



# Epiphany

## IT IS ABOUT ME

Each one of us has an ego whether we are willing to admit it or not. We are all selfish. That's the way we were created. We came out of the womb thinking we were Number One, that the self always comes first. That belief was reinforced during our infancy when our every whim and need was attended to and as quickly as possible but certainly not as quickly as we felt we deserved.

All that notwithstanding, the truth is that when are we involved in something, whatever that something is, it is about us. It is about us, about me, and there is nothing wrong with that. In fact, it is essential that we realize that what is happening is about us and we must somehow in some way respond.

What we also have to realize is that it is also more than just about us. It is about everyone else as well. And sometimes, perhaps more often that we realize and certainly more often than we are willing to admit, it is more about others than it is about us. It is really and truly about them. Their problem, their issue, becomes our issue because we are now aware of it.

That is especially true when it comes to the living out of our faith, which, of course is to be done 24/7, every minute of every hour of every day. Every second of our life we are called through our baptism – and the promises made for us when we were baptized and which we renew each year – to seek and see and serve Jesus Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. In other words, it is as much about our neighbor, whoever that neighbor is and wherever that neighbor lives, as it is about me, whatever that “it” is at the moment.

As baptized Christians we promise to strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being. Not some. Not just those we love, but each and every one of them. Again, it is all about them as much as it is all about us. But in order for it to be all about them/him/her, it also has to be all about us/me first. Each one of us is vitally important in doing God's work in resisting evil and in proclaiming the Good News. We cannot do any or all of that if we do not realize just how important we are, each one of us, in God's grand scheme.

It is all about me because if I fail, others are hurt. If we fail, many are hurt. Yes, too many people – and sometimes we are one of them – lose sight of this truth and think that they are more important than others, that the world or at least their corner of the world, no matter how small that corner is, revolves about them and is only about them. It does not, never did and never will.

When we finally allow our ego to take back seat, or at least step aside for a moment, it is humbling to realize just how important we are in God's ordering of creation. It is even more humbling to admit that we are not as important as we sometimes think we are. It is about us; but in being about us, it is also about how we full the responsibilities God has entrusted to us.

## WJP

### Serving this Sunday, February 19, 2012.

- Acolytes:** All Acolytes
- Lay Reader:** 8:00 Sylvia Affleck  
10:00 Caty DeWalt
- Prayers:** Tom Harvey
- Chalice Bearers:** Kelli Cerra & Debbie Wunsche
- Host Bearers:** Charlie Hamill
- LEV:** Gladys & Les Carlisle
- Altar Guild:** Betsy Smith & Tammy Spoonhoward
- Nursery:** Kristi Heckert & Ellen Groves
- Ushers:** Rob Latta & Bob Smith
- Gift Card Sales:** Lynne Mercer
- Hospitality:** Joyce & Michael Donadee
- Celebrant:** Fr. Bill Pugliese

### Activities beginning Sunday, February 19, 2012.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>
	Choir rehearsal	8:30 am
	Lectionary Bible Study	9:00 am
	Musical Maniacs rehearsal	9:30 am
	<b>Worship</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	J2A & RITE 13 (Miryam's prep)	11:15 am
	CRIES meeting	11:15 am
<b>Monday</b>	Miryam's delivery	9:00 am
<b>Tuesday</b>	Early prayers and breakfast	8:30 am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lenten Series & Dinner	6:00 pm
	<b>Worship</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	Sacristans	9:00 am

# Announcements

We pray for our **parish families**, especially Kammi & Jordan DeVivo and Patricia, Timothy & Chris McLendon and for Caty DeWalt.

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** Lent begins this Wednesday with a Celebration of Ash Wednesday. Services with the imposition of ashes will be at **7:00 AM, 12:00 noon and 7:00 PM.**

**LENTEN POT-LUCK HELP:** Our Lenten program on **Wednesday evenings** will begin with a pot luck dinner at 6:00. We will need a few volunteers each evening to arrive early to help set up the tables and stay a little late to help clean up. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Thanks.

Also **during Lent on Sunday mornings February 26, March 4, 11 and 18 from 11:15 to 12:30**, there will be a class for those who wish to be confirmed, received into the Episcopal Church or simply want to renew their faith commitment. **Confirmation/Reception/Renewal and Bishop Price's Visitation to St. Brendan's will be March 25.** Again, more details later. In the meantime, please mark your calendars.

Starting on **March 4**, St. Brendan's will be presenting a **Holy Communion class** for children in Grades 2 through 5 who haven't taken this course before. This three-week course will take place during the children's regular Sunday School class time. Please contact Skye Hill at [skye@samandskye.com](mailto:skye@samandskye.com) for more information or to let her know that you want your child(ren) to be included.

### Vestry Briefs:

Last Saturday, St. Brendan's Vestry held its annual retreat, this time in the church library. During the daylong meeting, the vestry:

-- Decided to work with the Finance Committee on a new strategy for seeking refinancing of the parish's larger mortgage with various local banks;

-- Reviewed St. Brendan's responsibilities as a host parish for the bishop finalists' walkabout on March 20 (kitchen help will be needed, along with moderators and timekeepers);

-- Discussed events and commemorations for St. Brendan's 25th anniversary this year;

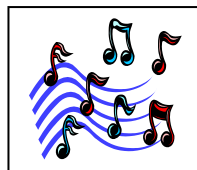
-- Re-elected Tom Waseleski as senior warden and Bob Affleck and Bill Spoonhoward as co-junior wardens.

Tom Waseleski, Senior Warden

The **St. Andrew's Sunday School** lesson **this week** is "The Season of Lent: Who Does Jesus Say He is?" and will be taught by Karen Schmidt.

The **Noah's Ark Sunday School** lesson **this week** is "Faces of Easter, Jesus' Birth and Growth" and will be taught by Nancy Davis.

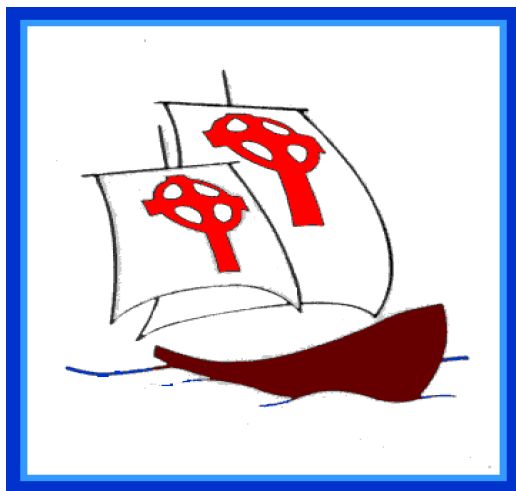
**Our J2A team** is providing the **February 20th** meal for **Miryam's**. They will be making corn bread on Sunday and providing salad fixings to go along with the chili they made. Thanks to your donations, we have 13 quarts of chili for these homeless women.



**Music Lessons at St. Brendan's/Winter-Spring Special rates offered.** Kevin Gruden, whose voice students have scored leads & principal roles in high school musicals, professional theatre companies, classical recitals, choral concerts and operas, is offering special rates for both voice and piano lessons. Beginners & adults are welcome!

You are cordially invited to participate in a **St Brendan's Virtual Fundraiser...**

Who:	You! Anyone can <u>and</u> should participate!
What:	2012 Giant Eagle and Kuhn's Gift Card Campaign aka: EZ Money 4 UR CHURCH. It is effortless and it works!
Where:	St Brendan's Episcopal Church
When:	Anytime! Yes that is right, anytime! Gift cards for purchase are available: ~After all church services ~St. Brendan's Meetings (choir, vestry, Book Club, etc.) ~Business hours by calling the church office at 412-364-5974 ~Anytime by calling me (Debbie Jennings) at 412-367-8619 (a concierge will be happy to make a house call to deliver your gift cards at your convenience)
How:	Buy your gift cards for groceries, gifts, flowers, gasoline, other retailer gift cards.... you get the idea! See Giant Eagles Website for all of the available retail gift cards! <a href="http://www.gianteagle.com/GiftCards/browse.aspx?cntid=177291">http://www.gianteagle.com/GiftCards/browse.aspx?cntid=177291</a>
Why:	St. Brendan's gets 5% of the sale price of each and every gift card that we sell! This is a <i>virtual</i> fundraiser, because it is <i>virtual-ly</i> effortless. For absolutely no additional cost-You get the net value of each card <u>and</u> fuel perks <u>and</u> the priceless perk of helping our beloved St Brendan's. Easy and effortless... shopping <u>and</u> supporting our church <u>and</u> savings in one convenient venue!!!



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