

St. Andrew the Apostle Taunton Catholic Church

2nd
Sunday
of Advent

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

Matthew 3:3



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

ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 6th

4:00pm — George & Aline Clish, Guido & Dorothy Spaziani

Sunday, December 7th

8:00am — Jeffrey Briggs, Matthew Briggs, Brian Collins

10:30am — Jose & Laura Moitoso, Ana & Antonio Freitas & Deceased Family

Monday, December 8th - Feast of the Immaculate Conception

8:00am — Blessed Mother

6:30pm — Blessed Mother

Tuesday, December 9th

8:00am — Mary & Alyre Cormier

Wednesday, December 10th

8:00am — Jean A. Mills

Thursday, December 11th

8:00am — Michelle P. Mills

Friday, December 12th

8:00am — Lenora Perry, Francis Medeiros

6:30pm — Healing Mass

Saturday, December 13th

9:00am — Women at the Well

4:00pm — Karen Gilbert

Sunday, December 14th

8:00am — Leon Duczkowski, Stanley & Cecilia Martus

10:30am — Michael Boucher 1st Anniversary

Sanctuary Lamp for week of December 6th



*Botelho & Faria Families,
Mr. & Mrs. John Duarte*

Parish Office

St. Andrew the Apostle
19 Kilmer Ave., Taunton, MA 02780

508-824-5577 | 508-822-1401 fax

www.standrewtaunton.org

BAPTISM

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

RECONCILIATION

Saturday at 3:30pm. 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 meets on the First Saturday of the month, September through June. Beginning with 9:00am Mass, followed by a meeting of fellowship and discussion. All men are welcome.

WOMEN AT THE WELL PRAYER GROUP

This group meets on the Second Saturday of the month. Beginning with the Holy Mass at 9:00am, followed by a fellowship and meditation. All women 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

Meets in the church, 6:00pm to 7:00pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION in CHAPEL

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

FRIDAY CENACLE PRAYER GROUP

Meets in the church, Friday 1:00pm to 2:00pm

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE With elevator



FIRST READING**A Reading from The Book of the Prophet
Isaiah****Isaiah 11:1-10**

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.

Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea. On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17**

**R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and
fullness of peace for ever.**

**SECOND READING****A Reading from The Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans
Romans 15:4-9**

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I say that Christ became a minister of the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, to confirm the promises to the patriarchs, but so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name.

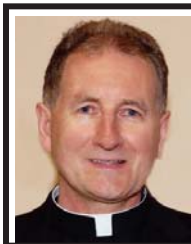
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL**A Reading from The Gospel according to Matthew
Matthew 3:1-12**

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.



By Father Edward A. Murphy

Gospel of Matthew

Two kinds of people were coming out to see John. There were ordinary people, genuine penitents, looking for reconciliation with God. There were also Pharisees and Sadducees. However, these came out, not to express sorrow for sin, but to test John's orthodoxy and observance of the Law.

John has little time for them. He sees them just as much in need of repentance and conversion as anyone else. They are not to think that simply because they are descendants of Abraham, their salvation is assured. It is not birth, race, religious affiliation, education, social status, or financial clout that makes us friends of God, but our awareness of our total dependence on him for everything we need. Salvation only comes to those who give themselves totally into God's hands and make his will their own. No one is saved simply by being born a Law-abiding Jew, as the Pharisees seemed to think, any more than being baptized into the Christian Church alone brings salvation. Much more is expected. Jesus later on will say that those who presume they are God's people, but without the actions to prove it, will have to give way to tax collectors and prostitutes, who, because they reformed, will go into the Kingdom first.

The words of John today are primarily directed to ourselves, to the Pharisee and Sadducee in each one of us. Our most dangerous enemy is complacency: 'I'm not perfect, of course, I'm not a religious fanatic, but I keep the basics of my religion. I'm OK.' Where our relationships with God are concerned, to stay in the same place is to go backwards.

Intercom December 2025

Seeing Your Life Through the Lens of the Gospel

- 1) In today's Gospel John's message is a stark call to 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' He condemns the religious leader's empty reliance on ancestry. Reflect: is your faith a matter of genuine, internal transformation, producing a changed life (the 'fruit' John demands), or is it merely a superficial identity?
- 2) John's role was to prepare the way for the Lord, making 'straight paths for him.' This involves honest self-examination. We ask ourselves: What 'mountains' of pride or 'valleys' of apathy in my life need to be leveled to make a clear, unobstructed path for Christ to reign?
- 3) John speaks of the coming Messiah who will 'baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.' Fire refines and purges. What is it in our lives that needs the Holy Spirit's purifying fire to burn away pride, or self-reliance, leaving only what is genuine and dedicated to God?
- 4) The image of the winnowing fork is one of ultimate separation and accountability, it reminds us that our choices have eternal consequences. Does the reality of final judgment influence my daily decisions to live a life of faithfulness and integrity?



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 November 29th & 30th

Weekend Masses	\$ 3,434.00
Liturgical Expenses	\$ 1,330.00
Candles	\$ 61.00

This week's Second Collection will be for:
**Fuel, Maintenance, & Repairs
Christmas Flowers**

Next week's Second Collection will be for:
Organ Fund & Maintenance

WEEKLY PARISH ST. ANDREW'S SUPPORT (Online Giving)

Thank you for your support to our Parish Family. The Offertory for the month of November

Weekend Masses	\$ 3,091.00
Fuel & Maintenance	\$ 168.00
Annual Appeal	\$ 100.00
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 83.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 281.00

Healing Mass Schedule



St. Andrew's:

**Friday,
December 12**

Rosary: 6:00pm

Mass: 6:30pm

St. Anne's:

**Thursday,
December 18th**

Rosary: 6:00pm

Mass: 6:30pm



St. Andrew the Apostle Faith Formation Schedule 2025 - 2026

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRADES 1-8</u>	<u>CONFIRMATION GRADES 9-10</u>
12/7/2025	Grades 3 & 4	Grade 10
12/14/2025	Grades 5 & 6	Grade 9
12/21/2025	NO FAITH FORMATION - CHRISTMAS	
12/28/2025	NO FAITH FORMATION - NEW YEAR'S	
1/4/2026	Grades 7 & 8	
	Grade 2	
1/11/2026	Grades 1 & 2	Grade 9
1/18/2026	NO FAITH FORMATION - MARTIN LUTHER KING	

*Confirmation Date will be announced at a later time.

*First Penance will be during Faith Formation class on 2/22/26.

All parents are welcome to attend.

Contact: faithformationtaunton@gmail.com

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

On **December 8th**, we will be celebrating the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Masses will be held at **8:00am** and **6:30pm**.

****It is a Holy Day of Obligation****



Hat, Glove, & Sock Drive



St. Vincent de Paul will be having a **Hat, Glove and Sock Drive** for those in need. A box will be in the addition to Collect those items.

If you prefer to do a gift card or cash donation for this drive, a member will buy those items for the drive.

Any monetary donations can be placed In an envelope marked St. Vincent de Paul and put in the collection at mass.



Young Adult Section

By Brooke Pina

How do you, as a young adult, know when you are following God's plan, and when you are straying from it?

It's very easy to claim that you're following God's plan. You can say it as many times as you want, but that doesn't mean you actually are. Saying it is a lot different than actually living it. You can't say you're going to trust God's Will and then go off and do your own thing without paying Him any mind. You have to be an active and willing participant in God's plan, even when things are scary or uncertain. When I know I'm fully trusting in God, I can feel it. I'm talking to Him constantly and asking for direction. Take things as they come to you and trust that God put you in that situation for a reason, even if you don't understand that reason in the given moment. Once you have your first real experience fully trusting in God, you can truly see the difference between just saying you trust Him and actually trusting Him. There is a very stark difference between the two. If I'm not talking to God and asking for direction, that's when I know I'm straying from God's plan. But truly, trust is the key factor. A relationship doesn't work without real trust.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

All parishioners are invited to participate in the Parish Giving Tree Program beginning the First Sunday of Advent, **November 30th**.

Gifts from the Parish Giving Tree go to the needy, the homeless, nursing home residents, and Birthright. Those in need will benefit from your generosity during the holiday season. Gifts should be returned no later than Sunday, **December 21st**.

If you know of someone, a family, or you yourself are in need, please contact Tara Sousa at tarams1231@gmail.com or 508-272-1173 or call the parish office. All calls will be handled in confidence.



Medjugorje Message

(November 25th, 2025)

“Dear children! In this time of grace, I am calling you to follow me. Pray for those who do not pray and do not want peace and joy, which only the Most High can give. May your souls be united in the joy of expectancy and your heart will be filled with peace. You will be convinced, little children, that all will be good and that God will bless all; because the good that you give will return to you, and joy will enfold your heart because you are with God and in God. Thank you for having responded to my call.”



Mary's Mantle Consecration Week Six

At the close of week six in our 46-day program, participants continued their daily commitment to prayer, reflection on the assigned virtue or gift, recitation of the rosary, and observance of fasting. Additionally, this week offered a special invitation to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, further deepening the participants' experience of grace and strengthening their spiritual relationship with Jesus through Mary. Additional stars were added on the mantle, each one representing the growing bond with Mary and her Son. Now, forty-one stars shine brightly, signifying forty-one days of dedicated participation and meaningful spiritual growth. As we journey through this week, let us take a heartfelt moment to honor everyone who has embraced the discipline of fasting during week six. Together, we recognize our shared commitment and celebrate the deepening of our faith as one community.

Star 35 Understanding

was added to Mary's Mantle by
Mary Williams & Marcie Luz & Maria
Reed Cove

Star 36 Prudence

was added to Mary's Mantle by
Barbara Souza, Annette Connolly

Star 37 Piety

was added to Mary's Mantle
by Robin Blevins & Marylyn Sikorsko

Star 38 Justice

was added to Mary's Mantle by
Tauri Lynch, Margaret Areias &
Cynthia Mello

Star 39 Peace

was added to Mary's Mantle
by Samira Anderson & Neuza Barros

Star 40 Excellence

was added to Mary's Mantle by
Lianna Santos & Sarah Gambardella

Star 41 Temperance

was added to Mary's Mantle by
Alison Oliveira & Nancy & Scott Sylvester



Marian Medal Award



Walter Cahoon
receiving the
Marian Medal
Award from
Bishop daCunha
this past Sunday,
November 30th!
Congratulations!

Christmas Dinner for those in need

St Vincent de Paul will continue to collect
food in December for our
Christmas dinner distribution.
Suggested items are:



Corn
Peas
Green beans
Carrots
Boxed potatoes
Dressing
Gravy
Cranberry sauce
Cake mixes
Corn bread



The St. Vincent de Paul Conference thanks all of
you for your generosity.



Catechetical Corner

"BLESSED ARE YOU AMONG WOMEN"

An essential part of God's plan for the mother of his Son was that she be conceived free from Original Sin. "Through the centuries the Church became ever more aware that Mary, 'full of grace' through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception" (CCC, no. 491).

In anticipation that she was to bear the Son of God, Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin. We call this the Immaculate Conception. No sin would touch her, so that she would be a fitting and worthy vessel of the Son of God. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the virginal conception and birth of Christ, but rather to Mary's being conceived without inheriting Original Sin.

In the course of time, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception became more precisely enunciated, as its truth—long supported by the universal popular devotion of the faithful—was better understood by deepening theological inquiry. In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed this dogma infallibly: that is, in his role as supreme teacher of the Church, he declared that this doctrine is divinely revealed and must be accepted with faith by the entire Church.



"O MARY, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone
who fled to your protection,
implored your help or sought your
intercession was left unaided.
Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto you,
O Virgin of Virgins, our Mother.
To you we come. Before you we kneel,
sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not our petitions,
but in your clemency, hear and answer them. Amen.
—St. Bernard of Clairvaux

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



Hail Mary, Lady of Peace,
We pray for the peace in our world;
make us peacemakers.

Hail Mary, Friend of Common People,
Unite us across economic lines; together
let us raise up the cause of the oppressed.

Hail Mary, Mother of Mexico,
Help us both appreciate Latin America's
culture and work to end its poverty.

Hail Mary, Mother of the Infant Jesus,
We pray for all children who are victims
of war and hunger; let us stand for them.

Hail Mary, Wife of the Carpenter, Joseph,
We pray for the rights of hardworking laborers in all
the world; let their dignity be recognized.

Hail Mary, Woman of All Generations,
Move us to speak for the elderly who lack
adequate health care and shelter.

**There will be a Healing Mass this
Friday, December 12th, here at
St. Andrew's Parish.
Rosary and Confessions at
6:00pm.
Mass at 6:30pm.**

Hail Mary, Homeless Mother,
We pray for those without homes;
let us advocate for affordable housing.

Hail Mary, Lady of All Colors,
Show us how to love all people by challenging
racism and discrimination.

Hail Mary, Mother of Our World,
Make us global citizens, working for justice and
well-being in all the world.

We pray together for peace

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death
Amen

Mary's Mantle Consecration Mass will take place **December 12, 2025**, on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We have journeyed together the last 46 days as a family of prayer and sacrifice and all 84 participants are encouraged to attend as we individually and collectively consecrate ourselves to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The consecration prayer will be prayed together at the mass.

Mary's Mantle Consecration will take place **December 12, 2025**,
at Saint Andrew's Parish as a part of the healing mass.

**Rosary at 6:00pm
Mass at 6:30pm**

There will be reserved seating in the front of the church for the
consecration participants.



St. Andrew the Apostle

CITY OF TAUNTON ~ CATHOLIC
CHURCHES SOUTH

Fr Edward A. Murphy, Pastor
Priests of LaSalette Shrine, Part-Time

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faithformationtaunton@gmail.com

Ken Nosul – Organist

Denio Serpa, Luke Mullen, Kristin Mohan –
Youth Ministers

Joseph Teixeira – Maintenance

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

Parish Offices

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Sunday at 3:30pm

Mass is Live-streaming on the website

Monday - Friday at 8:00am

Saturday Vigil at 4:00pm

Sunday at 8:00am and 10:30am

Saint Nicholas

Feast Day - December 6th

From the ninth century in the East and the eleventh century in the West, Nicholas has been one of the most popular saints in Christendom and in Christian art and is the patron of many countries, dioceses, churches, and cities. He was a Greek bishop of Myra in Lycia (now Turkey). He is recognized as the origin of the Santa Claus story, as he was known for his generosity and his habit of secret gift giving.



According to folklore, there was a poor family in his village with three daughters, who could not marry without a dowry. One night, while the family was sleeping, Nicholas secretly went up to their front door. The girls had left their shoes outside. Nicholas put several gold coins in each shoe, enough for the girls to marry. His charity to the poor is commemorated in modern times by those who follow the tradition of stuffing a boot or a stocking with gifts on his feast day. "Santa Claus" comes from the Dutch form of his name, "Sinter-klaas." He is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, and children.



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Sunday, December 7, 3:00PM

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