



THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

“Behold, this child is destined for the
fall and rise of many in Israel.” - Lk 2:34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPi

MASS:

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Parish Pastoral Council:

Chris Bonacci; Shawna Bonacci; Andrea Neff; Eddie Odom; Amy Pollice; Joe Vivacqua; Tony Winterburn

***Carmen Roebke– Compliance Officer
330-792-3829 Ext. 108***

***Dominic Colucy– Victim Assistance
Coordinator***

330-744-8451 Ext. 293

dcolucy@youngstowndiocese.org

Which Items To Save?

The recent horrific wildfires in Los Angeles and environs that destroyed entire neighborhoods left thousands homeless. Many have no way to rebuild, a process that could take years for even the most affluent.

For many days, the airwaves were filled with moving reports of persons who had either lost everything or were only able to save a few belongings or family mementos on the way out before their homes burned to the ground.

Watching that news coverage led me to reflect on what I would want to save if I ever came up against a situation where we had to evacuate our home in the midst of a natural disaster. Years ago I might have tried to save parts of my records/CDs/DVDs music collection, or been tempted to rescue a few presidential biographies from my prized History shelf. In the midst of the haste to escape a burning house, I would surely have tried to grab a few columns or features I had written. Those all seem like trite decisions now.

Instead, there is no question I would want to save a few precious photos of our kids and grandkids and family members long deceased. There would be no time to save my Dad's irreplaceable family moves from 1940 to 1980, a crushing loss. Of course it would be sad to lose rooms full of furniture and mementos from our travels. But furniture can be replaced as needed, and as for the rest, like the people in California we would have to learn to live with only the memories.

I hope none of us in this parish ever has to face such difficult decisions in an instant, the way those wildfire victims did. It will take years to rebuild their homes and their lives, and even then, the new lives they build will never be the same, especially for those who have lost loved ones.

In the face of such somber news coverage, one uplifting aspect was to hear how many folks mentioned that their faith had sustained them through their losses. Clearly, these individuals had long since learned to put down deep roots of belief that no natural disaster, however devastating, could ever shake. May we keep them in prayer as they seek to begin anew.

— Lou Jacquet

Charities Awareness Month

February is Catholic Charities Awareness Month in the Diocese of Youngstown. Did you know that you do not have to be Catholic to receive assistance from Catholic Charities? We help all people in need regardless of their faith or lack of faith as our resources allow. To learn more, visit ccdoy.org

2025 Mass Book Open

St. Brendan's 2025 Mass Book is now open and Masses are available as soon as February. All parishioners requesting Masses for a deceased loved one are limited to ONE SUNDAY MASS and ONE WEEKDAY MASS. There are 104 Masses to be celebrated, but several are for all parishioners.

To request a Mass, call Jackie Niznik, parish office manager, 330-792-3875 (Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) at the rectory, or drop your written request with your name and daytime phone number into the collection basket.

A/R Drive-Thru Dinner Set

St. Brendan's Altar & Rosary Society will sponsor a Drive-Thru Dinner by Chef Christopher Bonacci on Sunday, Feb. 23, from 10 a.m.-noon, or until sold out. Menu: Stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, dessert. Free-will offering. Sharon Pasquale is the A/R president.

Sunday, February 2

9:00 a.m. Fr. Quentin Helline
by Geri and Lou Jacquet

Wednesday, February 5

9:00 a.m. Barb Perry by Bill and Matthew Neff

Sunday, February 9

9:00 a.m. Josh Frenzel by a Family Friend

Please Pray For Our Sick

Mike Mraz, Mary Pavlak, Beverly Detate, Sr. Marjorie Haidet, Frank Lightner, Michelle Smith, Ken Mains, David Deihl, Barbara Bonninsegna, Mary Beth Celio, Fr. Richard Brobst, Charles Slivkoff, Harold and Debra Brown, Rita Thomas

Pray for the Faithful Departed

Virginia Lucarell

Remembering Michael Kirwan



St. Brendan has been the spiritual home of thousands of Catholics whose vocational service benefitted the parish in many ways. They have included construction workers and contractors, doctors and nurses, teachers, office workers, store clerks and owners, safety forces, attorneys

and judges, and elected and appointed government officials – including one U.S. congressman.

Michael J. Kirwan represented Mahoning, Trumbull, and Ashtabula counties for 33 years. A *New York Times* writer described him as “an Ohio Democrat who wielded great power within Congress and the Democratic party.” He was so influential that the *Times* published a story about his death in July 1970, with quotes from then-President Richard M. Nixon and former President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Kirwan was born in 1886 in Wilkes-Barre, PA. He dropped out of school after the third grade and drove mules in coal mines. He also worked on railroads, in oil fields, and at lumber camps. He moved to Youngstown in 1907 to work in a steel mill. He served overseas during World War I with the U.S. Army.

He returned to Youngstown in the 1920s. He was elected to Youngstown City Council in 1932 and became chairperson of its Finance Committee. He won a heavily contested primary race for Congress and then the general election in 1936. Twelve years later, he also became chairperson of the National Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Some of Kirwan’s congressional achievements outlasted him. His support of the Tennessee Valley Authority, a government-owned electric utility, enabled him to secure \$22 million for his district in 1939. That money financed a post office in Campbell and a city hall in Lowellville, among other projects. Another \$111,000 was obtained for the Meander Reservoir; \$6 million for the Berlin Dam; and \$5 million for the Mosquito Reservoir. He was a longtime proponent of a Lake Erie-to-Ohio River canal that never materialized, because his colleagues deemed it to be too expensive.

At St. Brendan, Kirwan was the general chair of the 1957 Building Fund Canvass. Funds were used to build additional school classrooms, the auditorium-gymnasium now known as Maxwell Hall, and a cafeteria kitchen, in addition to renovations in the original school.

Kirwan died in Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland after an extended illness and before finishing his 17th term in Congress. His funeral Mass was held at St. Brendan Church, with 50 members of Congress in the assembly of 600 people. He was buried in Calvary Cemetery.

—Debora Flora

Sunday’s Scriptures: The Rise and Fall of Many

Today’s readings for the Presentation of the Lord are from Malachi 3: 1-4; Hebrews 2: 14-18; Gospel of Luke 2: 22-40.

The Prophet Malachi, 400 years before the birth of Christ, looks ahead to an event which will take place in the temple in Jerusalem. The Lord God says: “Suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord whom you seek, and the messenger of the covenant whom you desire...but who can stand when he appears? For he is like the refiner’s fire, or like the fuller’s lye. He will sit refining and purifying silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi, refining them like gold or like silver that they may offer due sacrifice to the Lord.”

The sons of Levi refers to the priestly tribe of Levi, the levitical priests. The one to come will refine and purify the office of priest. The purified and perfect sacrifice will offer to God a nation and people cleansed of transgression and sin.

This prophecy was fulfilled in the Gospel of Luke. “When the days were completed for their purification according to the Law of Moses, Mary

and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord...Simeon, a righteous and devout man...took him into his arms and blessed God, saying ‘my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of our peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel...’

“Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel.” Decades ago, the late Bishop Fulton Sheen gave us a beautiful passage to help us reflect on this biblical scene: “An old man at the sunset of his own life spoke of the sunrise of the world. Simeon’s hymn is an Act of Adoration.”

In talking about the fall and rise of many in Israel, the bishop explains that “men would no longer be the same. There would be no such thing as compromise: only acceptance or rejection, resurrection or death.”

Jesus allows us no middle ground. We either reject sin and allow Him to be our Savior, or continue to live in darkness. Which side are we on?

— Geri Jacquet

Ursuline Open House Set

Ursuline High School is promoting the annual Open House on Sunday, February 2.

The annual Open House will be held from 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. in the Ursuline Cafeteria. For more information and to RSVP, families should visit www.ursuline.com/rsvp.

Applications for admission, financial aid forms, applications for the Saint Angela Merici Scholarship and the Ohio EdChoice Scholarship (Traditional and Expansion) will be available for pick-up at Open House.

Please contact Maggie Damore, Assistant Principal, at mdamore@youngstowndiocese.org with questions.

Valentine Bingo/Card Party

Holy Apostles Parish Ladies Guild, [421 Covington St., Youngstown](#), will host a Valentine Bingo/Card Party 2 p.m. Sunday Feb. 9. Donation \$7, children 10 and under \$3, lunch provided (pasta, salad, rolls, dessert, drinks). Basket raffles, 50/50, money tree raffle. Tickets: Darlene, 330-750-6104.

Prayer to St. Agatha

"May the Virgin Martyr St. Agatha implore your compassion for us, O Lord we pray, for she found favor with You by the courage of her martyrdom and the merit of her chastity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever."

Feast Day: Feb. 5; died c. 250

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Parochial Vicar

Father Stephen Zeigler

Deacons

Ron Layko

Mark Kiraly

Parish Office Manager

Jackie Niznik

Ext.10

Email: office@stbrendanyo.org

Music Director

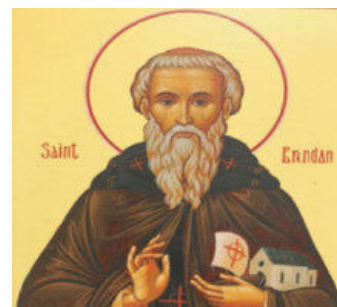
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Assistant Music Director

Allyson Reed

MASS Sunday 9:00am

Wednesday 9:00am



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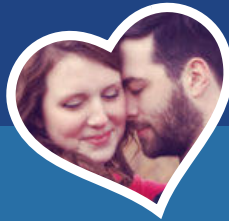
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