

E-pistle



Saint Andrew's Parish
Kent, Connecticut

www.standrewskentct.org * 860.927.3486 * st.andrew.kent@snet.net



Please Donate Shoes for Our Special Maundy Thursday Offering

St Andrew's Current COVID Closure Status

PARISH IS NOW OPEN. The parish is now open for in-person worship. At its meeting on 21 March, the vestry voted, with the recommendation of the priest-in-charge and the wardens, to re-open the parish for worship, beginning Sunday, 28 March. This is a permanent decision, unless the pandemic takes another dire turn. Social distancing will be required. Therefore, attendance at all services will be limited to 30 people. (Those who reside in the same household count as one person ... but we will nevertheless be prudent about the total number of people in the nave.) Masks must be worn, and the nave windows will be opened to increase air circulation. There will be no congregational singing or distribution of communion at this time.

If you wish to attend worship in-person, you *must* contact Irene Connors (860-592-0030 or collageconnors@gmail.com). Irene will be compiling a list for each service, to ensure we do not exceed our capacity limits.

We will **continue to livestream all of our services**, as well, as there are many parishioners who are choosing not to be in group settings at this time—a decision the parish fully honors and supports.

From Father Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

I continue to pray you are having a blessed and holy Lent and are preparing

for a meaningful Holy Week. Several things to note in this busy ... and evolving ... season:

Parish re-opening. As noted at the top of this week's edition, the parish is now open again—permanently, we hope! The vestry made this decision, with a recommendation from the wardens and me, this past Sunday. We are fortunate that in our part of Connecticut, the rate of vaccination is steadily increasing while the prevalence of the virus is declining. (We will be vigilant, of course. If a major surge recurs, we may need to pull back, temporarily.) This alters the open/close calculus. Before the advent of widely distributed vaccines and reduced prevalence, the most prudent action was to remain closed, without regard to other factors. But now we may also consider the longing some of our members have to worship in-person and the fact that, for some, worship via the internet is not spiritually satisfying. Hence, the vestry's decision. We know that many parishioners still do not wish to be in group settings, and this is a perfectly reasonable decision. Therefore, we will **continue to livestream all of our services** via the parish YouTube channel, as well.

In making its decision, the vestry was also clear that we must take all necessary precautions: Masks must be worn, social distancing maintained and capacity limits (despite the State's recent decision to the contrary) observed. Therefore, 'reservations' will be required to attend worship in-person. You may make them via Irene Connors, whose contact information appears above. For these same reasons of health and safety, we will not be singing as a congregation or distributing communion at this time.

In addition, the parish will once again permit various small groups (recovery groups, study groups, etc) to meet in-person once again, if they choose to do so, provided they follow all COVID protocols.

Plans for Palm Sunday. Please note that we will have **ONE service this Sunday, at 10:00 am.** For those attending in-person, the Palm Procession will begin at 10 in the Church Yard (or indoors, if it rains). For those who worship at-home, a pre-recorded Palm Procession will be available on [the parish's YouTube channel](#), and you may *pick up palm branches that have already been blessed from the church steps, in advance*, any time on Friday, Saturday or Sunday morning. (If you're interested in knowing a little more about this day's peculiar liturgy, click [here](#).)

Maundy Thursday offering. The news of Sister Mary's untimely death this week was both very sad and a shock. Many of you have told me how much she meant to you ... inspired you ... cared for and loved you. As I said in my message on Monday, at the appropriate time, we will gather as a parish to celebrate her life and her memory.

Perhaps the most fitting tribute to her we can offer right now is making one final donation to her selfless ministry to those who live without homes. The sneakers, shoes and socks we're gathering for Maundy Thursday (details below) will be given to Abraham House, a ministry to homeless people in the South Bronx, just as Sister Mary had already arranged. It will be bittersweet to deliver these gifts without her, but I know her heart will swell with joy when she sees all that we have collected in her honor.

Easter flower donations. If you would like to make a contribution toward this year's Easter flowers, please be in touch with the parish office by this **Wednesday, 31 March**. Donations made in memory or in honor of someone will be recorded in the Easter bulletins if they are received by the 31st.

As we head into the most sacred and most joyful season of the church year, please know how much your parish cares about you, loves you, misses you, wishes you well and prays for you, every day. Whether we are together or apart physically over these next two most special weeks, we are knit together spiritually by the Holy Spirit in ways no virus is capable of sundering. Amen.

In the peace and love of Christ,

Douglas+

Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com

860-592-0171 (rectory, and *also* rings on mobile)

P S. And be sure to check out Marel Roger's reflection on a meditation from Russell Levenson's *A Path to Wholeness*: Faith is more than linens (!).

Weekly Calendar

Please note that Sunday Morning Prayer has been discontinued

Saturday, 27 March	Rehearsal for Palm Sunday	2:00 pm
Sunday, 28 March	Liturgy of the Palms <i>(in the Church Yard; a recorded version is available on the Parish YouTube channel)</i>	10:00 am
Sunday, 28 March	Holy Eucharist: <i>Passion-Palm Sunday (in person and live-streamed)</i>	10:30 am
Monday, 29 March	Holy Eucharist: <i>Monday of Holy Week (in person and live-streamed)</i>	7:00 pm
Tuesday, 30 March	Holy Eucharist: <i>Tuesday of Holy Week (in person and live-streamed)</i>	7:00 pm
Wednesday, 31 March	Rehearsal for Maundy Thursday	4:00 pm
	Holy Eucharist: <i>Wednesday</i>	7:00 pm

Wednesday, 31 March

*of Holy Week (in person and
live-streamed)*

Thursday, 01 April

Rehearsal for Good Friday
(afternoon service) 5:00 pm

Thursday, 01 April

Holy Eucharist: *The Liturgy of
Maundy Thursday and the
Stripping of the Altar (in
person and live-streamed)* 7:00 pm

Friday, 02 April

The Liturgy of Good Friday,
with Communion from the
Reserved Sacrament *(in
person and live-streamed)* 12:30 pm

Friday, 02 April

Prayer & Meditation 5:00 pm

Friday, 02 April

Rehearsal for Good Friday
(evening service) 6:00 pm

Friday, 02 April

*Tenebrae in Stations: A
Reflective Service (in person
and live-streamed)* 7:00 pm

Saturday, 03 April

The Liturgy of Holy Saturday 11:00 am

Sunday, 04 April

The Great Vigil of Easter

Holy Eucharist: *Easter Day*

7:00 pm

8:30 am (with
hymns) and 10:30
am (with hymns
and music)

FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY: Shoes and Socks for Homeless People

For some, the foot washing we perform during our Maundy Thursday liturgy is a deeply moving ritual in which we imitate Jesus' washing His disciples' feet at the Last Supper. For others, it is an uncomfortable—even undesirable—moment they're glad happens only once-a-year.

Well, this year, whichever camp you may be in, we have good news for you! During this time of COVID, there is no way we can safely wash one another's feet. But we *can* still engage in a deeply moving ritual that echoes Jesus' tender example. **We are now collecting new shoes, sneakers and socks, for women, men and children**, which Sr Mary Lanning (God rest her soul) had graciously arranged for us to deliver to members of New York City's homeless population via the Abraham House community in Mott Haven in the South Bronx. Before we donate them, we will **bless and ritually 'wash' them, during our Maundy Thursday liturgy** ... a symbolic act of our washing the feet of those

who are poor, hungry and without a home.

Still thinking about what to donate? Here is some guidance that Sr Mary had passed along to us: "SNEAKERS (colorful, diverse, sparkling new) are much more needed than business or dress shoes, although a 'lending library of dress shoes' would indeed be welcome for special occasions such as job interviews. Most of our people are not yet equipped to apply for jobs where shoes are a prerequisite; clean dress sneakers and trousers with a crease in them are the mark of readiness."

Please drop off new shoes, sneakers and socks at the parish house or the breezeway behind the rectory before **5:00 pm on Thursday, 01 April**. If you would like to place a short message of hope or love or happiness or inspiration in the shoes or socks you give, it will make your gift that much more personal. Thank you!!

NOW ONLINE: Directed by Jane Farnol



"This royal throne of kings, this sceptred isle ... this earth, this realm, this England."

Act 2, Scene 1

Saint Andrew's own Jane Farnol's adaptation of Shakespeare's *Richard II*, produced by the Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, will be available via [video-on-demand](#) through 03 April.

From the Brookfield Theatre's web site: William Shakespeare's historical drama is adapted and edited by Jane Farnol, a veteran of the American Shakespeare Theatre, to appeal to modern audiences. In *Richard II*, a foolish king seizes noble lands and banishes his political rivals. Listening to his trusted advisors, Richard II is misled into poor government of the country, deepening the anger and dismay of his nobles. As Richard leaves for an unpopular and ill-advised war with Ireland, his political enemy returns from exile ...

Break a leg (as they say), Jane! And thank you for helping to bring some more 'normal' into our COVID lives.

OUR LENTEN PRACTICE: Weekly Reflection on *A Path to Wholeness*

Our parish's Lenten practice this year, for those who wish to participate, is reading the daily meditations in Fr Russell Levenson's wonderful new book, A Path to Wholeness: A Lenten Companion. This week, Marel Rogers shares her reflections:

The thoughts Fr. Levenson offers in his Meditation #33 resonate with me. He

speaks of how to pray, and that's a question I've often asked.

Martha of Bethany is my patron saint, and I have frequently bristled at her chastisement in the Gospel of Luke (10:38-42). At the same time I realize that prayer is more than good deeds or necessary maintenance.

Fr. Levenson quotes James Montgomery's poem "Teach us to Pray Aright." It's too long to quote verbatim, but some lines stand out:

"We perish if we cease from prayer ... "

"God of all grace ... give ...
Patience to watch and wait and weep ... "

"Give these, and then Thy will be done,
Thus, strengthened with all might,
We through thy Spirit and thy Son,
Shall pray, and pray aright."

So I shall take this day's message and learn to pray with words: words of praise, thanksgiving, intercession and confession. I won't stop ironing, but there is more to faith than linens.

NEW YOUTH FORMATION OFFERING: Confirmation Class Is Beginning

We are excited to announce that we will be starting **anew youth Confirmation Class** on Wednesday, 24 March. The class will meet, via Zoom, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, from 4:00 – 5:00 pm. It is open to anyone age 13 – 18 who wishes to learn more about Christian faith and belief; the Church and its sacraments; and living life as a follower of Christ. The class is designed to prepare one for the Sacrament of Confirmation, but that is *not* a requirement. Participants are free to decide whether or not to seek confirmation at the end of the course.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Fr Douglas.

NOW IS THE TIME: Easter Flower Donations

If you would like to make a donation toward this year's Easter flowers, either in memory or in honor of someone, please contact Laura in the parish office (860-927-3486 or office.sa.kent@gmail.com). The suggested donation is \$50.

All dedications received by **Wednesday, 31 March**, will be included in the worship bulletins for Easter Day.

FROM THE DIOCESE: Lenten Quiet Day



Saturday March 27, 2021 9 AM EST
[Lenten Quiet Day at Camp Washington](#)

Join us for a time of reflection and renewal in the midst of your Lenten journey. Our time together will be held outside in the chapel (weather permitting) while observing all physical distance guidelines. The day will consist of four sections: Each presenter will offer a reflection/meditation followed by an activity such as journaling, discussion, walking, and other hands-on activities. You are welcome to bring a bag lunch to enjoy after the program. There is no charge for this program however registration is required.

[Click Here For Tickets](#)

All Recovery Meetings Are *Resuming*

As the parish has re-opened, all recovery groups (AA and Al Anon) have been invited to resume their meetings. Please check with their organizers or the parish office for details.

Computer Help is Available



If you or someone you know is having difficulty accessing our online services, the weekly E-pistle or our web site ... or who would like to participate in our Zoom offerings but don't know how ... please let Fr Douglas or Laura know. We have parishioners who are willing to help you and also make sure your equipment and internet connection are working properly. We don't want anyone to miss an opportunity to be part of the life of St Andrew's!

Kent Food Bank



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

Kent Community Fund
P.O. Box 262
Kent, CT 06757

*Remember to put Food Bank in the memo of your check.

These funds will be used to purchase vouchers for local families in need, under the direction of our town's Social Services Director, Leah Pullaro.

The Kent Food Bank is also taking food donations during this difficult time.

The Kent Food Bank is especially in need of:

Staples such as beans, rice, tea, coffee, sugar, nuts, hot & cold breakfast cereals, peanut butter, jellies, jams and tuna

Please remember that the Food Bank accepts pet foods as well!

Make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past!

You may drop off food items on Thursdays
from 9.00 to Noon
in the back of the Community House

on Main Street.

Please DO NOT come into the Food Bank, but leave outside the door.

Lections for this Week

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Year B

Mark 11:1-11;
Psalm 31:9-16;
Isaiah 50:4-9a;
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47 (Passion Gospel)



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;
Healing Service at 8.30,
Third Sunday
In person
for 25 people with masks at
8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.
(10.30 a.m. available live
stream on YouTube)



-Wednesday-

Holy Eucharist

6.00 p.m.

(25 people with masks)

-Friday-

Prayer & Meditation

5.30 p.m.

(25 people with masks)

-Holy Days-

Holy Eucharist

6.00 p.m.

(25 people with masks)



12 Step Meetings

Wednesdays

A.A. for Women 7:00 p.m.

*Zoom meeting
email us for info.*

Thursdays

A.A. at 7.30 a.m.
(Great Room)

resumed

Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.
(Great Room)

resumed

Fridays

A.A. at 8 p.m.
(Great Room)

temporarily until First Church opens

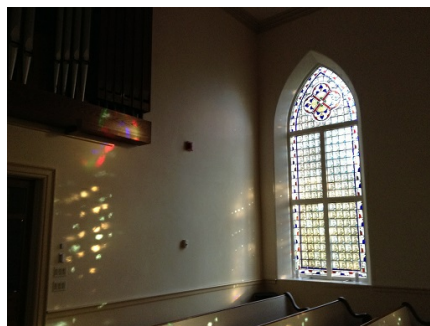
resumed



Parish Staff

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Organist & Director of Choirs**



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Parish office open everyday except Friday from 10 am- 5 pm
(2 pm on Thursdays)

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

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut
www.ctepiscopal.org

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