

The Catholic Community of St. Brendan and St. George
154 East 1st St.
Clifton, NJ 07011
Phone: 973.772.1115 | Fax: 973-772-0497
Email: st.brendanclifton@gmail.com

Mission, Evangelization, and Alpha

This is a piece of information that all our parishioners must know and review.

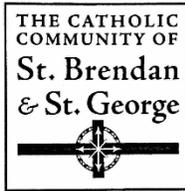
Last weekend we talked to you all about an opportunity we will be sharing with our parishioners starting this fall. This is a baby-step change to our current Religious Education program. For many years we have been working closely with your children 1 hour every Sunday throughout the school year to catechize them. Prayerfully our intent was and still is to bring them closer to their Faith, to Christ and to God. In all these years we have seen children and families come, with a considerable increase during Sacramental years like First Communion and Confirmation, and subsequently, we have seen those children and families leave after completing these sacraments.

Considering our current situation amidst the Coronavirus pandemic and the necessary changes that we need to make to ensure a safe environment for you and your family, we have decided that this is a perfect time and opportunity to set course on a new path of Evangelization that will, we pray, encourage and guide the heads of the families in our Parish to become catechists amongst their own families. We will be here to support and help each of you grow in that respect.

WHO: To all of our Religious Education parents and students, we will be opening up registration for Fall classes. The classes will be held **ONLY** for the parents at this time and together as a Parish, we will journey through a 10-week course leveraging the ALPHA program. This experience is **NOT** limited to only our religious education parents, **ALL ADULTS ARE WELCOME**. It will open to everyone.

WHAT: During the Fall we will be meeting every Sunday to watch an Alpha video and followed by a small group discussion. **This will be mandatory for our Religious Education parents**. We are requiring one parent every Sunday to attend. This will allow us to Evangelize our parents. In an effort to encourage and support the parents in becoming the catechists in their homes, we will also be providing learning materials and take-home activities for each family to participate, learn and grow in their faith.

WHEN: Alpha Sessions will begin Sunday, September 27th immediately following the 10:30 AM Mass in English, and immediately following the 1:00 PM Mass in Spanish. In addition, for our students preparing for Confirmation, they will attend Alpha sessions on Saturday evenings immediately following the 5:30 PM Mass. (This session will also be open for youth from ages 13 to 17. **All are welcome** especially if your teen is seeking to receive the sacrament of



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confirmation). These sessions will continue through December 13th. There will be a schedule provided when you register.

WHERE: The sessions will be held here in church after mass and then will continue in separate rooms for Small Group discussions in the school building.

As you can all imagine this new change will be exciting and also an undertaking that will ask for each and every one of us who are willing and able to help, volunteer their time and effort to ensure the success of this new program. We pray that if you are here today and if you are hearing this message and looking for a way to grow in your own faith journey or in our parish, that you will consider becoming a volunteer. For those who are certain they are ready to help, please register with Crystal and attend one of our mandatory Preparation sessions which will be held on Saturday, September 5th at 9 am- 11am OR 3 pm – 5 pm. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any additional questions, please reach out directly to Crystal our Director of Religious Education. You can email her at CHernandez@StBrendan-George.org.

May God Bless You,

Father Jesus Peralta - Pastor