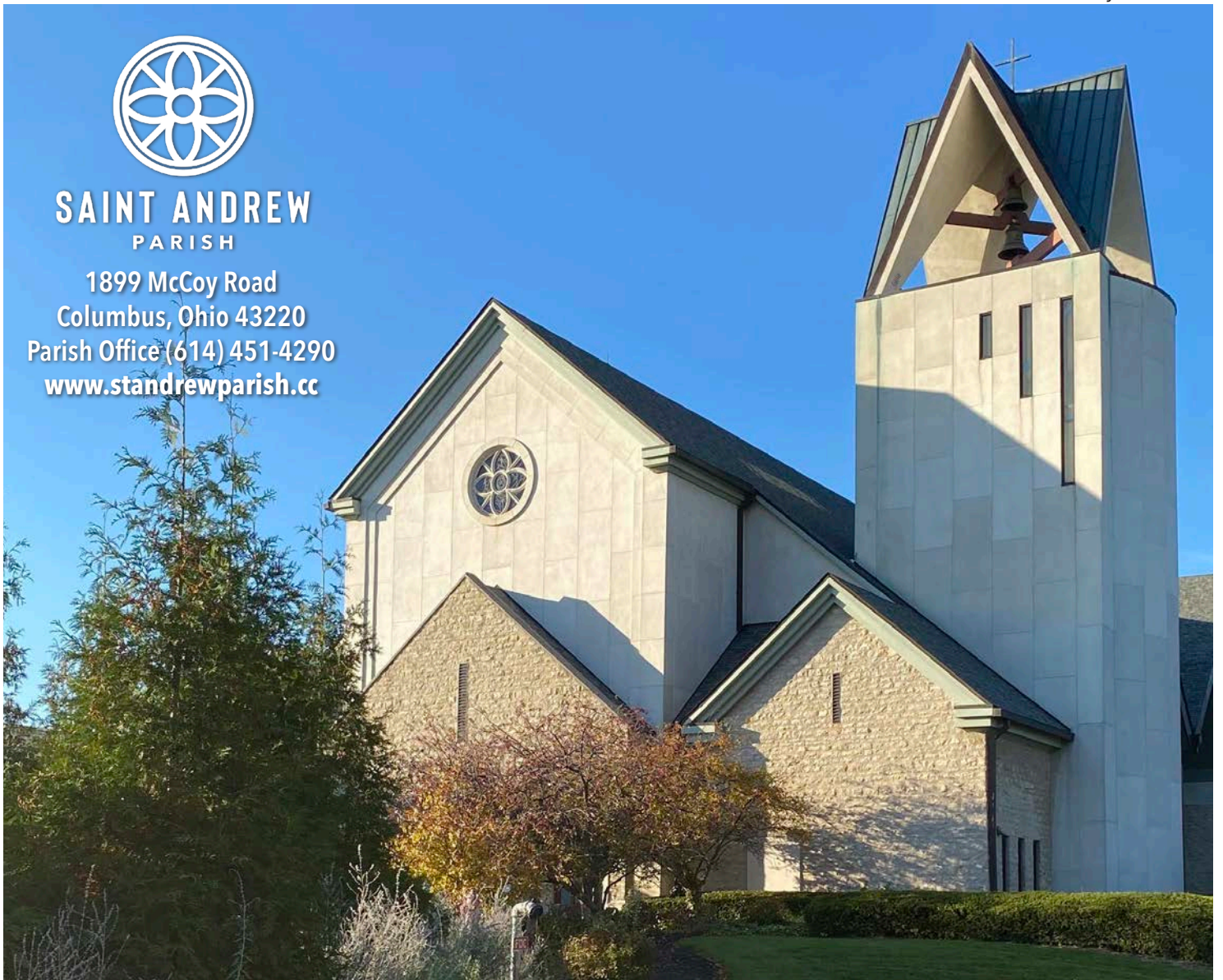




SAINT ANDREW PARISH

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
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 pnoble@columbuscatholic.org

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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: Feb. 22 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

Monday: Feb. 24, Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. Richard Lumpe
 8:30 a.m. Charles Spencer and Margaret Spencer

Tuesday: Feb. 25, Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. Joseph Tverbut
 8:30 a.m. Mary Lou Kreber

Wednesday: Feb. 26, Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. Barb Zimmerman
 8:30 a.m. Fr. Dennis Donovan

Thursday: Feb. 27, Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. Stella Zamana
 8:30 a.m. Bill Harder

Friday: Feb. 28, Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. Living and Deceased Members of the McEllistrem Family
 8:30 a.m. Intentions of the Rosary Group

Saturday: Mar. 1, Weekday Mass

9:00 a.m. Frank Zidonis

Vigil, Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Sunday: Mar. 2, Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. Lloyd Mallett
 9:15 a.m. Steve and JoAnne Gorman
 11:00 a.m. Frank Zidonis

BAPTISMS

Robert William DeWitt Prelonger,
 son of John and Alyssa

Lucy Mae Rosch,
 daughter of Kyle and Christine

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY
 Carl Meyers

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which falls on March 5 this year. That is less than two weeks away! Are you ready for Lent to begin? Do you know how you are going to observe Lent this year?

Recently, I was having a conversation with a friend of mine who mentioned that there are a great many daily devotional aids, Bible studies, commentaries, online retreats, meditations, and reflections available to enhance our prayerful observance of Lent. Many of these are authored by well-known Catholic authors of high repute. Here at St. Andrew, we will offer a variety of Lenten devotional booklets (including the popular "Little Black Book") with daily meditations and recommended penitential practices, all free for the taking.

This plethora of resources caused me to exclaim "This reminds me of cable TV!" I am old enough to remember when we used an antenna to pick up television signals. There were only a few channels available at that time, so it wasn't hard to choose what you were going to watch. Then came cable TV, and before long, you had a hundred channels to choose from, and often people would "channel surf" without landing on a program to watch from beginning to end! Today, with streaming services and other subscriptions, there are thousands of options and it can be overwhelming. It would be impossible to try to consume it all. The same is true for Lenten devotional resources. There is a flood of them - too much of a good thing!

So my pre-Lent advice to all of you is this: Pick one resource to help you navigate the 40 Days of Lent to be your road map, and to guide your prayer and meditation. Stick with that chosen resource for the whole season. It doesn't matter the one you choose - they are all good. But it won't do you any good to try to do them all, out of fear you might miss something important. The important thing is to keep the season of Lent with consistency from beginning to end.

The month of February comes to an end this week. Hopefully, spring is not far away!

Your Pastor,

Monsignor Stephan Moloney

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS WHO
WERE CONFIRMED THIS WEEKEND.**

**PLEASE KEEP THESE YOUNG
PARISHIONERS IN YOUR PRAYERS!**

»DONUT SUNDAY ON THE WAY!

The **St. Andrew Knights of Columbus Council #11275** is hosting **DONUT SUNDAY** on **MARCH 2** in the parish hall after all Masses. Enjoy donuts, coffee, tea, and juice and learn more about the Knights council at St. Andrew and how you can become involved.



Ash Wednesday, March 5

MASS TIMES

6:30am, 8:30am, 12:15pm, and 7pm

PRAYER SERVICE | ASH DISTRIBUTION

4:45pm

The 12:15pm Mass will be livestreamed at
www.StAndrewParishLive.com

THE ASH WEDNESDAY COLLECTION will be directed toward JOIN (Joint Organization for Inner-city Needs). All donations go directly to improve the quality of life for those we serve. This is a significant way to begin Lent. Located in downtown Columbus, JOIN is an agency of the Diocese's Catholic Charities Office. Through your generosity, JOIN is able to help our neighbors with their essential needs, such as food, personal care, household items, and diapers.

»BRING A CAN (or more) TO MASS! Canned goods and other nonperishable food items are always needed for the St. James the Less Food Pantry. Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul make deliveries regularly to the Food Pantry. Suggested items are pasta, rice, beans, soup. Please place your donation in the bin marked "St. James the Less" in the Parlor.

SUNDAY OFFERING

	FEB 9	YTD
ACTUAL	\$ 41,043	\$ 1,072,198
BUDGET	\$ 32,692	\$ 1,046,154
LAST YEAR	\$ 27,813	\$ 1,125,851

Thank you to all who are responding generously to our financial need. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

We encourage you to consider Online Giving, which is safe, secure, and convenient. To sign up, visit osvhub.com/st-andrew-parish/funds or contact Business Manager **Thomas Conigy** at tconigy@standrewparish.cc or 614-451-4290, ext. 106.



»THANK YOU TO ALL NEW AND RETURNING SUBSCRIBERS!

The **Catholic Times**

The Catholic Times is available to read online and in print. It's not too late to subscribe for the upcoming year for a minimum donation of \$26. Sign up online at catholictimescolumbus.org under the "Subscribe now" tab at the top of the homepage. You'll find *The Catholic Times* useful for keeping up with Bishop Earl Fernandes and news/events throughout the diocese and the Catholic Church. Consider giving *The Catholic Times* to a friend or relative as a gift.

»EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION TRAINING

is scheduled for Thursday, March 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room (the meeting room accessible through the parlor). If you'd like to become involved in this important and rewarding ministry, this is the perfect time to learn more.

Confirmed parishioners, ages 16 and older, are welcome to attend. Preregistration is not necessary. For more information, contact **Deacon Dowler** at 614-477-7049 or ddowler@columbuscatholic.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 JOIN (Joint Organization for Inner-city Needs) to distribute to our less-fortunate neighbors.



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 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.

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 tinyurl.com/SAP-CALENDAR.

WEEKLY MEN'S STUDY: 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 other men of the parish 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 P.M. // PARISH HALL

Give up worry and turn to prayer! All are welcome to this once-a-month study/discussion. St. Monica represents persistent, unflinching 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.

»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 wwwpstandrewcolumbus@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.

»**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.

»**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.

ST. ANDREW MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

The next eight-week session of the St. Andrew Choir and the St. Andrew Handbell Choir will begin soon. Each of these groups will be preparing music for the upcoming Lenten Season and Easter Sunday. Please consider participating. The group is open to men and women of high school age and beyond, and rehearsals are typically held on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

For more information, contact our parish **Music Director Phil Lortz** at plortz@standrewparish.cc or **614-451-1839**. Watch for more information in upcoming bulletins and ePOSTs.





RESPECT LIFE

You who are my messenger, in you I place my absolute trust.

– Our Lady of Guadalupe

The essence of our identity is that we are created in God’s image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is cherished.

Reprinted [Excerpted] from Respect Life Program, copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

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, use the QR or visit our SignUpGenius at tinyurl.com/Fish-Fry-2025.

THANK YOU, BULLETIN SPONSORS!

Thanks to our sponsors and Dee Printing, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish.

ADVERTISE IN OUR BULLETIN!

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

LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

SAT, MAR. 1: Vigil, Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 PM Mass

Kris Pellissier EMHC-B - B1
Dee Pellissier..... EMHC-B - B2
Amy Tague Lector - A
Tim Terveer Lector - B
Joseph Tomasso Altar Server
Molly McNair..... Altar Server

SUN, MAR. 2: Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM Mass

Kathy Cowen EMHC-B - B1
Linda Daley EMHC-B - B2
Randy Doherty Lector - A
David Varda..... Lector - B
Gabrielle Martin..... Altar Server
Daniel Martin Altar Server

9:15 AM Mass

Iris Freisner EMHC-B - B1
Bob Chambers..... EMHC-B - B2
Martha Radtke (Sub req.)..... EMHC-B - B CHOIR
Mike Luckett..... EMHC-B - B3
Abigail Meyers..... EMHC-C - C1
Mark Pardi (Sub req.) EMHC-C - C2
Suzanne Meyers EMHC-C - C3
John Schechter..... Lector - A
Jennifer Schaefer Lector - B
Angelo Pardi Altar Server
Seth Reilly..... Altar Server

11:00 AM Mass

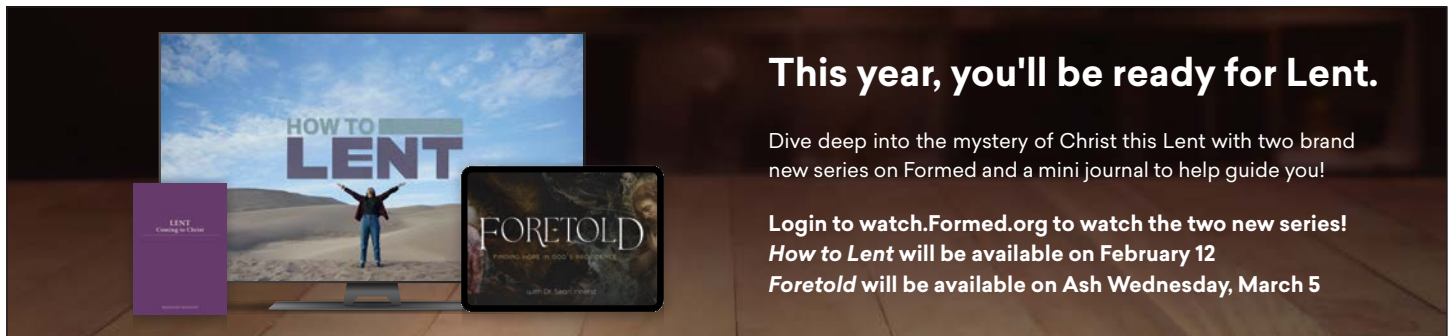
Donna Kring..... EMHC-B - B1
VOLUNTEER NEEDED EMHC-B - B2
Mary Frecker Lector - A
Mike Stuhldreher Lector - B
Matthew Stuhldreher Altar Server
Ben Stuhldreher Altar Server

To volunteer, visit www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/standrewcolumbus, or use the QR code here. If you need help with your username or password, contact **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](https://www.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 FREE and 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)

SIGN UP



FOR FREE

AROUND THE DIOCESE

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 6:00-8:30pm, 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.

DAUGHTERS OF ERIN ANNUAL TRADITIONAL IRISH BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER is scheduled for Sunday, March 2, from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus 43212. Tickets are a suggested donation of \$15 per adult and \$10 for children. The menu includes eggs, sausage, bacon, potatoes, baked beans, mushrooms, porridge, scones and soda bread. The entertainment is Irish music and

dancers. Proceeds benefit Daughters of Erin charity efforts and college scholarships.

THE PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM'S 2025 PIO CARDINAL LAGHI CHAIR LECTURE will feature a presentation by Peter K. Kilpatrick, PhD, President of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He will present "Beauty in Science" on Wednesday, March 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the Jessing Center. Free admission and parking; reservations not required. For more information, please call 614-985-2274.

BETHESDA HEALING MINISTRY FUNDRAISER "A SIGN OF HOPE" is scheduled for Saturday, March 8, at St. Andrew Parish. Mass begins at 9:00 a.m., followed by a brunch and program in Nugent Parish Hall. Guest speaker is Very Reverend Michael Lumpe. Cost is \$35/person. To register online, visit bethesdahealing.org/events.

ST. TIMOTHY NIGHT OF GIVING: DANCING THROUGH THE DECADES: Join us Saturday, March 22, from 7:00-10:00 p.m. in the St. Timothy Gym. The evening includes music, a costume contest and decades-themed activities. Money raised will be used for playground repairs and improvements. Admission is \$25 per person and includes appetizers and music from Columbus Blue Jackets DJ Matty Sexton. A cash bar will be available. More information: <https://sttimsevents.com/event/night-of-giving/>.



The Mass

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

Fr. Luke Spannagel

✚ Part 58: The Communion Rite ✚

It is almost time for Holy Communion! Having gone through the Eucharistic Prayer and responded together with vigor in the Great Amen, we are now in our final preparations before the moment of Holy Communion. This next section of the Mass is called the **Communion Rite**. The special parts of this moment in the Mass include:

- The Lord’s Prayer
- Sign of Peace
- Lamb of God (Agnus Dei) and Fraction of the Sacred Host
- The commingling of the Body and Blood
- The private prayer preparation of the priest
- Elevation of the Holy Eucharist with the words “Behold the Lamb of God”
- Communion of the priest and the faithful
- Communion antiphon or song
- A time for personal quiet prayer
- The Prayer After Communion

We’ll be taking a closer look at each part in the coming weeks.

But First... Why?

Although we may be familiar with this section of the Mass, perhaps it is helpful to step back and ask, "What exactly are we doing?" Many of us have been receiving Communion for some time, but have we ever stopped to wonder why we do so? As the General Instruction of the Roman Missal says, "Since the celebration of the Eucharist is the Paschal Banquet, it is desirable that in accordance with the Lord's command his Body and Blood should be received as spiritual food by those of the faithful who are properly disposed. This is the sense of the fraction and the other preparatory rites by which the faithful are led more immediately to Communion" (GIRM, 80).

When we talk about the Eucharist, we usually think about four things: The True Presence of Christ's Body and Blood; The Sacrifice of the Cross; The Sacrament of Unity among people; and the Paschal or Heavenly Banquet. The True Presence reminds us that Jesus is really there. The Sacrifice reminds us that the Mass is the one perfect Sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross and shows how much Jesus loves us. The True Presence of Jesus and his Sacrifice open the door to restoration, healing, and true unity. These truths also point us toward heaven, where we will experience the fullness and perfection of unity and love. The image of the heavenly banquet calls to mind celebration, eating, and drinking. As Jesus instructed us, we receive his Body and Blood by eating and drinking. That is what the Communion Rite is all about: the point of all the prayers, gestures, and words is that we receive Jesus the Lord in Holy Communion!

Our Spiritual Food

Continuing with Charles Belmonte, "The early Christians always likened the Eucharist to the life of the soul. St. Augustine writes: 'It is an excellent thing that the Christians around Carthage [in North Africa] call baptism itself nothing else but salvation, and the sacrament of Christ's Body nothing else but life. By apostolic tradition, the churches of Christ hold that without baptism and participation at the Lord's table it is impossible for any man to attain either the kingdom of God or salvation and life eternal. The Scriptures give testimony to this.' This is the very same body and blood which, by being immolated, restored our friendship with God. Christ's sacrifice and the Paschal Meal are intimately linked. Our Mother the Church encourages us to participate in one and in the other, if we are properly disposed, of receiving our Lord's Body and Blood. These will be our nourishment for the journey to our Father's home" (Understanding the Mass, pp. 166-67).

For more background on sacrifice and eating, Belmonte looks back at the relationship between sacrifices and banquets: "The ancient sacrificial custom required that part of the victim be given back to the person offering the sacrifice. Thus, he became, symbolically, God's guest. That which was just a symbol in the pagan rites and a figure in the Jewish offerings is a reality in the Holy Mass. After we have offered to God his Son Jesus Christ in sacrifice, God offers Him to us as spiritual food" (Understanding the Mass, p. 165). So, in the ancient sacrifices, whenever a person would offer a sacrifice to God, he always got "a little something" to take back with him. Generally, this was a portion of the sacrifice. In the case of receiving Jesus in the Mass, we get back the whole Christ: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. What an exchange! There is no better deal in the world!

For Reflection:

1. When you divide food or some other kind of created matter into portions, take the opportunity to reflect on the mystery of Christ, wholly present, in every portion of the Eucharistic species.
2. At your next meal, allow your experience of this kind of eating and drinking to help you prepare to encounter Christ through Eucharistic eating and drinking.

Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog





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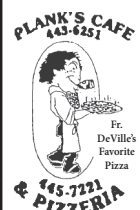
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