

SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 25, 2025

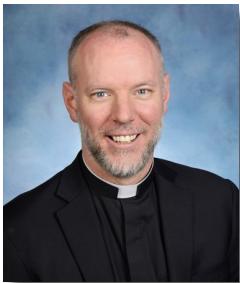


THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS – PAINTING BY CHRISTIAN WILHELM ERNST DIETRICH (1760s)

SAINT BRENDAN & SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

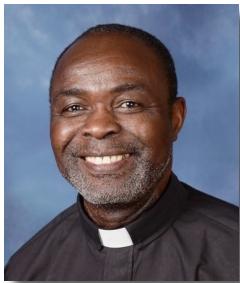
Parish Family

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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.parish.saintbrendan.org

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ST. BRENDAN PARISH SCHOOL

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday | 8AM to 4PM

Wednesday | 8AM to 3PM

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- 425-483-8300 | www.school.saintbrendan.org

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

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ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH (STOC)

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

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

To arrange for the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, call the Ministry of Pastoral Care of the Eastern Deanery at 425-655-3200.

To arrange for Holy Communion for the sick or homebound, call the parish office.

MINISTERIO PARA LOS ENFERMOS Y LAS PERSONAS CONFINADAS EN CASA

Para concertar el Sacramento de la Unción de los Enfermos, llame al Ministerio de Atención Pastoral del Decanato Oriental al 425-655-3200.

Para concertar la Sagrada Comunión para los enfermos o las personas confinadas en casa, llame a la oficina parroquial.

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



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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

We especially want to extend a special welcome to our visitors and hope you will join us at Mass again soon. We also invite you to participate in our many ministries as you feel called. To see the various opportunities, please visit our respective websites:

[St. Brendan](https://parish.saintbrendan.org) > [St. Teresa of Calcutta](https://www.saintteresacalcutta.org) > <https://www.saintteresacalcutta.org>

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

OCIA (the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) is the process by which you can learn about the Catholic Faith and have your questions answered. If you choose to become Catholic, you will be initiated fully at the Easter Vigil. For any questions or to sign up, contact Mark Sizemore (childfamilyministry@saintbrendan.org).

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Did you grow up Catholic but were never confirmed? It's a common situation and it's never too late! Contact Mark Sizemore (childfamilyministry@saintbrendan.org) to learn more about getting confirmed as an adult.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

- St. Brendan's Disciples Club - Wednesdays at 6PM.
- St. Teresa's Sunday School - Sundays between the 9AM and 11AM Mass.

YOUTH GROUP

Emmaus, our high school youth group, meets Sunday evenings, and Sinai, our middle school youth group, meets Wednesday evenings for a time of faith building, fellowship, and fun! Throughout the year the youth groups also engage in service projects, retreats, and more. Contact Andrew Duncan (andrew@saintteresa.org) for more information or to sign up.

If you would like to make a special Christmas donation to either parish, please use the QR Codes >>>.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR JOINING US.

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES
DURING THE HOLY SEASON OF CHRISTMAS.**



St. Brendan
049 - Holy Day Collection
<https://ppay.co/pDpCwdT0sqs>



St. Teresa of Calcutta
170 - Holy Day Collection
<https://ppay.co/tlxDYAAfe8M>

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) VIGIL MASS

GOSPEL—MT 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king.

David became the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asaph.

Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amos,

Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile.

After the Babylonian exile, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok. Zadok became the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.

Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian exile to the Christ, fourteen generations.

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,*

which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

OR:

MT 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

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MASS DURING THE NIGHT

GOSPEL—LK 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled.

This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town.

And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son.

She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock.

The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them,

“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.

And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

MASS AT DAWN

GOSPEL—LUKE 2:15-20

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

“Let us go, then, to Bethlehem

to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.

When they saw this,

they made known the message that had been told them about this child.

All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.

And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God

for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

MASS DURING THE DAY

GOSPEL—JN 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him.

He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying,

“This was he of whom I said, ‘The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.’”

From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God.

The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him

OR:

JN 1:1-5, 9-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be.

What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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And the Word became flesh

*and made his dwelling among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth.*

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY'S MANY MINISTRIES

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Servers, youth in Grades 3 and up, serve at Masses and special liturgies. • **Environment Ministers** areas of worship preparation of flowers and plants, sacristy help, and seasonal planning. • **Extraordinary Ministers** during Liturgy serve the Sacred Host and Blood at Mass. • **Hospitality Ministers (Ushers)** offer a welcoming presence at liturgies by serving the needs of the assembly. • **Lectors** proclaim the first and second readings at Mass, and may also lead the Psalm or Prayers of the Faithful if no one else is available. • **Music Ministers** provide music for our Masses. • **Sacristans** prepare the church for liturgies and serve as a resource to other liturgical ministers.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Adoration at St. Teresa on Tuesdays to Fridays, 8:30AM (Prior to Daily Mass) Benediction just before 9AM Mass • **24-hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Brendan** takes place on first Fridays following 8:30AM Mass. Monday through Thursday Adoration is from 1PM - 6PM. Other Fridays are after the 8:30AM Mass until 6PM. • **Extraordinary Ministers to the Sick** visit people in their homes, at hospitals, and in other local care facilities. • **OCDS (Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites)** - third order Carmelite group.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Adult Enrichment offers various opportunities for catechesis and formation throughout the year. • **Christian Initiation (OCIA)** for adults interested in initiation as Catholic Christians. Opportunities for inquiry, discernment, and understanding of our Catholic faith and traditions. • **Marriage Preparation** is provided to parish couples seeking marriage; the process takes about six months. • **Scripture Sharing** groups meet weekly to read, study, and pray the Scriptures. • **Men's Group "BBB"** is an opportunity for men to enjoy friends, fellowship, and fun with other men from the parish. • **Women's Group, Well-Read Moms, and Women's Bible Study** are various opportunities for women to grow in their faith, fellowship, and fun with other wonderful women from the parish.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Baptism of Infants and Young Children is celebrated following liturgies with children of practicing parish households following parent preparation sessions. • **Christian Initiation (OCIC)** for unbaptized children interested in initiation as Catholic Christians. Opportunities for inquiry, discernment, and understanding of our Catholic faith and traditions. • **Elementary Faith Formation** for children in Grades 1 to 5 • **First Reconciliation/First Eucharist**: Children and families meet throughout the year to prepare children 2nd grade and older celebrate these sacraments following at least one full year of faith formation through Disciples Club or St. Brendan School. • **Vacation Bible Camp** is an annual camp that takes place during the summer months. For children Grades 1 to 5. Grade 6 and older are helpers.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

Christian Initiation (OCIC) for teens interested in initiation as Catholic Christians. Opportunities for inquiry, discernment, and understanding of our Catholic faith and traditions. • **Confirmation (Youth)** assists baptized Catholics who are at least 13 years of age in deepening their understanding and acceptance of our Catholic faith and discerning readiness for this initiation sacrament. • **Sinai & Emmaus Youth Group Program** helps our middle- and high-schoolers, respectively, connect with our faith through education, discussions, and community service.

PEACE & JUSTICE

Malawi Mission provides financial assistance for our Sister Parish, St. Joseph, Namalaka. • **Diaper Bag Project** volunteers make and fill diaper bags for needy and homeless newborn babies through the Nurse-Family Partnership of Seattle and King County Public Health. • **Giving Tree** gives parishioners the opportunity to make Christmas more joyful for needy children and adults by working with local agencies to provide gifts. • **Respect Life Committee** attempts to raise awareness regarding all life issues including abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and capital punishment. • **Serving Our Savior (SOS)** responds to the homeless by supporting a variety of shelters and missions in the Seattle area through food and a weekly hot meal program. • **St. Vincent de Paul Society** is made up of parishioners who are directly involved in reaching out to the poor and needy in our local community, providing assistance with food, clothing, shelter, and utilities. • **PREPARES** provide much needed maternity and post-partum supplies for moms and babies.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Rosary Making meets once a month to make rosaries for those in need. • **Newcomers' Socials** helps newly registered parishioners get to know their new community. • **Parish/School Picnic** is a late summer parish/school community event featuring food, fun, and entertainment. • **Young-at-Heart Seniors Group** provides a variety of activities for senior adults of the parish. • **Soup Night** - Fridays during Lent, features a simple soup supper and Stations of the Cross. Money that would otherwise be spent on a meal is donated to Operation Rice Bowl, a Catholic Relief Services program. • **Wedding Anniversaries** annually honors couples in the parish who have been married 25, 50, and 60 plus years with special recognition at a Mass. • **Funeral Committee** is called to a ministry of consolation for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one. They provide assistance during the planning process and as well as luncheon reception following the funeral service for the bereaved family and their guests. • **Bite of St. Brendan International Dinner** brings together the parishes and school community annually in February with small bites of authentic dishes from around the world. • **Knights of Columbus** local chapters of the national men's group.

EVERY MASS IS LIKE CHRISTMAS By Zoltan Abraham

The celebration of Christmas in the Catholic Church has four distinct Masses - the Vigil, the Mass during night, the Mass at dawn, and the Mass during the day, each with its own set of readings. The Gospel for the Vigil Mass starts with the genealogy of Jesus. Some might want to skip over those lines, not wanting to bother with the difficult biblical names.

But we can learn a great deal already from the genealogy. The people of Israel had waited many years for the coming of the Messiah. Indeed, the entire Old Testament period was a time of preparation for Christ. The Israelites were waiting for a great king, a powerful military conqueror, who would subdue their enemies and usher in a new age of glory for Israel. But when he arrived, the Messiah was much more than what they had hoped for, beyond, in fact, their wildest expectations, as we shall see below.

The genealogy also shows how God works in the world. The list includes men and women who were holy, but also ones who fell short. God can work through even imperfect and sinful people to bring about his plan for creation. Even when people deliberately try to thwart his designs, he will still bring triumph out of tragedies. As the saying goes, God writes straight with crooked lines.

Indeed, the Gospel Reading for the Mass during the night also shows that not even the mightiest powers of the world can prevail against God's plan. Christ was born in the political context of the Roman Empire. Though today some might have a sense of nostalgia for that era, the New Testament consistently depicts the Roman Empire as evil, as a ravenous beast devouring the world. In the Gospel Reading, the Emperor is ordering a census, which was a part of the Empire's control over the conquered people.

At the time, the Empire would have seemed invincible to its subjects. As the Christian faith began to spread, the Empire turned its power toward eradicating the Church from the world. But in time, the Roman Empire itself was converted. The City of Rome, once the fulcrum of anti-Christian power, became the seat of the head of the Church, the pope. The mighty infrastructure of the Empire became the means through which the faith was spread to more and more lands. The conversion of the Roman Empire to Christianity serves as a powerful reminder of the ultimate victory of God in history.

The description of the birth of Jesus found in the Gospel Readings for the Mass during the night and the Mass at dawn also serves to reorient our values. Jesus was not born to a wealthy, influential family in a great center of power. Joseph and Mary were poor and lived on the outskirts of the Empire, far from the great places of political influence. They had no wealth or clout. They could not even find room at an inn but had to shelter with the animals in a cave that served as a stable.

The angels announcing the Good News of Christ's birth appeared to shepherds, who were considered among the lowest members of society. These shepherds were the ones to greet the newborn Baby Jesus first, not the high and mighty of society. Jesus was truly born amid the most humble circumstances.

And yet it is from his humble birth that the transformation of the world began. Christ overcame the powers of society, of wealth, of political might, of military prowess, and indeed nature itself. Christ established a new order of love, which will come to its complete fruition when he will remake the world at his Second Coming.

At the heart of this new order of love is self-sacrifice. Christ is God Incarnate, who came among us as one of us to offer himself in sacrifice for us. The description of his birth in the Gospel Readings contains important symbolism pointing toward his self-sacrifice. The shepherds tending the flocks were near Bethlehem, in the area where the sheep intended for sacrifice in the Temple were being raised. The fact that these shepherds are the first ones to see the newborn Jesus points toward Jesus being the Lamb of God, who will offer his life in sacrifice to save humanity. Jesus being born in a stable among the animals also underscores this connection.

To follow Christ, we are to give ourselves for one another as well. The sacrifices we will be called upon to make for each other may be small or great. We should start in our own homes, in our immediate circle. Parents caring for their children, spouses working together in the face of the vicissitudes of life, families tending to relatives who are ill, adult children being there for their elderly parents - all these are ways that we might be called upon to give of ourselves. We can then reach out to others, the neighbor who is lonely, the homeless in our communities, those without basic necessities, near or far. The key is to see our lives as not being about self-actualization but about being of service to others, becoming channels of God's love to all those in our lives.

When we do so, we can learn to truly live the message of Jesus of returning good for evil and praying for those who hate us. Catholic spirituality also teaches that our suffering has spiritual value, which we can offer up for others. The most powerful practice is to offer up the spiritual value of our suffering for those who have caused our suffering in the first place. That is what Christ did upon the Cross for humanity, so that is the most Christ-like thing we can do.

But we should not seek to do any of these things through our own strength, but only through the strength of Christ, who continues to offer himself to us in the Holy Eucharist. As we reflect on our faith, we might be tempted to say that it was easy for the first disciples because they could see Jesus in person. But we too can see Jesus. He is in the Eucharist, truly present, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.

He humbled himself to lift us up to his glory. The Israelites were hoping for a great king to establish a resplendent kingdom. The Messiah they expected would be a powerful man, but a man nevertheless. Instead, God Himself became incarnate and came among us. By doing so, he established the closest possible union between himself and the world, between the Creator and his creation. By being baptized and confirmed in Christ and by receiving him in the Holy Eucharist, we enter into closest possible union with God. We become partakers of the inner life of the Holy Trinity, infinite love, for all eternity.

The Eucharist is the greatest present we can possibly receive in this life. Christmas presents are forgotten quickly. As people like to say, no one remembers them by Valentine's Day. But the Eucharist is enduring and is offered to us every day at Mass.

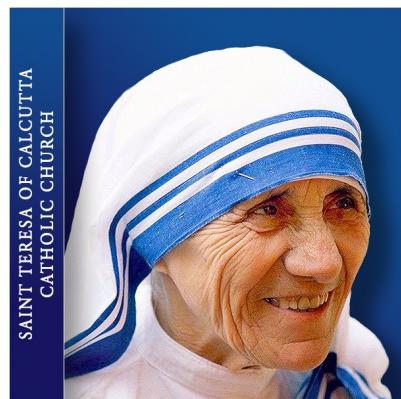
This Christmas, let us focus our lives on welcoming this great present, this greatest gift of God into our lives. Let us begin with the appropriate preparation. To begin, we need to be baptized into Christ before receiving the Holy Eucharist. Adults seeking to enter the Church will also be confirmed first. Those who are already in the Church need to make sure that we are spiritually prepared for receiving Christ in Communion. If we are conscious of grave sins that we have committed, we should avail ourselves of Confession first. We should also work on uprooting anything in our lives that is contrary to Christ, so that nothing will stand in the way of the infinite love he offers to us.

Every Mass is like Christmas. Christ comes to us truly each time we receive Communion. Let us welcome him every Sunday - and even more frequently at daily Mass when we can. Let us welcome him as our King, our Lord and Savior. Let us also spend time with Christ in prayer, before the Tabernacle, where the Holy Eucharist is kept. A powerful spiritual practice is to make a Holy Hour, that is to say, to spend one hour in prayer before the Eucharist at least once a week. During that time, we can meditate on the life of Christ, pray the Rosary, read from the Bible, or engage in other forms of prayer. The main goal is to be there in the presence of Christ and to open ourselves up to his love.

Let us also share the great news with the world. I remember reading a post by Sherry Weddell, the director of the Catherine of Siena Institute, back in the 90's. She said, imagine if Christian fundamentalists believed in the Eucharist. They would never stop talking about it. They would fill our culture with references to it. But we Catholics have made the great gift of the Eucharist one of our best kept secrets. Let's change that. Let's tell all the world.



SAINT BRENDAN PARISH | STB



SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH | STOC

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 | 1PM to 6PM
- Friday | 9:30AM to 6PM
- First Friday | 9:30AM to FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION at 7:30AM*

*WITH ROSARY FOLLOWED BY BENEDICTION

CONFESION

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

"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

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

CONFESION

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

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