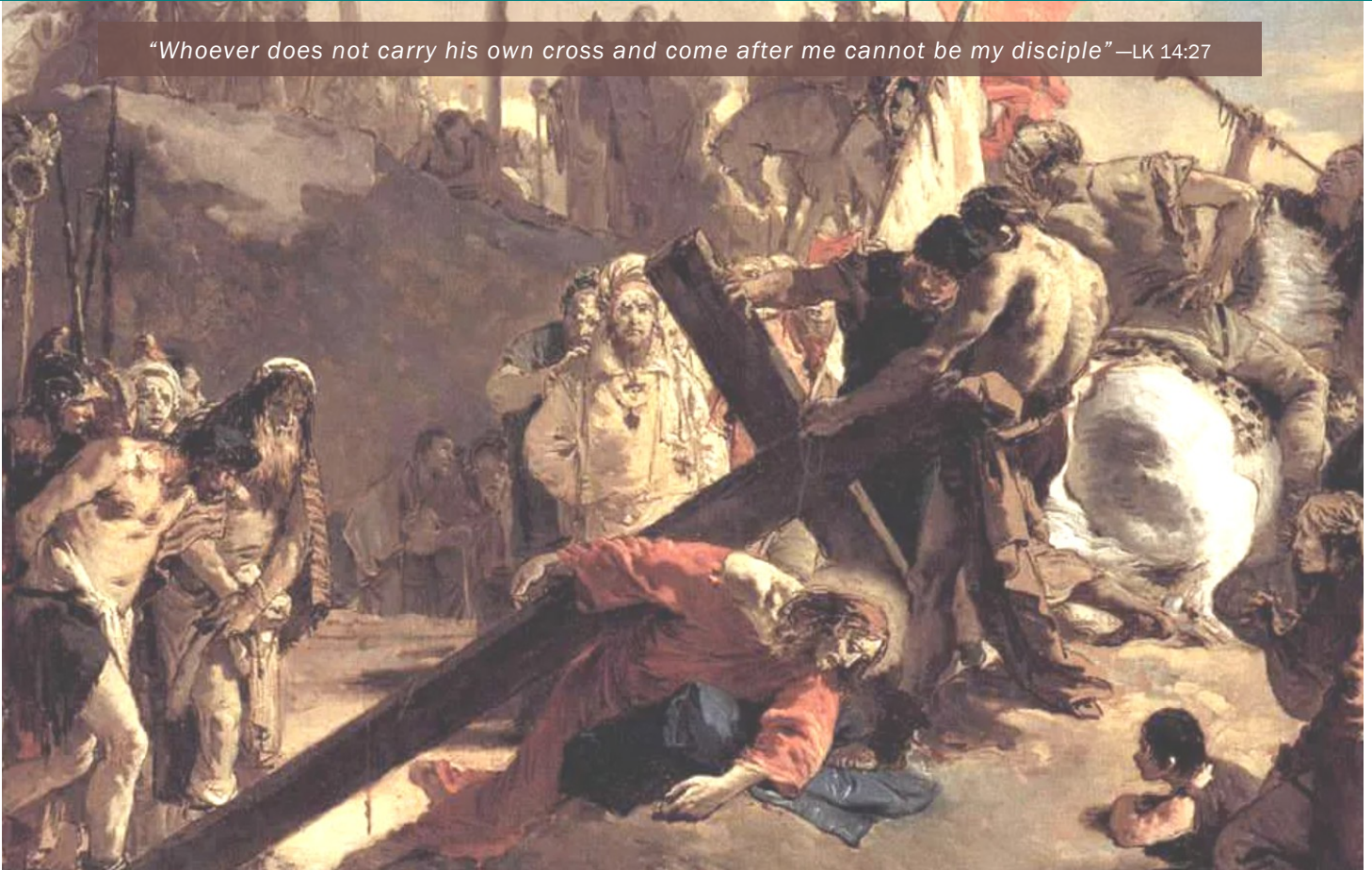


WELCOME TO
**SAINT BRENDAN & SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA
PARISH FAMILY**

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple"—LK 14:27



SAINT BRENDAN PARISH | STB



SUNDAY MASS

- Saturday Vigil | 5PM
- Sunday | 8AM | 10AM* | 12PM* (Misa en Español)
- * LIVESTREAM ON FACEBOOK

DAILY MASS Monday, Wednesday - Saturday | 8:30AM

ADORATION

- Monday - Thursday | 1:00PM to 6:00PM
- Friday | 9:30AM to 6:00PM
- First Friday | 9:30AM to FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION at 7:30AM*
- *WITH ROSARY FOLLOWED BY BENEDICTION

CONFESSION

- Monday, Wednesday - Saturday | 7:45AM - 8:15AM
- Saturdays | 2:30PM - 4:00PM

"Help me to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown. Give me the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with You"—ST. BRENDAN, THE NAVIGATOR

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH | STOC



SUNDAY MASS

- Saturday Vigil | 5PM
- Sunday | 9AM | 11AM
- **5PM SUNDAY MASS WILL RESUME SEPT. 14**

DAILY MASS - Tuesday to Friday | 9AM

ADORATION

- Tuesday - Friday | 8:30AM (Prior to Daily Mass)
- Benediction just before 9AM Mass

CONFESSION

- Saturday | 3PM to 4:30PM
- Other: By Appointment.

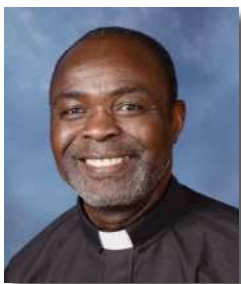
"Do small things with great love"—SAINT MOTHER TERESA

PARISH DIRECTORY



PASTOR

Rev. Nicholas Wichert
frwichert@saintbrendan.org
425-483-9400, Ext 2647
frwichert@saintteresa.org
425-806-8096, Ext. 3103



PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Peter Adoko-Enchill
frpeter@saintbrendan.org
frpeter@saintteresa.org
425-806-8096, Ext 3107

DEACONS

- Dcn. Leon Garcia-Martinez | deaconleon@saintbrendan.org
- Dcn. Armando Medina | deaconarmando@saintbrendan.org

ST. BRENDAN PARISH (STB)

Monday - Friday | 9:15AM-Noon • 12:30PM-4PM

- **Church** - 10100 NE 192nd St, Bothell, WA 98011-2931
- **Office** - 10051 NE 195th St., Bothell, WA 98011-2931
- 425-483-9400 | www.saintbrendan.org

Pastoral Assistant for Administration

Pastoral Assistant for Evangelization

Brigette Blair | ext. 2645 | bridgetteb@saintbrendan.org

Bookkeeper | Mary Deitch | ext. 2642 | bookkeeper@saintbrendan.org

Children & Family Ministry • OCIA Coordinator

Mark Sizemore | ext. 2648 | childfamilyministry@saintbrendan.org

Confirmation

Margaret Deleon | ext. 2644 | youthminister@saintbrendan.org

Director of Music | John Dobson | directorofmusic@saintbrendan.org

Facilities Supervisor

Josh Stutzman | ext. 2650 | facilitiesupervisor@saintbrendan.org

Office Assistant | Christy Avila | ext. 2677 | christya@saintbrendan.org

Receptionist | Lupita Silva Ocampo | receptionist@saintbrendan.org

Liturgical Minister Schedule • Bulletin

Ermina Swager | ermina@saintbrendan.org • bulletin@saintbrendan.org

ST. BRENDAN PARISH SCHOOL

Monday - Friday | 8AM to 4PM

- 10049 NE 195th St., Bothell, WA 98011
- 425-483-8300 | www.school.saintbrendan.org

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS - Please call for an appointment.

School Principal | Catherine Shumate | catherines@school.saintbrendan.org

Admissions Director | Karah Burgess | karahb@school.saintbrendan.org

Advancement Director | Kerry Engle | kerrye@school.saintbrendan.org

School Secretary | Karyn Murnane | secretary@school.saintbrendan.org

ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH (STOC)

Monday - Friday | 9:30AM - 3PM

- 17856 NE Woodinville Duvall Rd, Woodinville WA 98077
- 425-806-8096 | www.saintteresa.org

Parish Assistant for Administration

Zoltan Abraham | Ext. 3105 | zoltan@saintteresa.org

Administrative Assistants

Audrey Kozel | audrey@saintteresa.org

Patti Bagnall | patti@saintteresa.org

First Communion • Children's Catechesis

Analaura Rodriguez | Ext 3101 | analaura@saintteresa.org

Confirmation • Youth Ministry

Andrew Duncan | Ext. 3102 | andrew@saintteresa.org

OCIA Coordinator • Adult Catechesis

Mark Sizemore | childfamilyministry@saintbrendan.org

Director of Music | John Dobson | music@saintteresa.org

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

To arrange for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick or to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the Parish Office. For after hours emergency care you may also call the Eastside Deanery Pastoral Care Ministry at 425-655-3200.

MINISTERIO PARA LOS ENFERMOS

Para hacer arreglos para el Sacramento de la Unción de los Enfermos o para recibir la Santa Comunión en casa, por favor contacte la Oficina de la Parroquia.

FUNERAL MASSES AND BURIAL RITES

To arrange for a funeral Mass, please contact the Parish Office, or ask the funeral director to do so.

MISAS PARA FUNERALES Y RITOS DE ENTIERRO

Para hacer arreglos para Misa para funeral, por favor contacte la Oficina de la Parroquia, o pregunte al director de los servicios funerarios.

PARISH NEWSFLASH

If you would like to receive the weekly St. Teresa Newsflash over email, please let us know at admin@saintteresa.org.

To submit a bulletin announcement:

- Due Thursday a week before the target weekend.
- St. Brendan > bulletin@saintbrendan.org
- St. Teresa > admin@saintteresa.org

To submit a Mass announcement or Mass intentions:

- St. Brendan > receptionist@saintbrendan.org
- St. Teresa > admin@saintteresa.org

COVER ART

Title: *Carrying the Cross*, 1738

Artist: Giovanni Battista Tiepolo | **Source:** [MyCatholicLife](http://MyCatholicLife.com)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **BOOK STUDY – Return: How to Draw Your Child Back To The Church** - Tuesday, SEP. 30 • Register after Masses on SEP 6/7 & 13/14. • Page 6 for full details.
- **PARISH PICNIC** - St. Teresa of Calcutta - Sunday, SEP. 7 • After the 11AM Mass. • For details. >>>
- **WOMEN'S GROUP** - Thursday, SEP. 11 • 6:30PM • St. Brendan Narthex • See below for info.
- **HOLY HOUR FOR FAMILIES/CHILDREN** - Wednesday, SEP 17 • 6PM • St. Brendan Chapel • Page 7.
- **BBQ & BROTHERS** - Thursday, SEP 18 • 6PM • Page 5.
- **ST. BRENDAN SCHOOL 13TH ANNUAL GOLF CHARITY TOURNAMENT** - Saturday, SEP 20 • 8AM • See page 6.
- **YOUNG-AT-HEART SENIORS** - Wednesday, SEP. 24 • 10:30AM • St. Brendan Narthex.
- **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** - See Page 9 - Youth Group • Sunday School Teacher • St. Brendan Garden • SOS St. Brendan Lead Cook.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

Blessed are YOU, LORD GOD, creator of body and mind and heart; YOU have sent the SPIRIT OF WISDOM and Knowledge to guide YOUR people in all their ways.

At the beginning of this new school year, in this time of uncertainty and anxiety, we implore YOUR mercy.

Bless and protect our students, teachers, staffs, and their families.

Give wisdom to the decisionmakers, be they in our schools or in our homes. Expand the horizons of our minds, and deepen our commitment to seek the truth of YOUR ways.

Enliven our faith to reach out to those in need, particularly those isolated and lonely.

In these days when so much has changed, help us to trust in the love of YOUR SON JESUS, our DIVINE TEACHER, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.





ST. TERESA

PARISH PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 7

AFTER THE 11AM MASS

FOOD, DRINKS, GAMES, TALENT SHOW AND MORE!

SEAHAWKS GAME WILL BE ON!

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT!

RSVP & SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER USING THE QR CODE BELOW




WOMEN'S GROUP



We hope you're all having a wonderful summer! We are excited to resume our Women's Group potluck gatherings and would love for you to join us on **Thursday, September 11th at 6:30PM, in the St. Brendan Narthex** for an evening of faith-filled and fun fellowship. **Our special guest speaker is Fr. Zikodi Okwuosa, who is visiting from Nigeria.** We will also be collecting donations to St. Vincent de Paul Society giving back the many blessings we have received. **For dinner, please bring your favorite dish or dessert to share.** Questions? Contact Cathy Galvan at cagalvan@comcast.net. We can't wait to see you soon.



PRAYER AND READINGS

READINGS OF THE WEEK

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

*PERHAPS THIS IS WHY HE WAS AWAY FROM YOU FOR AWHILE,
THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE HIM BACK FOREVER. (PHLM: 1:15)*

Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b • Ps 90:3-6, 12-17 • Phlm 9-10, 12-17 • Lk 14:25-33

Monday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30 • Ps 13:6abc • Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

Tuesday: Col 2:6-15 • Ps 62:6-7, 9 • Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday: Col 3:1-11 • Ps 145:2-3, 10-13ab • Lk 6:20-26

Thursday: Col 3:12-17 • Ps 150:1b-2, 3-6 • Lk 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14 • Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11 • Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17 • Ps 113:1b-5a, 6-7 • Lk 6:43-49

LET US PRAY FOR . . .

The Sick

God of all goodness, Look with mercy on all who suffer any kind of infirmity, sickness or injury, that they may be comforted. Let your hand of healing and protection be upon them. When they are fearful, ease their fear and anxieties. When they are afraid, give them strength and courage. When they feel alone, send them someone to listen and to care. When they are confused, provide reassurance and direction. When they are in pain, ease their suffering. When they despair, give them hope. May they experience your healing presence in the comfort of a caregiver's calm gaze and tender touch. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.

Fidela (Dely) Aguilar • Diana Alfonso • Victor Barrientos • Anne Chapman • Colleen Danforth • Howard Danforth • Joan Dedman • Fr. Jay De Folco • Marilyn Gardner • DeeDee Hall • Tom Hook • Norman Hradec • Francis McMonigle • Greg Munter • Bill Nash • Sarah Watson • Jenna Wohlwend.

The Deceased

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Mario Hugo Carreon Garcia • Maria Gonzalez • Tom Heestand • Elia Nava • Angel Pinon • Rudy Planchich.

**"IN EVERY AGE, O LORD,
YOU HAVE BEEN OUR REFUGE." —PS 90**



O Sacrament Most Holy

O Sacrament Divine

All Praise and

All Thanksgiving

Be Every Moment Thine

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 7

STB

8:00AM + Hilda Sntillan dela Vega

10:00AM + Zita Brown

12:00PM For Saint Brendan Parish

STOC

9:00AM For Saint Teresa Parish

11:00AM For Saint Teresa Parish

Monday, September 8

STB - Guadalupe Silva

STOC - NO MASS

Tuesday, September 9

STB - NO MASS

STOC - 9:00AM Jane Nash

Wednesday, September 10

STB - 8:30AM + Catherine Mary Kennedy Jacobs

STOC - 9:00AM + Lou Seaborn

Thursday, September 11

STB - 8:30AM Norma Reger

STOC - 9:00AM + Fr. Lyle Konen

Friday, September 12

STB - 8:30AM Bourke Reger

STOC - 9:00AM Doug Barlow

Saturday, September 13

STB

8:30AM For All Christian Churches

5:00PM For Saint Brendan Parish

STOC - 5:00PM For Saint Teresa Parish

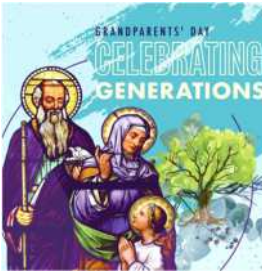
To submit a Mass intention, contact the parish office at the following email address.

• St. Brendan - receptionist@saintbrendan.org

• St. Teresa of Calcutta - admin@saintteresa.org

+ = deceased.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY



Dear God,
What a grace to live in a world of all ages and stages.
Bless our grandparents, today and always.
Thank You for their experiences, wisdom, and insight.
Thank You for the gifts they bring the Church.
Thank You for the lessons they teach the next generations.
Amen.



Querido Dios,
Qué gracia vivir en un mundo de todas las edades y etapas.
Bendice a nuestros abuelos, hoy y siempre.
Gracias por sus experiencias, sabiduría y perspicacia.
Gracias por los regalos que traen a la Iglesia.
Gracias por las lecciones que enseñan a las próximas generaciones.
Amén.

A TALK BY FR. ZIKODI OKWUOSA

When Catholics go to Mass in Northern Nigeria, they have to be reconciled with the fact that they might not get home alive. Many people in the Western world think that Christian martyrdom was a thing of the past, but the reality is that there are more Christian martyrs today than in former times. Join us on **Wednesday, SEP 24, 7PM at St. Teresa of Calcutta** as **Fr. Zikodi Okwuosa** describes *The Martyrs of Today: The Deadly Persecution of Christians in Nigeria*.



FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS, TEENS, & CHILDREN



The Faith Formation Programs for Adults, Teens and Children are starting up again in mid-September.

The Disciples Club Program is for all children in Grades 1st - 5th. • The **Confirmation and OCIC Programs** are for teens and young adults ages 13

through 17 years old. • **The OCIA Program** is for adults 18 and older, who wish to become Catholic and Catholic adults seeking Sacraments.

Registrations for all programs have begun. Watch the registration forms and posters in the church and in the coming weekly bulletins. *Let's all work together to have great participation in these important education programs.* Questions? Please contact Mark Sizemore at 425-483-9400 (ext. 2648) childfamilyministry@saintbrendan.org.

OCIA



OCIA (ESPAÑOL)



OCIC



HOLY LAND WOOD CARVINGS FOR SALE

We are having olive wood carvings available to purchase **after all Masses at St. Teresa on SEP. 20-21**. More than 75 families in Bethlehem hand carved these beautiful and unique items: Nativities, Crucifixes, Rosaries, and Statues. The Christian population in the Holy Land has dropped from 22% to less than 2% in the past two decades. The proceeds from these sales support Catholic families in the Holy Land, for whom this is a major source of income, which can help them stay in their homeland. Thank you in advance for your support.



BBQ & BROTHERS ARE BACK!

Men of the Parish, please join us for an evening on **Thursday, September 18th, at 6PM**, of Fellowship and Camaraderie, Seafood/Vegetable Boil, Cornhole and Bonfire style! Both the Brothers of St. Brendan and the host Parish Brothers of St. Teresa of Calcutta will join together. **This event will be at St. Teresa of Calcutta (Woodinville)**. We are planning on tweaking our **Beers, Brats and Brothers** to . . . **Brothers, Boil and Bonfire!!!** This is an opportunity to spend some quality time with your fellow Brothers from both Parishes. **We will have some great Seafood & Vegetable Boil food made by our very own Brett Carlton** followed by camaraderie around a bonfire at St. Teresa of Calcutta Church. **No need to bring a side salad, but desserts are always welcome.** Hope to see you there.

YOUNG-AT-HEART SENIORS

In July, a number of parishioners from St. Brendan and St. Teresa of Calcutta joined Fr. Wichert on a **Jubilee Year Pilgrimage** to Italy. Come join us on **Wednesday, September 24**, to learn about the sites visited as well as the impact of the trip on five of the pilgrims. Please join us in the **St. Brendan Narthex at 10:30AM that Wednesday** to also learn about the events planned for the 2025-2026 year, to hear about the Pilgrimage experience, and to feast on delicious Italian foods afterwards. **Please contact Donna (206-335-4469) if you're planning to attend.** *If you're interested in planning, preparing, or providing food for a light Italian lunch, please let Donna know.*

PARISH NEWS

BOOK STUDY / SMALL GROUP SHARING

Return: How to Draw Your Child Back To The Church by Brandon Vogt

Place: St. Brendan Church Library
Start Date: Tuesday, September 30
Time: 1:00PM -2:30PM
Length of study: Approx. 15 weeks

The statistics are troubling: 6.5 people leave the Catholic Church for every one that joins, and 50% of young people who were raised Catholic are no longer Catholic today. Few things are more painful for us than the longing for our children to come home to the church. *What are the top 5 reasons they leave the church?*

We need to understand the real reasons why people drift away and in this book Brandon demolishes the myths and presents his game plan to bring them home. He gives us support, sound tools, and practical answers. He lays out a prayerful and practical step by step plan for helping the lost sheep come back.

Join us as we read this book aloud together week to week, discuss what we read, and share thoughts, experience, and hope in a small group setting. No homework required!

Books will be on sale for \$20 during registration and at the first meeting.

Registration - After the weekend Masses on September 6/7 and 13/14 OR call Anne Chapman (206-234-5849).



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (KofC) CORNER (Council 6686)

• Are you looking for some inspirational reading? Check out the *Building the Domestic Church* kiosk located next to the drinking fountain in the St. Brendan narthex.

- The family that prays together, stays together. A Knights led rosary will be prayed **after every Mass on September 6/7, in the chapel**. Come and join us in praying a rosary for your special intentions.
- The Knights of Columbus are men on a mission, a Catholic Brotherhood changing the world. To learn more, go to <http://www.kofc.org> or look for a Knight in a blue vest or contact our Grand Knight, Joe Osmialowski at 248-343-9021. There are many tangible benefits available for Knights and their families.



RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Please Pray For These Expecting Mothers: Taryn Beard-Killeri • Megan Carlin • Madeline Castro Dempsey • Allison Danforth Reisinger • Dalia Davis Elledge • Eustorgia Felipe • Alexis Fuller • Robbi Ann Gray (Buendia) • Mildred Hranek • Rhianna Kofmehl • • MaryKate White Benshoof • Melissa White Harrow.

Congratulations to: Andrew & Jaycee ARPIN on the birth of their daughter, Eliana Theodosia. • Kevin & Sandra BARNETT on the birth of their son, Patrick Sheen • Mac & Katy STALEY on the birth of their daughter, Mona Maureen • Shawn & Gemme NASH on the birth of their son, Theodore (Teddy) Thomas • Tom & Cate HARMON on the birth of their daughter, Margaret Ann (Maisie) • Pete and Colette (Lambert) TREPERINAS on the birth of their son, George Pete. We ask that God bless you and bring you much joy as you raise your little one. If you are expecting a baby and would like your church family to pray for you, please contact Colleen Danforth at rdhcoll@aol.com.

Spiritual Adoption Update - Our spiritually adopted babies are now 7 months old. They can use their four senses of vision, hearing, taste and touch. They can also recognize their mother's voice. Their eyelids are open. They weigh 3 pounds by the end of this month. The hair on their heads may already be long enough to cut and the downy body hair begins to recede.

Truly you formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made; wonderful are your works. Psalm 139: 13, 14.

Please remember to pray daily for your spiritually adopted baby and their mother.

13th Annual Golf Tournament Save the Date for September 20th



The Golf Club at Redmond Ridge

SATURDAY
20th SEPTEMBER, 2025
8:00 AM

TICKET	VIP TICKET
\$165	\$215

HOLY HOUR FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

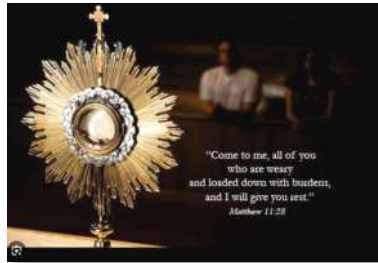
Date: Wed. SEP. 17th.

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: St. Brendan Chapel

We invite you to join us for a peaceful hour of Eucharistic adoration, prayer, and reflection, where parents and children can experience the loving presence of Jesus together. This family-friendly Holy Hour will include moments of quiet adoration, simple prayers, a hymn or two, and opportunities to pray as a community, welcoming the joyful noise of small children and babies while providing a grace-filled space for all ages.

Bring your entire family to this special opportunity to encounter Christ, where children can learn to adore Jesus in the Eucharist while parents can find spiritual renewal. Whether your children are toddlers or babies, everyone is welcome to participate in this sacred hour.



EVANGELIZATION

By Brigette Blair

CHRIS STEFANICK (YouTube)

- [Police Officer Burnout, PTSD, and Finding Hope.](#)
- [Divorce, Annulment, and the Catholic Faith - What No One Tells You.](#)
- [One Million Eyewitnesses Saw the Blessed Mother in Egypt!?](#)

LIVING PEACE SERIES (REALLY GOOD SO FAR!!)

- [The Secret to Unshakable Peace, Drop your Backup Plan & the Craziest Thing Jesus told His Disciples.](#)
- [Your Peace Is Getting Hijacked: Here's the Fix.](#)
- [Why Hurry Is Stealing Your Peace—And How to Take It Back?](#)
- [The Prayer That Will Stop Worry From Running Your Life .](#)
- [Why You're Stuck, And How Forgiveness Sets You Free?](#)
- [How to Be as Free as a Dead Man: The Path to Spiritual DETACHMENT?](#)
- [Want Real Inner Peace? You Have to Fight for it!](#)

In the final week of our Living Peace series, we are talking about the difference between the world's peace and the peace that Jesus offers us. If you have unresolved emotions, bad habits, or personal experiences holding you back from the peace that the Lord wants you to experience, this episode will start you on the path to conquering those obstacles on the journey to lasting peace. If you want real peace, first you have to go to war. In this episode, we'll explore Jesus' very specific definition of peace, and how it offers us so much more than the "ceasefire" of the world's counterfeit peace. We'll also look to examples of spiritual warriors who risked it all to overcome evil and sin in the world to pursue Christ's peace that surpasses all understanding. Join the waitlist to receive FREE EARLY ACCESS to our Living Peace program! Coming this Fall! <https://mailchi.mp/reallifecatholic/living-peace-sign-up>

FORMED

Kenny: [The True Story of Msgr. Ken Leone](#) • [Clare and Francis](#) • [Edith Stein: The Seventh Chamber](#) • [The Violinist: Stories of Solanus Casey](#)

BISHOP BARRON SUNDAY SERMON (YouTube)

[Does God Punish Us](#) • [Christ Came to Cast Fire Upon the Earth](#) - [Bishop Barron's Sunday Sermon](#) • [What Is Faith?](#)

Ascension Presents

"Offer it Up": [How Far Is Too Far?](#) • [The Best Thing Fr. Mike Learned From His Parents](#) • [Fr. Mike's Top 10 Moments](#)

Fr. Mike Schmitz Homilies

"Begin. Or begin again." | [21st Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) • ["Ordinary People"](#) | [20th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) • ["More Faith"](#) | [19th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) • ["Memento Mori"](#) | [18th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

THE CATHOLIC PARENT—FORMED

FOR KIDS—FORMED

[God's Princesses](#) • [Zack and Yalla](#) • [Brother Francis \(English & Español\)](#) • [Littlest Saints](#) • [The Wonderful World of Benjamin Cello](#) • [Christine in Action](#) • [Drawing Closer to God](#) • [Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids](#) • [Chalk and Block: What Every Child Needs to Know About God](#) • [Catholic All Year at Home with Kendra Tierney](#)

St Louise Catholic Church presents:

Divorce and Beyond

a faith based support group
for the recovery from divorce



10 week support group begins, Monday, September 15, 6:30-8:00PM

Are you trying to get past the pain of divorce?

You deserve to experience peace and joy again!

For more info Contact:
Dave Gehrig (425)747-4450 or email Divorceandbeyond@stlouis.org

St Louise Parish
141 156th AVE SE
Bellevue, WA 98007

Give us a call today!

GROWING IN FAITH

WHY DID JESUS SPEAK OF HATE?

By Zoltan Abraham

The message of the Gospel passage for this Sunday might seem shocking at first sight. What could Jesus possibly mean by this statement: "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple" (Matthew 14:26)? Doesn't Jesus want us to love our families? Doesn't he want us to have a healthy sense of self-love? How should we interpret his words?

To understand his words in this passage, we need to bear in mind two important aspects of the society in which Jesus proclaimed the Gospel. Ancient Israelite culture relied greatly, as do many cultures today, on the use of hyperbole, which entails deliberate and often excessive exaggeration in order to drive a point home. The manner in which Jesus spoke very much reflected the conventions of his culture.

For example, in another passage Jesus says that if our eyes offend us, by enabling us to fall into sin, like lustful thoughts, we should pluck them out. Or if our hand offends us, by enabling us to engage in sin, like theft, we should cut it off. Christians have never taken these words literally but have understood that Jesus was using strong exaggeration in order to emphasize how destructive sin is for us spiritually. Likewise, when Jesus is speaking about hating our family members and even our very selves, he is not speaking about hate in a literal sense. He is speaking about being single-minded in our dedication to God and being willing to set everything aside that might get in the way.

Which leads us to the second cultural aspect that we need to consider in order to understand the Gospel passage for this Sunday. Ancient Israelite society consisted of tight-knit extended family groups. Each person derived their identity from the family to which they belonged. On the one hand, the family provided a tremendous amount of protection and support. If there was trouble from the outside world, each member of the family could count on the whole group rallying around them.

On the other hand, the family structure also required a strong sense of loyalty and adherence to the family's way of life. The notion of individualism, of charting one's own trajectory in life with no regard to the traditions of one's family was simply unheard of. Every custom, every standard, every belief was determined by a person's family. The idea of practicing a religion different from the family's religion was unthinkable.

What could the followers of Jesus do if they were the only ones in their family who decided to become a Christian? They would face rejection and ostracism. In some cases, they might even face the threat of death. In such situations, they would have to break with their families, not out of hatred, but in order to be able to follow Christ.

Christ is the meaning of life. Christ is the only true fulfillment of the human heart. We must put Christ in the very center of our lives, letting go of anything that would try to draw us away from him. Christ must be first, last, and always, above everything else in life.

But having Christ in the center does not mean that we no longer love others. Quite the contrary. The more Christ is in our center, the more capable we become of healthy, well-ordered love for all others. In fact, only when Christ is in our center can we love truly, unselfishly, with genuine love.

In today's culture, we too might face rejection and ostracism from our families because we are following Christ. Family members might treat us with hatred and might cut off all ties with us as a result. But no matter what the situation is, we should not waver in our absolute commitment to Christ.

If we do experience persecution from family members because of our faith, we should love them all the more, doing all that we can to bring the love of Christ into their lives. Sometimes all we can do is love from a distance, praying and fasting for our loved ones who do not love us because of Christ. We should pray unceasingly for them and fast too, regularly. Even if our efforts do not seem to bring about healing in this life, we can hope that through our prayers and fasting our family members will find Christ before the end and that we will be together for all eternity in Heaven.

At the same time, if our own families refuse to engage with us because of our commitment to following Christ, the Christian community should function as our new family. In a different passage Jesus says: "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come" (Mark 10:29-30). The Christian community is to be the embodiment of a perfect family, living according to the teachings of Christ. One challenge for all of us is to evaluate just how well our own parish communities live out the calling to be an authentic Christian family.

The Second Reading, taken from St. Paul's Letter to Philemon, a leader in the Colossian community, draws attention to this challenge in the context of the early Church. At the time of Christ, slavery was still considered an acceptable practice. Needless to say, the Gospel message of Christ condemns slavery. But given how deeply entrenched the practice was in ancient Mediterranean society, uprooting slavery from the developing Christian communities took some time.

Philemon himself owned one slave, Onesimus, the subject of the letter. Onesimus ran away from Philemon and sought shelter with the Apostle Paul. After some time, Paul decided to send Onesimus back to Philemon, but with the instruction that Philemon must free the slave and thenceforth treat him as his brother. Paul indicated that he could command Philemon to do so, given Paul's own standing in the Church, but instead he was merely entreating Philemon to act according to his request. Paul's message was clear. If Philemon wanted to be a true follower of Christ, he had to repudiate the practice of slavery and treat his former slave as his own brother, the same way he would treat the Apostle Paul himself.

The New Testament does not tell us how Philemon acted, though later tradition suggests that he did indeed free Onesimus, who then became an active leader of the local Church himself. But though we do not know the outcome for sure, we can apply the challenge of the letter to our own lives. Are there practices in our own lives that are not in line with the Gospel of Christ? Do we need to uproot certain ways of being or ways of doing things from our day-to-day lives? Let us pray to receive the grace to know how we must reshape our lives so that the healing light, the infinite love of Christ can imbue us to the core of our being.

If you would like to read more of Zoltan's writings, you can find them at www.zoltanabraham.com.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL – SERVING IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Do small things with great love. – St. Teresa of Calcutta

Dear Friends: Thank you so much for your heartfelt response to our invitation at the weekend Masses. We are deeply grateful that nine individuals have already expressed interest in joining us in the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Thanks be to God! We kindly ask you to continue supporting St. Vincent financially. Checks should be made payable to St. Brendan Church with "For St. Vincent" noted on the check. Envelopes with checks or cash should have "For St. Vincent" clearly marked on the envelope. For online donations through your St. Brendan account enter a message such as "This donation is for St. Vincent DePaul" in the box with the header "Message/Instructions for the church."

Questions? Call Tom Gaines 425-481-3431. Most importantly, please continue to pray for our neighbors in need, and for all Vincentians as we strive to serve with compassion and humility.



PREPARES MINISTRY AT ST. BRENDAN AND ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Supports families in need by providing diapers and clothing for children from birth to school age. We are located in the **lower Brendan House** and are open on **Tuesdays from 9AM to 11AM**.

If you are in a housing or food crisis or in need of other immediate assistance, please call the State of Washington Services at 2-1-1 for help—it's FREE; they are open 24/7 and multilingual. **If you would like to make a financial donation to PREPARES, please write St. Teresa Prepares on the check.** Please contact Lori Wirtz (loriwirtz@gmail.com) with any questions. Thank you for your support!

NEED: Diapers: Size - 3, 4T-5T, and 6.

WANTED - S.O.S. VOLUNTEER LEAD COOK

Serving Our Savior, or SOS, is the St. Brendan and St. Teresa Food Program that provides food for four shelters. We need a main cook! Don't be scared, it's really not hard and only **once a month on Thursday mornings in the St. Brendan Kitchen**. We have recipes to choose from AND do the shopping for you! We just need someone not afraid to step up and tell a talented and supportive team of assistant chefs what to do. If you enjoy cooking, give it a chance! Our team really does have a lot of fun, and we feed the hungry. What could be better? Interested? Please contact Priscilla at cilfinch@hotmail.com.

ST BRENDAN GARDENS

Our first parish work party for this Fall will be on **Saturday morning, September 20**. The main focus will be cleaning up the wooded hillside east of the church building. Pruning and cutting will have been done before that day so the main things we need will be trucks and trailers and plenty of people to help load up the debris to be hauled away. Feel free to come even if you're only able to stay for an hour or two — any help is most welcome. If you're not interested in loading trucks and trailers, there'll be plenty of other gardening chores to do. A *lunch will be provided*.

Mark October 25 and November 15 on your calendar: those will be leaf cleanup days! Please contact Anneliese (425-770-2103) if you have any questions.

YOUTH GROUP

Volunteers are needed for our youth groups this year! If you at least like teens and love Jesus, please reach out to Andrew Duncan at andrew@saintteresa.org for more information.



YOUTH CORNER



HAVE A BLESSED NEW SCHOOL YEAR!
FROM THE PARISH FAMILY STAFF OF
ST. BRENDAN & ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA.

ST. BRENDAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL UPCOMING DATES & CALENDAR

Curriculum Night (1st-5th) - September 10th, 2025
Curriculum Night (6th-8th) - September 11th, 2025
Picture Day - September 16th, 2025
Golf Tournament - September 20th, 2025

The Cost of Discipleship

Y	C	R	O	S	S	T	C	S	U	S	E	J	L
W	R	I	D	I	C	U	L	E	B	R	D	R	V
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C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	H	S	I	N	I	F
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BROTHERS
DELEGATION
CARRY
MOTHER
WAR
DISCIPLES
CHILDREN
FOLLOW
JESUS
EVERYTHING
TRAVELING
BUILD
CROSS
CANNOT
COMPLETE
TOWER
RIDICULE
FINISH
WIFE
CROWDS
MONEY
FATHER
KING
ANYONE

Lord,
Help me share the things
I prize the most.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Question: What are the three occasions where ashes are used liturgically?
Answer: Ash Wednesday, the dedication of a church building, and the consecration of an altar.

ST. BRENDAN'S DISCIPLES CLUB

Registration is now open for the Disciples Club Faith Formation Program for Grade 1 through Grade 5 at St. Brendan. Please click the link: <https://archseattle.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/5804/responses/new>, scan the QR Code >>> or stop by the church narthex and take a paper registration form.

Questions? Contact Mark Sizemore, Pastoral Assistant for Child and Family Ministries at childfamilyministry@saintbrendan.org or at 425-483-9400 (ext. 2648).



CYO ATHLETICS

Fall CYO Sports are now OPEN for Registration.

Visit: <https://www.teamsideline.com/sites/seattlecyo/home> to register your child or volunteer to coach.

K-8 Soccer
Fall 2025



K-8 Cross Country
Fall 2025



Coed Adult Volleyball
Fall 2025



ONLINE PARISHIONER STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES & ONLINE GIVING

Every person's finances and family situation is different. Jesus makes it clear that it matters not how much one gives, but that it is planned, calculated, at least some-what sacrificial (see Luke 24:1-4), and not simply from what is "leftover" at the end of the month.

We propose the tithe (10%) as the ideal every family can consider working towards. This means taking steps to give 5% to one's parish and 5% to other charities, or causes you have personal passion for.

You can give online at parish.saintbrendan.org (STB) or at <https://pushpay.com/g/saintteresacalcutta> (STOC) or scan the following QR codes with your phone's camera, It's quick, secure, convenient, and easy. Your support helps sustain our parish family. If you need help with online giving, please call the Parish Office at 425-483-9400 (STB) or 425-806-8096 (STOC)

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

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