





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



LENT

pray fast give

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.



- facebook.com/standrewparishua
 - standrewparishua
- StAndrewUA

STAFF DIRECTORY

STAFF DIRECTORY	
CLERGY Msgr. Stephan Moloney, Pastor Rev. Lawrence Tabi, Parochial Vicar 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	614-451-4290 Ext. 101 Ext. 103
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Heather Roush, School Secretary	Ext. 228

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday:	Mar. 9 Vigil, Fourth Sunday of Lent
4:30 p.m.	Margaret & Ed Cantwell
Sunday:	Mar. 10, Fourth Sunday of Lent
7:30 a.m.	For the People of St. Andrew Parish
9:15 a.m.	Marilyn Braun
11:00 a.m.	Alexander Tye Sisamuth
Monday:	Mar. 11, Weekday Mass
6:30 a.m.	The Rose Family
8:30 a.m.	John and Paul Gallagher
Tuesday:	Mar. 12, Weekday Mass
6:30 a.m.	Dr. Joseph Banks
8:30 a.m.	Philip Kosch
Wednesday:	: Mar. 13, Weekday Mass
6:30 a.m.	The Perry Family
8:30 a.m.	Rita Melaragno
Thursday:	Mar. 14, Weekday Mass
6:30 a.m.	Dorothy M. Lorr and Joseph Grywalski
8:30 a.m.	Shirley V. Meyers
Friday:	Mar. 15, Weekday Mass
6:30 a.m.	Richard Schumacher
8:30 a.m.	Louie and Frances Massenelli
Saturday:	
9:00 a.m.	Mar. 16, Weekday Mass Shirley Pappa
	-

BAPTISMS

Everett Ray Chambers, son of Craig and Shelby Carter Douglas Hook, son of Justin and Chelsea

FORMED Available free of charge to St. Andrew parishioners, FORMED is a digital streaming service that provides amazing content 24/7 for you to grow in your faith. To register, visit **www.FORMED.org**, click on Sign Up (top right of page), enter NWWM42 (this is our parish access code) and enter your email and create a password (you will need this to login later).

You can also download the FORMED app on any Apple or Android phone.

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Lent, also known as Laetare Sunday. "Laetare" means "rejoice" or "be glad." It is a day of rejoicing because we are at the midpoint of Lent, a season of penance and self-denial. You know that we call Wednesday "hump day" because it's the middle of the work week. When we pass Wednesday each week, we are "over the hump" and rejoice because the weekend is near. So in Lent, Laetare Sunday is like the "hump day" of Lent – we pass over the "hump" on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, and we are motivated to persevere in our Lenten penance and prayer all the way to Holy Week and Easter. Once over the "hump" we can see the end in sight, and we coast downhill to the finish line!

To mark this halfway point, the church allows us to use rose-colored vestments on Laetare Sunday and even to place flowers in the sanctuary if desired. We will still need determination and patience, though, because we must fulfill the last three weeks of Lent by keeping our Lenten resolutions and penitential practices for the remainder of the 40 days. May we remain faithful and persevere, now that we are "over the hump"!

This week is Spring Break for our Catholic Schools, including St. Andrew School. I wish all a happy and safe break, and safe travels. I wish I were going on Spring Break too!

Your Pastor,

Msgr. Stephan Moloney



EMHC-CUP TRAINING/ REFRESHER WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 6:30 PM

NUGENT PARISH HALL We will re-introduce the Precious Blood on Holy Thursday, March 28, at the 7:30 p.m. Mass. On Sunday, April 7, we will begin offering the Precious Blood weekly at the 9:15 a.m. Mass only. Because it has been several years since St. Andrew has offered Communion from the Cup, there will be training/refresher for Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) on dispensing from the Cup on Wednesday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

PLEASE NOTE: Communion from the Cup is a separate ministry in **Ministry Scheduler Pro** labeled EMHC-C. Please add this to your qualification on your profile page in the scheduler. For more information about the ministry and training, contact Dcn. Dowler at **ddowler@** columbuscatholic.org.



THURSDAY, MARCH 14 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, 614-459-1402 or **pcarroll@standrewparish.cc**.

JOIN US FOR DONUTS!



St. Andrew Knights of Columbus Council 11275 is sponsoring Donut Sunday on **Sunday, March 17, in Nugent Parish Hall after the 7:30, 9:15 and 11 a.m. Masses**. Stop by and learn more about our group and its

activities while enjoying a donut and a beverage. Members will be available to answer questions and take your contact information if you would like to consider joining our group.

KNIGHTS NEWS

MEN, ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PUTTING YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION? St. Andrew Knights of Columbus Council 11275 will hold an Open House for prospective members



on Monday, March 18, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Bryce Eck Activity Center. Refreshments provided.

•Men Who Lead: The world needs Catholic men to step up and live out their faith. The Knights of Columbus help men to answer that call to do more and to be more. •Men Who Serve: If you're ready to make an impact, the Knights help men put their faith into action and give back - in their parishes, in their communities and on a global scale.

•Men Who Defend: Join the Knights and add your voice to over 2 million members worldwide, upholding the faith and the truth.

Council 11275 has served St. Andrew Parish for 30 years. Interested in learning more about the world's largest fraternal organization of Catholic men and what we do at St. Andrew? Any man age 18 or older and a practical Catholic, as defined by the Church, is eligible for membership.

SUNDAY OFFERING

	FEB. 25	YTD
ACTUAL	\$ 22,151	\$ 1,182,360
BUDGET	\$ 32,212	\$ 1,127,404
LAST YEAR	\$ 18,082	\$ 1,210,638

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 at tconigy@standrewparish. **cc** or 614-451-4290, ext. 6.





OPERATION RICE BOWL: During the 40 days of Lent, we reflect on global hunger and actively help people suffering from a lack of proper nourishment through the Catholic Relief

Services Rice Bowl Lenten almsgiving program. PSR and school students received Rice Bowls during class. Additional Rice Bowls are available for parishioners in the vestibule and parlor of the Church. If you choose, you can donate to the Rice Bowl Lenten program through ONLINE GIVING at osvhub.com/st-andrew-parish/ funds. For more information about the CRS Rice Bowl program, visit www.crsricebowl.org.



Friday's during Lent // 7:30 PM // Church Exposition, Confession and Benediction follows Stations until 9 PM

FACILITIES AND ROOM RESERVATIONS AT **ST. ANDREW PARISH:** If you would like to reserve one of the meeting spaces or halls at St. Andrew Parish, please contact Jen Wenzke, jwenzke@standrewparish.cc, or Greg Price, gprice@standrewparish.cc. The event calendar can be viewed at standrewparish.cc/calendar.



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. At 8:45 p.m., Adoration concludes with Compline (end of day

prayers) followed by Benediction. Make time to be in Christ's presence and open yourself to the graces that flow from the Eucharist!

Weekly Adoration Hosts: Parish Council (first Tuesday); St. Vincent de Paul (second Tuesday); Women of St. Andrew (third Tuesday); Men of the Parish (fourth Tuesday); First Called Youth Ministry (fifth Tuesday).

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF **ST. ANDREW THANKS PARISHIONERS** for your continued clothing contributions

placed in the SVdP bin in the parlor. Each week, the clothing is taken to the free clothing center downtown. A spring clothing



collection is also being planned. If you have non-clothing items of value, please DO NOT place those items into or near the bin in the church parlor. Instead, contact the SVdP Thrift Store at 614-377-1065 or drop them off at 5969 East Main St., 43213. You may also consider donating to other local Thrift Stores in our area.

ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SVDP LENTEN "PURPLE BAG" PROJECT. Beginning Ash Wednesday, you will find empty purple bags at the church entrances with a list of suggested women's and men's hygiene items attached to each bag. Grab a bag, put some items in (you do not need to include all items on

the list) and return it to the church parlor anytime during Lent. Donated items will be delivered to J.O.I.N. (Joint Organization for Inner-city Needs) to distribute to our less fortunate neighbors. Take this opportunity to put your faith into action during the Lenten season.



BLOOD DONORS ARE NEEDED!

like to help, call the Parish Office at 614-451-4290.



Our next Blood Drive will be **Tuesday, March** 19, from 1:00-6:00 p.m. in the Nugent Parish Hall. If you would like to schedule an appointment to give blood at St. Andrew Parish, visit **RedCrossBlood.org**, sponsor code: SACC, or call 1-800-733-2767. We also have a need for helpers to sign up as substitutes for registration and snack table. If you would



SACRED 2024 MON, JUNE 24 - THU, JUNE 27

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Children ages 4 through incoming fifth graders are welcome to join us for SACRED (Saint Andrew Children's Recreation Education Days). Campers will enjoy skits, crafts, snacks, recreation, education, and MUSIC! Plan to have FUN!

REGISTER A CAMPER TODAY!

To learn more and register, visit tinyurl.com/SACRED-2024-REGISTER

ADULT AND TEEN VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

To learn more and volunteer, visit tinyurl.com/SACRED-2024-VOLUNTEER

NEED MORE DETAILS?

Contact Sophia and Jennie Statczar StAndrewSACRED@gmail.com

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL FIRST CALLED YOUTH MINISTRY

Activities held Sunday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Bryce Eck Center unless otherwise noted.

MARCH 10 & 17

Spring Break: No meetings. FCYM students are encouraged to attend Stations of the Cross inside the Church on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. -or- walk Reed Road Stations outside any time!

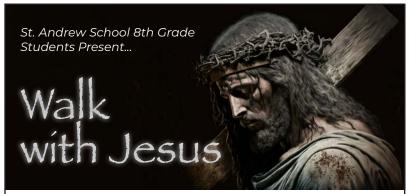
MARCH 24 PALM SUNDAY

Joint MS/HS Eucharistic Revival #2: Presence & The Story of the Eucharist with Fr. Noble

> MARCH 31 EASTER No Session: Celebrate with Family!

Lent service: Collect money for Rice Bowl, toiletries for SVdP Purple Bag Project, and help at Fish Fries.

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



All parishioners and friends are welcome to witness this dramatic portrayal of the Passion of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The "Walk with Jesus" begins OUTSIDE at the entrance of the church.

- Performances -

Tuesday, March 19 9:34 AM & 10:16 AM Wednesday, March 20 6:00 PM

Thursday, March 21 9:34 AM & 10:16 AM



Enjoy Ohio's best hanging baskets, planters, flats (and more) AND benefit the St. Andrew Class of 2025 at the Annual St. Andrew Spring Flower Sale. The **sale begins Monday, March 18**, and runs through Wednesday, April 3. Delivery day will be Thursday, April 25. Reach out to your favorite St. Andrew 7th grader or check back to order from the general sales link once the sale begins. For more information, contact K.C. McAllister at kc@mix-talent.com.



THE 40 DAYS FOR LIFE SPRING CAMPAIGN HAS BEGUN

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, March 23, 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 aburth parter THIS WEEKEND and

church parlor THIS WEEKEND and next, March 16 & 17. Or, if you prefer to sign up online, visit **tinyurl.com/ SPRING-40DAYS-2024** or use the **QR code**. For more information, contact Life Director Jim Holsinger at 614-394-7202 or **jimholsing@yahoo.com**.





BUTTER BRAIDS ARE BACK!

You can choose from 10 different pastries and four different cake rolls. New item: Mrs. Fields cookie dough in a variety of flavors. If you'd like to order in person, Knights will be in the Parlor after Masses THIS WEEKEND and next, March 16 & 17. The sale ends on Sunday, March 17. To order online (\$3 charge per order), visit **tinyurl.com/Butterbraids324**.

Pick up is Saturday, March 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Bryce Eck Center. All items need to be picked up, no personal delivery.

ST. ANDREW PARISH



FRIDAY, MARCH 22

4:30-7:00 PM

NUGENT PARISH HALL

\$15 ADULTS • \$13 SENIORS • \$9 KIDS

DINNER INCLUDES

- Guinness beer-battered cod
- The O on Lane Wood-fired Pizza
- Hand-cut festival french fries
- Homemade tartar sauce
- Drink and Dessert

NEW IN MARCH! Breaded butterfly shrimp! *Market Price

VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS NEEDED:

There are volunteer opportunities available and we are accepting dessert and beverage donations. To learn more, use the QR or visit our SignUp Genius at **tinyurl.com/Fish-Fry-2024**.



Our thanks to The O on Lane for their ongoing support of St. Andrew Parish events and activities! THE NATIVITY OF MARY SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MARCH 29!



The Nativity of Mary Scholarship provides a \$2,000 per year scholarship to any rising 9th grade student who will attend at Catholic High School in the 2024-2025 school year. The link to apply for the Nativity of Mary Scholarship is https://catholic-foundation.org/grants/scholarships/the-nativity-of-mary-scholarship/.

The Nativity of Mary Scholarship was established for the propagation of the Catholic faith and devotion to Our Blessed Mother. A letter of recommendation, short essay on the applicant's devotion to our Blessed Mother, and financial need will be used to evaluate the potential applicants. This scholarship is renewable for four years.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR ST. ANDREW PARISH HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: RONALD C. SULLIVAN SCHOLARSHIP

The \$25,000 annual Ronald C. Sullivan Scholarship is available for application through The Catholic Foundation for incoming freshman at Ohio State University.

Ronald C. Sullivan was a man of faith, education, business, and duty. He considered his Catholicism the foundation of his identity and as a lifelong Buckeye of The Ohio State University, Sullivan saw a college education as a key to success.

Requirements for the Ronald C. Sullivan Scholarship are as follows: A current high school senior enrolled or about to enroll at The Ohio State University, a practicing Catholic (as verified by a letter from a parish leader such as a priest, deacon, or youth minister), active mem ber of St. Andrew, St. Agatha, Our Lady of Victory, St. Christopher, and solid academic performance.

The Catholic Foundation's Applications for the Ronald C. Sullivan Scholarship closes on March 25. The link to apply for the Sullivan Scholarship is: https://catholic-foundation.org/grants/scholarships/ronald-c-sullivan-scholarship/.

Since 2007, The Catholic Foundation has awarded over \$1.5 million in scholarships empowering over 200 young people to continue their academic and vocational studies. If you have any questions about our scholarship process, please feel free to contact Dan Kurth, VP of Grants, at 614-443-8893 or **dkurth@catholic-foundation.org**.

LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

SAT, MAR 16: Vigil, Fifth Sunday of Lent

4:30 FIVI IVIASS	
Patricia Irsik	EMHC-B
Rosie Brandon	EMHC-B
Angela Bonfante	Lector - A
Mary Frecker	Lector - B
Hannah Gandu	Altar Server
lan McNair	Altar Server

SUN, MAR 17: Fifth Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Mass Bob Slater Darla Reed Randy Doherty John Pashke Trevor Ezell Myles Ezell

EMHC-B EMHC-B Lector - A Lector - B Altar Server Altar Server

EMHC-B

9:15 AM Mass

Jane Dickson Bob Chambers Deb McEllistrem Jennifer Schaefer John Schechter Andrew Thornton Noah Woods

11:00 AM Mass

Mike Plahuta Damion Faulkner Tom Levenick Mike Stuhldreher Matthew Stuhldreher Ben Stuhldreher EMHC-B EMHC-B CHOIR Lector - A Lector - B Altar Server Altar Server

EMHC-B EMHC-B Lector - A Lector - B Altar Server 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, 614-451-4290.



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, **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.



"MILLIONS OF MONICAS"

EVERY MONDAY DURING LENT 6:00-7:00 PM // CHURCH

Join other Catholic women who are being called by the Holy Spirit to imitate St. Monica by

attending this prayer ministry. Like St. Monica, we pray for our children to return to the practice of their Catholic faith, and for our children to always stay close to their faith. We are a group of women, young and old, who believe in the power of prayer.

For more information, contact Amy Tague, at **amyliss14@** gmail.com.

WEEKLY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY SERIES: THE GOSPEL OF MARK

All men are invited for fellowship, coffee and scripture study **every Friday morning from 7:00-8:00 a.m. in the Parish Office Lower Level Meeting Room.** Our current study series delves into the Gospel of Mark with timetested interpretations from the



Fathers of The Church delivered by popular theologian Scott Hahn. No reading or study is required between sessions. For more information, contact John Schechter at 614-565-0824 or **jschechter@sbcglobal.net.**



THAT MAN IS YOU! THE VISION OF MAN FULLY ALIVE: Please join other men of the parish who have been coming to this interactive, video-based

program to become better fathers, husbands, and Catholics. And their feedback is overwhelmingly positive that the program is making a difference in their lives! The format is simple: free breakfast and coffee followed by a video from various Catholic and family experts followed by small group discussions to share thoughts and reflections and experiences to benefit others in your group. If you want to improve your relationship with God and your family, please consider attending.

The program continues throughout the spring 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**.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

EMMET CAHILL CONCERT: On March 13, St. Matthew the Apostle is excited to welcome Irish Tenor Emmet Cahill, star of PBS's Celtic Thunder, for a concert at our parish! A portion of the proceeds benefits the St. Matthew Charitable Works Food Pantry and SPICE (Special People in Catholic Education). Tickets are available at EmmetCahill.com.

40 DAYS OF ADORATION continues throughout the Diocese now through Palm Sunday. Everyone is encouraged to visit Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration at parishes in the area. For a complete list of churches hosting Adoration, visit **https://columbuscatholic.org/40days.**

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON: Join us on Friday, April 5, at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a luncheon featuring a talk by architect William Heyer about Sacred Architecture. Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and the presentation. No reservations are necessary, \$12 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! Our next luncheon is Friday, May 3, and will feature a presentation by Fr. Steven Beseau, President/Rector of the Josephinum.



PREGNANT? NEED A FRIEND?

Contact Birthright of Columbus. We provide emotional support, pregnancy tests, pregnancy information and referrals. All Services are FREE! 614-221-0844 columbusohmain@birthright.org

If you'd like to donate baby clothing, unopened packages of diapers and wipes, toys or supplies (absolutely no food, used car seats, used cribs or used pac-n-plays), please use the bin in the church Parlor labeled "Birthright."

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 614.777.8700 or kati@deeprinting.com.



"Do This in Remembrance of Me" A Step-By-Step Walk Through the Mass Fic Luke Spannagel Part 18: The Response After the Readings

"Thanks be to God!"

After the First and Second Readings at Mass, we have this familiar statement and response from the congregation. As the Diocese of Peoria's *A Study of the Mass* teaches, "At the end of the reading, the lector announces, 'the Word of the Lord,' which is a testament of our faith in the inspired Word of God in Sacred Scripture. We readily show our gratitude and respond, 'Thanks be to God!' We are thankful that God has revealed himself to us and that He continues to speak to us" (p. 7).

God Speaks to Us

Far more than just being "standard operating procedure," these little dialogues are really powerful affirmations of what is happening during the Liturgy of the Word. While the lector proclaims God's Word, we listen to what God wants to teach us that particular day. Even if we are generally attentive to the readings, we can easily get distracted. Perhaps we notice someone sitting nearby and think of a question we wanted to ask him or her. Sometimes, a word in the reading reminds us of another thought. Maybe our stomach growls and we start thinking about what our next meal might be. In any event, at the end of the reading, the lector helps to get us back on track if we've wandered astray. The lector says, "The Word of the Lord," as if to say, "In case you forgot or didn't notice, the Lord God of heaven and earth was just speaking to you." It really is amazing to stop and think about: God is speaking to us, his people, through the readings at Mass!

Our response, "Thanks be to God," acknowledges that God is truly speaking to his people through the Bible reading we just heard and that we recognize we are blessed to hear those words! Being in the habit of turning to God in thankfulness can be so helpful in our daily living as well. In the midst of our lives, we easily get our hearts turned inward, such as when we are thinking about what makes us happy or what we would enjoy for dinner. In more serious situations, when we fall into sin, we are turned inward in a way that keeps our vision away from God and others. When this happens, we can find ourselves falling into selfishness and self-seeking behavior. We can also miss opportunities for charity because we do not recognize the good in the people around us.

Practicing Thankfulness

In these latter situations, the grace of the sacraments helps strengthen us. Thankfulness is also a great remedy that helps turn our hearts as we recognize blessings that have come from God and others. Being thankful can give us a reset and help us once again to see and appreciate the gifts God has given us and the good that we can see in one another. We glimpse the wisdom behind our response to the readings at Mass. Being in the habit of regularly thanking God helps keep our hearts healthy and on track.

Not only does this dialogue help us acknowledge God and thank him for the Scriptures, but it can also help us stay in tune with what we are doing at Mass. As you may know, the word Eucharist itself means "thanksgiving." In the Mass, we join with Christ in the perfect sacrifice of praise to God the Father. As God's people, we are also joined together in thankful praise, recognizing the love of Christ and our invitation to share in that love. Very fittingly, after the Second Reading and response, we will praise God together in preparation for the Gospel as we sing the Alleluia!

For Reflection:

- 1. Reflect on a few Scripture passages which proclaim, "Thanks be to God" (e.g., Romans 7:25, 1 Corinthians 15:57, 2 Corinthians 9:15). Compare St. Paul's cause for thanksgiving with your own reasons for gratitude. Consider adding "Thanks be to God" to your public ways of expressing joy and gratitude in daily life.
- 2. Psalms 105, 106, 107, 118, and 136 (among others) all begin by inviting us to "Give thanks to the Lord." Try beginning your next time of prayer with thanksgiving.

Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog







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