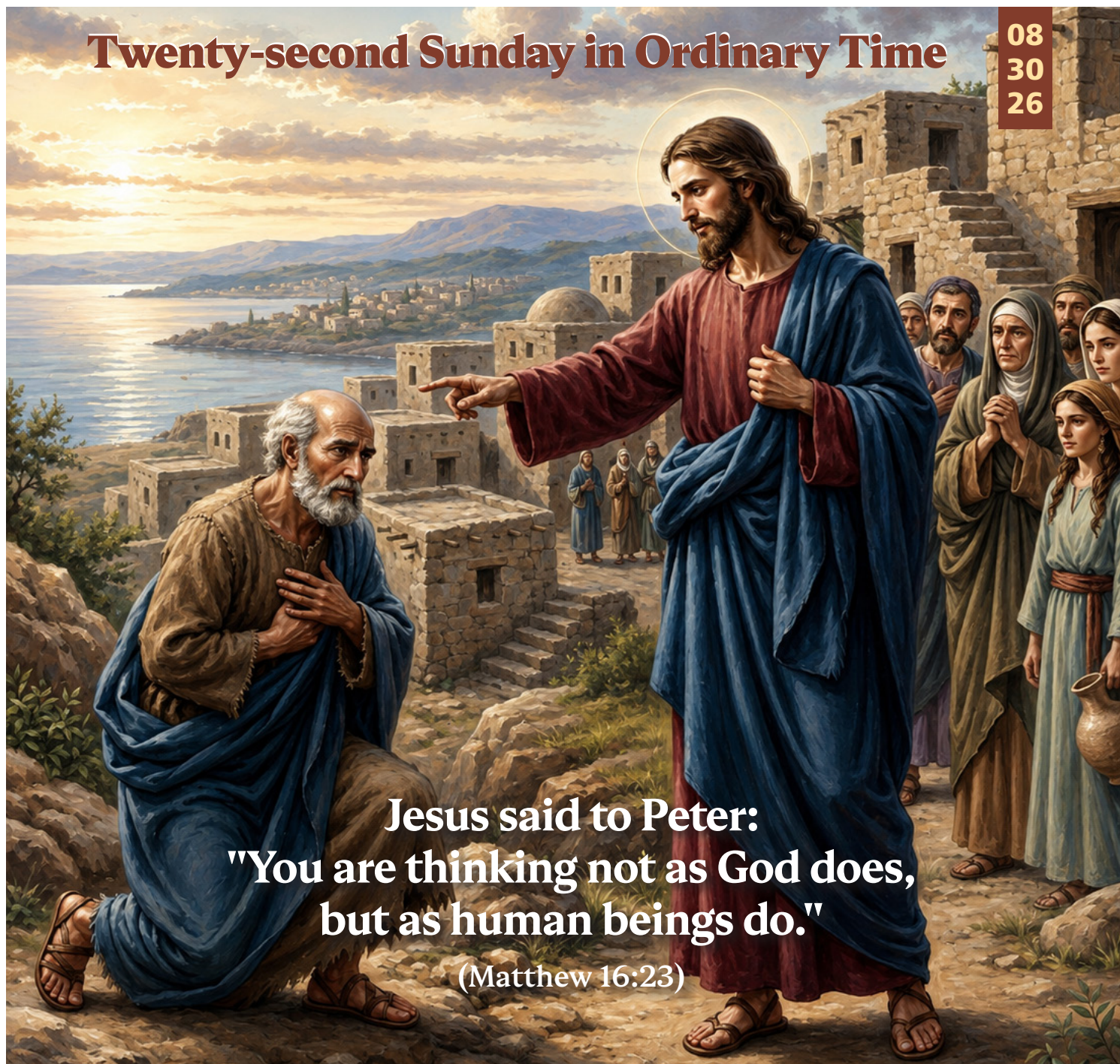


# Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

08  
30  
26



Jesus said to Peter:  
"You are thinking not as God does,  
but as human beings do."

(Matthew 16:23)

## DIOCESAN "SPIRIT OF HOPE" SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

We pray for all families impacted by the storms that affected our Diocese recently, particularly those in Perry and Muskingum Counties. Bishop Fernandes has requested a Second Collection this weekend for the *Spirit of Hope Disaster Response Fund*. 100% of all money raised will be used to support the affected areas. Checks can be made out to St. Brendan, with "SPIRIT OF HOPE" in the memo line. Or, give online at <https://tinyurl.com/spirithope>



### 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./ THUR./ 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, you may schedule Confession by calling the parish office.

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

**4475 DUBLIN RD. | HILLIARD OH 43026**

**614-876-1272 | STBRENDANS.NET**

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**Fr. Dan Moloney, Parochial Vicar**  
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**Fr. Weldit Abay, Parochial Vicar**  
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**Rev. Mr. Jim Morris, Permanent Deacon**  
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**Rev. Mr. Doug Saunders, Permanent Deacon**  
ext. 230, deacondoug@stbrendans.net

**Rev. Mr. Doug Yglesias, Permanent Deacon**  
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**Danielle O'Connell, Pastoral Associate**  
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ext. 291, wferkany@stbrendans.net

**Jacob Doran, Dir. of Youth Evangelization & Catechesis**  
ext. 231, jdoran@stbrendans.net

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## PARISH OFFICE: 614-876-1272

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ext. 247, ckreber2@cdeducation.org

**Marcia Voelkel, Office Manager**  
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**Logan Johansen, Office Secretary**  
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**Lorin Pankewicz, Dir. of Student Services**  
ext. 249, lviglio@cdeducation.org

# 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:** Please visit  
[stbrendans.net/welcome](http://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](mailto:weddingplanner@stbrendans.net)

**Baptisms:** 12 PM most  
Sundays. For details, visit  
[stbrendans.net/baptism](http://stbrendans.net/baptism)  
or for questions, email  
[baptism@stbrendans.net](mailto:baptism@stbrendans.net).  
**Baptism Preparation Class:**  
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](mailto:nursery@stbrendans.net)

**OCIA (Order of Christian  
Initiation of Adults):** Curious  
about the Catholic faith?  
Contact Wendy Ferkany at  
[wferkany@stbrendans.net](mailto: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](http://stbrendans.net/marketing) or  
[marketing@stbrendans.net](mailto:marketing@stbrendans.net)

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

**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](mailto:doconnell@stbrendans.net)

**Protecting God's Children:**  
Register at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) or  
[tinyurl.com/StBrendanPGC](http://tinyurl.com/StBrendanPGC)

**Navigator News/ParishStaq**  
Visit [stbrendan.ccbchurch.com](http://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](mailto:ministry@stbrendans.net) or, email  
[ministryscheduler@stbrendans.net](mailto: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/](https://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](http://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](mailto:aboyd@cdeducation.org)



## From Our Pastor

**ON THIS TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**, we see much good taking place in our world, in our local community, and especially in our wonderful parish of Saint Brendan the Navigator – sometimes requiring a reprioritization of activities in our lives, or making personal sacrifices. Saint Paul's words in today's Second Reading invite us to understand "sacrifice" in a deeper way. We often think of sacrifice as something dead, lost, or given up forever. But Saint Paul speaks of a "living sacrifice." Under the Old Covenant, animal sacrifices were offered on the altar. Under the New Covenant, Jesus offered Himself once and for all on the Cross. Now, in response to God's mercy, we offer

ourselves – our time, energy, hands, feet, financial resources, and hearts – as a continual offering to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. True spiritual worship does not end when the Recessional Hymn concludes at Sunday Mass. It continues when we leave our parish church and step into the world, living the faith we profess at Mass and allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us to put the teachings of Jesus Christ into practice. Every act of love and patience with our families, every honest hour of work and study, every moment spent helping a neighbor, and every quiet prayer in the midst of suffering and challenge becomes an offering holy and pleasing to God. Saint Paul also gives us an important warning: "Do not conform yourselves to this age." Folks, we live in a culture that often values individualism, material success, and personal comfort above all else – even above God the father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It can become all too easy for our attention and priorities to be slowly and subtly molded by the patterns of the world around us, and for our faith life to be quietly weakened.

Now, for example, I enjoy football as much as the next person. I am a lifelong glutton for punishment as a Cleveland Browns fan; I know full well our unofficial motto: "Wait 'til next season." But we may need to ask ourselves honestly whether OSU football, NFL football, other sports, or any other activities have quietly taken a place in our lives that belongs to God. This is especially important when we choose to skip Sunday Mass, the Lord's Day, or when we allow anything else to take precedence over God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The same concern applies if we assume that a weekly all-school Mass is sufficient for a child because he or she has already attended Mass once this week. Let us return to one of the basics of our faith: the Ten Commandments. The First Commandment teaches, "I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange gods before me." The Third Commandment teaches, "Remember to keep holy the LORD'S Day." If our view of Sunday has eroded to "it's just another day of the week," we need to recognize that we have conformed ourselves to the age that Saint Paul warns us about. Recognizing this calls us not simply to adjust our behavior, but to seek a true renewal of mind and heart. That renewal happens through a vibrant sacramental and faith life.

We are renewed when we encounter Jesus Christ in the Eucharist at Mass; when we pray before Jesus during Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; when we seek His mercy, compassion, and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and when we nourish our minds and hearts by reading and meditating on Sacred Scripture. When we stop allowing these distractions from gods (small "g") that we may have inadvertently created or permitted into our lives to shape us, and instead seek God (capital "G") and allow the Holy Spirit to transform us, our spiritual vision becomes clearer. We receive the grace to discern the will of God. We begin to see what is truly good, what pleases Him, and what leads us toward holiness.

This week, each of us would benefit from asking: What part of my life am I holding back from the altar of God? How am I allowing the secular world to shape my thoughts and priorities? Let us pray for the courage to surrender everything to Jesus Christ and to make Sunday – the Lord's Day – the day we give praise and worship to God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ, trusting that His will for us is always full of mercy, goodness, and peace.

**THIS IS THE FINAL SUNDAY** for Dr. Ross Williams, who has served as Director of Sacred Music for our parish for the past ten years. Ross has accepted a similar position at Saint Francis de Sales Parish in Newark, which will be a much easier commute for him as a resident of Licking County. Please join me in thanking Ross for his ten years of faithful service and many contributions to the music ministry here at Saint Brendan's. We offer our prayers for him as he begins his new ministry in Newark, for his family, and in a special way for his 21-year-old daughter, Sister Ella, who entered as a Postulant with the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, this past Saturday in Ann Arbor. Congratulations, Sister Ella, and be assured of our prayers!

**PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC**, Julie Cottrill, who begins on September 1. I have had the fortune of knowing and working with Julie since 2007 while I was serving as Pastor of Saint Catharine of Siena Parish. Julie and her family relocated to Columbus, Ohio in 2005 when her husband took a professorship at Ohio Dominican University (ODU). Shortly after moving, Julie started playing organ and piano for school Masses and the Sunday evening Mass at Saint Catharine of Siena. In 2007, Julie became the accompanist for the University Chorus at ODU, and shortly thereafter became Director of the group. In 2008, she joined the campus ministry staff at ODU as the Director of Liturgical Music. In 2011, Julie was recruited to serve as the Director of Music and Liturgy at Holy Spirit Parish. In 2018, Julie joined the staff at Our Lady of Peace as Director of Liturgy and Music where she currently serves. She was selected to serve on the liturgical planning subcommittee for the ordination and installation of Bishop Earl K. Fernandes in 2022 – a major organizational honor. Julie is a wonderful, talented musician and director with a wealth of experience in sacred music ministry on the parish, elementary school, and university levels. She will work well with our parish ministries, musicians, cantors, choirs and scholas, leading the traditional and contemporary music programs. Welcome aboard, Julie!

*Fr. Mike*

Fr. Michael Lumpe, Pastor

# Admonish the Sinner: The Third Spiritual Work of Mercy

*Article by Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR, courtesy of CatholicCulture.org.*

Vince Lombardi was a very famous football coach. He coached the Green Bay Packers to winning the first two Super Bowls ever played. He was also known for many sayings. One of them was the saying, "Winning isn't the main thing, it's the only thing!" I often paraphrase that saying: "For the Christian salvation isn't the main thing, it's the only thing!"

Jesus Himself tells us that if we were to gain the whole world yet lose our souls in the process, in the end we have gained nothing. (cf. Lk 9:25) In fact, we will have missed the very purpose for which God created us, namely, to share eternal life with Him in the Kingdom of Heaven. The greatest obstacle to our salvation is sin. Therefore, the Christian must be ready to resist sin in himself and at the same time, be willing to help others to resist sin in their own lives.

## **We Need to Admonish Ourselves First.**

To admonish the sinner begins by admonishing one's self. After all, we are all sinners. Humility is the virtue by which we recognize our sinfulness and our weakness, thus realizing that we ourselves depend upon God's mercy to forgive us our sins and upon His grace to strengthen us to resist sin in the future. Without humility, we will not admit our sins honestly to ourselves and, when needed, to others also.

Since human weakness is always present due to Original Sin and our own past personal sins, we know that we must struggle each day to resist evil and do good. The Bible says that even the just person falls seven times a day. (cf. Prov. 24:16) In biblical terms a "just person" meant a holy person. So even the saints had their sins and needed to remind themselves constantly of the danger of sinning. They needed always to beware of falling again. Jesus Himself told the apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Watch and pray that you may not enter into the test." (Mt. 26:41) When we "pray," we strengthen ourselves to resist sin by asking God for the grace to carry out His Will every day. When we "watch," we are vigilant to avoid the occasions of sin, namely, any person, place, or thing that would lead us to offend God.

To admonish others effectively, there are two other points we must keep in mind.

First, we must practice what we preach. In other words, we have to be working at striving for holiness and avoiding sin in our own lives if we expect others to do the same. It has been said, "I can't hear what you are saying because of what you are doing!" The approach, "Do what I say and not what I do," will never work.

The second point is to avoid the terrible attitude of self-righteousness with its judgmental view of others. Self-righteousness puts a person into the mindset of the Pharisees who were quick to condemn sin in others but overlooked it in themselves. This was the point of Jesus' challenge to them in the Gospel story of the woman caught in adultery. (cf. Jn 8:1 ff) They were quite ready to condemn this woman for her sin. In fact, they challenged Jesus on whether she should be stoned or not, according to the law of Moses. Jesus did not say "yes," nor did He say "no." He simply challenged them: "Let the one among you who has no sin cast the first stone." Then the Gospel tells us He began to write on the ground. Whatever He wrote apparently referred to each individual's sins because as each one saw what Our Blessed Lord wrote, they dropped their stones and walked away.

To carry out this work of admonishing the sinner, a person must have a sense of compassion for human weakness, and we can only learn that by recognizing our own weaknesses. If we fail to do so, we will be throwing a lot of stones at other people, and this would not be the Gospel attitude.

## **Admonishing Sinners May Mean Their Salvation.**

The basic reason that we admonish sinners is because their salvation may well be in jeopardy. As mentioned already, their salvation is the greatest good and need in their lives. If a person were drowning, and we were standing near a life preserver, and we did nothing to throw that life preserver out to that person so that person could be saved, this would be a terrible act of lack of love. It is even worse if souls are in jeopardy of their eternal loss from God, and we say nothing to make them realize the moral danger they are in. So even greater than all our bodily needs is the spiritual need to be set free from sin and receive the life of God. This is why admonishing the sinner is so important.

St. Francis of Assisi used to say that nothing should take precedence over the work of the salvation of souls. It was for this reason that he was so ardent in prayer for the conversion of sinners, why he preached so earnestly and sincerely calling people to repentance, and why he always strove to give a good example of Christian life that he might move others to know and love God more. In the Acts of the Apostles (cf 6:1 ff), we read how the Apostles would not abandon their work of prayer and preaching the Word of God to serve widows at tables, not because they disdained the work of serving at table, but because they realized that it was more important to serve the spiritual food of the Word of God, calling people to conversion and to His mercy, than even to feed their bodies. We must have, then, a deep sense of compassion and concern for the salvation of others.

Despite its great importance, this is a difficult and dangerous work of mercy because people do not like to be reminded of their sins and faults. None of us likes to be corrected. It goes against the grain with us; it stings us to hear that we have done something wrong! This is even more so if people have entered into denial of sin in their lives.

Pope John Paul II has said that one of the greatest difficulties we face in the world today is the loss of a sense of sin. We used to say years ago that something was "as obvious as sin." Sin is far from obvious today with many people!

Archbishop Sheen would say that 150 years ago, when the Catholic Church declared the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, there were people who were up in arms that the Church would dare say that there was even one person without sin! Now, he said, everybody is without sin! So if people are forgetful or into denial, which is even worse, they will react if they are reminded of their sins.

This is very common outside of abortion clinics when trying to dissuade women from going in and having abortions. Sometimes they themselves, or family members, or especially boyfriends who escort them into the abortion clinics will react with rage and abusive language because those who are praying outside of the abortion clinics are reminding them of what they are really doing, and these people are not open to being reminded!

## **Proceed with Great Caution, but Proceed.**

To admonish people about their sins certainly is a very delicate matter. Because of the possibility of great anger and resentment, one must always approach with care and sensitivity. There are things we can say to a certain degree, but there are other things that perhaps are not ready to be said yet.

Dorothy Day used to say that Jesus came for two reasons: "He came to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." If you admonish certain sinners, you will afflict them. If you admonish others, you will comfort them or at least lead them to comfort. Remember, we have already stressed that we must always proceed with compassion and a sense of humility, and never try to confront people with their sins with an attitude of, "I am better than you are," or "I'm here to correct you."

The difficulty, as we have seen, lies in the fact that no one likes to be reminded of their sins. Jesus says in the Gospel of St. John (cf. 3:19-21) that those whose evil deeds are done in darkness, so as not to have them known, will resent the light when someone points them out. It stings their consciences, or at least hurts their pride and vanity.

This situation is further complicated today by a general attitude that we should never "judge anyone." However, we must make an important distinction when it comes to judging the morality of people's actions. If an action is wrong, that is, if it is a sin, we must condemn it. On the other hand, we do not condemn the sinner but try to encourage that person to repentance and conversion of his or her life. After all, no one hated sin more than Jesus, and yet no one loved sinners more than Jesus either.

In spite of the difficulties, however, we must be willing to risk trying to win over people from their sinful ways. If they are sincere, in the end they will thank you. Jesus says that those who are sincere will welcome the light to verify the truthfulness and the sincerity of their deeds. In other words, being sincere, they will welcome the light of someone pointing out where they may be doing wrong because they probably are quite unaware of it or of any harmful effects their actions may have in this life and in the next. You will actually set them free by pointing out their sins, even if at first they may resist your attempts to do so.

A famous story in the life of Archbishop Sheen illustrates this well. As a young priest, he was on duty at St. Patrick's Church in Soho Square in London. A woman, an actress, came to the rectory to speak with a priest about her rather sinful lifestyle. However, to get up the courage to do so, she drank quite a bit. As young Fr. Sheen tried to speak to her about her immoral living, it was apparent that because she had drunk so much, she could not understand what he was saying to her. So he asked her, "Would you come back and see me when you are feeling better?" She answered, "Yes, but on one condition: that you promise me you will not ask me to go to Confession!" Fr. Sheen promised her. In fact, he promised three times in all: twice before she left, and once when she came back!

When she returned in a sober state, they spoke for about an hour and she felt much better! As she was ready to leave, he said to her, "Can I show you the inside of our Church? We have some very beautiful paintings there." She said, "Yes," and as they were walking along the side aisle, they came by the confessional, and he pushed her right in. He kept his promise not to ask her to go to confession! The woman made a confession of her whole life, and later on became a cloistered nun for over forty years in

nearby Tybourn Convent in London. When the woman kept saying, "Promise me you will not ask me to go to confession," young Fr. Sheen realized that she was really unconsciously yearning to go to the Sacrament of God's mercy!

She was protesting too much, and it became evident that what she really needed and wanted was God's forgiveness.

## **To Admonish the Sinner Has Many Meanings.**

If we look up the meaning of the word "admonish," we will find it has various meanings, which indicate different ways we can carry out this spiritual work of mercy. Let us reflect on these different meanings.

To admonish a sinner means, first of all, to call someone to conversion. Jesus Himself did this from the very outset of His public ministry when He proclaimed, "The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Good News!" (Mk 1:15). We can call people to conversion in different ways. Sometimes it comes by formal preaching, such as at a parish mission or a retreat, or maybe in a witness talk of a conversion story of one's own life. Another way is in a one-on-one talk or a small group discussion. Even yet another call can be non-verbal, simply by the good example of refusing to participate in wrongdoing. Good example has a great witness power to it!

Another way to admonish is to inform or remind someone by way of a warning of the moral danger they are in. Priests and parents often practice this form of admonishing. It focuses on a specific individual who needs this warning. For example, St. Padre Pio once warned a man in Confession to change his lifestyle because he was in danger of going to hell. When the man said that he did not believe in hell, Padre Pio told him he would believe when he got there! We can be sure the man got the message.

Cautioning a person to correct certain specific faults is another form of admonishing. Some people have an obligation in justice to do this by their very office or authority. For example, a bishop in his diocese must correct blatant evils, or a superior of a religious community correct abuses, or a spiritual director correct his or her counselees, or parents correct their children.

Another expression of this admonishing is by fraternal correction. This is considered an expression of charity. Out of love and concern for a brother or sister in Christ, one brings to their attention faults or shortcomings that may be harming the individual or affecting others negatively, such as in a family or community. True friends would want to do this for one another. A caution here is to avoid pettiness in matters that one corrects. Many shortcomings which do not affect others negatively should be borne patiently. This admonishing sometimes involves a mild reproof as, for example, for laziness or indifference.

A final form of admonishing sinners is to encourage or even urge them on to greater efforts or to persevere in their struggle to break from a life of sin. This form of admonishing is directed to persons who are weak and fall often, or to the fainthearted who fear the price of the effort needed to reform their lives, or to the lukewarm who lack a zealous motivation and a firm determination to change their lives.

## **Silence in the Face of Evil Is Disastrous.**

There is an old saying, "All that is needed for evil to succeed is for good people to say or do nothing!" Silence in the face of evil allows that evil to continue and even to spread. Such a terrible silence must be broken.

Article by Fr. Apostoli continues here...

To paraphrase one of Archbishop Sheen's famous quotes, "We don't need a voice that speaks when everybody else is speaking; we need a voice that speaks when everybody else is silent!" This is especially applicable to those who have positions of responsibility for guiding others.

Sacred Scripture, for example, contains certain images for those in positions of leadership among God's people.

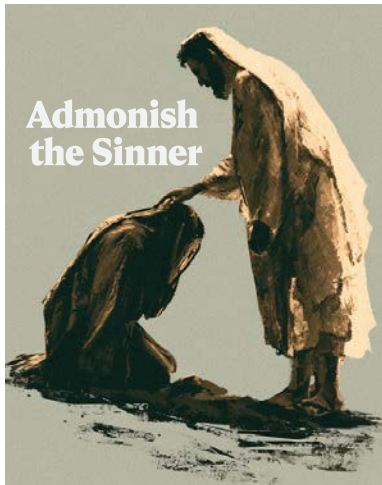
They are to be like shepherds (cf. Jn 10:1 ff) guarding their sheep, ready even to lay down their lives to protect their sheep from harm. If they remain silent, they are simply running away like hired hands! Again, they are compared to watchmen in their towers, guarding the city from attack (cf. Ez 33:1 ff). However, if they see the enemy coming but fail to sound the alarm, the city will be destroyed. Finally, St. Gregory the Great uses the image of the watchdog that guards against thieves and other intruders. But, he says, if the watchdog cannot bark, it is useless!

Parents must also fulfill their responsibility as best they can. Disciplining children in an appropriate way may save both children and parents from a lot of future grief and sorrow. As the old proverb wisely teaches, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." The "rod" here would be better understood as a proper correction or verbal discipline rather than simply a form of physical punishment. Even fraternal correction, given early enough and lovingly enough, can make a big difference! It serves as a clear light during a moment of serious darkness in a person's life.

### **Admonishing Sinners Merits a Great Reward.**

St. James in his letter tells us that there is a great reward in store for those who help sinners find their way to Christ. They will save the soul of the erring brother or sister in Christ from being lost and at the same time, they will cover a "multitude" of their own sins because God will be very merciful to them for their work of mercy to another! (cf. James 5:19-20) We should ask God to give us a fervent desire for the salvation of souls.

Great saints and mystics who write about the spiritual life assure us that this desire is something that grows intensely as one draws closer to God. This desire will strengthen the conviction to admonish those who need it, even when the task is quite challenging. In this way, we will help to satisfy the unspeakable thirst of Jesus upon the cross for the salvation of all men and women for whom He was laying down His life in such great suffering!



# **Open Your Mind & Heart to the Holy Spirit**

Article by Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, courtesy of the Catholic Exchange.

The Sanctifier, Sweet Guest of the Soul, Interior Master of Prayer, Consoler and Counselor, Intimate Friend, Paraclete, Advocate, Soul of the Church, Uncreated bond of love between Father and Son – all of these express titles or names for the Third Person of the most Blessed Trinity: The Holy Spirit.

### **Starts with Baptism –**

From the moment we received the unmerited and gratuitous gift from God, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, we received with this Sacrament countless graces and blessings. One of the most sublime and extraordinary gifts was "*The Gift of Gifts*" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*), the Holy Spirit. In that moment the Holy Spirit became the *Divine Guest* of our soul, bringing with His Presence the **Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Piety, and Fear of the Lord.**

### **Heavenly Inspirations –**

If we maintain our soul in the state of sanctifying grace, the Holy Spirit works in the depths of our being in a very special way. Heavenly inspirations from on high become more and more frequent depending on one condition: our docility, yes, docility, to these heavenly inspirations. If we are humble, attentive, receptive and docile then the Holy Spirit works quietly but very powerfully in our soul and we experience in the depths of our soul an interior sweetness – these are the *Fruits of the Holy Spirit*. By collaborating with the *Gifts of the Holy Spirit*, we will experience that interior sweetness in our soul of the **Fruits of the Holy Spirit: peace, joy, mildness, self-control, chastity, patience, etc.** In a word, our holiness and sanctification depends in large part in allowing the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, to work more freely, openly, and powerfully in our conversion, transformation, and sanctification.

### **Frequent Inspirations from the Holy Spirit –**

I would like to highlight certain inspirations that come from the Holy Spirit, the Sweet Guest of your soul, and the great importance to recognize them and respond to them. May Our Lady, Mystical Spouse of the Holy Spirit, come to our aid and pray for us that the workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives will not be frustrated but brought to a full development. "Come, Holy Spirit, come through the Heart of Mary." Mary was at all times, in all places, and in all circumstances totally and unreservedly open to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit. Without doubt through her powerful intercession, Mary can help us to be more docile and responsive to the graces and inspirations from on high!

1. **Go to Confession!** If we have the misfortune and disgrace to fall into mortal sin and lose sanctifying grace, then most assuredly the Holy Spirit will send inspirations to bring you back to God by means of a well-prepared, well-expressed, humble and contrite Sacramental Confession. Most surely, the Holy Spirit wants you to be restored to grace, but He respects our free will!

2. **Open Our Hearts to Prayer.** One of the titles describing the work of the Holy Spirit is that of "Interior Master of the soul". This title means that the Holy Spirit wants to teach us how to communicate with God through prayer. For most of us, prayer is often a struggle, and we might even say that we do not really know how to pray. Saint Paul in the Letter to the Romans responds to this quandary and struggle in our spiritual life with these words: *"We do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Holy Spirit intercedes with inexpressible groans so that we can say, Abba, Father"* (Rom. 8:26.)
  3. **Go Deeper into the Infinite Ocean of Prayer.** Not only will the Holy Spirit gently but insistently invite us to pray through His Holy inspirations, but He will challenge us to both pray more and at greater length, as well as go deeper in our prayer. Prayer can be compared to the ocean. We can walk along the seashore and allow the waves to barely graze our feet or we can go into the deep, drop the anchor, and the ocean seems to be a bottomless abyss. So it is in our relationship with God; He is infinite and so can our prayer become better and better, deeper and deeper! Beg Him for the grace; a prayer He loves to answer!
  4. **Read, Reflect, Reason, and Run to God.** This is our daily Holy Hour! The Holy Spirit will challenge us to slow down in our active and frenetic life characterized by the spirit of the day called activism. The Holy Spirit will nudge us daily to stop, slow down, take up the Scriptures or a good spiritual book and start to read the text slowly, reflecting upon it as Mary did when she pondered in her Immaculate Heart, then discern its deeper meaning, and finally, run to God as our most sure haven and source of refuge. *"Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth"* (Ps. 124:8).
  5. **Seek Advice.** At times, when we find ourselves in a state of desolation and confusion, the Holy Spirit might nudge us to seek help, to seek advice, to seek counsel and direction through a human medium or intermediary, and this would be a spiritual director. Saint John of the Cross states wryly: *"He who has himself as director, has an idiot as a disciple."* Put bluntly, we cannot adequately direct ourselves because we all have many blind spots in our spiritual journey.
  6. **Push to Practice Penance.** It is impossible to be under the guidance and influence of the Holy Spirit and not have nudges, gentle pushes, interior lights and inspirations to engage in the practice of penance. In very clear and unequivocal terms Jesus asserted: *"Anyone who wishes to be my follower must renounce himself, take up his cross, and follow me"* (Mt. 16:24). In so many words, the great woman mystic and Doctor of the Church, St. Teresa of Avila, states that prayer and a life of indulgence and sensuality are diametrically opposed. They are like oil and vinegar – they simply do not mix!
  7. **Humble Yourself and Reconcile, Making Peace.** In no uncertain terms, Jesus commands us to strive to be at peace with our brothers and sisters. So much so that Jesus says if you are about to present your gift at the altar and recall that your brother has something against you, leave the gift, go and reconcile with your brother, and then come back to offer the gift.
- This can be interpreted in the light of Holy Mass, our offering at the Offertory and Holy Communion. In other words, the Holy Spirit cannot work powerfully and efficaciously in a heart that is proud, resentful, bitter, and angry! Jesus said that He is meek and humble of heart and He challenges us to be the same! (Mt. 11:28-30)
8. **Walk the Extra Mile, Even When You Do Not Feel Like It.** Once again related to the topic or theme of sacrifice, often the Holy Spirit will challenge us by His heavenly inspirations to walk the extra mile and move on to some task, work, or activity when we are tired, maybe even exhausted. However, if we correspond with docility and generosity to the inspiration, His grace and strength will never be lacking. Jesus said to the Great Apostle Saint Paul: *"My grace is sufficient."* (2 Cor. 12:9) The Holy Spirit will never inspire in your mind and heart a proposal that He will not give you sufficient grace to carry out! Our prayer must be: *"Holy Spirit, I trust in Your power and presence to help me carry out Your Will."*
  9. **Work Harder, Carry the Cross Trustingly and Overflow with Joy.** If you read through the lives of the saints, who are the spiritual masterpieces of God in the words of Saint Pope John XXIII, you will notice the following characteristics of many of the saints. They spend less time in bed and less time at the table chowing down, allowing them time to pray more, work harder and more efficaciously, and without complaining! Then they have many crosses, and I say many crosses. However, in the midst of all of these apparent hardships and trials they are overflowing with peace, happiness, and joy! All of this is obviously the working of the Holy Spirit. Test yourself in these areas; how do you rate?
  10. **Turn, Talk, Draw Close to, Confide in, His Mystical Spouse – the Blessed Virgin Mary.** The Blessed Virgin Mary is the Daughter of God the Father, the Mother of God the Son, and the Mystical Spouse of the Holy Spirit. This being the case, the Holy Spirit will often inspire you to open up your heart and talk to Mary about your life, your thoughts and feelings, your struggles and battles, your failures and victories, your hopes and dreams! Saint Louis de Montfort in his spiritual classic, *True Devotion to Mary* states: *"Those who love Mary, the Holy Spirit flings Himself into their souls."*
- In conclusion,** our conversion, sanctification, transformation and perseverance in grace depends in large part upon our relationship with the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier. Holiness depends on being docile to the Heavenly inspirations of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, let us start right now and make a firm decision and commitment to be more docile and attentive to the inner workings and inspirations of the Holy Spirit in our lives! *"If today you hear His voice harden not your hearts."* (Psalm 95:7-8) May this be our prayer: *"Come, Holy Spirit, come through the Heart of Mary."*

## Parishioner Award

Our Parishioner, **Mary Helen Olszewski**, 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, Sept. 20, 11:30 AM-3:30 PM at The Berwick (3250 Refugee Rd.) Seating opens 11:30 AM and ceremony starts 12 PM. Register (\$35/person includes lunch) at <https://dioceseofcolumbus.org/teresaaward> by August 31. Questions? Contact Annette at [DCCW@ColumbusCatholic.org](mailto:DCCW@ColumbusCatholic.org)

## Vendor Booths Full

The Knights of Columbus Nov. 7 **Fall Craft Show** vendor booths are now full! A waitlist, in case of a cancellation, is now available. To be added to the list, email Eric at [sbcraftshow@gmail.com](mailto:sbcraftshow@gmail.com)

## PGC Class, Oct. 5

To volunteer in the POD Nursery or help at parish events/ministries that work with children, you will need to be Safe Environment compliant, so this session is for you! Meet 5-6 PM, October 5 in the Davidson Rooms for fingerprinting (no sign-up needed) and 6-7 PM for a *Protecting God's Children* class. Register for the class at [tinyurl.com/StBrendanPGCTotus](http://tinyurl.com/StBrendanPGCTotus)

## Scam Alert

Please be aware of scammers who are impersonating our clergy or our office staff. No one from St. Brendan will email or text you asking you to purchase gift cards. Contact the Parish Office if you are not sure of the legitimacy of correspondence you receive.

## Keep Us Updated!

Have you moved, changed your primary phone, baptized your baby somewhere other than St. Brendan or were married? Please take a moment to update your information in ParishStaq or email the information to Dina Harder: [dharder@stbrendans.net](mailto:dharder@stbrendans.net)

# Community Calendar

### MONDAY, AUGUST 31

|                  |                                    |                  |
|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 6:30 AM          | Daily Mass                         | Adoration Chapel |
| 8:00 AM          | Daily Mass                         | Church           |
| 9:00 AM          | The Book of Revelation Bible Study | Wellnitz, Room 1 |
| 9:00 AM          | Church Cleaning                    | Church & Chapel  |
| 5:30 PM          | Daily Mass                         | Church           |
| 6:00 PM-10:00 PM | Eucharistic Adoration              | Adoration Chapel |

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

|                  |                                        |                     |
|------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 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    |
| 9:30 AM          | Elizabeth Ministry Playgroup           | Childcare Center    |
| 6:30 PM          | OCIA Immaculate Conception Cohort Mtg. | Davidson, Room B    |
| 7:00 PM          | Men's Club Monthly Member Meeting      | Wellnitz, Rms 1 & 2 |

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

|                 |                              |                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 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             |
| 7:15 PM         | Parish Choir Rehearsal       | Church             |

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

|                  |                                                    |                      |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 6:30 AM          | Daily Mass                                         | Adoration Chapel     |
| 8:00 AM          | Daily Mass                                         | Church               |
| 8:30 AM-10:00 PM | Eucharistic Adoration                              | Adoration Chapel     |
| 10:00 AM         | SVdP Sandwich Making for the Homeless              | Wellnitz, Room 1     |
| 6:30 PM          | Communion & Liberation School of Cmty.             | Wellnitz, Room 2     |
| 6:30 PM          | StB Women's Kickoff: <i>The Friendship Project</i> | Davidson, Rms. A & B |

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

|                  |                                         |                                  |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6:30 AM          | Daily Mass                              | Adoration Chapel                 |
| 8:00 AM          | Daily Mass                              | Church                           |
| 8:00 AM          | Seniors NOW 1st Friday Mass & Breakfast | Church / Panera, 6120 Sawmill Rd |
| 8:30 AM-12:00 AM | 1st Friday Eucharistic Adoration        | Adoration Chapel                 |

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

|                  |                                  |                    |
|------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 12:00 AM-1:00 PM | 1st Friday Eucharistic Adoration | Adoration Chapel   |
| 5:30 AM          | Fit Shepherds Men's Ministry     | Campus Parking Lot |
| 8:00 AM          | Daily Mass                       | Church             |
| 9:00 AM          | Confession                       | Confessional       |
| 5:30 PM          | Vigil Mass                       | Church             |

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

|                               |                       |                  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 7:15, 8:45, 10:45 AM, 5:30 PM | Sunday Masses         | Church           |
| During 8:45 & 10:45 AM Mass   | POD Nursery           | Childcare Center |
| 6:30 PM-10:00 PM              | Eucharistic Adoration | Adoration Chapel |

**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](http://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:

Sean Grier  
Ken Weitmarshen  
Margie Hiam  
Jimmy Gutierrez  
Curt Thayer  
Daniel Francis  
Bertha Torok  
Ilona Owens  
Joseph Rienhard  
Dave Boyd  
Lisa Lynch  
Chris Carrino  
Elliott Verrilli  
Steve Strait  
Tonya Prickett  
Bailey Curtis  
Andrea Gigliotti  
Brenda Bazan

### 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 Pfirman  
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.

### PRAY FOR THOSE AWAY FROM THE CHURCH

St. Brendan Inviting Catholics Home Ministry prays daily for those no longer practicing our Catholic faith. Learn more at [stbrendans.net/ich](http://stbrendans.net/ich)

## Eucharistic Adoration

Sign up at [stbrendan.weadorehim.com](http://stbrendan.weadorehim.com)  
Upon arrival, please sign in at the Kiosk, even if as a guest or there under an hour.

**MONDAY** 6 PM–10 PM

**TUE./THU./FRI.** 8:30 AM–10 PM

(1st 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 23, 2026** \$40,261

(Cash, checks, online giving)

**Weekly Budgeted** \$44,300



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

## First Friday Adoration, September 4-5

First Friday Adoration is Friday, September 4, 8:30 AM through Saturday, September 5 at 1 PM. Adorers are still needed, especially during the overnight hours. Please sign up at [stbrendan.weadorehim.com](http://stbrendan.weadorehim.com)

# Mass Intentions

## MONDAY, AUGUST 31

6:30 AM Don Azelvandre †  
8:00 AM For the needs of our parishioners as they begin the week  
5:30 PM John D'Amico †

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

6:30 AM Robert Ulliman †  
8:00 AM Mary Loreto Petrozzi †

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

6:30 AM Daniel Dunlap †  
5:30 PM Mark Petty †

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

6:30 AM Charles D. Heilen †  
8:00 AM Robert Bickis, Jr. †

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

6:30 AM Daniel Dunlap †  
8:00 AM Intention for The Sizemore Family

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

8:00 AM Intention for Fr. Tom Cloherty  
5:30 PM Edwin Sese †

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

**Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:15 AM Jonathan Coldren †  
8:45 AM Jean Morris †  
10:45 AM For the Protection of the Unborn  
5:30 PM For the People of St. Brendan Parish

(† Intention is for someone deceased.)

## Mass Intentions Online

Mass Intentions can now be made with our online form accessible via the QR code or at <https://tinyurl.com/massintent> allowing for credit/debit card payments. Or, find the Mass Intention Envelopes in the Church Gathering Area to fill out with \$10 cash/check included and drop off at the Parish Office.



## Our Sympathy

**PRAY FOR THE FAMILY OF:**  
Pamela Theado



## Congratulations

**ON THE BAPTISMS OF:**  
Reece Theodore Fullenkamp  
Wesley James Lawler  
Calvin James Meyer  
Theo Christopher Miller  
Adaugo Olivia Muoghalu



## From the Principal's Desk...

As we prepared for the start of this school year during the summer months, I found myself telling people I couldn't wait for it to begin! The energy surrounding the 545 children at St. Brendan School as they grow in mind, body, and soul is truly inspiring – it's simply amazing to witness. How could I not be excited?! Being a servant leader here at St. Brendan has truly been a gift that I'm thankful for every day. In fact, my challenge to our middle school students on the first day of school was to strive to be servant leaders, with Jesus as their example. If they take the time to listen, grow, lead with humility, empower others, build trust, put the team first, and lead by example, each of them will flourish in countless ways – here at school, in our community, and with their families at home.

This year, we will continue our journey from fixed mindsets toward growth mindsets, embracing the opportunity to utilize the four cardinal virtues of temperance, prudence, fortitude, and justice to support this growth – helping our students to become the best version of themselves! We are also rolling out a few new opportunities for our students:

We had our first **Dolphin Camp** which allowed our incoming Kindergarten students (our "Little Dolphins") to get acclimated to St. Brendan as they begin their student lives here at our school (see two photos above.) We also started a **Middle School Transition Class** for our incoming 6th graders who are beginning their middle school journey. The class will allow them to be better equipped to navigate the next three years and sets them up for success. We introduced a new **Spanish Enrichment Program** for our middle school students, providing them with the opportunity to learn another language while gaining a deeper appreciation for different cultures.

We are also excited for our upcoming **All School Enthronement** at St. Brendan. Fr. Sam and I have been preparing for this special experience for a while. In June, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) consecrated the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus during the nation's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This is the first time in U.S. history that the entire country is formally placed under the protection and kingship of the Sacred Heart. In conjunction, we will be enthroning St. Brendan School! Each room in our building will have a portrait of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and our students will learn all about this special consecration. Fr. Sam and I were also blessed to travel to Pittsburgh to pick up our very own statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that is now installed in our school. Of course, we had to stop at Primanti Bros to grab a sandwich while in Pittsburgh! (see the photos to the left).

The examples above represent just a glimpse of the incredible energy, enthusiasm, and growth taking place throughout our school each and every day. We are truly grateful for the incredible support of our parish, our school families, our parishioners, and all who believe in and support our mission. Here's to a wonderful 2026-27 school year!

~Mike DeMassimo

# Lectio Divina

## SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

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“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)

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*The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows*

**“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.’ There is here a particular reference to ourselves; we hold in our hearts one we have not seen in the flesh. We are included in these words, but only if we follow up our faith with good works. The true believer practices what he believes. But of those who pay only lip service to faith, Paul has this to say: ‘They profess to know God, but they deny him in their works.’ Therefore James says: ‘Faith without works is dead.’”** +POPE SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT

### Monday, August 31 ~ Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

**Holy Gospel: Luke 4:16-30** Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, / because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. / He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, / to let the oppressed go free, / and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. /* Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.” And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, “Is this not the son of Joseph?” He said to them, “Surely you will quote me this proverb, ‘Physician, cure yourself,’ and say, ‘Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.’” And he said, “Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But he passed through the midst of them and went away.

**Meditation:** The word “gospel” literally means “good news.” Isaiah had prophesied that the Messiah would come in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring freedom to those oppressed by sin and evil (see Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus came to set people free from the worst tyranny possible – the tyranny of slavery to sin and the fear of death, and the destruction of both body and soul. God’s power alone can save us from emptiness and poverty of spirit, from confusion and error, and from the fear of death and hopelessness. The Gospel of salvation is “good news” for us today, tomorrow, three weeks from today – every day of our lives. And so you might ask yourself today whether or not you have experienced true happiness, joy and freedom of the Gospel. The “good news” of Jesus Christ is truth from Truth personified – Jesus Christ, the source of all that is right and good and true. The “good news” of Christ’s timeless truths can bring us nothing but authentic freedom from sin, and the joy of experiencing his unbounded love for each of us. As Pope Francis noted in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*: “The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew” (EG 1).

**Prayer:** God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. 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:** In relation to day’s Gospel, additional contemplation on Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* is useful: “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a

renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord' (Pope Paul VI, *Gaudete in Domino*). The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus: 'Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace.' How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost! Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy. Christ, who told us to forgive one another 'seventy times seven' (Mt 18:22) has given us his example: he has forgiven us seventy times seven. Time and time again he bears us on his shoulders. No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us by this boundless and unfailing love. With a tenderness which never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew. Let us not flee from the resurrection of Jesus, let us never give up, come what will. May nothing inspire more than his life, which impels us onwards" (EG 3)!

## **Tuesday, September 1 ~ Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 4:31-37** Jesus went down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee. He taught them on the sabbath, and they were astonished at his teaching because he spoke with authority. In the synagogue there was a man with the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out in a loud voice, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Be quiet! Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down in front of them and came out of him without doing him any harm. They were all amazed and said to one another, "What is there about his word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out." And news of him spread everywhere in the surrounding region.

**Meditation:** When you listen to the word of the Lord in Sacred Scripture how do you respond? In one ear and out the other? Half-hearted while surrounded by various distractions? Or do you listen to the word of the Lord with the full assent of faith, a heart longing for his word, a desire to learn, embrace and live as a doer of his word and not simply a hearer of his word (ref. James 1:22)? When Jesus taught he spoke with authority. He spoke the word of God as no one had spoken it before. When the Rabbis taught they supported their statements with quotes from other authorities. The prophets spoke with delegated authority - *Thus says the Lord*. When Jesus spoke he needed no authorities to back his statements. He was word incarnate, authority incarnate - the Word of God made flesh. When he spoke, God spoke. When Jesus commanded even the demons obeyed!

**Prayer:** Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. 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:** Contemplating on today's Gospel from a different perspective, what if each of us – not as an unclean demon, but as a brother or sister in Christ Jesus – were to ask "What have you to do with me, Jesus of Nazareth?" Hopefully we would respond first recognizing who Jesus is – the Son of God, sent out of love by God to be the Redeemer and Savior of the world, and that each of us are part of the world whom Jesus wishes to redeem as our Savior. That's right, you, me, and every man, woman and child on this earth, past, present and future. Second, we need to understand that this can only occur if we invite Jesus into our lives and let him, as the Good Shepherd, to lead us and guide us through the often "dark valley of death" (Psalm 23) that we encounter in our various challenges in life, and be at our side to experience the joy and peace of being an authentic disciple of his. So, "what have you to do with me, Jesus of Nazareth?" Everything that truly matters – our salvation.

## **Wednesday, September 2 ~ Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 4:38-44** After Jesus left the synagogue, he entered the house of Simon. Simon's mother-in-law was afflicted with a severe fever, and they interceded with him about her. He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up immediately and waited on them.

At sunset, all who had people sick with various diseases brought them to him. He laid his hands on each of them and cured them. And demons also came out from many, shouting, "You are the Son of God." But he rebuked them and did not allow them to speak because they knew that he was the Christ.

At daybreak, Jesus left and went to a deserted place. The crowds went looking for him, and when they came to him, they tried to prevent him from leaving them. But he said to them, "To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent." And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

**Meditation:** Who do you take your troubles to? Dear Abbey? The self-help aisle at Barnes and Noble? Some blog or web page? Jesus' disciples freely brought their troubles to him because they found him ready and able to deal with any difficulty, affliction, or sickness which they encountered. We are invited to do the same in prayer – deep, from the heart prayer. When Simon Peter brought Jesus to his home for the Sabbath meal (right after Jesus preached in the synagogue in Capernaum), his mother-in-law was instantly healed because Jesus heard Simon's prayer. When is the last time you prayed – really prayed – when you were facing a challenge where you needed God's help and divine guidance? When is the last time you made a pilgrimage to a shrine – for example the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio ([www.olcshrine.com](http://www.olcshrine.com)) – seeking the Blessed Virgin Mary's intercession with Jesus on your behalf or someone important in your life? Go to someone who can actually help – Jesus!

**Prayer:** O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. 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:** We can never intrude upon God nor exhaust his love, compassion, generosity and kindness. He is ever ready to give to those who earnestly and faithfully seek him out. Do you allow Jesus to be the Lord and Healer in your personal life, family, work, parish, neighborhood and community? Approach him with expectant faith. God's healing power restores us not only to health but to active service and care of others. There is no trouble he does not want to help us with and there is no bondage he can't set us free from.

### **Thursday, September 3 ~ Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time**

#### **Memorial: Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 5:1-11** While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

**Meditation:** The miracle in today's Gospel shows us an important truth about how God works in and through each of us for his glory. God expects of us greater things than we can do by ourselves. When we cooperate in *his* works, we accomplish far beyond what we can do on our own. Saint Therese of Lisieux, a Carmelite nun who died of tuberculosis at the age of 24, once wrote: "Jesus has so incomprehensible a love for us that he wills that we have a share with him in the salvation of souls. He wills to do nothing without us. The Creator of the universe awaits the prayer of a poor little soul to save other souls redeemed like it at the price of all his Blood." When God's word is spoken his kingdom is revealed and his divine power is made shown. When people respond to God's word with faith and obedience they are changed and made "a new creation" in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

**Prayer:** O God, who care for your people with gentleness and rule them in love, through the intercession of Pope Saint Gregory, endow, we pray, with a spirit of wisdom those to whom you have given authority to govern, that the flourishing of a holy flock may become the eternal joy of the shepherds. 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 apostles were not saints from the get-go – they were men who worked hard and played hard and, as Simon Peter admits, sinful persons. But Jesus did not condemn them. Rather Jesus said “do not be afraid” and so they followed him. God chooses ordinary people, like you and me, sinners all, and uses the ordinary circumstances of our daily lives and work situations to draw others into his kingdom. Jesus speaks the same message to us today: we will “catch people” for the kingdom of God if we allow the light of Jesus Christ to shine through us. God wants others to see the light of Christ in us in the way we live, speak, and witness the joy of the Gospel.

**About Pope Saint Gregory the Great:** St. Gregory was born at Rome in 540. He was successively senator and prefect of Rome before the age of 30. After five years he resigned and became a monk, transforming his own house into a Benedictine monastery, and founding six others. At the age of 50 he was elected pope, serving from 590 to 604. In 14 years he accomplished much for the Mystical Body of Christ. After seeing English children being sold as slaves in Rome, he sent 40 monks, including St. Augustine of Canterbury, from his own monastery to make “the Angles angels.” England owes her conversion to him. He watched over the holiness of the clergy and the maintenance of Church discipline, the temporal interests of his people of Rome and the spiritual interests of all Christendom. He removed unworthy priests from office, forbade taking money for many services, and emptied the papal treasury to ransom prisoners of the Lombards and to care for persecuted Jews and victims of plague and famine. These deeds and others made him, in the words of an antiphon in his office, “the Father of the City, the joy of the World.” Gregory reformed the liturgy, and it still contains several of his most beautiful prayers. The name “Gregorian chant” recalls this great Pope’s work in the development of the Church’s music. His commentaries on Holy Scripture exercised a considerable influence on Christian thought in the Middle Ages. Saint Gregory died on March 12, 604; his body lies at Saint Peter Basilica in Rome.

### **Friday, September 4 ~ Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 5:33-39** The scribes and Pharisees said to Jesus, “The disciples of John the Baptist fast often and offer prayers, and the disciples of the Pharisees do the same; but yours eat and drink.” Jesus answered them, “Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, and when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days.” And he also told them a parable. “No one tears a piece from a new cloak to patch an old one. Otherwise, he will tear the new and the piece from it will not match the old cloak. Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins, and it will be spilled, and the skins will be ruined. Rather, new wine must be poured into fresh wineskins. And no one who has been drinking old wine desires new, for he says, ‘The old is good.’”

**Meditation:** Are we to reject the old in place of the new? Just as there is a right place and a right time for fasting and for feasting, so there is a right place for the old as well as the new. Jesus says *the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old* (Matthew 13:52). A very common expression, dating back to the early beginnings of the Church, states that the New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New -- the two shed light on each other. The New Testament does not replace the Old, rather it unveils and brings into full light the hidden meaning and signs which foreshadow and point to God’s plan of redemption which he would accomplish through his Son, Jesus Christ. How impoverished we would be if we only had the Old Testament or the New Testament, rather than both.

**Prayer:** O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. 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 Lord Jesus gives us wisdom so we can make the best use of both the old and the new. He doesn’t want us to hold rigidly to the past and to be resistant to the new action of his Holy Spirit in our lives. He wants our minds and hearts to be like the new wine skins, open and ready to receive the *new wine of the Holy Spirit*. Are you eager to grow in the knowledge and understanding of God’s word and plan for your life?

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.

## 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](mailto:doconnell@stbrendans.net)



**SEPTEMBER 17:** Kelly Lambert: *Emotional Aspects of Being a Caregiver*

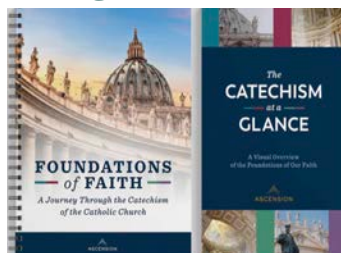
**OCTOBER 15:** Tonya Kreml: *Safety at Home While Caregiving*

**NOVEMBER 19:** Laurie Schier: *Resources Beyond the Home*

## OCIA Easter Vigil Cohort Begins Sept. 8

### 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. Our Easter Vigil Cohort begins Sept. 8 and meets Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 PM through Easter (plus 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 with you! If interested, email Wendy at [wferkany@stbrendans.net](mailto:wferkany@stbrendans.net) or, fill out an OCIA form found at the Welcome Desk and turn it in to the Parish Office.



## Weekly/Monthly Parish Ministries

**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](mailto:njhasou@gmail.com)

**Church Cleaning** – Meet Mondays at 9 AM in the church for light cleaning. Supplies are provided. Email Lisa at [lisaplong@gmail.com](mailto:lisaplong@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](mailto:kendriz@aol.com) or Karen at [kkessmith@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:jfreydesigns@gmail.com)

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

**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](mailto:doconnell@stbrendans.net)

## Spiritual/Mental Support & Care

**iTHIRST Spiritual Companions** – Three iThirst Spiritual Companions are available at our parish! Visit [opendoorwomensrecoveryorg/ithirst](http://opendoorwomensrecoveryorg/ithirst) for details or, for questions email [info.ithirstcolumbus@gmail.com](mailto: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/>

St. Brendan and the Knights of Columbus host date nights:  
**6:30-8PM**  
Sept. 18, Oct. 23, Nov. 20, Jan. 15,  
Feb. 12, March 12, April 16, May 21

## Date Nights Begin 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 on Friday, September 18 at 6:30-8 PM. **RSVP by September 11** to Chuck Heinlen at [chuck436@att.net](mailto:chuck436@att.net) or 224-612-1557.

### PLEASE HELP MAKE DATE NIGHT SPECIAL!

We are looking for individuals or families who would sponsor, or contribute financially to, a meal for our *Date Night for Young Couples/Young Parents* at our parish. Meals are currently needed for: **Sept. 18, Nov. 20, Jan. 15, Feb. 12, March 12, April 16, May 21** Your generosity will help provide a wonderful evening for young couples to enjoy good food, fellowship and quality time together. Any amount is greatly appreciated! To sponsor a meal, email Nell at [doconnell@stbrendans.net](mailto:doconnell@stbrendans.net) or, contribute financially via the QR code or at <https://tinyurl.com/stbdatenight>



## Seniors NOW (NAVIGATING OUR WAY)

**SEPT. 4, FRIDAY, 8 AM** – 1st Friday Mass followed by breakfast at Panera, 6120 Sawmill Rd., Dublin.

**SEPT. 14, MONDAY, 12 PM** – Lunch at Weaver Park, Norwich Pavillion. Bring lunch, drink & a chair.

**SEPT. 16, WEDNESDAY, 9:30 AM** – Day trip to Anthony Thomas Chocolates followed by lunch at Freddy's, 1719 Hilliard Rome Rd., Hilliard. Meet at St. Brendan parking lot. RSVP Jerry at 614-805-6792 or [PRICEJ62@gmail.com](mailto:PRICEJ62@gmail.com)

JANUARY 10, 2026 THROUGH JANUARY 10, 2027

# Jubilee Year of St. Francis



## When the Beatitudes Take Flesh: Saint Francis of Assisi and the Way of the Cross

Article by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In today's Gospel (Mt 16:21-27) Peter wanted a Messiah without a cross. He had confessed Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Yet when Jesus began to explain that the Messiah "must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly," Peter could not accept it. He took Jesus aside and protested. The Lord's response was startling: "Get behind me, Satan!" (Mt 16:23). Why such a severe rebuke? Because Peter had begun to imagine salvation without sacrifice, discipleship without surrender, glory without the Cross. And that temptation has never disappeared.

We, too, can want the joy of the Gospel without its demands. We want peace without forgiveness, holiness without conversion, resurrection without Calvary, and the blessings of Christ without the self-denial required to follow Him. But Jesus will not separate these things.

Immediately after rebuking Peter, Jesus turns to all who would follow Him: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mt 16:24). These words provide the key to understanding the Beatitudes: they are not simply ideals to admire, but the shape of a life formed by self-denial, surrender, and love.

The Beatitudes tell us what the disciple of Jesus looks like: poor in spirit, meek, merciful, pure of heart, hungry for righteousness, a peacemaker, and faithful even when righteousness brings persecution. Matthew 16 shows how such a person is formed: by following Christ along the way of the Cross.

The Beatitudes describe the heart of the disciple. The Cross reveals the cost of becoming that disciple. Saint Francis of Assisi spent his life making the connection visible.

Francis helps us see this pattern in three movements. First, the Beatitudes reveal the shape of a Christ-centered heart; second, the Cross forms that heart through surrender; and third, ordinary Christian discipleship makes that surrender visible in daily acts of mercy, compassion, humility, peace, and fidelity.

### St. Francis: Personifying the Beatitudes

Few saints embody the Beatitudes as vividly as Francis. He did not admire the Gospel from a distance; he allowed the words of Christ to overturn his ambitions, strip away his securities, and lead him toward a freedom he could never have discovered while clinging to his former life. Francis shows us what happens when the Gospel is *lived*.

Saint Francis was born into a world that valued wealth, status, power, and social advancement.

His own family was prosperous, and as a young man he knew the attractions of reputation and success. But Christ began to lead him somewhere else. Francis' conversion was not simply a change of opinion. It was a surrender of the person he thought he was supposed to become.

### A Personal Encounter Changes Everything

One of the decisive moments in Saint Francis' life came through his encounter with a leper. Francis had once found lepers repulsive and frightening, yet the grace of God moved him toward the very person from whom he instinctively wanted to turn away. In the leper, Francis encountered Christ. That encounter became a turning point: the man he once avoided became an occasion of grace, and what had once seemed bitter became, by God's mercy, a source of spiritual sweetness. Here the Beatitudes begin to take flesh.

- **"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:3).** Francis discovered that poverty of spirit begins when we stop pretending that we are self-sufficient. His dramatic renunciation of wealth was not an act of contempt for creation or a rejection of human dignity. It was his radical response to the conviction that Christ must become the center of his life. When Francis stood before the bishop of Assisi and publicly renounced his inheritance and possessions, he was doing more than giving away money. He was surrendering an identity. He was saying, in effect: I no longer want to belong to the world on the world's terms. I want to belong entirely to Christ. Franciscan poverty is therefore more than material deprivation. At its deepest level, it is freedom from the illusion that possessions, reputation, security, or control can save us. The poor in spirit know that everything is gift.
- **"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land" (Mt 5:5).** Meekness is not weakness. It is the strength that no longer needs to dominate. Francis willingly surrendered social status and embraced the position of the lesser brother. He sought the company of the poor and marginalized rather than arranging his life around prestige. This is at the heart of the Franciscan vision of *minoritas* – "littleness" or becoming lesser. Francis did not seek to rise above others. He sought to become a brother among brothers. That is deeply countercultural. Our world constantly teaches us to become greater: more successful, more influential, more admired, more powerful, more visible. The Gospel asks another question: Are you willing to become little enough for God to use you?

- **“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted” (Mt 5:4).** Francis knew the sorrow of a heart awakened to the suffering of Christ and the brokenness of the world. His joy was not superficial optimism. Francis could rejoice because his sorrow had been placed inside the larger mercy of God. Christian joy does not mean pretending that suffering is not real. It means believing that suffering does not have the final word. Francis could weep before the Cross and still sing. He could grieve over sin and still praise God. He could experience poverty, rejection, illness, and suffering and still call creation his brother and sister. That is not denial. That is resurrection already beginning to take root in the heart.
- **“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy” (Mt 5:7).** Francis learned mercy by drawing near to the person he had once feared. This is one of the most important lessons of his life: mercy is not an idea. Mercy crosses the distance between people. It moves toward the wounded. It touches the untouchable. It refuses to reduce another human being to a label. It sees the image of God where the world sees only inconvenience, ugliness, failure, or shame. Francis’ encounter with the leper changed him because it exposed the limits of his own heart. Grace did not merely make Francis feel compassion. Grace made him capable of loving where he had previously recoiled. That is what Christ does. He does not simply tell us to become better people – He gives us a new heart.
- **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Mt 5:9).** Francis’ meeting with Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil during the Fifth Crusade remains one of the most striking episodes of his life. Francis entered the midst of a violent conflict not as a political ruler or military commander, but as a vulnerable friar and missionary seeking to bear witness to Christ. His encounter with the Sultan should not be romanticized into a modern diplomatic meeting. Francis was not a peace negotiator in the contemporary sense. He went as a Christian witness. And that is precisely what makes the encounter so compelling. He approached someone on the other side of a religious and military conflict without hatred. Francis’ life embodied the spirit of approaching conflict with humility, courage, and charity. A peacemaker is not someone who avoids every difficult conversation. A peacemaker is someone who refuses to let hatred have the final word.
- **“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 5:10).** Francis’ conversion brought rejection as well as joy. His family did not immediately understand what he was doing. His former way of life had to be surrendered. His choices seemed foolish to many who knew him. But Francis discovered something Peter also had to learn: following Christ means allowing Christ to redefine success. The disciple cannot always be understood by the world. Sometimes faithfulness looks foolish. Sometimes forgiveness looks weak. Sometimes poverty looks like failure. Sometimes refusing revenge looks like losing. Sometimes choosing truth costs us friendships, comfort, advancement, or approval.

The Beatitudes do not promise that following Christ will always make us successful by worldly standards. They promise something greater – Christ Himself. This is where understanding Matthew 16 becomes essential.

## The Beatitudes and The Cross

Jesus does not merely tell us to admire the Beatitudes; Jesus tells us to take up our cross. But we must understand what Jesus means by this. Christian self-denial does not mean despising ourselves. It does not mean tolerating abuse, suppressing legitimate human needs, refusing healthy boundaries, or believing that suffering is valuable simply because it hurts. The Cross does not glorify suffering for its own sake. The Cross reveals the cost of faithful love. Jesus does not ask us to go looking for suffering. He asks us to remain faithful when love, truth, forgiveness, sacrifice, and obedience become costly.

To deny ourselves means surrendering the false claim that our lives belong to us alone. It means letting Christ become Lord. It means giving up the need to be first, admired, vindicated, comfortable, or in control. It means learning to say, “Not my will, but Yours be done.” That is why the Beatitudes and the Cross belong together. The poor in spirit surrender self-sufficiency. The meek surrender the need to dominate. The merciful surrender resentment. The peacemaker surrenders the desire to win at another person’s expense. The persecuted surrender the demand for worldly approval. And the disciple who takes up the Cross surrenders the illusion that following Jesus should cost us nothing.

## Bringing the Beatitudes to Life

This is where the Beatitudes become real. The Gospel is not asking us to admire holiness from a distance. It is asking us to practice it. Pope Francis wrote in *Gaudete et Exsultate* that the Beatitudes are “like a Christian’s identity card” (GE 63). He explained that in them we see the face of Christ, whom we are called to reflect in daily life. He also warned that the Beatitudes run against the ordinary values of the world and can be lived only through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is exactly why the Beatitudes remain so challenging. The world says, “Make yourself important.” Jesus says, “Become poor in spirit.” The world says, “Protect yourself at all costs.” Jesus says, “Take up your cross.” The world says, “Get even.” Jesus says, “Be merciful.” The world says, “Be loud; win the argument.” Jesus says, “Make peace.” The world says, “Make sure everyone sees what you have accomplished.” Jesus says, “Let your Father see what is hidden.” The world says, “Save your life.” Jesus says, “Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” (Mt 16:25). Francis believed Him. And that is why his life became joyful.

Francis did not become holy because he hated the world or hated himself. He became holy because he fell in love with Christ. This distinction matters. Christian holiness is not primarily about subtraction. It is about possession by a greater love. Francis surrendered possessions because he had discovered a greater treasure. He embraced the poor because he had discovered Christ among them. He accepted littleness because he had discovered the freedom of not needing to be great. He embraced the Cross because he had discovered that the Crucified One was not defeated. And he became joyful because he had learned that the deepest freedom comes when we no longer have to build our lives around ourselves.

Thus, the Beatitudes are not a list of impossible demands. They are a portrait of a heart transformed by grace. They tell us what happens when Christ becomes the center of our lives. The poor in spirit become free. The merciful become compassionate. The peacemakers become instruments of reconciliation.

The pure of heart learn to see God. Those who hunger for righteousness become witnesses to the Kingdom. And those who endure suffering for Christ discover that suffering cannot separate them from His love.

### **The Gospel: Embracing Christ's Teachings to Be Lived**

Saint Francis reminds us that the Gospel is not meant merely to be admired. It is meant to become flesh. The Beatitudes were never intended to decorate our walls, fill our coffee mugs, or become phrases we quote without allowing them to change us. They are a way of life. The question is not whether the Gospel is radical. The question is whether we are willing to let it become radical in us.

Where is Christ asking me to become poor in spirit? What possession, reputation, comfort, or resentment am I unwilling to surrender? Who is the person I would rather avoid than love? Where have I chosen victory over peace? Where am I demanding to be understood instead of seeking to understand? Where am I carrying a cross that I have been tempted to abandon? Where is Jesus asking me to forgive? Where is He asking me to become little? Where is He asking me to trust Him?

These questions bring the Gospel of Matthew 16 and Matthew 5 into the same place: our lives. The Cross is not something we merely contemplate on Good Friday. It appears wherever faithful love costs us something. The Beatitudes are not merely words spoken on a hillside long ago. They become real whenever a Christian chooses mercy over resentment, humility over pride, truth over convenience, peace over retaliation, generosity over self-protection, and fidelity over approval. That is how the Beatitudes take flesh. That is how the Cross becomes a way of life.

### **We, Too, Can Be Living Witnesses**

The witness of Saint Francis of Assisi shows that the Beatitudes become possible when we embrace the cross of self-denial outlined in Matthew 16. The Cross is not merely a place of suffering; it is the doorway to the freedom promised in the Sermon on the Mount. When we empty ourselves of pride, material anxiety, resentment, and the need for human approval, we make room for the joy of the Kingdom of Heaven. In losing our lives for the sake of the Gospel, we discover, as Francis did, the freedom and blessedness found only in following Jesus Christ.

Let us pray that each of us embrace the poverty of spirit, humility, mercy, and peace that Jesus blesses in the Gospel. Let us pray, also, for the grace and courage to take up our cross each day and follow Christ with joy – when we are tempted by pride, we cling to humility; when we are wounded, we practice forgiveness; when we encounter division, we become instruments of Christ's peace; when we suffer, we are given the grace to trust in Christ's providence and remain faithful to His love. Like Saint Francis of Assisi – a human being like you and me – may we follow Christ with humble hearts, courageous faith, merciful hands, peaceful spirits, and joyful perseverance. And may the Beatitudes become not merely words on paper or upon our lips, but Christ's own life taking flesh in us.



## **September Spotlight**

### **Mary, the Cross & Saints**

During September, we focus on the life of Christ through the Gospels – the teachings and parables of Jesus and what it means for us to be a follower of Christ. The month is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows, whose memorial the Church celebrates on September 15. On September 14, the Triumph of the Cross feast commemorates the rescue of the True Cross of Christ by Emperor Heraclius in a victory over the Persians. Our Mother, the Church, perpetuates the triumph of the Holy Cross, the instrument of our salvation.

#### **Notable feasts/memorials in September are:**

- Nativity of Mary (Sept. 8)
- Holy Name of Mary (Sept. 12)
- Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Sept. 14)
- Our Lady of Sorrows (Sept. 15)
- St. Matthew (Sept. 21)
- St. Pio (Sept. 23)
- St. Vincent de Paul (Sept. 27)
- Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael (Sept. 29)

**The Spiritual Spotlight books and materials this month focus on Mary, the Cross, plus saints who have feast days this month. Take the books and share them with others.**

For more Catholic resources and information about coming back to your faith if you have been away from the Church for some time, visit [www.stbrendans.net/ich](http://www.stbrendans.net/ich)

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#### **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 Tuesdays, starting September 8 at 6:30 AM in the Davidson Rooms, for in-depth study series on Scripture, early Church Fathers, lives of the saints and fellowship.

**Dinner with Esto Vir** – Join **Esto Vir** at 6:30 PM on Saturday, October 24 in the Davidson Rooms 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.

Questions? Email Grant Rice: [ricekris8813@att.net](mailto:ricekris8813@att.net)



### **Attn: Men of the Parish! Join Kairos Prison Ministry**

Kairos Prison Ministry is looking for men to bring the love and grace of Jesus Christ to the residents of London Correctional Institute. Retreat weekend is Nov. 5-8 and formation meetings begin Sept. 25. To help bring men to Christ in a holy, joyful experience, contact Tim at [tireno04@gmail.com](mailto:tireno04@gmail.com), 614-312-7388 or, Chuck at [chuck436@att.net](mailto:chuck436@att.net), 224-612-1557.

## **Fall Adult Scripture Studies**

Sign up for one of our four fall adult studies listed below by visiting our Adult Faith Formation parish web page at <https://tinyurl.com/ff4adults> or by scanning the QR code.



### **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. Questions? contact Patsy: [dpbunnell@yahoo.com](mailto:dpbunnell@yahoo.com) or 859-338-6732.



### **Women's CHOSEN, Season 5: 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. This 8-week study is for women only. (Men: see column to the left for **Esto Vir's CHOSEN** for men.) The study begins **Thursday, September 17** (no session Oct. 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 AM session). No cost for materials. Register by **September 10**. Questions? Email Wendy Ferkany at [wferkany@stbrendans.net](mailto:wferkany@stbrendans.net)



### **The Bible Timeline: Begins Sept. 21**

This Story of Salvation is a 25-week co-ed study, **Mondays beginning Sept. 21, 7 PM** in Wellnitz, Room 1. 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. Materials cost is \$30. Questions? Email Bryan at [chov911@gmail.com](mailto:chov911@gmail.com)



### **Intro to Real Prayer: Begins Sept. 22**

Offered again! This 9-week co-ed 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. Questions? Email Bryan at [chov911@gmail.com](mailto:chov911@gmail.com)



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](mailto:jdoran@stbrendans.net) or call 614-876-1272, ext. 231. To learn more about the program, visit [www.CGSUSA.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:nursery@stbrendans.net)
- **Elizabeth Ministry:** Sept. 25, Oct. 30, Jan. 29, 2027, Feb. 26, 2027 and April 30, 2027. Email Regina at [thelonggears@gmail.com](mailto:thelonggears@gmail.com)
- **OCIA Easter Vigil Cohort:** Tuesdays in Sept., 6:15-8:30 PM. To help, contact Wendy at [wferkany@stbrendans.net](mailto:wferkany@stbrendans.net)
- **Adult Scripture Studies in Sept.:** Mondays AM, Thursdays AM & PM. If you can help, email Wendy Ferkany at [wferkany@stbrendans.net](mailto:wferkany@stbrendans.net)

## Final "Moms at the Metro" is 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 and 11 AM Wrap-up**. RSVP to Regina: 330-754-8028.

## Cub Scout First Pack Meeting, Sept. 11

St. Brendan Cub Scout Pack 859 has their first fall pack meeting on Friday, September 11 at 7-8 PM in the School Cafeteria.

St. Brendan Cub Scouts is open to all boys in grades K-5 (as of fall, 2026). Pack meetings are once a month during school and the den meets every other week. If you missed our sign-up event held on Aug. 26 or if you have questions, please contact Cubmaster, Caleb Longgear: [caleblonggear@gmail.com](mailto:caleblonggear@gmail.com)





9/13 VINE KICKOFF  
LOWER PARKING LOT

9/20 WHY CARE ABOUT GOD?  
SCHOOL GYM

9/27 HOW TO TALK TO GOD  
DAVIDSON ROOM

10/4 WHERE DID THE CHURCH COME FROM?  
SCHOOL GYM

10/11 KINGDOM SERIES I: FRIENDSHIPS  
SCHOOL GYM

10/18 TRIVIA NIGHT  
SCHOOL GYM

10/25 WHY DOES GOD FEEL DISTANT?  
DAVIDSON ROOM

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**SUNDAY NIGHTS 6:30-8:30PM**

**FOR 6-8TH GRADERS**

- 9.13 Roots Kickoff  
Fields
- 9.20 Hearing God in Prayer  
Davidson
- 9.27 Identity in Christ  
Gym
- 10.4 Men's & Women's Night  
Davidson

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:CradlingChristianity@gmail.com) and for tickets or details, visit [FFHL.org/Regions/Columbus/RSVP](http://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!

Attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on October 9-11 will give you and your spouse all the tools for a stronger and more loving marriage. Get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus only on each other. Getaway location: Procter Camp & Conference Center, London, OH. Other weekend dates are also available on our website. Register and find details at [WWME.org](http://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 and get \$15 off (applied at registration). Visit <https://m3ssports.com/events/josephinum-5k/> to register. Parking is at 100-150 E. Crosswoods Blvd. Participants receive a T-shirt, Finisher's Medal, race photos, bottle of wine (those 21+) or Trappist Monastery Jam (under 21), breakfast burritos & sliders.

### GriefShare, Grief Support Group Begins Sept. 10

For help and encouragement after the death of a loved one, join us on Thursdays, twice a month, 5:30-7 PM, beginning September 10 at St. Brigid of Kildare, Hendricks Hall (Berry Room). Questions? Email [kvanhuffel@stbrigidofkildare.org](mailto:kvanhuffel@stbrigidofkildare.org) or visit [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org) for more information.

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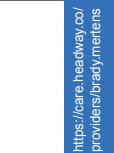
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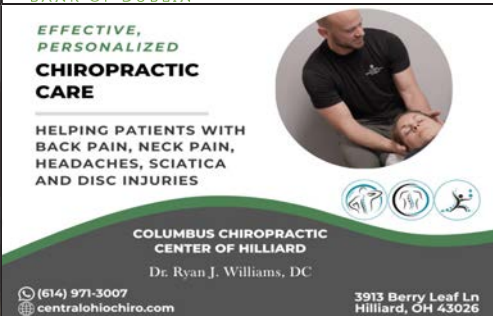
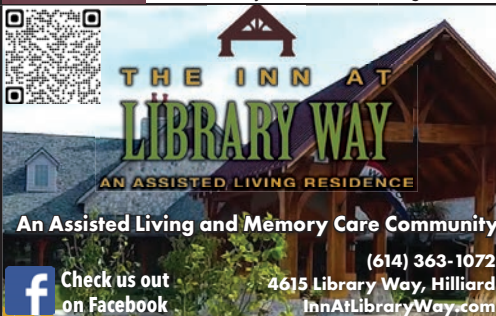
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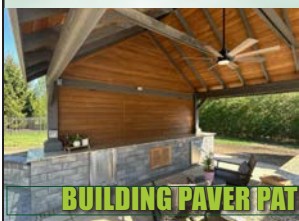
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