

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



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



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ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

SUNDAY, APRIL 13 | 12:30 PM BRYCE ECK FIELD

Look for more details in the bulletin or online at www.standrewparish.cc/lent2025/

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday: Apr 5 Vigil, Fifth Sunday of Lent 4:30 p.m. Special Intention

Sunday: Apr 6, Fifth Sunday of Lent7:30 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew Parish

9:15 a.m. Lena Colatruglio 11:00 a.m. Carol Gallo

Monday: Apr 7, Lent Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. Margaret Rosmarin 8:30 a.m. Jim Shough

Tuesday: Apr 8, Lent Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. Vincent Ireland 8:30 a.m. Joe and Louise Karam

Wednesday: Apr 9, Lent Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. Glenn Willett

8:30 a.m. Robert and Anna Mae Jones

Thursday: Apr 10, Lent Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. Richard Lumpe 8:30 a.m. Marilyn Webster

Friday: Apr 11, Lent Weekday Mass 6:30 a.m. John and Rosemary Persinger

8:30 a.m. Intentions of the Rosary Group

& Joseph and Katherine Reed

Saturday: Apr 12, Lent Weekday Mass

9:00 a.m. Norma Johanni

9:00 a.m. Norma Johanni

Vigil, Palm Sunday/Passion of the Lord

4:30 p.m. Dr. Joseph Banks

Sunday: Apr 13, Palm Sunday/Passion of the Lord

7:30 a.m. Gertrude and Hilary Beth

9:15 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew Parish

11:00 a.m. Ann Marie McNeal

BAPTISMS

Dylan Elizabeth Bell, daughter of Austin and Elizabeth

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Megan Fisher and Martin Wrobel (1)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY

Virginia "Ginny" Houghton

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-CALENDARr**.

ST. ANDREW CHURCH COLUMBUS, OH

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Today, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, marks the beginning of Passiontide. The focus of this period is on the events leading up to the betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The statues and the crucifix in church are veiled in cloth during Passiontide. "Passion" means "suffering." It is derived from the Latin word patior, which means "to suffer." The words "patient" and "passive" are also related words. During this season of Passiontide, I would like to recommend that we try to appreciate ever more deeply how much Jesus suffered for our sake as He endured His passion and death in order to obtain for us the forgiveness of sins, to reconcile us to the Father, and to enable us to inherit eternal life.

There is no better way to enter into Christ's suffering than to pray and meditate upon the Stations of the Cross. When we pray the Stations, we accompany Jesus along the Way of the Cross. We follow His steps from station to station. We fall to the ground with Him, and rise up again. We help Him to carry His cross, and in turn, are helped by Him to carry our own. We are stripped of all pride and false pretenses as we share in His humiliation. We feel the pain of His wounds and our hearts are moved to pity and grief. In praying the Stations of the Cross, we share in the Passion of Christ, and so hope to share in His resurrection also.

Please keep in mind that you can pray and meditate on The Station of the Cross anytime. The best way to pray The Stations is to walk from station to station (whether in church or along the outdoor stations), pausing at each station along the way for a brief meditation. Someone showed me recently a Stations of the Cross Chaplet, a Rosary-like set of beads with the 14 stations on it

The important thing is that, however we pray The Stations, we strive to accompany Jesus in His hour of suffering and death. In doing so, may we grow in patience.

Your Pastor,

Monsignor Stephan Moloney

»BRING A CAN (or more) TO MASS! Canned goods and other nonperishable food items are always needed for the St. James the Less Food Pantry. Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul make deliveries regularly to the Food Pantry. Suggested items are pasta, rice, beans, soup. Please place your donation in the bin marked "St. James the Less" in the Parlor.

»DONUT SUNDAY THIS WEEKEND! Millions of

Monicas and St. Monica Club are sponsoring Donut Sunday on Sunday, April 6, in Nugent Parish Hall after the 7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m., and 11 a.m. Masses.

Enjoy donuts, coffee, tea, and juice and learn more about these important prayer/support ministries at St. Andrew Parish.





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 this weekend,

Saturday, April 5 and Sunday, April 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.



****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**.

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. All are welcome! Bring your garden gloves and hand tools and enjoy fellowship, fresh air, and caring for the gardens around the parish. 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 rscholl47@gmail.com.

SUNDAY OFFERING

	MAR 23	YTD
ACTUAL	\$ 20,757	\$ 1,282,969
BUDGET	\$ 32,692	\$ 1,242,308
LAST YEAR	\$ 23,002	\$ 1,302,421

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 or to begin planning, contact Christy Steffy at 614-443-8893, ext. 1100, or email CSteffy@Catholic-Foundation.org.



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 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.**





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

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

»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**.



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.

ST. ANDREW CHURCH COLUMBUS, OH

FINAL FRIDAY FISH FRY



APRIL 11 // 4:30PM // 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



Ⅲ VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS

NEEDED: There are many volunteer opportunities available and we are accepting dessert and beverage donations. To learn more, use the QR

or visit our SignUpGenius at **tinyurl.com/Fish-Fry-2025**.

VISIT OUR AMAZON WISH LIST:

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.



RECONCILIATION

Monday, April 14, 4:00 PM-7:00 PM Wednesday, April 16, 7:00 PM until all are heard.

ADORATION

Tuesday, April 15, 6:00-9:00 PM

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Holy Thursday, April 17, 7:30 PM

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Friday, April 18, 3:00 PM in the Church Confession follows the Liturgy until all are heard.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS, ADORATION, EXPOSITION, CONFESSION & BENEDICTION

Friday, April 18, 7:30 PM in the Church

EASTER VIGIL MASS

Saturday, April 19, 8:30 PM
There is no daily 9 a.m. Mass and no confessions are
heard on Holy Saturday.

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES

Sunday, April 20, 7:30 AM, 9:15 AM and 11:00 AM



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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

»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**.

»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. 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**.

»WEEKLY MEN'S BIBLE 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**.

»NEXT MEN'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY BEGINNING

FRIDAY, APRIL 25: Letters of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians, Timothy and Titus, Fridays from 7:00-8:00 a.m. in the Parish Office Lower Level Meeting Room. Watch upcoming bulletin and ePOSTs for more details.

»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**.

LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

SAT, APR 12: Vigil, Palm Sunday/Passion of the Lord 4:30 PM Mass

Stuart Sprigler	.EMHC-B - B1
Jeff Wenzke	.EMHC-B - B2
Wini Chuidian	.Lector - A
Cecile Jalandoni-Chuidian	Lector - B
Sabrina Wenzke	. Altar Server
Noah Wenzke	. Altar Server

SUN, APR 13: Palm Sunday/Passion of the Lord 7:30 AM Mass

Linda Daley	EMHC-B - B1
Megan Bellantis	
Anna Wang	Lector - A
Randy Doherty	Lector - B
Liran Mays	
Elise Mays	Altar Server

9:15 AM Mass

Ciara Decot	EMHC-B - B1
Kathi Theado	EMHC-B - B2
Mark Pardi	EMHC-B - B CHOIR
Iris Freisner	EMHC-B - B3
David Varda	EMHC-C - C1
Suzanne Meyers	EMHC-C - C2
Herm Mollmann	EMHC-C - C CHOIR
Tom Levenick	EMHC-C - C3
Mike Luckett	Lector - A
Jacob Decot	Lector - B
Maggie Leahy	Altar Server
Bridget Leahy	Altar Server

11:00 AM Mass

Martha Radtke	EMHC-B - B1
Bette Jo Feeney	EMHC-B - B2
Mike Stuhldreher	
Mary Frecker	
Ben Stuhldreher	
Matthew Stuhldreher	Altar Server

*Holy Week continued on next page.

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



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.

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.

****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 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.

HOLY WEEK LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

THUR, APR 17: MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 7:30 PM Mass

EMHC-B - B1
EMHC-B - B2
EMHC-B - B CHOIR
EMHC-C1
EMHC-C - C2
EMHC-C Choir
EMHC-C - C3
Lector - A
Lector - B
Altar Server
Altar Server
Altar Server
Altar Server

FRI, APR 18: GOOD FRIDAY 3:00 PM Liturgy

Anna Wang	EMHC-B - B1
Rosie Brandon	
Amy Tague	Lector - A
Mary Kasberg	Lector - B
Nate Chatlos	Altar Server
Tommy Chatlos	Altar Serverr
VOLUNTEER NOW	Altar Server
VOLUNTEER NOW	Altar Server

To volunteer for any of the open Holy Week positions, visit **www.rotundasoftware.com/ ministry/standrewcolumbus**, or use the QR code. If you need help with your ministry account, contact **Mary Beasecker** at **mbeasecker@ standrewparish.cc** or 614-451-4290, ext. 104.



AROUND THE DIOCESE

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/.

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**.

ST. ANDREW CHURCH COLUMBUS, OH



Celebrate Safe Haven Sunday

Join parishes across the diocese in equipping families to live porn-free.

In a constantly connected digital world, Safe Haven Sunday helps you start the conversation of online purity or continue it with this year's step-by-step guide titled *Confident*.

Creating a safe home environment encourages honest and transparent conversations that discourage secretive behavior. Learn how to have the critical conversations every child needs to be confident in our digital world!

"According to a recent survey, 71% of teens have done something to hide their online behavior from their parents."



Safe Haven Sunday is an initiative sponsored by Covenant Eyes that provides parents with guidance on how to form and protect their children in the internet age. Scan the code to get your copy of *Confident: Helping Parents Navigate Online Exposure.*







ST. ANDREW CHURCH COLUMBUS, OH

The Mass



"Do This in Remembrance of Me"

A Step-By-Step Walk Through the Mass

Fr. Luke Spannagel

Part 64: The Lamb of God



Continuing through the Communion Rite, we have prayed the Our Father and exchanged a holy and reverent Sign of Peace. What comes next? As The General Instruction of the Roman Missal explains, "The gesture of breaking bread done by Christ at the Last Supper, which in apostolic times gave the entire Eucharistic Action its name [Breaking of the Bread was a common name for Mass in the early Church], signifies that the many faithful are made one body (1 Cor 10:17) by receiving Communion from the one Bread of Life, which is Christ, who for the salvation of the world died and rose again. The fraction or breaking of bread is begun after the sign of peace and is carried out with proper reverence, and should not be unnecessarily prolonged or accorded exaggerated importance... The priest breaks the Bread and puts a piece of the host into the chalice to signify the unity of the Body and Blood of the Lord in the work of salvation, namely, of the Body of Jesus Christ, living and glorious" (GIRM, 83).

The Lamb of God in Scripture

You may be thinking, Hold on, Father! What about the Lamb of God? Well, as we will see, at this moment of the Mass a couple of actions will be overlapping. At this point in the Mass, we either sing or say the Agnus Dei: "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace." The Roman Missal instructs that the first phrases may be repeated if needed, but the final time always ends with "grant us peace." As John the Baptist heralded, Jesus is the Lamb of God-the one true sacrifice offered out of love for us for the forgiveness of sins. As the Diocese of Peoria teaches, "The slaughtered lamb is of extreme importance throughout Sacred Scripture. The prophecy of Jeremiah is that the suffering Servant of the Lord would be like a 'lamb led to the slaughter.' The Book of Revelation states that enthroned on the Heavenly Altar is the Lamb of God showing the marks of being slain for our offenses. For the Jewish Passover, the lamb was the prescribed animal of sacrifice. The sacrifice of Jesus is the new Passover. In fact, as the Gospel of John details, Jesus is the Lamb of the new Passover" (A Study of the Mass, p. 18).

The Meaning of the Lamb of God

In greater depth, Charles Belmonte states, "The figure of the 'Lamb of God' is full of meaning and is helpful to enkindle our devotion before Communion. The Lamb foretold by Isaiah and announced by St. John the Baptist should wipe out our sins through his obedience to God's will: 'Innocent, he never opened his mouth, like a lamb that is led to the slaughterhouse, like a sheep that is dumb before its shearers' (Isa 53:7)... [T]his lamb was also foreshadowed by the paschal lamb the Jews sacrificed on the eve of their departure from their slavery in Egypt. The expression of John the Baptist reminds us of the lamb of which the Jews celebrated the Passover every year, the pledge of the reconciliation of man with God. St. John the Evangelist, who was at the foot of the cross, observed that Jesus' legs were not broken as in the case of the two thieves. We find in this detail some similarity with the prescription of God for the Paschal lamb: 'You must not break any bone of it' (Ex 12:46) ... Finally, the Agnus Dei [Lamb of God] is also a nuptial hymn to celebrate the wedding of the Lamb with his bride, the Church, in peace and unity, as is described in the Book of Revelation. There, on the altar, the Lamb lies alive, but as if slain. Twenty-four elders are around the Lamb. They are clothed in white robes and crowned with gold. Thousands of angels hymn the sacrifice and triumph of the Lamb. Certainly, each Mass is only a prelude and a token of the future adoration of the Lamb in eternity" (Understanding the Mass, p. 180-81).

So, just like so many of the other Mass parts we have reviewed, the Lamb of God is filled with meaning and symbolism, all of which are pointing directly to Jesus Christ, truly present on the altar: his Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. Just before we are ready for Holy Communion, these words remind us of Who is present on the altar and that, in his great love, he offered himself in sacrifice to save us from our sins. Here is the One who fulfills the prophecies of old. Here is the One for whom hearts have been longing. Here is the One whose perfect sacrifice draws us together in love and opens a sharing in the beauty and perfection of heaven. What a great Savior! How blessed are we that he is truly present in our midst!

For Reflection:

- 1. Meditate on one or more of the lamb-related passages Fr. Luke features in this week's reflection: Ex 12; Isa 53; Jn 1:19-51; Rev 5. Give thanks to the Father for revealing the Lamb of God to us.
- 2. Pray with an image of the Lamb of God in art, such as Francisco de Zurbarán's Agnus Dei, the Van Eyck brothers' Ghent Altarpiece, or Josefa de Ayala's The Sacrificial Lamb. Allow this visual experience of prayer to help you perceive Christ's presence at Mass.

Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog



Darren A. McNair, Esq. ~ Parishioner DARREN@LMCOUNSEL.COM

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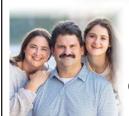
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