

E-pistle



Saint Andrew's Parish
Kent, Connecticut

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God Gifts Us

From The Reverend Rich Clark

This January, like others, we find ourselves reflecting about the year past, as well as thinking about hopes and plans for 2025. It is during this season of Epiphany that we are reminded that Christ came to us by the grace of God. Jesus is given to us with no strings attached from God's pure, unconditional love.

A theologian named Johnny Hill explains God's grace this way: *“Grace is not a privilege extended to some. Neither is grace a resource that can be sold, exchanged, borrowed, traded, or earned as a commodity of sorts. It is freely given and derives from God’s abundant love. The grace that comes from God ... through Christ, must be cared for and cherished, not abused”* (Feasting on the Word, 2010).

The creator of heaven and earth knows you and wants to show care for your life every day. As we move deeper into the new year, let us rejoice and celebrate because we are known and loved by God. May we find ways to embrace, care for, and cherish God’s grace given to us in Christ this new year and forever. Let us be happy to receive the new year as a new path to hike, a new canvas to color, a new pad to mark, and a new time to make memories, build relationships, and share the light of Christ.

I pray: God of Grace, for all the gifts you freely give to all your people, thank you! Guide us to find ways to share gifts of grace with others. Amen.

The Annual Meeting is Just a Few Weeks Away!



It's almost time for the Annual Meeting, where the parish comes together to recap the past year and look ahead to the new one. New vestry members will be appointed, as well as new Senior and Junior Wardens.

The Annual Meeting will take place after the 10:30 service on Sunday, February 2nd.

After the meeting, a parish-wide coffee hour will occur, and we invite everyone to bring sweet and savory items to share. Thank you!

Pledge Envelopes for 2025 are in the Narthex



A friendly reminder that 2025 pledge envelopes are now available for pickup in the narthex.

If you made a pledge for 2025, an envelope has already been prepared for you. Feel free to stop by and pick yours up at your convenience.

Thank you for your continued support!

Prayer List Updates Coming Soon



St. Andrew's has begun the new Liturgical Year with a new Prayer List and a new way of remembering all on the Prayer List while reading aloud less names.

First: if you would like an individual to be prayed for, please call the office or email KC with their name. Unless requested, each name will be read aloud at our Sunday and Wednesday services for three weeks, and then stay on the complete Prayer List that will be in each week's bulletin.

If the person being prayed for has a specific time when prayers are needed (e.g. surgery) please indicate in your request how long prayers are needed. If that person needs prayers for an indefinite period please indicate that prayers are needed until notice is given.

The hope is that this new Prayer List will keep all in need of prayers on a list that is easy to bring home, and also to hear in church. Give us your thoughts!

Regarding Church Announcements



We're rolling out a new way to keep everyone in the loop! If you have an announcement that you'd like to share with the Parish at the end of the service, simply drop an **email to KC** to add your announcement to our master list. We want to make sure your voices are heard.

2025 Flower Offerings



If you're looking to brighten the altar and honor a beloved memory or joyous event with the beauty of flowers, you're in luck! Our 2025 Flower List is blooming with options and can be found in the narthex. And if you prefer to browse from the comfort of your home, you can also **download it right here!**

St. Andrew's is now on Instagram!



We're on the 'Gram!

St. Andrew's has joined the ranks of Instagram, and will regularly post photos of not only our many events and gatherings, but also the beauty around our church and community.

To follow St. Andrew's on Instagram, search for [@standrewskentct](https://www.instagram.com/standrewskentct), or scan the QR code below.



The Cathedral Clothing Drive
is Back in Full Swing



Cathedral Clothing Drive Resumes for the Fall

From Steve Klots: With South Kent School back in session, I am resuming the clothing drive in support of the Church Street Eats soup kitchen at our cathedral in Hartford. I am happy to collect and take over with SKS students anything you can donate--sweatshirts, sweatpants, coats, casual shirts, t-shirts, pants, new socks, blankets, and even shoes. (The collection box will be in the narthex.)Larger sizes (L, XL, and 2XL) are particularly needed.

Keep in mind that 90% of the guests at the soup kitchen are men. More formal clothes such as suits really would be better for the thrift shop at the Congregational church.

Please reach out to me at klotss@southkentschool.org if you have any questions. Many thanks!

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, 2 February :: 11:30 am
Parish-wide Annual Meeting
(following the 10:30 Service)

This Week at St Andrew's

Sunday, 19 January:: 8:30 am

Holy Eucharist: *The Second Sunday after the Epiphany* (spoken)

Sunday, 19 January:: 10:30 am

Holy Eucharist: *The Second Sunday after the Epiphany* (with music) (*in-person and live-streamed*)

Monday, 20 January :: 8:00 pm

LGBTQ+ A.A. meeting

Wednesday, 22 January :: 6:00 pm
Midweek Worship Service

Wednesday, 22 January :: 7:00 pm
A.A. for Women

Thursday, 23 January :: 7:00 pm
A.A. Meeting

Thursday, 23 January :: 7:00 pm
Al-Anon Meeting

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 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 placing 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.

Lections for this Week

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany *Year C*

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11



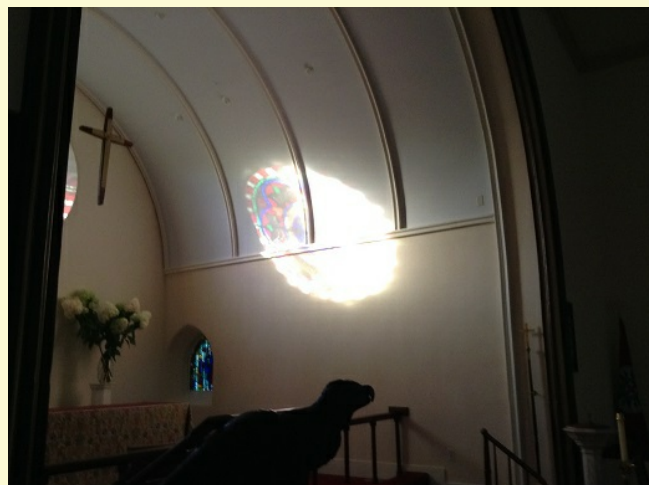
Worship Services

-Sunday-
Holy Eucharist
8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.

In person
(10.30 a.m. available live
stream on YouTube)



-Wednesday-
Holy Eucharist
6.00 p.m.



12 Step Meetings

Mondays

LGBTQ+ A.A.
(Parish House)

Wednesdays

A.A. for Women
(Parish House)

Thursdays

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



Parish Staff

**The Reverend
Richard J. Clark**
Rector

Susan Guse
Organist & Director of Choirs

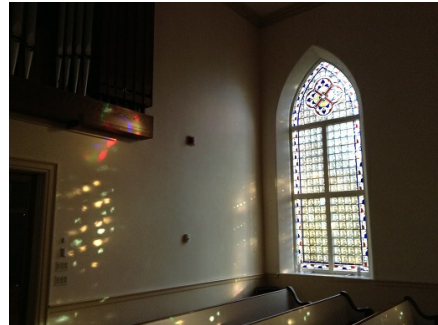
KC Compton
Parish Administrator

Jane Farnol
Church School Leader

Joan I Cassel
Financial Secretary

Randy Osolin
Vergar

Gloria Contreras
Sexton



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