

E-pistle



Saint Andrew's Parish
Kent, Connecticut

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



St Andrew's Current COVID Closure Status

**** THIS IS THE DEFINITIVE STATUS FOR THIS WEEK. ****
PLEASE DISREGARD ANY OTHER MESSAGES YOU MAY RECEIVE
DUE TO A CONSTANT CONTACT GLITCH.

PARISH IS CLOSED, again. The Town of Kent is in red status on the [Connecticut COVID Data Tracker](#). Therefore, *all worship services will be livestreamed (and also recorded, for later viewing) on our YouTube account*. In addition, *all other parish activities will either be suspended or move to online-only*; participants in those activities will be updated separately. The parish will remain in closed status until both Kent and a majority of the surrounding towns are less-than-red for two successive Thursdays.

From Fr Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

I pray you are having a blessed and holy Lent.

I know from the many comments and messages I've received how pleased—excited, in fact!—many of you were that we were once again able to worship together 'live' this past Sunday. But that did not last long, as Kent has now

gone red again (sigh). We will, however, now **livestream**, rather than pre-record, our 10:30 Sunday, Wednesday evening and feast day liturgies, so you can participate in them in real-time. We will also record them, for those who prefer to view them at another time. The earliest we will be able to re-open again, under the protocol we adopted in November, is Sunday, 14 March.

We are making progress, at the local, state and national level, in getting this pandemic under control, but as we have all seen, the COVID data this week have gone a bit 'wobbly.' **Please** do your part by getting vaccinated when you are eligible and taking all appropriate precautions.

I do have some good news to share. Thanks to the diligent and dedicated efforts of Candace Conard, Lynn Perry and Laura Filippi, the brand-new St Andrew's Parish Overview and Directory is complete! The listings have been updated, the information about our community has been refreshed and, best of all, there are plenty of color photos. Thanks to a generous gift from donors who wish to remain anonymous, we will be mailing a copy to every household in the parish! Watch your mailbox. And again, a HUGE thank-you to Candace, Lynn and Laura.

Finally, this past Sunday morning at 7:30 we had our first Zoom Morning Prayer. I know that in my life ... and in the lives of many ... the rhythm of daily praise, psalms, Bible reading and prayer is both life-sustaining and soul-growing. That's the topic of my video message this week, which you can view [here](#).

In the peace and love of Christ,
Douglas+

Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com

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

Weekly Schedule for 28 February

Sunday, 28 February	Morning Prayer (<i>via Zoom</i>)	7:30 am
Sunday, 28 February	Holy Eucharist (<i>livestreamed and recorded</i>)	10:30 am
Wednesday, 03 March	Holy Eucharist (<i>this will be pre-recorded, this week only</i>)	6:00 pm
Friday, 05 March	NO Prayer and Meditation	

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. In future weeks, members of the Vestry will be sharing their reflections. This week, Fr Douglas starts us off:

In his meditation for this past Tuesday (#7), Levenson raises a really important aspect of our faith that I don't think we spend enough time talking about: Through His death on the Cross, Jesus has already suffered any and every punishment God might have chosen to give us on account of our own sins. We have been fully and irrevocably justified in the eyes of God, and we have no reason to fear any final retribution ... and 'fiery finish' (to tap into a popular motif). Because God loves us so deeply, cares for us so exquisitely and created us expressly to be in relationship with God, God sacrificed Godself for all our wrongs. Full stop.

Levenson goes on to point out that this doesn't mean our sins don't carry earthly consequences. We hurt ... we ignore ... we subjugate ... we fail to care. Divine justification doesn't obviate our duty to apologize, make right and reform our ways. But, as Christians, we do so from a place of forgiveness and joy; from the abundance of the mercy Christ has shown us. Precisely because God's forgiveness is assured, we consider the negative effects our actions have on others and seek their forgiveness, as well. This kind of turns the traditional Lenten message upside down ... and points us toward the active agents of peace, rather than the dried-out husks of sin, that Jesus calls us to be.

EVERY WEEK: Live Morning Prayer on Sundays

In order to avoid the 'gremlins' that sometimes terminate the live broadcast of our worship over the internet, in November, we moved to pre-recording all our services and uploading them to YouTube. We know, however, that for some parishioners, recorded worship is less meaningful. We also know that for some parishioners, spiritual communion—a service of Holy Eucharist without distribution of the consecrated bread and wine—is not a satisfying worship experience.

Therefore, **every Sunday, we will read the office of Morning Prayer, live, via Zoom, at 7:30 am.** This service will last about 30 minutes (a very brief meditation, but no sermon). We will then keep the Zoom session open for a while afterwards, so members can spend some time chatting with one another and with Fr Douglas, if they'd like.

The Zoom link for Sunday Morning Prayer is [here](#), and it will also be available through the parish web site and in the Saturday edition of the E-pistle. You can also obtain a copy of this week's Morning Prayer readings at both of those places, as well.

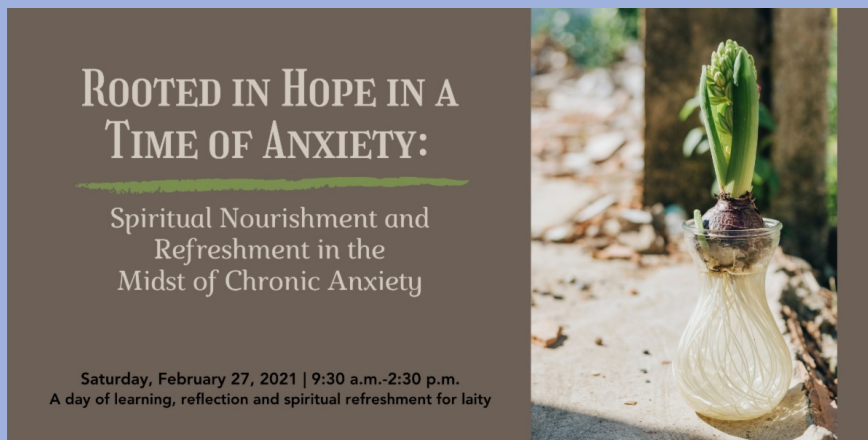
You will need a *Book of Common Prayer* for this service. If you do not have one, please contact Fr Douglas, and he will be happy to get one to you.

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE: The Phenomenon of the 'COVID Wall'

[This article](#) came up recently during a roundtable discussion. It's not spiritual or even Christian, but it names something many of us might be feeling, a year into COVID-19: pandemic fatigue. You may want to give it a quick read.

And if there's anything in your own experience of COVID that you'd like to talk or pray about, Fr Douglas is available, anytime.

ECCT Lenten Retreat



Rooted in Hope in a Time of Anxiety: A Day for Laity *Saturday, February 27 from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*

Are you growing weary of life in “COVID-time?” Would you benefit from a Lenten Retreat?

Join our bishops and laity from across ECCT for a day of spiritual refreshment and learning. Living in the midst of chronic anxiety impacts all of us; our relationships with our children, spouses/partners, family, friends, colleagues, and faith communities. Together we will learn about the predictable ways humans react to chronic anxiety from **Dr. David Olsen**, a nationally recognized expert on the impact of anxiety on families and churches. We will also explore patterns of behavior that can help alleviate stress and anxiety. Interspersed throughout the day our chaplains from the **Bethany House of Prayer** will offer opportunities for reflection, meditation, and prayer.

Note: This is a free event open to all laity in ECCT; preregistration is required in order to receive the Zoom link. Click [here](#) to register.

All Recovery Meetings Are *Suspended*

While the parish is temporarily closed, all recovery group (AA and AI Anon) meetings have been suspended. They will resume when we re-open.

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

The Second Sunday in Lent

Year B

Genesis 17:1-7,15-16;
Psalm 22:22-30;
Romans 4:13-25;
Mark 8:31-38



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-

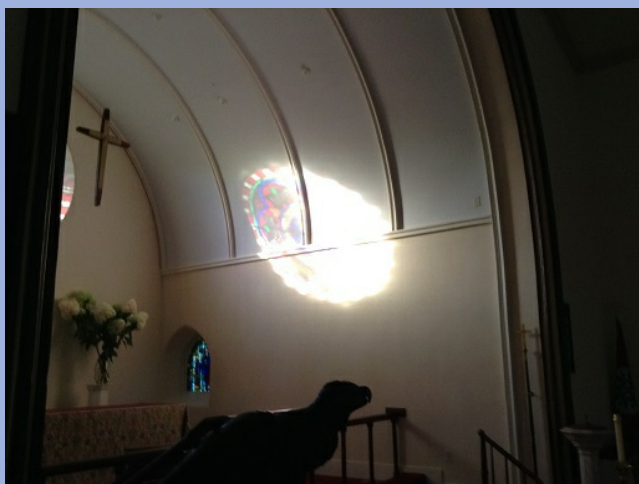
Prayer & Meditation

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

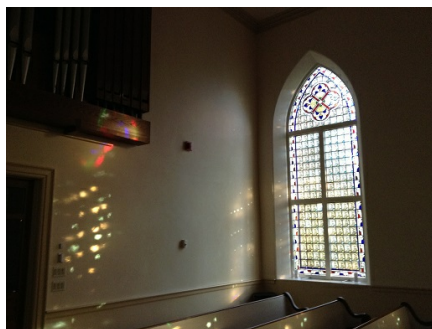
Fridays

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



Parish Staff

**The Rev Douglas S
Worthington,
Priest in Charge**
frdouglas.sak@gmail.com
860-592-0171



**Thomas W Holcombe,
Organist & Director of Choirs**

**Laura Filippi,
Parish Administrator**

**Joan I Cassel
Financial Secretary**

**Bill McLaren,
Sexton**

**Randy Osolin,
Verger**



**St Andrew's Church
P. O. Box 309
1 N. Main St.
Kent, CT 06757**

**860.927.3486
st.andrew.kent@snet.net**

**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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