

St. Andrew the Apostle Taunton Catholic Church

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Prepare

A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Mark 1:3

© Pilot Bulletins

Mass is Live-streaming on the website Monday-Friday at 8:00am
Saturday Vigil at 4:00pm and Sunday at 8:00am and 10:30am

TELEVISED MASS SCHEDULE

T C A M TV— Taunton Community Access and Media Inc

HOLY MASS : Sunday 3:30pm Tuesday & Thursday 1:00pm

COMCAST CHANNEL : 15

VERIZON CHANNEL : 22



19 Kilmer Ave . Taunton, MA 02780

508-824-5577 . standrewtaunton@comcast.net

www.standrewtaunton.org

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 9th

4:00pm — Jeane LaCivita— 1st Anniversary,
William and Frances Finnerty

Sunday, December 10th

8:00am — Nora Carroll—4th Anniversary
10:30am — Lois and Frank Cash

Monday, December 11th

8:00am — Mable Silveri

Tuesday, December 12th

8:00am — John & Ida Moniz

Wednesday, December 13th

8:00am — Sister Teresa Marie, O.P., Judith
Cabino

Thursday, December 14th

8:00am — Intentions of Joseph Teixeira
6:30pm— Healing Mass

Friday, December 15th

8:00am — The Botelho & Faria Families, Mr &
Mrs John Duarte

Saturday, December 16th

4:00pm — Charles & Irene Bousquet

Sunday, December 17th

8:00am — Lenora Perry, Francis Medeiros
10:30am — Joan & Donald Ducharme

BAPTISM

Parents who are registered and practicing members of the parish should call the rectory to make arrangements.

RECONCILIATION

Before and after all weekend Masses. Or at any time at the Rectory.

WEDDINGS

Couples who are registered and practicing members of the parish may call the rectory eight months in advance to make arrangements.

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you to our parish! Registration forms are available at the entrances of the church. Please complete the form and return as soon as possible.

WOMEN OF FAITH

For more information, please contact Tara Sousa at 508-272-1173 or tarasousa@aol.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #11914

For more information, please contact Grand Knight, Bob Crossman, at 508-823-7920.

MEN OF ST JOSEPH

The group meet on the First Saturday of every month. Beginning with 9:00am Mass, followed by a meeting of fellowship and discussion. All men are welcome.

ST VINCENT de PAUL

508-880-1583

PRAYER and ADORATION

MONDAY NOVENA

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Novena is held on Monday evenings at 7:00pm with Rosary and Benediction.

WEDNESDAY Divine Mercy HOLY HOUR

St Joseph's Chapel, 6:00pm to 7:00pm

FRIDAY CENACLE PRAYER GROUP

St Joseph's Chapel, Friday 1:00pm — 2:00pm

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION in CHAPEL

St Joseph's Adoration Chapel is open
Daily 7:00am to 7:00pm

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

With elevator



Sanctuary Lamp for week of December 9th

Bettencourt and Narciso Families

Parish Office

St. Andrew the Apostle
19 Kilmer Ave., Taunton, MA 02780
508-824-5577. 508-822-1401 fax
www.standrewtaunton.org

FIRST READING**A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah**IS 40:1-5,9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news!

Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God!

Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial PsalmPS 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

SECOND READING**A Reading from the Second Letter of Saint Peter**Pt 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire.

But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**Mk 1:1-8

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed:

“One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



By Father Edward A. Murphy

SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT

The Deep End – The beginning of the good news

The second Sunday of Advent turns our attention to John the Baptist. John was an interesting individual. We are told he dressed a bit strangely and spent a lot of time in the desert, “*the voice of one crying out in the wilderness.*” Yet it seems he was very popular with “*all the people of Jerusalem*” went out to hear him. John must have been a dynamic speaker and one in whom people found hope and inspiration. In John the Baptist’s time, the people lived under the oppression of the Roman Empire and were waiting for someone who would liberate them. John points to one that is greater than he, he points the people to Jesus.

When Pope Francis released the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* in October in 2020 he noted that dark clouds hand over our world and he urged everyone to embrace a spirit of friendship, kindness, compassion and solidarity as we move forward, to help ensure the dignity of every person and a more sustainable world for all. We certainly experienced a type of *wilderness* during COVID19. Our communities need messengers like John, who bring good news, hope and a vision for the future, who point us towards a new way forward.

As we prepare to welcome Christ into our lives once more, let’s make the most of this advent time, the most of this waiting time. May we use this space to reflect on what type of world can be born out of this wilderness we find ourselves in. May we reach out to those who are crying out for hope during these difficult months, like John the Baptist, offering a positive vision for the future.

1. John the Baptist is presented as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. *Who have been messengers to you, preparing the way for Jesus? Who have been messengers to you, preparing the way for the Lord by alerting you to ways in which you could improve your life? To whom have you been such a messenger?*

2. In recent times there have been many conflicting voices advising us on how best to deal with the threat of disease. *What messengers have helped you to find a way of combining due care with living a full life?*

3. John calls the people to repentance (a change of heart), as a way to a new life. *Can you recall times when you had a change of heart, and the change led to new life for you?*

4. John baptized people with water as a gesture to mark their change of heart. Sometimes we perform an action to symbolize our change of heart – write a letter, throw away our last cigarettes, etc. *Can you remember a symbolic gesture with which you marked a change of heart?*



Fr. Edward A. Murphy

WEEKLY PARISH ST. ANDREW'S SUPPORT

Thank you for your support to our Parish family.

The Offertory for the weekend of December 2nd & 3rd:

Weekly Collection	\$ 3414.00
Fuel & Maintenance	\$ 1584.00
Candles	\$ 25.00

This week's 2nd Collection - will be for **Organ Fund & Maintenance**

**Hymns - 2nd Sunday in Advent
December 10th**

Opening	Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus	MI #42
Offertory	Beyond the Moon and Stars	MI #48
Communion	Christ, Circle Round Us	MI #57
Meditation	The Advent of Our King	MI #59
Recessional	Lo, He Comes	(Sheet)



Healing Mass

St Andrew the Apostle

Thursday, December 14th

Mass at 6:30pm

The Holy Rosary begins at 6:00pm and will include the Sacrament of Confession.

Faith Formation



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

FAITH FORMATION BEGINS

**SEPTEMBER 17th 9:10am—11:30am
(includes the Holy Mass) In the CHURCH**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRADES 1-8</u>	<u>CONFIRMATION GRADES 9-10</u>
12/10/2022	Grades 3 & 4	Grade 10
12/17/2022	Grades 5 & 6	Grade 9
12/24/2023	NO Faith Formation Classes- Christmas	
12/31/2023	NO Faith Formation Classes- New Year	



CORRECTION on Names

*Avery Belle Balboni
Parker Robert Clinch
Blake Juliana LeClerc*



We have reverted back to our original website name:

www.standrewtaunton.org

If you type in the old site of cstaunton.org you will be redirected to the new website.

Thank you for your patience.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Women of Faith Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 13th
Segregansett Country Club
Cocktails at 6:30pm, dinner at 7:00pm.

SVdP HAT & GLOVE DRIVE



St. Andrews Conference of Saint Vincent de Paul will be doing a Hat and Gloves Drive in **November and December**. Children, Teens and Adult hats and gloves are being requested. All items **must be new**. Drop off box will be provided at the rear entrance in the addition. Your generosity is appreciated.

SVdP Christmas Dinner Distribution

St Vincent dePaul Christmas Dinner Distribution will be on **Saturday December 16th 12:00-2:00pm**. Requests for meals need to be in by December 3rd.

Accepting canned vegetables, boxed stuffing, boxed potatoes, gravy, cake mix or corn muffin mix.

PARISH CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

All parishioners are invited to participate in the Parish Giving Tree Program beginning the **First Sunday of Advent, December 3rd**.

Gifts from the Parish Giving Tree go to the needy, the homeless, nursing home residents, and Birth-right. Those in need will benefit from your generosity during the holiday season.

Gifts should be returned no later than Sunday, December 17th.

If you know of someone, a family, or you yourself are in need, please contact Tara Sousa at tara-sousa@aol.com, 508-272-1173 or call the parish office. All calls will be handled in confidence.

Please consider taking a tag or two to help brighten someone's Christmas this year.



Saint John of the Cross

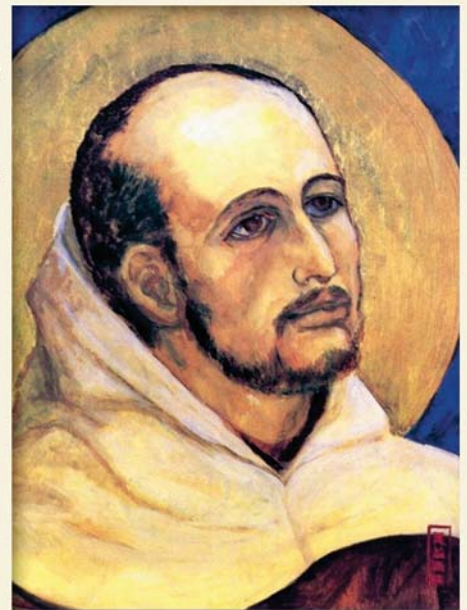
1542 - 1591

FEAST DAY — DECEMBER 14

A Doctor of the Church, John is also one of its great mystics and poets. Born Juan de Yepes de Alvarez in Spain, he was raised by his mother and entered a Carmelite monastery in 1563. He was ordained in 1567. Finding the Carmelites very lax, he joined with St. Teresa of Avila to reform the order. In 1568, he entered the first reformed house for men, taking the name John of the Cross. He encountered severe opposition and was even imprisoned for nine months in a monastery cell, where he began writing poems. The *Dark Night of the Soul* is his most famous work. Only after his death was John recognized as co-founder of the Discalced Carmelites. He is the patron saint of mystics and poets.

“ We must dig deeply in Christ. He is like a rich mine with many pockets containing treasures: however deep we dig we will never find their end or their limit. Indeed, in every pocket new seams of fresh riches are discovered on all sides. ”

—Saint John of the Cross



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Medjugorje Message, November 25, 2023

“**D**ear children! May this time be interwoven with prayer for peace and good deeds, so that the joy of the expectation of the King of Peace may be felt in your hearts, families and in the world which does not have hope. Thank you for having responded to my call. ”

The Best Christmas of Your Life

It is up to each and every one of us individually to make a concerted effort to prepare for Christmas—the birthday of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. How can we do this? Here are ten brief, concrete, and practical steps we can take so that Jesus will be born not only in the stable of Bethlehem, but **also in the very depths of your heart.**

1. Clean the stable of your heart

Advent, the time of preparation for Christmas, is a very propitious time to clean our heart, mind, soul and total being by means of making a good Sacramental Confession. Even with only a few days of Advent, it's still a great way to prepare for the Lord. Sin sullies or dirties the inner beauty of our soul; a good sacramental confession sweeps out the dirt and makes us clean. The Prophet Isaiah expresses this clearly: *Though your sins be as scarlet they will be made white as the snow* (Is. 1).

2. Seek silence

Strive to cultivate a silent and recollected heart. Try to avoid all unnecessary noise. When we have moments of silence it is then that God's Holy Spirit can speak to us, give us certain lights or insights, and send heavenly inspirations. In a world filled with so much noise — you might even call it *noise pollution*—we really need more silence. Pope Paul VI in one of his reflections for the Christmas Season states that the Holy Family prayed, worked, and appreciated silence. So should we!

3. More frequent and fervent prayer

Saint Paul states that we should pray constantly and give thanks to God in our hearts. Jesus also said that it is necessary to pray always without giving up hope. (Lk. 18:1) However, offering fervent and frequent prayers is even more necessary in the strong seasons of the year—both Advent and Lent. Set aside more time to talk to the Lord, Mary, and Saint Joseph in the depths of your heart.

4. A Christmas Carol

To set the stage for a fruitful Christmas viewing a good movie or two can be exceedingly fruitful. One of the greatest classics is a movie that came from a novel written by the great English novelist Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*.

5. Find joy in giving more than having

The essential message of *A Christmas Carol* is that true joy can only be attained inasmuch as we learn the art of giving freely, generously, and continually to others. Scrooge lived a really miserable life until he dreamed of his mortality — one day he would surely die — which rocked his comfortable and materialistic existence. Let us seek out ways that we can give to others, especially those most in need. Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta asserted: *Give until it hurts!*

6. Live out the Mass in your life

In a real sense, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is a *daily Christmas*. How, you might ask? Very simply: the priest consecrates the Host which is transformed into Jesus. He is really born in the hands of the priest. Then, when you approach to receive Holy Communion with a pure and loving heart, Jesus is born in your heart. Your soul becomes a real *Bethlehem—House of Bread*. Therefore, try to attend Holy Mass as often as possible and let Jesus be born in your heart in the worthy reception of Holy Communion.

7. Visit the poor, the aged, the sick, and abandoned

Living out the Gospel of love is a perennial task. However, to really live out Advent to the fullest extent possible and experience the joy of the Lord Jesus born in Bethlehem, we should seek out helping those in our society who suffer most. Remember the words of Jesus: *Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, that you have done to me.*

8. Reconcile

The great English poet Alexander Pope wrote: *To err is human, to forgive is divine*. Christmas is not a time in which we should be at enmity with others, especially members of our own family. Two of the most difficult but important phrases that should issue from our hearts and lips are: *I am sorry... and... I forgive you!!!* If you are angry, resentful, bitter, and even hateful towards anybody, now is the time to reconcile. Be humble! Take the initiative and reconcile. Even though possibly very difficult, this gesture of reconciliation is very pleasing to God and will fill your heart with a deep peace that maybe you have not experienced in years!

9. Kind words and a word of cheer

In our social dealings one of the most important things we can do is to be kind to others. Get into the habit of saying kind words to others, especially to your family members. A *compliment*, a *thanks*, a word or two of *encouragement*—all of these can change a sad and desolate heart into one of joy and exultation! Remember the Golden Rule and apply it to your speech: *Do to others what you want them to do to you... say to others what you would like them to say to you!*

10. Mother Mary & Christmas

Of course, Christmas would not have taken place if it were not for the generous *yes of Mary!* Stay close to Mary. Pray the Rosary, especially the Joyful Mysteries. Accompany Mary in her journey to Bethlehem. Be with her in the stable as she brings forth Jesus for your salvation. Place Mary in Advent and Christmas and Jesus will be born in the depths of your heart.



St Andrew the Apostle

19 Kilmer Ave. Taunton, MA 02780



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

- 8:00am Holy Mass
- 10:30am Holy Mass
- 4:00pm Vigil Mass
- 11:30pm Christmas Carols
- 12:00 Midnight Mass

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023

- 10:30am Christmas Day Mass

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

- 8:00am Holy Mass
- 6:30pm Holy Mass

All CHRISTMAS Masses will be LiveStreamed on
website : www.standrewtaunton.org



*Advent confessions will be heard
throughout December at any time that
is convenient for you.*



St. Andrew the Apostle

CITY OF TAUNTON ~ CATHOLIC
CHURCHES SOUTH

Fr Edward A. Murphy, Pastor

Priests of LaSalette Shrine, Part-Time

CHURCH STAFF

Nancy Roberts – Administrator -
standrewtaunton@comcast.net

Carol Berube – Administrative Assistant –
508-824-5577

Sally Medeiros -Dir of Religious Education -
faithformationtaunton@gmail.com

Nathaniel Castro – Director of Music Ministry -
nathaniel0519@comcast.net

Tara Sousa – Youth Minister

Joseph Teixeira – Maintenance

Sacristans – Susan Orton. Michael Wojcik.
Richard Alvarnaz. Veronica Briggs

Parish Offices

St. Andrew the Apostle

19 Kilmer Ave., Taunton, MA 02780

508-824-5577. 508-822-1401 fax



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HOLY MASS

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* Tuesday & Thursdays at 1:00pm.
Sunday at 3:30pm

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Monday-Friday at 8:00am

Saturday Vigil at 4:00pm and
Sunday at 8:00am and 10:30am

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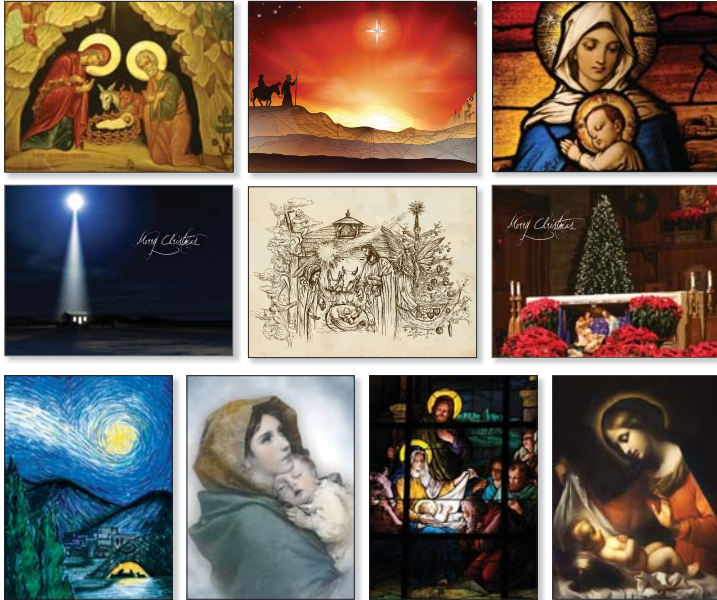
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