Welcome to the Church of St. Andrew the Apostle

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CYCLE C

JULY 13, 2025



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)

> CONFESSION Saturday 3:15 PM

and by Appointment

EUCHARISTIC 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

> ROSARY Monday through Friday 12:00 PM

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET Monday through Friday 3:00 PM

OUR MISSION...

To live in God's peace by embracing the mind and heart of Jesus, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, centered in the Eucharist and living the Gospel as Disciples of Christ, we seek fulfillment through prayer, worship, education and Christian fellowship. As stewards of God's love, sharing our gifts and talents, we serve others, both in and outside of our parish. OUR VISION...

To be the model of a vibrant, loving and diverse faith community, welcoming all in the Catholic Tradition.

27 Kresson-Gibbsboro Road • Gibbsboro NJ 08026 (856) 784-3878 - Visit us online — www.churchofsaintandrews.org Office hours: Mon-Fri: 8:30 AM-3:00 PM

Our Pastoral Team - We're Here to Serve You! 856-784-3878

Clergy

ciergy					
Rev. Msgr. Louis A.	Marucci, VF,	, D. Min. Pastor	msgrmarucci@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 19	
Rev. Anthony Infant	i	Parochial Vicar	frinfanti@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 14	
Rev. Varghese Sram	bickal	Hospital Chaplain	frvarghese@churchofstandrews.org		
Deacon Aaron Smith	ı	Permanent Deacon	asmith@churchofstandrews.org	leave message at Office	
Deacon Anthony Ma	latesta	Permanent Deacon	amalatesta@churchofstandrews.org	leave message at Office	
Parish Administration					
John Michael Thomas		Worship & Music	jthomas@churchofstandrews.org	leave message at Office	
Kathy Emrich		Spiritual Life	kemrich@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 33	
Kathy Emrich		LifeLong Faith Formation	kemrich@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 33	
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Rebecca Poland		Ministerial Support	rpoland@churchofstandrews.org		
Bob Sperrazza	Coordinator,	Compassionate Outreach	rsperrazza@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 27	
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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.churchofsaintandrews.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. (There will be no Children and Family Mass during the months of July and August.)

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 ministry 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 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 Candles/ Blessed Mother Candle

We offer candle remembrances for special intentions. Please call the 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.



The Apostolic Pardon: A Final Gift of Mercy

In last weekend's article, as I wrote about **Independence Day**, I offered a reflection on the sacrifices our military personnel and veterans make (made) for our freedom. Additionally, I wrote about another kind of freedom—**the freedom of the**

soul—that God desires for each of us. I further shared that the Church, in her wisdom and mercy, offers a powerful grace to those nearing the end of their earthly journey, called the **Apostolic Pardon**.

Many Catholics are unaware of this incredible gift, yet it is one of the most profound acts of mercy the Church provides. It is a **plenary indulgence** given to the dying, ensuring they enter eternal life completely purified. Understanding and preparing for the Apostolic Pardon can bring great peace to those facing death and to their loved ones.

The **Apostolic Pardon** is a special blessing granted by a priest to a dying person. It does **not** forgive sins—that happens through **confession**—but **removes all temporal punishment** due to sin. In Catholic teaching, even after sins are forgiven, their effects remain, requiring purification either in this life or in **Purgatory**. The Apostolic Pardon ensures that the soul is completely cleansed, *allowing the person to enter heaven immediately upon death.*

The words of the Apostolic Pardon are simple yet profound. A priest may say, "Through the holy mysteries of our redemption, may almighty God release you from all punishments in this life and in the life to come. May He open to you the gates of paradise and welcome you to everlasting life." Alternatively, he may use the formula, "By the authority which the Apostolic See has given me, I grant you a full pardon and the remission of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." These are powerful prayers.

It is called the **Apostolic** Pardon because it is granted by the authority of the **Apostolic See**, meaning Pope Leo and the Church. The Church, through the power given by Christ to St. Peter and his successors, has the authority to grant indulgences and extend God's mercy in a special way to the dying. This is a reminder that the Church, as the guardian of Christ's teachings, continues His mission of salvation even in a person's final moments. Any baptized Catholic **in danger of death** can receive the Apostolic Pardon. It is usually given after the Sacraments of **Confession**, **Anointing of the Sick**, and **Viaticum** (the final reception of the Eucharist). *These sacraments prepare the soul for its journey to God, ensuring that the person is spiritually strengthened and absolved of sin.* If a **priest is unavailable**, the Church teaches that a person who is properly disposed and has prayed throughout their life can receive the same grace by making an **act of perfect contrition** and trusting in God's mercy.

Preparing for the Apostolic Pardon begins long before a person is on their deathbed. Living a life of faith and repentance is the best way to ensure that when the time comes, the soul is ready to receive God's mercy. Regular reception of the **Sacraments of Confession and Eucharist** keeps the soul in a state of grace, while daily prayer strengthens one's relationship with God. Acts of **charity and penance** also help purify the soul, making it more receptive to divine grace.

When a loved one is seriously ill or approaching death, it is important to **contact a priest** as soon as possible. Many families wait until the last moments, but calling a priest early allows the person to receive **Confession**, **Anointing of the Sick**, **Viaticum**, and finally, the **Apostolic Pardon**. These sacraments provide spiritual comfort and ensure the person is fully prepared to meet God.

For those unable to receive the Apostolic Pardon from a priest, the Church offers reassurance that God's mercy is still available. A dying person can receive the same grace by making an **act of perfect contrition**, sincerely repenting out of love for God. Offering one's suffering in **union with Christ's sacrifice** is another way to prepare the soul for heaven. Above all, trusting in God's infinite mercy is essential, as He desires the salvation of every soul.

Many Catholics are unfamiliar with the Apostolic Pardon, and, as your Pastor, I believe it is important to share this knowledge with you. Family members and caregivers should understand that this blessing is **not just for priests or religious**—it is available to any baptized Catholic *in danger of death.* Loved ones should be encouraged to **call a priest early**, ensuring the person receives the full grace of the Church's sacraments. The Apostolic Pardon is a **gift of mercy**, not just a ritual, and it should be embraced as a *final act of love from God.*

For those who are dying, the Apostolic Pardon offers great comfort. It reassures them that **God desires their salvation** and offers this grace freely. Even if they feel unworthy, they should be encouraged to **pray and trust in**

Parish News

God's love. Jesus conquered sin and death, and this I hope you found this article helpful and that it deepened pardon is a final act of His mercy, ensuring that the soul is your faith. May we prepare ourselves and our loved ones ready to enter eternal life.

The Apostolic Pardon is one of the greatest gifts the Church offers to the dying. It reflects the boundless mercy of God and the Church's mission to bring souls to salvation. It is a reminder that, even in our final moments, God's grace is abundant, and His desire is for us to be with Him forever.

to receive the Apostolic Pardon, ensuring that we are ready to enter the eternal embrace of God's love when our time comes.

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

Ordinary Time: Spiritual Rest and Renewal in the Summer Months - Finding Peace and Growth in July and August

Ordinary Time in the Catholic Church is a season that is anything but "ordinary." Marked by the liturgical color green, it is a period devoted for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history. The months of July and August, nestled in the heart of Ordinary Time, provide a unique invitation for believers to follow the example of Jesus, who frequently withdrew from the crowds to rest and pray to the Father.

In the Gospels, Jesus intentionally sought moments of solitude, stepping away from the busyness of daily ministry to seek communion with God. This rhythm of action and contemplation is a model for Catholics, especially during the summer. July and August, with their slower pace and warmth, offer the perfect backdrop for spiritual rest and refreshment. The intense flurry of activities that often fills the rest of the year gives way to a quieter time—a sacred space to



breathe, reflect, and renew.

During these summer months, Catholics are encouraged to embrace stillness, to rest not only physically but also spiritually. This is a season to let go of unnecessary anxieties, to be present with loved ones, and to listen quietly for the gentle voice of God. As green vestments adorn the altar, they remind us that faith is meant to grow-not in dramatic bursts, but through steady nourishment and peaceful abiding.

May we use July and August to rest in God's presence, to renew our spirits, and to deepen our relationship with Jesus. Ordinary Time is a growing season; may this summer bring you rest, refreshment, and the abiding peace of Christ.

Summer Hospitality Schedule for the weekend of July 12th and July 13th

Each week, one of our Ministries here at St. Andrew's volunteers to host the weekend hospitality treats after the 4:00 PM, 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses.

This weekend, the Hospitality table is being hosted by our Hospitality Committee.

Please join us after Mass for fellowship and light refreshments. This is a wonderful opportunity to lean more about the wonderful ministries at St. Andrew the Apostle Church. If you are interested in joining the Hospitality Committee, please see any of volunteers at the table.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? Join our OCIA Inquiry Group for informal discussions about the faith.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 14th at 7:00 PM in the Upper Room of the Parish Hall.

All are welcome! If you or someone you know might wish to learn more about this possibility, please contact Fr. Anthony Infanti or Kathy Emrich at 856-784-3878 or email Fr. Infanti at frInfanti@churchofstandrews.org or Kathy Emrich at kemrich@churchofstandrews.org

For Whom Shall We Pray

MASS INTENTIONS

Caddy and Maye Alfonso Thomas Kuchler SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025 Loretta Lipp Peggy Badey 8:00 AM + Ronald Rickert r/b Burt and Sharon Hulbert Bill Long, Jr Joseph Bello, Sr. 10:00 AM + Charles A. Ritzel, Jr. r/b John and Josephine O'Neill Ben LoPresti Valerie F. Butler 10:00 AM + Charlotte Worstall r/b St. John Paul 2nd Assembly Maria LoPresti Gary Carmody 6:00 PM + Carol Szalus r/b the Fostik Family Nicolina Marucci Timothy Cody Anna Mascino **MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025** April Cole Dan McGravey 8:00 AM + Mae M. Langan r/b Ann Marie McClintock Barbara Curtis Rosemarie Mello Tony Del Pidio **TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025** Marge Merkert Katrina DeValerio 8:00 AM Pro Populo Mass Joy McGovern Stephen DiLizio David Misilewich Maryann Donohue WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025 Jane Mooney Guinevere V. Faulkner 8:00 AM + John Michael Fitzpatrick r/b Danielle Bagwell Mike Mooney **Bob Freer** 8:00 AM + Jacqueline Sbrocco r/b Harold Sbrocco Anthony Pallante Alexander Fromnic **THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025** Andrew Papp Sr. Alma Gallagher 8:00 AM L Sr. Alma Gallagher r/b Ann Marie McClintock Linda Raymond Joan Geier Michael Ruggiero Nancy Giampietro FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2025 Marie Sheehan **Baby Oceanus Gilmore** 8:00 AM + Fulgentius Joti Rozario r/b the Gomes Family Anthony Simone Joe Gilmore SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2025 Maryann Simone Amy Glenney 8:00 AM + David Chapman r/b Luisa Kaczorowski Mary Bauman Soards Dottie Glenney 4:00 PM + Joseph Paul Gehousky r/b Jean and Jennifer Anlage Don Stoll **Neil Glenney** Nina Stone **Donald Ray Hamilton** SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2025 Helene Tavlor Carson Hill 8:00 AM + Maryanne Ormsby r/b William and Elaine Maffucci Jess Verrecchia Walter T. Iwanowski 10:00 AM + Alejandra Sulpizio r/b Grandparents Aura and Ronnie Jane Weiman **Robert Joynes** Sulpizio Peter Kricken 10:00 AM + Bill Stengel r/b June Stengel 6:00 PM + Annamarie Billings r/b Canasta Group: Marge, Gari, A Time for Peace Elizabeth, Barbara and Jackie Officer Bill Walsh Devin Badey, Army Luke Bianchini USAF SrA Officer Kevin Wynne Melvin Dastas, Navy The Sanctuary Candle Burns in Memory of The Blessed Mother Candle Burns in Memory of George Quinn r/b Carolyn Quinn and Family Richard Crane r/b Andrea Garvey Banns of Marriage for We Pray for Those Who Have Entered Eternal Life Marcelino Gomez, Jr. and Prisciilla Gomez Glenda Elaine Nixon, Dorothy M. DiMattia

Adoration Invitation: "Help me to be humble, Lord, so I may imitate You and please You."

Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favorably on your servant Leo, whom you have set at the head of your Church, as her shepherd; grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. Excerpt from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

A Time to Be Healed

Date of Convalidation: August 2nd, 2025

Important Information

The Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel: A Celebration of Devotion

Blessing of the Scapular to Take Place on July 16th at the 8:00 AM Mass

The Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel stands as a treasured celebration in the Catholic calendar, devoted to honoring Mary, the Mother of God. Each year, this feast provides the faithful with a special opportunity to renew their devotion and reflect on the profound relationship between Mary and her followers.

A highlight of the celebration is the Blessing of the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which will be held this year on July 16th at the 8:00 AM Mass. The brown scapular, a simple strip of cloth worn over the shoulders, serves as a tangible symbol of Marian devotion. For centuries, it has represented the trust and protection that believers place in Mary, as well as the spiritual bond uniting her and her devotees.

According to cherished Catholic tradition, Mary promised unique graces and her maternal protection to all who faithfully wear the scapular. It is not merely a piece of cloth, but a sign of commitment to live a life of faith and to seek Mary's intercession in times of need.



On this feast day, the community gathers in reverence, united in the hope and comfort that devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel brings.



Name: _

Novena of Grace in Honor of Our Lady of the Assumption Thursday, August 7th to Friday, August 15th. Please join us as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a beautiful Novena of Grace in Honor of Our Lady of the Assumption.

The Novena will be prayed following the 8:00 AM Mass.

I offer our Blessed Mother the following intention. The novena candle will burn In Memory of / In Honor of (circle one)

□ Living □ Deceased

Requested By: _____

-Or– My Special Intention is: ______

Requested by: _____

Please return this form to the Parish Office. Suggested candle offering is \$10.00.

Your Ministries

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 c# 856-761-2226 or rsperrazza@churchofstandrews.org or Chris at c# 856-906-5127 or specp1@comcast.net.

Compassionate Outreach

Bob Sperrazza is stepping down as co-leader of Compassionate Outreach after over a decade of dedicated service. Bob has gone above and beyond his duties as leader and we are thankful for all that he has done serving the church and our community. Thankfully, Bob will continue assisting in our ministries.

As a result of Bob stepping down, we are looking for a volunteer to assist Chris leading Compassionate Outreach ministries. This would involve assisting individuals in serious need who contact the church for help. Services ranging from providing referrals for county subsidies to organizing parishioners, donors and volunteers to help individuals with food, clothing, home furnishings and job search assistance during short term crises. This program also sponsors the Annual School Success Drive, Christmas Giving Tree, Winter Coat Drive and Veterans Outreach visits. Call or text Chris at the numbers provided above.

Christian Cupboard Grocery list:

Shelf stable milk Snack pack pudding Canned fruit Our Poor Boxes Directly Serve Those in Need! The Poor Boxes are located to the right and left of the main aisle doors as you exit the church before you enter the vestibule.

UPCOMING PARISH MISSION St Thomas the Apostle, Brigantine

Join us on July 21 - 23 at 7 PM for our Parish Mission and Healing Service entitled: Why Be Catholic?

Presenter is Fr. Ken Geraci, who lived the life of the prodigal son for most of his young adult life. Raised in a nominal Catholic family, who only lived the externals of the faith, Fr. Ken left the Catholic Church for many years. During that time he worked as a business professional in Advanced R&D and software testing. Focused on money, fitness and success, he made little room for God; but God did not give up on him. During this journey, God presented him with challenges that forced him to question his personal beliefs and the question "What is Truth?"

Through a series of conversions, years of struggle, study and questioning, Fr. Ken found his way from agnosticism, to non-denomination Christianity and ultimately back to the Catholic Church. Fr. Ken joined the Fathers of Mercy in 2006 and was ordained in 2012. Having lived a secular existence, Fr. Ken has a great understanding of the personal and societal pressures that individuals face and knows what it is like to "hate coming to church."

This mission is for people of all ages and levels of faith, from those who are madly in love with Jesus, to those who sometimes struggle with the church or religion. Regardless of your level of faith come and experience God's Divine Mercy!

The Cornerstone Women's Retreat will be held at the Mother Mary Joseph Hospitality Center in Cherry Hill, NJ on October 24th through October 26th.

Cornerstone is a transformative retreat for women that offers them the opportunity to pause, reflect, renew, and strengthen their faith while connecting with other women from our community. It's a chance to build small, faith-based communities and grow in spiritual connection.

It's a gift you can give yourself—time to reflect on relationships, blessings, joys, passions, and challenges. Make plans to join us! All are welcome!



Your Ministries



Hi Seniors, the Communion Breakfast was a great! Many of you went to the Mass, and the breakfast was really fun! So next is the Pool Party! Please note the date - instead of Tuesday, it will be held on Thursday, July 17th, at Tese and Jim's house.

The Renaissance Center We have lots of chairs, but feel free to bring your own beach chair if you want. Tents and umbrellas will be set up for shade. Swimming is optional of course, but I highly advise taking a dip in this weather! We will provide the hot dogs and burgers, and some of you have signed up to bring a side dish or desert. I'm looking forward to our usual great time!

Check your schedule or the bulletin for the rest of the Summer gatherings. We will meet at the regular time in the Upper Room on July 22nd. Hope to see you there! Looking forward to seeing you at the center! Why not give us a try once? You can contact me at themschoot@churchofstandrews.org

Sacristans Needed

Join the Sacristan Ministry—Serve with Heart and Hands

Are you searching for a meaningful way to serve your parish community and deepen your faith? The Sacristan Ministry is seeking dedicated adults to help prepare our worship space for the celebration of the Eucharist. This is not only a practical service, but also a very spiritual and reverential ministry that will enhance your understanding of the Catholic liturgy. It is a profound way to serve God and His Church.

When and Where?

8:00 AM Daily Mass: Monday through Saturday mornings or 6:00 PM Sunday Evening Mass

Volunteer Commitment

Choose one morning per week (Monday–Saturday) that fits your schedule. A commitment of once every other week can also be arranged.

For the Sunday evening Mass, volunteers are needed just once a month.

What Does a Sacristan Do?

Prepare the worship space before Mass and set up all necessary items for liturgy.

Clean and store sacred vessels and materials after Mass. Ensure everything is reverently in order before and after each celebration.

No prior experience is needed—training will be provided!

Ready to Serve?

If you feel called to help create a welcoming and prayerful environment for our parish, and wish to participate in a ministry that will deepen your spiritual life and connection to the liturgy, we invite you to join the Sacristan Ministry.

To volunteer or ask questions, please contact: jstengel@churchofstandrews.org

Funeral Planning Ministry Volunteers Needed!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to serve others and your faith community?

Who We Are

Our Funeral Planning Ministry walks alongside families as they navigate the difficult journey of losing a loved one. We offer guidance and support, ensuring that each funeral Mass is a beautiful and comforting celebration of life, faith, and love.

How You Can Help

Volunteers meet with grieving families to help plan the funeral Mass of their loved one. They assist families in selecting meaningful music and scripture readings for the service and help families complete a brief questionnaire, gathering memories and details that help personalize the liturgy. They also provide gentle support and a listening ear to those experiencing loss.

Volunteer Requirements

Availability during weekday daytime hours is essential. Comfort with Microsoft Word and email is preferred. No prior experience is required – full training will be provided by the parish.

Why Volunteer?

Helping families plan a funeral Mass is a deeply enriching experience, offering ministry volunteers the chance to share God's comfort and grace at a pivotal moment in people's lives. Volunteers often find their own faith and compassion deepened through this service.

Interested?

If you feel called to this important and rewarding ministry, or if you have questions, please reach out! Email Msgr. Marucci at: MsgrMarucci@churchofstandrews.org

Join us in bringing peace, hope, and love to families in their greatest hour of need.

Important Information



Register Now For 2025-2026 Religious Education Classes

St. Andrew the Apostle Religious Education Program offers a variety of programs to teach your child as they grow in faith and knowledge of God. Classes are starting to fill! Register today!
Tuesday Afternoon Traditional Classes / Sunday Morning GIFT Program / Online Program Visit the church website for the registration form.

The Gift of Catholic Eucharistic Adoration Encountering Christ in Stillness

Catholic Eucharistic Adoration is the prayerful devotion of spending time in the presence of the consecrated Eucharist—believed to be the real presence of Jesus Christ.

Typically, the Blessed Sacrament is displayed in a monstrance on the altar, inviting the faithful into silent adoration and reflection. Through this devotion, Catholics find spiritual renewal, peace, and deeper intimacy with Christ. Adoration offers a space to unburden the heart, listen for

God's guidance, and intercede for others.

By making time for Eucharistic Adoration, one cultivates gratitude, humility, and a receptive heart, drawing strength for daily life from the source of divine love.



Little Angels Academy Preschool Open Enrollment for September





BECOME PART OF OUR FIRST WEDNESDAY—ADORATION PRAYER SQUAD

Did you know that you can schedule a time that you are in the real presence of our Lord Jesus Christ? What a gift to us that we can actually be in His presence, speaking directly to Our Lord.

Yes, you can do this. It is easy. Choose an hour between 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM the first Wednesday of each month. St. Andrew the Apostle church has the Eucharist—the real presence of Our Lord Jesus—presented in the monstrance on the altar from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Keep the Lord company, talk to Him, pray to Him, listen to Him. He is there with you.

Email Liz at <u>queenoftheapostles97@gmail.com</u> or text her at 609-870-4819 with a time that is good for you. The next First Wednesday adoration is August 6th. Do not miss out on this beautiful opportunity to be in the real presence of Jesus Christ. Blessings always. To Christ through Mary

Weekly Gospel Reflection

Embodying Boundless Compassion in Daily Life

The Parable of the Good Samaritan, found in Luke 10:25-37, stands as a powerful testament to Christ's teaching on unconditional love. When a lawyer questions Jesus about inheriting eternal life, Jesus responds with a story: a man journeying from Jerusalem to Jericho is attacked by robbers, beaten, and left to die. A priest and a Levite, both esteemed religious figures, see the wounded traveler but choose to pass by without offering aid. It is a Samaritan—someone considered an outcast and enemy by the Jewish people—who stops, tends to the man's wounds, and ensures his continued care by taking him to an inn and paying for his recovery.

Through this narrative, Jesus redefines the concept of "neighbor." We are called not merely to love those who are familiar or similar to us, but to extend mercy and compassion even to strangers—and those whom society might teach us to disregard. The Samaritan's actions go beyond mere sentiment; he acts decisively and sacrificially, putting aside prejudice, inconvenience, and personal cost to serve another in need. This is the heart of Catholic moral teaching: love is not bounded by ethnicity, religion, or social standing, but is shown through concrete deeds of mercy.

For Catholics, this parable is both a challenge and an invitation. True discipleship means imitating Christ's boundless love, manifest in the compassion of the Samaritan. It urges us to overcome indifference, prejudices, and self-interest, actively seeking out those who suffer around us—whether they are physically wounded, lonely, marginalized, or in need of spiritual support. Each encounter with another person is an opportunity to reflect God's mercy and to draw closer to the example set by Christ.

Living out the lesson of the Good Samaritan transforms faith into action. It is not enough to recognize love as a virtue; we must practice it in our homes, workplaces, communities, and the wider world. In doing so, we answer Jesus' final command in the parable: "Go and do likewise." This is the path to authentic Christian living and the surest way to witness the love of God made tangible among us.

As we journey through this week, let us set aside intentional moments to contemplate the message of the Good Samaritan—a parable that calls us beyond ordinary kindness into the realm of radical, Christ-like love.

Reflection Questions:

- Who in my life, workplace, or community may be in need of compassion, but whom I often overlook?
- When confronted with someone in distress, do I respond with action, or allow excuses or fears to hold me back?
- Are there prejudices, discomforts, or judgments within me that prevent me from seeing others as my neighbor?
- What practical steps can I take today to show mercy to a stranger or someone outside my usual circle?
- How can I cultivate a habit of loving unconditionally, so that my daily choices reflect the love of the Good Samaritan?

Every human life is sacred to God.

The sanctity of life is a testament to the Creator's love.

From the earliest breath to the final moment, each life is fearfully and wonderfully made.

Let us hold life in reverence, defending its dignity and nurturing those who are vulnerable, as stewards of this divine miracle. -Sisters of Life





E40284 St. Andrew the Apostle, Gibbsboro, NJ

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