

WELCOME TO
SAINT BRENDAN & SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA
PARISH FAMILY
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 12, 2026

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying:

"A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

—Mt 13:1-9



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

SEE DAILY MASS & CONFESSION TIME CHANGES ON PAGE 3.

ADORATION

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

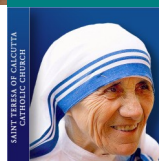
*WITH ROSARY FOLLOWED BY BENEDICTION |

CONFESSION

- Monday, Wednesday - Saturday | 7:45AM - 8:15AM
- Saturday | 2:30PM - 4PM

"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

DAILY MASS - Tuesday to Friday | 9AM |

ADORATION

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

CONFESSION

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

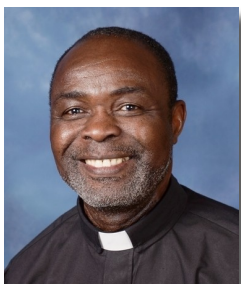
"Do small things with great love"—SAINT MOTHER TERESA

PARISH DIRECTORY



PASTOR

Rev. Nicholas Wichert
frwichert@saintbrendan.org
425-483-9400, Ext 2647
frwichert@saintteresa.org
425-806-8096, Ext. 3103



PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Peter Adoko-Enchill
frpeter@saintbrendan.org
frpeter@saintteresa.org
425-806-8096, Ext 3104

DEACONS

- Dcn. Leon Garcia-Martinez | deaconleon@saintbrendan.org
- Dcn. Armando Medina | deaconarmando@saintbrendan.org

ST. BRENDAN PARISH (STB)

Monday - Friday | 9:15AM-Noon • 12:30PM-4PM

- Church - 10100 NE 192nd St, Bothell, WA 98011-2931
- Office - 10051 NE 195th St., Bothell, WA 98011-2931
- 425-483-9400 | www.saintbrendan.org

Pastoral Assistant for Administration

Pastoral Assistant for Evangelization

Brigette Blair | ext. 2645 | bridgeteb@saintbrendan.org

Bookkeeper | Mary Deitch | ext. 2642 | bookkeeper@saintbrendan.org

Children & Family Ministry • OCIA Coordinator

Mark Sizemore | ext. 2648 | childfamilyministry@saintbrendan.org

Confirmation

Margaret 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 Preaches in a Ship (Jésus prêche dans une barque)*

ARTIST - James Tissot, 1886-1894 SOURCE - BrooklynMuseum.org

ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH (STOC)

Monday - Friday | 9:30AM - 3PM

- 17856 NE Woodinville Duvall Rd, Woodinville WA 98077
- 425-806-8096 | www.saintteresa.org

Parish Assistant for Administration

Zoltan Abraham | Ext. 3105 | zoltan@saintteresa.org

Administrative Assistant

Audrey Kozel | audrey@saintteresa.org

First Communion • Children's Catechesis

Analaura Rodriguez | Ext 3101 | analaura@saintteresa.org

Confirmation • Youth Ministry

Andrew Duncan | Ext. 3102 | andrew@saintteresa.org

OCIA Coordinator • Adult Catechesis

Mark Sizemore | childfamilyministry@saintbrendan.org

Director of Music | John Dobson | music@saintteresa.org

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

To arrange for the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, call the Ministry of Pastoral Care of the Eastern Deanery at 425-655-3200.

To arrange for Holy Communion for the sick or homebound, call the parish office.

MINISTERIO PARA LOS ENFERMOS Y LAS PERSONAS CONFINADAS EN CASA

Para concertar el Sacramento de la Unción de los Enfermos, llame al Ministerio de Atención Pastoral del Decanato Oriental al 425-655-3200.

Para concertar la Sagrada Comunión para los enfermos o las personas confinadas en casa, llame a la oficina parroquial.

FUNERAL MASSES AND BURIAL RITES

To arrange for a funeral Mass, please contact the Parish Office, or ask the funeral director to do so.

MISAS PARA FUNERALES Y RITOS DE ENTIERRO

Para hacer arreglos para Misa para funeral, por favor contacte la Oficina de la Parroquia, o pregunte al director de los servicios funerarios.

PARISH NEWSFLASH

If you would like to receive the weekly St. Teresa Newsflash over email, please let us know at admin@saintteresa.org.

To submit a bulletin announcement:

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

To submit a Mass announcement or Mass intentions:

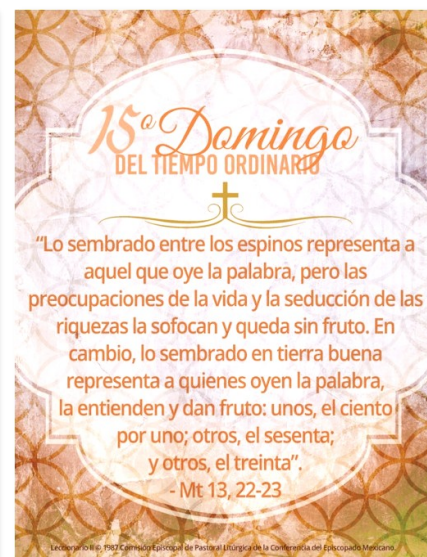
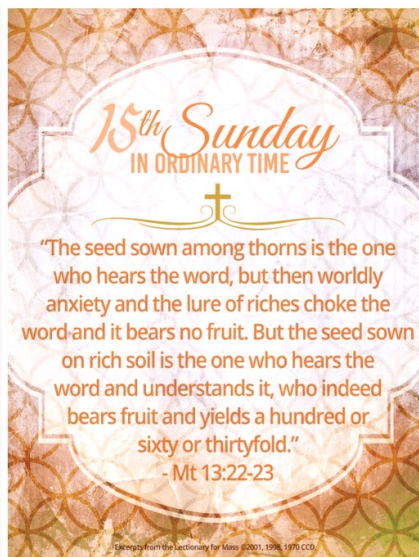
- St. Brendan > receptionist@saintbrendan.org
- St. Teresa > admin@saintteresa.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **DAILY MASS TIME CHANGES** - See right column.
- **MOMS GROUP** - Wednesday, JUL. 22 • 9:30AM • St. Brendan. • Pg. 5
- **CYO Registrations OPEN** – Soccer • Cross Country • Volunteer Opportunities • Pg. 9.

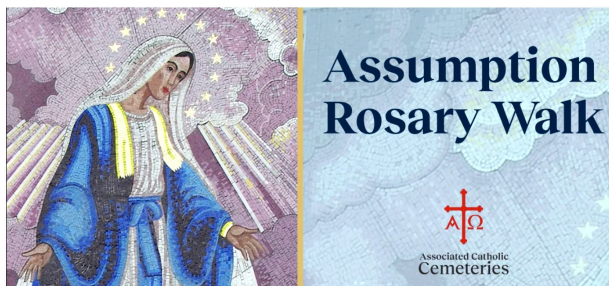
SAVE THE DATES

- **PARISH FAMILY & SCHOOL PICNIC** - AUG. 23 • See below for more information.
- **PARISH FAMILY FESTIVAL** - St. Teresa • In September • Stay tuned for details.
- **PARISH/SCHOOL MARINERS GAME** - SEP. 6 • See page 10 for ticket info.
- **ANNUAL CHARITY ST. BRENDAN SCHOOL GOLF TOURNAMENT** - SEP. 19 • Pg. 10.



THIS WEEK'S DAILY MASS & CONFESSION TIMES

This week's daily Mass will be at St. Teresa of Calcutta on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 9AM. Daily Mass and Confessions at St. Brendan will only be on Saturday, JUL 18, at the usual scheduled hours. No changes for the Sunday Mass times.



ASSUMPTION ROSARY WALK AT HOLYROOD

Wednesday • AUG. 12 • 11AM to 12:15PM

Holyrood Catholic Cemetery
205 NE 205th Street, Shoreline, WA 98155

All Catholics are invited to join us at Holyrood Cemetery for a Rosary Walk in honor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. **Bring your rosary as Fr. Wichert leads us through the grounds to pray for loved ones.** Rosary walks are beautiful, reverent, guided walks through the cemetery where participants pray the Rosary together, stopping briefly at designated points (stations) for each decade.

A Rosary walk through the cemetery's sacred ground emphasizes peace and contemplation, hope in the Resurrection, and reminds us that a cemetery is a place of active prayer, not just burials and rest.

The Rosary Walk should take about 60 – 75 minutes and is free to attend. Just bring your Rosary and meet us in front of the Chapel Mausoleum. For any questions, please contact Alana Niemi, Outreach Office Manager for Associated Catholic Cemeteries at lanan@mycatholiccemetery.org.

INDEPENDENCE DAY
250 YEARS
1776 - 2026

St. Teresa & St. Brendan
PARISH FAMILY & SCHOOL PICNIC

SUNDAY 23 AUGUST | **AFTER THE 10AM MASS**

FAMILY • FRIENDS • FOODS • GAMES • FUN
St. Brendan Baseball Field

MANY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

PRAYER AND READINGS

READINGS OF THE WEEK

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 12, 2026

THE SEED THAT FALLS ON GOOD GROUND WILL YIELD A FRUITFUL HARVEST. (Ps 65)

Sunday: Is 55:10-11 • Ps 65:10-14 • Rom 8:18-23 • Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

Monday: Is 1:10-17 • Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23 • Mt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday: Is 7:1-9 • Ps 48:2-3ab-4, 5-8 • Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16 • Ps 94:5-10, 14-15 • Mt 11:25-27

Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19 • Ps 102:13-14ab, 15-21 • Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8 • Is 38:10, 12abcd, 16 • Mt 12:1-8

Saturday: Mi 2:1-5 • Ps 10:1-4, 7-8, 14 • Mt 12:14-21

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 • Freddy Alley • Sheila Barnes • Harrison Carlin • Joan Dedman • Samantha Deitch • Tim Dickison • Don Galloway • Luz Gutierrez • Hannah Joy Haug • Norman Hradec • Patricia Hutchison • Anne Marie • Michelle Martinez • Dianne Osmialowski • Sully Mills • Francis Nash • Auggie Stutzman • Jerald Uy • Marilyn Wakefield • 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.

Steven Engel • Patrick Guentert Regina Malloy Shriver • Olga Obdulia Costilla • Ron Runyon • Freddy Weller • Bob Stevenson • Shirley Wichert

I CONSIDER THAT THE SUFFERINGS OF
THIS PRESENT TIME ARE AS NOTHING
COMPARED WITH THE GLORY TO BE
REVEALED FOR US.

(ROM 8:18)

O SACRAMENT MOST HOLY

O SACRAMENT DIVINE

ALL PRAISE AND

ALL THANKSGIVING

BE EVERY MOMENT THINE



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, July 12

STB

8:00AM + Hayes Oster

10:00AM + Fidela (Dely) Aguilar

12:00PM Saint Brendan Parish

STOC

9:00AM Special Intention

11:00AM Saint Teresa Parish

Monday, July 13

STB - 8:30AM NO MASS

STOC - Hayden Ninomiya

Tuesday, July 14

STB - NO MASS

STOC - 9:00AM NO MASS

Wednesday, July 15

STB - 8:30AM NO MASS

STOC - 9:00AM Fr. Peter & Elizabeth Adoko

Thursday, July 16

STB - 8:30AM NO MASS

STOC - 9:00AM + Joe & Patsy Sandel

Friday, July 17

STB - 8:30AM NO MASS

STOC - 9:00AM + Robby Osborn

Saturday, July 18

STB

8:30AM Colleen Danforth

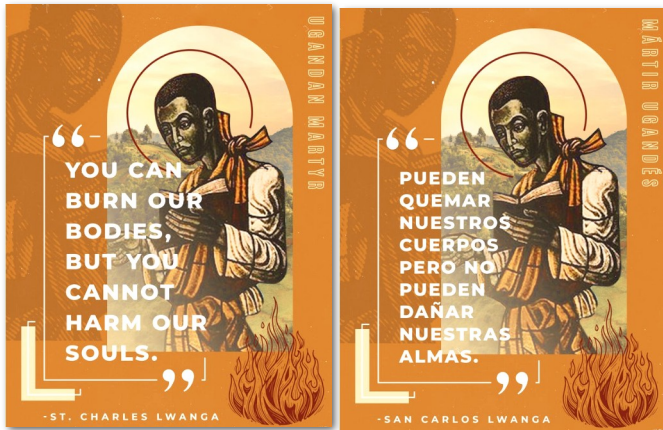
5:00PM Saint Brendan Parish

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

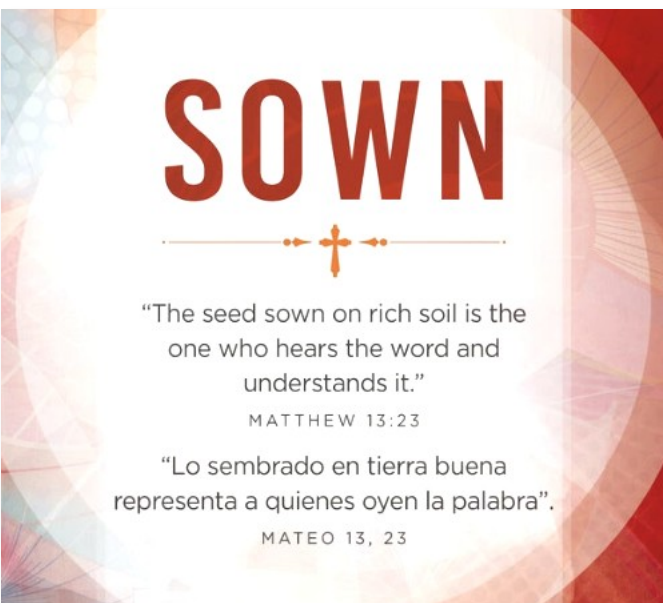


MOMS GROUP

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. 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.

BULLETIN CORRECTION - We inadvertently missed TOM GRAY in our earlier announcement, and we want to make sure he is recognized for his valuable help at vacation bible school. **Thanks, Tom!**



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.

A TOTAL GIFT: A HOMESCHOOL MOTHER RETREAT

You are invited to a half-day retreat that focuses on St. Ignatius's form of silent interior prayer. We will turn our mind and heart toward God to allow him to reveal His vision for our school year.

Saturday, July 25, 2026

9:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m

Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church

Cost: \$20 (suggested donation)

Scan for event website & to register

atotalgift.com



Schedule

Mass
Breakfast
Rosary
Silent Prayer & Reflection
Guest Speaker
Adoration

Do you want your homeschool to be a total gift of yourself to God and to your family?

A "Total Gift" school year means seeing your school year as an opportunity to glorify Him, grow in relationship with Him, and reflect His love to others.

PARISH NEWS

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRIES

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

Congratulations to: Alex & Hannah Galvan BOCKEL on the birth of their daughter, Alannah Rose • Ryan & Lauren GREEN on the birth of their son, Callahan Howard • Tim & Jennifer MCVICKER on the birth of their daughter, Lucille Joan. We ask that God bless you and bring you much joy as you raise your little one.

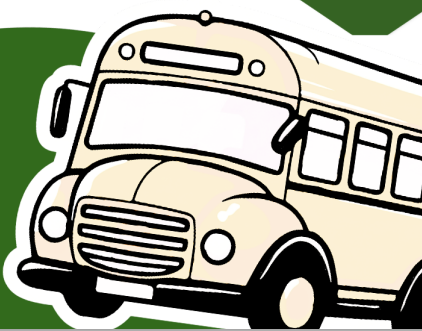
If you are expecting a baby and would like your church family to pray for you, please contact Colleen Danforth at rdhcoll@aol.com.



VOLUNTEER NEEDED

St. Brendan Bus Ministry is seeking volunteer bus drivers for the Saturday 5PM and Sunday 10AM Mass routes. Our ministry currently provides transportation for residents of several senior living communities in Bothell, helping them attend Mass each week.

All volunteers must be pre-approved and current with Safe Environment requirements through the Archdiocese of Seattle. For more information or to apply, please contact Brigette Blair at (425) 483-9400 ext. 2645 or email bridgetteb@saintbrendan.org.





PREPARES
Pregnancy & Parenting Support

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

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St. Henry

St. Henry, son of Henry, Duke of Bavaria, and of Gisella, daughter of Conrad, King of Burgundy, was born in 972. He received an excellent education under the care of St. Wolfgang, Bishop of Ratisbon. In 995, St. Henry succeeded his father as Duke of Bavaria, and in 1002, upon the death of his cousin, Otho III, he was elected emperor.

Firmly anchored upon the great eternal truths, which the practice of meditation kept alive in his heart, he was not elated by this dignity and sought in all things, the greater glory of God. He was most watchful over the welfare of the Church and exerted his zeal for the maintenance of ecclesiastical discipline through the instrumentality of the Bishops. He gained several victories over his enemies, both at home and abroad, but he used these with great moderation and clemency.

In 1014, he went to Rome and received the imperial crown at the hands of Pope Benedict VIII. On that occasion he confirmed the donation, made by his predecessors to the Pope, of the sovereignty of Rome and the exarchate of Ravenna. Circumstances several times drove the holy Emperor into war, from which he always came forth victorious. He led an army to the south of Italy against the Saracens and their allies, the Greeks, and drove them from the country.

The humility and spirit of justice of the Saint were equal to his zeal for religion. He cast himself at the feet of Herebert, Bishop of Cologne, and begged his pardon for having treated him with coldness, on account of a misunderstanding. He wished to abdicate and retire into a monastery, but yielded to the advice of the Abbot of Verdun, and retained his dignity. Both he and his wife, St. Cunegundes, lived in perpetual chastity, to which they had bound themselves by vow.

The Saint made numerous pious foundations, gave liberally to pious institutions and built the Cathedral of Bamberg. His holy death occurred at the castle of Grone, near Halberstad, in 1024.

PATRON SAINT OF: The childless, of the handicapped, those rejected by religious orders, and of dukes.

FEAST DAY: JULY 13

Source: Catholic.org



LEGION OF MARY

OUR LADY OF HUMILITY AUXILIARY MEMBER

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, AUG. 29, Information forthcoming.

What is an Auxiliary member? An auxiliary member of the Legion of Mary is the spiritual or "praying wing" of the Catholic lay apostolate. Because they cannot assume the duties of active members, they support the Legion's apostolic work by offering daily prayers. To be an auxiliary member, one must make a few daily commitments:

- **The Rosary:** Praying the five decades of the Rosary every day.
- **Legion Prayers:** Reciting the daily prayers found in the Legion prayer leaflet known as the Tessera. These include invocations to the Holy Spirit, the Catena (the Magnificat), and concluding prayers.

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 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

- [One of the Most Brilliant Minds in History Said THIS Before He Died](#)
- [Feminism Robbed Women of This — Here's How to Get It Back](#)
- [A 7-Year-Old's Heroism Will Convict You](#)
- [What Escaping a Cult Taught Me About God | Interview with Ex-Jehovah's Witness Dr. Cary](#)
- [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](#)

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

- [Your King Shall Come to You](#)
- [Be Attached to God Alone](#)
- [Fear No One](#)

Ascension Presents

- [Train Your Heart to Trust | Fr. Mike Schmitz](#)
- [How to Fit the Liturgy of the Hours into Your Busy Day](#)
- [Why the Sisters of Life Wear This](#)
- [The Differences Between Men and Women | Fr. Mike Schmitz](#)
- [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](#)

Fr. Mike Schmitz Homilies

- ["Citizens, Not Subjects" | 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)
- ["Intentional Limitation" | 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)
- ["The Moment of Moments" | 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

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

SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE

By Zoltan Abraham

In his parables, Jesus often uses incongruous images or anecdotes, which would have made people in the culture of his time do a double take. The purpose of this technique is twofold. One is to engage the audience all the more by making them think through the incongruities. The other is to illustrate certain points more clearly through exaggeration. For us today, removed as we are from the culture in which Jesus lived, the rhetorical technique is harder to follow. We have to make an effort to enter into the culture of the time.

For example, the parable of the lost sheep would have been very startling in the culture of Jesus. In the story, the shepherd leaves the ninety-nine sheep to chase after the one sheep that was lost. Such an act would have been incredibly reckless for a shepherd whose entire livelihood depended on safeguarding the flock. He could not have risked losing all the other sheep in order to save the one. He would have had to cut his losses and protect what he still had.

The original audience of Jesus would have found the parable shocking. But that was precisely the point. From a human perspective, the shepherd's behavior is unthinkable. But the parable shows that God's love for us is so great that we can only demonstrate it fully with a story that goes beyond human logic.

The parable in today's Gospel reading is similar. In this scene, we have a sower who is scattering seed as he sows, some of which falls on the path, some on rocky ground, some among thorns, and only some in good soil. In the subsistence farming economy that characterized the lives of most people at the time of Jesus, such an approach to sowing seeds would have been unthinkable.

Most farming communities were one crop failure away from starvation. They had to make sure that all the seed set aside for planting was sown in the most advantageous way possible. After the harvest, they had to set aside at least as much seed as they had sown in order to be able to plant again the next year. Any surplus they were able to grow would then be used for eating and for bartering or selling. If unseasonable weather or a fire destroyed the crops, the community would not only be bereft of what they needed for that year, but also of the means to plant again the following year. The families might have to mortgage or sell their land just to survive.

Though today's social media influencers might romanticize farming life, the life of farming communities was hard and harsh, always on the edge of ruin. In such an environment, no sower would have been scattering seed in such a way that even a small portion of it would land on rocky ground or among thorns or on the path. Each seed would have been planted very carefully. The parable, as several others in the Gospels, paints an incongruous image. Christ uses this image to drive home a fundamentally important point: God's love for us is without measure, transcending our understanding. His love is so great for us that he pours his love out into our lives regardless of how we will respond. He keeps pouring his love even into the life of the most hard-hearted person. A modern day image might be that of an investor who pours money into everything, even into hopeless things. God keeps loving. God keeps showering his love upon us.

God keeps inviting us to accept his offer of infinite, eternal love, peace, and joy.

He has also given us free-will to respond to his invitation of love. He has done so because without free-will love is meaningless. God will not force us to accept his love. He will keep inviting, but the choice is ours. Of course, there is only one right choice to make, because only God's love can fulfill us existentially.

Furthermore, accepting God's love is not a single choice, but something we must do daily as we live out our spiritual lives. We start by making a fundamental commitment to God, which then needs to steer our thoughts and actions from day to day. We might say that the spiritual journey is similar to eating healthy or saving money. We can make a fundamental choice to start eating healthy or to build up savings, but then we have to put our plan into practice every day, even every hour, through the decisions we make.

After we choose to accept the love of God, we live out our new life by immersing ourselves into the sacramental and prayer life of the Church, following all that the Church offers us for our state of life. In this sense, the spiritual life is a slow and painstaking process, involving myriads of daily choices. There are no quick fixes or flashy solutions. Our good choices in each moment will, in time, create habits, which we are then to continue to live out for the rest of our lives. Just like there are no quick fixes for eating healthy or saving money, our spiritual journey is a slow and steady process.

Of course, we should bear in mind that no progress is possible without God's grace. In the First Reading we see the efficacy of God's grace: "Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10-11) The more we accept God's grace, the more we invite God's love into our lives, the more we will be transformed and made whole.

As we live out our spiritual journey, one danger we must avoid is seeking to substitute the slow and steady process for sensational experiences. There is a danger of being distracted by prophecies of cataclysmic global events, by end times speculations, by alien life theories, and the like. If sweeping, overwhelming events happen, we can deal with them when they come. But we should not lose our peace and focus because of them. We should not be derailed from our slow and steady progress by them.

Having said that, our faith does expect a great, fundamental transformation to take place in the universe, which the Second Reading for today is pointing toward. At his Second Coming, Christ will refashion creation, restoring our fallen world. He will make a New Heaven and New Earth, where there will be no more death, suffering, and pain. We do not know when these events will transpire. But we can look forward to the new life and new world that Christ has planned for us. Let us be ready at all times for Christ's return, without losing sight of the day to day tasks and practices of cultivating our spiritual journey.

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

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 (cycrosscountry@saintbrendan.org) Cross Country Coordinator

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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)

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