



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://www.instagram.com/standrewparishua)

 [StAndrewUA](https://www.youtube.com/StAndrewUA)

STAFF DIRECTORY

CLERGY

Msgr. Stephan Moloney, Pastor
 Rev. Lawrence Tabi, Parochial Vicar
 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

614-451-4290

Ext. 4
 Ext. 5

PARISH OFFICE STAFF

Thomas Conigly, Business Manager
 tconigly@standrewparish.cc
 Joe Tomlinson, Accounting
 accounting@standrewparish.cc
 Greg Price, Buildings Superintendent
 gprice@standrewparish.cc
 Philip Lortz, Director of Music,
 plortz@standrewparish.cc
 Mary Beasecker, Communications
 mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc
 Jen Wenzke, Parish Secretary
 jwenzke@standrewparish.cc
 Emily Jaminet, Adult Faith/RCIA
 ejaminet@standrewparish.cc

614-451-4290

Ext. 6
 Ext. 8

614-451-1839

Ext. 7
 Ext. 0
 Ext. 9

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Tina White, Director
 twhite@cdeducation.org
 Kathy Dowler, Catechesis Coordinator
 kdowler@standrewparish.cc

614-451-2855

Ext. 304
 Ext. 305

SCHOOL ADMIN/STAFF

Joel Wichtman, Principal
 jwichtma@cdeducation.org
 Jenni Duffy, Assistant Principal
 jbucher@cdeducation.org
 Julie Strayer, Administrative Assistant
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 Heather Roush, School Secretary
 hroush@cdeducation.org
 Kylette Scheirmann, Latchkey
 kscheirmann@cdeducation.org

614-451-1626

Ext. 234
 Ext. 235
 Ext. 223
 Ext. 228
 Ext. 105

BRYCE ECK ACTIVITY CENTER

Pat Carroll, Facility Manager
 pcarroll@standrewparish.cc
 Amanda Carter, Preschool Director
 acarter@cdeducation.org
 Maria Moore, Youth Ministry
 mmoore@standrewparish.cc

614-459-1402

Ext. 3
 Ext. 1

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday: Sep 23 Vigil, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 p.m. Jim Saffell

Sunday: Sep 24, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. For the people of St. Andrew Parish
 9:15 a.m. Bill Jones
 11:00 a.m. Gilia Iafolla

Monday: Sep 25, Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. Joe A. and Maria D. Melaragno
 8:30 a.m. Phyllis DelTosto

Tuesday: Sep 26, Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. Ron Coleman
 8:30 a.m. Marie Osthaus Griffith

Wednesday: Sep 27, Memorial, St. Vincent de Paul

6:30 a.m. Ted and Mary Rondinella
 8:30 a.m. Rita Melaragno

Thursday: Sep 28, Weekday Mass

6:30 a.m. Michelle Pappa
 8:30 a.m. Deceased Members of the Mallett
 and McCort Families

Friday: Sep 29, Feast of Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael

6:30 a.m. Fr. Jim Willig
 8:30 a.m. John Nabor

Saturday: Sep 30, Weekday Mass

9:00 a.m. Robert Krummen

Vigil, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 p.m. Elda Cianelli

Sunday: Oct 1, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. Fenton Moore
 9:15 a.m. Norma Johann
 11:00 a.m. For The People of St. Andrew Parish

BAPTISMS

Sylvie Marie O'Donnell, daughter of Michael and Nicole

BANNS OF MARRIAGE...

Nicole Fisher and James Donner
 Madison Tanner and Zach Strayer
 Ciara Clarke and Jacob Decot

FACILITIES AND ROOM RESERVATIONS AT ST.

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



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**



Learn, Grow and Share at St. Andrew
**ENCOUNTER THE REALITY OF OUR
EUCCHARISTIC LORD**

All parishioners are encouraged to join us for small group study sessions beginning Monday, Oct. 9. Focused on spiritual formation, the sessions include a video presentation followed by prayer and discussion within the small groups. Each session will last approximately two hours.

**Study sessions will be held in the parish hall on the following MONDAYS:
October 9, 16, 23, 30, and November 6, 13 and 20.**

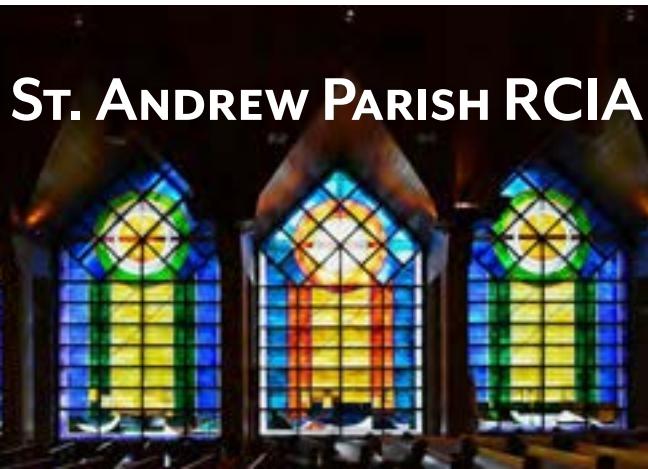
We hope to have a great turn out for the seven-week program, and lay the groundwork for the parish mission with Dr. Sri on December 6, 2023.

To RSVP for the small study group meetings, scan the code below or visit tinyurl.com/SAP-ER-Meeting.



For more information about the National Eucharistic Revival and adult faith activities at St. Andrew Parish, contact Emily Jaminet, 614-451-4290 ext. 9, or ejaminet@standrewparish.cc.





Are you interested in becoming Catholic?

RCIA* (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) at St. Andrew Parish offers you the unique opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith within our welcoming parish community. Consider making St. Andrew your spiritual home.

SCHEDULE:

Within the St. Andrew RCIA program, men and women at all stages of their faith journey come together in a non-threatening and welcoming atmosphere to learn more about the Catholic Church. The RCIA program includes weekly meetings on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. **The first meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 27.**

DISCOVER:

- Learn about the Catholic faith.
- Learn how to pray.
- Learn about the Holy Mass.
- Come to love the Sacraments.
- Grow in Christian fellowship.
- Discern God's will in your life.
- Experience initiation with fellow parishioners at the Easter Vigil.

We would love to have you join us in the journey of becoming Catholic. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Emily Jaminet, ejaminet@standrewparish.cc or call the Parish Office, 614-451-4290 ext. 10.

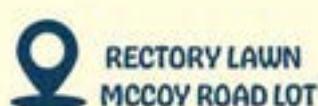
*Please note: RCIA will soon change to OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults).

ST. ANDREW ANNUAL



To commemorate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Monsignor Moloney and Mabel invite all parishioners and their pets to the ANNUAL PET BLESSING. Bring your cats, dogs, turtles or frogs, all species, even lizards, are welcome!

SUNDAY,
OCT. 1
3PM



Blessed are You, Lord God, maker of all living creatures.

You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land.

You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters.

We ask You to bless this pet. By the power of Your love, enable it to live according to Your plan.

May we always praise You for all your beauty in creation.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, in all Your creatures! Amen.

SUNDAY OFFERING

	SEPT. 10	YTD
ACTUAL	\$ 25,148	\$ 295,062
BUDGET	\$ 32,212	\$ 354,327
LAST YEAR	\$ 26,763	\$ 295,147

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 Conigly, tconigly@standrewparish.cc or 614-451-4290 ext. 6.



STEWARSHIP IS A WAY OF LIFE

What we have, we do not own. We are simply the caretakers, which makes it easier to see our responsibility to cultivate, multiply and distribute what we have. God's stewards are called to share their time, talent, and treasure for the good of others. One way to answer His call is through planned giving.

A planned gift is intended to be used in the future. It's a commitment made during your lifetime that can support organizations like St. Andrew Parish when you no longer need your assets. Along with current benefits, like tax advantages, planned giving allows you to make your intentions known (usually through financial or estate planning) today for when God calls you home.

Along with providing for your children and loved ones, have you considered a planned gift to St. Andrew Parish? To start a conversation, please contact Christy Steffy at The Catholic Foundation: 614-443-8893 x110 or csteffy@catholic-foundation.org.

HOME VISITS: If you or a family member are homebound and would like a visit from a priest or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please **call the parish office at 614-451-4290**. EMs bring Communion to the homebound on Sundays or as scheduled. Priests will see the homebound upon request, however, they usually cannot schedule home visits with Communion on Sundays.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SCHEDULE MASS INTENTIONS? You can schedule Mass intentions in one of three ways:

1) Stop by the office during business hours and schedule in person. 2) Mail your request to the parish office (1899 McCoy Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220, attn: Mass Intentions) and include the stipend for each Mass request. 3) Email preferred dates and times to Jen Wenzke, jwenzke@standrewparish.cc and either mail in or drop off the stipend. We will do our best to honor the dates & times requested, but no date/time can be guaranteed. Stipend is \$10/intention.

EUCARISTIC 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. Adoration will end with Compline (end of day prayers), followed by Benediction at 8:45 p.m.

EUCARISTIC HOLY HOUR: All men of the parish and their families are invited to Eucharistic Exposition on **Tuesday, Sept. 26, from 8 to 9 p.m.** We will pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Holy Rosary followed 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!



SAINT MONICA BOOK CLUB

MONDAY, SEPT. 25
5:30-6:30 PM // PARISH HALL

Give up worry and turn to prayer with the Saint Monica Book Club! All are welcome to this once-a-month study. 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 amyliss14@gmail.com.

PRAY AND PLAY IN SEPTEMBER

Join with other families after the 11 a.m. Mass on Sundays at the St. Andrew Playground. All parish families are invited! While you are welcome to stay and play any Sunday, we would like to invite specific groups on the following Sundays:

- September 24:** 5th and 6th grade families

For more information, contact Jen Wenzke at jwenzke@standrewparish.cc

SCOUT POPCORN SALE!

Support the Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA of St. Andrew Parish by purchasing popcorn after Masses on September 23 and 24! Popcorn makes a great game time snack or gift to give. Thank you for your support of the sale, which helps the boys attend summer camp and enjoy other enriching activities throughout the year!



TROOP 296'S CAMPALOOZA SEPTEMBER 24 // 4:30PM–6:30PM

St. Andrew parking lot by the playground

Join the Scouts of St Andrew Troop 296 to learn more about the scouting experience! Scouts will be demonstrating U.S. Flag etiquette, setting up a tent, starting a fire, first aid basics, campfire cooking, pocket knife safety, and knot tying. Students of all ages are welcome to attend and current involvement in scouting is not required.

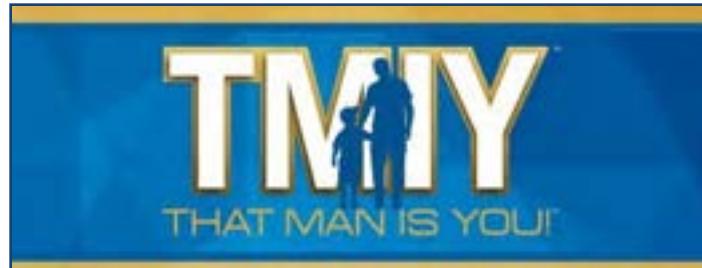
Questions? Please contact Scoutmaster Jim Galvin at 614-397-8930 or powelloh@tutoringclub.com.



VOLUNTEER TRAINING AT ST. ANDREW WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 // 6 PM // VIA ZOOM

Attending a Protecting God's Children training session is required for anyone who plans to help in the classroom, coach a sports team, or volunteer at a parish event (Fish Fry, Festival, etc.). To register for this session or any other session in the Columbus diocese, visit www.virtusonline.org. For more information, including a list of ALL requirements for becoming a compliant volunteer, visit www.standrewparish.cc/parish-involvement/volunteers/ or contact Mary Beasecker at 614-451-4290, ext. 104, or mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc.

PLEASE NOTE: Registration is limited to 75 people and will be open EXCLUSIVELY to St. Andrew parish and school volunteers until September 29. After that date, registration will open to ANYONE in the DIOCESE. Spaces will go quickly.



THAT MAN IS YOU!: THE VISION OF MAN

FULLY ALIVE enables men to experience authentic freedom as sons of God. Through living the three-fold mission of abiding presence, joyful service and loving sacrifice, their hearts and homes will experience the joy that God desires.

It's not too late to join! The program continues through mid-December 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 a.m. Each session ends by 8 a.m.

For more information and to register, contact Colin Bellantis at 440-728-4166 or colinbellantis@gmail.com.

To learn more about THAN MAN IS YOU!, visit www.TMIY.org.

[**save the date**]

ST. ANDREW PARISH MISSION

**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 6, 2023**

Featuring Dr. Edward Sri,
theologian, author and well-known Catholic speaker.



MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL FIRST CALLED!

All activities take place at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings at the Bryce Eck Center unless otherwise noted.



UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRST CALLED:

We will view and discuss "Real and True"
September 24, October 8, October 22

UPCOMING HIGH SCHOOL FIRST CALLED:

We will view and discuss "Search"
October 1, October 15, October 29

Our theme this year is friendship! Please join us to learn more about true friendship with Jesus.

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

ST. ANDREW SCHOOL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

AFTER SCHOOL CARE ASSISTANT: Part-time, 2:45-6:00 p.m., on school days. The ASC assistant coordinates, assists and supervises various After School Care activities for enrolled students. For more details about this position, contact After School Care Director, Kyletta Scheirmann, kscheirmann@cdeducation.org.

CAFETERIA ASSISTANT: Part-time, 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., on school days. For more details about this position, contact Cafeteria Manager Valerie Musolino at vmusolino@cdeducation.org.

INTERVENTION AIDE: Part-time, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., on school days. The intervention aide coordinates, assists and supervises various student activities as noted by the assigned Intervention Specialist and appropriate classroom teachers. For more details about this position, contact Principal Joel Wichtman at jwichtma@cdeducation.org.

All positions require current, clear BCI & FBI background checks along with a certificate of completion of the Protecting God's Children (PGC) training or willingness to attend a PGC training session prior to serving in the classroom

ST. ANDREW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARENTS OF THE PARISH WEDNESDAY NIGHT GROUP:

All St. Andrew Parish parents are welcome to this new discussion group on Wednesday evenings from 4:45-5:45 p.m. in Nugent Parish Hall. The purpose of this group is to build community among parents with a common interest in learning more about our Catholic faith. Discussions will be facilitated by DRE Tina White.

Upcoming parent group dates and topics include:

October 4, 11, 18: Presence
November 1, 15: Forgiven
November 29: The Faith Filled Family

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW) has returned to the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. Children ages 4-7 are invited to join Liz Meyers and CLOW Youth Leaders every Sunday during Mass. For more information, contact Liz Meyers, emeyers@standrewparish.cc or 614-451-2855.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 27, Confirmation Parent Meeting:

Parents will meet in the parish hall at EITHER 4:30 p.m. OR 6:00 p.m. (choose one).

October 25, First Communion Parent Meeting:

Parents will meet in the parish hall at EITHER 4:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (choose one).

November 19, Confirmation Retreat:

Students attend the 11 a.m. Mass followed by lunch and retreat in Nugent Parish Hall until 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Tina White at twhite@cdeducation.org or 614-451-2855.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR PSR! Classes are held on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:45 p.m. for grades K-7, and at 7:00 p.m. for grade 8. Please contact the Religious Education Office at 614-451-2855 if you missed registration and would like to enroll in our Parish School of Religion.



GIVE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.

The next blood drive at St. Andrew is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 5, 1:00-6:00 p.m., in the parish hall. If you would like to schedule an appointment to give blood, visit RedCrossBlood.org, sponsor code: SACC, or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

**American
Red Cross**

THOUGHTS FOR OUR PARISH CHILDREN

by "Jackie," Fr. Ferguson's Cat

Hi boys and girls! My name is "Jackie," and as you may remember, I am Father Ferguson's cat. It's hard to believe that it's already been two whole months since I moved from St. Andrew Parish with Father Ferguson to go to St. Mary Church in Delaware, Ohio. I am sorry it has taken me so long to write to you. It has been a busy few weeks!

First, I had to get adjusted to a new house. It took some time to unpack my blanket and toys and to get settled into my new chair. And then I had to figure out where to place my food and water bowls. In my room is a big window which looks out over a pretty little stream that runs behind the parish. Many days, I keep watch outside the window to make sure that the local chipmunks and squirrels don't get too close. There is no grill here, so I've not been able to have any summer squirrel barbeques. What fun things were you able to do this summer? There is another priest who lives with us named Father Garland. He grew up on a farm, so he likes animals. As a cat, I've let him continue to stay in my new house here. He can stay as long as he plays nice with me. Like St. Andrew's, this parish has a school, too. Now that school has begun, I keep hearing all the kids yell with excitement on the playground during recess. I've not actually met the kids yet, but they sound as exciting as all of you!

I miss all of you at St. Andrew's, as does Father Ferguson. He just came into my room a few minutes ago and told me to make sure I thank all of you at School and PSR who wrote your nice greeting cards for Father and me before we left. He really enjoyed reading them all (including the great collection of letters made by the big kids in middle school!). He also really liked all the colored cut-out cats that many of you made. They were pretty impressive! I will try to meow some messages to you every so often – maybe once a month – as the new school year continues. You're all awesome kids! Have a "purr"-fect week!

THE EMMAUS ROAD SCHOLARSHIP FUND is a charitable donation that actually gives you a State Tax CREDIT of up to \$1,500 for married joint filers or up to \$750 for single filers. Keep in mind the credit is worth much more than a deduction. The credit reduces your tax liability dollar-for-dollar. A deduction simply reduces your taxable income.

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

LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

SAT, SEP 30: Vigil, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 PM Mass

Karen Huey	EMHC - B1
Rita Medaglia	EMHC - B2
David Varda	Lector - A
Tim Terveer	Lector - B
Megan Terveer	Altar Server
Kara Busch	Altar Server

SUN, OCT 1: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM Mass

Peggy Hoffman	EMHC - B1
Larry Hoffman	EMHC - B2
John Schechter	Lector - A
John Pashke	Lector - B
Chase Ryder	Altar Server
Ethan Train	Altar Server

9:15 AM Mass

Mike Luckett	EMHC - B1
Debbie Caranna	EMHC - B2
Diane Nester	EMHC - B CHOIR
Mary Kasberg	Lector - A
Jennifer Schaefer	Lector - B
Noah Woods	Altar Server
Nora Ott	Altar Server

11:00 AM Mass

Laddie Waldegar	EMHC - B1
Bette Jo Feeney	EMHC - B2
Cathy Covarrubias	Lector - A
Mary Frecker	Lector - B
Ben Stuhldreher	Altar Server
Mia Pagnotto	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.



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Send requests no later than Monday at 10:00 a.m. for the following weekend. Include a brief description, date, time, location and contact name and send to bulletin@standrewparish.cc. Bulletin requests may be edited for clarity or space.

ePOST WEEKLY EMAIL: To subscribe, contact Mary Beasecker, mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc. The ePost includes information about upcoming events and activities within the parish. To submit information, please email to Mary before Noon on Mondays. ePOST submissions may be edited for clarity or space.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ODU TO HOST FALL LECTURE SERIES EVENT ON SEPTEMBER 28: Ohio Dominican University's Center for Dominican Studies will host the second of four lectures focusing on the university's theme for the 2023-24 academic year: *Truths We Have Learned*. ODU Associate Professor of Education Dr. Marlissa Stauffer, will present "Considering How Changing Ideas on Truth Impacts Students" at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 28. The free event is open to the public and will take place in Sansbury Hall in the Colonial Room located on ODU's campus at 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus 43219.

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON, FRIDAY, OCT. 6: Join us at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a luncheon featuring a talk titled "What is a Man? The Hunt for Manhood" by John Bradford, Founder and President of Wilderness Outreach, a 501(c)(3) public nonprofit corporation. Learn more about Wilderness Outreach at www.wildernessoutreach.net. If you are interested in sponsoring this or another luncheon, contact Jim Gernetzke at jimgernetzke@noslumine.com. Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and Mr. Bradford's presentation. No reservations are necessary. \$12 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! Our next luncheon is Friday, November 3.



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 at 614.777.8700 or kati@deeprinting.com.

Issue 1 is an extreme amendment on the Ohio ballot this November that threatens the health and safety of women, the rights of parents and the lives of preborn babies up to 9 months.



*Join Catholics across Ohio in
praying a 54-Day Rosary Novena*

for the protection of human life and dignity
and the defeat of this dangerous amendment.

This week the Sorrowful Mysteries
will be prayed each day.

Sign up for a daily email
reminder with novena prayers
here, or at pray54ohio.org.



**OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY
PREVIEW DAY ON WEDNESDAY, OCT. 25**

All high school students are invited to attend Ohio Dominican University's Preview Day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 25. The free event will take place on ODU's campus at 1215 Sunbury Road, Columbus 43219. Students will have a chance to tour campus, explore majors, and learn about ODU's Honors and Early Admission programs.

Register today at ohiodominican.edu/Preview.

ABORTION CHANGES EVERYTHING
Mood swings • Intimacy issues
Isolation• Depression

If you or someone you know is struggling from a past abortion experience, call 24/7 at **614-309-0157**, bethesdahealing.org





The Mass

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

Fr. Luke Spannagel

Part 5: Altar Kiss

Why is Father kissing that table? Have you noticed that, during the entrance hymn or antiphon, the celebrant approaches the altar and kisses it? Why does he do that? As Charles Belmonte explains in his book, *Understanding the Mass*: “As a sign of veneration, the priest and deacon (if there is one present) kiss the altar... The altar symbolizes the heart of the Church. It is the Lord’s table and the center of the Eucharistic action. It has always been considered a symbol of Christ. That is why we cover the altar with a cloth, out of reverence for the celebration of the memorial of the Lord’s sacrifice” (*Understanding the Mass*, p. 49).

What Is the Significance of a Catholic Altar?

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, “altar” comes from the Hebrew word meaning “place of sacrifice” (Catholic Encyclopedia, p. 31). Perhaps this reminds us of the many altars erected throughout the Old Testament where sacrifices were offered to God. Altars were erected in special places where the people had an encounter with God, which then became places of prayer. This background leads us to the current altars in our churches, where the Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated and we encounter Christ truly present in the Eucharist. We call the Mass a sacrifice because we are given an opportunity to share in the one perfect sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Jesus Christ—body, blood, soul, and divinity—becomes present during the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass. Jesus Christ, God Himself, is present there with us! No wonder we give the altar special honor as the place where we encounter Christ dwelling among us!

More Than A Simple Gesture

As Belmonte continues, "To kiss the altar is to kiss Christ. It is then understandable that we want to make ours this kiss of the celebrant. It evokes in our memory the many kisses of that sinful woman in the Pharisee's house. She could not cease to kiss Christ's feet, washing them with her tears. Great sins were forgiven her because she loved so greatly (Lk 7:38). And we have so many faults to ask pardon for! Now, by this kiss, the priest also signifies the union of the Spouse (Christ) with his Bride (the Church)... [W]hat the priest is beginning to accomplish here is nothing other than to forge the union of the Church with her Master, of the soul with its Redeemer" (Understanding the Mass, p. 49). As you may realize, kissing the altar is more than a simple gesture!

Relics of Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Given the dignity of the altar, it is fittingly constructed in a special way. "In keeping with the Church's traditional practice and with what the altar signifies, the table of a fixed altar should be of stone and indeed of natural stone. In the Dioceses of the United States of America, wood which is dignified, solid, and well-crafted may be used, provided the altar is structurally immobile" (GIRM, no. 301). Altars typically also have a special set-in stone that contains the relic of a saint. The relic is usually a small bone fragment from one of the martyrs or perhaps a saint that is the patron or namesake for a particular church building. The tradition of the relic can be traced back to the first centuries of Masses celebrated at the burial places of the martyrs or in the catacombs.

For me as a priest, I often think of the saint at the altar and about his or her life and faithfulness to Christ. I think about how the witness of faith helps to strengthen us now. I remember that the intercession of the saints assists us in our own day. In celebrating Mass this way, there is a special connection between the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and the way the Eucharist strengthened that particular saint—to say the least, a great reminder of how the Eucharist strengthens us for holy and faithful life in Christ!

For Reflection:

1. Pray with the account of the woman who kisses Jesus' feet in Lk. 7:36-50. Reflect on God's saving love in your own life, and consider how you can express your grateful love through reverence for Christ's Body.
2. Make your own the Psalmist's desire: "That I may come to the altar of God, to God, my joy, my delight" (Ps. 43:4). Next time you participate in Mass, pay attention to the kiss of the altar and unite yourself spiritually to this act of loving reverence towards God, our joy and delight.



Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog

