

Good Shepherd Sunday

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This Sunday is also World Day of Prayer for Vocations...

A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O Jesus, my/our Savior and Redeemer, listen to my/our prayer today. May more young people, more men, and more women from our Parish Family say YES to Your call to serve You, Your Church and Your people as Priests, Deacons, and Religious Sisters. Bless my/our family/families. May our Parish family support those who have answered Your call to serve in this most wonderful way; help them to remain close to You. I/We ask the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, and Saint Brendan, our patron, to come to You in our need to build up Your Church in our Diocese of Columbus. Amen.

food for thought

*"A vocation touches the very roots of the human soul. It is the very interior calling of God directed to the person: to the unique and irreplaceable person."
+Pope Saint John Paul II*



Fourth Sunday of Easter

"I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." ~ John 10:1-10

Catholic Book Fair is this Sunday!

Join us April 26 after 8:45 & 10:45 AM Mass in the School Library. Details on page 20.

Holy Mass*

SATURDAY VIGIL 5:30 PM

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

Daily Mass*

MONDAY 6:30 AM, 8 AM, 5:30 PM

TUES./ THURS./ FRIDAY 6:30 AM, 8 AM

WEDNESDAY 6:30 AM, 5:30 PM

SATURDAY 8 AM

Reconciliation*

WEDNESDAY 6-7 PM (during Adoration)

SATURDAY Following 8 AM Mass

Or, schedule a Confession with one of our priests, by calling the parish office.

**Regular Mass and Confession times may change. Find this week's calendar in the weekly bulletin or on our website.*

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


**Saint
Brendan**

THE NAVIGATOR

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Information Center

PARISH OFFICE HOURS – Weekdays, 9 AM-12 PM & 1-4 PM

CHURCH HOURS – M-F & Sunday, 6 AM-10 PM; Saturday, 6 AM-6 PM

ST. BRENDAN SCHOOL – 614-876-6132, fax 614-529-8929

NEW MEMBERS – Fill out a New Member Registration form at stbrendans.net/welcome or 614-876-1272 / parish@stbrendans.net

MARRIAGE – Marriage Request form: stbrendans.net/marriage (fill out at least six months prior to your wedding.) Marriage prep is required. Email Valerie Scheel, weddingplanner@stbrendans.net

BAPTISMS – 12 PM most Sundays. Visit stbrendans.net/baptism or email baptism@stbrendans.net for questions or details. **Baptism Preparation Class:** 2 required, 1st Sundays monthly, 12 PM.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK – Contact the Parish Office.

POD NURSERY – Sundays during 8:45 & 10:45 AM Mass (for children 6 months-4 years old) Questions? Email nursery@stbrendans.net

OCIA – (*Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*) Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Contact Wendy Ferkany at 614-876-1272, ext. 291 or wferkany@stbrendans.net

MINISTRY OF EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS – (*Family Faith Formation*) Contact Jacob Doran at 614-876-1272, ext. 231

MARKETING & BULLETIN REQUESTS – Fill out a marketing request form at stbrendans.net/marketing or marketing@stbrendans.net

MASS INTENTIONS – Fill out a Mass Intention envelope (in the church gathering area) with \$10 cash/check and drop off at the Parish Office.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR – To remember a loved one or for a special intention: \$75 donation (cost is \$109/extra is welcome.) Donors/intentions are published in the parish bulletin.

CANDLE DONATIONS – \$2 for large candles / 25 cents for small ones.

MINISTRY OF CARE FOR HOMEBOUND – To receive Eucharist at home or at a facility, email Nell at doconnell@stbrendans.net

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN – Register at www.virtus.org

NAVIGATOR NEWS / PARISHSTAQ – To receive our weekly parish e-newsletter, visit stbrendan.cbchurch.com and create your account in ParishStaq. Log in to be automatically added to our email list.

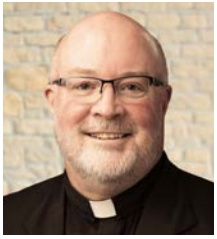
LITURGICAL MINISTRY PORTAL – Access Ministry Scheduler Pro at www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/stbrendans or, for liturgical scheduling questions, email ministryscheduler@stbrendans.net

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

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

LIVESTREAM – YouTube: [SaintBrendantheNavigatorHilliard](https://www.youtube.com/SaintBrendantheNavigatorHilliard)
OR Facebook: [facebook.com/StBrendanHilliardyoutubecom/](https://www.facebook.com/StBrendanHilliardyoutubecom/)
Sunday, 10:45 AM; Monday/Wednesday, 5:30 PM; and Tuesday/Thursday/Friday/Saturday, 8 AM

ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA PRESCHOOL – Contact Andrea Boyd, Director/Lead Teacher, at aboyn@cdeducation.org or 614-274-1922



From Our Pastor ON THIS FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER,

we celebrate Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd. Jesus is the gate; all who pass through the gate will be saved. He is the Good Shepherd who leads His sheep to safe and nourishing pastures. There are many among us today who foolishly think they need no shepherd at all. They think they know all the facts of life while they are in total ignorance of the most basic fact of all – namely, the very purpose of life. Not that the thought of it does not arise disturbingly before their minds time and time again. But often they try to smother that thought and ease their consciences by immersing themselves deeper and deeper in the affairs and the fleeting pleasures of

this temporary life. Instead of turning to passing pleasures and sin, if they would only turn to Jesus who invites each of us to follow Him by hearing His voice – calling us to a new life with Him – as the Good Shepherd – leading us through whatever dark valley of death (Psalm 23) we happen to be traversing, to green pastures and eternal life with Him. There are so many thieves, strangers, and others who look to steal, to kill and to destroy the sheep – we, His sheep; we, His flock. Let's cling to Jesus instead – our Good Shepherd. Psalm 23 – *“the Lord is my Shepherd”* – is well known for all the right reasons, and is worth reading and praying about. Psalm 23 has been put to music many times and many ways. The most beautiful Psalm 23 rendition, in my opinion, is by the composer John Rutter, and sung by the Cambridge Singers – look this up on YouTube and enjoy.

Shifting gears, today's Scripture readings recall a central aspect of the ministerial priesthood that Jesus teaches – the priest as shepherd. The metaphor needs to be understood correctly, especially in this day and age. The priest is one who, by his consecration, actually lives for and serves others in imitation of Jesus Christ. The title “Father,” like “Shepherd,” expresses essentially a relation to others, his way of being for others, much more than a mere anonymous function. The priest ministers and serves *in persona Christi*, Latin for “in the person of Christ.” It is this intentional (and real) way of being for others that gives life to everything the priest does, from the most sacred ministries to daily chores and activities. This spirit of charity is an essential part of a priest's holiness and fidelity. You might wish to explore the Catechism of the Catholic Church, referencing paragraphs 1544-1553 which deal with the one priesthood of Christ and the ministerial service of love in imitation of Jesus Christ.

TODAY IS ALSO WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – a day for all of us to think about the need for vocations to the Priesthood, Permanent Diaconate and Religious life, especially in service to our Diocese of Columbus. It is important to remember that if you find yourself being called by God to a vocation, you need to pray about it. Not everyone is called to this life, but to those who are called, this is a special calling by God. Sometimes we look around and think “I can't do that” or “I am not worthy” to serve God and His people as a priest or religious. When we think that way or feel that way, the words of Saint Bernardine of Siena (whose feast day is celebrated on May 20th) are worth considering: “Whenever the divine favor chooses someone to receive a special grace, or to accept a lofty vocation, God adorns the person chosen with all the gifts of the Spirit needed to fulfill the task at hand.” Truly, God gives each of us the gifts and talents we need to build the Kingdom of God on earth. We must trust in His call to serve Him, His Church, and His people in this most particular and important way and say “YES!” If you believe that you are being called by God to the priesthood, permanent diaconate or religious life, please give me a call at your convenience. I will be happy to discuss this with you, as will the other priests here at Saint Brendan's, we will also be happy to help you get in touch with appropriate persons in our Diocese, or with a particular religious order that you feel drawn to serve given the particular charism of a religious order. A reminder that all of us are to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Included in this bulletin is a **Special Rosary for Vocations** that each of us should pray every day. Also included in this bulletin is Pope Leo XIV's **Message for this World Day of Prayer for Vocations**, and an article about **mothers encouraging their sons to be priests**. It is interesting to note that while parents always want what is best for their children, I have had many conversations over the years with young men and women who believe they are being called to the priesthood or religious life only to have this call dissuaded by their parents. The parents, again for all the reasons they believe to be right, want to see their children “succeed” in life by getting a profession, getting married, having children, and providing their parents with grandchildren. While all that is good, I don't think that all parents see nor understand that they are standing between God's call and their children who are trying to respond positively to God's call. Rather than dissuade their children, they should be rejoicing and supporting their children, as not all are called by God to the priesthood or religious life. Let's all do our very best to encourage vocations and support those who are called by God to this most wonderful life!

SPECIAL THANKS to our Saint Vincent de Paul Conference and Knights of Columbus for organizing the **Spring Thrift Store Drive** last weekend. It was a huge success, the largest-ever collection in our parish. More than 55 parishioners generously volunteered their time and talent to help collect the donations – thank you to all volunteers, and all who donated!

CONGRATULATIONS to all on-stage and behind-the-scenes students involved in last weekend's performance of *The Wizard of Oz* in our Parish School. Well done, and well-attended – proud parents, grandparents and family members all around! Bravo! Photos from the production are included in this bulletin.

Fr. Mike
Fr. Michael Lumpe, Pastor



Mothers, Encourage Your Sons to Be Open to the Priesthood

Article by Constance Hull,
courtesy of The Catholic Exchange.

In spring 2012, I found out that I was pregnant. It was my second pregnancy after my daughter and her miscarried twin. The Lord placed a deep desire within my heart to offer a son (or all the sons He gave me) to the priesthood. I saw the need. There is a great shortage of priests. I prayed fervently for at least one son to offer to Him in the priesthood. Shortly after finding out I was pregnant, that child—I believe a son—died.

Pregnancy after pregnancy resulted in the death of each of my unborn babies, including another son in 2016. Five miscarried babies later—my most recent in 2021—the Lord told me that He was not going to answer my prayer for a biological son to offer to the priesthood. The desire was from Him, but He placed it there for a different reason. Instead, He asked me to be a spiritual mother to the priests and seminarians He and His Mother send my way. This past weekend, I was blessed to watch one of those spiritual sons be ordained to the priesthood.

As I sat in the back of the cathedral, praying for the spiritual son laying prostrate on the cold marble floor, surrendering His life totally to the Eternal High Priest, I experienced the deep tension and crucifixion of this calling. The desire for my own biological son clashed with the reality of the spiritual sons the Lord has given me. I love my spiritual sons as if they were my own flesh and blood sons, but the path I have been given with Our Lady of Sorrows is a constant death to my own will and desires.

I share this deep interior struggle with the mothers who read this for a reason. I know how hard it is to let go of your own dreams, plans, and hopes for your sons. I know it is difficult to abandon the gift of grandchildren. I know it is hard to let your sons give their lives to the Church in light of the seemingly endless clergy sex abuse scandals and corruption. It is painful to surrender your sons to the Church and the crucifixion required of them and you in the process, but we need you to do just that. We need your sons—if they are called by the Eternal High Priest—to say yes to the priesthood.

The Lord has not stopped calling men to the priesthood. It is much harder to hear in the noise of our age. In our culture's drive towards individualism, materialism, hedonism, worldly success, and its idolization of relationships, it is much harder for men to answer this call from the Lord. Many of them have no support or help in discernment. Too many face backlash from their families and friends.

Our lives are not our own. They belong to the Lord. Only He knows the path to joy that He has created each one of us for. The vocation He wants to give to each individual person is the way to our eternal home. This means that if your son is truly called to the priesthood, his ultimate joy will not be found in marriage or worldly success. It can only be found in the priesthood.

For those mothers who are struggling with the loss of grandchildren, let me share a bit of what I have received as a spiritual mother to priests and seminarians. First, when I was given this call from Our Lord through Our Lady, I didn't understand it and knew nothing about it. I did not know about the Church's rich history of spiritual motherhood. When I was called, the Holy Spirit overshadowed me in a sense and filled me with the most profound joy. He gave me the eyes of Our Lady, so that I could see the priest-sons the Lord entrusts to my spiritual care with the love of a mother. It is pure gift.

The Lord is the author of true joy. Grandchildren are a great gift, but they are not the only gift. The loss of my own sons is one of the deepest griefs I carry, but the Lord has poured out His light and love in superabundance upon my spiritual motherhood. He fulfills the desires of my heart in ways I never expected. This doesn't mean that I don't still struggle at times with surrendering my biological sons to Him and embracing the spiritual sons He has given me. I do. You will struggle too, but over time, through this purification process, you and I will learn how to love more like Christ and His Mother, which leads to joy and peace.

The Lord through His Mother, as the mother of a Priest, invites you to embrace your son's spiritual children. You are given thousands of spiritual children and grandchildren if you are willing to say yes. The Lord will not leave you empty-handed. He will draw you into the life of your priest-son in beautiful ways. Your cup will run over, and the joy of spiritual children and grandchildren will help heal the wound from the lost dreams of biological grandchildren.

For those who are afraid to send their sons into the Church due to the scandals of our day, it is understandable that you are deeply concerned about them. You love them. The reality is, however, that we need your sons to run into the burning building that is the Church. We need heroic, prayerful, sacrificial, virtuous, holy men to douse the flames consuming the Bride of Christ at present.

The Church can never heal and conquer this darkness if good men are not willing to lay down their lives for Christ's Bride. The Lord tells us in John 15:13, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." The highest calling any son can be given is to lay down his life for others. You and I are also called to lay down our lives by surrendering to God's will over our own. This is not a calling that is only for someone else's son. It may be what the Lord is asking of your son.

Finally, without priests, we do not receive the sacraments. Dwindling priest numbers mean that the sacraments are not as freely accessible. It means some areas may not have Mass every week—or in some remote regions of the world only once a year—or access to the rest of the sacraments. Parish closures are becoming more and more common across the West because of a lack of members and not enough priests.

Article by Constance Hull continues...

The priests we do have are overworked, burned out, and overwhelmed, which is why an astonishing 30% leave the priesthood in the first 5 years. They need help. We need the Lord to send more laborers into the priesthood.

It is the Lord who calls men to be priests, not us, but we have a duty in charity to encourage the sons and men in our lives to openly and actively discern the priesthood. Our children should know that their lives belong to God alone and that He has a plan for them. This means men should be taught from a very early age to discern priesthood, marriage, and religious life. Mothers should be praying for their sons to be called to the priesthood if it is God's holy will for their lives. Fathers should be doing the same and encouraging their sons to answer God's call no matter the cost.

The Lord will answer the prayers of mothers who surrender their sons to the Lord for His priesthood. Kathleen Beckman in her book, *Praying for Priests: An Urgent Call for the Salvation of Souls*, shares the beautiful story of the Mothers of Lu:

The little village of Lu, in northern Italy, is located in a rural area 90 kilometers east of Turin. It would still be unknown to this day if some of the mothers of Lu had not made a decision that had important consequences in 1881.

The deepest desire of many of these mothers was for one of their sons to become a priest or for a daughter to place her life completely in God's service. Under the direction of their parish priest, Msgr. Alessandro Canora, they gathered every Tuesday for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, asking the Lord for vocations. They received Holy Communion on the first Saturday of every month with the same intention. After Mass, all the mothers prayed this prayer together:

***"O God, grant that one of my sons may become a priest!
I myself want to live as a good Christian and want to guide my children always to do what is right, so that I may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give you a holy priest! Amen."***

Through the trusting prayer of these mothers, and the openness of the other parents, an atmosphere of deep joy and Christian piety developed in the families, making it much easier for the children to recognize their vocations. Still, no one expected that God would hear the prayers of these mothers in such a dramatic way.

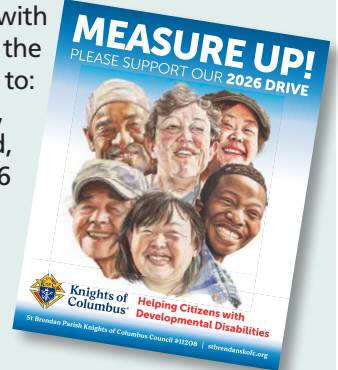
From the tiny village of Lu came 323 vocations: 152 priests (diocesan and religious) and 171 nuns belonging to forty-one Congregations. In some cases, several vocations came from a single family. The most famous example is the Rinaldi family, from whom God called seven children. Two daughters became Salesian sisters, both of whom were sent to San Domingo as missionaries. Five sons became priests, all joining the Salesians.

The Lord will hear our prayers and raise up many holy vocations to the priesthood and religious life if we surrender everything to Him. Our children's paths are not ours. They belong to God alone. Turn to Our Blessed Mother who constantly had to surrender Her Son in trust. Through Her prayers you will be given the strength, fortitude, and graces necessary to encourage and pray for your sons to become priests.

The Lord will not be outdone in generosity. He'll reward you with tremendous spiritual gifts and joy because you have freely given Him your son as a priest. When you die and come before the Lord, you will be able to joyfully tell Him that you gave Him a priest through whom thousands of souls were saved.

"Measure Up" Drive, May 2

The Knights of Columbus "Measure Up" Drive is an annual fundraiser conducted throughout Ohio, benefiting over 322 state and local agencies, providing training and support for the developmentally disabled. Our Knights of Columbus will hold a street collection on May 2 from 8:30 AM-1:30 PM at Fishinger Blvd. (at Park Mill Run and Ridge Mill Dr.). Funds raised will support Special Olympics Ohio including Hilliard Special Olympics. Donations can also be made at <https://bit.ly/stb2026kofc> or via the QR code below. Checks can be made payable to St. Brendan KofC with "Measure Up" on the memo and mailed to: St. Brendan KofC, 4475 Dublin Road, Hilliard, OH 43026



Volunteers Needed for Hilliard Adopt-A-House

Want to help a family while also enjoying fellowship with other area churches? Habitat for Humanity's upcoming house build is for you! We recently held the groundbreaking on the next new house for our Hilliard Adopt-A-House team working with Mid-Ohio Habitat. There were three St. Brendan Parish volunteers at the groundbreaking (Bonnie Roberts, Mike Tanner & Lisa Munson). Work on this house will begin early May and we are looking for more volunteers. Anyone 18 years of age or older is eligible to participate. Teens ages 16-18 are able to participate with parental consent and adult supervision. No experience necessary and tools and safety equipment are provided. To be added to The St. Brendan Habitat for Humanity email list for notifications of upcoming work days, please email Bonnie Roberts at StBrendanHabitat@gmail.com





MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV FOR THE 63rd WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

4th Sunday of Easter - 26 April 2026

The Interior Discovery of God's Gift

Dear brothers and sisters, dear young people!

Guided and protected by the Risen Jesus, we celebrate on the fourth Sunday of Easter — also called “Good Shepherd Sunday” — the 63rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations. It is an occasion of grace in which we share some reflections on the interior dimension of vocation, understood as the discovery of God’s free gift that blossoms in the depths of our hearts. Let us explore together the truly beautiful path of life along which the Shepherd guides us.

The way of beauty

In the Gospel of John, Jesus describes himself as the “good shepherd” (ὁ ποιμὴν ὁ καλός) (Jn 10:11). This expression refers to a shepherd who is perfect, authentic and exemplary, inasmuch as he is ready to give his life for his sheep, thus revealing God’s love. He is the Shepherd who draws us to himself, whose gaze reveals that life is truly beautiful when one follows him. Neither the eyes of the body nor aesthetic sensibilities alone are sufficient to recognize this beauty; rather, contemplation and interiority are required. Only the one who pauses, listens, prays and welcomes the Shepherd’s gaze can say with confidence: “I trust him; life with him can truly be beautiful. I want to walk this path of beauty.” What is most extraordinary is that, in becoming his disciple, one truly becomes “beautiful”; his beauty transforms us. As the theologian Pavel Florenskij wrote, asceticism does not produce a merely “good” person, but a “beautiful” one. [1] Indeed, more than goodness, the distinctive trait of the saint is the luminous spiritual beauty that radiates from his or her life in Christ. In this way, the Christian vocation reveals itself in all its depth as a participation in the life of Jesus, by sharing in his mission and reflecting his beauty.

This interior experience of life, faith and meaning was also that of Saint Augustine, who, in the third book of the *Confessions*, while acknowledging the sins and errors of his youth, recognizes God as “more inward than my most inward part.” [2] More than self-knowledge, Augustine discovers the beauty of the divine light that guides him in the darkness. Perceiving God’s presence in the innermost recesses of his soul, he came to understand the importance of caring for the interior life as a place of encounter with Christ, which is the way to experience the beauty and goodness of God in our own lives.

Such a relationship is based on prayer and silence, and when cultivated opens us to receive and actively respond to the gift of vocation. It is never an imposition or a one-size-fits-all model to which one merely conforms; instead, it is an adventure of love and happiness. Thus, on the basis of caring for the interior life, we must urgently recommence our vocational ministry and renew our commitment to evangelization.

In light of this, I invite everyone — in families, parishes and religious communities, as well as bishops, priests, deacons, catechists, educators and all the faithful — to commit themselves more fully to creating conditions that allow this gift to be embraced, nourished, protected and accompanied, so that it may bear abundant fruit. Only when our surroundings are illumined by living faith, sustained by constant prayer and enriched by fraternal accompaniment can God’s call blossom and mature, becoming a path of happiness and salvation for individuals and for the world. By embarking on the path that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, shows us, we come to know more deeply both ourselves and the God who calls us.

Mutual awareness

“The Lord of life knows us and enlightens our hearts with his loving gaze.” [3] Indeed, every vocation begins with the awareness and experience of a God who is love (cf. 1 Jn 4:16). He knows us profoundly; he has counted the hairs of our head (cf. Mt 10:30) and has envisaged for each person a unique path of holiness and service. Yet this awareness must always be reciprocal. We are invited to know God through prayer, listening to the Word, the Sacraments, the life of the Church and works of charity for our brothers and sisters. Like the young Samuel, who unexpectedly heard the voice of the Lord during the night and learned to recognize it with the help of Eli (cf. 1 Sam 3:1–10), we too must create a space for interior silence in order to hear what the Lord desires for our happiness. This is not a matter of lofty ideas or scholarly learning, but of a personal encounter that transforms one’s life. [4] God dwells in our hearts. A vocation entails an intimate dialogue with the One who calls and invites us to respond, despite the deafening noise of the world, with true joy and generosity.

Noli foras ire, in te ipsum redi, in interiore homine habitat veritas — “Do not go outside yourself. Return within yourself. Truth dwells in the inner person.” [5] Once again, Saint Augustine reminds us how important it is to learn to pause and to create space for interior silence, so that we may hear the voice of Jesus Christ.

Dear young people, listen to this voice! Listen to the voice of the Lord who invites you to a full and fruitful life, calling you to put your talents to use (cf. Mt 25:14-30) and to unite your limitations and weaknesses with the glorious cross of Christ. Make time, then, for Eucharistic adoration; meditate faithfully on the word of God, so that you may put it into practice each day; and participate actively and fully in the sacramental and ecclesial life of the Church. In this way, you will come to know the Lord. Through the intimacy of his friendship, you will discover how to give of yourselves, whether through marriage, the priesthood, the permanent diaconate, or consecrated life. Every vocation is an immeasurable gift for the Church and for those who receive it with joy. To know the Lord means above all learning to entrust oneself to him and to his providence, which is abundant in every vocation.

Trust

Knowledge leads to confidence, a mindset that arises from faith and is essential both for welcoming one's vocation and for persevering in it. Indeed, life reveals itself as a continual act of trusting in the Lord and abandoning ourselves to him, even when his plans unsettle our own.

Let us consider Saint Joseph, who, despite the mysterious and unexpected pregnancy of the Virgin, trusted the divine message revealed in a dream and welcomed Mary and her child with an obedient heart (cf. Mt 1:18-25; 2:13-15). Joseph of Nazareth is an example of complete trust in God's designs. He trusted even when everything around him seemed shrouded in darkness and uncertainty, when events appeared to diverge from his own plans. He trusted and abandoned himself to God, certain about the goodness and fidelity of the Lord. "In every situation, Joseph declared his own 'fiat', like those of Mary at the Annunciation and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane." [6]

As the Jubilee of Hope reminded us, it is necessary to cultivate firm and steadfast trust in God's promises, without ever yielding to despair. We must overcome fears and doubts, confident that the Lord of history — both of the world and of our own personal story — is risen. He does not abandon us in our darkest hours, but comes to dispel every shadow with his light. Through the light and strength of his Spirit, even amid trials and crises, we can see our vocation grow and mature, reflecting ever more fully the beauty of the One who has called us — a beauty shaped by fidelity and trust, despite our wounds and failures.

Maturation

Indeed, a vocation is not a fixed point, but a dynamic process of maturation sustained by intimacy with our Lord. To grow in one's vocation means being with Jesus, allowing the Holy Spirit to act in our hearts and in the circumstances of life, and reinterpreting everything in light of this gift.

Like the vine and the branches (cf. Jn 15:1-8), our whole lives must be rooted in a strong and vital bond with the Lord, so that we may more wholeheartedly respond to his call through our trials and necessary "pruning." The "places" where God's will is most manifest, and where we experience his infinite love, are often the authentic, fraternal bonds we establish throughout our lives. How precious it is to have a true spiritual guide to accompany us in the discovery and growth of our vocation! How important it is to discern and test the promptings of the Holy Spirit, so that a vocation can be brought to fruition in all its beauty!

A vocation, therefore, is not an immediate possession — something "given" once and for all. Instead, it is a path that unfolds much like life itself. The gift we have received must not only be protected but also nourished by a daily relationship with God in order to grow and bear fruit. "This is helpful, since it situates our whole life in relation to the God who loves us. It makes us realize that nothing is the result of pure chance but that everything in our lives can become a way of responding to the Lord, who has a wonderful plan for us." [7]

Dear brothers and sisters, dear young people, I encourage you to cultivate your personal relationship with God through daily prayer and meditation on the Word. Pause, listen and entrust yourselves. In this way, the gift of your vocation will mature, bringing you happiness and yielding abundant fruit for the Church and the world. May the Virgin Mary, model of the interior acceptance of divine gifts and expert in prayerful listening, always accompany you on this journey!

From the Vatican, 16 March 2026

LEO PP. XIV

[1] "Asceticism produces not a 'good' or 'kind' man but a beautiful one, and the distinguishing feature of the saintly ascetics is not their 'kindness,' which even people of the flesh, and very sinful ones, can possess, but spiritual beauty, the blinding beauty of a radiant, light-bearing person, a beauty wholly inaccessible to the man of flesh" (P. Florenskij, *The Pillar and Ground of the Truth*, Princeton 1997, 72).

[2] Saint Augustine, *Confessions*, III, 6, 11: CSEL 33, 53.

[3] Apostolic Letter *A Fidelity that Generates the Future* (8 December 2025), 5.

[4] cf. Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter *Deus Caritas Est* (25 December 2005), 1.

[5] Saint Augustine, *On True Religion*, XXXIX, 72: CCSL 32, 234.

[6] Francis, Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* (8 December 2020), 3.

[7] Francis, Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit* (25 March 2019), 248.

MAY 1: SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER

Why we should have a devotion to Saint Joseph

Article by Fr. Maurice Meschler, courtesy of The Catholic Exchange.

It is recorded in Holy Scripture that the people of Israel, in grateful memory of their deliverer and benefactor, took the remains of Joseph with them at their departure from Egypt into the Holy Land, and buried them in the country of Samaria (Exod. 13:19). We, as Christians, must not be less appreciative of our Saint Joseph. We are indebted to him in an infinitely higher degree. Hence, we are to cultivate a heartfelt devotion to Saint Joseph.

Devotions to Saint Joseph

The devotion may be practiced in the following way. Fervent clients of the saint do not allow a day to pass without performing some small acts of devotion in his honor, recommending themselves to him and asking his protection. For this purpose, there is a short, very touching chaplet of the Joys and Sorrows of Saint Joseph, enriched with indulgences by Pius VII, Gregory XVI, and Pius IX.

Each week, moreover, has a day set aside, Wednesday, which is especially dedicated to him. This practice, which dates from the seventeenth century, originated in the Benedictine Monastery of Chalons in France. In the ecclesiastical year there are two feasts of the saint that are celebrated throughout the whole Church, and one that is restricted to certain localities.

The two feasts of general observance are the feast of Saint Joseph, celebrated on March 19, which originated in the fifteenth century under Sixtus IV, and the Solemnity of Saint Joseph the Worker, celebrated on May 1. The third festival, the Espousals of Mary and Joseph, celebrated on January 23, was first kept in the sixteenth century in the convents of the Franciscans and the Dominicans; in the time of Emperor Leopold I the feast was extended by Innocent XI to the whole Church, but since the reign of Pius X it is celebrated in only a limited number of places.

Moreover, an entire month, March, has been especially dedicated to the veneration of Saint Joseph by Pius IX and Leo XIII. Besides, each of his feasts may be introduced by a fitting novena:

O Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in thee all my interests and desires. O St. Joseph, assist me by thy powerful intercession and obtain for me all spiritual blessings through thy foster Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord, so that, having engaged here below thy heavenly power, I may offer thee my thanksgiving and homage. O Saint Joseph, I never weary contemplating thee and Jesus asleep in thine arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near thy heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. Saint Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for me.

And so, devotion to Saint Joseph occupies an important position in the order of feasts of the ecclesiastical year,

and in this regard all we have to do is simply to follow our holy Mother the Church. Motives for practicing this devotion present themselves in sufficient number in consequence of our daily personal necessities, difficulties, and trials.

Let us not forget to fly to the saint for protection and to recommend to him our needs. The clients of the saint are particularly fond of asking three favors of him every day:

- first, the grace to grow more and more in the intimate love of Jesus and Mary;
 - secondly, the grace to unite properly, as he did, the interior with the exterior life;
 - and finally, the grace of a happy, edifying, and consoling death.
- His life was especially notable from this threefold viewpoint. Thus, it would appear that the saint had been endowed by God with a special power to procure these graces for us.

Saint Joseph is Worthy of Devotion

We need but gather briefly and cursorily a few motives for practicing devotion to Saint Joseph. First, he deserves our veneration because he is so worthy of it and is so great a saint. How close his relationship to us and how much we owe to him!

As foster father of Jesus he is connected most intimately with the earliest history of our religion. Our Savior acknowledged him as His earthly father; He was subject to him; He wished to be indebted to His legal parent for everything in the temporal order; He sanctified Joseph by His many years of familiar communion with him.

No relic has ever been so consecrated by close contact with the Incarnate Word of God as was the saint. His eyes, his hands, his arms received a consecration as often as they looked upon or carried the divine Child. And with what unfathomable love the saint's heart throbbed for his son!

What Joseph did for Christ, he has done for us, God's people. We must return thanks to the saint for this. We shall never be able to extol or repay his services to us in a worthy manner.

An Amiable Saint

Secondly, Saint Joseph deserves our veneration because he is so amiable a saint. He is the chosen spouse of Mary, her protection and her solace, the protector, angel guardian, and saint of the childhood of Jesus. He makes his appearance with the Child Jesus and with Him vanishes. Hence, the symbol and badge of his vocation and of its purpose are none other than those of the Christ Child Himself, whom he ever carries in his arms and presses to his heart.

How amiable a saint he is through his calling, and especially through his virtues, summed up in his fatherliness, his purity, fidelity, constancy, unselfishness, humility, wisdom, and love. All these are such attractive virtues, so inspiring with confidence, that of themselves they invite us to choose him as our counselor, our provider, and our father in all our necessities, even as Mary and Jesus trustfully placed all their concerns in his hands.

A Practical Saint

In the third place, the saint deserves our trustful affection because he is such a practical and resourceful saint, as though specially fashioned to be our helper in difficulty and trial. He has lived an entire human life with all its vicissitudes, joys, and sufferings.

Indeed God seems to have so arranged the circumstances of his life's vocation that, as Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical on the saint so graphically describes, he may well serve as our model and pattern in every circumstance of life, and with his own knowledge and experience come to our assistance. From his own experience he knows how heavy the burden of the father of a family may be in consequence of want, poverty, and persecution; he knows what is meant by superior and inferior; he has in deed and in truth sanctified the state of matrimony and virginity, life in the cloister and in the world, the contemplative and the active life, and has crowned his existence with a most blessed death.

Thus, God has given him the power to lend his aid and protection in all our concerns, and to bring them to a happy and successful issue. It is especially the crosses and perplexities of everyday life that bring his life so close to our lives and cause him to assist us so kindly and sympathetically. He is the great and universal master of the prince's house and the father of God's family. Hence he always knows when to help and has the power and the heart to do so. What was said of Joseph of old, "that God made all he did to prosper in his hand" (Gen. 39:3), holds in far greater measure of our saint. Hence, his name is most lovingly venerated in all lands and conditions of life; and although his clients be without number, they cannot exhaust his power and his love.

Saint Joseph is a Saint for Modern Times

Finally, Saint Joseph is not only a practical saint but seems especially fashioned by God for our modern times. He is, we might say, the modern saint.

Each period of history has its particular dangers and needs, and God in His infinite wisdom and goodness provides it with corresponding remedies. For several decades a new force has been developing and today is fully developed. It is the power of the sons of untiring labor, but not the well-ordered, God-ordained labor based on trust in God. This latter type of labor gives no cause for anxiety since it has been in the world from the beginning of the human race, is the lot of all men, and is their honor and privilege. God has blessed it and in His Son sanctified and almost deified it.

We fear rather that restless drudgery, that toil divorced from God and the supernatural; we fear that unbounded self-seeking, greed for money, possessions, pleasures; we fear the power of a proud and stubborn self-sufficiency and self-deification; we fear the power of a crude, untrammled self-government that would erect its throne without God and the Church, on the ruins of the old order and existing institutions, yea, upon the ruins of family life itself. The true names of this monster, the unholy progeny of all social disorders, are unbelief, materialism, revolution, anarchy, class and racial hatred.

Where shall we find the help provided by God for these evil times? Where is the new man, the new power prepared by God to take a decided stand on behalf of justice, order, God's glory, and man's welfare? Who can it be but the exalted personage of unselfish attachment to duty, the man of obedience, faith, and trust in God, of humility and willing devotion to labor?

Who but Saint Joseph, the calm, earnest man of noble ancestry, but poor and humble by choice, Saint Joseph, who on a former occasion saved the nascent Church, then, represented by the Holy Family, from the bloody hands of a ruthless persecutor? Why else has God been preparing a way in the Church during the last century for the devotion to Saint Joseph? Why else has He exalted him just at these critical times to the position of protector of the universal Church? He is indeed the man in whose hands God has placed the destinies of the Church. Let us then trust in him. We shall certainly not be confounded.



*Find St .Joseph
prayer cards
located in our
church sanctuary
next to the Saint
Joseph statue.*

Community Calendar

MONDAY, APRIL 27

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00 AM	Church Cleaning	Church, Chapel
5:30 PM	Daily Mass	Church
6:00 PM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
6:00 PM	Melchizedek Project	Carter Center

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
6:30 AM	Esto Vir Men's Ministry	Davidson, Room A
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30 AM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
7:00 PM	OCIA Assumption Cohort 2026	Davidson, Room A

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
7:00 AM-5:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
5:30 PM	Daily Mass	Church
6:00 PM	Adoration with Confession	Church

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30 AM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
9:00 AM	Catholic Way: <i>Book of Esther</i>	Davidson, Room A

FRIDAY, MAY 1

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:00 AM	Seniors NOW: Mass & Breakfast	Church & Café Elena
8:30 AM-12:00 AM	First Friday Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
6:30 PM	Young Couples Date Night	Davidson, Rooms A & B

SATURDAY, MAY 2

12:00 AM-1:00 PM	First Friday Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
6:30 AM	Esto Vir Men's Ministry AM	Davidson, Rooms A & B
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30 AM	Pray the Rosary	Church
9:00 AM	Confession	Confessional
9:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry Monthly Meeting	Carter Center
5:30 PM	Vigil Mass	Church
7:00 PM	VINE Women's Night	Carter Center

SUNDAY, MAY 3

7:15, 8:45, 10:45 AM, 5:30 PM	Sunday Masses	Church
During 8:45 & 10:45 AM Mass	POD Nursery	Childcare Center
During 8:45 & 10:45 AM Mass	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Adoration Chapel
12:00 PM	Baptism Preparation Class	Wellnitz, Rooms 1 & 2
2:00 PM	1st Eucharist Mass	Church
6:30 PM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
6:30 PM	VINE Night	School Gym
6:45 PM	ASPEN Small Group	School Library

Financial Stewardship
APRIL 19, 2026 OFFERTORY

Weekly Offertory \$44,330
 (Cash, checks, online giving)
Weekly Budgeted \$48,625



Scan the QR code and log in to your PushPay account to give online.

Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” +Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit

The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary

“The way of Christian perfection begins with a personal summons, addressed to the individual Christian by Christ the Lord, through the Holy Spirit. This summons is a call, a ‘vocation.’ Every Christian in one way or another receives this vocation from Christ – the call to follow Him.” ~Excerpted from *LIFE AND HOLINESS* by Father Thomas Merton, OCSO

Monday, April 27 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 10:11-18 Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father.”

Meditation: The peace and security of the Good Shepherd – Jesus Christ, who watches over us as members of his flock – is something that we can find great comfort and joy. The Old Testament often speaks of God as shepherd of his people, Israel. *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want* (Psalm 23:1). *Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!* (Psalm 80:1) *We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture* (Psalm 100:3). The Messiah is also pictured as the shepherd of God's people: *He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms* (Isaiah 40:11). In the New Testament Jesus lets us know that he is the *Good Shepherd* who will risk his life to seek out and save the stray sheep (Matthew 18:12, Luke 15:4). He is the *Shepherd and Guardian of our souls* (1 Peter 2:25).

Prayer: O God, perfect light of the blessed, by whose gift we celebrate the paschal mysteries on earth, bring us, we pray, to rejoice in the full measure of your grace for ages unending. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus made three promises to those who take up his two word invitation – “Follow me.” To those who follow Christ he promised them everlasting life. If they accept him and follow him, they will have the life of God in them. Jesus also promised them a life that would know no end. Death would not be the end but the beginning; they would know the glory of indestructible life. Jesus promised a life that was secure. Jesus said that nothing would snatch them out of his hand, not even sorrow and death, since he is everlasting life itself. Our lives are safe in his hands.

Tuesday, April 28 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Easter

**Optional Memorials: Saint Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr;
Saint Louis Mary de Montfort, Priest**

Holy Gospel: John 10:22-30 The feast of the Dedication was taking place in Jerusalem. It was winter. And Jesus walked about in the temple area on the Portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you and you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify to me. But you do not believe, because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out

of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Meditation: Saint Cyril, a Father of the Church, comments on Jesus as our Good Shepherd: "He shows in what manner a shepherd may be proved good; and He teaches that he must be prepared to give up his life fighting in defense of his sheep, which was fulfilled in Christ. For man has departed from the love of God, and fallen into sin, and because of this was, I say, excluded from the divine abode of paradise, and when he was weakened by that disaster, he yielded to the devil tempting him to sin, and death following that sin he became the prey of fierce and ravenous wolves. But after Christ was announced as the True Shepherd of all men, He laid down his life for us (1 John 3:16), fighting for us against that pack of inhuman beasts. He bore the Cross for us, that by His own death he might destroy death. He was condemned for us, that He might deliver all of us from the sentence of punishment: the tyranny of sin being overthrown by our faith: fastening to the Cross the decree that stood against us, as it is written (Colossians 2:14). Therefore as the father of sin had as it were shut up the sheep in hell, giving them to death to feed on, as it is written in the psalms (Ps. XLviii.16), He died for us as truly Good, and truly our Shepherd, so that the dark shadow of death driven away He might join us to the company of the blessed in heaven; and in exchange for abodes that lie far in the depths of the pit, and in the hidden places of the sea, grant us mansions in His Father's House above. Because of this he says to us in another place: Fear not, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you a kingdom (Luke 12:32)."

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, celebrating the mysteries of the Lord's Resurrection, we may merit to receive the joy of our redemption. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer + Saint Peter Chanel: O God, who for the spreading of your Church crowned Saint Peter Chanel with martyrdom, grant that, in these days of paschal joy, we may so celebrate the mysteries of Christ's Death and Resurrection as to bear worthy witness to newness of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer + Saint Louis de Montfort: O God, who willed to direct the steps of the Priest Saint Louis along the way of salvation and of the love of Christ, in the company of the Blessed Virgin, grant us, by his example, that, meditating on the mysteries of your love, we may strive tirelessly for the building up of your Church. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus promises the security of peace and protection from evil and the greatest harm that could befall us – eternal destruction. The Lord does not spare us from all trouble. In this life we will experience pain, suffering, sickness, and death. But through these the Lord will lead us to ultimate victory and safety in his everlasting home. Even in the midst of our sufferings we can find a peace and security which no one can give except God alone. We can confidently follow the Lord wherever he leads, trusting that nothing can keep us from God *if* we trust in him. Which begs the question: Have you placed your life securely in God where it belongs?

Wednesday, April 29 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Easter Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: John 12:44-50 Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me believes not only in me but also in the one who sent me, and whoever sees me sees the one who sent me. I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness. And if anyone hears my words and does not observe them, I do not condemn him, for I did not come to condemn the world but to save the world. Whoever rejects me and does not accept my words has something to judge him: the word that I spoke, it will condemn him on the last day, because I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. So what I say, I say as the Father told me."

Meditation: God does not leave us in our ignorance and unbelief. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit he helps us to grow in faith, knowledge and understanding of his word. Saint Augustine summed up rather succinctly our need for God's help in the following prayer: "God our Father, we find it difficult to come to you, because our knowledge of you is imperfect. In our ignorance we have imagined you to be our enemy; we have wrongly thought that you take pleasure in punishing our sins; and we have foolishly conceived you to be a tyrant over human life. But since Jesus came among us, he has shown that you are loving, and that our resentment against you was groundless." Do you want to know more of God and his transforming love? Look to Jesus, the Light of God, and in his truth you will find joy, freedom, and wholeness of mind, body and soul.

Prayer: O God, who set Saint Catherine of Siena on fire with divine love in her contemplation of the Lord's Passion and her service to your Church, grant, through her intercession, that your people, participating in the mystery of Christ, may ever exult in the revelation of his glory. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: To see Jesus is to see God. To hear his words is to hear the voice of God. He is the very light of God that has power to overcome the darkness of sin, ignorance, and unbelief. God's light and truth brings healing, pardon, and transformation. This light is not only for the chosen people of Israel, but for the whole world as well. Jesus warns that if we refuse his word or take it lightly, we choose to remain in spiritual darkness. Jesus made it clear that he did not come to condemn us, but rather to bring abundant life and freedom from the oppression of sin, ignorance and evil. We condemn ourselves when we reject God's wisdom and truth. It is one thing to live in ignorance due to lack of knowledge, but another thing to disdain those who teach us true wisdom and knowledge. Jesus says that his word which we have heard will be our judge. Do you believe that God's word has power to change and transform your life?

Thursday, April 30 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Easter
Optional Memorial: Pope Saint Pius V

Holy Gospel: John 13:16-20 When Jesus had washed the disciples' feet, he said to them: "Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it. I am not speaking of all of you. I know those whom I have chosen. But so that the Scripture might be fulfilled,

The one who ate my food has raised his heel against me.

From now on I am telling you before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe that I AM. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

Meditation: Jesus loved his disciples to the end and proved his faithfulness to them even to death on the cross. Through his death and resurrection Jesus opened a new way of relationship and friendship with God. Jesus tells his disciples that if they accept him they also accept the Father who sent him. This principle extends to all who belong to Christ and who speak in his name. To accept the Lord's messenger is to accept Jesus himself. The great honor and the great responsibility any Christian has is to stand in the world for Jesus Christ. As his disciples and ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20), we are called to speak for him and to act on his behalf. Are you ready to stand for Jesus at the cross of humiliation, rejection, opposition, and suffering?

Prayer: O God, who restore human nature to yet greater dignity than at its beginnings, look upon the amazing mystery of your loving kindness, and in those you have chosen to make new through the wonder of rebirth may you preserve the gifts of your enduring grace and blessing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer + Pope Saint Pius V: O God, who in your providence raised up Pope Saint Pius the Fifth in your Church that the faith might be safeguarded and more fitting worship be offered to you, grant, through his intercession, that we may participate in your mysteries with lively faith and fruitful charity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Have you ever given any thought as to how you treat those who cause you grief or harm? Especially those who are close to you in some way? In his last supper discourse, Jesus addressed the issue of fidelity and disloyalty in relationships. Jesus knew beforehand that one of his own disciples would betray him. Such knowledge could have easily led Jesus to distance himself from such a person and to protect himself from harm's way. Instead, Jesus expresses his love, affection, and loyalty to those who were his own, even to the one he knew would "stab him in the back" when he got the opportunity. Jesus used a quotation from Psalm 4:9 which describes an act of treachery by one's closest friend. In the culture of Jesus' day, to eat bread with someone was a gesture of friendship and trust. Jesus extends such friendship to Judas right at the moment when Judas is conspiring to betray his master. The expression "raised his heel against me" reinforces the brute nature of this act of violent rejection.

Friday, May 1 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Easter
Saint Joseph the Worker

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:54-58 Jesus came to his native place and taught the people in their synagogue. They were astonished and said, "Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds? Is he not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and

Judas? Are not his sisters all with us? Where did this man get all this?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and in his own house." And he did not work many mighty deeds there because of their lack of faith.

Meditation: The liturgy for this feast vindicates the right to work, and this is a message that needs to be heard and heeded in our modern society. In many of the documents issued by Pope Saint John XXIII, Pope Blessed Paul VI, the Second Vatican Council and Pope Saint John Paul II, reference is made to the Christian spirit that should permeate one's work, after the example of Saint Joseph, recognizing that all of our gifts and talents are gifts to us from God, and should be used to help build up His kingdom here on earth. In addition to this, there is a special dignity and value to the work done in caring for the human family.

Prayer: O God, Creator of all things, who laid down for the human race the law of work, graciously grant that by the example of Saint Joseph and under his patronage we may complete the works you set us to do and attain the rewards you promise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Joseph for Employment: Dear Saint Joseph, you were yourself once faced with the responsibility of providing the necessities of life for Jesus and Mary. Look down with fatherly compassion upon me in my anxiety with my present inability to support my family. Please help me find gainful employment very soon, so that this great burden of concern will be lifted from my heart and that I am soon able to provide for those whom God has entrusted to my care. Help me guard against discouragement, so that I may emerge from this trial spiritually enriched and with even greater blessings from God. Amen.

Contemplation (in relation to today's feast): Do you find yourself in need of prayer looking for work these days? The Prayer to Saint Joseph for Employment (above) is presented today in the hope it might provide some relief and comfort to those who find themselves in this situation. Do not despair! Seek this great Saint's help in carrying the vexing and at times quite bitter cross of being out of work, remembering always that you always have great worth in the eyes of God no matter what your situation may be.

Contemplation: Worth contemplating on this Feast is a brief excerpt from a document of the Second Vatican Council "The Church in the Modern World" – *Gaudium et Spes* – which notes: "Throughout the course of the centuries, men have labored to better the circumstances of their lives through a monumental amount of individual and collective effort. To believers, this point is settled: considered in itself, this human activity accords with God's will. For man, created to God's image, received a mandate to subject to himself the earth and all it contains, and to govern the world with justice and holiness; a mandate to relate himself and the totality of things to Him Who was to be acknowledged as the Lord and Creator of all. Thus, by the subjection of all things to man, the name of God would be wonderful in all the earth" (No. 34).

About today's Feast: "May Day" has long been dedicated to labor and the working man. It falls on the first day of the month that is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pope Pius XII expressed the hope that this feast would accentuate the dignity of labor and would bring a spiritual dimension to labor unions. It is eminently fitting that Saint Joseph, a working man who became the foster-father of Christ and patron of the Universal Church, should be honored on this day. The texts of the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours provide a catechetical synthesis of the significance of human labor seen in the light of faith. The Opening Prayer states that God, the creator and ruler of the universe, has called men and women in every age to develop and use their talents for the good of others. Then, in the second part of the Opening Prayer, we ask that we may do the work that God has asked of us and come to the rewards he has promised. In many of the documents issued by Pope Saint John XXIII, Pope Saint Paul VI, the Second Vatican Council and Pope Saint John Paul II, reference is made to the Christian spirit that should permeate one's work, after the example of Saint Joseph.

Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition* © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner. Prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

frlumpe:2026



Prayer List

If you would like our parish to pray for loved ones who are ill at home, hospitalized, or are active duty military, fill out our *Bulletin Prayer Request Form* via the QR code, www.bit.ly/Bulletin-Prayer-List or call the Parish Office. The list is updated every 3-6 months; 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

Pamela Theado	Ira Katz	Mary Murphy Smith
Doris Cobbs	Ora Johnson	Daffine Papaly
Richard Jones	Francis Drlik	Sarah Ortlieb
Donna Fox-Moore	Dolores Lynch	Alida Sfalcin
Connie Carrino	Ryan Yoder	Alyson Barnheiser
Lisa Lynch	Chris Carrino	Alan LaForrest
Sara Conway	Shirley Tornik	Jim Lewis
Sean Grier	Paula Jordan	Teresa Wells
Alma Harding	Richard Walls	Mary DeStefani
Karl "Sonny" Beem	Marian Woolum	Bryan Knapp
Eileen Wilson	Dochia Finsterbusch	Gib Bickel
Dionisia Virtudazo	Dick Snyder	Kathleen McCurdy
Ryan Diepenbrock	Alisha Lause	Amelia Black
Brenda Bezan	Robert William	Anna D'Ettorre
Ken Weitmarshen	Eliott Verrilli	Suzzette Briones
Shirley Buswell		

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

Thomas Dye	Kale Grunenwald	Addison A.
Aaron Huesman	Cody Longstreth	Connor Olson
Sam Imwalle	Jackson Maassel	Dan Severance
Christopher Keck	Rick Shonkwiler	Trevor Pfirrmann
Robert Carollo	Rob Shonkwiler	Zackery Reed
Kyle Mullins	Luke Stumphauzer	Robbie Hite
Joe Alverson	Thomas Noel	Nathaniel Mattson
Ross McDonald		

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

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, APRIL 27

6:30 AM Intention for Geoffery Mowery
 8:00 AM For the needs of parishioners as we begin the week.
 5:30 PM Mary Jo Ritzenthaler †

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

6:30 AM Mitzie Toth †
 8:00 AM Mitzie Toth †

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

6:30 AM Intention for Chris Mowery
 5:30 PM Ed Moleski †

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

6:30 PM Intention for Annie Mowery
 8:00 AM Frank & Mary Kreber †

FRIDAY, MAY 1

6:30 PM Intention for Luke Mowery
 8:00 AM Frank & Mary Kreber †

SATURDAY, MAY 2

8:00 AM Intention for Owen Mowery
 5:30 PM Doug Romer †

SUNDAY, MAY 3

Fifth Sunday of Easter

7:15 AM For the People of St. Brendan Parish
 8:45 AM Joseph Hamrock †
 10:45 AM For the Protection of the Unborn
 5:30 PM Intention for Nadine Byrne
 († Intention for deceased.)

MASS INTENTION DATES AVAILABILITY:

There are open dates on our Mass Intention calendar beginning in June, 2026.



Marriage Banns

Announcing the wedding of Olivia Temelkoff of St. Brendan the Navigator, Hilliard, and Paul Rivera of Immaculate Conception, Columbus, who plan to be married at St. John Neumann, on May 9, 2026. We wish Olivia and Paul God's blessing as they unite as husband and wife! Any known reason why this marriage should not happen, report it to Father Michael Lumpe.



TO THE FAMILIES OF:

Luigi DiTommaso (bit.ly/LuigiDiTommaso)
 Anna Marie Davis (bit.ly/Anna-Davis)



Flowers for the Altar

In memory of my Mother, Dolores D'Amico and in celebration of our Granddaughter, Mia Aviana Kessler, on her First Holy Communion Day. ~Valerie & John Scheel



Congratulations

ON THE BAPTISMS OF:

Oliver Michael Lewis
 Lucy Adele Ryan
 Callum Thomas Klepcyk

Eucharistic Adoration

Sign up at www.stbrendan.weadorehim.com

MONDAY 6 PM-10 PM
TUE./THU./FRI. 8:30 AM-10 PM
First Fridays, 8:30 AM through Saturday, 1 PM
WEDNESDAY 7 AM-5 PM
Holy Hour, 6-7 PM with Confession
SATURDAY 8:30 AM-1 PM
SUNDAY 6:30 PM-10 PM



The WIZARD of OZ



BRAVO! St. Brendan School's Performance of The Wizard of Oz

If you missed the performance this past weekend, we are sharing highlights from *The Wizard of Oz* performed by our school students. We would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and time to put on this production which was a huge success!



SVdP Thrift Store Donation Drive at St Brendan

Thank you for your support!

Record-Breaking Donation Drive Last Weekend!



The St. Brendan St. Vincent de Paul conference and Knights of Columbus want to thank you, St. Brendan Parishioners! Our 2026 St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store Drive was a HUGE success. This year was our largest collection yet—we filled **four trailers and two box trucks** with items that can now be used to help those in need in our community. In total, about **9,000 cubic feet of donations** were collected, which translates to **approximately \$40,000** in SVdP Thrift Store priced merchandise they can sell. Imagine the joy on the faces of those who will receive these “pre-loved treasures.” A child riding one of the bikes for the first time, a family finding warmth in donated clothes, someone regaining dignity through simple household essentials. Every item collected represents St. Brendan Parishioners’ generosity, care, and a commitment to uplifting others. Also, more **than 55 parishioners** generously volunteered their time and talent to help collect the donations. God Bless! For inquiries about St. Vincent de Paul Society, email Heather Carrier at heathercsvdp@gmail.com



Turn in Your Cookies!

Kairos Prison Ministry cookie bags are available in the church gathering area with instructions. Please drop off your cookies now through **April 29**. Scan the QR code or visit <https://tinyurl.com/kairos-donation> to make a monetary donation to help pay for volunteer and resident meals OR, drop a check off at the Parish Office made to "Kairos of Ohio." Questions? Email Tim at tireno04@gmail.com



Seniors NOW (For those 65+)

MAY 1, FRIDAY, 8 AM – First Friday Mass followed by breakfast at Cafe Elena (2054 Crown Plaza, Columbus.)

MAY 11, MONDAY, 12 PM – Lunch at El Vaquero, (3580 W. Dublin Granville Rd.)

1st Friday Adoration, May 1

Our next First Friday Adoration will take place on Friday, May 1 at 8:30 AM through Saturday, May 2 at 1 PM. Adorers are still needed, especially during the overnight hours. Sign up to spend an hour with Jesus at <https://stbrendan.weadorehim.com>

2026 Men's Retreat

The 2026 Men's Retreat, "*Memento Mori, Remember Your Death*" is May 30-31. Cost is \$140. Visit <https://bit.ly/2025men-retreat> to register/pay online by May 16 OR, pay by check (made to "Knights of Columbus 11208") via the paper form/information sheet on the Welcome Desk. Fill out and mail form to: Mike Gunnarson, 6928 Ernest Way, Dublin, OH 43017 Questions? Email Mikegunnarson@gmail.com



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Training, April 26

Interested in distributing Communion at Mass? Attend our training session on Sunday, April 26, 7 PM in the church (after 5:30 PM Mass). Learn the guidelines and procedures for giving the most precious gift to others at Mass. EMHCs must be at least 16 years old (Confirmed) and a participating parishioner. Choose your preferred Mass and how often you volunteer through our online scheduler. Sign up for the training at <https://bit.ly/2026EMHC> or via the QR code by filling out the ParishStaq form. Questions? Email Deacon Doug Saunders at deacondoug@stbrendans.net



Attn. High School Seniors

We're planning a Baccalaureate Mass for parish graduating high school seniors including those attending public or private high schools or homeschool. Please fill out the survey at <https://bit.ly/stb2026seniors> (or via the QR code) to let us know if there is an interest for this special Mass and which date you prefer (5/7 or 5/21). Questions? Email Nell at doconnell@stbrendans.net



Rosary for Vocations

1. Make the *Sign of the Cross*. Then, pray the *Apostles' Creed*.
2. On this first bead pray the *Our Father*.
3. On these 3 beads pray 3 *Hail Marys*.
4. Here, between the beads, pray the *Glory be*.
5. Announce: "The 5 *Joyful* (or *Sorrowful*, or *Glorious*) *Mysteries*. The first (*Joyful*) *Mystery*, The *Annunciation*." Read the vocations intention. Then pray the *Our Father*.
6. Pray 10 *Hail Marys*.
7. Between the beads pray the *Glory be* & the *Decade Prayer*.
8. Announce the second mystery, pray the *Our Father* & repeat steps 6 & 7. Then do the same with the remaining 3 decades.
9. After having finished all 5 decades, conclude by praying the *Hail Holy Queen* & the final prayer (*Let us pray*).

(The asterisks * in the prayers denote the split between the leader's part and that of the others when praying in groups.)

The Apostles' Creed: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.*

The Our Father: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. **Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen*

The Hail Mary: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. **Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

The Glory Be (The Doxology): Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

The Fatima Prayer (always said in unison): O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need of Thy Mercy. Amen.

The Hail Holy Queen (The Salve Regina): Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the Blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Let us pray: (all) O God, whose Only Begotten Son, by His life, Death, and Resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



1. SIGN OF THE CROSS

Joyful Mysteries

1st Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation.

Mary answers "Yes" to God's call. Even though it was unexpected and the Archangel gives her only the details she needs to know at the present moment, she responds generously. Let us offer this decade for those who are being called to the priesthood or religious life that they, like Mary, may have the grace to respond whole-heartedly.

2nd Joyful Mystery: The Visitation.

Mary wastes no time in acting upon the grace of her vocation. Through her cooperation the plan of salvation is already unfolding. Let us offer this decade for those who have been called but are hesitating. May God's grace hurry them forward to answer the call and thus begin to labor for the harvest.

3rd Joyful Mystery: The Nativity.

Our Savior comes to us in the midst of a family. How crucial is the role of the family! Let us offer this decade for all parents that they may provide an atmosphere of love and faith in the home. May parents thus help foster their children's vocations.

4th Joyful Mystery: The Presentation.

Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the Temple and dedicated Him to Almighty God. They knew their Son was a gift from God to be given back to Him. Let us offer this decade for the grace parents need to recognize the gift of their children and thus offer them to the Divine plan of God. May His will determine every moment of their lives.

5th Joyful Mystery: The Finding of Jesus in the Temple.

This mystery tells of a very unplanned event in the life of Joseph and Mary. For days their hearts ached with sorrow until they found their Son. Let us offer this decade for those parents who find it difficult to understand and thus support their child's vocation as a priest or religious. May they be graced with the faith to support God's will for their children and, like Joseph and Mary, to hold the mysterious ways of God in their hearts.

Luminous Mysteries

1st Luminous Mystery: The Baptism of Jesus.

The mystery of our Lord's Baptism is the mystery of Jesus taking upon Himself the mission of the Messiah. Thus begins His public ministry. Let us offer this decade for those who are called to the priesthood and religious life, but are afraid to answer because of what others may say or think. Grant them courage, O Lord, to accept the mission you are giving them.

2nd Luminous Mystery: The Wedding Feast of Cana.

Through the intercession of Mary, Jesus transforms ordinary water into extraordinary wine. What incredible things God's grace can do in our lives! Let us offer this decade for those who are being called, but doubt that they have much to offer. May they trust in the power of God to bring all things to completion and say "yes" to His call.

3rd Luminous Mystery: The Proclamation of the Kingdom.

Our Lord begins His public ministry by announcing the arrival of the Kingdom of God. What joyous news this is for all humanity to hear! Let us offer this decade for an increase in vocations that there might be many more priests and religious who will proclaim this truth and bear witness to it with their lives.

4th Luminous Mystery: The Transfiguration.

Jesus strengthened the faith of His Apostles by allowing His divinity to be momentarily perceived. He wished them to gain a supernatural perspective on His forthcoming Passion and Death. Let us offer this decade for all those who are being called as priests and religious that they may have the grace to recognize God's call in the midst of life and courageously accept carrying the Cross.

5th Luminous Mystery: The Institution of the Holy Eucharist.

The gift of the Most Holy Eucharist is a mystery beyond our ability to fully comprehend. Our Lord's abiding Presence in the Blessed Sacrament, the saving mystery of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – the world would suffer a great loss without these miracles. Jesus gives Himself in the Holy Eucharist through the ministry of His priests. Let us offer this decade for more priests for our archdiocese. May God call many more men to share in the Priesthood and may they respond generously.

Sorrowful Mysteries

1st Sorrowful Mystery: The Agony in the Garden.

Jesus asked His Apostles to pray so that they "might not enter into temptation." Our Lord knew they needed to pray in order to endure what would soon happen. Let us offer this decade for those men and women whom God is calling to be priests and religious, that they might have a deep and abiding life of prayer. Through the strength given to them through their spiritual life may they respond courageously to God's call.

2nd Sorrowful Mystery: The Scourging at the Pillar.

Our Lord's suffering during the scourging was excruciating. For our sake Jesus offered Himself to obtain our salvation. Let us offer this decade for the grace that many young people might feel the desire in their hearts to offer themselves to God as priests and religious.

3rd Sorrowful Mystery: The Crowning with Thorns.

Jesus endured the terrible ridicule and mockery of the soldiers even to the point of accepting the painful crown of thorns. Let us offer this decade for those who have a calling to the priesthood or religious life, but find it difficult to say "yes" because of painful obstacles in their lives. May concern for human respect never stand in their way of following God's will.

4th Sorrowful Mystery: The Carrying of the Cross.

On the way to Calvary, our Lord found comfort and assistance from a number of people: Simon of Cyrene, the women of Jerusalem, His Mother, and Veronica. How much those acts of love must have meant to Jesus! Let us offer this decade for the grace to always support, with our prayers and sacrifices, those whom God is calling to become priests and religious. May God find us seriously engaged in this very important apostolate!

5th Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus.

At the foot of the Cross, there came into existence a new type of family. Before Jesus died He entrusted to the maternal care of Mary all of humanity, represented in the person of the "beloved disciple." Through the New Covenant the notion of family is greatly enlarged, it takes on a different dimension. Let us offer this decade for those who are being called, but are hesitant because of fears of not being able to have a family and living a lonely life. Help them, O Lord, to see that in serving you as a priest or religious, their desires for family will indeed be completely fulfilled.

Glorious Mysteries

1st Glorious Mystery: The Resurrection.

Our Lord's Resurrection brought tremendous joy to His sorrowful followers. Never were their lives to be the same again. Let us offer this decade for an increase in grace in the hearts of those who are being called to be priests and religious. May they experience the immense joy of giving God their entire lives and saying "yes" to His call. Help them to realize that their unselfish response to God will change their lives forever.

2nd Glorious Mystery: The Ascension.

Jesus ascended into Heaven, not to abandon us, but to be our hope. He continually intercedes for us before the throne of the Father and prepares a place for His faithful followers in the heavenly Kingdom. Let us offer this decade for an increase in the number of priests and religious to help us strive faithfully to attain heavenly homeland. May these men and women always recognize the irreplaceable mission they have in the plan of our salvation.

3rd Glorious Mystery: The Descent of the Holy Spirit.

The coming of the Holy Spirit transformed the timid Apostles into bold witnesses for the Gospel. The Church was sent forth with courage and zeal! Let us offer this decade for the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon all He has chosen to labor as priests and religious. May they respond boldly to the invitation to lay down their lives for Christ and His Church.

4th Glorious Mystery: The Assumption of Mary.

The Second Vatican Council reminded us that Mary's role in salvation history did not end with her Assumption into Heaven. She continually intercedes for all of us, her children, as we journey through life. Let us offer this decade asking Mary's intercession. Through her prayers may the Church be granted an abundance of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

5th Glorious Mystery: The Coronation of Mary.

This mystery brings before us the beauty of the faithfulness of Mary, the first disciple of the Lord. She who referred to herself as the "handmaid of the Lord" is now exalted far above even the Angels. The one who said "yes" to God in all things is now the Queen of heaven and earth. Let us offer this decade for those who have been called that they may always have the grace to understand that to serve God is to reign with Him. Whatever sacrifices need to be made in order to live the mission God gives us will pale in comparison to the glory He has reserved for His faithful servants.

Three of the oldest images of Jesus portray Him as the “Good Shepherd”

Article by Zelda Caldwell, courtesy of Aleteia

Early Christian art found in the catacombs in Rome shows Jesus carrying a lamb on His shoulders.

The image of the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for his sheep, is found in the Gospel of John 10:11-18:

I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.

I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father.

That image can be found in the Catacombs of Rome, at a time when it was illegal to create more explicitly Christian art. The art left behind by early Christians offers us a window into their faith. Painted on the walls of the St. Callisto catacomb in Rome sometime in the middle of the 3rd century is an image of Jesus carrying a sheep across His shoulders. (Photo by DeAgostini/Getty Images)



And around the same time, or perhaps a century later, early Christians left another image of Christ as the Good Shepherd, in the Catacomb of Priscilla in Rome. Here, Jesus is portrayed with a lamb on His shoulders and two sheep at His sides, representing His flock. (Photo directly to the right.)



And in Domitilla's catacomb we find this, perhaps the earliest existing image of the Good Shepherd, dating back to the 2nd century. (Photo directly to the right.) While this image can be found in pagan cultures in which animals were offered as sacrifices to the gods, it takes on a Christian meaning inspired by the words of the New Testament.



St. Brendan
Ministry of
Evangelization
& Catechesis

Family
Faith
Formation
SAINT BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Family Faith Formation

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: First Holy Communion Masses are May 3 and 10.

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN FAMILY FAITH FORMATION FOR THE 26-27 SCHOOL YEAR

Come join other parish families at St. Brendan to learn together about your Catholic Faith and get to know more of our community! Family Faith Formation is for all families of our parish. Those with children in grades 1-8 who do not attend a Catholic school should be enrolled in Family Faith Formation, which serves as our PSR and Sacrament Preparation programs for children, but also includes content and community for parents. Learn more about our programs at <https://stbrendans.net/growing-in-faith/family-faith-formation/>

THE THREE STEPS TO REGISTER ARE:

1. Book a meeting (in person, by phone, or online) with Jacob Doran.
2. Complete a child registration for each child you would like to enroll.
3. Complete a parent registration and make payment.

Questions? Email jdoran@stbrendans.net

Roots for Middle Schoolers

The last two Roots nights are April 26 (in the Davidson Rooms) and May 17 (outside.)

THE ROOTS RETREAT this year is 6:30-8:30 PM, Friday, May 29, and 8 AM until after 5:30 PM Mass on Saturday, May 30. Retreatants will not be spending the night, but sleeping in their own homes. Register now for the retreat at <https://stbrendan.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/319/responses/new> and email Anna with questions at amarino@stbrendans.net

Vine for High Schoolers

Sundays, 6:30 PM in the school gym.

APRIL 26 "Senior Take-over Night"

Questions? Email kshand@stbrendans.net

Athletic Scholarships

St. Brendan Athletics Association established two scholarships of \$1,000 each for one male and one female student to aid in tuition at a Catholic high school. Find the form and apply by May 8 at www.stbrendans.net/athletics

JULY 6-10, 2026

SUMMER CATHOLIC YOUTH PROGRAM

Monday-Friday, 9 AM-2:30 PM ●
 For kids entering grades 1-6 ●
 Cost is \$50 per child ●
 Includes Daily Mass! ●

We need your assistance in hosting the missionaries with meals and/or a place to sleep. If you can help, email Sarah at spennington@stbrendans.net

Register Here

TOTUS TUUS

Led by Trained Missionaries and Seminarists!

The Next Date Night is May 1

Knights of Columbus next sponsored Date Night for Young Couples is **Friday, May 1**, from 6:30-8 PM in the Davidson Rooms. Childcare is available. Strengthen your relationship while enjoying dinner with other couples! \$35 covers all Date Nights through June, 2026. To join us, email Chuck at chuck436@att.net

Weekly/Monthly Ministries

Elizabeth Ministry Playgroup – Meet other moms twice monthly on Wednesdays in the Pod Nursery from 9:45-11:15 AM, as the kids play! Questions? Email thelonggears@gmail.com

St. Brendan Young Adults – Those in their 20s & 30s meet on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays monthly, 7-9 PM. Women meet off-campus. Men meet in the Carter Center. To join us, email Jorden Frey at jfreydesigns@gmail.com

Esto Vir Men's Ministry – Study Scripture at 6:30 AM in the Davidson Rooms on **Saturdays** or **Tuesday**. Questions? Email Grant Rice at ricekris8813@att.net

Church Cleaning Ministry – Meet Mondays at 9 AM in the church for light cleaning. Questions? Email Lisa at lisaploug@gmail.com

M.A.S.T. (Mature Active Singles Together) is a social group for single/widowed/divorced persons, ages 45+. To join, email Chris Hauck at chrishauck0522@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Workshop – 1st Saturdays & 3rd Wednesdays in the Carter Center. We can teach you crochet/knitting! Questions? Email Kathy or Karen: kendriz@aol.com, kkessmith@yahoo.com

SVdP, Make Sandwiches for the Homeless Meet in Wellnitz Hall twice monthly on: 1st Thursdays, 10 AM and 3rd Thursdays, 7 PM. Questions? Email heathercsvdp@gmail.com

To Place an Ad in Our Bulletin: Contact Kati at: kati@deeprinting.com, 614-777-8700. Thanks to Dee Printing and our sponsors, the bulletin is provided at no cost to the parish. **Our Sponsor-of-the-Week is: GRANDAD'S PIZZA & PUB**

Around the Diocese

A Day of Shrines & Wines (Presented by Cradling Christianity) – Tuesday, June 9, our bus trip to Cincinnati boards at St. Andrew Church at 8:15 AM and pairs with a mini-retreat at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center with a wine-tasting event at Vinoklet Winery. Partake in Adoration, Mass and a presentation with wine and cheese served (no solicitations). \$125/person includes bus ride, tour guides, lunch, wine tasting and gratuities. Questions? Call Sharon: 614-204-5111. Register at <https://ffhl.org/regions/columbus/rsvp>

Catholic Book Fair is this Sunday, April 26

See you at the

BOOK FAIR



Join us at our Catholic Book Fair after the 8:45 and 10:45 Masses this Sunday, April 26 in the School Library. Find both Catholic books and classics, great for young shoppers or for adults seeking gifts for children or First Communicants!

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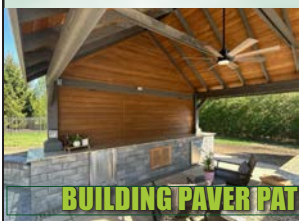
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