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The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Merry Christmas! From the Diocese

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” Luke 2:8-14

The angel spoke to the shepherds the night of Jesus's birth. As clear a sign as anyone could ask for! This Christmas season, we wonder: in what ways has God

been calling us to receive God's messages of peace and love? How are we being called to participate in God's mission and extend God's love in Christ Jesus to the world around us?

Most of us are likely not receiving frequent visits from an ensemble of angels to answer this question. And perhaps, in the everyday moments which we would likely gloss over, God is clearly speaking to us. The question then is, are we paying attention? More often than not, meaningful blessings and joys can occur during the most seemingly mundane of settings. As you recall, the shepherds were simply watching over their flock when they received the sign of all signs.

As we celebrate this joy-filled season and rejoice in the gift of Christ's birth, may our prayer also include the desire to share the love and hope of Jesus with the world. And may we remember to delight in the ordinary everyday ways our Lord makes His ever-filling love and hope be known to us.

Merry Christmas, one and all.

The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Bishop Diocesan
The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

The Christmas Tree Sale is Wrapping Up: Trees Continue to be on Sale This Weekend!



While tree sales have been robust this year, we still have a number of trees available and will be selling this weekend.

If you've waited to get a tree, now might be the perfect time. In order to move inventory, trees will be priced at \$50!

If you're available and willing to help sell trees for an hour or two on Friday from 4-6 pm or during the day on Saturday, it would be greatly appreciated.

2024 Calendars Available!



| JANUARY 2024 | | | | | | |
|---|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| Epiphany The Lord Comes to the Desert to Be Baptized Matthew 3:1-17 John 1:1-14 The Baptism of Christ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | * 12 | 13 |
| The First Sunday after the Epiphany Matthew 3:1-17 John 1:1-14 The Baptism of Christ | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | * 19 |
| The Second Sunday after the Epiphany Matthew 3:1-17 John 1:1-14 The Baptism of Christ | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | * 26 |
| The Third Sunday after the Epiphany Matthew 3:1-17 John 1:1-14 The Baptism of Christ | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

2024 Episcopal Calendars are available in the Narthex and in the Parish Office. Please feel free to take one home.

Clothing Donations for the Cathedral Soup Kitchen



On the fourth Sunday of each month, **Steve Klots** takes a group of South Kent School students to Church Street Eats, the Sunday soup kitchen at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford. As part of that, he and his crew distribute clothing, and he reports that, with winter approaching, there is a desperate need for men's coats (but not dress coats), blankets, gloves, sweatshirts, sweatpants, and pants. (Some women's clothing is welcome, but about 90% of the guests at Church Street Eats are men.) He would greatly appreciate the support of the parish in this. He will leave a collection box in the narthex of the church, and he will stop by at least every couple of

weeks to collect any donations. Feel free to contact him at klotss@southkentschool.org if you have any questions.

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, 24 December

Family Christmas Service :: 4:00 pm

Held at Kent School Chapel

Sunday, 24 December

Traditional Christmas Eve Service :: 9:00 pm

Held at St. Andrew's

Choral Prelude begins at 8:40 pm

Sunday, 04 February

Parish-wide Annual Meeting

This Week at St Andrew's

Sunday, 24 December :: **9:30 am**

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

Sunday, 24 December:: 4:00 pm

Holy Eucharist: *The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus*

Christ (Family Service at St. John's, Kent School)

Sunday, 24 December:: 9:00 pm

Holy Eucharist: *The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus*

Christ (with music, choral prelude begins at 8:40) (*in-person and live-streamed*)

Monday, 25 December:: 8:00 pm

LGBTQ+ A.A. meeting

Wednesday, 27 December :: 6:00 pm

Midweek Holy Eucharist

Thursday, 28 December: 7:00 pm

A.A. meeting

Thursday, 28 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 Eve of the Nativity of Our
Lord Jesus Christ**
Year B

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96: 7-13

Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20



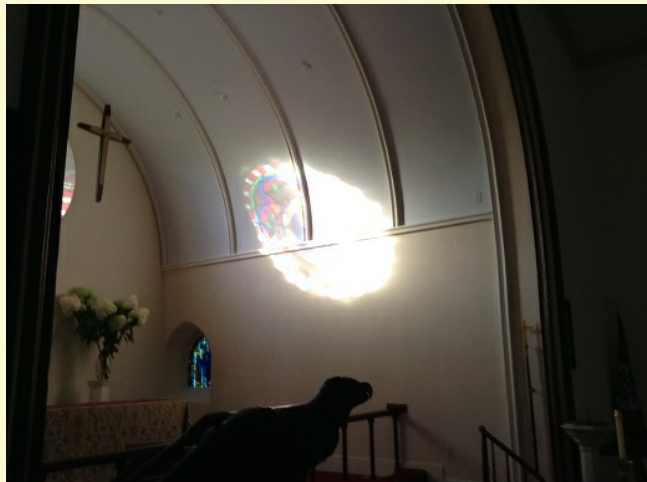
Worship Services

-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)

Thursdays

Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.

(Old Vestry Room)

A.A. at 7:00 pm

(Parish House)



Parish Staff

Susan Guse

Organist & Director of Choirs

Ron Marasco, Ph.D.

Director of Education

KC Compton

Parish Administrator

Jane Farnol

Church School Leader

Joan I Cassel

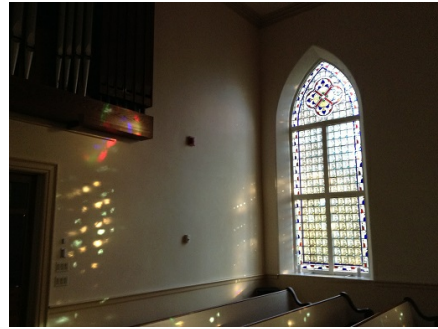
Financial Secretary

Randy Osolin

Vergers

Gloria Contreras

Sexton



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