

# Welcome to the Church of St. Andrew the Apostle

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CYCLE A

JANUARY 25, 2026



## Mass of Welcome and Inclusion

Catholics with disabilities have a right to actively participate in the Eucharist as full functioning members of the local Church.

## Mass of Welcome and Inclusion

Is celebrated every 2nd Saturday of each month at the 4:00 PM Vigil Mass.

## Children and Family Mass

Is celebrated every 3rd Sunday of each month at the Sunday 10:00 AM Mass

## ROSARY

Monday through Friday  
12:00 PM

## DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Monday through Friday  
3:00 PM

## MASS SCHEDULE

### WEEKEND

Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM  
Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM  
& 6:00 PM

### WEEKDAY

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM  
Rosary and Adoration  
after 8:00 AM Mass  
(Monday - Saturday)

## CONFESION

Saturday 3:15 PM  
and by Appointment

## EUCARISTIC ADORATION

Monday through Friday  
8:30 AM to 9:30 AM  
Wednesday 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
First Wednesday of Each Month  
All Day Adoration  
8:30 AM to 8:00 PM

## 27 Kresson-Gibbsboro Road • Gibbsboro NJ 08026

(856) 784-3878 - Visit us online — [www.churchofsaintandrews.org](http://www.churchofsaintandrews.org)  
Office hours: Mon-Fri: 8:30 AM-3:00 PM

<b>Clergy</b>			
Rev. Msgr. Louis A. Marucci, VF, D. Min.	Pastor	msgrrmarucci@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 19
Rev. Anthony Infantini	Parochial Vicar	frinfanti@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 14
Deacon Aaron Smith	Permanent Deacon	asmith@churchofstandrews.org	leave message at Office
Deacon Anthony Malatesta	Permanent Deacon	amalatesta@churchofstandrews.org	leave message at Office
<b>Parish Administration</b>			
John Michael Thomas	Worship & Music	jthomas@churchofstandrews.org	leave message at Office
Kathy Emrich	Lifelong Faith Formation	kemrich@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 33
Michelina O'Neill	Administrative Assistant	moneill@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 15
Rebecca Poland	Ministerial Support	rpoland@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 12
Chris Parry	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
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.churchofstandrews.org](http://www.churchofstandrews.org)

### **Parish Office News and Updates**

#### **Parish Office Hours of Operation**

The Office hours for the Parish Office are 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

#### **Gluten Free Hosts**

Those who are gluten intolerant and wish to receive Holy Communion should speak with an usher or member of the hospitality ministry before the start of Mass.

**Children and Family Masses** are held on the 3rd Sunday of each month at the 10:00 AM Mass.

**Masses of Inclusion** are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at the 4:00 PM Vigil (Saturday) Mass.

#### **New to the Parish?**

Call the Parish Office to learn about our ministries and how to register with the parish, or you can visit our website to register online and find information about our many ministerial opportunities.

#### **Parish Lost and Found**

Numerous items get left behind after Mass and parish events - umbrellas, hats, reading glasses, etc.

The parish lost & found is located on the shelf in the hallway near the priest's sacristy. Due to space concerns, the lost and found is cleaned out monthly, with items being donated. Thank you!

#### **Sacrament of the Sick**

Call the Parish Office to request a home or hospital visit.

#### **Prayer List for Those that are in Need of Healing**

Please call the Parish Office to add someone to the list.

#### **Marriage**

Arrangements are made at least one year in advance. One wedding may be scheduled on Saturday afternoon.

#### **Baptism**

Please call the Parish Office to schedule. Baptisms take place on the first and third Sunday of each month at 11:30 AM.

#### **Mass Cards**

You may request a Mass for your intention through the Parish Office, or conveniently through the website.

#### **Sanctuary Candle / Blessed Mother Candle**

We offer candle remembrances for special intentions. Please call the Parish Office to reserve a Sanctuary or Blessed Mother Candle.

#### **Spiritual Bouquets**

Your prayer intention will be remembered on First Fridays for six consecutive months. Your prayer intention may be for anyone either living or deceased. Please call or stop by the Parish Office to obtain a Spiritual Bouquet.



### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK – A Reflection on “Roe v. Wade”

This Sunday’s Gospel presents a powerful moment in the life of Jesus. After John the Baptist is arrested, Jesus withdraws to Galilee and begins His public ministry. St. Matthew tells us that Jesus fulfills Isaiah’s prophecy: *“The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light.”* Into a world marked

by confusion, fear, and moral uncertainty, Christ steps forward as the Light who reveals the truth about God, the truth about humanity, and the truth about love.

**Jesus begins calling His first disciples**—ordinary fishermen mending their nets along the Sea of Galilee. He invites them with a simple but life-changing command: **“Come follow me.”** They leave their nets, their boats, and even their families to follow Him. What they discover is that discipleship is not merely about believing in Jesus; it is about allowing His light to transform every corner of life. It is not about **worthiness** and always about **willingness**.

As we reflect on this Gospel of calling and conversion, the Church in the United States also observed the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* (1973) this past week. For decades, this date has been a moment of prayer, penance, and reflection on *the dignity of every human life*. The Church invites us to pray for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and to do penance for the ways our culture—and at times, our own choices—have failed to reverence the sacredness of the human person.

**The Gospel and this anniversary converge in a profound way.** Jesus calls us out of darkness into His marvelous light. He calls us to see the world as He sees it. And He calls us to honor the dignity of every human life—from the womb to the tomb.

The Church’s teaching on the **sanctity of life is not a political stance; it is a Gospel stance**. Every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. Every life is willed, loved, and sustained by the Father. **Every life has purpose and meaning.**

Yet we live in a world where human dignity is threatened at every stage:

- **In the womb**, where the unborn child is vulnerable and voiceless.
- **In childhood**, where some suffer neglect, abuse, or poverty.
- **In adulthood**, where violence, racism, addiction, and exploitation wound the human spirit.
- **In old age**, where the elderly are sometimes dismissed, isolated, or treated as burdens.

**At the end of life**, where euthanasia and assisted suicide undermine the truth that every life has value until natural death.

**To be a disciple of Jesus is to stand in the light of His truth and to defend the dignity of every person, especially the most vulnerable.**

**As we reflect on the sanctity of life, it is essential to speak with compassion, not condemnation.** Many women who have chosen abortion did so under immense pressure—fear, financial hardship, lack of support, or feeling utterly alone. Some were very young. Some were abandoned by partners. Some believed they had no other choice. And many carry deep wounds because of it. The Church *does not turn away* from these women. The Church *does not shame* them. The Church *does not define* them by a single decision made in a moment of crisis. Instead, **the Church extends the mercy of Christ.**

If you are a woman who has experienced abortion, please hear this clearly: **You are loved. You are not alone. And healing is possible.** The same is true for fathers who may have encouraged, agreed to, or suffered silently through an abortion. Men, too, can carry grief, guilt, or unresolved sorrow. The mercy of Christ is for you as well.

Healing after abortion is not a quick process, but it is a real one. Here are some pastoral steps that can help:

**1. Bring your pain to prayer.** God already knows your heart. He knows your story. He knows your wounds. Speak to Him honestly. Let Him hold the parts of your life that feel too heavy to carry alone.

**2. Seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation.** Confession is not about punishment; it is about liberation. It is the place where Christ restores peace, dignity, and hope. Many women and men describe confession after abortion as the moment they finally felt free.

**3. Consider a healing ministry.** Programs such as ***Rachel’s Vineyard*** or ***Project Rachel*** offer confidential retreats and counseling for women and men seeking healing. These

ministries are gentle, compassionate, and deeply rooted in the mercy of Christ.

**4. Talk to someone you trust.** A priest, a counselor, or a spiritual director can help you navigate the emotions that surface—grief, guilt, anger, or confusion. You do not have to walk this journey alone.

**5. Perform an act of love in memory of your child.** Some find healing in naming their child, writing a letter, planting a tree, or offering a Mass intention. These gestures acknowledge the dignity of the life lost and open the heart to God's healing grace.

In today's Gospel, Jesus calls fishermen to leave their nets and follow Him. He calls them out of the familiar and into a new way of living. He calls them to become "fishers of men"—people who bring others into the light of God's

love.

This week, Jesus calls us to do the same. He calls us to defend life at every stage. He calls us to support women in crisis pregnancies with compassion, resources, and real help. He calls us to accompany those who carry the wounds of abortion with tenderness and mercy. **He calls us to be instruments of healing in a world that often wounds.** May we, like the first disciples, hear His voice and follow Him with courage.

**May we build a parish community where every life is cherished, every person is welcomed, and every wound can find healing in the heart of Christ.**

With a loving and grateful heart,  
Msgr. Louis A. Marucci, VF, Ph.D., D.Min.  
Pastor

### Healing After Abortion

God has a unique and beautiful plan of healing for you. You don't need to suffer alone.

Abortion can leave many women and men suffering from deep guilt, shame, pain, anxiety, depression, fear, and feelings of isolation from God and others, sometimes for many years.

Experience the peace and healing that comes when you are able to share your burdens with another. We are here to meet with you, in-person or over the phone, as you walk the journey of healing. We offer a safe, confidential, and non-judgmental environment that can allow you to enter into Jesus' healing embrace.

Nothing – absolutely nothing – is beyond the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. No sin is too big for Him, no darkness too great. Your abortion is not the end of the story.

We are here to walk with you on your journey of healing after abortion. We offer a safe, non-judgmental, welcoming environment to encounter the mercy of the Lord Jesus.

Contact Msgr. Marucci, Fr. Infanti at 856-784-3878 or the Sisters of Life.

For more information or to connect with the Sisters of Life, call or visit: 866-575-0075  
[hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org](mailto:hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org)

Listed below are additional local healing resources for those who have suffered an abortion.

Rachel's Vineyard - 1-877- HOPE-4-ME (1-877-467-3463)  
<https://www.rachelsvineyard.org/>

Lumina, a ministry of Good Counsel Homes 1-877-586-4621  
<https://postabortionhelp.org/contact/>



## For Whom Shall We Pray

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

8:00 AM Mass: + Anthony Colello r/b His Son, Ted  
 8:00 AM Mass: + Debby Morlachetta  
 r/b Dan and Sherry Mc Gravey  
 10:00 AM Mass: + Peter J. Schultz r/b Michael Schultz  
 10:00 AM Mass: + Mary Ann Falzaramo Andrews  
 r/b Victoria and Joe Benedetti  
 6:00 PM Mass: + Almaz Tesfaiohannes r/b Peter and Vitalba

#### MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026

8:00 AM Mass: + William and Carmella Fanelle r/b Family

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026

8:00 AM Pro Populo Mass  
 8:00 AM Mass: L Mass For Healing Geraldine M. Boyle

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

8:00 AM Mass: + William Fanelle r/b Family

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

8:00 AM Mass: + Marie Rossi r/b Anabel Sinibaldi

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

8:00 AM Mass: L Fr. Infanti r/b Roger and Josie Tizon

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

8:00 AM Mass: + Jonathan Spagnola  
 r/b Joseph and Susan Savotsky  
 4:00 PM Mass: + Debby Morlachetta r/b Carol and Angelo Ariani

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026

8:00 AM Mass: + Debby Morlachetta r/b Anne Bundick  
 10:00 AM Mass: + Lynn Roberts r/b The Swain Family  
 10:00 AM Mass: + Bob Catto Campbell r/b The Santore Family  
 6:00 PM Mass: + Nancy Knighton r/b Louise Beakley  
 + Deceased L Living

The Sanctuary Candle Burns In Memory Of  
 John and Alla Connors r/b Michelina O'Neill

The Blessed Mother Candle Burns In Honor of  
 Msgr. Louis Marucci r/b Jim and Becca Poland

We Pray For The Repose Of The Souls Who  
 Have Entered Into Eternal Life In Christ  
 Bernice Brennan  
 Barbara Curtis

### A Time to Be Healed

Maye Alfonso	Bill Long, Jr.
Peggy Badey	Maria LoPresti
Joseph Bello, Sr.	Nicolina Marucci
Valerie F. Butler	Anna Mascino
Gary Carmody	Dan McGrawey
Timothy Cody	Bob Merkert
April Cole	Marge Merkert
Bob DeRenzo	Jay McGovern
Tony Del Pidio	David Misilewich
Stephen DiLizio	Jane Mooney
Maryann Donohue	Mike Mooney
Guinevere V. Faulkner	Anthony Pallante
Bob Freer	Andrew Papp
Alexander Fromnic	Linda Pinson
Sr. Alma Gallagher	Linda Raymond
Joan Geier	Michael Ruggiero
Nancy Giampietro	Marie Sheehan
Joe Gilmore	Anthony Simone
Amy Glenney	Maryann Simone
Dottie Glenney	Mary Bauman Soards
Neil Glenney	Don Stoll
Donald Ray Hamilton	Nina Stone
Carson Hill	Helene Taylor
Tina Joelstein	Jess Verrecchia
Robert Joynes	Baby Abigail Volk
Tim Klauder	Jane Weiman
Peter Kricken	Robert Wozniak
Loretta Lipp	

### A Time for Peace

Devin Badey, Army	Officer Bill Walsh
Luke Bianchini,	Officer Kevin Wynne
Staff Sargent, USAF	
Melvin Dastas, Navy	

### Banns of Marriage

Enrique Josue Gonzalez Hernandez and  
 Katherine Doris Rago Gonzales  
 Convalidation date: February 9, 2026

Kevin Patrick Rossbach II  
 and Rachel Ann Synott  
 Convalidation February 13, 2026

We Welcome the New Members of Our Parish  
 Tim Garvey and Courtney Radcliffe  
 Eric Caruso, Leigh Caruso, and Madison Caruso.

### Men's Prayer Group

The Men's prayer group meets twice per month:  
First Wednesday at 6:30 PM  
Third Saturday at 8:30 AM

Upcoming meetings are:  
February 4th 6:30 PM  
February 21st 8:30 AM

If you are interested in joining this growing brotherhood of men dedicated to their Catholic faith or would like more information about the group, please email Sam Parry at [spcp1@comcast.net](mailto:spcp1@comcast.net) or text Sam at (856-761-7999).



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.

### **The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**



**Celebrated on Saturday, January 31st, and Sunday, February 1st. All are welcome to bring in your candles from home for the blessing of candles included in this weekend's liturgy, representing Jesus as the light of the world.**

### **Feast of St. Blaise**



On Saturday, January 31st, and Sunday, February 1st, a general blessing will be given over the congregation after the announcements but before the final blessing. Individual blessings will also be offered after the final blessing during the final hymn. The blessing of throats commemorates the intercession of Saint Blaise, a bishop and martyr, to heal ailments of the throat and other maladies.

**Pastoral Coordinators- Chris Parry and Lois Siebert.**

If you are facing challenges or know someone struggling, we're here to help. Call or text Chris at 856-906-5127 or call Lois Siebert at 856-784-3878 Ext 27.

**Joseph's House Monthly Casserole Recipe**

Happy New Year!!! The management team at Joseph's House asked me to wish you all a BLESSED New Year!!!! Thank you volunteers for your continued commitment to this ministry. In addition to casseroles, we will continue collecting individual snack bags for Joseph's House clients. The next drop off for casseroles will be Thursday, January 29, 2026 from 10-11 AM. Drive up to the parish hall and a volunteer will be there in the parking area. 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 deeply appreciated. We will continue to use the same recipe.

**Hamburger Noodle Casserole**

1 lb. hamburger	1 cup cottage cheese
15 oz. can or jar tomato sauce	1 cup sour cream
1 medium chopped onion	12oz. egg noodles
1 cup of green pepper	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.

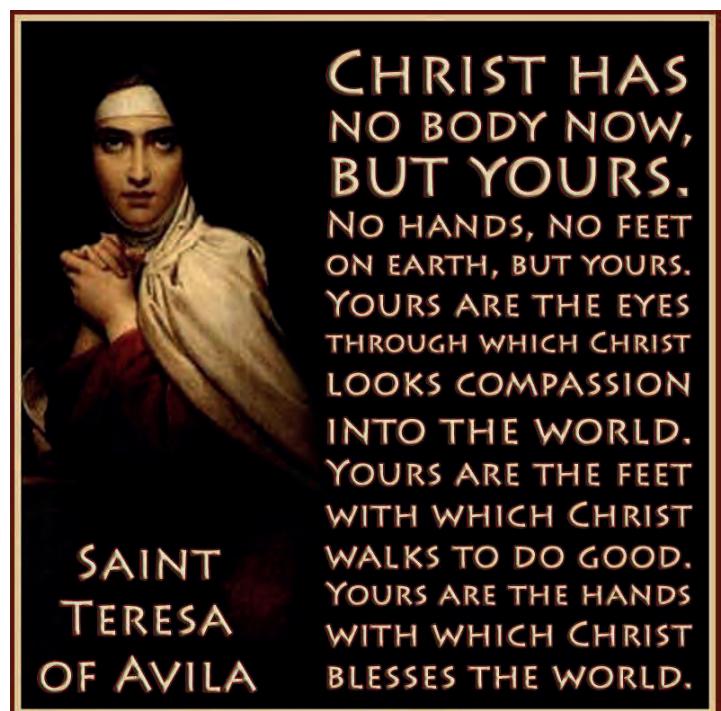
Please freeze the casserole, cover with aluminum foil, date and label "St. Andrew's- Hamburger Noodle Casserole."

**Christian Cupboard Needs**

After our large Thanksgiving and Christmas food distributions, our Christian Cupboard shelves are sparse. Please consider helping us restock with the following items:

Canned chicken breast and tuna  
Canned soup  
Beef stew  
Mac and cheese

Your generosity makes a tremendous difference — thank you!



**February Retreats at Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center, 101 111th Street, Stone Harbor, NJ**

**Wednesday, February 11**

8:45 am—3:00 pm

Cost: \$70\*

February Features: Spirituality found in Lourdes and Lincoln

Presented by Sr. Antoine Lawlor, IHM

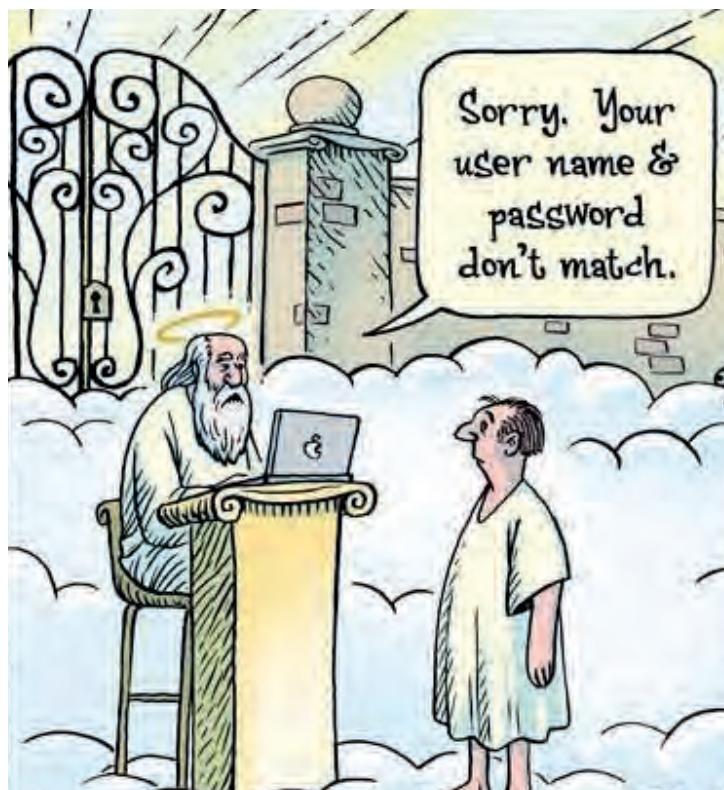
Join us for a unique day of reflection that bridges faith and history. In the morning, we will honor the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes by exploring Mary's appearances to St. Bernadette, reflecting on her life of grace, and how Mary's presence inspires us today. Through storytelling, prayer, and a ritual with Lourdes water, participants will deepen their spiritual connection. In the afternoon, we will focus on Abraham Lincoln's life, character, and enduring spiritual qualities that shaped his leadership, with opportunities for sharing and discussion. \*You may opt to stay overnight the evening before for an additional \$125.

**Friday, February 27 at 4:00 pm— Sunday, March 1 at 10:00 am**

Directed Retreat (limited to 10 people) \$275 Private Retreat \$225

Jesus invites us to "come apart . . . for awhile" so that we can hear his voice! Take advantage of the beautiful surroundings to engage in deep listening with God or meet with a trained spiritual director who can help you discern how God is speaking to you. **For more information or to register, visit our website [www.VMbytheSea.com](http://www.VMbytheSea.com).**

**Msgr. Marucci's Humor Box**



**CAMP VERITAS 2026:** Camp Veritas is a one-week play-and-pray sleep away summer camp for middle school teens. Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish is inviting students from 7th grade through 9th grade to Camp Veritas from August 9-15 at Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY (7th-9th grade; \$550 per child).

Father Infant will be going to this camp to assist with Masses and any sacramental needs. Enrollment is currently open. An early bird discount of \$50 is applied when paid in full by March 1st. More details and info on other locations can be found at [www.campveritas.com](http://www.campveritas.com). Email [admin2@campveritas.com](mailto:admin2@campveritas.com) for more info.



**OPEN ENROLLMENT  
for September for  
Little Angels Academy Preschool  
is currently underway!**

It's time for open enrollment at Little Angels Academy! Classes fill quickly, so, if you have not yet registered your Little Angel for September, please do so as soon as possible so that we can reserve a place for your child!

Please visit the Church website  
[www.ChuchofStAndrews.org](http://www.ChuchofStAndrews.org)  
to download the registration form.

Our classes do fill early...so don't delay!  
Give your child the gift of a Little Angels Academy education!

Contact: Kathy Emrich 856-435-1585  
[Kemrich@churchofstandrews.org](mailto:Kemrich@churchofstandrews.org)



**Little Angels Academy  
2026 Camp June Bug  
Five Fantastic Weeks  
of Summer Fun!**

Monday – Friday 9AM – 12 PM

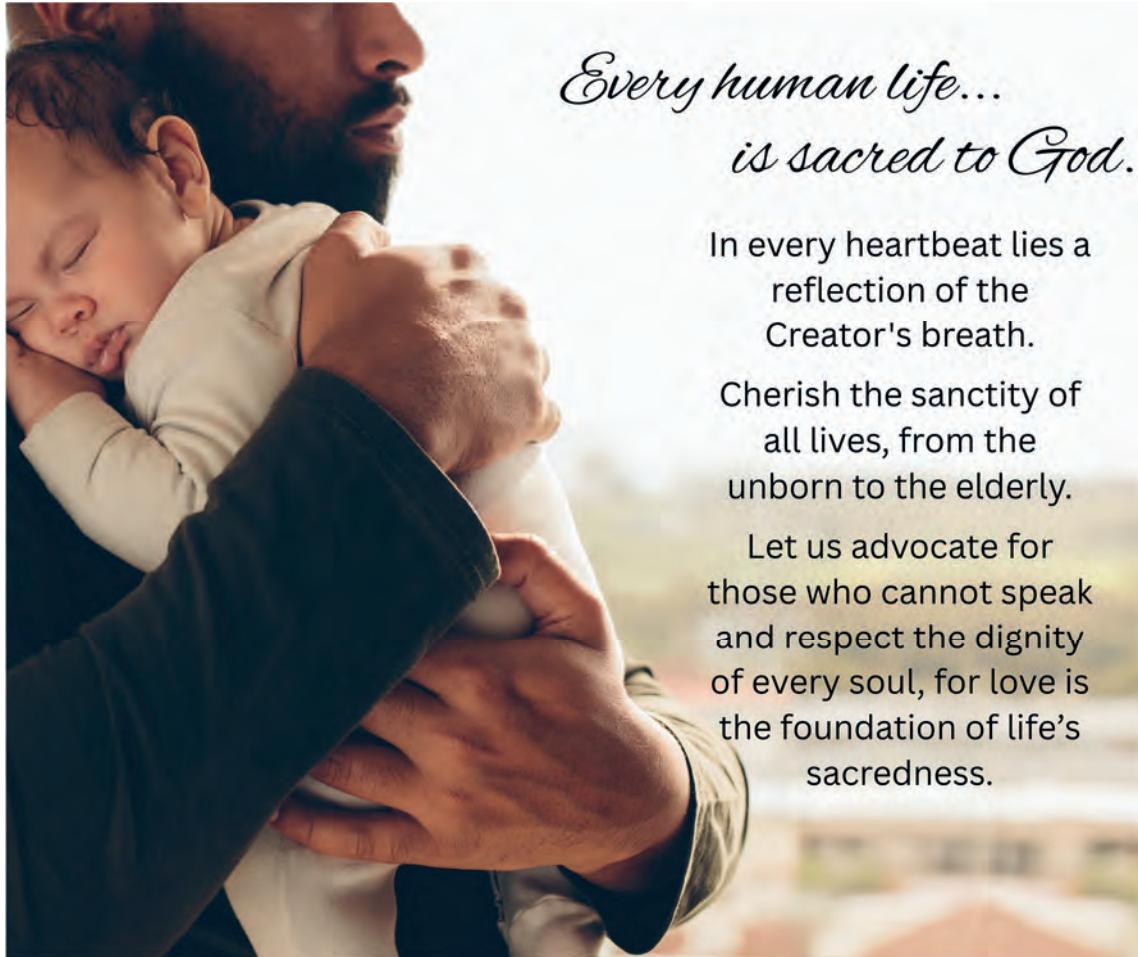
Week 1 – June 15 – June 19  
Week 2 – June 22 – June 26  
Week 3 – June 29 – July 2  
Week 4 – July 6 – July 10  
Week 5 – July 13 – July 17

Full week registration is required. \$125 per week  
Register for 1, 2, 3, 4 or all 5 weeks.

Ages 3-6 Must be potty trained!

*Summer Fun, Games, Outdoor Activities,  
Camp Supervised by Little Angels Faculty  
Featuring a Different Fun Theme Each Week  
Limited Space Available!*

**Registration forms are available in the  
Church Vestibule and on the Parish website.**



*Every human life...  
is sacred to God.*

In every heartbeat lies a  
reflection of the  
Creator's breath.

Cherish the sanctity of  
all lives, from the  
unborn to the elderly.

Let us advocate for  
those who cannot speak  
and respect the dignity  
of every soul, for love is  
the foundation of life's  
sacredness.



The Renaissance Center

"You don't stop laughing when you grow old, you grow old when you stop laughing"  
George Bernard Shaw

Dear Seniors, This Tuesday, after a workout with small weights, we will be taking a look at the life of St. Padre Pio! St. Pio is an amazing, well known Saint, who died in our recent history, in 1968. Please join us, and learn about one of the most popular Saints of our time.

On Thursday, we start off with some Tai Chi, followed by a team game of Movie Trivia! Join us, and show off your movie expertise! Hope to see you this year, there is no membership, commitment, or cost to be part of the group. Just show up around 9:30 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and enjoy some conversation, food and fun with your peers.

Just send me a note at [themschoot@churchofstandrews.org](mailto:themschoot@churchofstandrews.org), and I will send you a schedule. There is no commitment or cost to join, so what's stopping you?

**"THE GREATEST GIFT YOU CAN GIVE YOUR KIDS IS A **HEALTHY MARRIAGE**. YOU ARE SENDING A MESSAGE TO YOUR KIDS THAT IS GOING TO PASS ON FOR GENERATIONS. THEY WILL RESPECT IT, AND WHEN THEY'RE MARRIED, THEY WILL ULTIMATELY **REFLECT THAT**."**



[marriageweek.org](http://marriageweek.org)

### National Marriage Week February 7th—14th

Marriage Week was adopted in the U.S. in 2002. We recognize and remember the purpose of National Marriage Week, which is to bring people and organizations together, with the focus of celebrating marriage intentionally **each year from Feb 7th to the 14th**. Even though each year's launch and focus rises during that one key week; our messaging and our desire to strengthen and enrich marriages, **will be all year long**.

Families flourish when Mom and Dad have a strong, healthy marriage. A strong marriage makes for a strong family. And a strong family makes a strong community. Together, as a collaborative effort with government entities, churches, organizations, and individuals - we can prioritize the priceless value of marriage, and help our nation (and more importantly, our families) flourish.

### St. Andrew the Apostle Grief Support Group

Grief Hurts. When we've lost someone we love, it can feel as though we've lost a part of ourselves. Sometimes we wonder if we will ever feel whole again. The pain of grief can be emotional, spiritual and sometimes even physical. Some people cry a lot, others not at all, and many cry now and then. It is all normal, and it is all okay.

Feeling sad is a natural response to losing someone who was an important part of our life. Many people experience a lack of energy and sadness while grieving. Some describe being "in a fog" and finding it difficult to perform simple tasks. Some people want to be around their friends and family, and others prefer to be left alone. Grief looks different with each person who experiences it.

St. Andrew's offers a peer grief support group for persons who have experienced a loss. It can be very helpful to share your grief with others who understand and share your faith. Our faith is a great source of hope and comfort at a time of loss. We believe in Eternal Life and Christ's promise: "I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in me, though he dies, yet he shall live." John 11:25

The next session of our Grief Support Group will begin on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 from 4-5:30pm and continue for seven more weeks. Join us!

### Building Up the House of the Lord

#### Introduction: A Sacred Invitation

*"Go up into the Hill Country; bring timber, and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and receive my glory says the Lord." Haggai 1:8*

Throughout salvation history God has invited his people to build sacred spaces not for his own need but for ours. Temples, tabernacles, and churches have always been places of encounter, healing, and mission. Today our parish stands at a similar threshold: called to renew and expand our spiritual home so that it may continue to serve as a place of welcome, worship, and preparation for generations to come.



Our capital campaign is built upon three sacred tiers, each representing a dimension of parish life that we seek to strengthen and renew. These tiers are not merely construction phases, they are spiritual invitations to build with purpose, to give with love, and to leave a legacy of faith.

#### Tier 1: The Foundation Of Welcome

This tier creates a new Community Center directly attached to the church - a space for fellowship, funeral repast, ministry receptions, and quiet conversation after Mass. It will be the first place people encounter after worship, transforming the way we gather and extending the warmth of our parish beyond the sanctuary. This is where hospitality becomes holy.

#### Tier 2: The Sanctuary Of Service

This tier focuses on accessibility and dignity. It includes the renovation of restrooms, restoration of the rectory elevator, and improvements for families and elders. These upgrades ensure that every parishioner, regardless

of age or ability, can participate fully in the life of the church. It also supports our pastor to access all floors of the rectory / parish office by repairing the elevator which has been out of service for the past six months, due to cost. This is where compassion becomes concrete.

#### Tier 3: The Pillars Of Praise

This tier enhances our worship space with a new organ, a dedicated choir room, and liturgical storage. These additions will support the beauty of our liturgy and the voices that lead us in prayer. This is where reverence becomes radiant.

Each tier invites us to build not just with stone and timber, but with faith, hope, and love. Whether you contribute to one tier or support the campaign as a whole, your gift becomes part of a sacred story— one that will echo through generations.

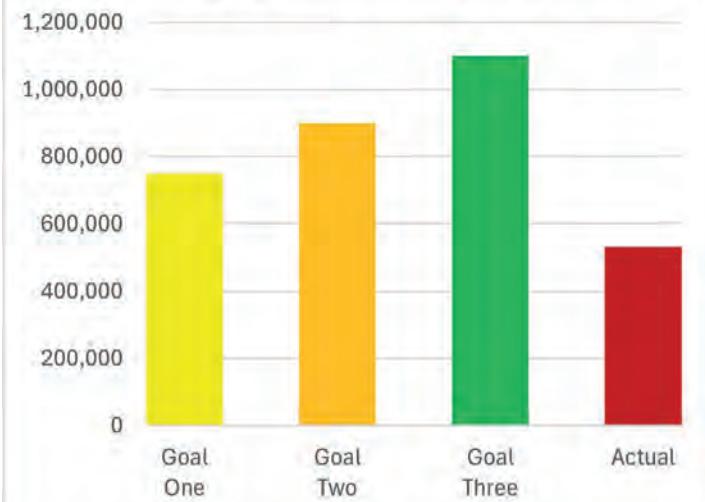
#### Why Now?

Our parish is growing— in spirit, in number, and in mission. We need space that reflects our vitality and supports the vibrant life of our community.

Our facilities, though recently renovated, left this area intentionally for future renewal. That future is now. Our mission commands it: to welcome the stranger, to serve one another, and to worship with excellence and joy.

This campaign is not about luxury, it is about legacy. It is about building sacred space that reflects who we are and who we are becoming. It is about ensuring that Saint Andrew the Apostle remains a beacon of faith, hope, and love — not just in liturgy, but in life.

### Building Up the House of the Lord



## Building Up the House of the Lord Capital Campaign

### Closing reflection

*"Let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord ." Psalm 122:1*

**IMAGINE A CHILD** walking through a spacious vestibule, greeted by familiar faces and a presence of saintly images.  
**IMAGINE A BRIDE** processing down the aisle, accompanied by the majestic sound of a new organ.  
**IMAGINE A PARISHIONER** gathered with family slash friends following a funeral of a loved one period these are not dreams; They are the fruits of our faith, our generosity, and our shared commitment period let us rise together and build. Let us make our parish a place where heaven touches earth. Let us build up the House of the Lord.  
With a loving and grateful heart,  
Msgr. Louis A. Marucci

Total Gift	10% Downpayment	Balance	Monthly	Quarterly	Semi-Annual	Annual
250,000	25,000	225,000	6,250	18,750	37,500	75,000
200,000	20,000	180,000	5,000	15,000	30,000	60,000
100,000	10,000	90,000	2,500	7,500	15,000	30,000
50,000	5,000	45,000	1,250	3,750	7,500	15,000
30,000	3,000	27,000	750	2,250	4,500	9,000
15,000	1,500	13,500	375	1,125	2,250	4,500
10,000	1,000	9,000	275	750	1,500	3,000
6,000	600	5,400	150	450	900	1,800
3,600	360	3,240	90	270	540	1,080
1,800	180	1,620	45	135	270	540

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*\*If you would like to fulfill your pledge using a credit card, stocks or other method, please contact Msgr. Marucci at (856) 784-3878.*

#### METHOD OF PAYMENT

- Cash/Check (made payable to **St. Andrew the Apostle Building Fund**)
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## What Your Marriage Really Represents It's a great institution on its own . . . but what it stands for is even greater.

I recently had the pleasure of attending a good friend's wedding. It was a wonderful time. The bride was beautiful; the groom was giddy. The hum of strings wafted through the tiny, richly decorated chapel, and the crowd of friends and family huddled tightly, beaming with joy. It was one of those weddings that make you happy—not *just* for the couple, but for the institution of marriage in general.

The mood made it all the more striking, then, when the priest's voice boomed out over the small congregation: "Marriage is the greatest symbol the Bible uses to describe God and his people. Not king and subjects. Not shepherd and sheep. Marriage." The assertion challenged me. My temperament is more inclined to view God as a king than a spouse. So I did what I don't do nearly enough. I opened up my Bible.



Lo and behold, the priest was right. Scripture uses many symbols for God's relationship with us, but none seems more frequent or more vivid than marriage. The Bible is full of marriage imagery, from the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation. The love between God and his people is like a marriage (Isa. 54:5). The relationship between the soul and God is like the relationship between spouses (Song of Songs 1:1-4). Jesus repeatedly describes himself as "the bridegroom" (Matt. 9:15). The list goes on.

Young couples understand something about this metaphor when they fall in love. In an instant, the world gets turned upside-down. Previous cares evaporate. The vision blurs, and the stomach drops. Everything suddenly revolves around their sweetheart, and, if they're fortunate enough to be loved in return, they soon experience a depth of tenderness and care for another beyond anything they've known in this world.

It's a powerful image of the enormousness of God's love for us and his desire of our love for him. But for a young lover, it's more than just an image of God with the world. His love becomes an image of God himself. God is love, and the beauty of romantic love gives us a hint of the Divine's identity.

The analogy runs both ways. By comparing himself to marriage, God teaches us that he is like married love—but also that married love ought to be like him. Many elements of marriage flow out of this understanding. Marriage is total; the immensity of the love between partners demands this, but so does the comparison to the love of God. God gives his whole self when he loves, since he is love, and lovers want to give their whole selves to their beloved. Similarly, marriage is free; God gives his gifts without condition or coercion, making the rain fall on the bad and the good alike. Marriage is also forever; God is faithful to his promises for all eternity—and true lovers never say, "I love you for today only."

This is why marriage gets to the core of God's identity. It



stands almost unique among human relationships, with a love as near the Divine as we can conceive. Of course, all human loves speak something of the love of God. The love of friendship is pure, and God loves us purely. The love of country is sacrificial, and God loves us sacrificially. But the love of country is impersonal. And the love of friendship is rarely total. Married love includes intimate friendship, but brought to new depths of commitment. And that commitment gives a sacrificial nobility even greater than sacrificing for country.

Here the analogy might break down for the Christian. Marriage and married love are between two people. But we know that the full identity of God is Trinity. Like marriage, God is a community of love between persons. But unlike marriage, it seems, God is a community of love among three Persons.

There is another important element of marriage that has so far been unmentioned: children. Marriage doesn't just cement two individuals in their love for each other. It also establishes a family.

In the Trinity, the Father first loves the Son, who in turn loves the Father. But the love between them is so strong that it cannot be contained to two Persons only. That love is itself a third Person: the Holy Spirit, eternally proceeding from Father and Son.

A family is an image of this trinitarian love. Husband and wife love each other, but that love does not stay merely between them. In time, it produces another person—a child—who subsequently is also loved and loves in turn.

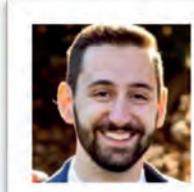
My wife and I have been blessed to experience this. We had fallen deeply in love, and lived for several happy months as husband and wife. We couldn't have imagined a third person, who it seemed could only come between us. But something about our relationship, something even greater than that first giddy love, came to be with the birth of our son. There is the special love I have for him. But that love isn't just a love for another person. It's a love that's tied into my love for my wife. He looks like

his father. He laughs like his mother. In many ways, he's a physical manifestation of the relationship between us. When I love him, I love his mother. And when she loves him, she loves me.

This is marriage as the image of God, which is the image of the Trinity. The love between two spouses shows us the depths of love between each individual Person: the Father and the Son, the Father and the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit and the Son. And the love of the whole family shows how this intense love is unable to remain merely between two Persons, but branches out into a trinitarian community.

Of course, marriage, and the family it begets, is an image of God. For finite creatures, the image works in ways that the literal, infinite Trinity does not. There can be multiple children, each one a unique manifestation of the spouses' love. For those struggling with infertility, there can be no children, but the love of the spouses is still real, still made concrete in the family life between husband and wife, just in a less visible way. In all cases, it is the possibility of children that is more important than the number. The kind of love is the same—the kind of love that is open to the birth of a new person. In the infinite Godhead, this love eternally gives three infinite persons. In finite marriages, that love may or may not produce any number of finite persons.

Yet in both cases, love is an image of the other. That priest was right that marriage is a special symbol for God's love. It's an image of the Trinity, revealing to us something important about who God is and how he loves us. That connection should fill us with joy at weddings, like my friend's recent ceremony—and at godly marriages everywhere.



Written by:  
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1/17/2024  
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