



St Andrew's Current COVID Closure Status

Parish Closed. Either the Town of Kent and/or a majority of the surrounding towns is in red status on the [Connecticut COVID Data Tracker](#). Therefore *all worship services will be pre-recorded and made available on [our YouTube account](#)* at least an hour before they were scheduled to occur. 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 Father Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

We are about to enter into a *blessèd* and *blessing* time of the liturgical year: several weeks in late December and early January that are rich in meaning, depth and variety in the opportunities for worship they afford us. While these weeks will be different this year—just like everything *else!*—nevertheless, I encourage you to consider the offerings that will be available between Christmas and the Epiphany and choose a few to attend. Even if we will need to record them and post them online (which appears likely, at this point), our very coming together ... from different places and at different times ... to worship Our Savior knits us together, in spiritual communion, as the Body of Christ that is the Church. Please add your own strand to our parish tapestry!

In addition to our Christmas Eve Eucharist (at 9:00 pm) and our Christmas Day Eucharist (at 10:00 am) and both Sundays within the twelve-day season of Christmas, we will observe the following holy days:

- Saturday, 26 December, *The Feast of St Stephen*: Stephen, the first 'deacon' of the Church (before it even had deacons!), was also its very first martyr. There is a certain poignancy in his feast day's so closely following the Feast of the Nativity: such is the both-and nature of our faith.
- Monday, 28 December, *The Feast of St John the Apostle and the Evangelist*: A day to celebrate both the writing (John is traditionally regarded as the author of the Fourth Gospel) and the ministry of this saint who was, perhaps, also the Beloved Disciple of Jesus.
- Tuesday, 29 December, *The Feast of the Holy Innocents*: Even more than our commemoration of St Stephen on the 26th, the Feast of the Holy Innocents bids us remember the costliness of our salvation. On this day we remember the innocent children living in and around Bethlehem whom King Herod had killed in an effort to prevent Jesus' earthly ministry from ever beginning.
- Thursday, 31 December, *Service for the Eve of the New Year*: We will mark the turn of the year with a series of readings and prayers and will conclude with an act of self-dedication for the new year at our threshold.
- Friday, 01 January, *The Feast of the Holy Name*: It is somehow fitting that on the first day of the new secular year, we celebrate the infant Jesus' naming and circumcision—by tradition, a practice delayed until the eighth day of life, when that baby's survival is more assured. Jesus became, in effect, even *more* 'with us' on the day of the year when we begin afresh and recommit ourselves to meaningful living.
- Wednesday, 06 January, *The Feast of the Epiphany*: On this day we mark the initial revelation of Jesus as the Word of God, Incarnate. We in the Western Church experience through the lens of the arrival of the three magi, who representing the entire Gentile world, while our Eastern brothers and sisters emphasize His Baptism. Either way, this day we pass from Our Savior's entry into this world to His divine mission in it.

Our celebrations of Christmas this year may be different: a little attenuated, a little less festive, a little weary or worn-out. That simply authentically reflects where we are in this world, right now. I invite you to consider adding some spiritual energy ... some additional reflection ... some even greater communion ... to your holidays this season by attending some of these special liturgies. They may draw you even further into the fullness of the Incarnation ... of Emmanuel (God with Us) ... in a year when we are so in need of it.

In the peace and love of Christ,

Douglas+

Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com

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

Weekly Schedule for 13 December

*Note: To attend any services please sign up beforehand
with Irene Connors:*

collageconnors@gmail.com

860.592.0030

Services are limited to 25 socially distanced attendees (with masks)

Friday, 11 December	Prayer and Meditation <i>suspended</i>	530 pm
	Friday Night AA Group (Parish House) <i>temporarily until First Church opens suspended</i>	8 pm
	Christmas Tree Sale	4 pm to 6 pm
Saturday, 12 December	Christmas Tree Sale	10 am to 6 pm
Sunday, 13 December	Holy Eucharist <i>(online)</i> Christmas Tree Sale Evening Prayer & Benediction <i>(online)</i>	10:30 am 12-5 pm 5 pm
Tuesday, 15 December	Tai Chi (Great Room) <i>suspended</i>	9 & 10:30 am
Wednesday, 16 December	Bible Study (Zoom) Tai Chi (Great Room) <i>suspended</i> Holy Eucharist <i>(online)</i> AA Meeting for Women (Zoom) <i>email for info.</i>	4:30 pm 4:30 pm 6 pm 7 pm
Thursday, 17 December	AA Thursday Morning Meeting (Great Room) <i>suspended</i> Al-Anon Meeting (Great Room) <i>suspended</i>	7:30 am 7 pm
Friday, 18 December	Prayer and Meditation <i>suspended</i> Christmas Tree Sale	5:30 pm 4-6 pm

*Note: The 10.30 a.m. Service is also available
live on YouTube
which you can access
through our website*

www.standrewskentct.org

or

Christmas Tree Sale Is In Full Swing!

Our Christmas Tree Sale is in full swing. The trees arrived last Saturday. Business was brisk that day and unbelievable on Sunday—they are going fast! Please do come by to lend a hand or purchase a tree!

From The Stewardship Commission

Of course, it is *never* too late to pledge, but we will wind down the official pledge season before Christmas in order to have time to finalize the budget for the coming year. Because knowing our pledge income is essential for budgeting, it would be very helpful for those of you who intend to pledge to fill out pledge cards and return them to us.

We are happy to send new cards electronically or by snail mail if yours is a lost sheep, or to record pledges received by email or phone. We are grateful to have had very generous pledge support from so many parishioners and hope that those who have not yet participated in this important part of parish life will now pledge.

Saint Andrew's will be grateful for your financial support in whatever amount is comfortable for you, and even more grateful for the blessing that your commitment represents to the parish. Thank you.

Parish Office *Closed*

The parish office is temporarily closed, which means the phone isn't being answered. Father Douglas checks the voicemail once-a-day, usually around 9:00 am. If you have a more urgent need, please call him at 860-592-0171 or email him at frdouglas.sak@gmail.com

Christmas Tree Donations



Christmas trees are a cherished tradition in many families. The look – the fragrance – the decorating: Nothing heralds the season more than a fresh tree in the living room or den. But not everyone can afford a tree ... and this year, perhaps even fewer people than ever, given the COVID-dampened economy.

If you would like to donate the cost of a tree (or part of the cost of a tree) for this year's Christmas Tree Sale, just drop off or mail a check with the memo line "Christmas Tree Donation." The volunteers staffing this year's sale will make sure families who can't afford to pay for a tree nevertheless have one their homes this Christmas, with best wishes from St Andrew's.

Parish Prayer List Has Been Reset

As we enter a new liturgical year in Advent, we have taken this opportunity to reset the parish prayer list. We are, of course, more than willing to pray for anyone as long as they (or the person who makes the request) may wish. But it is also a good practice to re-visit the list at least once-a-year, to make sure it stays fresh.

If there was a name on the previous parish prayer list that you would like to remain on the list, please let Fr Douglas know, by phone or email.

Margie O'Brien Is Stepping Down as Children's Choir Director

After 20 years, Margie O'Brien has decided that it is time for her to put down the baton, as it were, as director of the St Andrew's Children's Choir. Because of Margie's expertise, energy and dedication, two generations of children have been able to hone their music skills, lift their voices in song and, most importantly, serve God through the leadership of worship at Christmastime and other seasons of the year. We are very grateful to Margie for all of her hard work over the years. Thank you, Margie!!

Sunday Evening Worship During Advent – Will

Hard to believe though it may be, Advent begins on Sunday, 29 November. During Advent this year we will offer an additional time of worship on Sunday evenings at 5:00: Evening Prayer (without preaching), followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. If you have not experienced it, Benediction is "a short service of hymns and prayers offered while the Sacrament [*i.e.*, the already consecrated Host] is placed on the altar" (*St Augustine's Prayer Book*, 194). The heart of the service is partaking, in silence, in the "the unending blessing flowing from God through the grace of the sacraments." The service ends with the Sacrament being placed back in the tabernacle to the accompaniment of a psalm or hymn. (We will record these liturgies and post them to the parish's YouTube account.)

The venerable tradition of Benediction does not 'speak' to everyone, and if you'd prefer to attend only Evening Prayer, there will an opportunity to exit before Benediction begins. But during these times when we cannot receive communion sacramentally, perhaps you may wish to 'try on' another experience of sacramental grace during Advent... as we prepare for the in-breaking of Christ into this world.

A Global Online Advent Calendar: #AdventWord

Are you looking to add some depth to your season of preparation this Advent? to join others in prayer as we prepare to leave 2020 and approach Christmas? Well, we have a great suggestion for you! For the seventh year in a row, #AdventWord will gather prayers via a global, online Advent calendar. Virginia Theological Seminary is offering meditations and images during this holy season beginning Sunday, November 29. Images and meditations can be experienced via the #AdventWord website, direct daily emails, as well as on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and ASL videos via YouTube. You can learn more and sign-up to receive daily messages during Advent at <https://adventword.org/en/home/>.

All Recovery Meetings *Suspended*

While the parish is temporarily closed, all recovery group (AA and Al 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 Heather 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!

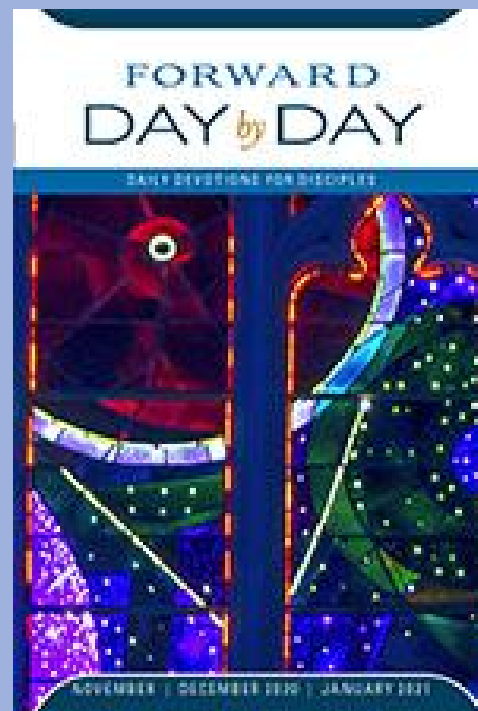
Baby Furniture Available

A parishioner has kindly offered a "crib/toddler bed/bassinet" to anyone in the parish ... or beyond ... who may be in need. She is even willing to make a delivery! If you know someone who is interested, please contact Fr Douglas.

Forward Day-by-Day Booklets Available

The parish subscribes to the quarterly booklet called *Forward Day-by-Day*. Published by Forward Movement, which is affiliated with the Episcopal Church, *Forward Day-by-Day* contains daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage. The passages are chosen from the Church's lectionary readings, either for Eucharist or the Daily Office, as listed in the *Book of Common Prayer*.

If you attend worship in-person, you can pick up a new booklet every quarter in the narthex. If you would prefer, we would be happy to mail you a new booklet each quarter. Just let Heather know, and she'll add your name to the mailing list.



Save the Date: Parish Annual Meeting Will Be
Sunday, 24 January

We have set the date for next year's annual meeting. It will be held on Sunday, 24 January, around noon. So that *everyone* is able to participate in this important parish event, we have decided to hold the meeting virtually (that is, online; perhaps via Zoom). This way, we will not have to worry about masks, social distancing, attendance limits or anything of that nature. We will work out a way to cast votes well in advance. Please save the date on your calendars.

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 Third Sunday of Advent

Year B

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11;
Psalm 126;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;
John 1:6-8,19-28



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**

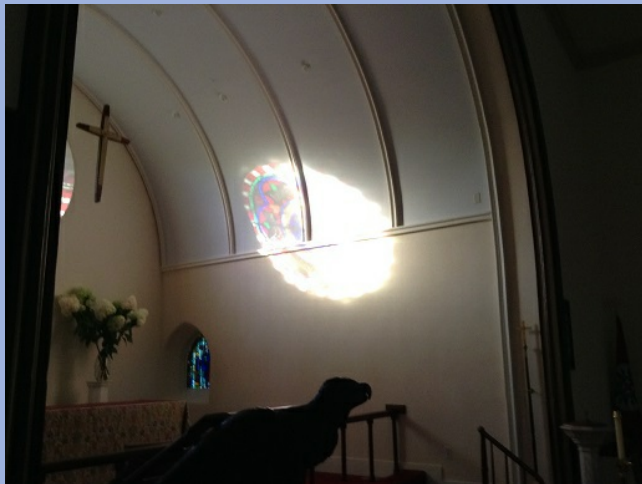
6.00 p.m.
(25 people with masks)

**-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)

temporarily until First Church opens

suspended



Parish Staff

**The Rev Douglas S
Worthington,
Provisional**

Priest in Charge
frdouglas.sak@gmail.com
860-592-0171

Thomas W Holcombe,
Organist & Director of Choirs

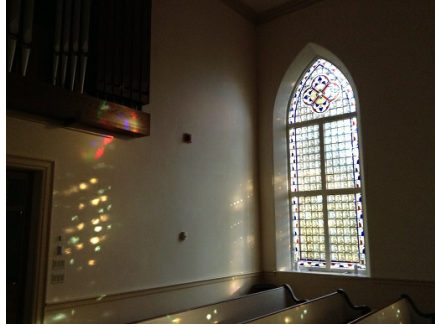
Margie O'Brien,
Director of the Children's Choir

Heather Scofield,
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 9 am-6 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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