

# *Welcome to the Church of St. Andrew the Apostle*

PALM SUNDAY

CYCLE B

MARCH 24, 2024



## PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

### THE SACRED TRIDUUM

### Celebrating Christ Crucified, Buried, and Risen

#### **Holy Thursday – March 28, 2024**

7:00 PM - Mass of The Lord's Supper

#### **Good Friday – March 29, 2024**

3:00 PM (Passion Service)

7:30 PM Stations of the Cross (Tenebrae)

#### **Holy Saturday – March 30, 2024**

9:00 AM – Morning Prayer & Blessing of Baskets

9:15 AM – Children's Easter Egg Hunt

8:00 PM - Easter Vigil

#### **Easter Sunday – March 31, 2024**

##### **Masses:**

8:00 AM Mass

9:30 AM Mass

11:00 AM Mass

27 Kresson-Gibbsboro Road • Gibbsboro NJ 08026  
(856) 784-3878 - Visit us online - [www.ChurchofStAndrews.org](http://www.ChurchofStAndrews.org)  
Office hours: Mon-Fri: 8:30 AM-4:00 PM

**Clergy**

<b>Rev. Msgr. Louis A. Marucci, VF, D. Min.</b>	<b>Pastor</b>	MsgrMarucci@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 19
Rev. Anthony Infanti	Parochial Vicar	FrInfanti@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 14
Rev. Michael Rush	Weekend Assistance	frmikerush@comcast.net	leave message at Office
Deacon Aaron Smith	Permanent Deacon	ASmith@churchofstandrews.org	leave message at Office
Deacon Anthony Malatesta	Permanent Deacon	AMalatesta@churchofstandrews.org	leave message at Office

**Parish Administration**

Debby Morlachetta	Parish Administrator	DMorlachetta@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 12
	Worship & Music		leave message at Office
Spiritual Life Office	Spiritual Life	KEmrich@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 33
Kathy Emrich	LifeLong Faith Formation	KEmrich@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 33
Michelina O'Neill	Administrative Assistant	MOneill@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 15
Dan Maney	Youth & Young Adult Ministry	DManey@churchofstandrews.org	ext.20
Bob Sperrazza	Coordinator, Compassionate Outreach	RSperrazza@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 27
Chris Parry	Coordinator, Compassionate Outreach	sppc1@comcast.net	856-906-5127
Tese Hemschoot	Senior Adult Ministry	THemschoot@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 36
Bibiana Sola Trejo	Parish Bookkeeper	BSolatrejo@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 11
	Principal Organist		leave message at Office
Matthew Johnson	Maintenance Director	MJohnson@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 35
Carl Zuccarelli	Maintenance	CZuccarelli@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 35
June Stengel	Sacristan	JStengel@churchofstandrews.org	856-784-3878

**Parish Registration**

Welcome to St. Andrew the Apostle Church! We invite you to join our family! You may register or update your current information by calling the Parish Office or visiting our website. [www.ChurchofSaintAndrews.org](http://www.ChurchofSaintAndrews.org)



**Pilgrimage to Marian Shrines:  
Lisbon, Fatima, Spain & Lourdes**

**Your Pilgrimage Includes:**

- Round-trip Airfare
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**Spiritual Director:  
Msgr. Louis Marucci**



## From the Pastor's Desk



We often hear the Christmas song, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." It conjures up feelings of warmth, festivity, and joy whenever it is played. I used to love the Staples commercial that would play the same song, with slightly varied lyrics, during the first week of September.

Accompanying the song, fathers and mothers would be pirouetting through the store, gathering numerous school supplies for their children as they prepare to send them back to school after a long summer break. The expressions of joy on the parents' faces were delightful, while the children looked somber, realizing that summer vacation was soon to end. In reality, I believe the Most Wonderful Time of the Year, at least for Christians, is Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday and concludes Holy Saturday night.

Holy Week is the most significant week in Catholicism. Spanning from Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday, it marks the final stretch before Easter Sunday and recalls the final week of Jesus' life on earth. During this sacred week, Catholics pray and reflect on the profound journey of Jesus' suffering, sacrifice, and victory over death. It starts on Palm Sunday, commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. It continues to Holy Thursday, which celebrates the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist. It includes a reflection on Good Friday that recalls Jesus' horrific death by crucifixion. Throughout this week, Catholics reflect on the emotional intensity of Jesus' Passion, contemplate His boundless love and mercy, and anticipate the joyous hope of His Resurrection. I believe it is the most wonderful time of the year because it serves as an intentional Holy Week that can serve as a spiritual pilgrimage to truly deepen our faith (A Catholic Guide to Holy Week 2024 | Dynamic Catholic, n.d.).

**Palm Sunday:** As we begin our celebration of Holy Week, let us take some time to reflect on the meaning that corresponds to the week's rituals so that we can fully absorb God's profound love for us. This year, Holy Week begins today, Sunday, March 24, 2024. The celebration commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. It begins with Catholics carrying blessed palm branches into the Church, symbolizing the crowd's welcoming gesture of Jesus into the Holy City of Jerusalem. The Gospel readings recount the story of Jesus' death and Passion, evoking reflection on His sacrificial love and the profound significance of Holy Week. (See Mark 11, verses 1-11)

The Mass on Palm Sunday differs from every other Mass in that Palm Sunday includes two readings from the Gospels. First, at the start of the Mass, we recall Jesus' entry into the Holy City. Later, we read the entire Passion account during the Liturgy of the Word. After attending Mass, it is a common practice for Catholics to display the palm branch received at Mass somewhere in the home. Some place it behind a crucifix, some take several palm branches and weave them together to create a palm cross, and some place a small branch in their Bible on the page that commemorates Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. Since palm branches are blessed, they should never be thrown in the trash. Those who do not wish to keep their branches can return them to the Church, where the branches will be retained and burned to be used as the holy ashes on the following Ash Wednesday.

Perhaps you are unaware of this custom, but it has often been a common custom to do a deep cleaning of your home on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. This tradition arises from the Jewish custom of preparing the home for Passover. Another long time tradition is for Catholics to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter or during the Easter Season. St. Andrew's, throughout Lent, increased opportunities for Confession by opening our doors every Wednesday at 7 PM so that people could avail themselves of this special sacrament.

**The Chrism Mass:** Many dioceses celebrate the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday, or the morning of Holy Thursday. Chrism refers to one of the oils used in the celebration of different Sacraments. During the Chrism Mass, the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens (the oil used during the Sacrament of Baptism), and the Sacred Chrism are consecrated by the Bishop for use throughout the year. In a prayerful procession, large vessels of these oils are carried to the altar for the blessings and consecration of Chrism, which is a mixture of oil and balsam. After Mass the oils are distributed to representatives of each parish and are taken back to the parishes to be used for the Sacraments throughout the year.

There is also a renewal of priestly promises during the Chrism Mass. Traditionally, every priest within a diocese attends this Mass and recommits his life to serve the Lord, with a commitment to serve the People of God. The Bishop requests that the laity of the diocese pray especially for him and the priests of the diocese. All are invited to attend the **Chrism Mass, which will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 26, @ 3:30 PM at Our Lady of Hope Parish, Blackwood, NJ.** Please consider attending this Mass, as Monsignor Marucci, Fr. Rush, and Fr. Infanti, with all the

priests of the diocese, recommit their lives to continue serving the Lord.

**Holy Thursday:** Holy Thursday is the first day of the Easter Triduum and launches the most sacred days of the Catholic faith. It begins with the evening **Mass of the Lord's Supper**, commemorating the Last Supper celebrated by Jesus and his disciples on the Jewish holiday of Passover. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation, but most Catholics make a special effort to attend Mass on this night. During this Mass, the priest washes the feet of some members of the parish in commemoration of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. It was during the Last Supper that Jesus taught his disciples that the Eucharist is truly His Body and Blood. Jesus' disciples were the first Catholic priests. So, during the Last Supper, Jesus taught them the importance of the Eucharist, which is why priests celebrate Jesus' sacrifice during every Mass. Because of this, the Last Supper is also significant because it promulgated the beginning of the priesthood.

Many traditions surround Holy Thursday. Some people use it as a day to go on a local pilgrimage and visit several churches. On this night, the Eucharist is placed in a special vessel called a Repository and placed within a shrine decorated elaborately as a show of reverence and respect. When parishioners pilgrimage to various churches, they commit to pray for the priests of that parish and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. Holy Thursday is a celebration of the institution of the Eucharist, so it is a golden opportunity for Catholics to spend some time in Adoration. For this reason, many churches remain open during the night. St. Andrew the Apostle Parish remains **open until Midnight** to allow people to spend this time with Jesus. St. Andrew the Apostle Parish will also host a carpool pilgrimage to visit local parishes. If interested, please sign your name on the sign-up sheet so we can prepare for a proper number of drivers. We encourage Parishioners to pray the following prayer at each location:

A Prayer for Holy Thursday: Dear Jesus, in these last few days leading up to Easter, as I recall your passion and death, let me remember that, above all, I am called to feed your sheep. You have given me a model of how to live; may I strive to be all that you created me for, spreading the love of God and the truth of our Catholic faith wherever I am able. You are the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

**Good Friday** is a most somber day in the lives of Christians. The celebration commemorates the day Jesus died and saved us from our sins. His death on Good Friday and Resurrection on Easter Sunday are the most important events, which is why it is called "good." On this day,

Catholics fast and remember the suffering of Jesus as he died on the cross. Good Friday is the only day of the year in which Catholic Mass is not celebrated. Instead, Catholic Churches celebrate the Passion of the Lord with emphasis on the Veneration of the Holy Cross in the afternoon, with the **Stations of the Cross within a service of light (Tenebrae)** at night. It is customarily a day of solemn prayer.

On Good Friday, we are called to express utmost reverence and respect to the Lord. This can be achieved by maintaining an element of silence throughout the day. It is appropriate to minimize distractions, such as choosing not to listen to music or watch TV, driving in silence, and minimizing social media. It is an excellent spiritual practice to intentionally make it a day of quiet and reflection. Many families move a crucifix to a place of prominence in their home or rest it on a cushion next to a small lit candle. The hours of noon until three in the afternoon are especially solemn, as this was the time of Jesus' crucifixion. Catholics are urged to attend a Veneration of the Cross or Stations of the Cross prayer service during this time. Many Catholics who are unable to participate in these services make a point to either read the Passion accounts in the Gospel or watch a movie adaptation to reflect on the agony of Jesus' sacrifice and suffering.

A Prayer for Good Friday: Dear Jesus, No one knows change better than you. You died on the cross, and three days later, you rose from the dead. Forty days later, you ascended into heaven and left the world transformed for the rest of time. Help me to transform my soul, to die to sin and death, and be reborn in your love and eternal life. Amen.

**Holy Saturday:** No Mass is offered on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil. However, many churches host a short prayer service in the morning. This is an opportunity to pray Morning Prayer together as a group or a family. Many families pray the Rosary together and reflect on the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. St. Andrew the Apostle Parish hosts a **Blessing of Easter Baskets and Food at 9:00 AM and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children at 9:15 AM.** Most parishes spend the morning and early afternoon preparing for the Easter Vigil. If time permits, please come to the Church to volunteer if you wish to do something special for the Lord. Holy Saturday is typically a day of preparation for Easter Sunday. Families can dye Easter Eggs, a symbol of new life, in preparation for celebrating new life in the Resurrection.

The **Easter Vigil** is the Mass celebrated on Holy Saturday Night and begins the Easter celebrations of Jesus' Resurrection. It begins with a blessed bonfire outside the Church, the lighting and procession into the Church with

the Paschal Candle, the proclamation of the Exsultet, and Old Testament readings that foretold Jesus' death and Resurrection. It is the day that new catechumens, those entering the Catholic Church, receive the Sacraments for the first time. It launches the celebration of Easter, the great Paschal Feast.

A Prayer for Holy Saturday: Dear Jesus, You are courage incarnate. As you hung on the cross for my sins and the sins of the world, you showed me that all things are possible. You knew that life did not end on the cross. It was only the beginning of a new and glorious eternal life. Amen.

**Easter Sunday** is a continuation of the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. It is a Holy Day of Obligation because the Mass celebrates the most important teaching in the Catholic faith - that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead so that we could share eternal life with him in heaven. Attending the Easter Vigil fulfills this Mass obligation. Easter reflections focus on hope and the symbols we see during Easter Vigil and Easter Mass - especially the idea of darkness into light. It's a tradition to wear new clothes to Mass. Some families bring Holy Water containers to refill from the newly blessed water in the Baptismal font.

A wonderful way for families to begin their Easter dinner is to read the account of the Resurrection in the Gospels and for each family member to mention one thing they are incredibly grateful for. Reflect on this past Lenten season and share one thing you will continue to do throughout the Easter Season to help you grow in your spiritual life. Jesus won our salvation for us! We are freed from sin! Alleluia!

Since at least the fourth century, Christianity has marked Holy Week. After the time of the persecutions, Christian emperors of both the East and West issued various decrees forbidding amusements and games. They directed that these days were spent free from worldly occupations and entirely devoted to religious exercises. Pardons were granted to those in prison, and many charges in court were dropped in honor of Christ's Passion.

In the Middle Ages, all secular business was prohibited, and the time was spent in recollection and prayer. Often, kings and rulers secluded themselves in monasteries. During some eras, no servile work was allowed during the Triduum, and the faithful were to be present at all liturgies. In 1642, Pope Urban VIII rescinded this obligation because of the changing conditions of social life.

A Prayer for Easter Sunday: Almighty Father, I thank you

for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead and redeemed humankind. Fill us with the fire of the Holy Spirit, that we may be faithful disciples and enthusiastic witnesses of our Catholic faith. Alleluia, Christ is risen! The Lord is risen, indeed. Alleluia! Amen.

Please join us in tracing the footsteps of our Lord as we celebrate the Holiest days of our liturgical year. You are invited to make a spiritual retreat by attending the liturgies of **Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil**. Please consider making a special sacrifice to the Lord for all the good He has done for you.

With a loving and grateful heart,  
Msgr. Marucci, VF, Phd., D.Min.  
Pastor

(Excerpts of this article were initially published by Dynamic Catholic, n.d.: A Catholic Guide to Holy Week 2024)

## CHRISM MASS 2024

Bishop Sullivan invites the faithful of the diocese to join him and his priests for the Chrism Mass  
**at 3:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 26, 2024**  
**at Saint Agnes Church (Our Lady of Hope Parish)**  
in Blackwood.

The Chrism Mass is a celebration of the priesthood and the occasion at which the bishop consecrates the sacred oils used in the sacramental life of the Church. Your presence and prayerful support will be greatly appreciated.







**Palm Sunday Mass Schedule**

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Saturday, March 23rd	4:00 PM Vigil Mass
	Sunday, March 24th	8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 6:00 PM Masses

**Holy Week**

<b>Holy Thursday</b>	Thursday, March 28th	7:00 PM - Mass of the Lord's Supper (Church will remain open until Midnight)
<b>Good Friday</b>	Friday, March 29th	3:00 PM - Good Friday Passion Service
<b>Tenebrae</b>	Friday, March 29th	7:30 PM - Tenebrae Service

**Holy Saturday**

<b>Easter Basket Blessing</b>	Saturday, March 30th	9:00 AM - Church Courtyard
<b>Easter Egg Hunt</b>	Saturday, March 30th	9:15 AM - Parish Hall
<b>Easter Vigil</b>	Saturday, March 30th	8:00 PM - Easter Vigil Mass
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	Sunday, March 31st	8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM Masses (No evening Mass)

The next meetings of the **St. Andrew Men's Group** will be held on:

**Wednesday, April 3rd at 8:30 AM and  
Saturday, April 20th at 8:30 AM**

Immediately following the 8:00 AM Morning Mass.

Please join us in the Upper Room of the Parish Hall for coffee, donuts, prayer, and time to engage in learning about our faith.



## For Whom Shall We Pray

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR PALM SUNDAY

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

8:00 AM + Dick Davis r/b Mark and Lisa Lacy  
 10:00 AM + Richard Fulginiti r/b Ryan and Alison Hixenbaugh  
 10:00 AM + Francisco Sulpizio r/b Aura and Ronnie Sulpizio  
 6:00 PM + John Fostik r/b His Family

#### MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024

8:00 AM + Annunciation and Isaac Pena r/b Marilyn and Remie

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024

8:00 AM Pro Populo Mass

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024

8:00 AM + Souls in Purgatory r/b Michael Calingasan

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024

Holy Thursday of Holy Week  
 7:00 PM Mass of The Lord's Supper

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024

Friday of The Passion of The Lord (Good Friday)  
 3:00 PM Mass  
 7:30 PM Tenebre Service

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 30

8:00 PM Easter Vigil Mass

+ Deceased L Living

### A Time to Be Healed

Caddy and Maye Alfonso	Carson Hill
Mary Bauman Soards	Robert Joynes
Peggy Badey	Loretta Lipp
Gary Carmody	Dan McGravey
Silvia Ciliberto	Marge Merkert
April Cole	Robert Merkert
Barbara Curtis	David Misilewich
Tony Del Pidio	Mike & Jane Mooney
Stephen DiLizio	Matt Murphy
Maryann Donohue	Rita Romano
Debbie Filipone	Anthony Simone
Joanne Gallucci	Maryann Simone
Joan Geier	Mabel "Dolly" Staton
Amy Glenney	Don Stoll
Neil Glenney	Nina Stone
Donald Ray Hamilton	Amanda Yakacki & Family

### A Time for Peace

Devin Thomas Badey, Army  
 Sgt. Austin Tyler Cole, USMC  
 Officer Bill Walsh  
 Officer Kevin Wynne

### Baptisms

### A Time to Die

Shirley Valencia Nati-Basada

The Sanctuary Candle Burns in Memory of  
 Angelo Falcone r/b Aunt Theresa and Cousins

The Blessed Mother Candle Burns in Memory of  
 William McGee r/b Pat and Family

The Parish Community of St. Andrew the Apostle offers our prayers and support to the following individuals who will be coming into full initiation with the Catholic Church at the upcoming Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 30, 2024

**Mike McLaughlin**  
**Emily Nannos**  
**James Poland**



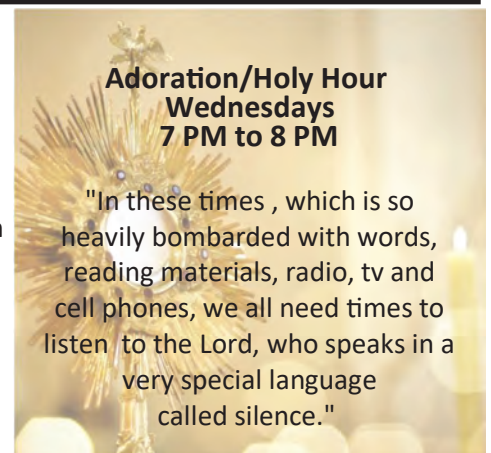
Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

### The Light Is On For You

Adoration and Confession  
**Wednesdays**  
**March 27th at 7 PM**

As we accompany Christ through this Lenten Season, come and spend time with Jesus.

Adoration will be held from 7 PM to 8 PM along with the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



### Adoration/Holy Hour Wednesdays 7 PM to 8 PM

"In these times, which is so heavily bombarded with words, reading materials, radio, tv and cell phones, we all need times to listen to the Lord, who speaks in a very special language called silence."

## Compassionate Outreach

**Compassionate Outreach Pastoral Coordinators- Bob Sperrazza and Chris Parry. If you are faced with challenges or know someone struggling, we're here to help. Contact Bob at 856-784-3878 Ext 27 or [rsperrazza@churchofstandrews.org](mailto:rsperrazza@churchofstandrews.org) or Chris at 856-906-5127 or [spcp1@comcast.net](mailto:spcp1@comcast.net).**

### Joseph's House Monthly Casserole Recipe

We received a record high of 50 casseroles for Joseph's House last month!!! Thank you so much to our volunteers!!!! Joseph's House is always so grateful for our commitment to feeding the homeless. The next drop off for casseroles will be Thursday, March 28, 2024 from 10-11AM. Drive up to the parish hall and a volunteer will be waiting for you in the parking lot. We will hand deliver to Joseph's House later in the day. If this day and time do not work for you, we can make other arrangements. Call or text Chris Parry at 856-906-5127 with any questions and/or to confirm you will make a casserole. Prepare one or more casseroles. All donations are greatly appreciated. We will continue to use the same recipe.

#### Hamburger Noodle Casserole

1 lb. hamburger beef  
15 oz. can or jar tomato sauce  
1 medium chopped onion  
1 cup of green pepper

1 cup cottage cheese  
1 cup sour cream  
12oz. egg noodles  
2 cups Shredded Monterey Jack Cheese

Combine the hamburger, green pepper and onion and sauté until meat is cooked. Salt and pepper to taste. Add tomato sauce and simmer for 20 minutes. Cook noodles according to package directions. In another bowl combine sour cream and cottage cheese. Blend cottage cheese and sour cream mixture with the cooked noodles. Salt and pepper to taste. In a lightly greased aluminum pan spread the hamburger mixture. Next, layer the noodle mixture. Top casserole with shredded Monterey Jack cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until thoroughly heated. NOTE: Please freeze the casserole, cover with aluminum foil, date and label St. Andrew's "Hamburger Noodle Casserole."

### Christian Cupboard

If you know of a family in need of help with food, please contact Chris Parry at 856-906-5127.

Also, many local super markets are offering a free ham to those who qualify based on your store purchases.

If you would like to donate your free ham to our food baskets program, let us know!

### Local Outreach

A family is in need of:

Silverware

Clothing for a 7 year old boy- size 7

Clothing for a 6 year old girl- size 6

Donations can be left in the Compassionate Outreach cart in the church entrance.



*Thank you so much to all of the volunteers who came out to help with our food drive and for all of the food donations received. Through the generosity of our parishioners, we will provide a bountiful Easter Food Basket to many local families in need.*



## Your Ministries

Thank you to our dedicated Easter Food Drive volunteers!



### The Feast of Divine Mercy Mass and Retreat Sunday, April 7 at Noon

Join us for a most memorable afternoon to commemorate the Feast of the Divine Mercy. Receive the Special Indulgence, complete and total forgiveness of sin and punishment.

The day begins with Mass at noon, followed by Adoration, Confessions, Rosary, St. Faustina Stations of the Cross, Reflection on the life of St. Faustina, and concluding with the Chanted Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 PM.

This is the perfect event to bring a friend or family member to for an inspiring and faith-filled afternoon.

### Tell Us About Your First Holy Communion!

As our CCD children are in the final weeks of preparations for receiving their First Communion, Msgr. Marucci is asking our parishioners to reflect on their own First Holy Communion Day.

Do you remember your first experience receiving communion?

What emotions do you recall feeling?

Is there a particular moment that stands out?

How has your life been changed by this moment?

We want to hear from you! Send in your memory along with a digital copy of your First Communion picture to [MsgrMarucci@ChurchofStAndrews.org](mailto:MsgrMarucci@ChurchofStAndrews.org).

We will be including the reflections in upcoming bulletins.

May our stories inspire those making their First Holy Communion next month!



## Your Ministries



### SENIOR MINISTRY AT ST. ANDREW

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR  
SENIOR MINISTRY?

COME ON OUT AND JOIN US ON APRIL 2ND  
FOR WELCOMING DAY AS WE  
WELCOME ALL NEW MEMBERS!

Saint Andrew's Senior Ministry  
(The Renaissance Center) invites you to a  
**Welcoming Day on April 2, 2024**

for any new seniors, men and women, age 65 or better,  
who would like to attend.

We will meet in the Parish Hall between 9:30 AM and 10:30 AM  
for a day of socializing, fun and food.

Please join us and find out how we are staying active,  
learning, and growing in our faith.

Please contact Tese Hemschoot at  
themschoot@churchofstandrews.org,  
or call the office at 856-784-3878 for more information.

### Saint Andrew's Senior Adult Ministry

A poem written by the Seniors on poetry day:  
St. Andrew's Seniors come alive, on Tuesdays and Thursdays to  
dance and jive! We talk and laugh and eat and pray, many  
games we also play. All these help us to survive!

We meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 until 1:00.  
If you are interested in joining us, and would like to receive a  
schedule, please email me and I will send it right out to you.

My email is themshooat@churchofstandrews.org.




***Our Senior Adult Ministry will not meet during Holy Week.  
We wish all of our Seniors a very Blessed Easter Season!***

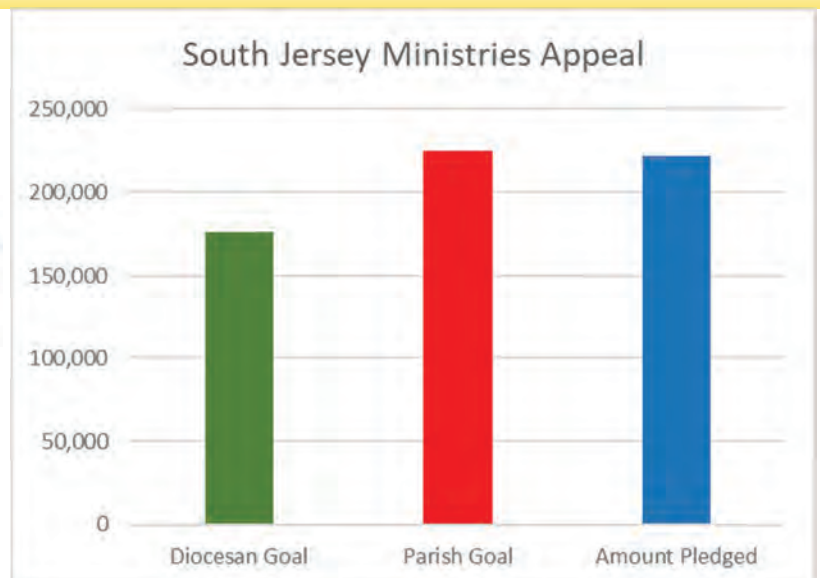


## South Jersey Catholic Ministry Appeal Update

We're almost at our Parish Goal!  
Remember to complete your pledge form  
today!



Diocesan Goal	176,500	
Parish Goal	225,000	
Amount Pledged	221,810	





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