

St. Brendan Catholic Church

A 5-YEAR PASTORAL PLAN
2013-2017



Guided by the Power of the Spirit



OUR HISTORY

St. Brendan began as a community in 1939. Mass was celebrated for the first time on October 3rd, 1939 by Fr. James Linehan at the American Legion Armory in downtown Bothell. Within a year, the hall and its adjacent property were purchased. The building was blessed on November 29th, 1942 by the Most Rev. Gerald Shaughnessy and was dedicated to the patron saint of his birthplace, Kerry Ireland, St. Brendan. On June 21st, 1949, Bishop Shaughnessy established St. Brendan as a parish. Two years later, the growing community purchased the property on the northeast corner of 195th Street and 100th Avenue. The church and rectory were dedicated on March 28th, 1954 by Archbishop Thomas Connolly. St Brendan school opened in September of 1966. Our current church building was dedicated on January 22nd, 1989 by Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen. St. Brendan continues to grow and be a vibrant community. Our first Spanish Mass was celebrated in September, 2006.

St. Brendan Mission Statement

WE, THE ST. BRENDAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ARE CALLED TO:

- Celebrate through Word and Sacrament;
- Be formed as disciples and go forth as apostles; and
- Reach out to all with love and respect in order to make visible the reign of God by transforming our world.

Dear Faithful,

St. Brendan parish is a vibrant, faith filled, community, with many committed Catholics bringing who they are to the life of this community. Our previous pastoral plan was complete and we needed a new plan that reflects the current charisms, desires and needs of the parish. To develop a new five-year plan, we partnered with the Archdiocesan Vicar for Clergy office, and began the process of discerning how the next five years here at St. Brendan will reflect our identity as a Christ centered community of faith.

We started by bringing together a team to manage the process. This team chose the name Guided by the Power of the Spirit, or GPS. Then we invited you to come tell us your vision for our pastoral plan. Over 300 of you showed up and there were a great number of ideas put forward. From that auspicious start, we took your ideas and gave them to various task forces to research and synthesize. The task forces contacted additional parishioners, and talked with the Councils and Commissions to get their input as well. Once that part of the process was completed, then the Councils and Commissions were able to take the near final plan, and add their input. From there GPS developed the document that I am promulgating today. Please take one home, and additional copies are available in the Narthex.

Thank you to all for your prayers, your ideas, and your hard work to bring our 300 initial thoughts into this final document. Together we will truly be Guided by the Power of the Spirit as we live out the hopes and expectations contained in this plan.

In Christ,

COMMUNICATION/TECHNOLOGY

As we strive to be a vibrant and thriving parish, communication is going to be very important. We will provide clear and consistent communication using varied and appropriate communication media to inform both existing parishioners and visitors about the various activities, programs and updates, as well as information and resources about our faith.

PARISH-WIDE COMMUNICATION

- Identify parishioners’ preference for receiving information about the church by surveying parishioners.
- Review current website, calendar and data base system to find the most effective way of evangelizing our faith to our parishioners. Create a permanent technology committee. Take steps to determine our technology needs.
- Provide Christmas and Easter Cards to all attendees of Christmas and Easter services.
- Create a mechanism to allow parishioners to bring things to our attention. Consider different ways to gather feedback.
- Increase awareness and understanding of various councils, commissions, committees and other volunteer/serving opportunities as well as parishioner programs. Create a comprehensive directory of all councils, commissions and committees in the parish.
- Provide options for new parishioners and volunteers to register/sign up. Look at ways to make this easier
- Provide more opportunities for the parish to come together and develop more effective communication about events and opportunities.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

- Increase communication between various councils, commissions and committees by posting notes on the website.

BI-LINGUAL COMMUNICATION

- Provide clear and consistent bi-lingual communication to support ecclesial integration



ENGAGED CHURCH

St. Brendan is committed to growing a vibrant, faith-filled community strengthened by the Sacraments, guided by the faithful teachings of the Church, and inspired by the Spirit that embraces and celebrates the diversity within our parish and in our surrounding community. We want to provide ways for all our parishioners to live out their faith in their parish life, in their families, in their work and in the wider world. Stewardship of time, talent and treasure is a way of life we strive to live as demonstrated through giving from our means, expressing our gifts and service to others. Embracing the diversity within our parish, we reach out to all with love and respect, to develop deep and lasting friendships and provide a Christ-centered, welcoming environment to all who come through our doors.

VOLUNTEERS

- Engage parishioners more by creating a list for all volunteer opportunities and developing a database to match opportunities to volunteers based on their talents. Staff all tables at the ministry fair and give the time and talent cards directly to the Stewardship Commission. Establish a volunteer coordinator position.

CURRENT PARISHIONERS

- Identify and develop different activities that celebrate the diversity of our parish, including ways that allow full participation from the community. Use Archdiocesan resources.
- Continue to develop a welcoming atmosphere for all who attend St. Brendan by encouraging introductions before Mass, train greeters to warmly welcome all who come to St. Brendan, and personally invite parish members to participate and engage in our community.

NEW PARISHIONERS

- Welcome and incorporate new parishioners into the parish by having the Pastor acknowledge them at Mass. After new members attend a Newcomer Social, follow up and check in with them. Review the current welcome packet and see if any changes should be made. Assign an existing family to “adopt” a new family.

SPECIALIZED ACTIVITIES

- Provide opportunities for parishioners to come together for fellowship and form relationships and stronger bonds as a Church family by organizing events after Mass. Organize social events for parishioners. Identify needs within the parish and facilitate formation of social groups as necessary.

FACILITIES

A safe, secure, functional and comfortable facility is essential to allow the parish community to come together, to worship, to fellowship and grow in our faith and outreach. St. Brendan is committed to maintaining the cleanliness and upkeep of the Church and school buildings, the grounds and the various facilities, to ensure they are kept clean, updated and available.

MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES

- Provide adequate maintenance and timely upkeep of the Church grounds by clearing the snow and improving the maintenance of outdoor areas. Maintain cleanliness of indoor Church facilities by recruiting and training volunteers for weekend Masses.

UPGRADE FACILITIES

- Upgrade the accessibility of all facilities, including the restrooms and parking areas, with adequate lighting and signage to allow easy and safe access for persons with disabilities. Reconfigure the restrooms so that they are more accessible.
- Improve the sound system in the Nave to encourage better and fuller participation. Evaluate and implement systems that will improve areas with poor sound.
- Evaluate and improve the hearing impaired audio equipment.
- Provide increased access to the Church/Chapel during off hours. Devise a secure way to allow parishioners more access.
- Improve lighting in Nave for fuller participation and safety of the assembly.
- Explore options to increase parking spaces, especially during major events.

EXPAND FACILITIES

- Evaluate methods to allow parishioners to view the meeting space calendar in order to improve access to meeting spaces for programs and activities
- Develop a plan for a Parish Center as a long term goal to allow for growth in the Parish and in parish activities and programs



FAITH FORMATION

Lifelong Faith Formation at St. Brendan is about witnessing to and passing along our faith. We are called to teach, nurture and support one another on this journey so that we may all become the living presence of Christ. We strive to support parents to fulfill their responsibilities of passing on the gift of faith to their children. As an extension of the new evangelization, and through the teachings of the magisterium, scripture, catechism and sacramental life, we develop a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

PARISH-WIDE FAITH FORMATION SURVEY

- Assess the catechetical programs of our parish by using a variety of methods, including the Archdiocesan Faith Formation Assessment and other surveys.

PARISH EVANGELIZATION

- Provide opportunities for the parish to be evangelized through having a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ. Review the recommended evangelization programs to determine the best fit for our parish. Provide more retreats including Spanish language retreats.

FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN *(Up to Grade 5)*

- Evaluate, select and implement successful programs that serve preschool through 5th grade by reviewing and comparing publications that meet faith formation guidelines for the Archdiocese.

- Train catechists and other volunteers for family catechesis programs and adapt faith formation programs which involve parents/guardians at all levels.
- Provide childcare for families with small children.

INTER-GENERATIONAL FAMILY CATECHESIS

- Consider adoption of an inter-generational catechetical model for families and children for all levels of family faith formation.

LIFETEEN/EDGE

- Provide opportunities for regular Eucharist-based youth involvement in liturgy and music using the “LifeTeen Program,” as a tool that enhances the growth of their faith and engagement with the parish. Through:
 - Begin by identifying and empowering a Youth Music Minister to develop the music ministry for this program. Identify, train and schedule lay people to expose and repose the Eucharist.
 - Celebrate weekly LifeTeen Mass once we have active participation in LifeTeen activities along with demonstrated parental involvement.
 - Celebrate bilingual youth Mass once every month when youth Mass is more than once a month and there is demonstrated Hispanic teen participation and parental involvement.
 - Encourage teens to serve their community by offering opportunities to volunteer within and outside the parish.
 - Build LifeTeen core team volunteers by continuing to recruit LifeTeen core team members and provide training for them. Encourage attendance at LifeTeen/Edge trainings/conferences and provide funding for participants.
- Edge Program
 - Continue to provide Youth Retreats to middle-school/junior high aged students using the LifeTeen/Edge curriculum.
 - Promote youth ministry by encouraging youth to participate in the liturgy. Youth could volunteer in liturgies as part of their service hours.

YOUNG ADULT

- Create a faith program for young adults of the parish and begin by tapping into deanery-wide young adult programs. Assess UW Newman Center program as a potential model for the possibility of St. Brendan becoming a “Newman Center” for UW Bothell.

QUINCEAÑERA

- Strengthen our Quinceañera program through using the Archdiocesan Quinceañera guidelines. Educate our parish on the cultural importance of the Quinceañera.

LIFE, PEACE AND JUSTICE

Our vision and mission calls us to live the true presence of Christ through prayer, education, worship and service. We are called to assist from conception to natural death, the marginalized, the weak, the poor, the sick and the imprisoned. To be like Christ, we must be willing to provide and create hope for those in need with dignity. We are blessed at St. Brendan to have a community of compassionate people that give of themselves to others through the many opportunities supported by our parish groups, committees, and ministries.

LIVING OUT OUR CHRISTIAN VALUES

- Increase opportunities for working with the homeless. Survey the parish regarding support for a cold weather overflow shelter. Work with other local churches to gather support and gather volunteers to staff a cold weather overflow shelter
- Make known other Life, Peace and Justice opportunities. Arrange for speakers to discuss social justice issues. Encourage small adult teams to tackle issues of social injustice and recommend how the parish can help.

LITURGY

Prayer and worship are the cornerstones of our Catholic Faith and key to our spiritual lives and to our life as a parish community. We are encouraged to full active and conscious participation during our Liturgies. Through the Mass and other liturgical celebrations, we strive to provide opportunities for parishioners to encounter Christ, grow in His love, and enrich their daily lives. Our music, homilies, liturgical ministries, and environment should make evident the Presence of Christ in Word, Sacrament, and person.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY

- Increase the understanding of the liturgy of the Mass, the importance of community and make Mass a more spiritual experience. Provide annual training for liturgical ministers on the logistical and theological aspects of their tasks.

MUSIC

- Enhance participation during Mass through liturgical music. Fund attendance for choir members at workshops about vocal, instrumental and liturgical music.

CHILDCARE

- Increase engagement of parents during Mass by offering childcare during all Masses and provide other options for parents to listen to Mass if they chose not to use childcare.

CROSS CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- More fully integrate and celebrate the diversity of our parish by working with our communities to understand how to best incorporate cultural celebrations.

SCHOOL

St. Brendan Catholic School prides itself on providing spiritual and academic excellence, bringing children to a personal relationship with Christ, and working in partnership with parents. Through prayer, liturgies and service, the students become aware of the Gospel message and are encouraged to live this message in their daily lives. The parish supports the school spiritually, personally, financially, and with facility resources. One goal is to ensure that our school is accessible to families choosing a Catholic education for their children.

SCHOOL/CHURCH RELATIONSHIP

- Continue to enhance the parish and school relationship by communicating a wide variety of school and parish events and news, highlighting various accomplishments, planning shared events, and working collaboratively with the staff and committees from the parish and school.
 - Identify and implement additional vehicles of communication between the school and parish, such as more use of kiosks, website calendar, bulletin inserts, information in the narthex, parent speakers and videos at weekend Masses, school and parish website, etc.
 - Further develop parish based opportunities for volunteer hours for parish and school students and parents to increase parish involvement.
 - Build relationships between the parish youth and school students through the Parish Youth Group and shared activities.
 - Provide opportunities for parish and school youth and seniors to interact, work in service, and share time together.
- ### ACCESSIBILITY
- Share school registration information and the tuition assistance process with the entire parish community.
 - Provide school registration, news/bulletins, and tuition assistance information in Spanish and market to Hispanic parishioners with children.
 - Offer school tours in both English and Spanish.
 - Continue to share tuition costs as compared to other local Catholic schools. Show St. Brendan School as being the most affordable on the Eastside. Communicate using a variety of methods.



FINANCE

- Continue to develop, educate, and enhance school donation opportunities for parishioners and organizations by sharing the various options to donate.
- Develop a plan to ask parishioner families to financially sponsor a student in need of tuition assistance.
- Continue to share the school’s annual financial report with the parish at large, Parish Finance Council, and Pastoral Council.
- Create a school five-year financial plan to address the school’s future needs for staffing, technology, curriculum, and plan for additional tuition assistance for families in need.
- Create a five-year school major maintenance and repair facilities plan to address the safety, repair, maintenance expansion, and improvement of the school campus. Present the plan to the Parish Facilities Committee, Pastoral Council, and Parish Finance Council for review and funding approval.

Thank You!

Thank you to all who made this 5 year Pastoral Plan possible. The members of the Guided By the Power of the Spirit (GPS) team met for 18 months to make this plan come together. The team members are: Pat Ullman, Reuben D’sa, Brigitte Blair, Amalia Martin, Cary Evans, Linda Haptonstall and Leigh Stringfellow (Archdiocesan Office). Your efforts and dedication will be felt throughout for years to come as we carry out this comprehensive pastoral plan.

Task forces made recommendations from the data gathered to the GPS team. Members of each task force worked diligently in 2012 to provide input to the five year Pastoral Plan. The groups focused on Communication/Technology, Engaged Church, Facilities, Faith Formation, Life, Peace and Justice, Liturgy and School. Members of each task force dedicated many hours of personal time to develop a comprehensive pastoral plan that supports the growth and core foundation of this congregation. Special thanks to the following individuals and those who supported them:

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