

Third Week of Lent

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 may schedule an appointment for confession with one of the priests by calling the parish office

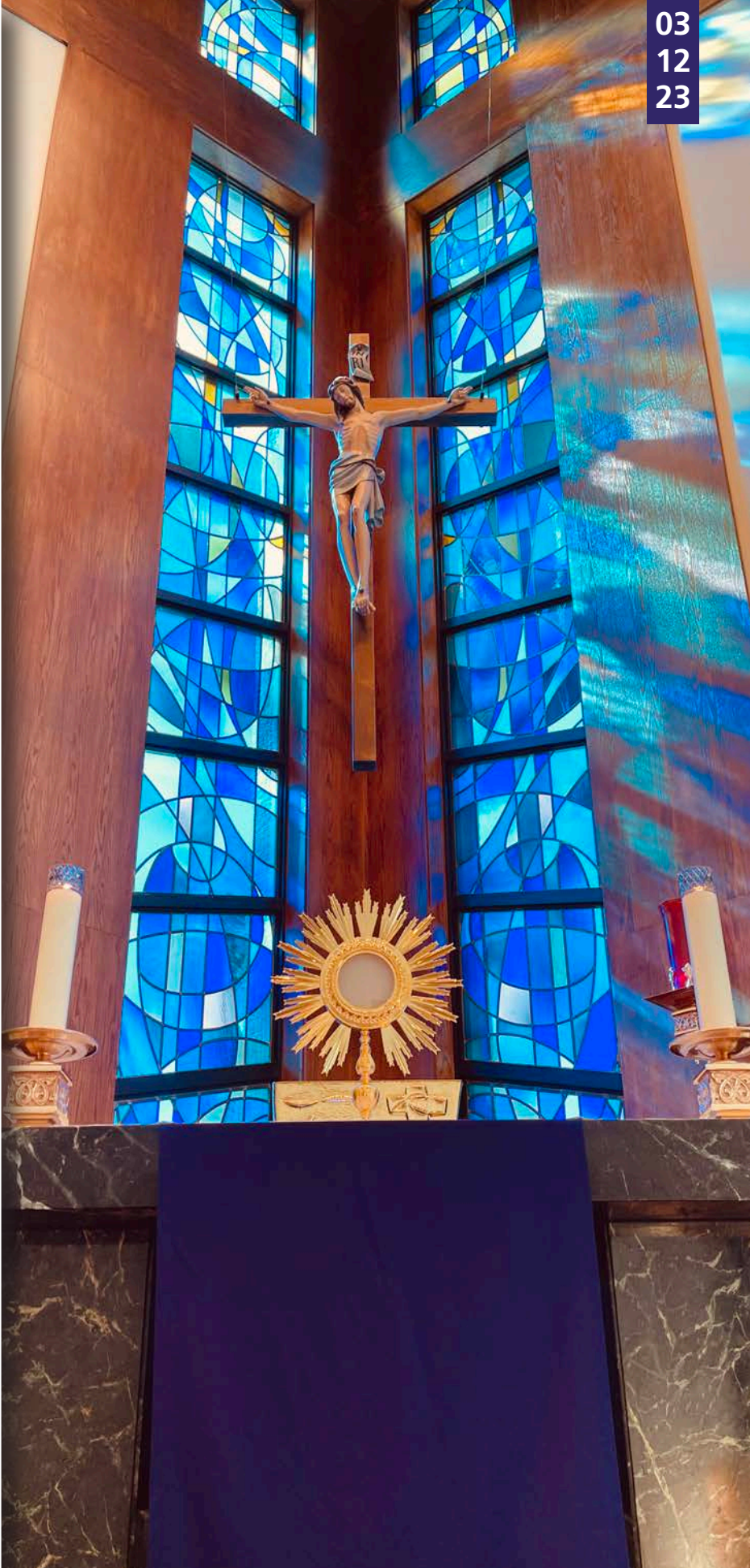
OFFICE HOURS

MON-FRI, 9 AM-4 PM

P 614.876.1272

F 614.876.1482

4475 DUBLIN RD
HILLIARD, OH 43026
STBRENDANS.NET



MASS INTENTIONS MARCH 13-19

MON	5:30 PM	Tom Conner
TUES	8:00 AM	Marie Povse
WED	5:30 AM	Carol Wilds
THURS	8:00 AM	Jack McDaniel
FRI	8:00 AM	Kenneth Schmidt
SAT	8:00 AM	Cathy Coyle
	5:30 PM	Lee Divittis
SUN	7:15 AM	Fern & Edward Coldren
	8:45 AM	Mary Beri Wirsyi
	10:45 AM	Edward K. Wirsyi
	5:30 PM	For the People of St Brendan Parish

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

stbrendan.weadorehim.com

TUES	9 AM–9 PM
WED	7 AM–7 PM
	<i>Holy Hour 6–7 PM</i>
	<i>Confessions available</i>
THURS	9 AM–9 PM
FRI	9 AM–9 PM
SAT	9 AM–1 PM



SAINT BRENDAN INFORMATION CENTER

Church Hours

Weekdays, 6 AM-9 PM

Parish Office Hours

Weekdays, 9 AM-4 PM

New Members – All are Welcome!

Email receptionist@stbrendans.net or call 614.876.1272
Request a packet at stbrendans.net/become-a-member

Marriage

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

Baptisms

Celebrated at 12 PM most Sundays. Two baptismal prep classes are required. Request at stbrendans.net/baptism

Baptism Preparation Classes

First Sunday of most months at 12 PM (2 classes required).
See website for details or email baptism@stbrendans.net

Anointing of the Sick

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

Ministry of Evangelization & Catechisis

614.876.1272, fax 614.876.1482

St Brendan School

614.876.6132, fax 614.529.8929

Marketing & Bulletin Request

Request form and details: stbrendans.net/marketing
Questions? Email marketing@stbrendans.net

Mass Intentions

To schedule an intention, mail request to the Parish Office with \$10 (due when the request made).

Flowers for the Altar

In remembrance of a loved one or special intention (cost is \$75). Donor/intentions are published in the bulletin.

Ministry of Care for our Homebound

To receive the Eucharist at home or in a facility, contact Jennifer at 614.876.1272, ext 227 or jrice@stbrendans.net

Protecting God's Children Class

Register at www.virtus.org

POD Nursery

Open most Sundays during 8:45 & 10:45 AM Masses for children ages 6 months to 4 years.

Navigator News

Visit stbrendan.ccbchurch.com and create your ParishStaQ account to automatically begin receiving our parish e-newsletter. To have Sunday worship materials & bulletins emailed weekly to you, go to tinyurl.com/LiturgyAids



The Columbus Diocese
40 DAYS OF ADORATION
began Ash Wednesday and
continues through Lent.
This week's schedule is:



		START	END
3/15	Jackson Vinton Consortium - SPP Location	9:00 AM	8:30 PM
	St. Pius X	9:30 AM	6:00 PM
16	Our Lady of Peace	9:00 AM	7:00 PM
17	Our Lady of Victory	8:30 AM	4:00 PM
18	Sacred Heart, Coshocton	8:30 AM	4:30 PM
	St. Leo Oratory	11:00 AM	9:00 PM
19	Holy Rosary/ St. John the Evangelist Church	10:30 AM	5:00 PM
	St. Joseph, Dover	6:00 AM	6:00 PM



KOLLAR'S CORNER

Dear Parish Community,

HAPPY SPRING! While it's exciting to embrace the warmer, sunnier days, our church's gathering space didn't escape the winter unscathed. As you are likely aware, we had a major sprinkler incident on Christmas night that ruined many surfaces and materials. Fortunately, our Facilities Team, led by Chris Morris and Mike Gill, was able to contain some of the damage. We also praise the quick response of the Hilliard Fire Department, Servpro, and our

insurance company, Catholic Mutual. With their assistance, and the patience of our parishioners, we have managed to continue worship, Adoration, and other sacramental offerings. Life may have gifted us proverbial lemons, but also several opportunities to make lemonade.

While it may appear that we haven't made much progress, I can assure you we have. So far, we repaired the sprinkler system, repainted the walls, and replaced the ceiling tiles. Looking forward, we're taking a strategic approach that future-proofs our church and gathering space for years to come. Here's a quick overview:

1. A new organ has been purchased, and we will be building an elevated choir platform that will conceal wires and eliminate trip hazards.
2. We will be repainting (and brightening up) the church ceilings. This will be one of our more imminent tasks, as we don't want dripping paint or scaffolding to undo any of our other endeavors.
3. The Baptismal pool will be completely extracted, filled, and retiled with a new Baptismal font.
4. Additional floor tiles around the entrances will be removed and replaced, as some pieces have begun to crack, posing potential trip hazards.
5. Finally, new carpeting will be laid in the Gathering Space after the other major renovations (with corresponding heavy equipment) are complete. We chose carpet over other flooring materials, as it will reduce noise near the Sanctuary and will add protection from future water incidents (our carpet had absorbed much of the water from the recent leak preventing even more damage!)

Currently, there are countless contracts and hurdles being navigated behind the scenes in order to ensure safety, longevity, and beauty in our house of worship. We are tremendously grateful for the ongoing patience and understanding afforded by our parishioners and are estimating that these projects will begin late May with completion by the end of the following month.

In our school, the Leadership Team is also embedded in a variety of improvement and enrichment talks. These plans are being carefully scrutinized and prioritized and a more thorough outline of school projects will be shared in an upcoming *Kollar's Corner* bulletin article.

Our relationship to Christ and continuing His salvific mission in the world is primary to our motivation. The priests, deacons, parish staff and members of the parish finance council believe strongly in being good managers of the finances here in your parish home. We continue to rely on and give thanks for your generosity and support in order to maintain our campus. We welcome your feedback and suggestions as we continue to grow and improve our parish community.

God Bless and ENJOY the WARM SPRING WEATHER,

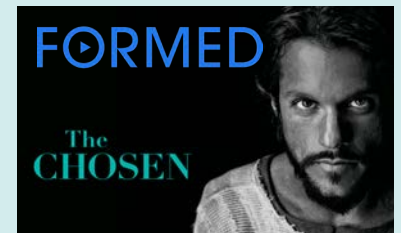
Tom Kollar

LENTEN RESOURCES



FREE HALLOW+

Access Hallow through Easter this year for free. This week, check out a Hallow original – *Lent Praylist*. Pray with a mix of instrumental and lyrical music centered on the themes of Jesus' death and Resurrection, featuring new music by the Tenebrae choir, Benedict XVI Schola, Project of Love, and Simon Daum. To create your free account, simply visit hallow.com/holyday, select "St Brendan the Navigator" and input your email address.



AVAILABLE ON FORMED.ORG

This Lent, walk through the dramatic life of Christ with *The Chosen*, a multi-season video series based on the life of Christ that has been viewed over 400 million times worldwide. Access your free Formed subscription by visiting signup.formed.org. Type "St Brendan the Navigator" into the search bar to create your account.

LENTEN RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE

To access events happening at our parish during Lent and for even more resources, visit www.stbrendans.net/lent-2023



ST BRENDAN PRAYER LIST

If you would like us to pray for friends or family **who are hospitalized** or are **ill at home** or for **active duty military** loved ones, please email their names to bulletin@stbrendans.net. If you would like our parish community to pray for you or a loved one, for a reason other than illness or military, please visit our online Prayer Wall at www.stbrendans.net/year-of-prayer

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

THOSE HOSPITALIZED OR ILL

Michael Boesch	Doris Kopac
Mary Brake	Jim Logue
Chris Carrino	Jane Lumen
Eugene Chervenak	Mary Pat Marchion
Patricia Crane	Joe Martin
Chuck Destefani	Becky Moyer
Mary Jo Flickinger	Brent Shonkwiler
Mary Frick	Mitzie Toth
Bob Kienle	

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

Aaron Grieshop	Kaden Morris
Sam Imwalle	Alec Moyer
Christopher Keck	Rick Shonkwiler
Cody Longstreth	Rob Shonkwiler
Jackson Maassel	

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, please call 614.876.1272

NON-PRACTICING CATHOLICS

If you would like Inviting Catholics Home Ministry to pray for the return, back to the Church, of a loved one who has stopped practicing their faith, visit the Prayer Wall at www.stbrendans.net/year-of-prayer and Inviting Catholics Home team members will find your request and will pray for them.

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

Rev Weldit Abay, Parochial Vicar
(also in holy service to the Eritrean Catholic Community of Columbus)
ext 238, frweldit@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

Julie Matheny, Office Manager/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

Maggie Agra, Assistant to Director, Ministry of Evangelization & Catechesis
magra@stbrendans.net

Madison Stewart, Coordinator, Middle School Youth Ministry
ext 232, mstewart@stbrendans.net

Andy Whiteman, Interim, High School Youth Ministry
ext 232, youthministry@stbrendans.net

ST BRENDAN SCHOOL - 614.876.6132

Kate Cavello, Principal
ext 247, kcavello@cdeducation.org

Marcia Voelkel, School Secretary
ext 246, mvoelkel@cdeducation.org

Logan Highland, Receptionist
lhighland@cdeducation.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MONDAY, MARCH 13

No School: Spring Break, March 13-17

9:00 AM	Church Cleaning	Church
5:30 PM	Daily Mass	Church
12:00 PM	Seniors NOW Luncheon	OFF SITE: El Vaquero
6:30 PM	Family Faith Formation Monday	Multiple Locations

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

7:00 AM-7:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
1:30 PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	The Carter Center
5:30 PM	Daily Mass	Church
6:00 PM-7:00 PM	Adoration, Confessions Available	Church
6:45 PM	Knights of Columbus #11208 Monthly Meeting	Davidson Rd Meeting Room B
7:15 PM	Youth Ministry: High School Missionary Formation	Chas McCurdy Learning Center

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00 AM-9:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
1:00 PM	Grief Support Group	OFF SITE: La Chatelaine in Dublin
7:00 PM	St Vincent de Paul: Sandwich Making	Wellnitz Hall Room 1

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00 AM-9:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
7:00 PM	Stations of the Cross	Church

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

Diocesan Collection: Catholic Relief Services

6:30 AM	Men's Ministry: Faith Sharing	Davidson Rd Meeting Room A
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

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Diocesan Collection: Catholic Relief Services

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

Seniors NOW is a St Brendan social ministry for mature (65+) adults where members share their faith. We invite you (singles, married, divorced) to come and join us!

MARCH 13, MONDAY, 12 PM – Meet at El Vaquero, 1780 Hilliard Rome Rd, Hilliard. RSVP Larry at Larryhanchin@yahoo.com

NOTE: APRIL 7, 8 AM EVENT CANCELLED – 1st Friday Mass and breakfast is cancelled for April due to it falling during Holy Week.

APRIL 10, MONDAY, 12 PM – Meet at Grandad's Pizza, 4093 Truman Blvd, Hilliard. RSVP Larry at Larryhanchin@yahoo.com



GIVING THANKS

Lent is the perfect time to express prayerful appreciation. It's important to balance our prayers of supplication with prayers of gratitude, thanking God for His abundant blessings and divine intercession. Our St Brendan "Thank You Board" was instituted by Father Bob last year and resides in the Adoration Chapel. It's a wonderful place to recognize the impact of prayer in our lives—in fellowship with other parishioners. Consider sharing your testimonials of gratitude for answered prayers. It may inspire action and faithfulness among your friends in Christ.

Lent is also the perfect time to consider committing to an hour of Adoration! Help us to expand our hours at St Brendan by signing up at stbrendan.weadorehim.com Need help? Email jansampson@me.com

CATHOLIC TIMES RENEWAL

Renew now at catholictimescolumbus.org under the subscribe tab or mail your \$17 check payable to "Diocese of Columbus–Catholic Times" to: 197 E Gay Street, Columbus, OH 43215.



OUR NEXT LORD TEACH US SERIES...

PRAYER IN THE PRESENCE, WITH DEACON DOUG YGLESIAS

The next Lord, Teach Us series is "Prayer in the Presence" on Monday, March 20, 10 AM or 7 PM in the Adoration Chapel. Join Deacon Doug Yglesias as he leads us to a deeper understanding and appreciation for Adoration. No RSVP needed, just come with a desire to pray!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT AT 7PM

We hope you will join our Deacons this Friday, March 17 at 7 PM in the church in remembering the Passion of the Christ.



LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

The Sacrament of Reconciliation, also known as Confession or the Sacrament of Penance, is a healing sacrament by which we experience the mercy of God. Through the ministry of a priest, we honestly confess our sins to Jesus and then receive His forgiveness and mercy. Regular confession brings healing to our hearts and restores our relationship with God and the community.

MARCH 27, PARISH PENANCE SERVICE Please join us for our Lenten Penance Service this month in the church on March 27 at 7 PM.

APRIL 3, RECONCILIATION MONDAY takes place the following week on the Monday of Holy Week on April 3 from 4-9 PM in the Church and Adoration Chapel.

For menu, pricing and details visit www.stbrendans.net/fish-fry



ST GABRIEL CATHOLIC RADIO SPIRIT DRIVE

DEACONS YGLESIAS AND MORRIS ARE ON THE RADIO MARCH 16!

Join over 30 deacons, including Deacons Yglesias and Morris for a live, three-day marathon radio event March 15-18 during the St Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820 Spring Spirit Drive! Listen to both deacons on the radio on March 16 at these times:

- Deacon Doug Yglesias' time slot is 8:30 AM-9:15 AM
- Deacon Jim Morris' time slot is 11:30 AM-12:15 PM

Make a donation during their visit to give them chances to increase their Basketball score and win a medal. For details or to donate to St Gabriel Catholic radio, visit StGabrielRadio.com or call 614-459-4820

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

All are welcome to listen, laugh, cry and help one another through this grief journey! Meet at 1 PM at La Chatelaine in Dublin on the third Thursday of the month (March 16). Also, join us for our monthly grief workshop Sunday, March 26, 7 PM in Davidson Road Meeting Room A. Questions? Contact Dennis at edmuch@me.com or 614.946.8099



EASTER LILIES *for the ALTAR*

Easter lilies have been ordered for the altar. Contributions of \$10 per lily can be made in memory of a loved one, or for a special intention. Make checks payable to St Brendan the Navigator Church and mail with this form to: 4475 Dublin Rd, Hilliard, OH 43026 – OR – drop off form and checks at the parish office. You can also request lilies by filling out the online form found in ParishStaq or at tinyurl.com/lilies-for-altar

Orders received by **March 30** will be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

PLEASE PRINT NAMES AS YOU WISH THEM TO APPEAR:

In Memory of: _____

~OR~ Special Intention: _____

Requested by: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____ - _____ - _____ Number of Plants (\$10 ea) _____

Total amount enclosed (# of plants x \$10 =) \$ _____

ST PATRICK'S DAY FASTING

The Catholic Diocese of Columbus has issued a dispensation for those planning to observe St Patrick's Day on March 17. Bishop Earl Fernandes has communicated that parishioners may eat meat on that Friday during Lent in celebration of St Patrick's Day but added that if you plan to take advantage of the dispensation you should instead do one of the following:

- Visit any church in the Diocese of Columbus named in honor of St Patrick. Those churches are located at:
 - 280 North Grant Ave, Columbus
 - 61 South Union St, London
 - 1170 Ohio 668, Junction City
- Assist at Mass at any church, chapel, or oratory on St Patrick's Day
- Pray the "Breastplate of St Patrick," which is attributed to St Patrick
- Engage in some pious devotion such as the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, or Eucharistic Adoration
- Perform an act of comparable penance, such as abstaining from meat, on some other day during the third week of Lent

PARISHSTAQ HELP

- Sign in or create your account: stbrendan.ccbchurch.com
- ParishStaq FAQ and information: stbrendans.net/parishstaq
- Quick Start Guide pdf: tinyurl.com/parishstaq-quick-guide
- For questions email: cstaqteam@stbrendans.net
- Sign up for Weekly Liturgy Aids: tinyurl.com/LiturgyAids

NEW! PARISHSTAQ HOW-TO VIDEO

If you're still struggling with creating your ParishStaq account or utilizing its many features, check out our new how-to video at stbrendans.net/parishstaq. It's packed with helpful tips and software navigation information that will help you to obtain the full benefits of what ParishStaq has to offer!

APRIL 29 & 30 SAVE THE DATES!

ST VINCENT DE PAUL DONATION DRIVE

Doing some spring cleaning? Don't throw it out, donate it to the St Brendan's St Vincent de Paul Thrift Store Donation Drive taking place on April 29 & 30!

SPRING SPORTS

REGISTRATION UPDATE

Sports registration is closed except for Little Spikers and track. Register at <https://www.stbrendans.net/athletics/athletics-registration/>

SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 1

The St Brendan Athletic Association has established 2 scholarships in the amount of \$750 each to be awarded to one male and one female student to aid them in furthering their education at a Catholic high school. Eighth-grade students who are a member of St Brendan Parish and have participated in a sport offered by the St Brendan Athletic Association are eligible. Students must be planning to attend a Catholic high school in the Columbus Diocese in the fall of 2023. Application deadline is May 1, 2023 and applicants need to complete an essay and fill out the form on our Athletics web page at www.stbrendans.net/athletics

SOCIAL MEDIA

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Parish: **St Brendan, Hilliard**
School: **St Brendan School**

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

Parish: **@stbrendanhilliard**
School: **@saintbrendanschool**
Vine HS Youth Group: **@stbvine**
Roots MS Youth Group: **@stb_theroots**
St Brendan Young Adults: **@stbya**

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ST BRENDAN MINISTRY OF EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Before this week's family sessions on March 12 & 13, you should complete the *Root* family meetings 2 & 3 at home. As well, you should read parts 3 & 4 of the *Root* parent series. If you still need to pick up the *Root* materials, please contact faithformation@stbrendans.net. Our next faith formation family sessions are this Sunday and Monday, March 12 & 13.



Maggie Agra will be joining the Evangelization & Catechesis team over the next few months, so you may start to receive emails from her requesting information to help us prepare for the Sacrament liturgies in the spring. She is currently a student who will be working remotely until May, when she will start in our office full-time. Her email is magra@stbrendans.net and below is an introductory message from Maggie:

Hello! My name is Maggie Agra, and I am so excited to join the staff here at St Brendan the Navigator. Starting in May, I will be working to assist the Ministry of Evangelization and Catechesis Office. I am currently a student at Franciscan University, majoring in Theology. After having grown up in Columbus, I am enthused by the prospect of returning and living out my missionary calling in my hometown. I can't wait to get to know the parish and its parishioners better! Know of my continued prayers for the love and abundance of Christ to be made known more fully in your lives. God bless!

We are also pleased to announce that our middle school youth minister, Madison Stewart, gave birth to Regina Holland Stewart, on March 3 and would like to congratulate her and her husband on the arrival of their daughter! If you need to contact the Youth Ministry while Madison is on maternity leave, email youthministry@stbrendans.net



SACRAMENT PREPARATION

FIRST COMMUNION – Faith formation families: Please complete *Nourish* family meetings 5 & 6 at home by March 12. All First Communion families: Look for an email in March regarding our First Communion retreat at the end of April. If you need to update any information from your registration form, especially the number of guests for us to expect, contact sacraments@stbrendans.net

CONFIRMATION – Faith formation families: You should complete *Zeal* family meeting 7 at home by March 31. All Confirmation families: Please send in any information that you may have not known when registering for Confirmation, such as Confirmation name or sponsor. We do need to receive a letter of good standing from the sponsor's parish if he or she does not attend St Brendan. Please remind the sponsor that we like to include a letter from him or her to the candidate with their gift and certificate on Confirmation Day. As well, please complete any owed payment to cover the cost of the Damascus Retreat back in November. Thank you!

More info at: stbrendans.net/confirmation/confirmation-preparation-for-teens



March 12, 2023

Third Sunday of Lent

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Ex 17:3-7 | Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 | Jn 4:5-42

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

Even St. Teresa of Calcutta experienced a period of “spiritual dryness.” We pray, we go to Mass faithfully, we serve others – yet at times God’s presence may seem elusive. Like the Israelites, we may ask, “Is the Lord in our midst or not?” As we enter the third Sunday of Lent, today’s readings assure us that God remains with us even during those times we may feel spiritually parched. In Exodus, water flows from a rock to satisfy the people. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman at the well: “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman, a sinner and an outcast, recognizes Jesus as Messiah, and it changes her life. Even when we don’t “feel” God’s presence, we can rest assured that Jesus stands beside us. He is our redemption and our Hope, and “Hope does not disappoint.”

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In today’s Gospel, Jesus breaks with custom by talking to a woman – a Samaritan woman, no less. He “sees” her – knowing she has been married five times before and is living with a man not her husband. Yet he chooses to reveal to her his identity as the Messiah and offers her “living water.” But it doesn’t end there. The woman at the well goes forth and shares her experience with others. Many more came to believe in the Messiah based on her testimony. What an unlikely disciple! We may feel that we, too, are unlikely disciples: We are sinners, we’ve made mistakes, perhaps we feel we are unworthy to “represent” Jesus to others. But nothing is further from the truth. Jesus invites us not only to partake of the living water but to share it with others so that all may believe.

ACTION Put a note on your mirror or bedside: “Hope does not disappoint.” Each morning, remind yourself that Jesus is the source of our hope, and try to think of ways to share this hope with others.

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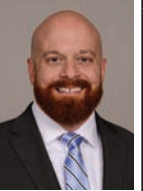
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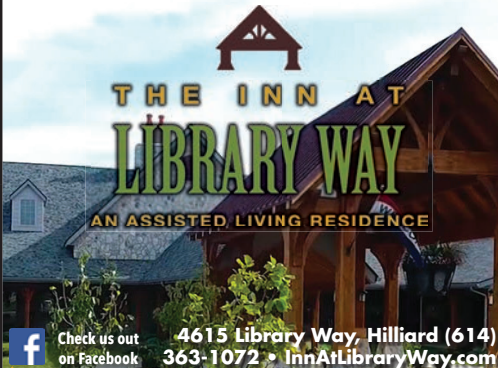
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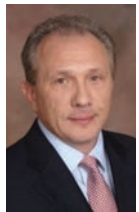


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