

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

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION
OF THE HOLY CROSS

WE ADORE YOU O CHRIST
AND WE PRAISE YOU,
FOR BY YOUR HOLY CROSS,
YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.



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**

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: *Crucifixion of Jesus Christ*

Artist: Soloviova Liudmyla | **Source:** [MyCatholicLife](http://MyCatholicLife.com)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **FAITH FORMATION** for Adults, Teens, and Children. Registrations are still OPEN. • Pg. 5.
- **BOOK STUDY – Return: How to Draw Your Child Back To The Church** - Tuesday, SEP. 30 • Register after Masses on SEP 13/14. • Page 6 for full details.
- **MOM'S GROUP** - Wednesday, SEP. 17 • 9:30AM • Pg. 5.
- **HOLY HOUR FOR FAMILIES/CHILDREN** - Wednesday, SEP 17 • 6PM • St. Brendan Chapel • Page 7.
- **BBQ & BROTHERS** - Thursday, SEP 18 • 6PM • See below for details.
- **TRAINING - EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** - Monday, SEP. 22 • 6PM • St. Brendan • RSVP • See below.
- **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 • RSVP • Pg. 5 for details.
- **A TALK BY FR. ZIKODI** - Wednesday, SEP. 24 • 7PM • St. Teresa of Calcutta. See next column.
- **LIFE CHAIN** - Sunday, OCT. 5 • 1:30PM • Pg. 5.
- **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** - See Page 9 - Youth Group • Sunday School Teacher • St. Brendan Garden • SOS St. Brendan Lead Cook.

MASS SCHEDULE

With the fall season almost upon us, the 5PM Sunday Mass at St. Teresa of Calcutta has resumed starting tonight.

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.



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*.



TRAINING—EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

There will be a training for all current ministers serving and new folks who would like to serve at Evergreen Hospital on **Monday, SEP. 22, 6PM to 8PM at St. Brendan Church**. A light dinner will be provided. We'll gather in the Chapel and move to the Narthex. **Please RSVP** so we will have enough food.

Contacts:

- Cristina Medina (Homebound) - cristina.medina@frontier.com
- Christine Ito (Hospital) - zagmom.ito@gmail.com
- Anne Chapman (Residences) - amchappy@msn.com



BBQ & BROTHERS ARE BACK!

Men of the Parish, please join us for an evening **this 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.



PRAYER AND READINGS

READINGS OF THE WEEK

THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

DO NOT FORGET THE WORKS OF THE LORD! (PSALM 78)

Sunday: Nm 21:4b-9 • Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38 • Phil 2:6-11 • Jn 3:13-17

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8 • Ps 28:2, 7-9 • Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13 • Ps 101:1b-2abcd-3ab, 5, 6 • Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16 • Ps 111:1-2, 3-6 • Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16 • Ps 111:7-10 • Lk 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12 • Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-20 • Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16 • Ps 100:1b-5 • Lk 8:4-15

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 • Colleen Danforth • Howard Danforth • Joan Dedman • Fr. Jay De Folco • Marilyn Gardner • DeeDee Hall • Tom Hook • Norman Hradec • Amy Kasprzyk • Thomas Leslie • Kathy Lindquist • 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 • Francis McMonigle • Julia Mathewson • Elia Nava • Angel Pinon.

**"HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF,
BECOMING OBEDIENT TO DEATH,
EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS"** —PHIL 2:8



O Sacrament Most Holy
O Sacrament Divine
All Praise and
All Thanksgiving
Be Every Moment Thine

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 14

STB

8:00AM Diana Alfonso

10:00AM + Jack McGoorty

12:00PM + Lucas Rodriguez Lopez

STOC

9:00AM For Saint Teresa Parish

11:00AM For Saint Teresa Parish

Monday, September 15

STB - + Holy Souls in Purgatory

STOC - NO MASS

Tuesday, September 16

STB - NO MASS

STOC - 9:00AM + Holy Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, September 17

STB - 8:30AM For Children in Palestine

STOC - 9:00AM Janice Dyer

Thursday, September 18

STB - 8:30AM Haileselassie Family

STOC - 9:00AM + Rachel Jackman

Friday, September 19

STB - 8:30AM Doris Svanevik

STOC - 9:00AM Renato Paguia

Saturday, September 20

STB

8:30AM + Rudy Plancich

5:00PM + Jacques Fourcalt

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.



PRAYER FOR SIMPLICITY

DEAR GOD,

In my desire for YOU, take away anything that keeps me from knowing YOU, myself, or my mission here on earth. Help me to remember what is truly important, and to seek and treasure that. AMEN.

LIFE CHAIN

Join us on **Sunday, October 5th from 1:30-3PM**. We will hold signs and pray for an end to abortion along Bothell Everett Highway. Meet at McMenamins on the corner across from Cafe Ladro.

Life Chain is a peaceful, powerful, and prayerful event. We will provide the signs. Hope to see you there! Families welcome! We all need to do our part to end abortion. This is a good start! For more information contact Colleen Danforth at rdhcoll@aol.com

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



MOMS GROUP

Guided by Mary, we aim to be a space where mothers can find connection and community with other mothers as they seek to grow in their relationship with God and deepen their faith. We meet **every other Wednesday at 9:30AM in the St. Brendan nursery**. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, SEP. 17**. All children are welcome up to 10 years of age. Please bring any toys or snacks your child may need. You can email stbmomsgroup25@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

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.*



Happier marriages take time and work. We, Marriage Encounter, can help married couples take time and lead them in work to enjoy happier marriages. We also encourage them to be more involved in their parish. They can

return to your parish as a greater sign and example for your young people and their children. Children deserve parents who love each other. Children are harmed when their parents live lives that lead to divorce.

Live better lives of love. Your spouse deserves it, also your children deserve it. **Join the Marriage Encounter Weekend in Everett, WA at the Hampton Inn Nov. 14-16, 2025.** Sign up at <http://www.wvme.org>. scroll down to Everett weekend and fill in your information. WELCOME to the Weekend.

PARISH NEWS

BOOK STUDY / SMALL GROUP SHARING

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

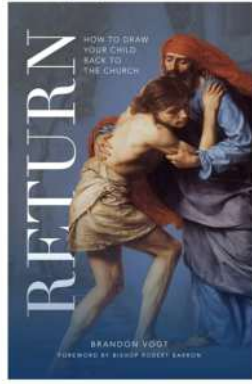
Place: St. Brendan Church Library

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 13/14 OR call Anne Chapman (206-234-5849).

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

SATURDAY
20th SEPTEMBER, 2025
8:00 AM

TICKET	VIP TICKET
\$165	\$215

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 • Avika Nash • Shelby Teter • 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.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (KofC) CORNER (Council 6686)

- **September Knight of the Month:** Ben Astey
- **September Family of the Month:** Bobby and Roxanne Buendia
- 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.
- One of the benefits of being a Knight is access to Fraternal Benefit Events. Webinars are available **every night at 7PM** at www.kofcpacific/fbn (English) and www.kofcpacific/fbe (Spanish). The council will receive credit towards the Founders award by your watching the webcast, completing the survey at the conclusion and, notifying Grand Knight Joe Osmialowski joe_osmialowski@yahoo.com so that the activity can be reported.
- The Knights are hosting a Casino night for the residents of Fairwinds Brighton Court in Lynnwood on **September 18 from 5:30 to 8:00PM**. Contact Grand Knight Joe Osmialowski at joe_osmialowski@yahoo.com or 248-343-9021 if you will be able to participate. We are always looking for helpers.
- What does it mean to be a Knight? It means a life of faith in action, a life of boldness in brotherhood, a life worth living. Join 2 million Catholic men on a mission. To learn more, go to kofc.org or look for a Knight in a blue vest or contact Grand Knight Joe Osmialowski at 248-343-9021.

HOLY HOUR FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

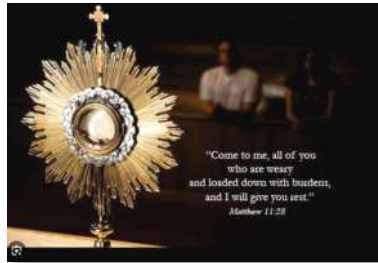
Date: Wed. SEP. 17th.

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)

- [Hate your mom?! What Jesus really meant & what it means for YOU](#)
- [Who is Carlo Acutis? An Interview with His Mom](#)
- [Blessed Pier Giorgio's Second Vatican-Approved Miracle: Fr. Juan's Miraculous Healing](#)
- Police Officer Burnout, PTSD, and Finding Hope.
- Divorce, Annulment, and the Catholic Faith - What No One Tells You

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!](#)

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)

- [Are You Ready for Serious Discipleship?](#)
- [Does God Punish Us](#)

ASCENSION PRESENTS

- [How Do People Become Saints? \(Fr. Mike Explains the Canonization Process\)](#)
- [Introducing Fr. Mike's New Podcast: "Called"](#)
- ["Offer it Up": How Far Is Too Far?](#)

FR. MIKE SCHMITZ HOMILIES

- ["Two Questions" | 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)
- ["Freedom and Joy" | 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)
- ["Begin. Or begin again." | 21st 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!

Give us a call today!

For more info Contact:
Dave Gehrig (425)747-4450 or email Divorceandbeyond@stlouise.org
St Louise Parish
141 156th AVE SE
Bellevue, WA 98007

GROWING IN FAITH

THE CROSS ALONE GIVES MEANING IN THIS LIFE

By Zoltan Abraham

This year, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross falls on a Sunday, the 24th in ordinary time. The feast supplants the regular Sunday readings and prayers, which very rarely happens. The change underscores just how deeply the Church honors the Holy Cross.

As we look at the feast, we see that the assigned Gospel Reading contains perhaps the single most famous passage from the Bible in American culture - John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." The passage is often quoted especially by fundamentalist and evangelical Christians and is a favorite verse to hold up on signs at sporting events. How does the Catholic Church interpret this passage?

The theological understanding of John 3:16 revolves around the concept of expiation. God is love and he created the world out of love in order to share his love with us. However, humanity fell through human sin. Since God is infinite, God's justice is also infinite, which entails that any offense against God has infinite consequences. Given that human beings are finite by nature, no human act could possibly atone for the sins of humanity against God.

But God did not want to leave humanity mired in sin, cut off from his infinite love. Therefore, God took all of the sins of humanity upon himself. God became incarnate, taking on a human nature. He came among us as one of us and died upon the Cross for us. Through his sacrifice on the Cross, Christ, who is God himself, atoned for the sins of humanity, reconciling us with God's justice.

The bronze serpent Moses made in the desert foreshadowed the crucifixion of Christ. The Israelites had fallen into sin and God sent serpents to punish them. But as long as they looked upon the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses, they were not killed by the serpent bites.

Throughout the centuries, the church has interpreted the Old Testament as always pointing toward Christ. Each aspect of the Old Testament in some way prefigures Christ, sometimes very clearly and sometimes a bit more obliquely. In the case of the serpents, looking upon the bronze serpents saved the lives of the Israelites. By analogy, Christ Crucified is our salvation. Christ Crucified gives us eternal life.

Christ upon the cross is the key to life. Through his expiation, Christ atoned for our sins and has given us eternal life, if we accept his gift of love. The Cross also helps us make sense of suffering in this life. All of us will suffer profoundly in life. Some suffering can be prevented or alleviated, and when possible, we should not hesitate to do so. However, all of our lives will be visited by some profound suffering that we cannot get rid of. But when we accept such suffering and unite it with the suffering of Christ, we will paradoxically feel a tremendous

amount of peace. Indeed, we can rejoice, even in the midst of great suffering.

But we can and should go beyond simply making peace with our suffering. There is one more important step,

which is offering our suffering up for others. Catholic spirituality has always held that suffering has spiritual value and we can offer the value of our suffering for others. By doing so, we can gain spiritual benefits for others.

The most pure way to offer up our suffering is to offer it for those who have caused us to suffer in the first place. Thereby, we can help them receive spiritual benefits. Thereby, we repay them with good for evil, just as Jesus instructed us to do.

Indeed, the prime example of offering suffering up for those who caused it is Christ himself. Christ was upon the Cross because of our sins against him. He suffered because of us. And yet, he offered the spiritual value of his suffering up for us, thereby gaining for us salvation. Years ago, the acronym WWJD was very popular - What would Jesus do? We know what he would do in our life circumstances from what he has already modeled for us to do. To emulate Christ, we should embrace the Cross we are carrying and offer its spiritual fruits for others, especially for our enemies. That is the most Christ-like thing we can do.

As we contemplate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which always falls on September 14, we should also bear in mind that the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows is always observed the next day, on September 15. As Mother of God, the Virgin Mary had a unique role in the saving work of Christ. Not only did she watch her Divine Son suffer, but given her special connection to Christ, she experienced in her being the full extent of Christ's suffering. Therefore, she suffered more greatly than any other human, other than the human nature of Christ.

The Virgin Mary is our spiritual mother. As the perfect mother, she is there for us whenever we need her help. Having experienced the depths of human suffering in her own person, she is there to help and comfort us as we suffer. She will always help us to unite our suffering with Christ Crucified, which will lead us to experience a deep sense of peace and joy even in the midst of our sorrow. Therefore, let us not hesitate to call upon her help day after day for the rest of our lives.



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



RACHEL'S CORNER - PROJECT RACHEL POST ABORTION HEALING RETREATS

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Join us on our next Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat and come to know the God who loves the world so much that He gave his beloved Son so we might have eternal life!

English Retreat - Friday, October 10- Sunday, October 12, 2025
Spanish Retreat - Friday, October 31- Sunday, November 2, 2025
English Retreat - Friday, March 6 - Sunday, March 8, 2026

English: (206) 920-6413 (leave a confidential message)
Español: (206)-450-7814 (deje un mensaje confidencial)

Email > projectrachel@ccsww.org.

Visit > www.ccsww.org/projectrachel | www.facebook.com/projectrachelww.

Project Rachel is a program of Catholic Community Services.
You are loved with an everlasting Love!

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.



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.

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

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

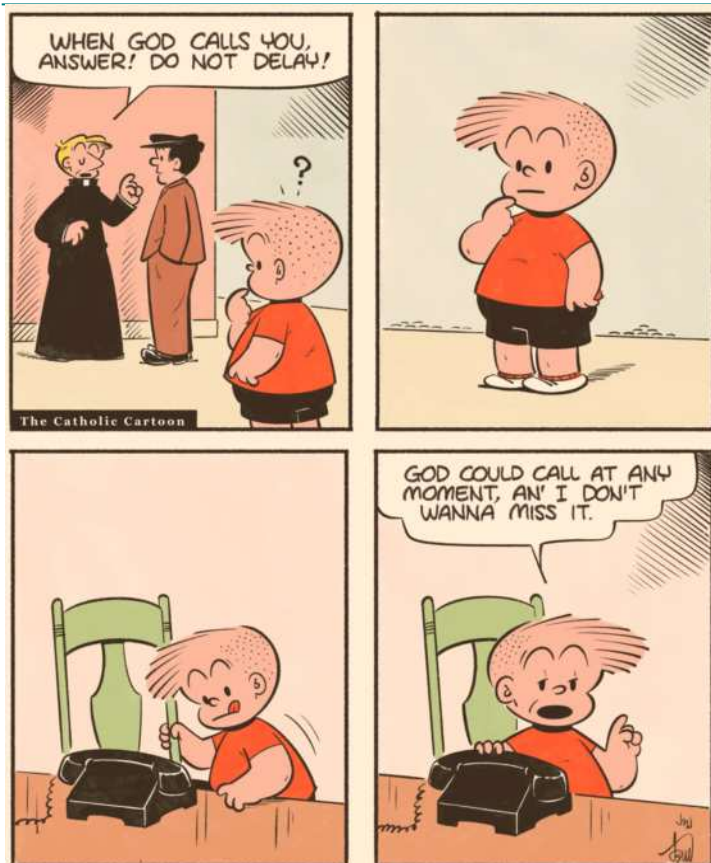
Golf Tournament - September 20th, 2025



LITTLE MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY - THE PHILIPPINES

Ayesha was born on October 11, 2015. She was abandoned while very small by both of her parents and was taken in by her aunty and uncle. She is a 3rd Grader and has a dream of becoming a teacher. She even practices teaching now.

Her life as an abandoned child taught her many things in life and through it all has become a loving child to everyone. She loves to joke with her friends.



God,

You are my power
and my strength.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Question: What does *INRI* on the Cross mean?

Answer: It is the abbreviation for the Latin "Iesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum." In English translates to "Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews."

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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<p>ESHC Evergreen Speech and Hearing Clinic When was the last time you and your loved ones had a hearing checkup? Contact us for a FREE consultation to learn how we can transform your hearing! REDMOND KIRKLAND BELLEVUE Call 425-882-4347 Visit everhear.com for more information</p>	<p>Kaufers Religious Supplies SEATTLE - (206) 622-3100 5201 4th Avenue South Seattle, WA 98108 SPOKANE - (509) 326-7070 907 West Boone Avenue Spokane, WA 99201 kaufers.shop</p>	<p>THERE'S NO ONE WAY TO RETIRE. But, there's one place to do it best. Live with purpose and joy! Woodinville 425-484-8436 Independent & Assisted Living FairwindsBrittanyPark.com LEISURE CARE</p>	<p>425-240-9334 • 425-864-1330 www.velascolandscapingconst.com Patios • Retaining Walls • Yard Clean-up & More!</p>



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