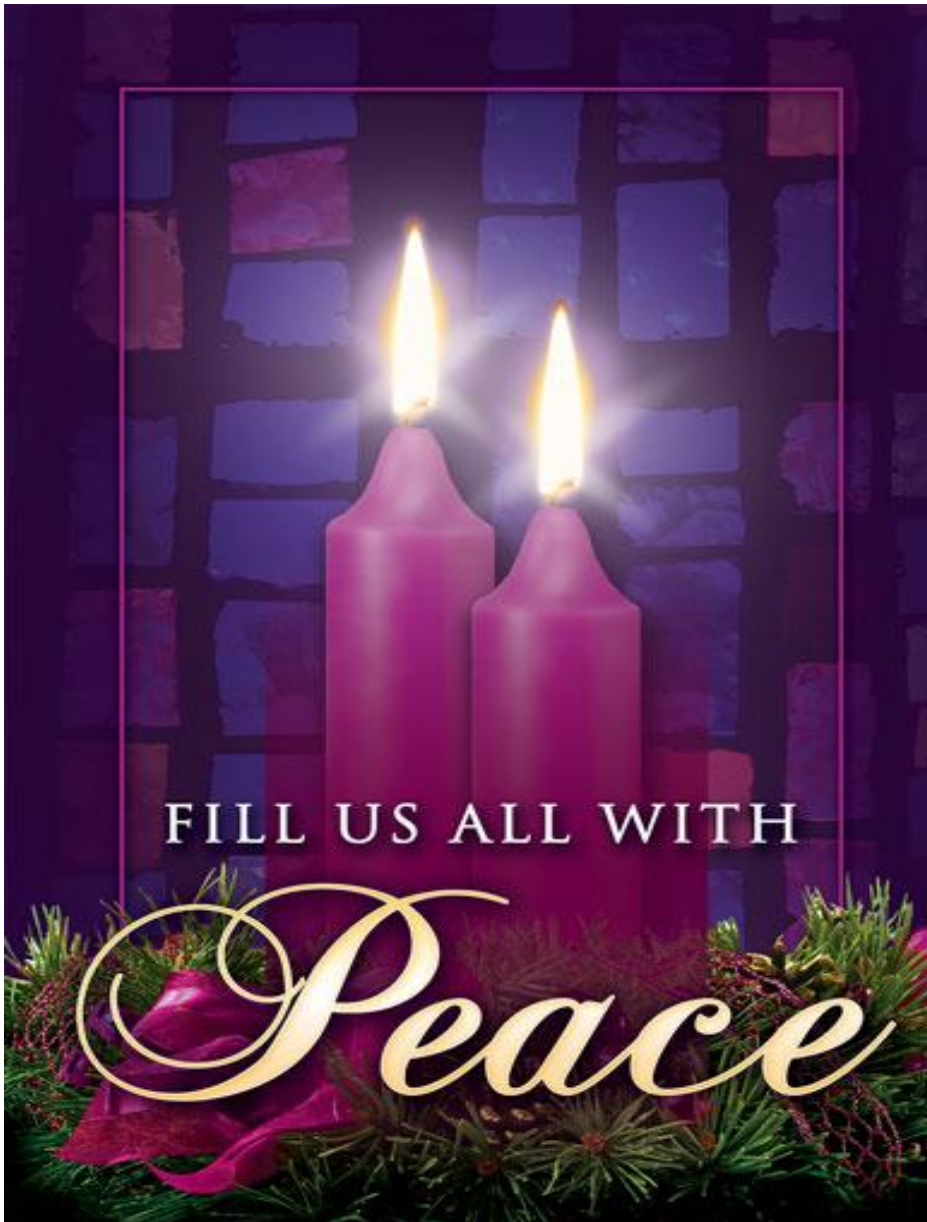


# Welcome to the Church of St. Andrew the Apostle

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**CYCLE A**

**DECEMBER 7, 2025**



**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**

**Chaplet of Divine Mercy**

Is prayed **Monday through Friday** at **3:00 PM** in the Main Church

**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

**EUCCHARISTIC 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

**This Advent, the Doors of the Inn  
are Open for You!**

Adoration will be held along with the  
Sacrament of Reconciliation on the  
following Wednesdays  
December 3, 10, and 17 at 7:00 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

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

### Clergy

Rev. Msgr. Louis A. Marucci, VF, D. Min.	Pastor	msgrmarucci@churchofstandrews.org	ext. 19
Rev. Anthony Infanti	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

### Parish Administration

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	spcp1@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



Week 2 – Prepare the Way:  
The Advent of Repentance  
Gospel: Matthew 3:1–12

A family once prepared their home for a long-awaited guest—a beloved grandmother returning after years abroad. They didn't just tidy up. They deep-cleaned, rearranged furniture,

painted the front door, and even planted flowers in the dead of winter. "We wanted her to feel how much we missed her," they said. Their preparation wasn't just physical—it was emotional, relational, spiritual.

The second Sunday of Advent brings us to the wilderness, where John the Baptist cries out: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Mt 3:2). His voice is not gentle—it's urgent, fiery, and direct. He calls for conversion, not comfort. He warns of axes at the root and unquenchable fire. His message is clear: if you want to welcome the Messiah, you must prepare the way.

John's ministry echoes the prophets. He is not interested in appearances—he wants transformation. He challenges the Pharisees and Sadducees, and calls them a brood of vipers. He demands action, not just words. Repentance, for John, is not about shame—it's about readiness. It's about clearing the clutter so Christ can enter.

Last week, the liturgical theme was a call to "wake up." This week, it is a call to "clean house." The two themes are connected because "Watchfulness" leads to "Repentance"—a turning of heart, a clearing of space, a reordering of priorities. Advent is not just about preparing our homes—it's always about preparing our souls.

So how do we live this repentance? First, go to Confession. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not a burden—it's a gift. It is where we lay down our sins and receive mercy. The Sacrament is celebrated every Wednesday at 7 PM. Second, clean one physical space in your home as a spiritual act—your prayer corner, your dining table, your front door. Let that cleaning be a symbol of interior renewal.

In your Hope Journal, (see last week's article) add a "Repentance Reflection" each day: one thing you choose to let go of, and one virtue you choose to embrace. It could be impatience, gossip, distraction—or generosity,

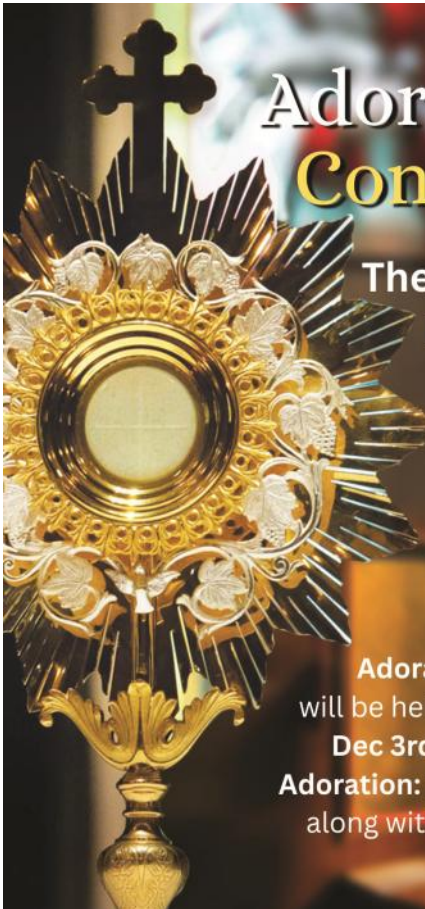
silence, prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the grace and strength to embrace this new virtue.

Repentance is not about guilt, It is always about grace. It's about making room for the One who comes. It's about preparing the way—not just with garlands and gifts, but with humility and holiness.

The family who prepared for their grandmother didn't just clean—they transformed their home into a place of welcome. This week, do the same. Prepare the way—not just for a holiday, but for the Holy One.

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

"Awakened by Hope: Living Advent with Watchfulness, Repentance, Joy, and Trust." – A four-week series, written by Msgr. Marucci, to aid the parishioners to grow closer to Jesus during Advent. (Part 2).



**Adoration & Confession**

**The Doors of the Inn are Open**

As we journey with anticipation through this advent season, come and spend time with Jesus.

**Adoration & Confession** will be held on **Wednesdays, Dec 3rd, Dec 10th, & 17th.**  
**Adoration: 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM** along with the **Sacrament of Reconciliation.**



## From the Pastor's Desk

### MSGR. MARUCCI'S HUMOR BOX

Flight Attendants can be very funny!

Overheard on take off recently: Your seat cushion can be used for flotation; and in the event of an emergency landing, please paddle to shore and take them with you, with our compliments!

Overheard on a couple of recent flights into Philadelphia International Airport on a particularly windy and bumpy day:

During the final approach of a flight into Philly, the airline captain was really having to fight strong wind gusts and driving rain. After an extremely rough landing, the flight attendant said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Philadelphia. Please remain in your seats and keep your seat belts fastened while the captain taxis what's left of our airplane to the gate."

"As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."



### 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### FRUITFUL STEWARDSHIP

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." MATTHEW 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer or do you waste it with mindless activity?

Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy?

Do you use your treasure to support the Church or do you buy more things that go unused?

Our Stewardship time, talent, and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him.

What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Msgr. Marucci is looking to hire a temporary basis employee (approximate assignment: 2-3 months; \$16/hour ).

The ideal applicant would have advanced clerical skills with proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel as well as professional communication skills.

The job responsibilities include the following:

Phone calls

Mailings

Coordination of special events

Must be available during daytime hours

(4 days per week—24 hours weekly).

Please email resumes to:

[Parish@churchofstandrews.org](mailto:Parish@churchofstandrews.org)

### CONVALIDATION OF MARRIAGE

If you were not married in the Catholic Church, Msgr. Marucci is available to assist couples in navigating the convalidation process and ensuring that your union is celebrated in accordance with Catholic teachings.

In seeking the blessing and convalidation of your marriage, you are embracing the fullness of the sacrament and inviting Christ to be at the center of your union. This step not only strengthens your relationship but also brings you into deeper communion with the Church.

The journey toward convalidation is one of reflection, preparation, and celebration, where the grace of God transforms your marital bond into a sacred covenant.

For more information about the possibility of convalidation of your marriage, please contact Msgr. Marucci at the following email address:

[MsgrMarucci@churchofstandrews.org](mailto:MsgrMarucci@churchofstandrews.org)

## For Whom Shall We Pray

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

8:00 AM Mass: + Debby Morlchetta r/b Anna Droege  
 10:00 AM Mass: + Bengie Balmores rb Mayette  
 10:00 AM + James Ruggiano r/b Michele Stamper  
 6:00 PM Mass: + Vincent McGrath  
                     r/b Kevin and Patricia McShane

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025

8:00 AM Mass: + Sophie DiBruno r/b Her Children

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025

8:00 AM: Pro Populo Mass

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025

8:00 AM Mass: + Jake Madder r/b Lou and Fran Manara

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

8:00 AM Mass: + Barbara Wendy  
                     r/b Mary Lou Coffey and Dot Baker

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025

8:00 AM Mass: + Lauren Maria Basco Souza r/b Moraleda Family

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025

8:00 AM Mass: + Catherine McConnell  
                     r/b Walt and Florence Kowalewski  
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass: +Dolly Master r/b Daughter Claire

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

8:00 AM Mass: + Jane Sorendino r/b Ellie Stark  
 10:00 AM Mass: + Leo Matteucci r/b Theresa Matteucci  
 10:00 AM Mass: + Debby Morlachetta r/b SAA Seniors  
 6:00 PM Mass: + Richard J. Daboul, Sr. r/b The Borromeos

+ Deceased    L Living

### A Time to Be Healed

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

### A Time for Peace

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

The Sanctuary Candle Burns in Memory of  
 Bill Borger r/b Marie Borger

We Pray for the Recently Baptized  
 Reese Victoria Dunn

The Blessed Mother Candle Burns in Memory of  
 Sophie DiBruno r/b Her Children

We Welcome the New Members  
 of Our Faith Community  
 Kimberly Figueroa, Nicholas Figueroa,  
 Adrian Figueroa, and Christian Figueroa.

Adoration Invitation: "Enlighten the minds of Your people  
 and set our hearts on fire with love for You."

## Compassionate Outreach

**Pastoral Coordinators- Chris Parry and Lois Siebert.** If you are faced with challenges or know someone struggling, we're here to help. Call or text Chris at 856-906-5127, or call Lois at 856-784-3878 Ext 27.

### THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

We are grateful to share that we were able to provide 117 Thanksgiving Food Baskets to families in need this year. Each basket included a turkey, potatoes, apples, eggs, bread, pie, and all the trimmings for a hearty Thanksgiving feast.

**A heartfelt thank you** to our tireless volunteers who organized and packed the donations, and to all who generously contributed food. Your kindness and dedication made it possible for us to support so many families this thanksgiving season. We could not have done it without you.

### CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

We are now preparing for our Christmas Food Baskets. If you know anyone in need of food for the holidays, we are happy to help. Contact Chris Parry with details at C# 856-906-5127.

### CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD

Canned yams  
Shelf stable whole milk  
Canned fruit

### Join Us For Our Next WOMEN OF JOY PRAYER BREAKFAST

**WOMEN OF JOY** is an uplifting program designed to enhance the spiritual lives of Christian women. We share a delicious breakfast, enjoy the fellowship of other women, and listen to a presentation by a Catholic speaker at our monthly Prayer Breakfast.

Please join us **Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** for our next WoJ prayer breakfast at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

December's theme will be Two Women Saints: Saint Teresa of Jesus (Avila) and Saint Therese of Lisieux (The Little Flower) by **Most Reverend Dennis Sullivan**, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Camden.

Registration is recommended due to food preparation. Please email [catherineknasiak@yahoo.com](mailto:catherineknasiak@yahoo.com) or call / text 856-693-0200. Free will offering graciously accepted.

### THE GIVING TREE

For many people the holidays are difficult. St. Andrew's helps bring the joy of Christmas each year through *The Giving Tree Program*. By selecting an ornament, or two, from the Giving Tree you are helping others celebrate the love and hope of the Christmas Season.



The Giving Tree makes giving simple:

- Take an ornament from the tree.
- Keep the tag in a safe place or take a photo of the tag so you have it with you when you shop.
- Bring the gift to St. Andrew's by Thursday, December 18.
- Please tape the ornament to the unwrapped gift before placing it under the tree.
- If donating gift cards, please attach the ornament and place the gift card in the collection basket during the offering at Mass or drop it off at the church office.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity. Many will be blessed through your kindness including Local Outreach families, nursing home residents, and the guests of Joseph's House. If you have any questions, please call or text Chris at 856-906-5127





## Waiting for Updated Article



### **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th 9:00 AM until 11:30 AM**

Enjoy this wonderful annual St. Andrew family event sponsored by the St. Jude Council, Knights of Columbus.

Bring the entire family to share a wonderful breakfast in the parish hall and a special moment with your children.

Pictures with Santa will be available, as well as arts and crafts for children and a special visit from the Grinch! Make this event part of your Christmas tradition!!

Tickets can be purchased at the door. Admission: \$10 for adults & children are free.



### **LEGION OF MARY**

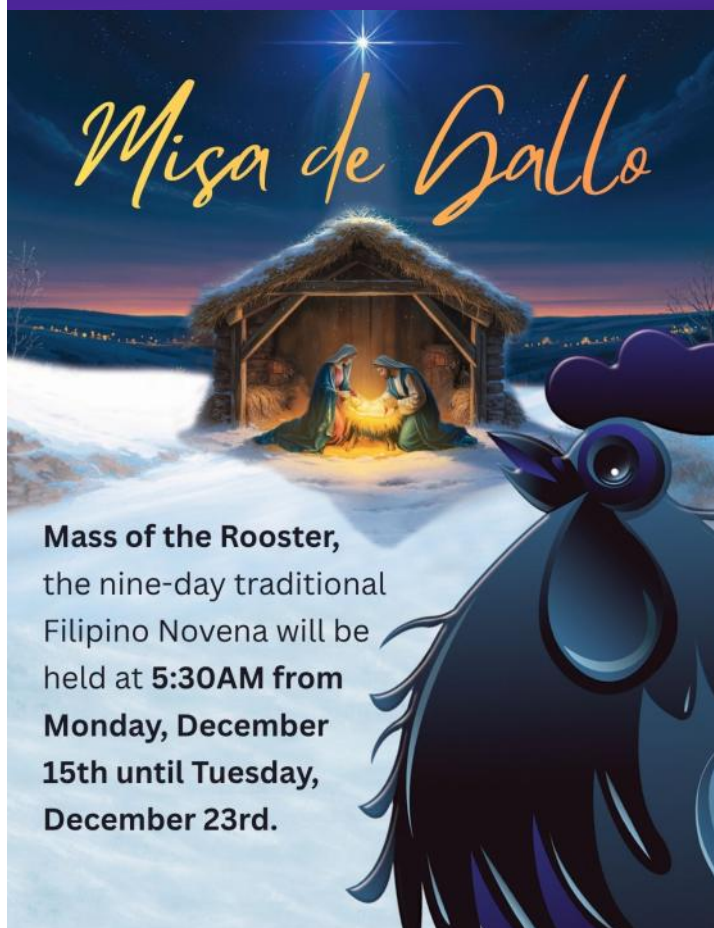
Josie Tizon and Angie Fieni from our Legion of Mary have created rosary kits for the children in our CCD classes. The goal is to promote the recitation of the rosary daily in our homes and to create a section in each home set aside to honor our Blessed Mother.

What a blessing for each home that embraces this practice! Each kit includes an image of our Blessed Mother, a bottle of holy water, battery operated candles, a doily, rosaries, a prayer card and a gift of prayer to our spiritual mother. Each kit will include the picture posted so that a dedicated space can be created appropriate for recitation of the rosary.

Our Lady instructed us to say the rosary daily for world peace. This is something we can do to promote peace in this world while teaching our children about the importance of this prayer. Thanks go out to Josie and Angie!







**Mass of the Rooster,**  
the nine-day traditional  
Filipino Novena will be  
held at **5:30AM** from  
**Monday, December**  
**15th until Tuesday,**  
**December 23rd.**



All parishioners are invited to bring the  
baby Jesus from your home Nativity scene  
to mass for a special blessing. Saint John  
Paul II began the tradition of Bambinelli  
Sunday during his papacy to remind  
families about the joyous event of Baby  
Jesus' arrival in the manger.

**Celebrated at all masses:**  
**Saturday, December 13th**  
**Sunday, December 14th**

## Christmas Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 PM Mass in the Church

4:00 PM Family and Children's Mass - Parish Hall

6:00 PM Mass - Church

11:15 PM Candlelight Christmas Concert

12:00 AM Midnight Mass - Church

### Christmas Day Masses

9:00 AM Mass

11:00 AM Mass



## Parish News



### MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

St. Andrew the Apostle Church offers a Men's Prayer Group that meets on a regular basis. Please consider joining this growing brotherhood of men dedicated to their Catholic faith. The Men's Prayer Group will meet twice in December – Wednesday, December 3, at 6:30 PM and Saturday, December 20, at 8:30 AM (following 8:00 AM Mass) on the second floor in the church hall.

Members of the Men's Prayer Group also plan to attend the **Malvern Epiphany retreat** – see [malvernretreat.com](http://malvernretreat.com) (Epiphany retreat Friday, January 2 to Sunday, January 4, 2026). Email ([spcp1@comcast.net](mailto:spcp1@comcast.net)) or text (856-761-7999) Sam Parry for more information about the Prayer Group and retreat.

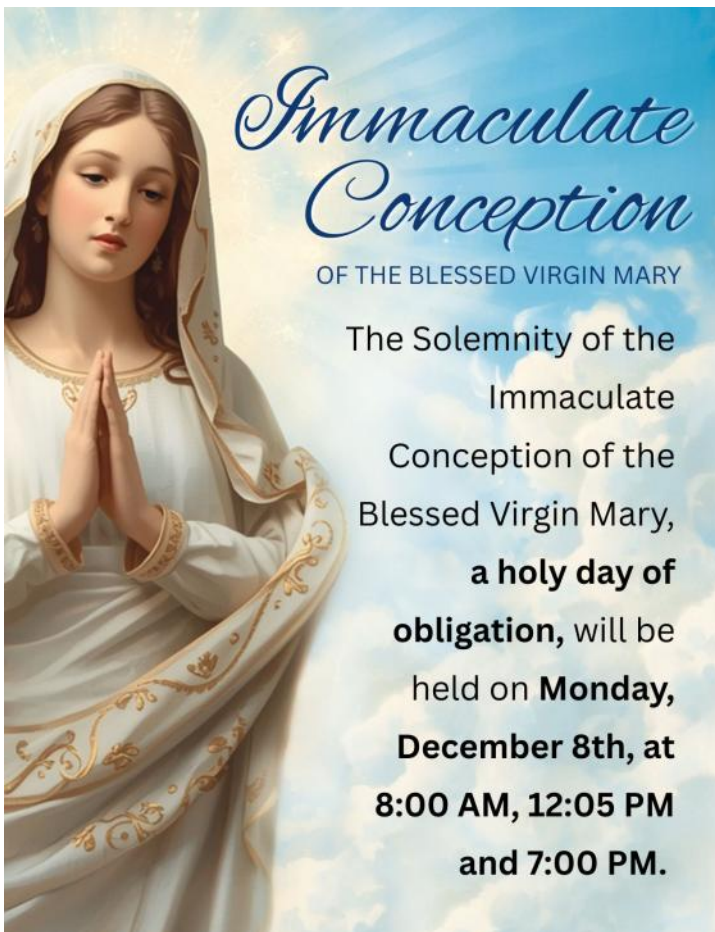
### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Pope John Paul II said "I place much of my hope for the future of marriage in Worldwide Marriage Encounter".

Just as we celebrate Thanksgiving by gathering together with family. Why not celebrate your Marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend? It's a positive, simple, common sense, private experience between husband and wife that revitalizes your marriage. Make your reservation now!

The next weekend date is Dec 5-7. Call 609-741-8012 for information or email:

[applications@wwme-southjersey.org](mailto:applications@wwme-southjersey.org). Visit our website: [wwme-southjersey.org](http://wwme-southjersey.org).



### ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Are You Interested in Becoming Catholic?

If you have been coming to Mass for a while but are not Catholic, we *invite you to take a deeper look into the Catholic faith.*

If you are already Catholic and have not yet completed your Sacraments of Initiation (First Communion or Confirmation), *we invite you to join us and see what steps you need to continue your journey to the Lord.*

If you are longing for a place to call home, we invite you to come home to the Catholic Church.

If you or someone you know might wish to learn more about this possibility, please contact Fr. Anthony Infanti or Kathy Emrich.

You may call 856-784-3878 or e-mail Fr. Infanti at [FrInfanti@Churchofstandrews.org](mailto:FrInfanti@Churchofstandrews.org) or Kathy Emrich at [Kemrich@churchofstandrews.org](mailto:Kemrich@churchofstandrews.org)

# A CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS ADVENT READING PLAN

Explore the true meaning of Christmas as you travel through God's Word. Discover God's promises he fulfilled through the birth of His only Son, the **KING OF KINGS.**

1 Isaiah 7:14

2 Isaiah 9:6-7

3 Malachi 3:1

4 Micah 5:2-4

5 Luke 1:5-7

6 Luke 1:10-15

7 Luke 1:18-22

8 Luke 1:24-25

9 Luke 1:26-29

10 Luke 1:30-33

11 Luke 2:1-5

12 Luke 2:6-7

13 Luke 2:8-14

14 Luke 2:15-20

15 Matthew 1:18-21

16 Matthew 1:22-25

17 Matthew 2:1-3

18 Matthew 2:4-6

19 Matthew 2:7-9

20 Matthew 2:10-12

21 Romans 15:13

22 Galatians 4:4-5

23 Philippians 2:8-11

24 James 1:16-18

25 John 3:16

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