

WELCOME TO
**SAINT BRENDAN & SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA
 PARISH FAMILY**
6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 FEBRUARY 15, 2026



Jesus said to his disciples:
 "I tell you, unless your
 righteousness surpasses that of
 the scribes and Pharisees, you
 will not enter the kingdom of
 heaven.

"You have heard that it was said
 to your ancestors, *You shall not
 kill; and whoever kills will be
 liable to judgment.*
 But I say to you, whoever is angry
 with his brother will be liable to
 judgment.

"You have heard that it was said,
You shall not commit adultery.
 But I say to you, everyone who
 looks at a woman with lust has
 already committed adultery with
 her in his heart.

"Again you have heard that it was
 said to your ancestors, *Do not
 take a false oath, but make good
 to the Lord all that you vow.*
 But I say to you, do not swear at
 all. Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and
 your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything
 more is from the evil one."

— MATTHEW 5:20-22A, 27-28, 33-34A, 37

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

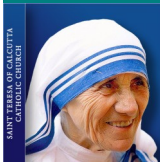
- Monday - Thursday | 1PM to 6PM • Friday | 9:30AM to 6PM
- First Friday | 9:30AM to FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION at 7:30AM*
- *WITH ROSARY FOLLOWED BY BENEDICTION |

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

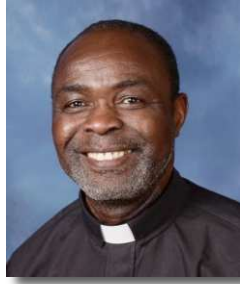
Rev. Nicholas Wichert

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

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

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

Brigitte Blair | ext. 2645 | brigitteb@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

TITLE: *Meal of Our Lord and the Apostles (Repas de Notre-Seigneur et des apôtres)*, 1886-1894 ARTIST: James Tissot

SOURCE: [Brooklyn Museum](http://www.brooklynmuseum.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

- **LENT CALENDAR** - Available in narthex and online: [ENG](#) | [SPA](#).



ASCEND EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL - Registration is now open. • Go to ascendeucharisticrevival.church or stop by at the St. Brendan or St. Teresa Church kiosk. See page 5 for more info.

- **WORLD YOUTH DAY** Info Meeting • Sunday, FEB. 15/22 • See Below.
- **YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS** - Guest Speaker Zoltan Abraham • POTLUCK LUNCH • Tuesday, FEB. 17 • 10AM • St. Brendan Narthex. • See below.
- **ASH WEDNESDAY - FEB. 18**

⇒ **ST. BRENDAN**

- Mass Times - 9AM | 6PM (Bilingual)
- Noon - Prayer Service with Ash Distribution

⇒ **ST. TERESA** Mass Times - 9AM | 7PM

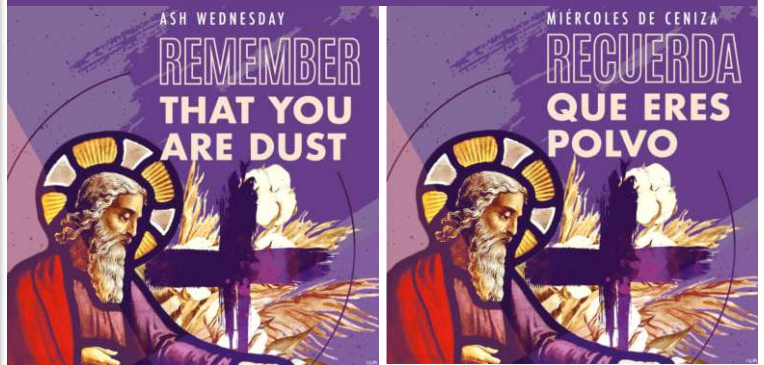
- **MOMS GROUP** - Wednesday, FEB. 18 • 9:30AM • St. Brendan Nursery.>>>
- **ROSARY MAKING** - Thursday, FEB. 19 • 10AM • St. Teresa of Calcutta Commons room. • Pg. 5.
- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** - Friday, FEB. 20 • STB - 7PM • STOC - 6:30PM.
- **SOUP NIGHT** - Friday, FEB. 20 • STB - 6PM • STOC - 7PM.
- **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** - Sunday, FEB. 22 • After 8AM/10AM Masses • St. Brendan. • Pg. 6
- **WELL-READ MOM** - Wednesday, FEB. 25 • 10AM • St. Teresa of Calcutta. • Pg. 5.
- **BBQ & BROTHERS** - Thursday, FEB. 26 • 6PM • Guest Speaker Fr. Wichert • St. Brendan. • Pg. 5.
- **APOLOGETICS CLASS** - Saturday, FEB. 28 • 11AM • St. Teresa • Pg. 5.

YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS GROUP

Shrove Tuesday is an important day for Christians. It is the day before Ash Wednesday, when we are called to be absolved of our sins and to reflect deeply on our upcoming Lenten journey. To help us with this, guest speaker **Zoltan Abraham will be giving a talk on “12 Ways to make Lent a Life-Changing Experience”**. Besides the religious focus, this day (aka Fat Tuesday, Pancake Day, Mardi Gras) is also a day of feasting & celebration before the beginning of our Lenten Fast.

Join us on **Tuesday, FEB, 17 at 10AM**, in the **St Brendan Narthex**. Please bring food to share in the potluck lunch after Zoltan’s presentation. Contact Donna (206-335-4469) if you have any questions.

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 18



MOMS GROUP

Guided by Mary, we aim to be a space where mothers can find connection and community with other mothers as they seek to grow in their relationship with God and deepen their faith.

We meet every other Wednesday at 9:30AM in the **St. Brendan nursery**. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, FEB. 18**. 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.

WORLD YOUTH DAY

AUG 2 - AUG 10 2027
(FOR AGES 16-21 AS OF AUG 2ND 2027)



Info Meeting.

St. Brendan
2/15 @ 11:15AM
in
The NURSERY

Info Meeting.

St. Teresa
2/22 @ 12:15PM
In
The Commons Room



9 Days
8 Nights **\$3549.00**
/per person Price Approx.

- ✓ Roundtrip Airfare
- ✓ Daily Mass
- ✓ Simple Lodging
- ✓ Ground Transportation
- ✓ Private Guide
- ✓ JMJ - Breakfast WYD - Lunch and Dinner

andrew@saintteresa.org
<https://www.jmjyouth.com/>

TAKE COURAGE! I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.

JOHN 16:33

PRAYER AND READINGS

READINGS OF THE WEEK

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

BLESSED ARE THEY WHO FOLLOW THE LAW OF THE LORD! (Ps 119)

Sunday: Sir 15:15-20 • Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 • 1 Cor 2:6-10 • Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

Monday: Jas 1:1-11 • Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76 • Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18 • Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19 • Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18 • Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17 • 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 • Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20 • Ps 1:1-4, 6 • Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a • Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19 • Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14 • Ps 86:1-6 • Lk 5:27-32

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.

Margarita Avila • Alberta Paula Casales Torres • Joan Dedman • Diaz Family • Norman Hradec • Michelle Martinez • Marietta Powell • Gregorio Rendon • Sofia Villasenor • 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.

Marguerite Botz Carnahan • Refugio Farfan • Maria Gonzalez • Teodosio Gonzalez Castillo • Serapio Manzano • Tristan Nguyen • Fr. Roger O'Brien • Jon VanWagenen

RATHER, WE SPEAK OF **GOD'S** WISDOM,

MYSTERIOUS, HIDDEN, WHICH **GOD**

PREDETERMINED BEFORE THE AGES

FOR OUR GLORY. (1 COR 2:1-7)

O SACRAMENT MOST HOLY

O SACRAMENT DIVINE

ALL PRAISE AND

ALL THANKSGIVING

BE EVERY MOMENT THINE



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, February 15

STB

8:00AM Joan Dedman

10:00AM For Saint Brendan Parish

12:00PM + Ester Barrientos

STOC

9:00AM For Saint Teresa Parish

11:00AM For Saint Teresa Parish

Monday, February 16

STB - 8:30AM Fr. Wichert

STOC - NO MASS

Tuesday, February 17

STB - NO MASS

STOC - 9:00AM Mike Vlahovich

Wednesday, February 18

STB - 9:00AM/6PM Mass

STOC - 9:00AM + Maria Sylvia Ainsworth Zapata

7:00PM Mass + Patrick Cahill

Thursday, February 19

STB - 8:30AM Margarita Avila

STOC - 9:00AM + Roy Frank Davis

Friday, February 20

STB - 8:30AM + Patricia Muller

STOC - 9:00AM Jen Raz-LeVake

Saturday, February 21

STB

8:30AM + Linda Blair

5:00PM + Pilar Alvarez

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 OF LOVE

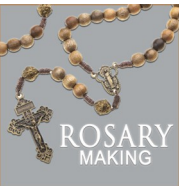
Heavenly FATHER,

Ignite us with YOUR love. Reveal to us YOUR will, guide us in YOUR path. Pour YOUR blessings upon us, YOU who are the giver of every good thing. Help us to live, work, act, and speak in ways that bring honor and glory to YOU. Amen

APOLOGETICS MINISTRY



Join us at our next meeting on Saturday, FEB. 28, at 11AM at St. Teresa of Calcutta. With topics on theology, religion, and morality, we will have discussions on any questions you may have, that you haven't had the chance to get answered, or address any difficulties you have had when approaching non-Catholics. It's open to people of all ages. Join us for an enriching conversation and fellowship.



ROSARY MAKING MINISTRY

The Rosary Making Ministry will have its next meeting on Thursday, FEB. 19 in the St. Teresa of Calcutta Commons Room. We meet every third Thursday of the month at 10AM through May. Join us and learn how to make rosaries.

WELL-READ MOM

Do you love literature? Please join us on every third Wednesday of the month at 10AM in the Library 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. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, FEB. 25. We read one book per month. Please contact the St. Teresa Parish Office for more information.

BBQ & BROTHERS

Did you miss last month's dinner? Join us Thursday, FEB. 26, at 6PM in the St. Brendan narthex for another memorable evening of fellowship and great food. Yes, to note this meeting will be the 4th Thursday of the month. Bring a family member or friend and a side to share. Desserts are always welcome. Fr. Wichert will be presenting on "Spiritual Combat" Hope to see you there!



ASCEND
EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Coming to Bellevue, WA | May 16, 2026



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN.



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.

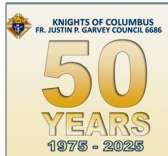
PARISH NEWS

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Please Pray For These Expecting Mothers: Kim Anderson • Claire Cook • Megan D'sa Fuller • Megan Fryhover • Hannah Galvan Bockel • Lauren Green • Taylor Haug • Yohaly Lucas • Lauryn Manning • Avika Nash • Elizabeth Nguyen • Bethany Nicasio • Michaela Sheehan • Shelby Teter • Alex Tolossa • Chrissy White Cuda

Congratulations to: Brian & Mary Kate (White) BENSHOOF on the birth of their daughter, Halle Margaret • Blair & Megan CARLIN on the birth of their son, Harrison Jack • Jose & Eustorgia FELIPE on the birth of their son, Emmanuel. • Peter & Mildred HRANEK on the birth of their daughter, Seraphina Shani.

We ask that God bless you and bring you much joy as you raise your little one. If you are expecting a baby and would like your church family to pray for you, please contact Colleen Danforth at rdhcoll@aol.com.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CORNER (Council 6686)

• **FEBRUARY Family of the month:** Regan & Susie Corwin

- **FEBRUARY Knight of the Month:** Dan Treichel
- The Knights together with the Respect Life Committee are hosting the first **Lenten Soup Supper on FEB. 20**. Your pots of delicious soups are needed. Please contact Grand Knight Joe if you are able to bring a pot of soup at joe_osmialowski@yahoo.com.
- The next Pancake Breakfast is **Sunday, FEB. 22** after the 8AM/10AM Masses.
- The Building the Domestic Church kiosks have been restocked. Stop by and pick up a booklet for some inspirational reading..
- 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.
- Looking for a place to host a wedding reception, shower, birthday or graduation party? Look no further. The Bothell Rental Hall is a great place to hold an event. Contact Cindy Roeter at 425-418-3185 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.




CHILD OF THE MONTH - FEBRUARY 2026

Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH)
Our Little Brothers and Sisters

ROBENSLEE - Robenslee was born in January 2018. Due to a risky situation, Robenslee and his two siblings were admitted to NPH in the Dominican Republic. They have found a safe and loving home in NPH Casa Santa Ana where they can grow up together. Robenslee likes to help around the house with small tasks, like organizing or tidying the room. He is currently enrolled in the NPH school in second grade. He is a very cheerful boy who loves learning. He is a bit shy but very affectionate. He likes to spend time with his siblings and play with the other boys in this house. His favorite food is fried chicken, and his favorite color is blue. His favorite sport is volleyball. When he's older, Robenslee wants to be an artist.




project rachel
Peace starts here

If you are suffering from the experience of an abortion, you do not need to walk alone.


Project Rachel offers a compassionate and confidential environment for those who suffer the effects of an abortion.

Find *hope and healing* after abortion.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat™
March 6-8, 2026 -English
June 5-7, 2026-Spanish
September 25-27 2026 -English

For more information about the Project Rachel ministry or our healing retreats, please call Frances at (206) 920-6413 (English) O Alejandra en (206)450-7814 (en Espanol)

<https://ccsww.org/services/project-rachel/>


CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES
SERVING PEOPLE OF ALL BELIEFS

ADORATION - ST. BRENDAN CHAPEL

Come and spend an hour with Jesus in the St. Brendan Adoration Chapel. We need two or three people on the following days:

Monday 2PM to 3PM • 3PM to 4PM • 4PM to 5PM • 5PM to 6PM. | **Tuesday** 1PM to 2PM • 2PM to 3PM • 3PM to 4PM • 5PM to 6PM | **Wednesday** 1PM to 2PM • 3PM to 4PM | **Thursday** 3PM to 4PM • 4PM to 5PM • 5PM to 6PM | **Friday** 11am to Noon • Noon to 1PM • 1PM to 2PM • 2PM to 3PM • 3PM to 4PM • 4PM to 5PM.

First Friday (24-hour adoration up to Saturday) Friday - 10AM to 11AM • 8PM to 9PM • 9PM to 10PM • 11PM to midnight. | **Saturday** 12AM to 1AM • 1AM to 2AM • 4AM to 5AM • 6AM to 7AM.

To sign up, call or text Christina Plantilla at 425-486-3376.

FEBRUARY 19 - START OF ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT'S 33-DAY CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

If you need materials or support as a group during the 33-day consecration, please reach out to Christina at 425-486-3376. This includes those who are renewing their yearly consecration.

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

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)



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browser, mobile, or connected device. To sign up for your free account:

1. Go to - <https://formed.org/signup>
2. Input parish > St. Brendan.
3. Choose > 10051 NE 195th St, Bothell, WA.
4. Add your name and email address to set up the free account.

EVANGELIZATION

By Brigette Blair

CHRIS STEFANICK (YOUTUBE)

- [Your Faithfulness is Changing the World \(even from your living room\)](#)
- [Why Criminals Confess \(and you should, too\) | Police Detective Jeff Wrigley](#)
- [How God Meets You at Your Breaking Point](#)
- [These Things Drive Priests Crazy with Fr. Leo Patalinghug](#)
- [Feeling Small? Here's What God Thinks of You](#)
- [Do People Who Commit Suicide Go To Hell? Fr. Chris Alar on Mercy, Repentance & Prevention](#)
- [Lessons in Joy from a Child's Funeral](#)
- [How to Overcome Fear with SEAL Team Six Veteran Dom Raso](#)

FORMED

- [How to Lent](#)
- [Lectio: God](#)
- [The Art of Living](#)
- [Introduction to the Cardinal Virtues](#)
- [Formed Daily Reflections](#)
- [Practicing Catholic Podcast](#)
- [The Heart of Prayer](#)

BISHOP BARRON SUNDAY SERMON (YOUTUBE)

- [Become Someone for Others - Bishop Barron's Sunday Sermon](#)
- [Do You Want to Be Happy?](#)
- [Unity in Christ](#)

BISHOP BARRON PRESENTS

[Is it Rational to Believe in God? - Ross Douthat](#)

ASCENSION PRESENTS

- [How to Offer Everything to God this Lent | Fr. Mike Schmitz & Fr. Columba Jordan](#)
- [If This Doesn't Bother You, That's a Problem \(w/ Fr. Mike Schmitz\)](#)
- [Why Did Judas Betray Jesus? \(w/ Fr. Mike Schmitz\)](#)

FR. MIKE SCHMITZ HOMILIES

- ["Wasted Potential" | 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)
- ["Counterfeit Happiness" | 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)
- ["God Shows Up" | 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

The Catholic Parent - FORMED

FOR KIDS—FORMED

- [Chime Travelers](#)
- [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

THREE THINGS THAT DESTROY SOCIETY

By Zoltan Abraham

The Torah, the Israelite Law, was revealed by God through Moses in the Old Testament. In the passage for this Sunday, Jesus says about some aspects of the Law: You have heard said..., but I say to you. For a mere human, such a statement would be terrible presumption. For any one of us to speak in such a way about God's law would be nothing short of blasphemy. But Christ can speak that way because he is not a mere human. He is God Incarnate. He is the Lawgiver Himself. Since the Law comes from God, Christ, who is God Incarnate, can speak any way he wants about the Law.

We see in the passage that Jesus comes not to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it. He shows the fuller, deeper meaning of the Law and the relationship with God that the Law is pointing toward. In the process, he will set aside certain precepts that prepared the way for Christ but are no longer needed now that the grace of Christ has been given to us. In doing so, Jesus is not abolishing parts of the Law, but is allowing the deeper meaning of the Law to flourish. In interpreting the Mosaic Law, we can say that the Old Testament precepts are to be followed by Christians only to the extent that Christ restated or reaffirmed them.

As Christ comments on the Law in the passage for this Sunday, he addresses three issues that undermine the healthy functioning of society: out of control anger, the breakdown of marriage, and untruthfulness. The teaching about anger may be puzzling. Jesus goes beyond forbidding murder and forbids even calling another person a name, suggesting that the latter is just as bad.

For humanity to be at peace, society has to be governed by God's Divine Law, which flows out of his infinite love. Even the slightest hurt against another shatters that heavenly harmony. Negative actions, furthermore, feed into the cycle of violence that has largely characterized human history. From the earliest times we see one group doing something hurtful to another, who then respond with something even more hurtful, to which the other group reacts with more hate. And so the cycle goes on and on, to the detriment of all societies. When we refuse to act with hatred toward others, the cycle stops with us. Through Christ's love, we break the persistent horror of sinful human history.

However, the above does not exclude righteous anger. When we see injustice or experience it ourselves, we should feel angry at those situations and should seek to change them. The difference between righteous anger and sinful anger is that the latter seeks to destroy whereas the former seeks to restore God's order of divine love in humanity. Sinful anger blocks God's grace in our lives. Righteous anger is a hatred of sin, which helps us to turn away from wrongdoing and to call upon society to do so as well.

The second major problem addressed by Jesus in the Gospel passage for this Sunday is divorce. Marriage is the fundamental building block of society. To make a society strong, we need to bolster marriages and family life. A culture of divorce mentality undermines the basic functioning of society. Of course, in certain situations, separation is necessary for protection, but the casual divorce culture of contemporary society goes against God's vision for humanity.

Jesus also highlights that divorce itself is the tip of the iceberg. The dynamics that lead to divorce start much sooner. Lustful thoughts

toward someone other than one's spouse already set a person on the road to adultery. Given the easy availability of graphic content on the Internet, as well as the sexualization of entertainment, of fashion, and of other aspects of society, today it is much more difficult to guard one's thoughts than at the time of Jesus. But if we are to remain faithful in marriage and faithful to Christ, and if society is to be strong and healthy again, we must do so. Of course, as in all things, we should not try to prevail through our own strength but always through the strength of Christ.

The words of Jesus regarding divorce and adultery also exposed the double standards of his culture. The Mosaic Law condemned infidelity both by wives and husbands, but in practice, usually only the women were punished. Also, women were generally fully dependent on men. They needed the protection of a male in order to navigate society. They were not able to initiate divorce and they were unable to contest the husband's decision to divorce. Thus, a woman could easily be discarded by her husband, with no support or protection. Jesus made clear that women were not to be treated in such a way.

As we reflect on the teachings of Jesus with regard to divorce, the question might arise: Does the Catholic Church not accept divorce by granting annulments? The answer is no. The Catholic Church does not accept divorce granted by secular law. However, when a divorce has taken place, one or both parties may petition the Church to examine if their union met the criteria for a valid marriage in the first place. When the Church grants an annulment, the Church does not dissolve the marriage but declares it null and void from the start. (Having said the above, I should also remark that Catholic Canon Law regarding annulments has many nuances that are beyond the scope of this reflection.)

The third social problem that Jesus deals with in the Gospel passage for this Sunday has to do with truthfulness. At the time of Jesus, the swearing of oaths was often used to bolster one's assertions. Oftentimes, oaths were taken to counter the lack of honest dealings in daily interactions. In the process, people would invoke God or holy objects to strengthen their false claim, thereby offending against God's sanctity. Jesus condemns such use of language. Instead, Jesus says that if our whole way of life is honest then we will not be doubted.

Today, the swearing of oaths to be believed is not as widespread a custom. Mostly, we find such oaths in official settings, like in a courtroom or when becoming a citizen. In such circumstances, the oaths are not meant to bolster an unreliable reputation, but to put us on record that we are committing to telling the truth. If later someone is found to have lied under oath, the circumstances can be severe. Such official oaths do not contradict the words of Jesus because of the difference in their focus.

But though our cultural customs do not generally include the swearing of oaths on a regular basis, the words of Jesus still very much apply to us. We should lead a life of integrity, so that people can believe us because we are known to be truthful. Without truthful interactions, society falls apart. What is more, in the Gospel of John, Christ refers to himself as the Truth. Thus, to be truthful is to be Christlike.

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

PARISH FAMILY OUTREACH AND SERVICE

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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
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SERVING OUR SAVIOR (S.O.S.) SOUP KITCHEN MINISTRY

The St. Brendan pantry could use additional stock of:

NEED: Canned cream of mushroom, canned *cream* of chicken soup, dry pasta, and bags of rice. Please only donate *unexpired goods* in their *original packaging*. Thank you.

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Requirements: Strong Customer Service and interpersonal skills are required to assist shoppers. Ability to work in a fast-paced retail setting. Bilingual preferred but not required. Interested candidates should email their resume directly to employment@SVdPSeattle.org For more information about the organization and other potential openings, you can visit the SVdP Seattle|King County Careers page at www.svdpsattle.org.



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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.

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— St. Peter Damian

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Preliminary information on the season is below – **if you are interested in the program or are looking for more detail, please reach out to our Track & Field Coordinator Laura McCourt at cyotrack@saintbrendan.org.**

Program open to boys and girls, grades 4 – 8**

Six meets to be held every week beginning May 9 – meets typically run for most of the day; detailed event schedules to be shared as available.

Registration through [TeamSideline.com](https://www.team sideline.com) – registration timeline and fees coming soon.

***We are exploring the possibility of offering a modified practice-only program for athletes in grades K-3, determination to be based on interest/feedback received.*

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- St. Teresa of Calcutta (STOC) - <https://pushpay.com/g/saintteresacalcutta>
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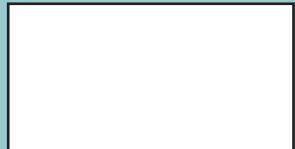
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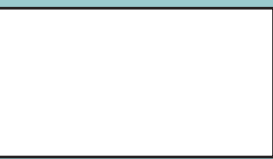
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