



Epiphany

Sunday, January 23, 2022

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Bill Pugliese

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
11:00 am Be a Modern Episcopalian, via zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81976791143?pwd=NnN0cW5xSFVFMmk1VlFBcVJia05LQT09>
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
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** 3:00 pm Deacon hours
7:00 pm Evening Service, in person
- Friday** Varying Limited office hours, please call ahead.

The Priest's Corner

PUTTING THE GOD-IN-US TO DEATH

The Genesis story reminds us that we are made in the image and likeness of God. I will not get into a debate right here about the gender of God or even about what God looks like. It's a moot point. No one knows. And it is usually beside the point anyway. God is God. Because we are made in God's image and likeness, we are to be like God and what we do is to reflect what God would do were God doing what we are doing.

For when we do Godlike deeds, what we are doing is keeping God alive in us and God alive in the world around us. The problem we encounter is that we tend to do some ungodlike deeds: we call them sins. The other problem is that we sometimes take all the credit for the deeds that we do, sometimes, even, the Godlike ones, failing to give God the credit for our being able to do the good we do. Sometimes our ego gets in the way.

It often happens, as someone wisely observed, that we put the image of God in us to death. When pride takes over, there is no room for God in our lives, none at all. We become the god of our lives because we did it, not God, not someone else.

The remedy to pride, of course, is humility. Unfortunately, humility can be as false as pride is real. That is the Uriah Heep self-effacing humility that makes everyone around us ill. And there is the self-serving humility that is used as an excuse to excuse us from doing what we should be doing. And there is real, honest humility.

Norman Vincent Peale once observed that people with real humility don't think less of themselves; they just think of themselves less. That is difficult for a person whose pride leads her/him to believe that s/he is totally or mostly responsible for whatever is being praised. It is also impossible for those who use a false humility to escape responsibility.

Real Christian humility is an acknowledgement that God is truly seen in us, in what we say and do, how we live our lives. True humility is the awareness of how fragile we are, how easy it is for us to succumb to pride, how thankful we should be for the honor of making God known to others by our very lives. True humility understands how easy it is for us to put the God-who-lives-in-us to death.

The truly humble person thinks of others first, realizing that each one of us is called to follow Jesus' example: and that is to live a life of service to others. In living that life there is a priority order: first, to serve God; second, to serve others; finally, to serve ourselves:

love God, love neighbor, love self. If we live our life of service in that order, it becomes difficult for us to spend a lot of time thinking about ourselves.

When a humble person thinks about Good Old Number One, that person knows that God is Number One, others are Number Two, and self is Number Three. The temptation, of course, is always to reverse the order, and, sadly, we often do.

Bill



A BFF donation was given in memory of Nancy Skavish from her daughter, Elizabeth Skavish & Michael Rubenstein.

A donation to the Brendan's Family and Friends (BFF) fund is the perfect way to honor a special day or loved one while supporting unbudgeted building needs of our church. BFF funds have been used to purchase various items.

Thank you for making a difference at St. Brendan's by becoming a BFF donor. Contact Katie if you are interested in making a donation. stbrendanskatie@gmail.com

Children's Corner



Have you ever tried to use your opposite hand? I am very right-handed. I play golf with right-handed clubs, I play tennis with my right hand, I write with my right hand, and I do almost everything with my right hand.

But . . . I found out in high school when I tried to shoot an arrow, that my left eye is my dominate eye. I poked myself in the right eye trying to line up the target, and still missed the entire target. And when I had my right hand in a cast for a while, I learned pretty quickly how important my left hand is.

Now image if my right hand said to my left hand, "I do all the work so I must be more important or mean more to Julie than you do. All you do is . . . let me think – balance her out so she doesn't fall?" Well, that is a pretty big job by itself. But my left hand also helps when I'm working in the garden and need two hands to do the job, I carry things with my left hand, and I usually put my back pack on my left shoulder. My left hand is pretty important too.

What does this have to do with God and Jesus? Well, this week's lessons are about, being united. Being one church. Just like we have one body and your feet are not more important than your elbows, one person in church is not more important to God than another. Now you might think, wait, we can't have church without . . . a priest?

But, collectively we are the church, you and me. The church is not a building, and it is not the priest, but we are the church – the hands and feet of Christ working in the world. And God gave each of us a special gift to do that work. No one gift is greater than the other.

Our New Testament lesson this week is from Corinthians, where it says, "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!'"

We each have special gifts that are important to God and His church. Some of us have been given the gift to be a pastor or teacher, while others have been given the gift of singing, healing, helping others, or leading people. Maybe you have the gift of being creative, being a great listener, or something totally different.

Think about what is one special gift God has given you? How can you use it to serve others? Just as God gave us hands, feet, eyes, and ears to meet the needs of the whole body, God gave different people different gifts to meet the needs of the whole church.

**Peace,
Julie+**



For the month of January, the **North Hills Food Bank** is in particular need of personal toiletries like toothpaste, shampoo, or bath soap. Laundry and dish detergent (not for dishwashers) is also needed. Of course they will always accept non-perishable food items.

Note: The food banks do not accept anything in glass jars. Please do not leave any expired items.

Need food? If you or someone you know has a food shortage, contact the church and we will be happy to help.



The sign up for **Altar Flowers** is looking very bare. If you would like to give flowers, the cost is \$40 and should be given to Katie. Please sign up in the narthex or contact Katie (StBrendansKatie@gmail.com)with the Sunday you'd like for your flowers, especially if you want to take a particular Sunday. Your donation will be noted in the bulletin and you will be able to take the flowers after the 10:00 a.m. service. If you prefer, Father Bill will suggest a recipient and they will be delivered to that person.



Did you know? We have a library of past Public Forums presented by St. Brendan's Justice Ministry right on our Website for anyone that would like to view them. If you haven't had a chance to attend a Forum, or if you would like to view one that you've already seen, just go to stbrendans.org, click on "Events" and then on "Justice Forums", and you'll have all the recordings right there.

Senior Warden's Corner

At some point in 2018 (so the Web tells me), the name "Karen" was first adopted in popular culture as a meme referring to a woman of privilege who is unintelligent, tone-deaf in discussing sensitive issues, vociferously self-righteous, and equally loud-mouthed when criticizing others (especially people from a social background different than her own).

How cruelly inappropriate that usage appears as we struggle today to make sense of the fact that St. Brendan's has lost two Karens in just six months—Karen Peters and Karen Dennis—when each of them was the complete and utter antithesis of the character type supposedly captured by the popular meme. Each of our Karens was, in her own way, energetically committed to the Gospel message as she saw and interpreted it, incisive in her insights and decisive in her actions, and happy to laugh with rather than at others (even, sometimes, at her own expense). Each achieved so much at and for our parish that we cannot help but grieve for ourselves as well as for her family and her personal friends.

At the same time, when I think of our Karens, I can't imagine a better way to honor their memories than to tighten our collective belt, take a deep breath, and resolve to continue with renewed energy the work that they began. Welcoming newcomers at our doors, hosting informal gatherings to introduce Brendanites to one another outside the setting of a liturgy, attracting members of the public to attend thoughtful presentations by prominent speakers, and running fundraisers that far exceed their announced goals: these are among the major headlines in the 2021 Annual Parish Report that you will shortly receive. What better New Year's Resolution could there be than to devote 2022 to building confidently on the foundations that the Karens laid?

Tim Austin

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.

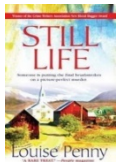


January's *Evening Prayer/Taize* service will be **Wednesday, January 26 at 7:00 PM** in the chapel. This is a quiet, peaceful, candlelight prayer service with meditation time, followed by Eucharist. The perfect midweek antidote to a busy week! The candle-lit chapel is especially lovely at this time of year, with its shorter daylight hours. Mark your calendars! We'll see you there!

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.

**CRIS
Advocac**

CRIS 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 Brother's Brother Foundation, a local organization that works to improve health care, infrastructure, education and responds to natural disasters.



Book Club News: Join us at our next meeting on **Thursday, February 3rd at 7 pm** when we discuss "Still Life" by Louise Penny. When a beloved, retired schoolteacher is found dead in the woods, the locals are certain that it was a tragic hunting accident. However, Chief Inspector Armand Gamache and his team uncover dark secrets shadowing this usually peaceful village. Come and unravel the truth in this award-winning tale! More info to come on whether we will meet in person or via Zoom. Stay tuned!

Upcoming Events from our Neighbors

The Beloved Community Initiative (BCI) has scheduled two monthly events for 2022 for anyone in the diocese to attend. The first Wednesday of each month will be a bible reading and the third Wednesday of each month will be a prayer and share. You can attend as you are able.

The following link will give you access to the Grace Happens Edition with the link:

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Grace-Happens--News-and-Notes-from-the-Episcopal-Diocese-of-Pittsburgh.html?soid=1102573040587&aid=wiXJtiarMHw>



Our Right to Clean Air

A Resident-Led Town Hall

[REGISTER FOR 1/26/22 NOON RESIDENT-LED TOWN HALL](#) The Next Virtual Town Hall:

Jan. 26, 2022, Noon

U.S. Steel Defeats ACHD and Then Doubles Down in Arkansas

Rich Fitzgerald Attacks the Messenger

AHN & UPMC Fail to Respond to Requests to Discuss Air Quality

REGISTER FOR 1/26/22 NOON RESIDENT-LED TOWN HALL

Requested Prayers

For our beloved members of St. Brendan's, especially; Alice Butterworth, Mark Shoemaker, Charlotte Pierce, Jim Gray, Matthew, Sophia and Brad Thompson, Larry Toler, Jean Skwarecki, Sandy Nagy, Rosie and Rodge Wood and Larry Tarrant.

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

For our family members, especially; Tyler, Charlotte and Stacy Latta Connifey, Lizzie and Aunt Lisa, John, Bob Berkebile, Sue Burchill, Mike Dixon, John Barie, Raphael Walton, Chris Sensenich, Linda and Callie Ahlbrand, Marie Hazelton, Bob Keihl, Tom Groves, Nathan Schlumpf, David Pingree and Robert Donato.

And for our friends, especially; Jim Blackburn, Bill Phelps, The White family, Dennis Ranalli, Becky Horton, Sherri Hilbert, Joan Gonzales, Heather and Dan Houle.

We pray for all who have died, especially Karen Dennis.

St. Brendan's Episcopal Church would like to thank, and request your prayers for, the following. 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.

Kimberly Becker	Maddie Bell	Sheila Bigelow	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	Chris Fleissner	Amanda Gagnon	Jeff Gagnon	Betsy Gentile
Lynne Gloor	Ann Hockenberry	Beth Lutz Hoffman	Eric Hood	John Jacobs and staff
Kerri Jensen	Dr. Ken Judson	Abby Montgomery	Luke O'Neill	Kim Pierce
Becca Sands	Warren Sands	Andrew Smith	Cindy Jennifer	Julie
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.



January 2022 Ministry Calander

Date	Lectors	Altar Guild	Sunday School	Greeters	Usher	Vestry	Hospitality
January 2 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Ellen Groves 1 st Alan Schneider 2 nd Donna Aiello P Linda Limberis <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Ellen Groves Libby Juel	n/a	Kathy Miller Dave Miller Wesley Bell	Tim Austin Donna Aiello	Ron Ladick	Postponed
January 5 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 9 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Nancy Snyder 1 st Tim Austin 2 nd Marilyn Mulvihill P Dean Peters <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Joan Klinefelter Shari Tarrant	n/a	Toni Passarello Saundy Waseleski Tom Waseleski	John Appledorn Allyson Baierl	Janice Moore	Postponed
January 12 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 16 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Sylvia Affleck 1 st Dean Peters 2 nd Annemarie Malbon P Tony Turo <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Sylvia Affleck Janice Moore	n/a	Donna Aiello Sharon Hlawati Dean Peters	Michael Donadee Kate Heston	Larry Toler	Postponed
January 19 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 23 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Joan Beatrous 1 st John Appledorn 2 nd Kate Heston P Marilyn Mulvihill <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Tammy Spoonhoward Phoebe Juel	n/a	Dean Peters	Eric Helmsen Mike Wick	Donna Aiello	Postponed
January 26 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 30 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am Children's Sunday, 5th	8 Tammy Spoonhoward 1 st Children 2 nd Children P Children <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Sylvia Affleck Libby Juel	n/a	Toni Passarello Annemarie Malbon Wesley Bell	Dale Bertucci Anthony Bertucci	Mary Bertucci	Postponed

