

Third Sunday of Advent

John answered them all, saying, 'I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

~ From Lk 3:10-18

Holy Mass*

SAT VIGIL 5:30 PM

SUNDAY 7:15, 8:45, 10:45 AM
& 5:30 PM

Daily Mass*

MON & WED 6:30 AM, 5:30 PM

TUE, THU, FRI 6:30 AM, 8 AM

SAT 8 AM

Reconciliation*

WED 6-7 PM (during Adoration)

FRI 7-8 PM (during Advent)

SAT 9 AM

To schedule a Confession with one of our priests, please call the parish office.

**Regular Mass or Confession times may change due to events, funerals or Holy Days. This week's calendar is in the bulletin or on our website.*



Learn about the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund inside the bulletin or via the QR code



Look inside for our 2024-25 Financial Impact Report!

It's Coffee and Donuts Sunday!



Join us for Coffee & Donuts this Sunday after the 8:45 & 10:45 AM Masses in the Davidson Rooms, hosted by the Inviting Catholics Home Ministry. To host Coffee & Donuts in 2025, contact Janet at hospitality@stbrendans.net (Donations can be made at the event or via the QR code.)

Saint Brendan

THE NAVIGATOR

614-876-1272 | STBRENDANS.NET
4475 DUBLIN RD, HILLIARD, OH 43026

Mass Intentions / Feast Days

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

Monday of the Third Week of Advent

6:30 AM Kathie Boyuk †

5:30 PM Intention: Scheel & D'Amico Families

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

"O Wisdom"*

6:30 AM Connie Feliks †

8:00 AM Intention of Nancy Stinnett

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

"O Lord of Israel"*

6:30 AM Robert Paoni †

5:30 PM Pietro Giuliani †

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

"O Root of Jesse"*

6:30 AM Mehari Weldegergis †

8:00 AM Elyse Latella †

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

"O Key of David"*

6:30 AM Abrehet Yohans †

8:00 AM John & Dolores D'Amico †

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

"O Radiant Dawn"*

8:00 AM Haile Weldegergis †

5:30 PM Karen Hostutler †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:15 AM People of St Brendan Parish

8:45 AM Susan Foster †

10:45 AM Fred Buerkle †

5:30 PM Monica Long †

† indicates intention for a person who is deceased.

* "O" Antiphons – See page 10 for an explanation.

Information Center

Church Hours

Weekdays, 6 AM-10 PM

Parish Office Hours

Weekdays, 9 AM-12 PM & 1-4 PM

New Members – All are Welcome!

Fill out a New Member Request Form at stbrendans.net/welcome
Questions? Call 614.876.1272, or email parish@stbrendans.net

Marriage

Fill out a Marriage Request Form at stbrendans.net/marriage at least six months prior to your wedding. Marriage prep is required. Questions? Contact Valerie Scheel, weddingplanner@stbrendans.net

Baptisms

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

Baptism Preparation Classes

1st Sunday most months, 12 PM (2 classes required). Questions? Email baptism@stbrendans.net

Anointing of the Sick

Contact the Parish Office.

OCIA (ORDER of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Interested in becoming Catholic? Contact Fr Jacob Stinnett at frstinnett@stbrendans.net or 614.876.1272, ext 226

Ministry of Evangelization & Catechesis – 614.876.1272

St Brendan School

614.876.6132, fax 614.529.8929

Marketing/Bulletin Request

Fill out our marketing request form @ stbrendans.net/marketing
Email marketing@stbrendans.net for questions or to send artwork.

Mass Intentions

Mail in or drop off requests to the Parish Office with **\$10** (due when the requests made).

Protecting God's Children

Register at www.virtus.org

Flowers for the Altar

In remembrance of a loved one or special intention. Donor/intentions are published in the bulletin. Cost is \$75, but our true cost for the flowers has risen to \$109 each. A larger donation is welcome!

Candle Donations

Suggested donations are \$2 for larger candles and 25 cents for the smaller votives.

Ministry of Care for Homebound

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

POD Nursery (currently closed)

Open Sundays during 8:45 and 10:45 AM Mass for children ages 6 months to 4 years.

Navigator News / ParishStaq

To automatically begin receiving our parish e-newsletter, visit stbrendan.ccbchurch.com and create your ParishStaq account.

Liturgical Ministry Portal

Ministry Scheduler Pro at: www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/stbrendans
For scheduling questions, email ministryscheduler@stbrendans.net

Facebook

(Parish) [StBrendanofHilliard](https://www.facebook.com/StBrendanofHilliard)

Instagram

(Parish) [@stbrendanhilliard](https://www.instagram.com/stbrendanhilliard)
(School) [@saintbrendanschool](https://www.instagram.com/saintbrendanschool)
(The Vine) [@stbvine](https://www.instagram.com/stbvine)
(The Roots) [@stb_theeroots](https://www.instagram.com/stb_theeroots)
(Young Adults) [@stbya](https://www.instagram.com/stbya)

Livestreamed Mass

YouTube – [SaintBrendantheNavigatorHilliard](https://www.youtube.com/SaintBrendantheNavigatorHilliard)
Facebook – [facebook.com/StBrendanHilliardyoutubecom/c/](https://www.facebook.com/StBrendanHilliardyoutubecom/c/)
Sunday: 10:45 AM
Mon & Wed: 5:30 PM
Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat: 8 AM

Eucharistic Adoration

<https://stbrendan.weadorehim.com>

MON 6 PM – 10 PM

TUES 9 AM – 10 PM

WED 7 AM – 5 PM

Holy Hour: 6-7 PM, with Confessions

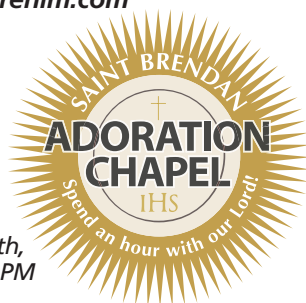
THU 9 AM – 10 PM

FRI 9 AM – 10 PM

1st Friday each month, 9 AM through Sat, 1 PM

SAT 9 AM – 1 PM

SUN 6:30 PM – 10 PM (during Advent)



Advent Sunday Adoration

Join us Sunday evenings during Advent for special Adoration hours after the 5:30 PM Mass until 10 PM. This is a special prayer time to prepare our hearts for the Lord. Sign up for an hour that evening or another time during the week to get ready for His coming!



Prayer List

If you would like our parish to pray for friends or family **who are hospitalized, ill at home** or for **active duty military** loved ones, please fill out our *Bulletin Prayer Request Form* available via the QR code below, at www.bit.ly/Bulletin-Prayer-List or call the parish office. The list is updated every 3-6 months, so if someone you added was deleted, but is still ill, please fill out a new prayer request.

If you or a loved one is hospitalized or ill at home and would like a pastoral visit, call 614-876-1272



Please Pray for...

THOSE HOSPITALIZED OR ILL

Bill Brake	Marilyn Wiggins
Dick Crumley	Ira Katz
Dan DiCesare	Anthony Griglik
Mary Eskay	Chris Carrino
Joe Martin	Monica Meyer
Tom Speroni	Ora Johnson
Pamela Theado	Kenny Shook
Ray Bailey	Beverly Moran
Karen McLaughlin	Crystal Billman
Mary Morrison	Chet Porembski
Bertha Torok	Wayne Rose
Bob Geiger	Laura Bromagen
Tiffanie Geiger	Ron Stanko
Maria Karas	Christi Groetz Eberhardt
Samuel Soporito	Francis Drlik
Frank Perrotta	

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

Thomas Dye	Cody Longstreth
Aaron Grieshop	Jackson Maassel
Aaron Huesman	Rick Shonkwiler
Sam Imwalle	Rob Shonkwiler
Christopher Keck	Luke Stumphauzer
Bradly Mead	Thomas Noel
Kate Walde-Mead	

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

THOSE AWAY FROM THE CHURCH

The St Brendan Inviting Catholics Home Ministry continues to pray daily for all those no longer practicing our faith. For more information about Inviting Catholics Home ministry, please visit www.stbrendans.net/ich

Staff Directory

MINISTERS TO THE PARISH – 614.876.1272

Rev Sean Dooley, Pastor
ext 223

Rev Weldit Abay, Parochial Vicar
ext 238, frweldit@stbrendans.net

Rev Jacob Stinnett, Parochial Vicar
ext 226, frstinnett@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

Henry Szabo, Order of Instituted Acolytes

Jennifer Rice, Director of Missionary Discipleship
ext 227, jrice@stbrendans.net

Jacob Doran, Director of Youth Evangelization and Catechesis
ext 231, jdoran@stbrendans.net

Maggie Agra, Family Faith Formation Coordinator
ext 233, magra@stbrendans.net

Kara Day, High School Youth Ministry
ext 232, kday@stbrendans.net

Avery Colman, Middle School Youth Ministry
ext 232, acolman@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, Database Administrator/Event Coordinator
ext 235, dharder@stbrendans.net

Teresa Boyne, Safe Environment/Security Coordinator
ext 221, tboyne@stbrendans.net

Cathy Brackenridge, Parish Accountant
ext 229, cbrackenridge@stbrendans.net

Clara Herr, Accounting Clerk/Payroll Specialist
ext 225, cherr@stbrendans.net

Dr Ross Williams, DMA, Director of Music
ext 236, rwilliams@stbrendans.net

Ben Romaker, Director of Development/Multimedia Coordinator
ext 224, bromaker@stbrendans.net

Lee Salcone, Marketing/Bulletin/Communications
ext 237, lsalcone@stbrendans.net

ST BRENDAN SCHOOL – 614.876.6132

Mike DeMassimo, Principal
ext 248, mdemassimo@cdeducation.org

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

Anna Tufano, Assistant Principal
ext 253, atufano04@cdeducation.org

Marcia Voelkel, Office Manager
ext 253, mvoelkel@cdeducation.org

ST MARGARET OF CORTONA PRESCHOOL – 614.274.1922

Andrea Boyd, Director/Lead Teacher
aboyn@cdeducation.org

Holiday Schedule

Our Parish Office is closed
Dec 25-27 & Jan 1. No Adoration
Dec 23-29 & Dec 31-Jan 1.

CHRISTMAS EVE, TUESDAY, DEC 24

4 PM – Church & Gym*

*Note: Main school doors open
at 2 PM for Masses in the gym.

6:30 PM – Church & Gym

10 PM – Church

(No 6:30 AM or 8 AM Masses)

CHRISTMAS DAY, WEDNESDAY, DEC 25

8:45 AM – Church (livestreamed)

10:45 AM – Church (livestreamed)

(No 6:30 AM or 5:30 PM Masses)

NEW YEAR'S EVE, TUESDAY, DEC 31

6:30 AM – Daily Mass

8 AM – Daily Mass

5:30 PM – Solemnity of Mary
Mother of God, Vigil Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY, WEDNESDAY, JAN 1

Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God

(a Holy Day of Obligation)

7 AM, 12 PM & 7 PM Masses

(No 6:30 AM or 5:30 PM Masses)

Friday Confession during Advent

It is the perfect time during
the Advent Season to reconcile
our relationship with God
through the grace offered
to us through Confession.
To help make this Sacrament
more accessible to all, we've
added scheduled Confession
time with a priest every Friday
during Advent from 7-8 PM.

Incense Schedule

Incense will be utilized at Masses
denoted with the thurible icon
on the calendar & listed below.

Sun, Dec 15 5:30 PM

Sun, Dec 22 10:45 AM

Tues, Dec 24 10:00 PM

Sun, Dec 29 5:30 PM

Tues, Dec 31 5:30 PM



Community Calendar

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
9:00 AM	Church Cleaning	Church/Adoration Chapel
5:30 PM	Daily Mass	Church
6:00 PM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
6:30 AM	Esto Vir Men's Ministry	Davidson Room A
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00 AM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
7:00 PM	OCIA Meeting	Chas McCurdy Learning Cntr

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
7:00 AM-5:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
9:45 AM	Elizabeth Playgroup	Childcare Center Davidson Room A
5:30 PM	Daily Mass	Church
6:00 PM	Adoration with Confession	Church
6:30 PM	KofC Family Christmas Party	Davidson Rooms A & B
7:00 PM	VINE Formation	Chas McCurdy Learning Cntr
7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Church

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00 AM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
1:00 PM	Grief Support Luncheon	Off-Site: La Chatelaine, Dublin
7:00 PM	SVdP Sandwich Making for Homeless	Wellnitz Hall Room 1

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

VINE: CRANKS CREEK MISSION TRIP

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00 AM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
7:00 PM	Confession during Advent	Confessional

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

VINE: CRANKS CREEK MISSION TRIP

8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:45 AM	Praying the Rosary	Church
9:00 AM	Confession	Confessional
9:00 AM-1:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
5:30 PM	Vigil Mass	Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

VINE: CRANKS CREEK MISSION TRIP

10:45 AM

7:15, 8:45, 10:45 AM, 5:30 PM	Sunday Masses	Church
During 8:45 & 10:45 AM Mass	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Adoration Chapel
	NO POD Nursery	
12:00 PM	Baptisms	Church
6:30 PM-10:00 PM	Sunday Adoration during Advent	Adoration Chapel



SPIRITUAL & FINANCIAL

IMPACT



REPORT

ST BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

FROM THE PASTOR
FR. SEAN M. DOOLEY

Hello friends,

It is a great honor to bring you the Annual Impact Report of 2024. I am blessed to be the Pastor of this generous and dedicated parish community. I want to take this time and thank you for welcoming me as I learn about our history, traditions, and the general layout of our parish and school. In this report, the dedicated parish staff provide snapshots on our various ministries and a heartbeat on our finances. Your sacrificial giving of time, talent, and treasure have made it possible to use our resources for the preaching of the Gospel and charitable works.

I am also happy to share that our new principal, Mr. Michael DeMassimo, provides us with an update on our busy parish school. We stand ready to share the light and joy that only Christ can give us in this world. Please enjoy this report and take in all that the parish has to offer for your spiritual growth. Please pray for me that I may listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd and conform myself to Christ every day.



Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Dooley was formally installed as our Pastor on 11/16.



Our 2024 Festival set new records in nearly every metric!



We raised nearly \$70,000 to rebuild homes lost to Hurricane Helene. [Read:](#)

INCOME (07.01.23 – 06.30.24)

\$7,254,138

SECONDARY COLLECTIONS

Parish families stepped up to support 21 additional outreach initiatives and secondary collections in FY 2023-24. Gifts made through the parish office or PushPay totaled **\$153,606!** Headlining these contributions are **\$43,090** to the annual Cranks Creek mission trip and **\$63,033** to our St Vincent de Paul chapter. This total doesn't include gifts made to The Appeal or Emmaus Road. Once again, the stunning generosity of St Brendan was on full display! **Thank you!**

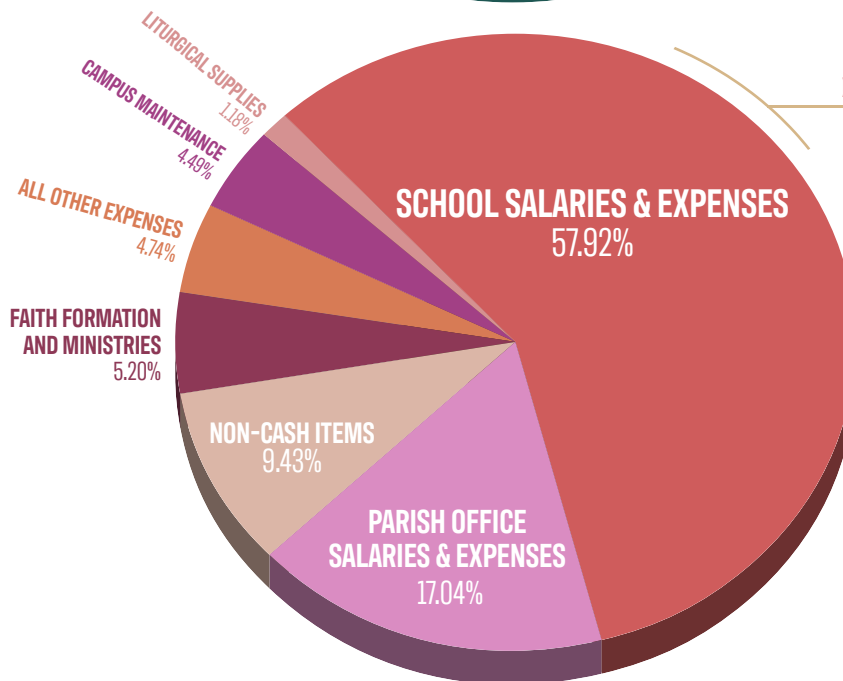
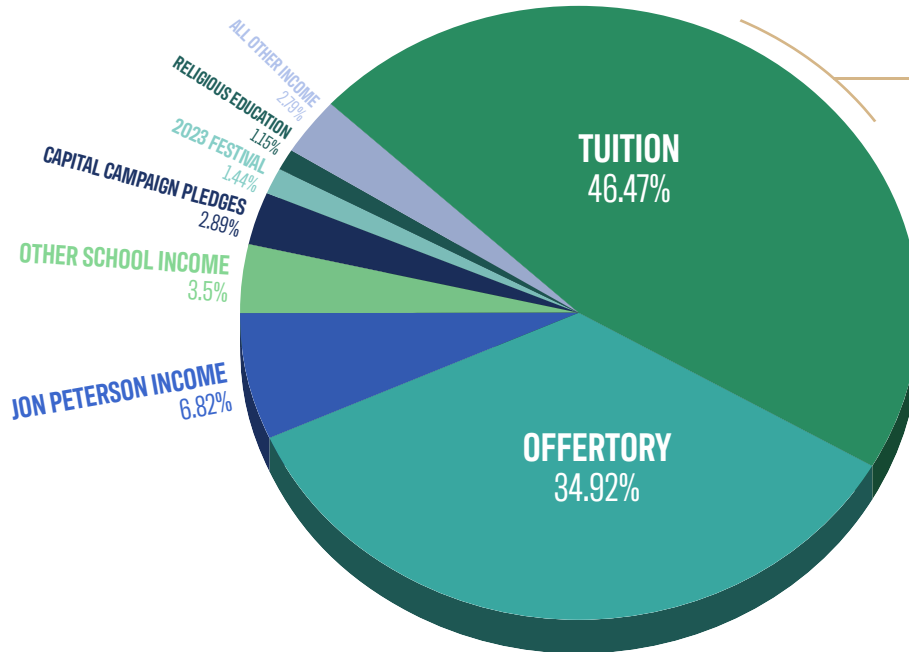
EXPENSES (07.01.23 – 06.30.24)

\$6,202,232

CAPITAL PROJECTS

While we managed to avoid another natural disaster like Christmas 2022, there was no shortage of capital projects across our campus, including:

- Adoration Chapel Renovation
- Church Air Handler
- Rooftop HVAC Units
- Baptismal Font Renovation
- Sanctuary Flooring and Lighting
- Organ and Choir Renovations
- School Classroom and Gym Renovations
- Campus Security Updates
- ... and much more



FROM BUSINESS MANAGER, TOM KOLLAR

We live in exciting times at St Brendan as we adapt for the future. I am very appreciative of our various ministries, volunteers, school families, advisory committees, faculty, staff, and business partners. Every year we are presented with unforeseen challenges to our campus. We allocate funds as part of our capital improvements in order to maintain a safe and welcoming environment. Our parish staff manages these projects to keep our buildings and grounds up-to-date and in tip top shape.

Working with the input of Fr Dooley, the Finance Committee, and staff, we always seek to be good stewards of the parish offertory when we select and prioritize capital projects. Thank you for your financial support which enables this important and difficult aspect of navigating parish life.



FROM PAROCHIAL VICAR, FR. WELDIT ABAY

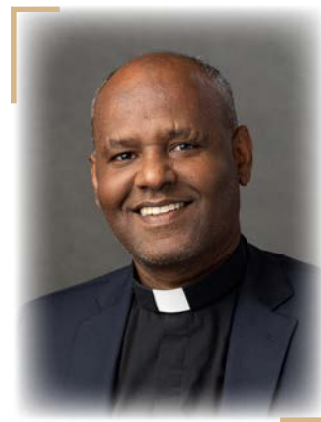
By the grace of God, we are nearing the end of 2024, and as we look ahead to the new year, 2025, we do so with hope and joy. As Christmas approaches, let us prepare our hearts to receive the good news of Christ's birth, while also giving thanks for the blessings of the past year and praying for Christ to be born anew in our hearts.

Faith is a living experience—once we encounter it, we cannot remain indifferent. It is a gift available to everyone. Over the past year, I have learned so much about faith, generosity, prayer, love, and friendship, especially from both the St Brendan community and the Eritrean faithful who so warmly welcomed me. When I first arrived, I was taken aback by the talent and dedication of the Eritrean community. I witnessed how they elevated the liturgy by inviting priests from all around to celebrate major holidays. Our people have found great joy and happiness in their worship, particularly using musical instruments.

The Second Vatican Council described the musical tradition of the universal Church as a treasure of great value, greater than any other art form. Sacred music becomes even more sacred when it is closely tied to liturgical action. As the council emphasized, music expresses the "soul of the people" and should be promoted, especially in the singing of liturgical texts. [*Sacrosanctum Concilium*]

Thanks to the generous support from the Catholic Foundation, last year we were blessed with vestments and other items that have become an important source of encouragement for our growing congregation. This year, we were further blessed to receive **\$4,000** from the Catholic Foundation, which we have used to purchase musical instruments for the church choir. It fills my heart with joy to see our children growing in faith, eagerly stepping forward to worship and praise God with sweet songs and prayers.

I am deeply grateful to all those who have supported us and continue to help us flourish in our spiritual journey. May God bless you all abundantly in the new year.



Visit Fr Weldit at St John Chrysostom sometime!



FROM DIR. OF EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS, JACOB DORAN

Our Family Faith Formation program this year serves **250 children** from over **150 families**. We have families in the Seek & Root course who have children that are just starting their journey of faith formation. Other families are working to prepare their children for first Reconciliation, first Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Finally, there are also families in the Continued Growth course that are learning about and doing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

In the whole parish (both family faith formation and the school) we will have **103 students** make their first Reconciliation and Holy Communion and another **86** celebrate their Confirmation.

Here are some kind words that I received throughout the 2023-24 year:

"Thank you for all your guidance throughout this process. Our son said after Confirmation that he felt 'complete.'"

"The experience has been wonderful for us. It makes us slow down and discuss our faith as a family. It provides the kids with a better understanding of the teachings and how it applies to their everyday life. The activities are fun but they also learn a lot in doing them. We are enjoying these family meetings."

"What a nice celebration for the children on Saturday. It was simple, filled with joy for the children receiving their first Reconciliation."

Thank you for your support of Family Faith Formation and Sacrament Preparation at our parish!

FROM HIGH SCHOOL MINISTER, KARA DAY

The Vine high school youth ministry program continues to flourish here at St Brendan. So far in the 2024-25 school year, **246** high schoolers have attended The Vine. Every single week, new faces join us for their first time. The Vine is impacting the city at-large, reaching youth from **27** different high schools. **21%** of the teens attending The Vine were not raised Catholic. As a result, this year we have started an OCIA group for those who are interested in becoming Catholic. Dozens of high schoolers also regularly attend daily Mass at St Brendan on Friday mornings before class.

This year, we have a record number of **63** high school leaders who are in our High School Missionary Formation program where they learn how to share Jesus with their friends. The teens in this program are set up to be lifelong missionary disciples who do not fall away from their faith. Our most recent stats show that **89%** of them are still practicing during college, dramatically above the national average. We had a wonderful Vine Fall Retreat, and we look forward to both our Cranks Creek Winter Mission Trip and Vine Spring Retreat. God continues to bless our youth ministry each day.



FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTER, AVERY COLMAN



This year, our middle school ministry, The Roots, served roughly **105 middle schoolers** by providing the children of our faith community with a place to have fun, build relationships with peers, and grow their faith. With the help of parent volunteers we have been able to offer the youth a home-cooked meal made with love and intention. This year, with our **7 Core Team members**, we have prayed for each youth by name, offering up their prayer intentions in front of the blessed sacrament each month.

Our middle school small groups, Aspen, served **18 youth**. Each pod of 6-8 youth have a pair of adult leaders to help them dive deeper into their faith. This deeper encounter with Christ includes joining the Vine most evenings for worship and adoration. We look forward to next year as we continue to nurture the love of Christ growing in our middle schoolers, provide a safe environment to meet new friends, and bring additional youth into the fold.

FROM DIR. OF MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP, JEN RICE

This year has been one of new prayer, formation, community, and service opportunities as we continue into the third year of the Eucharistic Revival — a Year of Mission. We are engaging in prayer more than ever with Adoration, now offered **63 hours** a week over 7 days. Our First Friday overnight Adoration is now in its second year! We are beginning to expand our prayer teams and deepen our understanding and practice of intercessory prayer with workshops and other offerings.

Adult faith formation continues to thrive as **250 women and men** experienced The Chosen, That Man Is You, Eucharistic, and Scripture studies in small groups and special events to grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus, then take these gifts out on mission to serve others in need. We recognize the need to seek the lost and invite others to find Jesus here, increasing our outreach with the St. Monica Prayer service and ongoing follow-up events and education through Inviting Catholics Home.

On the pastoral care side, our Care & Consolation team supported **32 families** in their time of bereavement through planning and presence at funerals of loved ones as well as grief support thereafter. **250 homebound** or retirement center residents were visited weekly to receive the Eucharist and we continue to supply them with monthly publications of daily scripture readings and reflections. We actively ministered in **17** independent, assisted living, and nursing facilities.



FROM SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, MIKE DEMASSIMO

I am so excited to be a part of St Brendan! It has been a great start to the 2024-25 school year and it has been a blessing working with our faculty, staff, parents, parish, and most importantly, our students! I get so much energy from them.

This year, we finalized our School Improvement Plan for the next 4 years and took part in a very thorough evaluation by The Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association (OCSAA). The purpose of the OCSAA is to strengthen Catholic school identity and mission, and to engage Catholic schools in the ongoing improvement of student performance. Our School Improvement Plan centers around transitioning from a 'fixed' mindset to a 'growth' strategy.



Mike & Fr Dooley on the first day of classes.

Our student enrollment continues to be fruitful sitting at approximately **540 children**. Students are challenged daily both academically and spiritually. The House program shines under the tutelage of Mrs. Marguerite Arciaga. Leadership opportunities are robust and students are constantly being exposed to our 6 Pillars: Leadership, Service, Community, Faith, Preparation, and Spirit!

I will continue to work with and foster relations with our various stakeholders, the School Advisory Board, Home & School Association, Finance Committee, Faith Formation, Athletics Program, and many others! Working in close collaboration with Fr Dooley and the parish staff, I can say for certain that the future is very bright for our whole campus and the families it serves. I thank you for your trust, patience, and prayers as we enter into 2025 with great excitement and momentum.



FROM DIR. OF DEVELOPMENT BEN ROMAKER

I'm fulfilled to have served this parish throughout another fruitful year teeming with fellowship, new faces, charitable works, and inspired giving. Thus far, our congregation has pledged an incredible **\$314,202** towards The Appeal 2024. At the kickoff luncheon in the spring, Bishop Fernandes described St Brendan as a shining example of "a parish that goes forth boldly to proclaim the joy of the Gospel." Thank you for answering the call to nurture the vibrant network of Catholic initiatives across Central Ohio — and thank you to our Appeal Chairperson, Kevin Quinn, who is stepping down after an astounding **30 years** of service to the Bishop's Annual Appeal! Your dedication is commendable.

Our collaborative parish, St Margaret of Cortona, continues to be a great source of joy for me as I enjoy finding new ways to serve every Thursday. The preschool has reached **record enrollment** en route to adding a **new classroom** and **full-day** programming. I can't speak highly enough of the wonderful staff, and would strongly encourage any young families to consider St Margaret Preschool.

Highlighting the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund has become my December tradition. There is simply no method more efficient in supporting this campus and its school families. Those who give to Emmaus Road receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit, meaning you can create a scholarship with money you would have otherwise paid into taxes anyway! We inspired **139 families** (myself included) to create **\$132,260 in scholarships** for this current school year. Across a campus of 2,500 families, we could make a Catholic education virtually free. Please join me in seizing this admittedly unbelievable opportunity. It's very real!

I'm tremendously blessed to be a member of this remarkable parish staff that is made possible by a famously generous faith family. Our clergy, staff, faculty, volunteers, and parishioners all coalesce to build the Kingdom of God brick by brick. I can't wait to report what another year of hard work, zeal, and charity will bring. **Thank you.**



Advent & the Eucharist: An Intimate Connection

(FROM DEACON JAY W. VANHOOSIER)

Advent is a period of joyful anticipation and preparation for the coming of Christ. It is a time when Catholics reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation and prepare their hearts to welcome Jesus, both as the infant born in Bethlehem and as the Lord who will come again in glory. As we journey through the liturgical season of Advent, there is a profound connection between this period of awaiting and the Eucharist.

The Eucharist holds a central place in Catholic worship. It is the sacrament in which the Church receives the very Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. During the Eucharistic celebration, the Mass brings together the past, present, and future as it celebrates the memory of Christ's Passion, His presence in the Eucharist, and the promise of His second coming.

In the context of Advent, the connection between it and the Eucharist becomes even more profound. Advent prepares us for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. In the Eucharist, we encounter the Resurrected Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary and became one of us. It is through the Eucharist that we enter into intimate communion with Jesus, who comes to us in the humble form of bread and wine.

Just as Advent is a time of waiting for the arrival of Christ, the Eucharist is a constant source of expectation and longing for Christ's presence in our lives. Every time we participate in the Mass, we are reminded of the Incarnation. We remember how Christ became Emmanuel, "God with us," humbling Himself to be born in a manger. Similarly, in the Eucharist, Jesus humbles Himself again to be present among us, hidden under the simple elements of bread and wine. Through the Eucharist, Christ continues to be with us, nourishing our souls with His love and grace.

Advent prepares us for Christ's coming with repentance and conversion. It is a time of introspection, as we examine our lives and strive to remove any obstacles that hinder us from fully embracing Christ's presence in our hearts. Likewise, the Eucharist calls us to examine ourselves and seek reconciliation with God and our neighbor before partaking in the divine banquet. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we cleanse our hearts of sin, preparing ourselves to receive the Eucharist worthily.

Advent also reminds us to be watchful and vigilant, awaiting Christ's second coming. As Catholics, we believe that Jesus will return in glory to judge the living and the dead. The Eucharist draws our attention to this eschatological dimension of our faith. When we receive the Eucharist, we not only encounter Christ's historical presence in the past but also experience His future coming. The Eucharist becomes a foretaste of the heavenly banquet that awaits us in eternity.

Advent and the Eucharist share a profound connection within the Catholic faith. Both provide an opportune time for reflection, expectation, and preparation. Advent prepares us to celebrate Christ's birth while the Eucharist allows us to commune intimately with Jesus. These two liturgical realities invite us to be vigilant and watchful, anticipating the second coming of Christ. As we journey through the season of Advent, let us remember the importance of the Eucharist in deepening our relationship with Christ and helping us draw closer to Him as we await His coming.

Originally printed in the December 2023 issue of The Western Kentucky Catholic.



A Message from the Society of St Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist says, ***"Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise..."***

St Brendan parishioners are champions when it comes to helping our neighbors in need. One such example is a father and son who were both seriously injured in an auto accident and needed help for two months to meet their electric payment, and another example in our community was the new single parent with three children who needed help to complete her monthly mortgage payment as she was getting herself back on her feet.

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...we thank you for sharing your abundance by supporting the Christmas Giving Tree project and by donations to the Society of St Vincent de Paul here at St Brendan. If you know of a family who is struggling or could use our assistance, please call the parish office at 614-876-1272.

An advertisement for the Hallow Catholic Prayer & Meditation App. The background is a dark blue gradient. At the top, the word "Hallow" is written in a large, white, serif font. Below it, in a smaller white font, is "Catholic Prayer & Meditation App". The central image shows a woman in a white headscarf and robe, kneeling and looking down at a baby lying in a manger. The scene is lit with a soft, warm glow. To the right of the image, the text "NOW OFFERING 3 MONTHS FREE!" is written in bold, yellow, sans-serif font. In the bottom left corner, there is a QR code.



KofC Free Throw Championship

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship Contest is back! Open to all boys and girls ages 9-14!

Join us Friday, Jan 10, 6:30 PM in the school gym (parent/guardian must sign a form at the event to participate.) Winners will advance to the regionals and then to the State Competition, which is held locally. Questions? Call Martin at 614-530-1257.

How We Manage Snow on Campus

Our snow contract stipulates that our parking lot is plowed only if we reach TWO INCHES or more of snowfall and is pretreated only if it is not raining. The parish facilities team is responsible for keeping the walkways cleared. When weather is inclement, be careful when walking around campus. Parish activities remain open if we are at a Level 1 Snow Emergency, but please consider whether you can safely reach the campus and attend events.

If a Level 2 Snow Emergency is declared, the entire campus closes, including Mass and all events. We will alert you via ParishStaq Communications and social media if this occurs. School parents will be alerted of any school closures or delays by FACTS communications. The Parish Office remains open during regular hours, but will close if we reach a Level 2 Snow Emergency.

Counseling is Available

Ricky Shoop, CT, of *Lumin Therapy* is on-site on Fridays, 12-5 PM or is available off-campus other days/times. Ricky has 15 years experience in pastoral ministry with teens, adults and families working through anxiety, depression, trauma, difficulties at work or family conflicts. For a free 30-minute initial consultation, contact Ricky at 614-212-4593 or email ricky@lumin-therapy.com

Referrals for individual support are also available. Contact Jennifer Rice at jrice@stbrendans.net

Elizabeth Ministry Playgroup

Please join us at our next playgroup on Wednesday, December 18 in the Pod Nursery at 9:45 AM. Mothers and young children of the parish are invited for a time of play and connection. Contact Regina with questions at reginalonggear@gmail.com

Invite One Back to Mass this Christmas!

Do you know any family members or friends no longer practicing their Catholic faith? What would happen if each of us invited just one person back to the church? We are asking each of you to "Invite ONE back" to Mass with them this Christmas. If you missed Inviting Catholics Home Ministry's workshop last month, "*Praying Them Home: a Practical Guide*," please visit www.stbrendans.net/ich to watch the videos and view the handouts provided for some practical advice on how to bring back those who are away from the Church!

"O" Antiphons Explained

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

DECEMBER 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

DECEMBER 18

O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

DECEMBER 19

O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

DECEMBER 20

O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

DECEMBER 21

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

DECEMBER 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

DECEMBER 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

St Brendan Ministry of Evangelization & Catechesis

family faith formation 

Family Faith Formation

MIDDLE SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS

The next middle school small group is today, December 15 at 6:45 PM.

CONTINUED GROWTH

The next Family Session is Sunday, February 23, 9:45-11:15 AM in the gym.

SEEK & ROOT

Our next Family Session is Monday, January 13, 6:30 PM.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

Our next First Eucharist Family Session is on Sunday, January 12 from 9:45-11:15 AM. Our next Confirmation Family Session is Sunday, January 12 from 6:45-8 PM.

2025 Catholic Youth Summer Camp

CYSC registration is open for 5th-12th graders. St Brendan Parish is providing \$100 to each of our first 100 students to register (cost per session is \$620). To register, visit <https://www.damascus.net/cy-sc-2/main-campus> and to receive the discount, use the code **BREHILL25**

Children's Liturgy of the Word

We are looking for leaders and aides, once a month at 8:45 or 10:45 AM Masses. (Over age 18 must be Safe Environment compliant.) High schoolers and mature middle schoolers are welcome as aides. To volunteer, contact Jackie at childrensliturgy@stbrendans.net, Maggie at magra@stbrendans.net or Jacob at jdoran@stbrendans.net

Preschool Registration

Our collaborative preschool at St Margaret of Cortona has opened enrollment for next year. Full-day and part-day offerings – families with children ages 3-5 next fall are encouraged to learn more. Classes are filling up. Register soon at bit.ly/preschoolreg2025 Questions? Contact Andrea at aboyd@cdeducation.org

POD Nursery Update

We are happy to announce that we have a new coordinator for our POD Nursery but are not yet ready to reopen it on Sunday mornings or during Faith Formation just yet. Relaunch details are coming soon! If you would like to be added to our POD Nursery volunteer roster, please contact Jacob Doran at jdoran@stbrendans.net



Support Our School Families

There is no method more effective to support Catholic families than a gift to the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund. Even if you don't think of you or your family being in a place to be a "donor" to any initiative right now, Emmaus Road is unique. **Those who contribute will receive a dollar-for-dollar credit on their Ohio income tax!** You will be refunded your entire gift amount at tax time and a school family will receive the gift next fall. You're doubling your money for Catholic families! The limit for the matching credit is \$750 for individuals and \$1,500 for couples filing jointly. Learn more, confirm eligibility, and make your gift at emmausroadscholarship.org or visit the Welcome Desk for a remittance envelope. Be sure to select "St. Brendan School" as the grantor of the scholarship. **This is not tax advice. Please speak with a tax advisor to confirm eligibility.*



VINE
December Calendar
SUNDAYS 6:30-8:30 PM | ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS WELCOME!

Dec 15
"My Truth or Your Truth?"

Dec 22
Winter Mission Trip

Dec 29
No VINE

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Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a | Phil 4:4-7 | Lk 3:10-18

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

“I want to be a sanctuary lamp,” Samantha, my childhood friend, once remarked. “To be the little flame that reminds everyone, ‘God is here.’” In those short phrases, Samantha summarized not only her personal vocation, but also the all-important mission of St. John the Baptist. Like the candle burning before the tabernacle, St. John was not the long-awaited Messiah; his God-given task was to point others to Jesus. We hear this theme of St. John’s message expressed repeatedly in today’s readings: “The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst”; “Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!”; “one mightier than I is coming.” God himself would soon be among them – indeed, he was already there. Although 2,000 years separate us from St. John the Baptist’s ministry, the little flame still burns in the sanctuary to remind us that God has not only come, but he remains *in our midst*. This is cause for rejoicing: the same Jesus to whom John pointed is present among us in the Blessed Sacrament.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Becoming more attuned and attentive to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist – that is, to God in our midst – entails embracing another part of St. John the Baptist’s message. In today’s Gospel, St. John counsels people from all walks of life to prepare for the coming Messiah by changing their lives. Only by turning away from sin and committing themselves to God will they be able to recognize and follow Christ when he comes. If we desire deeper faith in the Eucharist, our preparation must be similar: we ask God to show us the dusty corners of our souls which we have concealed from his merciful love. Then, confident in his willingness to forgive, we approach him in the sacrament of confession. This is his ardent desire: that, having come among us, he might forgive and heal us. Such is the meaning behind the consoling words of the Prophet Zephaniah in today’s first reading: “He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love.”

SING

*O Christ, whom nations sigh for
Whom priest and prophet long foretold
Come break the captive fetters
Redeem the long-lost fold*

Around Our Diocese

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will give you and your spouse all the tools for a better, stronger, more loving marriage. Join us on Feb 7-9 to get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus only on each other! Location is Procter Camp and Conference Center in London, Ohio. Other weekend dates are available on our website. RSVP at www.WWME.org or call Don & Kim Downs at 614-893-1935. Early registration is recommended.

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ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP, FEB 6-8

Fr Marek Visnovsky is offering an iconography workshop at St John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church (5858 Cleveland Ave, Columbus) on Feb 6 at 5-9 PM, Feb 7 at 9 AM-9 PM and Feb 8 at 9 AM-9 PM. We will paint the icon of the SORROWFUL MOTHER. The cost is \$400 and includes boards, paints, brushes and 24 karat gold leaf (food & accommodation not included). Beginners and advanced artists are welcome. Register by Wednesday, Jan 15. For details, email Fr Marek at marekvisnovsky@yahoo.com

FIND A MELCHIZEDEK PROJECT NEAR YOU!

Melchizedek Project is a spiritual discernment group that helps high school and college-age men consider a vocation to the Priesthood. Enjoy a free meal at each meeting as you discuss your vocation discernment. Find a location near you by scanning the QR code.



CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON

The Catholic Men's Luncheons are held on the first Friday of the month, Feb-June & Sept-Dec. Meatless meals are served year-round in keeping with Catholic penitential discipline. Find details at www.CatholicMensMinistry.com

ST CHARLES WRESTLING PROGRAM

The 2025 Cardinal Novice Wrestling Club at St Charles Preparatory School on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6:15 -7:30 PM, runs from January 7-February 27. Open to boys and girls in grades K-8. Cost is \$120 for 16 sessions. To register or for details, please contact Vince DiSabato at wrestlingcoach@scprep.org

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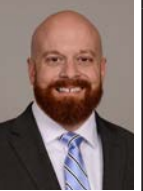
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