

Joy

*The angel said to them,
“Do not be afraid; for behold,
I proclaim to you good news
of great joy that will be
for all the people.”*

~Luke 2:10



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



SAINT ANDREW
PARISH

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

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays, 3:15-4:15 PM or by appointment

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

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614-459-1402

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday: Dec. 14 Vigil, Third Sunday of Advent
 4:30 p.m. The Tomlinson/Frericks Family

Sunday: Dec. 15, Third Sunday of Advent
 7:30 a.m. Mary and Ted Rondinella
 9:15 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew Parish
 11:00 a.m. Emmanuel Jalandoni

Monday: Dec. 16, Advent Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Ginna Marie Harrigan
 8:30 a.m. Mary Pizzola

Tuesday: Dec. 17, Advent Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Nancy Crumrine
 8:30 a.m. T.J. Duffy

Wednesday: Dec. 18, Advent Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Ray Kreber
 8:30 a.m. Jim Saffell

Thursday: Dec. 19, Advent Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Special Intention
 8:30 a.m. Peg Casto

Friday: Dec. 20, Advent Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Pat Cantwell
 8:30 a.m. Mike Feeney

Saturday: Dec. 21, Advent Weekday Mass
 9:00 a.m. Lloyd Mallett

Vigil, Fourth Sunday of Advent
 4:30 p.m. Charles Tomlinson III

Sunday: Dec. 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent
 7:30 a.m. Diane Nester
 9:15 a.m. Louie and Frances Massenelli
 11:00 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew Parish

BAPTISMS

Palmer Gabrielle Parobek
 daughter of Bryan and Kelly

Aidan Dean Gabriel
 son of Collin and Hillary

Anna Louise Conkle
 daughter of Billy and Christina

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Danielle Fisher and Brandon Huelsman (2)

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 standrewparish.cc/calendar.

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent, called "Gaudete Sunday." The word "gaudete" means "Rejoice!" It comes from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon for today's Mass in the original Latin: "Gaudete in Domino Semper." In English, the antiphon is: Rejoice in the Lord always; I say it again, rejoice, the Lord is near."

The Lord is indeed near, and the feast of His incarnation and birth is also drawing near. Christmas is coming in just 10 days! Are you ready for it?

I want you to be aware of the opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance in what remains of this Advent season. Confessions will be heard on Monday, Dec. 16, and Wednesday, Dec. 18, from 7:00 p.m. until all are heard. On Saturday, Dec. 21, Confessions will be available from 3:15 p.m. until 4:15 p.m., prior to the 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass. Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a good way to be prepared to welcome Christ at Christmas.

Please be advised that there will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) for obvious reasons. However, we will have Adoration and Benediction as usual on Tuesday, Dec. 31, beginning at 6:00 p.m., shortly after the 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass ends. I know that New Year's Eve is often celebrated with noisy social gatherings, but there are those who prefer to celebrate quietly and peacefully. Adoration will conclude as usual on December 31 at 9:00 p.m.

Please also refer to the Christmas Mass schedule in this bulletin.

I wish you a blessed Third Week of Advent. Rejoice! The Lord is near!

Your Pastor,

Monsignor Stephan Moloney

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 provide a wealth of prayers to recite and petition God for help.

The prayer cards are available for parishioners to keep and use as needed. There is no need to return the cards once you've used them.



TODAY IS THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Gaudete Sunday. At this halfway point in Advent, light two violet and the rose candles on your Advent wreath and Rejoice! For the Lord is near!

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO DROP OFF ITEMS/GIFT CARDS FOR THE ST. ANDREW ADVENT GIVING TREE!

Please attach the yellow star to the unwrapped gift packages going to the Christ Child Society. Gift cards for St. James the Less (green cross), Missionaries of Charity (blue angels), and St. Stephen's Community House (red hearts) should be placed in an envelope with the angel or cross attached – **please indicate the amount of the gift card**. Thanks to all who supported this annual effort this year!

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!

All are welcome to our monthly knit and crochet meeting on **Monday, Dec. 16**, 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.

DECORATING ELVES NEEDED!

It's almost time to transform our beautiful Church in celebration of the Birth of our Lord. Volunteers are needed to assist with decorating. The wreaths, trees, and manger will be set up on **Sunday, Dec. 22**, at **1:00 p.m.**, and we will finish decorating with poinsettias and figurines on **Monday, Dec. 23**, at **4:00 p.m.** Some heavy lifting and ladder climbing is needed on Sunday. This is a great opportunity for service hours for students. If you have any questions, please contact **Jayne Frilling** at jbfrilling@hotmail.com.



FLOWERS AT THE GROTTO THIS WINTER

As the temperatures drop, please **DO NOT** place glass vases with flowers and water in the grotto area. With the cold weather, the water will freeze. If the vase breaks it will be dangerous for anyone kneeling at the grotto, or cleaning up at the grotto.

SUNDAY OFFERING

	DEC 1	YTD
ACTUAL	\$ 33,043	\$ 677,010
BUDGET	\$ 32,692	\$ 686,538
LAST YEAR	\$ 36,825	\$ 682,405

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.



SUPPORT ST. ANDREW PARISH AND LOWER YOUR 2024 TAXES

As we approach the end of 2024, consider a powerful way to make a lasting impact on St. Andrew Parish while lowering your tax exposure. St. Andrew's endowment fund, managed by The Catholic Foundation, is designed to provide a perpetual source of income to support our parish beyond the weekly offertory. This fund ensures the long-term stability of our parish and its ministries—now and for generations to come.

Now is the time to act. By contributing cash, appreciated stocks, IRA rollovers, and other assets to this fund, you not only secure your tax benefits for the year but also strengthen St. Andrew Parish's future. Whether it's a donation of appreciated stocks to avoid capital gains taxes or an IRA rollover to lower your taxable income, your generosity can have a profound and lasting effect on our community.

Remember, some assets take longer to process, so don't wait until the last minute to take advantage of year-end giving opportunities. Act now to maximize your impact and secure your 2024 tax benefits. For more details on stock transfers or other giving options, contact **Christy Steffy** at 614-443-8893, ext. 1100 or CSteffy@Catholic-Foundation.org.



American Red Cross

THANK YOU to the 18 donors at our recent drive. We hope to have more donors at our next drive on Tuesday, March 18, 2025. Please mark your calendars and build up your iron levels! Thanks as well to JoAnn, Sally and Peg who volunteered their time at the December drive.



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).

St. Andrew Christmas Tree Sale

**BRYCE ECK
ACTIVITY CENTER**

SALE HOURS:

Weds to Fri, 5-7PM | Sat, 10AM-6PM | Sun, Noon-5PM



We still have a selection of Fraser firs available, between 6-7 feet. Christmas wreaths are also available: 12" (\$33) and 16" (\$45).

5TH SUNDAY THIS MONTH

Your Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) helps neighbors in need with rent, utility, and other bills, all of which are UP. You could bring your taxes DOWN with a deductible contribution on this month's **5th Sunday on December 29**. Use the gold envelope in your packet (or any envelope labeled SVdP) and place it in the collection basket. Make checks payable to St. Andrew Church, with SVdP in the memo line. We carefully assess each request for help in order to use your donations wisely. Bless you for your generosity and prayers.



CHRISTMAS MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 (vigil)

- 4 p.m. Church: organ, cantor, and violin
 - 4 p.m. Nugent Parish Hall: piano and cantor
 - 6 p.m. Church: organ, cantor, and violin
 - 10 p.m. Church: organ, choir, handbells, trumpets, and violin.
- Prelude music begins at 9:20 p.m.

The 10 p.m. Vigil Mass will be Livestreamed at www.StAndrewParishLive.com

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

- 9 a.m. Church: organ, cantor, trumpets
- 11 a.m. Church: organ, cantor, trumpets

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

- Tuesday, Dec. 31: 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan 1: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 23, 24, 26 & 27 ~ DECEMBER 30 & 31
Daily Masses will remain the same:
6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. on Saturday

RECONCILIATION
Monday, Dec. 16 and Wednesday, Dec. 18:
7 p.m. until all are heard
Saturday, Dec. 21: 3:15-4:15 p.m.

ADORATION ON TUESDAY, DEC. 24: Please note, that because of Christmas Eve liturgies, there will be no Adoration scheduled. Adoration will resume on Tuesday, Dec. 31, following the 4:30 p.m. liturgy and concluding at 9:00 p.m.

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

Thank You!

**St. Andrew
Catholic Church**

2024 BOTTLES FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN RAISED

\$4,961.25

We appreciate the sacrificial love shown by your community. Your gifts will impact many moms, dads, and babies in central Ohio.

*Rescuing Lives and Impacting Generations,
One Heartbeat at a Time.*

PD
HC Pregnancy Decision
Health Centers



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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

»**WALKING WITH PURPOSE** (WWP) is a women’s ministry with a mission to help every Catholic woman encounter Jesus Christ through Bible study. The group meets weekly on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., except in the month of December. **WWP will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025.** Email wwpstandrewcolumbus@gmail.com if you'd like more details or to register.

»**MILLIONS OF MONICAS** (MOMS) meets on the second Monday of the month from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the church. **MOMS will resume meeting on Monday, Jan. 13, 2025.** This is a WOMEN'S GROUP united in prayer to lift up our children, family members, and friends who struggle with the Catholic faith or have left it entirely. For information about this prayer ministry, contact **Amy Tague** at amyliiss14@gmail.com.

»**SAINT MONICA CLUB** is a group of men and women who meet on the fourth Monday of every month (except December) from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the parish hall. **Meetings will resume on Monday, Jan. 20, 2025,** to pray for loved ones who have left the Catholic faith. For more info and to RSVP, contact Amy Tague at amyliiss14@gmail.com.

»**THAT MAN IS YOU!** (TMIY!) honestly addresses the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. The group meets from 6:30-8:00 a.m. on Saturdays, September through May (except December). **TMIY! will kick off the second session on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025.** For more information or to register, contact **Colin Bellantis** at 440-728-4166 or colinbellantis@gmail.com.

»**MEN'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY SERIES** meets every Friday throughout the year from 7:00-8:00 a.m. in the Parish Office Lower Level Meeting Room. We are currently studying the first and second books of the Maccabees. 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.

»**OCIA: ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS** offers men and women at all stages of their faith journey the unique opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith. This is a process of learning and discovery with a focus on prayer, study, understanding the Holy Mass and the Sacraments, discernment, and discipleship. For more information, contact the Director of Adult Faith/OCIA **Emily Jaminet**, 614-451-4290, ext. 110 or ejaminet@standrewparish.cc.

LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

SAT, DEC 21: Vigil, Fourth Sunday of Advent 4:30 PM Mass

Dee Pellissier..... EMHC-B - B1
 Kris Pellissier EMHC-B - B2
 Jim Macklin Lector - A
 Mary Frecker Lector - B
 Drew Busch Altar Server
 Joseph Tomasso..... Altar Server

SUN, DEC 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent 7:30 AM Mass

Kevin Carpenter EMHC-B - B1
 Elizabeth Carpenter..... EMHC-B - B2
 John Pashke Lector - A
 Anna Wang Lector - B
 Mariella Ortlieb Altar Server
 Keiryn McGuff..... Altar Server

9:15 AM Mass

Jane Dickson EMHC-B - B1
 Kathy Cowen..... EMHC-B - B2
 Rosie Brandon EMHC-B - B CHOIR
 Martha Radtke EMHC-B - B3
 Suzanne Meyers EMHC-C - C1
 Megan Bellantis..... EMHC-C - C2
 Tom Levenick..... EMHC-C - C CHOIR
 Mark Pardi EMHC-C - C3
 Mike Lockett..... Lector - A
 David Tague..... Lector - B
 Natalie Moffo Altar Server
 Noah Woods..... Altar Server

11:00 AM Mass

Laddie Waldegar..... EMHC-B - B1
 Mike Plahuta EMHC-B - B2
 Mike Stuhldreher..... Lector - A
 Colin Bellantis Lector - B
 Matthew Stuhldreher Altar Server
 Ben Stuhldreher 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 the Parish Office, 614-451-4290.



HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES

For the **December 29** and **January 5** bulletins, submissions **MUST BE RECEIVED** by **NOON** on **WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18.**

Send requests to bulletin@standrewparish.cc. Include a brief description, date, time, location, and contact name. Submissions may be edited for clarity of space.

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL FAMILIES AND REDUCE YOUR OHIO TAXES!



OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

The Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund is a charitable donation that actually gives you a state tax CREDIT of up to \$1,500 for married joint filers or up to \$750 for single filers. Keep in mind the credit is worth much more than a deduction. The credit reduces your tax liability dollar-for-dollar. A deduction simply reduces your taxable income.

Contributions can be made using the Diocese of Columbus' Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund link where you can direct your contribution to St. Andrew School tuition assistance. Any Ohio state taxpayer can participate. You can also use this contribution as a federal tax deduction. The tax savings can be substantial. For more information, visit columbuscatholicgiving.org.



WELCOME OUR BLESSED MOTHER INTO YOUR HEART AND YOUR HOME:

There are many sign-up opportunities to have the Blessed Mother statue in your home for prayer and devotion. New dates have been added in January and February. Each week begins on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and ends the following Saturday at 4:30 p.m. The statue is dropped off and picked up each week in the St. Andrew Chapel. Visit our Signup Genius page at tinyurl.com/ourlady2024 or use the QR code to view upcoming available dates and learn more. For more information, contact **Deb McEllistrem**, 614-309-4645 or dmcellistrem@yahoo.com.



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 during weekends, please allow extra time as the priests may be attending to other sacramental needs.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

NOVICE WRESTLING PROGRAM AT ST. CHARLES: Boys and girls in grades K-8 are welcome to attend The 2025 St. Charles Cardinal Novice Wrestling Club on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:15-7:30 p.m., from January 7 to February 27, 2025. Cost is \$120 for the 16 sessions. To register or for more information, contact Vince DiSabato at wrestlingcoach@scprep.org.

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2025 CATHOLIC MAN OF THE YEAR: The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club (CMLC) is accepting nominations for The Catholic Man of the Year. Established in 1957, this honor is awarded to one layman who, through his daily actions, words, and prayers, exemplifies the "good and faithful servant." Nomination instructions and the required online nomination form are at www.catholicmensministry.com/catholicmanoftheyear

Submit your nomination and let us know why your husband, father, grandfather, son, uncle, brother, or friend is the Catholic Man of the Year! **Nominations will be accepted through January 15, 2025.** Bishop Earl K. Fernandes will present the 2025 Catholic Man of the Year at a luncheon on Friday, March 7, 2025, at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus. Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and Bishop Fernandes' presentation of the 2025 Catholic Man of the Year. No reservations are necessary. \$12 covers the lunch. Bring a friend and help us honor the 2025 Catholic Man of the Year.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will give you and your spouse all the tools for a better, stronger, more loving marriage. Join us on February 7- 9 to get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus only on each other! Location is Procter Camp and Conference Center in London, Ohio. Other weekend dates are available on our website. RSVP at www.WWME.org or call Don & Kim Downs at 614-893-1935. Early registration is recommended.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2025 COLUMBUS CATHOLIC CONFERENCES

- The **WOMEN'S CONFERENCE** is scheduled for **February 15, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** An early bird discount is available. For more details and to register, visit www.columbuscatholicwomen.com.

- The **MEN'S CONFERENCE** returns on **February 22, 2025, 8:00 a.m.** An early bird discount is available. Register soon or find more details at www.catholicmensministry.com/2025conference.



The Mass

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

Fr. Luke Spannagel

✦ Part 50: Transubstantiation ✦

I often hear people ask why it is that, for so many priests, the Consecration is their favorite moment of the Mass. How exactly does the Consecration "work"?

Thanks for asking! Some years ago, I was in the midst of a large assignment by myself and was struggling with some health issues. I was working long days to try and cover all that was needed, but I felt myself regularly falling short. Around that time, I was gifted with a wonderful confession from one of our wise priests, who reminded me that the best and most important part of my day is always what happens at the altar. He said I could end the day with unfinished projects and unanswered messages, but if I prayed the Mass faithfully at the altar, then it will have been a great day. What great words of consolation!

At the moment of the Consecration and the elevation that follows, I am always reassured that I am exactly where I am supposed to be: I am answering the call God gave to me to serve as a priest. As we all are, I am a work in progress, and some days feel like much more progress is needed. However, in that moment of the Mass, I am always comforted and strengthened, humbled and invigorated. Because I can be a perfectionist, I don't always receive compliments well; because I have a quick mind, I'm often thinking of problems to solve and things that need to be done. But in that moment of the Mass is true rest and peace. If you are like me and often have a

preoccupied mind, I invite you in that special moment of the Mass to enjoy resting in his peace. Remind yourself that there is no better place to be in that moment than united with Jesus truly present on the altar.

How the Consecration Effects Transubstantiation

How exactly does the Consecration work? Let's turn to our Catechism for some helpful wisdom. "It is by the conversion of the bread and wine into Christ's body and blood that Christ becomes present in this sacrament. The Church Fathers strongly affirmed the faith of the Church in the efficacy of the Word of Christ and of the action of the Holy Spirit to bring about this conversion. Thus St. John Chrysostom declares: 'It is not man that causes the things offered to become the Body and Blood of Christ, but he who was crucified for us, Christ himself. The priest, in the role of Christ, pronounces these words, but their power and grace are God's. This is my body, he says. This word transforms the things offered'" (CCC, 1375). The Catechism tells us that the word of Jesus is what changes the bread and wine into his Body and Blood.

The Catechism continues, "The Council of Trent summarizes the Catholic faith by declaring: 'Because Christ our Redeemer said that it was truly his body that he was offering under the species of bread, it has always been the conviction of the Church of God, and this holy Council now declares again, that by the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood. This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called transubstantiation'" (CCC, 1376). For many of us, transubstantiation can be a big and intimidating word. The reason we use words like these is that they help us describe with precision what we believe is true. Transubstantiation helps us know that the "what it is" is what changes during the Mass. As we said before regarding the gifts, what they are before the consecration is simple bread and wine. Those words of Jesus change the bread and wine into his Body and Blood. Even though the appearances remain, we believe that the whole Christ is present in the consecrated host and chalice. As our Catechism teaches, the reason we believe that Jesus is present is because Jesus said it. We believe him when he says: "This is my Body." We believe him when he says "This is my Blood." We believe that the Eucharist really is Jesus. The same Jesus who was born in Bethlehem, the same Jesus who offered himself on the Cross—Jesus is truly with us!

Seeing with Eyes of Faith

"But Father, the host still 'looks' the same!" some may say. St. Cyril of Jerusalem (314–386) teaches, "Do not think these are just plain bread and plain wine. They are the body and blood of Christ, as the Lord asserted. Faith must convince you of the latter even though your senses suggest to you the former. Do not judge about this according to your preferences but, based on your faith, believe with firmness and certainty that you have been made worthy of the body and blood of Christ" (Understanding the Mass, pp. 140–141). If your faith feels unsure, ask the Lord to help you see with the eyes of faith that he is truly there. Let the genuflections and reverence from your body help remind your mind of what we believe is true. Let the model of faith from the saints and the martyrs inspire you. Let our hearts be filled with joy after the consecration, and let us rejoice in recalling that Jesus is sacramentally present. Let us shout with joy the words of St. John, "It is the Lord!" (John 21:7).

For Reflection:

1. Study the Church's teaching on Christ's presence "under the Eucharistic species" in the Catechism, paragraphs 1373–1381, or even the entire section on the Eucharist (1322–1419). Consider inviting others to join you in this study to strengthen your faith in the Eucharist and participation at Mass. Consider checking out episodes 180–194 of Fr. Mike Schmitz's Catechism in a Year, which leads listeners on a journey into the mystery of the Eucharist.
2. Bring St. John's words, "It is the Lord!" (John 21:7), in your heart to Mass to seek and find Christ's presence during the Consecration.

Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog





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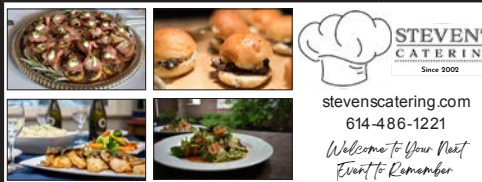
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