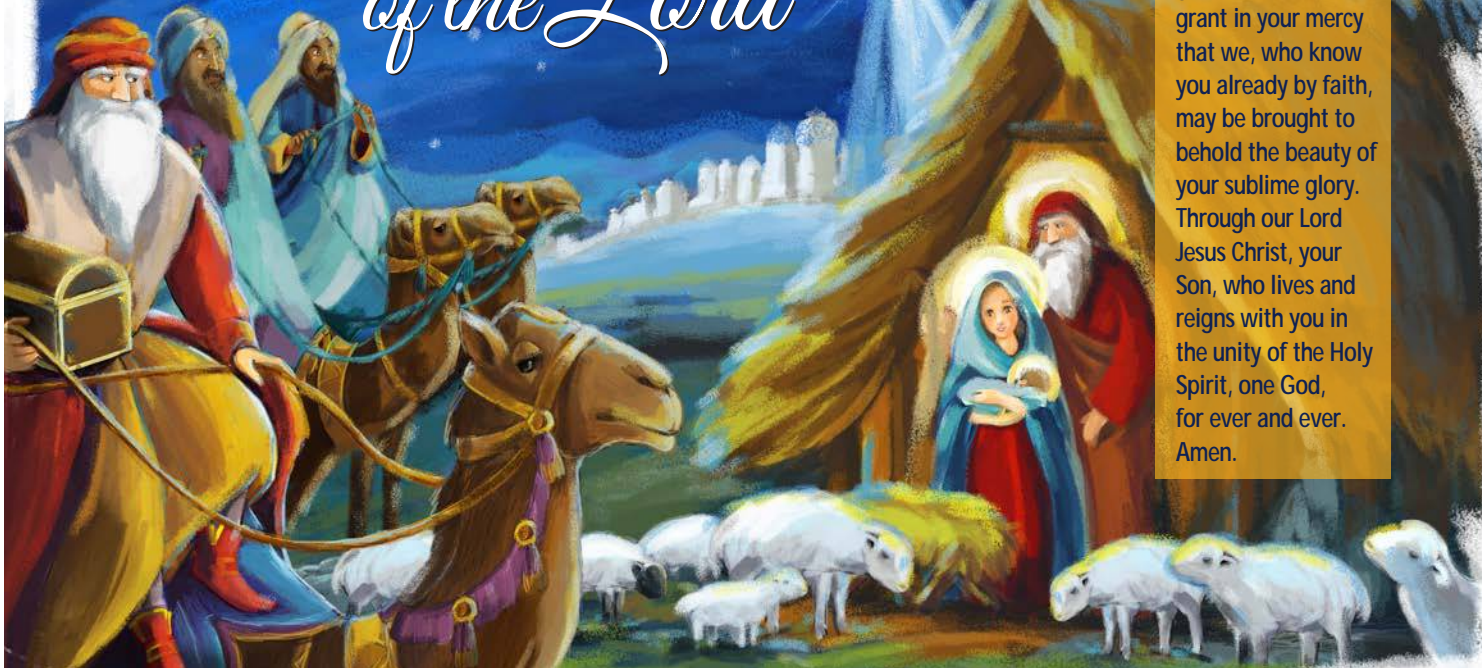


# Epiphany of the Lord



O God,  
who on this day  
revealed your Only  
Begotten Son to  
the nations by the  
guidance of a star,  
grant in your mercy  
that we, who know  
you already by faith,  
may be brought to  
behold the beauty of  
your sublime glory.  
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.

SEE INSIDE FOR 2022 YEAR END GIFT DEADLINE & IMPORTANT GIVING STATEMENT INFORMATION.

**OUR VISION** – Become who you were created to be

**OUR MISSION** – St Brendan Parish is your home to encounter Jesus and grow in virtue

## HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 8 AM, 5:30 PM  
SUNDAY 7:15, 8:45, 10:45 AM & 5:30 PM  
DAILY 5:30 PM – MON & WED  
8 AM – TUES, THURS, FRI

## RECONCILIATION TIMES

WEDNESDAY 6-7 PM (During Adoration)  
SATURDAY 9 AM  
Parishioners can also schedule a confession appointment with Fr Bob or Fr Brown by calling the parish office.

OFFICE HOURS: MON-FRI 9 AM-4 PM



## MARRIAGE

Contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to marriage. Marriage preparation is required.

## BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated at 12 PM on most Sundays. Two baptismal preparation classes are required. Visit [stbrendans.net/baptism](http://stbrendans.net/baptism) to schedule a Baptism.

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the Parish Office.

## RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)

Interested in becoming Catholic? Contact Fr Brown at [frbrown@stbrendans.net](mailto:frbrown@stbrendans.net) or 614.876.1272, ext 226

## PARISH OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS

614.876.1272, FAX 614.876.1482

## ST BRENDAN SCHOOL

614.876.6132, FAX 614.529.8929

[facebook.com/StBrendanHilliard](https://facebook.com/StBrendanHilliard)  
[youtube.com/c/SaintBrendantheNavigatorHilliard](https://youtube.com/c/SaintBrendantheNavigatorHilliard)

# SAINT BRENDAN INFORMATION CENTER

## Church Hours

The church is open weekdays, 6 AM-9 PM.  
The Parish Office is open weekdays, 9 AM-4 PM.

## New Members

All are welcome to join our parish! To request a new member packet, please call 614.876.1272, email [receptionist@stbrendans.net](mailto:receptionist@stbrendans.net) or visit [stbrendans.net/become-a-member](http://stbrendans.net/become-a-member)

## Marketing & Bulletin Requests

Our Marketing/Bulletin Request form is available at [stbrendans.net/marketing](http://stbrendans.net/marketing). Please read all the information to find deadlines for each media platform being requested. For questions, or to send artwork, email [marketing@stbrendans.net](mailto:marketing@stbrendans.net)

## Mass Intentions

To schedule an intention, please mail in requests or contact the Parish Office. The amount set by the diocese is \$10, due when the request is made.

## Flowers for the Altar

If you wish to purchase flowers in remembrance of a loved one or special intention, the cost is \$75. Requests are published in the bulletin.

## Baptism Preparation Class

First Sunday of most months at 12 PM. New program is beginning January 2023. See website for dates and details. For questions, contact [baptism@stbrendans.net](mailto:baptism@stbrendans.net)

## Ministry of Care for our Homebound

Contact Jennifer Rice at 614.876.1272, ext 227 or [jrice@stbrendans.net](mailto:jrice@stbrendans.net) if you would like to receive the Eucharist at home or in a facility.

## Protecting God's Children Class

Register online at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org)

## POD Nursery

The nursery is open during 8:45 AM & 10:45 AM  
Masses for children ages 6 months to 4 years.

## Receive Navigator News or Liturgy Aids

Keep updated on parish events by subscribing to Navigator News available through ParishStaq. Visit [stbrendan.ccbchurch.com](http://stbrendan.ccbchurch.com) to create an account and you will automatically receive our parish e-newsletter. To have Sunday worship materials and bulletin emailed to you weekly visit [tinyurl.com/LiturgyAids](http://tinyurl.com/LiturgyAids) and fill out the form.

# EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

<https://stbrendan.weadorehim.com/>

TUESDAY 9 AM-9 PM

WEDNESDAY 7 AM-7 PM  
HOLY HOUR 6-7 PM  
Confessions available

THURSDAY 9 AM-9 PM  
10-11 AM

FRIDAY 9 AM-9 PM

SATURDAY 9 AM-1 PM  
*(New Hours Added!)*



## MASS INTENTIONS, JANUARY 9-15

MONDAY	5:30 PM	Roger & Mary Ann Versteeg
TUESDAY	8:00 AM	Willi Lalli
WEDNESDAY	5:30 PM	John Thissen
THURSDAY	8:00 AM	Guillermo Garcia
FRIDAY	8:00 AM	Dottie Shultz
SATURDAY	8:00 AM	For the Protection of the Unborn
	5:30 PM	Dee Matuska
SUNDAY	7:15 AM	For the People of St Brendan Parish
	8:45 AM	Valencia Family
	10:45 AM	Taura Auddino
	5:30 PM	Jason Grieshop



## COMING TO ST BRENDAN LENT 2023!\*

God made a universe that has  
roughly 2 trillion galaxies.  
Each with 100 - 400 billion stars,  
and He knows each star by name

The same God made you.

**You matter to God.**



\*Made possible  
through a generous  
grant through the  
Catholic Foundation.

[RescueProject.us](http://RescueProject.us)

# PRAYER RESOURCES

**HALLOW+** is still available for all parishioners free until Easter! Visit <https://hallow.com/holidaypackage/> and enter "St Brendan the Navigator", then either sign up or log in if you already have an account. Pray the Rosary, hear Gospel reflections, meditations, music & more!

**FORMED** We continue to offer Formed, a platform of audio books, videos and studies for all ages, free to our parishioners! Visit <https://formed.org/> to sign up for a subscription by putting in our parish name, then your name and email.

**CATECHISM IN A YEAR** Go deeper into understanding your faith this year with Father Mike Schmitz's Catechism in a Year! It started Jan 1, but you can begin anytime – listen where you find your podcasts or on Hallow!

## JOIN US TO PRAY AT ST BRENDAN THIS MONTH!

- Saturday morning Rosary after the 8 AM Mass
- Anchored in Adoration, Wednesday, January 11 at 6 PM
- Adoration in the St Brendan chapel Tuesday - Saturday
- Visit our Year of Prayer webpage: [www.stbrendans.net/year-of-prayer](http://www.stbrendans.net/year-of-prayer)



## MAKE ADORATION YOUR RESOLUTION!

Will you commit to spend an hour a week or every other week? Help us grow our hours of Adoration of our Lord by signing up for a commitment to adore. Worried about making it every week? Once you establish a routine, your schedule moves around that hour and you are better equipped for your week! Still not sure? Sign up as a sub to fill in when needed. We need 2 adorers per hour. Please sign in on the kiosk as a guest. Check our needs sheet outside of the chapel each week and visit <https://stbrendan.weadorehim.com/> to sign up! Questions? Contact Jan at [jansampson@me.com](mailto:jansampson@me.com)



## MEN'S FAITH SHARING MINISTRY

**WANTED:** Men who are supporting their families and friends on the road to Heaven! Join other men in the parish for the next semester of our faith sharing group starting January 14 at 6:30 AM in Wellnitz Hall Room 1. Our theme for the semester is *Pray Like a Man Bound for Heaven*, which we will explore through small group discussion, video presentations, and Adoration. For questions, contact Grant Rice at [ricekris8813@att.net](mailto:ricekris8813@att.net)



## LORD, TEACH US: NEW YEAR, NEW PRAYER

Monday, January 23 at 10 AM or 7 PM in Wellnitz Hall – Learn how to start or improve your prayer routine during this "Lord Teach Us" series – begin to find time with Our Lord through the day and in different ways. Bring your favorite prayer to share!



## FIRST FRIDAY EVENING PRAYER

Our deacons led our initial *First Friday Evening Prayer* in the Adoration Chapel this past Friday at 7 PM, but please join us every first Friday of each month this year!



**JAN 11 – COME PRAY WITH US!** Anchored in Adoration starts immediately after Mass, 6-7:15 PM in the Church beginning this Wednesday, January 11, and continues the second Wednesday of each month. Come and experience silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confession available, a witness talk by a parishioner, praise and worship music and prayer teams available to pray individually with you.

# STAFF DIRECTORY

## MINISTERS TO THE PARISH – 614.876.1272

**Rev Bob Penhallurick, Pastor**

ext 223, frbob@stbrendans.net

**Rev Frank Brown, Parochial Vicar**

ext 226, frbrown@stbrendans.net

**Deacon Jim Morris, Permanent Deacon**

ext 230, deaconmorris@stbrendans.net

**Deacon Doug Saunders, Permanent Deacon**

ext 230, deacondoug@stbrendans.net

**Deacon Doug Yglesias, Permanent Deacon**

ext 230, deaonyglesias@stbrendans.net

**Jennifer Rice, Director of Missionary Discipleship**

ext 227, jrice@stbrendans.net

## PARISH OFFICE – 614.876.1272

**Tom Kollar, Business Manager**

ext 222, tkollar@stbrendans.net

**Julie Matheny, Parish Receptionist/Pastoral Assistant**

ext 285, jmatheny@stbrendans.net

**Dina Harder, Administrative Assistant**

ext 235, dharder@stbrendans.net

**Teresa Boyne, Administrative Assistant**

ext 221, tboyne@stbrendans.net

**Jill Butler, Parish Accountant**

ext 229, jbutler@stbrendans.net

**Clara Herr, Accounting Clerk**

ext 225, cherr@stbrendans.net

**Dr. Ross B. Williams, DMA, Director of Music**

ext 236, rwilliams@stbrendans.net

**Ben Romaker, Multimedia Coordinator**

ext 224, bromaker@stbrendans.net

## MINISTRY OF EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS – 614.876.1272

**Jacob Doran, Director, Ministry of Evangelization & Catechesis**

ext 231, jdoran@stbrendans.net

**Jamie Young, Assistant to Director, Ministry of Evangelization & Catechesis**

ext 233, jyoung@stbrendans.net

**David Mesina, Director, High School Youth & Young Adult Ministries**

ext 232, dmesina@stbrendans.net

**Madison Stewart, Coordinator, Middle School Youth Ministry**

ext 237, mstewart@stbrendans.net

## ST BRENDAN SCHOOL – 614.876.6132

**Kate Cavello, Principal**

ext 247, kcavello@cducation.org

**Marcia Voelkel, Office Manager**

ext 246, mvoelkel@cducation.org

**Logan Highland, Receptionist**

lhighland@cducation.org

## OUR SYMPATHY ...

To the families of Wayne Lichwa,  
Nick Barr, Joyce Brown  
and Francis Matthew, Jr.

## ST BRENDAN PRAYER LIST



For the beginning of the new year, we will be renewing our published St Brendan Prayer List. If you would like us to pray for someone who is hospitalized or ill at home or for active-duty military loved ones, please send those prayer requests to [bulletin@stbrendans.net](mailto:bulletin@stbrendans.net). The bulletin prayer list will be updated with all new requests received from this point forward.

If you would like our parish community to pray for you or a loved one for a reason other than illness or active-duty military, consider utilizing our Prayer Wall at [www.stbrendans.net/year-of-prayer/](http://www.stbrendans.net/year-of-prayer/). There you will also find an adoration portal, prayer-focused events and more.

As always, please continue to pray for all our men and women in service to our country, as well as all healthcare workers and first responders.

If you or a loved one is hospitalized or ill at home and would like a pastoral visit, call **614.876.1272**

## GIVING STATEMENTS 2022 YEAR-END GIFT DEADLINE

Please help us prepare your 2022 Giving Statements for your tax records. The deadline for donations to be recognized as 2022 gifts is January 15, 2023. Checks dated for 2022 received in the parish office after January 15 will be recorded as 2023 donations. Any gifts made through PUSHPAY will be recorded as of the dates the donations have been made.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## MONDAY, JANUARY 9

9:00 AM	Church Cleaning	Church
5:30 PM	Daily Mass	Church
6:30 PM	Family Faith Formation Monday	Multiple Locations

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## TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

6:30 AM	Men's Ministry: Faith Sharing	Davidson Rd Meeting Room A
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00 AM-9:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
7:00 PM	RCIA	Chas McCurdy Center

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## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

7:00 AM-7:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
5:30 PM	Daily Mass	Church
6:00 PM-7:00 PM	Anchored Adoration, Confessions Available	Church
7:00 PM	Knights of Columbus Assembly #11208 Officer Planning Meeting	Wellnitz Hall, Room 1 (with patio)
7:15 PM	Young Adult Night	Off-site

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## THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00 AM	Walking with Purpose, <i>Reclaiming Friendship</i>	Davidson Rd Meeting Rooms A & B
9:00 AM-9:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
7:00 PM	Walking with Purpose, <i>Reclaiming Friendship</i>	Davidson Rd Meeting Rooms A & B

---

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00 AM-9:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
1:00 PM	American Red Cross Blood Drive	Davidson Rd Meeting Rooms A & B

---

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 14 – Diocesan Collection: Propagation of the Faith

6:30 AM	Men's Ministry: Faith Sharing <i>Pray Like a Man Bound for Heaven Series</i>	Wellnitz Hall, Room 1 (with patio)
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:45 AM	The Rosary	Church
9:00 AM	Confessions	Church
9:00 AM-1:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
5:30 PM	Vigil Mass	Church
6:30 PM	Dinner Club Potluck	Davidson Rd Meeting Rooms A & B

---

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 15 – Diocesan Collection: Propagation of the Faith

7:15, 8:45, 10:45 AM, 5:30 PM	Mass	Church
During 8:45 & 10:45 AM Masses	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Adoration Chapel
During 8:45 & 10:45 AM Masses	POD Nursery	Childcare Center
After 8:45 & 10:45 AM Masses	Coffee & Donuts	Davidson Rd Meeting Room A
12:00 PM	Baptisms	Church
6:30 PM	Faith Formation: Aspen Small Group	Chas McCurdy Learning Center
6:30 PM	Faith Formation 6-8 Small Group	Multiple Locations
6:30 PM	Sunday VINE	Multi-Purpose Room

## AUCTION & DINNER



### GIVING TREE DONATIONS

The St Brendan School Auction and Dinner, **Nashville Nights**, will be Saturday, March 4. We are currently accepting personal and corporate donations and sponsorships. Our giving tree is up in the gathering space until Jan 22 with individual items you can donate for the event. Questions? Contact Joy Bair at [jbair1@cdeducation.org](mailto:jbair1@cdeducation.org) or [sbauction@cdeducation.org](mailto:sbauction@cdeducation.org)



### ROCKABILLY RAFFLE TICKETS

Our annual School Auction raffle is a 50/50. We will sell 500 tickets at \$20 each with the winner getting \$5,000 the night of the auction. You do not need to be present to win! We will also be selling tickets after Masses at the welcome desk on Feb 4/5 and 11/12 or visit our webpage at [www.stbrendans.net/school/st-brendan-school-auction/](http://www.stbrendans.net/school/st-brendan-school-auction/) Consider asking your friends and relatives to participate by purchasing a raffle ticket.



## ANY CHANGES IN YOUR LIFE?

Have you moved recently? Have you switched from your landline to a cell phone as your primary phone? Have you baptized your baby somewhere other than St Brendan? Have you gotten married? Please take a moment to update your information in ParishStaQ or send us your current information so that we can keep our parish database up to date and accurate. Information can be sent to Dina Harder at [dharder@stbrendans.net](mailto:dharder@stbrendans.net)

## NEED A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

Got 30 minutes to share your time, talents and treasures? Join the Welcome Ministry! We have openings to fit any schedule. Once a week, once a month, even once a year. Make a real resolution to our parish community this year! Contact Sheri Raitz at [welcoming@stbrendans.net](mailto:welcoming@stbrendans.net) or scan the QR code.



## ST BRENDAN SCHOOL



# REGISTRATION

for the **2023/24** school year  
(GRADES K-8)

## IS NOW OPEN!

Visit [www.stbrendans.net/school](http://www.stbrendans.net/school)

## TRINITY PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Trinity Preschool is accepting registrations for the 2023/24 school year. If you have a child 3-5 years old (age 3 by Sept 30) and are looking for a preschool that shares your Catholic values, look no further than Trinity Preschool. As an affiliate of St Brendan School, Trinity is a highly recommended choice located nearby at St Margaret of Cortona (1600 N Hague Ave). If you have questions or would like to schedule a tour, please contact Director Andrea Boyd at [aboyd@cdeducation.org](mailto:aboyd@cdeducation.org)

Visit [www.stmargaretcolumbus.org/trinity-preschool](http://www.stmargaretcolumbus.org/trinity-preschool)

## TIES & TIARAS



The St Brendan American Heritage Girls Troop 0516 presents the 2nd annual Ties & Tiaras Dance Jan 28, 6:30-8 PM in the School MPR. Girls bring their Dad or Dear One for a Country Western Night of line dancing and fun! Tickets are \$25 per couple, \$5 for each additional sibling and are now available at <https://ahgdance23.eventbrite.com> Questions? Email [ahgstb@gmail.com](mailto:ahgstb@gmail.com)

## BLOOD DRIVE



**American Red Cross**  
**BLOOD DRIVE**

The next St Brendan Knights of Columbus sponsored Red Cross Blood Drive is Friday, January 13, 1-7 PM in Davidson Road Meeting Rooms. Give the gift of life by scheduling an appointment online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Questions? Contact Jeff Lehr or 614-315-7466 or email [Audhil1@yahoo.com](mailto:Audhil1@yahoo.com)

## SIGN UP TO COMPETE!



St Brendan Men's Club is sponsoring a Chili Cook-off competition Saturday, February 11, 6-9 PM in the Davidson Rd Meeting Rooms. The competition is open to all parishioners 21 and older. Due to space limitations, only 20 entries accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Best chili wins \$50! Sign up by contacting Fred at [joc93@yahoo.com](mailto:joc93@yahoo.com) or call 614-946-7733



**POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI (1927-2022)**

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

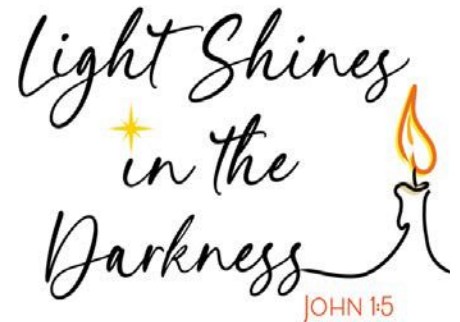
May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

**SAVE THE DATE OR PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!**

Inviting all St Brendan women! The 2023 Columbus Catholic Women's Conference is Saturday, February 18, 8 AM - 4:30 PM at the Ohio Expo Center. This year's theme is "Light Shines in the Darkness" (John 1:5). Come ready to rest, refresh and renew with the Lord and with sisters in Christ from around the diocese. Register now at [www.columbuscatholicwomen.com](http://www.columbuscatholicwomen.com)



## CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

**Saturday + February 25, 2023**  
**Kasich Hall + Ohio Expo Center, Columbus**

Adoration 6:00am • Registration 7:00am • Conference 8:00am - 3:00pm

FEATURING:



Bishop Earl Fernandes



John Sablan



Deacon Charlie Echeverry

- † Adoration
- † Reconciliation
- † Holy Mass
- † Breakfast & Lunch
- † Faith Organizations

**REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!**

[www.CatholicMensMinistry.com](http://www.CatholicMensMinistry.com)

Adults: \$40 • Students: \$25 • Religious: FREE

Scholarships and Financial Assistance are available

SCAN TO REGISTER/LEARN MORE!



# SAINT BRENDAN MINISTRY OF EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS



## FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Our family sessions this weekend will kick off the Roots program for all faith formation families. We are excited to walk together through the first section of the Catechism! Consider subscribing to the Catechism in a Year podcast by Ascension to increase your understanding of Church teaching and give you more opportunities to share what you are learning with your family.

All families should have received a link to complete payment for the Faith Formation program. If you have additional questions, and/or need to arrange a payment plan, contact Jamie Young at [jyoung@stbrendans.net](mailto:jyoung@stbrendans.net)

In December, Bonnie Creeger decided to move on from her position in the parish office. She has been so amazing and joyful in her 10 years here at St Brendan! Feel free to reach out to her to offer your love and gratitude for all her work. Thank you, Bonnie! Please send future emails regarding faith formation and sacrament prep to [faithformation@stbrendans.net](mailto:faithformation@stbrendans.net) and [sacraments@stbrendans.net](mailto:sacraments@stbrendans.net)

## SACRAMENT PREPARATION

**1ST RECONCILIATION** – If you missed the First Reconciliation service, please reach out to Jacob ([jdoran@stbrendans.net](mailto:jdoran@stbrendans.net)) for help scheduling a Confession with one of our priests. All faith formation families should have picked up a *Nourish* box to begin preparation for First Eucharist.



### **Nourish First Eucharist Optional Family Session:**

There will be an optional family session for First Eucharist families on Saturday, February 4, 9-10 AM in Wellnitz Hall. This session is for the whole family and will include breakfast. Please RSVP by emailing [sacraments@stbrendans.net](mailto:sacraments@stbrendans.net) or scan the QR code.

**CONFIRMATION** – In order for your teen(s) to receive this Sacrament in the Spring, they must have been Baptized as well as received the Sacraments of First Reconciliation/Eucharist. They must also be registered in our St Brendan Faith Formation program or School. If you haven't already, please complete the Sacrament registration form ASAP – once you complete it, you will receive the link to make your payment. For more info, visit [stbrendans.net/confirmation/confirmation-preparation-for-teens/](http://stbrendans.net/confirmation/confirmation-preparation-for-teens/)



### **Zeal Confirmation Optional Family Session:**

We will have an optional session for Confirmation on Sunday, Jan 29 from 12-1 PM in Wellnitz Hall. This is for Confirmation candidates and parents. We will serve lunch, as well! Please RSVP by emailing [sacraments@stbrendans.net](mailto:sacraments@stbrendans.net) or scan the QR code.

## COFFEE & DONUTS

### **A GREAT FAMILY MINISTRY!**

Spend some family time before and after the 8:45 and 10:45 Masses helping with Coffee & Donuts ministry. You choose how often: once a month, once a season or even just once a year. Help teach children how they can bring joy to others by being an active part of parish ministries! If interested, contact Deacon Doug Yglesias at [deaconyglesias@stbrendans.net](mailto:deaconyglesias@stbrendans.net)

## ROOTS YOUTH GROUP

### **FOOD SPONSORS ARE NEEDED!**

If you are a parent of a middle school child who attends Roots, please consider donating money or food for our upcoming spring youth groups, especially during March, April and May. To volunteer to supply food, please sign up at [tinyurl.com/Roots-Food](http://tinyurl.com/Roots-Food) or to make a cash donation for food, please visit <https://ppay.co/qi3TI05RLuc> (or scan the QR code below!)



## Thank You... to our Bulletin Sponsors

We appreciate your generosity! Thanks to you and Dee Printing, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish.

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### **TO ADVERTISE IN OUR BULLETIN –**

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January 8, 2023

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

# The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

“Rise up in splendor,  
Jerusalem!

Your  
light has  
come.”

(Is 60:1)

## GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

It's easy to stay inside and cozy up on the couch these winter months. Having just gotten through the winter solstice, many of us crave light and warmth. The language of Isaiah may resonate with us even more deeply this time of year: “See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory.” In today's Gospel, in the dark of night, the Magi follow a bright star to pay homage to Jesus, whom they recognize as the newborn king of the Jews. On the Epiphany, which means “manifestation,” we celebrate this moment when Christ's light shone forth to the world. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote in *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*: “The key point is this: The wise men from the east are a new beginning. They represent the journeying of humanity toward Christ.”

## GO EVANGELIZE

### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Like the Wise Men who traveled a long distance to pay homage to the Christ Child, each of us journeys every day toward a fuller life in Christ. Just as the Magi followed the light to discover Christ, so does the light of Christ serve as our constant beacon, reorienting us toward God and his holy path. After worshipping the Christ Child at Christmas, let us move forward and pay homage to the Savior through our words and actions. Although Epiphany signifies the official “end” of the Christmas season, it is fitting that it falls at the beginning of a new calendar year because it allows us to reexamine, among our traditional “New Year's resolutions,” how we live our lives in the light of Christ. “The wise men from the east are a new beginning,” the pope said. May their journey and experience inspire us to “begin anew” however we must, and offer Jesus our gifts of love and devotion, considering how his light may shine through us to others.

**PRAY** “Dear Jesus, as you led the Wise Men to you by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to you by the light of faith. Help us to desire you as ardently as they did. Give us the grace to overcome all the obstacles that keep us far from you. May we, like them, have something to give you when we appear before you. Amen.”

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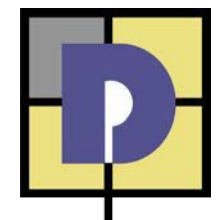
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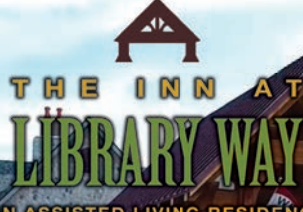
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