

# St. Andrew Catholic Church

## *The Twenty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time*

August 29th, 2021

**"THE THINGS THAT COME OUT  
FROM WITHIN ARE WHAT DEFILE."**

MARK 7:15



2100 S.E. Cove Rd Stuart, FL 34997

©JPPC

**Saint Andrew  
Catholic Church**

2100 SE Cove Road  
Stuart, Florida 34997  
772-781-4415



Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm  
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30am  
Monday-Friday 7:30am  
**Holy Days:** Vigil 4:00pm  
7:30am & 6:00pm

**Confession:**

Saturday: 2:30pm  
Those wishing to receive the  
sacrament  
should be here at 2:30

**First Friday**

7:30am Mass followed  
by individual confessions

**First Saturday**

7:30 Mass followed by individual  
confessions

**Pastor**

Reverend John Barrow

**Retired Assisting Clergy**

Monsignor Blase Gintoli  
Monsignor James Moore

**Deacons**

Deacon Louis Romero  
Deacon Matthew Bartlett  
Deacon Andre Boucher

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday  
9am-12Noon  
Saturday 2-4pm  
Sunday  
9am-12Noon

**Youth Activities**

DRE: Mrs. Donna Hernandez



Aug. 28	Sat.	4:00pm	Patti Stuart+
Aug. 29	Sun.	7:30am	Adam Joseph Thielen+
Aug. 29	Sun.	9:00am	Erin Gallagher (Liv)
Aug. 29	Sun.	10:30am	Francis Murray+
Aug. 30	Mon.	7:30am	Kathleen Sulliivan & Laurice Healy (Liv)
Aug. 31	Tues.	7:30am	Edith Lagocki+
Sept. 1	Weds.	7:30am	Gintoli & Ah Yong Family (Liv & +)
Sept. 2	Thurs.	7:30am	Richard Towers+
Sept. 3	Fri.	7:30am	Bette Jo Parrini+
Sept. 4	Sat.	7:30am	Inez Gennari+
Sept. 4	Sat.	4:00pm	Nancy & John Sbordone(Liv)
Sept. 5	Sun.	7:30am	Laurie Nowell+
Sept. 5	Sun.	9:00am	Louis Puskas Jr. +
Sept. 5	Sun.	10:30am	Michael Magi+
Sept. 6	Mon.	7:30am	Sarah Frederick +
Sept. 7	Tues.	7:30am	Grandchildren of Tom & Phyllis Coté(Liv)
Sept. 8	Weds.	7:30am	Paulic Family(Liv)
Sept. 9	Thurs.	7:30am	Minda Ah Yong(Liv)
Sept. 10	Fri.	7:30am	Jared Metro+
Sept. 11	Sat.	4:00pm	Lorraine Smith+
Sept. 12	Sun.	7:30am	Alfreda Rozany+
Sept. 12	Sun.	9:00am	John Laneve (Liv)
Sept. 12	Sun.	10:30am	Thelma Cunningham+

**Parish office will be closed  
Labor Day  
Monday September 6th**

**Have a Safe & Blessed Holiday!**



**Adult Education (RCIA)  
& Lectors**

Christine Michaelian  
Thursday 6:30pm-8:00pm

**Adoration**

M-F 8:00am -12m in Church  
Mo Wallace  
TWINONEMO@AOL.COM  
772-285-2688

**Servants of the Eucharist &  
Care of the Sick**

Kathleen Sullivan

**Annulments**

John Ginnetti

**Men of Saint Andrew**

Dave Olio  
Monday evening 6:30-8pm  
davidolio333@gmail.com

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Norma Olio  
1st Wednesday of each month  
10:30 am

**Pro-Life Ministry**

Michele Williams

**Bible Study**

Tuesday 10:00am  
Tuesday 6:30pm

**Ignatian Spirituality  
Prayer Group**

Weds. 8:30am-10:00am  
(Lenten Retreat Thurs. 8:30am)

**Disciples of Prayer**

Camille Lascari &  
Bob Greeson

**Parish Website**

saintandrewcatholic.org  
Webmaster;  
Michael Brennan

**Community Outreach**

**APOSTLES OF  
JOHN PAUL II**

Please call for an  
appointment  
772-291-0002

**Rosary Maker's Ministry**

Kathleen Sullivan  
Wednesday 10:00am

**Ushers**

Jane Engelbrecht  
ejanybrainy@yahoo.com

**Legion of Mary** Friday 8:15am



**Please join us in praying the Chaplet on Mondays after the daily 7:30am Mass in room C and the rest of the week in silence during Adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament. We pray for our Country, our Priests and for the Sanctity of Life.**



# Prayers Before Mass

*August 29, 2021 The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*All of the information needed for today's liturgy is found in this bulletin, including Readings, and Responses.*

## **PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM STORMS**

God, our Father, Creator of the Universe and Lord over all creation, we humbly stand before you as your children in thanksgiving for your loving care and protection. We ask that you keep us safe from all hurricanes. Protect us from all fear and anxiety of storms and give us an ardent trust and hope in Your love and mercy. You alone have the power to command the sea, the wind and the rain. You alone bring peace, calm, and safety. Father, we thank you in advance, for you are our only Refuge. We ask this through Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**Mary, Queen of the Apostles, and Patroness of Our Diocese, pray for us.**

## **Penitential Act: A**

### **The Confiteor**

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.



## **Prayer to St. Michael**

**Saint Michael the Archangel**, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and the snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.



O Jesus, through the immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, In union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month. Amen

## ***Gloria***

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks, for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father, Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

## **Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, **All bow at the words that follow, up to and including** and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus  
HYFRYDOL

Gathering Hymn

1. Alleluia! sing to Jesus!  
His the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
His the victory alone;  
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion  
Thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of ev'ry nation  
Has redeemed us by his blood.

2. Alleluia! not as orphans  
Are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! he is near us,  
Faith believes, nor questions how;  
Though the cloud from sight received him,  
When the forty days were o'er,  
Shall our hearts forget his promise?  
"I am with you evermore!"

3. Alleluia! Bread of Angels,  
Here on earth our food, our stay!  
Alleluia! here the sinful  
Flee to you from day to day:  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
Earth's redeemer, plead for me,  
Where the songs of all the sinless  
Sweep across the crystal sea.

Text: 87 87 D; based on Revelation 5:9–14; William C. Dix, 1837–1898, and Compilers. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887.

### FIRST READING

*A reading from the second Book of Deuteronomy*  
*Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8*

Moses said to the people:  
"Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. In your observance of the commandments of the LORD, your God, which I enjoin upon you, you shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it. Observe them carefully, for thus will you give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who will hear of all these statutes and say, 'This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.' For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the LORD, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him? Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?"

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 15:2-3,3-4,4-5*

R. (1a) **The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.**

Whoever walks blamelessly and does justice;  
who thinks the truth in his heart  
and slanders not with his tongue.

R. **The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.**

Who harms not his fellow man,  
nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor;  
by whom the reprobate is despised,  
while he honors those who fear the LORD.

R. **The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.**

Who lends not his money at usury  
and accepts no bribe against the innocent.  
Whoever does these things  
shall never be disturbed.

R. **The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.**

### SECOND READING

*A reading from the second Letter of Saint James*

*James 1:17-18,21b-22*

Dearest brothers and sisters:

All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change. He willed to give us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls. Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Father willed to give us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**



I pray because I believe in the power of prayer. I pray because I have no doubt that God has answered my prayers. I pray because God allowed me to wake up to see another day. NO matter what others think or say... I will pray.

*We Believe In God*

## Gospel

Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**  
A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands.

—For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders.

And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves.

And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds. — So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, “Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?”

He responded,

“Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written:

*This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
in vain do they worship me,  
teaching as doctrines human precepts.*

You disregard God’s commandment but cling to human tradition.”

He summoned the crowd again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile. “From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

City of God  
Dan Schutte

Closing Hymn

1. Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!  
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.  
The people in darkness have seen a great light.  
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

Refrain

Let us build the city of God.  
May our tears be turned into dancing!  
For the Lord, our light and our love,  
has turned the night into day!

2. We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.  
The One who has loved us has brightened our way.  
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be  
a light for his people to set their hearts free.

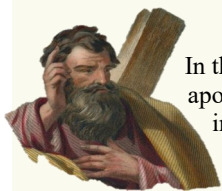
3. God is light; in him there is no darkness.  
Let us walk in his light, his children, one and all.  
O comfort my people; make gentle your words.  
Proclaim to my city the day of her birth.

4. O city of gladness, now lift up your voice!  
Proclaim the good tidings that all may rejoice!

Text: Based on Isaiah 9; 40:1–9; 1 John 1. Text and music © 1981, OCP.  
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### From our bishops: “Things have gone too far...”

“In the United States abortion is legal throughout pregnancy. Yet abortion is a violation of human rights incomparable in magnitude and an atrocity for the whole human family. While Roe v. Wade appeared to create a right with some limitations, Doe v. Bolton, which was decided the same day, erased those limitations by creating a “health” exception so broad that it effectively allows abortion for any reason at any time... Most Americans are surprised and shocked to learn about the lack of any meaningful legal limitations for abortion. Most know things have gone too far. Together with those from many other faith communities, we work to bring about a society that recognizes abortion for what it truly is” (A Matter of the Heart -- A Statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on the Thirtieth Anniversary of Roe v. Wade)



### ST. ANDREW Snippets

In the Synoptic Gospels and Acts, the twelve apostles are always listed in three groups of four individuals. The first of these groups indicates those who were the closest to Jesus. It includes the two pairs of brothers, Peter and

Andrew, the sons of Jonah and James and John, the sons of Zebedee. Andrew was one of the four disciples closest to Jesus, but he seems to have been the least close of the four. This is reflected in the fact that several times Peter, James and John seem to have privileged access to Jesus, while Andrew was not. For example, Peter, James and John were those present for the Transfiguration, but, for whatever reason Andrew was not. Saint Andrew pray for us!



## Weekly Announcements



The Sanctuary  
Candles are for  
the intention of  
**Frances Murray**



The Candles at the Shrine of Our  
Lady of Perpetual Help are for the  
intention of  
**Giuseppe Sanfrapello**



The Candles are burning during  
Adoration in the Church of the  
Two Hearts is for the intention  
of  
**Louise Arnold**



## BE ONE WITH JESUS

### Eucharistic Adoration

in the Church

M-F 8:00am-1:00pm

### An Hour in Paradise

The object of Eucharistic adoration is the Divine Person of our Lord Jesus Christ present in the most Blessed Sacrament. He is living there. He wants us to speak to Him, and He will speak to us. This conversation between the soul and our Lord is true Eucharistic adoration.

Look upon the hour of adoration assigned to you as an hour in Paradise. Go to your adoration as one would go to Heaven, to the divine banquet. You will then long for that hour and hail it with Joy. Take delight in fostering a longing for it in your heart. Tell yourself, "In four hours, in two hours, in one hour, our Lord will give me an audience of grace and love. He has invited me; He is waiting for me; He is longing for me."

When an hour is particularly difficult, rejoice all the more; your love will be greater for its suffering more. It is a privileged hour that will count for two... **GO TO OUR LORD JUST AS YOU ARE.** Be natural in your meditation... You can be sure our Lord wants your heart and not that of someone else...

**May you come and spend time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.**

## Weekend Marriage Builders

### Loneliness



Many people complain of loneliness, but some have only themselves to blame. If you realize that you need to take the initiative to spend more time in nurturing relationships, a first step might be to identify any tendencies that keep you from enjoying depth in your relationships. For example, "I tend to talk to my friends about trivial or superficial matters" or "I should be less concerned about activities and more concerned about relationships." Use the space below to list any tendencies that fall into this category.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

- Dr. Les Carter and Dr. Frank Minirth

### Revive

Saturday: 1 Joshua 1:5-9

Sunday: Psalm 147:1-20

### Not Living Happily Ever After? Try MARRIAGE BOOTCAMP



Marriage Boot Camp is a Biblically focused program designed specifically to renew your relationship with not only your spouse, but with our Lord as well.

This is an intense 12-week process that will challenge you and your spouse spiritually and emotionally and reacquire you both with God's plan for a joy filled marriage.

This program is currently under development, for more information:

Contact Deacon and Mrs. Louie Romero at  
561-775-9557  
or email [lromero@diocesepb.org](mailto:lromero@diocesepb.org)



Come join us for the book of "Hebrews,  
The New & Eternal Covenant".

An 8 week course written by Ascension Press.  
Interested? Call Melanie Gallagher 772-485-0817  
Starts September 14, 2021

Also on Tuesday Evenings Bible Study begins at 6:30pm on  
September 14th. We will begin The Book of Romans by  
St. Paul. Any questions call Bob at 772-283-0342



September 22 – October 31  
**40 DAYS FOR LIFE™**

**HELP SAVE LIVES!**

Over 14,000  
 Babies Saved!!!

**Planned Parenthood  
 1696 SE Hillmore Drive St Lucie FL**

**Come Join Us In Peaceful Prayer**

Call/Text Jim Thoma 772-240-6186  
[40daysforlife.com/stLucie](http://40daysforlife.com/stLucie)



We love having you as part of our Flock! Keep in touch with us via email and text!

Text **4ANDREW** to **84576** or connect with us online at  
[saintandrewcatholic.org/stay-in-touch](http://saintandrewcatholic.org/stay-in-touch)



### *Disciples of Prayer*

St. Andrew's Church has established a ministry of prayer,  
**"St. Andrew's Disciples of Prayer"**.  
 If you or a loved one, friend or neighbor, has a need of prayer or,  
 if you have a  
 generous spirit and can spend 5 to 10 minutes a day praying for  
 special intentions,  
 please contact ;  
**Camille at [qtcaccl@gmail.com](mailto:qtcaccl@gmail.com)**  
 or  
**Bob at [cobra12220@aol.com](mailto:cobra12220@aol.com)**  
 to place someone on the prayer list, or if you are called by the  
 Holy Spirit to pray.

### **APOSTLES OF JOHN PAUL II**

2100 SE Cove Road, Stuart, FL 34997



**OPEN Friday 9-12Noon**

**Please call for an appointment  
 772-291-0002 WE ARE HERE TO HELP**

*If you can tie a Shoelace  
 Then  
 You can make a Rosary !*



**Come visit us to see how we  
 make rosaries and to consider  
 joining our rosary ministry  
 Wednesday August 11 @ 10:00 AM  
 Class Room C**



**Weekend of August 31<sup>st</sup>  
 Prayer and Fasting Changes  
 Things!**

Since our most recent 40 Days for Life campaign last Lent, four abortion centers have CLOSED! In the

state of Florida, we now have fewer abortion centers than ever in the last 30 years! Our prayers and fasting are changing things! Please join us for the Fall 2021 40 Days for Life campaign on the sidewalk in front of the Planned Parenthood 1696 SE Hillmore Dr. Port St. Lucie FL. Our Fall campaign starts Wednesday, September 22 and ends on Sunday, October 31st. For more information, please see [www.40daysforlife.com/stlucie](http://www.40daysforlife.com/stlucie) or call/text



### **September 5<sup>th</sup> Weekend:**

#### **Abortion Centers Are Closing!**

Since the 40 Days for Life campaigns started in 2007, 96 abortion centers have closed and over 15,000 lives have been saved! How awesome! Yet, the reality is that during that time and, since Roe vs. Wade was passed in 1973 by our Supreme Court, millions of unborn children have been silently crying out for someone to help, someone to show them mercy. Christ has told us that whatever you do for the least of these you do for Him! We will have that opportunity again to show them and Him mercy by signing up to participate in the Fall 40 Days for Life campaign which starts Wednesday, September 22 and ends on Sunday, October 31st At 1696 SE Hillmore Dr. Port St Lucie Florida. For more information, please see [www.40daysforlife.com/stlucie](http://www.40daysforlife.com/stlucie) or call/text

**SIGN-UP WEEKEND: September 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Please sign-up today to save babies' lives  
 and parents from lifelong tragedy!**

Babies and parents are being saved from the tragedy of abortion all over the world during the 40 Days for Life campaigns! Please sign-up after Mass and join us in peaceful prayer outside the Planned Parenthood, at 1696 SE Hillmore Drive Port St. Lucie Florida and see what God does in this next Fall campaign in our local community which begins Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> and ends on Sunday, October 31st! We are asking volunteers to sign up for two hours each week during the six weeks of the campaign. Your prayers and presence at the vigil site do make a difference! Over 15,000 children are alive now because of people like you who chose to love them and their parents! Many women have told us that the reason they changed their minds and chose life was because they saw people like you peacefully praying for them right outside the abortion center. Come be Christ's Merciful Love on the sidewalk and allow Him to love others through you! He has no other hands or feet except us in this world. For more information, please see [www.40daysforlife.com/stlucie](http://www.40daysforlife.com/stlucie) or call/text



**HELP SAVE LIVES!**



# Subscribe To

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smile.amazon.com



2

Select Saint Andrew  
Catholic Church



3

Shop!



**You get your purchase delivered and Saint Andrew gets a free donation in your name.**



## Religious Education Enrollment

**You can still enroll until the end of August.**

Application Packets may be picked up at the church front reception desk or printed from the [saintandrewcatholic.org](http://saintandrewcatholic.org).

Grade:1 Sunday 8:45-10:00

Grade:2 Sunday 10:15-11:30 (Communion/ Reconciliation)

Grade:6,7,8,9 Wednesday 6:30-8:00

RCIA-5:15-6:15 Wednesday

## September Schedule

Sun	Sept-5	7:30mass	Blessing for CCD teachers . Breakfast on the patio after mass
Sun	Sept-12	CCD	First Day
Sun	Sept-15	CCD	First Day

**We Need Some Helping Hands**

## Keep our Church Clean

We are in need of volunteers to assist in cleaning the Church every Monday from 8:00am-8:30am.

If you are free and would like to volunteer your time please show up on Mondays at 8:00am or call the parish office at 772-781-4415. May you do your part to prepare God's House.



*Last Will  
and  
Testament*

**Please Remember your Church  
St. Andrew  
In your Last Will and Testament**

## Ushers Needed

*Are you willing to serve?*

The usher is a person chosen to reflect the warmth and welcome of Christ himself. Always conscious of Christ's words: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me".

At St. Andrew Catholic Church, Ushers are entrusted with promoting a sense of welcoming presence and belonging to all the faithful assembled for worship. They are the first point of contact for the communal celebration of the Liturgy. Each Minister offers a welcoming atmosphere, takes an active role in enabling each Parishioner and Visitor to a comfortable expression of God in the Liturgy.



**Please contact the Church Office**

(772)-781-4415 or Jane Englebrecht at 772-288-2265 or [ejanybrainy@yahoo.com](mailto:ejanybrainy@yahoo.com) if you are interested!

## Active Parishioner Status

We receive many requests for parishioners to be godparents or sponsors for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and to rightfully enjoy the number of services offered at St. Andrew. Part of the request is to be able to verify that a person is an **"active member"** of St. Andrew.

An **"active member"** is:

- Properly **registered** in the parish.
- **Faithfully attends** Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.
- **Participates** in parish activities / miniseries when possible.
- **Uses** the parish envelope system for donations

These are the main factors that will be considered in making the determination .

*Welcome*  
**Come Worship With Us**

JPPC®



# Confession

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: "Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God's mercy for the offense committed against him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins and which by charity, by example, and by prayer labors for their conversion."

It is called the *sacrament of conversion* because it makes sacramentally present Jesus' call to conversion, the first step in returning to the Father<sup>5</sup> from whom one has strayed by sin. It is called the *sacrament of Penance*, since it consecrates the Christian sinner's personal and ecclesial steps of conversion, penance, and satisfaction.

It is called the *sacrament of confession*, since the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament. In a profound sense it is also a "confession" - acknowledgment and praise - of the holiness of God and of his mercy toward sinful man.

It is called the *sacrament of forgiveness*, since by the priest's sacramental absolution God grants the penitent "pardon and peace".



Confession was the principal daily activity of Padre Pio. He had the ability to look within the souls of his penitents. It was not possible to lie to Padre Pio during a confession. He saw inside people's hearts. Often, when the sinners were timid, Padre Pio listed their sins during the confession.

Padre Pio invited all believers to confess at least once a week. He said: "Even if a room is closed, it is necessary to dust it after a week."

In the sacrament of confession Padre Pio was very demanding. He couldn't bear people that went to him only out of curiosity.

A monk once told the following story: "One day Padre Pio didn't give absolution to a penitent and he told him: "If you go to confess to another priest to have gain absolution you will go to hell together with him". He meant that the sacrament of confession is profaned by people that don't want to change their lives. They are guilty in front of God.

A man once went to St. Giovanni Rotondo to confess to Padre Pio. It was between 1954 and 1955. When he finished the accusation of his sins Padre Pio said: "Do you have anything else to confess?" and he said, "No Father!" He repeated the question: "Do you have anything else to confess?" "No Father!" For a third time Padre Pio asked him: "Do you have anything else to confess? At this third negative answer the hurricane exploded. With the voice of the Holy Spirit Padre Pio howled: "Go away! Go away! Because you are not reformed of your sins!"

The man was also petrified because of the shame that he felt in front of so many people. Then he tried to say something but Padre Pio said: "Keep silent, gossip, you have spoken enough; I now want to speak. Is it true that you go to discos?" "Yes, Father." "Do you know that dancing is an invitation to sin?"

The man was surprised and he didn't know what to say: he had the membership card of a disco in his wallet. The man promised not to commit any other sins and after a lot of effort he received absolution.

## Lies

One day, a man told Padre Pio: "Father, I tell lies when I am with some friends of mine. I do it in order to make everybody happy". And Padre Pio said: "Oh, do you want to go to hell by joking?"

## Gossip

When a person speaks badly of a friend, he destroys the reputation and the honour of a brother who has the right to enjoy respect.

One day Padre Pio said to a penitent: "When you gossip about a person it means that you have removed the person from your heart. But be aware, when you remove a man from your heart, Jesus also goes away from your heart with that man."

Once, Padre Pio was invited to bless a house. But when he reached the entrance of the kitchen he said: "There are snakes here. I do not want to go in". And then he said to a priest that often went to that house to eat: "Don't go to that house because they say unpleasant things about their brothers and sisters."

## Missing Holy Mass

In about 1950, a young doctor went to confess to Padre Pio. He confessed his sins and then he remained silent. Padre Pio asked the young doctor if he had other things to add but the doctor answered he had nothing else. Then Padre Pio told the doctor: "Keep in mind that on holy days you cannot miss Mass, because this is a mortal sin". Suddenly the doctor remembered he had "jumped" Mass with a Sunday appointment, a few months before.

## Abortion

One day, Padre Pellegrino asked Padre Pio: "Father, this morning you denied absolution to a lady who confessed to an abortion. Why have you been so rigorous with this poor unfortunate? ". Padre Pio said: "The day, in which people, frightened by the economic boom, from physical damages or from economic sacrifices, will lose the horror of the abortion, it will be the most terrible day for humanity. Abortion is not only homicide but also suicide. And with these people we see on the point of committing two crimes...do we want to show our faith? Do we want to save them? "

"Why suicide?" Padre Pellegrino asked.

"You would understand this suicide of the human race, if with the eye of reason, you could see the Heart populated by old men and depopulated by children: burnt as a desert."

## Divorce

In the united and holy family, Padre Pio saw the place where the faith can grow and develop. He said: "Divorce is the passport to hell".

A young lady finished the confession of her sins. She received her penance from Padre Pio who said: "You have to immerse yourself in the silence of prayer and you will save your marriage."

The lady was amazed since her marriage didn't have any problems. After a long time, her marriage began to experience trouble. However she was ready to face the problems and overcame them and so avoided the destruction of the family because she had been following the suggestion that Padre Pio gave her. <https://www.padrepio.catholicwebservices.com/>