

Upcoming Events

Upcoming
Chili dinner/
Bingo
Fundraiser-
February 7
Information inside

Religious
Education
has begun again,
however will be on
break Sunday,
January 18, for MLK
Weekend

Religious Education
class line-up
K-8 grades Sundays at 10:00 am (after Mass and breakfast)

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

OCIA
11:00- 12:00

The food pantry
BACK IN PROGRESS
WEDNESDAY &
FRIDAY
9 am TO noon

Men's Bible Study Class News

The Men's bible
class is back in
full
swing!

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



www.standrewsparta.com

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH



829 Valley View Dr. Sparta TN. 38583

Sunday January 11, 2026

Reflections

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

Today is the celebration of the Lord's Baptism. It marks the end of the Christmas season, Year A. Providentially, the Lord's Baptism comes at the beginning of the year. It celebrates God's gratuitous call to us to belong to his flock. It is a way of reminding us of who we are. That is members of God's great family through our baptism in Christ.

According to Catholic Catechism, "Baptism cleans us from Original Sin, and makes us children of God (CCC 1213)." Therefore, today, we must reflect on our baptism. This is mainly on how faithful we have kept our baptismal vows. Are we still saying, "I do" to questions like: "Do you reject Satan? Do you reject sin? Do you believe in one God and one Holy Catholic Church? Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten son of God? How faithful have we been to these vows?



MASS TIMES

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

ADORATION TIMES

HALTED IN
JANUARY

CONFESSION TIMES
HALTED IN
JANUARY

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

continued on page 3



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

OUR CHURCH STAFF

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
StandrewCCOutreach@yahoo.com

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

The Sacraments

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.



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:
[St AndrewCatholicChurch-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.

continued from front page!

In today's gospel, although Jesus is
greater than John the Baptist, He
allowed John to baptize Him. The most
important lesson here is that Jesus tried
to underscore the importance of baptism
to our redemption and life as Christians.
It is not a "mere sign." Instead, it is a
sacrament that leaves an indelible mark
on the receiver. This is the sign or mark
which God sees and testifies: "This is my
beloved son, in whom I am well
pleased!"

By receiving the baptism of the Baptist,
Christ manifested his full humanity. In
order words, he shows us to what extent
he fully identifies with us. Ordinarily,
baptism was unnecessary for Jesus
because "he was like us in all things,
except sin" (Heb 4, 15). He was not
affected in any way by Original Sin.
However, as he insisted, his baptism was
"to fulfill all that righteousness
demands." It is a sign that Christ was
ready to go through any ordeal for our
salvation. He was to seal with his blood
on the cross, which he initiated through
the water of baptism today. Through his
baptism, he sanctified the water of our
baptism.

Therefore, today the church calls us to
renew our baptismal vows to God. This is
important so that God may continue to
say of us this year: "This is my beloved
son in whom I am well pleased."

Peace be with you!

Maranatha!



THE KNIGHT'S CORNER

The Rosary will be led by the
Knights of Columbus on
Saturday, January 3 at 3:30
Sunday, January 11 at 8:00



The Knights of Columbus
are sponsoring
the next breakfast
Sunday, January 4th,
with the monthly
meeting to follow!

ST ANDREW'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

CHILI COOK-OFF & BINGO

Feb 7 @ 5:00
after Mass

more info
to
come
soon!

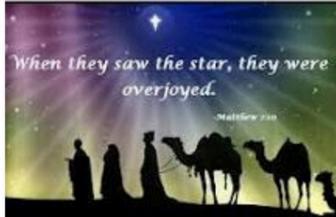


"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:6

Farmers' Storehouse is a major sponsor of our bulletin.

S ANDREW'S MEMORIES

The Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord



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

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ST. ANDREW MASS SCHEDULE INTENTIONS AND EVENTS

Wednesday January 14, 2026

COMMUNION SERVICE- 5:00
NO ADORATION OR CONFSSION
IN JANUARY

Thursday January 15, 2026

COMMUNION SERVICE- 9:30 a.m.

Saturday January 10, 2026

NO ADORATION OR CONFSSION
IN JANUARY

4:00 Mass CATHERINE MANTHEY. R.I.P.

Sunday January 11, 2026

NO ADORATION IN JANUARY
8:30- Mass INTENTION: FOR THE PARISH

Ministry Schedule

January 17/18

Marleen Loff Monica Jicha

Cathy Clayton Branton Ferris, Sondra Tersigni
Sondra Tersigni Barbara Leblanc

Haelic Van Neste, Elden Van Nese
Luke Van Neste, Candice Adare

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



A New Saint in the Making? Champion, Wisconsin

Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin, Bishop David Ricken has asked the faithful to contribute evidence for the diocese's investigation into whether Servant of God Adele Brise, a local 19th-century catechist who had visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, should be canonized.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) voted in June 2024 in favor of opening Brise's cause for canonization, as CatholicVote previously reported. At the time of the vote, Bishop Thomas Paprocki of Chicago, Illinois, chairman of the Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance, emphasized that this cause of canonization, for a Marian visionary, has particular significance to faithful across the U.S. because the nation's patroness is Our Lady, under the title of the Immaculate Conception.

In his Dec. 28, 2025, edict, the bishop states that the cause will look into "the life and heroic virtues as well as on the reputation of holiness and of signs of the Servant of God."

The faithful can submit a personal testimony regarding Brise by mail to the Green Bay diocesan chancellor, Tammy Basteen.

"This is the very first investigation into a life of a Catholic Christian living here in Northeastern Wisconsin, who lived and died here, that potentially could be a Canonized Saint," diocesan priest Father John Girotti told FOX 11 News in a Jan. 5 report. "So, it's very, very exciting for us."

According to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, which is in Champion, Wisconsin, Brise was born in 1831 in Belgium. At a young age, she became blind in her right eye due to an accident. Despite this suffering, she was joyful.

"Those who knew her best describe her cheerfulness, fervent piety, and simple religious ways," the shrine explains.

After receiving her First Communion, Brise and several close friends promised Our Lady they would become religious sisters who would teach in Belgium; however, Brise's parents decided later to move to America, making this promise difficult to fulfill.

Her confessor advised her to be obedient to her parents, trusting in the Lord's will for her vocation. Her family moved to modern-day Champion, Wisconsin, with other Belgian settlers. In 1859, Brise had several visions of the Blessed Mother.

The third time Brise saw her, the Blessed Mother instructed Brise to pray for the conversion of sinners, emphasizing the need for them to convert and do penance. She also told Brise to teach children in America about the faith.

"Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the sign of the Cross, and how to approach the sacraments; that is what I wish you to do. Go and fear nothing, I will help you," Our Lady told Brise.

After these apparitions, Brise carried out her mission of teaching, which she did for several years alone until other women joined her. Local families supported their community by building a convent, school, and chapel in 1861.

The shrine states that Brise "lived out her ministry with zeal and love of God and Mary." She died in 1866 and is buried in a cemetery at the shrine.

In 2009, Bishop Ricken opened a formal investigation into the apparitions and declared them "worthy of belief" a year later. The Shrine of Our Lady of Champion states that it is the site of the first and only approved Marian apparition in the U.S.

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January Anniversaries Evan & Kimberly Sanford 19th

Daily Readings Prayer Requests

January 11-18

Monday January 12, 2026

Ordinary Weekday

First Reading: 1Samuel 1: 1-8
Psalm: Psalms 116: 12-13, 14-16, 18-19
Alleluia: Mark 1: 15

Gospel: Mark 1: 14-20

Tuesday January 13, 2026

Hilary, Bishop, Doctor

First Reading: 1Samuel 1: 9-20
Psalm: First Samuel 2: 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd

Alleluia: 1Thessalonians 2: 13

Gospel: Mark 1: 21-28

Wednesday January 14, 2026

Ordinary Weekday

First Reading: 1Samuel 3: 1-10, 19-20
Psalm: Psalms 40: 2 and 5-7a, 8b-9, 10

Alleluia: John 10: 27

Gospel: Mark 1: 29-39

Thursday January 15, 2026

Ordinary Weekday

First Reading: 1Samuel 4: 1-11

Psalm: Psalms 44: 10-11, 14-15, 24-25

Alleluia: Matthew 4: 23

Gospel: Mark 1: 40-45

Friday January 16, 2026

Ordinary Weekday

First Reading: 1Samuel 8: 4-7, 10-22

Psalm: Psalms 89: 16-17, 18-19

Alleluia: Luke 7: 16

Gospel: Mark 2: 1-12

Saturday January 17, 2026

Anthony, Abbot Obligatory Memorial

First Reading: 1Samuel 9: 1-4, 17-19; 10: 1

Psalm: Psalms 21: 2 and 3, 4-5, 6-7

Alleluia: Luke 4: 18

Gospel: Mark 2: 13-17

Sunday January 18, 2026

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 49: 3-5, 6

Psalm: Psalms 40: 2, 4-7, 8-9, 10

Second Reading: 1Corinthians 1: 1-3

Alleluia: John 1: 14a, 12a

Gospel: John 1: 29-34

Sherry Hickey
Rose Rita Cerrillos
Katie Charfauros
Payton Newman
Jim Winton
Danny Gutierrez
Linda McGraw
Roseanne 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
Sue Hubbard

To add someone to the prayer list email the office at:
parishcoordinator@standrewsparta.com
Names remain one month
Unless notified otherwise



May the souls
of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God
Rest in Peace. Amen



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