



SAINT ANDREW PARISH

1899 McCoy Road
Columbus, Ohio 43220
Parish Office (614) 451-4290
www.standrewparish.cc

The Parish Office is open
Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

ADVENT
HOPE • FAITH • JOY • PEACE

In those days, at that time,
I will make a just shoot spring up for David;
he shall do what is right and just in the land.

Jeremiah 33:15



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil - 4:30 PM
Sunday - 7:30 AM, 9:15 AM, 11:00 AM
Daily - 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM,
Saturday Morning - 9:00 AM
Holy Days - Vigil 7:00 PM & 12:15 PM

BAPTISMS

Celebrated every Sunday at Noon by appointment only. Parents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Class before the first child is baptized. Class is held the second Sunday of each month. Email office@standrewparish.cc to register.

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays, 3:15-4:15 PM in the Chapel, or anytime by appointment. Contact a parish priest for more information.

ANointing of the Sick

Please contact a priest at the Parish Office.

MATRIMONY

Contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance. A wedding date can only be set after meeting with a priest or deacon.

RCIA

Classes start in the fall and run through Easter. Please contact the RCIA Team at (614) 451-1129, ext. 120 or at rcia@standrewparish.cc.

EUCARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesdays for Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament beginning at 6:00 PM and concluding with Compline & Benediction at 8:45 PM

REGISTRATION

Contact the Parish Secretary at knasdeo@standrewparish.cc to have a registration form sent to you. You may also visit the parish website at www.standrewparish.cc to download a registration form.

STAFF DIRECTORY

CLERGY | 614-451-4290

Msgr. Stephan Moloney, Pastor Ext 101
 Rev. William Ferguson, Parochial Vicar Ext 103
 Rev. Mr. Thomas M. Berg, Jr., Perm. Deacon
 Rev. Mr. Daniel Dowler, Perm. Deacon
 Rev. William DeVille, In Holy Service
 whd22@aol.com
 Rev. Paul Noble, In Residence,
 pnoble@columbuscatholic.org

PARISH OFFICE | 614-451-4290

Andy Naporano, Business Administrator
 Ext. 102 anaporano@standrewparish.cc
 Greg Price, Buildings Superintendent
 gprice@standrewparish.cc
 Philip Lortz, Director of Music, 614-451-1839
 plortz@standrewparish.cc
 Thomas Conigy, Accounting
 Ext. 106 tconigy@standrewparish.cc
 Mary Beasecker, Safe Environment & Website
 Ext 104 mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc
 Kelly Nasdeo, Database Coordinator
 Ext 108 knasdeo@standrewparish.cc
 Jen Wenzke, Parish Secretary
 Ext 100 jwenzke@standrewparish.cc

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION | 614-451-2855

Suzie Emsweller, Dir. of Religious Education
 Ext 304 semswell@cdeducation.org
 Kathy Dowler, Coordinator of
 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
 Ext 305 kdowler@standrewparish.cc

SCHOOL ADMIN/STAFF | 614-451-1626

Joel Wichtman, Principal
 Ext 234 jwichtma@cdeducation.org
 Jenni Duffy, Assistant Principal
 Ext 235 jbucher@cdeducation.org
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 Ext 223 jstrayer@cdeducation.org
 Heather Roush, School Secretary
 Ext 228 hroush@cdeducation.org
 Chuck Rekow, Marketing & Enrollment
 Ext 222 crekow@cdeducation.org
 Kylette Scheirmann, Latchkey
 Ext 105 kscheirmann@cdeducation.org

BRYCE ECK ACTIVITY CNTR | 614-459-1402

Kathy Barger, Facility Manager
 Ext 2 kbarger@standrewparish.cc
 Amanda Carter, Preschool Director
 Ext 3 acarter@cdeducation.org
 Maria Moore, Youth Ministry
 Ext 1 mmoore@standrewparish.cc

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday: Dec. 18 Vigil – Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. Jim Callaghan

Sunday: Dec. 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. Jess Blount & Leslie Polczin
 9:15 a.m. Special Intention
 11:00 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew

Monday: Dec. 20

6:30 a.m. Joseph & Katherine Reed
 8:30 a.m. Pat Cantwell

Tuesday: Dec. 21

6:30 a.m. Rita VonderEmbse
 8:30 a.m. Rosemarie Haddow

Wednesday: Dec. 22

6:30 a.m. Julia VonderEmbse
 8:30 a.m. Victor de Coris

Thursday: Dec. 23

6:30 a.m. Marc and Eleanor McEllistrem
 8:30 a.m. John Woods

Friday: Dec. 24 Vigil – The Nativity of the Lord

6:30 a.m. Gilia Iafolla
 8:30 a.m. Rosemarie Haddow
 4:00 p.m. (CH) Berwanger/Bender families
 4:00 p.m. (PH) Patti Passen
 6:00 p.m. For the People of St. Andrew
 10:00 p.m. Richard Schumacher

Saturday: Dec. 25 – The Nativity of the Lord

9:00 a.m. James Saffell
 11:00 a.m. Ann & Paul O'Neill
 4:30 p.m. No Mass

Sunday: Dec. 26 – Feast of the Holy Family

7:30 a.m. For the People of St. Andrew
 9:15 a.m. Bill Jones
 11:00 a.m. Carol Nestor

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 in order to be known as a faith-filled, engaged, and generous parish.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Parishioners:

We have come to the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and Christmas falls next Saturday, December 25. Every year when Christmas comes, it is different, because we ourselves are different, and the world we live in is different. Our circumstances are different, our experiences, both good and bad, have shaped our outlook. Even our faith is different. Perhaps we have grown stronger, perhaps we are more wavering. Maybe we are filled with new enthusiasm, or maybe we are on the brink of despair. We may be missing a family member or another loved one who is no longer with us. Maybe we have welcomed a new member of the family. Maybe we are beginning a new and exciting chapter of our lives. Or maybe a difficult and sad chapter of our life is causing pain and sorrow.

No matter what, however, our needs are different this year than last, or any other year. And yet, Christ comes into our world each Christmas to shine His light and give us hope. No matter what our needs are, Christ is the answer to all of our needs, desires and longings. That is why the news of His birth are "tidings of great joy." We desperately need the light of Christ to shine into all the dark corners of our lives. My prayer for you this Christmas is that, no matter your circumstances this year, the light of Christ's birth among us will brighten your spirit and give you hope and peace.

I know that our hearts are moved with concern and compassion for all of the victims of the deadly and destructive tornadoes that occurred last week, and we want to help. If you wish to donate to help this cause, please place your marked donation in the regular collection or send to the rectory office. We will forward all donations to Catholic Charities USA to be used for tornado relief.

Once again, on behalf of the clergy and staff of St. Andrew Parish, I wish all of you a blessed Christmas!

Your Pastor,
Msgr. Stephan Moloney



SAINT ANDREW INFORMATION CENTER

CHURCH HOURS

The church building is open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., weekdays.

NEW MEMBERS

You are welcome to join our parish! To learn more, contact knasdeo@standrewparish.cc or visit our website, www.standrewparish.cc to download a form.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEADLINE 10:00 A.M. MONDAY

Send your request to bulletin@standrewparish.cc

EPOST ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEADLINE 10 A.M. MONDAY

Please include contact information with phone number and email address. Only information pertaining to St. Andrew Parish and School will be published in the ePost. To submit information, email mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc.

FACILITIES & ROOM RESERVATIONS

To make a reservation request for one of the meeting rooms, contact jwenzke@standrewparish.cc. The event calendar can be viewed at standrewparish.cc/calendar.

CONFESIONS

Saturdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m. You may also call for an appointment: 614-451-4290 ext. 101 or 103.

MASS INTENTIONS

To schedule an intention, please mail your request to the parish office to the attention of Mass Intentions. A \$10 stipend for each Mass must be included with each request & include your email or address to receive confirmation. We will do our best to honor the dates & times requested, but no date/time can be guaranteed.

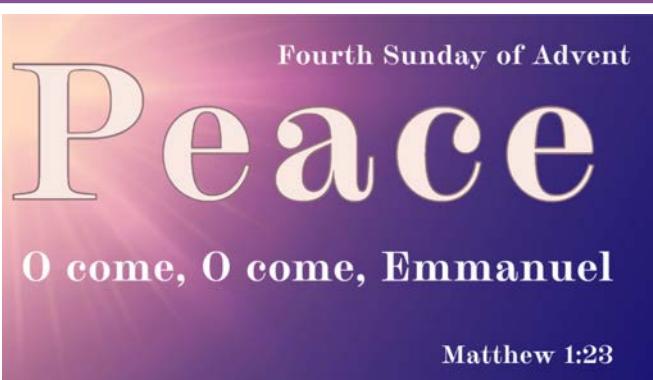
SUNDAY OFFERING

	Dec. 5	YTD
ACTUAL	\$ 28,203	\$ 732,382
BUDGET	\$ 33,250	\$ 764,750
LAST YEAR	\$ 38,946	\$ 715,505

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 the business manager, Andy Naporano, anaporano@standrewparish.cc or 614-451-4290, ext. 102.



HAVE YOU SWITCHED TO ONLINE GIVING but you are still receiving envelopes? If so, please email Kelly Nasdeo at knasdeo@standrewparish.cc to stop your subscription.



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The fourth candle of Advent is called the "Angel Candle" and symbolizes peace. This name comes from the fact that the angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace (Luke 2:14). This week, we are reminded that Jesus came to bring peace to our hearts and to our world!

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BAPTISM OF

Charles Griffin Hodges, son of John & Kaitlin

EUCARISTIC ADORATION

All members of our parish community are encouraged to join us on Tuesdays beginning at 6 p.m. for the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament with Compline and Benediction at 8:45 p.m.

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR: All men of the parish and their families are invited to an extended Eucharistic Exposition on Tuesday, Dec. 28, 8 to 9 p.m. We will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Holy Rosary. We will conclude at 8:45 p.m. with Compline and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Make time to be in Christ's presence and open yourself to the graces which flow from the Eucharist!

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! We are excited to once again schedule visits to assisted living facilities and those who are homebound and serve our fellow parishioners who are unable to attend Mass in person. We are holding an information session followed by a training session on **Monday, Dec. 20, 6:30-8:00, in the Multipurpose Room.** Ministers must be 18 or older to serve. For more information, contact Deacon Dan Dowler, ddowler@columbuscatholic.org.

WOMEN OF ST. ANDREW (WOSA) invites all women of the parish to join us for the FINAL Advent study on Monday, Dec. 20, at the Bryce Eck Center from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

We will use FORMED (the Catholic streaming media resource offered by St. Andrew Parish) and work together through four study sessions.

For more information or to RSVP (required), contact Maura Holowchak, Maura.Holowchak@yahoo.com, or 614-961-0490.



THE LAST DAY TO DROP OFF ITEMS/GIFT CARDS FOR THE ST. ANDREW ADVENT GIVING TREE IS TODAY! Please attach the yellow star to the unwrapped gifts/packages going to the Christ Child Society. Gift cards for St. James the Less (green cross) and Missionaries of Charity (blue angels) 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!

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK! We are decorating for Christmas on Monday, Dec. 20 (placing trees, lights and wreaths), and Thursday, Dec. 23 (arranging poinsettias and manger). ALL ARE WELCOME to stop by the Church either or both days, any time after 5:30 p.m. There is some climbing and lifting involved, especially on Monday, so guys are especially needed. For more information, contact Jayne Frilling, jbfrilling@hotmail.com or 614-519-7225.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 (vigil)

4 p.m. Church
4 p.m. Nugent Parish Hall
6 p.m. Church
10 p.m. Church (Livestream)

There will be a brief music prelude prior to each Mass. To view the Livestream Masses, visit www.StAndrewParishLive.com.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

9 a.m. Church (Livestream)
11 a.m. Church
»no 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass

RECONCILIATION

Monday, Dec. 20 & Wednesday, Dec. 22:
7 p.m. until all are heard

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Friday, Dec 31 4:30 p.m. (vigil) // Saturday, Jan 1, 9 a.m.



MASSES DECEMBER 20-24 ~AND~ DECEMBER 27-31

Daily Masses will remain the same: 6:30 & 8:30 a.m.

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS

The office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24, Monday, Dec. 27, Friday, Dec. 31, and Monday, Jan. 3.

THOUGHTS FOR OUR PARISH CHILDREN

by "Jackie," Fr. Ferguson's Cat



Hi boys and girls! My name is "Jackie," and, as you know, I am Father Ferguson's cat! Oooh! Oooh! We're almost at the end of the Advent Season, which means that Christmas is ALMOST HERE! Meowwww!

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and later this week, on December 25, we will get to celebrate Christmas! That's when we take joy in God coming into our world as a person named Jesus, 2021 years ago (that's why our current year is numbered 2021!). Jesus came to show God's love for us, and to set in motion His great plan to open up Heaven for us by growing up and telling everyone about Heaven, and dying on the Cross and rising from the dead. Christmas shows how much God loves us!

But it all began on that first Christmas night, when St. Joseph and St. Mary traveled to the little village of Bethlehem. In a small cave there, Jesus was born. It was a special moment that we depict with our Nativity Scenes. Who are all the people you see in a Nativity Scene? The Bible tells us that besides Joseph and Mary, there were the shepherds, and also the angels. And soon, the Magi would be on their way, following the bright light in the sky that night. Father told me once that some scientists called "astronomers" think that there really was a bright light in the sky around that time in history due to an exploding star called a "supernova" – that's when an old star goes "kablooey"! God wanted the whole Universe to pay attention to what was happening in that little cave.

But also in that cave, we can be certain that there were other parts of God's creation there to witness the birth of Jesus: the animals! What kinds of animals might there have been? Cattle? Donkeys? Sheep? Goats? Of course, there must also have been God's favorite animals there, too: cats! I'd love to be the kitty who first snuggled up with the baby Jesus!

How will you and your family be celebrating this most special event later this week? Why not get ready by taking a few moments each day this week and praying to Jesus, thanking Him for coming into our world to show us His love! Have a "purr"-fect Christmas!

ST. ANDREW KNIT & CROCHET CIRCLE

JOIN US MONDAY, DEC. 20, 6:30-8:00 P.M. IN NUGENT

PARISH HALL. All knitters and

crocheters are invited to our upcoming meeting! 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. Easy patterns are provided. For more information, call Marilyn at 614-315-7320.



YOUTH MINISTRY: FIRST CALLED WINTER PROGRAMS

UPCOMING SOCIAL JUSTICE SESSIONS:

7th Grade – January 9, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Bryce Eck Center, *Family: The Foundation of Society*

6th grade – February 6, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Bryce Eck Center, *The Dignity of Human Life*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Confirmation Retreat: Sunday, February 13 following the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Lunch served at Noon, retreat ends at 5:00 p.m.

Confirmation: Sunday, February 27, 3:00 p.m.

Visit our web page at www.standrewparish.cc/youth-ministry to download and complete the registration form for Middle and High School Youth Programs. For more information, contact Maria Moore, 614-439-3571 (c), 614-459-1402 ext. 1, or mmoore@standrewparish.cc

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.

BINGO NIGHT COMING IN JANUARY!



Hosted by WOSA (Women of St. Andrew), all men and women of the parish are welcome to enjoy an evening of fellowship and FUN!.

Mark your calendar for Friday evening, Jan. 28, 2022. More details coming soon!



American
Red Cross

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE NEXT RED CROSS BLOOD

DRIVE scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 4, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., in Nugent Parish Hall.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org, sponsor code: SACC.

DIOCESAN EDUCATION CORP. RECEIVES CERTIFICATION!

We are happy to announce that the Diocesan Education Corporation, formed by the Columbus Diocese, has been certified as a Scholarship Granting Organization by the Ohio Attorney General's Office. This certification provides a great opportunity to those who wish to support scholarships/tuition assistance to low-income families who hope to send their children to Our Catholic Schools. A tax credit is available under section 5747.73 of the Ohio Revised Code for qualified donations to "scholarship granting organizations" (SGOs) certified by the Attorney General. The Diocesan Education Corporation, has obtained the requisite certification to operate as an SGO for calendar year 2022. Under this program, Ohioans can receive a 100% tax credit for up to \$750 in cash donations to the Diocesan Education Corporation which grants scholarships to students, including certain private schools and nonprofit organizations.

To qualify for the program, an organization must:

- Be a religious or nonreligious 501(c)(3) exempt from federal taxation.
- Primarily award academic scholarships for primary and secondary students.
- Prioritize scholarships for low-income students.

Accordingly, the Diocesan Education Corporation will repurpose donations received with the intention of primarily awarding academic scholarships for students to attend primary and secondary schools and that these scholarships will prioritize low-income students. Donations in the form of checks should be addressed and made out to the "Diocesan Education Corporation" with the specific intended Diocesan



school referenced in the memo line on such check. If this check is received by December 31, 2021, the donor can receive a dollar-for-dollar State of Ohio income tax credit up to \$750 for the 2021 tax year. Checks should be mailed to the Office of Catholic Schools, 197 East Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215. The Diocesan Education Corp. will send all scholarship donors documentation confirming their donation for 2021 tax credit purposes.

RPRF REFLECTIONS: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 19, 2021

SEEING GOD IN ALL CREATION

One Sunday morning recently at my parish, I saw a small child burst into sheer delight when he saw out the front door heavy snow falling. He pointed, jumped up and down, shouting, "Snow! Snow! Look! Snow." As he tugged excitedly on his father's sleeve and pointed, I realized he saw more than frozen water crystals fluttering down from the gray sky overhead. That joy lightened my own heart, and I went outside and enjoyed the snow for a moment, too. The human heart has a natural yearning for God and the transcendence of our Lord's creation. This Fourth Sunday of Advent, with Christmas nearly here, let our hearts and minds turn to thoughts of God and the holiness we can see in all that He created. Let us also pray that our *Real Presence, Real Future* planning initiative leads us to a deeper understanding of God's plan and will for our Diocese as well.

~Deacon Tom Berg, Jr., St. Andrew Parish

LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

December 24 – January 1

Friday, Dec. 24, 4:00 PM (CHURCH)

Joy Martin	EMHC - B1
Rita Wanner	EMHC - B1
Suzanne Meyers	EMHC - B2
NEEDED	EMHC - B2
Jim Macklin	Lector A
Angela Bonfonte	Lector - B
Jimmy Jacob	Altar Server
Kolbe Krzeczkowski	Altar Server

Friday, Dec. 24, 4:00 PM (PARISH HALL)

Linda Daley	EMHC - B1
NEEDED	EMHC - B1
NEEDED	EMHC- B2
NEEDED	EMHC- B2
NEEDED	Lector - A
Mike Stuhldreher	Lector - B
Luke Messerly	Altar Server
James Messerly	Altar Server

Friday, Dec. 24, 6:00 PM

Bette Jo Feeney	EMHC - B1
Deborah McGlumphy	EMHC - B1
Mike Miller	EMHC - B CHOIR
Carson Reider	Lector - A
Marty Majka	Lector - B
Ronan Ott	Altar Server
Nora Ott	Altar Server

Friday, Dec. 24, 10:00 PM

NEEDED	EMHC - B CHOIR
Mike Luckett	Lector - A
Eagan Foster	Lector - B
NEEDED	Altar Server
NEEDED	Altar Server

Saturday, Dec. 25, 9:00 AM

Bob Slater	EMHC - B1
Jane Dickson	EMHC - B2
Martha Radtke	EMHC - B2
Randall Doherty	Lector - A
Cathy Covarrubias	Lector - B
NEEDED	Altar Server

Saturday, Dec. 25, 11:00 AM

Elizabeth Carpenter	EMHC - B1
Margaret Saffell	EMHC - B1
NEEDED	EMHC - B CHOIR
Paul Brown	Lector - A
NEEDED	Lector - B
NEEDED	Altar Server

Sunday, Dec. 26, 7:30 AM

Vicky Macklin	EMHC - B1
Randall Doherty	Lector - A
NOT FILLED	Lector - B
NOT FILLED	Altar Server

Sunday Dec. 26, 9:15 AM

Debby Murphy	EMHC - B1
NOT FILLED	EMHC - B CHOIR
Joe Chatlos	Lector - A
David Varda	Lector - B
NOT FILLED	Altar Server

Sunday, Dec. 26, 11:00 AM

Martha Radtke	EMHC - B1
Cathy Covarrubias	Lector - A
Mary Frecker	Lector - B
NOT FILLED	Altar Server

Friday, Dec. 31, 4:30 PM

Bette Jo Feeney	EMHC - B1
Pamela Sprigler	Lector - A
NOT FILLED	Lector - B
NOT FILLED	Altar Server

Saturday, Jan. 1, 9:00 AM

Elizabeth Carpenter	EMHC - B1
Georgene Jones	EMHC - B2
Cathy Covarrubias	Lector - A
NOT FILLED	Lector - B
NOT FILLED	Altar Server

Saturday, January 1, 4:30 PM

Joy Martin (sub)	EMHC - B1
Vicky Macklin	EMHC - B2
NOT FILLED	Lector - A
Jim Macklin	Lector - B
NOT FILLED	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 Kelly Nasdeo at [knapdeo@standrewparish.cc](mailto:knasdeo@standrewparish.cc).





WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Sunday, December 19:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a

Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Heb 10:5-10

Lk 1:39-45

Monday, December 20:

Advent Weekday

Is 7:10-14

Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6

Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 21:

Advent Weekday

Sg 2:8-14

Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21

Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday, December 22:

Advent Weekday

1 Sm 1:24-28

1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd

Lk 1:46-56

Thursday, December 23:

Advent Weekday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24

Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14

Lk 1:57-66

Friday, December 24:

Advent Weekday

Christmas Eve

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29

Lk 1:67-79

Saturday, December 25:

The Nativity of the Lord

(Christmas)

Is 52:7-10

Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

Jn 1:1-18

Access Daily Readings from
the New American Bible, Revised Edition
(NABRE) online at <https://bible.usccb.org>

GOD USES US TO BRING ABOUT HIS PURPOSE

Reflection on Luke Lk 1:39-45

The whole of our Scripture and Tradition reveal that God has shamelessly used people to accomplish His purposes for centuries. Today's readings give us two fine examples of God's use of a human being to reveal who God is and what God intends, in David and in Mary.

King David's noble intention is to build a house, but God uses the occasion for a far more lasting plan: to build a family, a people, through David and for Himself. This is the promise of an enduring kingdom, realized in the birth, life, suffering, death and Resurrection of Jesus, Son of the Father, Son of Mary, of the house and lineage of David. God's promise is accomplished through Mary. In her "Yes" to God's plan ("let it be done to me according to your Word"), Mary displays the radical openness and trust that God desires of each of us. For indeed, God desires to use each of us to bring about His purpose. In these remaining days before our Christmas celebration, let's pray for the same openness and trust that David and Mary, along with so many other saints through the ages, model for us.

~ Fr. Jay

BLESSED URBAN V

Feast Day: December 19

In 1362, the man elected pope declined the office. When the cardinals could not find another person among them for that important office, they turned to a relative stranger: the holy person we honor today.

The new Pope Urban V proved a wise choice. A Benedictine monk and canon lawyer, he was deeply spiritual and brilliant. He lived simply and modestly, which did not always earn him friends among clergymen who had become used to comfort and privilege. Still, he pressed for reform, and saw to the restoration of churches and monasteries. Except for a brief period, he spent most of his eight years as pope living away from Rome at Avignon, seat of the papacy from 1309, until shortly after his death.

Urban came close, but was not able to achieve one of his biggest goals – reuniting the Eastern and Western churches.

As pope, Urban continued to follow the Benedictine Rule. Shortly before his death in 1370, he asked to be moved from the papal palace to the nearby home of his brother, so he could say goodbye to the ordinary people he had so often helped.

Simplicity in the midst of power and grandeur seems to define this saint, as he reluctantly accepted the papacy, but remained at heart a Benedictine monk. Surroundings need not negatively influence a person.



Read the full article: "Blessed Urban V" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/blessed-urban-v>. (Accessed 24 Nov 2021).



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