Merry Christmas and all late Advent Prayers and Greetings to the St. Brendan's community. You all have certainly supported me in limitless ways this fall. I am hoping to travel to see my children and their families for Christmas and to be able to drive by New Year's. Then I start the countdown of days until time to come to Maine. There is plenty of darkness just about everywhere but irrepressible light is on the way.

With Love from Bishop Sam

To all our Dear Friends at Saint Brendan's,
We miss all of you and think of you often. We hope that God richly blesses you at this joyful time of year. May you feel his presence and know that he is near.
All of our children and grandchildren plan to be here for Christmas so will have a full house. Peter will have his right hip replaced on January 20th and we are praying this one will be a success.
We hope your New Year is filled with Peace and Joy!



With love to all from Peter and Miriam



Wishing everyone a Happy Reading season.
May everyone be as blessed as the Island families were. 50 children and parents received gifts of books for the 12 Days of Reading Project.
Merry Christmas to all and to all Thank you.

My Best,
Linda Shepard

Merry Christmas to all my wonderful friends at St. Brendan's. It has been a rough year for me and my family and we appreciate all your prayers and support. Hoping for a joyful New Year!!
Blessings to all,
Judy Miller

Peace and Good Health at Christmas and in the coming New Year!
The van Burens

I'm finishing up my 4th Symphony!
All best,
Seth Wrightington

For St Brendan Saints
Holiday Happiness
Christmas Cheer
Season's Songs
And a Healthful Joyous
New Year.

Mickey



Greetings from Florida.

The best news for those of you in Maine is that the day of earliest sunset passed on December 8th. Solstice, schmolstice!

By the time of the solstice, the sunset time will be two whole minutes later than it was two weeks before that. So we are already rolling towards having brighter tea-times.

Merry Christmas,
Mimi G.

"Blessed is the season that engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."
-- Hamilton Wright Mabie
Wishing everyone a joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with promise and love,
Barbara Kourajian

Dear St. Brendans,
I'm one of those summer people. I don't come up any more since my husband died, but I'll always remember St Brendan's with warmth and thanks. I was there during the big breakup, which I never knew anything about - just that it happened and was very traumatic. All I know is that you people who stayed were the Church for me. I thank all of you with my whole heart. May all of you have a wonderful Christmas and a very good 2020! All my best wishes!

Love,
Nancy Frederick





I'm just back from a belated Thanksgiving visit with two daughters and families - which included a tree lighting holiday celebration in Waukee- a small town nearby. Here's a family photo (!) of Lis, daughters Jenny and Amy and granddaughters Olivia and Hana.

Merry Christmas!
Lis



Christmas Blessing to All

From
Connie and Rudy

Christmas blessings, peace and love to you all.

Warmly,
Barbara Wright



Blessings and joy this Christmas to you and your loved ones!
With the love of Christ,
Donna and Allen Downs

Christmas blessings to all our friends at St. Brendan's. Charlie and I will probably have a much warmer Christmas than most of you. We'll have a house full of family and hope all of you will be enjoying family and friends over the holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2020!
Love,
Charlie and Karen Egerton



With all good wishes for a joyful and relaxing Christmas together in church and at home. I hope that this will be a good year for each of you. I miss you all and much look forward to joining you again for morning worship in the summer. Stay warm and well.

As in the US, the political news in the UK is discouraging and a strong reminder for us to focus on all that is good and loving in our lives.

With love to you all,
John Lofty

Alan and Curtis Flowers down in Alabama think this Christmastime greeting via e-newsletter is not only a fine way for all of us far and wide to feel still connected to one another, it brings home just how far and strong the reach of St. Brendan's really is. To consider ourselves a small, often struggling parish who swell in number to a few dozen for a few weeks in summer would be to misunderstand completely. Think of what love and spirit is nourished when we are together and when we communicate over distance that as we scatter is carried in every direction! Are there many parishes that have such influence?



We send greetings with the hope for a Christmas when all is calm, all is bright and we know that wherever there are St. Brendan's people that hope is sustained.



Christmas always creeps up on me and catches

I send warm wishes to the St Brendan community this Christmas. Living in this time of great upheaval it is a real blessing and comfort to know that the St Brendan community stands together for justice and peace in our world. I am grateful for all of you.

Blessings,
Patricia

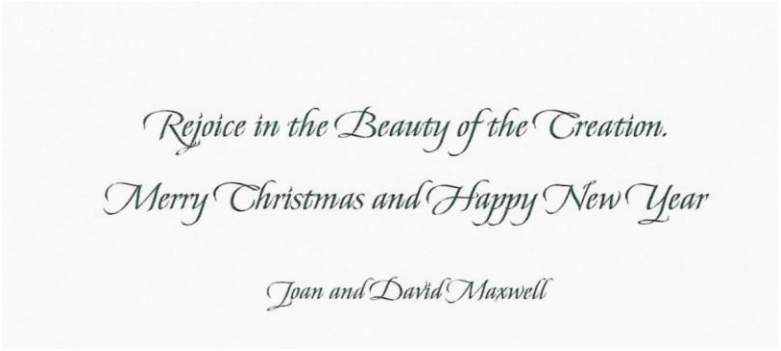
me by surprise at the last minute. However much we credit the accuracy of the Christmas story, I always find the underlying imagery and spirit very moving, whatever my feelings about the state of the country and the world. So . . . Merry Christmas everyone!



This picture of my back yard in winter seems an appropriate appendage, among other things, an illustration of my good fortune.

Best to you,
Woody





From Tony and Pat Stoneburner:
For some years as Advent arrives, we have received a green wreath (ME-grown; ME-fashioned) from Diane & Skip Greenlaw, to bring ME close as we prepared ourselves for celebrating the nativity. In the same manner, we send Brendanites green greetings from snow-accumulating Golden Valley MN.

We also send an older poem that has not grown inappropriate. MATTHEW 2:14 (& 25:42-45)

--A fugitive
escaping killers, under orders,
his parents people without papers,
who cross the arid border

into the larger nation
where it is least inhabited,in silence
& darkness that hides the stark landscape
of desert dirt & stones,
with only starlight to give guidance
& nothing they can call their own
but what they wear,
yet happy, the next morning,
to pass unnoticed on the highway
as natives of the country
go from their villages
to irrigate acres under tillage

--Apologies for interrupting, but why do you describe illegal aliens
at Christmastime?



--It is the Child Himself
& Mary
& Joseph
whom I describe.

Joy of the Season. (More news from Tony and Pat in next week's News section!)

During Advent I think of new beginnings and anticipation of the Light coming into the world once more.

Stewart and I moved into a senior housing facility last spring. I am grateful for the safety, comfort, good food, and new friends we have found here, despite the loss of our beloved home on the hill and nightly view of the setting sun over Lake Champlain and the Adirondack mountains.

I am also thankful that the Christ Child comes into our world once again, reminding me that the Darkness does not overcome the Light, and knowing that God's love for us will prevail. I'm trying to be ready for it!

Love from Julie and Stewart