

08
23
26

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus:
"Who do you
say that I am?"
(Matthew 16:15)



Holy Mass*

SATURDAY VIGIL 5:30 PM

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

Daily Mass*

MON./WED. 6:30 AM, 8 AM, 5:30 PM

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

SATURDAY 8 AM

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

Reconciliation*

WEDNESDAY 6-7 PM (during Adoration)

SATURDAY Following 8 AM Mass or, schedule Confession with one of our priests by calling the parish office.

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

MINISTERS TO THE PARISH: 614-876-1272

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Information Center

Parish Office Hours
M-F, 8:30 AM-12 PM & 1-4 PM

Church Hours
M-F & Sunday, 6 AM-10 PM;
Saturday, 6 AM-6 PM

St. Brendan School
Phone: 614-876-6132,
Fax: 614-529-8929

New Members: Visit
stbrendans.net/welcome
and fill out a New Member
Registration form or call the
parish office at 614-876-1272.

Marriage: Fill out a Marriage
Request form at least six
months prior to your wedding.
Marriage prep is required.
Questions? Email Valerie Scheel
weddingplanner@stbrendans.net

Baptisms: 12 PM most
Sundays. For details, visit
stbrendans.net/baptism
or for questions, email
baptism@stbrendans.net.
Baptism Prep 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 mos.-4 years old)
Questions or to volunteer:
nursery@stbrendans.net

**OCIA (Order of Christian
Initiation of Adults):** Curious
about the Catholic faith?
Contact Wendy Ferkany at
wferkany@stbrendans.net
614-876-1272, ext. 291 or

**Ministry of Evangelization
& Catechesis (Family Faith
Formation):** Contact Jacob
Doran: 614-876-1272, ext. 231

Marketing/Bulletin Request:
stbrendans.net/marketing or
marketing@stbrendans.net

Mass Intentions: Fill out a
Mass Intention envelope (in
the Church Gathering Space)
with \$10 cash/check or the
online form at <https://tinyurl.com/intentions4mass>

Candle Donations: \$2 for large
candles and 25¢ for small votives.

Flowers for the Altar: Visit
<https://tinyurl.com/flowers4altar>
to remember a loved one or for a
special intention (published in
the bulletin.) \$75 donation. Actual
cost is \$109 so, extra is welcomed!

**Ministry of Care for the
Homebound:** To receive
Eucharist at home or a facility,
email Nell O'Connell at
doconnell@stbrendans.net

Protecting God's Children:
Register at www.virtus.org or
tinyurl.com/StBrendanPGC

Navigator News/ParishStaq
Visit stbrendan.ccbchurch.com to
receive or weekly e-newsletter 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/](http://www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/stbrendans)
ministry@stbrendans.net or, email
ministryscheduler@stbrendans.net
for liturgical scheduling questions.

Facebook: StBrendanofHilliard

Instagram:
Parish @stbrendanhilliard
School @saintbrendanschool
Vine @stbvine
Roots @stb_theroots
Young Adults @stbya

Livestream: Parish YouTube—
SaintBrendantheNavigatorHilliard
OR Facebook: [facebook.com/](https://facebook.com/StBrendanHilliardyoutube.com/c/)
StBrendanHilliardyoutube.com/c/
Mass Livestream schedule:

- Sunday, 10:45 AM
- Mon./Wed., 5:30 PM
- Tue./Thu./Fri./Sat., 8 AM

Share your Parish event photos
Upload photos at stbstories.net
and hit "submit" so we can share
the many happenings with our
parish and school through our
bulletin and social media!

St. Margaret of Cortona Preschool
Contact Andrea Boyd, Director/
Lead Teacher, at 614-274-1922 or
aboyd@cdeducation.org



From Our Pastor

ON THIS TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, today's Gospel presents Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah and Christ's powerful response: "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:19). In this gift, Christ reminds us that we do not walk the journey of faith alone or rely merely on personal opinion or the fluctuating currents of our culture. By giving Peter the keys, Jesus established a living and authoritative teaching office in the Church. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Magisterium helps the faithful remain rooted in the

unchanging truth of the Gospel. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, "The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God...has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the Church alone" (CCC 85).

This sacred authority is not meant to impose burdens, but to guide, protect, and encourage us on the path of salvation. Like a loving mother, the Church helps us walk faithfully in the footsteps of Christ so that we may share eternal life with Him. Pope Saint John Paul II expressed this beautifully when he taught that the Church's moral teaching serves the truth, helps people live in the freedom of God's children, and leads them toward full and authentic love (*Veritatis Splendor*, 4, 18).

The Gospel teachings of Jesus challenge the assumptions of every age, including our own. Relativism, individualism, hedonism, and materialism can promise "freedom" while leaving the soul restless and empty. Christ lovingly calls us instead to the path of self-denial, purity of mind and heart, and faithful obedience to Him and to His Gospel. Far from being a burden, this obedience out of love for Him opens the way to true freedom and lasting joy. Saint Paul urges us, "Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind" (Romans 12:2), and the Acts of the Apostles reminds us, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

Each of us, then, is invited to ask honestly and prayerfully: Whom do I follow, and why? Do I follow the noisy and fleeting trends of the culture, or do I follow Jesus Christ – the Good Shepherd, the Son of God, our Savior and Redeemer – who continues to speak to us through His Church? This is also related to the question Jesus asks in today's Gospel: "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). (Note: To help answer this question, I have included an article in this bulletin.)

Choosing Christ is an intentional act of love on our part and is our way of returning the love that Christ has for us. This choice requires resistance to certain ways of the world that can draw us away from following Jesus. As Father Thomas Merton, OCSO, observed, "Care of the soul requires a high degree of resistance to the culture around us, simply because that culture is dedicated to values that have no concern for the soul." Folks, let's plant our feet firmly on the rock of apostolic truth. As Christ's disciples, let's walk arm-in-arm together, support one another, and pray for each other as we journey on the narrow but beautiful path mapped out by Christ and His Church, trusting in the immense grace of God and allowing the Church, our loving guide, to help lead us safely to our eternal home.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR & CONGRATULATIONS to the men and women who became fully initiated members of the Catholic Church on August 15 while celebrating the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was a joyous day for them and their family members and friends who attended the Mass. Please continue to keep them in your prayers and be sure to view the center section of this bulletin for photos from the Mass and individual photos of each new member of our Parish Family!

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR is underway at our Parish School, along with many other schools that our parishioner-students attend. Our Parish Family Faith Formation Program is getting underway, along with our new Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program, plus all our Youth Ministry programs. As Saint John Bosco once said: "If we want to have a good society, we must concentrate all our forces on the Christian education of the young. Experience has taught me that if we wish to sustain civil society then we should take good care of the young." Please pray for our students, parents, catechists, teachers, aides, youth ministry leaders and volunteers as this new year begins.

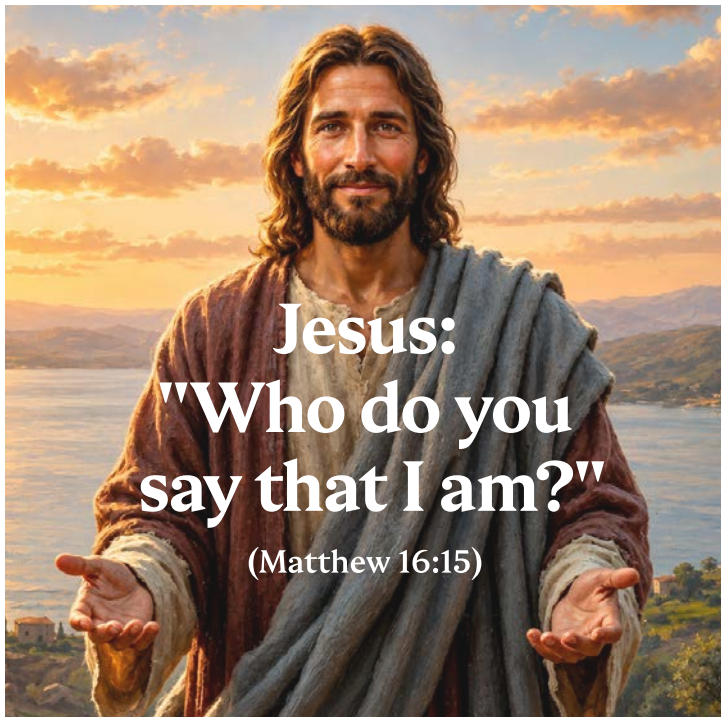
ALL ARE INVITED to join us for a special 5:30 PM Mass on Thursday, August 27, as we celebrate the Memorial of Saint Monica who, for nearly two decades, wept and prayed fervently for the conversion of her wayward son, Augustine. Her unwavering faith and tears were ultimately rewarded when Augustine embraced Christ, eventually becoming one of the Church's greatest doctors and saints. This powerful mother-son legacy reminds us that no soul is beyond the reach of God's grace. We especially invite all who are praying for family members or loved ones who have strayed from Jesus and His Catholic Church to come, pray with us, and renew their trust that patient, persistent prayer is heard by God. (Two articles on these saints are included in this bulletin.)

BISHOP FERNANDES is asking the Catholic faithful to support a special collection on August 29 and 30 for the Diocesan Spirit of Hope Fund, which will support relief efforts in Perry and Muskingum Counties of our Diocese, where many people were seriously affected by major flooding after the storms and heavy rains during the week of August 10. Donations to this fund will also help the Diocese respond to future disasters. Please prayerfully support our brothers and sisters in need.

THIS IS A BIG CAMPUS with several buildings and dozens of rooms, all of which – like our homes – need attention, repair, and upgrading from time to time; see the list in this bulletin of projects that were undertaken during the summer. Thank you for your ongoing support through the Weekly Offertory which makes these projects possible, with ongoing thanks to Pete Shearer and our Maintenance Team for their hard work!

Fr. Mike

Fr. Michael Lumpe, Pastor



Jesus:
"Who do you
say that I am?"
(Matthew 16:15)

Each of us must answer this most important question.

Article by Fr. Michael Lumpe.

The question Jesus asks in Matthew 16:15 – “*Who do you say that I am?*” – is not a historical trivia question. It is a direct, intimate challenge posed to each and every one of us, to every human heart, by Jesus Himself. When Simon Peter answered, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,*” Jesus revealed that this truth was not discovered by flesh and blood, but by the Father in Heaven.

Today, that same question echoes in our own lives. To answer it truly, we must move beyond a superficial understanding of Jesus and embark on a deep journey of personal introspection.

The Mirror of the Soul: An Introspective Challenge

Answering Jesus requires looking inward. We live in a world filled with noise, distractions, and competing identities. It is easy to inherit a faith or to view Jesus merely as a good moral teacher, a historical figure, or a comfort in times of trouble.

But Jesus demands more. He asks, “*Who do you say that I am?*” This demands a personal verdict.

As Pope Benedict XVI famously wrote in his encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*: “*Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction*” (DCE 1).

To prepare our hearts to answer Him, we must contemplate the sheer depth of Who He is. Scripture, tradition, and the liturgy provide us with beautiful titles that reveal His character. By looking at these two dozen titles, we begin to grasp the multifaceted glory of the One who calls us:

The Christ (The Anointed One) + Son of the Living God
The Word (Logos) + Emmanuel + Lamb of God

The Good Shepherd + The Way, the Truth, and the Life
Prince of Peace + King of Kings + Alpha and Omega

The Light of the World + The Bread of Life + The True Vine
High Priest + The Resurrection and the Life

Savior and Redeemer + Lord (Kyrios) + Divine Physician
Bridegroom + Son of Man + The Amen

Wonderful Counselor + Lion of the Tribe of Judah + The Rock

There are many more titles associate with Jesus, and if we were asked to list these on a test we would likely fair well. But this is a purely academic approach to answering the question that Jesus poses to us in today’s Gospel.

The Peril of the Academic Shield

It is a dangerous spiritual trap to treat the question “*Who do you say that I am?*” as a purely academic exercise. We can master the deep complexities of Christology, memorize every title of Jesus in Greek and Latin, and debate theology with flawless precision, yet still remain completely estranged from His heart. A well-argued thesis cannot substitute for a surrendered life. When we relegate Jesus to the realm of textbooks and intellectual debate, we build a shield of information to protect ourselves from the radical transformation that His actual presence demands.

To be clear, we absolutely need to know Jesus intimately. We must study His words, pore over Sacred Scripture, and deeply comprehend what He said and taught. “Ignorance of Scripture,” as Saint Jerome famously noted, “is ignorance of Christ.” However, this foundational knowledge is meant to be a springboard, not a destination. We must take everything we learn from Him and actively apply His teachings to our daily routines. True discipleship requires actualizing His word in our ordinary moments – letting His truth confront our pride, disrupt our comfort, and challenge our habits. It is only when we allow ourselves to be genuinely challenged by Him that we stop acting as independent critics and begin to humbly follow Him as our *Good Shepherd*, trusting His voice and walking in His footsteps.

The Apostle James sharply warns us against this exact form of spiritual self-deception: “*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves*” (James 1:22).

Hearing the Word – or studying it academically – without letting it change and inspire our very lives as His disciples leaves us spiritually stagnant. A purely intellectual faith can be viewed as a dead faith – we see it merely as words on paper, but we do not let ourselves be challenged by Jesus’ teachings to live our lives in Him – we simply read and memorize His teachings without living His teachings. If we confess Him as the *Divine Physician* but never allow Him to heal our deep-seated resentments, or if we proclaim Him *Lord* while retaining total control over our own wills, we are merely hearers. Our definitive answer to Jesus must break out of the classroom and the intellect, transforming into concrete actions of charity, justice, mercy, and everyday obedience.

The Collision of Two Ways: Jesus Christ vs. The World

Ultimately, our response to Christ's inquiry is forged in the crucible of daily choice. Every hour, we are confronted with a fork in the road: we can choose the way of Christ, or we can choose the way of the world. The world offers a path paved with consumerism, relentless self-promotion, comfort, and moral compromise. It tells us that our value lies in our status, wealth, and secular approval. Christ, conversely, offers a path marked by the Cross, demanding that we deny ourselves, champion humility, and prioritize the kingdom of God above all earthly treasures.

Choosing the way of Christ means allowing His titles to dictate our morals. If He is the *Prince of Peace*, we choose reconciliation over retaliation in our broken relationships. If He is the *King of Kings*, our primary allegiance belongs to His commands rather than the fleeting, secular trends of our culture. We cannot walk with one foot on the narrow path of the Gospel and the other on the broad highway of the world. Each deliberate choice to forgive an enemy, protect the vulnerable, or speak the truth in love is a tangible declaration of Who Jesus is to us.

Beyond Words: Answering with Our Lives

While knowing these titles is essential for theology, an intellectual answer is not enough. Even the devils knew Who Jesus was, yet they did not love Him. Our ultimate answer to Matthew 16:15 cannot be written in ink or spoken purely with our lips. It must be written with the choices we make every single day.

To confess Jesus as *Lord* means that our time, our money, our relationships, and our secret thoughts belong to Him. To confess Him as the *Good Shepherd* means we must actually follow where He leads, even when the path is difficult.

Saint Thomas Aquinas, in his *Summa Theologiae*, reminds us that faith must be formed by charity (love) to be living and saving. He wrote: "*Charity is the life of the soul, even as the soul is the life of the body*" (ST II-II, Q. 23, A. 2).

If we truly understand Who Jesus is through His titles, our lives must be radically transformed into a living echo of Peter's confession. We answer His question by choosing virtue over vice, mercy over resentment, humility over pride, right versus wrong, the way of Christ versus the way of the world.

Understanding Catholic Discipleship in Christ

Catholic discipleship is an active, life-altering response to the personal question Jesus asks in Matthew 16:15: "But who do you say that I am?" Answering this question correctly requires much more than simply identifying oneself as Catholic; it demands a living faith. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, faith is not a passive title, because "*faith apart from works is dead*" (CCC 1815), and a disciple must "not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it" (CCC 1816).

Saint Augustine perfectly captured the internal shift required for this living faith when he wrote, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." True discipleship means configuring our entire lives to this divine restlessness, transforming our daily actions, thoughts, and relationships to move our faith from a mere intellectual label into a living, breathing reality.

Authentic discipleship also demands that we conform our lives to the Gospel message exactly as Christ delivered it, resisting the modern urge to edit or redefine His teachings to fit our situation in life or personal comfort. It is a dangerous temptation to reshape Christian morality to align with contemporary ideologies, or to put words in Jesus' mouth. As the Church teaches, "*the task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God... has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the Church alone*" (CCC 85).

Warning against the human habit of selective obedience, Saint Augustine bluntly stated, "*If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself.*" A true disciple does not bend the timeless truth of the Church to accommodate a subjective lifestyle, because "man's faculties are diminished by original sin, but he remains free to assent to the truth" (CCC 1704–1705). To proclaim Jesus as Lord means accepting Him on His own terms, letting His words challenge, convert, and guide us every day, in every facet of our lives.

Living Faithfully and Lovingly

Living faithfully means remaining steadfast when the emotions of faith fade. It means showing up to the Sacraments, spending time in Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, and serving the "least of these" in our communities.

Pope Saint John Paul II issued a powerful charge to young people at World Youth Day 2000 that perfectly captures this lifelong response: "*It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; He is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is He who provoked you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise.*"

When we stop compromising with the world and surrender entirely to Him, our lives become an undeniable testimony. We tell the world Who Jesus is by how love flows through us.

Take a moment in the silence of your heart today. Look at the crucifix. Hear Him ask you plainly, without the crowd, without being influenced by the opinions of others: "*Who do you say that I am?*"

Let our answers be a renewed choice to live faithfully, lovingly, and entirely for Jesus as true doers of His Word.

DIOCESAN "SPIRIT OF HOPE" DECREE & SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

We pray for all families impacted by the storms that affected our Diocese last week, particularly those displaced and affected by the historic flooding in Perry and Muskingum Counties. Bishop Fernandes is asking all parishes to conduct a Second Collection next weekend, August 29-30 for the Diocese of Columbus Spirit of Hope Disaster Response Fund. 100 percent of all money raised will be used to support the work of parishes in the affected areas and to organizations like Catholic Social Services and local St. Vincent de Paul conferences which are providing relief efforts. Checks can be made out to St. Brendan, with "SPIRIT OF HOPE" in the memo line. Or, give online, directly on the Diocesan website at ColumbusCatholic.org or during the Second collection next weekend.

JANUARY 10, 2026 THROUGH JANUARY 10, 2027

Jubilee Year of St. Francis



THE LANTERN OF TRUTH: Cultivating Wisdom and Virtue in the Light of Christ

As we embark on a new academic year in our Parish School and in our community schools, the classrooms hum with that familiar “beginning of the new school year” anticipation. Desks are wiped clean, walls painted, floors waxed, repairs/updates completed, backpacks are filled, and minds are primed for discovery and learning. Yet, in an era defined by a deluge of digital information and automated technologies, our young people face a vital question: *What is the true purpose of learning?*

To help find the answer, we look to Saint Francis of Assisi. Though often remembered solely for his love of creation, the Seraphic Father left a profound spiritual roadmap for education. His life teaches us that true education is never merely the frictionless retrieval of facts or reliance on external machinery. Instead, it is the transformative, hard-fought formation of the soul in the light of the Gospel.

The Franciscan Core: Knowledge Subservient to Love

A common misconception is that Saint Francis opposed academic study. In reality, he opposed the pride that often accompanies unguided intellect. For Saint Francis, knowledge divorced from Christ was a dangerous vanity. His earliest companions noted that he “*preferred that they be good through love rather than be dilettantes through curiosity*” (*The Assisi Compilation*, 47).

The defining moment for Franciscan education occurred between 1223 and 1224 when Saint Francis penned a historic letter to a brilliant scholar – Saint Anthony of Padua. In this text, Saint Francis formally authorized Saint Anthony to teach, writing: “*It pleases me that you read sacred theology to the friars, so long as in the study of this you 'do not extinguish the spirit of prayer and devotion'...*” (*Letter to Brother Anthony*).

Saint Francis warned against seeking knowledge merely for status. To guide his students away from intellectual pride, the great Franciscan theologian Saint Bonaventure famously summarized the goal of Franciscan scholarship: “*If you learn everything except Christ, you learn nothing. If you learn nothing except Christ, you learn everything*” (from *Sermons on Christ the One Teacher*). In his masterpiece, *The Journey of the Mind to God*, he concluded that scholars must ultimately look beyond textbooks to find true wisdom, advising them to “*ask grace not instruction, desire not understanding, the groaning of prayer not diligent reading... God not man.*” Through this framework, Saint Bonaventure ensured that the pursuit of higher learning never abandoned the simple, burning charity modeled by Saint Francis. This serves as the bedrock of Catholic education. Learning is a sacred duty, but it must also fuel our love for God and neighbor. When our students study mathematics,

science, literature, or history, they are not just preparing for secular careers, they are learning to think deeply and recognize the footprint of God the Creator in all of reality.

Guarding Young Minds Against the “Technocratic Paradigm”

Our young people do not learn in a vacuum. They grow up in a culture filled with powerful messages, constant distractions, and secular visions of what defines “the good life.” At times, this culture can prize metrics over morals, convenience over critical thought, and efficiency over wisdom, which is why Catholic education must help students learn discernment as well as information.

The Church has long taught that education should form the whole person, not only the intellect. In his 1929 encyclical on Christian education, *Divini Illius Magistri*, Pope Pius XI emphasized that *education* reaches its fullness when it is ordered toward the human person’s final end and the good of society.

This concern is especially important in a highly digitized world. Automated tools can assist learning when used responsibly, but they should never replace the human work of attention, imagination, writing, and moral judgment. As Pope Leo XIV warns in his encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*, the sheer speed of automated tools “*risks extinguishing the desire to ask questions*” and flatters us with the dangerous “*temptation of making human thought seem superfluous*” (MH 142). Catholic education should therefore teach students not simply to use technology, but to use it wisely, freely, and in service of seeking the truth in order to live the truth.

In response, our schools and families must work together to form young people who can navigate the digital life with prudence and confidence. This means protecting attention, encouraging honest effort, and helping students choose tools that support rather than weaken their growth in wisdom and virtue. This vital task requires a united community, echoing the Holy Father’s call for adults to act as true “artisans of education” through an active “partnership between families, schools, and communities” as they guide youth through this new digital continent (MH 184).

Furthermore, true formation requires us to rethink our relationship with “failure.” While a technical error is merely a bug for an algorithm to optimize, the encyclical beautifully reminds us that for a human being, an error can instead become “*a catalyst for profound change, a space for personal freedom, and a milestone in the search for truth*” (MH 121). By embracing this perspective, our homes and classrooms can cultivate environments where honest mistakes are

understood not as systemic failures, but simply as “part of life” and steps toward normal growth experiences and human maturity.

The Catholic Vision: Harmony of Faith, Reason and Human Virtue

Catholic education avoids the trap of intellectual shortcuts. It recognizes that faith and reason are the two wings by which the human spirit rises to contemplate the truth. The Second Vatican Council's landmark declaration, *Gravissimum Educationis*, emphasizes that “...a true education aims at the formation of the human person in the pursuit of his ultimate end and of the good of the societies of which, as man, he is a member, and in whose obligations, as an adult, he will share” (GE, 1).

Therefore, Catholic education offers a distinctive formation by harmonizing three key areas:

- **Intellectual Excellence:** Mastering sciences and arts through personal effort to confidently engage the world.
- **Moral Fortitude:** Developing regular habits to choose what is right and reject dishonest shortcuts.
- **Spiritual Devotion:** Nurturing an intimate, ongoing relationship through prayer with Jesus Christ.

By weaving personal academic discipline together with the virtues, we teach students how to think rather than just what to copy. They learn to view the world through the lens of the timeless truths of Christ's teachings. This enables them to spot digital falsehoods, reject harmful peer or technological pressures, and counter secular narratives with the timeless truths of the Gospel.

A Call to Action for the New Academic Year

Students, parents, and educators: at the beginning of this academic year, let us pray that this year will be a journey toward seeking and acquiring genuine wisdom. Let's not let secular culture or automated tools dull one's zeal for truth. Instead, take up your studies with the same passion that Saint Francis of Assisi brought to rebuilding San Damiano.

- **Students:** View your homework, writing, and exams as a form of worship, giving thanks to God for your gifts, abilities and talents. Do not outsource your mind to AI; instead, train your intellect so that you can use your unique, God-given skills and abilities not only to learn and grow in knowledge and wisdom, but to serve those in need.
- **Parents:** Remember that you are the primary educators of your children. Guard their minds by fostering a home centered on prayer, truth, and Scripture, establishing boundaries against distracting technologies (MH).
- **Teachers:** Model Christ in your classrooms daily. Challenge your students to read deeply and write authentically, ensuring faith and knowledge grow together.

Let us echo the final prayer of Saint Francis, who asked God for the grace to do what was pleasing and to teach others by his example. By keeping our classrooms (and homes) anchored in Christ, we can help our young people grow into beacons of Christian hope, love, and authentic wisdom, steady amid the pressures of the world.

THE FINAL PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

"Almighty, eternal, just, and merciful God, grant us the grace to do for Your sake what we know You want us to do, and always to desire what pleases You. Inwardly cleansed, interiorly enlightened, and inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit, may we follow in the footprints of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Keep us fiercely loyal to the teachings of Your Holy Catholic Church, that we may live the Holy Gospel without compromise until the end. Amen."

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

- 6:30 AM Marta Anaya †
8:00 AM For the needs of our parishioners as they begin the week
5:30 PM Trudy Lingnau †

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

- 6:30 AM Special Intention: Mazur Family
8:00 AM Special Intention: Sizemore Family

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

- 6:30 AM Felipe Nolasco †
5:30 PM Barbara Thissen †

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

- 6:30 AM Huso Anaya †
8:00 AM Ray Leo †
5:30 PM Jean Morris †

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

- 6:30 AM Hortensia Barbo †
8:00 AM Frank Blateri †

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

- 8:00 AM Bill Sauer †
5:30 PM Joseph C. Rielly, Sr. †

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:15 AM For the People of St. Brendan Parish
8:45 AM Jack & Michael Pugh †
10:45 AM William P. McCleave †
5:30 PM Mike & Sue Sullivan †

(† Intention is for someone deceased.)

Mass Intention Online Form Is Now Available

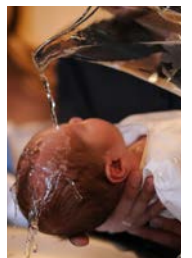
Besides making Mass Intentions using our envelope form found in the Church Gathering Space and paying \$10 cash or check, we now also offer an online form allowing for credit/debit card payments. Access it via the QR code or: <https://tinyurl.com/intentions4mass>



Congratulations

ON THE BAPTISMS OF:

Nolan James Brewer
Quinn Amelia Coletta
Mila Noelle Koken
Fynnan Isaac McConkey
Caleb Osborn Van Fleet
Ethan Vitale Vrotsos



Persevere in Hope with Saint Monica

FEAST DAY: AUGUST 27 Article by Constance Hull courtesy of the Catholic Exchange.

There is a holy relic of St. Monica at my parish. I know she hears the pleas of many, begging for her intercession in the conversion of their loved ones who have left the Faith or who have never known Christ. She is a powerful intercessor because she spent long years praying, sacrificing, and suffering for the conversion of her son St. Augustine and her husband Patricius. Like many others, I have knelt before her holy relic, imploring her aid for the conversion of souls.

St. Monica's life is a tremendous example of perseverance, faith, and hope. She was born in Tagaste in 331 A.D., which is known today as Souk Ahras, Algeria, and is believed to be of Berber origin. At a very young age, she married Patricius who was a Roman pagan and official in Tagaste. She lived with her husband, his mother, and their three children.

Patricius was known to have a violent temper. St. Monica suffered at the hands of both her husband and mother-in-law, as well as from the waywardness of her children. Her husband did not understand her Catholic faith, and he was ill-tempered towards her prayers and alms. Yet, in what could have easily been a source of bitterness, Monica persisted in her faith despite his treatment of her.

St. Monica was greatly devoted to fervent prayer and spiritual sacrifices for the conversion of her husband, mother-in-law, and son, Augustine. One bishop responded to St. Monica's tears: "The child of those tears shall never perish." The same is true for those of us who shed tears for our lost loved ones.

St. Augustine's description of his mother's prayers, sacrifices, and almsgiving is an example to us: *"In place of a basket filled with fruits of the earth, she had learned to bring to the oratories of the martyrs a heart full of purer petitions, and to give all that she could to the poor—so that the communion of the Lord's body might be rightly celebrated in those places where, after the example of his passion, the martyrs had been sacrificed and crowned"* (Confessions, 6.2.2).

We must bring our "pure petitions" before the Lord on behalf of our lost loved ones. We must be willing to persevere for as long as it takes, while trusting in the Lord's plan and timing.

While St. Monica's fervent prayers and sacrifices paved the way at the spiritual level for the conversion of St. Augustine, it was the intervention and guidance of another who would ultimately lead to his conversion. St. Monica had to relinquish control and trust God's providence in the life of her son. She remained open to whatever His plan was for her son's life.

It was St. Ambrose who helped St. Augustine come into the Catholic Church and who was the answer to St. Monica's prayers. Oftentimes, we are incapable of reaching those we love, so as I heard from a wise woman, "we have to pray for the St. Ambroses" to come into the lives of our loved ones. When things seem darkest, we must trust that the Lord will provide the spiritual guides our loved ones need to find Christ and His Church through our prayers and sacrifices.

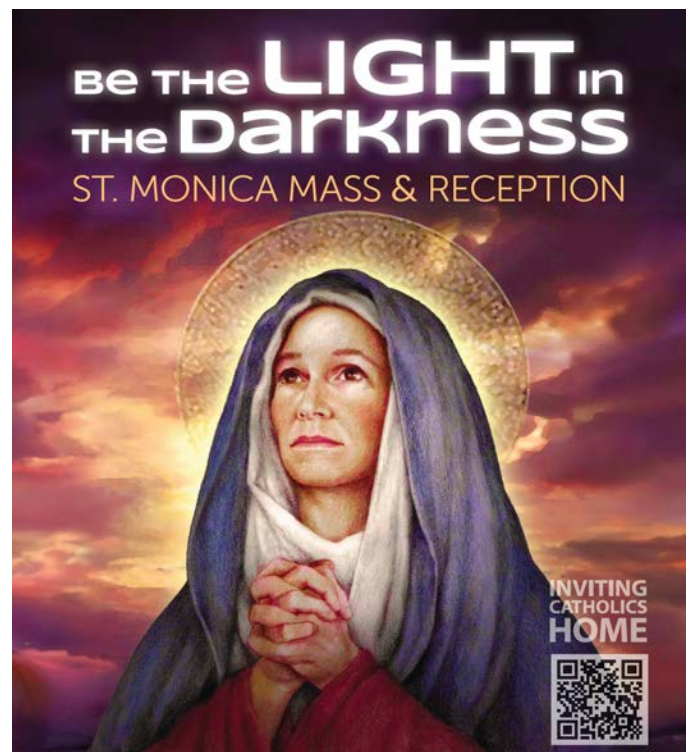
Through the dedication and perseverance of St. Monica, St. Augustine, Patricius, and his mother all came to the Faith. Monica's husband converted a year before his death. After spending six months together at Rus Cassiciacum (Cassago Brianza),

Augustine was baptized into the Church at St. John the Baptist in Milan. Eventually, St. Augustine and St. Monica tried to return to Africa, but Monica died a short while later in 387 A.D. She was buried at Ostia but now rests at the Augustinian Basilica of Sant' Agostino in Rome. A fragment from her epitaph reads: *"Here the most virtuous mother of a young man set her ashes, a second light to your merits, Augustine. As a priest, serving the heavenly laws of peace, you taught the people entrusted to you with your character. A glory greater than the praise of your accomplishments crowns you both – Mother of the Virtues, more fortunate because of her offspring."*

St. Augustine eventually came to hold his mother's prayers and sacrifices on his behalf in highest regard. He knew it was her unfailing love and dedication that allowed the Lord to open his heart to the truth of the Gospel.

It can be difficult in an age when so many fall away from the Faith and choose lifestyles diametrically opposed to the Gospel to trust that our prayers are doing any good. St. Monica prayed for 17 years, and the Lord answered her in abundance. Her family was converted, and her son is a Doctor of the Church. By His grace, we must persevere in never losing hope that He will one day answer our prayers in ways we never expected. He is not done with any of our loved ones yet.

For those shedding tears for lost souls, turn to St. Monica as a guide and friend to keep you firmly in the hope of Christ.



St. Monica Mass & Reception, Aug. 27

Prayer Boards are still available for you to write the name(s) of any loved ones who have been away from the Church. Join us August 27 as Fr. Dan leads us in praying for them to return back to the Church at a special Thursday, 5:30 PM Mass. Light refreshments will be served afterward in the Davidson Rooms.

Finding Hope in Saint Augustine's Journey

FEAST DAY: AUGUST 28 Article by Christina M. Sorrentino courtesy of the Catholic Exchange.

The story of St. Augustine, one of the most influential saints and theologians in the history of Catholicism, has profoundly touched my life in ways I never imagined. His dramatic conversion, shaped by his inner struggles and ultimate surrender to God, resonates deeply with my own personal experience, offering me a source of strength and inspiration.

St. Augustine's story is one of grand transformation. As a young man, he led a hedonistic lifestyle, straying far from the path of faith. He pursued a life of lust and pleasure, while rejecting his mother's, St. Monica's, Catholic beliefs.

St. Augustine's life took a dramatic turn after years of searching for truth and meaning. His conversion was marked by an intense inner conflict, famously described in his autobiographical work *Confessions*, culminating in a moment of divine grace, an answer to his mother's prayers. This narrative of redemption and unyielding love has provided me with a powerful example to follow in my own life.

I recall a period when a friend strayed from the faith and distanced herself from the Church, refusing to receive Christ in the Eucharist at Mass. Her scruples prevented her from embracing the forgiveness that Christ offers us through the Sacrament of Confession. She could not accept the truth that despite our sins, with a contrite heart and will to strive to live a life without sin, we are set free by the power of the Holy Spirit after receiving absolution in this Sacrament of healing and mercy. There is no sin too great that God cannot forgive if we are truly repentant and desire to make amends.

The pain and worry were almost unbearable, and there were times when I felt incredibly helpless. I could only watch her remain in the pew as she refused to receive Holy Communion at Mass even after receiving the Sacrament of Confession due to feelings of unworthiness. The truth is that we are all unworthy, but God loves us and has promised us eternal life when we receive Him in the Eucharist. We pray at Mass, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word, and my soul shall be healed." It is by receiving Christ in the Eucharist that He heals our wounds and transforms us by offering strength in charity. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1394)

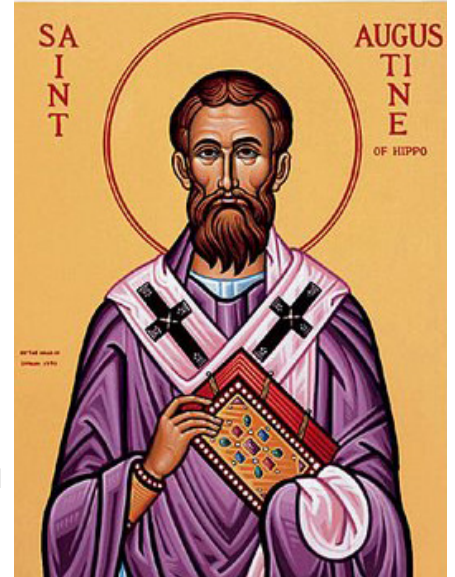
It was during these dark moments that I found comfort in the story of St. Augustine. His example taught me the importance of patience and persistent prayer. I began to pray more fervently, not only for my friend's return to the faith but also for the strength to support her through her spiritual journey. St. Augustine's story reminded me that change often takes time and that my role was to remain a pillar of support and love, just as his mother St. Monica did for him.

St. Augustine's life also taught me the value of trusting in God's timing. There were many moments when I became frustrated with how long it was taking for my prayers to be answered, and whether any change would ever come. However, St. Augustine's experience reassured me that even when we cannot see the fruits of our efforts immediately, it does not mean that our prayers are in vain.

The story of St. Augustine emphasized the power of love. The deep, unconditional love he eventually recognized in his mother's actions never faltered, regardless of the disappointments and rejections she faced. This aspect of his story inspired me to approach my friend with the same steadfast love and support. It was not always easy, and there were many setbacks along the way, but remembering St. Augustine's transformation helped me to continue loving unconditionally, and to never surrender – just as his mother never wavered in prayers for him.

One quote in particular from St. Augustine moved me deeply: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." These words, recorded in *Confessions*, encapsulate his profound realization of the need for God's presence in our lives. St. Augustine's journey from a life of aimlessness to finding peace in God's embrace reminded me that no matter how far my loved one strayed, she was never beyond the reach of God's love and grace.

In the end, my friend did find her way back to the Church. While the journey was long and fraught with challenges, the lessons I learned from St. Augustine's story were invaluable. His life is a testament to the power of faith, hope, and love, and his example continues to inspire me to this day. In moments of doubt or frustration, I look to St. Augustine and find the strength to persevere, knowing that, like him, I too can be on the journey heavenward.



food for thought

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." ~ Saint Augustine

"Christ's teaching will never let us down, while worldly wisdom always will. Christ Himself said that this sort of wisdom was like a house with nothing but sand as its foundation, while His own was like a building with solid rock as its foundation." ~ Saint Vincent de Paul

Community Calendar

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

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
7:00 PM	St. Teresa of Avila, Nine Grades of Prayer	Wellnitz, Room 1

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

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
6:30 PM	OCIA Immaculate Conception Cohort Meeting	Davidson, Room B
7:00 PM	OCIA Assumption Cohort Meeting	Davidson, Room A

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

5:30 AM	Fit Shepherds Men's Ministry	Campus Parking Lot
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
7:00 PM	Young Adult Men's Group	School Library
7:00 PM	Young Adult Women's Group	Off-site
7:15 PM	Parish Choir Rehearsal	Church

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30 AM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
5:30 PM	St. Monica Mass & Reception	Church/Davidson, Rm. A
6:30 PM	Communion & Liberation School of Community	Wellnitz, Room 2

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

6:30 AM	Daily Mass	Adoration Chapel
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30 AM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

5:30 AM	Fit Shepherds Men's Ministry	Campus Parking Lot
8:00 AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30 AM-1:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
9:00 AM	Confession	Confessional
9:00 AM	Family Faith Formation Team Retreat	Davidson, Rooms A & B
5:30 PM	Vigil Mass	Church

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

7:15, 8:45, 10:45 AM, 5:30 PM	Sunday Masses	Church
During 8:45 & 10:45 AM Mass	POD Nursery	Childcare Center
12:00 PM	Baptisms	Church
2:00 PM	HS VINE Missionary Retreat	School Gym
6:30 PM-10:00 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration Chapel
6:30 PM	VINE HS Missionary Parent Dinner	Cafeteria
7:00 PM	Scouts Cub Akela Parent Meeting	Wellnitz, Room 2



AUGUST Thursday,
INCENSE: Aug. 27: 5:30 PM

CONTEMPORARY 5:30 PM, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays • 5:30 PM, Sundays
MUSIC SCHEDULE: Masses with contemporary music will utilize the screens.

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* at www.bit.ly/Bulletin-Prayer-List, via the QR code, 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	Evie Scoville
Sean Grier	Hannah Kelley
Ken Weitmarshen	Mary Reed
Margie Hiam	Sarah Ortlieb
Kathleen Carlson	Alan LaForrest
Jimmy Gutierrez	Mariann Chilton
Curt Thayer	Gib Bickel
Daniel Francis	Amelia Black
Bertha Torok	Suzzette Briones
Ilona Owens	Andy Ryan Hesselbart
Joseph Rienhard	Gregg U'sellis
Dave Boyd	Esthelind Gutierrez
Lisa Lynch	Sue Devore
Chris Carrino	Amiee U'sellis
Elliott Verrilli	Max Elliott
Steve Strait	Nichole Otayco
Tonya Prickett	Bill Reinking
Bailey Curtis	Ed Cooley
Andrea Gigliotti	Michael Nguyen
	Dixon Aarellano

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY:

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

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

THOSE AWAY FROM THE CHURCH

St. Brendan Inviting Catholics Home Ministry prays daily for those no longer practicing our Catholic faith. Visit their web page at stbrendans.net/ich

Eucharistic Adoration

Sign up at stbrendan.weadorehim.com
Upon arrival, please sign in at the Kiosk, even if as a guest or there less than an hour.

MONDAY 6 PM–10 PM

TUE./THU./FRI. 8:30 AM–10 PM

(First Fridays, 8:30 AM–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

Financial Stewardship

St. Brendan Parish is sustained by the generosity of our parishioners through time, talent and treasure. For all that you do, **THANK YOU!**

Offertory, August 16, 2026 \$49,179

(Cash, checks, online giving)

Weekly Budgeted \$44,300



To give online via your PushPay account, please scan the QR code.

Adoration Reminders

Committing to Holy Hour regularly is a game changer for your life! Seeking peace, patience, rest? Have gratitude for the good in your life? Need intercession for someone in need or yourself? Why not take all of these to the Lord in prayer? Please sign in, even if as a guest or if staying less than an hour, to let us know someone is there with Jesus!

FALL MEN'S EVENTS



Become the Man God Wants You to Be!

God has given you talents, and He expects us to use them to get those around us close to Heaven. He calls us to be a strong example of faith, service, and action – how are you living out this call?

Join St. Brendan's vibrant *Esto Vir* ministry to sharpen your faith, form as disciples, and step up to be the men God calls us to be!

Saturday morning *Esto Vir* (Be a Man)

Designed around the elements of team, worship, formation, and service, *Esto Vir* will meet you where you are with your faith and challenge you to go farther with Christ.

Starting September 12 at 6:30 AM in the Davidson Rooms, we will gather to break bread, build community, bolster our knowledge of faith, and pray. Men will experience content from *Jesus - The Way, the Truth, and the Life*, *The Chosen* season 5, and *Sharing Our Story* sessions.

Tuesday morning study – Join us starting September 8 at 6:30 AM in the Davidson Rooms, for in-depth study series focused on Scripture, the early Church Fathers, the lives of the saints, and fellowship.

Dinner with *Esto Vir* – Join *Esto Vir* at 6:30 PM on Saturday, October 24 for fellowship and community and maybe even to catch some football on the big screens!

24-hour Adoration – Experience quiet time with Our Lord in Adoration the first Friday of each month. It's a great opportunity to share this experience with your family.

For more information, reach out to Grant Rice at ricekris8813@att.net



WELCOME NEW CATHOLICS!



DEREK BERRY



DON BOYD



TAYLOR CASTLEMAN



ABIGAIL CHRISTOPHER



AIDAN HALL



ANNA HATCHER



MATT RITCH



KYLE VAN FLEET



NANCY TAGUIAM



BECK ZWILLING

Congratulations to Our 2026 OCIA Assumption Cohort Catechumens & Catechists who came into the Church on August 15!

Join us in congratulating and praying for our newest fellow Catholics and help welcome them into our faith community!

Gracious God, we thank You for welcoming these new brothers and sisters into the Catholic Church. Fill their hearts with Your Holy Spirit, deepen their love for Christ, and grant them strength to walk faithfully in Your light every day. Amen.



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 August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

“A Christian is: a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks, and a hand through which Christ helps.”

+ SAINT AUGUSTINE

Monday, August 24 ~ Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time Feast of Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

Holy Gospel: John 1:45-51 Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus son of Joseph, from Nazareth.” But Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Here is a true child of Israel. There is no duplicity in him.” Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree.” Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.” And he said to him, “Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

Meditation: What is the significance of Jesus’ revelation of seeing Nathanael (known as Bartholomew in Matthew 10:3 and Luke 6:14) “under the fig tree?” For the people of Israel, the fig tree was a symbol of God’s peace and blessing (1 Kings 4:24b-25, Micah 4:4). It provided shade from the midday sun and a cool refreshing place to retreat, pray, meditate and reflect on God’s word. Rabbis often gathered their disciples under the shade of the fig to teach them the wisdom and revelation of God from the Scriptures. The rabbis had an expression for comparing the fig tree to being nourished with God’s word in Scripture, “He who tends the fig tree will eat its fruit.” And thus we see the importance of meditating on Sacred Scripture, but then “living” what we have learned as “doers of the word, not hearers only” (James 1:22) so that these sacred teachings can bear fruit in our daily lives.

Prayer: Strengthen in us, O Lord, the faith, by which the blessed Apostle Bartholomew clung wholeheartedly to your Son, and grant that through the help of his prayers your Church may become for all the nations the sacrament of salvation. 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’ death on the cross, where he defeated sin and won new life for us through his resurrection, opens the way for each of us to come into a new relationship with God as his adopted sons and daughters. The Lord Jesus opens the way for each one of us to “ascend to heaven” and to bring “heaven to earth” in the daily circumstances of our lives. God’s kingdom is present in those who seek him and who strive to do his will. Through the gift of faith God opens a door for each one of us to the heavenly reality of his kingdom. And so we might contemplate on asking ourselves: Do you see with the “eyes of faith” what the Lord Jesus has done for us?

About Saint Bartholomew: In St. John’s Gospel, Bartholomew is known by the name Nathaniel (the liturgy does not always seem aware of this identity). He hailed from Cana in Galilee, was one of the first disciples called by the Lord. On that initial meeting Jesus uttered the glorious compliment: “Behold, an Israelite indeed in whom there is no guile!” After the Resurrection he was favored by becoming one of the few apostles who witnessed the appearance of the risen Savior on the sea of Galilee (John 21:2). Following the Ascension he is said to have preached in Greater Armenia and to have been martyred there. While still alive, his skin was torn from his body. The Armenians honor him as the apostle of their nation. Concerning the fate of his relics, the Martyrology says: “His holy body was first taken to the island of Lipari (north of Sicily), then to Benevento, and finally to Rome on an island in the Tiber where it is honored by the faithful with pious devotion.” The Church of Armenia has a national tradition that St. Jude

Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew visited the Armenians early in the first century and introduced Christianity among the worshippers of the god Ahura Mazda. The new faith spread throughout the land, and in 302 A.D., St. Gregory the Illuminator baptized the king of Armenia, Dertad the Great, along with many of his followers. Since Dertad was probably the first ruler to embrace Christianity for his nation, the Armenians proudly claim they were the first Christian State.

Tuesday, August 25 ~ Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time

Optional Memorials: Saint Louis of France, King; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest

Holy Gospel: Matthew 23:23-26 Jesus said: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You pay tithes of mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier things of the law: judgment and mercy and fidelity. But these you should have done, without neglecting the others. Blind guides, who strain out the gnat and swallow the camel! "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You cleanse the outside of cup and dish, but inside they are full of plunder and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, cleanse first the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may be clean."

Meditation: Jesus went to the heart of the matter when he called the religious leaders of his day *blind* Pharisees and *hypocrites*! A hypocrite is an actor or imposter who says one thing but does the opposite or who puts on an outward appearance of doing good while inwardly clinging to wrong attitudes, selfish desires and ambitions, or bad intentions. Many scribes and Pharisees had made it a regular practice to publicly put on a good show of outward zeal and piety with the intention of winning greater honors, privileges, and favors among the people. Jesus had a very good reason for severely rebuking the scribes and Pharisees, the religious teachers and leaders, for misleading people and neglecting the heart and essence of God's law – love God above all things, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Prayer ~ Saint Louis: O God, who brought Saint Louis from the cares of earthly rule to the glory of a heavenly realm, grant, we pray, through his intercession, that, by fulfilling our duties on earth, we may seek out your eternal Kingdom. 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 Joseph Calasanz: O God, who adorned the Priest Saint Joseph Calasanz with such charity and patience that he labored tirelessly to educate children and endow them with every virtue, grant, we pray, that we, who venerate him as a teacher of wisdom, may constantly imitate him, for he was a co-worker of your truth. 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: The essence of God's commandments is rooted in love – love God above all things, and love your neighbor as yourself – righteousness (justice and goodness), and mercy. God is love and everything he does, including his justice and goodness, flows from his love for us. True love is costly and sacrificial - it both embraces and lifts the burdens of others. And so we might ask ourselves today: Do you allow the love of God to shape and transform the way you live your daily life, especially in the way you think of others, speak of them, and treat them? If not, now is an opportunity to let the transformative grace of God work in and through you so that you may imitate Christ in thought, word and deed.

Wednesday, August 26 ~ Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Matthew 23:27-32 Jesus said, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and every kind of filth. Even so, on the outside you appear righteous, but inside you are filled with hypocrisy and evildoing.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the memorials of the righteous, and you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have joined them in shedding the prophets' blood.' Thus you bear witness against yourselves that you are the children of those who murdered the prophets; now fill up what your ancestors measured out!"

Meditation: Outward appearances can be deceptive. Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would *not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth* (Isaiah 11:3-4). The heart reveals the true intentions and attitudes that form the way we think of others and treat them. Jesus used strong language to warn the religious leaders and teachers about the vanity of outward appearance and pretense - wearing a mask that hides the true intentions and thoughts of the heart. This warning applies to all persons who identify themselves as disciples and followers of Christ, and so we must meditate on what authentic discipleship in Christ really means. It is not mere show, but an authentic way of life, in all aspects of life, day in and day out.

Prayer: O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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 warns that what truly corrupts a person is not external ritual impurity but the impurity of wrong and sinful attitudes that come from within a person's mind and heart – pride, greed, sloth, envy, hatred, gluttony, and lust. These are what produce sinful habits (vices) and ways of speaking, acting, judging, and treating others. That is why every good deed is beautiful in God's sight and every wrong or sinful deed is ugly in his sight. The scribes and Pharisees were intensely religious in their outward observances, but their outward show didn't match the inner reality of the state of their minds and hearts. True beauty, goodness, and piety come from within, an interior motivation from a heart that is set on pleasing God and a mind that is set on hearing and obeying God's word, and thus the importance of having an authentic interior life rooted in Christ. Jesus came to set us free from slavery to sin and harmful habits and addictions that lead us into wrong and sinful ways of thinking, acting, and relating to others. Only the humble of heart can receive from God true wisdom and understanding, pardon and healing. Properly cultivating our interior life is a must in order to achieve what we seek. Trappist monk Fr. Thomas Merton, OCSO, contextualizes this more richly in his book *New Seeds of Contemplation*: "This then is what it means to seek God perfectly: to withdraw from illusion and pleasure, from worldly anxieties and desires, from the works that God does not want, from a glory that is only human display; to keep my mind free from confusion in order that my liberty may be always at the disposal of His will; to entertain silence in my heart and listen for the voice of God; to cultivate an intellectual freedom from the images of created things in order to receive the secret contact of God in obscure love; to love all men as myself." This book is a must read for those who wish to cultivate their interior life so that one may enter into a more fruitful, prayerful dialogue with God.

Thursday, August 27 ~ Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time **Memorial: Saint Monica, Patroness of Mothers**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 24:42-51 Jesus said to his disciples: "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.

"Who, then, is the faithful and prudent servant, whom the master has put in charge of his household to distribute to them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on his arrival finds doing so. Amen, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property. But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is long delayed,' and begins to beat his fellow servants, and eat and drink with drunkards, the servant's master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish him severely and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth."

Meditation: When God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world it was to rescue us from ourselves, from the tyranny of sin, Satan, and death. Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross and his triumphant victory over the grave won pardon for us and reconciliation with our heavenly Father, and the promise of everlasting life and joy in his kingdom. The Lord Jesus told his disciples on a number of occasions that he would return again at the end of this present age, not simply to rescue us again from our enemies, but as a victor King and Lord who will vindicate all who have believed in him. How? By releasing us from the curse of death and condemnation and restoring for us the plan he had from the beginning of creation – a new heaven and a new earth for a people perfectly united with God in peace, joy, and harmony forever. This is the background to Jesus parable in today's Gospel about the householder and the thief in the night. When the Lord Jesus returns, he doesn't want to find us flirting with the enemy or worse joining forces with enemies who are opposed to God and his kingdom. He wants to see us fully aligned with him, and invites us constantly to do so when Jesus says "follow me."

Prayer: O God, who console the sorrowful and who mercifully accepted the motherly tears of Saint Monica for the conversion of her son Augustine, grant us, through the intercession of them both, that we may bitterly regret our sins and find the grace of your pardon. 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 Monica for Children who have Strayed: Dear Saint Monica, mother of Saint Augustine, we give thanks to our Father in Heaven Who looked with mercy upon your tears over your wayward son. His conversion and heroic sanctification were the fruit of your prayers. Saint Monica we now

ask you to pray with us for all those sons and daughters that have wandered away from God, and to add your prayers to those of all mothers and fathers who are worried over their children. Pray also for us that, following your example, we may, in the company of our children, one day enjoy the eternal vision of God our Father in Heaven. Amen.

Contemplation: And so Jesus invites us to follow him, time and time again. But ask yourself: Do I take up Jesus on his invitation? If I do follow him, I am truly attentive to his teachings by embracing them and living them, so that I am ready to meet him when he calls each of us to himself. The Lord gives us his Holy Spirit so that we may have the wisdom, help, and strength we need to turn away from sin to embrace God's way of love, justice, and holiness. The Lord's warning of judgment causes dismay for those who are unprepared, but it brings joyful hope to those who eagerly wait for his return in glory. God's judgment is good news for those who are ready to meet him. Their reward is God himself, the source of all truth, beauty, goodness, love and everlasting life.

Friday, August 28 ~ Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial: Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13 Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Meditation: Jesus warns us that there are consequences for being unprepared. There are certain things you cannot obtain at the last moment. For example, students cannot prepare for their exams when the day of testing is already upon them. A person cannot get the right kind of character, strength, and skill required for a task at hand unless they already possess it, such as a captain with courage and nautical skills who must steer a ship through a dangerous storm at sea. When the Lord Jesus comes to lead you to his heavenly banquet will you be ready to hear his voice and follow? Our eternal welfare depends on our hearing his voice, the call of the Good Shepherd, above all others. How can we meet the Lord, face to face, when he calls us on the day of judgment, unless we listen to him today. The Lord invites us to feast at his heavenly banquet table. Are you ready?

Prayer: Renew in your Church, we pray, O Lord, that spirit with which you endowed your Bishop Saint Augustine that, filled with the same spirit, we may thirst for you, the sole fount of true wisdom, and seek you, the author of heavenly love. 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 Augustine for Purity: O Saint Augustine, beacon of purity, in this realm of temptation, I implore your heavenly intervention. Strengthen my resolve, guard my heart from the snare of original sin that so easily ensnares us. Through your intercession, may our paths be illuminated in the virtue of purity, enabling us to resist desires that lead away from His divine love. Instill within us a spirit of vigilance, trusting wholly in the providence of God. Hold steadfast our hope for righteous living. Amen.

Contemplation: What is your ultimate goal in life, and what are you doing to attain it? If your ultimate goal is to graduate from Harvard, have a six-figure salary, live in a mansion and drive an expensive car, you've missed the boat. Those might be short-term goals, but our ultimate goal in life is to get to heaven; there is only one way to get there, and that is through Jesus Christ. Knowing this, now, what are you going to change in your life in order to achieve this ultimate goal? There is no time like the present to change from our former ways of life to newness of life in Christ. Start now! Today! Kick it in gear!

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.

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MAST Patio Party, Aug. 29

If you are single and at least 45 years old, you're invited to join the MAST (Mature Active Singles Together) group for our annual patio party August 29 at 6:30 PM. We are a social and service group for "mature singles" but not a dating group. Join us for appetizers and desserts and meet new friends in the parish. You are welcome to bring a "mature friend" with you. For details and the location, email Chris Hauck at chrishauck0522@gmail.com

Date Night for Young Couples Begins Sept. 18

Date Night is back! St. Brendan and the Knights of Columbus host *Date Night for Young Couples & Young Parents* to build strong Catholic marriages, families and friendships. Share stories and learn from other Catholic couples about the joys and challenges of marriage and raising children. A strong, loving marital relationship in Christ is the cornerstone of a lifelong joyful family life. No cost and we'll take care of the kids in the Pod Nursery (6 mos.-5 years) while you enjoy a monthly dinner and friendship with other couples in the Davidson Rooms beginning Friday, Sept. 18, 6:30-8 PM. RSVP by Sept. 11 to Chuck Heinlen at chuck436@att.net or 224-612-1557. Mark your calendar for all date nights scheduled this season: **Sept. 18, Oct. 23, Nov. 20, Jan. 15, Feb. 12, March 12, April 16, May 21**



Friendship Project, Sept. 3

Join other women of our parish for a night of fellowship on Thursday, September 3, 6:30 PM in the Davidson Rooms, as you grow spiritually with friends while reflecting on the book *"The Friendship Project."* Enjoy refreshments as authors, Michele Faehnle and Emily Jaminet, share insights from their book to help you to develop meaningful relationships, to care for others and be cared for, and to deepen your Catholic faith. No cost. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/stb2026women> and for questions, email Wendy: wferkany@stbrendans.net

Fall Adult Scripture Studies

Book of Revelation: Begins August 31

The Book of Revelation is not about date setting or identifying current events, rather it illustrates the judgments brought on by humanity's disobedience to God's laws and His great mercy and love for us in spite of our rebellion. This Catholic Way Bible Study (<https://cwbs.org/>), taught by Lavinia Spirito is open to men and women in Wellnitz, Room 1, **Mondays, 9-11 AM, Aug. 31-April 27** (no session Thanksgiving or Christmas). No cost for the materials. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/stbAdultFF> and for questions, contact Patsy Bunnell at dpbunnell@yahoo.com or 859-338-6732.



The Chosen, Season 5: Begins Sept. 17

Season 5 of *The Chosen* covers the first five days of Jesus' final week in Jerusalem during Passover. Jesus enters to cheering crowds, cleanses the Temple, delivers final public teachings, shares the Last Supper with His apostles, and is betrayed and arrested in Gethsemane. Men and Women are invited to attend this study beginning **Thursday, Sept. 17** and running for 8 weeks (no session on October 29). The **AM Session is 8:45-10:45** and the **PM Session is 6:45-8:45** in the Davidson Rooms (babysitting provided for the AM session). Visit <https://tinyurl.com/stbAdultFF> to sign up. Questions? Email Wendy at wferkany@stbrendans.net



The Bible Timeline: Begins Sept. 21

This Story of Salvation is a 25-week study held on **Mondays beginning September 21 at 7 PM**. Watch videos featuring prominent Bible Teacher Jeff Cavins followed by discussion led by Bryan Moore. This study takes you on a fascinating journey through the entire Bible, focusing on the fourteen books that present the basic narrative of salvation history. Using the unique color-coded Bible Timeline Learning System, you will identify the twelve timeline periods and the events important in each one. Cost of the workbook is \$30. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/stbAdultFF> to register. Questions? Email Bryan at chov911@gmail.com



Intro to Real Prayer: Begins Sept. 22

Offered again! This 9-week video, discussion and prayer series begins **Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 7 PM** in the School Library. Hosted by evangelist Matthew Leonard, *Introduction to Real Prayer* introduces participants to the basics of prayer, its necessity, and how to make it a part of our daily lives. Matthew guides viewers through the ins and outs of vocal, meditative, and contemplative prayer, showing not just what they are, but how to do them. He also covers the three stages of the spiritual life, as well as steps to make progress in your spiritual life, in an easy to understand style. No cost for materials. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/stbAdultFF> Questions? Contact Bryan at chov911@gmail.com



Seniors NOW (NAVIGATING OUR WAY) FOR THOSE AGE 65+
SEPT. 4, 8 AM – 1st Friday Mass & breakfast at Panera, 6120 Sawmill Rd.

Next Dementia Series Session, Sept. 17

Explore the medical, safety, emotional and community-resource aspects of Alzheimer's disease and dementia. All are welcome to this informative free series, 5:30-7 PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month through November in the School Library. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/dementia4part> or via the QR code. Questions? Email Nell at doconnell@stbrendans.net
SEPTEMBER 17: Kelly Lambert: *Emotional Aspects of Being a Caregiver*
OCTOBER 15: Tonya Kreml: *Safety at Home While Caregiving*
NOVEMBER 19: Laurie Schier: *Resources Beyond the Home*



Men: Join the Kairos Prison Ministry!

Kairos Prison Ministry is looking for men to help bring the love and grace of Jesus Christ to the residents of London Correctional Institute. The retreat weekend is November 5-8, 2026 and formation meetings begin September 25. Help bring men to Christ in a holy, joyful experience – Tim Reno: tireno04@gmail.com, 614-312-7388 / Chuck: chuck436@att.net, 224-612-1557



Crafters Wanted for Fall Craft Show

Our Knights of Columbus **Fall Craft Show** is Saturday, November 7. Only 4 booth spots are available! Find vendor details and register at <https://tinyurl.com/events4stb> (click on "Craft Show").

Weekly/Monthly Parish Ministries

Esto Vir Men's Ministry – Men's Scripture studies in Davidson Rooms at 6:30 AM, Saturdays or Tuesdays. Questions? Email ricekris8813@att.net

Fit Shepherds Men's Ministry – Meet in the parish parking lot on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 5:30 AM to workout with other men of faith. To join, email Nick Hasou at njhasou@gmail.com

Church Cleaning – Meet Mondays at 9 AM in the church for light cleaning. Supplies are provided. Email Lisa at lisaploug@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Workshop – Meet 1st Saturdays & 3rd Wednesdays in Wellnitz, Room 2. Yarn and free lessons provided! To join, email Kathy at kendriz@aol.com or Karen at kkessmith@yahoo.com

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

SVdP Sandwich Making for the Homeless – Meet in Wellnitz Hall twice monthly: First Thursdays, 10 AM and 3rd Thursdays, 7 PM.

Spiritual/Mental Support & Care

Grief Support Luncheon – Meets monthly, 2nd Thursdays, 1 PM at La Chatelaine Restaurant in Dublin.

Grief Support Study – Meets the 1st Sundays monthly at 7 PM in Wellnitz, Room 1 to learn grief care information and support. Questions? Email Nell at doconnell@stbrendans.net

iTHIRST Spiritual Companions – Three iThirst Spiritual Companions are available at our parish! Visit opendoorwomensrecoveryorg/ithirst for details or, for questions email info.ithirstcolumbus@gmail.com

Lumin Counseling – A private practice of therapists with Catholic and Christian backgrounds (main office in Westerville and satellite office on our campus). Find details at <https://lumin-therapy.com/>

Parish Summer Projects Completed

With fall around the corner, it's a good time to give an update on maintenance and improvements the Parish has completed, are working on, or plan to start.

PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2026:

- RTU (roof-top unit) – February
- School roof assessment – April
- Davidson Room folding wall repaired – May
- Drain repair in the parish parking lot – June
- IT infrastructure update (Parish/School) – June
- School classroom floors refinished – June
- Roof repairs, Zones B-S (additions) – June
- Church general deep cleaning – June/July
- Carpet cleaning (school & parish areas) – July
- Fire lane work per Fire Dept. code changes – July
- Landscaping improve/cleanup – July/August
- Original roof replacement, Zone A – August
- Removal of dead trees on campus – August
- Cafeteria & gym floors refinished – August
- 5th grade bathroom repairs – August
- School bleacher repairs – August
- Kitchen hoods cleaned/inspected – August
- New double doors, 5th & 1st grade halls – August

CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS:

- Addition of 17 parking spaces in the back lot, September/October, 2026
- Coordination with the City of Hilliard to add up to 80 parking spots (ongoing)

PLANNED / PENDING:

- Further parish parking lot improvements/surfacing



Thank you for your patience and prayers as we maintain and improve our facilities for parish ministry and education.

For questions or to report issues, please contact the parish office by calling 614-876-1272 or email psheear@stbrendans.net / kjesse@stbrendans.net

New this Fall beginning Sept. 15

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



2026-27 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Registration

St. Brendan Parish is offering The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd method of faith formation for the three to six-year-old children of our parish beginning this fall, September 15 & 16. The catechists who will work with the children have participated in nearly 100 hours of formation to prepare a special environment for the children, which is called *the Atrium*.

Two CGS class days/times will be offered this fall for children 3-6 years old at St. Brendan, held in the Carter Center on **Tuesdays, 5:30 - 7 PM** and **Wednesdays, 10 AM-12 PM**. Children must be fully potty-trained. **Our enrollment priorities are:**

1. Families already registered for Family Faith Formation or St. Brendan School
2. Other parishioners
3. Non-parishioners

Registration is open at <https://bit.ly/stb2026cgs> or via the QR code below. Our capacity per class is 10 children. If we are able to offer additional times during the week, we will let you know via email. If our current offering does not work for your family's schedule, please reach out to let us know what would work better for you.



For questions about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program at our parish, please contact Jacob Doran at jdoran@stbrendans.net or call 614-876-1272, ext. 231. To learn more about the program, visit www.CGSUSA.org



Families with children grades 1-8, not attending a Catholic school should enroll in Family Faith Formation. Register via the QR code or at <https://tinyurl.com/FFFstB> (late fees now apply.) Questions? Call Jacob Doran at 614-876-1272, ext. 231 or email jdoran@stbrendans.net



VOLUNTEERS – We all know the importance of having a community of faith around us for support and encouragement. You can offer just that for St. Brendan families by joining the Family Faith Formation team! No need for a theology degree to help with religious education. All you need is a love for Jesus, the Church, and a desire to share His love with others. Our world doesn't offer the love of Christ, but you can.

Have a child who is interested in working with children? Anyone in sixth grade or older can help! Would you rather work with other parents? We need table leaders for parent small group discussion, too. Even if helping with a children's session isn't something you're interested in, we still need help creating hospitality and intercession teams.

Please pray about how God is calling you to support other Parish families as they continue their faith journeys. Contact Jacob Doran at jdoran@stbrendans.net or 614-876-1272 for more information.

POD Nursery Volunteers Needed

Note: POD Nursery Volunteers 18+ must complete Protecting God's Children training and a BCI background check before serving. Our nursery, for children 6 mos.-4 years old, needs volunteers during:

- **8:45 & 10:45 AM Sunday Masses:** email nursery@stbrendans.net
- **Elizabeth Ministry:** Sept. 25, Oct. 30, Jan. 29, 2027, Feb. 26, 2027 and April 30, 2027. Email Regina at thelonggrears@gmail.com
- **OCIA Easter Vigil Cohort:** Tuesdays in Sept., 6:15-8:30 PM. To help, contact Wendy at wferkany@stbrendans.net
- **Adult Scripture Studies in Sept.:** Mondays AM, Thursdays AM & PM. If you can help, email Wendy Ferkany at wferkany@stbrendans.net

Moms at the Metro, Sept. 19

Join the Elizabeth Ministry for the final *Moms at the Metro* this season. Bring the kids to Glacier Ridge Metro Park (over by the playground) Saturday, **September 19: 9 AM Nature Walk, 10 AM Craft/Playtime & 11 AM Wrap-up**. RSVP to Regina at 330-754-8028.

Attention, Boys of St. Brendan!

CUB SCOUT SIGN-UP NIGHT IS AUGUST 26

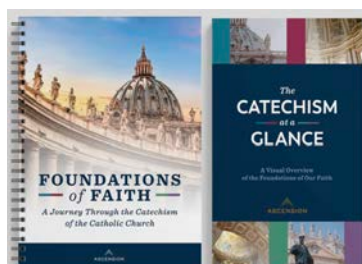
Are you looking to learn life skills and embark on adventures with new friends? Come and join the St. Brendan Cub Scout Pack 859 this Wednesday, August 26, from 7-8 PM at our annual Sign-up Night in Wellnitz Hall. Cub Scouts is open to boys entering Kindergarten through 5th grade in the fall of 2026. We make 2-3 camping trips a year, do service projects, and are active all year. Questions? Email Cubmaster, Caleb Longgear at caleblonggear@gmail.com



St. Brendan OCIA Easter Vigil Cohort Begins in September!

NOT CATHOLIC BUT CURIOUS?

O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) is a process where adults have the opportunity to explore faith questions and learn the traditions, beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church. We have the Easter Vigil Cohort beginning on September 8. We will meet on Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 PM. Classes continue through Easter and a few weeks beyond. Classes are led by Jessica Klinker, utilizing the *Foundations of Faith* program by Ascension Press. If you need a sponsor, we have several available to journey along with you! If interested, email Wendy Ferkany at wferkany@stbrendans.net or, pick up and fill out a registration form at the Welcome Desk and turn it in at the Parish Office.



Join Parishioner at Award Ceremony...

Mary Helen Olszewski of St. Brendan Parish was nominated for the St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Recognition Award for Charity, Compassion and Service. Bishop Fernandes will present the Award at the Ceremony on Sunday, September 20, 11:30 AM-3:30 PM at The Berwick (3250 Refugee Rd., Columbus.) Seating opens 11:30 AM and ceremony starts 12 PM. Register (\$35/person includes catered lunch) at <https://dioceseofcolumbus.org/teresaaward> by August 31. Questions? Contact Annette at DCCW@ColumbusCatholic.org or 740-701-0610.

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kati@deepprinting.com
or 614-777-8700

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Grief Support Group

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Beginning September 10
St Brigid of Kildare Church
Hendricks Hall, Berry Room
kvanhuffel@stbrigidofkildare.org

Around Our Diocese

Breakfast with the Bishop, Sept. 11

Catholic Social Services hosts conversation and breakfast with Fr. Leo Patalinghug and Bishop Fernandes on September 11, 7 AM-9:30 AM at The Renaissance Hotel Grand Ballroom. Visit <https://columbuscatholic.org/event/breakfast-with-the-bishop/> for details. Questions? Email Julie Naporano at Kijnaporano@colscs.org

Cradling Christianity Benefit Dinner, Sept. 17

Preserving Christianity in the Holy Land Through Education benefit dinner in support of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land is Thursday, Sept. 17. Mass begins 5 PM with reception/dinner to follow at Our Lady of Victory Church & Parish Hall (1559 Roxbury Rd., Columbus). Speaker: Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, Chairperson of the USCCB Committee on International Justice & Peace. Questions? Email CradlingChristianity@gmail.com and for tickets or details, visit FFHL.org/Regions/Columbus/RSVP

Marriage Conference, Sept. 19

Married and engaged couples are invited to the annual *Together in Holiness* marriage conference on September 19, 8:30 AM-4 PM at St. Catharine Catholic Church in Columbus (presented by Saint John Paul II Foundation & Diocese of Columbus) to strengthen your relationship with your spouse and discover God's plan for your family. Cost is \$64 per couple and \$5 per child for childcare. Register at <https://forlifeandfamily.org/events/th26-cmoh/>

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Getaway!

Take steps toward a better relationship! Attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will give you and your spouse all the tools for a stronger and more loving marriage. "But some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." Let your marriage be like the rich soil and attend an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on October 9-11, 2026. Get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus only on each other. Location: Procter Camp and Conference Center – London, OH. Other weekend dates are available on our website. Register now at WWME.org.

Josephinum 5K Run/Walk is October 3

The Friends of the Josephinum 5K Run/Walk is a one-loop course through the Pontifical College Josephinum campus and surrounding area, plus a virtual option for supporters nationwide. Register 3+ participants at the same time and get \$15 off (discount is automatically applied upon checking in 3 or more). Register at <https://m3ssports.com/events/josephinum-5k/> Parking is at Crosswoods Center I & II office park (100-150 E. Crosswoods Blvd). Participants receive an event T-shirt, official Finisher's Medal, FREE race photos, a bottle of wine (those 21+) or Trappist Monastery Jam (under 21), breakfast burritos & White Castle sliders.

Celebration for Life
Pregnancy Decision Health Centers

No admission ticket needed to attend the Gala but please register via the QR code. (Donations are accepted at the event.) Questions? Email KristinG@PDHC.org

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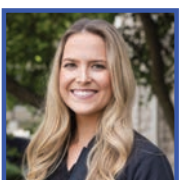
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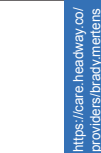
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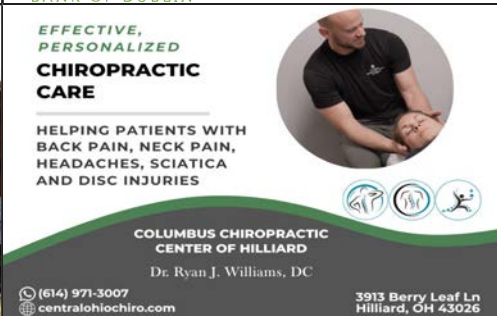
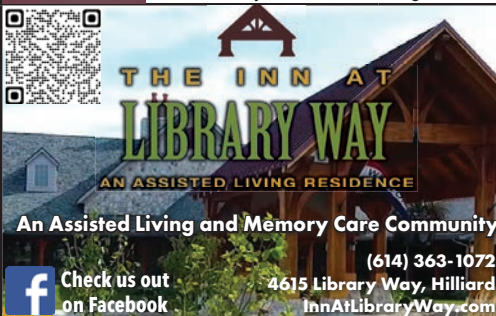
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