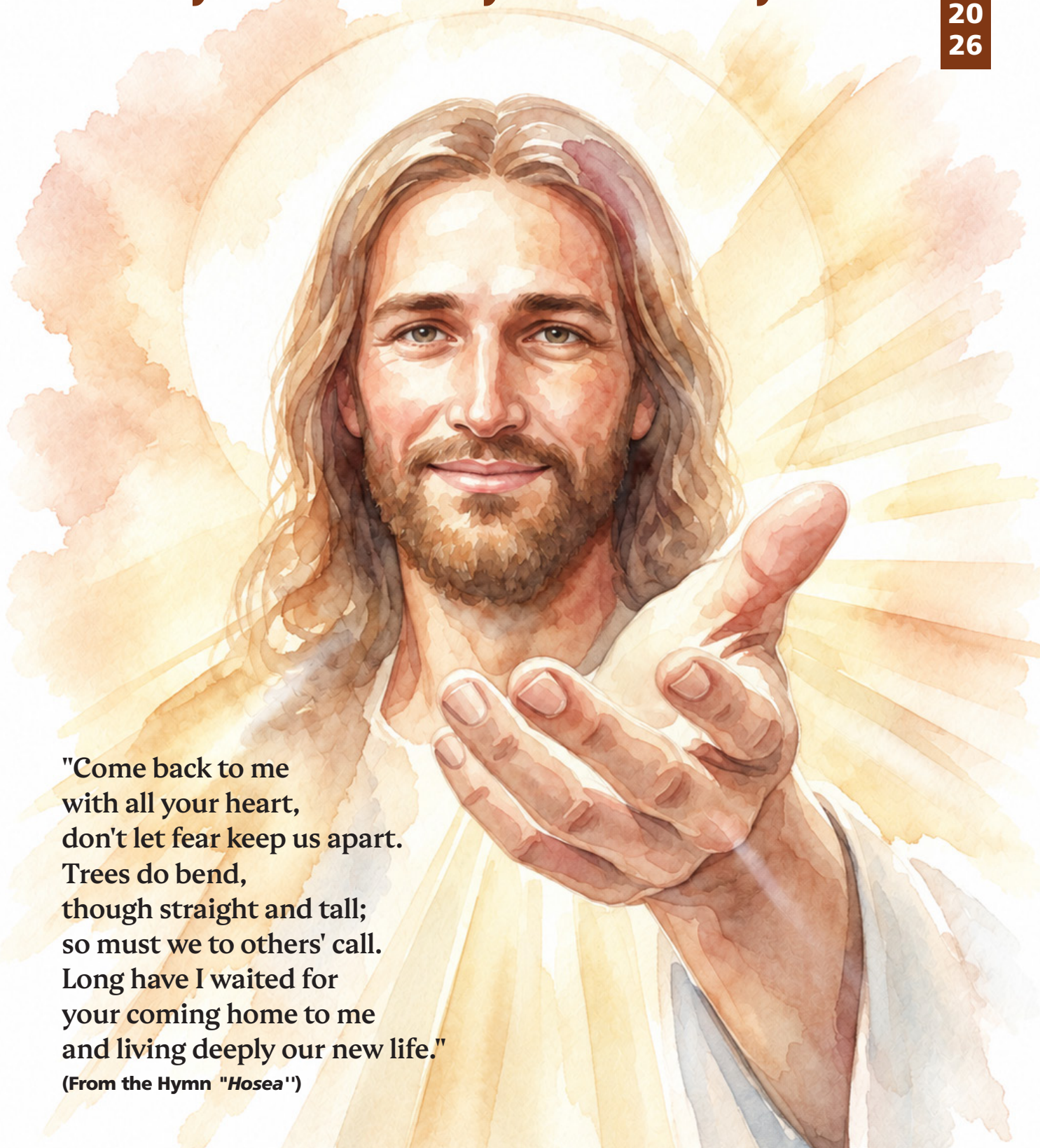


# Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

09  
20  
26



"Come back to me  
with all your heart,  
don't let fear keep us apart.  
Trees do bend,  
though straight and tall;  
so must we to others' call.  
Long have I waited for  
your coming home to me  
and living deeply our new life."

(From the Hymn "Hosea")

## Holy Mass\*

**SAT. VIGIL** 5:30 PM  
**SUNDAY** 7:15 AM,  
8:45 & 10:45 AM,  
5:30 PM

## Daily Mass\*

**MON.** 6:30 & 8 AM, 5:30 PM  
**TUE./ THU./ FRI.** 6:30 & 8 AM  
**WED.** 6:30 AM, 5:30 PM  
**SAT.** 8 AM

## Reconciliation\*

**WED.** 6-7 PM (during Adoration)  
**SAT.** After 8 AM Mass  
Or, 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 ROAD | HILLIARD OH 43026 | 614-876-1272 | STBRENDANS.NET



**Saint  
Brendan**  
THE NAVIGATOR

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**Jake Asuncion, Youth/Young Adult Evangelization/Catechesis Asst.**  
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**Courtney Kreber, Assistant Principal**  
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**Marcia Voelkel, Office Manager**  
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**Logan Johansen, Office Secretary**  
ext. 298, ljohansen@cdeducation.org

**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/ministry/stbrendans](http://www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/stbrendans) 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 @stbaya

**Livestream:** Parish YouTube – SaintBrendantheNavigatorHilliard OR Facebook: [facebook.com/StBrendanHilliardyoutube.com/c/](https://facebook.com/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: [aboyd@cdeducation.org](mailto:aboyd@cdeducation.org) or 614-274-1922



## From Our Pastor

**ON THIS TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**, today's Gospel of the Parable of the Landowner invites us to reflect honestly on where we stand on our faith journey and how we may view others on the same journey. We might begin with a simple question: "Am I living in a state of grace?" When we look beyond the outward veneer of our lives and examine the recesses of our hearts, one truth becomes clear: working out our salvation is the daily focus of a lifetime. From our Baptism onward, we are invited into the mystery of redemption – a continuous turning toward the light of Christ, bearing our crosses (*"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"* – Matthew 16:24), and striving for a life of

holiness and grace through prayer, charitable works, and the sacraments. Saint Paul reminds us today to *"conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ"* (Phil 1:27a). Yet in our human weakness, even those of us who have spent decades in the pews can fall into a very ancient and subtle trap: the temptation of the day-long laborers in the vineyard, or of the older brother in the parable of the Prodigal Son. We can look at those who come late or return to the faith – deathbed converts, those who spent years away before returning, or those just beginning again – and hear within ourselves a selfish and "ugly" whisper calling them "Johnny-come-latelies." But that is not a way worthy of the Gospel. Are we ever tempted to think like the day-long laborers, wondering whether it is fair that someone who bore the heat of the day receives the same heavenly reward as someone who came at the eleventh hour? If so, Jesus speaks directly to that resentment in Matthew 20:15, when the vineyard owner asks: *"Are you envious because I am generous?"* This question is not meant merely for the laborers in the parable. It is meant for every disciple who has ever struggled to rejoice when mercy comes to someone else. Today's Gospel Parable gently exposes envy so that grace can heal it.

Envy is one of the most toxic spiritual afflictions because it resents the very goodness, mercy, and favor of God when poured out on another. In his 1995 encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (*Gospel of Life*), Pope Saint John Paul II warned against this destructive instinct, citing the Biblical account of Cain's envy toward his brother Abel: *"Envy and anger have the upper hand... Cain attacks his own brother and kills him. As we read in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: 'In the account of Abel's murder by his brother Cain, Scripture reveals the presence of anger and envy in man, consequences of original sin, from the beginning of human history. Man has become the enemy of his fellow man'"* (EV, 8). In his papal reflections, Pope Saint John Paul II underscored that living according to the Spirit requires purging jealousy and rivalry from our hearts. He urged the faithful to see another person's spiritual good not as a slight or threat to ourselves, but as a gift to the entire Mystical Body of Christ.

When anyone answers the call of grace, at whatever age or stage of life, Heaven does not dwell on how late they arrived; Heaven rejoices that they have come home, and so should we! Their salvation does not diminish our inheritance. Better late than never – because in the economy of salvation, a late arrival is an immortal soul rescued from spiritual death and welcomed into life. We see the ultimate expression of this eleventh-hour mercy in the Last Rites of the Church, administered by the Priest which includes Confession and absolution of sins, the Apostolic Pardon, Anointing, and Viaticum (the Eucharist as "food for the journey"); in the Last Rites, Christ meets the soul at the very threshold of eternity. In these final sacraments, the outstanding debts of sin are washed away, the soul is in a complete and total state of grace, and the soul is fortified for its final passage home for eternity with Christ. It is a profound reminder that God's desire to save us persists until our very last breath, and no soul is ever beyond the reach of His redeeming grace. (Read *"The Supreme Law of Grace"* article in this bulletin.)

Folks, our duty as brothers and sisters in Christ is not to compare journeys, but to open our arms, offer support, and accompany everyone on the same road that we ourselves are traveling. We are all in this together – the path of discipleship that leads to eternal life with Christ in heaven. We are called to embody the gentle, persistent voice of God, captured so beautifully in the classic hymn *Hosea*:

***"Come back to me with all your heart, don't let fear keep us apart.***

***Trees do bend, though straight and tall; so must we to others' call.***

***Long have I waited for your coming home to me and living deeply our new life."***

The image conveyed in this hymn is tender and unmistakable: God has waited long for His children – you, me, and every man, woman, and child – and He receives all of us not with suspicion, but with compassion, love, and mercy.

**IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN AWAY FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH** – for any number of reasons – please invite them to come back. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we care about the salvation of one another. In our Parish, our *Inviting Catholics Home* ministry is a great first start – for details, visit <https://stbrendans.net/ich/> or contact Janet Walsh at [jlwalsh1@gmail.com](mailto:jlwalsh1@gmail.com). Related insights are also available via *The Coming Home Network* at <https://chnetwork.org/>. You can also contact me or another one of our priests to take the first step toward coming home by discussing your situation, and hit the "reset button" by making your confession and get back to practicing the faith. Bottom line: **Welcome back!** God bless!

*Fr. Mike*

Fr. Michael Lumpe, Pastor

# How to Imitate Jesus

*Article by Jen Arnold courtesy of SpiritualDirection.com.*

As Christians, we are called to imitate Jesus in all aspects of our lives. Asking, "What would Jesus do?" in any given situation, however, may seem abstract or like a mere platitude. Let's take a look at some specific traits of Jesus as standards that can help us imitate him in our own lives.

Jesus demonstrates humility. Throughout his ministry, he associated with people like lepers, tax collectors, and prostitutes who were the outcasts of society. In his humbling of himself to touch those thought to be untouchable, he shows us that even the lowliest are worthy of love. Through his passion, Jesus is humiliated and beaten, which he endures without complaint. His crucifixion is the ultimate humiliation as he is hung exposed and vulnerable for all to see. As followers of his example, we are called to humble ourselves. In God's eyes, we are no better than anyone else and should not treat others as if they are less worthy than we are. We should be humble enough to do the right thing in any situation, regardless of what others may think of us.

Jesus lived and preached a life of poverty. He taught that to truly follow him, we must detach from all our worldly possessions. He required his Apostles to leave their families and possessions to join him in his ministry. Jesus taught that our reward in Heaven will be far greater than any worldly riches. Are we attached to our earthly belongings and focused on obtaining more, or do we keep our gaze fixed on Heaven, letting go of our worldly goods? Do we avoid engaging in unethical business practices for the sake of earning more money? Do we tithe and give money to charities to care for those less fortunate than us? Do we know that even if we lose everything, we will still be okay when we put our faith and trust in God and his providence?

Jesus commands us to love our neighbor. He taught that we should love our neighbor as he has loved us. He then demonstrated what love of others means through his actions. He was kind and charitable to all who crossed his path, including those who did not like or agree with him. He also used parables, like that of the Good Samaritan, to teach us how to love those we might not be inclined to love. His ultimate act of love was his crucifixion so that we would be redeemed. As Christians, we must demonstrate a kind and loving attitude to everyone. It is easy to do this with people we like, but it does not end there. When we are challenged, annoyed, or frustrated by others, we should work even harder to behave in a loving way toward them. Are we prepared to lay down our life for another?

Jesus taught us to pray. He showed us that we must turn to God in all things. From him we learn to praise, give thanks, and ask for help. He gave us the Our Father as the standard of our prayer. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was steadfast in prayer as he prepared for his passion, knowing God would give him the strength to endure what lay ahead. Do we approach situations in our own lives with prayer, or do we think we can manage on our own? We are called to pray without ceasing and to turn to God in all things. When we are unsure about what we ought to do, we should pray to God and ask for strength and guidance in living out his will.

Jesus healed the afflicted so that we might have faith. He made the sick well, the blind see, and the lame walk. As he did this, word of his healing abilities traveled and more people flocked to

him with the faith that he would help them, too. The woman who suffered for 12 years was so full of faith, she knew that just by touching his clothing, she would be made well. Are we just as faithful? Do we know that God will help us with anything in our lives that holds us back from being who he created us to be? Are we laying our brokenness and sickness at his feet with complete faith that he will heal us? If we do things that are not in accordance with Christian morality, we should have faith that we can be healed and do better. He can fix what is broken in us that causes us to sin.

Jesus taught us to obey our Father's commands. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was full of fear and anxiety over what was to come. He asked his Father to deliver him from his eventual suffering if it be his will. However, it was God's will that Jesus should suffer for the salvation of our souls and Jesus accepted it in perfect obedience. The Ten Commandments and Jesus' two new commandments are an outline for God's will regarding our moral life and how we ought to behave. We are asked to follow all these commandments. Striving for complete obedience ensures we are living out God's will for our lives.

Jesus is strong when faced with temptation. After fasting in the desert for 40 days, Jesus is hungry and Satan comes to tempt him to turn stones into bread. Remaining steadfast in his knowledge of God's word, Jesus tells Satan that his proposition is against God's will. We will be tempted to do what is wrong because it can bring us temporary gratification. We must remember what God has revealed to us and not waiver in doing what we know is right. We are asked to live in the Spirit and not in the flesh in order to get to Heaven, where our reward will be greater than anything that can tempt us here on earth.

Jesus demonstrates patience with those who want to test him. The Pharisees challenge Jesus and his teachings by asking him questions intended to trip him up. They are more interested in finding fault in what he is saying than in trying to understand it. Jesus does not lose his temper or refuse to engage with them. Rather, he remains calm and patient while answering all that they ask him. There will always be those who challenge Christians and the decisions we make regarding a moral life. When challenged, mocked, or regarded as being silly or old-fashioned, resist the temptation to become angry. Let us patiently and calmly remain steadfast in Jesus' teachings as we know them to be true.

Jesus demonstrates profound forgiveness. While he was being crucified, he said, "Forgive them for they know not what they do." At the very height of the evil inflicted upon him, his thoughts were of forgiveness and compassion toward his killers. This must be one of the most difficult things we are asked to do. While others act unjustly toward us, we must strive to forgive them. Just as we are forgiven when we commit sins, we must remember to show others that same forgiveness.

Now that we have examined some specific traits of Jesus' character, select the one or two traits that you struggle with the most in your own life. Can you find ways to intentionally stretch yourself in those areas so that you can more closely resemble Jesus in the way you live your life?

# The Parking Pass Parable:

## UNMASKING THE DANGER OF WORKPLACE ENVY

Article by Monica Hanna, courtesy of The Catholic Professional.

***Envy in the workplace can be a real detriment to progress. It can lead to lost productivity at the least, and backstabbing at its worst. In a professional setting, it rarely announces itself openly. Instead, it operates quietly...***

For years, I worked in a downtown office where there was no company parking lot. Employees had the choice of paying a monthly fee to park in the ramp across the street or park a good distance away in neighborhoods where parking on the street was free and walk in. But, for a few chosen individuals, a parking pass was provided as a perk when they were hired. If you think employees without the coveted pass were happy for those chosen few, you'd be sadly mistaken. The envy never stopped. It was to the point where those who received the pass were careful to keep that information to themselves.

It brings to mind this week's Gospel of the laborers in the vineyard, some of whom worked all day and some of whom worked only an hour, yet all received the same wage. The natural reaction of those who had labored all day was to cry "unfair!"

### When Envy Gets in the Way

Envy in the workplace can be a real detriment to progress. It can lead to lost productivity at the least, and backstabbing at its worst. In a professional setting, it rarely announces itself openly. Instead, it operates quietly in breakroom whispers, lukewarm congratulations, and subtle efforts to undermine a colleague's success. St. Thomas Aquinas defined envy as sorrow at another's good. It isn't merely wanting what someone else has, it is resentment that they have it at all.

When we allow that resentment to take root in our professional lives, we stop focusing on our own God-given mission and start measuring our worth against our neighbor's compensation package, title, or corner office.

### The Spiritual and Professional Cost

When envy dictates office culture, everyone loses. The damage spreads quickly across every level of an organization.

First, it leads to an erosion of trust. Teamwork requires vulnerability and mutual support, but when colleagues view each other as rivals competing for a finite amount of recognition, that essential trust evaporates.

Second, it results in misplaced focus. Time spent tracking who receives which perks, bonuses, or high-profile assignments is energy taken away from actual work, stewardship, and personal excellence.

Finally, envy causes spiritual blindness. Envy blinds us to our own blessings. By focusing on what someone else received, the laborers in the parable forgot that they had agreed to a fair wage and had been given honest work for the day.

### Reframing Success Through Faith

The landowner in the Gospel asks a penetrating question: "Are you envious because I am generous?" This gets to the heart of the Christian response to workplace envy. God's generosity to another person takes nothing away from his care for us.

To combat envy, we must actively cultivate gratitude for our own gifts and circumstances. True professional maturity as Catholics means recognizing that our career paths are unique callings, not competitive rankings. We know that when a colleague receives a promotion, a perk, or public praise, our default response should be sincere joy for their good fortune. Our next step might be to pray that we can actually mean it. Celebrating the achievements of others frees us from the exhausting task of constant comparison and allows us to work with true freedom, integrity, and peace.



## Join Us in Welcoming Jake Asuncion!

Hi! My name is Jake Asuncion and I will be working and helping with Faith Formation here at St. Brendan.

### A little bit about me...

I was born and raised in Newark, Ohio and went to St. Francis de Sales for my parish and middle school. I attended Newark Catholic High School and went on to attend the University of Akron, where I studied Education and Anthropology. As many highschoolers and college students do, I strayed away from the faith and lived a rebellious life. It was when I was a camp counselor at CYSC that the Lord broke into my life through Eucharistic Adoration. After getting involved with the Catholic Newman Center at Akron and graduating, I entered seminary for the Diocese of Columbus. I was there for five years and discerned out in 2023. I was hired at St. Michael's as their youth minister and after three years there, I accepted a job here at St. Brendan.

I've heard many great and holy things about this parish and am really excited to be here and to pursue holiness with everyone here at St. Brendan! Looking forward to meeting with all you these next coming weeks!

*food for thought*

*"I have been all things unholy.  
If God can work through me,  
he can work through anyone."*

~ Saint Francis of Assisi

# The Supreme Law of Grace:

COMPASSION AND MERCY "NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH..." by Fr. Michael Lumpe

No moment in human life lies beyond the reach of Divine Mercy, as we see in today's Gospel parable about the landowner and the laborers in his vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16a). This parable gives us hope and courage. It may be the sixth or the ninth or even the eleventh hour of our life, but we can still earn our seat at the Heavenly Banquet if we listen to God's call and set to work diligently in His vineyard or take the necessary measures for salvation through the sacraments.

Even when a person has wandered far from the Church or carried wounds for many years, the Father still runs to meet the prodigal child while he is yet a long way off. For that reason, the Church never treats conversion as a closed door. The Church's pastoral care, sacraments, and Canon Law are ordered toward one saving truth: it is never too late to return to the grace of God.

The final canon of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, Canon 1752, states that *"the salvation of souls, which must always be the supreme law in the Church, is to be kept before one's eyes."* This is more than a legal principle. It expresses the Church's deepest pastoral purpose: every law, parish boundary, liturgical faculty, and ministerial duty is meant to serve the eternal good of souls. The Church exists to bring people to Christ, and her care remains open until a person's final breath.

## The Stewardship of Time & the Urgency of Today

While the Church proclaims that mercy is available until the last breath, she simultaneously reminds us that time is a profound gift from God – a gift we have no control over and whose duration is entirely hidden from our eyes. We do not own time; we are merely stewards of the hours entrusted to us. Because the length of our earthly journey varies unpredictably, maintaining a state of grace cannot be treated as a task for a distant future. The modern temptation is to assume a guarantee of tomorrow, yet Catholic theology warns that the present moment is the only terrain over which we have custody.

The saints consistently emphasized the danger of spiritual procrastination, urging believers to guard the life of grace within their souls today. Saint Gregory the Great captured this unsettling reality in his pastoral wisdom: *"We must not count on ourselves, because even if we know what kind of person we are today, we do not know what we will be tomorrow."*

Thus, the need for us to be attentive to take the actions necessary to ensure we are in a state of grace. To live in a state of grace is to live in active friendship with God: reconciled to Him, strengthened by His life within us, and ready to respond to His will. Presuming upon a long life or a guaranteed final hour of lucidity is never promised and risks wasting the days God has given us to grow in virtue and turn away from sin. Echoing this spiritual urgency, Saint John Bosco bluntly cautioned: *"Do not put off till tomorrow the good you can do today. You may not have a tomorrow."*

The invitation to return to God is defined by one word: **now**.

## The Mystery of Time and Eternity

To understand why the present moment matters so deeply, we turn to Saint Augustine. In Book XI of *Confessions*, Saint Augustine reflects on the mystery of time: the present moment is always passing away, becoming the past as

soon as we try to grasp it. Our earthly lives unfold in these fragile, vanishing moments, yet every moment is held before the eternal God.

Our lives are a series of vanishing moments, but God dwells entirely outside this succession.

Saint Thomas Aquinas helps us see this contrast more clearly. Human choices unfold one after another, but God is not trapped in that succession. He knows all things in His eternal "now." Our decisions are never lost in the stream of time; they are present to the Lord who sees the whole journey at once and calls us, in this moment, to return to Him.

Every choice we make in time is present to the Lord. That is why repentance should not be delayed. The passing moment is not meant to frighten us into despair, but to awaken us to grace today, while the Lord is calling and while the door of mercy stands open and ready to receive us.

This urgency, however, is not meant to make us anxious. It is meant to inspire and move us toward the means Christ has given His Church: prayer, repentance, and the sacraments. When time grows short, the Church does not withdraw – She draws nearer.

## Sacramental Gateways: Emergency Rite of Initiation; Last Rites

The interior prayers of the laity seamlessly give way to the public, sacramental actions of Christ's Catholic Church. When an unbaptized person facing immediate danger of death desires salvation, the standard process of Christian initiation is condensed into the Catholic Emergency Rite of Initiation. The Emergency Rite of Initiation is a liturgical provision allowing a Catholic Priest to administer the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion in a single bedside ceremony for an unbaptized individual facing imminent death. The result of this Rite is an immediate spiritual transformation that cleanses the individual of sin, seals them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and brings them into full communion with the Catholic Church as preparation for eternity.

In an urgent danger-of-death situation, if a Priest or Deacon cannot arrive in time, the Church teaches that anyone may validly baptize, provided the person intends to do what the Church does and uses water with the Trinitarian formula. If the dying person desires Baptism, the layperson should pour Holy Water (or ordinary water if Holy Water is not available) over the crown of the head while saying: *"I baptize you in the name of the Father (pour), and of the Son (pour), and of the Holy Spirit (pour)."* The Catholic parish should then be informed of this Baptism as soon as possible.

For those already baptized, the Church provides what is commonly referred to as the **"Last Rites"** which includes several sacraments – **Penance** (Confession), the **Anointing of the Sick**, and **Viaticum** (Holy Communion as "food for the journey"). Accompanying these is the **Apostolic Pardon** – a plenary indulgence granted to the dying by Christ's authority through the Priest. Pope Benedict XIV, in his constitution *Pia Mater*, solidified this practice, ensuring the Church opens her spiritual treasury to remit all temporal punishment due to sin at the hour of death.

## Saint Faustina, Holy Scripture & the Hour of Grace

When human time runs short, the mystery of divine mercy shines with particular intensity. In the 20th century, Jesus renewed this message through Saint Faustina Kowalska, a humble Polish nun entrusted with proclaiming the mercy of God to a wounded world. In her *Diary*, she recorded Christ's invitation for even the most burdened soul to draw near without fear, because His mercy is greater than sin and eager to heal the contrite heart.

By praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, especially at the 3 PM hour, family members and friends entrust the dying person to the merciful Savior, echoing the promise recorded in the *Diary of Saint Faustina*: "*When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge but as the merciful Savior.*" Jesus revealed to Saint Faustina that His mercy is an unfathomable ocean, wholly eager to flood the most broken, wounded human souls, explicitly promising that no soul should fear to draw near to Him, even if its sins were as scarlet.

Central to this devotion is the **Hour of Divine Mercy** – the sacred 3 PM hour – commemorating the moment of Christ's death upon the Cross. This temporal anchor has profound biblical origins, drawing directly from the historical accounts of the Crucifixion where "*at the ninth hour*" (3 PM by ancient reckoning) Jesus cried out with a loud voice and gave up His spirit (Mark 15:34-37). It represents the definitive fulfillment of the ancient prophecy of Zechariah, which foretold the ultimate healing of mankind: "*They will look on me, the one they have pierced...*" (Zechariah 12:10).

The Gospels tell us that Jesus cried out and gave up His spirit at the ninth hour, and Saint John records that when His side was pierced, blood and water flowed forth. The Church has long seen in that blood and water the signs of sacramental life and mercy, poured out from the Heart of Christ for the salvation of the world.

Jesus linked this mystery to the image of Divine Mercy revealed to Saint Faustina. The pale ray signifies water, and the red ray signifies blood: the grace that flowed from His pierced Heart. The 3 PM hour therefore becomes a daily invitation to pause before the Cross and trust the mercy that continues to pour from the Heart of Christ.

## The Vanguard of Prayer: Lay Intercession at the Bedside

When a loved one is failing and a Catholic Priest is on his way, the faithful are never helpless onlookers; they are called to form a vanguard of prayer at the bedside. By praying the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** – especially at the 3 PM hour – the lay faithful actively unlock Christ's astounding guarantee. As recorded in the *Diary of Saint Faustina*: "*When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge but as the merciful Savior.*"

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy can be prayed on ordinary Rosary beads in this simple way;

- **Introductory Prayers:** Begin with the Sign of the Cross, one *Our Father*, one *Hail Mary*, and the *Apostles' Creed*.
- **On the Large Beads:** Say, "*Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.*"
- **On the Small Beads:** Say ten times: "*For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*"
- **The Conclusion:** After completing five decades, repeat three times: "*Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*"

As the soul approaches death, the faithful may also pray the **Proficiscere Prayer** – the Church's Commendation of the Dying. This ancient prayer, preserved in the Roman Ritual and beautifully rendered in English by Saint John Henry Newman, entrusts the Christian soul to God with confidence: "*Go forth, Christian soul, from this world in the name of God the almighty Father, who created you; in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who suffered for you; in the name of the Holy Spirit, who was poured out upon you; go forth, faithful Christian. May you live in peace this day, may your home be with God in Zion, with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, with Joseph, and all the angels and saints. Amen.*"

## The Reality of a "Deathbed Conversion" and the Daily Work of Salvation

The grace offered through these prayers and sacraments is seen most clearly in the Good Thief, Saint Dismas, who hung beside Jesus on Calvary. With one humble, contrite plea, he received the Lord's promise: "Today you will be with me in Paradise." His conversion does not excuse spiritual delay, but it does reveal the outpouring of grace and the mercy of Christ Who can open entry into Heaven even in the final hours. With a single, contrite plea, he received the ultimate assurance of salvation. As Saint John Chrysostom beautifully observed in his *De Cruce et Latrone*: "*The thief did not buy heaven with gold, but with a humble confession... He entered paradise before the Apostles, carrying only his faith as a key.*"

God does not measure the duration of our service, but the depth of our contrition at the moment of encounter. Reflecting on this boundless Divine Patience, Pope Saint John Paul II wrote in his encyclical *Dives in Misericordia*: "*The modern world needs to rediscover that God is 'rich in mercy,' a mercy which is always greater than our sins, and which is capable of transforming the human heart even at the final frontier of life.*"

These grace-filled moments take place every day, quietly and without fanfare, across the global Body of Christ. They happen when a Catholic Priest receives an urgent midnight call; in hospital rooms, in hospice facilities, in nursing homes, in private residences where a person experiences a sudden moment of lucid contrition – sometimes alone, sometimes with family and friends at bedside.

In these hidden spaces, priests act as the physical hands of Christ's mercy, answering calls at any hour to ensure Canon 1752 is vindicated. As Saint John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests, beautifully wrote: "*The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus... He waits for the soul until the very end, ready to forgive, ready to heal.*"

**REMEMBER THIS:** No matter how far one has wandered, and no matter how much time has been lost, the door to salvation through Christ remains unlocked. The Church watches, prays, and waits at the bedside of humanity, calling us to live faithfully today, while proclaiming the timeless truth that it is never, ever too late to come home.

# Bring Them Back Alive!

## TEN WAYS TO HELP CATHOLICS RETURN HOME

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

*"I really get bored when I go to Mass... I don't like the choir and the music... the preaching puts me to sleep... there are so many scandals in the Church... I am so busy that I simply do not have time for Mass... Going to Mass is for the old people; Later on in my life, I may drift back to the Church in better days..."*

All of the above negative comments are leveled against returning to the Church and receiving the life-saving graces that flow most abundantly through the Sacraments, especially through the greatest of all Sacraments: the most Holy Eucharist.

Most Catholics throughout the world do not attend Holy Mass. In many predominantly Catholic countries, the second largest religion is non-practicing Catholics. While the huge majority of the people in these countries would state that they are Catholic, they rarely attend Holy Mass.

There has been a radical change in the past decades. In the USA in the 50s and even into the early 60s, statistically close to 75% of Catholics would regularly attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, almost every Sunday. Personally, I remember missing Holy Mass only once as a child and it was because of a violent snowstorm which stranded our family! Now, the numbers and statistics have done a total U-turn. Perhaps 20% or less attend Holy Mass every Sunday.

As Catholics and followers of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, we should truly love what He loves. The great love of Jesus, the Savior, is the human person, created in the image and likeness of God, and the salvation of his immortal soul. Jesus stated this truth unequivocally and with great emphasis: *"What would it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?"* (Mt. 16: 26) Jesus hungers and thirsts for the salvation of a multitude of souls! Saint Ignatius of Loyola, in his classic, *The Call of the Temporal King*, challenges us not to be deaf to the call of the King. The earthly King is bent upon conquering the world and its possessions for himself. The Eternal King, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, has no interest in temporal conquering and dominion, but rather in the conquering and the salvation of immortal souls.

With this knowledge of the desire, the thrust, and the purpose of Jesus' life – hungering and thirsting for the salvation of souls – let us beg for the grace to collaborate with Jesus in this most noble of all endeavors: the salvation of immortal souls!

Let us set up a game plan or a strategy starting right now for how we can bring back these lost sheep, Prodigal sons and daughters, straying flocks back to the loving arms of the Good Shepherd, back to the loving and tender embrace of the Father of the Prodigal son.

### Strategy to Bring the Stray Sheep Home

1. **Prayer and the Sacraments:** Without the grace that abundantly flows through prayer and the Sacraments, conversions or reversions to the Catholic faith will come about few and far between. It will be like building an edifice upon sand. Rain and tempest beating and battering against a structure built on

sand will cause collapse and disaster. (Mt 7:24-27). Starting now, let us pray, offer our Masses and Holy Communion, and as many Rosaries as we can to bring back the Catholics who have abandoned the practice of the faith.

2. **Penance:** Jesus stated with utmost clarity: *"Some devils can be cast out only by prayer and fasting"* (penance). (Mt. 17:21) Our Lady of Fatima reiterated the same truth: *Pray and offer sacrifices because many souls are lost as not enough people pray and offer sacrifices for them.* Let us choose and impose upon ourselves some concrete form of penance for the purpose of fostering the return of the forlorn and confused Catholics to the fold!
3. **Holiness of Life:** Magnetism emanates from the sanctity of life. Why was it that so many people scurried on foot to the Jordan River? Not so much due to the waters in that river, but rather because of the holiness of the man who was baptizing in those waters: Saint John the Baptist. If we can work on our own personal sanctification, then this sanctity will serve as a magnet to attract others back to Christ in His Mystical Body, which is the Church! Saint John Vianney attracted thousands to the remote, out of the way village of Ars. His holiness attracted even the hardest of sinners to conversion and to return to the practice of the faith, in the wake of the devastation wrought by the French Revolution when churches were closed and priests forbidden to preach.
4. **Invitation:** Andrew invited Peter to meet Jesus, as well as Philip and the Greeks, many of whom accepted the invitation. Why not simply invite a wandering Catholic to return home, to the Church to attend and participate in Holy Mass. You have nothing to lose, and everything to gain! Every non-practicing Catholic is a potential practicing Catholic. Maybe the catalyst is a simple invitation!
5. **Major Feasts:** Take advantage of the Major Solemnities or Liturgical Feast days to invite the lost sheep to return to the fold: Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Ash Wednesday, All Souls, All Saints, Marian Solemnities, such as the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption. These Glorious Liturgical celebrations offer graces for conversion.
6. **Anniversaries:** Using spiritual astuteness, why not invite some relatives to attend Mass for key celebrations. Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries, Graduation ceremonies, Anniversaries of the death of a relative – all of these can be means and motives to invite the lax Catholics to return home!
7. **Church Bulletins and Confession Schedule:** Perhaps many wandering Catholics are ready if they simply knew the when and where of Confession. Simply point out the day, the hour, the place and the Confessional so that the fish can be caught in the net. Better yet, give them an Examination of Conscience pamphlet or booklet as a guide. Then you can go with your friend at the time and place to the Confessional. You go first to Confession and exit with a big smile, then say, "Your turn!" This is really imitating Saint John the Baptist and preparing the way to meet Jesus, the Divine Savior and Divine Physician.

8. **Retreat Experience:** Many powerful conversions thunder into the lives of mediocre Catholics and even hardened sinners because of a powerful retreat experience. Exposure to dynamic talks and personal witnesses, silence for examination of conscience and deep prayer, and the ability to receive the Sacraments of Confession and the Eucharist result in radical, life-changing experiences! Check around for the next retreat and attend with some of your confused Catholic friends! The net result? Conversion, commitment, and Catholic rebirth! Experience gives eloquent witness to the reality of many reversions to the faith because of a weekend or even one-day retreats. One good source for weekend retreats that comes immediately to mind is the Sacred Heart Retreat House in Alhambra, run by the Carmelite Sisters.
9. **Good Reading, Viewing, Social Media:** The eyes, the ears, the mind, the imagination are all captivated by the image. Today, the image manifests itself in various forms. Following our theme: God can enter the heart of the individual. Why not use these tools, these nets, these bridges to bring the wandering Catholic sheep back to the fold? Suggest and expose these lapsed Catholics to the following: TV (EWTN), Catholic Radio (Relevant Radio), Catholic websites (including my website, [fatherbroom.com](http://fatherbroom.com)) with good Catholic articles, and, of course, good books on the saints or other Catholic topics. Many of these sources can serve as a catalyst and bridge to bring the revert back to the practice of the faith.
10. **Church Movements and Groups:** Apostolates and ministries within the context of the Catholic Church undoubtedly can serve as bait and fishnet to lure the wandering fish into the boat. Once a wandering and forlorn Catholic experiences the love, the warmth and the sense of belonging to a specific group within the Church, then they will experience the Church as a warm and loving family and long to come back and belong!

### Conclusion: Bring Them Back

In conclusion, friends of Jesus, Mary and our Catholic family, many have wandered from home. Baptized Catholics who made their First Communion and Confirmation, and even married sacramentally, even with all this support, no longer practice the faith. It is truly incumbent upon all of us, if we truly love Jesus the Good Shepherd, to strive to bring as many lost sheep back to the fold as we can!

The harvest is rich, but the laborers are all too few. Right now, you are called to be a spiritual Fisherman, a loving brother or sister to become a bridge to cross them back over to the ultimate source of grace and Truth – the Catholic Church.

Let us use all the tools, the nets, the instruments at our disposal to bring as many as possible back to the loving arms of the Father and the loving embrace of Jesus, our Savior and true Friend who will never abandon us, neither in time nor for all eternity!

## Honoring Grandparents & the Elderly Last Weekend

A few highlights from this past weekend...



An estimated 400 people participated as all four of our priests were on hand to administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick after all Masses.



Above: Our school children created hundreds of cards for our homebound and nursing facility parishioners. Below: Masses recently celebrated for the elderly at nearby facilities



JANUARY 10, 2026 THROUGH JANUARY 10, 2027

# Jubilee Year of St. Francis



## “If God can work through me...”

Article by Cliff Garvey, courtesy of the Assisi Project

Saint Francis of Assisi once said: *“I have been all things unholy. If God can work through me, he can work through anyone.”* If Saint Francis was right, then there’s hope for me, hope for you, hope for all of us. But did you know that Francis was easily discouraged? That he had unreasonably high expectations for himself and for those around him? That he struggled with anger, lust, pride, and impatience?

*“I have been all things unholy. If God can work through me, he can work through anyone.”* I love these words. I love many things about Saint Francis: his hometown, his simplicity, his humanity. I love his faith, his perseverance, and his lifelong struggle for holiness. Most of all, I love stories about his life. Maybe you have heard some of them: How Francis heard the voice of the Crucified Christ in an old church. How Francis changed the Church by working within it. How Francis received the stigmata: the five wounds of crucifixion. Saint Francis was blessed with these wounds because of his great love for the Poor Christ; for those who suffer; for those who are crucified on the crosses of addiction and bigotry, greed and pride, sickness and despair, poverty and loneliness.

Consider some other stories about the life of Saint Francis: He kissed the leper. He tamed the wolf. He made peace with the sultan. During Francis’ lifetime, leprosy was an incurable disease. Lepers were stripped of their citizenship, their freedom, their property, and their rights under the law. Lepers were driven from their homes; forced to live apart from the community; and forced to wear bells around their necks to warn others that they were coming close. Francis did not just overcome his fear and kiss the leper. He lived with them, cooked for them, nursed their wounds, and advocated for better care for them and their families. If Saint Francis lived among us now, who would he love like the leper?

Francis tamed the wolf. Tradition tells us that the village of Gubbio was terrorized by a wolf that lurked in the shadows, committed crimes, and could not be captured. But human history (and perhaps human nature) suggests that the wolf may not have been a wolf at all. The wolf may have been a stranger. Did this stranger look different? Was he an immigrant? Was she a Jew or a Muslim? Was the wolf an addict? Or a poor person in need of a hot meal? Or maybe just a person from Maine, like me? Whoever the wolf was, Francis approached, offered a hand in friendship and solidarity, and loved him or her like a brother or sister. If Saint Francis lived among us now, who would he love like the wolf?

Francis made peace with the sultan. Yes, the sultan. This was the same sultan who commanded the Muslim armies that dominated the Holy Land; the one who ordered the execution of poor friars who went to preach the Gospel in North Africa;

the one who captured child pilgrims and sold them into slavery – or worse. Francis made peace even with the sultan!

Groucho Marx once said: “Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it, misdiagnosing it, and then misapplying the wrong remedies.” This seems so true, especially during these troubled times. The same could be said about Saint Francis and his approach to evangelization. It was bad enough that Francis entered the sultan’s territory. But upon crossing the border, he repeatedly chanted: “Sultan! Sultan! Sultan!” And then, as if that weren’t enough, Francis openly preached to the sultan and dared to convert him. Looking for trouble, finding it, misdiagnosing it, and misapplying remedies, indeed!

The penalty for Francis’ crude attempt at evangelization and peacemaking should have been martyrdom. But the sultan was so taken aback by Francis’ authenticity, simplicity, and fidelity to the Good News that he embraced him, fed him, gave him gifts (that Francis declined), and provided him with a safe passage back to Italy. Surely, if Francis could reach out to the sultan, then we can reach out to the neighbor who drives us crazy; the colleague who gossips about us; or the friend or relative against whom we hold a longstanding grudge. If Saint Francis lived among us now, who would he love like the leper, the wolf, and the sultan? The homeless person who begs for a dollar? The addict who seeks to be understood? The dementia patient who seeks to remember? The divorced parishioner who longs to be welcomed? The single mother who asks for a helping hand?

Saint Francis said: *“I have been all things unholy. If God can work through me, he can work through anyone.”* And so, God does. He works through us, sinners all. He calls us, sinners all. God beckons us to give faithful witness to his love and mercy: to the leper, the wolf, and to the sultan; to meet them and embrace them where they are, whoever they are, wherever they’re from, and no matter what they’ve done in this life. Just as Christ called Saint Francis more than eight hundred years ago, he calls us here and now from the cross. He calls us to listen for the leper’s bell, to look for the wolf, and to preach to the sultan. He calls us to encounter them, love them, and serve them without counting the cost. Christ call us, as he called Saint Francis, to live the Gospel, share God’s love, and rebuild the Church – one person at a time. Leper by leper. Wolf by wolf. Sultan by sultan. Person by person. Life by life. Soul by soul.

We have been all things unholy. If God can work through us, he can work through anyone, anywhere, everywhere. And so, God does! Glory to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us! Saint Clare of Assisi, pray for us! Our Lady of Angels, pray for us!

# 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*

***"Prayer is the best weapon we have; it is the key to God's heart. You must speak to Jesus not only with your lips, but with your heart. In fact on certain occasions you should only speak to Him with your heart."*** +SAINT PIO OF PIETRELCINA (PADRE PIO)

**Monday, September 21 ~ Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time**  
**Feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13** As Jesus passed by, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, *I desire mercy, not sacrifice*. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

**Meditation:** What did Jesus see in Matthew? Others saw Matthew as a cheat a sinner. But Jesus saw something in Matthew that others did not. Matthew's heart must have yearned for God, even though he dare not show his face in a synagogue - the Jewish house of prayer and the study of Torah - God's law. When Jesus saw Matthew sitting at his tax office counting his day's profit, Jesus spoke only two words: "follow me." And so he did; those two words changed Matthew from a self-serving profiteer to a God-serving apostle who would bring the treasures of God's kingdom to the poor and needy. Saint John Chrysostom described Matthew's calling: "Why did Jesus not call Matthew at the same time as he called Peter and John and the rest? He came to each one at a particular time when he knew that they would respond to him. He came at a different time to call Matthew when he was assured that Matthew would surrender to his call. Similarly, he called Paul at a different time when he was vulnerable, after the resurrection, something like a hunter going after his quarry. for he who is acquainted with our inmost hearts and knows the secrets of our minds knows when each one of us is ready to respond fully. Therefore he did not call them all together at the beginning, when Matthew was still in a hardened condition. Rather, only after countless miracles, after his fame spread abroad, did he call Matthew. He knew Matthew had been softened for full responsiveness."

**Prayer:** O God, who with untold mercy were pleased to choose as an Apostle Saint Matthew, the tax collector, grant that, sustained by his example and intercession, we may merit to hold firm in following you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Jesus always seeks out those in the greatest need, just as he did with Matthew. A true physician seeks healing of the whole person - body, mind, and spirit. Jesus came as the divine physician and good shepherd to care for his people and to restore them to wholeness of life. The orthodox were so preoccupied with their own practice of religion that they neglected to help the very people who needed spiritual care. Their religion was selfish because they didn't want to have anything to do with people not like themselves. Jesus stated his mission in unequivocal terms: *I came not to call the righteous, but to call sinners*. Ironically the orthodox were as needy as those they despised. Recall Saint Paul's words: *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23). And yet all are invited to turn away from sin as Jesus invites us to follow him just as he did Matthew.

**Tuesday, September 22 ~ Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 8:19-21** The mother of Jesus and his brothers came to him but were unable to join him because of the crowd. He was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside and they

wish to see you." He said to them in reply, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it."

**Meditation:** From time to time it is good to ask ourselves some basic questions. In light of today's Gospel we might ask ourselves: "What is the essence of my being a Christian?" It is certainly more than doctrine, precepts, and commandments. It is first and foremost a relationship – a relationship of trust, affection, commitment, loyalty, faithfulness, kindness, thoughtfulness, compassion, mercy, helpfulness, encouragement, support, strength, protection, and so many other qualities that bind people together in mutual love and unity. And not just for the sake of living these qualities on their own, but imitating Jesus Christ our Savior and Redeemer who taught us the importance of living these by living a life in him.

**Prayer:** O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Jesus Christ is the Word incarnate, Jesus is God's love incarnate – God's love made visible in human flesh (1 John 4:9-10). That is why Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep and the shepherd who seeks out the sheep who have strayed and lost their way. God is like the father who yearns for his prodigal son to return home and then throws a great party for his son when he has a change of heart and comes back (Luke 15:11-32). Jesus offered up his life on the cross for our sake, so that we could be forgiven and restored to unity and friendship with God. It is through Jesus that we become the adopted children of God – his own sons and daughters. That is why Jesus told his disciples that they would have many new friends and family relationships in his kingdom. Whoever does the will of God is a friend of God and a member of his family – his sons and daughters who have been ransomed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

### **Wednesday, September 23 ~ Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time** **Memorial: Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 9:1-6** Jesus summoned the Twelve and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He said to them, "Take nothing for the journey, neither walking stick, nor sack, nor food, nor money, and let no one take a second tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there and leave from there. And as for those who do not welcome you, when you leave that town, shake the dust from your feet in testimony against them." Then they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

**Meditation:** We see in today's Gospel where Jesus gave power and authority to his apostles. But we must also recognize that he gave to all of his disciples (including each of us) other kinds of "power and authority" through our God-given gift, abilities and talents so that we may exercise them in our personal lives in service to God and his people. God's word has power to change and transform our lives in one way or another, on one level or another. Jesus gave his apostles both power and authority to speak and to act in his name – to cast out evil spirits, to heal, and to speak the word of God. When Jesus spoke of power and authority he did something unheard of. He wedded power and authority with love and humility. The *world* and the *flesh* seek power for selfish gain. Jesus teaches each of us to use it for the good of our neighbor. What have you done lately for the good of your neighbor?

**Prayer:** Almighty ever-living God, who, by a singular grace, gave the Priest Saint Pio a share in the Cross of your Son and, by means of his ministry, renewed the wonders of your mercy, grant that through his intercession we may be united constantly to the sufferings of Christ, and so brought happily to the glory of the resurrection. 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.

**Contemplation:** Sometimes we think we must do "great" things in order to imitate Christ. Not so. Look at the simple acts of charity and kindness that we can extend to one another in our families, at our places of work, in our schools, in our neighborhoods, or to total strangers for that matter, in helping those who need help of one type or another. In these day-to-day acts of charity and kindness we imitate Christ, and that's what living our faith in witness to Christ is all about.

**About Saint Padre Pio:** Born to a southern Italian farm family, the son of Grazio, a shepherd. At age 15 he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin Friars in Morcone and joined the order at age 19. He suffered several health problems, and at one point his family thought he had tuberculosis. He was ordained at age 22 on 10 August 1910. While praying before a cross on September 20, 1918, Padre Pio received the

stigmata. He is the first priest ever to be so blessed. As word spread, especially after American soldiers brought home stories of Padre Pio following WWII, the priest himself became a point of pilgrimage for both the pious and the curious. He would hear confessions by the hour, reportedly able to read the consciences of those who held back. He was reportedly able to bi-locate, levitate, and heal by touch. In 1956 he founded the House for the Relief of Suffering, a hospital that serves 60,000 a year. Padre Pio died on September 23, 1968 at age 81. Today there are over 400,000 members worldwide in prayer groups begun by Padre Pio in the 1920s. His canonization miracle involved the cure of Matteo Pio Colella, age 7, the son of a doctor who works in the House for Relief of Suffering, the hospital in San Giovanni Rotondo. On the night of June 20, 2000, Matteo was admitted to the intensive care unit of the hospital with meningitis. By morning doctors had lost hope for him as nine of the boy's internal organs had ceased to give signs of life. That night, during a prayer vigil attended by Matteo's mother and some Capuchin friars of Padre Pio's monastery, the child's condition improved suddenly. When he awoke from the coma, Matteo said that he had seen an elderly man with a white beard and a long, brown habit, who said to him: "Don't worry, you will soon be cured." The miracle was approved by the Congregation and (now Saint) Pope John Paul II on December 20, 2001.

### **Thursday, September 24 ~ Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 9:7-9** Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was greatly perplexed because some were saying, "John has been raised from the dead;" others were saying, "Elijah has appeared;" still others, "One of the ancient prophets has arisen." But Herod said, "John I beheaded. Who then is this about whom I hear such things?" And he kept trying to see him.

**Meditation:** King Herod had respected and feared John the Baptist as a great prophet and servant of God. John, however did not fear to rebuke Herod for his adulterous affair with his brother's wife. Herod, though, was more of what we would call today a "people pleaser" than one who lived one's life in a manner that was pleasing to God. Herod not only imprisoned John to silence him, but he also beheaded him simply to please his family and friends. So when reports of Jesus' miracles and teaching reach Herod's court, Herod became very troubled in conscience. He thought that John the Baptist had risen from the dead! Herod sought to meet Jesus more out of curiosity and fear than out of a sincere desire to know God's will. He wanted to meet Jesus - not to follow him but to prevent him from troubling his conscience any further. We can try to rid ourselves of guilt and sin by suppressing the truth or by ridding ourselves of anyone or anything that points us to the truth. No power on earth, however, can remove a guilty conscience or free us from slavery to sin - only God can set us free through the atoning sacrifice which his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ made for us on the cross.

**Prayer:** O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** People often ask how we can find true peace with ourselves and with God. Always remember that the Lord Jesus shows us the way. Jesus explained to his followers, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31-32). Only Jesus can set us free, and this can happen ONLY if we listen to his voice and obey his divine words of truth will we find true peace, joy, and freedom to live as sons and daughters of God. And so we might ask ourselves today: Does God's word take priority in my daily life? Or do I allow other human voices, opinions and messages distract me or lead me astray? The Lord Jesus promises to be with us and to guide us continually if we will listen to his voice and obey his word. Jesus never leads us astray - he leads us along life's path to the only way to Heaven - through him, with him and in him.

### **Friday, September 25 ~ Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 9:18-22** Once when Jesus was praying in solitude, and the disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, 'One of the ancient prophets has arisen.'" Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said in reply, "The Christ of God." He rebuked them and directed them not to tell this to anyone.

He said, "The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised."

**Meditation:** When Jesus asks "But who do YOU say that I am?" he asks that questions not only of those present in today's Gospel, but also to each of us. Who is Jesus to you? What difference does Jesus

make in your life? Many in Israel recognized Jesus as a mighty man of God, even comparing him with the greatest of the prophets. Peter, always quick to respond whenever Jesus spoke, professed that Jesus was truly the "Christ of God" - "the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). No mortal being could have revealed this to Peter, but only God. Through the "eyes of faith" Peter discovered who Jesus truly was. Peter recognized that Jesus was much more than a great teacher, prophet, and miracle worker. Peter was the first apostle to publicly declare that Jesus was the *Anointed One*, consecrated by the Father and sent into the world to redeem a fallen human race enslaved to sin and cut off from eternal life with God (Luke 9:20, Acts 2:14-36). The word for "Christ" in Greek is a translation of the Hebrew word for "Messiah" - both words literally mean the *Anointed One*. Why did Jesus command his disciples to be silent about his identity as the anointed Son of God? They were, after all, appointed to proclaim the good news to everyone. Jesus knew that they did not yet fully understand his mission and how he would accomplish it. Saint Cyril of Alexandria, a Father of the Church, explains the reason for this silence: "There were things yet unfulfilled which must also be included in their preaching about him. They must also proclaim the cross, the passion, and the death in the flesh. They must preach the resurrection of the dead, that great and truly glorious sign by which testimony is borne him that the Emmanuel is truly God and by nature the Son of God the Father. He utterly abolished death and wiped-out destruction. He robbed hell and overthrew the tyranny of the enemy. He took away the sin of the world, opened the gates above to the dwellers upon earth, and united earth to heaven. These things proved him to be, as I said, in truth God. He commanded them, therefore, to guard the mystery by a seasonable silence until the whole plan of the dispensation should arrive at a suitable conclusion" (*Commentary on Luke, Homily 49*).

**Prayer:** O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Jesus told his disciples that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and die in order that God's work of redemption might be accomplished. How startled the disciples were when they heard this word. How different are God's thoughts and ways from our thoughts and ways (Isaiah 55:8). It was through humiliation, suffering, and death on the cross that Jesus broke the powers of sin and death and won for us eternal life and freedom from the slavery of sin and from the oppression of our enemy, Satan, the father of lies and the deceiver of humankind. So if we want to share in the victory of the Lord Jesus, then we must also take up our cross and follow where, how and when he leads us. What is the "cross" that you and I must take up each day? When my will does not align with God's will, then I must change my course, my path, and align my will with that of God - God's will must be done as in the Lord's Prayer: "Thy will be done." To know Jesus Christ is to know the power of his victory on the cross where he defeated sin and conquered death through his resurrection. The Holy Spirit gives each of us the gifts and strength we need to live as sons and daughters of God. The Holy Spirit gives us *faith* to know the Lord Jesus personally as our Redeemer, and the *power* to live the gospel faithfully, and the *courage* to witness to others the joy, truth, and freedom of the Gospel. Who do you say that Jesus is?

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.

frlump:2026



# Prayer List

If you would like our parish to pray for loved ones who are **ill at home**, **hospitalized**, or are **active duty military**, fill out our *Bulletin Prayer Request Form* 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  
Bertha Torok  
Ilona Owens  
Joseph Rienhard  
Dave Boyd  
Lisa Lynch  
Chris Carrino  
Elliott Verrilli  
Steve Strait  
Tonya Prickett  
Bailey Curtis  
Andrea Gigliotti  
Brenda Bazan  
Dolores Lynch  
Jerry Price

### ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY:

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

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

### 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)

# Mass Intentions

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

6:30 AM Stephen & Josephine Puskac †  
8:00 AM For the needs of our parishioners as they begin the week  
5:30 PM John Olszewski †

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

6:30 AM Trudie Marr †  
8:00 AM Intention for the Sizemore Family

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

6:30 AM Barbara A. Rysavy †  
5:30 PM Fred Maldonado, Jr. †

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

6:30 AM Stephen & Josephine Puskac †  
8:00 AM Claudette McNeil-Weber †

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

6:30 AM Intention for Bill Reinking  
8:00 AM Julie Marr †

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

8:00 AM Tom Marr †  
5:30 PM Catherine Thomas †

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

### Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:15 AM Edward & Fern Coldren †  
8:45 AM Eugenio-Valencia Family †  
10:45 AM Lawrence & Mae DiPillo †  
5:30 PM For the People of St. Brendan Parish

(† Intention is for someone deceased.)

## Upcoming Marriage Banns

We are pleased to announce the wedding of **Brendan Colvin** and **Sarah Tonisen** on Friday, October 9, 2026 at St. Brendan Church. We wish Brendan and Sarah God's blessing as they unite as husband and wife! Any known reason why this marriage should not happen should be reported to Fr. Michael Lumpe.



## Congratulations

### ON THE BAPTISMS OF:

Sophia Louise Lozier  
Josie Lynn Suplicki



## In Sympathy...

### PRAY FOR THE FAMILY OF:

Ruth Hungler



## Eucharistic Adoration

Sign up at [stbrendan.weadorehim.com](http://stbrendan.weadorehim.com) and then sign in at the Kiosk upon arrival.

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

## Weekly 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, September 13, 2026 \$43,427  
(Cash, checks & online giving)

Weekly Budgeted \$55,375



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

## How to Make a Mass Intention...



Mass Intentions can be made online at <https://tinyurl.com/massintent> or via the QR code to pay by credit/debit card. Or, fill out our Mass Intention Envelope (Church Gathering Area) and drop off at the office.

# 50 Wise & Wonderful Insights from Padre Pio

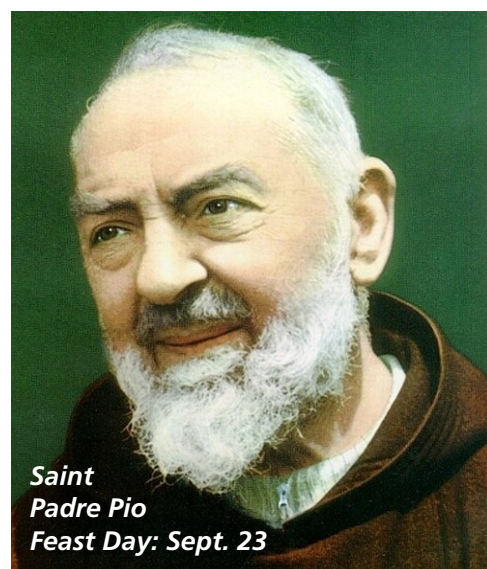
(FEAST DAY: SEPTEMBER 23) *Article courtesy of the National Catholic Register.*

Padre Pio will long be remembered for the countless spiritual insights, succinct spiritual direction, and constant encouragement he gave through his concise sayings and teaching. **Here are 50 of them to think about:**

1. Today's society does not pray. That is why it is falling apart.
2. Prayer is the best weapon we possess, the key that opens the heart of God.
3. Pray, hope and don't worry. Worry is useless. Our Merciful Lord will listen to your prayer.
4. Endeavor to unite the simplicity of children with the prudence of adults.
5. Do not be so given to the activity of Martha as to forget the silence of Mary. May the Virgin who so well reconciled the one with the other be your sweet model and inspiration.
6. It would be easier for the world to exist without the sun than without the Holy Mass.
7. A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.
8. How can the mother of Jesus, present at the foot of the Cross on Calvary, who offered her Son as Victim for the salvation of souls, be absent at the mystical Calvary of the altar?
9. In the spiritual life he who does not advance goes backward. It happens as with a boat which always must go ahead. If it stands still the wind will blow it back.
10. You must speak to Jesus also with the heart, besides the lips; indeed, in certain cases you must speak to him only with the heart.
11. We must always have courage, and if some spiritual languor comes upon us, let us run to the feet of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and let us place ourselves in the midst of the heavenly perfumes, and we will undoubtedly regain our strength.
12. Have you not for some time loved the Lord? Do you not love him now? Do you not long to love him forever? Therefore, do not fear! Even conceded that you had committed all the sins of this world, Jesus repeats to you, 'Many sins are forgiven thee because thou hast loved much!'
13. God loves man with an infinite love and when he punishes he does so with reverence, almost fearing to hurt.
14. God "absolutely cannot reject the sincere desire to love him."
15. My past, O Lord, to your Mercy; my present, to your Love; my future, to your Providence!
16. The heart of our Divine Master has no more amiable law than that of sweetness, humility, charity. Often place your confidence in Divine Providence and be assured that sooner heaven and earth shall pass away than that the Lord neglect to protect you.
17. Kneel down and render the tribute of your presence and devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Confide all your needs to him, along with those of others. Speak to him with filial abandonment, give free rein to your heart, and give him complete freedom to work in you as he thinks best.
18. Do not worry over things that generate preoccupation, derangement and anxiety. One thing only is necessary: to lift up your spirit and love God.
19. Thank and sweetly kiss the hand of God that strikes you, because it is always the hand of a Father who strikes you because he loves you.
20. Where there is no obedience, there is no virtue; there is neither goodness nor love. And where there is no love, there is no God. Without God, we cannot reach Heaven. These virtues form a ladder; if a step is missing, we fall down.
21. Obey promptly! Do not consider the age or merit of a person. And in order to succeed imagine you are obeying the Lord.
22. To fail in charity is like wounding God in the pupil of his eye. What is more delicate than the pupil of the eye? To fail in charity is like failing against nature.
23. The final purpose of meditation is the love of God and one's neighbor. Love the first with all your soul and without reservation, love the second as another self, and you will have arrived at the final purpose of meditation.
24. Temptations, discouragement and unrest are the wares offered by the enemy. Remember this: if the devil makes noise it is a sign that he is still outside and not yet within. That which must terrify us is his peace and concord with the human soul.
25. The demon has only one door by which to enter into our soul: the will; there are no secret doors. No sin is a sin if not committed with the will. When there is no action of the will, there is no sin, but only human weakness.
26. That which comes from Satan begins with calmness and ends in storm, indifference and apathy.
27. The field of battle between God and Satan is the human soul. It is in the soul that the battle rages every moment of life. The soul must give free access to the Lord so that it be fortified by him in every respect and with all kinds of weapons; that his light may enlighten it to combat the darkness of error; that it be clothed with Jesus Christ, with his justice, truth, the shield of faith, the word of God, in order to conquer such powerful enemies. To be clothed with Jesus Christ it is necessary to die to oneself.
28. Do not fear. Jesus is more powerful than all hell. At the invocation of his name every knee in heaven, on earth and in hell must bend before Jesus; this is a consolation for the good and terror for evil.
29. When you are exposed to any trial, be it physical or moral, bodily or spiritual, the best remedy is the thought of him who is our life, and not think of the one without joining to it the thought of the other.
30. Remember that it is not feeling of guilt that constitutes sin but the consent to sin. Only the free will is capable of good or evil. But when the will sighs under the trial of the tempter and does not will what is presented to it, there is not only no fault but there is virtue.
31. The best means of guarding yourself against temptation are the following: watch your senses to save them from

dangerous temptation, avoid vanity, do not let your heart become exalted, convince yourself of the evil of complacency, flee away from hate, pray whenever possible. If the soul would know the merit which one acquires in temptations suffered in patience and conquered, it would be tempted to say: Lord, send me temptations.

32. It is necessary to guard all your senses particularly your eyes: they are the means by which all the fascination and charm of beauty and voluptuousness enter the heart. When fashion, as in our time, is towards provocation and exposes what formerly was even wrong to think about, caution and self-restraint must be exercised. Whenever necessary you must look without seeing and see without thinking about it.
33. Always live under the eyes of the Good Shepherd and you will walk unharmed through evil pastures.
34. You must remember that you have in Heaven, not only a Father but also a Mother... Let us then have recourse to Mary. She is all sweetness, mercy, goodness and love for us because she is our Mother.
35. To doubt is the greatest insult to the Divinity.
36. Walk in the way of the Lord with simplicity and do not torment your spirit. You must hate your defects but with a quiet hate, not troublesome and restless.
37. You should rather humble yourself before God than be distressed if he reserves for you the sufferings of his Son, and makes you experience your weakness. You should offer up to him the prayer of resignation and hope, even when you fall through frailty, and thank him for all the benefits with which he continually enriches you.
38. The sublime degree of humility is not only to recognize one's own abjection but to love it. I have chosen, says the prophet, to be abject in the house of God rather than to dwell in the houses of sinners.
39. A good heart is always strong, it suffers, but with tears it is consoled by sacrificing itself for its neighbor and for God.
40. God enriches the soul which empties itself of everything.
41. The life of a Christian is nothing but a perpetual struggle against self; there is no flowering of the soul to the beauty of its perfection except at the price of pain.
42. He who attaches himself to the earth remains attached to it. It is by violence that we must leave it. It is better to detach oneself a little at a time, rather than all at once. Let us always think of heaven.
43. Let us bind ourselves tightly to the Sorrowful Heart of our heavenly Mother and reflect on its boundless grief of how precious is our soul.
44. If we are calm and persevering, we shall find not only ourselves, but our souls, and with that, God Himself.
45. Love and fear must go united together, fear without love becomes cowardice. Love without fear becomes presumption. When there is love without fear, love runs without prudence or restraint, without taking care where it is going.
46. Pray that God will console you when you feel the burden of the Cross, for in doing so you are in no way acting against the will of God, but you are placing yourself beside the Son of God who asked His Father during the Agony in the Garden to send Him some relief. But if He is not willing to give it be ready to pronounce the same 'Fiat,' 'So be it,' that Jesus did.
47. Let the world turn topsy-turvy, everything be in darkness and Mount Sinai all aflame, covered with lightning, thunder – God is with you. But if God lives in the darkness and Mount Sinai is all aflame, covered with lightning, thunder, and noise, will we not be safe near him?
48. Time spent in honor of God and for the salvation of souls is never badly spent.
49. Do you not see the Madonna always beside the tabernacle?
50. You must have boundless faith in the divine goodness, for the victory is absolutely certain.



**Saint  
Padre Pio**  
**Feast Day: Sept. 23**

## M.A.S.T. Fall Gathering Recap

M.A.S.T. (*Mature Active Singles Together*) is a ministry for single/widowed/divorced persons age 45+ and provides fellowship and support through a variety of social activities. Below are some photos from their recent fall social event. To join them, email Chris Hauck at [chrishauck0522@gmail.com](mailto:chrishauck0522@gmail.com)



# Community Calendar

## Junior Altar Server & Rising Acolyte Training Sept. 20 & 26

3rd or 4th grade students (this year) may become Jr. Altar Servers. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/altar-server-class> to take a training class. Junior Servers shadow and learn from the more experienced servers and then transition over to Acolytes as they begin 5th grade. All new Jr. Altar Servers and new/rising Acolytes must attend one of these classes (in the church):

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 20**

**Junior Servers: 2 PM**

**Acolytes: 3 PM**

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 26**

**Junior Servers: 1 PM**

**Acolytes: 2 PM**

Questions? Email Fr. Sam at [frseverance@stbrendans.net](mailto:frseverance@stbrendans.net)

## Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Training, Sept. 22

Are you interested in distributing Communion at Mass? We will have a training session on Tuesday, Sept. 22 7 PM in the church. Learn the guidelines and procedures for giving the most precious gift to others at Mass. EMHCs need to be a participating parishioner at least 16 years of age. You will be able to choose your preferred Mass and how often you volunteer through Ministry Scheduler software. Questions? Email Deacon Doug Saunders at [deacondoug@stbrendans.net](mailto:deacondoug@stbrendans.net) and fill out the form to let us know you can attend at <https://tinyurl.com/stbEMHC26> (For EMHCs for the Homebound... Nell: [doconnell@stbrendans.net](mailto:doconnell@stbrendans.net))

### Monday, September 21

6:30 AM

8:00 AM

9:00 AM

9:00 AM

5:30 PM

6:00 PM-10:00 PM

6:00 PM

7:00 PM

### Tuesday, September 22

6:30 AM

6:30 AM

8:00 AM

8:30 AM-10:00 PM

6:30 PM

6:30 PM

7:00 PM

7:00 PM

### Wednesday, September 23

5:30 AM

6:30 AM

7:00 AM-5:00 PM

5:30 PM

6:00 PM

7:00 PM

7:00 PM

7:00 PM

7:15 PM

### Thursday, September 24

6:30 AM

8:00 AM

8:30 AM-10:00 PM

8:45 AM

6:30 PM

6:30 PM

### Friday, September 25

6:30 AM

8:00 AM

8:30 AM-10:00 PM

10:00 AM

5:45 PM

### Saturday, September 26

5:30 AM

6:30 AM

8:00 AM

8:30 AM-1:00 PM

9:00 AM

9:00 AM

9:00 AM

9:30 AM

1:00 PM

2:00 PM

5:30 PM

7:00 PM

### Sunday, September 27

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

During 8:45 & 10:45 AM Mass

During 8:45 & 10:45 AM Mass

12:00 PM

6:30 PM-10:00 PM

6:30 PM

6:30 PM

7:00 PM

Daily Mass

Daily Mass

Catholic Way: The Book of Revelation

Church Cleaning

Daily Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

KofC Ladies Appreciation Dinner

Adult Scripture Study: The Bible Timeline

Daily Mass

Esto Vir Men's Ministry

Daily Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

OCIA Immaculate Conception Cohort Mtg.

OCIA Vigil Cohort Meeting

EMHC Training

Adult Scripture Study: Intro to Prayer

Fit Shepherds Men's Ministry

Daily Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

Daily Mass

Adoration with Confession

VINE Formation

Young Adult Men's Group

Young Adult Women's Group

Music Ministry: Sip and Sing

Daily Mass

Daily Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

Women's AM Studies: Chosen 5

Communion/Liberation School of Community

Women's PM Studies: Chosen 5

### No School

Daily Mass

Daily Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

Elizabeth Ministry: FIAT Hour

Kairos Ministry Meeting

### Diocesan Collection: Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

Fit Shepherds Men's Ministry

Men's Ministry: Esto Vir Meeting

Daily Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

Confession

Respect Life Sidewalk Ministry Training Class

SVdP Monthly Conference Meeting

VINE Bible Studies

Jr. Altar Servers Training

Rising Acolytes Training

Vigil Mass

VINE Women's Night

### Diocesan Collection: Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

Sunday Masses

POD Nursery

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Baptisms

Eucharistic Adoration

The ROOTS

VINE Night

Grief Support Group

Adoration Chapel

Church

Wellnitz, Room 1

Church & Chapel

Church

Adoration Chapel

Davidson, Rms. A & B

Wellnitz, Room 1

Adoration Chapel

Davidson, Room A

Church

Adoration Chapel

Davidson, Room B

Davidson, Room A

Church

School Library

Campus Parking Lot

Adoration Chapel

Adoration Chapel

Church

Church

School Library

Wellnitz, Room 1

Off-Site

Davidson, Room A

Adoration Chapel

Church

Adoration Chapel

Davidson, Rms. A & B

Wellnitz, Room 2

Davidson, Rms. A & B

Adoration Chapel

Church

Adoration Chapel

Childcare Center

Davidson, Room A

Campus Parking Lot

Davidson, Rms. A & B

Church

Adoration Chapel

Confessional

Davidson, Room B

Wellnitz, Room 1

School Library

Church

Church

Church

Wellnitz, Rms. 1 & 2

Church

Childcare Center

Adoration Chapel

Church

Adoration Chapel

School Gym

Davidson, Rms. A & B

Wellnitz, Room 1

## Women's Retreat

Register now for the *Hearts on Fire* Women's Overnight Retreat, **November 14-15**, at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, for fellowship, encouragement and spiritual renewal. Explore the fire God places within each of us, a fire that strengthens our faith, refines our hearts and inspires us to live boldly for Christ. Through worship, reflection, prayer and conversation, women of all ages are invited to step away from daily distractions and rekindle their passion for God.

Cost of \$145 includes a private room with bathroom, 3 meals, snacks and drinks. Add Friday night to your stay for an additional \$80. Receive an Early Bird discount of \$10 if you register and pay by October 27. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/women26retreat> or, to pay by check, complete a paper form (on the Welcome Desk) with check made to St. Brendan Church (memo: "Women's Retreat") and mail to: Chris Hauck, 2121 Jervis Rd., Columbus, OH 43221. Questions? [chrishauck0522@gmail.com](mailto:chrishauck0522@gmail.com)



## Seniors NOW (NAVIGATING OUR WAY) FOR AGES 65+

**OCTOBER 2, 8 AM** – First Friday Mass followed by breakfast at Cracker Barrel, 1313 Hilliard Rome Rd., Hilliard.

## "Respect Life" Events...

### PDHC DINNER & GALA – September 24

Join our St. Brendan Knights of Columbus and Right to Life members at their table for dinner on Thursday, September 24, 6 PM at Villa Milano (1630 Schrock Rd., Columbus.) There is no ticket/admission cost to attend the Pregnancy Decision Health Center Dinner & Gala but donations will be accepted at the event. RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/PDHCgala>



**SIDEWALK MINISTRY TRAINING CLASS – September 26, 9-11 AM**, join us in Davidson, Room B. Sidewalk Ministry trains volunteers to be present on the sidewalk in front of local abortion clinics, compassionately educating women about their choices and praying to help potential abortion facility customers find better healthcare alternatives. Several St. Brendan parishioners have completed this training. The half-day class provides an introduction to Pro-life action including: apologetics, discussion on laws related to abortion and Pro-life activity, and local resources for pregnant or post-abortive women. Find more details about the ministry at <https://www.gcrtl.org/sidewalk-counseling.html>

**COLUMBUS MASS, MARCH & RALLY – Join us October 2 for:**

- **9 AM** – Mass for Life (St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad Street)
- **10 AM** – Concert (Rally at 11 AM)
- **12 PM** – March for Life (Ohio Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square)

**PRAYER VIGIL:** St. Brendan will be participating in **40 Days for Life** taking place September 23-November 1. This campaign brings continuous prayer to abortion clinics across the nation to promote life. Our parish has adopted **October 14, 8 AM-2 PM** to pray at Planned Parenthood (3255 E. Main St., Columbus). We ask that a minimum of two volunteers sign up to pray at the clinic for each hour-long shift. Sign up by accepting a "Need" in ParishStaq at <https://tinyurl.com/stb-needs> or contact Tim Reno with questions at [tireno04@gmail.com](mailto:tireno04@gmail.com), 614-312-7388. If you can't pray on our adopted day, sign up for other times at [www.gcrtl.org/40-days-for-life](http://www.gcrtl.org/40-days-for-life)



## Melchizedek Project, Sept. 28

The Melchizedek Project helps young men to discern priesthood. The first meeting at St. Brendan will be Monday, Sept. 28, 6-7:30 PM in the School Library (dinner provided). Learn more via the QR code or contact Fr. Sam at [frseverance@stbrendans.net](mailto:frseverance@stbrendans.net) to let him know you plan to attend. Future meeting dates are: **Oct. 19, Nov. 30, Jan. 25, Feb. 22, March 15 & April 26.**

## Esto Vir Men's Ministry Events

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

**Saturdays, 6:30 AM Esto Vir:** Started on Sept. 12. Gather in the Davidson Rooms, gather to break bread, build community, bolster our faith and pray together. Experience content from *Jesus - The Way, the Truth & the Life*, *The Chosen* season 5 & *Sharing Our Story*.

**Tuesday 6:30 AM study** – Started on Sept. 8. Gather Tuesdays, in the Davidson Rooms, for in-depth study series on Scripture, early Church Fathers, lives of the saints and fellowship. No RSVP, just show up!

**Dinner with Esto Vir – October 24** 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!

## Join the Kairos Prison Ministry

Kairos Prison Ministry is looking for men to bring the love and grace of Jesus to the residents of London Correctional Institute. Retreat weekend is Nov. 5-8 and formation meetings begin Sept. 25 (Davidson, Room A.) To help in bringing men to Christ, contact Tim Reno at [tireno04@gmail.com](mailto:tireno04@gmail.com), or Chuck at [chuck436@att.net](mailto:chuck436@att.net)

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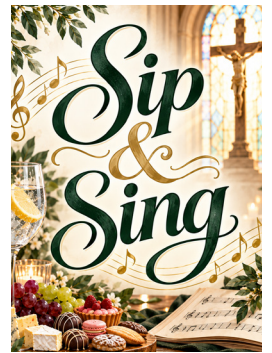
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Candidates & Catechumens**

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Samantha Butler  
Sumi Chen  
Charlotte Cordell  
Jack Cordell  
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Adam Haugen  
Jon Lopez  
Jackie Perrotta  
Alicia Price  
Mike Werhan  
Karl Williams

Lord, we pray for those in the OCIA process who journey to You. Strengthen their faith. Open their hearts to the fullness of Your love. Deepen their understanding. Set their hearts on fire for the kingdom of God. We ask this through Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life for all. Amen

## Sip & Sing, September 23

Do you hum in the shower, tap your steering wheel to the radio, or play an instrument in your spare time? We want to meet you! Join our Music Ministry for a relaxed "Sip & Sing" night on Wednesday, September 23, 7:15 PM in the Davidson Rooms. Grab a drink, enjoy some treats, and sing along to some favorite hymns. There are no high-pressure auditions – just a casual evening of fellowship and music for all skill levels. Meet our new Director of Sacred Music, Julie Cottrill, ask questions and learn ways to share your musical gifts with the parish. Questions? Email [jcottrill@stbrendans.net](mailto:jcottrill@stbrendans.net)



## Craft Show Update

A few vendor booths recently opened up for the Knights of Columbus November 7 **Fall Craft Show**. Find vendor details and registration at <https://tinyurl.com/events4stb> (click on "Craft Show.") Questions? Email Eric Clarke at [sbcraftshow@gmail.com](mailto:sbcraftshow@gmail.com)

## Next Blood Drive Is October 9

The next St. Brendan Knights of Columbus sponsored Red Cross Blood Drive is Friday, October 9, 12-6 PM in the Davidson Rooms. Give the gift of life by calling 1-800-Red-Cross (1-800-733-2767) or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

## Next Dementia Series Session, Oct. 15

Explore the medical, safety, emotional and community-resource aspects of Alzheimer's disease and dementia. All are welcome to this informative free series held monthly at 5:30-7 PM on third Thursdays in the School Library. Register by scanning the QR code or at <https://tinyurl.com/dementia4part>. Remaining sessions: **OCT. 15:** Tonya Kreml: *Safety at Home While Caregiving* **NOV.19:** Laurie Schier: *Resources Beyond the Home* Questions? Email Nell: [doconnell@stbrendans.net](mailto:doconnell@stbrendans.net)



## Fall Adult Scripture Studies



Sign up for an adult Scripture study listed below at <https://tinyurl.com/ff4adults> or via the QR code.

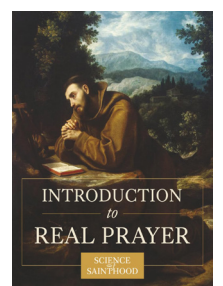
## The Bible Timeline: Sept. 21

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 to journey through the entire Bible! You will identify the important events in twelve timeline periods. Materials cost is \$30. Questions? Email Bryan at [chov911@gmail.com](mailto:chov911@gmail.com)



## Intro to Real Prayer, Sept. 22

This 9-week co-ed video, discussion and prayer series begins **Tuesday, Sept. 22, 7 PM** in the School Library. Hosted by evangelist Matthew Leonard, *Introduction to Real Prayer* introduces you to the basics of prayer, its necessity, how to make it a part of your daily life, in an easy to understand style. No cost to attend. Questions? Email Bryan Moore at [chov911@gmail.com](mailto:chov911@gmail.com)



## Weekly/Monthly Parish Groups

**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 or bring your own. Questions? Email Lisa at [lisaplong@gmail.com](mailto:lisaplong@gmail.com)

**Prayer Shawl Workshop** – Meet 1st Saturdays & 3rd Wednesdays in Wellnitz, Room 2. To join, email Kathy at [kendrizz@aol.com](mailto:kendrizz@aol.com) or Karen at [kkessmith@yahoo.com](mailto:kkessmith@yahoo.com)

**M.A.S.T.** – (Mature Active Singles Together) is a ministry for single/widowed/divorced persons age 45+ To join, email Chris at [chrishauck0522@gmail.com](mailto:chrishauck0522@gmail.com)

**St. Brendan Young Adults** – Those in their 20s/30s, meet monthly on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7-9 PM. Men meet in Wellnitz Hall, Room 1. Women meet off-campus. To join, email Jorden Frey at [jfreydesigns@gmail.com](mailto:jfreydesigns@gmail.com)

### SVdP Sandwich Making for the Homeless

Meet in Wellnitz Hall twice monthly on: First Thursdays, 10 AM and 3rd Thursdays, 7 PM.

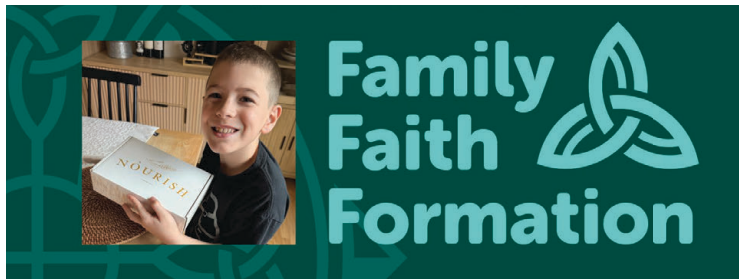
**Grief Support Lunch** – Meets monthly, 2nd Thursdays, 1 PM at La Chatelaine Restaurant in Dublin. Questions? Email [edmuch@me.com](mailto:edmuch@me.com)

**Grief Support Study** – Meet the 1st and 4th Sundays monthly, 7 PM in Wellnitz, Room 1 to learn about grief care. Questions? Email Nell: [doconnell@stbrendans.net](mailto:doconnell@stbrendans.net)

## Spiritual/Mental Support

**iTHIRST Spiritual Companions** – Three iThirst Spiritual Companions are available at our parish! Visit [opendoorwomensrecoveryorg/ithirst](http://opendoorwomensrecoveryorg/ithirst) for details. 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/>



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? Contact Jacob at 614-876-1272, ext. 231 or [jdoran@stbrendans.net](mailto:jdoran@stbrendans.net)

**VOLUNTEERS** – Anyone sixth grade or older can help out with our Family Faith Formation program! We are looking for table leaders for parent small group discussions, as well as help creating hospitality and intercession teams. Please pray about how God is calling you to support other Parish families to grow in faith (those 18+ must be Safe Environment compliant). To help out, please email Jacob Doran at [jdoran@stbrendans.net](mailto:jdoran@stbrendans.net)

**SACRAMENT PREPARATION PARENT MEETING** – If you missed the meeting this past Sunday, please email Jacob Doran at [jdoran@stbrendans.net](mailto:jdoran@stbrendans.net)

## POD Nursery Volunteers Needed

Our nursery, for children 6 mos.-4 years old, needs volunteers during **8:45 & 10:45 AM Sunday Masses**. To sign up, please email [nursery@stbrendans.net](mailto:nursery@stbrendans.net) (ages 18+ must be Safe Environment compliant.)

## VINE & ROOTS Youth Groups

**ROOTS FOR MIDDLESCHOOLERS (GRADES 6-8)** – Sunday nights, 6:30-8:30 PM. Questions? Email [amarino@stbrendans.net](mailto:amarino@stbrendans.net)  
**Sept. 20:** "Hearing God in Prayer" – Davidson Rooms  
**Sept. 27:** "Identity in Christ" – School Gym  
**Oct. 4:** "Men's & Women's Night" – Davidson Rooms

**VINE FOR HIGHSCHOOLERS (GRADES 9-12)** – Sunday nights, 6:30-8:30 PM. Questions? Email Kara at [kshand@stbrendans.net](mailto:kshand@stbrendans.net)  
**Sept. 20:** "Why Care About God?" – School Gym  
**Sept. 27:** "How to Talk to God" – Davidson Rooms  
**Oct. 4:** "Where Did the Church Come From?" – School Gym



## Reserve a Spot for 2027 Summer Camp

Damascus Summer Camp 2027 Pre-Order registration is now open. Because our parish placed a Pre-Order, our campers have early access to 90 reserved spaces before general registration opens up to receive a \$100 sponsorship. Register before October 31 at 5 PM. After that, unregistered Pre-Order spaces will be released to the general public. Pre-register for one of the St. Brendan, Week 1, June 6-11 spots at:

**High School (grades 9-12):** <https://tinyurl.com/HSdamascus>

**Middle School (grades 6-8):** <https://tinyurl.com/MSdamascus>

1. When asked about payment, select "Pay in full"
  2. Type group discount code **BRENHILL27** into the promo code box
  3. Click the checkbox for your reservation, enter payment & submit.
- For questions, email Jacob Doran at [jdoran@stbrendans.net](mailto:jdoran@stbrendans.net)

## Elizabeth Ministry Updates...

Join the Elizabeth Ministry in the Childcare Center for these monthly events this fall for mothers with young children:  
**Playgroup** – first Tuesdays at 9:30 AM; **The Upper Room** – third Tuesdays at 9:30 AM; **FIAT Hour** on fourth Fridays, 10-11 AM (Adoration time for moms with childcare provided.) Questions? Email Regina: [thelonggrears@gmail.com](mailto:thelonggrears@gmail.com)

## Protecting God's Children, Oct. 5

To volunteer in the POD Nursery or help at parish ministries or events that work with children, you will need to be Safe Environment compliant, so this session is for you! Meet 5-6 PM, Oct. 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](https://tinyurl.com/StBrendanPGCTotus)

## Thanks to Our Bulletin Sponsors...

Thanks to Dee Printing and our sponsors, our bulletin is provided weekly at no cost to the parish. To place an ad in our bulletin, contact Kati: 614-777-8700 or [kati@deeprinting.com](mailto:kati@deeprinting.com)  
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## Around Our Diocese

### Josephinum 5K Run/Walk is October 3

The Josephinum 5K Run/Walk is October 3 (plus, a virtual option for supporters nationwide.) Register 3+ participants at <https://m3ssports.com/events/josephinum-5k> to get \$15 off (applied at registration.) Participants receive: T-shirt, medal, photos, bottle of wine or jam, breakfast burritos and sliders.

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter Getaway!

Attend Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend Oct. 9-11 to give you and your spouse all the tools for a stronger and more loving marriage. Getaway location: Procter Camp and Conference Center, London, OH. Other weekend dates are also available. Register and find details at [WWME.org](http://WWME.org)

### SEEK 2027 Conference Discount Ends on Oct. 30

SEEK is a five-day experience, January 1-5 at the Columbus Convention Center where thousands of Catholics will come together to encounter Christ through prayer, Adoration, the Sacraments and inspiring speakers. Find the registration and more details at <https://seek.focus.org/>

### Diocesan Catholic Mental Health Directory

The Vicariate of Catholic Social Doctrine and a Catholic mental health professional/clergy advisory group have compiled a directory of local, trusted, Catholic Mental Health professionals and resources which incorporate faith in one's treatment, aligning with the Church's teachings on anthropology and morality, ensuring a holistic approach to mental health and wellness. The directory is available at <https://columbuscatholic.org/mental-health-ministry/>

### 2026 Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference

CCYA conference is a one-day event for those ages 19-35 featuring inspiring Catholic speakers, breakout sessions, exhibitors, Adoration, a vigil Mass, and a closing dinner at SmashPark. Join us on Saturday, October 24 for a day and evening of faith, fellowship, fun, and food at Saint Paul the Apostle parish in Westerville. Register at [www.ccyac.org](http://www.ccyac.org)

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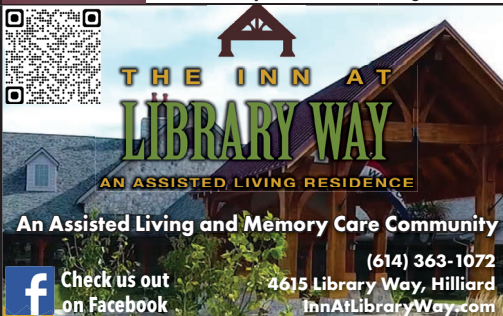
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