

SAINT ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent
and Christmas



Christmas Giving Trees

Many thanks to our parish family for the overwhelming support and generosity this Christmas with our Giving Trees. So many elves were involved in supplying more than 500 gifts to children and charities throughout Pickens and Oconee Counties. To the elves who created the trees, the ornaments, the ribbon loops, the labels printed and placed and hung on the tree – *Thank you!!* To all the families and students who bought and brought gifts or mailed a donation – *Thank you!* To the sorters, delivery drivers, and clean up crew – *Thank you!* To Father Dan, who encourages us to always remember those in need – *Thank you!* Merry Christmas to all.



Bake Sale... and then some!

The cool rainy weather of December 9 and 10 made it a good weekend for some delicious chili or chicken soup, as well as holiday baked goods and children's crafts. Special thanks to all bakers, cooks, crafters, and organizers who made this fundraiser possible, and for all those who supported their efforts making it a huge success... and then some!



**SAINT ANDREW
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
209 Sloan Street • Clemson
864-654-1757

Mailing Address

PO Box 112
Clemson, SC 29633

Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:15 PM

Sunday 8:30 AM, 11:00 AM
(5:15 PM Sunday Mass will resume January 7)

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

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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laura@saclemson.org

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 23

5:15 PM † Theresa Gardzalla
† Andrej Paszkiewicz
† Joe and † Fran Macy

Sunday, December 24

8:30 AM † Johanna Beck
3:30 PM † Raymond Bolger
† David Gross
6:00 PM Our Parish Family
9:00 PM † Mary and Ann Neubeck
† Joseph "Ward" Schintzius

Monday, December 25

10:00 AM † Ed Skrocki
† Theresa Gardzalla
† Velmar Farrow

Tuesday, December 26

5:15 PM No daily Mass today

Wednesday, December 27

5:15 PM The Brown Family

Thursday, December 28

5:15 PM † Lazar Macuk

Friday, December 29

5:15 PM Our Parish Family

Saturday, December 30

5:15 PM † Russ Hébert

Sunday, December 31

8:30 AM † Mike and Teri Dorsch
† Jan Schueren
11:00 AM † Ed Skrocki
5:15 PM (Will resume January 7)

To schedule a Mass Intention, contact the office.

Festival of Lessons and Carols

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

Gift Card Fundraiser

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! To learn how you can get involved, contact Sheila at hogan_family@bellsouth.net or Nancy in the parish office.

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

Today we conclude the shortest Advent season possible (when Christmas falls on a Monday). While this is bad news for the merchants, it can nudge us to remember the real "reason for the season." That nudge takes us back to the Middle Ages and the work of my Franciscan confrere, John Duns Scotus ("John, from the village of Duns in Scotland").

Scotus lived in the 14th century and was a figure in the revival of learning after the Dark Ages, and the efforts of scholars such as Scotus and Aquinas to deepen our faith using the newly-appreciated human faculty of reason. Among other insights, Scotus made the point that **the Incarnation, God-in-the-flesh, was not God's "Plan B,"** resulting from Original Sin. Scotus asserted that sin or no sin, Christmas would have happened. The "reason for the season" is the reason for Creation itself – God's passionate love for us.

Scripture and Tradition tell us that God is Love. Thus, Scotus pointed out, there must – in the nature of God – be a lover and a beloved. Thus, God is Trinity of three persons in a communion of love. This Trinity who creates us – and all that exists – is the model of all reality and especially of human relationships.

Because God loves, he wills that creation should also be infused by love. Since love must go out to another, it is only right that the pinnacle of creation's love should be God himself, for nothing God creates within creation could be more lovable than the God who created.

For creation to be able to love with God's love, there must be at least one created being capable of that highest love. That created being is the human nature of Christ. And so God willed the union of the Son's divine nature with a human nature in the person of Christ. Thus, Christ is the masterpiece of love in the midst of a Creation designed for love, rather than a divine repair man come to fix the mess of original sin. The "reason for the season" is a celebration and adoration of God's love.

So, what difference does this make?

Christmas becomes a celebration of why Creation exists at all. In the midst of discouragement with the state of the world, Christmas calls our attention to the fact that, sin-scarred as we've made Creation to be, we haven't erased its purpose – namely, that God desires to love and be loved. And if that's the "reason for the season," it should be reflected in the way we celebrate the holiday, and it should be the takeaway from that celebration long after the tree is gone and the toys are banged up.

So, this Christmas, give some thought to why our world exists. And we with it. We're keen on taking care of the good things we have; consider how we're taking care of Creation – starting with one another.

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Dan



Faith Formation

FAITH FORMATION: There are NO Faith Formation classes December 17–31. Have a blessed and merry Christmas. Enjoy pictures from the semester-end Cookie Swap shown above.

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



Christmas Mass— Come Early for Abundant Music

Jamie Dean · jamie@saclemson.org



On Sunday, December 24, we'll transition from the 8:30 AM Fourth Sunday of Advent to the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord. Our parish musicians have been rehearsing music to heighten the season's celebrations.

At 3:00 PM on Christmas Eve, the children will present their tableau/pageant of the Nativity. Christmas carols, sung by all, will pepper the narration. This will be followed at 3:30 PM by Mass, opening with "Adeste Fidelis." Catherine Kiker will serve as the Cantor.

The 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass will be preceded by 30 minutes of vocal solos as well as cello, organ, harp, and piano music. Bronson Lynn will serve as the Cantor.

The third Mass of the night, at 9:00 PM, is the Choir Mass, beginning with 45 minutes of choral, Choir Chime, and instrumental music. Various choir members will share the cantor roles. This Mass will also be livestreamed.

At the 10:00 AM Mass on Christmas morning, a trio of singers – Anne, Lillie, and Kat – will feature in the 30-minute prelude.



Youth Ministry Christmas Party

Christopher Kerfoot · christopher@saclemson.org

Our youth ministry celebrated the end of a wonderful semester with a Christmas party. Our youth enjoyed a hot chocolate bar, games, and Christmas Karaoke. Everyone had a great time and we look forward to gathering together again in the new year.

Welcome Newcomers

NEW PARISHIONER: Rebecca and Chandler Goldman

If you attend Saint Andrew and have not yet registered, please contact the office or speak with Father after Mass.

Healing Prayer Ministry

HEALING PRAYER WILL RESUME IN THE CHAPEL ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

From Pope Francis: *"In turning on the light of the Christmas tree, we wish for the light of Christ to be in us. A Christmas without light is not Christmas. Let there be light in the soul, in the heart; let there be forgiveness to others; let there be no hostilities or darkness.... Let there be the beautiful light of Jesus. This is my prayer for all of you, when you turn on the light of the Christmas tree. I give to you my warmest wishes, peace and happiness. If you have something dark in your soul, ask the Lord for forgiveness. Christmas is a great opportunity to cleanse the soul! Do not fear, the priest is merciful, forgiving all in the name of God, because God forgives everything. May there be light in your hearts, in your families, in your cities. And now, with this prayer, let us turn on the light!"*

Tuesday Night Dinners for Our College Students

We are asking Saint Andrew parishioners to once again volunteer to prepare food for our student dinners this upcoming spring semester. Dinners will be on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM in the newly named Saint Andrew parish hall – Martin Hall. If you or your ministry group are able to provide a meal for about 100 students, please choose a date and sign up in the vestibule, or contact Stephanie Manasa (stephanie@saclemson.org) for more information. Thank you!

REMINDER: Holiday Schedule Changes

The Parish Office remains closed for the Christmas break and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, at 10:00 AM. There is no daily Mass on Tuesday, December 26, or Monday, January 1. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will resume its regular schedule on January 6 and 10. The 5:15 PM Sunday Mass will resume on January 7, along with Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Encounter.

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 is **Sunday, January 21, 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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