

**HOLY
FAMILY**
of Jesus,
Mary & Joseph



He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, *Out of Egypt I called my son.*

Matthew 2:15

ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE **WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, December 27th

4:00pm — Bertha Florence

Sunday, December 28th

8:00am — Oliver Nwachukwa

10:30am — Intention of Mindy Alves

Monday, December 29th

8:00am — Joey Murphy & McNalty Family

Tuesday, December 30th

8:00am — Frank Faria & Family & Souls of Purgatory

Wednesday, December 31st

8:00am — Frank Faria & Family & Souls of Purgatory

Thursday, January 1st

9:00am — David Cayton 2nd Anniversary

Friday, January 2nd

8:00am — George Hickey 1st Anniversary

Saturday, January 3rd

9:00am — Men of Saint Joseph

4:00pm — Steven & Dolores Alves

Sunday, January 4th

8:00am — Bertha Florence

10:30am — Maria Soares 3rd Anniversary

Sanctuary Lamp for week of December 27th

*Jorge & Anne Botelho,
Araujo Family*

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 Sirach
Sirach 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
Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5****R. \ Blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways.**

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,
 who walks in his ways!
 For you shall eat the fruit of your
 handiwork;
 blessed shall you be, and favored.

**R. \ Blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways.**

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine
 in the recesses of your home;
 your children like olive plants
 around your table.

**R. \ Blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways.**

Behold, thus is the man blessed
 who fears the LORD.

The LORD bless you from Zion:
 may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
 all the days of your life.

**R. \ Blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways.****SECOND READING****A Reading from The Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians
Colossians 3:12-21**

Brothers and sisters:

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

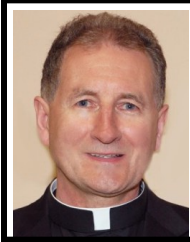
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL**A Reading from The Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23**

When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, Out of Egypt I called my son.

When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, He shall be called a Nazorean.

The Gospel of the Lord.



By Father Edward A. Murphy

Gospel of Matthew

That God comes to us as a newborn offers us a new beginning. It also reminds us that the divine life is vulnerable, fragile, and needs to be cared for and protected. There is nothing sentimental or romantic about Matthew's version of the Christmas story. It's real life.

When it comes to the holy life of God with us, Emmanuel, Jesus, it is always a matter of life and death; the child's, each other's, our own. God has entrusted his Son to each one of us in a variety of ways. Just like Joseph we stand in the middle between Jesus and Herod, between life and death, between the life-giver and the life-taker. We can't stay in the middle. Day by day, minute by minute, we choose. Will we get up and take the child and his mother or will we sleep through and miss what God is doing in our lives? What will it be for you? For me? What are we choosing? Are we nurturing and growing the life of Christ within us? How are we caring for the sacred pieces and parts of our lives? How are we creating a home for Jesus?

Don't be too anxious or distracted by Herod. Remember, neither God nor Joseph dealt directly with Herod. They didn't give Herod time, attention, or effort. That doesn't mean we deny or ignore the Herods of our lives. It means, rather, that we gain more by nurturing, feeding, and growing the divine life. It means that our work is to cultivate deep relationships, a life of prayer, and love for all people. It means that in the end holiness always wins.

Intercom December 2025

Seeing Your Life Through the Lens of the Gospel

- 1) Joseph's plans were repeatedly interrupted by divine dreams, forcing his family into exile. How do I respond when God's call disrupts my family's security and plans? Can I trust His guidance even when it leads to unexpected, difficult journeys?
- 2) Joseph's primary role was to protect Jesus and Mary from imminent danger. His faithfulness ensured the Messiah's survival: In my family, how am I called to embody protective love - not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually - creating a safe space for others to grow?
- 3) The family lived as refugees in Egypt which was a period of waiting and uncertainty. God was active in this hidden time. In my family's own seasons of waiting or exile, how can I grow in trust that God is still present and working out His purpose?
- 4) Joseph's faithfulness was shown through practical, immediate obedience, he got up, took the child and his mother, and went. Holiness in family life is often found in these simple acts of service and obedience. Where is God calling me to faithful, practical action for my loved ones today?

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

On **Thursday, January 1st**,
we will be celebrating the
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.
Mass will be held at
9:00am.

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

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 13th & 14th

Weekend Masses	\$ 2,837.00
Organ Fund & Maintenance	\$ 1,218.00
Candles	\$ 67.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 298.00
Annual Appeal	\$ 100.00

This week's Second Collection will be for:
Winter Grounds Maintenance
Next week's Second Collection will be for:
Diocesan Assessment



St. Andrew the Apostle Faith Formation Schedule 2025 - 2026

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRADES 1-8</u>	<u>CONFIRMATION GRADES 9-10</u>
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	
1/25/2026	Grades 3 & 4	Grade 10
2/1/2026	Grades 5 & 6	Grade 9
2/8/2026	Grades 7 & 8	Grade 10
	Grade 2	

*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.

Healing Mass Schedule



St. Anne's:
Thursday,
January 22nd
Rosary: 6:00pm
Mass: 6:30pm

St. Andrew's:
Thursday,
January 29th
Rosary: 6:00pm
Mass: 6:30pm

2026 Calendars



Calendars for this upcoming year are now available to take home.

Thank you to Crapo-Hathaway Funeral Home for being a part of this year's calendar.



The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (O.C.I.A.) is a process for those who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith and prepare to enter the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation.

Who can be a part of the O.C.I.A.?

- Someone who is unbaptized.
- A baptized Christian who is interested in the Catholic Church.
- A baptized Catholic who has not received 1st Reconciliation, 1st Holy Communion and/or Confirmation.
- A Catholic who would like to know more about their faith.

There are forms available at all entrances or contact the parish office at 508-824-5577 or Standrewtaunton@comcast.net.

Young Adult Section

By Brooke Pina

How can older adults in the church do a better job at teaching the youth about our faith?

I think the first step is having factual and sensible explanations when we ask “why.” Young people are not going to believe something without an explanation that makes sense, nor will they believe things without evidence. Some topics are easier to explain than others, but being able to answer our questions is very important. There are plenty of ways to explain one topic as well, so if one explanation isn’t making sense to someone, try it another way instead of repeating the same thing over and over again.

Every brain is different and the same explanations won’t make sense to everyone, so keep that in mind when speaking to youth.

Baptisms



On Sunday, December 14th, the baptisms of **Kenska Antoine Jr.** and **Steven Francois** were celebrated here at St. Andrew’s Parish. Congratulations to these families!

Paint Party



The Women of Faith will be hosting a Paint Night on Saturday, January 17th, at 5:00pm. Tickets are \$25 per person and proceeds will benefit teens going to Steubenville. For tickets, please contact Tara Sousa at tarams1231@gmail.com or call 508-245-5792.

Women of Faith





*2025 Christmas Flowers were given in
Loving Memory and Honor of:*

Margaret A. Coulombe, Jean A. Coulombe,
Mary Coulombe,
Barbara, Hayward Sr., Hayward Jr., Edward,
William, and Thomas Lewis, Jeannie Grealish,
Margaret Medeiros, Eleanor Crossman,
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Zrebiec,
Elaine Noonan, Josephine Privitera,
Jim & Gloria Fahey,
Edward S. Sikorski, Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Sikorski,
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Delsolio,
Brian Espinola, Mary Pina, Caesar Pina,
Steven Souza, Lyndsay Todaro,
John & Sally Richards, Donald & Barbara Crandall,
Maria Celeste Andrade,
The Rogers, Champagne & Larivee Families,
Archie & Margaret Gladue,
Richard, Jean & Philip Paulson, Alicia O'Brien,
The Moran, Hern, & Caramos Families,
Jon Gillis, Pat Taylor,
Andy, John & Rita Keating, Ralph & Lois Hill,
Mariano Sousa, Maria F. Sousa,
The Keating & Crowley Families,
Joseph & Mary (Donovan) Argas,
Earl L. & Earl B. Hudson, Raymond Cole,
Jennie Gorczyca, Anita & John Laffan,
The Gonsalves Family, Dorothy Salazar,
The Annunziato & Frappier Families,
Jack & Laura Camara, Jose & Beatriz Pimentel,
Kathleen & Robert Boucher, Michael Boucher,
Mr. & Mrs. Matos, Maria & Antonio Moitoso,
Madrinha Padrinho,
John Pereira, McDaniel Family, Pereira Family,
George Pereira,
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Menard,
Joseph M. Lazarz,
Fremont Thurston, Eleanor McGrath,
The Couto Family,
Rosa Braga & Mary Andrade,
Mr. & Mrs. S. Place, Guy Duncan,
Briggs & Hebert Families,
Jose D. & Maria J. Moitoso, Tim Roberts,

Jane Andrade, Celeste Amaral, Josephine Matoisa,
Al & Mary Fortes,
Alice Rousseau, Leo LaForest,
Lorraine & James Duarte,
The Ventura & Proulx Families,
Philip Connolly, William Morani Sr.,
Jane & Ralph Crossman,
George E. Hickey, Bob Thomas, Eleanor Gustafson,
The Hickey & Desrosiers Families,
Paddy Morgan, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Morgan,
Mr. & Mrs. J. Edward Nowell,
Hilda & Joseph Ferrari, Janet & Fred McClellan,
Marlene Keating, Pamela Dalrymple,
Brian Collins, Jeffrey Briggs, Matthew Briggs,
The Heher Family,
Theodore J. Wojcik Sr., Madeline C. Wojcik,
Salomea Wojcik, Jacob Wojcik, Frank S. Wojcik,
Madeline Wheeler, Rosemary Wheeler,
Thomas Wheeler Sr., Thomas Wheeler Jr.,
Francisco J. Carreiro, Arthur R. Carreiro,
Joseph F. Carreiro Sr., William D. Carreiro Sr.,
Leonora Carreiro-Guglielmo, Anna T. Carreiro,
Joseph F. Carreiro Jr., G. Paulina Batog,
Al & Kay Petruzzelli, Tory Petruzzelli,
Helen Metzger, Mary Valade,
Jacinto & Maria Rodrigues,
Carlos & Edwarda Costa, John Lopes,
Josephine, Mattea, & Sebastiano Fortuna,
Denise & John Kotlik, Paula Aumendo,
Leonora Stone-Sousa, Eino Polvinen,
Garcia & Brum Families,
The Fontes & Sousa Families, Tobey Alford,
Charles & Hilda Rebello, Leslie Staples,
Jose & Filomena de Andrade,
Fernando & Isabel Costa,
The Brown and Kelly Families,
Jose & Laura Moitoso, Antonio & Ana Freitas,
Donald & Joan Ducharme, Joe Wade,
Lisa Marie Andrade,
The Pina Family,
The Winter & Ferreira Families

Women of Faith Meeting

For the month of January, the **Women of Faith** will meet on the *second* Thursday of the month. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 8th**, at 7:00pm.

Women of Faith



THE MEN OF ST. JOSEPH



The Men of Saint Joseph will meet again on Saturday, January 3rd at 9:00am.

All men are welcome to attend.

Mary's Mantle Consecration



Over the past 46 days, 89 women and men in our parish have participated in a program dedicated to prayer and fasting: **Mary's Mantle**. On Friday, December 12th, these women and men were consecrated to the Blessed Mother, on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Thank you to all of those who took part in this program and congratulations!





The Humble Majesty of Us

The celebration of Christmas and the coming New Year are perfect times to reconnect with loved ones and reconsider our priorities. Amidst the festive spirit and celebrations, we build some powerful and beautiful memories during the holidays—such as the beautiful moments spent with a younger child relative, or a conversation with an elderly family member talking of times long past. We turn away from ordinary, everyday routines—the daily grind—and experience special moments that enrich and refresh us.

At Christmas we recall how God, who is so powerful and kingly, decided to make himself present among us by coming as a vulnerable baby, born in poverty. This humble arrival, so gentle and hopeful, only makes it easier for us to see the very tender aspect of God—for who can fear a baby? He enters the world precisely as a baby to draw us closer to him. God, in a sense, “stoops” to humanity by becoming one of us, and in the process, he elevates all of humanity.

If God draws us to himself with love, and not through guilt or compulsion, how important it is that we, too, should witness to our faith in the same manner. How important this is in building up a culture of life! As many of us approach the New Year with resolutions, this seems an appropriate time to consider our pro-life witness in the light of charity.



Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus are depicted in a wooden creche at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester, N.Y., in this Nov. 24 photo. (CNS photo/Mike Crupi, Catholic Courier)

One aspect of contributing to a culture of life is to cultivate a pro-life attitude. In addition to important efforts like ministry outside of abortion facilities, writing Congress to express our views on legislation, and prayer activities on behalf of life, it is so very important to cultivate an internal perspective which animates all these other efforts. What do I mean by cultivating a “pro-life attitude”? I am referring to a disposition which actively and consciously seeks to reaffirm the dignity of every person we encounter.

It means making an effort to see people as God sees them. To help someone realize the good he has when he can’t see it himself. To take time to acknowledge another person’s presence and worth in a competitive, utilitarian, and electronically-saturated society. To engage an opponent peacefully and with courtesy. By affirming the same nobility in others that Christ affirms in us, through his humble and majestic presence in this world, we can help to change the culture.

What better time than Christmas and the New Year to renew our pro-life convictions and to look forward to our efforts with renewed hope! As the Christ-child wins hearts and touches souls with the greatest simplicity, let us resolve to give a pro-life witness which conveys reverence and respect for others. The sacredness of human life should be recognized from the moment of conception to natural death, and in every human face, beginning with the faces we encounter every day.

This article was written by Kimberly Baker, a former staff assistant for the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information on the bishops’ pro-life activities, please visit www.usccb.org/prolife.

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

Brooke Pina - Bulletin Editor -
brookepina.standrews@gmail.com

Sally Medeiros - Dir of Religious Education -
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

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

www.standrewtaunton.org

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

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 John The Apostle

Feast Day - December 27

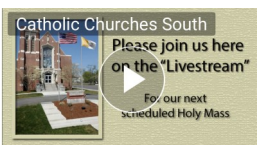


The Call of the First Disciples

Matthew 4:18-22

'As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.'

John and his brother, James, Galilean fishermen called the "sons of thunder," were chosen to be among the Twelve Apostles. John was with Jesus at the Transfiguration, in the Garden of Gethsemane, and on Calvary. It was to this "beloved disciple" that Jesus entrusted his mother's care. John evangelized in Ephesus (Turkey), was exiled to the island of Patmos, and according to tradition lived to be 100 years. John and his community of followers are credited with writing the fourth Gospel, three epistles, and the Book of Revelation.



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

All Masses are **Livestreamed** at

www.standrewtaunton.org

Click: **Please join us here on "Livestream"**