



SAINT ANDREW PARISH

1899 McCoy Road
Columbus, Ohio 43220
Parish Office (614) 451-4290
www.standrewparish.cc



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 **ANOIDNTING 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.



 facebook.com/standrewparishua

 [standrewparishua](https://www.instagram.com/standrewparishua)

 [StAndrewUA](https://www.youtube.com/StAndrewUA)

STAFF DIRECTORY

CLERGY

614-451-4290

Msgr. Stephan Moloney, Pastor Ext. 4
 Rev. Lawrence Tabi, Parochial Vicar Ext. 5
 Deacon Thomas M. Berg, Jr.
 Deacon Daniel Dowler
 Rev. William DeVille, In Holy Service
 whd22@aol.com
 Rev. Paul Noble, In Residence,
 pnoble@columbuscatholic.org

PARISH OFFICE STAFF

614-451-4290

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 tconigy@standrewparish.cc
 Joe Tomlinson, Accounting Ext. 8
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 gprice@standrewparish.cc
 Philip Lortz, Director of Music, 614-451-1839
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 mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc
 Jen Wenzke, Parish Secretary Ext. 0
 jwenzke@standrewparish.cc
 Emily Jaminet, Adult Faith/RCIA Ext. 9
 ejaminet@standrewparish.cc

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

614-451-2855

Tina White, Director Ext. 304
 twhite@cdededucation.org
 Kathy Dowler, Catechesis Coordinator Ext. 305
 kdowler@standrewparish.cc

SCHOOL ADMIN/STAFF

614-451-1626

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 jwichtma@cdededucation.org
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 hroush@cdededucation.org
 Kyletta Scheirmann, Latchkey Ext. 105
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BRYCE ECK ACTIVITY CENTER

614-459-1402

Pat Carroll, Facility Manager
 pcarroll@standrewparish.cc
 Amanda Carter, Preschool Director Ext. 3
 acarter@cdededucation.org
 Maria Moore, Youth Ministry Ext. 1
 mmoore@standrewparish.cc

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday: Oct 7 Vigil, 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:30 p.m. For the People of St. Andrew Parish

Sunday: Oct 8, 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 a.m. Duane Palmo
 9:15 a.m. Joe and Sue Pangallo
 11:00 a.m. Les Hess

Monday: Oct 9, Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Gene Perry, Sr.
 8:30 a.m. Heimo Langer

Tuesday: Oct 10, Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Robert F. Ferrari
 8:30 a.m. Rita Melaragno

Wednesday: Oct 11, Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Daniel Slattery
 8:30 a.m. Tommy Wycoff

Thursday: Oct 12, Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Steve Homan
 8:30 a.m. Teresa Johnson

Friday: Oct 13, Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Ann Fox
 8:30 a.m. Special Intention

Saturday: Oct 14, Weekday Mass
 9:00 a.m. Norma Johanni

Vigil, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:30 p.m. Kathy McNeal

Sunday: Oct 15, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 a.m. For The People of St. Andrew Parish
 9:15 a.m. Deceased Members of the Mallett
 & McCort Families
 11:00 a.m. Michael Porter

BAPTISMS

Sophie Rose Buening, daughter of Andrew and Jessica
 Fallon Ellorie Stafford, daughter of Bryan and Chelsey

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES OF...

Michelle Doyle
 Diane Nester

HOME VISITS: If you or a family member are homebound and would like a visit from a priest or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please **call the parish office at 614-451-4290**. EMs bring Communion to the homebound on Sundays or as scheduled. Priests will see the homebound upon request, however, they usually cannot schedule home visits with Communion on Sundays.

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

This second week of October, I would like to give you all an update on our follow-up to the parishioner survey in which many of you participated earlier this year. I want to assure you that these surveys are being carefully considered and acted upon.

A total of 228 surveys were received. Many comments were also included. Our Parish Council members who planned and organized the survey have also gathered and tabulated the responses. I have also personally read all of the responses to this survey, and I thank all who participated for offering your comments, suggestions, and even criticisms. There were some things that were mentioned repeatedly, and also quite a few individual "one-off" ideas. However, my overwhelming reaction to all the surveys was the realization that **we need the Eucharistic Revival!** Almost all the suggestions – and even the complaints – boiled down to a need to improve the experience of the Sunday Mass at St. Andrew Parish. The Eucharistic Revival is needed to help all of us truly appreciate the Eucharist as the Real Presence of Christ, and that the Holy Mass is the way we share in Christ offering the Sacrifice of His Body and Blood to the Father. In reading the survey responses, it was obvious to me that we must do this better. And the survey responses also show that much of the laity do not understand their role in the liturgy of the Mass. These are all things that the Eucharistic Revival is meant to address.

I have already shared this with the Parish Council and the Liturgy Committee, and advised them that we must "step up our game" and pursue true excellence in all aspects of our celebration of the Mass and appreciation of the Mass.

For example, a number of people mentioned the sound system and inability to hear the readings and homily. As a result, we are beginning some consultations with acoustics experts to see if we can improve the sound system. We will also need better training for our lectors so that all use the amplification system to the best advantage.

Quite a few respondents asked for better preaching and homilies. There wasn't much agreement as to what makes a better homily. Some said preaching should be more down to earth and practical; others wanted a change in style, less formal, more casual; others simply wanted ideological or political viewpoints that corresponded with their own, and messages that challenged their own viewpoints to be excluded. All that being said, I have concluded that homilists, myself included, must do better. Obviously, we can't make everybody happy, but we must strive more for excellence in preaching, and I have shared this message with all of our clergy.

Some people mentioned that the reason they come to Mass is to hear the message. If they can't hear (because of the sound system) or the message isn't giving them what they need (because they don't relate to the homily), then why come to Mass? Some said they preferred to watch the Mass via livestream. This is also why we need the Eucharistic Revival! The message is not the most important aspect of the Mass! Yes, it should be relevant, inspiring and helpful, and able to be heard and understood. But we come to Mass to meet and receive Christ, who is truly present. We have to regain this understanding, and the laity must also "step up" and fulfill their role of conscious and active participation in the Mass.

This is just the beginning of our response to the survey. Stay tuned for further developments.

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

Your Pastor,

Msgr. Stephan Moloney



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**



Learn, Grow and Share at St. Andrew

ENCOUNTER THE REALITY OF OUR EUCHARISTIC LORD

All parishioners are encouraged to join us for small group study sessions **BEGINNING OCTOBER 9**. Focused on spiritual formation, the sessions include a video presentation followed by prayer and discussion within the small groups. Each session will last approximately two hours.

Study sessions will be held in the parish hall at 7:00 p.m. on the following **MONDAYS**: October 9, 16, 23, 30, and November 6, 13 and 20.

We hope to have a great turn out for the seven-week program, and lay the groundwork for the parish mission with Dr. Sri on December 6, 2023.

To RSVP for the small study group meetings, scan the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/SAP-ER-Meeting.



**SAINT ANDREW
PARISH**



[save the date]

ST. ANDREW PARISH MISSION

**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 6, 2023**

Featuring Dr. Edward Sri,
theologian, author and well-
known Catholic speaker.



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

SUNDAY OFFERING

	SEPT. 24	YTD
ACTUAL	\$ 24,974	\$ 347,110
BUDGET	\$ 32,212	\$ 418,750
LAST YEAR	\$ 16,066	\$ 339,569

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 osvhub.com/st-andrew-parish/funds or contact Business Manager Thomas Conigy, tconigy@standrewparish.cc or 614-451-4290, ext. 6.



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED TO THE APPEAL!

As of October, our pledges have exceeded our goal and we have just a little more to go before the money collected will reach the goal! The Appeal supports essential ministries, formation, and outreach under the four pillars of evangelization, vocations, education, and social concerns. The amount collected in excess of the goal is returned to the parish.



ST. ANDREW PROGRESS REPORT THROUGH OCT 3:

Pledged	\$238,380.25
Collected	\$211,929.10
Remaining	\$ 2,218.60
Goal	\$214,147.70

It's not too late to give. Pledge envelopes are available in the pews. Feel free to drop them in the collection basket with your pledge or donation, or mail them to The Appeal, 197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, OH 43215. Make checks payable to The Diocese of Columbus and include "St. Andrew Parish – Appeal" in the memo section. You may also pledge online at www.columbuscatholicgiving.org/appeal or scan the QR code.



DONUT SUNDAY NEXT WEEKEND

All parishioners are invited to Donut Sunday on **October 15**, co-hosted by St. Andrew Knights of Columbus and representatives from "That Man Is You" (TMIY). Stop by and enjoy donuts, coffee, juice and good old-fashioned fellowship.



EUCCHARISTIC 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 MEMBERS OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOR EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR:

SVdP members invite all to Eucharistic Exposition on **Tuesday, Oct. 10, 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!

OCTOBER SENIOR LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12
BRYCE ECK CENTER – KELLY HALL

Euchre at 10 a.m. // Bingo at 11 a.m. // Lunch at Noon

The luncheons are a great way to catch up with old friends and forge new friendships with seniors within our St. Andrew Parish community. If you are 55+ and a registered parishioner, come and join the fun! There is no cost. **For more information**, contact Pat Carroll at 614-459-1402 or pccarroll@standrewparish.cc.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING



If you are a St. Andrew School or PSR student (grade 5 and up) interested in becoming an Altar Server at Mass, please attend the upcoming training session on Sunday, Oct. 15, after the 11 a.m. Mass in the church.

Training lasts about 30 minutes. RSVP to Liz Meyers at emeyers@standrewparish.cc or 614-451-2855.

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



Planned Parenthood
3255 E Main St
Columbus, OH

ST ANDREW PARISH

10.14.23

7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Sign up to adopt an hour today!

THE 40 DAYS FOR LIFE FALL CAMPAIGN HAS BEGUN.

We are on the precipice of a critical time in Ohio. We must continue to give prayerful witness to the community to change hearts and minds. **St. Andrew parish will participate in a day of prayer on Saturday, October 14, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.,** in front of Planned Parenthood on East Main Street. Additional event information and sign-up sheets will be in the church parlor on October 7 and 8. Or, if you prefer to sign up online, visit tinyurl.com/SAP-40DAYS-23 or use the QR code. For more information, contact Life Director Jim Holsinger at 614-394-7202 or jimholsing@yahoo.com.



EARLY VOTING AGAINST ISSUES 1 & 2

Catholics are called to faithful citizenship, which means we must act when a moral question confronts our society by praying and fasting, educating ourselves and our neighbors, and making our voice heard when it's time to vote.

As followers of Christ, Catholics cannot be silent when the health and safety of women and preborn children are endangered by the vague language of Issue 1. We must also protect the health of children and safety of our communities, which are both threatened by the legalization of recreational marijuana proposed by Issue 2. Recreational marijuana puts children at risk by increasing exposure to harmful drugs when their development is most vulnerable. It also increases the likelihood of traffic fatalities and workplace accidents.

Visit www.voteohio.gov to register to vote by October 10. Early voting begins October 11 – find your early voting location or request an absentee ballot at www.voteohio.gov to protect women, children, and communities in Ohio and Vote NO on Issue 1 and Issue 2.



KNIGHTS NEWS

WANT TO START PUTTING 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!

SUPPORT FCYM & KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN OUR BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

First Called Youth Ministry (FCYM) and St. Andrew Knights have partnered to bring this year's "Bottle 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.

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 8, 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.

ST. ANDREW SCHOOL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

AFTER SCHOOL CARE ASSISTANT: Part-time, 2:45-6:00 p.m., on school days. The ASC assistant coordinates, assists and supervises various After School Care activities for enrolled students. For more details about this position, contact After School Care Director Kyletta Scheirmann at kscheirmann@cdeducation.org.

CAFETERIA ASSISTANT: Part-time, 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., on school days. For more details about this position, contact Cafeteria Manager Valerie Musolino at vmusolino@cdeducation.org.

INTERVENTION AIDE: Part-time, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., on school days. The intervention aide coordinates, assists and supervises various student activities as noted by the assigned Intervention Specialist and appropriate classroom teachers. For more details about this position, contact Principal Joel Wichtman at jwichtma@cdeducation.org.

All positions require current, clear BCI & FBI background checks, along with a certificate of completion of the Protecting God's Children (PGC) training or willingness to attend a PGC training session prior to working with children.

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

WoSA BINGO NIGHT

Friday, Oct. 27 // 7:00 PM // Nugent Parish Hall

Mark your calendar for the Women of St. Andrew (WoSA) ANNUAL BINGO NIGHT. This cash event will not trick you, but rather offer plenty of treats with prizes for the winners of each round as well as complimentary soft drinks, munchies and dessert items available for all. Participants are also welcome to BYOB and food items for enjoyment during play.



Spread the word and join us for an evening of FUN and FELLOWSHIP! For more information, email WomenofStAndrew@gmail.com.

LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

SAT, OCT 14: Vigil, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 PM Mass

Patricia Irsik	EMHC - B1
Lynda Guenther	EMHC - B2
Tom Levenick	Lector - A
Tim Terveer	Lector - B
Megan Terveer	Altar Server
Kara Busch	Altar Server

SUN, OCT 15: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM Mass

Linda Daley	EMHC - B1
Dick Curtis	EMHC - B2
John Schechter	Lector - A
Ali Wright	Lector - B
Gabrielle Martin	Altar Server
Daniel Martin	Altar Server

9:15 AM Mass

David Tague	EMHC - B1
Vicky Macklin	EMHC - B2
Bob McFadden	EMHC - B CHOIR
Jim Macklin	Lector - A
Jennifer Schaefer	Lector - B
Nora Ott	Altar Server
Audrey Bellaire	Altar Server

11:00 AM Mass

Jennie Statczar	EMHC - B1
Martha Radtke	EMHC - B2
Mary Frecker	Lector - A
Marty Majka	Lector - B
Kaci Watson	Altar Server
Kolbe Krzeczowski	Altar Server

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 at 614-451-4290.



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, unflinching 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.

THAT MAN IS YOU!: THE VISION OF MAN FULLY ALIVE

enables men to experience authentic freedom as sons of God. Through living the three-fold mission of abiding presence, joyful service and loving sacrifice, their hearts and homes will experience the joy that God desires.

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. To learn more about THAN MAN IS YOU!, visit www.TMIY.org.

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

ePOST WEEKLY EMAIL: To subscribe, contact Mary Beasecker at mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc. The ePost includes information about upcoming events and activities within the parish. To submit information, please email to Mary before Noon on Mondays. ePOST submissions may be edited for clarity or space.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

**COLUMBUS CATHOLIC
YOUNG ADULT
CONFERENCE**




PSALM 37:3-5
TRUST IN HIM
10.14.23

OCTOBER 14
CCYAC.ORG TO REGISTER

THANK YOU, BULLETIN SPONSORS! Thanks to our sponsors & 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.

2023 BWHS BAND FALL

Sub Sale

All proceeds go to the
Bishop Watterson
Band Program

9" Italian subs

\$6.50

Sale ends:
October 19





12TH ANNUAL

SACRED HEART CONGRESS

NOVEMBER 4, 2023
ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH
313 NORTH STATE ST | WESTERVILLE, OH

8:00am - Noon

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





The Mass

✠ ***“Do This in Remembrance of Me”*** ✠ **A Step-By-Step Walk Through the Mass**

Fr. Luke Spannagel

Part 7: Greeting

“Hello, Joe. How are you?” Whenever we see someone we know, we might greet him or her in this way. However, the Mass, the gathering of the family of God, doesn’t begin like this at all. Why not? Without a doubt, the Mass isn’t just like meeting people on the street. When we come to Mass, we aren’t just passing by an acquaintance: we are encountering and worshipping Almighty God. After the Sign of the Cross, the priest says, “The Lord be with you,” or one of the other versions given in the Missal, such as “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all;” or “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” This greeting indicates right away that what we are about to do is going to be very different from the normal daily routine. Also, it recalls that we are part of something greater—the universal celebration of the Liturgy—God with all his people.

Far from Ordinary

If the only thing the priest said was something like, “I’m glad to see you” or “Boy, it’s cold today,” he might give the impression that we are just entering into familiar chatter. We could miss that something sacred is about to happen. So, the universal greeting helps us prepare to enter more fully into the celebration of the Mass and helps us to realize this will be a sacred gathering with Almighty God present before us. If you think about the words, they are actually a prayer said by the priest asking that the grace, peace, love, etc., of God be with each person—now that’s a way to start a gathering of God’s people! The faithful then respond with their own part of the prayer, asking a similar grace for the priest by responding, “And with your spirit.”

Whose Spirit?

Why do we say, "And with your spirit?" Our English translation of the phrase is actually a direct word-for-word translation from the Latin prayers of the Mass: "Et cum spiritu tuo." This phrase also clearly connects us to several places in the Bible. For example, we see the priest's greeting, "The Lord be with you," in Ruth 2:4; and we see the people's response, "The Lord be with your spirit," in 2 Timothy 4:22.

Okay, Father, I see where those lines are in the Bible. But what does "spirit" mean here? According to several saints and Christian writers, "spirit" refers not to the soul of the priest but to the spirit he has received through the sacrament of Holy Orders. As Edward Sri writes, quoting Jeremy Driscoll for support: "By saying 'and with your spirit,' the people are acknowledging the Holy Spirit's unique activity through the priest during the sacred liturgy by virtue of his ordination. As Jeremy Driscoll explains, 'The people are addressing the "spirit" of the priest; that is, that deepest interior part of his being where he has been ordained precisely to lead the people in the sacred action. They are saying in effect, "Be the priest for us now," aware that there is only one priest, Christ Himself, and that this one who represents them now must be finely tuned to perform his sacred duties well.'" (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p. 28).

The greeting at the start of Mass is a prayer that the Lord will be present with the people and a prayer back from the people acknowledging the spiritual gift God has given to the priest to help lead us in prayer. It is definitely a more formal greeting than we would use out and about. However, what we do at Church is definitely different than meeting each other at a ballgame or a restaurant. The priest may very well go on to give some words of welcome or make a comment on the weather, but those comments follow the opening dialogue: "The Lord be with you," "And with your spirit." Now, let's pray together as God's family!

For Reflection:

1. Reflect on how you greet different relationships in your life, such as family members, friends, and professional acquaintances. What do you communicate through those diverse greetings? Be attentive to the next greeting opportunity in your day and more intentional about what and how you communicate.
2. Read Ruth 2 and 2 Timothy 4:19-22 to see our liturgical greetings in these contexts. Take time to meditate on these passages, placing yourself in the scenes and recognizing that you are part of a great lineage of human relationships.



Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog

