



www.standrewskentct.org * 860.927.3486 * saintandrewskent@gmail.com



The Second Sunday of Advent Year A

From Steve Morocco, Treasurer

Annual Pledging

I am writing to clarify how annual pledging and other monetary gifts get tracked at St Andrew's.

As you know, these generous gifts to our parish are necessary to keep our buildings and grounds well maintained, heated and cooled, pay for necessary employees and the many other expenses required to take care of our spiritual home.

I recently sent out a letter to all parishioners who made a pledge to the church in the fall of 2021 during stewardship season.

A number of people were surprised that some funds that they had generously donated were not captured by our pledge system.

I will try to address the key issues brought to my attention over the past few weeks.

Cash: Our weekly money counters cannot assign a name to any cash donation made unless it is in an envelope with a name on it or has some paper clipped note with a name on it. People who wish to donate cash without a name

attached should ensure that they keep their own records of these contributions, for tax purposes.

Pledges: We strongly encourage people to use pledge envelopes to prevent mistakes made in assigning names to pledges.

If someone does not wish to use envelopes and sends in a check, the check should clearly be labeled "pledge."

Some people do not make a formal pledge during stewardship season, but still send in money as non-pledge contributions. While we cannot account for these monies as pledges, we can and do account for these contributions as "non pledge income" in our operating fund.

Account specific donations: If one intends to send a contribution directly to a specific fund (such as the capital fund, the music fund, the flower fund, etc), these contributions should be clearly labeled as follows: "pledge-XYZ fund."

Having said that, general giving—contributions not designated for any specific fund or purpose—pays for the vast majority of St Andrew's expenses. We encourage parishioners to give in this way, if they are comfortable doing so.

Given that this was my first time doing this exercise, I was pleased with the overall result and am grateful for some of your notes and feedback regarding what counts as pledges and what does not count as a pledge, but another type of donation. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me.

This Week at St Andrew's

Saturday, 03 December :: 2:30 pm
Nominating Committee

Sunday, 04 December :: 8:30 am
Holy Eucharist: *The Second Sunday of Advent* (spoken)

Sunday, 04 December :: 9:15 am
Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 04 December :: 10:30 am
Church School

Sunday, 04 December :: 10:30 am
Holy Eucharist: *The Second Sunday of Advent* (with music) (*in-person and live-streamed*)

Sunday, 04 December :: 11:40 am

Coffee Hour

Monday, 05 December :: 11:00 am
Bible Study: *The Gospel of Luke*

Monday, 05 December :: 8:00 pm
LGBTQ+ A.A. meeting

Monday, 05 December :: 4:00 pm
Officers Meeting

Wednesday, 07 December :: 6:00 pm
Mid-week Eucharist

Wednesday, 07 December :: 7:00 pm
A.A. for Women (*Zoom meeting; email us for info*)

Thursday, 08 December :: 7:00 pm
A.A. meeting

Thursday, 08 December :: 7:00 pm
Al-Anon meeting (Old Vestry Room)

Friday, 09 December :: 8:00 pm
Music in the Nave: *11th Annual Messiah Sing-in*

Mark Your Calendars for These Events...

**Details about many of these events can be found later
in this issue of the *Epistle***

Friday, 09 December, 8:00 pm

Music in the Nave presents our
Annual Messiah Sing-in!

Sunday, 18 December, 3:00 pm
Blue Christmas Service

*Our friends at First Congregational will host us
for a service of remembrance and reflection for those
who find Christmas is a challenging time of year as they mourn the loss of
loved*

Details about *all* of our many late Advent and Christmastide liturgies appear
later in this *Epistle*.

**This Year's *Messiah Sing-In*:
Friday, 09 December**



Hallelujah! Music in the Nave will offer our 11th annual *Messiah* Sing-In on Friday, 09 December at 8 pm. James Sinclair leads the Sherman Chamber Ensemble and guest soloists in a performance of Part One (The Nativity) and the Hallelujah Chorus of Handel's glorious *Messiah*.

And who did we get for a chorus? You! If you so desire, sit up front: we'll lend you a score and you lend us your voice. Or sit anywhere else and just enjoy the show. Either way, it's going to be an evening of beautiful music and good times.

Tickets are \$20 and available at <https://bit.ly/messiah11> or the door. Students are free. For more information, call 860-927-3486, email saintandrewskent@gmail.com, or visit www.standrewskentct.org/mitn.html.

An Advent Practice to Try On:
The Reverse Advent Calendar



We're all probably familiar with the traditional Advent calendar: Each day, you open a little window to read a verse or a thought ... or maybe get a small toy or piece of candy. Well, this year for Advent (which begins this Sunday), we're suggesting something a little different: a *reverse* Advent calendar.

Here's how it works: First, obtain a copy of the calendar (they're in the Narthex of the church and the Parish Office, and also available on the parish web site and Facebook page) and purchase the items listed. Also, create a space in your home—a box, a bag or a table—to be your 'calendar.' (The photo above is the first calendar we made in the Rectory a few years ago, on Day 3.) Then, each day in Advent, place one item in your calendar, perhaps saying a little prayer of thanksgiving or "O come, O come, Emmanuel" as you do. Finally, after Christmas, gather up all the items in your calendar and either bring them to the church or take them directly to the Food Bank on a Friday morning.

Among the many rich strands of Advent is the call to tune our hearts to Jesus in *expectancy*: in eager, loving anticipation of His Coming and His Coming Again. Spending four weeks joyfully and quietly preparing a gift that will help sustain a family during the cold, dark weeks of winter is surely a beautiful way to open our hearts to the Christ Child and His Peace.

Advent & Christmastide at St Andrew's:

Here Are All the Details

Sun, 18 Dec :: 8:30 & 10:30 am

Advent 4

Children's Pageant *and*
Procession to the Crèche (10:30 only)

Sun, 18 Dec :: 3:00 pm

Blue Christmas Service

at First Congregational Church
for those who are grieving

Sat, 24 Dec :: 4:00 pm

Family Christmas Eve Eucharist

at St Joseph's Chapel, Kent School
reception follows

Sat, 24 Dec :: 9:00 pm

Traditional

Christmas Eve Eucharist

Choral Prelude begins at 8:40

Sun, 25 Dec :: 10:00 am

Shared Christmas Liturgy

at First Congregational Church

Sat, 31 Dec :: 6:00 pm

New Year's Eve

Service of Self-Dedication

Sun, 01 Jan :: 10:00 am

Holy Eucharist:

Feast of the Holy Name

only one service this day

2023 Offering Envelopes:
Now Available



Offering envelopes for 2023 are now available. Whether you make a contribution every week ... or once a month ... or only occasionally, using an envelope really helps our counters record your contribution accurately.

If you have requested envelopes, they are available for pick-up in the Narthex. If you would like to request envelopes (we have plenty!), please be in touch with KC in the Parish Office or Steve Morocco, our Treasurer.

Oh No! No Christmas Tree Sale This Year



We recently received the disappointing news that our supplier will not be able to provide us any Christmas trees this year, and thus we'll need to cancel this year's sale. **Steve Morocco** has heroically canvassed scores and scores of tree farmers and distributors across the northeast United States, but no luck: Every tree out there has been spoken for, alas.

So, *just for this year*, please make plans to purchase your tree from another local source ... and share the word with neighbors and friends who purchase from St Andrew's, as well. We do plan to return next year, however! We're already laying the groundwork to have a bumper crop on-hand in 2023.

St Andrew's Current COVID Status

THE PARISH IS OPEN.

We have now resumed all of our usual pre-COVID practices except the sharing of the Common Cup; we distribute the Wine in individual portions.

We will continue to livestream our 10:30 liturgy on Sundays and our mid-week services.

Help Support the Kent Food Bank



Please help our parish family continue to support of the Kent Food Bank by sending a check in any amount to:

Kent Community Fund
P O Box 262
Kent, CT 06757
memo: Food Bank

These funds will be used to purchase vouchers for local families in need, under the direction of Kent's new Social Services Director, Samantha Hasenflue. In addition, it is useful for the Director to have IGA gift cards to give to families who are in need. Please consider purchasing a card, for \$25 or \$50, and taking it to Samantha's office in Town Hall or dropping it in the donations basket in the Narthex. (You can also place it in the offering plate, marked for the Food Bank.)

The Kent Food Bank also accepts food donations. They are especially in need of staples such as **beans, rice, tea, coffee, sugar, nuts, hot & cold breakfast cereals, peanut butter, jellies, jams and**

tuna. Make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past! Please remember that the Food Bank accepts pet foods as well!

You may drop off food items on Fridays from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon in the back of the Community House on Main Street. You may also place donations in the basket in the church Narthex or in the bin in the breezeway at the rear of the Rectory.

Lections for this Week

The Second Sunday of Advent *Year A*

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7,18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12



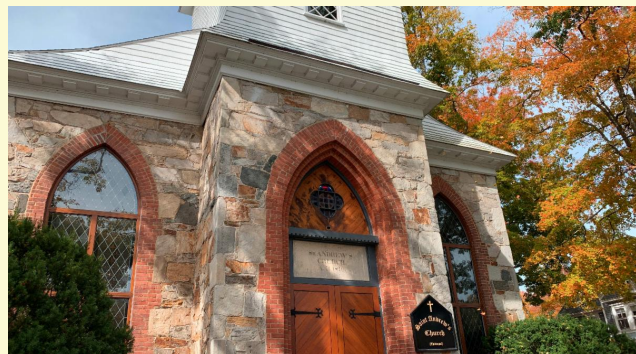
Past Services and Homilies

Please click on the link below in order to view past services on YouTube and to read homilies from previous Sundays located on our website.

[Homilies and Past Services](#)

Worship Services

-Sunday-
Holy Eucharist
8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.
(Rite I at 8.30, First Sundays)
In person
(10.30 a.m. available live stream on YouTube)



-Wednesday-
Holy Eucharist
6.00 p.m.

**-Holy Days-
Holy Eucharist**

9.00 a.m.



12 Step Meetings

Mondays

LGBTQ+ A.A. - **new**
(Parish House)

Wednesdays

A.A. for Women 7:00 p.m.
Zoom meeting
email us for info.

Thursdays

Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.
(Old Vestry Room)
A.A. at 7:00 pm - **new**
(Parish House)

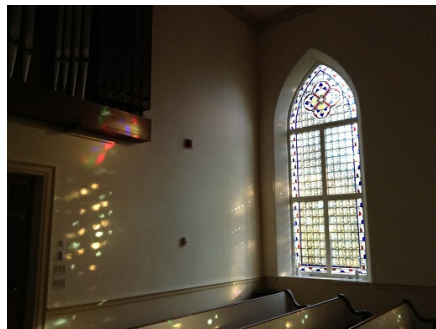


Parish Staff

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Susan Guse
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Ron Marasco, Ph.D.
Director of Education



KC Compton
Parish Administrator

Jane Farnol
Church School Leader

Joan I Cassel
Financial Secretary

Randy Osolin
Verger

Gloria Contreras
Sexton



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Parish office open every day except Friday and Saturday from 10 am- 5 pm

Visit St Andrew's website at
www.standrewskentct.org

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut
www.episcopalct.org/

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