

# *St. Andrew the Apostle*

## *Taunton Catholic Church*



### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

God sets a father in honor over  
his children; a mother's authority  
he confirms over her sons.

Sirach 3:2

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](mailto:standrewtaunton@comcast.net)

[www.standrewtaunton.org](http://www.standrewtaunton.org)

## ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, December 30th

4:00pm — Eugene Murphy Sr, Manuel P. daSilveira

### Sunday, December 31st

8:00am — Robert & Joseph Gomes Pereira & grandparents  
10:30am — Isac & Ana Andrade, Joao & Maria Costa, deceased family

### Monday, January 1st

8:00am — Blessed Mother  
6:30pm — Blessed Mother

### Tuesday, January 2nd

8:00am — Marc deSousa

### Wednesday, January 3rd

8:00am — Mary Jane Hubbard

### Thursday, January 4th

8:00am — Laura and Joaquim Camara Sr.

### Friday, January 5th

8:00am — Special Intention

### Saturday, January 6th

4:00pm — Ann Thornley — 4th Anniversary

### Sunday, January 7th

8:00am — John James Cabral Jr.  
10:30am — Theresa Ducharme Hebert—1st Anniversary

### **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 31st



*Ben Desrosiers and Lucille Martel*

### **Parish Office**

St. Andrew the Apostle  
19 Kilmer Ave., Taunton, MA 02780  
508-824-5577. 508-822-1401 fax  
[www.standrewtaunton.org](http://www.standrewtaunton.org)

**FIRST READING****A Reading from the Book of Sirach**Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

God sets a father in honor over his children;  
 a mother's authority he confirms over her sons.  
 Whoever honors his father atones for sins,  
 and preserves himself from them.  
 When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches  
 who reveres his mother.  
 Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children,  
 and, when he prays, is heard.  
 Whoever reveres his father will live a long life;  
 he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.  
 My son, take care of your father when he is old;  
 grieve him not as long as he lives.  
 Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him;  
 revile him not all the days of his life;  
 kindness to a father will not be forgotten,  
 firmly planted against the debt of your sins  
 —a house raised in justice to you.

**Thanks be to God.****Responsorial Psalm** Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9**R.** The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**SECOND READING****A Reading from the First Letter to the Hebrews**Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Brothers and sisters:  
 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age -- and Sarah herself was sterile-- for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore. By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said,  
 "Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name."  
 He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

**Thanks be to God.****GOSPEL****A reading from the Gospel according to Luke**LK 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord,  
*Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,*  
 and to offer the sacrifice of  
*a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,*  
 in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:  
 "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."  
 The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him;  
 and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,  
 "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted —and you yourself a sword will pierce— so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."  
 There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four.  
 She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.  
 And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.  
 When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.  
 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



**By Father Edward A. Murphy**

## **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

It might be true to say that the focus of attention leading up and during the celebration of the Nativity is Jesus. This Sunday, we acknowledge the whole family!

There is often a sense of nostalgia and romance about the birth of Jesus. This can be heard in the best of our much-loved Christmas Carols and even seen in the worst of our Christmas cards!. That is not to say that they are not helpful, but we need to look beyond them, particularly on this great and important feast.

On this feast of the Holy Family, it is good to pray in gratefulness and thanks for our own parents and family. No one's family is perfect. All our family members, including ourselves have made mistakes and got things wrong. We have all done and said things that we have later regretted. Regardless of this, we owe our family everything and for this we thank God.

St. Eugene de Mazenod, the founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate came from what today could be called a 'broken family.' His parents divorced in 1795. Eugene was just seventeen years of age. This happened at a time when divorce was rare. Eugene had a far from ideal family life. He is the Patron Saint of Broken Families.

Prayers to St. Eugene can be very helpful and supportive for people who are experiencing problems in their family life. On this feast day, let us do just that; let us pray for all those we know who are experiencing the pain and difficulty of problems in their married and family life.

### *Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel:*

1. What started out as an ordinary day for Joseph and Mary turned out to be a day with an encounter they would remember for a long time. Perhaps you too have had significant encounters on what you expected to be just an ordinary day?
2. Simeon gave thanks because his eyes saw the salvation God had prepared. As you look back on the year ending today, in what ways have you experienced God's salvation in your life: an experience of being loved, or discovering a sense of purpose in life, or being touched by the wonders of creation? Give thanks for those memories.
3. Perhaps the past year may also have been one in which you have experienced great sorrow. What sword has pierced your soul and what has helped you to cope with it?
4. The final sentence speaks of Jesus as one who grew and became strong and was filled with wisdom. What has helped you to grow in wisdom? Have you seen others grow in wisdom through the experience of life? Recall times when you had a sense of growing up in some way. What brought that about? Think also of how you have seen growth in another person.

**A special word of thanks and appreciation for the outpouring of Christmas cards, letters and gifts I received throughout the Christmas season!**

**Have a Blessed New Year!**

*Fr. Edward A. Murphy*

**WEEKLY PARISH ST. ANDREW'S SUPPORT**

Thank you for your support to our Parish family.

Thank you for your support to our Parish family. The Offertory for the weekend of

December 24 & 25th

Weekend Masses	\$ 4967.00
Liturgical Expenses	\$ 1307.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 6240.00

This week's 2nd Collection - will be for  
**Winter Grounds Maintenance**

**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</u> <u>GRADES 9-10</u>
12/31/2023	NO Faith Formation Classes- New Year	
1/7/2023	Grades 7 & 8	Grade 10

**REMEMBER in PRAYER**

Please remember in your prayers

*Jeanne M. Linhares*

*Ligia Fernandez*

Who's funeral Masses were celebrated this past week. As well as our relatives, friends, and benefactors whose Anniversaries occur at this time.



There will be an altar server training classes for new students ages 8 and older.

**If you are interested in learning more about becoming an altar server, there are forms available in the Sacristy.**

**Please fill out and return.**



**Christmas Flowers In Memory of:**

*Gordon & McDermott Families*

*Sophie & Ester*

*Meme & Papa Poulin, Janet Price, Richard Price, Franes Hedin*

*Jacinto and Maria Rodrigues*

*Les Staples, Charles and Hilda Rebello*

*Marion Lima, Roberta Lima Sanchez*



**Healing Mass January Schedule**

**St Andrew the Apostle**

**Thursday, January 25th**

**St Anne's Shrine**

**January 18th**

**Mass at 6:30pm**

**MARION MEDAL RECIPIENT**

Congratulations to **Veronica Briggs** this year’s winner of the Marion Medal Award!



Veronica with her obligations was unable to attend the award ceremony in Fall River.

Fr Murphy presented the Marion Medal to Veronica last Sunday.

Thank you Veronica for all the work and support you give to our parish.

Congratulations – well deserved!!

**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

**Thank you to the Parishioners**, once again an overwhelming outpouring of generosity. Donating over 1000 gifts for:

22 Families, Journey Houses, Birthrite, Samaritan House, Marian Manor. Taunton State Hospital, 10 Teen moms and children living in shelter.

You’ve made many people’s Christmas brighter!



**2024 CALENDARS**

The 2024 Parish calendars are available at the entrances of the church. Please take one home with you.



**Thank you to CRAPO-HATHWAY Funeral Home for Sponsoring the CALENDAR!!!**

**Special Thank you to Tara Sousa, Women of Faith, St Vincent dePaul Group and all who volunteered to deliver Christmas presents.**





### *Pope Francis: Let Mary Teach You What to Do in the New Year*

‘She tenderly takes care — this is the language of Mary — to tenderly take care of the Child. This is Mary’s greatness.’

Let Mary, the Mother of God, be your guide in the new year.

Pope Francis says: “As we contemplate Mary in the stable where Jesus was born, let us ask ourselves: What languages does the Holy Virgin use to speak to us? How does Mary speak?” “What can we learn from her for this year that is dawning?” he added. “We can say: Virgin Mary, teach us what we should do this year.”

The Gospel of Luke describes the shepherds’ encounter with the Holy Family and how they saw the Infant Jesus “lying in the manger.”

“This verb ‘to lay’ means to carefully place and tells us that the language proper to Mary is maternal: She tenderly takes care — this is the language of Mary — to tenderly take care of the Child. This is Mary’s greatness,” he said.

He described a noisy scene: the angels celebrating Christ’s birth and the shepherds running to meet Jesus with everyone loudly praising God.

“Mary does not speak,” Pope Francis said, “she does not steal the show — we like to steal the show! On the contrary, she puts the Child in the center; she lovingly takes care of him.”

The Pope recalled a line of poetry from the Italian writer Alda Merini, which says that Mary “even knew how to be solemnly because she did not want to lose sight of her God.”

All mothers do the same, he said: “After having carried the gift of a mysterious prodigy in their womb for nine months, mothers constantly put their babies at the center of their attention: They feed them; they hold them in their arms; they tenderly lay them down in the crib.”

The Mother of God’s language is “a language of a mother,” he added.

Mary, Pope Francis said, “reminds us that, if we truly want the new year to be good, if we want to reconstruct hope, we need to abandon the language, those actions and those choices inspired by egoism, and learn the language of love, which is to take care.”

He continued: “This is the commitment: to take care of our lives, of our time, of our souls; to take care of creation and the environment we live in; and even more, to take care of our neighbor, of those whom the Lord has placed alongside us, as well as our brothers

***Solemnity of Mary Holy Day Monday, January 1, 2024 8:00am & 6:30pm***



**Christmas Eve**

Kempton, Mary Salter with baby Jesus, Joseph and Fr Murphy.



**Church Beautifully Decorated**

Thank you to Sue DaSilva, Kathy Duarte, Joanne DaSousa and Joseph Teixeira for doing a wonderful job decorating the Church for Christmas.





**PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY**

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
in you we contemplate  
the splendour of true love,  
to you we turn with trust.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth,  
grant that our families too  
may be places of communion and prayer,  
authentic schools of the Gospel  
and small domestic Churches.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may families never again  
experience violence, rejection and division:  
may all who have been hurt or scandalized  
find ready comfort and healing.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth,  
make us once more mindful  
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,  
and its beauty in God's plan.*

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
graciously hear our prayer.*

## 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

## *Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*



**EVERY MASS  
CAN BE  
VIEWED ON  
OUR WEBSITE !**

All Masses are **Livestreamed** at

**[standrewtaunton.org](http://standrewtaunton.org)**

Click: **Please join us here on “Livestream”**

### **TELEVISED MASS SCHEDULE**

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

**HOLY MASS**

COMCAST CHANNEL : 15

VERIZON CHANNEL : 22

Holy MASS can be seen

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

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