RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

IF YOU ARE NEW TO OUR PARISH see or talk to: Elizabeth Bates, DRE (info page 2)

Sundays through May of 2027 with Religious Ed from 10-11 am (kids) OCIA from 11 to noon (adults)

These are preliminary times. Religious Education and OCIA class times may change with changes in Mass times.

Use this for online giving

It is quick, Easy, and Secure

ONE- TIME GIFTS OR RECURRING GIFTS can be set up on your schedule Track, Change or Manage your giving, using a credit or debit card!

WILL YOU HELP A NEIGHBOR

If you are a social worker, please contact Judy Elliott, 529-429-4581 jroseelliott@gmail.com

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

ANGEL TREE DETAILS ARE ON PAGE 3

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Night Men's Bible Study is on break until Jan 6, 2027

SATURDAY BIBLE STUDY

Saturday evening bible study is taking a break to enjoy the coming holiday season. Our last study group was Saturday, November 21st. We will resume on Saturday, January 16th – same time (after our evening meal), same place, same prophet – Isaiah. Everyone is always welcome. So please enjoy the holidays and come journey with us through Isaiah when we return in January.

For questions or concerns, please call/text Judy Elliott, 520-429-4581.

HERBS/PLANTS

If you are successful in growing herbs and plants, then I am asking for your help. I need to collect some of the following: Thyme, Rosemary, Lavender, Lady's Bedstraw, Pennyroyal and Horehound. These were in the surrounding area of the cave where Jesus was born. Joseph and Mary used them to line the manger, and I would like to add them to the Christmas décor around the creche.
Text or caLl Judy Elliott @ 520-429-4581
jroseelliott@gmail.com.

PANTRY HOURS

Now Open from 9 am to noon Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (no Thursday due to the delivery)

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH



829 Valley View Dr. Sparta TN. 38583

Sunday November 29, 2026 — *THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT*



Advent: Season of Great Expectation and of Joyful Hope

MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses
Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am
Weekday Masses
Wednesday. 5:00 pm
Thursday 9:30 am

CONFESSION TIMES

Wednesday 4:30- 5:00 pm
Saturday 3:30- 4:00 pm
and by appointment

ADORATION TIMES

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

Reflections

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

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, and of a new liturgical calendar year B. Remarkably, as we begin a new liturgical year today, we move from the gospel according to Matthew to the gospel according to Mark, the shortest of the four canonical Gospels.

Advent is a season of hope. It is a period when, as Christians, we await the fulfillment of the promise of God through his prophets. In addition to being a season of hope, it is equally a season of patience and prayer. During these four weeks, what are we expected to do? We are expected to prepare for the birth of the messiah. We note that while we prepare physically, the most important must be spiritual preparation.

Our first reading from Isaiah is both a prophetic message, as well as a prayer of hope. Isaiah begins by acknowledging the greatness of God: "O Lord, you are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name.." Then, he makes a petition to God: "Why leave us to stray from your ways..Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down?"

This is a prayer of hope. As Isaiah rightly demanded, God will not keep silent until we are saved. That salvation is what our hope in Christ will accomplish for us. Therefore, when Isaiah asks God to tear the heavens and come down, he expects God to come quickly. This is Our Lord's prayer, "..Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven." It is also Paul's petition, "Maranatha!" It is the cry of the Spirit and the Bride: "Come, Lord Jesus" (CCC 2817). God's power and salvation are what we hope to see at the end of this season. That is when God's Word would become flesh and born of a virgin.

In our second reading, Paul encourages us to be faithful as we wait for the coming of Christ. Though Paul was referring to the parousia yet, this reading is very "ad rem" to this season of Advent. Paul reminds us that we have received the gifts of the Spirit. It is these gifts of the Spirit that will strengthen us as we wait in joyful hope for Christ. Our life is a long vigil, waiting for the Lord to be revealed in all his glory.

(continued page 3)

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

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
9: a.m. - 12 p.m.

Telephone:
(931) 738-2140

Visit Our Website

www.standrewsparta.com

Please send bulletin changes, ads or announcements 2 weeks ahead to: bulletinsacc@gmail.com or the Parish Co-ordinator

OUR CHURCH STAFF

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

Ritina Jones
Parish Co-Ordinator
parishcoordinator@standrewsparta.com

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

Judy Elliott
Our Home Our Family-Ministry Coordinator
jroseelliott@gmail.com

PARISH RETIRED DEACONS

Robert "Bob" Graham
Stephen "Steve" AuBuchon

The Sacraments

Baptisms

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

Marriages

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

Annointing of the Sick and Homebound

Please contact the Parish Office for information on our Ministry of Care.

Reconciliation

Father Emmanuel is available to hear confessions on Saturdays from 3:30 to 4 pm and on Wednesday from 4:30 pm to 5 pm.

Other confession times may be arranged directly with Father.

Welcome TO OUR CHURCH

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. 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 931-738-2140

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

Please like and Follow our church Facebook page: St AndrewCatholicChurch-Sparta,TN

There is a basket in the Narthex for donations of hygeine products for distribution in the Outreach program. Please add items as you see fit!

THE KNIGHT'S CORNER

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

THE NEXT HOSTED MEALS ON DECEMBER 5 AND 6 , THEY WILL HOLD THEIR MEETING AFTER THE BREAKFAST ON DECEMBER 6.

The Knights of Columbus lead the rosary the 1st Saturday at 3:30 and the 2nd Sunday at 8:30.

Rosaries are recited on Saturdays, one half hour before Mass. When the Knights of Columbus are not leading the Rosary, all men and women who arrive have the opportunity to participate in a decade. Please check in and let us know if you would like to participate.



Please join your fellow parishioners for a wonderful time of scripture and carols!

DECEMBER 13
6:00 P.M. RECEPTION OF
WINE, CHEESES, AND MORE WITH
NON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO FOLLOW

"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.

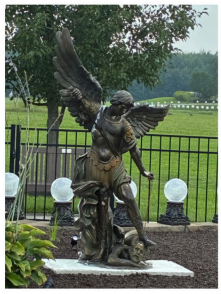
PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER

Her Name is Holly Joy Acharya. She can seen here with her beautiful family! They are: Mom and Dad, Justin and Natalie, June, Taj, Silas, Margaret, and a loving neighbor, Camille!





We have begun praying the the prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel at the conclusion of Sunday Mass, and the vigil.. It is recited after the first verse of the closing hymm. Please stay for it!



picture credit:
by Sondra Tersigni
Servants of Mary Shrine,
Windsor, Ohio

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. AMEN

St. Andrew's Moms' Group



MOTHERS OF LITTLES
PLEASE JOIN US
THURSDAYS AT 10 AM
TO JOIN THE GROUP ME
TEXT ANNA DODDS: 724-991-4431

continued from the front page

So, we wait with expectation and joyful hope because his is Spirit is with us. If we walk with him this season, God will not fail us because: "our expectation shall not be cut short" (Pr 23:18). So, as the Spirit guides us, we must prepare prayerfully, through the help of the Sacraments. This is mostly through the sacrament of reconciliation.

The gospel of today is a clarion call to be awake and alert. Only the Spirit of God can help us do this faithfully. Therefore, rather than obey the spirit of this world this season, we must abide by the Spirit of God, who sustains us. So, let us have our minds fixed on him.

It suffices to note that our preparation would not be complete without lightening up our lives spiritually for Christ if we light up only our houses and streets. If we prepare all things and places without preparing a manger for the baby Jesus in our lives, our preparation would not be thorough.

Peace be with you!

Marantha

Virtues Explained



Compassion flows from the virtue of mercy, or "heartfelt sympathy for another's distress," writes St. Thomas Aquinas (Sum. II:II, 30, 1). Compassion could be described as the active form of mercy — we are "moved" by the suffering of another, as the heart of Christ was "moved with pity" for the crowds who followed him, seeking a shepherd (Matthew 9:37).

Compassion is also a means by which we can bring healing to a broken relationship, says the Catechism: "It is not in our power not to feel or to forget an offense; but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming the hurt into intercession" (CCC 2843). In this way, we reflect God's divine compassion for us: "The Lord is good to all, and compassionate to all your works. All your works give you thanks, Lord, and your faithful bless you" (Psalm 145:9-10).

©LPi

Blessing for the First Week of Advent
Dear Lord,
As this Advent season begins, pour Your blessing upon us. Bless our Advent wreaths and readings, our retreats and reconciliations. You are our God and our guide; be with us as we journey.
Amen.

©LPi



The Angel Tree has been set up. Please take your angel from the tree and fill out the tab with your name and phone number. Then deposit your tab in the box provided. Secure your angel to your gift package ($ 25 limit) and place it back under the tree. Please have your gift returned by Friday, Dec. 18th so we can distribute them to the families on Saturday, Dec. 19th. Thank you for your support."

ST. ANDREW MASS SCHEDULE INTENTIONS AND EVENTS

Saturday November 28, 2026

Adoration 3:00- 4:00
Confession 3:30- 400
4:00 Mass FOR OUR COUNTRY

Sunday November 29, 2026

8:30- Mass INTENTION: FOR THE PARISH

NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION THIS WEEKEND

Wednesday December 2, 2026

ADORATION: 4:00- 5:00
CONFESSION: 4:30-5:00
MASS 5:00
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY- IS ON BREAK UNTIL THE 1ST WEDNESDAY IN 2027

Thursday December 3, 2026

MASS- 9:30 a.m.

Saturday December 5, 2026

Adoration 3:00- 4:00
Confession 3:30- 400
4:00 Mass

Ministry Schedule

December 5/6

Jim Spagnolo
Marleen Loff †
Cathy Clayton

Mitchie Baird



Branton Ferris
Barbara Leblanc



June Acharya
Taj Acharya
Lynnleigh Masters
Parker Masters

Tony Tersigni
Vols, Knights

Ray Jicha Kevin Faust
Knights of Columbus

Month of the Holy Souls

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Tyler & Samila Bruno - Nov 3
Tim & Jessica Brennison - Nov 14
Matt & Heather Weaver- Nov 14
Gene & Mary Grey - Nov 17
Kyle & Bethany Cullen - Nov 22
Chikezie & Mercy Emeghara- Nov 27

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Alyssa Masters, Hannah Morris -1
Rosanne Stafford, Sophia Morris -2
John Dlugosz - 5
Robert Manthey- 7
Ronnie Cupec - 8
Robert McGraw - 9
Daisey Tomarevsky - 10
Anthony Campanari,
Jeffrey Smith - 11
Ken Guidara, Samila Bruno -13
Jim Wankel - 14
Brent Frank -17
Monica Jicha - 18
Lorie Frank, Mary Oleksik,
Sondra Tersigni, Chris Marinucci- 21
Margaret Hausauer, DeEtte Price - 24

NOVEMBER MASS INTENTIONS

CHARLOTTE MANTHEY R.I.P. -NOV 4
SAM NGUY R.I.P -NOV 7
JOHN PINSON R.I.P. -NOV 11
THELMA JUANITA PEACOCK GUMZ - NOV 12
ROSEANNA HASSETT R.I.P -NOV 14
ANTHONY FARMER SPECIAL INTENTION - NOV 19
NGUYET NGUYEN R.I.P. -NOV 21
FOR OUR COUNTRY - NOV 28

Daily Readings

with Saints & Occasions

Nov 30– Dec 6

Monday November 30, 2026
Andrew, Apostle Feast
1st Reading: Romans 10: 9-18
Psalm: Psalms 19: 8, 9, 10, 11
Alleluia: Matthew 4: 19
Gospel: Matthew 4: 18-22

Tuesday December 1, 2026
Advent Weekday
1st Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10
Psalm: Psalms 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Gospel: Luke 10: 21-24

Wednesday December 2, 2026
Advent Weekday
1st Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10
Psalm: Psalms 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Gospel: Luke 10: 21-24

Thursday December 3, 2026
Francis Xavier, Priest, Missionary Obligatory Memorial
1st Reading: Isaiah 26: 1-6
Psalm: Psalms 118: 1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a
Alleluia: Isaiah 55: 6
Gospel: Matthew 7: 21, 24-27

Friday December 4, 2026
John of Damascus, Priest, Religious, Doctor
1st Reading: Isaiah 29: 17-24
Psalm: Psalms 27: 1, 4, 13-14
Gospel: Matthew 9: 27-31

Saturday December 5, 2026
Advent Weekday
1st Reading: Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26
Psalm: Psalms 147: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Alleluia: Isaiah 33: 22
Gospel: Matthew 9: 35 - 10: 1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday December 6, 2026
Second Sunday of Advent
1st Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11
Psalm: Psalms 85: 9-10, 11-12, 13-14
2nd Reading: Second Peter 3: 8-14
Alleluia: Luke 3: 4, 6
Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8

Prayer Requests



**Mike Popa
Michele Honeycutt
*Catherine Young
*Katie Charfauros
**Lois Gilbert
** Bill Swartz
**Heidi & Gary Holland
* Joan Kupiec
**Melissa Cupec
** Mark Marshall
**Heather Masters
**Heather Vandevender
Lezette Bruce
Jim Winton
**Danny Gutierrez
Art Gutierrez
Dean Wolf
Linda McGraw
Elaine Garrett
Diane & Tom Barry
John Barry
Verne & Bernice Clapp
Harry Dennis Karen Norris
Anna Barry
Maryann Kopke Margaret Massa
Christopher j. Scott
** Special Consideration, Please!

May the Souls of all the Faithful Departed, Through the Mercy of God Rest in Peace! AMEN

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