



# Saint Andrew Parish

GATHER • LEARN • LOVE



“Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,  
it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies,  
it produces much fruit.” John 12:24

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# Parish Information

*If you need to make contact with the parish staff, please call 773-255-3016 and leave a message.*

## Contacting Parish Staff:

All Saint Andrew Parish buildings are **closed to the public**.

Meanwhile, the parish staff is working remotely with periodic check-ins. If you need to make contact with the parish staff, please call 773-525-3016 and leave a message. Someone on staff will check voicemails every half hour from M-F 8:00am to 8:00pm and on Saturday and Sunday from 8:00am to 2:00pm.

## Holy Week Schedule

Please join us in-person or online for the liturgical events of Holy Week. Reservations and links for live streaming for all Holy Week events can be found at [www.standrew.org/holyweek](http://www.standrew.org/holyweek)

### **PALM SUNDAY**

Saturday, March 27, 2021 - 4:00pm Blessing of Palms, pick up of palms from 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Sunday, March 28, 2021 - 9:00am and 11:00am Palm Sunday Masses

### **TRIDUUM & EASTER**

Thursday, April 1, 2021 - 7:00pm Mass of the Last Supper, Adoration from 8:00pm to 10:00pm

Friday, April 2, 2021 - 3:00pm - The Lord's Passion, Veneration of cross on steps of church till 7:00pm

Saturday, April 3 2021 - 10:00am - Blessing of Easter Baskets

Saturday, April 3, 2021 - 8:00pm - The Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 4, 2021 - 9:00am and 11:00 am Easter Sunday Masses

*Please note the opportunities to connect with Holy Week without entering the church building including the ability to pick up blessed palms on Saturday, March 27 and the ability to offer veneration to the cross on Good Friday until 7:00pm and the outdoor blessing of Easter Baskets on April 3. Adoration on Holy Thursday is offered to anyone who attends the Mass of the Lord's Supper or anyone who signs up for a 1 hour slot. Attendees can come anywhere within the hour reserved. The overall number of attendees will be monitored and limited to under 50 persons in the building at a time. .*

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## Parish Staff

**Pastor: Rev. Sergio Romo**

[FrSergio@standrew.org](mailto:FrSergio@standrew.org)

**Associate Pastor: Rev. Silvanus Kidaha**

[FrSilvanus@standrew.org](mailto:FrSilvanus@standrew.org)

**Pastor Emeritus: Rev. John Farry**

**Pastoral Associate: David Heimann**

[David@standrew.org](mailto:David@standrew.org)

**Deacon: Falasiko Matovu**

**Deacon: Mark Purdome**

[Mark@standrew.org](mailto:Mark@standrew.org)

**Deacon: Eric Sorensen**

[Eric@standrew.org](mailto:Eric@standrew.org)

**Business Manager: Esperanza Benavides**

[Essie@standrew.org](mailto:Essie@standrew.org)

**Fundraising/Development: Julie Richards**

[Julie@standrew.org](mailto:Julie@standrew.org)

**Pastoral Ministry Assistant: Megan Daigle**

[Megan@standrew.org](mailto:Megan@standrew.org) (on family Leave)

**Pastoral Ministry Assistant: Kascha Sanor**

[Kascha@standrew.org](mailto:Kascha@standrew.org)

**Office Manager: Christina O'Malley**

[Chris@standrew.org](mailto:Chris@standrew.org)

**Receptionists: Veronica Salazar, Terry Ryan,**

**Christine Chua**

**Engineer: Alfred Benkiser**

**Resident Priest: Rev. Arlin Jean Louis**

Contact Parish staff by phone at 773-525-3016

## School Administration

**Principal: Allen Ackermann**

[allenackermann@gosaintandrew.com](mailto:allenackermann@gosaintandrew.com)

**Assistant Principal: Sarah Casavechia**

[sarahcasavechia@gosaintandrew.com](mailto:sarahcasavechia@gosaintandrew.com)

**Reception: Trini Mahadeo**

[trinidadmahadeo@gosaintandrew.com](mailto:trinidadmahadeo@gosaintandrew.com)

**Admissions: Anne Japsen**

[annejapsen@gosaintandrew.com](mailto:annejapsen@gosaintandrew.com)

Contact School Administration by phone at 773-248-2500



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# Pastoral Letter

by Fr. Sergio Romo, Pastor



*“Yes. God will  
still love you,  
unconditionally,  
just as  
God loves us all.”*

Dear Parishioners,

Every year, I am part of a class with our eighth graders as they prepare for Confirmation. During the class, the students are invited to ask their pastor any questions they may want to ask. Some of the questions are easy to answer, such as “Why did you want to become a priest?” Others are more challenging, like questions about the relationship between science and religion. But the most challenging questions are the ones that have to do with the Catholic Church’s position on LGBTQ issues.

Typical questions range from, “Why is the church so against gay marriage if you are supposed to love and support everyone?” to “What is St. Andrew Parish’s stance on the LGBTQ community?” In my responses, I try to faithfully explain what the church teaches which includes respecting the dignity of gay people as children of God. I want to reassure them that, “All are welcome” at Saint Andrew, including members of the LGBTQ community.

This year though, a question appeared that I hadn’t heard before; “Will God still love me if I’m gay?” Of course, my response was “Yes. God will still love you, unconditionally, just as God loves us all.” But, it really pained me that someone within our community wondered if God would love them if they were gay. It troubled me to think that the question was assuredly entertained by more than one student.

This past week, the Vatican answered the question submitted by the German bishops conference as to whether or not it was permissible for a priest to bless a civilly married gay couple. The answer was rendered in the negative, and the response was accompanied by an explanation that wounded many people, gay and straight alike, because of the insensitive language that was used.

My heart broke for the members of the LGBTQ community, some of whom are in loving and committed relationships and whom I count as my dearest friends. I thought of how painful it would have been for them and for their families to read the words from the Vatican published this past week.

Interestingly, the explanation cited Pope Francis’ General Audience of December 2, 2020, where he spoke about blessings. But the Pope’s words cited in the explanation did not include his brilliant dissection of the etymology of the Italian word for blessing, “*benedice*.” ...[Continued on page 4](#)



*“No child  
or adult should ever  
have to ask “Will  
God love me  
if I’m gay?””*

*Continued from page 3...* In the general audience, the Holy Father explained, “bene” means “good,” while “dice” means “to speak.” *Bene-dice* quite literally means to “speak goodness.” A blessing then is the act of speaking goodness about the thing that is being blessed, just as God did with the creation of the world in the Book of Genesis. At the end of every day, “God saw that it was good.” I thought of so many trying to make sense of the inherent contradiction in the Vatican’s response where at one point when speaking about same-sex unions, the church acknowledged the “presence in such relationships of positive elements, which are in themselves to be valued and appreciated,” and then at another point in the document gave a conclusion ruling that these positive elements cannot be a “spoken good” worthy of a blessing.

I was also filled with fear at the thought that some would use this statement as a justification for their hatred and violence against the LGBTQ community. One only need to read current discussions on social media to see the uncharitable words being used. Regrettably, uncharitable words online will spill over into brutal and even lethal actions in the real world.

Most of all though, my heart was filled with sadness and anxiety at the thought of what a 14-year-old student at Saint Andrew School, or any other school for that matter, would have heard in this response. Without a firm understanding of the theological jargon, philosophical arguments, and hairsplitting distinctions used in the response from the Vatican, would such a child have heard that they are loved by God, and by their church? Or would they be part of the anecdotal evidence that suggests youth suicide hotlines see an increase in calls whenever the church makes a pronouncement on gay issues?

At Saint Andrew Parish we can’t independently change the church’s teaching on the blessing of gay marriages, but we can change how we accompany members of the LGBTQ community on their faith journey. We can change how we support gay loving couples who try to live good and holy lives. We can change how we welcome gay families who seek to have their children baptized in the Catholic Church and enrolled in our school and religious education program. They are our brothers and sisters who deserve our love and respect. Our parish ministries must always speak louder than any pronouncement, that they are loved and have a welcoming home at Saint Andrew Parish and school.

We can change, and we must change, because no child or adult should ever have to ask, “Will God love me if I’m gay?”

Fr. Sergio Romo  
Pastor



## Wearin' the Green - May 1, 2021

The parish's annual fundraising party The **Wearin' the Green** will take place on **Saturday, May 1, 2021**.

The event will be held virtually. Tickets are now on sale!

Information about the evening's entertainment, take-home meals and cocktails, as well how to purchase tickets can be found at [www.wearinthegreen.com](http://www.wearinthegreen.com)

Please make plans to join us and purchase your tickets now!



## Help End Hunger in Chicago

Join us on **Saturday, April 24, 2021** from 8:30am to 11:15am at the Greater Chicago Food Depository to sort food items that will be distributed to food pantries serving the hungry throughout Chicagoland. Your volunteer time and help feed hundreds of people!

Contact Nancy Holland at [neh213@gmail.com](mailto:neh213@gmail.com) to express interest. Volunteers must be 11 years of age and up. 11 - 15 year-olds must be accompanied by and parent.



## Join Us for Stations of the Cross

During Lent, Saint Andrew Parish prays the Stations of the Cross at 6:30pm on Friday evenings.

Due to COVID limitations of opening the church, the general public will not be admitted to pray the Stations of the Cross in person this year.

Instead, we invite you to join the live stream of the stations being prayed from Saint Andrew Parish which can be viewed at [www.standrew.org/stations](http://www.standrew.org/stations)



# Learn at Home, for Individuals & Families

## The Forty Days of Lent

The Bible is filled with significant numbers, like 3, 7, 12, and 40. Have you ever wondered why Lent is connected to the number 40?

In the bible, the number 40 is mentioned quite a bit. During the flood, it rains for 40 days and 40 nights on Noah's ark. Moses spends 40 nights on Mt. Sinai. The Jewish people wandered for 40 years in the desert. Goliath taunts the Israelites for 40 days. Jesus fasts for 40 days in the desert. So, consider: What do these events have in common?

They are times of waiting, testing, suffering... and they are all followed by a time of rejoicing. After the flood, the world has been given fresh to humanity. God gives Moses laws of love. The Jewish people are brought to their promised land. David beats Goliath. And Jesus begins his ministry.

Whenever we hear the number "40," we might want to focus on the time of suffering, but God is using this time to prepare us for some "glorious unfolding." We have certainly had our fair share of waiting in the last year, and wonder what God may have in store for us at the end of this pandemic. What might God be asking you to consider, change, or examine as we prepare for that glorious unfolding? And what marvelous calling may the Holy Spirit move us toward when we arrive in that place?

### Things to Do at Home:

**Pray:** Take the 40 second challenge: Start with 40 seconds of daily prayer, and increase the same amount every day.

**Do:** Establish a new tradition to countdown to Easter with your family. Design a special calendar for kids to mark off, or light a candle each night at dinner to mark the days.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK TO READ & PRAY AT HOME

Masses will be said privately for the intentions listed below.

### MARCH, 2021

Sunday <b>21</b>	First Reading Second Reading Gospel  Mass Intentions	<b>Jer 31:31-34</b> <b>Heb 5: 7-9</b> <b>Jn 12: 20-33</b>  Our departed Parishioners
Monday <b>22</b>	First Reading Gospel  Mass Intentions	<b>Dn 13: 41c-6</b> <b>Jn 8:1-11</b>  <b>+Bart Pagalunan, Sr.</b> <b>+Bart Pagalunan, Jr.</b>
Tuesday <b>23</b>	First Reading Gospel  Mass Intentions	<b>Nm 21: 4-9</b> <b>Jn 8: 21-30</b>  Our departed Parishioners
Wednesday <b>24</b>	First Reading Gospel  Mass Intentions	<b>Dn 3: 14-20, 9-92, 95</b> <b>Jn 8: 31-42</b>  <b>Jennifer Orillaza, Birthday Blessings</b>
Thursday Annunciation of the Lord <b>25</b>	First Reading Second Reading Gospel  Mass Intentions	<b>Is 7: 10-14 8: 10</b> <b>Heb10: 4-10</b> <b>Lk 1: 26-38</b>  Our departed Parishioners
Friday <b>26</b>	First Reading Gospel  Mass Intentions	<b>Jer 20: 10-13</b> <b>Jn 10: 31-4</b>  <b>+William Walsh</b>
<b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>28</b>	First Reading Second Reading Gospel  Mass Intentions	<b>Is 50: 4-7</b> <b>Phil 2: 6-11</b> <b>Mk 14:1-15, 47</b>  <b>+Marte Vinzons</b>

For daily readings, please visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)



## PRAYER INTENTIONS

We would ask you to keep the following people and intentions in your prayers.

For the health and wellbeing of all who are recovering from the effects of COVID-19 including the ill, the deceased, and those suffering job loss.

That government leaders find the wisdom and strength to lead our country, states, and municipalities to overcome racial discrimination and injustice.

For the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed including Sandra Burns, Loretta Ferenzi, Robert Ledvina, and Antonio Seranilla

If you would like us to keep a particular intention in the prayers of the parish, please submit your request to [www.standrew.org/prayers](http://www.standrew.org/prayers). You can also submit a request for the pastoral staff to light a candle in the church using this link. We will include your intentions in this bulletin when possible and the pastoral staff will personally pray for these intentions before the Blessed Sacrament.

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

#### Enrich – Expand - Grow

Income	1,724,675
Interest on Income	30,791
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,725,467</b>
Consulting Operating Expense	180,000
Archdiocesan Contribution	196,800
Church Lighting (Actual)	250,517
Church Lighting (Consultant)	10,480
Church Windows (Actual)	156,520
School Addition (Actual)	17,030
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>811,347</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>943,520</b>

### PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### February, 2021 Offering

Envelopes Collection	9,682
Automated Giving	21,473
Loose Cash	493
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>31,648</b>
Monthly Budgeted Expenses	<b>38,500</b>
<b>Annual Catholic Appeal</b>	
2020 Goal	34,114
Amount Pledged	78,092
Amount Paid	68,522
<b>Balance Due</b>	<b>11,105</b>

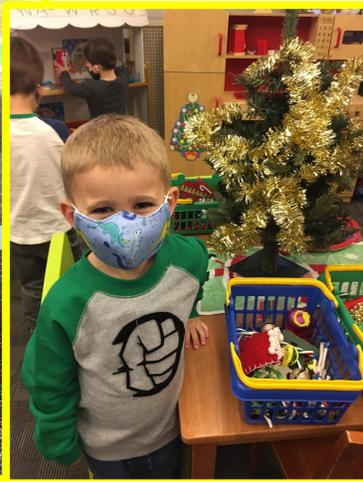


# Saint Andrew School



## Saint Andrew School Introduces Full Day Pre-School for 3 and 4 Year Olds, With Options for Half Day Programs!

Contact Anne Japsen in  
Admissions at  
[annejapsen@gosaintandrew.com](mailto:annejapsen@gosaintandrew.com)  
for more information!



## Spirit. Study. Service.