

## **OFFICE AND CHURCH HOURS**

The Parish Office is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. The Church is open daily 6:00 AM-8:30 PM. For more information, visit www.standrewparish.cc.

#### **MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:30 PM Sunday - 7:30 AM, 9:15 AM, 11:00 AM Weekdays - 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM Saturday Morning - 9:00 AM

#### RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:15-4:15 PM or by appointment at 614-451-4290

To learn more about **SACRAMENTS**, call the Parish Office or visit our website, www.standrewparish.cc and select "Sacraments and Prayer."

For **ANOINTING OF THE SICK**, please contact a priest at the Parish Office.

We welcome **NEW MEMBERS!** To register or learn more about St. Andrew Parish, please contact our office by phone, or email Jen Wenzke at jwenzke@standrewparish.cc.

#### OUR MISSION

St. Andrew Church is a community of Catholics committed to serving God by living our faith. We exist to fulfill the mission of the Roman Catholic Church at the local level by continuing the saving work of Christ. We accomplish this through the celebration of the sacraments, proclaiming and living the Gospel, reaching out to others in justice and charity, and providing all parishioners abundant spiritual, educational, and social opportunities to be known as a faith-filled, engaged, and generous parish.



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# **STAFF DIRECTORY**

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Tina White, Director twhite@cdeducation.org Kathy Dowler, Catechesis Coordinate kdowler@standrewparish.cc SCHOOL ADMIN/STAFF Joel Wichtman, Principal	Ext. 304 or Ext. 305
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# MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday:</b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>Oct 14, Vigil, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Kathy McNeal
<b>Sunday:</b> 7:30 a.m. 9:15 a.m.	Oct 15, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time For the People of St. Andrew Parish Deceased Members of the Mallett & McCort Families
11:00 a.m.	Michael Porter
Monday:	Oct 16, Weekday Mass
6:30 a.m.	Dustin Hahn
8:30 a.m.	Maximina Dolor
Tuesday:	Oct 17, St. Ignatius of Antioch
6:30 a.m.	Diane Moon
8:30 a.m.	Pauline Kubalak
-	Oct 18, St. Luke, Evangelist
6:30 a.m.	Rosemary Steinbauer
8:30 a.m.	Robert and Anna Mae Jones
Thursday:	Oct 19, Sts. John de Brébeuf & Isaac Jogues
6:30 a.m.	James Markino
8:30 a.m.	Richard Schumacher
Friday:	Oct 20, St. Paul of the Cross
6:30 a.m.	Patricia Ayotte
8:30 a.m.	Jim Saffell
Saturday:	Oct 21, Weekday Mass
9:00 a.m.	Robert Krummen
4:30 p.m.	<b>Vigil, 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Gregg Kantak
Sunday:	Oct 22, 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 a.m.	Florine Schaaf
9:15 a.m.	Katie Johanni
11:00 a.m.	For the People of St. Andrew Parish

#### **BANNS OF MATRIMONY**

Sara Pardi and Matthew Redfield Taylor Waldron and Derek Nolz

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION TRAINING** is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. If you'd like to become involved in this important and rewarding ministry, this is the perfect time to learn more. Confirmed parishioners ages 16 and older, are welcome to attend. Preregistration is not necessary. For more information, contact Deacon Dowler at 614-477-7049 or **ddowler@columbuscatholic.com**.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach the middle of October, I just want to give a few reminders.

The Eucharistic Revival Small Group Study Sessions are underway! Last Monday (October 9), was the first session and it was very successful. There were more than 60 people present. We began with prayer, watched a video that was very focused and meaningful, and engaged in table discussions with fellow parishioners and others who joined us. The session lasted from 7:00 p.m. until just before 9:00 p.m., but was most meaningful and enlightening. As I said last week, we at St. Andrew need the Eucharistic Revival, because we need to better appreciate and live out the mystery of Christ's sacrifice of His Body and Blood made present in every Mass. I hope more of you will come and participate in the remaining six sessions. The study sessions are held on Monday evenings through November 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Secondly, Election Day is November 7, and that is not far away. Early voting has already begun. We have been working and praying for the defeat of Issue 1, the ballot measure that, if passed, would enshrine abortion rights into the Ohio Constitution. Your "NO" vote on Issue 1 is very much needed to defeat this threat to human life. The issue is not merely political, but a moral issue. Also, it is a very politically contentious issue, and the campaigns on both sides of this issue will be heating up even more in the next few weeks. Just to give an example of this, I placed two yard signs saying "Vote NO on Issue 1" on the church property facing McCoy Road on Monday, October 9. They were taken away by the next day! But don't be confused, there is only one morally acceptable option for a properlyformed Catholic conscience to choose on November 7. NO on Issue 1.

Finally, I want to let you know that we are already making progress in our efforts to improve the sound system in the church. Our acoustical experts pointed out that background noise from the air handlers in the church was interfering with the public address system. As an experiment, the fans have been adjusted to a lower speed, reducing the background noise. I noticed an immediate improvement in sound quality, as I could easily hear the people's responses and singing, which previously, were difficult to hear. I would be interested to hear from you if you have noticed an improvement in your ability to hear the readings, homily and prayers at Mass. We will continue to experiment until we find a lasting solution!

May God bless you all, and St. Andrew Parish!

Your Pastor,

Msgr. Stephan Moloney

## DONUT SUNDAY TODAY

All parishioners are invited to Donut Sunday TODAY, **October 15**. This month, these tasty treats will be provided by St. Andrew Knights and representatives from "That Man Is You" (TMIY). Stop by and enjoy donuts, coffee, juice and good old-fashioned fellowship.

# CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!

You are invited to our upcoming meeting on **Monday**, **Oct. 16**, **from 5:30-6:45 p.m.\***, **in Nugent Parish Hall**.

We have needleworkers of all levels, so bring your knitting needles (size 7 or 8) and crochet hooks (size G or H) and join the fun of socializing and being productive as we make things for those in need. We will provide easy patterns. For more information, call Marilyn at 614-315-7320.

\*Please note the temporary meeting time change to support the Eucharistic Revival Small Group Study!



# **KNIGHTS NEWS**

PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION!

Join us at our Open House on Monday, Oct. 16 at the Bryce Eck Activity Center beginning at 7:00 p.m.! St. Andrew Council 11275 has served St. Andrew

since 1994. We support the four pillars of Faith, Family, Community and Life.

Some of the charities and programs we support include: Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Pantry, Annual Men and Women's Catholic Conferences, The World's Largest Diaper Drive, St. James Food Pantry, "Measure Up" collection for the Developmentally Disabled, 40 Days for Life and Seminarian support. We assist our clergy to support St. Andrew Parish and St. Andrew School.

Any male aged 18 or older and a practical Catholic is eligible to join. Come learn more about us and join us for Charity, in Unity with Fraternity! Food to be provided.

For more information, contact Membership Director Mark Woodruff at 614-620-1212 or **markwoodruff10@ gmail.com**, or just show up at the Bryce Eck on Monday!



# SUNDAY OFFERING

	OCT. 1	YTD	
ACTUAL	\$ 35,961	\$ 383,071	
BUDGET	\$ 32,212	\$ 450,962	
LAST YEAR	\$ 42,935	\$ 382,504	

Thank you to all who are responding generously to our financial need. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

We encourage you to consider Online Giving, which is safe, secure and convenient. To sign up, visit <u>osvhub.</u> <u>com/st-andrew-parish/funds</u> or contact Business Manager Thomas Conigy, **tconigy@standrewparish.cc** or 614-451-4290, ext. 6.





**FIRST CALLED YOUTH MINISTRY (FCYM) AND ST. ANDREW KNIGHTS** have joined forces to bring this year's "Bottles for Life" campaign to St. Andrew Parish. Let's support the annual campaign and help Pregnancy Decision Health Centers continue to provide ultrasounds and loving support to each of their clients.

To contribute, look for the empty bottles in the baskets in the Vestibule, fill the bottles with loose change and return them to St. Andrew.

For more information, contact Maria Moore at **mmoore@ standrewparish.cc**. The Drive will end with Adoration for Life on October 31.

**ePOST WEEKLY EMAIL:** To subscribe, contact Mary Beasecker, **mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc**. The ePost includes information about upcoming events and activities within the parish. To submit information, please email Mary before Noon on Mondays.



# EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please join us for Eucharistic Adoration, on Tuesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration is simply the act of being in Christ's real presence while the Eucharist is on the altar. Adorers may stay as briefly or as long as they would like. Adoration will end with Compline (end of day prayers), followed by Benediction at 8:45 p.m.

PLEASE JOIN WOMEN OF ST. ANDREW FOR EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR: WoSA members invite all to Eucharistic Exposition on Tuesday, Oct. 17, from 8 to 9 p.m. We will pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Holy Rosary followed at 8:45 p.m. with Compline and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Make time to be in Christ's presence and open yourself to the graces which flow from the Eucharist!

#### WINTER CLOTHING, BLANKET & LINEN COLLECTION SATURDAY, NOV. 4 & SUNDAY, NOV. 5

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is asking for your help in providing winter warmth to those in need. Please bring your bagged, clean, gently used (or new) items, such as: women's, men's or children's winter clothing, coats, gloves, scarves, hats. We're also collecting men's shoes and boots, and blankets, sheets and towels.

The truck will be located in the McCoy Road parking lot from afternoon on Saturday, Nov. 4, until noon on Sunday, Nov. 5. Items will be delivered to the SVdP Free Clothing Center downtown.

**DID YOU KNOW** the St. Andrew SVdP has a collection bin in the church parlor marked "St. James the Less Food Pantry"? We accept nonperishable food items and take them to the Pantry on a regular basis. A list of preferred items is on the inside of the lid. Items include pasta, rice, beans, soup. Please consider those less fortunate when you are shopping!

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**: Send requests no later than Monday at 10:00 a.m. for the upcoming weekend. Include a brief description, date, time, location and contact name, and send to **bulletin@standrewparish.cc**. Information may be edited for clarity and space.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SCHEDULE MASS INTENTIONS?** You can schedule Mass Intentions in one of three ways: 1) Stop by the office during business hours and schedule in person. 2) Mail your request to the parish office (1899 McCoy Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220, attn: Mass Intentions) and include the stipend for each Mass request. 3) Email preferred dates and times to Jen Wenzke, **jwenzke@standrewparish.cc** and either mail in or drop off the stipend. We will do our best to honor the dates and times requested, but no date/time can be guaranteed. Stipend is \$10/intention.



# FRIDAY, OCT 20 6 pm doors open 7 pm start Nugent Parish Hall



»\$25/person

»All adults are welcome!

Evening includes food, soft drinks and euchre. All skill levels are welcome. Win cash prizes! Participants must be 21 and older.

For more information or to register, contact Joe DelTosto, 614-371-7901 or jdelto43@gmail.com.



**ST. ANDREW KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** will be collecting following all Masses Saturday, Oct. 21, and Sunday, Oct. 22, for the "Support Our Seminarians" campaign. This annual collection promotes priestly vocations within the Columbus Diocese. The money

donated provides financial support to form and educate future priests. If you prefer to donate electronically, visit **tinyurl.com/SAP-SOS2022** or use the QR code. Thank you for your continued support of this important program!



**MANY THANKS** to the individuals who donated 24 units of blood at our recent Drive. Thanks also to Joanne, Sally and Beth, and all the volunteers who help make the Drives possible. Mark your calendar for our next Blood Drive on December 5! We hope to have even more donors in December.



#### American Red Cross

**ST. ANDREW KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 11275** invites you to participate in the Knights of Columbus initiative called *Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP)*.

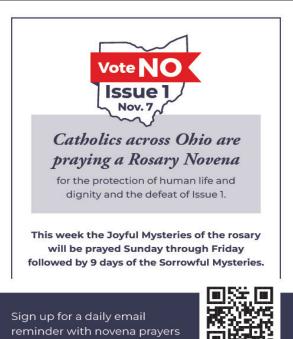
In June of 2022, the US Supreme Court upheld a Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy, concurrently overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark ruling that legalized abortion nearly 50 years ago. Through ASAP, the Knights of Columbus is now strengthening support for pregnancy resource centers here in Columbus and we are asking you to consider lending your support to either the Women's Care Center or Pregnancy Decision Health Center by using the QR code.

The National KofC Council will match each council's \$500 donation with an extra \$100 up to a maximum of \$400.





Check out the YouTube video that details how the Knights of Columbus councils across the country are lending support to this important, life-saving initiative: **www. youtube.com/watch?v=EtMtDDLM47U** 



here, or at pray54ohio.org.

# **SPEND TIME WITH JESUS**

Lord, I need you Every hour I need you My one defense, my righteousness Oh, God how I need you

- Matt Maher

**Praise Music** Provided by Mar Frommeyer & Chris Rockwell Eucharistic Adoration October 31, 2023 6:00-6:45 p.m. Praise Music 7:00-8:00 p.m. Silent Meditation 8:00-8:45 Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary

**St. Andrew Church** Hosted by First Called Youth Ministry

God calls each of us to spend time with Him. Being in His presence will transform you. All are welcome!

Want to know more? Email mariafrommeyer@yahoo.com

# MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL FIRST CALLED!

All activities take place on Sunday evenings at the Bryce Eck Center unless otherwise noted.

UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRST CALLED: We will view and discuss "Real and True" October 22

## UPCOMING HIGH SCHOOL FIRST CALLED:

We will view and discuss "Search" October 15, October 29

Our theme this year is friendship! Please join us to learn more about true friendship with Jesus.

For more information about FCYM and how to register, visit **standrewparish.cc/youth-ministry/** or contact Maria Moore at 614-439-3571 (cell), 614-459-1402 (office), or **mmoore@standrewparish.cc.** 

# WoSA BINGO NIGHT

FRIDAY, OCT. 27 // 7:00 PM // NUGENT PARISH HALL

Mark your calendar for the **ANNUAL BINGO NIGHT** hosted by the Women of St. Andrew (WoSA).

Join us if you dare for some spooktacular treats including prizes for the winners of each round

as well as complimentary soft drinks, munchies and desserts. Participants are also welcome to BYOB and any additional food items to enjoy at your table.

Spread the word about this an evening of FUN! For more information, email **WomenofStAndrew@gmail.com**.

**ST. MONICA CLUB:** All are welcome to this monthly study and support experience. Members of the group discuss the book *St. Monica Club* by Maggie Green, and how to gently and prayerfully encourage family and friends back to the faith. St. Monica has become synonymous with persistent, unfailing prayer for fallen-away family members. The group includes all devoted parents who have experienced the pain of seeing a child leave the Faith and who have prayed ceaselessly for their return.

**Upcoming meeting dates:** October 30, November 27 and December 18. For more info and to RSVP, contact Amy Tague, at **amyliss14@gmail.com**.



WE NEED BUCKEYE DONATIONS!

We are asking for donations for our annual Buckeye-Making Workshop. Items we need include Jif or Skippy creamy peanut butter (NOT low fat), Nestle semisweet chocolate chips, and Domino confectioners' sugar. You may drop off ingredients in the Parlor in the bin marked "buckeye donations" now through Sunday, Nov. 5. For more information, contact Denise Kish, (614) 679-2897 or **dirkkish@att.net**.

#### JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL BUCKEYE-MAKING

**WORKSHOP** on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 9 and 10, at 9 a.m. in Nugent Parish Hall. No previous experience is needed. We will provide snacks and lunch. You can drop by anytime during the workshop and stay for as long as you'd like.

# LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

#### SAT, OCT 21: Vigil, 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time 4:30 PM Mass

Kathi Theado	EMHC - B1
Mike Luckett	EMHC - B2
Cecile Jalandoni-Chuidian (sub req)	Lector - A
Wini Chuidian (sub req)	Lector - B
Jonathan Koeninger (sub req)	Altar Server
Ava Busch	Altar Server

#### SUN, OCT 22: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM Mass	
David Varda	EMHC - B1
Linda Daley	EMHC - B2
Cathy Covarrubias	Lector - A
Tom Levenick	Lector - B
Mary Jaminet	Altar Server
Hannah Gandu	Altar Server

#### 9:15 AM Mass

Debbie Caranna	EMHC - B1
Jane Dickson	EMHC - B2
David Tague	EMHC - B CHOIR
Mary Kasberg	Lector - A
Jacob Decot	Lector - B
Andrew Thornton	Altar Server
Joel Kasberg	Altar Server

#### 11:00 AM Mass

Bette Jo Feeney
Donna Kring
Mike Stuhldreher
Ann Pratt
Ben Stuhldreher
Matthew Stuhldreher

To volunteer, visit **www.rotundasoftware. com/ministry/standrewcolumbus**, or use the QR code here. If you need help with your username or password, contact the Parish Office, 614-451-4290.



EMHC - B1

EMHC - B2

Lector - A

Lector - B Altar Server

Altar Server



**THAT MAN IS YOU!** is an interactive video-based men's program running here at St. Andrew to help men become better fathers, husbands, and Catholics. Thousands of men across the country are participating in their parish's implementation of the program, and feedback is overwhelmingly positive that it is changing lives. So, if you also want to learn how to improve your relationship with God and your family, you should seriously consider attending on Saturday mornings for the next 8 weeks.

It's not too late to join! The program continues through mid-December

on **Saturday mornings at the Bryce Eck Center**. Doors open at 6:30 a.m. for fellowship and breakfast, followed by a presentation and group discussion at 7 a.m. Each session ends by 8 a.m. For more information and to register, contact Colin Bellantis at 440-728-4166 or **colinbellantis@gmail.com** or visit **www.TMIY.org**.

# ST. ANDREW PARISH MISSION

# AN EVENING ON THE EUCHARIST

ST. ANDREW CHURCH DEC 6 • 7:00 PM

All parishioners, family members and community friends are welcome and encouraged to attend this presentation by Dr. Edward Sri.



REGISTRATION: tinyurl.com/MISSION-EUCHARIST or use the QR

A Triduum Celebration for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

# **ADVENT WITH MARY**

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH DEC 7 • 7:00 PM

All St. Andrew parishioners are welcome to a second evening of learning with Dr. Sri. Use the QR to register.







Dr. Edward Sri, theologian, author, and well-known Catholic speaker, presents to tens of thousands of people worldwide each year, including clergy, parish leaders, catechists, and laity.

# **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR BOTH EVENINGS!**

# ENCOUNTER THE REALITY OF OUR EUCHARISTIC LORD

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16 // 7:00 PM // NUGENT PARISH HALL

## Session 2: Who Is Jesus?

Jesus is both God and man, therefore He reveals who God is in relation to us. Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15) He asks this same question of us: Who do you say Jesus is?



**Join us each week or when you can!** Mark your calendar for the following Mondays: October 23, 30, and November 6, 13 and 20.

To RSVP, scan the QR code or visit **tinyurl.com/SAP-ER-Meeting**.



For information about the National Eucharistic Revival and adult faith at St. Andrew Parish, contact Emily Jaminet, 614-451-4290 ext. 9, or ejaminet@standrewparish.cc.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE



HEART

SACRED HEART ENTHRONEMENT

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**Special Youth Program (K & Up)** Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus

REGISTRATION IS REQUESTED AND APPRECIATED: \$15 Individuals | \$25 Families REGISTER AT: WWW.WelcomeHisHeart.com

# DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS VOCAL TRAINING PROGRAM

The diocesan Vocal Training Program is being developed to strengthen the vocal skills of our parish singers and to introduce chant singing in a way that everyone can understand and appreciate. Dr. Richard K. Fitzgerald, Director of Music of the Diocese of Columbus and Dawn Beckman, Head Instructor of the Diocesan Vocal Training Program will offer training workshops in October and November, 2023. The first workshop will be held on October 28 from 10 a.m. -12 noon at The Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Lancaster, Ohio. The second workshop will be hosted by Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Marysville, Ohio on November 4, also from 10 a.m. -12 noon. We invite parishes to join a workshop close to them, and we hope to welcome everyone from the diocese by the end of the season. Please register for this free workshop by emailing Dawn at rtbddb@aol.com. We hope to see vou there!

**THANK YOU, BULLETIN SPONSORS!** Thanks to our sponsors and Dee Printing, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish.

**ADVERTISE IN OUR BULLETIN!** Please help support our parish by advertising in our bulletin. Contact Kati at Dee Printing at 614.777.8700 or kati@deeprinting.com. **A RELIC OF ST. JUDE THE APOSTLE**, known as the patron saint of hope and impossible causes, will be displayed at three sites in the Columbus area on three consecutive days.

The relic will be at Westerville St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St., on Monday, Oct. 30; the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave., on Tuesday, Oct. 31; and the New Albany Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, on Wednesday, Nov. 1. Veneration of the relic at all three places will be from 1 to 10 p.m.

**RETURNING LOVE FOR LOVE PILGRIMAGE:** Please consider joining Bishop Earl K. Fernandes for a pilgrimage to France in honor of the 350th Anniversary of the revelations of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary. The dates are May 31 through June 9. This trip will include traveling to Lisieux, Paris, Paray-Le-Monial, Nevers, Ars, Annecy, Lyon and Normandy. For complete details, visit www.ctscentral.net/trips/france/ celebrate-the-350th-anniversary-of-the-revelation-of-the-sacred-heart-in-france/

**SERRA CLUB ESSAY CONTEST:** The Columbus Serra Club is challenging all 8th grade boys in the Diocese of Columbus to write an essay of 500 words or less answering the question about whether God might be calling them to the priesthood. Writers of the 10 best essays will receive a \$1,000 tuition assistance grant to a diocesan Catholic high school. The Office of Catholic Schools will administer the competition for boys in Catholic schools. For more information, text 614-558-0806 or email Kielkopf.1@osu.edu.



# \*Do This in Remembrance of Me" A Step-By-Step Walk Through the Mass

Fr. Luke Spannagel

# Part 8: Penitential Act

After the priest's greeting and people's response at the beginning of the Mass, we next share in the Penitential Act. If you think that sounds like penance, don't worry—it's a good thing! During the entrance rite, we recall that we are in the presence of God. If we are truly sincere in realizing that God (who is all-holy) is in our midst, then we recognize the need for purification. We recognize that when we encounter God, we must draw near with a pure heart. So, we take a brief moment of silence to call to mind our sins and failings, and we ask the Lord to forgive and heal us. After our time of silence, the priest (or deacon) leads the community in praying one of three possible prayers (conveniently known as options A, B, and C –more on them next time).

# **History of the Penitential Act**

Like nearly every part of the Holy Sacrifice, we find descriptions of the Penitential Act in early descriptions of the Mass. One of these, the Didachē (pronounced: did-uh-kay), meaning Teaching of the Apostles, gives instructions for Christians celebrating the Eucharist: "Assemble on the Lord's Day, and break bread and offer the Eucharist; but first make confession of your faults, so that your sacrifice may be a pure one" (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p. 32). As Father Guy Oury notes, "For a long time in the past this rite concerned only the celebrant and his ministers. Before going up to the altar they remained in silent prayer, lying face to the floor, as is still done in the liturgy of Good Friday" (The Mass, p. 49). So that everyone present could be more actively involved in this important part of the Mass, our current options came into use. Besides, except for some of our little ones, it would be really hard for everyone to lie down on the floor inside the pews!

## **How to Participate**

This honest look inside ourselves during the Penitential Act helps us to be aware of our sin and, most importantly, our need for God to help us overcome sin. In a very practical way, this brief reflection recalls

the places in our lives where we know we need Christ more. If you haven't yet thought of an intention to join together with the priest's offering of the Mass, this might be a great time to ask specifically for help in overcoming a particular sin or perhaps further healing from the effects of previous sins. We believe that the Mass is our most powerful prayer together because Jesus himself is truly present and we are joining together with Him in the perfect worship of God the Father. In the Mass we take part in the one perfect sacrifice of the Cross where Christ offered Himself so that our sins could be forgiven. Realizing Jesus will be present on the altar or thinking about how the Mass is a sharing in the Cross, this moment can actually be one of great hope. What a great gift!

During this part of the Mass, as you recall your sins, you might feel unworthy of what we are about to celebrate. Although it may be uncomfortable to think about where we need healing and growth, it is actually a good sign of grace at work in our hearts. We are made out of love for love. We are made for life and communion with God and each other. Of course, sin disrupts and breaks that communion: sin moves us away from where we belong. The reason we feel frustrated or embarrassed or sad when we think of our sins is that we know deep inside that sin is contrary to the life to which God calls us. Hopefully, that discomfort will spur us to seek out the forgiveness of Christ through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

#### Sometimes We Use Water Instead

For a little bonus info: Have you ever noticed during this time that the priest might walk around with Holy Water instead? As the General Instruction of the Roman Missal says, "From time to time on Sundays, especially in Easter Time, instead of the customary Penitential Act, the blessing and sprinkling of water may take place as a reminder of Baptism" (GIRM, no. 51). As people from my parishes could tell you, this is often one of my favorite parts of the Mass! Using an aspergillum (typically a small reservoir with a sponge inside on the end of a handle, sometimes referred to as a sprinkler) or perhaps even an evergreen branch, the priest will dip it into the water and then sprinkle the water over the people. As when we talked about using the Holy Water upon entering the church, this water recalls our baptism and the joy of being freed by Christ from sin. No wonder the priest is often so generous with the Holy Water at this part of the Mass!

#### For Reflection:

1. Slowly pray Psalm 51 as a way of preparing for the Penitential Act. (Notice that verse 9 refers to being cleansed by "hyssop," a branch serving the function of the aspergillum.) Which words or phrases speak to you as you seek forgiveness and healing? Keep these words in mind next time you participate in Mass. 2. Read the first portion of Luke's account of the Risen Lord's appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-24). Observe how Jesus invites the disciples to share what they are discussing and how freely they express what is on their minds and hearts. Place yourself in this scene. What do you want to express to the Lord as he invites you to "[p]our out your hearts to God" (Ps. 62:9)? Approach the Penitential Act with this same freedom to place your total self before the Lord.



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