## PALM SUNDAY

## OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

MONDAY, APRIL 14: **Reconciliation Monday** 4:00-7:00 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 15: **Eucharistic Adoration** 

~Exposition, Compline, Benediction~ 6:00-9:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16:

Reconciliation
7:00 PM until all are heard

THURSDAY, APRIL 17: Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 PM

> FRIDAY, APRIL 18: Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3:00 PM

Stations of the Cross, Adoration, Exposition, Confession, Benediction 7:30 PM

There are no daily Masses on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday.

## EASTER EGG HUNT | SUNDAY, APRIL 13 | 12:30 PM

Stop by the Bryce Eck Center Field TODAY after the 11:00 a.m. Mass for the annual Knights of Columbus egg hunt! Kids up to 8 years old can bring a basket or we'll supply the bags. Rain or shine!

## **HOLY THURSDAY | GOOD FRIDAY | EASTER MONDAY**

The Parish Office will be closed! We'll be back in the office on Tuesday, April 22, at 9:00 a.m.

### **EASTER MASS TIMES**

**Saturday, April 19 Vigil:** 8:30 p.m. **Easter Sunday, April 20:** 7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.



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



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**StAndrewUA** 

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#### **MASS INTENTIONS**

Vigil, Palm Sunday of the Passion **Saturday:** of the Lord 4:30 p.m. Dr. Joseph Banks **Sunday:** Apr 13, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Gertrude and Hilary Beth 7:30 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew Parish 9:15 a.m. 11:00 a.m. Ann Marie McNeal **Apr 14, Holy Week Mass** Monday: 6:30 a.m. Msgrs. Schulz, Grimes, and Dittoe Jiping (Agnes) Hu 8:30 a.m. **Apr 15, Holy Week Mass** Tuesday: Dr. Bob Nolan 6:30 a.m. 8:30 a.m. Mary Lou Kreber Wednesday: **Apr 16, Holy Week Mass** Mary Melaragno 6:30 a.m. 8:30 a.m. Bill Harder Apr 17, Holy Thursday Thursday: NO MORNING MASSES 7:30 p.m. Fr. Jim Willig **Apr 18, Good Friday** Friday: of the Lord's Passion NO MORNING MASSES 3:00 p.m. No Intentions **Apr 19, Holy Saturday Saturday:** NO MORNING MASS

Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

Jim and Sue Barrett 8:30 p.m.

**Sunday:** Apr 20, Easter Sunday of the Resurrection

of the Lord

7:30 a.m. **Special Intention** Phyllis DelTosto 9:15 a.m.

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

## **BANNS OF MARRIAGE**

Megan Fisher and Martin Wrobel (2)

### **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.

ST. ANDREW CHURCH COLUMBUS, OH

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR**

Dear Parishioners,

Today is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. This week is the most solemn week of the Church year because we commemorate the suffering, death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice to God to atone for our sins. He reconciled the world to Himself through the blood of His cross. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He shed His blood for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus died for our sins, the just one for the sake of the unjust, the innocent for the sake of the guilty. Because of this, we can receive the forgiveness of all of our sins.

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we receive absolution from our sins and freedom from our guilt. What better way to prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection than to have our sins forgiven and our innocence restored in the Sacrament of Reconciliation! It isn't too late. There are two opportunities for reconciliation before Easter:

- Monday, April 14 (Reconciliation Monday): confessions will be heard from 4:00-7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 16: confessions will be heard beginning at 7:00 p.m. until all are heard.

On Good Friday, confessions will be heard after the 3:00 p.m. Liturgy has concluded, but I don't recommend waiting until then. There are NO CONFESSIONS on April 19, Holy Saturday.

Now is a very acceptable time to be reconciled to 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 on the weekend, please allow extra time as the priests may be attending to other sacramental needs.



## EASTER EGG HUNT TODAY ~ APRIL 13! 12:30 PM // BRYCE ECK CENTER LAWN

Kids ages 8 and younger are welcome to participate in the Annual Hunt sponsored by St. Andrew Council #11275 Knights of Columbus. Bags will be provided or you can bring your own basket.

## **CALLING ALL GARDENERS!**

Beginning Monday, April 14, join us in the gardens on Monday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Garden Club members maintain the perennial garden by the grotto, the garden in front of the parish office and the red cannas around the McCoy Road parking lot. Men and women are welcome to bring your garden gloves and hand tools and enjoy fellowship, fresh air, and a little gardening. Each week, we meet near the flower garden with the swing. You can come as often as your schedule allows and as weather permits. For more information, contact Karen Bruns at 614-216-4694 or kbruns145@gmail.com, or Rosemary Scholl at 614-270-2020 or rischoll47@gmail.com.

### **KNIGHTS NEWS**

St. Andrew Knights of Columbus
Council 11275 will hold its monthly
membership meeting on Monday, April
14, 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 more than 2 million members worldwide, upholding the faith and the truth.

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

## **SUNDAY OFFERING**

	MAR 30	YTD
ACTUAL	\$ 19,889	\$ 1,302,858
BUDGET	\$ 32,692	\$ 1,275,000
LAST YEAR	\$ 32,469	\$ 1,334,891

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.



#### MAKE YOUR GENEROSITY LAST FOREVER

Your faith has given you so much. Now, you can ensure future generations receive the same gift. St. Andrew has endowment funds, managed by The Catholic Foundation, which provide lasting support beyond the weekly offertory. These endowments help keep our parish strong for years to come. Many parishioners have already committed to securing this future. Will you join them? A gift of cash, stock, real estate, or retirement assets can leave a legacy that lasts forever. A gift today will shape the church of tomorrow. For more information, contact Christy Steffy at 614-443-8893, ext. 1100, or CSteffy@ Catholic-Foundation.org.



# 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**.

## HOLY WEEK/EASTER PARISH OFFICE HOURS

In observance of Holy Week and Easter, the parish office will be closed on Holy Thursday, April 17, Good Friday, April 18, and Holy Monday, April 21.

We will reopen at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 22.



#### **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

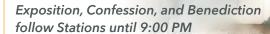
Please join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesdays from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration is simply the act of being in Christ's real presence while the Eucharist is on the altar. Adorers may stay as briefly or as long as they would like. Adoration concludes at 8:45 p.m. with Compline (end-of-day 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



**»ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FREE CLOTHING CENTER AND ST. LAWRENCE HAVEN ARE CLOSED.** Thank you for your generosity donating clothing and making sandwiches for those in need. If you have clothing to donate, please consider using the Catholic Social Services bin in the McCoy Road parking lot.

**\*CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS:** All are welcome to our monthly knit and crochet meeting on Monday, April 21, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., in Nugent Parish Hall. We



have needle workers of all levels. Please bring your own knitting needles (size 7 or 8) and/or crochet hooks (size G or H). Each monthly meeting includes fun and laughter, while we make items for those in need. Easy patterns are provided and experienced knitters and crocheters are available to answer questions and provide guidance. For more information, contact **Darla Reed** at **drdjreed@outlook.com**.

The Knit and Crochet Ministry has spent many hours handcrafting **PRAYER SHAWLS** for those who are in need of comfort and peace. A selection of shawls, in various sizes for children and adults, are available for parishioners to take for themselves or to share with someone. The gift of a prayer shawl is a tangible reminder of God's care and love, encouragement, and inspiration. Look for the shawls in the chapel in the lower cabinet to the right of the entrance.

ST. ANDREW CHURCH COLUMBUS, OH

## 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! \*\*REGISTRATION ENDS ON THURSDAY, MAY 1\*\*

To learn more and register, visit tinyurl.com/SACRED-2025-REGISTER

#### **ADULT AND TEEN VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

There are plenty of opportunities available for volunteers throughout the week.

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

#### **NEED MORE DETAILS?**

Contact Erin Karlquist and Jennie Statczar **StAndrewSACRED@gmail.com** 

### **UPCOMING VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

## TUESDAY, APRIL 29 | 6:00 PM 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**.

#### WE WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

Do you attend Mass at St. Andrew, but you've never registered? Are you new to the community and you'd like to become a parishioner? Registration is quick and easy. Contact Parish Secretary **Jen Wenzke** at 614-451-4290, ext. 0, or **jwenzke@stadrewparish.cc**.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. ANDREW SCHOOL

St. Andrew School has several job openings for the 2025-2026 school year.

#### Full-Time:

- Seventh/Eighth Grade Science Teacher
- Intervention Specialist

#### Part-Time:

- Bookkeeper, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Classroom Aide, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these positions, contact Principal **Joel Wichtman** at **jwichtma@cdeducation.org**.

## ST. ANDREW RELIGIOUS ED. NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Friday, May 2: Jesus Day
- Saturday, May 3: First Communion, 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, May 4: May Crowning following the 11:00 a.m. Mass
- Sunday, Nov. 16: Eighth Grade Confirmation Retreat (requirement for Confirmation)

For more information, contact
DRE Kathy Dowler at 614-451-2855, ext. 305, or kdowler@standrewparish.cc.

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

## ST ANDREW MINISTRY EXPO "SERVING ONE ANOTHER"

Saturday, May 17 | Sunday, May 18 After All Masses Nugent Parish Hall

Enjoy cookies on Saturday and donuts on Sunday (refreshments included)

We encourage ALL PARISHIONERS to stop by and learn about the many ministries and organizations offered at St. Andrew Parish.

If you are a ministry or organization leader and missed our email to join the Expo and set up a booth, send an email to **St. Andrew Parish Council** at parishcouncil@standrewparish.cc.

## LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS HOLY WEEK: APRIL 17 - APRIL 20

## Thu, 7:30 p.m. - Holy Thursday April 17 Dee Pellissier.....EMHC-B - B1 Kris Pellissier ..... EMHC-B - B2 Rosie Brandon ..... EMHC-B - B CHOIR Pamela Sprigler ..... EMHC-C - C1 David Varda.....EMHC-C - C CHOIR Joseph Chatlos.....Lector - A Anna Wang .....Lector - B Gus Patti......Altar Server James Patti ......Altar Server George Patti ......Altar Server A.J. Chatlos ......Altar Server Fri, 3:00 p.m. - Good Friday Liturgy April 18 Anna Wang ......EMHC-B - B1 Rosie Brandon ..... EMHC-B - B2 Amy Tague .....Lector - A Mary Kasberg.....Lector - B

## Sat. 8:30 p.m. - Easter Vigil April 19

Nate Chatlos ......Altar Server Tommy Chatlos......Altar Server Marco Pietropaolo.....Altar Server Rocco Pietropaolo.....Altar Server

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Kris Pellissier	EMHC-B - B1	
Dee Pellissier	EMHC-B - B2	
Pamela Sprigler	EMHC-B - B CH	OIR
VOLUNTEER NOW		
VOLUNTEER NOW	EMHC-C - C2	
Lindsay Kaleta	EMHC-C - C CH	OIR
Mary Frecker		
Amy Tague	Lector - B	
David Varda	Lector - C	
Jennifer Schaefer	Lector - D	
Ave Holowchak	Altar Server	;
Mary Jaminet	Altar Server	s
Lydia Kaleta	Altar Server	0
Nate Chatlos	Altar Server	h

## Sun, 7:30 a.m. - Easter Sunday April 20

Anna Wang	EMHC-B - B1
Sudie Mitchell	
Cathy Covarrubias	Lector - A
Randy Doherty	Lector - B
Adeline Mays	Altar Server
Elise Mays	Altar Server
Liran Mays	Altar Server

#### Sun, 9:15 a.m. - Easter Sunday April 20

-	•
Rosie Brandon	EMHC-B - B1
Deborah McGlumphy	EMHC-B - B2
Karen Huey	
Jane Dickson	EMHC-B - B3
Elizabeth Carpenter (sub req	)EMHC-C - C1
Suzanne Meyers (sub req)	EMHC-C - C2
David Tague	EMHC-C - C CHOIR
Linda Daley	EMHC-C - C3
Mary Kasberg	Lector - A
Joseph Chatlos	Lector - B
William Popovich	Altar Server
Chase Ryder	Altar Server
Jake Meier	Altar Server

#### Sun, 11:00 a.m. - Easter Sunday April 20

Donna Kring	EMHC-B - B1
Claire Nduaguba	EMHC-B - B2
Carson Reider	Lector - A
Ciara Decot	Lector - B
Noah Watson	Altar Server
Mackenzie Holthaus	Altar Server
Mateo Lessells	Altar Server

To volunteer for an available ministry position during Holy Week, visit www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/ standrewcolumbus, or use the QR. If you have other questions about your scheduled service time, or need help with your username or password, contact Mary Beasecker, mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc or 614-451-4290, ext. 104.





"Suicidal individuals – with or without a terminal illness - typically do not want to die. They want to escape what they perceive to be an intolerable situation, and they inaccurately believe that suicide is their only way out. The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, 'Does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of this request and support me through this difficult time?""

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Every Suicide is Tragic" usccb.org/every-suicide-tragic

## **BULLETIN AND EPOST ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Send requests to **bulletin@standrewparish.cc** by Monday at 10:00 a.m. for the upcoming weekend. Include a brief 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.

### PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ADVERTISERS!

Show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them.

### **ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

## NEW! MEN'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY BEGINNING FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Join us as we discuss the letters of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians, Timothy and Titus each Friday from 7:00-8:00 a.m. in the Parish Office Lower-Level Meeting Room. Learn about Paul's encouragement and admonishments to his trusted assistants and the young



congregations he founded. In this 20-week Bible study series for men of all ages, you'll find inspirational commentary from popular theologians Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch, as well as insights from the Church fathers, geographical maps, and pertinent study questions. 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.

# **\*\*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, April 28, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the church. 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, May 12, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the parish hall. For information about this prayer ministry, contact Amy Tague at amyliss14@gmail.com.

## **AROUND THE DIOCESE**



## 2025 FRIENDS OF THE JOSEPHINUM 4-MILER RUN/WALK

The Friends of the Josephinum welcome everyone to join the fun at the Annual Josephinum 4-Miler Run/Walk at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 27, the Run/Walk starts promptly at 9:00 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/.

## PREGNANT? NEED A FRIEND?

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## "Do This in Remembrance of Me"

A Step-By-Step Walk Through the Mass Fr. Luke Spannagel



# Part 65: The Fraction #



This week, we continue with the meaningful actions that are happening during the Lamb of God. The Roman Missal indicates that during the singing or recitation of the Lamb of God, the priest "takes the host, breaks it over the paten, and places a small piece in the chalice, saying quietly: 'May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it'." We call this part of the Mass the **Fraction** or the **Breaking** and the Commingling. The Catholic Encyclopedia teaches that, "The 'Breaking,' from the Latin, fractio, is the act of breaking the bread of the species consecrated in the Mass" (Catholic Encyclopedia, p. 226), which is why the breaking is sometimes called the fracturing rite. "This rite, which is simple in its appearance, is full of ancient meaning. At the Last Supper, Jesus 'broke the bread' to distribute to the disciples. After the Resurrection, the disciples recognized Jesus in the 'Breaking of the Bread.' Both in the Acts of the Apostles and in the letters of St. Paul, the Eucharistic celebration is often referred to as 'breaking of the bread'." (A Study of the Mass" p. 19). Dr. Edward Sri notes several Scripture passages regarding "Breaking the Bread," including: Mt 14:19; 15:36; Mk 6:41; 8:6; Lk 9:16; Mt 26:26; Mk 14:22; Lk 22:19; 1 Cor 11:24; Lk 24:30; Acts 2:42, 46 (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, pp. 132-33).

### A Sign of Unity

"Breaking Bread" is a sign of our unity, together sharing in the "one loaf." Although for practicality many churches use smaller hosts for the distribution of Holy Communion, the symbolism of the fracturing reminds us that we are united together in Christ, not only in the Mass where we are but also with those present at Mass in every time and place. Another sign of unity is the Church's direction that, if possible, the faithful should receive Communion from hosts consecrated at that particular Mass. We know Christ is truly present and remains so in the hosts reserved in

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the tabernacle. Receiving hosts consecrated in the Mass we are participating in provides a sign of unity and also strengthens our participation in the sacrifice of Christ. (Recall from the Old Testament/Temple times that people were given a portion of the sacrifice, and their participation was completed through eating that portion.)

## **A Symbol of Reality**

As mentioned above, after the initial breaking of the Host, the priest breaks off a small piece and places it into the chalice. This is called the "Commingling." As the Diocese of Peoria explains, "Placing a piece of the host in the chalice is a very ancient custom dating back to at least the fourth century. Originally, it was designed to show unity and communion between the pope, bishops and their local Churches. Fragments of the host from the Masses celebrated by the pope or bishop were carried by the deacons to the local churches and placed into the chalices during the celebration of the Mass. It symbolized the reality that the entire [C]hurch is present at every Mass. Even though it is not practiced as such today, the commingling of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ remains a beautiful part of the Communion Rite as it expresses a great reality. When the consecration takes place, the bread and the wine are consecrated separately, for this is how our Lord instituted the memorial sacrifice of His death on the cross. He anticipated how His death would take place: the separation of His Body and Blood and He bled to His death on the cross. The commingling at this point during the Mass symbolizes the Resurrection of Jesus when on the third day His Body and Soul were reunited forever" (A Study of the Mass, p. 19).

Reminding us that the whole Christ is present in either/both the Consecrated Host and/or the Chalice, Charles Belmonte writes, "Some say that the separated species signify the Victim in the state of death (the body in one place, the blood in another), whereas in reality our Lord is present in either and in both species, as he is in heaven, living and glorious. Therefore, the mingling symbolizes the re-union of Christ's body and soul as in his resurrection. It is, however, probable that the mingling must have corresponded to the dogmatic need to show clearly the unity and indivisibility of the body and blood of Jesus Christ" (Understanding the Mass, pp. 179-80).

#### A Sacrament of Unity

As a priest, I really enjoy thinking about the ancient custom of having the deacon bring a fragment of a host consecrated at Mass by the bishop. Sometimes after the commingling prayer, I will silently say a short prayer for the bishop. I ask the Lord to gift him with wisdom and strength to lead us well. I ask that he be strengthened through reception of the Eucharist and that his heart continue to become more like Christ's. In that moment, this sign of unity recalls me back to ordination day, when priests promise respect and obedience to the bishop and his successors. The Eucharist truly is our sacrament of unity—drawing each of us into greater unity with Christ and with one another.

All that from the Fraction Rite and Commingling! This rite shows us very concretely that there are no parts of the Mass without deep meaning, even gestures that may seem small. Does this mean we have to pay attention at every moment? Do your best, and realize that if you wander off, you might miss something really special!

## For Reflection:

- 1. Pray with one or more of the Scripture passages which feature the "Breaking of the Bread," such as Mt 14:19, 15:36, 26:26; Mk 6:41, 8:6, 14:22; Lk 9:16, 22:19, 24:30; Acts 2:42, 46; 1 Cor 11:24. Rest in your awareness of being part of the "great cloud of witnesses" united in the "Breaking of the Bread."
- 2. 2. Pay particular attention to the Fraction Rite and Commingling next time you participate in Mass. Pray for your local bishop and for the unity of the local and universal Church.

Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog





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