

SAINT ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH

We Are a Stewardship Parish
Gratefully Giving Our Time, Talent, and Treasure
in Service to God and One Another

December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent



Giving Tree A Christmas Giving Tradition

We are so grateful for the generosity of all those who took Giving Tree ornament tags. Please return all gifts **on or before December 11** so that we may deliver all gifts, especially those to specific children, in plenty of time for Christmas. If you have any questions, please call or text Sue at 404-771-9287.

Christmas Bake Sale... and then some! Is THIS Weekend

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 6:15–7:30 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 9:30 AM–2:00 PM

You won't want to miss this weekend's **"Christmas Bake Sale... and then some"** sponsored by the Healing Prayer Ministry, Alive & Thriving Ministry, and parish Bazaar Committee. In addition to **holiday baked goods and edible stocking stuffers**, we will be serving **chili or soup meals (eat in or take out)**, and providing **free holiday activities for the children (3rd Grade and younger)**. Proceeds will be used toward the purchase of sacred vessels and liturgical books.



Feast of Saint Andrew

On November 30, we recognized the generosity of all who made our new church and parish center possible, and formally named the social hall "Martin Hall" in memory of Campbell and Willie Anne Martin.

REMINDER: December 10 (this weekend) is the last 5:15 PM Sunday Mass of the semester. The Sunday evening Mass will resume starting January 7, 2024.

Parish Staff

Fr. Dan McLellan, OFM, *Pastor, Campus Minister*
Rich Campana, *Deacon*
John Leininger, *Deacon*
Gordon Snyder, *Deacon*
Tony Wagner, *Deacon*
Jamie Dean, *Director of Music*
Andréa Ferraco, *Bookkeeper*
Christopher Kerfoot, *Youth Minister*
Nancy Leininger, *Parish Secretary*
Stephanie Manasa, *Associate Campus Minister*
Lynn Sexton, *Spiritual Director*
Laura Witt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

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CATHOLIC CHURCH
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PO Box 112
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Mass Schedule
Saturday 5:15 PM
Sunday 8:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 5:15 PM
(11:00 AM Mass is also livestreamed)
Weekdays 5:15 PM

Eucharistic Adoration
Fridays 9:00 AM–5:00 PM in the Church

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Chapel – Wednesdays 6:00–7:00 PM
Chapel – Saturdays 10:00–11:00 AM
(Or by appointment)

Religious Education
Sundays 9:45–10:45 AM
Day Hall and Newman Hall

Youth Ministry Encounter
Sundays 6:30–8:00 PM
Parish Hall

Office Hours
Monday–Thursday 10:00 AM–5:00 PM

After Hours
Pastoral Emergencies
Call 919-699-6323

www.saclemson.org
[@saintandrewclemson](https://www.facebook.com/saclemson)

To sign up for weekly parish-wide emails, go to
www.flocknote.com/saclemson

Livestream

The Sunday Mass at 11:00 AM is livestreamed on the parish Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/saclemson/>

The same Facebook link can be used to view the video later at your convenience.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 9

5:15 PM Our Parish Family

Sunday, December 10

8:30 AM † Jan Schueren

† Dee MacDade

11:00 AM † Mary Bolger and

† Margaret Drennan

5:15 PM Our Parish Family

(last 5:15 PM Sunday Mass until January)

Monday, December 11

5:15 PM † Theresa Francese

Tuesday, December 12

– Our Lady of Guadalupe –

5:15 PM † Fr. Aubrey McNeil, OFM

† Diana Bissey Preston

Wednesday, December 13

5:15 PM Rachel Kubick

Thursday, December 14

5:15 PM Our Parish Family

Friday, December 15

5:15 PM Our Parish Family

Saturday, December 16

5:15 PM † Thomas Stanley

Sunday, December 17

8:30 AM † Jan Schueren

† Lazar Macuk

† James L. Woods, Jr.

Joan Woods

† Ralph Schweppe

11:00 AM † Babies lost in miscarriage

or stillbirth

5:15 PM (This Mass resumes January 7)

To schedule a Mass Intention, contact the office.

Gift Cards for Christmas?

Each month members of the parish are invited to purchase gift cards, including grocery cards, with proceeds going to the building fund. Cards are purchased at face value, and while they are used for their full face value, Saint Andrew also receives a percentage – yes, free money! Especially if you plan to give gift cards as gifts this holiday season – or need them for the giving tree – please consider purchasing through this safe and secure fundraiser. To learn how you can get involved, contact Sheila at hogan_family@bellsouth.net or Nancy in the parish office. Because of the holidays, order deadlines for December will be noon on Mondays, December 11 and 18.

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Lost & Found

For lost items, please check the **LOST & FOUND** box by the food drop-off in the vestibule or contact Nancy in the office. Some items are being held in the office.

Daily Scripture Readings

Daily readings are available online at bible.usccb.org/readings/calendar

A Note From the Pastor

As we move toward Christmas and the incarnation (aka, *becoming “man”*) of the Word of God, we’re reminded by today’s second reading that there’s some twitchiness about the Christian faith. Christ was born into a world where gods had their place and the rest of us, ours. But with God becoming one of us, that view was laid to rest. And many of his earliest followers couldn’t take it for long.

“Gnosticism” – the real truth revealed by Jesus is a knowledge (aka in Greek, *gnosis*) – is only for a privileged few. It’s the secrets of a pedestaled God that is the real stuff that qualifies for salvation. So, act as you will but hold fast to a secret knowledge of God and the things of God, and you’re on the road to heaven.

Our second reading grapples with this heresy. And so, the author asks, “*What sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God?*”

We often think of “holiness and devotion” as those things we find hard to stick to because life is busy, schedules are erratic, and we’re pulled in every direction by kids, work, studies, and paying the mortgage. But the second reading’s author asks the question because he (she?) knows what most days look like for the average Christian. And wants to drill into us that our helter-skelter lives are precisely the milieu in which genuine discipleship is played out.

Christmas is the assurance of that. Look at the people who brought us the first Christmas. A gal preparing for her wedding but not so absorbed by the details that she lost her sense of curiosity and wonder. A carpenter embarrassed by the apparent misbehavior of his fiancé. A lady way past childbearing age, and her crusty, common-sensical husband who doesn’t believe God knows much about the “birds and the bees.”

It’s a great crowd! (Just like the rest of us.) And a crowd we honor as holy and devout. Why? Because in the end, they weren’t afraid to accept a future that seemed so disconnected from how they thought life was expected to unfold.

We Catholics profess that God speaks through “Scripture and Tradition.” And we’re right. But often for the wrong reasons. We’ve been hard-baked to accept these truisms without really thinking hard about what they mean. “Scripture” – God’s word is only intelligible because it verifies what creation has hard-baked into us. Meaning, God made us, knew us, and loved us, not as “other” than himself, but so like unto him. “Tradition” – the living faith of the dead. And since most of us are the latest in lineages of his dead people, we’re at our best, not when we’re clones of our forebears, but when we’ve built the better life they always wanted us to have on the foundation of what they gave us. So, “Tradition” is a growing body of experiential knowledge meant to grow and mature as, hopefully, we do.

John baptized with water. People know what that was all about. And Jesus also baptizes. But he uses fire.

Christmas was a special moment – the present – when the past – anticipation of a redeemer – looks to the future. And therein lies the “reason for our hope.”

Fr. Dan

Healing Prayer Ministry

HEALING PRAYER WILL NOT BE THIS SUNDAY – PLEASE JOIN US AT THE BAKE SALE
Merciful God, who sent Your messengers, the prophets, to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us Your grace to heed their warnings so that we may look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

New Life in Christ Throughout Our Journey in Faith

NEWLY BAPTIZED:

- Genevieve Rose Grogan
December 2, 2023
Daughter of Ian and Victoria Grogan

NEWLY MARRIED:

- Joseph Klasnic and Paige Mewborn
December 2, 2023

Sacrament of Reconciliation Before Christmas

WEDNESDAYS 6–7:00 PM

December 13 and 20

THURSDAY 6–7:00 PM

December 21

SATURDAY 10–11:00 AM

December 16

There will be no Sacrament of Reconciliation December 23, 27, 30 or January 3.

Faith Formation

FAITH FORMATION: Faith Formation classes conclude for the semester this week with our annual Cookie Swap, and resume on January 7. Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Please join us as the Faith Formation students present *The Story of the Nativity of Jesus Christ*, Sunday, December 24, at 3:00 PM. The pageant is followed by the Family Christmas Mass at 3:30 PM.

Laura Witt • laura@saclemson.org



Our Lady of Guadalupe – Queen of Mexico and Patroness of the Americas

DECEMBER 12 • 5:15PM MASS FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS IN THE PARISH HALL

Daily Mass on December 12 will be a bilingual celebration, as we also welcome one of our catechumens into the Church with the rites of Christian Initiation. Following Mass will be a feast of Mexican food for all in Martin Hall (our newly named parish hall).

According to Catholic tradition, the virgin appeared to the indigenous Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill, near Mexico City, while he was walking to Mass on December 9, 1531. Speaking in his native language, she asked him to petition the bishop for a shrine to be built there. But the bishop asked for a sign. On December 12, Juan returned to Tepeyac; although it was winter and nothing should have been in bloom, Mary told him to pick flowers blooming atop the hill and put them in his cloak or tilma to take to the bishop. When Juan opened the tilma, the flowers fell out and the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe adorned his garment. This miraculous image is preserved in the famous basilica in Mexico City.



Mary's appearance to Juan Diego as one of God's people is a powerful reminder that Mary – and the God who sent her – accept all peoples. In the context of the sometimes rude and cruel treatment of the Indians by the Spaniards, the apparition was a rebuke to the Spaniards and an event of vast significance to the indigenous population. In these days when we hear so much about God's preferential option for the poor, Our Lady of Guadalupe cries out to us that God's love for and identification with the poor is an age-old truth that stems from the Gospel itself.

Festival of Lessons and Carols – Save the Date

Our annual service of music to close out the Christmas season will be presented on **Sunday, January 7, at 2:00 PM**. Please mark your calendars so you don't miss it!

Support a Lifetime of Service – Retired Religious Fund Special Collection

Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education, and care for those in need – usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.



Carols and Cocoa
DECEMBER 17 • 3:00–4:00 PM • SAINT ANDREW CHAPEL
Shopping, cooking, and watching all those Hallmark movies takes a lot of time during the holiday season. Join us as we take a few moments to catch our collective breath with an old-fashioned congregational Christmas carol singing in the chapel on Sunday, December 17, from 3:00–4:00 PM. After the singing, enjoy a cup of hot chocolate before heading home. Sponsored by Generations in Faith.

SA Women's Christmas Luncheon

DECEMBER 13 • 12:30 PM • TRADITIONS ON THE LAKE

Ladies, it's time to celebrate this wonderful season at this month's luncheon. If you wish to do a gift exchange, bring a gift (\$10–\$15 value) for Santa or Mrs. Claus to return a gift to you. Lunch is Dutch treat. Reservations must be in by Tuesday, December 12, at noon. Hope to see you to join in the festivities with the wonderful ladies of Saint Andrew. RSVP to Katie Meyers by texting 714-504-0217 or email missy_katie_ca@yahoo.com. Some ladies have asked about exploring different venues for future luncheons. Please feel free to make any suggestions.



2024 Pink and Blue Gala

TO BENEFIT ST. CLARE'S HOME • RESTORING HOPE & SAVING LIVES

Join the group of Saint Andrew parishioners who will be attending the upcoming Pink and Blue Gala on **February 3, 2024, at 6:30 PM at Fluor Enterprises, Greenville**. Prepare for a wonderful Mardi Gras themed event, with dinner, program, and auction.

Our Saint Andrew Walking with Purpose members started supporting St. Clare's Home last year. For more specific information and for carpooling opportunities, call Kay Leamont at 770-330-6733.

To learn more about this wonderful organization and register to get the early bird price, \$100 ticket, go to www.stclareshomesc.org/pink-blue-gala.

Baptism Preparation

Contact Deacon John Leininger,
864-903-0050 or john@saclemson.org

Marriage Preparation

Contact Fr. Dan McLellan, OFM, no fewer than six months prior to the desired wedding date, 864-643-2011 or mclellan@saclemson.org.

Anointing of the Sick

Call the office at 864-654-1757 to arrange a time with a priest or, in an emergency, call the after hours number 919-699-6323.

Parish Prayer List

To have your prayer requests added to the parish prayer list, please contact Sandra Harbin at sandra_terry.harbin@yahoo.com or 864-885-9527 and leave a detailed message. If you would like to be part of the group offering prayer support, let Sandra know.

Christ Renews His Parish Men's and Women's Weekends

NO OVERNIGHT STAY
MEN: FEBRUARY 10–11 • WOMEN: MARCH 2–3

Ask the Lord if this year is the time for you to set aside a Saturday/Sunday with the men and women of the parish to further enhance your relationship with Christ. Is Jesus calling you?

Relax and Renew... For more information or to register, contact the parish office or go to www.saclemson.org/christ-renews-his-parish.



Dealing with loss of a family member or close friend can be especially difficult alone. If you feel you would benefit from meeting with others who have experienced a similar loss, a bereavement support group meets monthly from **12:30–1:30 PM the third Sunday of each month**. The next group meeting will be **Sunday, December 17, in Newman Hall**. (136 Wigington)

Parish Giving

Thank you to all for your continued support of our parish. If you have not yet returned to in-person Masses and would like to send your weekly offertory envelopes directly to the office, please send to: **Saint Andrew Catholic Church
PO Box 112, Clemson, SC 29633**

To transition to our online giving option, go to www.saclemson.org and click **GIVE** in the navigation bar. Whether attending in person or not, by making your offering online, you continue to support our good works even if you are away. Any questions, please feel free to contact Nancy at nancy@saclemson.org or call 864-654-1757.



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