

WELCOME TO
**SAINT BRENDAN & SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA
 PARISH FAMILY**
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
 JANUARY 4, 2026

'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" - Mt 2:6



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 |

CONFESSION

- 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

CONFESSION

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

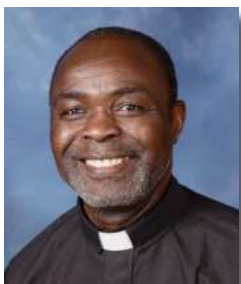
"Do small things with great love"—SAINT MOTHER TERESA

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 3104

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 | bridgeteb@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, 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: Epiphany by Munir Alawi

SOURCE: <https://munir-alawi.pixels.com/>

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

Audrey Kozel | audrey@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 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

- **STORY TIME** - With Mrs. Abraham • THIS Sunday, JAN. 4 • after the 10AM Mass • St. Brendan Nursery. See Below.
- **FIAT90 & EXODUS90** - Begin Monday, JAN. 5 for both parishes.
- **FIAT90** - Saturday, JAN. 10 • 9:30AM • Lower Brendan House. >>>
- **BBQ & BROTHERS** - Thursday, JAN. 15 • 6PM • St. Brendan.
- **WELL-READ MOMS** - Tuesday, JAN 20 • 10AM • Commons Room at Saint Teresa.
- **APOLOGETICS** - Sunday, JAN. 18 • 4PM • St. Brendan.
- **YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS** - Wednesday, JAN. 21 • 10AM • St. Brendan Narthex. Pg. 5.
- **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** - By Knights of Columbus • Sunday, JAN 25 • After the 8AM/10AM Mass • St. Brendan Narthex. • Pg. 6.
- **ST. BRENDAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE** - SUNDAY, JAN. 25 • 11AM TO 2PM • Pg. 10 for details.

STORY TIME

Mrs. Abraham is hosting Story Time in the **St. Brendan Nursery** on the first Sunday of each month after the 10AM Mass. All children are welcome to come and listen. The next Story Time is **THIS Sunday, JAN. 4.**



FLOOD RELIEF 2025

We have all been saddened by the recent flooding in Western Washington and the devastation for local families and businesses. As a parish family, we will be looking for opportunities where we can help physically with the cleanup and rebuilding efforts, which will take quite some time and will most likely take place in the New Year. If you feel moved to act now, here is a list of organizations to consider.

- Archdiocese of Seattle - Emergency Relief Fund: archseattle.org/flood/ - Accepts funds.
- Support CCS Disaster Relief | Catholic Community Services of Western Washington - ccsww.org/funds/support-ccs-disaster-relief/ - Accepts funds.
- SKAGIT Disaster Relief Fund: skagitcf.org/disaster-relief.html - Accepts funds.

MOMS GROUP

We meet **every Wednesday** at 9:30AM in the **St. Brendan nursery**. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, JAN. 7**. 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.

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 Brigitte Blair. More information coming on Exodus 90 soon!

APPEAL for SERVING OUR SAVIOR (SOS)

For over 20 years, St. Brendan's **Serving Our Savior or SOS** has made a tremendous impact in both our immediate and surrounding communities. Currently we make 150 meals for 5 different shelters every Thursday, benefitting children rescued off the streets, women being kept from abusive partners, and unhoused families. Unfortunately, as we all know, food costs have increased a lot, and while we try very hard to be good stewards, we are currently spending more than we receive in donations.

If you have not given to SOS, please consider giving even \$5. You can do this by writing a check and putting SOS in the memo line, placing a check or cash in the green monthly envelopes, or increasing your current gift. If you are a current donor- THANK YOU for supporting this ministry!

'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' — MATTHEW 25:40

WELL-READ MOM

Do you love literature? Please join us every **third Tuesday of the month** at 10:00am in the **Commons Room at Saint Teresa**. 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. For subsequent meetings, we will be reading one book per month. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, JAN. 20**.



PRAYER AND READINGS

READINGS OF THE WEEK

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 4, 2026

LORD, every nation on earth will adore you. (PSALM 72)

Sunday: Is 60:1-6 • Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 • Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 • Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6 • Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a • Mt 4:12-17, 23-2

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10 • Ps 72:1-4, 7-8 • Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18 • Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 • Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4 • Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17 • Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13 • Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 • Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21 • Ps 149:1-6a, 9b • Jn 3:22-3

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.

Drew Chapman • Joan Dedman • John Espedal • Toby Fine • Sean Gallacher • Norman Hradec • Bill Nash • Alexandra Marie Rocio-Hays • Barbara Schielmann • Cassie Smith • 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.

Dao Dang • MaryLynn Gardner • Elvira Flores • Faith Johnson • Dale Lorang • Eric Moss • Venus Pettersen • Jaimie Rivera • Christopher Spicher • Peggy Walsh

**“O GOD, WITH YOUR JUDGMENT ENDOW
THE KING, AND WITH YOUR JUSTICE, THE
KING’S SON; HE SHALL GOVERN YOUR
PEOPLE WITH JUSTICE AND YOUR AFFLICTED
ONES WITH JUDGMENT. ” — PSALM 72:2**

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



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 4

STB

8:00AM Angie Escobar

10:00AM Heaven Rose Escobar

12:00PM + Ruben Jaimes

STOC

9:00AM For Saint Teresa Parish

11:00AM For Saint Teresa Parish

Monday, January 5

STB - 8:30AM Mark Sizemore

STOC - NO MASS

Tuesday, January 6

STB - NO MASS

STOC - 9:00AM + Hector Lopez

Wednesday, January 7

STB - 8:30AM Noel Gordo

STOC - 9AM + Aeline Commet

Thursday, January 8

STB - 8:30AM Trent Carlin

STOC - 8:30AM + Gaspar Dos Remedios

Friday, January 9

STB - 8:30AM Karina Lopez & Carlos Vazquez

STOC - 9:00AM Josefa de Imus

Saturday, January 10

STB

8:30AM + David Hasson

5:00PM + Enrique Ibanguengoitia

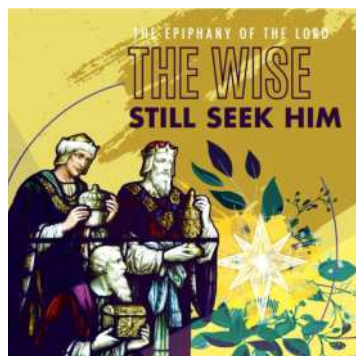
STOC - 5:00PM For Saint Teresa Parish

+ = 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



BBQ & BROTHERS

If you missed us last month, we hope you can join us when we resume on **Thursday, JAN. 15.**

GOD'S BLESSINGS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY THIS CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR.

YOUNG-AT-HEART SENIORS

Interested in playing Chicken Foot dominoes? Quirkle? Phase 10? Scrabble? Some other game?

Come to St Brendan's narthex on **Wednesday, JAN. 21, around 10AM**, for a couple hours of playing games and enjoying one another's company, followed by a potluck lunch. Please contact Donna (206-335-4469) if you have any questions.

WOMEN'S GROUP

Thank you to all who joined us last month. We will be taking a short break in January and resume on **Thursday, FEB. 12**, with guest speaker, Fr. Wichert! We hope you can join us then.

LORD, UNITE OUR HEARTS IN LOVE, UNDERSTANDING, AND PEACE THIS CHRISTMAS.



ASCEND
EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Coming to Bellevue, WA | May 16, 2026



**In Him,
We Rise.**

This moment is a time to refresh and renew our hearts in hope and ignite a deeper love for the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. We are called to become a beacon of Christ's love for humanity in our struggling world.

ASCEND is a ticketed, limited-seating event. Please sign up for alerts to be notified when registration opens.

PARISH NEWS



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CORNER (Council 6686)

- **JANUARY Family of the month:**
Greg & Monica Carlin

- **JANUARY Knight of the Month:** Dave Potts
- The *Annual Baby Bottle Campaign* in support of Life kicks off on **JAN. 3/4**. Take a Baby Bottle and make your donation to this worthy cause. All money raised benefits Next Step Pregnancy Services in Lynnwood. You can also make an online donation at nextstepnw.com/donate
- The next Business/Planning Meeting is on **Thursday, JAN. 8 at 7PM at the Bothell Rental Hall.**
- You should have received your dues notice via email for the 2026 fraternal year. They are due by **JAN. 14**. Please remit your payment by the due date.
- It's that time of the year when the report of your service hours for the 2025 calendar year is due. Please tabulate your hours and submit them to GK Joe Osmialowski at joe_osmialowski@yahoo.com.
- Scholarship Applications for post-secondary education are available in the kiosks located in the narthex and the rear of the church. Two scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL FROM THE BOTHELL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, COUNCIL 6686

- 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.

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Please Pray For These Expecting Mothers: Kim Anderson • Megan Carlin • Claire Cook • Megan D'sa Fuller • Hannah Galvan Bockel • Megan Fryover • 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: Michael & Dalia ELLEDGE on the birth of their daughter, Flora Nona. • Jose & Eustorgia FELIPE on the birth of their son, Emmanuel. • David & Alexis FULLER on the birth of their son, Jackson Reid. • Kay & Danny GRASSESCHI on the birth of their son, Dillon Thomas. • Danny & Taryn KILLERI on the birth of their son, Cosimo Takeo Thaddeus. 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.

Richard Pizzo Honorary Scholarship

Offered by the Knights of Columbus; Redmond, WA. Council #8102



Application Deadline: January 31, 2026

Award: \$5,000 per student attending an accredited U.S. University or Trade School

About the Scholarship

- Three scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors based on community involvement, academic achievement and financial need
- Scholarship is renewable for one additional year
- Scholarship covers tuition only and will be paid directly to the University or Trade school
- Open to all high school seniors who live in Redmond, WA. and the surrounding communities
- Awardees will be notified by March 31, 2026

Requirements

- Fully completed Knights of Columbus scholarship application
- High school transcripts and activity form
- Proof of community involvement
- Letter of recommendation (from a non-family member)
- Essay 300-350 words
- Proof of financial need (Pell Grant application or other relevant documents; if claiming financial need)

The application form, complete qualification criteria, and information on the program are available by contacting Vinod Nazareth; Email: v29nazareth@gmail.com



EPIPHANY BLESSING OF THE HOME

It is a long-held Catholic tradition to bless one's home on (or near) the celebration of the Epiphany, the Sunday between January 2 and January 8, by using chalk to write a special inscription above the home's entrance.



This weekend, we are blessing chalk and bottled water at Mass for you to take home, along with the Epiphany prayer, and participate in this tradition.

The inscription written over the door changes every year. For this year, you should write: "20 + C + M + B + 26."

The Letters C, M, and B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They are also the first letters of the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The + signs represent the cross, and 2026 is the year.

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 aliviare. —Mateo 11:28

EVANGELIZATION

By Brigette Blair

A few things to consider as we enter a new calendar year.

- **EXODUS 90 and FIAT 90 begin Monday, JAN 5, this year.** Both programs are an excellent way to detach yourself from things of the world and grow in your relationship with Christ. Contact Brigette Blair at brigetteb@saintbrendan.org if you are interested in either group.
- [The Bible in 10 Minutes](#) > [The Bible in a Year w/Fr. Mike Schmitz](#)
- [The Catechism in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz.](#)
- [Rosary in a Year with Fr. Mark-Mary Ames](#)

PRAY ABOUT HOW YOU CAN GROW IN YOUR FAITH IN 2026.

CHRIS STEFANICK (YouTube)

- [Exclusive Interview with Santa Claus | What It's Like to Be Santa \(Eddie Cotter, Jr.\)](#)
- [What is your value? | Advent Reflection](#)
- [How Your Life Impacts 80,000 People | The Gift of Influence with Tommy Spaulding](#)
- [The Secret to Building What Actually Lasts | Advent Reflection](#)

FORMED

- [Sleigh Ride: Christmas in the Last Frontier](#)
- [Nicholas: The Boy Who Became Santa](#)
- [What Catholics Believe About Advent: Preparing Your Heart for Christ](#)
- [How to Advent](#)
- [Formed Daily Reflections](#)
- [Practicing Catholic Podcast](#)

BISHOP BARRON SUNDAY SERMON (YouTube)

[Are You Willing to Surrender to God?](#) • [Waiting in Action](#) • [The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit](#) • [The Season of Sacred Waiting](#)

ASCENSION PRESENTS

- [If You're Really Struggling this Christmas \(w/ Fr. Mark-Mary\)](#)
- [The BEST and WORST Christmas Songs \(w/ Fr. Mike Schmitz\)](#)
- [Is God's Timing Really Perfect?](#)

FR. MIKE SCHMITZ HOMILIES

- ["Waiting Well: Unconditional Hope" | 4th Sunday of Advent](#)
- ["Waiting Well: Praise While We Wait" | 3rd Sunday of Advent](#)
- ["Waiting Well: Trust His Timing" | 2nd Sunday of Advent](#)
- ["Waiting Well: Engaged" | 1st Sunday of Advent](#)

The Catholic Parent - FORMED

FOR KIDS—FORMED - [The Story of Christmas](#) | [Benjamin Cello Christmas Special](#) • [Awesome Animals & Mini Me](#) • [God's Knights](#) • [God's Princesses](#) • [Zack and Yalla](#) • [Brother Francis \(English & Español\)](#) • [Littlest Saints](#) • [The Wonderful World of Benjamin Cello](#)

GROWING IN FAITH

THE MAGI KNEW THE ANSWER

By Zoltan Abraham

The Feast of the Epiphany commemorates the arrival of the Three Wise Men, also known as the Three Kings or the Magi, who traveled a long distance, most likely from Persia, to see the child Jesus. The visit of the Magi has deep theological significance. Jesus was born among the Jewish people and was the fulfillment of the ancient Hebrew prophecies of the coming of the Messiah. However, the Magi recognized that his mission was not just to the people of Israel, but to the whole world. His work of redemption was to be for all of humanity.

When they find the child Jesus, the Magi prostrate themselves before him, which is a sign of worship. Thereby, they recognize Jesus as the true power in the world. They do not reverence Herod, who is the local king, installed by the Roman Empire, which controlled the area. Nor do they show worship to the Roman Emperor, who was regarded as a divine figure. Persia was outside the control of Roman Empire and the Magi show no sign of bowing before the power and majesty of mighty Rome. Instead, they single out the child Jesus for their obeisance. The true power in the world is not the emperor controlling formidable armies but the child Jesus, who is God Incarnate.

The Magi worshipping Jesus highlights the kingship of Christ. But Christ would not claim raw power by subduing nations through military force, as the Romans did, and the Persians too, when they were a great imperial force. Instead, Christ brought spiritual transformation into the world through his self-sacrifice upon the Cross. He freed humanity from our spiritual bondage. He opened the door for us to enter into the new order of the world ruled entirely by divine love.

The gifts brought by the Magi speak of the true identity and future actions of Christ. The gold was a royal gift, pointing toward Christ's kingship. The frankincense highlights Christ's Divine Nature, since incense was used as a sign of worship. At the same time, the frankincense also shows his future role as the high priest, who will offer up the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of the human race, allowing himself to be killed upon the Cross. The myrrh points toward the mortality of his human nature. He will die upon the Cross and experience human death, until the Resurrection.

Thus the coming of the Magi already signals the true mission of Christ. Ironically, the Magi traveling from so far away recognize who Christ is, but the local political authority, King Herod, refuses to accept the coming of the prophesied Messiah. Instead, as the Gospel passage for this Sunday continues, Herod tries to kill the child Jesus, ordering the slaughter of all boys under the age of two. The Holy Family has to flee to Egypt in order to escape Herod's murderous plan.

The irony of the flight into Egypt could not be overstated in the historical context of the Israelites. Many centuries earlier, the patriarchs of Israel moved to Egypt, where the Israelites became numerous and prosperous. The Egyptian Pharaoh became jealous of their success and enslaved them. In time he also tried to destroy them by ordering the slaughter of all newborn Israelite males. God then raised up Moses and Aaron in order to free his people from the bondage of Egypt. We see in the Exodus account how the Israelites were eventually freed and then set out toward the Promised Land. Every year, the Israelites would celebrate their liberation in the Passover ritual.

In time, the Israelites established a powerful and prosperous kingdom in their new land. But due to their disobedience, God allowed them to be overcome by foreign powers. However, through the prophets, God promised them the coming of the Messiah who would liberate them.

When Jesus is born, the long-awaited Messiah had finally come. But instead of being welcomed by the contemporary ruler of his people, he has to flee to Egypt for safety - to the very land from which God had rescued the people of Israel. Egypt is safer for him than his own land.

Herod's attempt to kill Jesus shows just how determined the forces of darkness are to oppose God's grace in the world. We do not have to look far in our own culture to see those forces active. The powers seeking to defeat Christ and to eradicate Christianity from the world never rest. Just as Herod slaughtered the Holy Innocents in the attempt to kill Jesus, the dark powers active in our culture today will stop at nothing. As followers of Christ, we can expect to be targeted. We might even have to make the ultimate sacrifice for our faith.

But we must remember the Resurrection. Christ seemed to be overcome by the forces of evil. He died upon the Cross. He was placed into a tomb. But then he rose from the dead. He conquered sin and death, showing that his divine power is greater than the forces of darkness in the world. Christ showed that he is the true ruler of the world. In the fullness of time, the whole world will come to see what the Magi recognized already so many years ago, that Christ is the true King of the Universe.

According to tradition, after the Magi returned home, they did not receive news about the events of the life of Jesus. That is, until the Apostle Thomas journeyed to the area where they lived to spread the Good News. St. Thomas met with the Magi, told them about the death and Resurrection of Christ and baptized them into the Christian faith.

Traditionally, the Magi have been known as Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Their tombs are believed to be in Cologne Cathedral in Germany. The Magi have always been honored in Christian culture and a number of popular customs are associated with Epiphany, the feast commemorating their arrival.

Historically, the Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated on January 6, marked the end of the Christmas season and ushered in Epiphany season or Epiphanytide, which would last until February 2 or the start of the pre-Lenten preparations, whichever came sooner. Epiphanytide continued the Christmas spirit and was in many ways an extension of Christmastide.

Traditionally, the Feast of the Epiphany was marked with great feasting. A popular custom, still observed in some areas, is the Epiphany cake, which has a bean or a baby Jesus figure hidden in it. As the slices are passed around, whoever finds the hidden item becomes king or queen for the day. The Epiphany cake is a fun custom to bring back, especially if you have children in the home.

January 6 was also the traditional gift-giving holiday, rather than Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, in memory of the presents of the Magi. Perhaps we could save some of the Christmas gifts and give them on Epiphany instead. Or if you were late in giving someone a gift for Christmas, you could make up for it with an Epiphany gift.

The Feast of the Epiphany is the traditional time for the blessing of homes. On this day, chalk blessed by a priest is used to write the following on the doorpost of the main entrance to the home: "20 + C + M + B + [year]," the last being the last two digits of the year in question and the letters signifying the initials of the Magi. After the chalk inscription is made, the family prays a blessing over the home, asking for the outpouring of the grace of Christ for the coming year.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, let us also bless our homes. Let us invite Christ to be the King of our homes and of our entire lives. Let us prostrate ourselves before Christ, as the Magi had done, recognizing him as the true ruler of the universe.

If you would like to read more of Zoltan's writings, you can find them at www.zoltanabraham.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 - Dennis Hammonds | dennishammonds45@gmail.com

Ministry to the Homebound

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

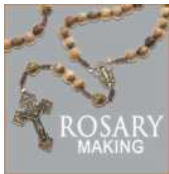
Prepares (Pregnancy Support) | Lori Wirtz - loriwirtz@gmail.com

Respect Life | Colleen Danforth - rdhcoll@aol.com

St. Vincent de Paul

- STB - Margie Inghram | 425-486-8953
- STOC - Marion Scichilone | bpgourmet@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!



CYO SPOTLIGHT

Hey, Parents - did you know that your children are eligible and welcome to participate in all St. Brendan CYO sports programs simply by being registered parishioners at St. Brendan or St. Teresa? For more information on CYO and the programs offered at St. Brendan, please reach out to Ena Demeter at ena322@yahoo.com.

St. Brendan CYO is proud to announce the addition of a beautiful **new crucifix** and **CYO prayer banner** to our school gym - this marks an important milestone for CYO Athletics and reflects thoughtful feedback provided by the families of our athletes. These very visible symbols reflect our **commitment to weaving our Catholic identity**



into every part of student life, including athletics and beautifully express our desire to keep Christ at the center of our sports programs. We hope that the new additions help to inspire anyone who enters St. Brendan's gym to play with purpose, gratitude, and faith.

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REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

4TH - 8TH GRADE



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/SEATTLECYO/HOME TO ENROLL >>>

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PLEASE CONTACT CYO VOLLEYBALL

COORDINATOR LINDA HUYNH

LTHUYNH120@GMAIL.COM FOR ANY QUESTIONS.

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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 somewhat 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 FAMILY TAX REMINDER

Our Annual Reminder about your Taxes:

- **Donations received (or postmarked) by December 31st 2025** will be recorded on your 2025 parish giving report.
- Online Giving donations made by you **on or before December 31st 2025** will also be recorded on your 2025 giving report.

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 past 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.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

TIME. TALENT. TREASURE.

WE ARE CALLED TO SHARE
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<p>Colonial Optical, LLC 12911 120th Ave. N.E. Suite C-80 - Kirkland (425) 821-1820 www.colonialoptics.com Parishioner owned & operated</p>	<p>Dr. Michelle J. Ament Cosmetic and General Dentist Use Code "Smile Bright" for FREE Whitening BothellFamilyDentistry.com 425-486-2787</p>	<p>DOES YOUR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION NEED A NEWSLETTER?</p> <p>Engaging, ad-supported print and digital newsletters to reach your community.</p> <p>Visit lpicommunities.com</p>	
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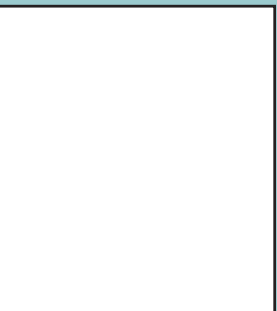
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