

12
18
22

Live Nativity

Witness the beauty of the first Christmas night come to life!



DECEMBER 18 AFTER 5:30 PM MASS – IN THE MPR (See inside bulletin for details)

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 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 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

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4475 DUBLIN RD, HILLIARD, OHIO 43026 STBRENDANS.NET

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 or visit stbrendans.net/become-a-member

Marketing & Bulletin Requests

Our Marketing/Bulletin Request form is available at 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

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

Ministry of Care for our Homebound

Contact Jennifer Rice at 614.876.1272, ext 227 or 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

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 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 and fill out the form.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

TUESDAY 9 AM-9 PM

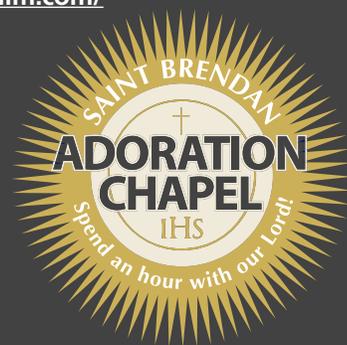
WEDNESDAY 7 AM-7 PM

HOLY HOUR 6-7 PM
Confessions available

THURSDAY 9 AM-9 PM

10-11 AM
Special time for families
with young children

FRIDAY 9 AM-9 PM



MASS INTENTIONS, DEC 19-25

MONDAY	5:30 PM	Intention for Deacon James Morris
TUESDAY	8:00 AM	Shelbi Schroth
WEDNESDAY	5:30 PM	Pietro Giuliani
THURSDAY	8:00 AM	Felipe Nolasco
FRIDAY	8:00 AM	Maria Santos
SATURDAY	4:00 PM	John & Marge Houser
	4:00 PM	Chuck Hatfield
	6:30 PM	Fern & Edward Coldren
	10:00 PM	Dolinar & Hendrix Families
SUNDAY	8:45 AM	Willi Lalli
	10:45 AM	For the People of St Brendan Parish

YEAR END GIFTS AND 2022 GIVING STATEMENTS

Please help us to prepare your 2022 Giving Statements for your tax records. We are setting and enforcing a deadline of January 15, 2023 on which those donations must be received at the Parish office for recognition of 2022 gifts.

Checks dated for 2022 which are received in the parish office after January 15 will be recorded as 2023 donations. As in the past, any gifts made through PUSHPAY will be recorded as of the date the donations have been made.



to the Families of Thomas G. Hritzo III & John Thomas

HOLIDAY MASS & SPECIAL EVENTS

LIVE NATIVITY

DEC 18

AFTER 5:30 PM MASS

in the School MPR

2 entry times: 6:30 OR 7:30 PM

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

DEC 24

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL

4 PM in the Church & MPR

6:30 & 10 PM in the Church

No Confessions

No Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM Mass

DEC 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

No Sunday 7:15 AM Mass

8:45 AM in the Church

10:45 AM in the Church

No Sunday 5:30 PM Mass

No Coffee & Donuts

No POD Nursery

Parish office is closed

Monday & Tuesday, Dec 26 & 27

No Adoration from 12 PM

on Dec 23 until Dec 28

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE & SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS

DEC 31

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

5:30 PM VIGIL

JAN 1

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

7:15, 8:45 and 10:45 AM

No Sunday 5:30 PM Mass

No Coffee & Donuts

No POD Nursery

Parish office is closed

Monday, January 2



MESSAGE FROM FR BROWN

One of my favorite images within this season is probably the image of fire. Not simply because I find it enjoyable during cold weather, but because fire is a beautiful symbol within Advent itself. A couple of weeks ago, we heard in the Sunday Gospel from John the Baptist that Jesus will baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire," while also we hear in Matthew's Gospel that it was by a rising star in the sky (i.e. a ball of fire) that the Magi were able to travel to find the Christ child.

There's three ideas that come to mind when relating fire to our Christian faith:

1) The idea of illumination – Just as a fire lights up a dark room, so does the Holy Spirit within our souls; most especially through the gifts bestowed at Baptism and Confirmation, but also through the supernatural virtues of faith, hope and charity.

2) The idea of warmth – Sitting in a cold, dark room, not only is one shivering, but often times there's an accompanying feeling of loneliness. Christianity is the religion of the enkindled heart. We were never meant to be alone and when we allow Christ into our lives, He enkindles the heart with warmth and comfort. Such must have been the feeling of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph at the birth of Christ even with the limited accommodations and the life-threatening situation of Herod surrounding the birth of Christ.

3) The idea of purification – A purifying flame burns away the false and leaves behind the true and just as fire strengthens and purifies metal, so is the case with the soul plagued by sin. Opening the heart to the love of Christ when in need of mercy and forgiveness leads to a burning away of the old self in order to allow the goodness of the soul to emerge cleansed and purified.

With all that said, it might be worth remembering the words that the deacon or priest reads during the Baptism of a child when the child's candle is lit from the Easter Sunday Paschal candle. He reads: "*Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly, so that your child, enlightened by Christ, may walk always as a child of the light and, persevering in the faith, may run to meet the Lord when He comes with all the Saints in the heavenly court.*"

Merry Christmas to you all!

May the love of God be with your families now and always.

~ Fr Brown

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, deaconyglesias@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

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ext 285, jmatheny@stbrendans.net

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ext 235, dharder@stbrendans.net

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ext 221, tboyne@stbrendans.net

Jill Butler, Parish Accountant

ext 229, jbutler@stbrendans.net

Clara Herr, Accounting Clerk

ext 225, cherr@stbrendans.net

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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

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

ext 233, jyoung@stbrendans.net

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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@cdeducation.org

Marcia Voelkel, Office Manager

ext 246, mvoelkel@cdeducation.org

Logan Highland, Receptionist

lhighland@cdeducation.org

SAINT BRENDAN PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers:

Noreen Marcinick	Tom Speroni
Bob Suchy	Mary Frick
Sandra Dugan	Michelle Murphy Delio
Elyse Latella	Cathy Pencil
Joanna Sheaf	Chris Carrino
Mary Jo Flickinger	Joyce Brown
Debra Block	Tracy Rowland
Matthew Paquin	Bill Nichols
Kelly Kinser	Patrick Hume
Vince Van Almen	Eugene Chervenak
Cindy Zengler	Charlie Dorian
Don Azelvandre	Stephen Toth
Mike Boesch	Regina Tharp
Ron Szczesny	Darren Harder
Wayne Lichwa	Kathy Ferguson
Kevin Ferguson	Kristina Dunlap
Sally Kimball	Cora Paz Raymundo
Connie Feliks	Pamela Theado
Richard Crumley	Jack Hershey
Bob Kienle	Pam Bauer

And all healthcare workers and first responders

Please pray for all of our men and women in service to our country, especially:

Christopher Keck	Bram Carney
Kyle Mullins	Andre Racanelli
James Polnac	Tony Dugan
Aaron Huseman	Eric Wehrum
Alex Parker	Mark Jackson
Connor Karman	Patrick Karman
Aidan Karman	Jackson Maassel
Aaron Grieshop	Robby Shonkwiler
Nathan Smith	Rick Shonkwiler

To add a name to the list, please email jrice@stbrendans.net or call Jennifer at **614.876.1272, ext 227**

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:00 AM	Church Cleaning	Church
5:30 PM	Daily Mass	Church

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 – SCHOOL'S LAST DAY: CHRISTMAS BREAK (12/21/2022-1/3/2023)

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:00 AM-7:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
5:30 PM	Daily Mass	Church
6:00 PM-7:00 PM	Adoration, Confessions Available	Adoration Chapel
7:00 PM	KofC #11208: Knights Council Family Christmas Party	Davidson Rd Meeting Rooms A & B

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00 AM-9:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
5:00 PM	Arts & Environment Christmas Preparation	Church

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00 AM-12:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
5:00 PM	Arts & Environment Christmas Preparation	Church

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 – DIOCESAN COLLECTION: DIOCESAN CHARITIES

4:00 PM	Vigil Mass, Christmas Eve	Church
4:00 PM	Vigil Mass, Christmas Eve	Multi-Purpose Room
6:30 PM	Vigil Mass, Christmas Eve	Church
10:00 PM	Vigil Mass, Christmas Eve	Church

** No Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM Mass or Confessions*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 – DIOCESAN COLLECTION: DIOCESAN CHARITIES

8:45 AM, 10:45 AM	Mass, Christmas Day	Church
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** No 7:15 AM Mass, Coffee & Donuts or POD Nursery*



walking with purpose

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

St Brendan women, please join us for the latest Walking With Purpose study, **Reclaiming Friendship**, this winter. This six-week study will begin on January 12 and explores what it takes to stay close for the long haul, what to look for in a friend, and how to navigate toxic relationships. Discover God's plan for friendship, which was meant to be a foretaste of Heaven. We will meet on Thursday mornings from 9-10:30 AM (childcare is provided) or Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 PM in the Davidson Rd Meeting Rooms. For those who did not attend the fall session, please visit www.stbrendans.net/walking-with-purpose/ to register or find the form on ParishStaq.

TIES & TIARAS



FATHER & DAUGHTER DANCE

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 us at ahgstb@gmail.com

Seniors NOW NAVIGATING OUR WAY

JAN 6 – MASS & BREAKFAST

8 AM – First Friday Mass followed by Breakfast at IHOP on Sawmill Road. Questions? Contact Larry Hanchin at Larry.Hanchin@yahoo.com

DEC 18 – LIVE NATIVITY ADVENT EVENT



Watch the story of the Nativity unfold Dec 18 after the 5:30 PM Mass in the school MPR. Choose between two entry times: 6:30 or 7:30 PM. Schedule of events:
6:30 PM – Arrival, refreshments and activities available
6:40 PM – Welcome prayer, Nativity play (begins at 6:45) and music
6:55-7:30 PM – Visit the stable animals, refreshments and activities
7:30 PM – The 6:30 entry schedule repeats! All those still in attendance from the first entry group may stay and watch the Nativity play again or continue to enjoy any of the other festivities.

WINTER WEATHER ON THE HORIZON

DETAILS ON HOW WE MANAGE SNOW ON CAMPUS...

Our snow contractor only plows the lot when we reach TWO INCHES of snowfall. The parking lot is only pretreated if it is not raining (the rain would simply wash it away). The parish facilities team will be responsible for keeping the walkways cleared. When weather is cold, please be careful when walking around the campus as it may be slippery in places.

Parish activities remain open if we are at a Level 1 Snow Emergency, but people should carefully consider whether they can safely reach the campus and attend. If a Level 2 Snow Emergency is declared, the entire campus closes, including Mass. We will alert you by ParishStaq email and social media if this happens. School parents will be alerted by school communications of any school closures or delays. Faith Formation parents will be notified via ParishStaq email communication of any cancellations. The Parish Office remains open during business hours, 9 AM to 4 PM. If we reach a Level 3 Snow Emergency, the office will close.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES

MEMORIAL BRICKS AVAILABLE FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

In an effort to make the Ten Commandments a part of our everyday life, there is a monument made from rock from Mount Sinai at St Brendan which is surrounded with memorial bricks to honor and remember our Parish Family Members. St Brendan KofC Council 11208 invites you to memorialize your loved ones by having an engraved brick placed at the base of the monument. To request a memorial brick, please complete the form available at tinyurl.com/Memorial-Brick. Donation suggestion is \$50 per brick. Paper forms are also available in the parish office. Questions? Contact Jim Cogan at jim.cogan71@gmail.com



NEW BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

ST BRENDAN BAPTISM PREP PROGRAM IS CHANGING IN JANUARY

- Classes will be held the 1st Sunday of most months, 12-1 PM and consist of two sessions with some materials to be completed in between the sessions.
- Program is named **CLAIM** and is from Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries
- Registration is required! To register, contact the parish office by phone, email baptism@stbrendans.net, or fill out the **Request a Baptism** form available online at www.stbrendans.net/baptism. Note: Parents must attend the classes before the date they choose for their child's Baptism!
- Parents must attend the new Baptism Prep classes if they have not attended a Baptism course in the last two years.
- Cost for Baptism Prep Classes will be \$20.



REGISTER NOW FOR JAN 14

The mission of St Brendan's Dinner Club is to bring people closer to one another as members of the Body of Christ. Bonds are created as we break bread together and swap stories, creating real friendships as we share 4 meals in six months. To register and find out more information for the Winter/Spring season of The Dinner Club, see our webpage:

www.stbrendans.net/the-dinner-club/

BAPTISM PREP CLASS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you are willing and able to help us to run our new Baptism program or provide hospitality to the families attending, please contact Deacon Jim Morris at deaconmorris@stbrendans.net



TRINITY PRESCHOOL

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Trinity Preschool is accepting registrations for the 2023-2024 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). Trinity graduates are likely to see familiar faces once they enter kindergarten at St Brendan! If you have questions or would like to schedule a tour, please contact Director Andrea Boyd at aboyd@cdeducation.org

ST VINCENT DE PAUL PRAYER MINISTRY

The Advent season is here, and our focus is acutely drawn to our Father in heaven who prepares our hearts for the coming of His Kingdom in the birth of Our Lord.

As we seek to do His will on earth as it is in heaven, we in the St Vincent de Paul conference at St Brendan realize this work we undertake is not done alone. All the parishioners here at St Brendan have been so generous with your financial help as well as your compassionate prayers for the work we do. We are grateful, thank you! Yet, we realize the Body of Christ also includes our triumphant brothers and sisters in the spiritual realm.

Our SVDP conference has created a **Prayer Ministry** that taps into this powerful group. We pray daily not only for our benefactors (you), but also for those who we serve, and for those in our conference who do the groundwork and speak directly with those in our community who ask for our assistance. This ministry is at the root of where we place our hearts, when we seek not to be led into temptation but to be sweetly consoled as our hands strive to care for the afflicted. St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross reminds us that as we tackle the day's work, we place it first in God's hands as He will give us the power to accomplish it.

May your Advent and Christmas be blessed with many opportunities to see the Body of Christ at work. Thank you for joining your prayers with ours so we can all raise our eyes to Heaven with worthy satisfaction and confidently say, "*Thy will be done.*"

If you feel the call to pray with us, please contact Heather Carrier at heathercsvdp@gmail.com to get directly connected with this ministry.

THE TRUE MEANING OF
CHRISTMAS
Advent and Christmas
with Dr. Michael Barber

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SAINT BRENDAN MINISTRY OF EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

family faith formation 

*We pray that you are having a very
blessed and prayer-filled Advent Season!*

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

We are on break with no family sessions of middle school small groups until January 9. Our family sessions in January will kick off the Root program for all faith formation families. We are excited to walk together through the first section of the Catechism! You may also want to subscribe to the Catechism in a Year podcast by Ascension. This will increase your understanding of Church teaching and give you more opportunities to share what you are learning with your family.

At this point, all families should have received a link to complete payment for the Faith Formation program. We ask that once you receive the email, you complete payment as soon as possible. If you have additional questions, and/or need to arrange a payment plan, please contact Jamie Young at jyoung@stbrendans.net

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

1ST RECONCILIATION – If you missed the First Reconciliation service on December 10, please reach out to Jacob (jdoran@stbrendans.net) so we can help you schedule a Confession with one of our priests. All faith formation families should have picked up a *Nourish* box to begin preparation for First Eucharist.

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/

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prepare
our
hearts
for the
Lord!

ADVENT RESOURCES

For special Mass times, Advent resources and for a gift from the parish, visit www.stbrendans.net/advent-2022

LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED

Please sign up to help at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. There are several spots open for Altar Servers, Lectors, EMHCs, and there is especially a need for Ushers and Welcomers.

Christmas Eve Mass times:

4 PM in the Church

4 PM in the School MPR

6:30 & 10 PM in the Church

Christmas Day times:

8:45 and 10:45 AM in the Church

If you are having trouble signing up through Ministry Pro for one of these Masses, please contact MinistryScheduler@stbrendans.net to be added to the schedule.

Light Shines
in the
Darkness 
JOHN 1:5

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Inviting all St Brendan women! Mark your calendar now for Columbus Catholic Women's Conference on Saturday, Feb 18, from 8 AM - 4:30 PM at the Ohio Expo Center. This year's theme is "Light Shines in the Darkness" (John 1:5). Register now at columbuscatholicwomen.com Come ready to rest, refresh and renew with the Lord!



December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14 | Rom 1:1-7 | Mt 1:18-24

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

In our family's department-store Nativity set, Joseph blends into the background: Mary and the infant Jesus steal the scene, she in her blue robes and looking over the sweet, tiny and vulnerable Son of God. Even the Magi stand out more than humble Joseph. Yet today's Gospel focuses on Jesus' earthly father, whom many of us Catholics grew to know a little better during the Year of St. Joseph in 2021. Imagine Joseph's shock at learning Mary was pregnant! Rather than quietly divorcing her, he accepts the angel's words at face value: "For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Joseph takes Mary into his home and embraces her and the child Jesus she bears. As we celebrate this fourth Sunday of Advent, we can all do well to follow Joseph and Mary's example by saying "yes" to God, even though it may turn our lives upside down. We can dust off our Nativity scenes and ask the Lord to help us prepare our hearts and homes for Jesus.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I remember our first trip to the pediatrician with our newborn. Our job as parents, he said in so many words, was to raise him so that he'd be ready to leave us at 18. As our youngest approaches that milestone, I'm having a hard time letting go. In his apostolic letter *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis holds up St. Joseph as an example of what it means to be a father (and I think this applies to mothers, too): "Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child's freedom. A father who realizes that he is most a father and educator at the point when he becomes 'useless,' when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied. When he becomes like Joseph, who always knew that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care." Joseph and Mary loved Jesus in this way, accepting that Jesus did not "belong" to them but to all of us. Whether or not we are parents, we can learn from their example, entrusting our lives and those of our loved ones to God. As St. Paul reminds us, we "belong to Jesus Christ."

ACTION "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" As you light the Advent candles or say evening prayers this week, reflect on the ways Jesus has made his presence known to you today and give thanks.

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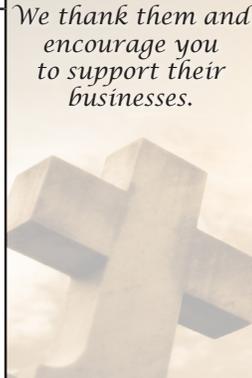
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