



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



St Andrew's Current COVID Status

PARISH IS NOW OPEN. The parish is now open for in-person worship. At its meeting on 21 March, the vestry voted, with the recommendation of the priest-in-charge and the wardens, to re-open the parish for worship. This is a permanent decision, unless the pandemic takes another dire turn. Social distancing will be required. Therefore, attendance at all services will be limited to 30 people. (Those who reside in the same household count as one person ... but we will nevertheless be prudent about the total number of people in the nave.) Masks must be worn, and the nave windows will be opened to increase air circulation. There will be no congregational singing or distribution of communion at this time.

If you wish to attend worship in-person, you *must* contact Irene Connors (860-592-0030 or collageconnors@gmail.com). Irene will be compiling a list for each service, to ensure we do not exceed our capacity limits.

We will continue to livestream all of our services, as well, as there are many parishioners who are choosing not to be in group settings at this time—a decision the parish fully honors and supports.

From Father Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

I hope you are having a blessed Eastertide.

Without doubt, for many parishioners one of the most painful aspects of our country's COVID mitigation practices has been our inability to gather for worship as the Body of Christ. Not only is this practice deeply rooted in our tradition, but it is also highly spiritual: We somehow experience the Eucharist differently in the company of others than when we are by ourselves. This is not to say that spiritual (virtual) communion is any less holy or efficacious—certainly not! Only that we don't perceive it quite the same way, qualitatively, as we do in-person communion. (And, I'm convinced, this is a good thing. It serves to draw us together, when it is safe to do so, as a community of faith.)

At St Andrew's, *we plan to resume distributing communion again (in one kind only—just the Bread) on Sunday, 23 May*, which is the Feast of Pentecost. In the coming weeks I'll share more details about how we will do this safely. But this week, as we continue planning for this resumption, I'd like to solicit your input.

The Wardens, Vestry and I all feel *it will be important for us to offer an outdoor worship option when we begin distributing communion again*. No one should be denied the sacrament because they don't feel safe returning to indoor worship. So, the question is, What is the best way to provide outdoor worship? One option would be to set up chairs and a speaker in the church yard and allow people to 'attend' the 10:30 service this way. (I would bring the Bread out to them at the distribution.) Another option would be to have a brief 'self-contained' outdoor Eucharist at, say, 12:00 noon or 5:00 pm Sundays or maybe even 5:00 pm on Saturdays: a simplified liturgy, with fewer readings and a brief homily rather than full sermon. Perhaps we could have services near the playground, for families with young children? There are, undoubtedly, other options we haven't thought of yet.

So, my invitation to you: **If a weekly outdoor Eucharist (weather permitting) would be attractive to you, please let me know, so we may ensure is a sufficient level of interest. In addition, if you have a preference or suggestion for how our outdoor worship should be planned and designed, please feel free to share that with me, as well.** You can give me a call or send me an email (my contact information is listed below), or you can stop by the parish house, and we can have an in-person conversation out on the lawn. I'd like to make our outdoor offering as meaningful and convenient as possible for the people who would like it, so please let me hear from you!

Take good care, and may God continue to bless the work of the Kingdom you are doing.

In the peace and love of Christ,
Douglas+

Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com

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

Friday, 30 April	Prayer & Meditation	5:30 pm
Friday, 30 April	A.A. meeting (<i>Great Room</i>)	8:00 pm
Saturday, 01 May	Holy Eucharist: Feast of St Philip and St James the Less (<i>in person and live-streamed</i>)	6:00 pm
Sunday, 02 May	Holy Eucharist: Easter 5 (spoken) (<i>in person only</i>)	8:30 am
Sunday, 02 May	Holy Eucharist: Easter 5 (with music) (<i>in person and live-streamed</i>)	10:30 am
Tuesday, 04 May	Anti-Racism Study Group (<i>via Zoom</i>)	7:30 pm
Wednesday, 05 May	Bible Study (<i>via Zoom</i>)	4:30 pm
Wednesday, 05 May	Mid-week Eucharist (<i>in person only</i>)	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 05 May	Visioning Team (<i>via Zoom</i>)	7:00 pm
Wednesday, 05 May	A.A. for Women (<i>Zoom meeting; email us for info</i>)	7:00 pm
Thursday, 06 May	A.A. meeting (<i>Great Room</i>)	7:30 am
Thursday, 06 May	Al-Anon (<i>Great Room</i>)	7:00 pm

FOR MOTHER'S DAY: Prayer Requests & Flowers

The Prayers of the People on Sunday, 09 May, which is Mother's Day, will be a litany devoted to mothers and motherhood, and you are most cordially invited to contribute. Please send along the first names of any women who have been mothers for you—whether biological or otherwise—and a brief statement of your love, gratitude, admiration or memory of (or for) them. For example:

- For Martha, with all of my love
- For Emily, for all her sacrifices
- For Hartley, whose hugs never failed to console
- For Ruthanne, whose courage inspired me
- For Juana, whom I miss with all my heart
- For Gretchen, who taught me how to pitch

As in all prayer, there is no wrong way to do this—just please be brief! And

there is no limit. Feel free to submit as many requests as you'd like.

Please email your prayer requests to st.andrew.kent@snet.net (or leave a voicemail at 860-927-3486) by Friday, 07 May.

We will also be providing fresh flowers to the women in the parish this day. They will be distributed at both of our liturgies, and we'll leave some at the church entrance, as well, for those who would prefer to pick them up.

NEW FEATURE: Wondering About Worship

Now that I've settled in a bit here at St Andrew's, I am receiving more questions about what we do (and, sometimes, don't do) in worship. I *love* these questions—keep them coming! I firmly, firmly believe that worship is the primary (the first; the most important) way we know God, and the more we understand about how we worship, the more we will know God.



I'll answer these questions via short, informal videos. That way, everyone can hear the answer to a question they may have been thinking about but never asked. This week, I start with a popular topic: that funny little hat I wear on Sunday mornings (click [here](#)).

Note of Appreciation from Sr Mary's Family

This past week we received the following kind note from Ellie Torebka, who is Sr Mary Lanning's sister.

Thank you all at St Andrew's for your sympathy and remembrance of our sister Mary. She was a woman of immeasurable love and energy. Mary was born into a big family, but the family she created throughout her life and work is bigger than any of us ever imagined.

We are grateful for her influence and example, and for your love of her and your generosity to her "solutions."

*Sincerely,
Ellis Torebka & the family of Mary Lanning*

COMING IN MAY:

Rogationtide Blessings of Gardens

This year, the Church will celebrate the Rogation Days—traditionally, the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before the Feast of the Ascension—during the week of 09 May. During Rogationtide, prayers are lifted up especially for the crops, flowers and other plantings that are beginning to blossom and bloom: for their health, heartiness and abundance. There are many wonderful prayers for this.

Do you have a vegetable garden or a flower bed or even a yard that you've been laboring on this spring that you would like to have blessed? Father Douglas would be happy to come by and offer an outdoor blessing anytime. Just be in touch with him:

Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com or 860-592-0171.

(We will also be making a special parish procession to the Kent Community Garden, where St Andrew's tends several plots, after the 10:30 service on the 9th.)

NEW YOUTH FORMATION OFFERING: Confirmation Class Is Beginning

We are excited to announce that we have started **anew youth Confirmation Class**. The class will meet, via Zoom, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, from 4:00 – 5:00 pm. It is open to anyone age 13 – 18 who wishes to learn more about Christian faith and belief; the Church and its sacraments; and living life as a follower of Christ. The class is designed to prepare one for the Sacrament of Confirmation, but that is *not* a requirement. Participants are free to decide whether or not to seek confirmation at the end of the course.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Fr Douglas.

All Recovery Meetings Are *Resuming*

As the parish has re-opened, all recovery groups (AA and AI Anon) have been invited to resume their meetings. Please check with their organizers or the parish office for details.

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 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Year B

Acts 8:26-40;
Psalm 22:24-30;
1 John 4:7-21;
John 15:1-8



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

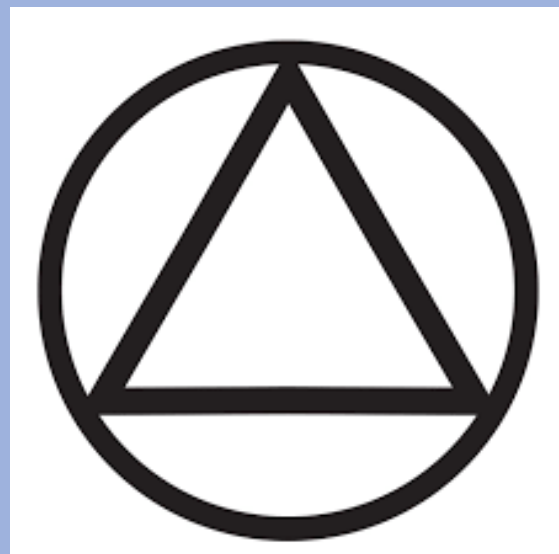
A.A. for Women 7:00 p.m.
Zoom meeting
email us for info.

Thursdays

A.A. at 7.30 a.m.
(Great Room)
resumed
Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.
(Great Room)
resumed

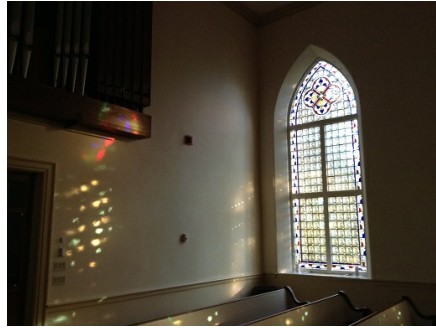
Fridays

A.A. at 8 p.m.
(Great Room)
temporarily until First Church opens
resumed



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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