

NORTH DALLAS

Parish Neighbors

JANUARY 2022

COVER PHOTO BY
LANI RELUCIO

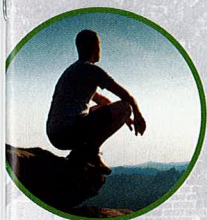


**DECIDED
EXCELLENCE**
CATHOLIC MEDIA

**INSIDE
THIS EDITION**



Bishop Barron:
Biblical Wisdom
For Troubled Times
Page 5



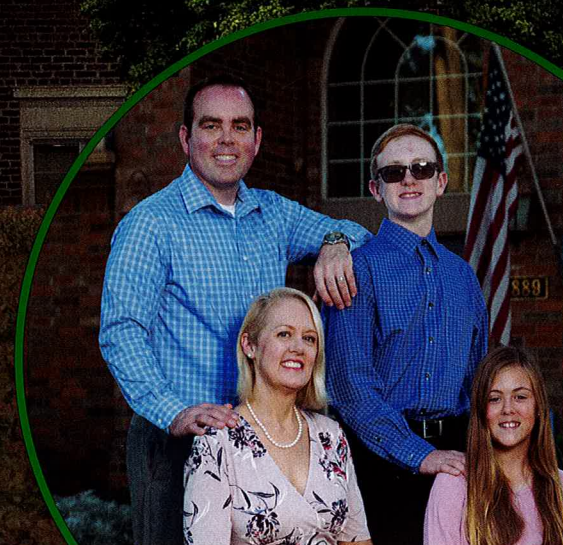
On the Journey:
Reflections on Life
Page 6



**Sunday
Gospel
Readings**
Page 16

**THE BREENS:
A STORY OF TRUST
AND CONFIDENCE
IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE**

FEATURE PHOTO BY CHRIS BAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHY | PAGE 10





THE BREENS: A STORY OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE

By Lani Relucio | Photos by Chris Baylor Photography

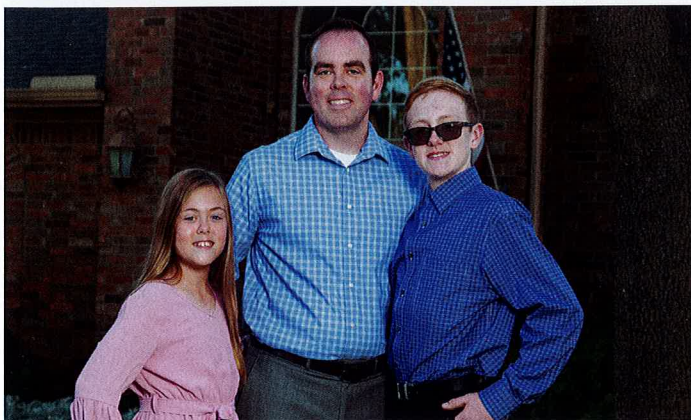
Upon entering the Breens' living room, you'd find a big sign on the wall that would indicate the core value of the family—Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. These words from Proverbs 3:5-6 help the Breen family to stay grounded.

"We've encountered some serious health issues in our family from the birth of our daughter to my own health issues," says Peter, a husband to April and father to their two children, Patrick (13) and Anna (12). "When our kids were still in their diapers, all these life events seemed to come all at once. There were times when we didn't know whether we'd make it through these financial, health, and spiritual challenges."

They say people come closer to God out of inspiration or desperation. Peter admits God came into his life out of desperation. "At times, it didn't seem like there was a light at the end of the tunnel; however, we stayed the course, and with dedicated prayer life, adoration, and the help of loved ones, we were able to get to the other side of the storm. I truly believe God doesn't give you what you can't handle, and although you may not know why, He will show you the path forward if you trust in Him." So even when reasons evade them, they remember to trust in the Lord for guidance.

Peter considers his faith to play a significant role in his family life. "I am a husband first. I truly believe that when I show up for God as a mindful and present husband, the rest falls in place. I enjoy taking my kids on spiritual retreats. When we are away on a trip or vacation, we look to find a new church or piece of religious history."

As a member of the That Man Is You (TMIY) core team, he has learned to lead his family in their journey to be closer to Jesus. The TMIY program is offered through the Paradisus Dei foundation based out of Houston. Parishes can sign up for this religious leadership program designed for men of the parish who are looking to deepen their spiritual lives. "Jesus wants to take you where you are in your life and take one step closer," Peter says. "I've really enjoyed the fellowship that comes from participating in this program and the closer relationships with the men in our parish. It has been a blessing for my life and leadership within the community." Peter is also involved in the





Dad's program at the Mary Immaculate Dad's (MIDs) and serves as a lector at St. Ann Parish in Coppell.

"We have been dual parishioners of Mary Immaculate and St. Ann for over eight years," he says. "I enjoy the sense of belonging and the community that the church and school families provide. We feel that sense of community before and after church with the people we talk with. There is also a sense

of caring and warmth with the families we've met at our kids' school, the Mary Immaculate School."

They spend many hours volunteering in their community. "Our family plants flowers and landscapes in front of Mary Immaculate School, and also donate our time by helping school plant gardens at Maple Lawn Elementary school." As though this wasn't enough, they also sponsor a "Yard of the Month" award to three houses in their community.

"My family likes to joke that I have Pete's Botanical Garden in

our backyard," Peter says. "I love taking care of the plants and beautifying the yard. I enjoy all sorts of physical exercise, mostly biking, practicing softball with my daughter, and playing stick and puck hockey on the ice with my son." For five years, Peter was a hockey coach in the Dallas area, and he currently helps the junior sailors in the Dallas area regattas at the Grapevine Sailing Club.

Not only does Peter navigate the waters, he also soars the skies.

After attending Lewis University, a Christian Brothers University located southwest of Chicago, he finished his undergraduate studies in Aviation Management and Flight Training at Southern Illinois University and became a pilot for Southwest Airlines. In 2020, he founded Emotional Communication, LLC, a company that works with individuals and teams to enhance leadership and emotional intelligence. Learn more about them at www.emotionalcom.com.

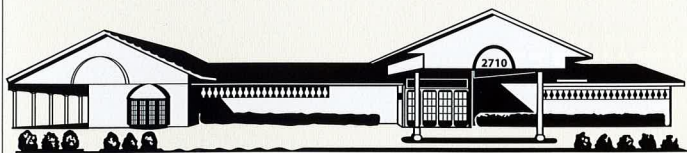
"I have been blessed to work with my two passions—Aviation and Emotional Intelligence Coaching," he says. Clearly, his life is an offshoot of his motto: Put God first, and the rest will fall in place. "God has a plan," he has to remind himself constantly, "the struggle I have is being able to acknowledge Him and be present in His works."

And just like any bird that soars the skies, Peter is grateful to the wind beneath his wings. "My wife was a significant part of helping our family trust in the Lord's plan."

Peter met April in Orlando, Florida, in 2003. "We actually met in an Irish Pub near downtown Orlando," he mused. "I was enjoying a fine pint of Guinness when I heard a girl standing

JOHN P BROOKS AND FAMILY
NORTH
DALLAS
 FUNERAL HOME

The Strength of Family Tradition



2710 Valley View Lane • Dallas, TX 75234

972-241-9100 • 800-300-1655

www.NorthDallasFuneralHome.com

Serving Families 24 hours a day

*John P. Brooks
 and Family*

ARIA

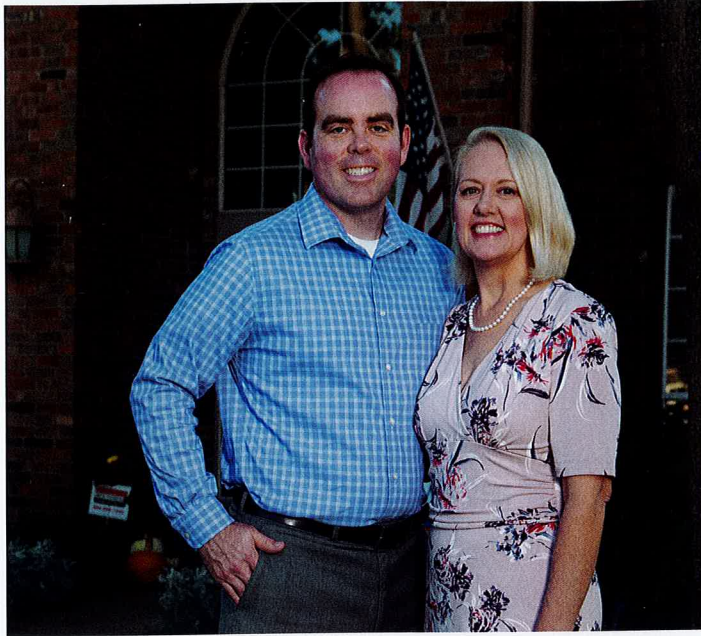
CREMATION SERVICE
 & FUNERAL HOMES

Strength of Family Tradition

Collin & Denton Counties
 Area Irving & Mid Cities
 Greater Dallas Area & Lake Highlands
 Fannin Memorial Gardens



1-800-238-ARIA (2742) • www.AriaCremation.com



near me order a glass of Franzia white wine. At an Irish Pub?! I clearly had to say something. The conversation began, and the rest is history. We were married at St. Margaret Mary in Winter Park, Florida, in 2007.”

Besides their two beautiful children, they have Lily, a 2-year-old Golden-Doodle. “She has our family wrapped around her finger.

When we first got her as a puppy, she traveled in the car to Chicago. She loved every minute of the trip!”

If you love this story, join the Breen family in thanking and supporting the sponsors of this parish and community magazine for enabling us to share their testimony of God’s everlasting trustworthiness.

Do you know a fellow parish member who has a story to share?

Nominate someone you’d like to see featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at dvoirin@decidedexcellence.com.

THE PERFECT Graduation GIFT

Angel Hawks
www.StunGunAngel.com
angel@StunGunAngel.com

Damsel IN DEFENSE
Independent Damsel Pro
(972) 244-3747

CONTACT PRO YOUR INDEPENDENT DAMSEL

Jennifer S. Hargrave PC

HARGRAVE
 FAMILY LAW

**Helping good people
 end broken marriages.**

Learn how we can help by contacting
 us at 214-420-0100, or visiting our website:

www.HargraveFamilyLaw.com

Located in Dallas, TX - Serving the DFW Metroplex