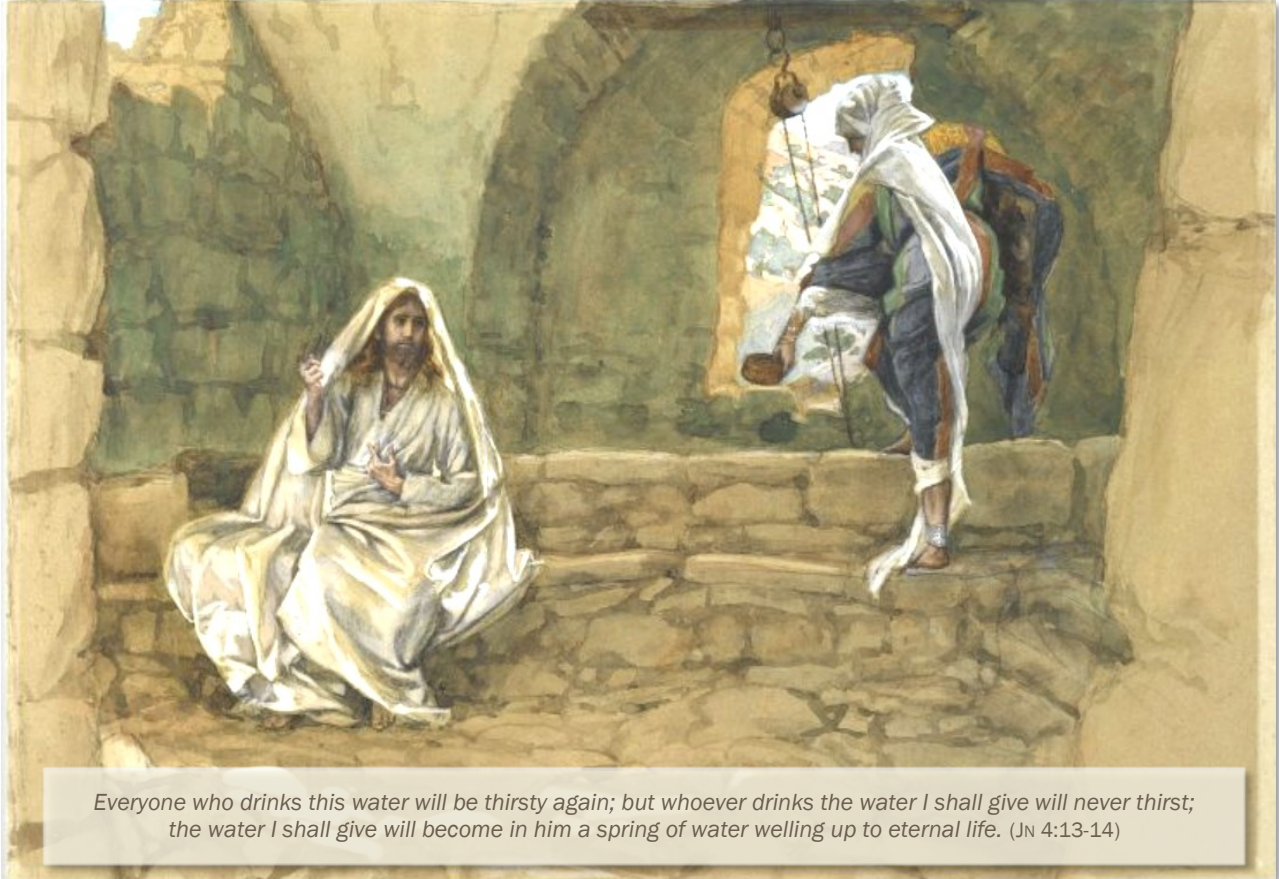


WELCOME TO
**SAINT BRENDAN & SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA
 PARISH FAMILY**
3RD SUNDAY OF LENT
 MARCH 8, 2026



Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. (Jn 4:13-14)

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

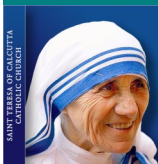
- Monday - Thursday | 1PM to 6PM • Friday | 9:30AM to 6PM
- First Friday | 9:30AM to FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION at 7:30AM*
- *WITH ROSARY FOLLOWED BY BENEDICTION |

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

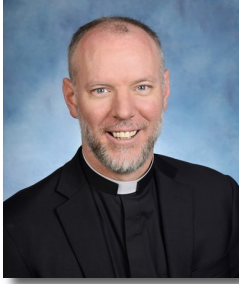
CONFESSION

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

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

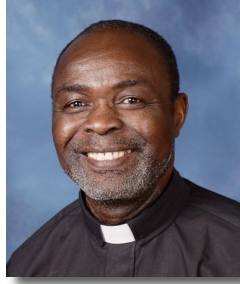
See the Parish Family LENT CALENDAR for additional Adoration and extended Confession times.

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: *The Woman of Samaria at the Well (La Samaritaine à la fontaine)*, 1886-1894 • ARTIST: James Tissot • SOURCE: 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/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.

- **MOMS GROUP** - Wednesday, MAR. 11 • 9:30AM • St. Brendan Nursery. • See below.
- **FISH BAKES** - Wednesday, MAR. 11 • 5:30PM • St. Brendan.
- **ADULT LENT EDUCATION** • Wednesday, MAR. 11 • 6PM • St. Brendan
- **WOMEN'S GROUP** - Guest Speaker Fr. Peter Adoko-Enchill Potluck Dinner - Thursday, MAR. 12 • 6:30PM • St. Brendan Narthex.
- **ANNUAL POTATO BAKE SALE** - Tickets ON SALE at St. Brendan after all Masses • Event is on Tuesday, MAR. 17 • School Gym • 5PM • Pg. 5.
- **SOUP SUPPER** - Friday, MAR. 13 • St. Teresa - 7PM • St. Brendan - NO Soup Supper.
- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** - Friday, MAR. 13 • St. Teresa - 6:30PM • St. Brendan - NO Stations of the Cross.
- **CLASE PARA ADULTOS** - Domingo, MAR. 15 • 1:30PM • St. Brendan.
- **ROSARY MAKING MINISTRY** - Thursday, MAR. 19 • 10AM • St. Teresa Commons Room.
- **BBQ & BROTHERS** - Thursday, MAR. 19 • 6PM • St. Brendan Narthex.
- **YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS** - Guest Speaker Debbie Dimitre • Potluck & Tea • Friday, MAR. 20. • 10AM St. Teresa of Calcutta • Carpool available • See pg. 6 to RSVP and further details.
- **ST. BRENDAN GARDENS** - Saturday, MAR. 21 • Pg. 6.
- **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** - Sunday, MAR. 22 • After the 8AM/10AM Masses • St. Brendan.
- **WELL-READ MOMS** - Wednesday, MAR. 25 • 10AM • St. Teresa Library.
- **APOLOGETICS STUDY GROUP** - Saturday, MAR. 28 • Pg. 6.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



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 Wednesdays at 9:30AM in the St. Brendan nursery. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, MAR. 11**. 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.

ST. BRENDAN - ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA
WOMEN'S GROUP
THURSDAY • MAR. 12 • 6:30PM

Join us this Lenten season
in the St. Brendan Narthex

Guest Speaker
FR. PETER ADOKO-ENCHILL

It's a Potluck Dinner.
Kindly bring a favorite dish or dessert to share.

PRAY | GIVE | FAST

PRAYER AND READINGS

READINGS OF THE WEEK

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 8, 2026

IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS. (Ps 95)

Sunday: Ex 17:3-7 • Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 • Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 • Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab • Ps 42:2, 3; 42:3, 4 • Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43 • Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9 • Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9 • Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 • Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28 • Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 • Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10 • Ps 81:6c-8abc, 9-11ab, 14, 17 • Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6 • Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab • Lk 18:9-14

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 • Criselda Bush • Alberta Paula Casales Torres • Joan Dedman • Ashley Gutierrez Torres • Hannah Joy Haug • Lainey Henderson • Carlos Hiran Lopez Ramirez • Norman Hradec • Norma Luz Lopez Pesqueira • Michelle Martinez • Nguyen Family • Paul Pioli • Marietta Powell • Gregorio Rendon • Alexandra Marie Rocio-Hays • Chris Samson • Richard Stagg • Lucia Swager • Maria Elena Torres • 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.

Molly Boll • Marguerite Botz Carnahan • Teodosio Gonzalez Castillo • Serapio Manzano • Alfredo Sanchez Alcalá • Manuel Trevino Gonzalez

AND HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT,
BECAUSE THE LOVE OF **GOD** HAS BEEN POURED
OUT INTO OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE **HOLY**
SPIRIT WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US. (ROM 5:5)



O SACRAMENT MOST HOLY

O SACRAMENT DIVINE

ALL PRAISE AND

ALL THANKSGIVING

BE EVERY MOMENT THINE

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 8

STB

8:00AM For Saint Brendan Parish

10:00AM + David Sullivan

12:00PM + Serapio Manzano

STOC

9:00AM For Saint Teresa Parish

11:00AM For Saint Teresa Parish

Monday, March 9

STB - 8:30AM Genesis Silva

STOC - NO MASS

Tuesday, March 10

STB - NO MASS

STOC - 9:00AM + Sidney Mills

Wednesday, March 11

STB - 8:30AM + Sidney Mills

STOC - 9:00AM + Marie Hinton

Thursday, March 12

STB - 8:30AM Jenn Anderson

STOC - 9:00AM Annie Murphy

Friday, March 13

STB - 8:30AM Luis Rafael Vazquez Hernandez

STOC - 9:00AM Camilo Lim & Family

Saturday, March 14

STB

8:30AM Andrew Duncan

5:00PM John P.M & Marykutty John.

STOC - 5:00PM For Saint Teresa Parish

+ = deceased.

To submit a Mass intention, contact the parish office at the following email address.

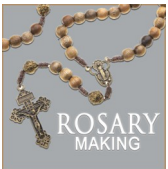
• St. Brendan - receptionist@saintbrendan.org

• St. Teresa of Calcutta - admin@saintteresa.org



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CORNER (Council 6686)

- **MARCH Knight of the Month:** Ron Volk
- **MARCH Family of the month:** Adrian & Andrea Mascarenhas
- The Knights will be hosting Lenten Fish Bakes on the **Wednesdays of Lent in the St. Brendan Narthex** prior to the Adult Education talks. Serving starts at 5:30 PM.
- **SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, MAR. 17** is the Knights of Columbus Annual Potato Bake taking place in the **school gym from 5PM to 7PM. Tickets on sale after ALL Masses. Get your tickets before they're all gone.**
- 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.
- Are you 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.



ROSARY MAKING MINISTRY

The Rosary Making Ministry will have its next meeting on **Thursday, MAR. 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.

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parish programs, and studies direct to your 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.



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

BLESSING OF LIVING WATER

LORD, where there has been dryness in my life, bless me with **YOUR living water!** Where I fear to dream of new hope and growth, bless me with **YOUR living water!** Where I'm thirsty for new and abundant life, bless me with **YOUR living water!** Drench the parched earth with **YOUR promise**, bless me with **YOUR living water!** Amen.

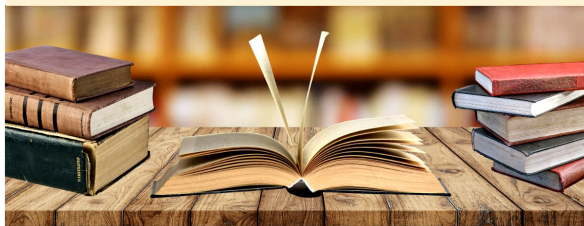
YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS

100 years ago, on March 9, 1926, Seattle elected its first female mayor: Bertha Knight Landes. To learn more about this remarkable woman, please come to watch **Debbie Dimitre's performance, "Patch-Work Politics"** at St Teresa of Calcutta on **Friday, MAR. 20, at 10AM.**

The St. Brendan bus will be available for transport to Woodinville. Please contact Donna (206-335-4469) if you would like a ride from St. Brendan or if you need to be picked up from one of downtown Bothell's senior communities. **After the performance, join us for a potluck Afternoon Tea.** Please call Donna to let her know what you will be bringing for this meatless Lenten tea.

WELL-READ MOMS

Please join us on **Wednesday, MAR. 25 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. We read one book per month. Please contact the St. Teresa Parish Office for more information.



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 Lockman • Yohaly Lucas • Lauryn Manning • Jennifer McVicker • Avika Nash • Elizabeth Nguyen • Bethany Nicasio • Michaela Sheehan • Shelby Teter • Alex Tolossa • Chrissy White Cuda

Congratulations to: Jose & Eustorgia FELIPE on the birth of their son, Emmanuel. • Korey & Taylor HAUG on the birth of their daughter, Hannah Joy • 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.

ST. BRENDAN GARDENS

Are you getting Spring Fever yet or waiting hopefully for a February snowfall? Regardless of whether it's a spring focus or a winter focus, Easter will be here on April 5, which means that we need to work on the church grounds before then. Please mark your calendar for the first 2026 all-parish work party on **Saturday morning, MAR. 21.** Bring necessary tools & plan on staying for lunch afterwards.

If Saturday morning doesn't work for you but you'd like to help work on the grounds on a different day OR if you would like to work on one particular area regularly, please call Anneliese (425-770-2103)

REMINDER: Annual fundraiser Plant/Bake Sale is on May 2-3

APOLOGETICS STUDY GROUP



Join us at our **next meeting on Saturday, MAR. 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.**

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 | **Thursday** 4PM to 5PM | **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 - 11AM to Noon • Noon to 1PM • 1PM to 2PM • 2PM to 3PM • 3PM to 4PM • 5PM to 6PM • 8PM to 9PM • 10PM to 11PM. | **Saturday** 12AM to 1AM • 1AM to 2AM • 4AM to 5AM • 6AM to 7AM.

Key Reasons for Eucharistic Adoration:

- **Real Presence:** It is a devotion which affirms the belief that Jesus is physically present (Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity) in the Consecrated Host.
- **Deepening Relationship** with Christ to converse with Jesus, deepening, with Him.
- **Spiritual Transformation and Peace:** It allows for, reflection and quiet time which brings, clarity, strength, and renewal to the heart and soul.
- **Extension of the Mass:** Adoration, extends the, personal encounter with Christ experienced during the Eucharistic celebration
- **Healing and Grace:** It is a time to bring, before the Lord, seeking, mercy and comfort
- **Contemplative Prayer:** It encourages, adoring the Lord with wonder and praise, rather than just asking for petitions.

Adoration is seen as a way of life that provides, spiritual protection and nourishment. **On the weekend of MAR. 14/15 after each of the St. Brendan Masses there is an informational table and sign up.** If you'd like to sign up or have questions, please contact Christina Plantilla at 425-486-3376.

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)

EVANGELIZATION

By Brigette Blair

CHRIS STEFANICK (YOUTUBE)

- [The Plan I Wanted vs. The Plan God Had](#)
- [From Losing a Child to Helping 60,000 Grieving Families | Mark Tripodi](#)
- [Take Back Your Identity](#)
- [How An Atheist Reasoned Her Way to God | Leah Libresco Sargeant](#)
- [Jesus Didn't Abolish the Rules...He Raised the Bar](#)
- [Our Bodies Tell the Story of God's Love | Christopher West on Theology of the Body](#)

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)

- [The Adventure of Salvation](#)
- [The Serpent's Slogans](#)
- [Which Path Will You Choose?](#)

VATICAN NEWS - [3 Things Pope Leo XIV Is Asking of Every Catholic This Lent](#)

ASCENSION PRESENTS

- [The Best Thing I've Ever Done for Lent](#)
- [What I Learned from the Rosary in a Year Podcast \(w/ Fr. Mark-Mary Ames\)](#)
- [Called to Rebuild w/ Fr. Mike Schmitz and Harry Lennix](#)

FR. MIKE SCHMITZ HOMILIES

- ["Autobiography: Title" | 2nd Sunday of Lent](#)
- ["Autobiography: Co-Author" | 1st Sunday of Lent](#)
- ["Put Your Heart Into It" | 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)
- ["Wasted Potential" | 5th 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

CHRISTIANITY IS A PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE

By Zoltan Abraham

Back in the '90s, I saw a quote that has stayed with me over the years. The quote said: *Christianity is not a religion. It is a proposal of marriage.* In many ways, those few words capture the essence of our faith.

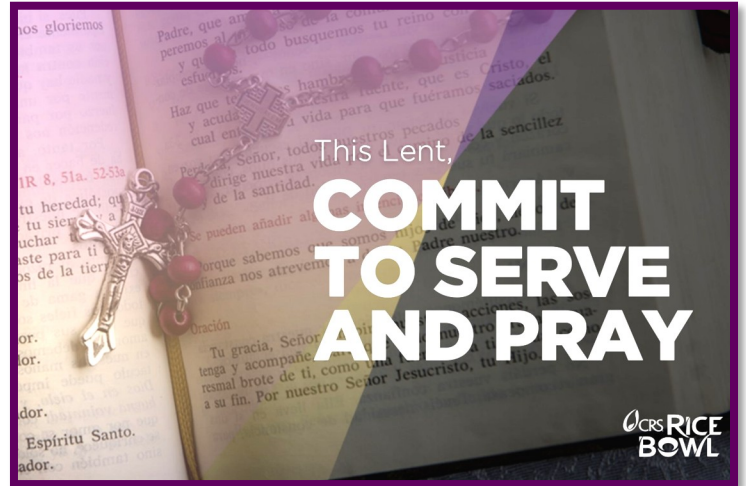
In the Old Testament, the relationship between God and Israel is often depicted as a marriage. Israel is the bride, many times unfaithful, and God is the aggrieved husband who keeps calling his beloved back to him. As Scripture scholar Brant Pitre expounds in his book *Jesus the Bridegroom*, the marriage metaphor continues in the New Testament.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus is very intentionally depicted as the bridegroom of Israel. For example, he begins his public ministry by transforming water into wine at a wedding. The bridegroom getting married is conspicuously absent from the narrative. Instead, Jesus takes center stage through his lavish miracle. Also, at the Last Supper, Jesus tells the disciples that he will go to prepare a place for them, after which he will return to take them home. In Jewish marriage customs, after the engagement, the groom would spend time preparing a home where he could begin life with his bride, and only when the home was ready for them to move in would the wedding take place. The wedding metaphor imagery culminates in The Book of Revelation, where the Church is depicted as a bride who is married to Christ in a heavenly wedding.

From Old Testament times, God has been inviting the Israelites into this profound relationship with him. With the coming of Christ, the invitation is now extended not just to the people of Israel, but to the whole world. We see the opening of the invitation to those beyond Israel in the account of the Samaritan woman at the well.

The Gospel of John has various layers of meaning. On one level of interpretation, the woman symbolizes the Samaritans as a people. The Samaritans were ancient enemies of the Jewish people. They came from a common ancestry, but the Samaritans had branched off in a different direction. Though they still worshipped God, they did so in a way that departed from the Mosaic Law. Over time, a deep sense of animosity developed between the two groups. Samaria, where the Samaritans lived, lay between Galilee, where Jesus started his ministry, and Judea, where Jerusalem stood. Whenever Jews wanted to travel between Galilee and Judea, they would usually take a longer road to avoid Samaria altogether. If they ventured into Samaria, they risked encountering some deep hostility.

But in the Gospel passage for this Sunday, Jesus is not only traveling through Samaria but asks the Samaritan woman for water. By doing so, Jesus violates deep social taboos. As a Jew,



he is not supposed to have anything in common with the Samaritans. As a man, he is not supposed to interact with an unchaperoned woman in public, let alone one who, as he knows, does not have a good reputation. He sets those social restrictions aside and asks her to give him water from the well.

In the Old Testament, wells were a place where romance began. Three key meetings take place at wells. The servant of Abraham meets Rebecca, who will become the wife of Isaac. Jacob meets Rachel, his future wife. Moses meets Zipporah, whom he will marry. Now Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at a well, at the well of Jacob, no less. The implication is not that Jesus is entering into a relationship with the woman herself, but that God is inviting the Samaritan people into the same profound relationship that he has had with the people of Israel.

The five husbands of the woman symbolize five false gods that the Samaritans had worshipped in their history. The current relationship of the woman symbolizes the Samaritan's relationship with God. They worship him, but they have not entered into the same marriage relationship with him as Israel, because their worship has been corrupted by their history. Jesus is now calling them to true worship, where they too can enter into that profound relationship with God symbolized by marriage.

The invitation to the Samaritans is just the beginning. Christ invites all nations, all peoples. All of us individually. God extends to every one of us his proposal of marriage. The structures of our religion exist to help us enter into that eternal marriage with God. The prayers, the creeds, the rituals, the sacraments all help us enter more and more deeply into that complete union of love with God, who is the only source of our ultimate joy and fulfillment. This Lent, in the midst of our various disciplines and practices, let us say two simple words to God: I do.

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

- 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 | bpourmet@yahoo.com

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION UPDATE

It is so exciting! Our spiritually adopted babies are already 10,000 times larger than they were at conception in January. Their spinal cords, brains and nervous systems are developing. At 4 weeks, the heart is already beating and pumping blood through the circulatory system. The babies' arms, legs, and eyes have begun to show. This is all so amazing in such a short time. Thank you to all who are praying for these precious little ones in danger of abortion.

Another Prayer For Life

God of all compassion and patient love, be with all who are afraid and give them the courage of the gospel of life. Be with all mothers especially those who are young or alone, beaten or addicted, heal their broken hearts and seal them with your love. Be with all children, those who are yet inborn, those who are tiny and frail, cradle them in your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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

Many thanks for the generous donations of dried pasta and rice. Below are what is still needed.

UPDATED NEED: Canned - tuna • cream of mushroom, cream of chicken soup. Please only donate *unexpired* goods in their *original* packaging. **Thank you.**

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

We would like to thank you for your generous donations! Just in the last month we were able to help 119 families. We contributed to rent, utilities, and sometimes even a mattress for our newly housed neighbor. We were able to deliver pantry items, household goods and sometimes used or donated furniture as well as gas vouchers and vouchers to the Kenmore SVDP store. **Thank you so very much.** At this time, we **need** toothbrushes, shampoo, dish and laundry soap.



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

YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS SEATTLE

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ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
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MARCH 14, 2026
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We are very grateful for all those who have lived *Forward in Faith* for the Fund for St. Brendan School. Thank you for your continued generosity.



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 either St. Brendan or St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish Family? Financial Assistance is available to help with registration fees, please contact CYOad@saintbrendan.org for details. For more information on CYO and the programs offered at St. Brendan, please reach out to Ena Demeter at cyosecretary@saintbrendan.org.

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COMING SOON. . . CYO TRACK & FIELD

We are happy to announce that **Track & Field** will be back for the second year in a row. We are working on the program details and are looking for parent feedback – **if your child is interested in joining the team this year or if you are interested in volunteering to coach, please let us know soon!**

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.*

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 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:

- St. Brendan Parish (STB) - parish.saintbrendan.org
- St. Teresa of Calcutta (STOC) - <https://pushpay.com/g/saintteresacalcutta>
- OR can the 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 STEWARDSHIP

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<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD. NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Little space. Big impact.</p> <p>Advertise here Call 800-950-9952</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Dr. Michelle J. Ament Cosmetic and General Dentist</p> <p>Use Code "Smile Bright" for FREE Whitening</p> <p>BothellFamilyDentistry.com 425-486-2787</p> </div> </div>		<p style="font-weight: bold;">Help is here: Medicare 101.</p> <p>As a licensed insurance agent who focuses on Medicare, I can help you understand and review all of your available plan options to help you select a plan that works for your needs and budget. By representing most major Medicare carriers, I can provide you knowledgeable information at no cost.</p> <p>CONTACT ME: Amber Valencia Senior Health Plan Broker/ St Theresa of Calcutta Parishioner License # 802455 253.315.2311 amber@ambervalencia.com</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; color: green;">ESHC</p> <p>Evergreen Speech and Hearing Clinic When was the last time you and your loved ones had a hearing checkup? Contact us for a FREE consultation to learn how we can transform your hearing!</p> <p>REDMOND KIRKLAND BELLEVUE Call 425-882-4347 Visit everhear.com for more information</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-weight: bold;">SEATTLE - (206) 622-3100 5201 4th Avenue South Seattle, WA 98108</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">SPOKANE - (509) 326-7070 907 West Boone Avenue Spokane, WA 99201</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: gold;">kaufers.shop</p> </div>		<p style="font-weight: bold;">Does your organization need a newsletter?</p> <p>We'll cover the printing costs!</p> <p>Learn more at lpicomunities.com</p>
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