



The Senior Wardens Corner

At every 10 am service in Advent, someone processes into the nave with a handmade banner that, depending on the week, says Hope, Peace, Joy or Love. A parishioner, often young and sometimes needing help from Mother Robin, then lights the appropriate number of candles on the pine wreath that sits on our museum-worthy baptismal font. It's one of the traditions that says Advent at St. Brendan's.

Many of us have our own Advent traditions that prepare us for Christmas and the birth of Christ. One of mine is to take short branches of pine and bundle them with a bow and a small Christmas decoration into swags that will be placed on family graves. Though I've been doing this for years I can't take credit for the idea. It came from my father-in-law, whom I watched doing this back when I dated Saundy. At the age of 92, he still visits a handful of graves to place a wreath during Advent. This year I'll make visits to 12 graves in three cemeteries in the Mon Valley.

Although I make the wreaths myself (this week, in fact), I don't place them alone. My son Mike and I do the job together, taking the better part of a day, as we always have. It makes for valuable father-and-son time, a breakfast out together and occasional talk about the relatives whose graves are being decorated: my steelworker father who died when I was a boy, my grandfather who came here as a 12-year-old from Slovakia, Saundy's grandfather who used his brother's passport to get into the U.S. from Spain.

There's a story that goes with each of them, which is why we take time in Advent to remember, to honor and to thank them for getting us where we are in 2023. Through three generations my family has maintained this tradition and you, no doubt, maintain your own. Last year, for the first time, I made and placed a wreath for the departed Brendanites whose remains are buried in the Memorial Garden. Because, after all, they're family, too. Happy Advent.

Yours in faith,
Tom Waseleski, Senior Warden
twaseleski@comcast.net

**There will be one morning service on the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24, it will begin at 9 am.
We will celebrate Christmas Eve on the same day at 7:00 pm.**

Children and Youth



St. Brendan's Christmas Pageant
performed by our children and youth.

Sunday, December 17
during the 10 am service.

Come and enjoy Scripture and music
based on the story of Jesus' birth.



Dates to keep in mind:

- **Saturday, December 16:** 10 am to 12 pm. Christmas pageant practice and costume fittings.
- **Sunday, December 17:** during the 10 am service: Christmas Pageant. We hope that all of our children and teens will be able to participate. More information to follow.
- There will be **no Sunday School classes on December 24 or December 30.** The Sunday School children, teachers, and doorkeepers wish everyone a holiday filled with joy and God's blessings.
- Stay tuned for information about an **Epiphany party for children and youth on Sunday, January 7,** following the 10 am service (during hospitality hour) in the handprint room.

Nursery Volunteers: Thank you to all who have signed up to volunteer on various Sunday's. Your help is greatly appreciated! Anyone who already has their necessary clearances and is willing and able to help out with our little ones during the 10 am worship service, please reach out to me, Liz MacDonald via text/call at 412-865-6486 or email

Liz702988@gmail.com.



St. Brendan's Book Club, all are welcome! We meet the first Monday of the month at 1 pm in the library (or second Monday, depending on holidays). On **January 8** we will discuss Four Seasons in Rome by Anthony Doerr (Pulitzer Prize winning author of All the Light We Cannot See and Cloud Cuckoo Land).

But wait, there's more! Upcoming titles:

- February 5: The Stationery Shop by Marian Kamali
- March 4: Forty Autumns by Nina Wilner
- April 8: Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby van Pelt
- May 6: My Life in France by Julia Child

Any questions? Contact Anne Semmler at annegsemmler@gmail.com.



A donation was made to the **Brendan's Family and Friends Fund (BFF)** in memory of Betty Moore, from Saundy and Tom Waseleski.

Need a gift for someone who has everything? A donation to the BFF fund is the perfect way to honor that special person or event. BFF funds are earmarked for unbudgeted building needs. You can make your BFF donation using a card found in the narthex or email Katie at Katie@stbrendans.org. Thank you for making a difference at St. Brendan's by becoming a BFF donor!



Vestry Nominating Committee Seeks Nominations. On January 28, St. Brendan's will elect three new members to join the Vestry for three-year terms. The Vestry plays a vital role in the life of our church. Its nine members provide administrative and financial oversight, and ensure we are living our mission. If you are interested in joining the Vestry, would like to nominate someone for Vestry consideration, or simply have questions about this process, please contact a member of the Vestry Nominating Committee: Ruth Horton (rvhorton@gmail.com), Lauren Ramakrishna (lauren.ramakrishna@gmail.com), Annemarie Malbon (amalbon@gmail.com), and Donna Aiello (donna.aiello@forecastdirect.com).



Vestry briefs. At Monday night's meeting, St. Brendan's Vestry:

- Reviewed the latest results of the 2024 stewardship campaign — 76 pledges and \$224,918 pledged, both figures surpassing last year's totals (if you still plan to pledge, it's not too late but please hurry!);
- Discussed the work of the Nominating Committee, which is seeking candidates for three vestry seats that will be filled by a vote of St. Brendan's members at the Jan. 28 Annual Parish Meeting.

—Worked on the 2024 budget proposed by the Finance Committee. While some line items of spending were approved, others will require further examination before the budget can be finalized.



Communication With The Vestry. The Vestry of St. Brendan's has established an email address so that you can have direct communication with us about any concerns, suggestions, or even compliments you might have. Please email us at vestry@stbrendans.org. All communications will be anonymously discussed at our monthly meeting and, while we can't guarantee that we will make the changes you are requesting, we do promise that we will thoughtfully evaluate all ideas as a group and come back to you with a disposition. We look forward to hearing from you.



DINNER CLUB

We will be starting the 2024 dinner club. Sign up sheets and information will be at the front desk in the narthex. More information will come when we see how many people sign up. Contact Janice Moore at Naperville@yahoo.com with questions.



Mark your calendar! **St. Brendan's Annual Parish Meeting** will take place on **Sunday, Jan. 28, after a joint 9 a.m. service.** Mother Robin and the vestry will review the past year and preview the 2024 budget. Candidates will also be elected for vestry. So come to worship, stay for a brief meeting and enjoy hospitality with fellow Brendanites afterward!



Brendan's Boots, the parish walking group, will trek on **Monday, Dec. 18**, through downtown Pittsburgh's Christmas displays. Participants will meet at the church at 9 a.m. and carpool to the city. Among the scenes they'll explore will be the life-size Italian crèche at the U.S. Steel Tower, the lobby of the William Penn Hotel, the gingerbread house display in the City-County Building, the skating rink and Santas Around the World display at PPG Place and the Holiday Market in Market Square. Lunch will follow at a nearby restaurant. For more info, please contact Tom Waseleski, twaseleski@comcast.net.



Every year St. Brendan's accepts monetary donations towards the purchase of our **Christmas Flowers, Greens and Poinsettias** in memory of those who have died, those who have made a special impact in our lives, or because we love them. If you would like to contribute to the greening of the church and have your announcement in the bulletin on Christmas Eve, please contact Katie with your information Katie@stbrendans.org and submit your contribution of any amount to the office. On Christmas Eve the names are printed in the bulletin, the tree lights are lit, and our beautiful church glorifies the birth of Christ.

Prayer Requests

We pray for our beloved members of St. Brendan's, especially; Kelli Cerra, Judy McKarnin, Alice Butterworth, Larry Tarrant, Mark Shoemaker, Nancy Snyder, Mark Kinley, Jim Gray, Matthew, Charlotte Pierce, Sherri Angeletti, Rosie Wood, Margie Davies, Bill Spoonhoward, Ruth Haider, Nancy Bancroft, Joyce Donadee.

For our parents, especially; Ken McCormack, Ray Miltzer, Lenora, Diane Davis.

For our family members, especially; Conor Taylor, Carol and Guy Estes, Nelson Ferguson, Pat Schulze, Tom Groves, Jay & A, Rosalie & Geoff Wood, Sue Burchill, Will Cummings, Bob Kiehl, Ann & Ben Kirkpatrick, Carol Schmitz, Kirk Latta, Marie Hazelton, David Pingree, Joann, Frank Nagy, Nathan Schlumpf, John, Robert Donato.

And for our friends, especially; Pat Reiner, Nancy Baker, Mike Colavita, The Silveira family, Rena Feingold, Phil & Bernice Bollman, Terri Hockenberry, Ellen Kuntz, Josh, Cindy & Bob Getty, Barb & Wayne Seelhorst & family, Maggie Cervone, Juliana Moses, Vivian, Johan Smith, Jordon Medlin, Ron Neurohr.



December Ministry Calendar 2023

| Date | Lectors | Sunday School | Nursery | Altar Guild | Greeters | Ushers | Steward | Vestry | Hospitality |
|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| December 17 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am Christmas Pageant 3 rd Sunday of Advent | 8 Tammy Spoonhoward 1 st Children 2 nd Children P John Appeldorn | Children's Pageant No Sunday School | Susan Shields Molly Kirk | Janice Moore Ellen Groves | Donna Aiello Sharon Hlawati | Allyson Baiert Donna Aiello | Dave Miller | Neil Galone | Kathy & Dave Miller |
| December 24 Sunday 9:00 am 4 th Sunday of Advent | 9 Joan Beatrous 2 nd Mary Bertucci P Marilyn Mulvihill | No Sunday School | Liz MacDonald Annemarie Malbon | Tammy Spoonhoward | Toni Passarello Wesley Bell | Julia & Mike Wick | Dave Miller | John Appeldorn | No Hospitality |
| December 24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm | 1 st Kate Heston 2 nd Ann Vinski P Paul Quinn | Christmas break | No Nursery | Kathy Miller | Kathy & Dave Miller | John Appeldorn | Tim Austin | Dan Moore | No Hospitality |
| December 31 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am | 8 Sylvia Affleck 1 st Donna Aiello 2 nd Tim Austin P Tony Turo | New Year's Eve Christmas break | Liz MacDonald Pat Carl | Sylvia Affleck Anelisa Tarrant | Allyson Baiert Dean Peters | Mary & Dale Bertucci | Linda Limberis | Sandy Nagy | Sharon Hlawati Donna Aiello |



January Ministry Calendar 2023

| Date | Lectors | Sunday School | Nursery | Altar Guild | Greeters | Ushers | Steward | Vestry | Hospitality |
|--|---|---|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| January 7 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am 1 st Sunday of Advent | 8 Tammy Spoonhoward 1 st Paul Quinn 2 nd Cindy Koszarek P Tim Austin | Lambs TBD FISH TBD Door keeper TBD | Liz MacDonald | Ellen Groves Barb Fure | TBD | Kate Heston Linda Limberis | John Appeldorn | Lauren Ramakrishna | Janice Moore |
| January 14 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am | 8 Ellen Groves 1 st John Appeldorn 2 nd Derrek Wimmer P Kate Heston | Lambs TBD FISH TBD Door keeper TBD | Liz MacDonald | Joan Klinefelter Phoebe Juel | TBD | Julia & Mike Wick | Tim Austin | Ruth Horton | Megan Overby Tim Austin |
| January 21 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am | 8 Sylvia Affleck 1 st Linda Limberis 2 nd Steve Minegar P Donna Aiello | Lambs TBD FISH TBD Door keeper TBD | Liz MacDonald | Dottie Antonucci Anelisa Tarrant | TBD | Allyson Baiert Donna Aiello | Julia/Mike Wick | Kate Heston | Mary & Dale Bertucci |
| January 28 Sunday 9:00 am Children's Service | 8 Joan Beatrous 1 st Children 2 nd Children P Linda Limberis | Lambs TBD FISH TBD Door keeper TBD | Liz MacDonald | Tammy Spoonhoward Janice Moore | TBD | Mary & Dale Bertucci | Linda Limberis | Tom Waseleski | Sandy Nagy |



ST. BRENDAN'S MISSION

Jesus said, "I have come to give life – life in all its fullness." John 10:10.
Our mission is the realization of fullness through:
the worship of God; service to the world;
active concern for each other;
and education to expand mind and spirit.

VESTRY MEMBERS

Sr. Warden: Tom Waseleski
Jr. Warden: Dan Moore
Adult Formation: John Appeldorn
Audio-Visual Technology: Sandy Nagy
Communication: Sandy Nagy
Children & Youth: Ruth Horton
Finance: Lauren Ramakrishna
Fundraising: TBD
Inreach & Hospitality: Kate Heston
Membership: TBD
Outreach: Ruth Horton
Secretary/Clerk: Lauren Ramakrishna
Worship: Neil Galone
Treasurer: Ellen Groves

WORSHIP MINISTRY LEADERS

Acolyte: Anelisa Tarrant
Altar Guild: Anelisa Tarrant
Flower Ministry: Libby Juel & Sylvia Affleck
Greeter: Donna Aiello
Lector: Ann Vinski
Scheduler: Kelli Cerra
Spirituality: Donna Aiello

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY LEADERS

Audit: Kevin Boyd
Book Club: Anne Semmler
Brendan's Boots: Tom Waseleski
Bulletin Coordinators: Pat Carl & Carol Meese
Dinner Group: Janice Moore
Fiber Crafting Club: Sherri Angeletti
Finance Chair: Lauren Ramakrishna
Green Thumb Gang: Dan Moore
Historian: Ellen Groves
Holiday Happenings/Cookie Walk: Donna Aiello
Memorial Garden: John Appeldorn
Merry Meal Makers (M&M's): Saundy Waseleski
Reiki Ministry: Melanie Popovich
Rental: Marilyn Mulvihill
Scholarship: Allison Kline~Ann Vinski~Mike Wick
Web Site: Kelli Cerra

OUTREACH MINISTRY LEADERS

Adopt-A-Highway: Tom Waseleski
CRIES Advocacy: Ellen Groves
ESL: Tim Austin
Joyce Donadee
Garden of Hope: Annemarie Malbon
Justice Ministry: Marilyn Mulvihill & Donna Aiello
Miryam's: Julia Wick
North Hills Food Banks: Ruth Horton

WEEKLY AT ST. BRENDAN'S

Sunday: 8:00 am Worship, in person
10:00 am Worship, in person and live streaming
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkCY2BEJXlqMoVc_nXXG7ew
Monday: 8:00 am Daily Morning Prayer, via zoom, Monday thru Friday
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83591825912?pwd=a3BGcCswanE1OFFXaVBWbDBYRGM1UT09>
10:00 am Modern Episcopalian, via zoom
9:00 am Katie office hours till 12:00 pm
Tuesday: 9:00 am Katie office hours till 12:00 pm
11:00 am Bible Study, via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
4:30 pm Book Club discussion, via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484853481>
Wednesday: 1:00 pm Mother Robin office hours till 5:00 pm
5:00 pm Midweek Eucharist
Thursday: 11:00 am Mother Robin office hours till 4:00 pm
9:00 am Katie office hours till 12:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am Katie office hours till 12:00 pm

ST. BRENDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2365 McAleer Road, Sewickley, PA 15143
Phone ~ 412-364-5974

Web Site ~ <http://www.stbrendans.org>

Online Parish Calendar ~ <https://www.stbrendans.org/calendar>

Online Parish Directory ~ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1By4bzW6dJ2AwwZVlmlqicQ4WFAynP16D/view?usp=sharing> (authorization required for access--apply online)

Facebook ~ <https://www.facebook.com/StBrendansEpiscopalChurch/>

Nextdoor ~ <https://franklinparkpittsburgh.nextdoor.com/pages/st-brendans-episcopal-church-sewickley-pa/recommend/>

Priest-in-Charge, Mother Robin Jarrell ~ Robin@stbrendans.org

Parish Administrator, Katie Cervone ~ Katie@stbrendans.org

Music Director, Daniel May ~ bluesub@verizon.net

Deacon, Rev. Darrell Johnson ~ darrell@stbrendans.org

Nursery Director, Liz MacDonald ~ Liz702988@gmail.com

Vestry ~ Vestry@stbrendans.org