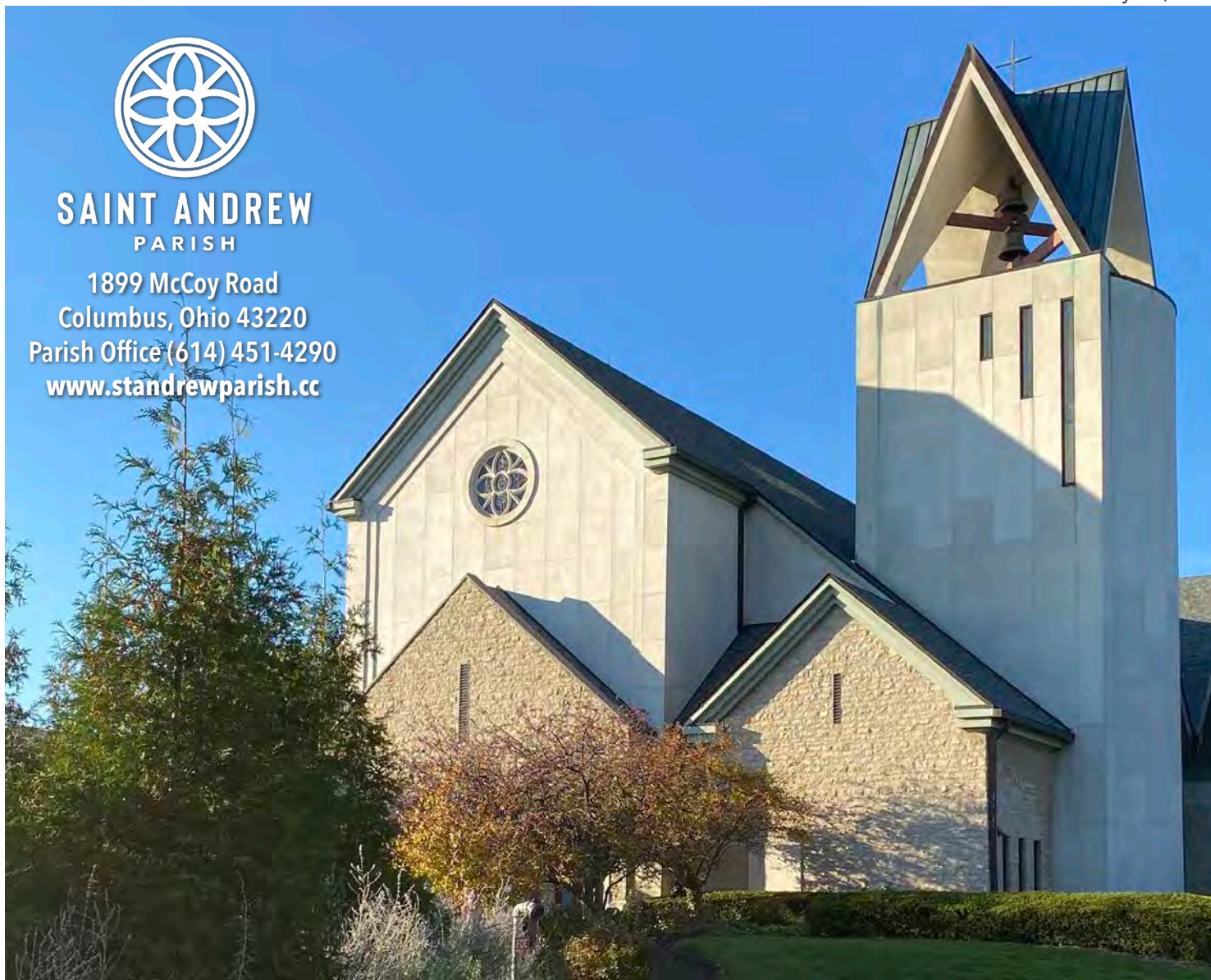




SAINT ANDREW PARISH

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 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
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 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
 Julie Strayer, Administrative Assistant Ext. 223
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 Heather Roush, School Secretary Ext. 228
 hroush@cducation.org
 Kyletta Scheirmann, Latchkey 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: Feb. 15 Vigil, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:30 p.m. Greg Freisner

Sunday: Feb. 16, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 a.m. Jeanne Davis
 9:15 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew Parish
 11:00 a.m. Julie Kottenstette

Monday: Feb. 17, Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Gary Sterling
 8:30 a.m. Dr. Joseph Banks

Tuesday: Feb. 18, Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Richard Schumacher
 8:30 a.m. Fenton Moore

Wednesday: Feb. 19, Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Special Intention
 8:30 a.m. Robert and Anna Mae Jones

Thursday: Feb. 20, Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. Vincent Ireland
 8:30 a.m. Special Intention

Friday: Feb. 21, Weekday Mass
 6:30 a.m. John Paul Zamana
 8:30 a.m. Lloyd Mallet

Saturday: Feb. 22, The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
 9:00 a.m. Special Intention

Vigil, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:30 p.m. Edwin McGlumphy, Sr.

Sunday: Feb. 23, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 a.m. Ray Van De Weghe
 9:15 a.m. Denise Cottrell
 11:00 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew Parish

BAPTISMS

Alannah Grace Crosby,
 daughter of Patrick and Jennifer

Grant Altan Crosby,
 son of William and Claire

Arabella Rose & Delilah Day Ulrey,
 daughters of Matthew and Heather

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Emma Weisgerber and Andrew Granger (3)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY

Jym Ganahl, father of parishioner Lauren Mays

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

I want to recognize our Confirmation class for this year of 2025, who will be confirmed next weekend, specifically Saturday, February 22, at the 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass. We have more than 70 confirmands from St. Andrew School and Parish School of Religion who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on this occasion. Our Bishop, Bishop Earl Fernandes, was originally scheduled to administer the sacrament to our confirmands, but he had a change to his calendar and unfortunately needed to decline. While we are disappointed that Bishop won't be with us this year, I am happy that he delegated me to administer Confirmation to our class. I am so proud of our Confirmation class, and I consider it an honor and a privilege to administer this sacrament to them, and to complete their Christian initiation.

Each year, as part of the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, our Confirmation candidates write me a letter explaining why they want to be confirmed. I always read all of these letters and I am continuously impressed and inspired by the maturity, faith, and zeal our young people express. Some things that a number of the candidates expressed are: they are excited about their forthcoming confirmation; they want to have the guidance of the Holy Spirit to make good choices in life; they want to have God's assistance in difficult times; they intend to maintain a habit of prayer throughout their lives and to always do what Jesus would want them to do; they admire the saints and want to become saints themselves! I think all of us should seek to rediscover the same enthusiasm and zeal for living a full Christian life, just like our young confirmands! I look forward to administering this Holy Sacrament for our Confirmation class of 2025 next Saturday, February 22, at the 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass.

May God bless you and fill you with the gifts of the Holy Spirit!

Your Pastor,

Monsignor Stephan Moloney



»**ATTENTION ST. ANDREW SCHOOL AND PSR 8TH GRADE PARENTS:** Confirmation practice will be held **Monday, February 17, at 6:00 p.m. in the Church.** All confirmands and sponsors are required to attend this practice. If a sponsor is not available, another adult or parent can fill in. For more information, contact DRE **Kathy Dowler** at 614-451-2855, ext. 305 or **kdowner@standrewparish.cc**.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! FISH FRY FRIDAYS



MARCH 21 | APRIL 4 | APRIL 11
4:30-7:30 PM
NUGENT PARISH HALL

MORE DETAILS TO COME!

Watch upcoming bulletins and ePOSTs for more information about the menu, costs, and special surprises!

VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS NEEDED:

There are volunteer opportunities available and we are accepting dessert and beverage donations. To learn more, visit our SignUpGenius at [tinyurl.com/Fish-Fry-2025](https://www.signupgenius.com/Fish-Fry-2025).

»**CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS:**

All are welcome to our monthly knit and crochet meeting on **Monday, February 17, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., in Nugent Parish Hall.** We have

needle workers of all levels. Please bring your own knitting needles (size 7 or 8) and/or crochet hooks (size G or H). Each monthly meeting includes fun and laughter while we make items for those in need. Easy patterns are provided and experienced knitters and crocheters are available to answer questions and provide guidance. For more information, contact **Darla Reed** at **drdjreed@outlook.com**.



SUNDAY OFFERING

	FEB 2	YTD
ACTUAL	\$ 26,007	\$ 1,031,155
BUDGET	\$ 32,692	\$ 1,013,462
LAST YEAR	\$ 37,826	\$ 1,098,038

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.



»DO YOU READ THE CATHOLIC TIMES?

The **Catholic Times**

If you don't, you are missing out on local Catholic news stories, features, sports, arts, insightful and entertaining columns, obituaries, photos, crossword puzzles and word searches. New subscribers can sign up (or renew) online at catholictimescolumbus.org under the **subscribe tab**. Your support and your readership are greatly appreciated! Your annual subscriptions and donations allow *The Catholic Times* to continue its mission of providing news and information about the diocese that you won't read anywhere else.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

On Saturday, February 22, our eighth grade students will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation during the 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass. The Mass will be livestreamed at www.StAndrewParishLive.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 on the weekend, please allow extra time as the priests may be attending to other sacramental needs.



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).

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW PARISH

encourages all parishioners to take part in the annual Lenten "purple bag" project. Beginning Ash Wednesday, March 5, 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.



FACILITIES & ROOM RESERVATIONS:

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

ST. ANDREW SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

St. Andrew sports programs are available to all enrolled school and PSR students.

CYO Sports: New in 2025»Boys/Girls Coach Pitch (2nd-3rd) | Baseball (4th-8th) | Softball (4th-8th) | Track & Field (4th-8th)

Club Sports: Soccer (K-3rd) | Boys Tennis (6th-8th) | Field Hockey Preregistration (entering 5th-8th) | Field Hockey SPRING CAMP Preregistration (entering K-3rd)

Deadline to register is FEBRUARY 21 at <https://standrewsports.com/> or scan the QR.



MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

FRIDAY MORNINGS

7:00-8:00 A.M. // POLLMR*

Do you want to grow your understanding and devotion to the Rosary? Join us as we walk through the biblical mysteries of the Rosary with Dr. Ben Akers in the Augustine Institute video series, "A Bible Study on the Mysteries of the Rosary."

No homework or preparation is required between sessions. Bring your rosary. Coffee is provided. For more information, contact **John Schechter** at 614-565-0824 or jedwardschechter@gmail.com.

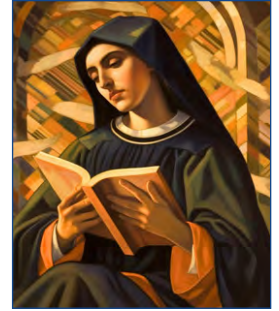
*Parish Office Lower Level Meeting Room

**SAINT MONICA CLUB**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

6:00-7:00 PM // PARISH HALL

Give up worry and turn to prayer! All are welcome to this once-a-month study/discussion. St. Monica represents persistent, unfailing prayer for fallen-away family members. The Saint Monica Club includes all devoted parents who have experienced the pain of a child leaving the faith and have prayed ceaselessly for their return.



For more info and to RSVP, contact **Amy Tague**, at amyliiss14@gmail.com.

»**MEN OF ST. ANDREW:** Do you plan to attend the Catholic Men's Conference on February 22? If so, you are invited to carpool to the conference and sit with other men of St. Andrew Parish.

We will meet at the Bryce Eck Center parking lot at 6:30 a.m. and carpool to the fairgrounds at 6:45 a.m. For more information about the conference including registration, visit www.catholicmensministry.com/2025conference.

»**MILLIONS OF MONICAS PRAYER MINISTRY:**

All women of the parish are welcome to join us in prayer for our children, family members, and friends who struggle with the Catholic faith or have left the faith entirely. We meet the second Monday of each month. Our next prayer meeting is scheduled for **Monday, March 10, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the church**. For information about this prayer ministry, contact **Amy Tague** at amyliiss14@gmail.com.

»**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 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Our next Coffee Connect video, "Set the World on Fire," is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12. All women are welcome to join us. For more information about this ministry or to register, email wwpstandrewcolumbus@gmail.com.

»**THAT MAN IS YOU! THE FIGHT OF FAITH** is back for the second half of the Fight of Faith Program that equips and enables men to engage in the cosmic, spiritual battle raging in their daily lives. **The group meets from 6:30-8:00 a.m. at the Bryce Eck Center on Saturdays through May.** All men are welcome! For information or to register, contact **Colin Bellantis** at 440-728-4166 or colinbellantis@gmail.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.

»**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 a wealth of prayers to recite and petition God for help. The prayer cards are available for parishioners to keep. There is no need to return the cards once you've used them.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!****2025 ST. ANDREW****VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

JUNE 23-26

REGISTRATION BEGINS MARCH 1

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Youth and adult volunteers are needed to make SACRED 2025 the best ever!

To learn more and become a volunteer, visit tinyurl.com/VBS-VOLUNTEER-2025

For more information about SACRED, contact **Jennie Statczar** or **Erin Karlquist** at standrewsacred@gmail.com.



NATIVITY OF MARY SCHOLARSHIP

is a multi-year \$2,000 scholarship to any rising ninth grade student who

is attending a Catholic high school in the 2025-2026 school year. For details and to apply, visit <https://catholic-foundation.org/grants/scholarships/the-nativity-of-mary-scholarship/>.

»Application deadline: February 28

THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST SCHOLARSHIP

awards \$800 to a student (rising eighth grade through rising high school senior) who plans to attend or is currently attending a Catholic high school during the 2025-2026 school year. This is a single year scholarship. For details and to apply, visit <https://catholic-foundation.org/grants/scholarships/the-hands-and-feet-of-christ-scholarship/>.

»Application deadline: February 28

FLORENCE MOSES NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

is a one-time \$1,000 award to a Diocese of Columbus Catholic high school senior who has been accepted to and enrolled in the Mount Carmel College of Nursing. For details and to apply, visit <https://catholic-foundation.org/grants/scholarships/florence-e-moses-nursing-scholarship/>.

»Application deadline: February 28

RONALD C. SULLIVAN SCHOLARSHIP

awards \$100,000 (\$25,000 per year) to graduating high school seniors who will be incoming freshman at Ohio State University. **Scholarship requirements:** 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, and solid academic performance.

For details and to apply, visit <https://catholic-foundation.org/grants/scholarships/ronald-c-sullivan-scholarship/>.

»Application deadline: March 28

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.

LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

SAT, FEB. 22: Vigil, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 PM Mass–Confirmation Mass

Pamela Sprigler EMHC-B - B1
 Kathy Dowler..... EMHC-B - B CHOIR
 Joseph Chatlos..... Lector - A
 Mike Stuhldreher..... Lector - B
 Lydia Kaleta..... Altar Server
 Joseph Kaleta Altar Server
 A.J. Chatlos Altar Server
 Tommy Chatlos..... Altar Server
 Molly McNair..... Altar Server

SUN, FEB. 23: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM Mass

Peggy Hoffman EMHC-B - B1
 Larry Hoffman EMHC-B - B2
 Christina Carmell..... Lector - A
 Ali Wright Lector - B
 VOLUNTEER NEEDED Altar Server
 Hannah Gandu Altar Server

9:15 AM Mass

Deborah McGlumphy..... EMHC-B - B1
 Megan Bellantis..... EMHC-B - B2
 Debbie Caranna EMHC-B - B CHOIR
 Mike Miller..... EMHC-B - B3
 Kevin Carpenter..... EMHC-C - C1
 Herm Mollmann..... EMHC-C - C2
 Elizabeth Carpenter EMHC-C - C3
 David Tague Lector - A
 Mary Kasberg..... Lector - B
 Natalie Moffo Altar Server
 Lydia Ruhe..... Altar Server

11:00 AM Mass

Jennie Statczar..... EMHC-B - B1
 Mike Koehler..... EMHC-B - B2
 Wini Chuidian Lector - A
 Marty Majka..... Lector - B
 Mackenzie Holthaus..... Altar Server
 Vivian Templeman 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.



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.



This year, you'll be ready for Lent.

Dive deep into the mystery of Christ this Lent with two brand new series on Formed and a mini journal to help guide you!

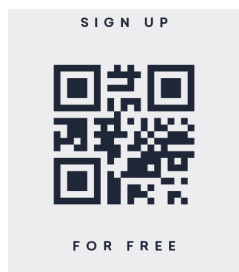
Login to watch. Formed.org to watch the two new series!
How to Lent will be available on February 12
Foretold will be available on Ash Wednesday, March 5

Watch Now! Only on *formed*

An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

FORMED is FREE to all parishioners and provides amazing content 24/7 for you to grow in your faith. It's EASY to register!

- Visit www.formed.org using your favorite web browser
- Click on Sign Up (top right of page)
- Enter Parish Access Code: NWWW42
- Enter your email and create a password (you will need this to login later)



AROUND THE DIOCESE

THE ST. CHARLES DRAMA DEPARTMENT will present its winter musical, *The Old Man and The Old Moon* from Thursday, February 27, through Sunday, March 2. Showtimes are February 27, 28, and March 1 at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, March 2 at 3:00 p.m. Adult tickets are \$15/each and students are \$10/each. Tickets may be purchased by reserving online at www.scprep.org and clicking the "buy tickets" button on the top left. Tickets will not be sold at the door. *The Old Man and The Old Moon* tells the epic tale of an old man who must abandon his duties of filling up the moon with liquid light to cross the seas in search of his missing wife. A glorious musical for every generation to enjoy.

ASK A PRIEST NIGHT: Do you have questions you've always wanted to ask a priest? The Museum of Catholic Art and History will host Ask a Priest Night on Friday, February 28, from 6:00-8:30 p.m., at the museum, 257 E. Broad St. **Email your questions to info@catholicmuseum.org.** Questions will be placed in a basket for anonymity. Cost is \$25 per person and includes a wine and cheese reception. RSVP by February 27 to info@catholicmuseum.org.

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON: Join us on **Friday, March 7, at St. Patrick Church** in downtown Columbus for a luncheon honoring the 2025 Catholic Man of the Year with his Excellency Bishop Fernandes. Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and the formal presentation of the award by Bishop Fernandes. No reservations are necessary. \$12 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! Our next luncheon is Friday, April 4, featuring Justin Fatica presenting "Hard as Nails." Please mark your calendar to attend.

Seven Considerations While Navigating Infertility


Read the full version at respectlifeprogram.org/navigating-infertility.

We often assume parenthood happens easily after "I do," but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility: after giving birth to one or more children, they are unable to have another. If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that God is with you, and that He has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple.

You are not alone; His Church desires to walk with you. The full article at the website listed above contains compassionate, practical guidance, intended primarily for married couples struggling with infertility, though others may also find it to be informative.

God is with you, and His Church desires to walk with you.

This is a summary of a USCCB Respect Life Program article by the same name and is reprinted with permission. © 2019, USCCB, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

The 28th Annual
**CATHOLIC
MEN'S CONFERENCE**
**CALLED
TO BE** 
SAINTS
MEN: ON MISSION

Saturday † February 22, 2025
Kasich Hall † Ohio Expo Center, Columbus



**Deacon Harold
Burke-Sivers**



**Dr. Ray
Guarendi**



**Mark
Hartfiel**

Adoration † Reconciliation † Holy Mass
Breakfast & Lunch † Faith Organizations

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

www.CatholicMensMinistry.com

Conference is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.





The Mass

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

Fr. Luke Spannagel

✚ Part 57: The Great Amen ✚

Amen! Today we look at our response at the end of the doxology: the Great Amen. After the priest sings or says, “Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever,” the people respond with, “Amen!” What exactly does Amen mean? Amen is a special word that most often is understood to mean, “So be it.”

What Does the Word “Amen” Mean?

As the glossary of our Catechism says, Amen is “A Hebrew word meaning ‘truly; it is so; let it be done,’ signifying agreement with what has been said. The prayers of the New Testament and of the Church’s liturgy, and the Creeds, conclude with ‘amen.’ Jesus used the word to introduce solemn assertions, to emphasize their trustworthiness and authority” (CCC, p. 865). As Edward Sri writes, “‘Amen’ transliterates a Hebrew word that affirms the validity of what has been said and was often used in liturgical settings. For example, when the Levites sang, ‘Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting,’ the people joined in this blessing of God by exclaiming, ‘Amen!’ (1 Chr 16:36).” Sri goes on to say, “Most notable is how the angels and saints in heaven cry out ‘Amen’ as they sing their part in the chorus praising God in the heavenly liturgy. In the book of Revelation, every living creature in heaven and earth and under the earth says, ‘To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!’ And in response, the angelic creatures say ‘Amen!’ as if to shout out, ‘Yes! May the Lord be blessed and honored forever!’” (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p. 120).

What is the “Great Amen” in the Mass?

Ok, so why is the “Amen” of this part of the Mass called the “Great Amen”? Fr. Oury teaches, “The Amen of the people has special importance at this moment of the celebration. It is more than ever a response and assent. Concerning it Bossuet wrote: ‘In the Book of Revelation the elect are represented to us as ever singing Amen to God. Amen in sacred parlance is Yes, a firm and definite Yes that conquers assent, or rather, the whole heart. That is how they love in heaven. Ought we not do so on earth?’” (The Mass, p. 103). Similarly, Charles Belmonte instructs, “This is the most important Amen in the Mass. It is for us both a resolution and a prayer. A resolution upon which our love for God blooms; a prayer based on the future hope of resurrection” (Understanding the Mass, p. 163).

How Should We Say the “Great Amen”?

If we think about our journey through the Mass, it makes sense to say this Amen is the most important. Take a moment to think about what has recently happened in the Mass: bread and wine were brought forward, along with all our prayers and sacrifices offered in union with Jesus. Through the words and actions of Jesus, the priest prayed the Eucharistic Prayer, and the bread and wine have been changed into the very Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity on the altar: Jesus himself is truly present with us! This is Almighty God with us! This is Jesus who loved us so perfectly that he gave everything for us! This is the moment of Jesus being offered to the Father in perfect praise, and we have been invited to join with Jesus!

Hopefully, we are so excited about what has just taken place that we want to belt out our Amen with great joy and fervor! With this mentality of joy and celebration, Belmonte quotes St. Jerome: “Let us sing or say the Great Amen with all our hearts united to all our brothers. Let it resound the whole world over, as the Amen of our early brothers in the faith ‘resounded in heaven, as a celestial thunderclap in the Roman basilicas’” (Understanding the Mass, p. 163). Wouldn’t that kind of “Amen” get the attention of our neighbors? “What was that loud sound that shook the ground? Oh, it was the Catholics at Mass singing Amen!”

For Reflection:

1. The Book of Revelation uses “Amen” as another name for Jesus: “The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the source of God’s creation...” (Rev. 3:14). The angels, elders, and four living creatures use this word at both the beginning and end of prayer (see Rev. 7:12; cf. Rev. 19:4). In your own prayer, spend time with this word and allow its meaning to penetrate your life.
2. When you face joys and challenges throughout the day, take a moment to pray (silently or audibly), “Amen,” as a way of accepting God’s will.

Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog



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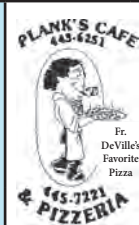
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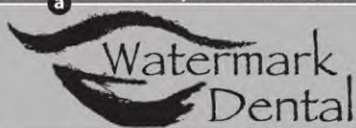
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