



SAINT ANDREW
PARISH

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.

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
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 Deacon Daniel Dowler
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 whd22@aol.com
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 pnoble@columbuscatholic.org

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 Maria Moore, Youth Ministry Ext. 5
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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday: Feb. 10 Vigil, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:30 p.m. Joseph Banks, M.D.

Sunday: Feb. 11, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew Parish
 9:15 a.m. Floyd Miller
 11:00 a.m. Grace Santilli

Monday: Feb. 12, Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Michelle Pappa
 8:30 a.m. Grace Santilli

Tuesday: Feb. 13, Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Richard Schumacher
 8:30 a.m. Duane Palmo

Wednesday: Feb. 14, Ash Wednesday
 6:30 a.m. Gianna Marie Harrigan
 8:30 a.m. Deceased Members of the Jaminet
 & Wilson Families
 12:15 p.m. Diane Nester
 7:00 p.m. Patti Pardi Passen

Thursday: Feb. 15, Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Dr. Bob Nolan
 8:30 a.m. Michelle Cantwell

Friday: Feb. 16, Weekday Masses
 6:30 a.m. Foster Family
 8:30 a.m. Louie and Frances Massenelli

Saturday: Feb. 17, Weekday Mass
 9:00 a.m. John and Paul Gallagher

Vigil, First Sunday of Lent
 4:30 p.m. Billy Hein

Sunday: Feb. 18, First Sunday of Lent
 7:30 a.m. Beth Pandora
 9:15 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew Parish
 11:00 a.m. Les Hess

BAPTISMS

Lilian Jane Bucher, daughter of Jason and Christine
 Hannah Marie Brady, daughter of Jason and Christine

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES OF...

Antonio Jayme
 Maryanne Reinmann, mother of parishioner Molly
 Reinmann
 Ronnelle King, mother of parishioners Nick and Tony
 King

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

On Wednesday of this week (February 14), the holy season of Lent begins. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a 40-day period of penance, prayer, and preparation for the church's celebration of the Paschal Mystery of the death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence, and all the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. The obligation of fasting is binding on all Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59, and means that only one full meal is permitted on the day of fasting; nothing is allowed to be eaten between meals, and while two smaller meals are permitted during the day, these in total must be less than one full meal. Abstinence, which binds all Catholics over the age of 14, means that no flesh meat is allowed to be eaten on the day of abstinence for 24 hours from midnight to midnight. Those too young to be bound by the law of fast and abstinence are to be trained in a genuine sense of penance.

Because the entire church community is bound to observe these days of fast and abstinence, we are united in solidarity of a common spirit of penance. This is also symbolized by the ashes we receive on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. Everyone is marked by ashes because we all remember that we are dust, and will return to dust, and we all have need of repentance and must return to the Lord while there is time.

Lent is a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving – three penitential practices that are especially recommended in the Lenten season. St. Andrew is offering a variety of Lenten prayer booklets, devotionals and meditation aids for adults and children. These are displayed in the vestibule and near the entrances of the church and are free for the taking. Please take and use these to guide you in prayer through the holy season! The "Little Black Books" are available and always popular, and also a new family devotional "Walking in His Ways" by our own Emily Jaminet. Be sure to get your free copy of these.

Every Friday evening in Lent, there will be Adoration, Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. This begins at 7:30 p.m. Confessions are available during this period, also. Every Tuesday, there is Adoration from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., with Compline and Benediction at 8:45 p.m. (This happens all year round, not just during Lent!) Also, the Diocese of Columbus is once again promoting "40 Days of Adoration." This is when various parishes host a full day of Adoration. St. Andrew will host Adoration from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, and again on Tuesday, February 27, as a part of "40 Days of Adoration."

Finally, I am very happy that St. Andrew will be holding three Fish Fry Friday dinners on February 23, March 8 and March 22. I am grateful to Jeff Slater for stepping forward to lead this.

Let us all together join in a spirit of penance and prayer and be renewed during this season of Lent that begins this coming Wednesday!

May God bless you all!

Your Pastor,

Msgr. Stephan Moloney

Ash Wednesday, February 14

MASS TIMES:

6:30am, 8:30am, 12:15pm, and 7pm (livestream)

PRAYER SERVICE WITH ASH DISTRIBUTION:

4:45pm

Livestream: www.StAndrewParishLive.com



Friday's during Lent // 7:30 PM // Church

Exposition, Confession and Benediction

follows Stations until 9 PM

SUNDAY OFFERING

	JAN. 28	YTD
BUDGET	\$ 32,212	\$ 998,558
ACTUAL	\$ 46,857	\$ 1,060,212
LAST YEAR	\$ 39,720	\$ 1,096,615

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.



FRIENDLY REMINDER: The Diocese of Columbus handles all subscriptions for *The Catholic Times*. If you would like to subscribe or renew your subscription, visit dioceseofcolumbus.org/subscription-payments. If you prefer to subscribe by mail, make out a check to Diocese of Columbus with "Catholic Times" in the memo section and send it to:

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Columbus
 Attn: Catholic Times
 197 E. Gay Street
 Columbus, OH 43215

The Catholic Times is a great way to be informed about what is happening across the Diocese of Columbus.

THE PURPLE BAGS WILL BE BACK!

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Andrew encourages all parishioners to take part in the annual Lenten "purple bag" project. Beginning Ash Wednesday, you will find empty purple bags at the church entrances with a list of suggested women's and men's hygiene items attached to each bag. Grab a bag, put some items in (you do not need to include all items on the list) and return it to the church parlor anytime during Lent. Donated items will be delivered to J.O.I.N. (Joint Organization for Inner-city Needs) to distribute to our less fortunate neighbors. Take this opportunity to put your faith into action during the Lenten season.



FACILITIES AND ROOM RESERVATIONS AT ST. ANDREW PARISH:

If you would like to reserve one of the meeting spaces or halls 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.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesdays from 6 to 9 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.

At 8:45 p.m., Adoration concludes with Compline (end of day prayers) followed by 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); Women of St. Andrew (third Tuesday); Men of the Parish (fourth Tuesday); First Called Youth Ministry (fifth Tuesday).



It costs **\$55,000** per year to educate and form a seminarian. **COLUMBUS CATHOLIC VOCATIONS**

The Diocese of Columbus has a **GOOD AND GROWING NEED** by virtue of **16 ADDITIONAL** young men interested in the priesthood. A contribution from you today will support this immediate need to fund future priests throughout our Diocese.

KNIGHTS NEWS

Council #11275 will hold its next business meeting on Monday, Feb. 12. The meeting will be held at the Bryce Eck Center and begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Come early as we pray the Rosary at 6:30. Join us for fellowship as we discuss upcoming events!



Any male 18 or older and a practical Catholic can join the Knights of Columbus. If you're interested in learning more about us, please join us at our next meeting!

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!



All are welcome to our next meeting on **Monday, Feb. 19, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., in Nugent Parish Hall.** We have needle workers of all levels, so bring your knitting needles (size 7 or 8) and crochet hooks (size G or H) and join the fun of socializing and being productive as we make things for those in need. We will provide easy patterns. For more information, call Marilyn Dougherty at 614-315-7320.

WELCOME OUR BLESSED MOTHER INTO YOUR HOME!

There are many sign-up opportunities to have the Blessed Mother statue in your home for prayer and devotion. 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. Use the QR code or visit our SignUp Genius page to view upcoming available dates and learn more: [tinyurl.com/ourlady2024](https://www.tinyurl.com/ourlady2024). For more information, contact Deb McEllistrem, 614-309-4645 or dmcellistrem@yahoo.com.



MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL FIRST CALLED YOUTH MINISTRY

Activities held Sunday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Bryce Eck Center unless otherwise noted.

FUN AND FRIENDSHIP:

Even though it's Superbowl Sunday, we're still meeting! Stop by to see friends, and for fun and games.

February 11

PRESIDENTS' DAY WEEKEND:

No FCYM

MOVIE NIGHT: **CHOSEN**

February 25

Service for February is collecting canned soup.

For more information about FCYM, visit standrewparish.cc/youth-ministry/ or contact Maria Moore at 614-439-3571 (cell), 614-459-1402 (office), or mmoore@standrewparish.cc.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

4:30 PM

NUGENT PARISH HALL

\$15 adult // \$13 seniors // \$9 kids

DINNER INCLUDES...

Guinness beer battered cod, hand-cut festival french fries, homemade tartar sauce, Sbarro cheese pizza, and dessert

More information to come about volunteering and donations!

Upcoming Fish Dinners:

March 8 and March 22



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

St. Andrew Vacation Bible School
June 24-27

Registration begins March 1.

WoSA LENTEN RETREAT

Women of St. Andrew (WoSA) invite all women of the parish to attend this year's WoSA Lenten Retreat on **Saturday, March 2, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** The theme of the retreat is "Living as a Holy Family." Cost is \$25 and includes breakfast and lunch.

We will kick off the retreat with Mass at 9 a.m., and then gather in the Nugent Parish Hall for a light breakfast and presentation from our own Fr. Lawrence Tabi. After lunch, Family Counselor Maria Elliott will discuss "Holy and Whole in Body, Mind and Spirit."

Join us for an enriching and enjoyable day!

Register today:

<https://tiny.cc/wosa-retreat-2024>

Questions:

womenofstandrew@gmail.com



BECOME ONE OF THE MILLIONS OF MONICAS

ONE HOUR | ONE PURPOSE | OUR CHILDREN

MONDAYS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 12

6:00-7:00 PM // ST. ANDREW CHURCH

Join other Catholic women who are called by the Holy Spirit to imitate St. Monica by attending this NEW prayer ministry.

Our mission: To encounter God through prayer for ourselves and our children, and to grow in holiness and humility.

Like St. Monica, we pray for our children to return to the practice of their Catholic faith, and to always stay close to their faith. We are a group of women, young and old, who believe in the power of prayer.

Throughout Lent, we will meet weekly on Monday evenings. After Lent, we will meet on the first and third Mondays of the month.

If you would like more information about this new prayer ministry at St. Andrew Parish, contact Amy Tague, at amyliss14@gmail.com.

THE FLOW OF THE EVENING:

Arrivals
 Opening remarks
 Opening song
 Weekly scripture reflection
 Signs and Sowings activity
 Trust Me prayer
 Small groups crucifix prayer
 Mom prayer
 Rosary
 Prayer to St. Monica
 Closing remarks
 Closing song

Meetings last one hour.



THAT MAN IS YOU! THE VISION OF MAN FULLY ALIVE:

Please join other men of the parish who have been coming to this interactive, video-based program to

become better fathers, husbands, and Catholics. And their feedback is overwhelmingly positive that the program is making a difference in their lives! The format is simple: free breakfast and coffee, followed by a video from various Catholic and family experts. After the video, we break into small groups to share thoughts, reflections and experiences to benefit others in your group. If you want to improve your relationship with God and your family, please consider attending.

The program continues throughout the spring on **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. For more information and to register, contact Colin Bellantis at 440-728-4166 or colinbellantis@gmail.com or visit www.TMIY.org.

WEEKLY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY SERIES: THE GOSPEL OF MARK

All men are invited for fellowship, coffee and scripture study **every Friday morning from 7:00-8:00 a.m. in the Parish Office Lower Level Meeting Room**.

We have started a new series that delves into the Gospel of Mark, with time-tested interpretations from the Fathers of the Church, delivered by popular theologian, Scott Hahn. No reading or study is required between sessions. For more information, contact John Schechter at 614-565-0824 or jschechter@sbcglobal.net.



GENESIS TO JESUS

Tuesdays // 7:15-8:30 p.m. // Nugent Parish Hall

All are welcome to join us for our current Adult Faith Formation series: Genesis to Jesus. This study surveys the principal covenants that God made with his people through figures such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David. It also shows how each of these covenants points forward to, and is fulfilled by, Jesus Christ and His Church. Learn the basic Catholic principles for reading Scripture and learn the broad outlines of the books of the Bible and their place in the story of salvation. Each week begins with a short video, followed by small group discussion. The discussion will wrap up in time to attend Adoration/Benediction. For additional information, contact Kathy Miller at Kathy.Miller725@gmail.com.

LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

WED, FEB 14: Ash Wednesday

12:15 PM Mass

Kathleen Wiant	EMHC - B1
Margaret Saffell	EMHC - B2
Pamela Sprigler	EMHC - B CHOIR
Tom Levenick	Lector - A
David Varda	Lector - B

7:00 PM Mass

Elizabeth Carpenter	EMHC - B1
Patty Meyers	EMHC - B2
Ciara Decot	Lector - A
Jacob Decot	Lector - B
Luca Pietropaolo	Altar Server
Elle Hatch	Altar Server

SAT, FEB. 17: Vigil, First Sunday of Lent

4:30 PM Mass

David Varda	EMHC - B1
Kathi Theado	EMHC - B2
Mary Frecker	Lector - A
Tim Terveer	Lector - B
Abbie Clapood	Altar Server
Emilee Clapood	Altar Server

SUN, FEB. 18: First Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Mass

Iris Freisner	EMHC - B1
Mike Miller	EMHC - B2
Colin Bellantis	Lector - A
Cathy Covarrubias	Lector - B
Arthur Bellaire	Altar Server
Angelo Pardi (Sub Req.)	Altar Server

9:15 AM Mass

Rosie Brandon	EMHC - B1
Stephanie Stephenson	EMHC - B2
Herm Mollmann	EMHC - B CHOIR
Mary Kasberg	Lector - A
Joseph Chatlos	Lector - B
Joel Kasberg	Altar Server
Nate Chatlos	Altar Server

11:00 AM Mass

Liz Meyers	EMHC - B1
Corso Padova	EMHC - B2
Marty Majka	Lector - A
Damion Faulkner	Lector - B
George Hertl	Altar Server
Luca Pietropaolo	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.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS ATTENDING A CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL:

The Nativity of Mary Scholarship provides a multi-year \$2,000 scholarship to any rising 9th grade student who will attend at Catholic High School in the 2024-2025 school year. Awards from the Nativity of Mary Scholarship are \$2,000 per year.

The Scholarship is renewed each year until high school graduation, as long as the student remains in good standing and continues to attend a Catholic high school in the Diocese of Columbus.

To apply for the Nativity of Mary Scholarship, visit catholic-foundation.org/grants/scholarships/the-nativity-of-mary-scholarship/.

The Nativity of Mary Scholarship was established for the propagation of the Catholic faith and devotion to Our Blessed Mother. A letter of recommendation, short essay on the applicant's devotion to our Blessed Mother, and financial need will be used to evaluate the potential applicants. This scholarship is renewable for four years.

Applications for The Nativity of Mary Scholarship are open through February 26.

FLORENCE MOSES NURSING SCHOLARSHIP: The Florence Moses Scholarship provides a one-time \$1,000 Scholarship to a senior student graduating from a Catholic high school in the Diocese of Columbus and is accepted at and enrolled in the Mount Carmel College of Nursing.

The link to apply for the Florence Moses Scholarship can be found at: <https://catholic-foundation.org/grants/scholarships/florence-e-moses-nursing-scholarship/>

The Florence E. Moses Scholarship Fund was established to further nursing education and to honor and memorialize the life of Florence Eileen Moses. It is hoped that some of the qualities and achievements of Florence's life and career could be emulated by the recipients of this scholarship. A devoted wife of 63 years and grandmother of 17, Florence quietly practiced selfless, compassionate care giving towards her patients, friends, and family. Her love of people and her desire to help them was ever present throughout her life.

Applications for this scholarship are open through February 26.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR ST. ANDREW PARISH HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: The \$25,000 Annual Ronald C. Sullivan Scholarship is available for application through The Catholic Foundation for incoming freshman at Ohio State University.

Ronald C. Sullivan was a man of faith, education, business, and duty. He considered his Catholicism the foundation of his identity and as a lifelong Buckeye of The Ohio State University, Sullivan saw a college education as a key to success.

Requirements for the Ronald C. Sullivan Scholarship are as follows:

- A current high school senior enrolled or about to enroll at The Ohio State University, a practicing Catholic (as verified by a letter from a parish leader such as a priest, deacon, or youth minister)
- Active member of St. Andrew, St. Agatha, Our Lady of Victory, St. Christopher
- Solid academic performance.

Applications for this scholarship are open until March 25. To apply for the Sullivan Scholarship, visit catholic-foundation.org/grants/scholarships/ronald-c-sullivan-scholarship/.



THE
CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION

Since 2007, The Catholic Foundation has awarded more than \$1.5 million in scholarships, empowering hundreds of young people to continue their academic and vocational studies. For more information and to apply, please visit catholic-foundation.org/grants/scholarships/.

If you have any questions about the scholarship process, please feel free to contact **Dan Kurth**, VP of Grants, at 614-443-8893 or dkurth@catholic-foundation.org.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE SCHOOL AND PARISH STUDENTS!



The following students from St. Andrew Parish and School received Second Quarter Honor Roll recognition at St. Francis Desales High School:

- Ryann Lucas**
- Eliza Lyons**
- Francis McAllister**
- Holden Osborne**



The following student from St. Andrew Parish and School received Second Quarter Honor Roll recognition at Bishop Ready High School:

- Zoe Phillips**



OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

REDUCE YOUR OHIO TAXES!

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 Tax Payer 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.

THANK YOU, BULLETIN SPONSORS! Thanks to our sponsors & Dee Printing, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish.

ADVERTISE IN OUR BULLETIN! Please help support our parish by advertising in our bulletin. Contact Kati at Dee Printing 614.777.8700 or kati@deeprinting.com.

this Wondrous Gift



COLUMBUS CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

February 17, 2024 • 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Ohio Expo Center - Kasich Hall

Speakers:



Fr. John Burns



Heather Khym



Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, J.C.D.



Fr. Timothy Anastos



Claire Dwyer

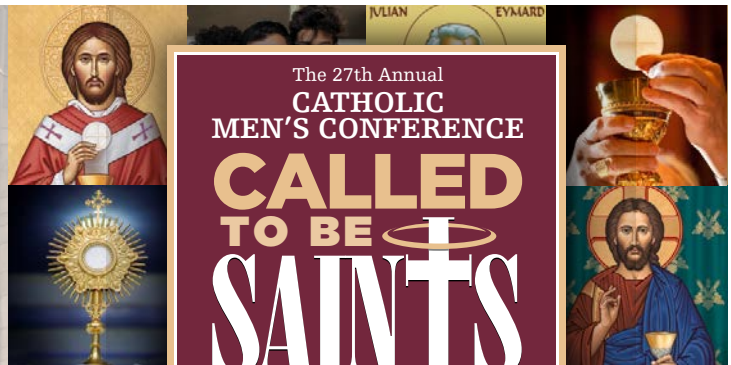


Emcee: Jennifer Rice



Music By: Marie Miller

columbuscatholicwomen.com



The 27th Annual CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

CALLED TO BE SAINTS

THE EUCHARIST: GO DEEPER

Saturday + February 24, 2024
Kasich Hall + Ohio Expo Center, Columbus

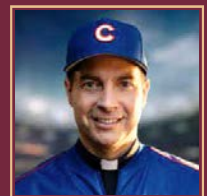
FEATURING:



John Edwards



Chris Stefanick



Fr. Burke Masters

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

REGISTER AT: www.CatholicMensMinistry.com





The Mass

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

Fr. Luke Spannagel

Part 15: The First Reading

After spending some time reflecting on the Liturgy of the Word as a whole, this week we begin looking more closely at each part, beginning with the **First Reading**. We might hear the lector proclaim, “A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. In the days of Ahaz, king of Judah, son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, Rezin, king of Aram, and Pekah, king of Israel, son of Remaliah...” (Isaiah 7:1-9). With all these names, which many of us may not even know how to pronounce, we might wonder: *Why do we use the Old Testament at Mass, anyway?*

A Witness to God’s Faithfulness

As we said earlier, the First Reading at Mass is generally from the Old Testament. When we hear the stories of the Old Testament, we hear about how God called and began to form his people. If you are familiar with the Old Testament, you know there are times of faithfulness and falling away. There are prophets, judges, and other leaders that help call the people back to faithfulness. There are times where God is clearly directly involved and times where he seems to be more in the background. We learn about God’s faithfulness, even in the midst of our unfaithfulness. I am often struck by that faithfulness of God: we know we don’t deserve it, and yet there he is, consistently loving, forgiving, leading, providing, and protecting, doing all the things that good fathers do for their beloved children. Hopefully, as we hear those words each week, they remind us we can always go to our loving God and Father.

As we reflected before, generally when we talk about the Old Testament, we talk about a preparation. Through Moses, the prophets, and other writers, God was preparing his people (and us) to receive the truth about Jesus—that he truly is the Messiah who came to set us free from sin and death so that we

might live with the Father forever. The Old and New Testament work together: the Old prepares for the New, and the New tells us what we've been waiting for, namely, Jesus Christ (cf. *Dei Verbum*, no. 15).

The Family of God

But why do we need all those names? The whole Bible, even parts we don't understand or that don't seem helpful, is part of God's precious word to his people. Charles Belmonte reminds us that, just as every particle of the Body of Christ is precious, so too is every word (and name) of the Bible. Sometimes the readings may seem "obscure" to us because we don't understand the ancient cultures of the Middle East. Sometimes they just mildly hint at one of the great mysteries of God and their importance can be easily overlooked. Sometimes we stumble over the names or we don't understand the poetic language. "Nevertheless, we can be sure that if we do our best, the Holy Spirit will give us enough capacity to grasp whatever we may need for our sanctification and mission in life. And even if what we have read [or heard] does not stay in our memory, the Word of God has purified and nourished our souls" (*Understanding the Mass*, p. 85)

We might think that the names aren't that important, but what they show us is a continuous string of people who are in relationship with God, an ongoing family which the Lord is building over time. Just like we remember the names of our grandparents and great-grandparents because they are part of our family tree, so too do we remember the names of these people who in some way had (and still have) an important part to play in God's family tree. As the Church teaches, "Christians should accept with veneration these writings which give expression to a lively sense of God, which are a storehouse of sublime teaching on God and of sound wisdom on human life, as well as a wonderful treasury of prayers; in them, too, the mystery of our salvation is present in a hidden way" (*Dei Verbum*, no. 15).

One of my favorite things about the Old Testament is that God teaches us little by little. There is always a story to go with what we hear; there is always a bit-by-bit explanation for what God is trying to tell us. The Old Testament isn't just strange names and long stories with some songs and poetry mixed in. It is God speaking to us and saying gradually, "Come a little closer... Please get to know me... You will find happiness in me... I want to take care of you... I will send the Messiah to save you... I am your loving Father."

For Reflection:

1. In light of the insights on the significance of names and genealogy in the Old Testament, revisit Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1:1-17 and/or Luke 3:23-38. Recall what you know about any of the persons whose names feature in these genealogies. For any names you do not recognize, pause and invite the Lord to help you see more clearly how he accomplishes his work through men and women throughout salvation history.
2. Do you have a written or visual "family tree" of your own heritage? If not, consider developing one for yourself or with your family. Take time to pray in thanksgiving for God's presence through your genealogy, and lift up any persons in particular need of healing or mercy.

Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog





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