



This Week at St. Brendan's

Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Worship, via live streaming https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkCY2BEJXlqMoVc_nXXG7ew
Monday	8:30 a.m.	Daily Morning Prayer Zoom ID # website https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4796201105
	11:00 a.m.	Be a Modern Episcopalian, via zoom
Tuesday	7:00 a.m.	AA meeting, via zoom Dial in 312-626-6799 Meeting Id: 345 892 252
	9:00 a.m.	Staff meeting, via zoom
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study, via zoom
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Sacristans

Sunday, May 24, 2020

Celebrant: The Rev. Regis Smolko

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

The Priest's Corner

And in the Midst of It All, Jesus Ascends Into Heaven!

As a young kid, I played Midget League Baseball on one of our town's teams. My position was center field. Prior to my ball playing, I developed a fascination with watching jets stream across the skies, especially the ones that left a solid white trail of white smoke in their wake. I would watch in awe, as that white smoke dissipated for up to 10-15 minutes. This was the coolest thing. So every time I heard a jet, my head immediately turned upwards.

So one day I was in my position of centerfield without much action going on and I heard that welcoming roar of a jet going by. Of course, my head turned upward and I was hooked. The trance took over as I stared skyward when suddenly I heard sounds of panic coming from the infield...and then the thump of a baseball about 7' to my left and the sliding fury of the left fielder diving ever so close to my stunned somewhat paralyzed suited-up frame. Then the unmistakable piercing voice of my furious coach, Harry Campbell, yelling from the dugout, "Smolko, get your head out of the clouds and back to the game. Play ball or I'll bench you for the rest of the season!" Ugh! Not my favorite day on earth.

As I write this Priest's Corner, today is Ascension Day—the day we commemorate the resurrected Jesus taking his earthly leave and returning to his Father in heaven. Quite a sad day for the disciples who went out to the mountain with Jesus and watched his departure. One of the Scripture readings for the day comes from Acts of the Apostles 1:11 which states, "...and the angel said, "Galileans, why are you standing there looking up at the sky? This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven." The Gospel from Luke 24 that follows goes on to say, "Then after Jesus withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven, the apostles worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

You know, we can get distracted from the work at hand—the work God is calling us to—when we keep staring at the skies. That's one of the important messages of Ascension Day. "Get to it! Quit escaping! You've got work to do!" So, now the time has come to get moving. We're not going to get done what we have to accomplish if we keep our heads in the clouds.

Of course, I'm thinking of the work ahead of us as we begin the process of reopening the church. Last week I attempted to set the tone for how we must do this—with total respect for the seriousness of the matter in front of us and with focus on the right things while avoiding unhelpful distractions. I received a record high response from this Priest's Corner. All responders were 100% on the page—totally supportive of what and how we're considering and planning for our move forward. My tone last week was a bit unusual from what most are used to. This was intentional as I wanted to create a sense of how severe and important this issue is and how we must carefully and with exacting precaution move forward. As a result, some wondered if we were experiencing resistance. I answered all of these concerns with the same reply: "No! I have heard no resistance." We did have some resistance as we were moving toward suspension during the beginning phases of the pandemic, but these have disappeared as we became more knowledgeable of exactly what we were up against. St Brendan's is always in the mark; I never doubted that, nor is there reason to do so going forward. We are perfectly positioned to succeed—and we will! Let's live from the life-giving view we caught looking upwards at the Ascension and keep our eye on the earthly ball we now pay attention to and win this game.

Respectfully submitted,

Regis+

Announcements



Last Call for parishioners who speak a second language!

We would love for you to take part in our Pentecost service on May 31 by helping with a (mildly) dramatized reading of the Pentecost story from Acts. All it takes is being willing to read a few sentences in a foreign language. (We will provide the text for you!) Which languages do we not have a reader for (yet)? Well ... Italian, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese ... or whatever other language you can read halfway plausibly. No worries if your accent isn't quite right or your pronunciation isn't exact -- no-one will notice! We hope to get the whole thing recorded in a Zoom call between 11:00 and 11:45 on Sunday, May 24. If you're interested, just give your name to Katie at St. Brendan's 412-364-5974 or stbrendanskatie@gmail.com. Thank you!



Have some sewing skills and extra fabric? The pastoral care team is sponsoring a project to deliver face masks to essential personnel. If you're interested, this is a link to a video and instructions on how to make them.

<https://www.craftpassion.com/face-mask-sewing-pattern/?pid=1257#picgallery> Once you have made a few, let us know and we'll arrange to pick them up from your home and make sure they go where needed. Contact Ruth Horton at rvhorton@gmail.com with any questions or when you have completed a few.

Senior Warden's Corner

These days, a diocesan committee that I serve on is busy reviewing plans submitted to the Bishop by parishes seeking to resume in-person services. The more that I and the other members of the committee study these plans, the more challenges we identify. On the other hand, we are also learning of ingenious responses to those challenges. It's a delicate balance.

In the coming weeks, Brendanites will need to grapple with our own situation and I have asked a number of our members to join a committee to begin that conversation. I will shortly announce the names of those who have agreed to serve; I am grateful to them all for their willingness to participate. Ultimately, the committee may solicit your ideas about resuming in-person worship. For now, anyone who wishes to express their thoughts and concerns can send them to me and I will pass them along to the committee.

Regis and I are also receiving requests from Brendanites and others who ask to return to our beautiful building for various reasons—to pursue ministry activities, for meetings of any of our many organizations, etc. Regis and I discuss each such request thoroughly and will accommodate them to the degree that we deem them compatible with the safety of our community as a whole.

This leads me to a request that we were unable to deflect: a request from the Board of Elections to use the church (as usual) as a polling place on Tuesday, June 2. This means that, on that day, our building will be visited by scores of individuals whose health we cannot know and whose hygiene practices we cannot control. **Regis and I are therefore very concerned that nobody should enter the church on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, June 3, 4 and 5.** The virus does not survive on surfaces for more than 72 hours, so simply allowing that time to elapse after the last voter leaves will provide sufficient protection. Notices will be posted on the doors to indicate that our building itself is in quarantine; please do not ignore that warning.

Sr. Warden, Tim Austin



Do you have a special prayer request? Contact Ruth Horton. Pastoral Care Ministry members will include those persons in daily prayers or send out a prayer via text or email to someone if requested. All prayers and requests are kept confidential.



JUNE 2 IS PRIMARY VOTING DAY!

You have just until May 26 to request an online ballot, so if you have not already done so and want to get one, this is the time to do it!

To vote: REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR MAIL IN BALLOT SO IT IS RECEIVED BY JUNE 2 AT 8:00 PM, OR GO TO YOUR POLL TO VOTE ON JUNE 2. This year polling locations have been consolidated and there is only one polling place for each municipality, so you may not be going to the same place as you have in the past. To find out where you will vote, you can go to www.alleghenycounty.us/elections, and scroll down to "June 2 Primary Election Information" and click on it. You will also be getting a postcard via US mail before the election, letting you know where your voting location will be. **Voting is a privilege and our civic duty. PLEASE VOTE!**

Join our Hallelujah Choir! In our Sunday, April 19, service we featured a video of many folks singing a joyful song called "Halle Hallelujah." We are inviting as many members of St. Brendan's (along with their friends and family) to do an individual video and send it to St. Brendan's. Each new video will be added to the main video each week. Eventually we hope to have over 100 people singing "Halle Hallelujah" together, and we are almost there! It's a fun way to spice up our weekly streaming service. Get more details and download the audio file here. <https://www.stbrendans.org/hallehallelujah>.

Kid's Corner

Buoyed by Faith

For the past few weeks, our readings have been focused on Jesus getting the disciples ready for his leaving. Which seems a bit strange, at least to us who kind of know the end of the story, because he was crucified a few weeks ago and left, then he came back and now he's getting ready to go away again?

As a college student, I was back and forth between home and college a lot, or it seemed like a lot, for several years. And each summer, I had to get ready to leave again. I had to buy clothes, and supplies, and notebooks and pens, meet with my friends and then a few days before I left (again) we would have a party. And then the day would come, and I would . . .leave. I think, no matter who is doing the leaving, while going away is hard, staying behind is harder. One person is off to a new adventure, and while sad about leaving friends behind, knows new friends, new adventures, new experiences are ahead. The ones staying behind know loss. They have lost a friend, or a loved one, and while they will have fun again, it is a different kind of fun without their friend. So it's important to know, and I mean really know, who your friends are and what each friend offers – who laughs a lot, who cries with you, who gets you out of a funk – you know your friends like this and when the times come, you know they will help you through the hard times and enjoy your good times.

So in looking at this week's readings, both what was written in Peter and in John, we see Jesus preparing his friends for his leaving. Jesus has been doing this all along, but in today's readings he is focused on what this leave-taking will look like and how the disciples will feel once he's gone. Jesus reminds them how hard life can be but also that God is with them, and that they are there for each other.

So in our reading from Acts, when Jesus was lifted into heaven (we call this the



the disciples were left behind and feeling sad. Jesus had gone to a new adventure with God and they were still at home. So they returned to their upper room, and the each one is named: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. Some of them we hardly ever hear about (like Bartholomew or Philip) and others we read about a lot (like Peter, John, Luke, Matthew, and Mark). But they were all together and they knew they could rely on each other. They knew which one made them laugh, and which one had a bad temper, and which one would jump in and start doing things without thinking them through. But they were together, and they knew they could count on each other to help them through the hard times and enjoy the good times.

Julie+



North Hills Food Pantry. During this time when we are unable to take donations into our church, the North Hills the North Hills Food Bank to the following address: North Hills Food Bank, 845 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15229. Thank you for your support.

Dear Friends of St. Brendan's,

St. Brendan's Episcopal Church would like to thank, and request your prayers for, the following parishioners and friends or family of parishioners. Each is a medical professional or an emergency first responder who is helping people cope with the Coronavirus outbreak. They are using their skills and risking their own well-being by tending to those whose health has been threatened.

We are grateful for their selfless dedication and ask that God watch over them, keep them safe and give them both strength and rest. We hope that you will join the church in thanking and praying for:

Kimberly Becker	Maddie Bell	Kate Burnett	Frank Casey	Bob Cerra
Brenna Conroy	Adele Cotter	James Cotter	Laura Dugan Demers	Nicholas Demers
Andrea Dickerson	Franklin Park Police Department		Franklin Park Volunteer Fire Department	
Rebecca Donadee	Amanda Gagnon	Jeff Gagnon	Shelley Gagnon	Betsy Gentile
Lynne Gloor	Ann Hockenberry	Beth Lutz Hoffman	Eric Hood	John Jacobs and staff
Kerri Jensen	Dr. Ken	Luke O'Neill	Kim Pierce	Becca Sands
Warren Sands	Andrew Smith	Justin Zeigler	Cindy	Jennifer
Julie	Lane	Mike	Patrick	

Prayer for our medical personnel and first responders.

Lord, please bless and care for all healthcare workers and first responders. Grant them wisdom, knowledge, skill and compassion so that they may be instruments of Your healing power for those they serve and care for. Give them strength and support. May they be able to do their work in a spirit of love and kindness and mercy. Keep them safe and well as they make personal sacrifices on behalf of Your community. Amen.

Hospitality Hour Hosts/Hostesses

October 2019  September 2020

October 2019

- 6 ~~Melanie & Thaddeus Popovich~~
- 13 ~~Dottie & Carl Antonucci~~
- 20 ~~Kinley & Aretz families~~
- 27 ~~Lauren Chappo and Becca Sands~~

November 2019

- 3 ~~Brenna Conroy & Kristen Bailey~~
- 10 ~~Melinda & Wesley Bell~~
- 17 ~~Sheila Bigelow & Jim Roche~~
- 24 ~~Church sign-up (Appetizers)~~

December 2019

- 1 ~~Choir~~
- 8 ~~Brigid & Jim Christenson~~
- 15 ~~Julie Smith & Colette Satler~~
- 22 ~~Church sign-up (appetizers)~~
- 29 ~~Stacey Coyle and Andrea Dickerson~~

January 2020

- 5 ~~Karen Dennis and Janet Fesq~~
- 12 ~~Mary & Dale Bertucci~~
- 19 ~~Joyce & Michael Donadee~~
- 26 ~~Annual Meeting church sign-up (soup)~~

February 2020

- 2 ~~Donna Aiello & Sharon Hlawati~~
- 9 ~~Chris & Roger Botti~~
- 16 ~~Richard Gordon, Janice & Dan Moore~~
- 23 ~~Anne Semmler and Cameron Gresh~~

March 2020

- 1 ~~Janice & Dan Moore~~
- 8 ~~Amy & Kevin Boyd~~
- 15 ~~Eric Helmsen and Ken Parsons~~
- 22 ~~open~~
- 29 ~~Meghan & Robert Karn~~

April 2020

- 5 ~~Cindy & Pete Larson~~
- 12 ~~Hospitality Committee~~
- 19 ~~Libby and Phoebe Juel~~
- 26 ~~Stephanie Illsley & Justin Ziegler~~

May 2020

- 3 ~~The Bertucci family~~
- 10 ~~Parish Men, Mother's Day~~
- 17 ~~Laureen & Todd Douds~~
- 24 ~~Sharon & Ron Ladick~~
- 31 ~~Linda & Jason Konley~~

June 2020

- 7 ~~Marian & AJ McKenna~~
~~Trish & Neil Galone~~
- 14 ~~Annemarie Malbon and Joe Macklin~~
- 21 ~~Erica & Mark McClure~~
- 28 ~~Parish Picnic~~

July 2020

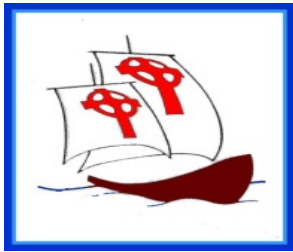
- 5 ~~open, volunteer needed~~
- 12 ~~Kate & Keith Heston~~
- 19 ~~Volunteer needed~~
- 26 ~~Joni Reis and Thaddeus Popovich~~

August 2020

- 2 ~~Lauren & Ashwin Ramakrishna~~
- 9 ~~Arlena & Bill Pugliese~~
- 16 ~~Anne Semmler and Andrew Sprentz~~
- 23 ~~Saundy & Tom Waseleski~~
- 30 ~~AJ Turo, Rob & George Latta~~

September 2020

- 6 ~~Nancy & George Snyder~~
- 13 ~~Emmalynne & Michael Waseleski~~
- 20 ~~Emily & Brad Zupancic~~
- 27 ~~Janet Fesq and Chris Fleissner~~



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.

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY LEADERS

Audit: Kevin Boyd
Book Club: Pat Carl
Brendan's Boots: Tom Waseleski
Dinner Group: Janice Moore
Finance Chair: Eric Helmsen
Green Thumb Gang: Dan Moore
Historian: Ellen Groves
Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale: Karen Dennis
Memorial Garden: Dan Moore
Merry Meal Makers (M&M's): Saundy Waseleski
Parish Profile: Inactive
Reiki Ministry: Melanie Popovich
Rental: George Snyder
Scholarship: Tom Waseleski
Sticks & Strings: Joni Reis
Debbie Jennings
Web Site: Kelli Cerra

OUTREACH MINISTRY LEADERS

Adopt-A-Highway: Tom Waseleski
CRIES Advocacy: Ellen Groves
English as a Second Language: Tim Austin
Joyce Donadee
Linda Schneider
Garden of Hope: Tim Michael
Miryam's: Julia Wick
Rob & George Latta
North Hills Food Bank Ministry: Larry Toler
Social Justice: Clair Grotevant
Marilyn Mulvihill
Under One Roof: Inactive

WORSHIP MINISTRY LEADERS

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

VESTRY MEMBERS

Sr. Warden: Tim Austin
Jr. Warden & Secretary/Clerk: Ruth Horton
Adult Formation: Dean Peters
Audio-Visual Technology: Cameron Grosh
Communication: Annemarie Malbon
Finance: Mary Bertucci
Fundraising: Larry Toler
Inreach & Hospitality: Janice Moore
Newcomers: Dean Peters and Mary Bertucci
Outreach and Social Justice: Donna Aiello
Safety & Security: Tim Austin
Treasurer: Ellen Groves
Assistant Treasurer: Roger Botti
Worship: Cameron Grosh

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 8:00-2:00
Web Site ~ <http://www.stbrendans.org>
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
Parish Administrator, Katie Cervone ~ stbrendans@comcast.net
Music Director, Daniel May ~ bluesub@verizon.net
Nursery Director, Stephanie Illsley ~ st3phy2011@gmail.com