

Upcoming Events

Stations of the Cross-
the Friday the 20th
and every Friday of Lent.
This week the
Stations are being
led by the
Religious Education Group

MEATLESS SOUPS on the
20th and
next **FRIDAY THE 27th**

**Wednesday night Men's
Bible class continues on...**

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

**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

Lenten Retreat

is coming!

See the details inside
on page 3
Holy Week Schedule
on page 4

THE FOOD PANTRY HOURS
**WEDNESDAY &
FRIDAY**
9 am TO noon
get your items early.
There will be
no outreach during Holy Week.



**FARMERS
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**ST.
ANDREW**
CATHOLIC CHURCH



829 Valley View Dr. Sparta TN. 38583

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday March 22, 2026

Reflections

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



At times, Christ acts weird! What If God Comes Late?
Today, "When he heard that Lazarus, his friend, was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was." So, was Mary not justified to be angry? Was Martha not right to blame Christ? "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Indeed, this is a normal human reaction to disappointment, misfortune, and distress. It comes from a truly broken heart. It is a genuine search for answers to the "whys" of life. It is a search in the right place and from the right person, the All-powerful God and Creator of all things.

In today's quick, fast, and time-conscious world, Christ will have no job. He will be tagged as lazy and accused of negligence, irresponsibility, insensitivity, and uncharitable. Even though he had no connection with the cause of the patient's death, the blame for the death of many will be heaped on him. Of course, a duly constituted state or federal panel of inquiry will quiz him for many hours to indict him for negligence.

Once, a friend lamented bitterly about how the negligence of doctors and nurses caused her sister's death. After sympathizing with her for her loss, I asked her, "How old was your sister?" "85," she responded. How long was she sick? "Umm...about eight years. She always had seizures and often ended up in the hospital. This last one was terrible." With tears in her eyes, she added, "But the doctors and nurses did not act fast as before."

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

**Holy Week Schedule
page 4**

[continued on page 3](#)

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



On March 7, these four ladies attended the Magnificat Pray Breakfast at the Pastoral Center, in Nashville.. You know them as: Joanne Morris, Sondra Tersigni, Michele Honeycutt and Debbie Tylka.



THANK YOU, MIKE MCCARTHY, FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL PICTURE!

**THE
STATIONS
OF THE
CROSS
IS A
WONDERFUL
WAY TO
FOLLOW
CHRIST'S
PASSION!**

**EVERY
FRIDAY
DURING
LENT AT
5:00**

**LET US
OBSERVE
THIS SPECIAL
TIME
TOGETHER!**



continued from the front page

Afterward, I consoled her. "Oh, that is a pity." Perhaps, it was her time to go and rest. Maybe the pain was too much for her system this time. Maybe, she was already too weak before she reached the hospital, and there was not much the doctors and nurses could do to help her." Then, I gently asked her, "Do you think these are possibilities?" She paused, smiled, and responded, "Yes, Father. Honestly, I have never thought of it this way."

Dear brothers and sisters, sometimes, our loss could be so devastating and traumatic that we lose the capacity to see the other side of reality. It can be strong that someone other than us must be held responsible. Sometimes, it makes us lash out even at those who help us. Indeed, the grief and trauma of my friend because sister's deaths well as that of Mary and Martha at the death of their brother, Lazarus were genuine.

However, the same grief and trauma made it difficult for them to see the other perspective and reality of Christ as the Savior, the Resurrection, and Life. However, Christ helped them to see this by calming their nerves and pain. He attended to them, healed their broken hearts, restored their faith, and prepared them for the miracle of their life.

Dear brethren, has God come late to your rescue? Do not lose hope. He sees you. Dead or alive, Jesus loves you as he loved Lazarus and will surely be there when we least expect him. Is your heart broken for what and whom you have lost? God knows what that means to you. Do you seek answers to your whys? Take a break from your grief, pause as my friend did, and let God speak because he has a message for your broken heart and traumatized body.

Yes, God knows, sees, and will surely come. God is never late. Even if God comes late by our human reckoning, He will make all things new. If we believe like Martha, He will heal our brokenness and raise us by the power of the Holy Spirit as he raised Lazarus today.

Peace be with you!

Maranatha!

Lenten Retreat

**DISCIPLESHIP:
TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND
FOLLOW ME.**

Come, follow me on a mini Lenten retreat. A time to focus on different areas of our spiritual life. This will not be a "sit down and listen" time. This will allow, and encourage, personal responses and involvement.

Discovery, goals, the cross we carry and how we walk our path to heaven - all will be covered.

Friday, March 27 th , 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Saturday, March 28 th, 6:00pm to 7:00pm

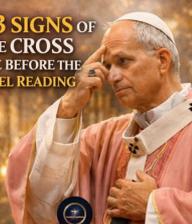
Snacks will be provided through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus.

Deacon Steve and Judy Elliott will be the facilitators.

You don't need to sign up; just show up.



**THE 3 SIGNS OF
THE CROSS
MADE BEFORE THE
GOSPEL READING**



A CROSS ON THE FOREHEAD
"May the Word of God be on my mind"

A CROSS ON THE LIPS
"May the Word of God be on my lips"

A CROSS ON THE HEART
"May the Word of God be in my heart"

AND WHAT THEY SIGNIFY

**JUST A REMINDER OF THE BEGINNING
OF THE GOSPEL**

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

Saturday March 21, 2026

Adoration 3:00- 4:00
Confession 3:30- 4:00 **EUGENE MANTHEY R.I.P.**
4:00 Mass

Sunday March 22, 2026

Adoration 8:-8:30
8:30- Mass **INTENTION: FOR THE PARISH**

Wednesday March 25, 2026

ADORATION: 4:00- 5:00
CONFESSION: 4:30-5:00
MASS 5:00 **GERARD DOHERTY R.I.P.**

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY- 5:30

Thursday March 26, 2026

MASS- 9:30 a.m. **GERARD DOHERTY R.I.P.**

Ministry Schedule

March 28/29

Cathy Clayton	Mitchie Baird
Sondra Tersigni	Branton Ferris, Sondra Tersigni
Marleen Loff	Barbara Leblanc
	Team Van Neste and Acharya
Jim Spagnolo	Kevin Faust, Ray Jicha
Vols, Knights	Knights of Columbus

MARCH MASS INTENTIONS

Mert Wandrey - R.I.P. 4th
Michael Dendzel R.I.P. 5th
Cordell Hood for healing 7 & 14
James Hunter Special Intention 11th
Sue Hubbard R.I.P. 12th
Roger Bouton R.I.P. 18th
Eugene Manthey R.I.P. 22nd
Gerard Doherty R.I.P. 25 & 26 & 28th

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE Prayer Requests

Vigil of March 28, Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday, 2026



PALM SUNDAY VIGIL
Saturday March 28, 4:00 p.m.
to begin with the blessing of the palms and a procession into church

PALM SUNDAY
Sunday March 29, 8:30 a.m.
to begin with the blessing of the palms and a procession into church

HOLY THURSDAY
Thursday April 2, 5:00 p.m.
with ceremonial foot washing and continuous adoration to midnight, at the Altar of Repose

GOOD FRIDAY
Friday April 3, 9:00 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY VIGIL MASS
Saturday April 4, 5:00 p.m.
with the blessing of the fire and candlelight procession into the church

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES
Sunrise Service April 5, 6:30 a.m. at the Columbarium
Sunday April 5, 8:30 a.m.
Breakfast Reception for the new Holy Communicants with an Easter Egg Hunt to follow

*John Petrick
*Catherine Young
*Katie Charfauros
Payton Newman
Jim Winton
Danny Gutierrez
Art Gutierrez
Linda McGraw
Roseanna Hassett
Elaine Garrett
Heidi Holland
Diane Barry
John Barry
Clara Magushak
Harry Dennis
Karen Norris
Pat Wilson
Andrzej Konwinski
Anita Borski
Margaret Massa
Anna Barry



ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH

On March 12, a small group gathered to remember Sue Hubbard at the Thursday Mass. Music was supplied by Jim and Cathy Randolph. A celebration of Life will be held in April.



Birthdays

Maria Pavao - 19
Bill Jones - 21
Sam Baird - 24
June Acharya 26
Joanne Morris - 27
Darran Clausen - 28
Debi Donovan - 29
Don Baird, Roenella Hornsby
Lynleigh Masters - 30



Daily Readings
with Saints & Occasions

March 23-29

Monday March 23, 2026
Toribio De Mogrovejo, Bishop
1st Reading: Daniel 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62
or Daniel 13: 41c-62
Psalm: Psalms 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Verse Before Gospel: Ezekiel 33: 11
Gospel: John 8: 1-11

Tuesday March 24, 2026
Lenten Weekday
1st Reading: Numbers 21: 4-9
Psalm: Psalms 102: 2-3, 16-18, 19-21
Gospel: John 8: 21-30

Wednesday March 25, 2026
Annunciation of the Lord Solemnity
1st Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-14: 8: 10
Psalm: Psalms 40: 7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11
2nd Reading: Hebrews 10: 4-10
Verse Before Gospel: John 1: 14ab
Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

Thursday March 26, 2026
Lenten Weekday
1st Reading: Genesis 17: 3-9
Psalm: Psalms 105: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Verse Before Gospel: Psalms 95: 8
Gospel: John 8: 51-59

Friday March 27, 2026
Day of Abstinence from Meat (age 14 and up)
1st Reading: Jeremiah 20: 10-13
Psalm: Psalms 18: 2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7
Verse Before Gospel: John 6: 63c, 68c
Gospel: John 10: 31-42

Saturday March 28, 2026
Lenten Weekday
1st Reading: Ezekiel 37: 21-28
Psalm: Jeremiah 31: 10, 11-12, 13
Verse Before Gospel: Ezekiel 18: 31
Gospel: John 11: 45-56

Sunday March 29, 2026
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
Procession: Matthew 21: 1-11
1st Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-7
Psalm: Psalms 22: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 6-11
Verse Before Gospel: Philippians 2: 8-9
Gospel: Matthew 26: 14 - 27: 66 or Matthew 27: 11-54

Farmers' Storehouse This week's Major Sponsor 971 Smithville Hwy, Sparta, TN 38583 Tel: (931) 738-2838

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
StandrewCOutreach@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

FIND IT EASY AT THE
BOTTOM OF THE WEBSITE!

Please like and Follow our
church Facebook page:
St AndrewCatholicChurch-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!

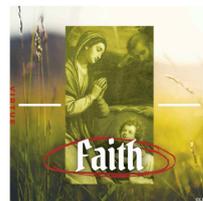


LET'S SAY THE ROSARY
AS A FAMILY!

SATURDAY April 4 at 3:00

SUNDAY April 12 at 8:00

LED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Virtues, Explained!

"Nobody reaches God's presence until he has learned to believe that God exists, and that he rewards those who try to find him." (Hebrews 11:6)

So how do we learn to believe? Through the theological virtue of faith — which is "man's response to God, who reveals himself and gives himself to man." (CCC 26). Faith, then, is embarking on the journey to find God. By faith "man freely commits his entire self to God." For this reason, the believer seeks to know and do God's will." (CCC 1814)

But it is not enough for faith to simply be within us, as a lit match burns in a dark room. We are compelled to fan those flames. We must encourage them with the complementary virtues of hope and love, and we must ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of understanding so that our faith will grow and strengthen.

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"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.

