



THE 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 23, 2022



PARISH OFFICE

5012 Dune Drive, Avalon, NJ 08202

Phone: 609-967-3746 • Fax: 609-967-8172

Open: Monday - Friday 9AM - 4:30PM
(closed for Lunch 12 - 1PM)

SERVING OUR PARISH

Father William J. Kelly, V.F., Pastor

Deacon Charles Devlin

Deacon Bob Dooley

Administrative Assistant— Maria Leonard

Wedding Coordinator— Michelle Dooley

Bookkeeper— Linda DiSabatino

Facilities Manager— Anita Stenger

Maintenance Supervisor— Bob Biernbaum

Music Director— Kathi Getka

Bulletin Editor— Michelle Vidal

LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

Bernadette Krebs— 609-224-0306

BISHOP MCHUGH REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Alicia Farren

609-624-1900

PARISH MASS SCHEDULE

Maris Stella Church

5012 Dune Drive
Avalon, NJ

Saturday: 5:00PM

(Confession: 4-4:30PM)

Sunday:

7:30AM (no music)

9:00AM

11:00AM

Weekdays:

8:00AM on

Tues., Thurs., Sat.

(Confession after Sat. AM
Mass)

St. Paul Church

9910 Third Avenue
Stone Harbor, NJ

Saturday: 4:00PM

(Confession: 3-3:30PM)

Sunday:

8:00AM

10:00AM

Weekdays:

8:00AM on

Mon., Wed., Fri.

Sacred Heart Church: 25th & First Ave, Avalon

Mass: Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00AM (Jan. & Feb. only)

Music and Readings for January 23

GATHERING HYMN *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to His feet thy tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore His praises sing. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

Praise Him for His grace and favor to His children in distress. Praise him, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless. Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness!

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise You, we bless You, we adore You, we glorify You; we give You thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

READING I NEH 8:2-4A, 5-6, 8-10

Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, which consisted of men, women, and those children old enough to understand. Standing at one end of the open place that was before the Water Gate, he read out of the book from daybreak till midday, in the presence of the men, the women, and those children old enough to understand; and all the people listened attentively to the book of the law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the occasion. He opened the scroll so that all the people might see it — for he was standing higher up than any of the people —; and, as he opened it, all the people rose. Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people, their hands raised high, answered, “Amen, amen!” Then they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the LORD, their faces to the ground. Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read. Then Nehemiah, that is, His Excellency, and Ezra the priest-scribe and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people: “Today is holy to the LORD your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep” — for all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law. He said further: “Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared; for today is holy to our LORD. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the LORD must be your strength!”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.

READING II 1 COR 12:12-30

Brothers and sisters: As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

Now the body is not a single part, but many. If a foot should say, “Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body, “it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. Or if an ear should say, “Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body, “ it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as He intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I do not need you, “nor again the head to the feet, “I do not need you.” Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.

Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret .

ALLELUIA Lk 4:18

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, and to proclaim liberty to captives.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of Him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all.

He came to Nazareth, where He had grown up, and went according to His custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.

Rolling up the scroll, He handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at Him. He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven (*all bow*) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Only These Alone Are Enough*

(Instrumental)

COMMUNION HYMN *The Supper of the Lord*

R: Precious body, precious blood, seen as bread and wine; here the Lord prepares the feast divine. Bread of love is broken now, cup of life is poured; come, share the supper of the Lord.

This is the bread of God coming down from heav'n, giving life to us, to all the world. **R.**

"I am the living spring of eternal life; you that drink from Me shall not thirst again." **R.**

"I am the bread of heav'n giving life to you; you that eat this bread shall never die." **R.**

"All those who feed on Me have their life in me, as I have my life in the living God." **R.**

SENDING FORTH HYMN *Rain Down*

R: Rain down, rain down, rain down Your love on Your people. Rain down, rain down, rain down Your love, God of life. Faithful and true is the word of our God. All of God's works are so worthy of trust. God's mercy falls on the just and the right; full of God's love is the earth. **R.**

St. Brendan the Navigator Parish

MASS INTENTIONS

MARIS STELLA CHURCH (MS), Avalon; ST PAUL CHURCH (SP), Stone Harbor;
SACRED HEART CHURCH (SH), Avalon

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

- 8:00 AM (MS) **Maureen Maguire** by Dona & Carl Mattia
4:00 PM (STP) **Claire & Joseph McMenamain** by Penny March & Kathy Ferguson
John Honer, Sr. by Eileen & John Post
Patricia Corcoran by Carol & John MacFeat
Charles Sosangelis by Scott & Isabella Prince
5:00 PM (MS) **Vincent Reilly** by Bill & Kay Leahy
Margaret Kindsvatter by Regina Caratelli
Josephine Heintzelman by The Maris Stella Rosary Group
Erik Burns by Marie & Don Flannigan

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

- 7:30AM (MS) **Margaret Kindsvatter** by The Maris Stella Rosary Group
8:00 AM (STP) **Holy Souls** by Mary Reilly
9:00 AM (MS) **Ann & Francis Dalton** by The Flannery Family
10:00 AM (STP) **Graziella Iacovino** by Gary & Joanne Wachman
11:00 AM (MS) **Olga Pollack** by Mary & Richard Goldman

MONDAY, JANUARY 24 *St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*

- 8:00AM (STP) **Charles Boylan** by Mike & Penny Ternosky

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25 *The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle*

- 8:00AM (SH) **Robert Gilbert** by Loretta Short

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26 *Sts. Timothy & Titus, Bishops*

- 8:00AM (STP) **James Mackell, Jr.** by Family

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27 *St. Angela Merici, Virgin*

- 8:00AM (SH) **For Protection of Babies in the Womb and their Families** by Cape May County Right to Life

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28 *St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church*

- 8:00AM (STP) **Janice M. Laub** by Tess & Brian Glancey

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29 *BVM*


- 8:00AM (MS) **Helen Quinn** by Joan Piotrowski

VIGIL

- 4:00PM (STP) **William Smith** by Tess & Brian Glancey
Mike Kondrila by The Kirk Family
Jim Kozin by The Kirk Family
5:00PM (MS) **Stephen F. Rotchford** by Jim McDonald
María Biagi by Andrea Bianco-Rieti
James McKinle by Carol & John MacFeat

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

- 7:30AM (MS) **Erik Burns** by Sue & Betty Keen
8:00AM (STP) **Holy Souls**
9:00AM (MS) **Joseph P. McGowan** by Joyce McGowan & Family
10:00AM (STP) **Graziella Iacovino** by Ed & Kathy Flynn
11:00AM (MS) **John M. Elliott, Esquire** by James & Debra Martin

 Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life; rather, look to them with full hope that as they arise. God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will carry you in His arms. Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same understanding Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering or will give you unflinching strength to bear it. Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations. -Saint Francis de Sales

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I Love You above all things, And I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You Sacramentally, come at least Spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



Prayer to Saint Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Let us pray for: the unborn and their parents, the sick and the dying, the poor and the lonely, those persecuted for their faith, and all the faithful departed - especially those with no one else to pray for them.

Let us pray for: Pope Francis, Bishop Sullivan, all Priests, Deacons and Religious, for an increase in vocations, and for all those discerning a religious vocation.

Let us pray for: all first responders, and medical staffs as they selflessly put others before themselves.

Let us pray for: those serving in the military, their families, and our country.

Please pray for our sick: *Bill Burns, Pat Williams, Theresa Polak, Michelle Vidal, Sis Hilkert*

Let us pray for our deceased: *Maureen Maguire, Pat Corcoran, Marty Kindsvatter, Erik Burns, Maureen Corrigan, Charles Boylan*

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Names will remain on the sick list for 3 months, and on the list of the deceased for 1 month.

* Please call or email the parish office to include the name of your loved one. Call 609-967-3746 or email frontdesk@stbrendanavalon.org. *

Lord, hear our prayers.

One must never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul.

Masses intentions are accepted in the Parish Office.



The Sanctuary Candle and Altar Flowers



may be in memory of a loved one or for a special intention. Please call the parish office at 609

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PARISH REGISTRATION:

Welcome new parishioners! We are blessed to have you share in this Eucharist Celebration. We invite you to become part of our parish family. Please contact the parish office to register with us.

BAPTISM:

Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements. Also, please note that **all parents who are scheduling Baptism for their child/children must attend a Baptismal Prep class if this is the first child they are having baptized.** The prep class is held each month for baptisms the following month. The classes are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7PM in Quinn Hall (St. Paul) in Stone Harbor. Classes will be instructed by Deacon Charlie Devlin. Please register for the class by calling the Parish Office 609-967-3746.

MARRIAGE:

Contact the Parish Office for availability and information. The common policy set by the Bishops of the Province of New Jersey requires a one year preparation for marriage.

DEVOTIONS

ADORATION

St. Paul Church: Wednesday evenings, 6-7PM and First Friday 8:30AM - NOON

ROSARY GROUP

Maris Stella Church: Tuesday evenings, 7PM
The ROSARY is prayed before each daily Mass.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Maris Stella Church: Tuesday after Mass
St. Paul Church: Wednesday after Mass

OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

St. Paul Church: Daily 9AM - 4PM
Sacred Heart Church: Daily 9AM - 3PM

Maris Stella Church: *Saturday Only*, 9AM - 3PM

We are Live Streaming the Mass on Sundays at 9:00AM for those unable to attend Mass in person.

Please visit our website:

www.stbrendanavalon.org

Additionally, a recording of this Mass can be found on our website throughout the day.

St. Brendan the Navigator Parish

ALTAR SERVERS

We need both children and adults who would be interested in serving at weekend Masses as well as weddings and funerals if available. Training will be provided. It will be two separate ministries for children and adults. Adults will not have to wear albs. For information contact Deacon Bob by phone or text at 609-287-9205, or email deacon@stbrendanavalon.org, or

BECOMING FULLY CATHOLIC

If you or someone you know is not fully initiated in the Catholic Church (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation), or a family member or friend has questions about becoming a Catholic, please contact Deacon Bob at 609-287-9205 or email deacon@stbrendanavalon.org or call Fr. Kelly at the office.

Do you have the gift of hospitality? Do you like weddings? St. Brendan the Navigator is starting a **Wedding Ministry** to assist the engaged couple, and the Priest/Deacon at the Rehearsal and the Wedding. To learn more please join us on Monday, January 24th at 2PM, Quinn Hall, Stone Harbor, Thank You! Michelle (609-827-2127.)

EMHC VIRTUAL TRAINING

Initial training for new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Training includes serving at Liturgy as well as Visiting the Sick and Homebound

February 2 and 9, 7-9PM via Zoom: \$40

Contact the Parish Office for an application.

LECTOR VIRTUAL TRAINING

Initial training for new Lectors include Diocesan Three Year Certification

February 15 and 22, 7-9PM via Zoom: \$40

Contact the Parish Office for a registration form.

A Social Distance section of pews during Mass has been designated in the Church which will require a face covering if you choose to sit there. This section is located on the ORGAN side of the church and can be identified by the use of alternating pews.

A General Blessing of the Throats will occur at all Masses next Saturday, January 29, and Sunday, January, 30.

2021 GIVING STATEMENTS FOR TAX PURPOSES

are available. If you would like a tax letter please email Michelle (datamanager@stbrendanavalon.org) with your request. Include your name, address, email and whether you would like it emailed or mailed via post office. Thank you!

Branches, Holy Redeemer Food Bank and the Mobile Pantry are in need of the following items:

Canned Soup, Crackers, large containers of Juice, Chef Boyardee, Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce, Mac & Cheese, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Bread, Powdered & Boxed Milk, Cereal, Mayo, Tuna, Canned Fruit, Pork & Beans, Hot Dogs, Pudding, Canned Beef Stew, healthy snacks, fruit cups **There are containers in all churches. Churches are open daily.**

Branches accepts monetary donations online at:
www.thebranchesoutreach.org

Holy Redeemer Food Bank accepts monetary donations:
checks can be mailed to 1801 Rte 9 N, CMCH, NJ 08210



St. Brendan the Navigator is a support parish of the **FAMILY PROMISE NETWORK** of churches throughout Cape May County who offer shelter, food, and social services support within a faith-filled outreach program. As a support church, we assist with preparing dinners, social interaction with families in the program, and overnight support when the families stay at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Stone Harbor. **If you want to become a part of a hands-on outreach** to those who need to see the face of Christ through the compassionate efforts of men and women of faith, **please contact:** Peg Bozzi (609-560-1302) or Bunny Parzych (609-675-1454).

Every moment comes to us pregnant with a command from God, only to pass on and plunge into eternity, there to remain forever what we have made of it.

– Saint Francis de Sales



RETRouvaille: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR

MARRIAGE Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of **February 11 -13** at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.



CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

is a weekend away with other engaged couples which allows plenty of time alone as a couple to dialogue honestly and intensively about your prospective life together. The Sunday Mass celebration is an important part of the program.

Engaged Encounter Weekends are held at Pope John Paul II Retreat Center in Vineland, NJ. All weekends begin promptly at 8:00PM, Friday evening, and close by 3:00PM Sunday afternoon.

Upcoming Weekends: March 11 - 13; June 10 - 12; August 12 - 14; November 11 - 13. The registration fee of \$410 for Catholic Engaged Encounter includes lodging, meals, and program resources for the weekend for two people. To register go to camdendiocese.org/engagedencounter/ Questions: Please contact the Office of Family and Youth Ministry by phone at 856-583-2908 or email at MarriagePrep@camdendiocese.org

Do you or someone you love need care at home?
Contact the Diocese of Camden’s Home & Parish Healthcare Services Resource and Referral Help Line
1-888-26 VITALITY (1-888-268-4825)
A Free and simple Gateway to Help at Home.

PARISH REGIONAL SCHOOL:
Bishop McHugh Regional Catholic School Pre-K—8
2221 Rt. 9 North, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
Phone (609) 624-1900

“Whenever the Divine favor chooses someone to receive a special grace, or to accept a lofty vocation, God adorns the person chosen with all the gifts of the Spirit needed to fulfill the task at hand.”
-Saint Bernardino of Sienna

YOUNG ADULT PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT GROUP
-an opportunity to meet with other young men (16-39 years old) considering the priesthood. Meetings are held about once a month at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Office, Lindenwold, to discuss topics of discernment and to support one another in the discernment process. For more information, contact Father Adam Cichoski, Director of Vocations, at Adam.Cichoski@camdendiocese.org.

It Shouldn’t Hurt at Home.
If you experience any form of abuse, please know that there is help. The Catholic community cares about families experiencing violence and unhealthy relationships. Visit www.CatholicsforFamilyPeace.org to learn more about this issue, how to help, who to call, and the rich Catholic teaching that supports survivors. If you need help now, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800-799-7233 (24 hours); 800-787-3224 (TTY); www.ndvh.org to find assistance near you.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ADDICTIONS HEALING HELPLINE:
1-856-342-4057 - 24 hours
Leave a message, and receive a callback within 24 hours between 9AM – 4PM, Monday-Friday.
For more information contact
JoAnne.Farrell@camdendiocese.org

REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE
An independent, toll-free number has been established by the Diocese of Camden to help callers report cases of sexual abuse by priests, deacons, religious, employees and/or volunteers. For information or to inquire about counseling and support services, call 1-800-964-6588.

PLANT YOUR WORKS IN THE WORD

One of the things about Scripture is that even the smallest word and shortest phrase can be critical to the overall message. When you take a quiet moment to rest with the Word, you find how quickly the most mundane sentence can reach out and grab you, pulling you into a deeper contemplation of some truth you hadn't even considered until then.

But we often fail to act as the Israelites in the Book of Nehemiah, standing before the Water Gate "listening attentively." Whether it's at Mass during the Liturgy of the Word or at home poring over the Bible, time after time we find ourselves less mindful than we could be. Our ears accept the sounds of the words and our eyes glance over the shape of the letters.

But are we mindful — truly?

The best answer is hopefully at least sometimes. There are always tasks to be completed, problems weighing on our minds that we can't quite give over to God. We lose ourselves in these things instead of in Scripture. We "clock in" with Bible reading instead of "diving in."

We can never forget that the words of the Lord are spirit and life. They are the soil that quickens the seed of all stewardship. There is no mindfulness, no prayer, no graciousness, no gratitude or accountability or sense of commitment unless there is the Word.

So let us pray today for mindfulness, that our every action will be grounded in the law of God — giving it true spirit and life.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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BULLETIN DEADLINE

All bulletin items should be sent to parishoffice@stbrendanavalon.org

not later than 14 days before requested publication. Major holidays will alter the deadline. Please note, submissions may be edited to fit available space.

We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without our advertisers, and they need your help more than ever. Please support them and shop local.



Ask the Parish Council a question or address any issue you have: parishcouncil@stbrendanavalon.org

The work of the **FACILITIES TEAM** is to provide oversight into the upkeep of each building in the parish. The members of the committee have been assigned as such:

Tom Speakman—St Paul Rectory— 609-368-2243 or Speakmant8408@gmail.com

Gene Boyd—St Paul Church —609-602-7613 or ewboyd@aol.com

Terrie Cwik - Quinn Hall - 609-368-4125

Ed Grubb - Tierney Hall - ejgrubb@verizon.net

Mike Matt - Maris Stella Church - 609-368-0512 or mmatt01@gmail.com

Anita Stenger - Parish Office - 609-368-0737 or facilities@stbrendanavalon.org

Joe Stenger - Sacred Heart Church - 609-368-0737 or jvs4415@yahoo.com

The team members ask that if you see any concerns in these buildings, or have any suggestions for enhancements, you contact the responsible members only. They will relay the information to the committee for consideration. Any emergency item should be referred immediately to the parish office.

St. Brendan the Navigator Parish Mission Statement: Our Catholic community in Avalon and Stone Harbor, NJ is committed to implementing, following, and spreading the teachings of Jesus Christ. We also invite, welcome, and encourage each member of our community and visitors to actively participate with us in our Catholic Faith. Our community joyfully joins in celebrating the Eucharist and the sacraments, recognizing God in one another, and serving those in need. We remember and believe that we are all brothers and sisters, the children of our all-loving heavenly Father.

Stewardship Sharing

“Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared...”

- Nehemiah 8:10

Ezra's instructions to the people show us that God does not forbid us from enjoying the good things in life. He wants us to be happy! However, God expects us to be grateful for all that He has given us and through our Stewardship to generously share our blessings with those who are in need. Now here's the hard part – to share all we have without expecting anything in return.

WHAT WE BELIEVE - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED***Is it right to sue someone? Isn't it a way of getting revenge?***

Revenge is inflicting harm for harm's sake, the idea of an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and then some. There is often a fine line between justice and mercy, between compensation and forgiveness. Unfortunately, things can happen to us that cause harm, suffering, and damage, regardless of people's intentions. When someone is hurt, especially in such a way that special care or treatment is required, the cost of that care needs to be paid.

In a perfect world, those with special needs, handicaps, or disabilities would find the help and care they need, including those who are injured or hurt. But justice is not always forthcoming, and people are not always fair. So, using the legal system to right a wrong is sometimes the only option.

In some cases, it is the only way that people can get the help they need and deserve. However, frivolous lawsuits, or 'fishing for money' is not only unfair, but immoral as well. The law is there to protect people and making use of it when necessary is a good thing. ©LPi

SAINT OF THE WEEK – EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH: St. Thomas Aquinas

One of the most famous members of the Dominican Order, St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274) is well-known by many for his theological work, “The Summa Theologiae.” Born in Italy, his mother wanted him to become a Benedictine and had high hopes that he would eventually become abbot of Monte Cassino, where he spent much of his youth. To change his vocation, she had him kidnapped by his brothers on his way to Paris at the age of 19. He spent two years in their captivity. Despite this, nothing could shake him from his vocation to become a Dominican priest and he was eventually released. Once free, he went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the Great.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, encompasses his writings. The Summa Theologiae, his last and, unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology.

Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. – Saint Thomas Aquinas

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

People can easily lose a sense of the sacred and transcendent. When we lose a sense of God's special presence, we need to be brought back. Ezra brought people back to the word of God and they realized what they were missing. Jesus proclaims God's word in the synagogue with true conviction and tells those gathered that He is the fulfillment of all that Isaiah taught. Even though people get lost, distracted, discouraged, and often journey down the wrong path, God's timeless law remains. When we allow ourselves to truly hear God's word and act on it, that living word slowly, over time, changes us. It has the power to soften and mold us, creating within us a joyful spirit. We realize the truth in what God speaks and become open to God's love. Gradually and gently God leads us back where we belong. We discover again the sacred character of life and the wonder of God's power. It is no wonder that Luke addresses his remarks to Theophilus. It is a name that means “beloved of God,” a name that can be used by anyone who desires friendship with God. ©LPi

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

FIRST READING: Moses taught the Israelites the importance of passing on the faith to their children and grandchildren. ***What are some faith traditions you practice in your family?***

SECOND READING: Hebrews speaks of Jesus as the heavenly and eternal high priest who intercedes to God on our behalf. ***How often do you offer prayers of intercession to the Lord?***

GOSPEL: Jesus and the scribe agree on the two greatest commandments: to love God and to love one's neighbor. ***Which of these two commandments do you find most challenging? Why?*** ©LPi

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