



Sunday, December 5, 2021

Celebrant: The Rev. Regis Smolko

Participating and representing St. Brendan's in prayer and worship and receiving Holy Eucharist for all members and friends.

Weekly at St. Brendan's

- Sunday**
8:00 am Worship, in person
10:00 am Worship, in person
10:00 am Worship, via live streaming https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkCY2BEJXlqMoVc_nXXG7ew
- Monday**
7:45 am Daily Morning Prayer, via zoom, Monday thru Saturday
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4796201105?pwd=bXM5OHJ2UEh4TXhQT1RkZnVrQWNVdz09>
Meeting ID: 479 620 1105 Passcode: 092720
Varying office hours, call ahead
11:00 am Be a Modern Episcopalian, via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
4:00 pm Bible-Lite Group <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
- Tuesday**
7:00 am AA meeting, via zoom Dial in: 312-626-6799 Meeting Id:345 892 252
8:00 am Staff meeting, via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
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>
6:30 pm New Brendanites, via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
- Wednesday**
Varying office hours, call ahead
3:00 pm Deacon hours
7:00 pm Evening Service
- Friday**
Varying office hours, call ahead

The Priest's Corner

Beginning of "So Long" . . . The time has come to say "so long." This is such a bitter-sweet time for Ken and me. These past 5 years have truly been the best five years of our lives. We cannot say in this article all that needs said—so I've been using the last two sermons and the upcoming ones to help get these thoughts and messages out to you.

The sermon on Christ, the King of the Universe, two Sundays ago) focused on moving out of the Kingdom of the World (capitalism and quid-pro-quo/tit-for-tat operations) to Kingdom of God action (counter-cultural doings like C-R-I-E-S and other makes-no-sense-to-the-world ministries.)

Last Sunday's (First Sunday of Advent) suggested you *Stand Tall; Hold Your Head High and Live from Your Dignity* in a world that seems to be falling apart as fear is all around you.

These and the upcoming Sundays and Christmas will continue to be going-away, kinds-of-actions-to-take sermons. I pray that these will light your way going forward into the new St. Brendan's which will see higher heights and accomplish never-seen-before greatness. My Brothers and Sisters, you will see benefits and hallmarks that far-surpass what you've seen presently. Up to now, you've just gotten started. It will be so much more than you could have imagined. Stay with this dynamic growth of St. Brendan's—no matter what! God has shown you abundance, and you really have not seen anything yet! You are St. Brendan's!

So this coming Sunday is an important Sunday for us all. We need to celebrate within liturgy and worship asking God to bless this ending and resurrect St. B's new beginning. Please consider attending our 10:00am festive, lively, musical Eucharistic service this Sunday, December 5—if you feel safe to do so. We will all wear masks throughout the service and be appropriately socially distanced. Singing is permitted as long as you're wearing your mask.

You know I am a people person and derive life around you. If Ken and I could have our way—we'd want every one of you to be at the 4:00 pm dinner/roast/musical/fun-filled party. At the same time, we want you to attend only if you feel comfortable and safe to participate. We don't want to hurt anyone's feelings, but we want to guarantee as much possible safety for all as we can. Therefore, please attend the 4:00 pm celebration only if you are fully vaccinated and feel safe enough to come. Trust your gut. We will totally understand any decision that you make as you use your best judgement on these complicated matters.

We know you love us, and I believe you know how much we truly love you all, not one exception to this. The 10:00am festive liturgy will be live-streamed as usual. I believe we may be able to live-stream portions of this dinner as well—at least the “fun parts.” I’m awaiting the final word on this.

May this coming Sunday be a great blessing for all of us. Hopefully we will safely see each other at one or both of these upcoming weekend events. Please know that my retirement does not start until the end of December. I will work as if nothing has changed throughout most of December, including Christmas Eve and December 26. We have to inspect work that’s being done on our Florida condo; this means we’ll be away some days in Florida including Sunday, December 19th. The days we’re away, I’m available by phone 412-877-7557 or text.

All good to you,
Regis



Adopt-a-Highway. St. Brendan's will hold its final roadside cleanup of 2021 on **Saturday, Dec. 4.** Volunteers will meet at the church at 8:30 a.m., load up supplies, then carpool to the litter site, the Camp Horne Road interchange of I-279. Anyone age 14 and up may participate. The cleanup will be finished by 10:45 a.m. If you'd like to take part, please contact Tom Waseleski, twaseleski@comcast.net.



THIS SUNDAY, December 5th at 4:00 we are having a dinner with DJ for a sendoff for Fr. Regis and Ken to let them know how much we appreciate all they have done for us.

RSVP to Julia Wick Lawford1@msn.com if you're planning to attend.

We hope to see you there

Children's Corner

Getting Ready Are you ready or are you still preparing???

Our neighbors already put up their Christmas tree and their outdoor decorations. We still have ours in the attic, packed up from last year and stored away.



Does that mean we are not getting ready for Christmas? After all it is Advent. What do people mean when they ask if you are ready for Christmas?

So I wonder, what do you need to do to be ready for Christmas? Because I don't think it means have you finished shopping for presents or have all of your presents wrapped.

In our Bible lesson today, we hear the voice of John the Baptist crying out to the people, "Prepare the way for the Lord. Fill in the valleys and level off all the mountains. Make the crooked roads straight and the rough places smooth."



John did not live in Western Pennsylvania, so I don't think he meant for us to work on the roads and fix all of our potholes or make the roads straight – after all, we have some steep hills in Pittsburgh and winding roads make them safer in the winter.

So, what did John the Baptist want us to do? John really wanted us, the people, to get ready for the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. He was telling people to get their hearts right and return to God.



No matter how good people may *think* they are, we always have some sneaky, crooked ways and rough places in our lives. Sometimes we can be just a bit dishonest, selfish, jealousy, bad tempered or ... think of how you may not be your best self. John wanted the people to make those crooked ways straight as we prepared for Jesus' coming.

During this Advent – this Christmas season, we can prepare ourselves by looking into our hearts and smoothing out our rough edges. And the good news is, God will help us. All we have to do is ask.

Peace
Julie+



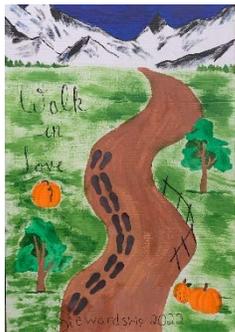
Brendan's Boots. In the spirit of Christmas, the parish hiking group will trek through downtown Pittsburgh on Saturday, Dec. 11, to see the city in its Christmas finery. Participants will meet at St. Brendan's at 9 a.m. and carpool to the North Shore. Walkers will check out the life-size Nativity scene at USX Tower, the William Penn Hotel's classic interior, the Santas Around the World display and ice rink at PPG Place and more. After some time at the Market Square Holiday Market, the group will have lunch nearby. All are welcome; feel free to bring a friend. For more info, please contact Tom Waseleski, twaseleski@comcast.net.

Please use this link for the **Parish Directory** and book mark it as the directory is updated often!

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_NkE3ZP4ngPHe5j0TL1eeJzITMGA9G1Y/view



Help for Inner City Children. Once again, St. Brendan's, through the Justice Ministry, is partnering with Blessed Be Educators, to provide gifts to needy children in the Pittsburgh area. Hats and gloves are needed for children 1 year old to 14 years old, sizes XS to XL. The older children are often forgotten, so let's make an effort to include them. The bin is at the entrance of the church. Please be generous, as you have in the past. **The collection will end this Sunday, December 5.** Call Marilyn at 412-427-2715 with questions.



Stewardship 2022

More footsteps are continuing to fill our Stewardship path for 2022. We now have received 47 pledges which is 47% of our 100 pledge goal. If you haven't already, please consider what you might be able to pledge in support of St. Brendan's ministries for 2022. We look forward to seeing more footsteps join us on our path as more of our fellow Brendanites commit to walk in love with us each week.



We celebrate the **December Wedding Anniversaries.**

15 Janice & Dan Moore	19 Sharri & Larry Tarrant	23 Anne & Michael Semmler
27 Becca & Warren Sands	29 Melinda & Wesley Bell	29 Rob & George Latta



We celebrate the **December Birthdays.**

23 Prudence Thompson	2 Melanie Popovich	2 Brad Zupancic	6 Joan Klinefelter	7 Chris Fleissner
29 Warren Sands	11 Matrid Harper	14 Joanna Byrne	14 Jim Evanochko	15 Roger Botti
	16 Laureen Douds	16 Rodge Wood	20 Cameron Grosh	20 Julia Waseleski
	26 Paige Baiert	27 Silvia Bertucci	28 Tom Harvey	28 Meghan Karn
	31 William Graham			

Senior Warden's Corner

In its Kickoff Letter a month ago, the Stewardship Committee emphasized that stewardship is about so much more than pledges—as important as pledges may be.* We are called on to think of the many ways in which we can support St. Brendan's mission—often by attending or helping to coordinate a key parish ministry. Today, I want to offer a couple of "Position Available" announcements for which we are seeking volunteers right now.

WANTED: Rentals Supervisor. This individual fields inquiries from folks who are looking to rent our facilities and answers their questions concerning availability, capacity, cost etc. Then, following St. Brendan's well documented policies and working with the Parish Administrator, she or he sees that the renter receives the appropriate forms and works with the renter to complete the process. George Snyder estimates that these tasks may require four hours per week, though this does fluctuate from one season to another. George has said that he will be available to train his successor.

WANTED: Scholarship Committee Chair. For 25 years, St. Brendan's has offered modest scholarships to teenagers in the parish who are pursuing higher education. The fund currently has a balance of a little under \$10,000 and most recently made awards worth about \$300 each. The bulk of the work for the Committee Chair falls in the Spring, when applications need to be solicited, received and reviewed. The current Chair is Tom Waseleski, who will be happy to brief his successor on the history and logistics of the fund.

WANTED: Memorial Garden Coordinator. Just outside the Chapel doors, you will find our Memorial Garden, in which parishioners are welcome to arrange for their cremains to be interred. Maintaining the Garden (mowing, trimming, etc.), working with potential purchasers, and ultimately managing interments fall to a small committee for which we are seeking a Coordinator to succeed Bill Spoonhoward and Dan Moore. The maintenance work is seasonal, while other functions may occur at any time.

"Very interesting!" you may say, as you prepare to scroll down to the next item in the Little Log. **But please, pause a moment.** Each of these vacancies is a ministry. Each offers an opportunity to extend the work of our faith community to others. **Each represents a way to "Walk in Love."** To paraphrase the familiar tag line, then: "If not you, then who? If not now, then when?"

[*OK. I can't simply leave the pledge situation unaddressed. As I write this column on December 1, Katie tells me we have just 47 pledges in hand. That's barely half of what we received this time last year. Please send in your pledge as soon as possible. Thank you.]

CRIES Advocacy

CRIES Advocacy, (Christian Response In Emergency Situations), meets monthly on the third Sunday in the library after the 10:00 a.m. service where they determine the distribution of St. Brendan's 10% tithe of our pledged income. This week we are praying for the work of Miryam's Kitchen. CRIES Advocacy makes a monthly donation for the purchase of meals. The next meeting is January 16th, 2022



Mark Your Calendars! **The St. Brendan's Book Club** will meet at the church on **Thursday, December 3rd at 7 pm** to discuss "Next Year in Havana" by Chanel Cleeton. It's the story of a Cuban American woman who travels to Havana following the death of her beloved grandmother. She subsequently discovers the roots of her identity and unearths a family secret hidden since the revolution. Join us for fun and fellowship as we discuss what is sure to be an intriguing book. Please feel free to email Chris Botti at shadypatch@msn.com if you have any questions. Hope to see you then!



Requested Prayers

We ask your prayers for our beloved members of St. Brendan's, especially; Megan Overby, Sharon Hlawati, Charlotte Pierce, Mary, Larry Toler, Benjamin Bigelow Roche, Alice Butterworth, Sandy Nagy, Rosie and Rodge Wood, Matthew, Mark Shoemaker and Larry Tarrant.

For our parents, especially; Kenneth and Adele McCormack, Sandy Martin, Ray Militzer, Naomi Getty and Lenora.

For our family members, especially; Sue Burchill, Raphael Walton, John Barie, Marie Hazelton, Chris Sensenich, Linda Ahlbrand, Kirk Latta, Tom Groves, Mike Dixon, Nathan Schlumpf, Bob Keihl, David Pingree and Robert Donato.

And for our friends, especially; Heidi Sherwin, Bill Phelps and Cat Munz, Dennis Ranalli, Becky Horton, Sherri Hilbert, Joan Gonzales, Heather and Dan Houle.



December 2021 Ministry Calander

Date	Lectors	Altar Guild	Sunday School	Greeters	Usher	Vestry	Hospitality
December 1 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
December 5 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am Thank you Regis ☩	8 Joan Beatrous 1 st AJ McKenna 2 nd Linda Limberis P Michael Donadee <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Ellen Groves 10 Shari Tarrant	n/a	Allyson Baierl Kate Heston Wesley Bell	Tim Austin Donna Aiello	Tim Austin	The Bertucci family
December 8 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
December 12 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Nancy Snyder 1 st Kate Heston 2 nd Mary Bertucci P Donna Aiello <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Sylvia Affleck 10 Janice Moore	n/a	Annemarie Malbon Donna Aiello Sharon Hlawati	Dale Bertucci Anthony Bertucci	Mary Bertucci	Need volunteer
December 15 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
December 19 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Charlotte Pierce 1 st Alan Schneider 2 nd Tony Turo P John Appledorn <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Joan Klinefelter 10 Libby Juel	n/a	Kathy Miller Dave Miller John Appledorn	Michael Donadee Eric Helmsen	Janice Moore	Need volunteer
December 22 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
December 24 Christmas Eve Children's Service 5:00	1 st Nate Boyd 2 nd AJ McKenna P Kate Heston	Shari Tarrant Anelisa Tarrant	n/a	n/a	Allyson Baierl Mike Wick		n/a
December 24 Christmas Eve Vigil 10:00	1 st Alan Schneider 2 nd Tony Turo P Tim Austin	Anelisa Tarrant Tammy Spoonhoward	n/a	n/a	Eric Helmsen		n/a
December 26 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am Lessons & Carols, 4th	8 Tammy Spoonhoward Various Readers		n/a	Allyson Baierl Megan Overby Tim Austin	Kate Heston John Appledorn	Larry Toler	Need volunteer
December 29 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a



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: Tim Austin
Jr. Warden: Janice Moore
Adult Formation: Ron Ladick
Audio-Visual Technology: Sean Sweeney
Communication: Lauren Ramakrishna
Finance: Mary Bertucci
Fundraising: Larry Toler
Inreach & Hospitality: Tim Austin
Newcomers: Tim Austin
Outreach: Donna Aiello
Safety & Security: Ron Ladick
Secretary/Clerk: Lauren Ramakrishna
Stewardship: Larry Toler
Worship: Cameron Grosh
Treasurer: Roger Botti
Assistant Treasurer: Ellen Groves

WORSHIP MINISTRY LEADERS

Acolytes: Anelisa Tarrant
Altar Guild: Anelisa Tarrant
Flower Ministry: Libby Juel
Sylvia Affleck
Scheduler: Kelli Cerra
Ushers: Eric Helmsen

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY LEADERS

Audit: Kevin Boyd
Book Club: Chris Botti
Book Discussion Club: Julie Smith
Brendan's Boots: Tom Waseleski
Dinner Group: Janice Moore
Finance Chair: Mary Bertucci
Green Thumb Gang: Dan Moore
Historian: Ellen Groves
Holiday Arts & Crafts & Cookie Walk: Karen Dennis
Memorial Garden: Dan Moore
Merry Meal Makers (M&M's): Saundy Waseleski
Reiki Ministry: Melanie Popovich
Rental: George Snyder
Scholarship: Tom Waseleski
Sticks & Strings: Joni Reis
Debbie Jennings
Web Site: Kelli Cerra
Annemarie Malbon

OUTREACH MINISTRY LEADERS

Adopt-A-Highway: Tom Waseleski
CRIES Advocacy: Ellen Groves
ESL: Tim Austin
Joyce Donadee
Linda Schneider
Garden of Hope: Open
Justice Ministry: Ginny Volponi
Miryam's: Julia Wick
North Hills Food Banks: Ruth Horton & Donna Aiello

ST. BRENDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Corner of Rochester & McAleer Roads
2365 McAleer Road, Sewickley, PA 15143
Phone ~ 412-364-5974

Office hours ~ Monday thru Friday 8:00-3:00

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

Online Parish Directory ~ <https://www.stbrpit.com/> (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, Regis Smolko ~ regisjs@verizon.net

Youth Education Director, Julie Smith ~ jlsphone1@gmail.com

Deacon, Darrell Johnson ~ johnsdj31@verizon.net

Parish Administrator, Katie Cervone ~ StBrendansKatie@gmail.com

Music Director, Daniel May ~ bluesub@verizon.net