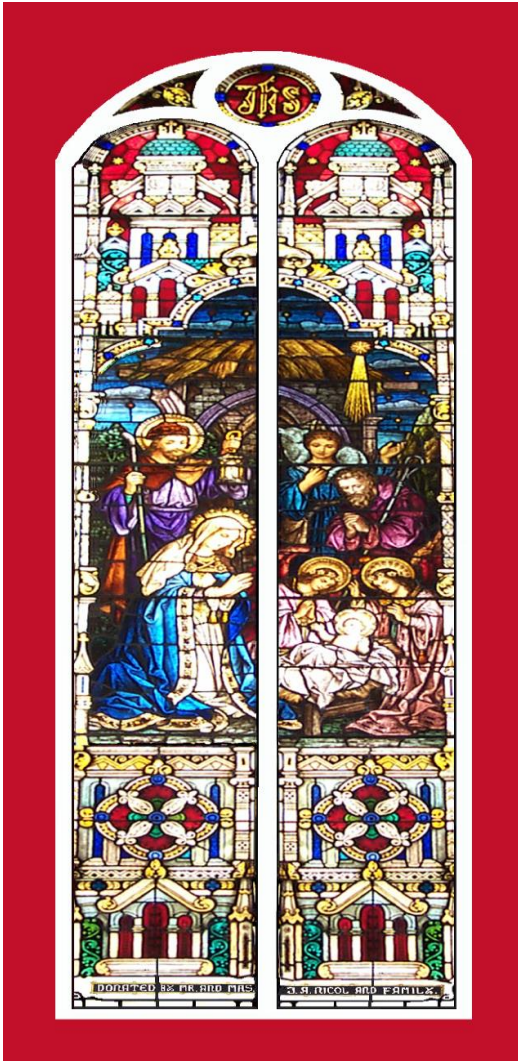




# ST. ANDREW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



292 Red River Road  
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 1A8  
Phone: 807 345-5202 Email: standrewrc@tbaytel.net  
Web Site: www.standrewrc.ca



St. Andrew's Parish is a unique - diverse community of people who live and share life through trusting, loving and serving.

Our community is already gifted and enriched by many cultures and voices on a Mission to listen to the needs of others with an attitude of openness and acceptance for a deeper understanding and cooperation.

In our journey of life and faith, we work and strive to build a more peaceful and better society for a greater future. We share our talents by developing and maintaining a parish community that is active, vibrant and spiritually strong.

We look forward to preserving our faith traditions, reaching out to others as the living Body of Christ in this changing world.

### Pastoral Team and Staff

Pastor:	Rev. Berchmans Francis
Deacon:	Rev. Mr. Andre Nicol
Deacon:	Rev. Mr. Joey Terhljan
Minister of Service:	Kathie Terhljan
Secretary/Bookkeeper	Angela Grimolizzi
Custodian:	Kerry Baraniuk

### Office Hours

Tuesday to Thursday - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Daily & Weekly Mass Schedule  
See Mass Intentions inside Bulletin

### Parish Registration

New Parishioner Welcome Packages are available on the Forms Rack at the back of the church.

### Sacrament of Baptism

Parish Registration and Baptism Formation are required. Please contact the office.

### Anointing of the Sick

Please contact the Parish Office.

### Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sundays from September to June during the 10 a.m. Mass. All children and parents are welcome.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Individual Confessions will be heard one-half hour before each mass.

### R.C.I.A.

Please contact the office for more information about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

### Sacrament of Marriage

Parish Registration and a Marriage Preparation Course are required. Contact the office at least 12 months in advance.

### Hospital/Home Visits

Please contact the Parish Office. In an emergency, if Father cannot be reached, please contact the TBRHSC at 807 684-6000 and ask for the Priest on Call.



### Baby Change Tables

are available in the Handicap Access Washrooms on the Main Level of the Church and in the Basement

### Donate Here

through our CanadaHelps.org donation page using your Cell Phone or Mobile Device





*Here am I, the servant of the Lord: let it be done to me according to your word.*

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the scripture readings are alive with excitement about the Saviour who is coming. The spotlight is focused on Mary because no one can help us to understand the meaning of Christmas better than Mary. The visitation to her cousin Elizabeth is a story of faith, friendship and human love. What a warm welcome the unborn Christ child received at Elizabeth’s home! Mary revealed how all Christians are to await Christ. She was carrying him as a gift to a world in need and we are to do likewise.

We are signs of His presence when we give ourselves to others and what better time to do so than at Christmas when many people feel like outsiders. Let’s not forget Jesus’ humble origins, born into our world of pain and sorrow, in a stable on the very bottom rung of the social ladder. All our celebrations are an empty sham if Jesus is not born into our hearts. Good things need to be done at a deeper level out of love, affection and a spirit of generosity. The gifts that we give have no purpose unless God is part of the giving and we make Christmas a pattern to be followed in everyday living. One sure way of offering the perfect Christmas gift is saying to God as Mary did “Here I am Lord, I’ve come to do your will”.

**THIS WEEK – December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 to January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**PARISH MASS SCHEDULE:**

Date		Location	Time	Mass Intention	Requested By
Tues	Dec 24	Main Church	5 :00 pm	For the People of the Parish	Pastor
		Main Church	8:00 pm	For the People of the Parish	Pastor
Wed	Dec 25	Main Church	10:00 am	For the People of the Parish	Pastor
Thurs	Dec 26	Our Lady’s Chapel	12:10 pm	NO MASS	
		St. Joseph’s Chapel	4:15 pm	NO MASS	
Fri.	Dec 27	Our Lady’s Chapel	12:10 pm	NO MASS	
Sat.	Dec 28	Main Church	5:00 pm	Special Intention of Timothy Grant	Michael & Anne Marie Grant & Family
Sun.	Dec 29	Main Church	10:00 am	Isabelle Simpson	Mark Simpson
Tues.	Dec 31	Main Church	5:00 pm	For the People of the Parish	Pastor
Wed.	Jan. 1	Main Church	10:00 am	For the People of the Parish	Pastor
Thurs	Jan. 2	Our Lady’s Chapel	12:10 pm	Vic Ehmann	Mark Simpson
		St. Joseph’s Chapel	12:10 pm	Rita Nevins	The Nevins Estate
Fri.	Jan. 3	Our Lady’s Chapel	12:10 pm	Dina Sisko	Eva Prpic
Sat.	Jan. 4	Main Church	5:00 pm	Dina Sisko	Helen Bachinski
Sun.	Jan. 5	Main Church	10:00 am	The Deceased Members of Pilat & Coda Families	The Family



**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2024: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

*A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come down upon the earth.*

The nativity celebrates the closeness of God, born into our ordinary life. The newborn child is our living link with God and we are amazed that God should come among us in such humble circumstances. This simplicity challenges us to get rid

of falseness and pretence, and realize our need for a Saviour who will open a door to a fresh start. We need to rediscover our lost innocence and acknowledge our dependence on God. Christmas is the promise that we are not alone in our struggles. Christ did not remove himself from the brokenness of our human condition, but experienced our poverty. From his birth in a stable, as one who was homeless, to his death on the cross as a common criminal, Jesus identified with the spiritually, physically and materially poor of this world. Many of us tend to look for God in the spectacular, but the Christmas story tells us that God will be found in the ordinary people and situations we take for granted. We can experience his presence in our hearts and make room for Him by removing the barriers and obstacles that get in His way. This is time for healing rifts, for mending broken relationships and letting bygones be bygones. Whatever we do out of love for the Lord will not be lost and the joyful peace of Christmas which descends on us will never be taken away.

FEAST DAYS	
Dec 23	St. John Canty
Dec 25	The Nativity of the Lord
Dec 26	St. Stephen
Dec 27	St. John the Evangelist
Dec 28	The Holy Innocents
Dec 29	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Dec 31	St. Sylvester I
Jan 1	Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Jan 2	St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen
Jan 3	The Most Holy Name of Jesus.



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2025: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

*Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.*

Today's gospel outlines the heartbreaking experience of Mary and Joseph when they were quite certain they had lost Jesus. Even Mary and Joseph did not escape the tensions, anxieties and worries of the ordinary ups and downs of family life. Family life is a full time job and a challenging one for everyone concerned. Living together, rubbing shoulders with one another demands love, loyalty, respect, reverence, self-denial and generosity. A happy home is not made of bricks and mortar, but has its foundations in Christ, who is love. The Holy Family was the ideal family because of the presence of Jesus. The same can be true of our family. God can make it a channel of grace if we spend time as a family in prayer. If prayer has not been part of home life, or if it has been neglected, the new year is an ideal time for a fresh start. The Holy Family of Nazareth is a model and inspiration. If we follow in their footsteps we will begin to perceive the mystery of Godliness at the heart of our lives and at the centre of our families.

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**Our Priests:** Please pick up a "Pray for Priests" Calendar for December at the entrance to the church.

**The Sick of our Parish:** Joseph Bechta, Maria Bilyk, Catherine Carr, Mary Carr, Joseph Fink, Wayne Harman, Ann Kossar, Joan Krisko, Bridget Lefave, Stephanie Lenton, Mary Lou Lopez, Clementine Petchenuk, George Petralia, Carmela Scali, Anne Scott, Robert Sliskovich, Liberto Soares, Mimi Zugic.

**Parishioners at Home:** Gerry Gagnon, Emmi Janko, Paul Morrison, Walter Respondek, Nora Zsakai and in **Care Homes:** Christine Cerutti, Richard Harkof, Suzanne Michaud, Betty Ann Mutrey, John Peloza, Susan Respondek, Maura Robinson, Ed Sepanary, Rae Scarnati, Vi Trevisanutto, Anadelina Wood.

**Faithful Departed** in particular for those whose first anniversary of death occurs about this time.

**Pope's Prayer Intention for December:** Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthens us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2025: MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

*Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the Prophets; in these last days he has spoken to us by the Son.*

The New Year begins with the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, a feast which celebrates a mysterious union between God and a woman. The church puts forward Mary to guide us on our journey of faith through this valley of tears. Although she was singled out to be the mother of our Saviour, she was a woman who had to walk in faith and for whom belief was a constant struggle. She did not enjoy an easy life. At the birth of her Son she had nowhere to call a home. At his death she stood silently at the cross, hardly understanding all that was happening. As a mother, she was the great giver who formed Christ and made him fully human. She will form us and bring us close to her Son if, in the coming year, we put ourselves under her protection. There is surely no better way of starting the year than celebrating the day that Mary became the mother of God.



**FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025: FIRST FRIDAY**


Join us for **Adoration** in Our Lady's Chapel beginning at 11:30 a.m. followed by the mass at 12:10 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025: EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**



*Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6  
Ephesians 3.2-3a,5-6  
Matthew 2.1-12*

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

	PARISH COLLECTIONS			
	COLLECTION ENVELOPES	ELECTRONIC OFFERINGS	LOOSE COLLECTIONS	BUILDING FUND
<b>DECEMBER 15, 2024</b>	<b>\$762.00</b>	<b>\$1,508.00</b>	<b>\$103.00</b>	<b>\$927.00</b>

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2024		
	NOVEMBER 2024	YEAR TO DATE
Operating Income	\$9,633.90	\$123,534.79
Operating Expense	\$21,851.13	167,008.54
Net Gain/Loss	-\$12,217.23	-\$43,473.75

**BISHOP'S CAMPAIGN – PARISH GOAL \$17,500**  
**Funds Raised to Date - \$14,836.25**  
**Funds Still Owing - \$2,663.75**  
**Deadline for Donations – DECEMBER 29, 2024**  
 Please Note: If we do not meet our commitment, the shortfall will have to be covered by Parish Funds.

**PARISH EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**

The **PARISH OFFICE** will close on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 for the Christmas Holidays and will re-open on Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 2025.



*Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas from the Pastoral Team & Staff*



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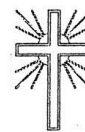


**Knights of Columbus**  
Leo Council #1130

Meetings 2nd Tuesdays: Officers  
4th Tuesdays: General  
7:00 p.m. St Andrews R.C. Church

For Membership information, Contact  
Mark Simpson 344-9737

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