

ST. BRENDAN CHURCH

29 Rockaway Avenue San Francisco CA 94127

Tel. No. (415) 681-4225

www.stbrendanparish.org

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017



God Comforts His People

The last eight weeks have been no picnic. We've listened to a number of uncomfortable lessons and stories told by Jesus in the gospel readings and have heard unsettling warnings about the consequences for not producing good fruit, being prepared, repaying to God what belongs to him, loving authentically, living with integrity, performing good works, investing our talents in the kingdom of God; or caring for those who suffer.

Through not an inconsiderable amount of discomfort and distress in reading these passages, we've been pressed by Jesus to grow deeper in following him by moving from selfish consumerism to selfless discipleship. We've been urged to take small steps in the right direction by serving in ministry, tithing and giving, engaging in small groups, practicing prayer, and sharing our faith. The consistent message during this series has been that we need to "pray as we live and live as we pray."

In this Advent season, the tables now seem to turn. We encounter readings that are less uncomfortable and that actually bring us hope and comfort in our watchful waiting for the Lord to come into our world. The first reading from the prophet Isaiah, for instance, begs for God to "rend the heavens and come down" (63:19). It is hopeful because the prophet believes with all his heart that God will come down and clean up the mess made by sinful humanity.

Because God has been faithful, loving, and good to Israel in the past, Isaiah is fully confident that the Lord will show compassion and forgive. As

the psalm today says, God will "come to save us" and take care of his people. Even the gospel reading, with its warning to "be watchful" and "alert," ultimately is comforting because it urges us to slow down, see more clearly, and trust in the Lord to come.

As a matter of fact, Advent is a time to slow down and become fully awake. Through all the hype of the Christmas shopping season, there is one secular movement from which Catholics can learn. It's called *hygge* (pronounced hue-guh). The word is Danish in origin and roughly translates to coziness, comfort, or reassurance. As one description puts it, *hygge* is a sense of "togetherness and inner warmth, a world lit by candles and snuggled under blankets" (www.qz.com, "Winter Joy"). This Scandinavian "art of creating intimacy" that has led to the highest recorded levels of happiness in the world involves a certain kind of conscious awareness, a slowness, and the ability to recognize and enjoy the present with others.

What Advent calls for is a certain sort of spiritual *hygge*. It's a kind of collective confidence in God's consolation, and a willingness to light a candle together in order to scatter the darkness, because we are confident that God will comfort his people. Over the next few weeks, we'll learn the art of spiritual *hygge* by preparing our homes for Christ, trusting in one greater than ourselves, and creating a warm place for others. From all of us at Saint Brendan Church, we wish you a *hygge* Advent and Christmas season.



Featured Events

YEAR OF PRAYER CONTINUES December 13 at 7 p.m.

St. Brendan's year of prayer continues next month with David Clayton speaking on *Prayer in the Home*. Learn new ways to pray with your family during the Christmas holidays and throughout the New Year. Praise & Worship Music included and light refreshments following the presentation.



ST. BRENDAN ANNUAL HOLIDAY TEA December 9, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

The annual Christmas tea tradition continues this year at Saint Brendan Church. Enjoy a warm spot of tea with yummy treats from 2 - 4 p.m. in the church hall. Proudly sponsored by the Marian Servers.

MEMORIAL MASS FOR Sister Christine Ostrowski Beloved Former Vice Principal of St. Brendan School

Saturday, December 9, 2017, 1:00 p.m.
Saint Brendan Church

Please join us in honoring Sister Christine at a memorial mass celebrated by Monsignor Talesfore.

Immaculate Conception Mass

Holy Day of Obligation

December 8, 2017

Masses at 6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m.,
and 6:00 p.m.



LAST SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN TOUR December 5, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

The last tour for prospective kindergarten parents will be held on Tuesday, December 5. Please make a reservation for the tour in advance by calling (415) 731-2665 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

St. Brendan School, mindful of its mission to be witness to the love of Christ for all, admits students of any race, color, and national and/or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at this school. St. Brendan School does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, and national and/or ethnic origin, age, sex or disability in administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. Likewise, St. Brendan School does not unlawfully discriminate against any applicant for employment on the basis of age, sex, disability, race, color and national and/or ethnic origin.



St. Brendan Welcomes New Catholic and Catechumens

The Saint Brendan community welcomed a new member at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, November 12. Eva Martin entered into full communion with the Catholic Church, when Father Roger received her profession of faith and confirmed her in the presence of the assembly.

Baptized as an infant at Grace Presbyterian Church in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, Eva attended Catholic school run by the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Sisters of Saint Joseph. “The sisters who administered and taught at my grade school and high school fully embodied Christ’s message to serve with love,” Eva said. “It is their example that drew me to the Catholic faith.”

One of the great gifts of the Second Vatican Council was a deeper understanding of how Christians of various denominations and traditions can find common ground in their baptisms. Indeed, “the foundation of communion among all Christians, including those who are not yet in full communion with the Catholic Church” is rooted in the sacrament of baptism (CCC 1271). When Christians baptized in other denominations seek to enter the Catholic Church, there is a special rite to welcome them.



In addition, a program of preparation is specifically designed that acknowledges the formation the candidate already has received in his or her previous faith tradition. “Our sessions were grace-filled moments of prayer and discovery,” said Manolito Jaldon, Saint Brendan’s Director of

Evangelization and Faith Formation. “I have been renewed in my own convictions of how the Holy Spirit plays on the strings of our hearts to find his stirring presence in the midst of our lives.” When

reflecting on her own experience of learning more about the Catholic faith, Eva said, “Taking this time to explore some of the lesser-known aspects of the faith and to reflect on the meaning of the Church’s teachings has been a more fulfilling and inspirational experience than I had ever imagined.”

Standing at her side during the rite of reception were her husband, a friend, and Sister Angela, who served as a proxy in the absence of Eva’s



delegated sponsor. Once again, a faithful religious accompanied Eva on her spiritual journey, but this time it was a moment of intimate union with Christ, from her Reception and Confirmation to the Altar of the Eucharist to receive the Lord for the first time. “What a beautiful welcome for Eva today,” remarked one of the parish catechists present for the festivities. “I had tears in my eyes. Such joy!”

The assembly at the 11:30 a.m. Mass on the same day also witnessed five adults enter the Church as Catechumens. They now undertake their formal instruction, as our community accompanies and supports them on their journey towards baptism and full initiation into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

“I was thrilled to welcome Eva into the Church and the five catechumens into the formal phase of preparation to become Catholic,” said Father Roger. “It seems that the Holy Spirit is stirring up much spiritual excitement here on our little hilltop.”

Prayer in the Gospel of Matthew

By Ben Gerigk,
Saint Brendan Catechist &
Aspirant to the Priesthood

Each week, we summarize a specific style, form, or approach to prayer, using the highly-acclaimed book by Robert J. Wicks, *Prayer in the Catholic Tradition: A Handbook of Practical Approaches* (Franciscan Media 2006). In this article, you'll learn more about the way Jesus prayed and taught his disciples to pray in the Gospel of Matthew.

Since the early days of the Church, Matthew's Gospel has been considered to be a kind of "catechism," or a summary of principles, for living the Christian life. In particular, the gospel writer emphasizes, perhaps more than others, both Jesus' personal example of prayer and his instruction on how to pray.

Matthew provides a number of examples of Jesus in prayer. For example, he prayed on the mountain alone (Matthew 14:23), prayed in thanksgiving for the rations of bread and fish he multiplied for the crowds (Matthew 14:19; 15:36), and prayed a blessing over the children brought to him by the crowds (Matthew 19:13). We even see how Jesus prayed during the ordeal of his crucifixion. In the Garden of Gethsemane before his arrest, for example, Jesus prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39).

As these stories demonstrate, Jesus in his humanity had a close bond with God the Father, which he strengthened through consistent prayer. He put his trust in God throughout his life as he performed miracles and good deeds and even in the rough times as he was nailed to the cross.

The Gospel of Matthew not only provides examples of Jesus praying, it also has his teaching on how to pray (Matthew 6:9-15). Compared to Luke's Gospel, Matthew provides a more elaborate version of the *Our Father*. The prayer acclaims God through three "you" petitions ("hallowed be your name," "your kingdom come," and "your will be done"), and includes three "we" petitions asking for God's help ("give us today our daily bread," "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors," and "do not subject us to the final test but deliver us from the evil one").

These components of the *Our Father* form the basis of authentic Christian prayer. From it, we learn reverence for our Father "who is in heaven," the inextricable link between prayer and action as we ask for God's kingdom to

come to earth by doing his will, and the need to reflect in our own lives what we ask of God by being ready to forgive as we ask God to forgive us. These lessons all are embodied in the model of prayer that is Jesus's gift to us. It is a prayer that reaches deep into our Jewish roots and that epitomizes the mission of Jesus himself.

If you would like to deepen your own prayer experience, consider joining one of the many small groups at Saint Brendan Church or take a few minutes to listen to one of our *Small Bytes* talks on prayer. Learn more on our website at www.stbrendanparish.org



Stewardship



Stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts and shares them generously in love of God and neighbor. Stewardship is not about money or fundraising. It is a spirituality. It is a way of life.

A steward recognizes that God is the source of all life and every blessing and that all gifts of time, talent, and treasure come from God. A steward is grateful for those gifts. A steward takes care of and increases those gifts, and

In the second reading from the bible this Sunday, Paul is writing to an early Christian community in Corinth, a thriving metropolis in what is now modern-day Greece.

At the time Paul writes, the community is divided and in distress. The Corinthians had been blessed with many spiritual gifts. They could speak in angelic tongues, heal people, and prophesy. They had ecstatic spiritual gifts but were at odds with each other because they thought that their special gifts made them better than others.

But in the opening lines of his letter that we hear in the passage today, Paul reminds them that God's work does not end with spiritual gifts, but rather the faithful work of establishing the Church as one holy people ready for the day when Christ will come to judge the world (1:8). Although they have been granted spiritual prowess through God's grace, the focus of the letter is on how a charismatic community must live together in fellowship (*koinonia*), using their gifts in love of one another.

More than anything else, the spirituality of stewardship recognizes that each baptized person has received unique skills and abilities, spiritual and temporal, that are to be invested in the movement of growing disciples of Jesus Christ. With each of these gifts, we have the choice to use them for ourselves in isolation from the community or to offer them to the Church.

Last week, I gave \$400 of my personal money, offering each person in the congregation who would take it a one dollar bill. I asked you to pray about what God would want you to do with the money. The dollar represents a special talent you've been given by God. As good stewards, you can use that dollar for yourself alone or for the good of the community. How will you use the talent you've been given? See our website (www.stbrendanparish.org) for the many opportunities to serve and give in our parish.

—Father Roger Gustafson, Pastor

In his beautiful lament asking God to “rend the heavens and come down” and rescue Israel from exile in a foreign land, the prophet Isaiah cries out, “No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him.” Every day at our little parish, we are changing hearts. Our Alpha small group, for instance, is awakening people to the truth of Christianity. With each individual success story, we are experiencing God's inbreaking into the world.

We invite you to make a planned, proportionate, and sacrificial financial commitment to this parish and to poor. The biblical standard is a tenth of our income, before taxes or anything else is taken out, half to the Church and half to the poor. It's a huge step and takes trust, but we can never out give God.

**SECOND COLLECTION
NEXT WEEK:
RETIREMENT FOR RELIGIOUS**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION
November 26, 2017**

GOAL	\$ 9,500
TOTAL	\$ 9,008
Under	\$ 492

SAINT BRENDAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Church

29 Rockaway Avenue
San Francisco CA 94127
Rectory Phone: (415) 681-4225
Mon - Thurs: 8:30 am - Noon, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Sun: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
www.stbrendanparish.org

School

940 Laguna Honda Blvd.
San Francisco CA 94127
Tel. (415) 731-2665
www.stbrendansf.com

Convent

Canossian Sisters
234 Ulloa Street
San Francisco CA 94127
Tel. (415) 681-3465

MASSES

Sunday: 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 AM
Mon-Fri: 6:30 & 8:30 AM
Saturday: 8:30 AM 5:00 PM
Holy Days: 6:30 AM, 8:30 AM and 6:00 PM

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 4:15 - 4:45 PM
Wednesday: 7:15 - 7:45 PM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday: 7:00 - 8:00 PM
Saturday: 4:00 - 4:45 PM

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

For information, please see our website at
www.stbrendanparish.org or call us at (415)
681-4225.

MASS INTENTIONS (December 4-10, 2017)

Weekday

	6:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
Monday	Ricardo S. Morada (D)	Conrad Quiano (D)
Tuesday	Xavier Echon (L) (Healing)	Matthew Aguirre (L)
Wednesday	Magdalena Aguirre (L)	Melinda Endino (L)
Thursday	Baltazar Aguirre III (L)	Dr. Lloyd & May Wilson (D)
Friday	Christen Aguirre (L)	Sadie Tainter (D)
	6:00 p.m. Vicente Lee Barranda (D)	

Weekend

SAT 8:30 a.m.	Rosario Aguirre (L)
SAT 5 p.m.	Felix Dayrit (D)
SUN 7 a.m.	Asuncion Frando (D)
SUN 8 a.m.	People of St. Brendan Parish
SUN 9:30 a.m.	Bernard Smith (D)
SUN 11:30 a.m.	Carmen Aguirre (D)

STAFF

Pastor Fr. Roger Gustafson fatherrogergustafson@gmail.com	Ext.220
Parochial Vicar Fr. Peterson Tieng ftpete@stbrendanparish.org	Ext.214
In Residence Fr. Paul Warren	Ext. 208
Pastoral Associate Sr. Angela Furia, FdCC srandela@stbrendanparish.org	Ext. 201
Director of Evangelization & Faith Formation Manolito Jaldon manolito@stbrendanparish.org	Ext. 205
Music Director Mario Balestrieri	(415) 218-1767
School Principal Dianne Lakatta dlakatta@stbrendansf.com	(415) 731-2665
Parish Manager Lisa Rosenlund lisa@stbrendanparish.org	(415) 969-6815
Finance Manager Venetia Hui Gatus venetia@stbrendanparish.org	Ext. 202
Administrative Assistant Maeve O'Reilly maeve@stbrendanparish.org	Ext. 101

Parish Leadership

Advisory Board : Mike Modesti
Finance Committee : Eoin O'Connor

Children and Youth

Under Five Ministry:
Kendra Perlitz Devon Klinefelter

Girl Scouts:
Lisa Shaskan Kirstin McFarlane

Boy Scouts:
Boy Scouts: Maureen Hurley
Cub Scouts: Robert Rees (rdrees@gmail.com)

Youth Ministry:
Stacey Simpson Gus Del Puerto

Religious Education & Sacramental Preparation

Infant Baptism & RCIA for Children
Sr. Angela Furia (415) 681-4225, Ext. 201

Adult Faith Formation/Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA):
Manolito S. Jaldon, Jr. (415) 681-4225, Ext. 205

Sunday Children's Liturgy:
Marco & Karen Donaldson

Preparation for Reconciliation & First Holy Communion Grade 2: Stephanie Stanko

Faith Formation: Grade 3: Tara Donohue
Grades 4 & 5: Christina Bui

Preparation for Confirmation:
Grade 6: Manolito S. Jaldon, Jr. & Ben Gerigk
Grade 7: Liza Bonpin
Grade 8: Mary Zell Spellman

Youth of St. Brendan: A Life Teen Ministry (Post Confirmation & High School):
Manolito S. Jaldon, Jr. & Ben Gerigk

Liturgical Ministries

Lectors: Richard Pinto
Eucharistic Ministers: Charlotte Bautista
Ushers: Mike Casazza
Sacristan: Jack Mona
Liturgy Committee: Anne Kearney

Parish Life

Welcome Committee
Kathleen Bost Jeremy Straus
(sbwelcomecommittee@gmail.com)

Hospitality Committee
Maria Evangelista

Mothers' Club
Lori Doyle

Men's Club
Joshua Shaskan

Respect Life
Mary Ann Schwab

Knitting Ministry
Marie Jean Longa

Experienced Navigators:
Tony Fernandez

Small Groups:
<https://stbrendanparish.groupvitals.com/groupFinder>

Outreach Ministries

Consolation Ministry
Merry Jean Chan mjchanstb@gmail.com

Detention Ministry (San Dimas)
Julio Escobar (415) 244-5594

Marian Servers
Dr. Lou Scheerer

St. Vincent de Paul Society
Tad Tassone (415) 587-3849