

We welcome you and invite you to share in the spiritual and social activities of your parish.

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St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church

MASSSES

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm
Sunday 8:15am, 9:30am, 11:30am
Weekday Masses: Tues & Thurs: 12:05 pm
Wednesday & Friday 9:00 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday
4:10 pm – 4:45 pm

Pastoral Visiting Ministry

Frances Mantle; 905 844 3303
office@standrewoakville.com

Music Ministry

Stephen Hegedus, Music Director
Sarah Zbogor, Director, Children's Choir
Angela Kim, Organist

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

For those interested in the Catholic Faith please
contact Iah Jung – ijung@hamiltondiocese.com

PASTORAL STAFF

Father Joseph Akanbi ~ Pastor
Father Michael Uso-Ereyi ~ Associate Pastor
Rev. Mr. Richard Tan ~ Deacon
Iah Jung ~ Parish Life Co-ordinator

Baptisms

Please contact the office

Sacrament of Marriage

Call the Parish Office 9 to 12 months in advance

Catholic Funeral Rites

When death occurs in the family, please contact
the parish office and we will assist you in making
the liturgical arrangements

Office Hours

Frances Mantle, Office Administrator
Monday - Office closed
Tuesday - Thursday 9:30 am - 12:00 pm;
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; Friday 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Third Sunday of Easter, April 19, 2026

Upcoming Events

Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel – April 26

RECOGNIZING GOD'S UNFAILING PRESENCE

Journeying with Jesus on the Road to Emmaus

We have a desire to draw near to God sometimes. God has a desire to draw near to us all the time. God is always present in our lives. Sometimes he may seem hidden, sometimes he may seem hard to find, but he's always there. And in the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, we have an epic example of God's unfailing presence in our lives. Let's go through this story together and close attention to all the ways God's presence is active in the story.

"That very day, two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other....."

So, there's two incredibly powerful things here already. First, notice the disciples are walking away from Jerusalem. Jesus, their friend, their teacher, their savior has just died an unjust death. They believed he had come to redeem the world but, from their perspective, his death is a crushing blow. Whether they are driven by fear for their lives or the disappointment of their belief that Jesus was the Messiah, they are walking away from the other disciples and from the last place they encountered Jesus.

Have you ever been disappointed in God's plan for you? How are you walking away from him right now? When you are confused and afraid, is your tendency to run toward God or away from him?

The second thing to notice is the line, "When Jesus himself drew near, and went with them." God yearns to draw near to us. Even when we don't yearn to draw nearer to him, he's constantly drawing nearer to us. Even when we are full of uncertainty, disappointment, frustration and fear, God comes to walk alongside us. He is always running after us as the "hound of heaven"!

"But their eyes were kept from recognizing him."

You could spend the rest of your life thinking and praying about this one line. Often, we are blind to God's presence in our lives. What is keeping you from recognizing God's presence in your life right now? Are you distracted by trivial things? Are you too busy to spend time with him? Is there a source of stress or anxiety you have yet to lay at his feet?

Then, after the two men explain to Jesus all that took place the previous three days, Jesus responds by saying: *"O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?".....*

It's easy to read this part of the story and think that Jesus is condemning the disciples for not understanding his role in the salvation of the world when he calls them "foolish men". But his response to their confusion and despair is actually one of compassion. He breaks open the Scriptures for them. While they are wondering how it is even possible for Jesus to resurrect from the dead and whether to still believe in him, Jesus takes the time to walk them through exactly how this was all meant to happen the way it did. What is your relationship with the Scriptures? Do you turn to God's word in times of distress? Have you let the word of God sink deep roots into your life? Perhaps we so often feel like God is not present in our lives because we forget to go to the places, he promises to always be.

Next, they ask Jesus to stay with them. Even though they're unaware that this is Jesus before them, they sense he is someone special. When was the last time you said to Jesus, "stay with me"? When was the last time you invited Jesus powerfully into your life? God always yearns to draw near to us, but we still have to open the door of our hearts to him.

"When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight."

Their eyes were opened. And how does it happen? Through the Eucharist. Jesus has walked with them on the road, he's been revealed to them in the Scriptures, but it is through the breaking of bread that they finally come to see his true presence. In what way do you need your eyes to be opened today? In what ways do you need God to open your eyes to His presence in your life? To His blessings in your life? To the providence that might be in a circumstance or a situation that you're experiencing right now that maybe you resent? Whatever it is, what do you think will happen if you bring it to Jesus in the Eucharist? Now we come to the end of the story. *"And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem and found the eleven gathered....."*

They didn't stay still. They didn't say "Oh, that's a great experience. Let's get a good night's sleep." One of the things we notice over and over throughout the gospel is they are people of action. When people get touched by the gospel, they act, they don't wait to act. Jesus called the disciples. They didn't say, "Well, give us three days to think about it, and we'll get back to you." No, he invited them to follow him and they left everything and they followed him immediately. The gospel is a gospel of thought. It's a gospel of reflection. It's a gospel of prayer, but it is also a gospel of bold action.

What bold action is God inviting you to take in your life right now? How is he inviting you to trust him more fully and follow him beyond your comfort zone? God is with us. That is the message of this powerful story. God is with us. He's there walking alongside us in the moments and circumstances of our day. He's there in the scriptures, speaking to our hearts. And he's there in the Eucharist, waiting to enter our souls.

Let's ask him to open our eyes so we can recognize him a little bit more today. (Dynamic Catholic, Jan. 27)

First Holy Communion & Sacrament of Confirmation

We welcome Bishop Joseph Dabrowski to our Parish this weekend. He celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with 50 of our young people from our two elementary schools and the public/private schools within our Parish boundaries. Blessings on them all!

Many thanks to Iah Jung, our Parish Life Co-ordinator and her wonderful team for such a beautiful and reverential celebration.

52 of our Grade 2 children will be celebrating their first reconciliation and receive the Holy Communion for the first time on April 25. In your charity, remember them in your prayers for a truly spiritual reception and for a steady growth in the faith.

Fr. Joseph on Vacation: Starting on May 1st, Fr. Joseph will be on vacation for three weeks to spend time with family and to visit. I will be back just in time to celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost and to welcome Amanda Achtman for the third of the talk-series on Life Advocacy. *Please, direct all your pastoral concerns and needs to Fr. Michael who is more than capable to respond timely and appropriately.*

Life Advocacy: Everyday, it seems, we encounter a person, or hear a story, that reminds us how much our families and our world would benefit from greater love for neighbour. Our Catholic tradition of loving and caregiving is modelled by Our Lord. Jesus shows us the WAY to care and accompany – from the all-important care for our Souls through the Sacraments, to the Health and Legal Advocacy so necessary for Catholics in our world today. To reflect on how we can better accompany our family, friends, and

community members, St. Andrew's Parish invites all interested, from within and outside the Parish, to three evening talks (**from 7 - 8:30 p.m.**). Hosted in the church at **41 Reynolds Street**, the Catholic guest speakers will include a doctor, care advocate, lawyers, and, of course, our priest. On the third night, we welcome Amanda Achtman.

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 – FAITH-BASED HEALTH ADVOCACY: Advocacy for Our Health and That of Our Loved Ones as Based on Our Theological Tradition

– Practical advice for Catholics in navigating our contemporary medical system from the point of view of Parishioner Dr. Tom McCann, a Catholic doctor and devoted caregiver

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 - OCCASIONS FOR JOY: Intergenerational Sacramental & Legal Planning for Life's Second Chapter, with Fr. Michael & Catholic Lawyers

– Inspiring ideas and suggestions from the Catholic Bishops, Catholic lawyers and our Associate Pastor that speak to people of all ages who want to make individual and family plans long before any life crisis might arise

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 – FOSTERING A CULTURE OF CARE

We welcome Amanda Achtman – cultural engagement lead at Canadian Physicians for Life, and advocate for the protection of human life. She will share her hope for Canada and beyond through her project, Dying to Meet You. The evening will focus reflection on the importance of fostering a Culture of Care, the gifts we can offer one another as members of the Body of Christ, and ideas about actions Parish families can take.

**Calling all St. Andrew's
Bakers and Crafters
CWL BAKE SALE
May 2nd and 3rd**

St. Andrew's CWL invite all bakers in our parish to Bake, Bake, Bake their favourite NUT FREE sweet treats (i.e. cookies, muffins, squares, tarts or cakes, pies or loaves)

for this year's bake sale. CRAFTERS are welcome as well. Please drop off your goodies and or crafts to the Parish Centre on Friday May 1st between 2pm and 6pm or on Saturday, May 2nd between 9am until 2pm.

All proceeds will go to our Charitable Organizations. These include Canada Food for Children, Shifra house, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Camp Brebeuf, St. Vincent de Paul and Halton Alive.



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