643
(708) 253-7138

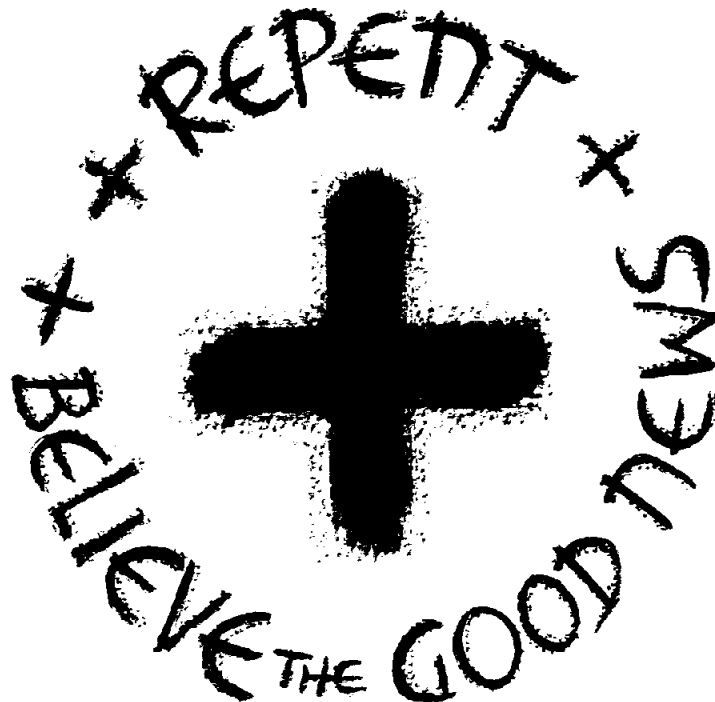
Fr. Richard A. Conrad
Director

RevRichard@juno.com

On the web: www.ecc-usa.org

Newsletter

February 2010



Pastoral Services
(708) 253-7138

To arrange for Baptisms, Marriages, (including blessing of existing civil marriages), First Communion and Confirmation instructions, Funerals, house blessings and home Masses, visits to the sick or any other spiritual need, please call the number above, which serves as both Church and personal cell number. If no answer, leave a message. I'll respond as soon as possible.

Please remember in your prayers:

Rick Biezewski, Sr. Norine Burns OP, Robert Catlett, Sr., Karen Cole,
The Raymond Connors Family, Norman Conrad, John Cranston, George Forst,
Richard Harbers, Rita Kreutz, Roger Miller, Michael Wolf O'Connor, Gene Rathgeb, and
Evelyn Rutkowski

Want to add someone to the St. Brigid Prayer List?

Just email their names to us and they will be added. Persons on our prayer list are remembered at all Masses and prayer services at St Brigid's for one year or until they have recovered. There is no cost or obligation to add someone to the Prayer List.

If you would like to have a Mass said for a deceased relative or friend (or any other intention) please send an email to: RevRichard@juno.com

Welcome to St. Brigid Ministries of the Ecumenical Catholic Church!

St. Brigid's is an open, loving, non-judgmental, contemporary Catholic ministry that provides everyone an opportunity to grow, to heal, and to worship and return to and celebrate the sacraments. Everyone is welcome! St. Brigid's primary ministry is to administer the sacraments, especially Marriage, Baptism, Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick.

As a ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA (An Old Catholic Church) St. Brigid's is not affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church in structure, laws or governing rules, but does enjoy an affinity with all churches in Catholicism. We believe in the same Triune God, profess the same Creed, celebrate the same Seven Sacraments, worship God through the same Eucharistic Liturgy and practice the same moral theology. Most importantly, we enjoy the same Apostolic Succession of Holy Orders (necessary for sacramental validity) and seek to minister the same spiritual tradition as all other Catholic churches. **Holy Communion is open to all baptized Christians who believe that Christ is present in the Eucharistic bread and wine.**

St. Brigid's welcomes you with open minds, open hearts and open arms!

Saints and Feasts of February

- 1 **St Brigid of Kildare** (524) Abbess, patroness of Ireland, brides, and babies
- 2 Presentation of Jesus at the Temple. Also known as "Candlemas Day"
- 3 St. Blaise (316)
- 5 St. Agatha (251), virgin and martyr
- 6 St. Paul Miki & companions (1597), crucified martyrs of Japan
- 7 **5th Sunday Ordinary Time**
- 8 Martin Buber (d.1965), Jewish philosopher
- 9 St. Apollonia (249), deaconess and martyr
- 10 St. Scholastica (543), patroness of religious women
- 11 Our Lady of Lourdes
- 14 **6th Sunday Ordinary Time**

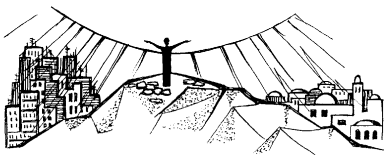
- 17 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
 18 St Leo the Great (427), pope, theologian revered by both East and West
 19 Hagar, Egyptian slave of Abraham's wife, Sarah
 21 **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**
 23 St. Polycarp (155), bishop and martyr; disciple of St Peter
 25 Felix Varela (d.1853), Cuban-born priest and American patriot
 26 St. Photine, the Samaritan woman whom Jesus met at Jacob's Well. She was the first person to recognize Jesus as the Christ and proclaim him to others as the Messiah.
 27 St Raphael of Brooklyn (1915), first Orthodox bishop consecrated in the US and shepherd to Orthodox immigrants
 28 **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

Sunday Reflections



Feb 7 (Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11) The readings today are about vocation – our calling from God. It is our duty to hear and follow the Lord's will for us. If we have found our calling, are we faithful to it, even when it is difficult? It is only in following Christ's call for us that we can be truly happy.

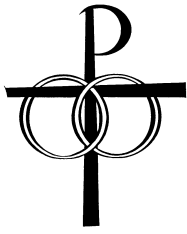
Feb 14 (Jer 17:5-8; 1 Cor 15:12,16-20; Luke 6:17,20-26) Luke's rendition of the Beatitudes includes not just the "blessed are you" that we are more familiar with, but also a counter-balance of "woes to you" that serve to remind us that we cannot look to ourselves for blessing and happiness. Rather, our happiness comes only from striving for the happiness of others.



Feb 21 (Deut 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13) Through his temptation in the desert, Jesus becomes aware of his union with the Father. He asks us to also embrace his conviction of faith. Temptations are nothing more than opportunities for grace if we heed the Lord's call in our powerlessness in the face of sin. When we deny the Devil, we embrace our own union with the Father.

Feb 28 (Gen 15:5-12,17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28b-36) Lent is a time of profound transformation. As we gaze through the winter darkness in prayer, we can see faintly the glory of God revealed in the Transfigured Christ. When we put aside our contemplative prayer and begin the working prayer of charity in the world, we grow in God's likeness and the glory of Christ becomes more and more clear to us.





St. Brigid Wedding Ministry

The St. Brigid Wedding Ministry for 2010 is off to a great start. We already have five weddings scheduled for this year! Not having a traditional “parish” as such, weddings are our primary ministry. Saint Brigid is the patroness of brides (she is often referred to as “St Bride”), so we take special delight in helping couples get ready for marriage, presiding at their wedding ceremonies, praying for them as they prepare to enter this marvelous sacrament, and keeping in touch with them throughout their married lives.

It is truly a blessing in our secular society, that so many couples are seeking a Christian Marriage rather than just a civil ceremony. Since these couples recognize the importance of Christ and faith to their lives together, we hold them in our prayers. All friends and members of Saint Brigid Ministries are part of our marriage ministry through prayer. You are asked to keep the following couples in your prayers now through their wedding days:

Robert Parlier and Catherine Sullivan	May 22, 2010
George Gambini and Dawn Jendrach	June 11, 2010
Anthony Schmid and Paige Parkinson	June 12, 2010
Ben Herbert and Jennifer Uribe	June 26, 2010
Kevin Kiely and Michelle Lewandowski	Sept 25, 2010

For more information on the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA,
visit us on the web at www.ecc-usa.org