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*“The doors of St. Andrew
open wide at the very
thought of your coming.”*

Parish Information

Office Phone: (513) 831-3353
Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. to Noon
SMILE Youth Office: (513) 831-8318
St. Vincent de Paul: (513) 831-7837

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:15 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Weekly Confession

Saturdays 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.
(or by appointment)

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 7:30 a.m.
Thursday 12:00 p.m.
Saturday 7:30 a.m.

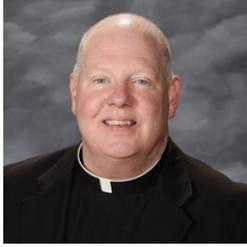
**St. Andrew - St. Elizabeth Ann
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CHRISTMAS 2022

*The Word became flesh and made
his dwelling among us.*

JOHN 1:14



Fr. Del... Points to Ponder

We are a people of hope. This truth is what Christmas celebrates. When the world was at its darkest, the Word became flesh to give people of every generation new hope. God thinks so much of us that God became one of us in Jesus Christ. God spoke one Word, Jesus, and hope was restored. "From his fullness, we have all received, grace in place of grace . . ." we hear from the Gospel of John. This is an important truth for Catholics to remember.

It is so easy for us to fall into the trap of sometimes believing that the entire world is an occasion, or near occasion, of sin. We become suspicious of human existence, see everything as a temptation, and lose hope. We loathe life rather than live it. The birth of Christ, the Word is taking on flesh, states, "Enough of this nonsense! The world is redeemed! Grace is more powerful than sin! Enough of this foolish belief! The world is saved! Hope!" Imagine how vibrant the Church will be when we finally believe that the "Word became flesh" is a Word of hope.

It is no secret that we are living in very difficult times right now; many of us have been hit very hard with major unemployment and downsizing concerns. The world, our country, and our universal Church are filled with division. Even family members shy away from discussing some topics to avoid arguments that divide. From all appearances, we've got good reason to be pessimistic, negative, and hopeless. This is where you and I step out on faith and believe that as God has guided and sustained a people throughout history, God does the same for us now.

It was about 1930, in a parish where I once served, during the Great Depression, a priest wanted a new sacred vessel to represent the parishioners as a sign of ownership and hope. So the priest conducted a campaign for old jewelry from which enough gold, silver, and precious stones could be used to create a chalice and ciborium. The parish members donated enough jewelry for the project, and when the pastor went to Europe, he took jewelry with him, and it was fashioned into the vessels that have been used for generations. These sacred vessels hold the Body and Blood of Christ, representing people working together in difficult times to build something of lasting value, something of hope.

You and I do this same thing with our lives of faith as we continue our journey in hope. Life is not always easy, but the world is not an occasion, or near occasion, of sin. In the Incarnation, the world is the place where the Kingdom of God is built. In the Opening Prayer of Mass today, we pray, "Your Son shared our weakness: may we share His glory."

"No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed Him." This, exactly, is our hope.

Fr. Del Staigers

Welcome to

*Saint Andrew Family
Parish!*

513-831-3353

Parish Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

8:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. - Noon

*Closed for Lunch
Noon-1:00 p.m.*

Staff Directory

Fr. Del Staigers, Pastor
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Readings for

Sunday, Jan. 1st

Nm. 6:22-27

Ps. 67:2-8

Gal. 4:4-7

Lk. 2:16-21

Oh, Now I Get it!

by Fr. Jeff Kemper

"What in the world is this reading about?" Hopefully, this will help you understand next week's readings.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD.

*The readings reflect two ancient feasts that were celebrated eight days after Christmas. Mary, the **mother of God**, is the earliest Marian feast, avowing that Jesus is entirely both God & man. Other places celebrated the circumcision of Jesus according to the law of Moses 8 days after birth & the naming of Jesus. Also recognized is the New Year.*

Num. 6:22-27 A blessing in the name of the Lord (appropriate for the New Year).

Gal. 4: 4-7 This reading speaks of God's Son (=God) born of a woman, born under the law (incl. circumcision), to make us children of God.

Lk. 2: 16-21 The Mother of God ponders the saving events that unfold in the birth of Jesus. Mary and Joseph, faithful Jews, have the Child circumcised because He is God, who is THE faithful Jew. When we invoke the name Jesus, all of this tells us whom we invoke.

A CHRISTMAS WELCOME

We warmly welcome all who have come today to celebrate this glorious feast.

We welcome the stranger, the traveler, the guest!

We welcome our students home from college for a good winter's rest!

We welcome parishioners who moved far away but join us today as old friends and guests!

We welcome all who have not been active of late in their Catholic faith;

and hope they will find new hope and inspiration this Christmas to come back again and again!

We welcome our faithful parishioners, loyal and true;

may the Lord bless you for all you do!

Welcome to all!

May our gathering this day gladden our hearts and deepen our bonds.

We are, after all, one People of God – transformed by the Light.

May we walk by the Light and live by the Light – together in love.

Christmas Blessings!



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Prayer For Those Alone At Holiday Time

Dear Heavenly Father, the holiday season can be quite a trial and even a deep sadness to many people, especially those that are alone at this time, perhaps having lost a loved one through death or divorce or for some other reason.

Draw very close we pray, to those that are alone and lonely over this holiday time. May they discover closeness in their relationship with You that perhaps they did not enjoy before.

Thank You, that You are a God Who is able to sympathize with all our weaknesses, disappointments and difficulties, knowing that You have walked this earth before us and have been tested in similar ways, so that You understand what it means to be alone and isolated.

Comfort the lonely, console the grieving, support the weak, give grace to the afflicted, and reassure those who have allowed fear to invade their peace, with the certainty that You are their ever present help in time of trouble. This we ask in Jesus' name,

Amen.



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*A beautiful story, written by a missionary doctor
in South Africa*

One night I worked to help a mother in labor; despite all we could do, she died – leaving a tiny premature baby and a crying two-year-old daughter. No electricity, no incubator, to keep the infant alive.

Even on the equator, nights are often chilly. A student midwife went for the box and cotton wool we had to warm such babies. Another went to stoke up the fire and fill a hot water bottle. But in filling the last water bottle we possessed, it burst. In America, it is no good crying over spilled milk: in Central Africa, it is no good crying over burst water bottles. “All right,” I said, “put the baby near the fire as safely as you can and sleep between the baby and the floor to keep it free from drafts. Your job is to keep the baby warm.”

The following noon I went to have prayers with the orphanage children. I gave the youngsters various suggestions to pray about and told them about the tiny baby. I explained that the baby could easily die if it got chilled. I also told them of the two-year-old sister crying because her mother died. During prayer time, a ten-year-old, Ruth, prayed with the blunt conciseness of our African children. “Please, God,” she prayed, “Send us a hot water bottle today. It’ll be no good tomorrow, God, as the baby will be dead, so please send it this afternoon.”

While I gasped inwardly at the audacity of the prayer, she added, “And while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl, so she’ll know You really love?” Could I honestly say, “Amen”? I just did not believe that God could do this. There are limits to what God can/will do, aren’t there? Also, we rarely received parcels from home. Anyway, if anyone did send a package, who would put in a hot water bottle? To the equator?

The next day a large parcel was delivered. I felt tears pricking my eyes. I sent for the orphanage children to help open the parcel.

As we pulled off the string, some thirty or forty pairs of eyes were focused on the box. Their eyes sparkled as I gave out brightly colored jerseys. There were knitted bandages for the leprosy patients and boxes of mixed raisins and sultanas. Then, as I put my hand in again, I felt it. Yes, a brand new, rubber hot water bottle, I cried.

Ruth rushed forward, crying out, if God sent the bottle, He must have sent that dolly too!” At the bottom of the box, she found a small, beautifully dressed doll. She had never doubted it! That parcel had been on route for five whole months from a Church in America.

“ Before they call, I will answer” (Isaiah 65:24)

Do you have “Expectant faith”? Do we truly appreciate how richly blessed we are?

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023

10AM-5PM ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH

We're Hiring! Director of Administration

for our Family of Parishes

Interest letters and Resumes should be sent to:
directorofadministration@standrew-milford.org

JOIN US FOR THE SPECIAL FEAST DAY MASS OF

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
January 4th, 7:00 pm

We are seeking a Director of Administration for a Family of three (3) Catholic churches and two (2) pre-K-8 Catholic schools who is a key member of the Family Leadership Team (FLT) and will report directly to the Pastor. The Director is responsible for effective administration and stewardship of the physical, financial, and human resources of the Family of Parishes (Family), supporting the Pastor in his governance ministry and have a deep understanding of the business and personal relationships within our Family of Faith Community.

Interest letters and Resumes should be sent to this email: directorofadministration@standrew-milford.org.

WE ARE IN NEED OF ALTAR SERVERS

Anyone in the fourth grade or above who has received Holy Communion can become an Altar Server. There is no experience necessary, and we will train anyone who wants to be a part of this rewarding ministry. Please contact Kathy Bitzer at the parish office if you are interested at 513-831-3353, ext. 107.

Respect Life Meeting

JANUARY 4, 2023



7:15PM

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CAFETERIA



Sharing God's Gift

Sunday Offering for December 18, 2022 was not available at the time of this printing.



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MANY VOICES – ONE FAMILY
YOUR VOICE MATTERS

As part of the Beacons of Light, our family of parishes will be participating in a family-wide survey. The survey is about discipleship conducted by the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI), the organization helping us navigate through the phases of Beacons of Light. We need your help!

Please help us by participating in a 10-15 minute survey online. The survey can be accessed through an online link from Saturday, January 21 through Monday, February 27, 2023 and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on our parish's efforts to help you grow. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole. We will share the link with you a bit closer to the launch of the survey.

We are trying to get the highest response rate possible. This information will be invaluable to Father Del and our various ministries as we plan for the future and strive to be the best disciples we can be. We will receive the results this spring/summer, at which time we will share what we have learned with the entire parish. This survey will be conducted every 2-4 years which will allow us to receive feedback and restructure as needed.

If you do not have access to the Internet and prefer a paper copy, you may pick up a paper copy of the survey after daily and Sunday Masses, located in the Vestibule. To submit the completed paper survey, please drop off **at the parish office** to make special arrangements for getting a paper copy, please contact Chris Schmidt at 513-831-3353, ext. 100.

Thank you for helping with this important project!

Rv. P. Del Staiger

Mass Schedule and Intentions for this week

Monday, December 26

8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Tuesday, December 27

7:30 a.m. **Mary Pickering** / Jim & Kathleen Emerson

Wednesday, December 28

12:00 p.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Thursday, December 29

12:00 p.m. **Charlotte Thomayer** / Monica Clark

Friday, December 30

8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Saturday, December 31

7:30 a.m. **Jack Evans** / Monica Clark

5:15 p.m. **Dan Eggers** / Bill & Jim Eggers

Sunday, January 1, 2023

9:00 a.m. **Jack Evans** / Ed & Judy Alten

11:00 a.m. **Marty Sweeny** / The Norris Family

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