

EASTER 2026

He is Risen!

"Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed."

JOHN 20:8

St. Andrew Parish

1899 MCCOY ROAD, COLUMBUS, OH 43220
614-451-4290 • WWW.STANDREWPARISH.CC

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

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
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 mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc
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 ejaminet@standrewparish.cc
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 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@cdeducation.org
 Jenni Duffy, Assistant Principal Ext. 235
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 hroush@cdeducation.org
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 kscheirmann@cdeducation.org

BRYCE ECK ACTIVITY CENTER

614-459-1402

Karen McCurdy, Facility Manager Ext. 1
 kmccurdy@cdeducation.org
 Amanda Carter, Preschool Director Ext. 2
 acarter@cdeducation.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday: Apr. 4, Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

8:30 p.m. Jiping (Agnes) Hu

Sunday: Apr. 5, Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

7:30 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew Parish
 9:15 a.m. Barbara Tomlinson
 11:00 a.m. Phyllis DelTosto

Monday: Apr. 6, Octave of Easter

6:30 a.m. Duane Palmo
 8:30 a.m. Theresa Theado

Tuesday: Apr. 7, Octave of Easter

6:30 a.m. Jackie Kinnaird
 8:30 a.m. Jim Shough

Wednesday: Apr. 8, Octave of Easter

6:30 a.m. Jack O'Reilly
 8:30 a.m. Mary Jane Moloney

Thursday: Apr. 9, Octave of Easter

6:30 a.m. John and Rosemary Persinger
 & Joseph and Katherine Reed
 8:30 a.m. Heimo Langer

Friday: Apr. 10, Octave of Easter

6:30 a.m. Michelle Pappa
 8:30 a.m. Richard Schumacher

Saturday: Apr. 11, Octave of Easter

9:00 a.m. Robert KS Lee

**Second Sunday of Easter -
 Divine Mercy Sunday**

4:30 p.m. Frank and Mary Lou Kreber

**Sunday: Apr. 12, Second Sunday of Easter -
 Divine Mercy Sunday**

7:30 a.m. Ralph Chiao
 9:15 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew Parish
 11:00 a.m. Joe Emsweller

FACILITIES & ROOM RESERVATIONS

If you would like to reserve one of the meeting spaces located at St. Andrew Parish, please contact **Jen Wenzke** at jwenzke@standrewparish.cc, or Greg Price at gprice@standrewparish.cc. To reserve space at the Bryce Eck Activity Center, please contact **Karen McCurdy** at kmccurdy@cdeducation.org. The parish event calendar can be viewed at tinyurl.com/SAP-CALENDAR.

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

"Alleluia! He is Risen!" These are the tidings that the disciples heard from the first witnesses to whom Jesus appeared after He rose from the dead (see Luke 24:34). Those three words, "He is Risen," are the kernel of the Gospel message and the foundation of the entire teaching of the Church and the Christian religion.

When the first disciples heard this proclamation, their sadness was turned into rejoicing. Imagine how those words sounded to those who heard them for the very first time. They would have caused shock, incredulity, amazement, and finally joyful and exuberant faith and rejoicing, expressed in the acclamation of "Alleluia."

This Easter, hear those words again as if you are hearing them for the very first time: "He is Risen!" Let this good news dispel the sadness and gloom of your hearts. Let it fill your soul with rejoicing and make your tongue burst into praise of God as you sing Alleluia!

I wish one and all a most blessed and happy Easter!

Alleluia – He is Risen!

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.



MANY THANKS to the volunteers who worked to beautify the church for Easter and to DeSantis Florist for the donation of the flowers and floral arrangements for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Easter. We appreciate your gifts of time, treasure and talent!



SPRING FLOWER SALE

Support the St. Andrew School class of 2027 and celebrate spring by ordering your flowers, hanging baskets, and vegetable plants.

Deadline to order: Wednesday, April 8
Delivery date: Thursday, April 30

Ordering is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. **CONTACT** your favorite seventh grade student. If you don't know a current seventh grader, visit www.fundraiseit.org.
2. **SELECT** the **ONLINE SHOPPING** button.
3. **ENTER** webcode: 305E45

For more information, contact Shelly Woods at shelly.woods4@gmail.com, or Melissa Vekasy at mvekasy03@gmail.com.

»ST. ANDREW PSR SECOND GRADE PARENTS:

Please plan to attend a **FIRST COMMUNION PARENT MEETING** on **Wednesday, April 8, at 4:30 p.m. -OR- 6:00 p.m.** Parents only need to attend one meeting.

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



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, APRIL 12
AFTER ALL MASSES
PARISH HALL

This is a **FREE** event. Breakfast includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, juice, milk and coffee. We will be accepting donations. 100% of the proceeds will benefit the Knights of Columbus program to support local seminarians.



SUNDAY OFFERING

| | MAR 22 | YTD |
|------------------|-----------|--------------|
| ACTUAL | \$ 38,893 | \$ 1,277,467 |
| BUDGET | \$ 32,788 | \$ 1,278,750 |
| LAST YEAR | \$ 20,757 | \$ 1,282,969 |

Your generosity is greatly appreciated! We encourage you to consider giving online through Pushpay, a safe, secure, and convenient way to give.

To sign up, visit <https://tinyurl.com/StAndrewParishGiving> or use the QR. For more information, contact Business Manager **Thomas Conigy** at tconigy@standrewparish.cc or 614-451-4290, ext. 106.



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).

SUPPORT ST. ANDREW PARISH TODAY, TOMORROW, AND FOREVER



THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

At St. Andrew, you have found your faith home – a place where you've encountered Christ, built lasting friendships, and grown in your spiritual journey. The faith nurtured here deserves to flourish for generations yet to come.

An endowment gift helps make that possible. St. Andrew's endowment fund, managed by The Catholic Foundation, creates a permanent source of support for our parish – one that works alongside your weekly offertory to sustain our community for years to come.

Gifts of any size make a difference. Cash, appreciated stock, IRA rollovers, and insurance policies can all be directed to the fund – and any amount will leave a legacy far beyond your lifetime. To learn more, contact **Christy Steffy** at CSteffy@Catholic-Foundation.org or 614-443-8893, ext. 1100.

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The office will be closed on Easter Monday, April 6, and will resume normal office hours on Tuesday, April 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

»THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

The St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVdP) of St. Andrew thanks all who so generously donated to our annual PURPLE BAG PROJECT during the Lenten season. Your response was inspiring. The items have been given to those individuals served by the J.O.I.N. office downtown.



»IF YOU MAKE DONATIONS TO SVDP USING THE ENVELOPE IN YOUR PACKET, the packets now include an envelope earmarked for donations to St. Vincent de Paul each month instead of an envelope each quarter. Eviction notices are on the rise in Franklin County, even within our parish boundaries. A monthly contribution, regardless of amount, provides the St. Andrew SVdP Conference a consistent level of funding to assist an increasing number of needy families who are facing eviction.

»DID YOU KNOW the St. Andrew Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society has a collection bin in the church parlor marked "St. James the Less Food Pantry"? We accept nonperishable food items and take them to the Pantry on a regular basis. Preferred items include pasta, rice, beans, soup. A complete list of items needed is on the inside of the lid. Please consider those less fortunate when you are shopping!

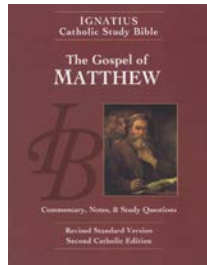
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A GREETER AT MASS?

The St. Andrew Hospitality Ministry welcomes ALL parishioners to volunteer as greeters before Masses! This is a great way to get service hours, too. We require all adult volunteers to be Protecting God's Children compliant. To sign up, visit tinyurl.com/SAPGreeter4 or use the QR. For more information about the Hospitality Ministry, contact **Jake** and **Ciara Decot** at jdecot284@gmail.com.



NEW! MEN'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY BEGINS FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Join us as we begin the study of the Gospel of St. Matthew on **Fridays from 7:00-8:00 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room**. This study is a deeply insightful journey through the Gospel of Matthew, using the biblical text itself and the Church's own guidelines for understanding the Bible. This study series is designed for men of all ages, and includes inspirational commentary from popular theologians Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch, as well as insights from the fathers of the church. The Ignatius Study Bible, *The Gospel of Matthew*, is available on Amazon at <https://tinyurl.com/Matthew-BibleStudy>. To get the study questions online, visit tinyurl.com/Matthew-Gospel-Qs. No homework or reading is required between meetings. Coffee is provided.



For more information and a weekly schedule for the series, contact **David Varda** at 614-569-9558 or dvarda129@gmail.com.

»THAT MAN IS YOU! THY KINGDOM COME:

Discover Jesus Christ present as the true King of your heart and learn to live with an eternal perspective that helps you embark upon the narrow road to salvation.

JOIN US SATURDAY MORNINGS at the Bryce Eck Center. Doors open at 6:30 a.m. for fellowship and breakfast, followed by a presentation and group discussion at 7:00 a.m. Each session ends by 8:00 a.m. Use the QR to join our group. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information, contact **Colin Bellantis** at 440-728-4166 or colinbellantis@gmail.com or visit www.TMIY.org.



»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. Our next ministry meeting will be held **Monday, April 13, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** in the church. For information, contact **Amy Lilly** at amylilly65@gmail.com.

»ST. MONICA BOOK CLUB: All are welcome to this once-a-month study. St. Monica represents persistent, unflinching prayer for fallen-away family members. The club includes all devoted parents who have experienced the pain of a child leaving the faith and have prayed ceaselessly for their return. Our next meeting will be held on **Monday, April 27, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** in the parish hall. For more information, contact **Amy Lilly** at amylilly65@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 // 1:00-3:00 PM
NUGENT PARISH HALL

Join us for a special luncheon honoring our many devoted and talented parish volunteers, kids and adults. Hosted by Parish Council and our clergy, the event will include a reflection and blessing from Monsignor Moloney, lunch from Berwick Manor, and time to socialize with other parishioners. All who attend will receive a small token of our appreciation as well.

Please **RSVP by Wednesday, April 22**, at the following link or scan the QR: <https://tinyurl.com/SAP-Volunteer-Lunch>.



If you have questions or need more information, contact **Jake and Ciara Decot** at jdecot284@gmail.com.



SAINT ANDREW
PARISH

Thank You

SACRED 2026 REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN!

MONDAY, JUNE 22 - THURSDAY, JUNE 25
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!

To learn more and register, visit tinyurl.com/SACRED-2026-REGISTER

ADULT AND TEEN VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

To learn more and volunteer, visit tinyurl.com/VBS-Volunteer-2026

NEED MORE DETAILS?

Contact Erin Karlquist
StAndrewSACRED@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO COMPLETED A NEW REGISTRATION FORM!

We are moving to a new church management system through ParishStaQ this spring, and to ensure a seamless transition, we are asking all registered parishioners to provide updated family information. Please take a few minutes to complete the form in this bulletin. If you're new to the parish and would like to register, this is the perfect opportunity!



The registration form is also available online as a fillable PDF at tinyurl.com/SAP-Update2026 or use the QR.

If you have any questions, contact Parish Secretary **Jen Wenzke** at 614-451-4290, ext. 0 or jwenzke@standrewparish.cc.

»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.



COMING MAY 1

WORLD'S LARGEST DIAPER DRIVE 2026

FAMILIES NEED YOUR HELP: Half of all families need support to keep their babies diapered. By working

together, we can achieve our goal of collecting over one million diapers in May 2026 to help babies in our communities. Across multiple states, diaper banks and organizations have united to **collect millions of diapers in just one month** to aid those in need. We encourage all parishioners to join us on this historic journey to support moms and babies in our communities. Look for collection bins in the parlor beginning in May!

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.

LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

SAT, APR 11: Vigil, Divine Mercy Sunday

4:30 PM Mass

- Elizabeth Carpenter EMHC-B - B1
- Kevin Carpenter..... EMHC-B - B2
- Tim Terveer Lector - A
- Mary Frecker Lector - B
- Sally Karam..... Altar Server
- Amalia Savona Altar Server
- Ethan Train..... Altar Server
- Bella Karam Altar Server

SUN, APR 12: Divine Mercy Sunday

7:30 AM Mass

- Deb McEllistrem EMHC-B - B1
- Claire Nduaguba EMHC-B - B2
- David Martin Lector - A
- Jason Mays..... Lector - B
- Liran Mays Altar Server
- Severina Mays..... Altar Server
- Boden Brisker (sub req)..... Altar Server

9:15 AM Mass

- Bob Chambers..... EMHC-B - B1
- Abigail Meyers..... EMHC-B - B2
- Deborah McGlumphly EMHC-B - B CHOIR
- Mike Koehler EMHC-B - B3
- Megan Bellantis EMHC-C - C1
- Suzanne Meyers EMHC-C - C2
- Colin Bellantis EMHC-C - C CHOIR
- Mark Pardi EMHC-C - C3
- Mary Kasberg..... Lector - A
- Joseph Chatlos..... Lector - B
- Immaculate Narty Altar Server
- Elrad Nartey Altar Server
- Seth Reilly Altar Server
- Erik Holowchak..... Altar Server

11:00 AM Mass

- Damion Faulkner EMHC-B - B1
- Jeff Wenzke..... EMHC-B - B2
- Mike Stuhldreher Lector - A
- Kolbe Krzeczowski..... Lector - B
- Sabrina Wenzke Altar Server
- Noah Wenzke..... Altar Server
- Matthew Stuhldreher Altar Server
- Dani Stokes (sub req)..... Altar Server

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



PLEASE UPDATE YOUR GIVING:

If you give using the Our Sunday Visitor (OSV) online giving platform, we are asking that you move your giving to Pushpay using the following link or QR: <https://tinyurl.com/StAndrewParishGiving>



Please access your OSV account and cancel any active gifts using this link or QR: <https://osvhub.com/st-andrew-parish/giving/funds>



We are grateful for your support and generosity to the parish. If you need help or have additional questions, please contact **Business Manager Thomas Conigy** at 614-451-4290, ext. 106.

JOIN US IN THE GARDEN on **Monday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m., beginning Monday, April 20.**

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. We are looking for new members, both men and women. 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.

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**RESPECT LIFE**

"Like us, Christ entered the world through the womb of a woman. He willingly experienced the fullness of human suffering. He breathed His last on the Cross at Calvary in order that He might save us.

Therefore, 'God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end' (Spe salvi 31)."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Respect Life Reflection: Christ Our Hope in Every Season of Life" (citing Pope Benedict XVI, Spe salvi © 2007, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.)

AROUND THE DIOCESE**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

3PM EUCHARISTIC ADORATION, CONFESSIONS & DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

12TH | APRIL | 4PM MASS

MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED BY BISHOP EARL K. FERNANDES

1420 GRANDVIEW AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43212
SAINTCHRISTOPHERCC.COM

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY'S ANNUAL DAY OF REFLECTION, FAITH IN ACTION:

Join us on **Wednesday, April 15, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**, at **Our Lady of Victory Church** (1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus, Ohio 43212). The event includes Mass, presentations from Fr. Michael Hartge, Emily Jaminet, and Molly Fanning, lunch, and time to discuss and share thoughts. The cost is \$25/person. To register, visit www.christchildociety.org.

FRIENDS OF THE JOSEPHINUM EIGHTH ANNUAL 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, Oct. 3, 2026**, the Run/Walk starts promptly at 9:00 a.m. and features a one-loop course that will take runners/walkers on a tour of the campus and the surrounding neighborhood. The event will offer a virtual option for Josephinum supporters from around the nation! Proceeds support 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/>.



FAMILY REGISTRATION FORM

Office Use Only: (Form01012026)

Date Received: _____
 Processed: _____
 Env# _____ OnlineGiving _____

Family Last Name _____ Adult(s) First Name(s) _____

Family Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Family Phone Number _____ Family Email Address _____

Previous Parish _____

Stewardship: I use envelopes _____ I give online _____

MEMBER INFORMATION

ADULT #1

ADULT #2

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| First and Middle Name | | |
| Last Name | | |
| DOB (m/dd/yy) | | |
| Occupation | | |
| Email | | |
| Phone Number | | |
| | | |

Sacramental Info Catholic __ If other, religion _____ Catholic __ If other, religion _____
 Baptism __ 1st Communion __ Confirmation __ Baptism __ 1st Communion __ Confirmation __

Marital Status _____ Single __ Married __ Separated __ Divorced __ Widowed _____ Single __ Married __ Separated __ Divorced __ Widowed

Married by a priest/deacon _____ Wedding Date _____ / _____ / _____ Maiden Name _____

Place/Church _____ City/State _____

ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS/CHILDREN INFORMATION (living in the home)

| | First and Middle Name | Last Name | Gender | Birthdate/Location | Current School |
|----------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| CHILD #1 | | | M _____ F _____ | Date of Birth ____/____/____ | |
| | Catholic? Y __ N __ | Baptism Date ____/____/____ | | Birthplace _____ | |
| | Baptized? Y __ N __ | Location _____ | | | |
| | | | | | |
| CHILD #2 | | | M _____ F _____ | Date of Birth ____/____/____ | |
| | Catholic? Y __ N __ | Baptism Date ____/____/____ | | Birthplace _____ | |
| | Baptized? Y __ N __ | Location _____ | | | |
| | | | | | |
| CHILD #3 | | | M _____ F _____ | Date of Birth ____/____/____ | |
| | Catholic? Y __ N __ | Baptism Date ____/____/____ | | Birthplace _____ | |
| | Baptized? Y __ N __ | Location _____ | | | |
| | | | | | |

Additional children? List on separate sheet of paper. ↘

Please return form to: Parish Registration to jwenzke@standrewparish.cc
 or mail to St. Andrew Catholic Church Attn: Jen Wenzke 1899 McCoy Rd. Columbus OH 43220

CHRIST
OUR **HOPE**
IN EVERY SEASON OF *Life*

“Hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm.”

HEBREWS 6:18-19

RESPECT LIFE REFLECTION

Christ Our Hope: In Every Season of Life

From the time we are knit together in our mothers' wombs until we take our final breaths, each moment of our lives is a gift from God. While every season of life brings its own challenges and trials, each season also gives us new opportunities to grow in our relationship with God.

Today the gift of life is threatened in countless ways. Those who are most vulnerable, rather than receiving the protection they deserve, are all too often seen as a burden and as expendable. As new attacks on human life continue to emerge, we can be tempted to despair, but Christ instead offers us unfailing hope.

Hope is not false optimism or empty positivity. Christian hope is something much more profound and goes to the very depths of our identity as followers of Christ.

Hope is the virtue “by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit” (CCC, 1817).

Like us, Christ entered the world through the womb of a woman. He willingly experienced the fullness of human suffering. He breathed his last on the Cross at Calvary in order that He might save us. Therefore, “God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end” (*Spe salvi* 31).

Christians know “they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness” (SS 2).

For this reason, a woman experiencing a difficult pregnancy can find the strength to welcome her precious child into the world. A man facing a terminal diagnosis can see that the end of his earthly life is only the beginning of eternal life with Christ.

The Church teaches us that “the one who has hope lives differently” (SS 2). Christ’s promise of salvation does not mean that we will be spared from suffering. Rather, the promise of salvation ensures that even in the darkest moments of our lives, we will be given the strength to persevere. By virtue of this Christian hope, we can face any challenge or trial. When the seas of life swell and we are battered by the waves, hope allows us to remain anchored in the heart of God. May we hold fast to Christ our hope, from the beginning of life to its very end.



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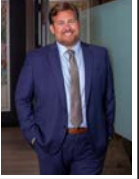


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