

# 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.



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BULK BEYOND ORGANIC FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE  
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Business 1419 "Edify one another"

[www.standrewsparta.com](http://www.standrewsparta.com)

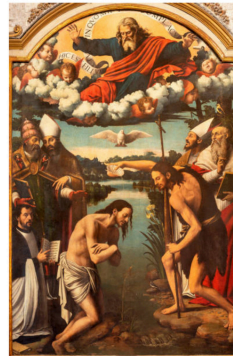
## ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH



829 Valley View Dr. Sparta TN. 38583

Sunday January 11, 2026

### The Baptism of our Lord



**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

### Reflections

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

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 gracious 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?"

Our first reading from Isaiah is a prophecy about the Messiah. This was fulfilled in the gospel of today during Jesus' baptism. The Spirit of God rested on Him and bore testimony that he is the son of God. In this reading, we see the Trinitarian God united in action. God the Father spoke thus: "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." The Holy Spirit bore witness to this by resting upon the son as a dove. They worked together to initiate the redemption of humanity through the water of baptism.

In our second reading, God extended His grace of redemption to Cornelius and his entire household as he did to us through the same water of baptism. Surprised about the love and mercy of God, Peter testified: "The truth I have now come to realize is that God has no favorites, but anyone of any nationality who fears God is acceptable to him." This shows that the water of baptism does not segregate. It is for all who are willing to pass through it.

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](http://www.standrewsparta.com)

Please send bulletin changes,  
ads or announcements  
2 weeks ahead to:  
[bulletinsacc@gmail.com](mailto:bulletinsacc@gmail.com)



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[StandrewCOOutreach@yahoo.com](mailto: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.



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](http://www.standrewsparta.com)

FIND IT EASY AT THE  
BOTTOM OF THE WEBSITE!

Please like & Follow our  
church Facebook page:  
St Andrew Catholic Church - 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 13:16  
Farmers' Storehouse is a major sponsor of our bulletin.



# ST. ANDREW'S MEMORIES

## The Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord

They came  
to do him homage!



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

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## 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 Springfield, 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 Basten.

"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 1896 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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### ST. ANDREW MASS SCHEDULE INTENTIONS AND EVENTS

**Wednesday January 14, 2026**

**COMMUNION SERVICE- 5:00**  
NO ADORATION OR CONFESSION  
IN JANUARY

**Thursday January 15, 2026**

**COMMUNION SERVICE- 9:30 a.m.**

**Saturday January 10, 2026**

NO ADORATION OR CONFESSION  
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<br>Sondra Tersigni | Branton Ferris, Sondra Tersigni<br>Barbara Leblanc                |
|                                  | Haelic Van Neste, Elden Van Nese<br>Luke Van Neste, Candice Adare |
| Jim Spa,<br>Vols, Knights        | Ray Jicha Don Baird<br>Knights of Columbus                        |

### January Anniversaries Evan & Kimberly Sanford 19th



### January Birthdays

**Mark Tylka 4th**  
**Evan Sanford 5th**  
**Parker Masters 6th**

### MASS INTENTIONS JANUARY

**Jack Hassett, R.I.P. 3**  
**Catherine Manthey R.I.P. 10**  
**Mark Peterson R.I.P. 17**  
**Katherine Manthey R.I.P. 24**  
**Ronald Manthey R.I.P. 31**



### Daily Readings Prayer Requests with Saints & Occasions

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: 1st Samuel 2: 1, 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, 7-8a, 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, 10-22a  
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: 2-3, 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, 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  
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  
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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