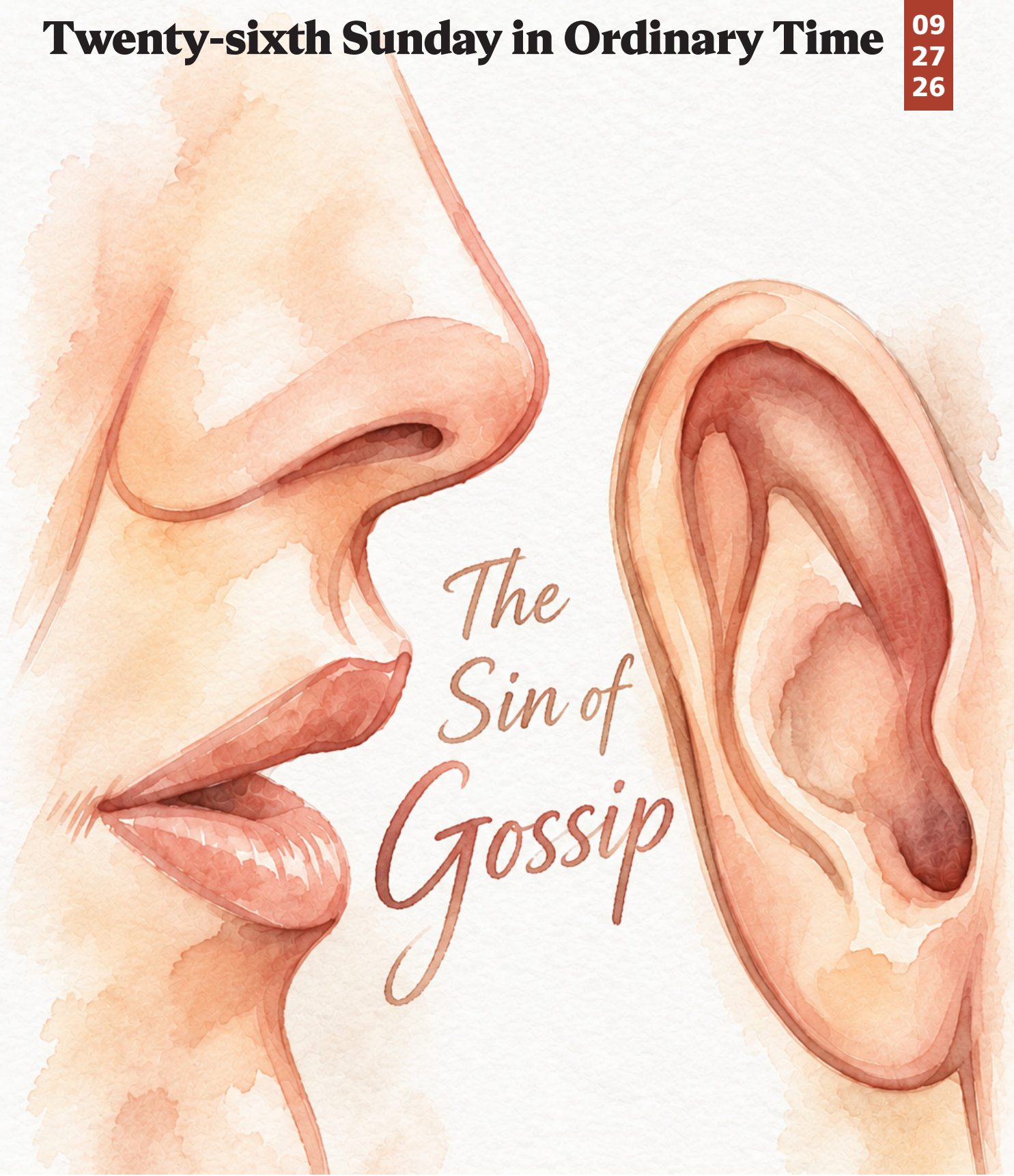


Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

09
27
26



The Sin of Gossip

Holy Mass*

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

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

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.*



**Saint
Brendan**
THE NAVIGATOR

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Information Center

Parish Office Hours

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

Church Hours

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

St. Brendan School

Phone: 614-876-6132,
Fax: 614-529-8929

New Members:

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

Marriage:

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

Baptisms:

12 PM most Sundays. For details, visit stbrendans.net/baptism or for questions, email baptism@stbrendans.net.
Baptism 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

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults):

Curious about the Catholic faith? Contact Wendy Ferkany at wferkany@stbrendans.net 614-876-1272, ext. 291 or

Ministry of Evangelization

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

Marketing/Bulletin Request:

stbrendans.net/marketing or marketing@stbrendans.net

Mass Intentions:

Fill out 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

Protecting God's Children:

Register at www.virtus.org or tinyurl.com/StBrendanPGC

Navigator News/ParishStaq

Visit stbrendan.ccbchurch.com to receive or weekly e-newsletter and create your account in ParishStaq. Log in to be automatically added to our email list.

Liturgical Ministry Portal

Access *Ministry Scheduler Pro* at www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/stbrendans or, email 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](https://www.youtube.com/SaintBrendantheNavigatorHilliard)
OR Facebook: [facebook.com/StBrendanHilliardyoutube.com/c/](https://www.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 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 or 614-274-1922



From Our Pastor ON THIS TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME,

Jesus shares the Parable of the Two Sons to challenge our hearts, look past our outward appearances, and pierce straight through to our actual intentions. A father asks both of his sons to go out and work in his vineyard. The first son openly rebels, bluntly saying, "*I will not,*" but later he reconsiders, learns his lesson, and quietly goes to work. The second son quickly offers respectful compliance, saying, "*I go, sir,*" but never actually sets foot in the vineyard. When Jesus asks which of the two truly did the father's will, the answer is obvious: the one whose actions ultimately matched the command. This Scripture is a powerful warning against giving God mere lip service. It is profoundly easy to say the right words on Sunday during Mass, to nod along with the homily, and to present ourselves as devout Catholics. Yet,

if our lives from Monday through Saturday do not mirror our Profession of Faith, we are exactly like the second son. God does not look for flawless etiquette or empty promises; He looks for authentic obedience, active love and concrete discipleship.

This call to match our words with right action becomes incredibly real when we look at how we talk about each other. Honestly, one of the biggest ways we fall into giving God "lip service" is through the everyday habit and sin of gossip. It's a vice that quietly creeps into our lives. We praise God with our lips in the pews, but the second we step out the church doors, it can be easy for some to not live as "doers of the word" and, instead, see that we are "hearers only" (ref. James 1:22).

To give us an idea of just how pervasive this is, a major study frequently highlighted by researchers at Stanford and Maryland found that the average person spends about 52 minutes every single day gossiping – which they defined simply as talking about someone who isn't in the room. In our digital age, texting, emails, and social media have made gossiping deceptively effortless and instantaneous. Now, the researchers pointed out that a lot of this chatter is just casual, neutral talk. But as Christians, that number should really make us stop and think. If we are spending nearly an hour every day talking about people behind their backs, how quickly and easily do those minutes slide into actual sin?

Church teaching warns us about two very real spiritual dangers here: detraction and calumny. Detraction is when we start sharing someone else's real faults and mistakes with others for no good reason, damaging their reputation. Calumny is even worse – it's spreading outright lies or rumors to bring harm to someone's good name. Both completely violate the Eighth Commandment. When we slide from casual chatter into detraction and calumny, we become just like the second son in the parable. We wear the uniform of the vineyard, but our words are actively sabotaging God's harvest of love and unity.

Think about that 52-minute statistic for a moment. What if we took that same amount of time each day and completely flipped it? Imagine the radical spiritual transformation in our lives if we repurposed those 52 minutes of talking about people and spent that time instead by talking to God in prayer. Fifty-two minutes of daily prayer would allow us to pray a meditative Rosary, read and meditate on daily Scripture, pray in Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, and still have plenty of time left over for quiet, heartfelt conversation with Jesus. True conversion – that "turning about" Christ calls us to – demands that we learn our lesson about the power of the tongue and deliberately choose to build up rather than tear down.

The beauty of today's parable lies in the first son's capacity for ongoing conversion. He initially made the wrong choice, but he possessed the humility to reflect, realize his error, and correct his course. In the Catholic tradition, we call this *metanoia* – a profound turning about of the mind and heart. No matter how far we have strayed or how many times we have initially told God "no," it is never too late to learn our lesson, repent, and do the right thing.

If gossip, detraction, or harsh speech has become a habitual pattern or a "pet sin," please remember that breaking free from a habit requires more than just willpower – it requires Divine grace. I pastorally encourage everyone engaged in this struggle to bring this to the Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession is the first step toward an authentic conversion of mind and heart – a sanctuary of compassion, mercy and forgiveness where the Priest, acting *in persona Christi* (the person of Christ), absolves us of our sins and infuses our souls with the strength to change. If any of us are caught up in the cycle of negative speech, let today be the day we turn around. Let us put an end to lip service, seek His healing forgiveness, and show our love for the Father through our daily thoughts, words and actions.

THE FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI is traditionally celebrated on October 4, but the celebration of this year's Feast is superseded by the Sunday liturgy – the Lord's Day. We will, however, make available the traditional blessing of animals on **October 4 from 1-2 PM**, doing a "drive thru" blessing by keeping your animals in the car and driving up, lowering your window, and our Priests will bless your pets with Holy Water. This drive-thru makes it easier for people who have difficulty walking to our grotto, especially if parking is not available near there (this issue was brought to my attention by several parishioners), plus if weather is inclement the drive-thru will make it easier for all concerned. The drive-thru will take place in front of the Church and go alongside the portico by the Parish Offices, so please form an orderly line and pull up for the blessing of your pet(s). A drive-thru animal blessing will also be available on Monday, **October 5 (around 3 PM)** in the regular school pick-up car line when parents come to pick up their kids after school and will work the same as the drive-thru blessing on Sunday. Bring your pet to receive a blessing while picking up your children from school! God bless!

Fr. Mike

Fr. Michael Lumpe, Pastor

JANUARY 10, 2026 THROUGH JANUARY 10, 2027

Jubilee Year of St. Francis



Reining in Our Thoughts & Our Tongues:

FRANCISCAN WISDOM ON GOSSIP, DETRACTION, AND CALUMNY

Article by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In our modern world saturated with social media, and the immediacy of e-mails and text messages, casual attacks on people's reputations or the rush to "spread the news" first have become quite common. Words are often treated as cheap and disposable. However, Catholic moral theology and Franciscan spirituality remind us that speech carries real spiritual weight. Our words can wound, heal, divide, or restore communion.

Among the most pervasive offenses against Christian charity are the sins of the tongue: gossip, detraction, and calumny.

These sins are serious. This is not because God delights in condemning ordinary human weakness. It is because every person's good name is part of the dignity entrusted to us by God.

Far from being harmless social pastimes, these vices are destructive forces. Saint Francis of Assisi and the Franciscan tradition warn that they fracture relationships. They harm the soul of the speaker and dismantle Christian community from within. For those striving to live the Gospel in families, neighborhoods, workplaces, schools and parishes, reclaiming the Franciscan discipline of speech is an essential step toward true holiness.

To understand the remedy, we must first recognize the anatomy of these sins as the Church defines them. At its base, gossip is the generalized, careless spreading of idle talk regarding the personal affairs of others.

When gossip sharpens into malice, it takes two deadly forms:

- **Detraction** occurs when someone discloses another person's true but hidden faults without an objectively valid reason. This happens when we share these flaws with people who did not previously know them.
- **Calumny**, or slander, is even more insidious. It involves spreading outright falsehoods that damage a neighbor's reputation.

These sins directly violate the Eighth Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Every human being possesses an inherent right to their good name. Truth is no defense against detraction. Exposing someone's authentic failures out of malice or curiosity remains a grave violation of justice.

Saint Francis of Assisi understood this spiritual danger with terrifying clarity. He did not view gossip as a minor imperfection. Instead, he saw it as a form of spiritual betrayal akin to the actions of Judas. In his *Approved Rule of 1223*, Francis issued an explicit directive to his followers: "I warn and exhort, moreover, in Christ Jesus the Lord, that the brothers be on their guard against all pride, vainglory, envy, avarice, care and anxiety for this world, detraction and murmuring." For Francis, detraction and murmuring – whispering maliciously behind closed doors – were directly tied to pride and envy. It is the desire to elevate oneself by lowering another.

To combat this, Saint Francis established a golden standard for everyday speech in his Admonition XXV: "Blessed is the servant who loves his brother as much when he is far away as when he is by his side, and who would not say anything behind his back which in love he could not say to his face." This simple test can guide us daily. Before communicating verbally, digitally or electronically about an absent colleague, neighbor, or family member, **we should ask ourselves:**

- Are these words helpful or kind?
- Would I say these same words directly to that person?
- Could I say these words with genuine Christian love?

If the answer is no, Franciscan spirituality calls us to choose the sanctuary of silence.

Avoiding these sins requires us to care for our interior life. Franciscan theologians emphasize that the tongue merely broadcasts what fills the heart. Saint Anthony of Padua frequently preached that Christian speech should be edifying, instructive, and ordered toward the glory of God. When tempted to engage in gossip, we can practice the traditional Franciscan remedy of favorable interpretation. This means actively choosing to assume the best intentions of others. We must notice their virtues before dwelling on their defects.

Furthermore, early Franciscan rules encourage a strict custody of the ears. It takes at least two people to make a rumor work: one to speak, and one or more to listen. Listening willingly to a detractor makes us a participant in the theft of a neighbor's reputation. True Franciscan witness means gently but firmly changing the subject. We must also defend the absent party when conversations turn toxic.

In our contemporary digital world – whether in sprawling social media feeds, message threads or tight-knit group chats – the temptation to engage in gossip has been amplified by the illusion of distance. When we do not see the face of our neighbor, it becomes dangerously easy to forget their divine dignity. A smartphone can quickly become a weapon of detraction, allowing us to broadcast an unverified rumor or a harsh judgment to hundreds of people with a single, unthinking tap. Reclaiming Franciscan wisdom in the digital age requires a conscious "fasting" from the keyboard. Before replying to a thread, forwarding a message, or leaving a comment about another person, we must apply Saint Francis' standard to our digital presence. If a comment does not build up the community in genuine charity, the Franciscan response is to log off or delete the message. Furthermore, in group chats where others begin to tear down others, a modern instrument of peace must refuse to feed the algorithm of division. We can gently steer the digital conversation back

to a place of mutual respect or choose to step away entirely, protecting both our own souls and the reputations of the absent.

When damage has already been done, Franciscan spirituality insists on the humble path of reconciliation and restitution.

Because detraction and calumny are sins against justice, private confession alone cannot fully restore the spiritual life.

An effort must be made to repair the external damage:

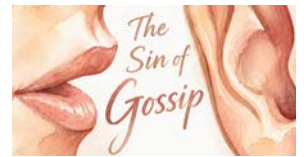
- **For calumny**, this requires an explicit retraction of the lie to everyone who heard it.
- **For detraction**, restitution means actively restoring the victim's honor. We do this by speaking of their good qualities, offering apologies, and working to heal the division brought about by our actions.
- **In complex situations** where direct intervention might cause further social harm, Franciscan guides recommend a hidden path. We can make restitution through quiet acts of charity, fasts, and intensive prayer for the healing of those involved.

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches: "Every offense committed against justice and truth entails the duty of reparation... Reparation also concerns offenses against another's reputation. This reparation, moral and sometimes material, must be evaluated in terms of the extent of the damage inflicted. It obliges in conscience" (CCC 2487).

Ultimately, Saint Francis envisioned a world where everyone lived as brothers and sisters, guided strictly by the teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. By mastering our speech, we refuse to participate in the quiet murders of gossip. By swiftly repairing the wounds caused by our words, we fulfill our foundational calling. We become true instruments of peace in a fractured world, fully living out the words of the beautiful prayer so deeply etched into our hearts: *"Make me a channel of your peace..."*

Take This 10-Point Gossip Test & Never Gossip Again

Article by Patti Armstrong



No one wants to be known as a gossip, yet who among us has never gossiped? It's tempting. It is so tempting in fact, that we can convince ourselves that we were not really gossiping.

Take the gossip test below to determine if you qualify as a gossip. If you answer yes to any of the 10 statements below, you have gossiped. Then read on for powerful reasons never to do it again.

1. **As long as it's true, it's okay to repeat.**
2. **I needed to vent.**
3. **I told only one person.**
4. **I told people just to ask for prayers for his sorry soul.**
5. **I accidentally slipped so I was not intentionally gossiping.**
6. **I went a whole week without telling anyone, then had to tell just one person.**
7. **I told someone in confidence and made them promise never to repeat it.**
8. **I needed advice on how I should handle it.**
9. **If she is going to act that way, then she deserves it.**
10. **I'm praying for him now, so it's all good.**

Unless there is a serious need to know, it's the sin of detraction to share something bad about another. For instance, if you have a friend about to do business with someone who has a long history of swindling people, that might be important information to share for the good of another. But telling a friend about an acquaintance's spouse having an affair, it's not your job to spread that.

People are social creatures, so communication with one another is instinctive and having big news to share can be fun or being appalled about someone's behavior can incite us to vent. But when it's hurting another person's reputation, then we are guilty of sin.

HERE ARE 7 GOOD REASONS NEVER TO GOSSIP AGAIN:

1. **To hurt someone through talking about them behind their back**, you have to strike Jesus first. "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me." – Matthew 25:40
2. **In order for you to gossip, you have to hold a negative memory and share it** with another person. Negative thoughts in your brain causes release of cortisol, the stress hormone, into your blood. This weakens your immune system and inhibits the actions of your white blood cells which increases the chances for infection and even promotes weight gain – all from negative thinking you spread through gossiping.
3. **What goes around comes around.** In Matthew 7:12, Jesus told us to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. He also warned us: in Luke 6:38 that, "The measure with which you measure will be measured back to you."
4. **Gossiping gives you a bad reputation.** Have you ever heard someone described as a big gossip? That realization makes them unattractive to others as untrustworthy and mean-spirited. Consider the opposite: a trustworthy person who speaks kindly of others. Choose the image you want.
5. **What you say about others is more of an indication of who you are than who they are.** Some people speak kindly and compliment others while other people seem never to be at a loss for a criticism of others. What you say about others is a reflection of who you are.
6. **Risk of Embarrassment.** Once you've said something, you cannot 100 percent trust that it will not be repeated and get back to the person that you were gossiping about. If you would not say something in front of them, then don't say it behind their back.
7. **It's a sin.** It comes under the Fifth Commandment, "Thou Shalt Not Kill," because it kills the reputation of another.

The choice is ours. We can criticize or spread scandal about others and have our moment of venting or attention, or we can refrain for the sake of God, neighbor and our own souls.

To go one step further, rather than gossiping about a person, we can pray for them. Our hearts will grow in love and kindness and our souls will grow in holiness. Compare that with ruining our reputation, sinning and hurting others. It should be no contest.

Saint Vincent de Paul

FEAST DAY: SEPTEMBER 27 *Article courtesy of www.vincenter.org*



It was the human Jesus who captivated Vincent. From the beginning, the picture of Jesus telling the people in the Nazareth synagogue that his life's purpose was to bring his Father's hope to the poor excited Vincent. He saw himself seated in that assembly and felt the energy which moved

Jesus go through him too. For most of his active life, Vincent set his course by what Jesus would do. He was especially attuned to the Gospel scenes in which Jesus encountered needy people. In fact, he often reminded his followers how fortunate they were to be doing exactly what the Son of Man himself had come to do – bring the Good News to the poor.

Love for God and Trust in God's Care

Vincent's happy childhood, particularly the love he felt toward his mother, disposed him to recognize the richness in Jesus' claim that his God in heaven was lovable and gracious. Vincent only grew in his appreciation of God's parental care. It was his own experience of this tender mercy that made him such an attractive and believable evangelizer.

In some ways, Vincent's fundamental accomplishment was to have communicated to the poor of his day that God really loved them. In the prayer practices he recommended, Vincent told his directees to come with Jesus before His God, to be part of the vital exchange going back and forth within the Trinity. Only in such open communication with the all-loving God could they have confidence that the work they were doing was really God's work. Only then could they be sure it was, in Vincent's favorite phrase, the will of God.

Warmhearted and Practical Love for the Poor

Vincent was a discerner. He detected God's loving presence when he met and served neglected people. They were his special ones, his windows into God's activity in the world, his holy ground. They brought him the Lord Jesus. In a hundred different ways, Vincent taught that Jesus was alive in the poor. Underneath the frightening surfaces of poverty, he insisted, the disciple encountered the suffering Lord.

Vincent pictured ranks of poor people gathered around Jesus on the last day, helping him to make the final judgment:

**"She took care of us, Lord. Let her in.
"He was our friend, Jesus. Welcome him too."**

In the Kingdom, the poor are the ones who count the most. In this life, even though put to the side, it is they who bear the closest likeness to Christ. Therefore, they are to be served with genuine love and practical intelligence – in Vincent's expression, with affect and effect. The quality of one's discipleship depended on it.

Habits Which Enable Evangelization

Vincent had little patience with theoretical approaches to discipleship. His interest was always in the practical side of things. Today we might term it "delivering the service." It wasn't enough just to be enthused about the Gospel or to have satisfying prayer experiences. One had to actually be capable of spreading God's love; the poor had to hear and feel it.

It was this bent for the concrete which made Vincent insist on developing habits which enabled evangelization to happen. Certain strengths had to be there if the apostle were to communicate a believable Gospel. If a woman did not learn to handle her anger, for instance, she couldn't convey a God of forgiveness and strength, let alone be attractive to the poor. If a man occasionally shaved the truth, if he had not disciplined himself to say things as they were, he could neither preach a faithful God nor earn the trust of the marginalized people who instinctively suspected any outsider offering help.

Because it took character to perform Jesus' mission, character formation was required of the apostle. Building habits of hard work, truthfulness, evenness in mood, doing with less, listening, empathy, steadiness, detachment, readiness to move on, perseverance, humility and the like was essential for following the missionary Jesus. For Vincent, Christian discipleship did not exist in the abstract. It came to life in practical service.

Vincent de Paul for Today

During the French Revolution, rioting mobs broke into the Pantheon in Paris and smashed all the religious statues but one. Despite their zeal to replace, in their eyes, a repressive Christianity with the freshness of their secular heroes and heroines, they could not bring themselves to deface the image of Monsieur Vincent. He had done too much good, helped too many of their forebears, spoken too movingly about the preciousness of the ordinary person for them to throw him out with the rest.

His appeal continues to be that universal. It is to the wellsprings of human dignity, the basic goodness of people. Praying with him allows us to go beneath the accomplishments the mob so admired to the reason Vincent could give his care so lovingly in the first place. When he served the poor, he "touched God." And when he came before God, he found himself reaching out to the poor.

Vincent mirrors today's active apostle, needing nourishment from action and prayer as they intertwine in the heat of the day. He models that apostle's stance before God, prayerfully active and actively prayerful in bringing the Good News.

***Our Parish's Saint Vincent de Paul Conference
can always use more hands to help those in need.***

For more information on how you can volunteer, contact:
Danielle Griffith, St. Brendan SVdP conference President,
danigriff@aol.com

The Mighty Archangels

FEAST DAY: SEPTEMBER 29 Article by Kathleen Beckman courtesy of Catholic Exchange

The Office of Readings for the feast of the Archangels, St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael, offers a reflection by Saint Gregory, pope, "...Those who deliver messages of lesser importance are called angels; and those who proclaim messages of supreme importance are called archangels. Personal names are assigned to some to denote their ministry when they come among us. Thus, Michael means, "Who is like God?"; Gabriel is "The Strength of God"; Raphael is "God's Remedy."

We are beloved of God, and He provides us with angelic companions and protectors as the Catechism states, "The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls "angels" is a truth of the faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition" (328).

The Archangel Michael

Pope Gregory continues, "Whenever some act of wondrous power must be performed, Michael is sent, so that his action and his name may make it clear that no one can do what God does by his superior power. So also our ancient foe desired in his pride to be like God, saying, I will ascend into heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of heaven; I will be like the Most High. He will be allowed to remain in power until the end of the world when he will be destroyed in the final punishment."

St. Michael is known to be the warrior angel who fights Satan and his demons from the beginning, and throughout the epic Christian pilgrimage, St. Michael is the great defender of the Church on earth.

I'd like to share an anecdote related to St. Michael. As I was exiting St. Michael's Norbertine Abbey Chapel after Mass, I noted two young boys standing in front of a nearby large white marble statue of St. Michael. I also stopped before the same statue to silently pray the St. Michael Prayer. I saw that the younger boy, approximately five years old, stood in awe of the impressive St. Michael statue as he inquisitively examined the details of the handsome sculpture. Suddenly he exclaimed to the older boy, approximately 12 years old, "Look, St. Michael is stepping on the head of the devil!" To which the older boy quickly replied, "Yes, that is what St. Michael does and he thrusts his sword into him too!" I thought to myself, "Bravo, St. Michael! Bravo, boys and bravo to your parents who taught you about the role of St. Michael!"

Since childhood, I have had a strong devotion to St. Michael, always perceiving myself under the protective canopy of his God-given power. So devoted am I to St. Michael that our first-born son was named after him and we enthusiastically encouraged him to have real devotion to his patron saint. In my new book I share how St. Michael dramatically helped to defend our family when all odds were stacked against us in a lawsuit by the F.B.I. – who lost their case. Recently when my car was broadsided by an eight-passenger van, I thought of St. Michael as I walked away without injury though my new sedan was totaled.

I often ponder how truly present and effective St. Michael is in the battle against the fallen angels who roam the earth seeking to tempt, vex, oppress or possess God's children. During each official rite of exorcism that I have witnessed, the priest and team ardently summon the help of St. Michael throughout the ministry.

St. Michael never fails to support the priest in his ministry of proclaiming Christ's victory over evil. Victims attest that the evil spirits greatly fear St. Michael, knowing that God has given him the power not only to expel them, but also to increase their torment. St. Michael is a reflection of God's omnipotent love and His provision for the Church militant in all our struggles.

The Archangel Gabriel

Again, in the Office of Readings, Pope Gregory teaches, "... Gabriel, who is called God's strength, was sent to Mary. He came to announce the One who appeared as a humble man to quell the cosmic powers. Thus, God's strength announced the coming of the Lord of heavenly powers, mighty in battle."

Just prior to the coming of Christ, the Archangel Gabriel is sent to announce to Zachariah the birth of a son, John the Baptist, who would prepare the way of the Lord. "I am Gabriel, who stand before God, and am sent to speak to you, and to bring you these good tidings."

Probably the most joyful message ever given to an angel was the message brought by Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary – the message of the Incarnation.

The Catholic Encyclopedia states: "It is the first time that a prince of the court of heaven greets an earthly child of God, a young woman, with a deference and respect a prince would show to his Queen. That Angel's flight to the earth marked the dawn of a new day, the beginning of a new covenant, and the fulfillment of God's promises to His people... Gabriel must overcome Mary's reaction of surprise at both his appearance and especially at his manner of salutation. He has to prepare and dispose her pure virginal mind to the idea of maternity, and obtain her consent to become the mother of the Son of God. Gabriel nobly fulfills this task: "Fear not, Mary, for you have found grace with God." He calls her by her own name in order to inspire confidence and to show affection and solicitude for her perturbation. As a last word of encouragement and, at the same time, a most gratifying information, the Archangel reveals to Mary that her elderly and barren cousin Elizabeth is now an expectant mother in her sixth month of pregnancy. This final argument was offered in order "to prove that nothing can be impossible with God."

Theologians think that Gabriel was probably given special charge of the Holy Family in Nazareth, and was probably the angel who brought good tidings of great joy to the shepherds keeping night watches over their flock on the night that



Christ was born, and probably the angel who appeared to Joseph in his sleep to warn him against Herod and guide him to Egypt. Gabriel who is "the strength of God" may have been the angel in Luke's Gospel narrative of Christ's agony in Gethsemane, "And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him." It seems fitting that the angel, who announced His birth, protected Him in infancy, and strengthened Him in the Garden, should be the first to announce His Resurrection on Easter morning.

The Archangel Raphael

Pope Gregory's homily continues, "Raphael means God's remedy, for when he touched Tobit's eyes in order to cure him, he banished the darkness of his blindness. Thus, since he is to heal, he is rightly called God's remedy."

The Catholic Encyclopedia states: The history of Tobias, father and son, contains the grandest angelophany of the whole Bible, and it all revolves around the manifestation of the Archangel Raphael under the assumed name and form of a beautiful young man named Azarias. At the very end of his long mission, the Archangel revealed his own identity and his real name, together with the actual purpose of his mission: "And now the Lord hath sent me to heal thee, and to deliver Sara thy son's wife from the devil. For I am the angel Raphael, ...who stand before the Lord." In this angelophany, Saint Raphael reveals himself as a divine healer not only of physical infirmities, the blindness of old Tobias, but also of spiritual afflictions and diabolical vexations, as in the case of Sara, young Tobias' wife. (Angelophany is a term used to describe the visible manifestation of angels to mankind.)

Raphael seems to have been at work at Jerusalem, in the days of Christ, in the pool called Bethesda. In the five porticoes surrounding that pool there was a multitude of sick people, waiting for the action of the Angel upon the water of the pool: "An Angel of the Lord used to come down at certain times into the pool and the water was moved. And he that went down first into the pool after the motion of the water, was cured of whatever infirmity he had."

Archangel Raphael's healing ministry may still be seen in the miraculous cures that have taken place up to our own times in many of the sacred shrines throughout the Christian world.

Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, mighty Archangels, graciously protect, guide and heal us on our journey to the Father's house. Amen.

All About Angels:

FEAST OF THE GUARDIAN ANGELS ~ OCTOBER 2

Article by Jennifer Gregory Miller courtesy of Catholic Culture

In today's culture, we see artistic renditions of angels everywhere: statues, pictures, pins, necklaces, bumper stickers, posters. They are a highly popular item. But what are angels? Do we really understand that we must believe in angels, that they are a part of our faith? Do we realize that they are the best allies in getting to our heavenly goal? Do we remember to continually ask for their assistance?

Dogma of Faith

Angels are a dogma of the Catholic Faith. Every Sunday Mass when we recite the Nicene Creed (dating from the year 325), we restate our belief of the creation and existence of angels, implicit in the phrase, "We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen (or other translations of all things visible and invisible)..." *The Credo of the People of God* (Pope Paul VI, 20 June 1968) further explains the phrase: "We believe in one God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Creator of what is visible – such as this world where we live out our lives – and of the invisible – such as the pure spirits which are also called angels...."

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* we read that "[t]he existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls 'angels' is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition" (328).

"With their whole beings the angels are servants and messengers of God. Because they 'always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven' they are the 'mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word' (Mt 18:10; Ps 103:20).

As purely spiritual creatures angels have intelligence and will: they are personal and immortal creatures, surpassing in perfection all visible creatures, as the splendor of their glory bears witness" (Catechism, 329, 330).

Meaning of Angel

In the Scriptures of the Old Testament, the most frequently used name to designate the Angels is *mal'akh*, which means, messenger of God or legate. The word "angel," comes from a Greek word *angelos*, meaning "messenger." (Pascal P. Parente, *Angels*, Chap. 1). This generic name "angel" does not reveal anything about the real nature of those celestial beings besides the fact that they are occasionally sent on a mission as messengers or legates of God to men. Because only on such occasions, and in such a quality, they make themselves visible to men, they have been given the name of messengers from the most common duty and office they fulfill towards God's children here on earth. "And to the Angels indeed he saith: 'He that maketh his Angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.'" But whatever term is being used, what is implied is that God is sending an intelligent, non-human creature as his agent (P. Parente, *The Angels*).

Choirs of Angels

The number of angels is exceedingly vast, but we have no way to know how many angels there are. The angels are not all created equal, and based on their degree of knowledge, love of God, and type of service, the angels are categorized into three hierarchies, each containing three different orders, making nine different choirs:

- **1st Hierarchy:** Known as the *Councillors of God*, these angels have no direct contact with mankind; they are the angels of God's Presence: *Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones*.
- **2nd Hierachy:** Known as the *Governors*, they regulate the forces of nature: *Dominations or Dominions, Virtues, Powers*.
- **3rd Hierarchy:** Known as the *Messengers of God*, these angels minister directly to Man: *Principalities or Princedoms, Archangels, Angels*. (A. de Bles, *How to Distinguish the Saints in Art*, 1925)

These names are taken from the Sacred Scripture. Although all are called "angels," it is usually from the lower choir of Angels that Guardian Angels are chosen. It is practically beyond our power of comprehension and comparison to balance one against the other, the highest in the Order of Seraphim with the lowest in the Choir of Angels, in the third Hierarchy. The highest in the Choir of Seraphim must have been the most brilliant, most perfect and glorious creature of the spirit world, a bearer of light and beauty, the ideal of creation. According to Sacred Scripture the apostasy of the fallen Angels must be attributed to one of the most exalted spirits. He sinned by pride and seduced the others by his example and his lies.

Angels and Art

We must remember that the artistic renderings of angels with wings are not actually what they look like. They are pure spirits, meaning they have no bodies. Wings are depicted on angels because it implies their swiftness and speed in sending messages between God and man. In art, the angels are illustrated to distinguish their order. In the first hierarchy, the *Seraphim* are absorbed in perpetual love and adoration immediately around the throne of God. They are usually painted in red color and sometimes hold burning candles. They are shown as bodiless heads with six red wings, the wings usually sprinkled with staring eyes. The *Cherubim*, representing Divine Wisdom, are usually painted in golden yellow or blue, usually holding a book. They should possess six or four blue wings and they often stand upon a wheel, referring to the origin of their name, which is from a Hebrew word meaning a chariot. The Thrones uphold the Seat of God, and can be portrayed kneeling in adoration, holding a miniature throne in their hands or a fiery wheel covered with eyes. Often times they are wearing the robes of judges, and hold the staff of authority in their hands (See G. Ferguson, *Signs & Symbols in Christian Art*, 97).

In the second hierarchy, the *Dominations* are crowned, carry scepters, swords, and sometimes orbs, as emblems of authority, representing the Power of God. The *Virtues* carry white lilies, or sometimes red roses as symbols of Christ's Passion. The *Powers* are often dressed in full armor as victorious warriors against the hordes of evil devils. In the third hierarchy the *Principalities* or *Princedom*s are the dispensers of the fate of nations. They usually have a chain mail shirt and helmet, carrying a lance, or sometimes just a lily. The *Archangels* are the warriors of heaven, and are dressed in full armor, with a shield and sword always pointed upwards. Finally, the Angels are dressed as deacons, in flowing white robes, with trumpets or other musical instruments or bearing a lily.

The three archangels who appear in art are St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael. The symbol for St. Michael is a shield with the symbol of the Trinity. He is portrayed as young and beautiful, clad in shining armor with a sword, shield and spear. Resplendent wings rise from his shoulders, and he sometimes is wearing a jeweled crown.

St. Michael is usually portrayed in the act of slaying a dragon or driving Satan from heaven. "He is unmistakable by his majestic dignity, his armor and his great, splendid wings. He is the Prince-Patron of the Church Militant, and Captain-General of the Celestial Hosts" (Bles, 52). When he is carrying scales or balances, he is acting in the office as the weigher of souls.

St. Gabriel is the loveliest angel depicted in art. As the angel of the Annunciation, he wears long white robes, bears a lily and a scroll with *Ave Maria, Gratia Plena* ("Hail Mary, full of grace") His symbol is the *fleur-de-lis*.

St. Raphael, whose symbols are the staff, pouch and fish, "is the Guardian Angel, *par excellence*... for it was he who conducted Tobias on his quest" (Bles, 52) St. Raphael is usually pictured as a kind, mild and loving person, wearing either a long flowing robe, or dressed like a pilgrim or traveler wearing sandals. He usually carries a staff and a gourd of water or wallet to his belt.

Guardian Angels

The role of angels most pertinent to our spiritual lives is our guardian angel. Every person is given a guardian angel because as Eusebius puts it: "Fearing lest sinful mankind should be without government and without guidance, like herds of cattle, God gave them protectors and superintendents, the holy angels in the form of captains and shepherds" (*Dem. Ev.*, 4, 6). We are never without our protector, and the more we request their help, the more they can help us. A guardian angel's roles are threefold: 1) *angel of peace*, 2) *angel of penitence* (or *penance*) and 3) *angel of prayer*.

As an angel of peace, they protect against danger, both bodily and spiritual threats. They also can give peace and comfort to the soul when undergoing tribulations, like Jesus during his agony in the Garden.

As an angel of penance or penitence, our angel has the office of chastising and correcting us when we stray from God's path. The angel also helps us in restoring our soul to health after we sin, helping us obtain remission of our sins.

As an angel of prayer, the guardian angel presents our prayers to God, both liturgical and private prayers. "The angel, indeed, of each one, even of the little ones in the Church, always seeing the face of the Father who is in heaven and beholding the divinity of our Creator, prays with us and cooperates with us, as far as is possible, in what we seek" (Origen, *De or.*, 11, 5).

"Have confidence in your guardian angel. Treat him as a lifelong friend – that is what he is – and he will render you a thousand services in ordinary affairs each day" (St. Josemaria Escriva, *The Way*, no. 562).



Weekly/Monthly Parish Ministries

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

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

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

M.A.S.T. – (Mature Active Singles Together) for single/widowed/divorced, age 45+. To join, email Chris: chrishauck0522@gmail.com

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

SVdP Sandwich Making
Meet in Wellnitz Hall twice monthly on: 1st Thursdays, 10 AM; 3rd Thursdays, 7 PM.

Grief Support Lunch – Meets monthly, 2nd Thursdays, 1 PM at La Chatelaine in Dublin. Questions? edmuch@me.com

Grief Support Study – Meets 1st & 4th Sundays monthly in Wellnitz, Room 1 at 7 PM to learn about grief care. Questions? Email Nell at doconnell@stbrendans.net

Spiritual/Mental Care

iTHIRST Spiritual Companions
Three iThirst Spiritual Companions are available at our parish! Visit opendoorwomensrecoveryorg/ithirst for details. Questions? Email info.ithirstcolumbus@gmail.com

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

Community Calendar

Monday, September 28

6:30 AM
8:00 AM
9:00 AM
9:00 AM
5:30 PM
6:00 PM-10:00 PM
6:00 PM
6:00 PM
7:00 PM

Daily Mass
Daily Mass
Catholic Way: The Book of Revelation
Church Cleaning
Daily Mass
Eucharistic Adoration
Seek and Root Family Session
Melchizedek Project
Adult Scripture Study: The Bible Timeline

Adoration Chapel
Church
Wellnitz, Room 1
Church & Chapel
Church
Adoration Chapel
Davidson, Rms. A & B
School Library
Wellnitz, Room 1

Tuesday, September 29

6:30 AM
6:30 AM
8:00 AM
8:30 AM-10:00 PM
6:30 PM
6:30 PM
7:00 PM

Daily Mass
Esto Vir Men's Ministry
Daily Mass
Eucharistic Adoration
OCIA Immaculate Conception Cohort Mtg.
OCIA Vigil Cohort Meeting
Adult Scripture Study: Intro to Prayer

Adoration Chapel
Davidson, Room A
Church
Adoration Chapel
Davidson, Room B
Davidson, Room A
School Library

Wednesday, September 30

5:30 AM
6:30 AM
7:00 AM-5:00 PM
5:30 PM
6:00 PM
7:15 PM

Fit Shepherds Men's Ministry
Daily Mass
Eucharistic Adoration
Daily Mass
Adoration with Confession
Choir Rehearsal

Campus Parking Lot
Adoration Chapel
Adoration Chapel
Church
Church
Church

Thursday, October 1

6:30 AM
8:00 AM
8:30 AM-10:00 PM
8:45 AM
10:00 AM
6:30 PM
6:45 PM

Daily Mass
Daily Mass
Eucharistic Adoration
Women's AM Studies: Chosen 5
SVdP Sandwich Making for the Homeless
Communion/Liberation School of Community
Women's PM Studies: Chosen 5

Adoration Chapel
Church
Adoration Chapel
Davidson, Rms. A & B
Wellnitz, Room 1
Wellnitz, Room 2
Davidson, Rms. A & B

Friday, October 2

6:30 AM
8:00 AM
8:00 AM

Daily Mass
Daily Mass
Seniors NOW: Mass & Breakfast

Adoration Chapel
Church
Church/Cracker Barrel
1313 Hilliard Rome Rd.
Adoration Chapel
School Library
Wellnitz, Room 1

8:30 AM-12:00 AM
5:45 PM
7:15 PM

1st Friday Eucharistic Adoration
Kairos Ministry Meeting
M.A.S.T. First Friday Book Club

Saturday, October 3

12:00 AM-1:00 PM
5:30 AM
6:30 AM
8:00 AM
9:00 AM
9:30 AM
5:30 PM

1st Friday Eucharistic Adoration
Fit Shepherds Men's Ministry
Men's Ministry: Esto Vir Meeting
Daily Mass
Confession
Prayer Shawl Work Session
Vigil Mass

Adoration Chapel
Campus Parking Lot
Davidson, Rms. A & B
Church
Confessional
Wellnitz, Room 2
Church

Sunday, October 4

7:15, 8:45, 10:45 AM, 5:30 PM
During 8:45 & 10:45 AM Mass
During 8:45 & 10:45 AM Mass
After 8:45 & 10:45 AM Mass
12:00 PM
12:00 PM
1:00 PM-2:00 PM
6:30 PM-10:00 PM
6:30 PM
6:30 PM
7:00 PM
7:00 PM

Sunday Masses
POD Nursery
Children's Liturgy of the Word
Coffee & Donuts
Baptism Preparation Class
Baptisms
Blessing of the Animals, St. Francis of Assisi
Eucharistic Adoration
The ROOTS
VINE Night
Cub Akela Parent Meeting
Grief Support Group

Church
Childcare Center
Adoration Chapel
Davidson, Rms. A & B
Wellnitz, Rms. 1 & 2
Church
Parking Lot/Drive-thru
Adoration Chapel
Davidson, Rms. A & B
School Gym
Wellnitz, Room 2
Wellnitz, Room 1

Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

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

*The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows
The month of October is a Marian Month dedicated to the Rosary*

“For me, prayer is an aspiration of the heart, it is a simple glance directed to heaven, it is a cry of gratitude and love in the midst of trial as well as joy; finally it is something great, supernatural, which expands my soul and unites me to Jesus.”

+SAINT THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS

Monday, September 28 ~ Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Wenceslaus, Martyr; Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:46-50 An argument arose among the disciples about which of them was the greatest. Jesus realized the intention of their hearts and took a child and placed it by his side and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. For the one who is least among all of you is the one who is the greatest.” Then John said in reply, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow in our company.” Jesus said to him, “Do not prevent him, for whoever is not against you is for you.”

Meditation: Today’s Gospel begs the question: what do we personally and collectively as a society tell us what it means to be *numero uno* in our culture? Our society and many popular media prize the contemporary world of drugs, sex and money. But Jesus says “Seek first the kingdom of God...” (Matthew 6:33). The more the world drifts away from God the less it recognizes what is truly great and comes first, and the more the world resembles the pathetic attitude of the disciples arguing on the road. The Church in her ministry reminds us what is truly great and comes first, reminds us that drugs, sex and money are not the ultimate goals of life, that the ultimate goal of life is to get to heaven by loving and serving God. We take our image and model and ideal of what is truly great from Jesus and His “good news” of the Gospel. We do not want to be contaminated by the world, but instead want to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world and to show the world what comes first. We have many humans who show it is possible to live a life of service to others. Blessed Mother Teresa, for example, once said: “love begins at home, love your family and your neighbors. Share with the poor and needy around you your smile, your word, your time, your belongings. See God’s presence in the people you meet daily and treat them as children of God. Serve and love one person at a time. God does not want us to love crowds of people, that is an impossibility. He wants us to love Him in every single person we meet, when we meet that person.”

Prayer ~ Saint Wenceslaus: O God, who taught the Martyr Saint Wenceslaus to place the heavenly Kingdom before an earthly one, grant through his prayers that, denying ourselves, we may hold fast to you with all our heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer ~ Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions: Grant us, we pray, Lord God, the same perseverance shown by your Martyrs Saint Lawrence Ruiz and his companions in serving you and their neighbor, since those persecuted for the sake of righteousness are blessed in your Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Contemplation: Remember in grade school when we were asked “who do you want to be like when you grow up?” Students generally responded with the names of sports figures, film stars and the like. And yet the response really should be “I want to be like Jesus.” Jesus, himself, really is the model for each of us. He came not to be served, but to serve (Matthew 20:28). Paul the Apostles states that Jesus “emptied

himself and took the form of a servant" (Philippians 2:7). Jesus lowered himself (he whose place is at the right hand of God the Father) and took on our lowly human nature that he might raise us up and clothe us in his divine nature. "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). If we want to be filled with God's life and power, then we need to empty ourselves of everything which stands in the way - pride, envy, self-seeking glory, vanity, and possessiveness. God wants empty vessels so he can fill them with his own glory, power, and love (2 Corinthians 4:7). Are you ready to humble yourself and to serve as Jesus did? As a disciple of Jesus, don't we really want to be like him?

Tuesday, September 29 ~ Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

Holy Gospel: John 1:47-51 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true child of Israel. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Meditation: Who are the angels and why do they intervene between heaven and earth? In short, Sacred Scripture tells us the angels are God's servants and messengers. "They are the mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word" (Psalm 103:20). The angels belong to Christ and were created for and through him (Colossians 1:16). The Letter to the Hebrews speaks of the role of the angels in God's plan of salvation: "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14) The angels are not only messengers but protectors and guardians as well. "For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11). We are not alone in our struggle against sin and evil in the world. The armies of heaven fight for us and with us in the spiritual battle for our hearts, minds, and wills.

Prayer: O God, who dispose in marvelous order ministries both angelic and human, graciously grant that our life on earth may be defended by those who watch over us as they minister perpetually to you in heaven. 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: Pope Saint John Paul II provided a great deal of catechesis on the angels during his General Audiences beginning in July of 1986 (you can read these in their entirety via the Vatican web site: www.vatican.va). Worth contemplating today: "In the perfection of their spiritual nature the angels are called from the beginning, by virtue of their intelligence, to know the truth and to love the good which they know in truth in a more full and perfect way than is possible to man. This love is an act of a free will, and therefore for the angels also freedom implies a possibility of choice for or against the Good which they know, that is, God himself. It must be repeated here what we already mentioned earlier in regard to man: by creating free beings, God willed that there should be realized in the world true love which is possible only on the basis of freedom. He willed therefore that the creature, constituted in the image and likeness of his Creator, should be able in the greatest degree possible to render himself similar to God who "is love" (1 Jn 4:16). By creating the pure spirits as free beings, God in his Providence could not but foresee also the possibility of the angels' sin. But precisely because Providence is eternal wisdom which loves, God would have been able to draw from the history of this sin, incomparably more radical inasmuch as it was the sin of a pure spirit, the definitive good of the whole created cosmos."

Wednesday, September 30 ~ Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:57-62 As Jesus and his disciples were proceeding on their journey, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." And to another he said, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, let me go first and bury my father." But he answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the Kingdom of God." And another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home." Jesus answered him, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God."

Meditation: Today Jesus asks us a question that each of us must answer: Are you ready to follow Jesus wherever he may lead you, when and how he asks you? With the call the Lord gives the grace to respond and the strength to follow all the way to the end. Why does Jesus issue a challenge with the call? Jesus was utterly honest in telling people what it would cost to follow him. When a would-be disciple approached Jesus and said he was ready to follow, Jesus told him it would require sacrifice - the sacrifice of certain creaturely comforts. Jesus appealed to this man's heart and told him to detach himself from whatever might hold him back. Spiritual detachment is a necessary step for following the Lord. It frees us to give ourselves without reserve to the Lord and his service. While many of us may not need to give up the comfort of our own home and bed to follow Jesus, each of us, nonetheless, must be willing to separate ourselves with anything that might stand in the way of doing God's will, in addition to doing it right then and there – not when it might be “convenient” for us.

Prayer: O God, who gave the Priest Saint Jerome a living and tender love for Sacred Scripture, grant that your people may be ever more fruitfully nourished by your Word and find in it the fount of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Another would-be disciple said he would follow as soon as he had buried his father. What he meant by this expression was that he felt the need to return to his home to take care of his father through old age until he died. The third had no obligation to return home, but simply wanted to go back and say good-bye. Jesus surprised these would-be disciples with the stark truth that nothing should hinder us from following the Lord. Was Jesus being harsh and rude to his would-be followers? Not really. We are free to decide whether we will take the path which Jesus offers. But if we choose to go, then the Lord wants us to count the cost and choose for it freely. What does the story of a plowman have to do with the journey? A plowman who looked back while plowing his field caused the line he cut into the soil to become crooked. One crooked line easily leads to another until the whole field is a mess. The plowman had to look straight ahead in order to keep the plow from going off course. Likewise, if we look back on what we have freely left behind to follow the Lord - whether that be some sort of distraction, attachment, or sinful habit which leads us away from doing God's will - our path will likely diverge and we will miss what God has for us. Notice how the Gospel does not record the response from these three would-be disciples. We are only left with the question which Jesus intends for us as well: Are you ready to take the path which the Lord Jesus offers? Remember, the Lord Jesus offers us a kingdom of lasting peace, unending joy, surpassing love, enduring friendship, and abundant life. Is there anything holding you back from pursuing the Lord and his will for your life? If so, rid yourself of it so that you can experience a life in Christ to the fullest.

Thursday, October 1 ~ Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time **Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church**

Holy Gospel: Luke 10:1-12 Jesus appointed seventy-two other disciples whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this household.’ If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, ‘The Kingdom of God is at hand for you.’ Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, ‘The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.’ Yet know this: the Kingdom of God is at hand. I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town.”

Meditation: When Jesus commissioned seventy of his disciples to go on mission, he gave them a vision of a vast field that is ready to be harvested for the kingdom of God. Jesus frequently used the image of a harvest to convey the coming of God's reign on earth. The harvest is the fruition of much labor and growth, beginning with the sowing of seeds, then growth to maturity, and finally the reaping of fruit for the harvest. In like manner, the word of God is sown in the hearts of receptive men and women who hear his word and accept it with faith, trust and obedience, and then share the abundant fruit of God's word in their life with others. The harvest Jesus had in mind was not only the gathering in of the people of Israel, but all the peoples (and nations) of the world – including our corner of the world, wherever that may be.

Prayer: O God, who open your Kingdom to those who are humble and to little ones, lead us to follow trustingly in the little way of Saint Thérèse, so that through her intercession we may see your eternal glory revealed. 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 gave his disciples instructions for how they were to carry out their ministry. They must go and serve as people without guile, full of charity (selfless giving in love) and peace, and simplicity. They must give their full attention to the proclamation of God's kingdom and not be diverted by other lesser things. They must travel light – take only what was essential and leave behind whatever would distract them – in order to focus time and attention on the task of speaking the word of the God. They must do their work, not for what they can get out of it, but for what they can give freely to others, without expecting reward or payment. God gives us his life-giving word that we may have abundant life in him. He wills to work in and through each of us for his glory. God shares his word with us and he commissions us to speak it boldly, plainly, and lovingly to others. And so in this day and age when “political correctness” is highly revered – often at the expense of the truth of the Gospel – you might ask yourself whether or not you witness the truth and joy of the Gospel by word and example.

Friday, October 2 ~ Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:18-22 The disciples approached Jesus and said, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, “Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me. “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.”

Meditation: Despite the fact that we may “feel” alone at times we are not. God dwells with every person and regards them with love and compassion. While we may turn our back on God, God never turns his back on us. His angels watch over us as guardians. “For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways” (Psalm 91:11). God has not left us alone in our struggle “to refuse evil and to choose good” (Isaiah 7:15). The angels are his “ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation” (Hebrews 1:14). Sacred Scripture is full of examples of how the angels serve as messengers and protectors. When Peter, for example, was chained in prison and kept under guard, an angel woke him in middle of the night, released his chains, and brought him safely out of prison, past several guards and through locked gates. When Peter realized he wasn't dreaming, he exclaimed: “Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me” (Acts 12:11).

Prayer: O God, who in your unfathomable providence are pleased to send your holy Angels to guard us, hear our supplication as we cry to you, that we may always be defended by their protection and rejoice eternally in their company. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer to our Guardian Angel: Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day (or night), be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

Contemplation: Saint John Chrysostom, a Father of the Church and renowned preacher, compared the guardian angels to the troops garrisoned in cities on the frontiers of the empire to defend it from the enemy. Saint Basil the Great said, “Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life.” Angels ministered to Jesus after his temptation in the wilderness and during his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43). The angels will be present at Christ's return, which they will announce, to serve at his judgment (Matthew 25:31). The angels show us that this universe which God created is not just that which we see, but also that which we cannot see – something we profess each Sunday during the Creed.

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.

Prayer List

If you would like our parish to pray for loved ones who are **ill at home**, **hospitalized**, or are **active duty military**, fill out our *Bulletin Prayer Request Form* at www.bit.ly/Bulletin-Prayer-List, via the QR code, or call the Parish Office. The list is updated every 3-6 months; if someone you added was deleted but is still ill, please fill out a new prayer request. *If you or a loved one is hospitalized or ill at home and would like a pastoral visit, call 614-876-1272.*



Please Pray for...

THOSE HOSPITALIZED OR ILL:

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

Evie Scoville
Hannah Kelley
Mary Reed
Alan LaForrest
Mariann Chilton
Suzette Briones
Andy Ryan Hesselbart
Gregg U'sellis
Esthelind Gutierrez
Sue Devore
Amiee U'sellis
Nichole Otayco
Bill Reinking
Michael Nguyen
Dixon Aarellano
Patrick Podobnik
Richard Torok
Jerry Price

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

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
Maddux Cunningham

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

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, Sept. 20, 2026 \$42,541
(Cash, checks, online giving)

Weekly Budgeted \$55,375



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

Eucharistic Adoration

Visit stbrendan.weadorehim.com to sign up and then sign in at the Kiosk before you enter the Chapel.

MONDAY 6 PM–10 PM

TUE./THU./FRI. 8:30 AM–10 PM
(First Fridays, 8:30 AM–Sat., 1 PM)

WEDNESDAY 7 AM–5 PM
(Holy Hour, 6–7 PM w/Confession)

SATURDAY 8:30 AM–1 PM

SUNDAY 6:30 PM–10 PM

First Friday Adoration, October 2

The next First Friday Adoration is Friday, October 2, 8:30 AM through Saturday, October 3, 1 PM. Sign up at <https://stbrendan.weadorehim.com>. Adorers are needed, especially during the overnight and early morning hours. Commit to spend some quiet time with Jesus! (Please make sure to sign in at the kiosk when you arrive to let us know someone is there!)

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

6:30 AM Mark Cullison †
8:00 AM For the needs of our parishioners as they begin the week
5:30 PM Don Edwards †

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

6:30 AM Christina Sloneker †
8:00 AM James Matthews †

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

6:30 AM Intention for John & Valerie Scheel
5:30 PM Ted Burnett †

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

6:30 AM Mary Mueller Fitzpatrick †
8:00 AM Christopher Altenburg †

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

6:30 AM Mary R. Cestone †
8:00 AM Casey Wilson †

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

8:00 AM Don Azelvandre †
5:30 PM Thelma Ball †

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:15 AM Sr. Virginia Coldren †
8:45 AM Robert Greiner †
10:45 AM Jack Pugh †
5:30 PM For the People of St. Brendan Parish

(† Intention is for someone deceased.)



In Sympathy...

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES OF:

Catherine Engram
June Gallagher
Nicholas "Nick" Stinnett

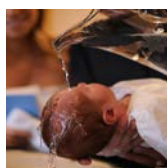


Marriage Banns

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:

Michael Chirakos Muncrief
Austin William Schneider
Rylie Quinn Stinnett



Drive-thru
Blessing
 — OF THE —
ANIMALS

10/4, 1 PM *Sunday Parishioner Car-line:*
 Along front of the Church by Parish Offices

10/5, 3 PM *Monday School Car-line:*
 Regular child pick-up line location

Keep your animals in your cars, drive up,
 and lower your window so priests can
 bless your pets with Holy Water.



Upcoming Parish Events, Save the Dates!

Mark your calendars and join us at these upcoming parish events:

- October 4 & 5 *Blessing of Animals*
- October 26 *Trunk or Treat*
- October 31 *Food Truck Tailgate*
- November 7 *Fall Craft Show*
- November 30 *Advent by Candlelight*
(Women's event)

Seniors NOW (Navigating Our Way)

Last week, our vibrant Seniors NOW ministry, for those ages 65 and over, took a field trip to the headquarters of Anthony-Thomas Candy Company to learn the history of this 110-year-old Columbus mainstay. With 200 employees, Anthony-Thomas produces 60,000 pounds of candy per day. Our parishioners enjoyed free samples and warm fellowship – followed by lunch at Freddy's in Hilliard! To join them at an upcoming event, RSVP Jerry at pricej62@gmail.com or 614-805-6792.



Upcoming Seniors NOW Events This Fall:

OCTOBER 2, 8 AM – First Friday Mass followed by breakfast at Cracker Barrel in Hilliard (1313 Hilliard Rome Road.)

OCTOBER 12, 12 PM – Join us for food and fun at our Italian Fest held in the Davidson Rooms. RSVP Jerry at pricej62@gmail.com or 614-805-6792.

NOVEMBER 6, 8 AM – First Friday Mass followed by breakfast at Crème de la Crème in Hilliard (5311 Westpointe Plaza.)

Lost & Found Items

Please check our Lost and Found cabinet in the Church Gathering Space (near the Maroon Center) for any items you may be missing. Any unclaimed items will be donated/discarded on October 15.

Share Your Stories at stbstories.net

Our portal for collecting your stories for inclusion in our bulletin, newsletter, and social media is stbstories.net. Simply upload your pictures and hit submit so we can share the many things happening with our parish and school! We'd love to hear from our ministries, groups, teachers, athletics, scouting organizations, and parishioners. Bookmark the site and then remember to share your stories!

Fr. Sam Won Gold to Support AM820!

THANK YOU to all our parishioners who donated during this past week's St. Gabriel Catholic Radio AM820 Axe Throwing Spirit Drive that led to Fr. Sam winning the highest level (Gold) along with his team of three priests, plus, Fr. Sam had the highest score of all the priests in the competition! Congratulations to Fr. Sam and thank you to all who rooted for him and supported Catholic Radio through your generous donations.



October Spotlight

Rosary & Guardian Angels

The feasts in October include two of the most popular, time-honored devotions of Catholics... First is the devotion to the Holy Rosary (Oct. 7.) Try to make a concerted effort to pray the Rosary together as a family during this month. We will have Rosary Guides and rosaries available in the Spiritual Spotlight for you to take with you. Join us on Saturdays after the 8 AM Mass as the Knights of Columbus lead us in praying the Rosary every week.

Another time-honored devotion in October is to the Guardian Angels (October 2). Every person has a guardian angel assigned to them, and on October 2 the Church celebrates the role of these Guardian Angels. Having a guardian should give us confidence during life's difficulties. Catholics should pray the *Angele Dei* (Angel of God) prayer often:
**ANGEL OF GOD, my guardian dear,
To whom his love commits me here;
Ever this (day, night) be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide.
Amen.**

Other days of importance this month:

- Thérèse of the Child Jesus (Oct. 1)
- St. Francis of Assisi (Oct. 4)
- John Henry Newman (Oct. 9)
- St. Carlo Acutis (Oct. 12)
- St. Ignatius of Antioch (Oct. 17)
- St. John Paul II (Oct. 22)

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

St. Brendan School Happenings...

In order for St. Brendan School to be an accredited institute of learning, every 4-6 years the school goes through a rigorous accreditation process. Our school recently went through the process and was awarded full accreditation. Part of the accreditation is based on an over-arching goal the school creates. Our goal is to continue to move our kids from a fixed mindset to a growth mindset. We have both an Academic Performance Goal and a Catholic Identity Goal. These goals concentrate on growth mindset thinking and how we get there.



Last school year, our faculty and staff experienced professional development on growth mindset work, more specifically on the following topics: *Event + Response = Outcome, Discipline over Default, Pressing Pause, Getting Our Minds Right, Stepping Up, Adjusting & Adapting, Making a Difference, and Building Skill*. We also tied in the four Cardinal Virtues of Temperance, Prudence, Fortitude, and Justice and how they relate to these above topics and, ultimately, if they are practiced, how they lead to an improved *Growth Mindset*.

This year, we are rolling this development out to the students for them to learn about what a fixed mindset is versus a growth mindset. Our specific focus will be on *Pressing Pause* and *Getting Our Minds Right* (Temperance and Prudence). This work will take place in the classrooms at certain times throughout the week. It will be driven by our teachers. Each week there will also be a "Quote of the Week" that will help guide our students to some introspection. An example could be: "With God's help I can master my reactions."

Please pray for us as we work toward our goals. We expect to see an increased awareness of the Cardinal Virtues in our students and a knowledge of how they can improve their mindset in all that they do! Thus far, the following "quotes of the week" have been stated over the announcements each day as a reminder of our journey:

Week #1 - "With God's help, I can master my reactions."

Week #2 - "Temperance is choosing what's right over what's easy."

Week #3 - "Positive results come from how people choose to behave."

Week #4 - "We can't always control what happens to us, but we CAN control how we respond & what we choose to do."

Week #5 - "Discipline is acting like a Disciple. Discipline is choosing to grow with purpose every day."

Week #6 - "Self-control is a skill you develop, not something you were born with. The more you practice, the stronger it is."

School Mass with the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Last week, our school celebrated Mass with an Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, where each classroom received a depiction of the sacred imagery. During the Homily, Fr. Sam affirmed his primary goal of ensuring every child at St. Brendan knows God's love. The visage of Christ and His most Sacred Heart serves to remind our students of this boundless love. Some highlights from the Mass are below...



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 at doconnell@stbrendans.net



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: 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 **Oct. 27**. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/women26retreat> to register/pay online 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, Ohio 43221. Questions? Email Chris at chrishauck0522@gmail.com



Respect Life Events

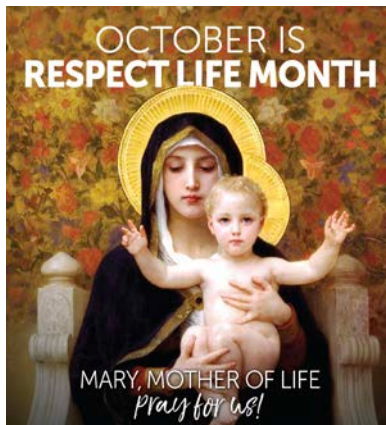
MASS, RALLY, MARCH FOR LIFE

October 2 join us in Columbus for:
9 AM: Mass for Life, 212 E. Broad St.
10 AM: Concert and Rally at 11 AM
12 PM: March for Life at the Ohio Statehouse

PRAYER VIGIL, OCT. 14

Our parish is participating in the **40 Days for Life** (Sept. 23-Nov. 1.) campaign, which aims to bring continuous prayer to abortion clinics across the entire nation to promote life. St. Brendan Parish has adopted October 14, 8 AM-2 PM to pray at Planned Parenthood (3255 E. Main St., Columbus). At least two volunteers are needed to pray at the clinic each hour-long shift. Sign up by accepting a Parishstaq "Need" by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/stb-needs> and contact Tim Reno with any questions you have at tireno04@gmail.com, 614-312-7388.

RESPECT LIFE NOVENA, OCT. 22-30 – Pray together with thousands of Catholics across the country for the protection of human life from conception to natural death. Sign up to receive daily prayers via email or text at respectlife.org



Attention, Men of the Parish...



Join the KofC Now for Free!

St. Brendan Knights of Columbus Council 11208 would like to invite interested parish men (ages 18+) to become a Knight. If you're interested in helping those in need, serving our parish, growing in your faith, or having exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you. You can join online in about 5 minutes using the following link: kofc.org/joinus. Your initial annual dues are waived when signing up online. For more information on becoming a St. Brendan Knight of Columbus, email Dean Pfirman, Council Membership Director, at pfirman56@gmail.com

Esto Vir Men's Events

Questions? ricekris8813@att.net



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

Tuesday 6:30 AM study meets in the Davidson Rooms weekly, for in-depth study series on Scripture, early Church Fathers, lives of the saints and fellowship.

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!

Melchizedek Project, Sept. 28

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



Confessions on Oct. 3

Note: Due to a funeral Mass at 10 AM on Saturday, October 3, Confessions will end a bit early that day at 9:30 AM.

Protecting God's Children Class, Oct. 5

To volunteer in the POD Nursery or help with parish events that work with children, you will need to be Safe Environment compliant: Meet 5-6 PM, October 5 in the Davidson Rooms for fingerprinting (no sign-up needed) and 6-9 PM for a *Protecting God's Children* class. Register for the class at tinyurl.com/StBrendanPGCTotus



American Red Cross

Blood Drive, Oct. 9

The next St. Brendan Knights of Columbus sponsored Red Cross Blood Drive is Friday, October 9, 12-6 PM in the Davidson Rooms. Sign up at 1-800-Red-Cross (1-800-733-2767) or online at www.redcrossblood.org

Elizabeth Ministry

Join the Elizabeth Ministry each month in the Childcare Center for...
Playgroup: 1st Tuesdays at 9:30 AM;
The Upper Room: 3rd Tuesdays, 9:30 AM;
FIAT Hour: 4th Fridays, 10-11 AM (Adoration time for moms with childcare provided.) Questions? Email Regina at thelonggears@gmail.com

Low-Gluten Host Available at Mass

Generally speaking, the Mass celebrant will have low-gluten hosts available in one aisle; on the opposite aisle, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will also have low-gluten hosts available. If you have questions, please stop by the Sacristy before Mass.

Thank You, 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

SPONSOR-OF-THE-WEEK:

DUBLIN ROAD MINI STORAGE



Update on Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

BY COORDINATOR, CATHY JOHANNI

Hi! I am Cathy Johanni, the new coordinator of *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* at St. Brendan. I fell in love with this approach to spiritual formation for children 26 years ago, when my children were young and I have been working in parishes and schools ever since. I also train adults as catechists in this method and have even traveled to Canada and France to form catechists there! I am happy to be part of the team here at St. Brendan, building the program closer to home in a very dynamic parish, with a staff eager to serve the many children and families.

The *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* is inspired by Maria Montessori's understanding of children's spiritual needs and capacities. (Did you know that Pope Leo has mentioned Montessori twice in his writings already?) In CGS, we create a beautiful space called an "atrium" that is full of hands-on materials, allowing the children to contemplate and enjoy their relationship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd. It is like a little retreat center! When we read from the Bible, we ask the children "wondering questions" to provoke their engagement. We present the elements of liturgy in ways that capture their attention and draw them deeper into the Mass. Fr. Mike likes to tell us to be "do-ers of the word." CGS is all about "do-ing!" In a peaceful, prayerful atmosphere, a tiny community is formed that helps the children practice Christian living, integrating "head, heart and hand" as they build their relationship with the Lord.

Here at St. Brendan, I am delighted to see how beautifully the Kindergarteners in the school have responded to this approach. We also have a session open to parish children on Wednesday mornings from 10 AM-12 PM, and we would like to offer another session on Tuesday evenings, if there is interest. At this time we offer just Level One (3-6 year olds) but in the future we may be able to serve children up through 6th grade! Please do not hesitate to email me with any questions you might have. I would be happy to give you a tour of our atrium and share with you the beauty of this approach! To learn more, visit <https://tinyurl.com/cgs4stb> or watch our CGS YouTube video at <https://tinyurl.com/sb-cgs> Questions? Email cjohanni@stbrendans.net





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

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

SACRAMENT PREPARATION PARENT MEETING – If you missed the parent meeting that was held a couple weeks ago, please email Jacob Doran at 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 (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
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
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 Week 1, June 6-11 with our group code **BRENHILL27**:

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 our discount code **BREN100HILL27** into the promo code box
 3. Click the checkbox for your reservation, enter payment & submit
- For questions, email Jacob Doran at jdoran@stbrendans.net

Around Our Diocese

Catholic Cemeteries Rosary Walk, October 7

Join the Catholic Cemeteries at St. Joseph Cemetery (6440 S. High St., Lockbourne) on Oct. 7, 6 PM for a Walking Rosary as we honor the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary! We will start at our Marian Grotto and pray the Rosary as we walk the historical grounds, remembering and praying for the souls of the faithful buried at St. Joseph Cemetery.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Getaway, Oct. 9-11

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

Mental Health Sunday is October 11

The USCCB designated Sunday, October 11, as Mental Health Sunday. Bishop Fernandes will celebrate a Mass on Saturday, Oct. 10, 5:15 PM at St. Joseph Cathedral to acknowledge those living with mental health challenges, their caregivers, and mental health professionals. A resource fair and reception will follow in the undercroft. Details: <https://www.usccb.org/mental-health-sunday>

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

SEEK 2027 Conference Discount Ends 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/>

Sacred Heart Congress Retreat, Nov. 7

Join us Saturday, November 7 at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Westerville. Hosted by the Sacred Heart Enthronement Network, this year's Congress follows the historic Consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and invites Catholics to respond to Christ's invitation: "Come to Me" – a call to the faithful to bring the love of Christ into their homes, parishes, schools and communities. Speakers are Bishop Donald Hying (Diocese of Madison) and Annie Mitchell (Son Rise Morning Show.) Bishop Earl K. Fernandes will celebrate Holy Mass. A children's program follows the Mass. Register at www.welcomehisheart.com

School Office Administrative Assistant Needed

St. Timothy Catholic School is seeking a part-time School Office Administrative Asst. to support our school mission and create a welcoming, faith-filled environment for students, families and staff. The ideal candidate is organized, flexible and enjoys working where every student is known and valued. If interested, contact Principal George Mosholder at 614-451-0739 or Gmoshold@cdeducation.org

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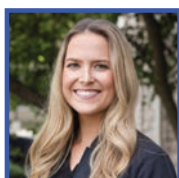


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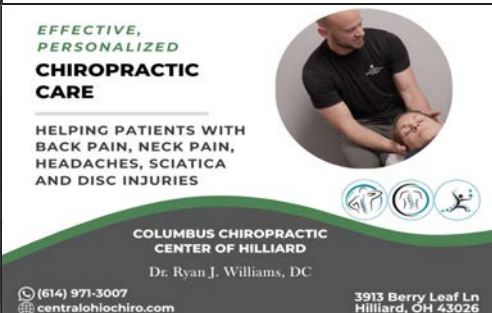
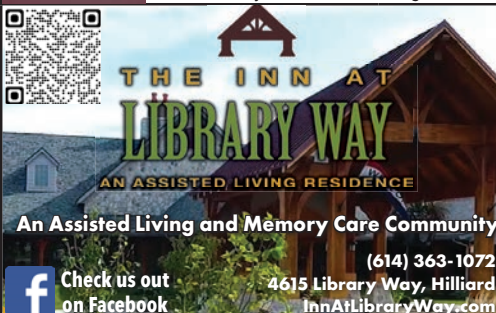
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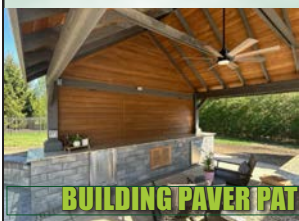
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