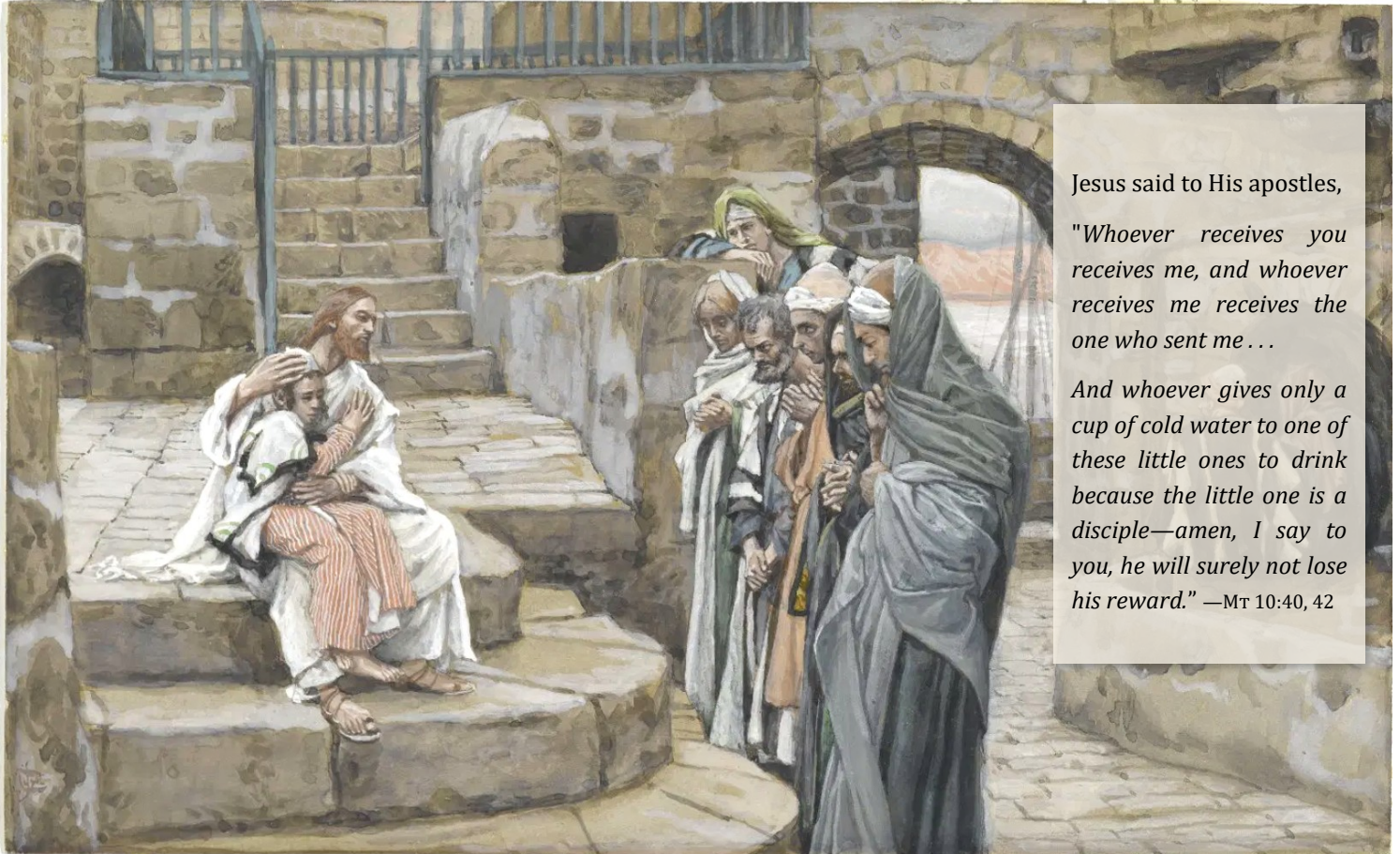


WELCOME TO
**SAINT BRENDAN & SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA
 PARISH FAMILY**
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 JUNE 28, 2026



Jesus said to His apostles,
*"Whoever receives you
 receives me, and whoever
 receives me receives the
 one who sent me . . .*
*And whoever gives only a
 cup of cold water to one of
 these little ones to drink
 because the little one is a
 disciple—amen, I say to
 you, he will surely not lose
 his reward."* —MT 10:40, 42

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

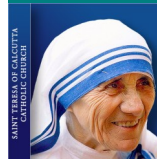
ADORATION

- 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
- Saturday | 2:30PM - 4PM

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH | STOC



SUNDAY MASS
 • Saturday Vigil | 5PM
 • Sunday | 9AM | 11AM
DAILY MASS - Tuesday to Friday | 9AM |

ADORATION

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

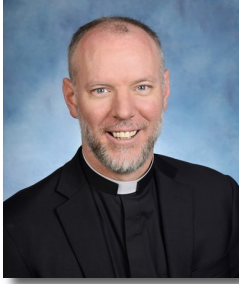
CONFESSION

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

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

"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

PARISH DIRECTORY



PASTOR

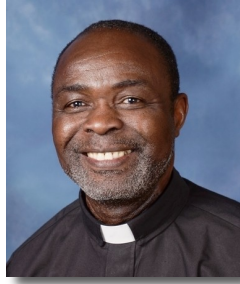
Rev. Nicholas Wichert

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

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 De Leon | 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: *Jesus and the Little Child (Jésus et le petit enfant)*

ARTIST - James Tissot, 1886-1896 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:

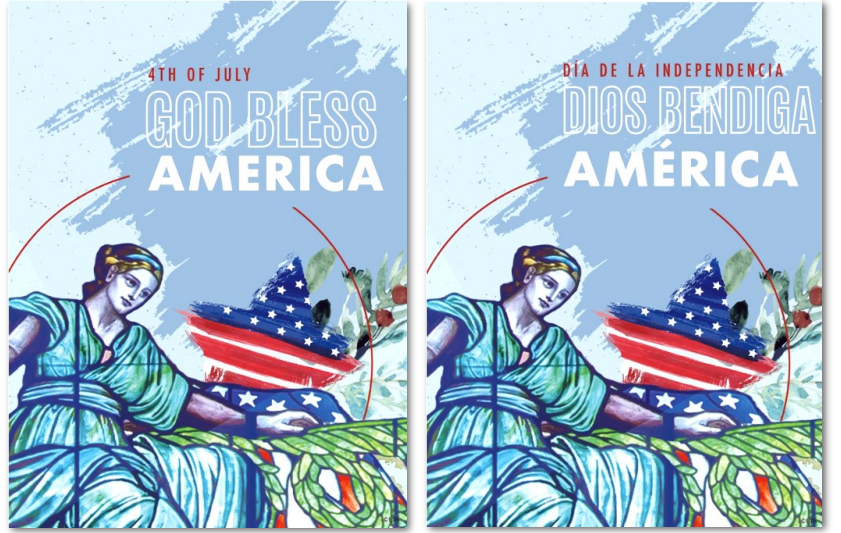
- Due Thursday a week before the target weekend.
- St. Brendan > bulletin@saintbrendan.org
- St. Teresa > admin@saintteresa.org

To submit a Mass announcement or Mass intentions:

- St. Brendan > receptionist@saintbrendan.org
- St. Teresa > admin@saintteresa.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **24-HOUR ADORATION** - Friday, JUL 3 • 10AM • St. Brendan.
 - **FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION** - JUL. 4 • Before the 8:30AM Mass • St. Brendan.
 - **STORY TIME with Mrs. Abraham** - Sunday, JUL 5. • St. Brendan • After the 10AM Mass.
 - **MOMS GROUP** - Wednesday, JUL. 8 & 22 • 9:30AM • St. Brendan.
 - **SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY** - Due Friday, JUL. 31 • Pg. 5.
 - **CYO Registrations OPEN** — Soccer • Cross Country • Volunteer Opportunities • Pg. 9.
- SAVE THE DATES**
- **PARISH/SCHOOL MARINERS GAME** - SEP. 6 • See page 10 for ticket info.
 - **ST. BRENDAN HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR** - Saturday, NOV. 14.



A CATHOLIC PRAYER FOR THE UNITED STATES ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord —PSALMS 33:12

FATHER of all nations and ages,

We recall the day when our country claimed its place among the family of nations; for what has been achieved we give YOU thanks, for the work that still remains we ask YOUR help, and as YOU have called us from many peoples to be one nation, grant that, under YOUR providence, our country may share YOUR blessings with all the peoples of the earth.



Through our **LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON**, who lives and reigns with YOU in the unity of the **HOLY SPIRIT, one GOD**, for ever and ever. Amen.

SOURCE: ROMAN MISSAL

JUL 3 - FIRST FRIDAY 24-HOUR ADORATION

JUL 4 - FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

Spend time in the true presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Join us and be a prayer warriors for peace, unity in the world and conversion of souls. Starts after the 8:30AM Friday Mass at St. Brendan, continues through the night and into the First Saturday devotion 7:30 AM, ending with benediction, followed by Mass.



STORY TIME

Mrs. Abraham is hosting Story Time in the **St. Brendan nursery on the first Sunday of each month after the 10AM Mass**. All children are welcome to come and listen. The next Story Time is **next Sunday, JUL. 5**.



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 Wednesdays at **9:30AM in the St. Brendan nursery**. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, JUL. 8 and JUL. 22**. 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.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Thirteenth Week of Ordinary Time

TOGETHER IN FAITH, WE CAN BE MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Thank you to all who have participated over the past few months. If you have not made your contribution, we ask you to prayerfully consider making a gift today. You can use a pew envelope or donate online by scanning the QR code >>> or visiting archseattle.org/giveaca.



PRAYER AND READINGS

READINGS OF THE WEEK

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 28, 2026

FOR EVER I WILL SING THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD. (Ps 89)

Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a • Ps 89:2-3, 16-19 • Rom 6:3-4, 8-11 • Mt 10:37-42

Monday: Vigil: Acts 3:1-10 • Ps 19:2-5 • Gal 1:11-20 • Jn 21:15-19

Day: Acts 12:1-11 • Ps 34:2-9 • 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18 • Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday: Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12 • Ps 5:4b-6ab, 7-8 • Mt 8:23-27

Wednesday: Am 5:14-15, 21-24 • Ps 50:7-13, 16bc-17 • Mt 8:28-34

Thursday: Am 7:10-17 • Ps 19:8-11 • Mt 9:1-8

Friday: Eph 2:19-22 • Ps 117:1bc, 2 • Jn 20:24-29

Saturday: Am 9:11-15 • Ps 85:9ab, 10-14 • Mt 9:14-17

LET US PRAY FOR . . .

The Sick

All praise and glory is yours, Lord our God, for you have called us to serve you in love. Bless them so that they may bear this illness in union with your Son's obedient suffering. Restore them to health, and lead them to glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Elizabeth Adoko • Joan Dedman • Samantha Deitch • Toyo Erickson • Erika Ferreri • Don Galloway • Luz Gutierrez • Hannah Joy Haug • Norman Hradec • Rebecca Jacobson • Dianne Osmialowski • Sully Mills • Alexandra Rocio • 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.

Gilberto Cruz • Steven Engel • Regina Malloy Shriver • Olga Obdulia Costilla
Ron Runyon • Jacob Santiago Bautista • Bob Stevenson • Shirley Wichert

WE WERE INDEED BURIED WITH **HIM**
THROUGH BAPTISM INTO DEATH, SO THAT, JUST
AS **CHRIST** WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD BY
THE GLORY OF THE **FATHER**, WE TOO MIGHT
LIVE IN NEWNESS OF LIFE. (ROM 6:4)

O SACRAMENT MOST HOLY

O SACRAMENT DIVINE

ALL PRAISE AND

ALL THANKSGIVING

BE EVERY MOMENT THINE



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, June 28

STB

8:00AM Saint Brendan Parish

10:00AM + Sevana Michael

12:00PM + Jonathan Morales

STOC

9:00AM Special Intention

11:00AM Saint Teresa Parish

Monday, June 29

STB - 8:30AM + Maude Roark

STOC - NO MASS

Tuesday, June 30

STB - NO MASS

STOC - 9:00AM Lauren Wozeniak & Tara Hannah

Wednesday, July 1

STB - 8:30AM + Russ Sanderson

STOC - 9:00AM David Young

Thursday, July 2

STB - 8:30AM Majel Braden

STOC - 9:00AM + Efigenia Paguia

Friday, July 3

STB - 8:30AM Fr. Wichert Intention

STOC - 9:00AM Michael Kopet

Saturday, July 4

STB

8:30AM Samantha Deitch

5:00PM + Olga Obdulia Costilla

STOC - 5:00PM 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)

- June Knight of the Month – **Bob Curry**
- June Family of the Month – **Bill and Donna Nash**
- Congratulations to **Ron Volk**, who is celebrating 50 years as a Knight of Columbus. If you see Ron be sure to congratulate him and offer him warm wishes on this milestone.
- The next business meeting is **Thursday, JUL. 2 at 7PM at the Bothell Rental Hall.**
- Are you looking for a place to host a wedding reception, shower, birthday, graduation party or some other event? Look no further. The Bothell Rental Hall is a great place to hold any 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.

ST. BRENDAN KIOSK

Misplaced a water bottle, a prayer book, a toy, or a jacket from last winter?

The kiosk drawers in the St. Brendan Narthex are stuffed with items found throughout the church. Please come take a look and see if there is anything there you or your family may have forgotten.



Greg Schmidt Memorial Scholarship

Sponsored by St. Teresa of Calcutta Knights of Columbus



ESSAY CONTEST

Available to all high school graduates and current college students in the parish who will be attending an accredited college or university in the fall of 2026.

2026 Essay Theme

How has being Catholic influenced your daily life?

Requirement ~

Write a 250-500 word essay on this theme.

The essay must be submitted to the parish office along with this application form **no later than Friday, July 31st**. Please paper clip the essay to this application, but do not put your name on the essay.



FIRST PLACE
\$500 scholarship



SECOND PLACE
\$250 scholarship

Scholarship Applicant:

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

Current school (2025-2026 School year): _____

2025-2026 grade level (i.e. HS senior, college soph.): _____

Planned school for 2026-2027 school year: _____

Planned Major: _____

I, _____, attest that this essay is my own work.
I acknowledge that the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered apps, or other AI-powered writing tools, is strictly prohibited for the purposes of this scholarship.

CALL FOR

VOLUNTEERS



The Serving Our Savior Program (SOS) needs some help picking up donations from grocery stores and bringing them to the church. Do you need community hours? Do you have a couple of hours on Wednesday mornings and/or afternoons, or Thursday mornings?

If you do and want to help bring food to those who need it, please contact Bill Nash at 206.999.7767.

What you do for the least of these, you do for Him.

PARISH NEWS

<h2>REWARD</h2> <p>“Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple—amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.”</p> <p>MATTHEW 10:42</p>	<h2>RECOMPENSA</h2> <p>“Quien diere, aunque no sea más que un vaso de agua fría a uno de estos pequeños, por ser discípulo mío, yo les aseguro que no perderá su recompensa”.</p> <p>MATEO 10, 42</p>
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RESPECT LIFE MINISTRIES

Please Pray For These Expecting Mothers: Hannah Galvan Bockel • Sydney Covello • Erin Dolenc • Sarah Hill • Taylor Lockman • Lauryn Manning • Jennifer McVicker • Scareth Meija • Meron • Elizabeth Nguyen • Joy Stanley • Chrissy White Cuda

Congratulations to: Tyler & Claire COOK on the birth of their daughter, Riley Camille • Ryan & Lauren GREEN on the birth of their son, Callahan Howard. • 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.



MINISTRY AT ST. BRENDAN & 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

SUMMER BREAK

As we enter the summer season (June through August), the following parish family ministries are taking a well-deserved break:

- Apologetics
- BBQ & Brothers
- Rosary Making
- Women's Group

We wish our volunteers and families a blessed and restful summer.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

First Holy Martyrs of the Church



There were Christians in Rome within a dozen or so years after the death of Jesus, though they were not the converts of the “Apostle of the Gentiles” (Romans 15:20). Saint Paul had not yet visited them at the time he wrote his great letter in 57-58 A.D.

There was a large Jewish population in Rome. Probably as a result of controversy between Jews and Jewish Christians, the Emperor Claudius expelled all Jews from Rome in 49-50 A.D. Suetonius the historian says that the expulsion was due to disturbances in the city “caused by the certain Chrestus” [Christ]. Perhaps many came back after Claudius' death in 54 A.D. Paul's letter was addressed to a Church with members from Jewish and Gentile backgrounds.

In July of 64 A.D., more than half of Rome was destroyed by fire. Rumor blamed the tragedy on Nero, who wanted to enlarge his palace. He shifted the blame by accusing the Christians. According to the historian Tacitus, many Christians were put to death because of their “hatred of the human race.” Peter and Paul were probably among the victims.

Threatened by an army revolt and condemned to death by the senate, Nero committed suicide in 68 A.D. at the age of 31.

The church of Santi Protomartiri a Via Aurelia Antica in Rome is dedicated to these first martyrs.

Holy First Martyrs of Rome, you each endured much torment, hatred, and abuse, ultimately shedding your blood as the result of your deep courage and love of Christ. Please pray for me, that I may be counted among your numbers in Heaven by manifesting the same depth of love and courage that you did. First Martyrs of Rome, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

FEAST DAY: JUNE 30

Source: mycatholic.life

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM UPDATE - FIFTH MONTH

"Mommy Felt Me Kick Today" - Our babies that we spiritually adopted in January are now five months old already and the wonderful miracles of God's creation are so very evident. This month marks the half-way point to birth, and our babies are very active now. Sleep habits develop and mom can feel her baby moving and stretching, particularly when mom is resting. The baby is big and strong enough to kick hard against the outside uterine wall and dent it. Up to now, although the baby swam with ease in his watery world, he was too small for mom to detect because the inside wall of the uterus has little feeling. At five months hair and eyebrows begin to grow. The baby's ears are fully formed and begin to respond to sound. They are able to hear their mother's heartbeat and voice. Many moms begin to sing to their baby at this stage. Babies born at five months have survived.

Thank you for your continued commitment to pray for these and all unborn babies in danger of abortion. May God bless you.



Calling YOUNG ADULTS!

Come join a group of Catholic young adults from around the Puget Sound area who want to grow closer to Christ together in community. See <https://www.frassatiseattle.org/> for more information about groups, events, and retreats.

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. | **Saturday** 12AM to 1AM • 1AM to 2AM • 4AM to 5AM • 6AM to 7AM.

Adoration is seen as a way of life that provides, spiritual protection and nourishment. If you'd like to sign up or have questions, please contact Christina Plantilla at 425-486-3376.

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 sábad del mes:

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

Tercer sábad 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

- [A Few Breaths: What Baby Margaret's Death Taught Me About Fear and Eternity](#)
- [The Miracle. The Process. And the 75,000 Person Event behind the Beatification of Fulton Sheen](#)
- [Why the Church Celebrates a Heart \(Not a Brain\) | Sacred Heart Sunday Reflection](#)
- [The 14 Stations of the Eucharist | Fr. Jonathan Meyer](#)
- [Eucharistic Miracles, Scientific Evidence, & What it all Means for YOU](#)
- [The Pope vs. The Terminator: What the New Encyclical Really Says About AI](#)

FORMED

- [Lectio: God](#)
- [The Art of Living](#)
- [Jesus Thirsts: The Miracle of the Eucharist](#)
- [Practicing Catholic Podcast](#)
- [Does God Send People to Hell? The Truth About Mercy](#)
- [The Heart of Prayer](#)

Bishop Barron Sunday Sermon [Fear No One](#) • [Jesus Sees Something in You](#) • [From the Exodus to the Eucharist](#)

Ascension Presents

- [How to Correct Someone Without Hurting Them | Fr. Mike Schmitz](#)
- [Do You Feel Insignificant? | Fr. Mark-Mary Ames](#)
- [You Need Rest, Here's How | Sr. Mary Grace](#)
- [What I'd Tell Someone on Their Deathbed | Fr. Mike Schmitz](#)
- [Why Be Catholic? | Fr. Mike Schmitz](#)
- [The Sin Jesus Spoke About Most Seriously | Fr. Mike Schmitz](#)
- [Fr. Mike Schmitz & Dr. Arthur Brooks Discuss Magnifica Humanitas](#)
- [Pray with Us | Prayers to Protect Us: A Collection of Prayers, Litanies, Hymns, and Readings](#)

Miscellaneous - [Catholics, Pride Month, and the Truth About Identity](#)

Fr. Mike Schmitz Homilies

- ["The Moment of Moments" | 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)
- ["Precisely" | 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)
- ["May They Be One" | Corpus Christi Sunday](#)

The Catholic Parent - [The Catholic Parent - FORMED](#)

For Kids

- [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

CHRIST ALWAYS COMES FIRST

By Zoltan Abraham

In the Gospel passage for today, Jesus makes it clear that he is to be the center of our lives. Of course, we are to love our families. We are to love our parents, our children, and other family members. The Church holds, and has always held, that the family is the foundational building block of society. But love of our family should not get in the way of loving Christ. In the culture of Jesus, a person's identity, including their religion, was defined primarily by the family to which they belonged. Converting to a new religion, without the family's approval, was well-nigh unthinkable. The first followers of Christ often had to make hard choices in the conflict between their faith and their family.

The words of Jesus apply not only to family, but to everything. God made us with a deep, existential hunger that only his love can satisfy. We find peace and fulfillment only when we accept God's love and give ourselves in love to him in return. Christ is God Incarnate, God's love manifest among us. It is only through union with Christ that we experience the true completion of our hearts, the true fulfillment of our existential yearning. That is a principal reason that Christ must be the center of our lives.

Human sin happens when we do not have God's love in the center, when we put something created in the center instead. When we do so, we bring about a disordered relationship with that created reality. For example, food is good and necessary. But if we make food the center of our lives, food becomes destructive. The same can be said for anything that is good in life, even our relationships with the people we love most. If we make other people our center, our love will be obsessive, unwholesome, and controlling. That is how a toxic or abusive relationship can start.

But when we put Christ in the center, the love we have for the created world will be well ordered and wholesome. We can then enjoy the things of the world to the right degree. We can also love others with an unselfish love, being channels of God's love in their lives. Thus, loving Christ before our family is far from loving our family less. Putting Christ before all others is the only way to love them fully, in a healthy way, helping them to experience Christ's love.

Sometimes our family might seek to derail us from the love of Christ, by bad example, by persuasion, or even through social ostracism. In such situation, we need to stay steadfast in keeping Christ in the center, even if we must suffer greatly. The same principle applies to belonging to any human organization, whether a club, a political party, or the like. Christ must come first. The same is true regarding our country. Patriotism is a virtue that we are called upon to cultivate. But if we had to choose between our country or Christ, Christ must always come first.

The First Reading for this Sunday highlights that when we build the kingdom of God, we also receive rewards in various ways. We see that the couple who shows hospitality to Elisha is rewarded by having a child, after being unable to conceive for years. We do not know what kind of blessing we will receive, but God will reward us, sometimes in ways we least expect, as with the couple in the reading.

The birth of the couple's son also foreshadows the miraculous birth of Christ. The passage follows a prophetic mode of anticipating the New Testament called typology. Throughout the Old Testament we see various events and persons who prefigure events and persons in the New Testament. In fact, the Old Testament can be understood fully only if we view it through the lens of the New Testament.

In the Old Testament, various women conceive miraculously after a long period of barrenness - Sarah, Leah, Samson's unnamed mother, Hannah, and the unnamed woman in today's First Reading. Additionally, in the New Testament, Elizabeth also conceives with miraculous help from God. All of these miraculous conceptions point toward the miraculous conception of Christ, which is the beginning of the salvation of humanity and restoration of all of creation. The coming of Christ is foreshadowed by miraculously born life, pointing to the central message of Christ, that he is here to give us eternal life. The miraculous births foreshadow the supernatural life that Christ gives through the self-sacrificial outpouring of his life for us upon the Cross.

The Second Reading for this Sunday highlights that in order for us to receive new life through Christ, we must first die to our old lives in this world. We must completely reorient our whole being. We must undergo a thoroughgoing transformation, making Christ the absolute center of our being. This transformation begins in baptism, continues in Confirmation, and is perfected continually through our union with Christ in the Holy Eucharist, as well as through the whole sacramental and prayer life of the Church.

A key part of this transformation is to take up our Cross, to stop living our lives for our own selfish goals and instead to live to love others with God's love. Ironically, the more we let go of our selfish desires and the more we take up our Cross, the more joy we experience in this life. That is the paradox of love. The more we let go of our ego and live a life of sharing Christ's love with others in a self-sacrificial way, the more our lives are filled with love and an abiding sense of peace.

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 | den-nishammonds45@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

Serving Our Savior (SOS) | Priscilla Finch - cilfinch@hotmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul

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

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

Many thanks for the continued generous donations to fill our pantry. Below are what is still needed.

NEED: Canned tuna • canned cream of chicken soup.

Please only donate unexpired goods in their original packaging.



OUR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL is in need of the following items.

Desperately need: Paper towels • toilet paper • canned fruit (e.g., peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, etc.) • Mac 'n' Cheese (*Kraft* is favorite) • laundry detergent • cooking oil • dishwashing liquid (*Dawn* is recommended as it can be used for other purposes).

Can always use: Toothpaste • under-arm deodorant • shampoo • bar soap (*Dial* or other anti-bacterial bath soaps) • cleaning supplies such as spray cleaner (*409*, *Windex*, *Clorox* and others) • sponges • furniture polish, • jams and jellies • packaged meals (e.g., chili, rice pilaf and other rice dishes, potato dishes, stuff you mix with hamburger or other proteins) • mixes for baking (corn bread is always a good one, but occasionally we get a request for cake mix/frosting for a family birthday) • *Bisquick* or similar baking mix • single meal-sized boxes of rice (e.g., *Minute Rice* or *Uncle Ben's*). **We appreciate your generous 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 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.

ST. BRENDAN CYO SOCCER – REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Calling all **soccer families!** It's time to lace up your cleats. **St. Brendan CYO Soccer registration is officially open** for students in Pre-K through 8th grade!

Don't wait—early registration is encouraged! Fees increase with late sign-ups, so secure your spot today.

Exciting News for the Season Ahead! We're thrilled to share that **brand-new goals** have been added—making this season even better for all our athletes!

Volunteer Coaches Needed Our program thrives because of our amazing volunteers! If you're interested in coaching this fall, please **sign up by the end of June**. Early commitments help ensure every team has the support it needs.

Questions? We're here to help! Contact **Rob Flajole, Soccer Coordinator** - cyosoccer@saintbrendan.org

Join us for a fun, active, and rewarding season—we can't wait to see you on the pitch!

ST. BRENDAN CROSS COUNTRY

Registration is Now Open!

Calling all students in Grades K–8! Runners of every age and ability level are welcome to join. Whether your child is brand new to running or already loves to race — there's a place for everyone on the team!

- **Early-Bird Registration:** Through August 29th | \$55 per runner

- **Late Registration:** Through September 8th | \$75 per runner

Get Involved — We Need Coaches! We're looking for **volunteer coaches** to help lead practices and make this season a success.

Join Us for a Great Season! Be part of a fun, supportive experience focused on: Fitness • Teamwork • School Spirit

Questions or Interested in Coaching? Contact: Meg Koury (cyocrosscountry@saintbrendan.org) Cross Country Coordinator

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Parade Walkers



Questions?KerryE@school.saintbrendan.org

St. Brendan Holiday Craft Fair

Saturday, November 14, 2026

SAVE THE DATE: ST BRENDAN HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR 2026

This year's Holiday Craft Fair will be held Saturday, November 14, 2026. Vendor applications for the 2026 Holiday Craft Fair are now being accepted (due date May 29, 2026).

The Holiday Craft Fair is our largest community event featuring 100+ small business craft vendors, our beloved bake sale, photos with Santa, and MORE!

Questions about the Craft Fair or to request an application please reach out at CraftFair@school.saintbrendan.org

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>Scott A. Boyer General Manager</p> <p>Boyer Electric Co. Commercial - Industrial - Residential Electricians</p> <p>(206) 367-7606 20150 144th Ave NE Ste A • Woodinville, WA 98072</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">BTL</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">ENGINEERING PS</p> <p>Located in Woodinville 425-814-8448 Brian Lampe, PE, SE Principal St. Teresa of Calcutta Parishioner</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Kitchen & Bath Remodels • Additions Decks • Small Projects</p> <p style="text-align: center;">206-423-9387 www.bhcontractingservices.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Do you have Medicare questions you need answered?</p>  <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>
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