



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



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

From Ned Reade, Senior Warden

Because the nights are so long in December, these evenings make for terrific star gazing. Last week the full moon rose and by midnight was almost directly overhead. The planet Jupiter was almost next to the moon in the early evening, and even the moon's brightness did nothing to overpower Jupiter's beam. In the west Saturn and Mars in the east added to the chorus of planets. And diamond bright Sirius, the dog star, shone from its spot just below Orion's belt.

In this season of Advent, I began to remind myself that the shepherds in their fields "keeping watch over their flocks by night" and the kings would have looked up at the same stars in the heavens. But what about the star that guided them to the manger? Which star was that? Is it circling the skies still? Or perhaps it was not a star at all!!!

In 1303 Giotto, the Florentine early Renaissance painter, painted an adoration panel in the Arena Chapel in Padua showing the camels smiling and kings worshipping the baby Jesus in Mary's lap with Joseph looking on. In the sky moving from left to right toward the simple shed is a comet! It is known that about that time Halley's comet went through earth skies in 1301 alarming some, but exciting the early astronomers. This comet was last seen in 1986 and before that in 1910. It passes through our solar system every 72-75 years. Do some subtraction, and astronomers believe it went through the heavens at the time that Christ was born!!! The star was actually a comet!

Take a moment to be quiet and look into the dark night sky this month and imagine you are a shepherd, a king, or one of the residents of Bethlehem who wondered what all the excitement was about. Today we still anticipate the coming of Christ at Christmas and give thanks for God's gift.

Christmas Flower Donations



Christmas is a time to celebrate, but also to remember loved ones and cherish memories made with them. If you would like to make a donation for Christmas flowers and to have your loved one mentioned in the Christmas Eve bulletin, please pick up an Altar Flower Memorial envelope in the narthex, available this weekend. You can mail it or drop it at the office.

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!**

Pawling Concert Series: The Orchestra New England



with The Book Cove, M&T Charitable Trust, and Pawling Corporation
presents

The Orchestra New England

Woodwind members from the Orchestra New England will join us for a presentation of holiday music for woodwind quintet, keyboard, and percussion. The program will include arrangements of music from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet, Vaughan Williams' Greensleeves, traditional seasonal carols, and other holiday favorites.

Friday December 20th

8 pm All Saints' Chapel

on the Trinity-Pawling School campus, Pawling, NY
PawlingConcertSeries.org

The entire Series is underwritten by Andron Construction, Joseph Meunier and Sons and the Pawling Community Foundation. Our programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

2025 Episcopal Calendars Available



JANUARY 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Epiphany (Optional) 19th Century "The Three Kings" The Epiphany 19th Century "The Three Kings" 19th Century "The Three Kings" 19th Century "The Three Kings"	The Nativity 19th Century "The Nativity" 19th Century "The Nativity" 19th Century "The Nativity"	The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 19th Century "The Week of Prayer" 19th Century "The Week of Prayer"	1 THE EPIPHANY 19th Century "The Epiphany"	2 THE EPIPHANY 19th Century "The Epiphany"	3 THE EPIPHANY 19th Century "The Epiphany"	4 THE EPIPHANY 19th Century "The Epiphany"
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2025 Episcopal Calendars are available in the Narthex and in the Parish Office. Please feel free to take one home!

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.



@STANDREWSKENTCT

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, 22 December
Children's Christmas Pageant (at the 10:30 Service)

Tuesday, 24 December
Christmas Eve - Family Service at Kent School :: 4:00 pm
Christmas Eve - Traditional Service :: 8:00 pm

This Week at St Andrew's

Sunday, 22 December :: 8:30 am

Holy Eucharist: *The Fourth Sunday of Advent* (spoken)

Sunday, 22 December :: 10:30 am

Holy Eucharist: *The Fourth Sunday of Advent* (with music) (*in-person and live-streamed*)

Monday, 23 December :: 8:00 pm

LGBTQ+ A.A. meeting

Tuesday, 24 December :: 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve Family Service at Kent School

Tuesday, 24 December :: 8:00 pm

Traditional Christmas Eve Service
(*choral prelude begins at 7:40 pm*)

Wednesday, 25 December :: 10:00 am

Christmas Day Morning Prayer

Wednesday, 25 December :: 7:00 pm

A.A. for Women

Thursday, 26 December :: 7:00 pm

A.A. Meeting

Thursday, 26 December :: 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.

Lectons for this Week

The Fourth Sunday of Advent *Year C*

Micah 5:2-5a
Canticle 15

Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45



Worship Services

-Sunday-

Holy Eucharist

8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.

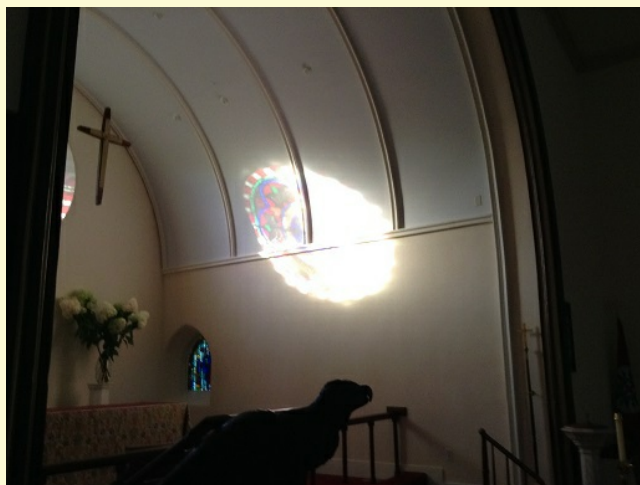
In person
(10.30 a.m. available live
stream on YouTube)



-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

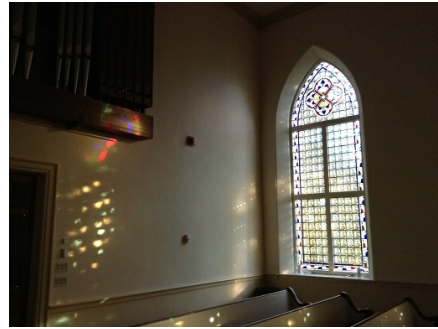
KC Compton
Parish Administrator

Jane Farnol
Church School Leader

Joan I Cassel
Financial Secretary

Randy Osolin
Verger

Gloria Contreras
Sexton



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

860.927.3486
saintandrewskent@gmail.com

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

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