



1899 McCoy Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220 Parish Office (614) 451-4290 www.standrewparish.cc

OFFICE AND CHURCH HOURS

The Parish Office is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. The Church is open daily 6:00 AM-8:30 PM. For more information, visit www.standrewparish.cc.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:30 PM Sunday - 7:30 AM, 9:15 AM, 11:00 AM Weekdays - 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM Saturday Morning - 9:00 AM

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:15-4:15 PM or by appointment at 614-451-4290.

To learn more about **SACRAMENTS**, call the Parish Office or visit our website, www.standrewparish.cc and select "Sacraments and Prayer."

For **ANOINTING OF THE SICK**, please contact a priest at the Parish Office and choose "Sacramental Emergency" from the list of options or press 3.

We welcome **NEW MEMBERS!** To register or learn more about St. Andrew Parish, please contact our office by phone, or email Jen Wenzke at jwenzke@standrewparish.cc.



OUR MISSION

St. Andrew Church is a community of Catholics committed to serving God by living our faith.

We exist to fulfill the mission of the Roman Catholic Church at the local level by continuing the saving work of Christ. We accomplish this through the celebration of the sacraments, proclaiming and living the Gospel, reaching out to others in justice and charity, and providing all parishioners abundant spiritual, educational, and social opportunities to be known as a faith-filled, engaged, and generous parish.

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STAFF DIRECTORY	
CLERGY Msgr. Stephan Moloney, Pastor Rev. Lawrence Tabi, Parochial Vicar Deacon Thomas M. Berg, Jr. Deacon Daniel Dowler Rev. William DeVille, In Holy Service whd22@aol.com Rev. Paul Noble, In Residence, pnoble@columbuscatholic.org	614-451-4290 Ext. 101 Ext. 103
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Karen McCurdy, Facility Manager	Ext. 1
kmccurdy@cdeducation.org	
Amanda Carter, Preschool Director acarter@cdeducation.org	Ext. 2

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday: Vigil, Fourth Sunday of Easter

Elizabeth Cao Van 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: May 11, Fourth Sunday of Easter

7:30 a.m. Julia Cantwell

9:15 a.m. Gertrude and Hilary Beth

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

Monday: May 12, Weekday Mass Mary and Ted Rondinella 6:30 a.m. 8:30 a.m. The Belmaggio/Little Families

Tuesday: May 13, Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. **Bridget Williams** Lena Colatruglio 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday: May 14, Feast of St. Matthias

Richard Lumpe 6:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m. Marie Piper and Stella Pardi

May 15, Weekday Mass Thursday:

6:30 a.m. Denise Cottrell 8:30 a.m. Lloyd Mallett

May 16, Weekday Mass Friday:

Pat Cantwell 6:30 a.m. 8:30 a.m. Special Intention

Saturday: May 17, Weekday Mass

9:00 a.m. Bill Harder

Vigil, Fifth Sunday of Easter

4:30 p.m. Francis Kreber

May 18, Fifth Sunday of Easter **Sunday:**

7:30 a.m. Jeanne Grady Davis 9:15 a.m. The Cantwell Family

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

BAPTISMS

Clara Ann Harbrecht

daughter of Matthew and Emily

Banks Pierce Ballard

son of Peter and Madalyn

Wes Patrick Hesketh

son of Patrick and Katie

Baker Raymond Lynch

son of Eric and Renee

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Shannon Maloney and Stuart Taylor (3)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY

Dorothy Barey Mary Germaine Richard Santilli

ST. ANDREW CHURCH COLUMBUS, OH

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

I am writing these words on Thursday, May 8. The election of Pope Leo XIV (Robert Francis Prevost) has just been announced. He is the first American to be chosen to lead the Universal Church as the successor of St. Peter. As we rejoice and give thanks to Almighty God for giving us a good shepherd, let us also pray that God may bless him with His guidance and protection. Viva il Papa!

Last Saturday, we celebrated First Holy Communion here at St. Andrew. Before the Mass began, I was talking to some of the children in the First Communion class as they were getting settled into their seats. I asked, "Are you excited?" And they enthusiastically answered "YES!" These children were so eager and so excited to be receiving Holy Communion! I reflected upon this and realized that all of us should be excited and eager to receive Holy Communion every time we come to Mass. I made my First Communion 61 years ago (May 10, 1964), and I still am eager and excited to receive the Bread of Life!

Last weekend, we began the campaign for "The Appeal 2025." I have made my pledge to The Appeal already, and I hope all of you will do the same. Watch this bulletin for periodic progress reports as we strive to reach our goal of \$227,602. I am counting on all parishioners to support this worthwhile effort.

Finally, I want to thank Mark Pardi along with Greg Holowchak, Tom Dailey, and Eric Messerly, for planning and building a new deck on the back of the rectory. The old deck had fallen into disrepair because of water damage, and was unattractive because of peeling paint. Now there is a beautiful, new, structurally reinforced and maintenance-free deck, with, railings, handrails, and safe steps. This deck is rock solid and beautifies the rectory and backyard. I offer my profound thanks to Mark and his "crew," and wish God's blessings upon them.

And may God bless and protect all of you as we continue to celebrate the Easter season.

Your Pastor,

Monsignor Stephan Moloney

Loving God, we thank You for the love of the mothers You have given us, whose love is so precious that it can never be measured, whose patience seems to have no end. We pray for those mothers who fear they will run out of love or time, or patience. We ask You to bless them with Your own special love. AMEN.



St. Andrew Parish Ministry Expo When Saturday, May 17 | Sunday, May 18 Following all Masses Where Nugent Parish Hall Refreshments provided!

"Serving One Another"

Hosted by St. Andrew Parish Council, the Ministry Expo gives parishioners the opportunity to learn more about the many organizations and activities available within our local parish community.

ALL ARE WELCOME! Enjoy cookies on Saturday and donuts on Sunday and check out each ministry/organization booth. Representatives from each group will be on hand to answer questions and share their experiences. Discover the many opportunities for collaboration, creativity, learning including leadership roles, liturgial ministry, adult and youth faith formation, and a variety of events and activities for everyone, from very young to seniors.

We look forward to seeing you there!

If you'd like more information about the Ministry Expo, send an email to St. Andrew Parish Council at parishcouncil@standrewparish.cc.

SUNDAY OFFERING

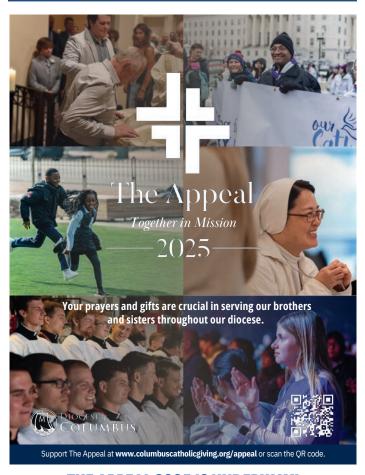
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ACTUAL	\$ 22,104	\$ 1,443,927
BUDGET	\$ 32,692	\$ 1,405,768
LAST YEAR	\$ 17,670	\$ 1,450,492

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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.





THE APPEAL 2025 IS UNDERWAY!

This year's theme, "Together in Mission," perfectly reflects our ongoing call to evangelization, the support of priestly vocations and formation, and continued works of charity and social services. This year, the goal for St. Andrew Parish is \$227,602.84. We've exceeded our goal every year, and with your help, we hope to surpass this amount once again. Every contribution matters, whether it's \$10 or \$10,000. Please prayerfully consider a contribution to The Appeal 2025!



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).

»ST. ANDREW KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL

#11275 will hold its next membership meeting on Monday, May 12, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bryce Eck Center. Come early as we pray the Rosary at 6:30 p.m. We will discuss our many upcoming programs for the busy holiday season. Stay after the meeting for fellowship and refreshments. Any male 18 or older and a practical Catholic can join the Knights. To learn more, visit www.kofc.org.

****BLOOD DONORS ARE NEEDED!** Our next Blood Drive will be Wednesday, May 14, from 1:00-5:45 p.m. in Nugent Parish Hall. If you would like to schedule an appointment to give blood at St. Andrew Parish, visit **RedCrossBlood.org**, sponsor code: SACC, or call 1-800-733-2767. We also have a need for helpers to sign up as substitutes for registration and snack table. If you would like to be added to the list, call the Parish Office at 614-451-4290.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS: All

are welcome to our monthly knit and crochet meeting

on Monday, May 19, 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**.

ST. ANDREW CHURCH COLUMBUS, OH



MAY 1 ~ MAY 16

Drop off your diaper donations in the parlor or at the designated collection area in the school. Sizes 4, 5, and 6 are always most in demand.

Our goal is to collect 10,000 diapers.

CONTACT:

Jim Holsinger, 614-394-7202 or jimholsing@yahoo.com.

ST. ANDREW SCOUTS FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY



SUNDAY, MAY 18 // 5:00-5:30 P.M. VFW - 2436 WALCUTT ROAD

The Scouts of St. Andrew will demonstrate their appreciation for our chartered organization and parishioners with a flag retirement ceremony. ALL are welcome to attend this special event! Scouts will be accepting any American flag that you would like to have appropriately retired. A box for donations is in the church parlor, or arrange to have your flag picked up by contacting Eric Messerly at **emesserly73@gmail.com** or 614-446-5035.



NEXT FESTIVAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 20

7:00 p.m. | Multipurpose Room

All are welcome to join the committee and help plan the 2025 Festival! For more information, email

The Festival AtSt Andrew@gmail.com.

»WORSHIP ENVIRONMENT VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED: We are blessed to have so many hardworking parishioners willing to help decorate the church during the holiday seasons. The beauty of our sanctuary enhances the worship experience for all who visit. We are looking for a few volunteers throughout the year to help maintain the worship area. This includes watering plants and flowers on a regular basis. If you are interested, contact **Anna Wang** at **anna_m_wang@yahoo.com**.

»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-2 or use the QR. For more information or to get involved in the Hospitality Ministry, contact Jake and Ciara Decot at idecot284@gmail.com.

»EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY FOR THE HOMEBOUND

TRAINING is scheduled for **Saturday, May 17,** from **10:00-11:00 a.m.** in the **Multipurpose Room** (the room off the parlor). God calls us to be His witnesses of His Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. We need homebound ministers to distribute Holy Communion to those in nursing facilities or homes nearby, celebrate God's love for all of us, and help enrich the lives of those you visit through compassion and empathy. The time commitment is two to three hours each month. While the primary purpose of homebound visits is sacramental, a secondary and vital purpose is to provide a sense of community and assurance that St. Andrew Parish continues to be a part of each individual's life.

Please consider volunteering for this important ministry that serves those who cannot attend Mass in person. Ministers must be 18 or older to serve. For more information, contact **Dcn. Dan Dowler** at **ddowler@columbuscatholic.org.** If you are interested but cannot attend this training, contact **Anna Wang** at **anna_m_wang@yahoo.com** to arrange for training at another time.

»ROSARY FOR LIFE: ALL ARE WELCOME! Join us

on Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. to pray the Rosary for Life. Mass begins at 9:00 a.m. After 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.

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, May 12, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the church. For information about this prayer ministry, contact Amy Tague at amyliss14@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, June 30, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the parish hall.** Because of Memorial Day, we will not meet in May. For more info and to RSVP, contact **Amy Tague** at **amyliss14@gmail.com**.

»MEN'S WEEKLY BIBLE

from 7:00-8:00 a.m. in the Parish Office Lower Level Meeting Room to discuss the letters of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians, Timothy and Titus. 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.

LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS, IT'S TIME TO UPDATE

YOUR PREFERENCES! Our current schedule ends on Sunday, June 1. The next scheduling period will run from Saturday, June 7, through Sunday, Sept. 7. This schedule includes one holy day, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with three Masses on the schedule: the vigil Mass on Thursday, Aug. 14 at 7:00 p.m., and feast day Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. (we do not schedule the 6:30 a.m. Mass). Visit www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/standrewcolumbus to make updates to your availability or preferences, or contact Mary Beasecker at mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc.

LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

SAT, MAY 17: Vigil, Fifth Sunday of Easter 4:30 PM Mass

Kathi Theado	EMHC-B - B1
Stuart Sprigler	EMHC-B - B2
Cecile Jalandoni-Chuidian	Lector - A
Wini Chuidian	Lector - B
Abbie Claprood	Altar Server
Emilee Claprood	

SUN, MAY 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter 7:30 AM Mass

Larry Hoffman	EMHC-B - B1
Peggy Hoffman	
Anna Wang	
Jason Mays	Lector - B
Adeline Mays	Altar Server
Elise Mays	

9:15 AM Mass

Deborah McGlumphy	EMHC-B - B1
Bob Chambers	
Mike Miller	EMHC-B - B CHOIR
Karen Huey	EMHC-B - B3
Debby Murphy	EMHC-C - C1
Abigail Meyers	
Suzanne Meyers	EMHC-C - C CHOIR
Herm Mollmann	
Joseph Chatlos	Lector - A
Mary Frecker	Lector - B
Lydia Ruhe	
Mary Lillis	Altar Server
VOLUNTEER NEEDED	

11:00 AM Mass

Corso Padova	EMHC-B - B1
Paul Buerger (sub req)	EMHC-B - B2
Tom Levenick	Lector - A
Ali Wright	Lector - B
lan McNair	Altar Server
Jonathan Koeninger	Altar Server
Jaxson Arnett	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.



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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE SCHOOL AND PARISH STUDENTS!



Bishop Watterson Academic Honor Students: Aubrey Bellisari • Josephine Betz • Valeria Del Toro • Mary Fitzpatrick • Berkley Grawe • Eesha Gupta • Benjamin Gusty • Madeline Lane • Olivia LaSusa • Kavanagh McClatchy • Chloe McClymont • Isabelle Poulose • Kyndra Raidiger • Mishelle Ellerbrock • Ryan Garczewski

• Morgan Kessler • Maura Nye • Josephine Peddicord • Kelsey Ruhe • Isabella Schilling • Margot Susi • Owen Train • Nichole Bhowmick • Elizabeth Bimler • Anthony Brown • Marin Brush • Frances Ciesinski • Alexander Das • Anna Rose Gradisar • Morgan Grawe • Avery Jenkins • Olivia Lane • Gretchen McGowan • Kenzie McKerns • Ava Picken • Arianna Riega • Ellen Rudzinski • Kaitlyn Bernotas • Sophia Blum • Clare Ciesinski • Mallory Cromley • Keagan Ferguson • Clare Garczewski • Abrielle Gaughan • Eliana Geraci • Jonathan Koeninger • Elise Latshaw • Ava Liedtke • Chase McKnight • Brigid McNamara • Nora Ott • Blase Pignotti • Mason Ratliff • Lillian Ryan • Layla Stewart • Megan Terveer



St. Charles Academic Honor Students:

Anthony Crowley • John Paul DeLuccia • Ryan Fusco • Jayden Gandu • Fletcher Gesue • Thomas Lillis • Daniel Martin • Michael Martin • Thomas North • Michael Northup • Luca Pietropaolo • Christian Randles • Joseph Roscoe • Ethan Bush

• Callum Costanza • Samuel Hertl • Kellen Slater • Michael Zarick • Nathan Bateman • Adrian Clarke-Gil • Joel Kasberg • Milan Lillis • Michael Pagnotto • Charles Probst • Thomas Scharfenberger • Thomas Thornton • Jack Braidech • Edward Cahill • Emmett Galvin • Michael LaSusa • Andrew Zarick

JOIN US IN THE GARDEN

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. Bring your garden gloves and hand tools and enjoy fellowship, fresh air, and a little gardening. 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.



PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS HAVE

BEGUN! Please consider service in this important role in our parish. The purpose of the 12-member council is to advise and assist the Pastor in matters of importance to the parish, provide strategic planning, and foster communication and coordination among parish organizations. We will accept nominations/applications now through Monday, June 16. Elections will be held at the end of June. If interested, complete and return the Nomination/ Candidate Application included in this bulletin, or you can complete the nomination form online at tinyurl.com/CouncilApplication-2025. For more information, contact Dave Nagle at parishcouncil@ standrewparish.cc.

»ST. ANDREW FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION IS

NOW OPEN: Sports include: cross country (grades 4-8); tackle football (grades 5-8); boys flag football (grades 1-5) and NEW girls football (grades 5-8); football cheerleading (grades 6-8); field hockey (grades 5-8); golf (grades 6-8) girls tennis (grades 6-8); fall soccer

(grades K-3). Registration is open until Saturday, May 31. To register visit https:// standrewsports.com or use the QR code.



AROUND THE DIOCESE

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON: Join us **Friday, June** 6 at St. Patrick Church (downtown) for a luncheon featuring Cody Egner, director of Sacred Music at Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles Parish and founder of St. Charles Catholic Pilgrimages. Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and Mr. Egner's presentation, "Explore the Sacred: Why Pilgrimage?" Reservations are not required, and \$12 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! There will be no July or August luncheons as we take our summer break.

Our next luncheon on Friday, September 5, 2025, will feature a talk by Father Jacques Kik, pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish and Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Mission.

ST. ANDREW CHURCH COLUMBUS, OH

ST. ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL

Nomination/Candidate Application

Candidate Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a registered member of St. Andrew Parish
- Must have received the Sacrament of Confirmation

Parish Council Member Expectations:

- Serve a three-year term beginning in July of the year elected
- Attend at least nine of the twelve regular meetings per year
- Serve on Parish Council subcommittee(s) on an assigned basis
- Be compliant with the Diocesan Safe Environment Policy within six weeks of election

Name:		
Address:	City:	Zip:
Phone:(cell of	or home) Email:	
I have been a registered member of St. Andrew Parish sin	ce:	
I received the Sacrament of Confirmation at (Parish Name):	
Family Information:		
Parish Organizations I am involved with:		
What skills/experience would you bring to Parish Council	?	
What would you like to accomplish on Parish Council?		
Primary Focus: Community Building Grea	ater Involvement Spirituality	Hospitality

Nominees should email this form to Dave Nagle at parishcouncil@standrewparish.cc by June 16.

ST. ANDREW CHURCH COLUMBUS, OH



"Do This in Remembrance of Me" A Step-By-Step Walk Through the Mass

Fr. Luke Spannagel



Part 68: Holy Communion



As we continue through the Communion Rite, the long-anticipated moment has arrived. Finally, it is time for **Holy** Communion! This is the moment we have been preparing for throughout the whole Mass. Whenever I think about the joy of Holy Communion, I remember very vividly the thrill of my First Communion. I think of the song we all learned and the wonderful party afterward. But I especially remember the moment of Communion. Although I was small at the time, in second grade, I remember feeling a special closeness to God that I never had felt before. I don't know if I grasped what Holy Communion meant on an intellectual or even theological level, but I certainly felt a true spiritual union with our Lord.

As Fr. Joseph McGloin teaches, "The word 'communion' is almost self-explanatory. Literally, it means 'union with.' It suggests a sharing, a mutual participation. Holy Communion, is, then, an intimate sharing in the life of Christ" (How to Get More Out of the Mass, p. 128). That is exactly what takes place in Holy Communion. We receive the Precious Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ into our bodies, and he unites us with himself. Unlike regular food which becomes part of our bodies, the Eucharist unites our bodies to the Lord. Fr. McGloin continues, "While the other sacraments bring us the grace of Christ, this one brings us the grace of Christ himself along with himself. Truly, a person with any faith in Christ would be foolish to neglect this great gift" (How to Get More Out of the Mass, p. 133).

Participating in Christ's Perfect Sacrifice

Did you notice he said sacrifice? Hopefully, this word reminds us of one of the names for the Mass-the Holy Sacrifice. As we have journeyed through the Mass, we have noted that the Mass is a true sharing in the Last Supper and in the Cross of Jesus. In the Mass, we are invited to participate in the one perfect sacrifice of Jesus. Fr. Guy Oury tells us how sacrifice and Holy Communion fit together in the Mass. He says, "The Mass is a sacrifice but also a repast, or rather, a sacrificial repast. It would not have meaning, at least not the meaning given it by the Lord, were it not also Communion." He goes on to say, "The meal symbolizes the union between the God of the covenant and the people of God."

This becomes clearer if we look at meals and feasts in Jewish history. According to Fr. Oury, "In the [Traditional Jewish] meal God is present as a tablemate, invisible to be sure but still present. He lives with human beings, shares their common interests, and welcomes them as intimates. People are the invited of God... At the time of Christ, the image of a feast was one of the most common to portray the kingdom that was to come. The Lord used it repeatedly in the parables. It stood for the kingdom of heaven both in the terrestrial form that is the Church and in the ultimate and definitive form that is paradise. The Eucharist itself was instituted in the context of a sacred meal, that of Passover" (The Mass, pp. 105-6).

The Greatest Celebration of All Time

See how Holy Communion is so much more than just a meal? True, it is a Sacred Meal, Holy Thursday, the Last Supper, where we are guests of the Lord, who gives of his very self for our nourishment. But, this meal is also the sacrifice of the Cross, where our sins are overcome and conquered once and for all. The meal is also an anticipation of the heavenly banquet, where we will celebrate with the Lord and the Communion of Saints forever. Finally, this special meal is also a means of unity among the faithful-the Body of Christ, the Church. With all this meaning, the Eucharist is the greatest celebration of all time. Not only are we present at this wonderful celebration, but many of us are also invited to receive the Lord in the Eucharist. In the weeks ahead, we will look more closely at receiving Communion properly, who can receive Communion, different forms of Holy Communion, and what to do when we aren't able to receive Our Lord.

For Reflection:

- 1. Reflect on God's promise through Isaiah to provide a feast "for all peoples" (see Isa 25:1-9). Thank Christ for his sacrifice present in the Mass, and make Isaiah's prayer your own: "let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!" (Isa 25:9).
- 2. Deepen your awareness of the Old Testament ritual feasts that prepared the way for Christ as described in Leviticus (see Lev 23). Discuss with your family or community how to strengthen the centrality of the Mass in your weekly or daily life.





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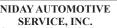
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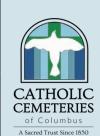
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