



SAINT ANDREW PARISH

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



OFFICE AND CHURCH HOURS

Summer Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, closed Fridays.

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 **ANOIDNTING 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.



 facebook.com/standrewparishua

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

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

STAFF DIRECTORY

CLERGY

614-451-4290

Msgr. Stephan Moloney, Pastor Ext. 101
 Rev. Lawrence Tabi, Parochial Vicar Ext. 103
 Deacon Thomas M. Berg, Jr.
 Deacon Daniel Dowler
 Rev. William DeVille, In Holy Service
 whd22@aol.com
 Rev. Paul Noble, In Residence,
 pnoble@columbuscatholic.org

PARISH OFFICE STAFF

614-451-4290

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

614-451-2855

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

SCHOOL ADMIN/STAFF

614-451-1626

Joel Wichtman, Principal Ext. 234
 jwichtma@cducation.org
 Jenni Duffy, Assistant Principal Ext. 235
 jbucher@cducation.org
 Heather Roush, School Secretary Ext. 228
 hroush@cducation.org
 Kyletta Scheirmann, After-school Care 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: July 12 Vigil, 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 p.m. Bernie Goettemoeller

Sunday: July 13, 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. Nancy Guzzo
 9:15 a.m. Fr. Dennis Donovan
 11:00 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew Parish

Monday: July 14, St. Kateri Tekakwitha

6:30 a.m. Duane Palmo
 8:30 a.m. Mary Lou Kreber

Tuesday: July 15, St. Bonaventure

6:30 a.m. Carol Kasberg
 8:30 a.m. Denise Cottrell

Wednesday: July 16, Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. Michael Porter
 8:30 a.m. Robert and Anna Mae Jones

Thursday: July 17, Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. John and Rosemary Persinger &
 Joseph and Katherine Reed
 8:30 a.m. Ray Van De Weghe

Friday: July 18, Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. Special Intention
 8:30 a.m. Ruth Reichley and Myrtle Wycoff

Saturday: July 19, Weekday Mass

9:00 a.m. Gene and Patti Weber

Vigil, 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 p.m. For the People of St. Andrew Parish

Sunday: July 20, 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. Jeanne Grady Davis
 9:15 a.m. Fr. Rick Nieberding
 11:00 a.m. Anne R. Avondolio

BAPTISMS

James Aloysius Gallagher,
 son of James and Kiara

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Ann Blackman and Matthew Hadad (3)
 Caroline Slater and Owen Karas (2)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES

Howard Haddow
 Linda Mollica
 Philip Hall

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend, we welcome Fr. Vinod Angathu George who will be making a missionary appeal as part of the Missionary Cooperation Plan. He will be making the appeal on behalf of St. Joseph Church, Munroe Island. This church is located in the Diocese of Quilon, Kerala, India. The church was destroyed by wind and rain last year and help is needed for reconstruction. Please welcome Fr. Vinod and be generous to the mission appeal. Fr. Vinod will speak at all Masses this weekend, and a second collection will be taken up at each Mass for the missionary appeal.

I am happy to be back at St. Andrew after my 12-day absence for vacation. I was at my home in Ada, Ohio, from June 23 to July 4. I enjoyed my time away and taking a break from my duties, but I was also ready and eager to get back here to St. Andrew.

I am sure you were saddened as I was by the great destruction and loss of life from the sudden flooding of the Guadalupe River in Texas. Many of the victims were young girls attending a Christian summer camp, which is especially sad. Let us assist our suffering neighbors, especially remembering them in prayer.

May God bless all of you, keep you safe, and protect you from every evil.

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.

2025 MISSION APPEAL ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MUNROE ISLAND

Greetings from the parish priest of St. Joseph, Mundrothuruth (Munroe Island). St. Joseph Church is a mission church under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the diocese of Quilon, Kerala, India, situated in Mundro Island, named after Colonel Mundro, the British Viceroy.

There are 500 families of different religious practices living on this small island, of which 55 are Catholic families. The people of this island live harmoniously, giving due respect for the faith practices of other religions. People of other religions also consider this church as sacred space for them and take part in the church services and parish feast celebrations. This church, due to its specific location in the aforementioned island, is a crucial venue for us to continue the work of evangelization among people who are non-Catholics. The people of this island are socially and economically marginalized, and make ends meet by working in the backwaters and some other manual household jobs available in this area.

St. Joseph Church has been in existence over many years and was in need of reconstruction. Because the people of this area are so poor and the number of Catholics who we can approach are very few, the needed reconstruction work got postponed. Unfortunately, this Church was completely destroyed due to heavy wind and rainfall that occurred last year. So, we have shifted the church services to a temporary shed until the construction of the new church is completed. We have planned to build a small church and estimate the cost of the construction around 95 lakhs of Indian rupees, which is approximately \$112,000 in U.S. dollars. Any amount that we can get will be of great help and will reduce the financial burden of our people for whom \$112,000 is an unimaginably huge amount.

We count on the funding that may come from this mission appeal program, which encourages and strengthens our faith and hope in the unity and oneness of the Holy Catholic faith.

Fr. Jijo Jose
Parish Priest

The Church's mission involves all of us personally in our parishes, and it is our responsibility to share the Good News of Christ's love with the rest of the world. Indeed, "mission" is the greatest and the holiest duty of the Church. As the Father has sent the Son, Christ has handed on the missionary task to His followers, to "go make disciples of all nations." (Mt. 28:19)

SUNDAY OFFERING

	JUNE 29	YTD
ACTUAL	\$ 22,457	\$ 1,708,553
BUDGET	\$ 32,692	\$ 1,700,000
LAST YEAR	\$ 27,658	\$ 1,707,712

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.



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE MADE A GIFT OR PLEDGE.

If you haven't yet made your gift to this year's Appeal, please consider doing so in the days ahead. Your gift, regardless of amount, is vital to the success of this diocesan-wide campaign. The Appeal supports essential ministries, formation, Catholic education, and social outreach efforts. Money in excess of our goal will be returned to the Parish.



St. Andrew Progress Report through June 30, 2025:

Pledged:	\$ 148,757.84
Collected:	\$ 111,867.84
Remaining:	\$ 115,735.00
Goal:	\$ 227,602.84

If you haven't yet made your gift to this year's Appeal, please consider doing so in the days ahead. Pledge envelopes are available in the pews. Feel free to drop them in the collection basket with your pledge or drop them in the mail. Make checks payable to The Diocese of Columbus and include "St. Andrew Parish - Appeal" in the memo section.

If you prefer to donate electronically, visit www.columbuscatholicgiving.org/appeal or scan the QR code.



FACILITIES & ROOM RESERVATIONS

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



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).



American Red Cross

»OUR NEXT BLOOD DRIVE is **Thursday, July 17, from 1:00-5:45 p.m. in the Nugent Parish Hall.**

Summer is always a time when the need is great. The American Red Cross is currently experiencing an EMERGENCY NEED for type O blood donations. Type O blood is what

hospitals use most and is always in high demand. To schedule an appointment for the St. Andrew drive, visit RedCrossBlood.org, sponsor code: SACC, or call 1-800-733-2767.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS

All are welcome to our monthly

knit and crochet meeting on **Monday, July 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 drdreed@outlook.com.



»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.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

There are many volunteer opportunities to fit every schedule, including ride wristband presales, festival setup, casino, Friday volunteers, Saturday volunteers, and cleanup crew. Volunteer today at tinyurl.com/standrewfestival2025 or use the QR code. Check the tabs at the top of the sign-up for the various activities on each day. For more information, contact **Faye Oney** at faye.oney@yahoo.com or **Mary Beasecker** at mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc.



SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

A donation to the silent auction is a great opportunity to represent yourself or your organization while supporting a wonderful local event. We've made it easy to donate with our Amazon Wish List! Visit tinyurl.com/Auction-List-2025 or use the QR code to view the list of the most needed items, make a purchase, and have items will be shipped directly to us. If you prefer to drop off items in person, bring your donations to the Parish Office at 1899 McCoy Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220 during office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday. Please complete the donor form at tinyurl.com/FestivalDonor-25 and attach it to your items. Donations are tax-deductible! For more information, contact Helen Leahy at hholbery@gmail.com.



FESTIVAL 2025 ENTERTAINMENT SNEAK PEAK:

- Friday 5:00-7:00 p.m.: Gary Pandora
- Friday 8:00-11:00 p.m.: John Schwab Party Band
- Saturday 5:15 p.m.: Viking Magic and St. Andrew Cheerleaders
- Saturday 8:00-11:00 p.m.: The New JuJu Bees

THE CASINO IS BACK! Join us on Friday and Saturday from 7:00-11:00 p.m. **Would you like to volunteer?** Visit the volunteer Signup Genius page (see link and QR above) to learn more about the opportunities and times.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

Berwick Manor Catering • The Pardi Boys • RDP Foodservice • Cardinal Transportation • Muetzel Plumbing & Heating Co. • Meyers Wealth Management • Hilliard Pediatric Dentistry • Fortner • Cahill Construction • Stephen Berling • O'Neal Tents • The Richard J. Conie Co. • Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter Co. LPA • Bill & Lisa Khourie • The Bernado and Posani families • Posani Law Office LLC • Frazier Financial Advisors • Egan Ryan Funeral Services NW • Richard & Gerry Lembach • Bob & Theresa Lembach • Jim & Vicki Macklin • Orthopedic One • Stanley Steemer International • Bishop Watterson High School • Onda LaBuhn • Ernsberger & Boggs Co. • Kevin & Liz Carpenter • Lee & Maddie Hebert • Dr. Robert Heck • St. Andrew Knights of Columbus #11275 • Michael & Mary Anne Meagher • Msgr. Stephan Moloney • Dr. George P. Wick DDS • Plevin & Gallucci

WE'RE OFF TO A GREAT START! Please consider becoming a sponsor, regardless of level. Our sponsors are vital to the success of the festival and helping us offset costs. If you want to learn more about sponsorship and the many perks that come with it, contact Melanie Houts at Melanie.Houts@gmail.com or 614-595-5335. For details or to register as a sponsor online, visit tinyurl.com/FestSponsorRegistration.

BE A WINNER! RAFFLE GRAND PRIZE=\$5,000

Raffle tickets are \$10 each or 6 for \$50. Tickets and money can be turned in to the collection basket or dropped off in the parish office. Beginning July 20, additional tickets will be available after Masses and you can also drop off raffle tickets and money at that time too. As always, raffle tickets will be available in the Parish Office throughout the week.

NEXT FESTIVAL MEETING

Tuesday, July 22, 7:00 p.m., Multipurpose Room

For up to the minute festival information, visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FestivalatStAndrew.

»WELCOME OUR BLESSED MOTHER INTO YOUR HOME AND YOUR HEART!

Please prayerfully consider welcoming the pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima into your home to pray the Rosary with your family. Additional dates have been added to the sign-up! Each week begins on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and ends on the following Saturday at 4:30 p.m. Statue drop off and pick up is in the St. Andrew Chapel in the chairs. To learn more, use the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/ourlady2024. For more information, contact **Deb McEllistrem** at 614-309-4645 or dmcellistrem@yahoo.com.



»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.

»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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

»MEN'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY:

Join us each Friday 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 **David Varda** at 614-569-9558 or dvarda129@gmail.com.



LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

SAT, JULY 19: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 PM Mass

Rita Medaglia EMHC-B - B1
Mike Plahuta EMHC-B - B2
Tom Levenick Lector - A
Amy Lilly Lector - B
Drew Busch Altar Server
Cara Beth Harmon Altar Server

SUN, JULY 20: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM Mass

Kathy Cowen EMHC-B - B1
Deb McEllistrem EMHC-B - B2
Anna Wang Lector - A
Randy Doherty Lector - B
Amalia Savona Altar Server
Caleb Bellantis Altar Server

9:15 AM Mass

Bob Chambers EMHC-B - B1
Claire Nduaguba EMHC-B - B2
Bette Jo Feeney EMHC-B - B CHOIR
Deborah McGlumphy EMHC-B - B3
Herm Mollmann EMHC-C - C1
Abigail Meyers EMHC-C - C2
Ciara Decot EMHC-C - C3
David Varda Lector - A
Carson Reider Lector - B
Joe Roscoe Altar Server
Victor Roscoe Altar Server

11:00 AM Mass

Paul Buerger EMHC-B - B1
Laddie Waldegar EMHC-B - B2
Marty Majka Lector - A
Mary Frecker Lector - B
Jonathan Koeninger Altar Server
Ethan Train 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.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

UPCOMING PARISH FESTIVALS IN THE AREA

There are several festivals coming up in the area. Please consider supporting other nearby parishes!

JULY 25/26

Immaculate Conception

6:00-11:00 p.m. (Friday), 5:00-11:00 p.m. (Saturday)
414 E. North Broadway

JULY 25/26

St. Margaret of Cortona

6:00 p.m.-Midnight (Friday), 5:00 p.m.-Midnight (Saturday)
1600 N. Hague Avenue, Columbus

AUGUST 1/2

Our Lady of Victory

6:00-11:00 p.m.
1559 Roxbury Road

AUGUST 8/9

St. Brendan

6:00-11:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday
(family fun hours 3:00-6:00 p.m. Saturday)
4475 Dublin Road

OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION BASILICA AND NATIONAL SHRINE TOUR:

Holy Family Church welcomes everyone (all ages) to tour the Basilica and Shrine the evening of **Thursday, Aug. 14**. Visit Upper & Lower Levels of the Basilica (see relics of saints & remnants from people healed), the outdoor Shrine with Stations of the Cross, go to the Gift Shop, the original Church, outdoor Confession & Stations of the Cross. A Rosary Procession from the Basilica to the Shrine is scheduled before the outdoor Vigil Mass is offered in honor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven. A Vigil Mass will also be offered the same time inside the Basilica. **Cost including bus seat and entire event is \$26 before July 13.** Checks should be made payable to Holy Family Church (584 W. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215) with Carey Pilgrimage in the notation. **For more details about times or the event, contact the Parish Office at 614-221-4323 or office@holyfamilycolumbus.org.**

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@deepprinting.com.

ASSUMPTION DAY PILGRIMAGE THE BASILICA OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

stmarylancaester.org | 132 South High Street, Lancaster, Ohio. | 740.653.0997



JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Summary of the Pilgrimage on FRIDAY, 15 August:

Basilica Tours	1.00-2.00 pm
Exposition	2.30 pm
Confessions	2.30-4.30 pm
Rosary	4.20 - 4.40 pm
Holy Mass	5.00 pm
celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Fernandes	
Holy Mass concludes with a Procession	

On the day Mother Church commemorates the event at which "the Virgin Mother of God was assumed into heaven as the beginning and image [of the] Church's coming to perfection and a sign of sure hope and comfort to [the] pilgrim people; rightly [the Lord God] would not allow her to see the corruption of the tomb since from her own body she marvelously brought forth [the Father's] incarnate Son, the Author of all life." (Roman Missal)

A Plenary Indulgence is Available this day.

PREGNANT? NEED A FRIEND? Contact Birthright of Columbus. We provide emotional support, pregnancy tests, pregnancy information and referrals. All Services are FREE! Call 614-221-0844 or visit columbusohmain@birthright.org.



SCAN QR CODE
ABOVE TO REGISTER

BUCKEYE CATHOLIC OPEN



AUGUST 18TH, 2025
OSU GOLF CLUB SCARLET COURSE

Questions? Contact Dana Dosen at (440) 570-9732 or ddosen@buckeyecatholic.com

AN ADOPTION LOVE STORY

Editor's Note: Adoption is a wonderful gift.

Though sometimes portrayed in negative ways by the media, most experiences of adoption are beautiful love stories—such as the one Jenny shares below.*

My husband Bill and I have been married for six years. Having children and raising a family had always been our expectation. By the time we were married, most of our siblings and friends already had children, so of course we were excited and ready to be parents ourselves. We soon learned, however, that having children of our own might not be so easy.

We made a few trips to multiple cities to be treated by wonderful doctors who have helped so many couples conceive, but everything we tried was unsuccessful. We felt so hopeless at times. Words can't even explain this experience of loss.

Fortunately, our marriage only grew stronger, because we were there for each other and continued to rely on God. This didn't always come easily, but it helped that Bill has a great sense of humor, and we were able to laugh at some of the crazy situations and conversations that come with infertility.

Since we knew our chances of becoming pregnant were small, it wasn't very long before we started talking about the possibility of adoption. However, it wasn't an easy decision, and I wondered if my heart was big enough to love an adopted child as I would my biological child. There were also so many other variables to consider, one of which was the expense involved, and we had already spent so much money on infertility treatments. We felt we had no control, but God reminded us again that He is always in control and that we could trust in Him.

So with prayerful discernment, we decided to start the process of adopting a child from Ethiopia. However, after it took nearly a year to get on the waiting list, the adoption program was put on hold for reasons that were unknown to us.

We were so frustrated that we started to feel as though maybe we just weren't called to have children. We then heard from friends who had adopted a newborn baby domestically after only a few short months. With this new encouragement, we switched gears and decided to adopt domestically, picking a nationwide agency rather than a state agency because it is usually faster.

We were so excited but also rather scared. We would be chosen by a birth mother and would be required to send pictures and letters to her frequently. Most likely, we would talk with the birth mother over the phone and meet her at the delivery. And there was always the chance she could change her mind, even days after the birth. I didn't know how I would feel about all this and wondered if we were setting ourselves up for more heartbreak. But all we could do was pray and try to leave it in God's hands.

Four months later, we received a call that a birth mother in Florida had chosen us. She was seven months pregnant with a boy. We couldn't believe it. We were finally going to have a baby. We talked with her a couple of times over the phone, and I never realized until then how lucky I was to marry such a talker, as Bill really helped the conversations flow smoothly.

On the birth mother's due date, we received the call that she was

in labor. Bill and I dropped everything and hit the road to Florida to meet our son. Words can't even describe how we felt during that drive. We were so excited at the thought that we could be driving home with our son, yet at the same time we were so scared that we may be driving home alone. I wasn't sure we could handle that disappointment, and I wondered what she would think of us. Would she regret that she chose us? What would I say to the woman who was going to place her child with us? Along with these and all the normal fears of becoming a parent, I was also afraid that I wouldn't bond with our new son or feel that he was ours.

After arriving, we met the birth mother who was still in labor. She was so sweet and personable, and we sat with her to support her as best we could. A few hours later, our son Andrew was born. It was the most surreal experience.

We spent the next day and a half with Andrew and his birth mother in the hospital getting to know each other a bit. It was hard to know what to say to her, knowing she was making the hardest decision of her life, knowing the pain she must be experiencing, and feeling that I was the one causing this pain. It was such an emotional roller coaster to hold and look at this precious baby, wondering if I would really be his mother.

Thankfully, the birth mother decided to maintain her decision to place her child with us. Later that evening, Christmas Eve, Bill and I left the hospital with Andrew. It didn't take long before there was no doubt in our minds that he was our son, the greatest gift from God! He really is our Christmas miracle.

Andrew is two years old now, and it is so clear to Bill and me that God picked him for us. We can't imagine loving a child whom we conceived more than we love Andrew. It is amazing how he fits our personalities so well. More and more every day we are so thankful to his birth mother for her selfless decision.

It is so hard to express in words what a unique experience adoption has been for us. It has been quite a journey facing infertility, as well as so many unknowns and acts of kindness and sacrifice—all with so many emotions—which led to the growth of our family. There were times when our faith was shaken and we weren't sure if we could handle our cross. But adopting Andrew has made us more aware of God's power and of his love for us. We realize that he always has a perfect plan for our lives.

**Jenny and Bill (all names have been changed for privacy) would like to encourage you be open to the gift of adoption. Is God calling you to consider adopting a child or placing your child for adoption? To learn more information, contact your diocesan office.*

Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington, DC 20017
Tel: (202) 541-3070 • Fax: (202) 541-3054
www.usccb.org/respectlife

Find us at facebook.com/usccbrespectlife!

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The Mass

"Do This in Remembrance of Me"

A Step-By-Step Walk Through the Mass

Fr. Luke Spannagel



Part 76: Prayer after Communion



"Let us pray." Following Holy Communion and our time for prayer, we prepare to go forth out into the world. This is called the **Prayer after Communion**. As the General Instruction of the Roman Missal says, "To bring to completion the prayer of the People of God, and also to conclude the whole Communion Rite, the Priest pronounces the Prayer after Communion, in which he prays for the fruits of the mystery just celebrated....The people make the prayer their own by means of the acclamation Amen"(GIRM, 89). According to the Diocese of Peoria, "Oftentimes [this] Prayer beseeches God to put the graces received in the Eucharist into practice, and to bring the celebration to fulfillment in Heaven. [This] Prayer often indicates our mission as disciples of Christ in the world" (A Study of the Mass, p.20).

Short, Quick, and Wonderful Prayers

These prayers can very often be short and quick... although to miss them is truly to miss something wonderful. For example, consider these Prayers after Communion from the Solemnities of our Lord during Ordinary Time:

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi): *"Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may delight for all eternity in that share in your divine life, which is foreshadowed in the present age by our reception of your precious Body and Blood. Who live and reign for ever and ever."*

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: *"May this sacrament of charity, O Lord, make us fervent with the fire of holy love, so that, drawn always to your Son, we may learn to see him in our neighbor. Through Christ our Lord."*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe: *"Having received the food of immortality, we ask, O Lord, that, glorying in obedience to the commands of Christ, the King of the universe, we may live with him eternally in his heavenly Kingdom. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever."*

While I certainly would enjoy sharing many more of these rich prayers, these examples give us a good idea of what we are praying at this part of the Mass. We are recalling the amazing gift we have received. We are asking that the fruits of Jesus truly present will strengthen us in his love as we go out in the world. We are looking toward sharing the fullness of life with our loving Lord in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Preparing to Go Forth as Missionary Disciples

As Charles Belmonte teaches, the Prayer after Communion actually helps very well to pull together what we have heard, said, and done at the Mass: "We have been nourished with the 'bread of life,' the food which is the source of our fortitude. This virtue of fortitude enables us to sustain the daily combat against our passions and our weaknesses... The virtue of fortitude goes hand in hand with the capacity of sacrificing oneself... The Gospel is addressed to weak, poor, meek and humble men, to peacemakers and to the merciful, but, at the same time, it contains a constant appeal to fortitude. The Gospel often repeats: 'Fear not' (Mt 14:27). It teaches man that, for a just cause, for truth, for justice, one must be able to 'lay down one's life' (Jn 15:13)... We can profit a lot from the Prayers after Communion by using them as an inspiration for personal reflection during the course of the day"(Understanding the Mass, p.191-3).

Being honest with ourselves, we know that sometimes at this point in the Mass we are looking ahead to what is next, perhaps a nice family meal or enjoying the big game. The Prayer after Communion, however, reminds us that the fruits of the Mass don't just take place within the church walls—they also happen in our minds and hearts. As we get ready to go forth, hopefully we have been strengthened with resolve for faithfulness. Hopefully, our hearts have become more like the One who loves us best.

So, instead of thinking past this moment in the Mass to your exit plan from the parking lot, why not use this as one last opportunity to put everything together and really prepare to go out into the world as a missionary disciple of Jesus Christ? If we do this, we won't as easily forget the great graces we have received at the Holy Mass. Instead, we will actively carry them with us throughout the day—and even better—share them with others!

Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog





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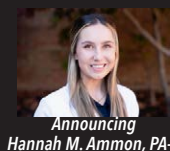
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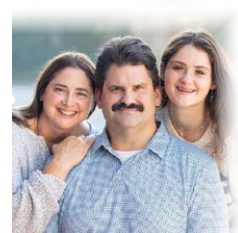
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