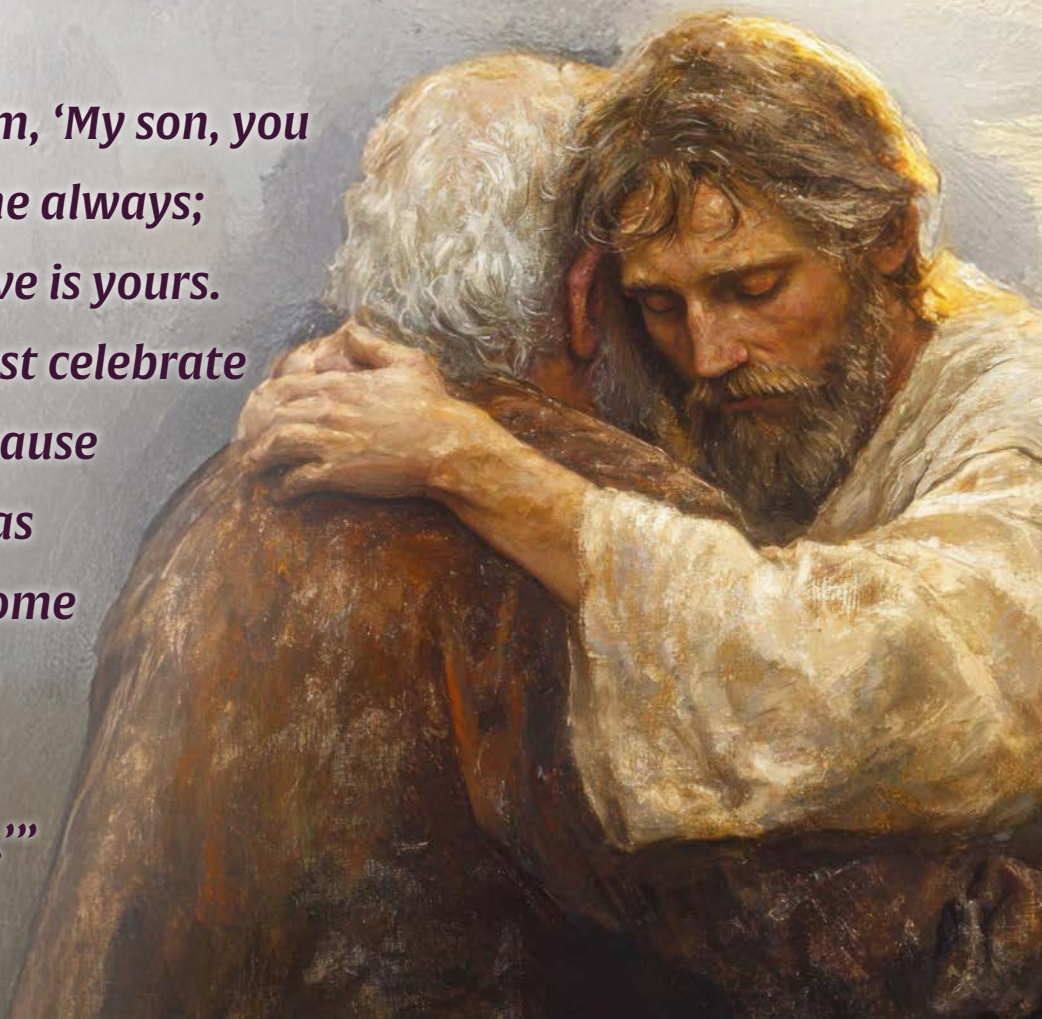


“...He said to him, ‘My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’”

~Luke 15:31-32



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: Saturday – 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://www.instagram.com/standrewparishua)



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

**PURPLE BAG
PROJECT**

**THROUGHOUT THE
LENTEN SEASON**

**YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT DIRECTLY HELPS THOSE
SERVED BY JOIN. FIND DETAILS IN THIS BULLETIN OR AT
WWW.STANDREWPARISH.CC/LENT2025/**

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

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 gprice@standrewparish.cc
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614-451-2855

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

SCHOOL ADMIN/STAFF

614-451-1626

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 jwichtma@cducation.org
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 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 29 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

Monday:

 6:30 a.m.
 8:30 a.m.

Mar 31, Lent Weekday Mass

 John and Paul Gallagher
 Charles Varda

Tuesday:

 6:30 a.m.
 8:30 a.m.

Apr 1, Lent Weekday Mass

 Mary Ferencik
 Pat Melaragno

Wednesday:

 6:30 a.m.
 8:30 a.m.

Apr 2, Lent Weekday Mass

 Bridget Williams
 Jim Flanigan

Thursday:

 6:30 a.m.
 8:30 a.m.

Apr 3, Lent Weekday Mass

 Dr. Bob Nolan
 Don (Red) Frizzell

Friday:

 6:30 a.m.
 8:30 a.m.

Apr 4, Lent Weekday Mass

 Theresa Theado
 Richard Schumacher

Saturday:

9:00 a.m.

Apr 5, Lent Weekday Mass

Antonio Jayme

4:30 p.m.

Vigil, Fifth Sunday of Lent

Special Intention

Sunday:

 7:30 a.m.
 9:15 a.m.
 11:00 a.m.

Apr 6, Fifth Sunday of Lent

 For the People of St. Andrew Parish
 Lena Colatruglio
 Carol Gallo

BAPTISMS

Rae Marie Gutheil

daughter of Christoff and Melissa

Charlotte Mae Pennington

daughter of Cory and Christina

Nathan Alexander Aristide

son of Jonathan and Grace

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY

Florence Shama

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Today, we observe the Fourth Sunday of Lent, also known as "Laetare Sunday." This day is considered the mid-point of Lent, so it is a good time to recommit to our Lenten goals of prayer, sacrifice, and works of charity, just in case we have begun to slack off a little. It's a good time to refocus and try to make the best of the remaining weeks of Lent by means of prayer and penance.

Speaking of prayer, I have had many people ask me what they can do about distractions during prayer. Distractions can take many forms. Sometimes, our minds wander while praying – we think about what we have to do later, our worries, our shopping list, our homework, our cellphone, other people in the pew near us. These distractions and many others spoil the recollection that enables us to pray with devotion and attention.

I also experience distraction in prayer. Recently I've had a new form of distraction on top of the ordinary mind wandering that I described above. You may recall that I rescued a kitten last summer. The kitten is growing and has become a major distraction during my prayer time. I rise early in the morning and first thing I do (after taking my dog Mabel outside) is sit down and pray my morning office from the Liturgy of the Hours. Melanie, my kitten, is right there and ready to pounce – she pulls on the ribbons in my breviary and tries to tear the pages out of the book when I turn them. She even tries to grab my rosary as I try to pray. Talk about distraction! It is hard to stay focused on prayer while this happens, but it has taught me to gently but firmly bring my attention back to my prayer as many times as necessary.

This is the advice I give to all those who experience distractions at prayer: It does no good to get angry with yourself or scold yourself for becoming distracted. If your mind wanders because of worries, fears, concerns, or anxiety, just pray about them rather than try to put them out of your mind. If you are distracted by random thoughts or environmental stimuli (like a playful kitten), gently re-adjust your attention as soon as you are aware of being distracted. You can't eliminate all distraction at prayer, but you can train yourself to keep focused on prayer in spite of the distractions. This same advice is also applicable to paying attention to the Mass and overcoming distraction in that setting.

I hope you find this helpful to your prayer life!

Your Pastor,

Monsignor Stephan Moloney

FIFTH SUNDAY THIS 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.



MARIAN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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.



DONUT SUNDAY ON THE WAY!

The **Millions of Monicas and St. Monica Club** are hosting **DONUT SUNDAY** on **APRIL 6** after all Masses.

Stop by the **PARISH HALL** and enjoy donuts, coffee, tea, and juice and learn more about these parish prayer and support ministries and how you can become involved.



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.

SUNDAY OFFERING

	MAR 16	YTD
ACTUAL	\$ 47,365	\$ 1,262,212
BUDGET	\$ 32,692	\$ 1,209,615
LAST YEAR	\$ 30,008	\$ 1,279,419

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!

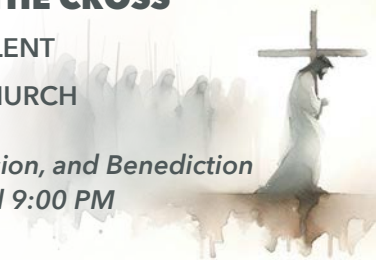
Weekly Adoration Hosts: Parish Council (first Tuesday); St. Vincent de Paul (second Tuesday); Walking With Purpose (third Tuesday); Men of the Parish (fourth Tuesday).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS DURING LENT

7:30 PM IN THE CHURCH

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



THANK YOU to the 22 donors (four more than our last drive) at our March blood drive. Mark your calendars for our next drive on Wednesday, May 14. Special thanks to JoAnn, Sally and Peg, our trusty volunteers, who helped make the drive a success!



American Red Cross

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A GREETER AT MASS?

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.

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. You'll find a variety of items that we will need to make the annual fish fry a success.

LAST FISH DINNER: APRIL 11



THE POWER OF PRAYER: 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, April 12, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., in front of Planned Parenthood Surgical Clinic (3255 E. Main Street).** Additional event information and sign-up sheets will be in the church parlor on March 29/30 and April 5/6. Or, if you prefer to sign up online, visit tinyurl.com/SPRING-40DFL-2025 or use the QR code.



For more information about the 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil, contact **Deb McEllistrem** at dmcellistrem@yahoo.com.

»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.

»VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR EASTER

DECORATING: Help us decorate the church for Easter on **Saturday, April 19, at 9:30 a.m.** We will set up decorations and arrange flowers to create a joyful and welcoming atmosphere for our Easter liturgies. It is a great opportunity for families to volunteer together for a couple hours and enjoy the spirit of Easter. All are welcome! For more information, contact **Anna Wang** at anna_m_wang@yahoo.com.



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, March 29/30 and April 5/6. To order online, visit tinyurl.com/easterbutterbraids or use the QR. The deadline to order is Sunday, April 6. Pickup is Saturday, April 12, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Bryce Eck Center. There is no delivery.



SPRING FLOWER SALE

Support the St. Andrew class of 2026 and celebrate spring by ordering your flowers, hanging baskets, and vegetable plants.

Deadline to order: Wednesday, April 2
Delivery date: to be announced

Ordering is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. **CONTACT** your favorite seventh grade student. If you don't know a current seventh grader, visit www.fundraiseit.org.
2. **SELECT** the **ONLINE SHOPPING** button.
3. **ENTER** webcode: 2966F4

For more information, contact Jen Blatt at JenniferBlatt@yahoo.com, or Dawn Walz at WalzFamily04@gmail.com

St. Andrew School Eighth Grade Students Present...

Walk with Jesus



All parishioners and friends are welcome to witness this dramatic portrayal of the Passion of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. The "Walk with Jesus" begins at the entrance of the church.

~Parishioner Performance~

Wednesday, April 9
6:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING: The next open volunteer training session will be held on **Tuesday, April 29**, at **6:00 p.m.** via **Zoom**. Attending volunteer training 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 training 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.



ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

SUNDAY APRIL 13 (PALM SUNDAY)

12:30 pm

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

»**MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY VIDEO SERIES** takes you on a journey deeper into the life of Jesus Christ while rediscovering the power of the Rosary! All are welcome to join us every **Thursday during Lent from 9:15-10:45 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room**. Each week, we 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: All men of the parish are welcome to join us for the video series, "A Journey through the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary" by Paradisus Dei. **We meet on Fridays from 7:00-8:00 a.m. in the Parish Office lower level meeting room**. Following each video, we pray a scriptural decade of the Rosary. 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.

LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

SAT, APR 5: Vigil, Fifth Sunday of Lent

4:30 PM Mass

Kevin Carpenter.....	EMHC-B - B1
Dee Pellissier.....	EMHC-B - B2
Pamela Sprigler	Lector - A
Tim Terveer	Lector - B
Sabrina Wenzke.....	Altar Server
Samantha Zarick.....	Altar Server

SUN, APR 6: Fifth Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Mass

Sudie Mitchell.....	EMHC-B - B1
Anna Wang	EMHC-B - B2
Jason Mays.....	Lector - A
Christina Carmell.....	Lector - B
Liran Mays	Altar Server
Seth Reilly.....	Altar Server

9:15 AM Mass

Mike Plahuta	EMHC-B - B1
Herm Mollmann.....	EMHC-B - B2
Jane Dickson.....	EMHC-B - B CHOIR
Bob Chambers.....	EMHC-B - B3
Abigail Meyers.....	EMHC-C - C1
Ciara Decot	EMHC-C - C2
Megan Bellantis.....	EMHC-C - C CHOIR
David Varda.....	EMHC-C - C3
Jacob Decot.....	Lector - A
David Tague	Lector - B
Nate Chatlos	Altar Server
Nora Ott.....	Altar Server

11:00 AM Mass

Donna Kring.....	EMHC-B - B1
Laddie Waldegar.....	EMHC-B - B2
Marty Majka.....	Lector - A
Carson Reider	Lector - B
Brinley McCurdy.....	Altar Server
Sebastian Krzeczowski.....	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.

»**APRIL SENIOR LUNCH:** Parishioners age 55 and older are welcome to attend the monthly lunch. The next lunch will be held on **Thursday, April 10, at the Bryce Eck Center, Kelly Hall.** Euchre begins at 10:00 a.m., bingo at 11:00 a.m., and lunch is served at noon. The lunches are a great way to catch up with old friends and forge new friendships with seniors within our St. Andrew Parish community. There is no cost. For more information, contact **Karen McCurdy** at kmccurdy@cdeducation.org.

»**THE HEARING LOOP SYSTEM IS AVAILABLE DURING MASS:** For those who experience hearing loss and use hearing aids, St. Andrew Parish offers the telecoil, or T-coil, hearing loop system in the church. The T-coil hearing loop system reduces most background noise and improves understanding of speech and music. **If you would like to take advantage of the T-coil function in the church,** you will need to ask your Hearing Care Provider (HCP) to add it to your device. After this, simply press the button on the back of your hearing aid and select the program that your HCP has assigned to T-coil. *Please note that the hearing loop system is currently upgraded.

»**THE INFANT OF PRAGUE STATUE,** located at the far northeast corner of the Church, invites all of us to place our trust and seek God's providence in the one who is the true King of the Universe. In front of the statue, there is a supply of prayer cards that offer more information about the statue, and a wealth of prayers to recite and petition God for help. The prayer cards are available for parishioners to keep. There is no need to return the cards once you've used them.

»**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 lead the Rosary and Chaplet. On all the other Saturdays, the women of the parish lead the prayers.

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."

AROUND THE DIOCESE

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—EQUIPPING THE FAMILY: HAVING CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS: The constant flood of influence that comes through the internet and social media in all of its various forms, along with social pressures from peers make it difficult for children to live virtuous and holy lives. In the digital age, it's not a matter of if your child will see something inappropriate online. It's only a matter of when. And regrettably, internet pornography is teaching our children how and what to think about sex and marriage.

Next weekend, April 5 and 6, the Diocese of Columbus will be celebrating our Second Annual Safe Haven Sunday. This weekend of awareness will provide free resources to give you confidence for how to talk to your children about internet dangers, as well as their personal online and offline choices. Please join us with your prayers and presence as we prepare for this unique event. To learn more, visit columbuscatholic.org/safe-haven-sunday.

ST. CHARLES SUMMER PROGRAMS, CAMPS, AND CLASSES: This June and July, St. Charles will host 33 camps and classes for students of all ages and interests. Options include co-ed camps in robotics, volleyball, ice hockey, and basketball, for kids as young as incoming first graders! Students can also participate in Camp Cardinal, a fun-filled day camp exploring the best of St. Charles, along with baseball, basketball shooting, football, lacrosse, soccer, and speed camps. For incoming freshmen, St. Charles also offers readiness courses in Latin, Algebra, English preparation, and study skills. To register and learn more, visit www.scprep.org and select "Summer Programs" under the "Admissions" section. For more information, contact **Ned Gruber** at 614-804-7230 or ngruber@scprep.org.

The Mass



"Do This in Remembrance of Me"

A Step-By-Step Walk Through the Mass

Fr. Luke Spannagel



Part 63: Exchanging the Sign of Peace



Continuing with the **Rite of Peace**, how do we exchange the sign of peace? For a little more background on this part of the Mass, the Diocese of Peoria teaches, "This prayer reaffirms the holiness of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ. The Church, insofar as She is the Bride of Christ, is holy and without blemish. While the Church remains holy, Her members are prone to sin and error, and so we beseech our Lord to look upon His Church with favor and grant us the peace and unity of the kingdom of heaven. Upon asking our Lord for this peace, the priest extends this peace to the congregation as he says: 'The peace of the Lord be with you always!' [The people reply] 'And with your spirit.' [The Deacon or Priest then says: "Let us offer each other the sign of peace."] According to local custom, we exchange with one another a sign of peace. Typically, in the United States, the normative gesture is a handshake to those around us" (A Study of the Mass, p. 18).

An Expression of Christian Community

For more description of what happens after the words from the sanctuary, the Catholic Encyclopedia states, "It is then that the people of the assembled community turn to their immediate neighbors and exchange a greeting, a shake of the hand, or other sign of peace and friendship. This need not be an elaborate exchange. There are no ritual words to be said, some preferring to say: 'Peace be with you' or 'the Peace of Christ be with you' or 'God bless you.' The response may be equally simple. This kiss of peace, both as a sign of recognition of fellowship, respect, or friendship is essentially a sign of reconciliation, of expressing the mutual regard of Christian for Christian... St. Paul recognized this sign of peace as an expression of Christian community (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12). And St. Peter considered this greeting a sign of union with Christ, or Christ-like togetherness (1 Pt 5:14)" (Catholic Encyclopedia, p. 465).

Practical Gestures of Peace

While the deeper meaning of this gesture may be more clear for us, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal included a new paragraph addressing the practical gesture itself, which says, "As for the actual sign of peace to be given, the manner is to be established by the Conferences of Bishops in accordance with the culture and customs of the peoples. However, it is appropriate that each person, in a sober manner, offer the sign of peace only to those who are nearest" (GIRM, 82). So, what is the norm for us? While we don't have a defined standard, as mentioned previously, our typical local norm is a simple handshake with people that are nearby. Certainly, spouses, families, and others may have more intimate exchanges of peace such as a hug or a kiss. During times when people are being more cautious about illness and contact, a simple bow or a wave and a smile can be fine gestures of peace as well. Generally, I would encourage people to choose the sign that is comfortable for people around us. The main thing we want to remember is to make the gesture a real sign of peace, while at the same time not being too carefree or moving throughout the church, where we might risk being disrespectful to Jesus present on the altar (which is also why we shouldn't have conversations at this time).

For a few more summary thoughts, the Diocese of Peoria says, "This rite of peace acknowledges a few things: forgiveness, humility and community. In Matthew, Chapter 5, our Lord taught us we must first be reconciled with one another before approaching the altar. We approach the altar to receive the Prince of Peace; His command is that we be peacemakers ourselves by forgiving others and asking pardon for our sins... It is also a gesture of the communal Spirit which resides in the Church. The gesture of peace signifies this 'ecclesial bond' that with Christ we are a community of believers and children of the same Father" (A Study of the Mass, p. 18). The next time you offer the Sign of Peace at Mass, whether a hug, kiss, handshake, simple bow, wave, or smile, think about what it truly means—what you truly want to offer to those around you—and how it helps prepare your heart for Jesus truly present in Holy Communion.

For Reflection:

1. Review the New Testament passages which feature a "holy kiss" or "loving kiss" as a greeting within the early Church (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Thes 5:26; 1 Pt 5:14). Ask the intercession of those in the Communion of Saints who have shared this gesture throughout Church history for peace within the Church today and the extension of Christ's peace in our mission to the world.
2. As part of your preparation the next time you participate in Mass, pray Psalm 122, which celebrates the gift of worshipping in God's "house" and includes the phrase, "Peace be with you."

Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog





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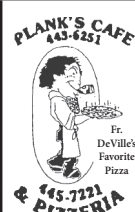
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