

WELCOME TO
**SAINT BRENDAN & SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA
PARISH FAMILY**
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025

JOY



Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the **Lord**.

See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

You too must be patient.

Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the **Lord** is at hand.

Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged.

Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates.

Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the **Lord**. —James 5:7-10

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

CONFESSON

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

"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

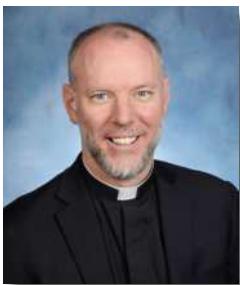
- Tuesday - Friday | 8:30AM (Prior to Daily Mass)
- Benediction just before 9AM Mass

CONFESSON

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

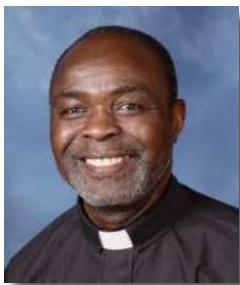
"Do small things with great love"—SAINT MOTHER TERESA

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 | brigetteb@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 | facilitiessupervisor@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, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday | 8AM to 4PM

Wednesday | 8AM to 3PM

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

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

COVER ART

ARTIST: KaLisa Veer, Nov. 17, 2021

SOURCE: <https://unsplash.com/@kalisaveer>

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 Assistant

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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 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **ADVENT CALENDAR** - Grab one now in the narthex!
- **NO MASS at ST. BRENDAN** - Monday, DEC. 15.
- **WOMEN'S GROUP—TREAT EXCHANGE** - Monday, DEC. 15 • 6:30PM • St. Teresa • See next column.
- **WELL-READ MOMS** - Tuesday, DEC. 16 • 10AM • St. Teresa • Pg. 5
- **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BLOOD DRIVE** - Wednesday, DEC. 17 • Bothell Rental Hall • Pg. 6 for link to register.
- **MOMS GROUP** - Wednesday, DEC. 17 • 9:30AM • St. Brendan Nursery • Next column.
- **ADVENT ADULT EDUCATION** - Wednesday, DEC. 17 • 6PM • St. Brendan.
- **CHOIR PRACTICES** - Wednesday, DEC. 17/20 • St. Teresa • See below and next column for times.
- **RORATE MASS** - Saturday, DEC. 20 • 6:30AM • St. Brendan.
- **SIMBANG GABI** - Saturday, DEC. 20 • St. Brendan - 5PM Vigil Mass - Reception afterwards. • Pg. 5.
- **BLOCK ROSARY** - Info at all Masses • St. Brendan Narthex • weekends of DEC. 20/21 • Pg. 5.
- **FULCRUM TUITION ASSISTANCE** - Applications due DEC. 31 • See pg. 10 for link and other details.
- **FIAT90 & EXODUS90** - Begin Monday, JAN. 5 for both parishes.
- **FIAT90 MEETING** - Saturday, JAN. 10 • 9:30AM • Lower Brendan House. Pg. 7 for details.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish

All elementary aged children in the parish are invited to participate in the

Children Christmas Choir

24 Dec. | 4:00 pm

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17 at 6:00 pm, and Saturday, Dec. 20 from 9:00 to 10:30 am

Questions? analaura@saintteresa.org





Register here

In Him, We Rise.

May 16, 2026
Meydenbauer Center
Bellevue, WA

Scan here to get alerts on registration! >>>



WOMEN'S GROUP - TREAT EXCHANGE

Greetings from the Women of St. Brendan and St. Teresa!

 Join us for our second annual Women's Group Treat Exchange on **Monday, December 15 at 6:30PM at St. Teresa Social Hall**.

 Please bring 2 dozen treats to share AND your recipe — think cookies, fudge, rice Krispie treats, etc.

 The women's group core team will provide drinks and non-sugary snacks.

Bring your friend, mom, sister, aunt, or grandma! **No membership—all women are welcome. Looking forward to spending the third week of Advent with you ladies!**

MOMS GROUP

We meet **every Wednesday** at 9:30AM in the St. Brendan nursery. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, DEC. 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY CHOIR

Love to sing Christmas Carols? Come join the Family Christmas Choir for the 4PM Christmas Eve Mass! **Ages 13 to 99 (younger children are welcome to sing with the Children's choir at this same Mass)**

This is a beautiful way to become more involved in the liturgy, make Christmas memories, and grow in fellowship at **St. Teresa**. Join us for the following practices:

- Wednesday, DEC. 17 at 7PM until 9:00PM.
- Saturday, DEC. 20 at 10AM until Noon.

Questions? Please contact Kerri Masse at pkmasse@hotmail.com or 425-941-6294

PRAYER AND READINGS

READINGS OF THE WEEK

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 14, 2025

LORD, COME AND SAVE US. . (PSALM 146)

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10 • Ps 146:6-10 • Jas 5:7-10 • Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a • Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9 • Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 • Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23 • Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10 • Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17 • Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8 • Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 • Mt 1:18-2

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a • Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 • Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14 • Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6 • Lk 1:26-38

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.

Cynthia Alvarado • Joan Dedman • Sean Gallacher • MaryLynn Gardner • Norman Hradec • Gary Lobdell • Selmia Rivera • Sarah Watson

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.

Harriet DeBroeck • Jorge Arturo Gomez Hernandez • Jaimie Rivera • Irene Trulson

O SACRAMENT MOST HOLY
O SACRAMENT DIVINE
ALL PRAISE AND
ALL THANKSGIVING
BE EVERY MOMENT THINE



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 14

STB

8:00AM For Saint Brendan Parish
10:00AM Dakota Prata
12:00PM + Juana Rodriguez Arciniega

STOC

9:00AM For Saint Teresa Parish
11:00AM For Saint Teresa Parish

Monday, December 15

STB - 8:30AM NO MASS

STOC - NO MASS

Tuesday, December 16

STB - NO MASS

STOC - 9:00AM + Carmela Gonzalez

Wednesday, December 17

STB - 8:30AM Shayla Maya Torres

STOC - 9:00AM David & Isabella Young

Thursday, December 18

STB - 8:30AM +Angela Ouimet

STOC - 9:00AM Audrey & Patrick Kozel
(wedding anniversary)

Friday, December 19

STB - 8:30AM Galen Graf

STOC - 9:00AM + Carmela Gonzalez

Saturday, December 20

STB

8:30AM + Venus Petterson

5:00PM + David Hasson

STOC - 5:00PM For Saint Teresa Parish

+ = deceased.

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

**St. Brendan's Annual
Coat & Blanket Drive**
November 12 - December 14

Collecting new and gently used coats and blankets, new socks, and new underwear.

Three Drop Off Locations:
St. Brendan Narthex and St. Teresa Narthex
or outside St. Brendan school office
Questions? Please contact Chrissy Mandley at christinemandley@gmail.com

NEW WELL-READ MOMS

Do you love literature? Please join us on this new and exciting ministry every third Tuesday of the month at 10AM in the St. Teresa Commons Room. The group follows the structure of Well-Read Mom, a national organization, but, *despite the name, our group is open to all adults, not just moms or women.*

Well-Read Mom accompanies us in the reading of great books and spiritual classics to encourage personal growth, friendship, and meaningful conversations in order to explore the human condition and reorient ourselves to what is good, beautiful, and true. It can be a challenge to make time to read in a world that never stops. Developing and maintaining the ability for deep reading is not something we can take for granted. Millions of Americans won't read a single book this year, but if you join us, you won't be one of them.

Our next meeting is at 10AM on Tuesday, DEC. 16. We hope to see you there!

BBQ & BROTHERS

Our parish family's men's group will take a break for the Advent season. If you missed us last month, we hope you can join us when we resume on Thursday, JAN. 15.

**HAVE A BLESSED ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS
TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!**

SIMBANG GABI

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition and consists of a series of nine dawn Masses on the days leading up to Christmas. It begins on December 16 and ends at midnight on the 24th of December, when a midnight Mass is held.

At St. Brendan, Simbang Gabi will be celebrated on Saturday, DEC. 20 during the 5PM Vigil Mass, followed by a reception at the narthex. All are welcome. If you have Parol (traditional Filipino star lantern) bring it and during the Mass Father will bless it.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

ST. BRENDAN PARISH
NOV. 12 - DEC. 14
CONTACT - Kerrie Mayans - kerrie@mayansfamily.com

ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA
NOV. 21 - DEC. 15
CONTACT - Sally Skinner - 425.830.7500

CHOOSE A TAG OR TWO FROM THE TREE AND SPREAD SOME GOOD WILL THIS SEASON!

BRING YOUR UNWRAPPED GIFT WITH YOUR TAG ATTACHED TO THE TREE NO LATER THAN THE END DATES ABOVE.

WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT! THE GIVING TREE BENEFITS MANY LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS PREPARES, ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, SEATTLE SEAFARERS, YOUTH CARE, KINSHIP NAVIGATOR, DIAPER BAG PROJECT AND MANY, MANY MORE!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

WHAT IS BLOCK ROSARY?

It is a Catholic devotion that involves praying the rosary as a family and moving a statue of the Virgin Mary from home to home. The Block Rosary aims to bring the families together and encourages everyone, young and old, to pray daily for their own intentions and for the community.



There will be a table in the St. Brendan narthex to sign up and for additional information on the **weekend of DEC. 20/21**. Call or text Christina Plantilla (425-486-3376) if you have questions.

PARISH NEWS

PRAYER FOR NEW GROWTH

Dear **GOD**,

Bring new life! **YOUR LOVE** creates and cultivates. Bring **YOUR POWER** into the places I think of as "deserts" and **YOUR GRACE** to the prayers I fear may be "deserted." **YOU** can redeem and restore, bring a new song to my heart.

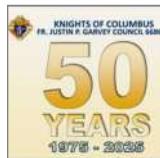
AMEN.

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Please Pray For These Expecting Mothers: Kim Anderson • Taryn Beard-Killeri • Kay Bodmer Grasseschi • Megan Carlin • Claire Cook • Dalia Davis Elledge • Eustorgia Felipe • Megan Fryover • Alexis Fuller • Lauren Green • Taylor Haug • Mildred Hranek • Rhianna Kofmehl • Yohaly Lucas • Lauryn Manning • Avika Nash • Bethany Nicasio • Michaela Sheehan • Shelby Teter • Alex Tolossa • MaryKate White Benshoof.

Congratulations to: Colin & Madeline DEMPSEY on the birth of their son, Gabriel Francisco • Cody & Rebecca HARBURN on the birth of their daughter, Faelynn Irene • Rhianna and Nick KOFMEL on the birth of their son, Giovanni William • Andy & Hailey SCHOCK on the birth of their daughter, Caroline Reilly. 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.

CATHOLIC CARTOON

 by Joshua Masterson

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CORNER (Council 6686)

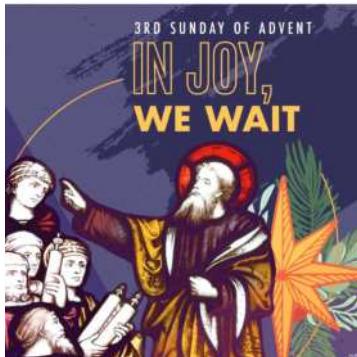
- **DECEMBER Family of the month:** Jay & Amie Dorney
- **DECEMBER Knight of the Month:** Oscar Lopez
- The next Knights of Columbus Blood Drive is taking place at the **Bothell Rental Hall on Wednesday, DEC 17**. To sign up please visit the Bloodwork's NW website: BloodWorks NW website.
- If you missed getting your Cookies in a Jar, there may be some jars remaining. Contact Joe Osmialowski or Bill Nash for availability.
- 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.

PARISH FAMILY TAX REMINDER

Our Annual Reminder about your Taxes:

- **Donations received (or postmarked) by December 31st** will be recorded on your 2025 parish giving report.
- Online Giving donations made by you **on or before December 31st** will also be recorded on your 2025 giving report.
- Please consider an end-of-year donation to the parish family/school or one of the many Catholic charities. See page 11 for ways to give.
- We often hear from parishioners who want to know how their donations of Time, Talent, and Treasure are making a difference in the lives of others. Your giving of TIME (In prayer, worship, etc.), TALENT (service to others), and TREASURE (money or other material items) made a difference in:
 - Prayer for others (Adoration, Rosary, Stations, etc.).
 - Our Children's Faith Education.
 - Volunteer labor to improve the grounds and facilities or help our community.
 - The parish family's PREPARES • St. Vincent de Paul, SOS, Shoulder-to-Shoulder, Giving Tree, Diaper Bag Project, etc.
 - Support of Sister Parish, St. Joseph Namalaka, Malawi.

Your giving is helping to make our parish and our community a better place! A grateful thanks to you, our faithful parishioners, for blessing the parish this year as together we continue in these challenging times to do the work of Christ. Please keep our Parish and School Community in your prayers.



EVANGELIZATION

By [Brigette Blair](#)

CHRIS STEFANICK (YOUTUBE)

- Marriage Truth Bombs with Christopher West | Advice on Pain, Healing, and Joy
- The Headline That Changes Your Life | Advent Reflection
- A World-Class Rock Drummer on Finding Jesus & Seeking Excellence | Michael Miley of Rival Sons
- Sr. Marilyn's Father Was Murdered—How She Found Forgiveness and a Vocation
- Afraid To Talk About Jesus? Do It Anyway!

FORMED

- What Catholics Believe About Advent: Preparing Your Heart for Christ
- How to Advent
- What Catholics Believe About Advent: Preparing Your Heart for Christ - Formed
- Formed Daily Reflections
- Practicing Catholic Podcast

BISHOP BARRON SUNDAY SERMON (YOUTUBE)

- The Season of Sacred Waiting
- The Marks of Spiritual Leadership
- The Old World Has Been Shaken

ASCENSION PRESENTS

- Is God's Timing Really Perfect?
- 4 Steps to Prepare for the BEST Christmas (w/ Fr. Mark-Mary Ames)
- Maybe I Should Have Said Something... (w/ Fr. Mike Schmitz)
- The 4 Reasons Why Young People Leave The Catholic Church w/ Fr. Mike Schmitz

FR. MIKE SCHMITZ HOMILIES

- "Waiting Well: Engaged" | The First Sunday of Advent
- "In The Light" | 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
- "Meant to Be" | Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

THE CATHOLIC PARENT—FORMED

FOR KIDS—FORMED

- Awesome Animals & Mini Me - Formed
- God's Knights
- God's Princesses
- Zack and Yalla
- Brother Francis (English & Español)
- Littlest Saints
- The Wonderful World of Benjamin Cello

FIAT90



The first official FIAT90 meeting will be Saturday, JAN.10 at 9:30AM in Lower Brendan. Even if you are not quite committed, please come and ask your questions! For FIAT90 please contact [Brigette Blair](#). More information coming on Exodus 90 soon!

ST. BRENDAN OVERNIGHT ADORATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Second Saturday of the Month:

- Women's Overnight Adoration—7PM to 6AM (Sunday)

Third Saturday of the Month:

- Children/Teen's Evening Adoration—6:30PM to 8:30PM
- Men's Overnight Adoration—8:30PM to 6AM (Sunday)

Segundo sábado del mes:

- Adoración nocturna de las mujeres—7PM a 6AM (domingo)

Tercer sábado del mes:

- Adoración nocturna de los niños/adolescentes—6:30PM a 8:30PM
- Adoración nocturna de los hombres—8:30PM a 6:00AM (domingo)

STB - EL GRUPO DE ORACION VEN A MI

(STB - COME TO ME PRAYER GROUP)

El Grupo de Oracion Ven a Mi en Espanol los invita todos los viernes de 7pm a 9pm a reflexionar la palabra de Dios, a Orar y Alabar a Dios, hay Evangelizacion de Jovenes y Niños. Nos reunimos dentro de la Parroquia.

Vengan a mi y yo los aliviere. —Mateo 11:28

GROWING IN FAITH

A NEW LEVEL OF BEING

By Zoltan Abraham

In the Gospel Reading for this Sunday, John the Baptist sends his disciples to Jesus to ask him if he is truly the Messiah. Why, we might wonder, is John doubting? Is he wavering in his faith? Given all that we know about John, the answer is undoubtedly no.

John the Baptist was the slightly older cousin of Jesus, who recognized and greeted our Lord while they were still in their mothers' wombs, when the Virgin Mary visited Elizabeth. As an adult, John dedicated his life to preparing the way for the public ministry of Jesus, leading a rigorous ascetic life in the desert. As he preached repentance, John was imprisoned by King Herod for challenging his unlawful marriage. But John did not waver. He paid the ultimate price when he was beheaded by the king for preaching God's word. Therefore, John is not likely to have doubted Christ.

Instead, he most likely asked the question for the benefit of his own disciples. They might have grown uncertain about Jesus because their expectation of the Messiah was so different. At the time of Christ, the Israelites had been living under foreign occupation for centuries. The Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Persians, and the Greeks had all ruled over them at different times in different ways. Now their land was under the control of the Roman Empire. The Israelites interpreted the promise of the Messiah as the coming of a great military king who would overthrow their occupiers once and for all and usher in a new age of glorious rule for Israel.

But Jesus did not appear to be preparing for such a takeover. Thus, John's disciples might have been wondering if he was truly the one. Jesus would create a new kingdom, in the fullness of time, but in a different way. Being Messiah entailed much more than what the contemporaries of Jesus supposed.

Jesus came to bring about the fundamental transformation of the world in a three-fold way. Through Christ, we are transformed on a personal level, being cleansed of sin and invited into the most intimate union possible with God. Through the transformation of individuals, Christ also remakes society, which, in the fullness of time, will be governed entirely by his love. Lastly, Christ will also transform the natural world, eliminating all suffering, decay, and death.

As Jesus responds to the disciples of John, he highlights the last two of these transformations. He points to the miracles he is performing, which prefigure the eventual remaking of nature itself. He also reminds them of the preaching of the Good News to the poor, which foreshadows the social transformation he will bring about. Both of these serve to fulfill Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah, which the disciples of John would have understood.

The First Reading for this Sunday gives us an intimation of the fundamental transformation of the world that is to come. As we contemplate this beautiful vision, the temptation for us might be to grow impatient and resent the time we must still spend in the state of suffering that characterizes our lives. But the Second Reading emphasizes the primary importance of patience.

One of the major themes of the biblical narrative is that everything must happen in the fullness of time, in God's time. In fact, there is great danger in seeking things before the proper time. The temptation of Adam and Eve in the garden was to grasp through their own power at gifts God was going to give them in his own time. By not accepting God's timing, they fell from grace and plunged the world into darkness. Likewise, when Satan tempted Jesus in the desert, he sought to get him to claim his power and glory before the fullness of time, thereby trying to keep Jesus from accepting death upon the Cross. Unlike Adam and Eve, Christ rejected the temptation and submitted himself to the divine timeline.

In the same way, we too must wait for God's plans to come to fruition in our own lives. On the one hand, we should work hard and plan responsibly. On the other hand, we should be patient as we await the unfolding of God's providence.

As we contemplate this Sunday's readings, another question might arise. What did Jesus mean by saying of John that "among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (Matthew 11:11)? The answer lies in John's role. He was the final transitional figure between the Old Testament period and the coming of Christ. He achieved the highest natural level of greatness possible.

As Christians, we are invited to go beyond that level. We are invited into supernatural greatness. When we are baptized into Christ, we are lifted to a new order of being. We become partakers of the divine life of the Holy Trinity. We are called then to live in the very heart of God's infinite, eternal love. John too, we may assume, entered this state after his death. But through the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist – we are already experiencing that indescribably powerful and beautiful transformation in our lives here and now, as long as we stay centered on Christ.

The greatness that the Christian life gives us is not a greatness of being over and against others, but the greatness of sharing in and becoming channels of God's infinite love. As Christmas approaches and we are perhaps still thinking of presents to give to our family and friends, let us first and foremost give Christ. Let us give the love of Christ through our prayers, words, and actions.

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

GET INVOLVED



ST. BRENDAN CYO VOLLEYBALL

Join us for the upcoming CYO Volleyball season! Registration is now open for all students in grades 4th-8th.

 **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Our 4th-grade teams are Co-ed!

KEY DATES & SCHEDULE

- Practices Begin: In January - Held 1-2x a week at St. Brendan Gym.
- Season Opener: February 21st.

REGISTRATION FEES

We encourage families to register early to take advantage of discounted pricing.

REGISTRATION TIER	DATES ACTIVE	FEES
► STANDARD	12/13/25 - 01/03/26	\$110
► LATE	01/04/26 - 02/07/26	\$125

 **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE** - Financial assistance is available to help with registration fees. We want everyone to play! Please contact CYOad@saintbrendan.org for details.

 **HOW TO REGISTER** - All registrations must be completed online through Team Sideline.

- Go to Seattle CYO Website: <https://www.teamsideline.com/sites/seattlecyo/home>.
- Select the red 'Enroll' box, next to the volleyball image.
- Select '4-8 Volleyball 2026-Winter | 2026' from the dropdown menu in the Program field.
- Then, under the Offering field, select 'St. Brendan 4th - 8th Grade Volleyball 2026'.
- Complete registration steps.

 **WE NEED COACHES!** Want to help guide our young athletes? We are actively looking for Coaches and Assistants for the upcoming season. Please register as a volunteer on the main registration website.

 **QUESTIONS?** Contact CYO Volleyball Coordinator Linda Huynh, (lthuynh120@gmail.com).

PARISH FAMILY OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Fairwind - Brittany Park | John McGuinness | johnmcg@gmail.com

Kids of the World | Ken Fabrizio | kenfabrizio4@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus

- STB - Joe Osmialowski | 248-343-9021
- STOC - Joe Bussman | bussman5@msn.com

Ministry to the Homebound

- STB - Contact receptionist@saintbrendan.org
- STOC - Contact admin@saintteresa.org

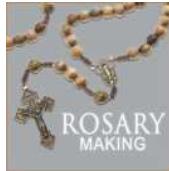
Prepares (Pregnancy Support) | Lori Wirtz - loriwirtz@gmail.com

Respect Life | Colleen Danforth - rdhcoll@aol.com

St. Vincent de Paul

- STB - Margie Inghram | 425-486-8953
- STOC - Marion Scichilone | bp gourmet@yahoo.com

ROSARY MAKING MINISTRY



The Rosary Making Ministry will have its first meeting of the new year on **Thursday, JAN. 15** in the St. Teresa of Calcutta Commons Room. We meet **every third Thursday of the month at 10AM** through May (except December). Join us and learn how to make rosaries.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

We need your help again! Our pantry that we share with St. Teresa parish is running low on food and cleaning supplies. We are also preparing meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas for our neighbors. **Please donate some of the following items in the hamper in the Narthex at either church:** We also have a family that needs a used clothes dryer if you know of one. Thank you for your generosity, ~Margie Inghram, 425-486-8953

NEED: Canned fruit • canned chicken or tuna • peanut butter • jam/jelly • saltine crackers • spaghetti sauce • noodles • canned pumpkin • evaporated milk • brown sugar • gravy mix • cranberry sauce • dressing mix • green beans • shampoo • bar soap • laundry soap • dish soap • toilet paper.

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.

NEED: Diapers: Size - 4T and 5T • Diaper Wipes

Thank you for your continued support!

ST. BRENDAN SCHOOL CORNER



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All families seeking tuition assistance must apply.
Application open: October 1st-December 31st

Any and all families that will be seeking tuition assistance for the 2026-2027 school year must apply through their FACTS account. Families need to reapply each year to qualify for tuition assistance.

Applications are now available and will close on December 31st.

To apply online, visit <https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/4C41Z>



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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)

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CONTACT ME:

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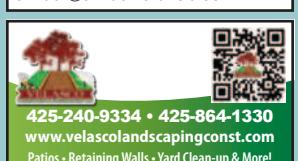
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