

ST. BRENDAN CHURCH

29 Rockaway Avenue San Francisco CA 94127

Tel. No. (415) 681-4225

www.stbrendanparish.org

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 4, 2018



There's Healing In Here

After demons flee helplessly at Jesus' command in last week's gospel reading, he walks the short distance from the synagogue in Capernaum to the home of Simon Peter's mother-in-law, in this week's gospel, and heals her of a serious and most likely life-threatening illness. Soon thereafter, he cures many people in the village.

Although the New Testament records numerous healings—by one account, at least 37—the gospel passage today poignantly reveals the tenderness with which the sick and suffering are attended to by Jesus. In the case of Simon Peter's mother-in-law, he “grasped her hand, and helped her up,” a detail that reveals his kindheartedness. In the case of the people who were cured, the Greek word used in the passage (*therapeuō*) suggests more than a physical remedy. The implication is that Jesus was therapeutic, spending time ministering on a personal level to each malade. Not interested merely in removing the source of the suffering, he compassionately cares for every person individually.

Also inspiring is that it was the disciples of Christ and those drawn to him who brought the sick for him to heal. Simon and Andrew with James and John told Jesus about Simon's mother-in-law, and the gospel passage says that “they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons” (Mark 1:32). In another instance, four men hacked through a roof and lowered a paralytic man on a stretcher to see Jesus (Mark 2:1-12). Later the people “scurried about the surrounding country

and began to bring in the sick on mats” (Mark 6:55). In another passage, Jesus opened the ears of a deaf man brought to him by the people (Mark 7:32). Likewise, when he arrived at Bethsaida, “they brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him” (Mark 8:23). Over and over again, it was the compassion of those seeking Jesus who made the effort to bring the sick to him for healing.



Next week, the Church celebrates World Day of the Sick. People everywhere take time to pray on this day for those who are ill and for those who work to alleviate their suffering. In our own parish, I have witnessed the healing power of Christ in the kindness of our

members, from parishioners scheduled to visit the sick every week to the simple act of assisting an elderly parishioner down the aisle to receive communion.

So far in our five-week message series, *It's Better In Here*, we have claimed that the church, as opposed to the world, is the best place to discover beauty, goodness, and truth, as well as a direct connection to the transcendent God. But it's also better in here because healing from life's wounds can be found in this place. If you are willing to entrust yourself to others and open up about your own struggles, you will discover the restorative power of Christ in the loving and caring hands of the People of God, who will carry you to Jesus.

—Fr. Roger Gustafson

Featured Events

COLD AND FLU SEASON UPDATE

As always, you are reminded to use common good sense in the reception of Holy Communion during the annual cold and flu season. If you are feeling ill or think you may have been exposed to a virus, you should refrain from partaking of the Blood of Christ from the communal chalice. In the same way, you should refrain from offering your hand to others at the sign of peace. If you are not comfortable sharing the sign of peace or receiving Holy Communion from the communal chalice for fear of infection, you should feel no pressure to do so.



ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

February 14, 2018

6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Come together with the St. Brendan community at one of our Ash Wednesday Masses for worship and distribution of ashes.

NEW ALPHA GROUP STARTING IN MARCH 10-Week Program Meets Mondays March 5—May 14

Launch Party: Is There More to Life Than This? **March 5**

Week 1: Who is Jesus? **March 12**



SAVE THE DATE: EXPERIENCED NAVIGATORS EVENT Saturday, February 24, 2:00-5:00 p.m. Church Hall

Save the date for an Experienced Navigators Event featuring Vicky Evans of the Archdiocese of San Francisco speaking on Advanced Directives. Details to follow. For more information, contact Mary Ann Schwab at (415) 664-1700 or masfs11@gmail.com.

We Ask Questions In Here

As part of our message series, It's Better in Here, each week a parishioner will describe what Saint Brendan means to him or her personally. This week's article is by new mom, Ashley Coakley.

"I don't know if you'll like it, but I guarantee, you are not having these kinds of conversations anywhere else in your life." And with that, my brother Alex made a simple, yet effective pitch to get me to come check out the Alpha group at St Brendan's.

For those, like me, who may not know about Alpha, the concept is simple. One night a week a small group gathers to watch a video talk on some aspect of faith- for example "Who is Jesus?" or "How and why do I pray?" Afterwards, there's an open-ended discussion, accompanied by a little food and wine.

If I'm being honest, I went to Alpha that first night for a few reasons, none of which had much to do with my desire to examine my faith. In reality, the driving force was my guilt. I hadn't been going to Church as regularly as I should. To me, Alpha felt like an opportunity to check a box (hey, it's a church thing!) that could help offset some of that guilt. Second, older brothers are annoyingly convincing. And third, wine!

Thankfully, God has a way of motivating and speaking to each of us in exactly the way we need Him to. The most important thing was that He led me to Alpha, and the experience really has changed my life.

It's hard to describe, but after the first night, it felt like I had scratched some itch that had unknowingly been bothering me for years. In a small back

room of St. Brendan's rectory, I found a group of incredible people – so different from me – who were willing to share their ideas and genuinely wanted to listen to mine.

To me, the beauty of Alpha is that it's given me space to ask the questions I've always wanted to ask, but never did either because I was too nervous, too embarrassed, or felt like after 16 years of Catholic school education I should already know the answers.

With Alpha in my life, I find myself thinking more often and more deeply about things that were not at the forefront of my mind just three months ago: How can my faith have a bigger impact on my everyday life? How I can better express gratitude for everything I've been given? Am I giving enough back to people who need it? How can I give our one-year-old son the best path to find God in his own life?

At times, these questions have felt overwhelming. But this past Sunday, I had a clarifying moment during the Children's Mass. Listening to Father Roger interact with St. Brendan's first grade class during the homily, it all became obvious. I don't have to find these answers all on my own, because after 35 years I've finally found something even more powerful than answers.

I've found a community that understands, accepts, and most importantly encourages all of my many questions.

It really, truly is Better in Here.



Prayer in the Benedictine Tradition

By Lisa Rosenlund,
Saint Brendan Parish Manager

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 prayer in the Benedictine tradition.

I grew up among German Catholics in the Midwest. Germany was evangelized by the Benedictines, and it was the Benedictines who first came to serve German American immigrants. My teachers were Benedictine nuns, and my impression of the Benedictines has been that they are very strict. Therefore, I was not surprised to read that the Order began when St. Benedict left his hermitage to reform monasteries that he viewed as insufficiently disciplined.

St. Benedict and his twin sister, Scholastica, were born in a small Umbrian town in the Apennine Mountains of central Italy. Scholastica founded the first Benedictine convent and was also made a saint. The siblings only saw each other once a year, when Scholastica went to visit her brother at a place near his abbey.

Benedict based his small group of monasteries on the early monastic traditions of the desert fathers. His *Rule of Benedict*, which evolved over time, guided the lives of his monks. Benedictine communities have been governed by this *Rule* for hundreds of years. The Benedictine umbrella includes nuns and monks of the Benedictine, Cistercian, Camaldolese, and Trappist traditions (253-54).

Although Benedict did not write specifically about prayer, he advocated a contemplative way of life. The first word in the *Rule of Benedict* is "Listen!" Benedict's monasteries incorporated times and places of silence into the daily lives of the monks so that they would be able to hear God's voice.

The Liturgy of the Hours also provided a structure for the monks' prayer life. Indeed, twelve chapters of the *Rule* are devoted to it (258). The Liturgy of the Hours is comprised of the psalms of the Old Testament and the canticles of both the Old and the New Testaments (258). When chanting the Liturgy of the Hours, Benedict encouraged his monks to "stand to sing in such a way that our mind is in harmony with our voice" (260).

The practice of *lectio divina* also formed a significant part of the monks' prayer life. As with the times devoted to silence, Benedict set up structures in his monastery to ensure that his monks' commitment to *lectio divina* would be protected. (261)



Lectio divina has four stages: *lectio*, *meditation*, *oratio*, and *contemplatio*. In the first stage, *lectio*, the disciple reads a word or phrase from scripture. Then, in *meditation*, he goes away to ponder the word or phrase. In the next phase, *oratio*, the disciple returns to a spiritual elder for "holy conversation" (we now call this "spiritual direction"). In the final stage, *contemplatio*, the disciple incorporates the discussion with the spiritual elder into his understanding of the word or phrase.

St. Benedict challenges us to disconnect and be with God and our inner selves (255). We can follow his example by establishing and protecting times and places of silence in our homes and in our lives.

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 freely gives back the first and best portion of those gifts to God.

In the common parlance of stewardship, we speak about time, talent, and treasure. The three "T's," as they are known, refer to the three main blessings given to us by God, of which the first and best portion we are called to return to the Lord through prayer, service, and giving. But to what end?

As Father Andrew Kemberling remarks in his book, *Making Stewardship a Way of Life*, stewardship itself "is not the end. It is only a means to an end, and that end is evangelization" (Our Sunday Visitor, 2009). Indeed, "the practice of authentic Christian stewardship inevitably leads to evangelization." (U.S. Catholic Bishops. *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2002, 33). The ultimate goal of a stewardship way of life, therefore, is to bring people to Christ and make disciples for him. That is the mission of the Church and the reason for investing our time, talent, and treasure in that mission.



In the second reading today, Saint Paul contends that he has been "entrusted with a stewardship" to "preach the gospel." As with all of us, it is his duty to do so. Moreover, although he is an apostle and therefore entitled to take up a collection for his own support, he chooses to renounce that right and "offer the gospel free of charge," in order to enrich it by his own example of a cruciform lifestyle: working by the sweat of his brow.

A sacrificial offering to God of the first fruits of our time, talent, and treasure will help to evangelize the world and bring the gospel to life in the eyes of many people by our choice to live life according to the Cross of Christ.

--Father Roger Gustafson, Pastor

In the first reading today, Job complains about his lot in life. Formerly healthy, happy, and prosperous, God allowed Satan to test Job's loyalty. In the course of a single day, he loses all his livestock, servants, and children and is struck with a horrible skin disease. "I shall not see happiness again," he says. Job, however, never curses God but trusts in his divine providence. Because of his faithfulness, Job is restored to his former condition. Christian stewards hope in God alone and give back in all circumstances.

Whatever financial blessings God has given you, we invite you to make a planned, proportionate, and sacrificial financial commitment to this parish and to the poor that will continue throughout the year. 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.

**NO SECOND COLLECTION
NEXT WEEK**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION
January 28, 2018**

GOAL	\$ 9,500
TOTAL	\$ 9,848
Over	\$ 348



McKEEVER REALTY

Chuck Lewkowitz

712 Monterey Blvd., S.F.

(415) 239-8420

Please Cut Out This "Thank You Ad" and Present It The Next Time You Patronize One of Our Advertisers

Thank you for advertising in our church bulletin. I am patronizing your business because of it!

*SERVING WITH TRUST
AND CONFIDENCE
SINCE 1850*

Evergreen Mortuary of

McAvoy - O'Hara Co.

4545 Geary BOULEVARD
at TENTH AVENUE

Phone **668-0077**
24 hrs.

MICHAEL AND JOY FREETHY

Realtors

Your "Neighborhood Specialists"
(415) 823-7917

COLDWELL BANKER

1801 Lombard St.

San Francisco, CA 94123

Email: mfreethy@yahoo.com

*Top Producers - 22-yr's Experience
Specializing in Residential, Probate & Trust Sales*

Please visit our websites at
www.ForSanFranciscoHomes.com
or www.ProbateRealtor.com

Complementary Notary Public for all parishioners.

John W. Schulz, D.D.S.

Serving SF for Over 25 Yrs
* General Dentistry
* Dentistry for Children
* Cosmetic Dentistry

595 Buckingham Wy 731-4058

Michael T. Sweeney
Attorney at Law

WILLS * TRUSTS * PROBATE

782A Ulloa Street

(415) 664-8810

(415) 264-5428

roconnor@amcap.mortgage
RE Loans / Mortgage Advisor

Ronald O'Connor
NMLS# 253766

FREDRIC R. WARREN, DDS, MSD
Orthodontics for
Children and Adults

**Ruth Downs Sullivan
Laura Sullivan Van Zandt**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Specializing in
Estate/Tax Planning, Trusts,
Wills, Probate,
Conservatorship and
Family Law

605 Market Street

495-3800

Celebrations of Life and Receptions

The Bud Duggan Family
500 Westlake Ave., Daly City

Unlimited Parking

415/587-4500

duggansserra.com

Bill Duggan, Parishioner

FD1098

Since 1924

2254 Market St., San Francisco
between 15th and 16th Streets

415/621-4567

sullivansfh.com

Jim Sullivan, Parishioner

FD228

Traditional and Cremation Services

During Difficult Times... Simplicity and Affordability Makes Good Sense.

15 West Portal Ave., S.F.
(415) 681-2418
www.WarrenOrtho.com

Offering the Damon System of braces
as well as Invisalign for the entire family

Saint Margaret Sunday Missal

An ideal companion
for personal prayer.

In Stock & Ready to Order Today.
CALL OR ORDER ONLINE. \$39.95

800-566-6150 • www.wlpmusic.com

THE LAWSON
ROOFING CO., INC.

"Since 1907"

Contractor Lic. No. 339053

1495 Tennessee St., S.F.

285-1661

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 (February 5-11, 2018)

Weekday

	6:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
Monday	Barbara Dollard (D)	Angela & Giuseppe Tardio (D)
Tuesday	Open	Paul Miller (D)
Wednesday	Open	Open
Thursday	Open	Pete ("Martin") Murphy (D)
Friday	Open	Open

Weekend

SAT 8:30 a.m.	Open
SAT 5 p.m.	Open
SUN 7 a.m.	Albert & Madeline Brandi (D)
SUN 8 a.m.	People of St. Brendan Parish
SUN 9:30 a.m.	Mel Modesti (D)
SUN 11:30 a.m.	Edward & Helen Flynn (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:
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:
Manolito S. Jaldon, Jr. (415) 681-4225, Ext. 205

Preparation for Reconciliation & First Holy Communion *Grade 2:* Stephanie Stanko
Faith Formation: *Grade 1:* Michele Neitz, Megan Rabbitt, Avelina Accad
Grade 3: Tara Donohue
Grades 4 & 5: Christina Bui
Preparation for Confirmation:
Grade 6: Manolito S. Jaldon, Jr.
Grade 7: Liza Bonpin
Grade 8: Mary Zell Spellman

Liturgical Ministries

Lectors: Richard Pinto
Eucharistic Ministers: Charlotte Bautista
Ushers: Mike Casazza
Sacristan: Jack Mona

Parish Life

Welcome Committee
Andrea Regio 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