



This Week at St. Brendan's

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship, via live streaming https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckCY2BEJXlqMoVc_nXXG7ew
Monday	8:30 am	Daily Morning Prayer Zoom ID # website https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4796201105 No password required
	11:00 am	Be a Modern Episcopalian, via zoom
Tuesday	7:00 am	AA meeting, via zoom Dial in 312-626-6799 Meeting Id: 345 892 252
	8:30 am	Staff meeting, via zoom
	10:30 am	Bible Study, via zoom
Saturday	9:00 am	Sacristans

Sunday, April 19, 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

Well, as a first-year ordained priest, this week after Easter is both a letdown and a time to recover. A letdown, because there was much planning, coordinating, and work to do and we worked so well together that the planning of Easter was a gift. A time to recover, because well, we were at church a lot. Earlier this year, as Fr. Regis & I planned our schedules, he & Ken would be away, and I would be supplying this week. My how the world has changed.

In early March, when we were all together in person, I was about to go to prison for a week-long training and when I got out of the training, it was March 13 and the world had changed. So here we are. Fr. Regis & Ken are here, a glorious Easter has again been celebrated, and we are figuring out how to move together into this unknown, and we are St. Brendan's. In discussing our schedule and moving forward, Fr. Regis and I have kept the young people of St. Brendan's uppermost in our thoughts. We discussed Children's Sundays, and having figured out some technical issues, we are planning a children's Sunday for next Sunday, April 26, on the fourth Sunday of the month, just like it should be.

And even though I've started writing a children's section for the Little Log, I thought maybe I should give you a short overview of what we're doing to keep the children engaged at, and with, St. Brendan's.

Fortunately, I had with me for February's Children's Sunday, the Children's Lectionary. So, for the first few weeks apart, I recorded a video of me reading the lectionary with images for each part of the reading. I also found short videos for the children to watch that explained the Gospel for two of the weeks. I learned a lot about recording and preparing videos for YouTube (I have my own channel – it's unlisted so you need a link to find it – there's a lot there including history lectures now). I also sent the families registered for Sunday School (and some others) a resource I found, *Illustrated Ministries*, which includes: the Gospel lesson for each week, a coloring sheet illustrating the lesson, a word search for children, a cross word puzzle for children, and a Zen-tangle for parents and/or children.

I asked the parents of those registered for Sunday School if their children could help make a movie about how their children envision Holy Week. The response was enthusiastic and wonderful. I sent ten scenes of Holy Week to the families, they chose a scene to create, and each family created with their own vision. If you haven't seen it, the link is <https://youtu.be/1nwwfW6ywCU> with the empty tomb found at <https://youtu.be/jpBMeJJ2oyE>. The Diocese shared it on their Facebook page, so I think it's been seen by more than 1,000 people by now.

The church also sent the children an Easter package that included an at-home scavenger hunt. There were cards printed for the parents to set out so while they needed to find some of the prizes, they didn't have to come up with the entirety of the hunt. I know we usually have an Easter Egg hunt, and I know the children look forward to that, but as Auden wrote at the very end of his Oratorio For the Time Being

He is the Way.
Follow Him through the land of Unlikeness;
You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures

Last year, my first sermon at St. Brendan's was the Sunday after Easter, *Doubting Thomas*, and I'm still at work redeeming Thomas. While each of the Apostles has his own story, Thomas is close to my heart because he is willing to ask questions, push back, and speak his mind. But also, because I don't think the opposite of faith is doubt; I think the opposite of faith is either legalistic blind

adherence to a law or not caring. Doubt means I care and I'm trying to figure out a relationship that may not be all that it could or should be. I have no doubt that St. Brendan's will survive and be stronger as we move through this experience together. After all, *we are . . . St. Brendan's!*

Julie+

Announcements

Vestry Meeting. The Vestry held its monthly meeting using Zoom on Monday, April 13. We discussed how best to use the \$14,000+ grant-in-aid that we received from the diocese to address safety and security needs, concluding that the most pressing need is to upgrade our obsolete fire alarm system. We approved an updated policy for disbursing parish funds. We discussed the steps currently under way to position the parish to apply for a Payroll Protection Program loan under the recent Federal CARES Act. And we approved funds to purchase new lavalier microphones to improve the quality of the live-streamed liturgies that have become our "new normal." Above all, however, we expressed our deep appreciation and gratitude to the small but hugely dedicated team who have worked so hard to keep our community "alive and kicking" in these challenging times. Truly, we are ... St. Brendan's!

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	Patrick	Mike
Julie	Jennifer	Cindy		

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.

CRIES response to Coronavirus Pandemic. April, 2020

1. Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. \$1,000
They anticipate a significant increased need due to the coronavirus. With all the lay-offs, business closures and school closings, many more people need donated food.
2. The Pittsburgh Foundation, *Emergency Action Fund*. \$1,000
They Address immediate and long-term impacts of COVID-19
 - a. To support small and mid-size non-profit organizations serving predominantly low-income households. Funding to assure organizations can meet basic needs of these people.
 - b. To organizations that manage emergency funds providing direct financial assistance to individuals impacted by COVID-19.
 - c. To support community health centers - funding for masks, protective gear and medical supplies.
 - d. To support small art organizations and individuals that have had to cancel productions.
3. Impact Your World - *MedShare* \$1,000
They provide urgently needed medical supplies, including masks and isolation gear, and medical equipment to healthcare professionals, clinics and hospitals for the fight against coronavirus.

Finally, our tithe to Brother's Brother Foundation will be directed to recovery response for the damage caused by the recent tornado in Arkansas and Kentucky.

Senior Warden's Corner

I want to begin by publicly applauding the cast of thousands that pulled together an amazing—if distinctly unorthodox—Holy Week. Our clergy proved to be a formidable tag-team of celebrants; Darrell and the members of the Worship Committee took individual responsibility for adapting the Book of Common Prayer rubrics to our streaming environment; Karen, Katie and Debra made sure to get the service sheets out to us in good time; Daniel was a constant fount of creative ideas about musical selections, most notably perhaps the beautiful *Dona Nobis Pacem* on Easter morning (in which he was aided by an impressive number of self-isolated musicians); our pre-recorded readings, psalms and prayers, were delivered by an army of Brendanites, near and far; and all of this was then brought to us by our technical team of Cameron and Sean. For me, the high point came during the early section

of the Great Vigil, as the fire and candlelight flickered in a darkened church and our readers led us through the great Old Testament passages that prefigure Jesus' Resurrection.

Following the end of our Easter Morning Eucharist, it didn't take long for the humdrum concerns of the parish to rush back in. On Monday evening, the Vestry conducted its regular April meeting. A summary of the business we addressed appears elsewhere in this Little Log and the full minutes will be posted once we return to the church building. In closing, I want to add two observations.

First, St. Brendan's is seeking every opportunity to participate in support programs designed to mitigate the financial impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. We have for example applied to the Church Pension Fund for a two-month waiver of retirement contributions for our two clergy (a step that will not, I stress, reduce their pensions when they eventually retire!). And we have positioned ourselves to apply for funding under the \$2tn CARES Act program for small businesses and non-profits. As national news outlets have made clear, this program has had many problems; however, we still hope to be able to benefit from its provisions in due course.

Second, there is something almost all of us can do—at no cost whatsoever to ourselves—to help St. Brendan's during these extraordinary times. Most of us are ordering steadily from Amazon and/or from Whole Foods. If we sign up for Amazon Smile and designate St. Brendan's as our preferred beneficiary, then a small portion of Amazon's profit margin on our purchases will find its way into the parish's account. Individually, the sums will not be great, but collectively, they could have a useful impact. It's simple to access Amazon Smile—the tough thing is to remember always to use that portal when ordering your goods! This can be yet another way in which We are ... St. Brendan's!

Sr. Warden, Tim Austin

St. Brendan's would like to help with meeting the needs of our community and neighbors. If you have medical equipment, especially **pulse oximeters**, that you might make available, please consider donating. The item would need to be wiped with disinfecting medium, such as a Clorox wipe, and packaged in a plastic bag. Contact me if you can help with this. Thank you! Regis



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.



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.



North Hills Food Pantry. During this time when we are unable to take donations into our church, the North Hills Food Bank is still in need of donations. Please consider making a monetary donation by sending a check payable to the North Hills Food Bank to the following address: North Hills Food Bank, 845 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15229. Thank you for your support.

Please visit our website: <http://www.stbrendans.org>

Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StBrendansEpiscopalChurch/>

Recommend us on Nextdoor: <https://nextdoor.com/pages/st-brendans-episcopal-church-sewickley-pa/recommend/>



NEW VOTER REFORM LAWS UPDATE. As many of you are aware, the upcoming Pennsylvania primary has been rescheduled for June 2. STOP THE SPREAD AND REGISTER TO VOTE BY MAIL: Anyone can sign up to vote by mail as long as you are already a registered voter – no reason necessary. Just go to VOTESPA.COM, click on "Other Links", then "Votes PA" and you can register right there. The county must receive your application May 26 at 5 p.m. Deadline to register to vote in PA is May 18. If you are not registered and want to be able to vote, or for more information on the latest improvements, visit VOTESPA.COM. For more information on the candidates, visit VOTE411.ORG starting about three weeks before each election.



This year Pittsburgh will celebrate **Earth Day virtually THIS Sunday, April 19, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm and Wednesday, April 22, starting at Noon.** The theme this year is a climate emergency; there will be teach-ins, speakers, and music! Please join others and sign up at <https://www.facebook.com/events/233475844491431/>. You can also sign up by going to St. Brendan's facebook page where you will find the link.

Kids' Corner

Buoyed by Faith – Children's Corner

It's BAAACCCCKKKKK! Children's Sunday. Next Sunday not this week but a whole week away. Look for the people you know from Sunday School – Rory and Prudence reading, a growing choir singing Halle Hallelujah! And more. So familiar faces, doing familiar things, in an unfamiliar way. It's that like growing up.

Well, this week, the Gospel reading is about Thomas. Now he's a disciple we don't hear a lot about and when anyone mentions him, it is usually because he said he doubted what other people were saying about seeing Jesus. Because when Jesus appeared the first time, Thomas was missing. So did he doubt that Jesus showed up or did he doubt what the others were saying? After all, Mary Magdalene saw Jesus first, and no one believed her. They went to see for themselves. So what should we think about Thomas' story of doubt?

Well if you go to school, think about what the teacher does every day to start the day – takes attendance. The teacher takes attendance so the teacher knows if you are missing, and if you are missing that you will have to make up work. Right? Right!

But what happens when you aren't there – some days there might be a fire drill; or a K-9 officer comes to your classroom; or someone does something really bad or really funny. And you miss it. I know I missed a lot of funny stuff because I missed a day of school. Or at least my friends said I missed a lot of funny stuff. Just like Thomas.

So when, Thomas said, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it," He was saying that because he didn't believe his friends.

And we know this because, the next week when the disciples are together again, and Thomas was with them, the exact same thing happened. The doors were locked but Jesus still came and stood among his disciples. He turned to Thomas and said, "See my hands; put your fingers here. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas didn't need to touch the wounds where the nails had been or put his hand into his side. He fell on his knees before Jesus and said, "My Lord and my God!"

One of the promises Jesus made us was "Where two or three gather in my name, I am there with them." Each week when you work on a color sheet or read about Jesus that is part of how we come together in the name of Jesus. So, what do we miss out on if we don't do those things? We miss out on the chance to be with Jesus!

Julie+



Several weeks ago, we at St. Brendan's, started **exploring email tools to help us keep in touch** with our parish, and friends. We planned to implement those changes slowly.

Now we find ourselves needing to stay in constant touch, so we're using those new email addresses more and more, and we need your help to be sure we're reaching you.

First, please keep an eye on your spam folders! There's a link at the bottom of this announcement with some instructions if you need them. You may see emails from St. Brendan's coming from Gmail addresses, or from admin@stbrendans.org, among others. Please add these emails to your contacts.

Feel free to respond to these emails, but please understand that you are not responding directly to Katie in every instance.

Here's how to check your spam folders:

<https://webscom.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/222205127-How-to-Check-your-Spam-Filter-and-Whitelist-Emails>.

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~~
- 17 ~~Lauren & 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

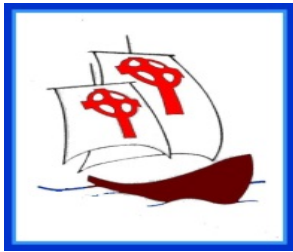
- 5 ~~open, volunteer needed~~
- 12 ~~Kate & Keith Heston~~
- 19 ~~Volunteer needed~~
- 26 ~~Joni Reis and Thaddeus Popovich~~

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
Community of Hope: 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 (with 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 Coordinator, Katie Cervone ~ stbrendans@comcast.net
Music Director, Daniel May ~ bluesub@verizon.net
Nursery Director, Stephanie Illsley ~ st3phy2011@gmail.com