

Upcoming Events

**Stations of the Cross-
February 27
and every Friday of
Lent.
This week is being
led by the CHOIR
Ministry**

**MEATLESS SOUP after the
Stations of the Cross
THIS COMING FRIDAY**

Religious Education class line-up

**K-8 grades Sundays at 10:00
am
(after Mass/Breakfast)**

**High School Youth Group
1st and 3rd Sunday
at 10:00 am**

**OCIA
11:00- 12:00**

**THE FOOD PANTRY HOURS
WEDNESDAY &
FRIDAY
9 am TO noon**



The Wednesday Night Men's Bible Study is Going Strong!

**Each session starts at 5:30
pm (or after Mass) and ends
at 7:00 pm. All men of any
age are welcome.**

**FARMERS
STORE**
BULK BEYOND ORGANIC FARMERS' COOPERATIVE
971 Smithville Highway, Sparta, TN 38583
PHONE: (931) 738-3838 Open 9am-6pm (Mon-Sat)
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**EDIFIED
Electric**
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www.standrewsparta.com

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH



829 Valley View Dr. Sparta TN. 38583

The First Sunday of Lent



MASS TIMES

**Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am
Wednesday 5:00 pm
Thursday 9:30 am**

ADORATION TIMES

**Wednesday 4- 5:00 pm
Saturday 3- 4:00 pm
Sunday 8- 8:30 am**

CONFESSION TIMES

**Wednesday 4:30- 5:00 pm
Saturday 3:30- 4:00 pm**

Sunday February 15, 2026

Reflection's

by Fr. Njoku Canice
Chukwemeka, C.S.Sp

The Church invites us to celebrate Jesus Christ, "the second Adam," who overcame temptation and sin by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through his obedience to the Father's will, Christ restored the world. Therefore, "this season calls for great discipline, courage, vigilance, and strong faith in God.

Today's first reading recounts the beginning of our salvific history. We all became vulnerable to temptation and Original Sin through the disobedience of our progenitors. Consequently, this led to what St. Augustine refers to as "Massa damnata" (mass damnation). From this reading, it is evident that temptation in itself is not a sin. A sin is a gross act of disobedience against our Creator and a violation of the natural order of things.

It suffices to note the stages that Eve went through before she finally succumbed to Satan. "The woman saw...that it was desirable for knowledge. She took some of the fruit and ate it." This is the nature of our daily struggle. It is a problem of the "I" and "Ego" that we try to satisfy every day. Many of us are so engrossed in our quest for knowledge that we are ready to go against the will and commandments of God. So, we must guard ourselves against the temptations of the evil one.

In the second reading, Paul traces the origin of sin to Adam. He highlighted the consequence of sin: "...Death spread through the human race because everyone has sinned." This means that sin disrupts life and leads to death. It brings fear, hopelessness, and shame.

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This week's Major Sponsor 971 Smithville Hwy, Sparta, TN 38583 Tel:(931) 738-3838



PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9: a.m. - 12 p.m.

Telephone:
(931) 738-2140

Visit Our Website

Website:
www.standrewsparta.com

Please send bulletin changes,
ads or announcements
2 weeks ahead to:
bulletinsacc@gmail.com



Pastor:
Rev. Father Emmanuel Dirichukwu
pastor@standrewsparta.com

Samantha Faust
Parish Co-Ordinator
parishcoordinator@standrewsparta.com

Debi Donovan
Assistant Parish Co-Ordinator
parishcoordinator@standrewsparta.com

Elizabeth Bates OCDS
Director of Religious Education
religiouseducation@standrewsparta.com

Marleen Loff Co-Ordinator
Our Home Our Family Outreach
StandrewCOoutreach@yahoo.com

PARISH DEACONS
Robert "Bob" Graham
Stephen "Steve" AuBuchon



Baptism:
Please contact
The Parish office about the
birth of your child.

Reconciliation:
Wednesdays 4:30-5:00
Saturdays at 3:30-4:00
and by appointment.

Marriage:
Please contact the Parish
office at least 4 months in
advance for information and
scheduling

**Anointing of the Sick and
homebound:**
Please contact the Parish
Office for information on
our Ministry of Care.

**Father Emmanuel is
available to hear
confessions on
Saturdays from 3:30pm
to 4pm and on
Wednesday from 4:30
pm to 5 pm. Other
confession times
may be arranged
directly with Father.**

**HALTED IN
JANUARY**



If you are a new parishioner, you are
invited to stop by or telephone
the parish office to register and let us
know how we may be of service to you.
Please call the church office
(931) 738-2140

If you have new information, such as a
change of address or
phone numbers, or if you are moving
from the parish,
please call the Parish office at (931)
931-738-2140

Please visit the parish website:
and sign up to receive the
weekly email newsletter and
parish-wide emails.

www.standrewsparta.com

FIND IT EASY AT THE
BOTTOM OF THE WEBSITE!

Please like and Follow our
church Facebook page:
[StandrewCatholicChurch-Sparta,TN](https://www.facebook.com/StandrewCatholicChurch-Sparta,TN)

**Any parish
members
who wish to join
the Knights are
welcome to talk
with any active
member to sign
up.**

THE KNIGHT'S CORNER

**DO YOU WANT TO BE A
KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS
MEMBER?
JUST ASK ONE!**



THE ST. ANDREW
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FISHERY
Fried Fish, Fries, Hashbrowns,
Coleslaw, Drinks & Dessert
FRI, FEB 20 - 5:30PM
\$15 - Adults
\$8 - Kids Ages 12 & Under
829 VALLEY VIEW DRIVE,
SPARTA, TN

The Knights of Columbus are
sponsoring breakfast
Sunday,
March 1,
with the monthly meeting to follow!

WE WELCOME NEW PARISH MEMBERS



*The Hudachek Family!
They are: Jennifer and Joe &
Luke, Hannah, and James*



"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16
Farmers' Storehouse is a major sponsor of our bulletin.

YOUR YEAR END OUTREACH REPORT

From the Desk of Marleen Loff, Co-Ordinator
St. Andrew Catholic Church Outreach Ministry

As we close Year End 2025, we realize how blessed our Outreach Ministry is. We were able to distribute an incredible amount of food in White County and neighboring areas to families needing assistance. You can review on the Year End summary that show the number of food boxes that were distributed from 1/1/25 - 12/31/25, totaled 2,132 food boxes. St. Andrew Outreach received from partnering with 2nd HARVEST \$9,638.00 of food. Our thanks to our local Kentucky Fried Chicken who donated 9,531 lbs. of food, giving us a total of 101,410 lbs.

Included were 2 Grant Orders we received that provided us with an additional 2,132 lbs. of food. Special thanks to John Rose who organized and paid for one of our grant orders. These Grant orders provided food to help us during the Government shut down. The grant orders included in the Year End Summary - our Outreach distributed a total of 20,410 lbs. of food!

This is a tremendous accomplishment for St. Andrew Outreach distributing over 100 thousand pounds of food in 2025. This is only accomplished with the help of a team of dedicated and hardworking volunteers.

- It begins with Cathy Randolph, who set up the Partnership with 2nd Harvest. Cathy is on the computer daily ordering nutritious food for our weekly orders.
- The 2nd Harvest Truck brings our order to the Walmart parking lot on Thursdays. They are met by Jim Randolph and Tony Tersigni with their vehicles, each pulling a trailer.
- Once the order arrives at the Church, then it's time to unload. Victor Vale, Mike & Annette Popa, Marcy Fleck, Hailey Mercier, Debi Donovan, Linda Pippin, and Jim Spagnolo all help unloading the trailers and bringing the cases of food into the Hall.
- The cases of food are checked and put away in the pantry. Next comes the making of boxes to give to the clients as they sign in to receive food on Wednesdays and Fridays. In addition to the box of grocery items, they also receive a variety of meats.
- Our additional volunteers who continue the process are: Cindy Brown, Debbie Tylka, Diana Mario, Donnetta & Randy Hakman, Doris Grimes, Marilyn Lewis and Mary Swartz.
- Every Monday and Friday Marcy Fleck and Hailey Mercier pick up the donations from KFC. They repackage and prepare for us to distribute.

Our thanks to the Parishioners who support St. Andrew Outreach Ministry with their donations in our 2nd Weekly Collection. May God Bless all of our volunteers and donors for their continued support. With your help we are truly making a difference in so many lives in our White County Community.

IT IS BETTER TO GIVE!

YEAR END 2025 SUMMARY

Start Date	End Date	1ST	FOOD COST	FRT. COST	TOTAL COST	FOOD LBS.	BOXES/#FAMILY	KFC LBS.
01/01/25	03/31/25	10 ORDERS	\$1,239.36	\$650.00	\$1,889.36	21,732	5271/512	2,829.66 LBS.
04/01/25	06/30/25	2ND HARVEST	\$1,347.96	\$713.92	\$2,061.88	25,188	6131/391	2,558.81 LBS.
07/01/25	09/30/25	11 ORDERS	\$1,493.29	\$757.54	\$2,250.83	23,631	6452/005	2,057.11 LBS.
10/01/25	12/31/25	10 ORDERS	\$1,171.80	\$650.00	\$1,821.80	21,328	4077/112	2,055.56 LBS.
TOTALS		44 ORDERS	\$5,208.41	\$2,771.46	\$7,979.87	91,879	2,117/1,560	9,531.14 LBS.
FOOD DISTRIBUTED 2025: 101,410 LBS.								

THANKS FOR GIVING!

Please keep in mind:
All donations of the Second Collection goes to our outstanding Outreach Program, unless otherwise stated.

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However, according to Paul, we are not hopeless because: "The Divine Grace that flows from Christ" saves and acquits us. If we abide in him, we will find the strength and grace to overcome temptation and sin. Therefore, this is a season of Grace.

The gospel reminds us of the ordeal we go through every day. That is, the temptation we face each day. Being a "spirit," the devil often knows what we need most. So, he tempts us with it as he did to Christ. If we are hungry, he tempts us with food. If we are thirsty, he tempts us with drinks. If we like power, he tempts us with it.

If you need money, the devil tempts us to steal from others. If you need a job, he tempts you to offer a bribe to get a job. If you are too greedy for marks, he tempts you to cheat in your exams. Once one falls to one temptation, he continues with the next until one finally perishes. He is very subtle and an expert in "one step at a time!"

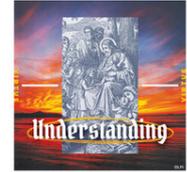
How was Jesus able to overcome Satan and his temptations? He overcame because, beforehand, he had already fortified himself. He tamed his appetite for ambition and vainglory. Most importantly, he was not alone in his struggle against Satan and his temptations. The Holy Spirit was with him. He overcame through prayer and fasting.

So, during this season of Lent and beyond, we must prepare ourselves for the ultimate journey. We must be firm in prayers and watchful so that we do not fall to the temptations of the evil one.

Peace be with you all

Maranatha!

Virtues, Explained!



"I believe, in order to understand," said St. Augustine. "And I understand, the better to believe."

The virtue of understanding, which is a gift conferred by the Holy Spirit, shows us that there is no such thing as "blind faith." Faith, by its very nature, seeks to better understand the object of that faith.

It is important to know that understanding is a process — the Holy Spirit is always willing to give a gift over and over again! "The same Holy Spirit constantly perfects faith by his gifts, so that Revelation may be more and more profoundly understood," we read in Dei verbum, the dogmatic constitution on divine revelation.

Understanding is the "food" of faith. We must constantly ask the Holy Spirit for greater and more profound understanding, for though understanding proceeds from faith, it in turn nourishes that faith. "A more penetrating knowledge will in turn call forth a greater faith, increasingly set afire by love," says the Catechism (CCC 158).

ST. ANDREW MASS SCHEDULE INTENTIONS AND EVENTS

Saturday February 21, 2026

Adoration 3:00- 4:00
Confession 3:30- 4:00
4:00 Mass **VERA BOUTON, R.I.P.**

Sunday February 22, 2026

Adoration 8:-8:30
8:30- Mass INTENTION: FOR THE PARISH
BREAKFAST IS SERVED

Wednesday February 18, 2026

ADORATION: 4:00- 5:00
CONFESSION: 4:30- 5:00
MASS 5:00
TERESA TERSIGNI R.I.P.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY- 5:30

Thursday February 26, 2026

MASS- 9:30 a.m. **SUE HUBBARD, R.I.P.**

Ministry Schedule

February 28/March 1

Cathy Clayton Monica Jicha

Sondra Tersigni Branton Ferris, Sondra Tersigni
Ronnie Cupec Barbara Leblanc

Jim Spa, Ray Jicha, Don Baird
Vols, Knights Knights of Columbus

Month of the Passion of the Lord

FEBRUARY Anniversaries

Tony and Sondra Tersigni 4th
Joe and Jennifer Hudachek 12th

Birthdays

Cathy Clayton 1st
Terri Sergio 9th
Carole McLeod 11th
Paul Petrick 12th
Marcisa Geer 19th
Jordyn Tamez 21st
Janice Clement 22nd

MASS INTENTIONS FEBRUARY

Mary Tersigni R.I.P. 7th
Walter Manthey R.I.P. 14th
Anna Tersigni R.I.P. 18th
Sue Hubbard R.I.P. 19th /26th
Vera Bouton R.I.P. 21st
Theresa Tersigni R.I.P. 25th
Audrey and Steve Stevens R.I.P. 28th



Daily Readings with Saints & Occasions

Prayer Requests

February 23-March 1

Monday February 23, 2026

Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr
1st Reading: Leviticus 19: 1-2, 11-18
Psalm: Psalms 129: 8, 9, 10, 15
Verse Before the Gospel: 2Corinthians 6: 2b
Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46

Tuesday February 24, 2026

Lenten Weekday
1st Reading: Isaiah 55: 10-11
Psalm: Psalms 34: 4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19
Verse Before the Gospel: Matthew 4: 4b
Gospel: Matthew 6: 7-15

Wednesday February 25, 2026

Lenten Weekday
1st Reading: Jonah 3: 1-10
Psalm: Psalms 51: 3-4, 12-13, 18-19
Verse Before the Gospel: Joel 2: 12-13
Gospel: Luke 11: 29-32

Thursday February 26, 2026

Lenten Weekday
1st Reading: Esther C: 12, 14-16, 23-25
Psalm: Psalms 138: 1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8
Verse Before the Gospel: Psalms 51: 12a,14a
Gospel: Matthew 7: 7-12

Friday February 27, 2026

Day of Abstinence from Meat (age 14 and up)
1st Reading: Ezekiel 18: 21-28
Psalm: Psalms 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
Verse Before the Gospel: Ezekiel 18: 31
Gospel: Matthew 5: 20-26

Saturday February 28, 2026

Lenten Weekday
1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26: 16-19
Psalm: Psalms 119: 1-2, 4-5, 7-8
Verse Before the Gospel: 2Corinthians 6: 2b
Gospel: Matthew 5: 43-48

Sunday March 1, 2026

2nd Sunday of LENT
1st Reading: Genesis 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7
Psalm: Psalms 51: 3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17
2nd Reading: Romans 5: 12-19 or 5: 12, 17-19
Verse Before the Gospel: Matthew 4: 4b
Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Cathy Randolph
Katie Charfauros
Payton Newman
Jim Winton
Danny Gutierrez
Art Gutierrez
Linda McGraw
Roseanna Hassett
Elaine Garrett
Heidi Holland
Diane Barry
Verne & Bernice Clapp
John Barry
Clara Magushak
Harry Dennis
Karen Norris
Pat Wilson
Andrzej Konwinski
Anita Borski
Margaret Massa
Anna Barry
Dan Clayton

May the Souls
of all
the Faithful
Departed,
Through the
Mercy of God,
Rest in Peace.
Amen.