

WELCOME TO
**SAINT BRENDAN & SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA
PARISH FAMILY**
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
JANUARY 11, 2026



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 |

CONFESION

- 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

CONFESION

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

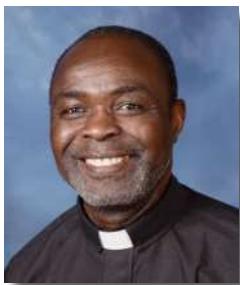
"Do small things with great love" —SAINT MOTHER TERESA

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 | 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: *The Baptism of Christ* by Sebastiano Ricci, ca. 1713-14

SOURCE: metmuseum.org/art

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.

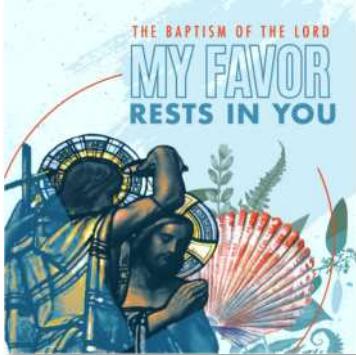
To submit a bulletin announcement:

- 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



- **ROSARY MAKING** - Thursday, JAN. 15 • 10AM • St. Teresa of Calcutta Commons Room • Pg. 9.
- **BBQ & BROTHERS** - Thursday, JAN. 15 • 6PM • St. Brendan.
- **APOLOGETICS** - Sunday, JAN. 18 • 4PM • St. Brendan.
- **WELL-READ MOM** - Wednesday, JAN 21 • 10AM • St. Teresa of Calcutta Commons Room. See next column for details.
- **MOMS GROUP** - Wednesday, JAN. 21 • 9:30AM • St. Brendan Nursery.
- **YOUNG-AT-HEART SENIORS** - Wednesday, JAN. 21 • 10AM • St. Brendan Narthex. • See below.
- **WELCOME DINNER for NEW PARISHIONERS** - Saturday, JAN. 24 • After the 5PM Mass • St. Brendan • See next column.
- **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** - By Knights of Columbus • Sunday, JAN 25 • After the 8AM/10AM Mass • St. Brendan Narthex.
- **ST. BRENDAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE** - Sunday, JAN. 25 • 11AM TO 2PM • Pg. 10 for details.
- **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK** - JAN. 25 through JAN. 30.
- **BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN** - Supporting Next Step Pregnancy NW. - Bottles are due back by Monday, JAN. 26 • St. Brendan.
- **APOLOGETICS MINISTRY** - Sunday, JAN. 31 • 11AM • St. Teresa • **UPDATED TIME/LOCATION**. • See pg. 5 for full details.

BBQ & BROTHERS

We invite all parish men for dinner, beer, and Catholic Trivia Night on **Thursday, JAN. 15 at 6pm in the St. Brendan Narthex**. With your table, test your knowledge of the faith and strengthen bonds with fellow Catholic men.

New faces are always welcome - bring a friend and join us!

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.

Welcome to New Parishioners

OF ST. BRENDAN & ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH FAMILY

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, JAN. 24, after the 5PM St. Brendan Mass in the St. Brendan Narthex, we will be welcoming our new parishioners with a delicious dinner. The evening will start after the Saturday 5PM Mass and wrap up around 8PM. We are looking forward to meeting and treating our newcomers in person! Current parish members will share information about our vibrant parish and ways to get involved. **Families are welcome**. Evites have been sent and phone calls will be made to the newly registered. If you are not able to join us for dinner, we would like to welcome you with a folder of information about the parish. **Please RSVP by JAN. 21** to Joyce VonFeldt 425-236-6550 by phone, text, or email (jvonfeldt@aol.com). May God bless you, and we hope to see you there!

WELL-READ MOM

Do you love literature? Please join us every on **third Wednesday of the month at 10AM 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 **Wednesday, JAN. 21**.



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.

PRAYER AND READINGS

READINGS OF THE WEEK

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD JANUARY 11, 2026

The LORD will bless HIS people with peace. (PSALM 29)

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 • Ps 29:1-4, 9-10 • Acts 10:34-38 • Mt 3:13-17

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8 • Ps 116:12-13, 14-19 • Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20 • 1 Sam 2:1, 4-8abcd • Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 • Ps 40:2, 5, 7-8ab 9-10 • Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11 • Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 • Mk 1:40-4

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a • Ps 89:16-19 • Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a • Ps 21:2-7 • Mk 2:13-17

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 • Catalino Salmasan • Barbara Schielmann • Cassie Smith • Jon VanWagenen • 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.

Dennis Behrens • Dao Dang • Elvira Flores • MaryLynn Gardner • Roberto Eduardo Gomez Hernandez • Francisca Lopez Gradilla • Faith Johnson • Dale Lorang • Roberta Merlini • Eric Moss • Venus Pettersen • Jaimie Rivera • Larry Schwartzkopf • Christopher Spicher • Christian Urrutia • Fidel Urrutia.

“IN TRUTH, I SEE THAT GOD SHOWS NO PARTIALITY. RATHER, IN EVERY NATION WHOEVER FEARS HIM AND ACTS UPRIGHTLY IS ACCEPTABLE TO HIM.” —Acts 10:34-35

O Sacrament Most Holy

O Sacrament Divine

All Praise and

All Thanksgiving

Be Every Moment Thine



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 11

STB

8:00AM For Saint Brendan Parish
10:00AM Ermina Swager
12:00PM + Violeta Galeana Santiago

STOC

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

Monday, January 12

STB - 8:30AM NO MASS
STOC - NO MASS

Tuesday, January 13

STB - NO MASS
STOC - 9:00AM NO MASS

Wednesday, January 14

STB - 8:30AM NO MASS
STOC - 9:00AM NO MASS

Thursday, January 15

STB - 8:30AM NO MASS
STOC - 9:00AM NO MASS

Friday, January 16

STB - 8:30AM NO MASS
STOC - 9:00AM NO MASS

Saturday, January 17

STB
8:30AM NO MASS
5:00PM + Gene Styer
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

BLESSING FOR BAPTISMAL GRACE

Dear **GOD**,

Through Baptism, **YOU** called and claimed us as **YOUR** own, chosen and loved. Pour **YOUR** blessing upon us as we remember our Baptism. Plant **YOUR** identity in our hearts. Help us live as **YOUR** beloved.

Amen

APOLOGETICS STUDY GROUP

FOR THE ST. BRENDAN AND ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH FAMILY

LEARN TO:

- DEFEND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH
- SPEAK WITH CONFIDENCE, AND CHARITY
- PROCLAIM CATHOLIC MORAL TEACHING
- ENGAGE WITH PROTESTANTS & ATHEISTS
- EVANGELIZE FRIENDS, FAMILY, & COWORKERS
- ANSWER TOUGH QUESTIONS WITH CLARITY

LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH | 11:00 AM | ST. TERESA'S

NEXT MEETING: 1/31/26

Contact Mark Perez at: markperez8523@gmail.com



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, AS WE START FRESH, BLESS US WITH NEW HOPE,
FAITH, AND STRENGTH TO LIVE FOR YOU. AMEN**

Meydenbauer Center • Bellevue, WA
May 16, 2026

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



ASCEND
EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Get the details and stay updated at:

AscendEucharisticRevival.church

Scan here to
get alerts on
registration!



BITE OF ST. BRENDAN

Save the Date: Friday, FEB. 13 at 5:30PM.



Hello St. Brendan and St. Teresa Parish and School Community! It is that time to begin preparing for the Bite of Brendan. It will be on **Friday, FEB. 13 at 5:30PM in the school gym**. This will be our 3rd annual event. We will have food from around the world, entertainment, ministries and most importantly an opportunity to spend time with your fellow parishioners. If you are interested in volunteering or preparing food, please contact Brigitte Blair at brigitteb@saintbrendan.org. If you are a school parent, please check on [Volunteer Hub](#). We look forward to seeing everyone!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CORNER (Council 6686)

- **JANUARY Family of the month:** Greg & Monica Carlin
- **JANUARY Knight of the Month:** Dave Potts
- The bottles for the Annual Baby Bottle Campaign in support of Life have been distributed. Bottles are due to be back on **Monday, JAN. 26**. All money raised benefits Next Step Pregnancy Services in Lynnwood. If you didn't get a bottle, you can still donate at: <https://www.nextstepnw.com/donate>.
- You should have received your dues notice via email for the 2026 fraternal year. Please remit your payment by **Wednesday, JAN. 14**,
- 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 by **Monday, JAN. 26**.
- 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.**

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Please Pray For These Expecting Mothers: Kim Anderson • Claire Cook • Megan D'sa Fuller • Megan Fryover • Hannah Galvan Bockel 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: Blair & Megan CARLIN on the birth of their son, Harrison Jack • 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 GRASSESCHEI 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

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Hilary of Poitiers

Bishop and Doctor of the Church



Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 – c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phrygia, St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.

Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.

FEAST DAY - January 13

PATRON SAINT - Children academically behind • Children learning to walk • Mothers, and the sick • Invoked against rheumatism and snakebites.

Sources: Our Sunday Visitor | LPi

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 began 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](#)

CHRIS STEFANICK (YOUTUBE)

- God is Hiding in Plain Sight
- Make Changes That Actually Stick in the New Year | Fr. Peter Mussett
- Surviving Your Current Chaos with Confidence

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)

- [The Answer to Your Deepest Longing](#)
- [Protect the Life of Christ in You](#)
- [Are You Willing to Surrender to God?](#)

ASCENSION PRESENTS

- [Ditch the Resolution – Focus on This Instead \(w/ Fr. Mark-Mary Ames\)](#)
- [Regarding Fr. Mike's Bible in a Year podcast](#)
- [Fr. Mike Is Behind on the Bible in a Year \(and That's Okay\)](#)

FR. MIKE SCHMITZ HOMILIES

- ["Proximity or Intimacy" | The Epiphany of the Lord](#)
- ["Taken For Granted" | The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God](#)
- ["The Holy Family" | Feast of the Holy Family](#)

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

BAPTISM IS THE FOUNDATION

By Zoltan Abraham

At the time of Jesus, baptism was already a custom showing repentance and a sense of recommitment to the spiritual life. Culturally, ritual bathing could be the sign of inner spiritual cleansing. Of course, Jesus himself had no need of cleansing. Being God Incarnate, he was free of all sin. So why did he need go through baptism? In fact, in the Gospel of Matthew, John the Baptist himself wonders why Jesus would want to be baptized by him, given that Jesus is the Lord.

Two reasons come to the fore as to why Jesus had John baptize him. One was to set an example for his future followers. Jesus made baptism the foundational sacrament of the Church, the entryway into the new life of salvation he offers to all of humanity. Even though Jesus did not need to get baptized, he underwent baptism to show the way.

The other reason is to foreshadow that he would take upon himself the sins of the world when he offered himself up as the sacrifice upon the Cross for all of humanity. This connection is more explicit in The Gospel of John, where John the Baptist refers to Jesus as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29) in the context of talking about the baptism of Jesus.

Again, Jesus himself needed no cleansing. By taking upon himself the sins of the world, he did not become guilty of any sin. He willingly suffered the consequence of all sins, without in any way being tainted himself. His baptism merely foretells his role as the sacrificial lamb.

Baptism, as stated above, is the foundational sacrament through which we begin to receive the grace of Christ's sacrifice upon the Cross. The underlying theology of baptism is rooted in the salvation history of the world. God created a good world, free of any imperfection, but through sin, humanity marred God's perfect creation. But God did not abandon us in our self-inflicted brokenness but instead came among us, became one of us, and offered himself up as expiation for our sins. Through his sacrifice upon the Cross, Christ restored the relationship between us and our Creator.

The grace given to us by Christ is even greater than the original state of blessedness that humanity had lost through sin. By coming among us and taking on our human nature, Christ established the deepest, most intimate possible union between the Creator and the created world. Through the gift of Christ, we are invited to become partakers of the divine life of the Holy Trinity, living in, imbued by God's eternal love without end.

When we are baptized into Christ, we are freed of Original Sin and regenerated. The door is then open for us to enter into the most intimate possible union with our Creator. In the process, we are ontologically changed, meaning that baptism transforms us in the core of our being. Baptism imparts upon our soul an indelible mark, which can never be erased or reversed. Even if we were to turn away from the grace of baptism, our soul would still bear the mark of Christ. In that case, our self-inflicted suffering would be unspeakable, since we would be willingly turning away from the source of true life and true, infinite joy.

But if we do cut ourselves off from Christ after baptism, we can restore the relationship through Confession. When we receive absolution from a priest after a good Confession, we are cleansed

and regenerated anew. Our relationship will return to where we were before we marred our union with Christ.

Years ago, I saw a documentary about fish living in seasonal lakes in Africa. When the rainy season would come, new lakes would appear and the water would be teeming with fish. But where did all the fish come from and what happened to them when the rainy season passed? Scientists found that as the dry season started and the lakes receded, the fish entered into a sort of petrified stasis, hibernating in the dirt until the rains returned, bringing back the seasonal lakes. The story of these fish can serve as a symbol for our soul. The waters of baptism give us true life. If we turn away from Christ, we are bereft of true life and become dried out like the fish in the ground. But the potential is still within us. When we accept the grace of Christ again through Confession, we return to true life in Christ, just as the fish return to life in the lakes.

Our relationship with Christ through baptism is not just an individual relationship. Through baptism, we become a part of the Body of Christ, which encompasses the whole Communion of Saints, the Church on earth, the holy souls in Purgatory, and all the heavenly hosts. Through baptism we enter into the union of infinite love that binds together all those who have accepted the love of Christ.

Baptism, as stated above, is the foundation for the other six sacraments in the life of the Church. Confirmation completes the transformation that began in baptism, further imparting an indelible mark upon our soul. In the Eucharist, we receive Christ fully, his Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, in the closest possible union with God on this side of Heaven. The Sacrament of Penance, also known as Reconciliation or Confession, heals us spiritually if we fall away from Christ. The Anointing of the Sick gives us the grace to bear physical or psychological illness and sometimes leads to healing as well. The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony blesses marriage, the fundamental building block of society, infusing it with divine grace. The Sacrament of Holy Orders consecrates men for ordained ministry in the Church, through which the grace of Christ is poured out upon the world. All this starts with our baptism.

As we celebrate and reflect on the Baptism of the Lord this Sunday, let us reflect on our own baptism too. Do you know when you were baptized? Do you know where? Do you have any records? Any pictures or videos? Any mementos from that day? If not, I would encourage you to find out as much as you can. Ask any family members who might remember. I would also encourage you to celebrate the anniversary of your baptism every year. In our culture, we celebrate or commemorate many anniversaries. Given the great significance of baptism in our lives, our baptism anniversary should be one of the days we pay special attention to. We could celebrate both spiritually, by going to Mass and saying extra prayers, and also socially, by having a nice dinner with family or even throwing a party.

On this Sunday, let us also reflect on the role baptism has played in our lives. Spend some time with the following questions, either in quiet meditation or in discussion with a friend or family member: How would your life be different today if you had never been baptized? How have the other sacraments you have received built on the new relationship with God that started with your baptism? What are you doing today to live in Christ? What more can you do to open your life to the grace of Christ?

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

GET INVOLVED

PARISH FAMILY OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Fairwind - Brittany Park | John McGuinness | johnmccg@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

- Bothell Health Care | Cogir of Bothell Memory Care - STB - Anne Chapman 206-234-5849
- All others - STB - Contact receptionist@saintbrendan.org
- STOC - Contact admin@saintteresa.org

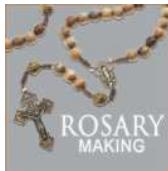
Prepares (Pregnancy Support) | Lori Wirtz - loriwirtz@gmail.com

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.

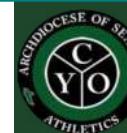


PREPARES MINISTRY AT ST. BRENDAN AND ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

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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LTHUYNH120@GMAIL.COM FOR ANY QUESTIONS.

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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:

Amber Valencia
Senior Health Plan
Broker/
St Theresa of
Calcutta
Parishioner
License # 802455
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