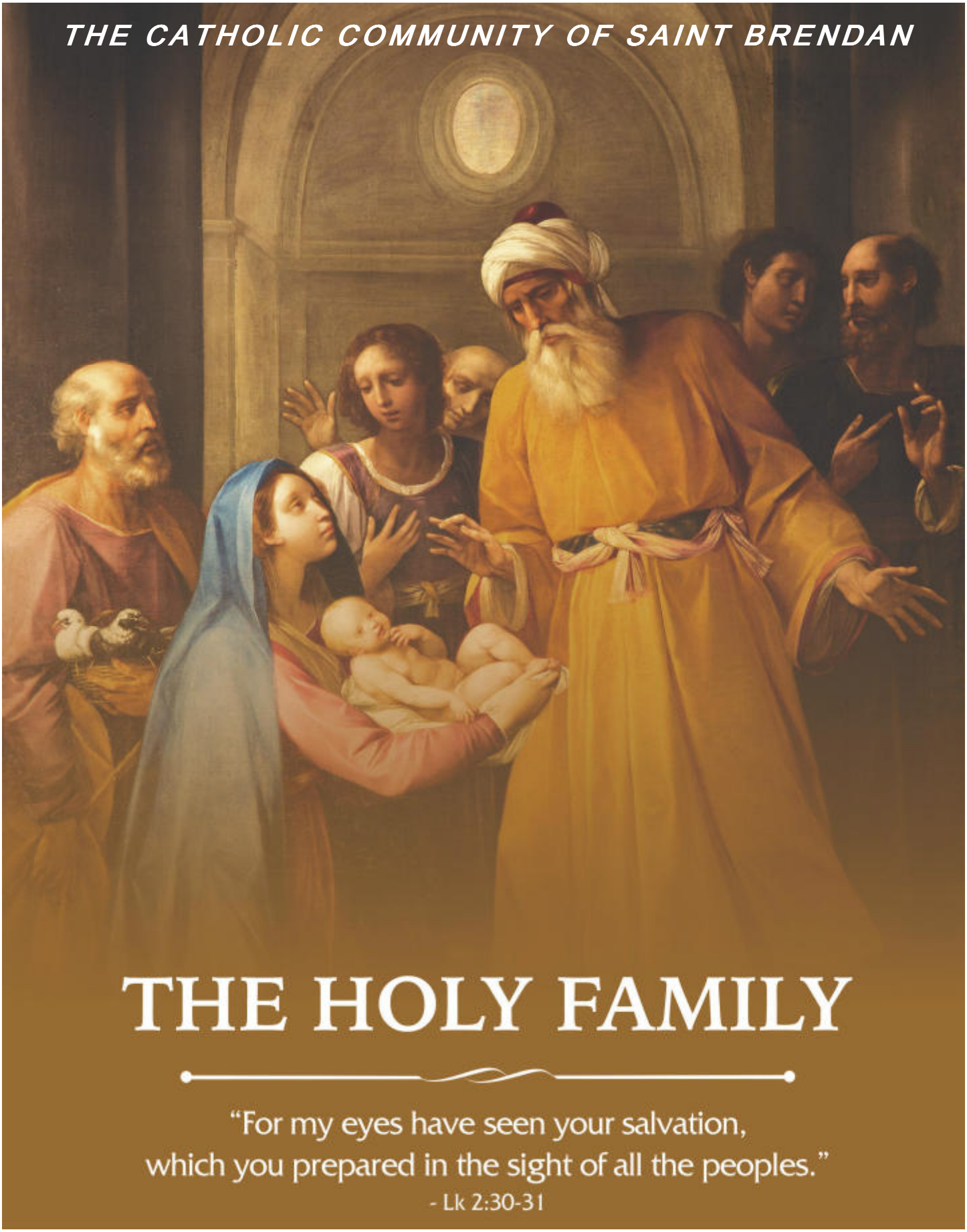
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF SAINT BRENDAN



THE HOLY FAMILY

"For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples."
- Lk 2:30-31

MASS:

Sunday 10:00 am

A Most Mysterious Revelation

As we come to the end of another year, but one surely unlike any other in the world's history because of the coronavirus pandemic, among the many changes in life these days are the myriad restrictions on overseas travel.

Which, naturally enough, means that my mind seems completely absorbed with the subject of travel, the places I would still like to visit, and our inability to do so for now.

Over the years, folks who have been fortunate enough to travel overseas or stateside seem to have a fairly long list of anecdotes and memories to share about their experiences. One that comes to mind immediately for yours truly involved the time my wife and I were enjoying the superb scenery and historical sites of Scotland. We were staying at a bed-and-breakfast run by some very friendly folks with very thick Scottish accents. In an effort to fit in with the locals staying there, rather than appear to be the tourists we clearly were, we asked to be served the local favorite breakfast the next morning. "Oh," the hostess said. "Then you'll want your eggs with a tattie scone."

Eggs we could understand, even with that wonderful Scotch burr, although we were a bit surprised when they were served with stewed tomatoes. But the mysterious "tattie scone" turned out to be a revelation. It turned out, to be specific, to be a potato cake about the size and shape of a potholder. The chief difference was that a potholder would have been easier to chew. We worked it around in our mouths for a couple of minutes, trying to keep up a smiling face and some semblance of conversation. I finally managed to work mine into the Kleenex I had in my shirt pocket.

Another time, in Portugal, we were served prawns so tough that they reminded us of those Eberhard Faber erasers that kids used to use in grade school when working on math problems with pencils and paper. Although, to be fair, those erasers had more flavor. Once again a Kleenex saved the day.

Fortunately, through the years, we were served many enjoyable meals in a variety of cultures in our travels. In retrospect, though, it was the company at those dinners – often pilgrims like us, interested in the religious aspects of a country as well as its secular history – that made the meals so memorable. Many of those dinner companions, often elderly, have gone to God by now. May He rest their souls.

May 2021 bring you peace of heart and an ever deeper faith in the Lord of Life.

– Lou Jacquet

The Saint Brendan New Year's Day Mass will be held January 1 at 10 a.m.

We are thankful for the opportunity to give to those less fortunate through our Simple Acts of Kindness tree. Thanks so much for filling an envelope and helping someone.

Prayer to St. Thomas Becket

"O God, who gave the Martyr Thomas Becket
the courage to give up his life for the sake of justice,
grant, through his intercession,
that, renouncing our life
for the sake of Christ in this world,
we may find it in heaven.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever."

Sunday, December 27

10:00 a.m. Sophie and Stephen Kisan
By Deb Zalovcik

Sunday, January 3

10:00 a.m. Mary Bralish
By Family

Please Pray For Our Sick

Ralph Ruggiero, Randy Bennett, Joe Gorman, Dorothy LoSasso, Nicolette Rinko, Pat Siembieda, Teri Laret

Pray for the Faithful Departed, May They Rest from Their Labors

Josephine McCollum

Holy Family Sunday

Saint Thomas Becket: From Chancellor To Martyr

Some saints live and die in relative or total obscurity. Others, like Thomas Becket (1118-70), the saint honored by the Church this week on Dec. 29, were well known in their lifetime and have become even more celebrated with the passage of time.

Such is the case with Thomas Becket, known worldwide in our day because of movies and poetry that have chronicled the sensational murder that took his life in 1170.

Thomas had been born in London and educated there and in Paris. By 1155 he had risen through the ranks and impressed King Henry II, who became his close friend. Thomas was appointed chancellor of England, a post which gave him widespread powers to implement the policies of his king. He soon grew to love a luxurious lifestyle.

King Henry had later appointed Thomas archbishop on the assumption that the priest would remain a staunch ally. But surprisingly, Thomas began to reject worldly interests and put aside his lavish ways. He adopted what one historian has called "an intensely religious and austere lifestyle." He soon clashed with Henry and resigned as chancellor, realizing that many of his former decisions had hurt the Church.

In a complicated scenario, Thomas was condemned, escaped, and spent six years in exile in France before reconciling with the king. In 1170 he was allowed to return but clashed with Henry almost immediately by not doing his bidding as in previous days. Soon the king sought revenge, mentioning his desire "to be rid of this meddlesome priest" to several at the court during one of his rants.

On Dec. 29, 1170, one of the most infamous murders in English history took place in Canterbury Cathedral when four knights entered and killed Becket with their swords in a side chapel. His dying words: "Willingly I die for the name of Jesus and in defense of the Church."

Immediately this foul deed drew the wrath of the English citizenry. Miracles were soon reported at the site of the murder. Thomas was canonized only three years after his death. King Henry was humiliated by having to do penance at the saint's tomb in 1174. History has mostly forgotten Henry II; millions around the world still know the story of Thomas Becket, fearless in the defense of his real King, from the poems, plays, and movies about his life.

St. Thomas Becket, pray for us.

— Lou Jacquet

Sunday's Scriptures: Lessons From The Holy Family

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. As we hear those words, "holy family," we may find ourselves thinking that their family life and relationships would have been calm and perfect. How can we relate to this special family that lived 2,000 years ago?

Luke's Gospel does not give us a sweet "Hallmark Card" story on which to meditate. He gives us the story of Mary and Joseph bringing their infant son (40 days old) to be presented to God in the temple in Jerusalem. Why did Mary and Joseph make that trip to the temple? They did so in obedience to the Law of Moses. That law required that the first-born son be presented to the Lord. This most blessed and holy family found it a joy to live in accordance with the Law of the Lord. They chose to be obedient even if it required difficulty and travel. That is one virtue we can explore in our lives. Are we an obedient family? Do we live by a higher standard?

In the family life of Mary and Joseph, God is truly at the center; Jesus is at the center. This central focus on Jesus gave them the strength and energy to face very difficult challenges, like the difficult ordeal of the flight into Egypt and a lengthy stay in a foreign land without an extended family to offer its love and support. Could we testify that our faith and trust in God helped us endure the difficulties of our life?

Perhaps another important lesson to reflect upon from the Gospel today is its focus on the two elderly characters, Simeon and Anna. They were people of advanced years who were faithful to God's promise, awaiting the coming of the Messiah. Moved by the Holy Spirit, they both recognize the Child Jesus as the Messiah.

Simeon, inspired by the Holy Spirit, says of Jesus that He will be a "light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of Israel." Anna, filled with joy, gave thanks to God. Perhaps we can reflect on the faith of our elderly brothers and sisters and what we might learn from them. They play an incredible part of the fab-

Continued on Page 4

Lessons From The Holy Family

Continued from Page 3

ric of our families.

May we today entrust our families to the guidance and intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, and ask Jesus, Mary and Joseph to intercede and bring healing and comfort in these difficult times.

— Geri Jacquet

Homebound Ministry

We continue to reach out to our homebound parishioners. But we can't do that unless we know who you are and where you are.

If you could please call Lynn at the rectory 330-792-3875 or Deb Zalovcik at 330-261-0718 and leave a message, we will get back to you as soon as possible.

We walk this journey together. Thank you.

Thanksgiving Collection

Once again, your generous contributions will greatly help those in need in our area.

We have $1,283. from the Thanksgiving collection that will be used to purchase St. Vincent de Paul food boxes to feed the hungry.

Thank you St. Brendan parishioners.

THANKS FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATIONS TO BEAUTIFY OUR CHURCH

Due to the Christmas early printing schedule, we have only a summary of the first two weeks of December collections:

Your Sacrificial Offering

Amount needed monthly to meet expenses

For December 2020	$34,000.00
Weeks of December 6 and 13, 2020	
Sunday Collection	$7,362.00
Increased Operating Exp.	$293.00
Major Repairs	$203.00
Total	$7,858.00

2 week total $7,858.00 toward the goal of $34,000.00

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We are committed to building the kingdom of
God by living the Gospel,
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PARISH STAFF

Administrator
Father Leo Wehrlin Ext. 11
Email: lwehrlin@youngstowndiocese.org

Parochial Vicar
Father Simon Mino Ext. 11

Parish Secretary
Lynn Anderson Ext.10
Email: office@stbrendanyo.org

Music Director Geri Jacquet
Assistant Music Director Allyson Reed

MASS Sunday 10:00 am

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