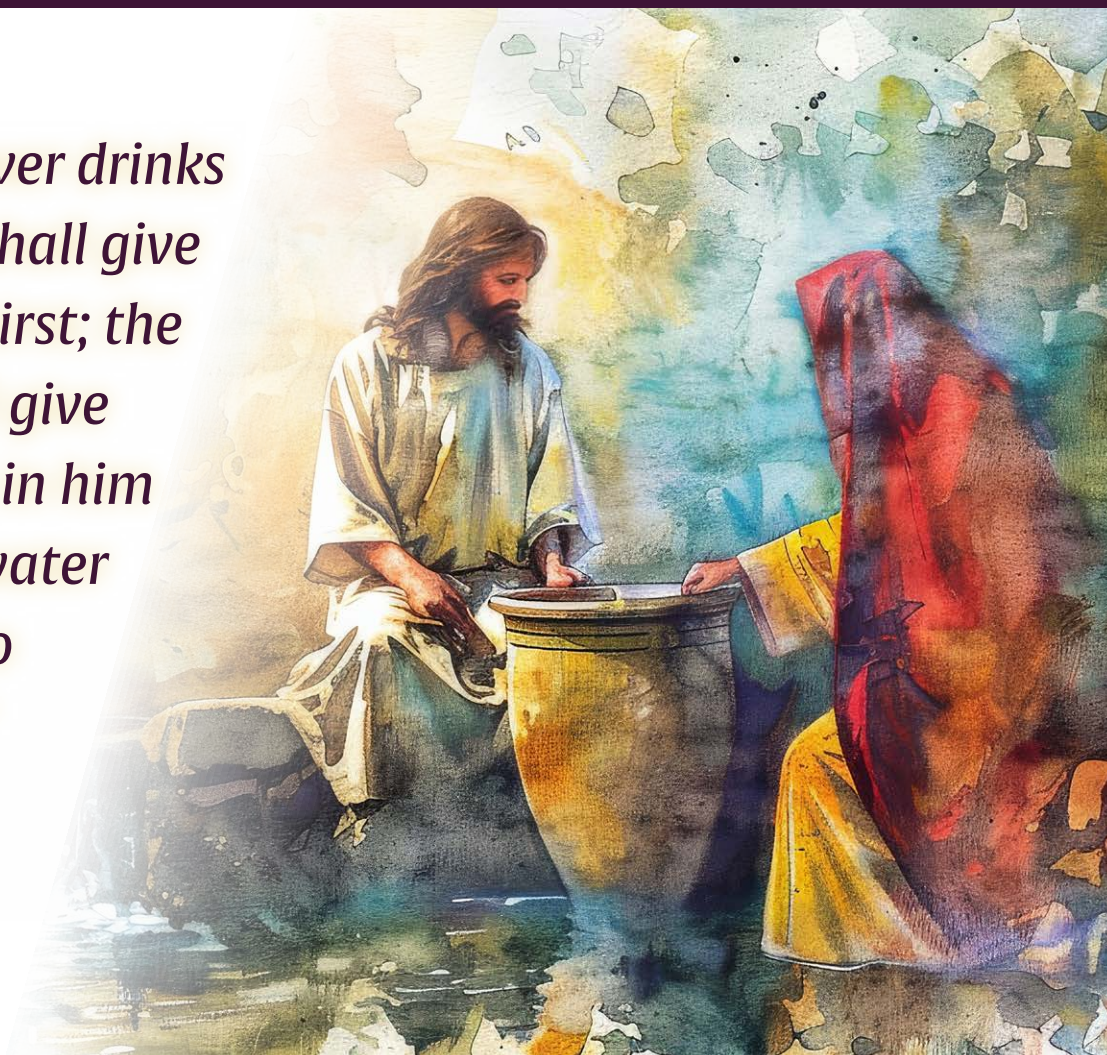


“...but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

~John 4:14



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

THE CHURCH IS OPEN DAILY: 6:00 AM-8:30 PM

WEEKEND / WEEKDAY 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, 3:15-4:15 PM or by appointment (contact a parish priest at the office to schedule). Reconciliation is available during the Lenten season on Fridays, beginning at 7:30 PM



SAINT ANDREW
PARISH

1899 McCoy Road // Columbus, Ohio 43220
614-451-4290 // www.StAndrewParish.cc



facebook.com/standrewparishua



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



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

**STATIONS
OF THE CROSS**

**FRIDAYS IN LENT
7:30P | CHURCH**

**EXPOSITION, CONFESSION, AND BENEDICTION
FOLLOW STATIONS UNTIL 9 PM. ALL ARE WELCOME!**

STAFF DIRECTORY

CLERGY

614-451-4290

Msgr. Stephan Moloney, Pastor Ext. 101
 Rev. Lawrence Tabi, Parochial Vicar Ext. 103
 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

Thomas Conigy, Business Manager Ext. 106
 tconigy@standrewparish.cc
 Jen Wenzke, Parish Secretary Ext. 100
 jwenzke@standrewparish.cc
 Joe Tomlinson, Finance/Operations Ext. 105
 accounting@standrewparish.cc
 Mary Beasecker, Communications Ext. 104
 mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc
 Emily Jaminet, Adult Faith/OCIA Ext. 110
 ejaminet@standrewparish.cc
 Greg Price, Buildings Superintendent
 gprice@standrewparish.cc
 Philip Lortz, Director of Music 614-451-1839
 plortz@standrewparish.cc

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

614-451-2855

Kathy Dowler, Director Religious Ed. Ext. 305
 kdowler@standrewparish.cc

SCHOOL ADMIN/STAFF

614-451-1626

Joel Wichtman, Principal Ext. 234
 jwichtma@cducation.org
 Jenni Duffy, Assistant Principal Ext. 235
 jbucher@cducation.org
 Julie Strayer, Administrative Assistant Ext. 223
 jstrayer@cducation.org
 Heather Roush, School Secretary Ext. 228
 hroush@cducation.org
 Kyletta Scheirmann, Latchkey Ext. 105
 kscheirmann@cducation.org

BRYCE ECK ACTIVITY CENTER

614-459-1402

Karen McCurdy, Facility Manager Ext. 1
 kmccurdy@cducation.org
 Amanda Carter, Preschool Director Ext. 2
 acarter@cducation.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday:

4:30 p.m.

Mar. 22 Vigil, Third Sunday of Lent

Mary Butte

Sunday:

7:30 a.m.

9:15 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Mar. 23, Third Sunday of Lent

Jeanne Grady Davis

Jack Egger

For the People of St. Andrew Parish

Monday:

6:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m.

Mar. 24, Lent Weekday Mass

Richard Lumpe

Richard "Dick" Marsh

Tuesday:

6:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m.

Mar. 25, The Annunciation of the Lord

Fr. Jim Willig

Special Intention

Wednesday:

6:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m.

Mar. 26, Lent Weekday Mass

John and Rosemary Persinger

& Joseph and Katherine Reed

Sherri Belmaggio

Thursday:

6:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m.

Mar. 27, Lent Weekday Mass

Dorothy Nolan

Kathy McNeal

Friday:

6:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m.

Mar. 28, Lent Weekday Mass

Helen Grywalski

Intentions of the Rosary Group

Saturday:

9:00 a.m.

Mar. 29, Lent Weekday Mass

John Neutzling

4:30 p.m.

Vigil, Fourth Sunday of Lent

Deceased Members of the

Kleinhenz and Koczan Families

Sunday:

7:30 a.m.

9:15 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Mar. 30, Fourth Sunday of Lent

For the People of St. Andrew Parish

Phil and Barbara Macaluso

 Living and Deceased Members
 of the Reider/Thoman Families

BAPTISMS

Aidan Dean Gabriel

son of Collin and Hillary

Palmer Gabrielle Parobek

daughter of Bryan and Kelly

Thomas Charles Gentile III

son of Thomas and Miranda

FACILITIES & ROOM RESERVATIONS:

If you would like to reserve one of the meeting spaces at St. Andrew Parish, please contact **Jen Wenzke** at jwenzke@standrewparish.cc, or **Greg Price** at gprice@standrewparish.cc. The event calendar can be viewed at tinyurl.com/SAP-CALENDAR.

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Lent. I hope your Lenten season is progressing successfully and you are keeping the spirit of penance, prayer, and works of charity throughout these days. The season is not yet half over, so we must rouse ourselves if needed.

Tuesday, March 25, is the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. This feast commemorates the day when "the angel of the Lord declared unto Mary," and "she conceived by the Holy Spirit." In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and "announced" to her that she would conceive and give birth to the Son of God. Mary consented to God's plan for her, saying, "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done to me according to Thy Word." And once she freely consented, then she conceived; and "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." The Feast of the Annunciation recalls that Jesus was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit. His human life began at that point in time. The Feast of the Annunciation falls on March 25, and nine months to the day later, we celebrate His birth on Christmas Day, December 25. The Feast of the Annunciation reminds us that human life begins at conception. Jesus was living and active within His mother's womb even before He was born. So it is with every human being. This is why it is so important that all human life be protected "from conception to natural death."

Your Pastor,

Monsignor Stephan Moloney

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Monday, March 24 | 6:00 p.m. Zoom

Tuesday, April 29 | 6:00 p.m. Zoom

Becoming compliant to volunteer is required for anyone who plans to help in the classroom, coach a sports team, or volunteer at a parish event (fish fry, school sports, SACRED, festival, etc.). To register for a Protecting God's Children session in the Columbus diocese, visit www.virtusonline.org. For more information, including a list of ALL requirements for becoming a compliant volunteer, visit www.standrewparish.cc/parish-involvement/volunteers/ or contact Mary Beasecker at 614-451-4290, ext. 104, or mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc.



MARIAN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

MARCH 26 | APRIL 2
6:00 P.M.
CHURCH



All are welcome to join members of Walking With Purpose to follow Jesus' journey of the Cross through the eyes of Mary. We will walk the road to Calvary to the place where He was crucified, emphasizing her sense of surrender: "I knew it had to be, so I walked on silently." Enter an intimate journey of faith through a deep reflection that will unite one's pain and suffering with Jesus on the Cross through the sorrowful heart of His Mother.

FIFTH SUNDAY NEXT WEEKEND:

On March 29 and 30, please use the **GOLD ENVELOPE** in your packet to contribute to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP). Whether great or small, your donation is a blessing to those in need. In addition to assisting with food, clothing, and shelter needs, the Society maintains a diocesan program to help bury the indigent. If you don't have a gold envelope, any envelope labeled SVdP will work. Make checks payable to St. Andrew Church, with SVdP in the memo line. We carefully assess each request for help in order to use your donations wisely. Many thanks to all donors, on-line donors and by envelope, for your continuing support.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A GREETER AT MASSES?

The St. Andrew Hospitality Ministry welcomes ALL parishioners to volunteer as greeters before Masses! We are looking for a few friendly faces especially before the 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, but all are welcome to serve at any Mass. This is a great way to get service hours, too. We encourage all adult volunteers to be Protecting God's Children compliant. If you wish to sign up, visit tinyurl.com/SAP-Greeters or use the QR.



For more information or to get involved in the Hospitality Ministry, contact **Jake** and **Ciara Decot** at jdecot284@gmail.com.

SUNDAY OFFERING

	MAR 9	YTD
ACTUAL	\$ 27,545	\$ 1,214,847
BUDGET	\$ 32,692	\$ 1,144,230
LAST YEAR	\$ 32,926	\$ 1,249,411

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.



»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 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 prefer, you can donate to CRS Rice Bowl through ONLINE GIVING at osvhub.com/st-andrew-parish/funds. For more information about the CRS Rice Bowl program, visit www.csricebowl.org.

»THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW PARISH encourages all parishioners to take part in the Lenten "purple bag" project. Look for the 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 are delivered to JOIN to distribute to our less fortunate neighbors.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The 2024 parishioner contribution statements are available upon request! To receive a copy of your statement via email, send a request to accounting@standrewparish.cc with "statement" in the subject line, and your name and/or envelope number in the message. For more information, or if you prefer to pick up your statement in the parish office or receive it by mail, contact Business Manager **Thomas Conigy** at 614-451-4290 or tconigy@standrewparish.cc.

If you donate online only, you can print your annual giving statement through the Online Giving website: www.osvhub.com/st-andrew-parish/giving/funds.



EUCCHARISTIC 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. Adoration concludes at 8:45 p.m. with Compline (end of day prayers) and Benediction. Make time to be in Christ's presence and open yourself to the graces that flow from the Eucharist!

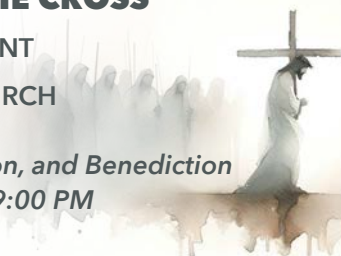
Weekly Adoration Hosts: Parish Council (first Tuesday); St. Vincent de Paul (second Tuesday); Walking With Purpose (third Tuesday); Men of the Parish (fourth Tuesday).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS DURING LENT

7:30 PM IN THE CHURCH

Exposition, Confession, and Benediction follow Stations until 9:00 PM



SACRED 2025 REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN!

MONDAY, JUNE 23 - THURSDAY, JUNE 26

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-2025-REGISTER

ADULT AND TEEN VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

To learn more and volunteer, visit tinyurl.com/VBS-VOLUNTEER-2025

NEED MORE DETAILS?

Contact Erin Karlquist and Jennie Statczar
StAndrewSACRED@gmail.com

ST. ANDREW PARISH FISH FRY



FRIDAY, APRIL 4

4:30-7:30 PM

Nugent Parish Hall

\$17 ADULTS • \$15 SENIORS

\$10 KIDS

DINNER INCLUDES:

Guinness beer-battered cod • Breaded butterfly shrimp • The O on Lane Wood-fired Pizza • Hand-cut festival french fries • Homemade tartar sauce • Dessert

VOLUNTEERS AND 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-2025.



VISIT OUR AMAZON WISH LIST FOR MORE DONATION OPPORTUNITIES!



If you are looking to donate additional items, visit our Amazon Wish List at tinyurl.com/SAP-FishWish or use the QR Code. You'll find a variety of items that we will need to make the annual fish fry a success.

LAST FISH DINNER: APRIL 11

St. Andrew School Presents

the Wizard of Oz

Tickets:

\$5 at the door

Kids 3 and under free

(cash only)

March 28th, 9am and 7pm

March 29th, 7pm



**THE
CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION**

RONALD C. SULLIVAN

SCHOLARSHIP awards

\$100,000 (\$25,000 per year)
to graduating high school

seniors who will be incoming freshman at Ohio State University. **Scholarship requirements:** 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 member of St. Andrew, St. Agatha, Our Lady of Victory, St. Christopher, and solid academic performance. For details and to apply, visit <https://catholic-foundation.org/grants/scholarships/ronald-c-sullivan-scholarship/> or contact Dan Kurth at 614-443-8893 or dkurth@catholic-foundation.org.

»Application deadline: March 28



BUTTER BRAIDS ARE BACK! Choose from a variety of delicious pastries and cake rolls. If you'd like to order in person, Knights will be in the Parlor after Masses the next two weekends, March 29/30 and April 5/6. More details about online ordering to be announced.

Pickup is Saturday, April 12, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Bryce Eck Center. There is no delivery.



»WELCOME OUR BLESSED MOTHER INTO YOUR HOME:

There are many sign-up opportunities to have the Blessed Mother statue in your home for prayer and devotion. Each week begins on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and ends the following Saturday at 4:30 p.m. The statue is dropped off and picked up each week in the St. Andrew Chapel. Visit our SignupGenius page at tinyurl.com/ourlady2024



or use the QR code to view upcoming available dates and learn more. For more information, contact Deb McEllistrem, 614-309-4645 or dmcellistrem@yahoo.com.

»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 on the weekend, please allow extra time as the priests may be attending to other sacramental needs.



"There is an everyday heroism, made up of gestures of sharing, big or small, which build up an authentic culture of life. Part of this daily heroism is also the silent but effective and eloquent witness of all those 'brave mothers who devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves.' We thank you, heroic mothers, for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life." (The Gospel of Life 86)



CALLING ALL KIDS UP TO 8 YEARS OLD: Head to the **BRYCE ECK ACTIVITY CENTER** (rain or shine) after the 11 a.m. Mass (beginning at 12:30 p.m.). Bags will be provided or you can bring your own basket.

CONTACT: Damion Faulkner, 614-738-9591

Sponsored by St. Andrew Council #11275 Knights of Columbus



RESPECT LIFE



SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM DAY 1, MARCH 25

Our Prayers Make a Difference

Already, our spiritually adopted baby is a wonder! Even though our baby is only one cell, everything about this little person is already present: eye color, blood type, how tall they will be, hair color, everything! Nothing is added after conception to make this little one a complete human being.

Our baby already exists; all the baby needs is nourishment, a safe, warm environment, and most of all, love!

This baby will play a role in our community only they can play – God has a plan! This baby's parents do not even know that she or he exists yet – please pray for them to safely bring their baby to birth so they can fulfill the mission God has planned for them.

Spiritual Adoption Prayer:

*Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I love you very much.
I beg you to spare the life of the unborn child that I
have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.*

~ Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

The Respect Life Program is a year-round, nationwide effort to help Catholics understand, value, and become engaged with building a culture that cherishes every human life. For more information about the Respect Life Ministry at St. Andrew Parish, contact **Deb McEllistrem** at **dmcellistrem@yahoo.com**.

LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

SAT, MAR. 29: Vigil, Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:30 PM Mass

Claire Nduaguba..... EMHC-B - B1
Don McNeal..... EMHC-B - B2
David Varda..... Lector - A
Jim Macklin..... Lector - B
Molly McNair..... Altar Server
Parker Maurer..... Altar Server
Mackenzie Holthaus..... Altar Server

SUN, MAR. 30: Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Mass

Darla Reed..... EMHC-B - B1
Mary Kaminski..... EMHC-B - B2
Colin Bellantis..... Lector - A
John Pashke..... Lector - B
Thomas Reidenbach..... Altar Server
Mia Pagnotto..... Altar Server

9:15 AM Mass

Mike Miller..... EMHC-B - B1
Suzanne Meyers..... EMHC-B - B2
Jane Dickson..... EMHC-B - B CHOIR
Mark Pardi..... EMHC-B - B3
Megan Bellantis..... EMHC-C - C1
David Tague..... EMHC-C - C2
Lindsay Kaleta..... EMHC-C - C CHOIR
Jeff Wenzke..... EMHC-C - C3
Ali Wright..... Lector - A
Joseph Chatlos..... Lector - B
Kaylee Mitchell..... Altar Server
Jake Meier..... Altar Server
Caleb Bellantis..... Altar Server

11:00 AM Mass

Liz Meyers..... EMHC-B - B1
Dave Shiddenhelm..... EMHC-B - B2
Damion Faulkner..... Lector - A
Cecile Jalandoni-Chuidian..... Lector - B
Ethan Train..... Altar Server
Mariella Ortlieb..... Altar Server
Mateo Lessells..... Altar Server

To volunteer, visit www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/standrewcolumbus, or use the QR. If you need help with your username or password, contact **Mary Beasecker** at **mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc** or 614-451-4290, ext. 104.



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 614.777.8700 or kati@deeprinting.com.

BULLETIN AND EPOST ANNOUNCEMENTS: Send requests to bulletin@standrewparish.cc by **Monday at 10:00 a.m.** for the upcoming weekend. Include a description, date, time, location, and contact name. If Monday is a holiday, all submissions must be received the Friday before. Submissions may be edited for clarity or space.

MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY VIDEO SERIES

THURSDAYS DURING LENT

9:15-10:45 a.m.

Multipurpose Room

All are welcome to journey deeper into the life of Jesus Christ, and rediscover the power of the Rosary! Each Thursday, we will reflect on the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary and deepen our understanding of Christ's life and love. This Catholic video series is filmed on location in the Holy Land, Rome, Lourdes, Fatima and Paris. It's never been done quite like this before! For more information, contact **Sharon Hess** at sharonhess612@gmail.com or 614-204-5111.



»**THAT MAN IS YOU! THE FIGHT OF FAITH** is back for the second half of the Fight of Faith Program that equips and enables men to engage in the cosmic, spiritual battle raging in their daily lives. **The group meets from 6:30-8:00 a.m. at the Bryce Eck Center on Saturdays through May.** All men are welcome! For information or to register, contact **Colin Bellantis** at 440-728-4166 or colinbellantis@gmail.com.

»**SAINT MONICA CLUB** is a group of men and women who meet on the last Monday of every month to pray for loved ones who have left the Catholic faith. **The next meeting is Monday, March 31, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the parish hall.** For more info and to RSVP, contact **Amy Tague** at amyliss14@gmail.com.

»**MILLIONS OF MONICAS PRAYER MINISTRY:** All women of the parish are welcome to join us in prayer for our children, family members, and friends who struggle with the Catholic faith or have left the faith entirely. We meet the second Monday of each month. Our next prayer meeting is scheduled for **Monday, April 14, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.** For information about this prayer ministry, contact **Amy Tague** at amyliss14@gmail.com.

WEEKLY MEN'S STUDY: MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY FRIDAY MORNINGS

7:00-8:00 A.M. // POLLMR*

Join us for this new six-week video series "A Journey through the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary" by Paradisus Dei. The videos are beautifully shot on location at Holy Land sites where Jesus lived, died and rose again! We will pray a scriptural decade of the Rosary following each video and discussion. No homework or preparation is required between sessions. Bring your rosary. Coffee is provided. For more information, contact **John Schechter** at 614-565-0824 or jedwardschechter@gmail.com.

*Parish Office Lower Level Meeting Room



AROUND THE DIOCESE

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' EDUCATION JOB FAIR:

Discover a fulfilling career in Catholic education at the Office of Catholic Schools' 2025 Education Job Fair on **Saturday, April 5, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at St. Thomas More Newman Center** on the Ohio State University campus. Whether you're a recent graduate, a seasoned educator, or seeking a career change, stop by to learn more about the many job opportunities available in Our Catholic Schools across the diocese. If you are unable to attend, visit education.columbuscatholic.org/careers to learn more about positions available for the 2025-2026 school year!

MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT: OUR CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO MENTAL HEALTH:

As we face a growing mental health crisis in our society, what should we do? As Catholics, we are called to respond to the signs of the times. Join in a public conversation on the topic and together create our local response. The summit will be held at St. Brendan the Navigator Church, March 28, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Daily Mass is available at 8:00 a.m. followed by a light breakfast. Lunch is also included. Visit onecau.se/mentalhealthsummit. Registration is limited!

THE CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON is scheduled for Friday, April 4, at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus. This month's speaker is Justin Fatica from Hard as Nails Ministries. 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!

CONVERGING ROADS, VIRTUE IN MEDICINE: The Diocese of Columbus is once again a proud sponsor of this year's Converging Roads Conference titled, "Virtue in Medicine." All physicians, nurses, and those working in healthcare are invited to attend. The conference is April 5, from 8:45 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., held in person at the Pontifical College Josephinum as well as virtually. For more information, contact **Ellen Santoro** at ellen@forlifeandfamily.org or 832-779-1070.

SAFE HAVEN SUNDAY, APRIL 5 & 6: MAKE YOUR HOME A SAFE HAVEN:

Inspired by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) formal statement, "Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography," Safe Haven Sunday is a weekend set aside within the liturgical calendar by dioceses and parishes to directly address the societal harms of pornography. This year, Safe Haven Sunday will be the fifth Sunday of Lent. The focus for 2025 is *Equipping the Family: Having Critical Conversations*. For more information and resources, visit <https://columbuscatholic.org/safe-haven-sunday>.



The Mass

"Do This in Remembrance of Me"

A Step-By-Step Walk Through the Mass

Fr. Luke Spannagel



Part 62: The Rite of Peace



After the Our Father and Embolism, as The General Instruction for the Roman Missal says, "There follows the **Rite of Peace**, by which the Church entreats peace and unity for herself and for the whole human family, and the faithful express to each other their ecclesial communion and mutual charity before communicating in the Sacrament" (GIRM, 82). At this point in the Mass, the priest prays, "Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever." The people then reply, "Amen."

What True Peace Is—and What It's Not

What is true peace? Perhaps we could go to various definitions. Our Catechism says, "Peace is not merely the absence of war, and is not limited to maintaining a balance of powers" (CCC, 2304). The Catechism continues with a quotation from St. Augustine, who wrote that peace is "the tranquility of order" (CCC, 2304). "Earthly peace is the image and fruit of the peace of Christ, the messianic 'Prince of Peace.' By the blood of his Cross... he reconciled men with God and made his Church the sacrament of the unity of the human race and of its union with God. 'He is our peace' [Eph 2:14]" (CCC, 2305). As Edward Sri writes, "Many people seek the security and peace of this world, which is a peace based on success, on everything going well, on avoiding problems and suffering. But this kind of peace is quite fragile and fleeting... Christ, however, offers us a deeper, longer lasting peace—one that the world does not give. When we allow Jesus to be the foundation of our lives and live according to his plan for us, he gives us an internal, spiritual peace that can withstand life's many disappointments, trials, and sufferings. This is the kind of peace of heart that also builds true unity within marriages, families, communities, parishes, and nations. And this is what the priest prays for at this moment of the liturgy" (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p. 130-31).

Hopefully, we have had moments of true peace in our hearts that remind us of how generously Jesus has loved us. For anyone who hasn't, the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist certainly invites us to that peace for which we long. As we prepare to receive the Prince of Peace truly present in Holy Communion, perhaps it seems fitting that the Rite of Peace occurs at this moment in the Mass. According to Charles Belmonte, "When we pronounce our 'Amen,' we must realize that we are asking not only for our personal peace but also for peace for the whole Church... During the Last Supper, our Lord made his disciples aware of the importance of peace, the fruit of charity. Many times he spoke of unity, of the spirit of service, of humility, of charity. These are virtues and dispositions of the soul which can thrive only in an atmosphere of peace." (Understanding the Mass, pp. 173-74).

Peace As Preparation for Communion

So, without a doubt, peace is an ardent desire and need for us as Christian people. This is true at all times of our lives, but especially at the Holy Mass. In the Mass, there are many wonderful gifts and graces; we certainly are going to receive those graces more fruitfully if our hearts are at peace and open to Christ, as opposed to being distracted and upset over things that happen to us. This is most true when the time for Holy Communion comes. We are preparing to receive the most wonderful gift: we can't have a distracted heart! So, we make sure, by a prayer and a gesture, that we really are ready to go forward to receive Our Lord.

Fr. Guy Oury, reflecting on the Rite of Peace in the Mass, says, "Through the sign of peace, we ask for peace and unity within the Church, and beyond its visible boundaries, for the whole human family. And since in our gatherings we are a cell of the Church, we express our mutual love before receiving together the one Bread that makes us one. These are the two components of the rite: a prayer for the peace and unity of the Church and an exchange of the sign of fraternal converse, if not with the whole world, at least with our nearest neighbors" (The Mass, pp. 111-12). So, we aren't just making sure things are ok with people in our pew; we are also making a symbolic gesture of peace for the whole world! Next week, we'll take a look at some different ways to offer the Sign of Peace, and why this is not the time for "high fives" and making plans for later in the day!

For Reflection:

1. Consider St. Augustine's description of peace as "the tranquility of order." Pray with a Scripture passage that describes the peace of the ordered city or kingdom of God, such as Isaiah 32, Isaiah 54, Psalm 122, or Revelation 21.
2. Peace is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit which St. Paul lists in his Letter to the Galatians (5:22). Implore the Holy Spirit for this fruit in your own life and the grace and guidance to share this gift with others.

Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog





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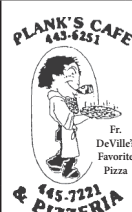
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