

#### **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

CLERGY
Msgr. Stephan Moloney, Pastor
Rev. Lawrence Tabi, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Thomas M. Berg, Jr.

614-451-4290
Ext. 101
Ext. 103

Deacon Daniel Dowler

Rev. William DeVille, In Holy Service

whd22@aol.com

Rev. Paul Noble, In Residence, pnoble@columbuscatholic.org

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ejaminet@standrewparish.cc	
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gprice@standrewparish.cc	
Philip Lortz, Director of Music	614-451-1839
plortz@standrewparish.cc	

# **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**Kathy Dowler, Director Religious Ed. kdowler@standrewparish.cc 614-451-2855 Ext. 305

SCHOOL ADMIN/STAFF	614-451-1626
Joel Wichtman, Principal	Ext. 234
jwichtma@cdeducation.org	
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jbucher@cdeducation.org	
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hroush@cdeducation.org	
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kscheirmann@cdeducation.org	

#### BRYCE ECK ACTIVITY CENTER 614-459-1402

Amanda Carter, Preschool Director acarter@cdeducation.org Karen McCurdy, Facility Manager kmccurdy@cdeducation.org

#### **MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday: Aug. 31 Vigil, 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 p.m. Gilia Iafolla

Sunday: Sep.1, 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. Pat and Marie Cantwell 9:15 a.m. Harold Simmons

11:00 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew Parish

**Monday:** Sep. 2, Labor Day 9:00 a.m. Pauline Kubalak

**Tuesday:** Sep. 3, St. Gregory the Great 6:30 a.m. John and Rosemary Persinger & Joseph and Katherine Reed

8:30 a.m. Dr. Joseph Banks

Wednesday: Sep. 4, Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. Richard Schumacher 8:30 a.m. Rita Melaragno

**Thursday:** Sep. 5, Weekday Mass 6:30 a.m. Cecelia Kohrmann 30 a.m. Joseph Reiff

**Friday:** Sep. 6, Weekday Mass 6:30 a.m. Rosemary Nahay 8:30 a.m. Greg Freisner

Saturday: Sep. 7, Weekday Mass

9:00 a.m. J. Richard Lumpe

Vigil, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 p.m. Walter Theado, Sr.

Sunday:Sep.8, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time7:30 a.m.For the People of St. Andrew Parish9:15 a.m.Louie and Frances Massenelli

11:00 a.m. Shirley Pappa

#### **ROSARY FOR LIFE: ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Join us every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. to pray the Rosary for Life. Mass begins at 9:00 a.m. At the conclusion of the Mass, we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We provide prayer aid booklets and materials.

On the first Saturday of each month, the St. Andrew Council Knights of Columbus leads the Rosary and Chaplet. On all the other Saturdays, the women of the parish lead the prayers.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR**

Dear Parishioners,

Sunday is the first day of September! It is hard to believe that the days of summer are past already. Not only do the days pass quickly, but the years do as well. I was reminded of this when I heard the announcement that Pope Francis has declared a Holy Year for the year 2025. My first reaction was to think it was too soon – it seems like the Jubilee year of 2000 was very recent. A "Holy Year" usually occurs every 25 years. The old saying, "tempus fugit," is true: Time flies. Anyone under the age of 30 probably has no memory of the Jubilee year of 2000, so it really is time for another Holy Year!

The theme of the Holy Year 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope." The Holy Year will officially begin on Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024, when the "Holy Doors" of the Roman basilicas are opened. The Holy Year is a time to experience a renewal of hope in the abundant mercy of God and the grace of forgiveness. Pope Francis has noted that people around the world need hope. The effects of the global pandemic have disrupted our social networks of support; poverty and climate change cause great concern about our future. Yet, he reminds us (quoting St. Paul), "Hope does not disappoint." Hence the theme for the Holy Year – "Pilgrims of Hope."

This may be a good time to mention that the abundant mercy of God and the grace of His forgiveness can be experienced anytime, right here at St. Andrew. No need to make a pilgrimage. Just come to confession any Saturday afternoon between 3:15-4:15 p.m. Two priests are always on duty these times to absolve your sins and show you the mercy of God.

Your Pastor,

Monsignor Stephan Moloney

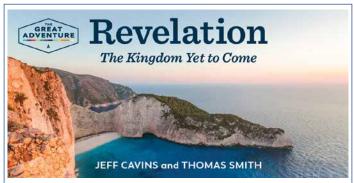
#### WOULD YOU LIKE TO SCHEDULE A HOME VISIT

WITH A PRIEST? If you or a family member are sick, homebound or hospitalized and would like a visit from a priest, please call the parish office at 614-451-4290 and speak with Msgr. Moloney, ext. 101, or Fr. Tabi, ext. 103. Visits may include reconciliation, Holy Communion, and anointing.

**IN AN EMERGENCY:** If someone is near death, call the parish office at 614-451-4290 and press 3 (Sacramental Emergency Line). A priest will respond as quickly as possible. If the call comes after business hours or during weekends, please allow extra time as the priests may be attending to other sacramental needs.

#### **DONUT SUNDAY THIS WEEKEND!**

Join us this Sunday after ALL morning
Masses in Nugent Parish Hall. Sponsored
by Order of Christian Initiation of Adults
(formerly known as RCIA), That Man Is
You!, Walking With Purpose Women's
Bible Study, and Women of St. Andrew (WoSA),
parishioners and guests are welcome to stop by and
enjoy donuts, coffee, and tea, and learn more about St.
Andrew organizations, activities, and ministries.



# TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY BEGINS TUESDAY, SEPT. 3 7:15-8:30 PM // NUGENT PARISH HALL

**Unpack the Mysteries of Revelation.** Perhaps no book of the Bible fascinates people more than Revelation. Yet relatively few people have studied it, especially from a Catholic perspective. *Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come* shows how the kingdom established by Christ in His Church is intimately connected with the kingdom of heaven.

Study presenter Jeff Cavins pulls back the veil on the rich symbolism present in Revelation. Discover what the mysterious figures and images of Revelation mean and see how Revelation is more than an apocalyptic vision of the "end times." Explore the Church's teaching on the second coming of Christ and the Last Judgment. Understand how God, the Divine Bridegroom, and the Church, His spotless bride, enter into a heavenly, holy, and mystical marriage every time we celebrate Mass.

Each evening session includes small group discussion of the weekly study questions (from an optional but recommended study guide) and a video presentation which contains expert commentary. This is an 11-week study that continues through Tuesday, Nov. 12. The optional study guide and online access to the videos is available to purchase at **tinyurl.com/SAP-Revelation-2024**.

For more information, contact Kathy Miller at **kathy.** miller725@gmail.com.

## SUNDAY OFFERING

	AUG 18	YID	
ACTUAL	\$ 29,971	\$	240,592
BUDGET	\$ 32,692	\$	228,844
LAST YEAR	\$ 23,499	\$	207,627

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. 106.



#### PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION NEWS

Welcome back! If you still plan to enroll your child in PSR, please complete the registration and enrollment forms found at tinyurl.com/2024-PSR-Forms as soon as possible. Classes begin Wednesday, Sept. 4, from 4:30-5:45 p.m. for first through eighth grades. CLOW (Children's Liturgy of the Word) kicks off for the fall session on Sunday, Sept. 8, during the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

**JOIN THE PSR TEAM!** We are looking for a few people to fill some available positions within the department:

- Classroom Aides
- PSR Administrative Assistant

**MORE INFORMATION?** Contact **DRE Kathy Dowler** at 614-451-2855 ext. 305 or **kdowler@standrewparish.cc**.



## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 BRYCE ECK CENTER - KELLY HALL

#### EUCHRE~10 AM // BINGO~11 AM // LUNCH~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 **Karen McCurdy**, 614-459-1402 or **kmccurdy@cdeducation.org**.



#### **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Please join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesdays from 6:00-9:00 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).



#### walking with purpose

Walking with Purpose (WWP) is a women's ministry with a mission to help every Catholic woman encounter Jesus Christ through Bible study. WWP Bible studies combine personal study and small group discussions that are designed to connect everyday challenges with solutions found in the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church. Weekly group sessions are held on Wednesdays beginning in September.

#### **OPENING YOUR HEART**

This 22-week Bible study is perfect for those who are new to WWP. **Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 11**, we will offer a daytime session from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room, and an evening session from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the Bryce Eck Center.

#### **RECLAIMING FRIENDSHIP**

This is a six-week study for women who have already completed *Opening Your Heart*. **Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 11**, we will meet from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at in the Bryce Eck Center.

In November, we will introduce *Rooted and Radiant* (more details to come).



For more information and to register, use the QR code contact Rosie at 614-893-7674 or wwpstandrewcolumbus@gmail.com.



# MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Seasonal rehearsals of our parish music ensembles begin soon and new members are invited to join our ministry community! Do you have talents to share, or musical interests and abilities yet to be explored? Are you looking to reawaken your skills from music

lessons long ago? Can you make a short eight-week commitment to participate in one of our parish choirs? Here are some options to consider:

THE ST. ANDREW CHOIR provides music for the 9:15 Sunday Mass (September-June) in addition to other Holy Days, holidays, and special occasions. The group is open to men and women of high school age and beyond, and rehearsals are typically held on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. While music reading ability is helpful, it is not required in order to become a choir member. You must simply be able to match pitch, blend your voice with others, be available for rehearsals as well as liturgies, and have a desire to help others pray and praise God through music. The choir season consists of four "quarters" and singers may sign up for any (or all) of the sessions as they are available throughout the year. Rehearsals begin in mid-September.

**THE RESURRECTION (FUNERAL) CHOIR** serves the parish by singing for our parish funerals throughout the year. This choir is an especially good option for those who enjoy singing and have some flexibility with their daytime (especially morning) schedules but are unable to make the commitment of the Sunday choir. New members (both men and women) are always welcome. This choir is a meaningful way to honor our parishioners who have died, and to provide consolation to their loved ones in their time of loss.

THE ST. ANDREW HANDBELL CHOIR is the newest addition to our parish music ministry program. A basic knowledge of music reading is helpful for this group, but no previous ringing experience is necessary, and no singing is required! The Handbell Choir typically rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Introductory and tutoring sessions are offered, as needed, for those who would like to learn the basics of ringing. Now is the time to start!

For more information about any of these music ministry opportunities, or if you would like to sit in on a rehearsal to discern the group that may be the best fit for you, contact Music Director Phil Lortz at **plortz@standrewparish.cc** or 614-451-1839. All are welcome!

#### **MILLIONS OF MONICAS**

#### MONDAY, SEP. 16 // 6:00-7:00 PM // CHURCH

All women of the parish are welcome to join the Millions of Monicas Prayer Ministry. Millions of Monicas is a group of women who come together in prayer to lift up our children of all ages. Many of us have children who struggle with their Catholic faith or have left the faith entirely. For information about Millions of Monicas, visit **www.millionsofmonicas.com**. For information about this St. Andrew prayer ministry, contact **Amy Tague** at **amyliss14@gmail.com**.



## **FALL MEET UP**

Sunday, Sept. 29 After the 11:00 a.m. Mass Multipurpose Room

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic faith? Were you baptized Catholic but never received all the Sacraments of Initiation? Curious? Not sure? We'll explain more at our fall meet up. Join us and learn before our first class!

OCIA (formerly known as RCIA) classes kick off on Wednesday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. More details to come in upcoming bulletins and ePOSTs.

For more information, contact the Director of Adult Faith/OCIA Emily Jaminet, 614-451-4290, ext. 110 or **ejaminet@standrewparish.cc**.

MEN'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY: Join us as we discuss the first and second books of the Maccabees each Friday from 7:00-8:00 a.m., in the Parish Office Lower Level Meeting Room. Learn more about the Maccabees, martyrdom, intercession, and persecution in this 31-week Bible study series for men of all ages! The study combines commentary from renowned theologian Scott Hahn with time-tested interpretations from the fathers of the church. No homework or reading is required between meetings. Coffee is provided. For more information, contact John Schechter at 614-565-0824 or jedwardschechter@gmail.com.



#### **THE 2024 HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

is scheduled for **Saturday**, **Nov. 9**, **from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.** As always, you'll find unique gifts and crafts for everyone on your Christmas shopping list.

We have space for more crafters and vendors. Nothing beats

finding a perfectly unique gift for someone special. Perhaps YOU can offer the special gift someone is looking for! We have a variety of tables/booths available for rent. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a vendor, visit **tinyurl.com/SAP-Bazaar-2024**. For more information, contact **Judy Brown** at **judyzumba09@gmail.com** or leave a message at 614-446-4812.



### SAINT MONICA CLUB MONDAY, SEPT. 30 6:00-7:00 PM // PARISH HALL

Give up worry and turn to prayer with the Saint Monica Club! All are welcome to this once-a-month study. St. Monica represents persistent, unfailing prayer for fallen-away family

members. The Saint Monica Club includes all devoted parents who have experienced the pain of a child leaving the faith and have prayed ceaselessly for their return. For more info and to RSVP, contact **Amy Tague**, at **amyliss14@gmail.com**.

# ARE YOU COMPLIANT TO VOLUNTEER AT ST. ANDREW PARISH? If you are 18 or older

**PARISH?** If you are 18 or older and interested in volunteering with youth activities, you must attend a PROTECTING GOD'S



CHILDREN training session, provide a clear background check, sign the code of conduct and complete a volunteer application before you can volunteer. For full details, visit **www.standrewparish.cc/parishinvolvement/volunteers/**. To register for a training session through the Diocese of Columbus, visit **www.virtusonline.org**. Upcoming Virtus Protecting God's Children (PGC) sessions:

- St. Catherine (Bexley), Wednesday, Sept. 4, 6:00 p.m.
- St. Francis DeSales HS, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 6:00 p.m.
- St. Brendan, Thursday, Sept. 12, 6:00 p.m.
- St. Andrew, Thursday, Oct. 3, 6:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Mary Beasecker, 614-451-4290 or **mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc**.

#### LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

# SAT, SEP 7: Vigil, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 4:30 PM Mass

David Hiser	EMHC-B - B1
Dee Pellissier	EMHC-B - B2
Pamela Sprigler	Lector - A
Cathy Covarrubias	Lector - B
Owen Poulton	
Izzy Poulton	Altar Server

# SUN, SEP 8: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 7:30 AM Mass

Megan Bellantis	EMHC-B - B1
Linda Daley	EMHC-B - B2
Jason Mays	Lector - A
Colin Bellantis	Lector - B
Adeline Mays	Altar Server
Elise Mays	Altar Serverr

#### 9:15 AM Mass

Bob Chambers	EMHC-B - B1
Herm Mollmann	EMHC-B - B2
Jennie Statczar	EMHC-B - B CHOIR
Dave Shiddenhelm	EMHC-B - B3
Mark Pardi	EMHC-C - C1
Jeff Wenzke	EMHC-C - C2
Tom Levenick	EMHC-C - C3
Ciara Decot	EMHC-C - C4
Judy Kjellandar	Lector - A
Mike Luckett	Lector - B
Andrew Thornton	
Maggie Leahy	Altar Server

#### 11:00 AM Mass

Paul Buerger	EMHC-B - B1
Donna Kring	EMHC-B - B2
Amy Tague	Lector - A
Damion Faulkner	Lector - B
Agatha Foley	Altar Server
Mariella Ortlieb	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 AND EPOST ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Send requests by Monday at 10:00 a.m. for the upcoming issues. Include a brief description, date, time, location, contact name, and send to **bulletin@standrewparish.cc**.

Submissions may be edited for clarity or space.





# THE FIGHT OF FAITH

FEATURING 10 DYNAMIC PRESENTERS!

#### DISCOVER:

- New speakers, new personalities, and new topics, while still building on the foundational years of TMIY formation.
- A battle and calling that is much greater than yourself with a US Naval Officer.
- Epic battle stories from the New Testament and Old, including the greatest battle story ever told with The Dynamic Deacon.
- The calling to great sanctity and the support of Christian brotherhood.
- A life and a marriage on the brink of collapse from two TMIY Core Team Leaders.
- Discipleship as the counter solution to lukewarm Christianity.
- An intimacy with The Father as his beloved sons and heirs to his Kingdom.
- A Lenten Journey with Steve Bollman into the secrets of Christ's heart.
- An adventure filled with Scripture revealing the keys to interpreting reality.

#### SPEAKERS:









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#### PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Saturday mornings from September 7th to December 7th Bryce Eck Activities Center 3880 Reed Road

#### SCHEDULE:

6:30 Doors open for breakfast food 7:00 Video program begins 7:30 Small-group discussion 8:00 Adjourn

#### REGISTRATION:

Not needed; just show up! For more information, contact: Colin Bellantis (440) 728-4166 or colinbellantis@gmail.com



Support St. Andrew class of 2026 and celebrate the fall by ordering your Mumkins, Mumsters & Mums!

SALE DATES: August 28TH - September 12TH DELIVERY DATE: Friday, September 20TH

READY TO ORDER? IT'S AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!





REACH OUT TO YOUR FAVORITE 7TH GRADER OR, IF YOU DON'T KNOW ANY, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT WWW.FUNDRAISEIT.ORG



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**ENTER WEBCODE: 22C5F4** 

Questions? Contact Jen Blatt at jenniferlblatt@yahoo.com or Dawn Walz at walzfamily04@gmail.com

#### AROUND THE DIOCESE

**CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON CLUB** returns from summer break on **Friday, Sept. 6**, at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus. The luncheon will feature a talk by Don Schlegel entitled"The Catholic Record Society – 50 Years of Keeping Diocesan History." Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch and presentation at 12:10 p.m. No RSVP is needed. The lunch/meeting cost is \$12. Bring a friend! Our next luncheon is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 4. Bishop Earl Fernandes will give his annual address to the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club. (October luncheon is sponsored by the Catholic Foundation.)

ANNUAL BLUE MASS: St. Timothy Church and St. Timothy Knights of Columbus Council 14345 will host The Blue Mass on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at **5:00 p.m.** The Blue Mass is an opportunity to honor and pray for all active, retired and deceased police, firefighters, and emergency medical services. In addition, it is an occasion to remember the 2,973 who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. All active and retired police, fire, and emergency medical services in the greater Columbus area, and their families are invited. The Celebrant and Homilist for The Blue Mass will be The Reverend Leo L. Connolly, Chaplain, Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Let us all join together to honor our police, firefighters, and emergency medical services, to ask for God's blessing, to keep them safe, and to guide them in their duties.

**THE RISK OF EDUCATION:** The Diocese of Columbus welcomes Cardinal Christophe Pierre for a lively panel discussion on the life and work of Servant of God Msgr.

Luigi Giussani. Parents, teachers, students, priests, sisters, and all people of good will are invited to this free event, open to the public, Wednesday, Sept. 11, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at St. Charles Preparatory High School's Walter Commons.

For more information about this event, contact Holly Peterson: hollypeterson888@

hollypeterson888@
gmail.com.

Out of fear, Sierra found hin the abortion clinic, swal the abortion pill. You will her immediate regret a

FRIENDS OF THE JOSEPHINUM 4-MILER RUN/WALK: Everyone is welcome to join the fun at the Annual Josephinum 4-Miler Run/Walk on Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Pontifical College Josephinum. The event features a new, one-loop four-mile course that will take runners and walkers on a tour of the college and surrounding neighborhoods. The run/walk starts promptly at 9 a.m. Proceeds are used for scholarships and the financial needs of seminarians at the Pontifical College Josephinum. For more information and to register, visit https://m3ssports.com/events/josephinum-4-miler-run-walk/.

ST. CHARLES IS HOSTING "AN EVENING WITH" HIS EMINENCE, CARDINAL TIMOTHY DOLAN
Join us on Thursday, Oct. 10, 5:00-8:00 p.m. in the Robert C. Walter Student Commons for a conversation with Cardinal Dolan as he shares the importance of Jesus and the Church in our day-to-day lives. Visit www.stcharlesprep.org/giving/an-evening-with to reserve your table as together we work to ensure that all young men receive the gift of a Catholic education. For more information, contact Advancement Director Jaime Lawler at jlawler@scprep.org or 380-209-2231.

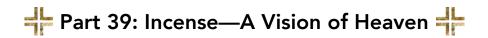
**THANK YOU, BULLETIN SPONSORS!** Thanks to our sponsors & Dee Printing, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish.

**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



More on **incense**? This time, we allow incense to lead us deeper into the mysteries we celebrate. We mentioned last time a couple of passages in the Book of Revelation referring to incense (Rev. 5:8 and 8:3-4). If you recall, in Revelation 5:8, St. John tells us the elders had "gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones." In the other passage, Revelation 8:3-4, St. John describes an angel with a gold censer: "He was given a great quantity of incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the holy ones... The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God..." Whenever I pray with these passages, they paint such a vivid picture of the worship of God in heaven. They remind me of one of my favorite truths about the Mass: united with the one sacrifice of Jesus, we are participating in the heavenly banquet.

#### **Unity in Communion**

When we speak of our core truths about the Eucharist, we begin with Jesus becoming truly present in his Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. We also rightly say the Mass makes present the one perfect sacrifice of Christ and makes it possible for us to participate in that sacrifice. As if that were not enough, we also receive the great privilege of being able to unite with Jesus in a special way through worthy reception of Holy Communion (more to come on Communion as we get to that part of the Mass). And if we are united with Jesus in Communion, we are also united with all those in Communion with him, from all times and places. That is, we experience the taste of that perfect unity of the kingdom of heaven!

For me, the details St. John describes in Revelation provide a familiar description of the Mass, with the incense and people worshipping and responding, "Amen" (Rev. 5:14). Several saints have described

similar visions of heaven, especially through the Mass. St. John Chrysostom said that angels join around the altar at Mass and sing God's praises. He says when Christians participate in the Eucharist, they are in heaven, though not completely and perfectly. Blessed Angela of Foligno and St. Bridget of Sweden are others who experienced visions similar to what St. John Chrysostom describes. These saints help us realize that when we are joined in the Mass, we are joined together in a unified hymn of praise with a huge crowd! I am often energized by the realization that there are many souls joining in the sacrifice of praise, including those who have gone before us in faith.

#### A Foretaste of Heaven

Regarding the faithful departed, my sister died of cancer in 2011. Rebekah truly was a saintly woman who was loved greatly by her family, students, and all who knew her. Since she died, I think of her often, including what she would say or do and how she would react to a situation. As the years go by, there are times when she seems further away and is harder to remember. However, in the Mass, I always feel as if that gap is closed. Very often when I think of my sister in the Mass, she feels so close by. In the Mass, it is not hard at all to hear her singing or see her smile. Knowing what we know about unity with Christ and the graces of the Mass, this shouldn't surprise us at all!

As you might have gathered, one of my favorite gifts of the Mass is the true taste of the fullness of joy and unity of the kingdom. Our Catechism teaches, "Participation in the Holy Sacrifice identifies us with [Christ's] Heart, sustains our strength along the pilgrimage of this life, makes us long for eternal life, and unites us even now to the Church in heaven, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints" (CCC 1419). In Eucharistic Prayer I, we pray that we "who through this participation at the altar receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing." You may have noticed that we have jumped ahead in the Mass after having placed bread and wine on the altar. Well noted: next time, we will resume walking through the parts of the Mass. In the meantime, may the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints intercede for us, that all our receptions of Holy Communion might unite us more perfectly to Christ and one another and prepare us fruitfully for eternal life to come in heaven!

#### For Reflection:

- 1. Based on Father Luke's description of his relationship to his sister, Rebekah, during the Mass, consider your relationship to the faithful departed. Next time you participate in Mass, renew your faith in our union with all the members of the Church, living and deceased.
- 2. Take a closer look at the summary of the Church's teaching on the Eucharist in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 1406-1419, and see how this teaching informs your participation in Mass.

Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog



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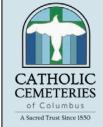
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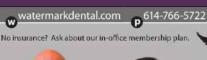
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