

The Net

St. Andrew's Anglican Church

December 2, 2012

The Feast of St. Andrew

The Feast of St. Andrew, our parish's patron saint, is observed in the Church worldwide on Nov. 30.

Like his brother Simon Peter, Andrew was a fisherman in Bethsaida in Galilee, in what is now present-day Israel. He was with John the Baptist when John pointed to Jesus and said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" It was then that he began to follow Jesus, and when Jesus asked Andrew what he was seeking, Andrew replied by asking him where he lived.

Jesus said, "Come and see." Andrew then brought Simon Peter to Jesus, exclaiming, "We have found the Messiah!" The brothers left their nets to follow Jesus, who promised to make them "fishers of men."

Tradition speaks of Andrew carrying the Gospel message to Greece and Asia Minor following our Lord's ascension into heaven. He is said to have been put to death by the Roman authorities on an x-shaped cross, to which he was tied, rather than nailed.

He is supposed to have been buried in Patras in southern Greece. An x-shaped cross, or saltire (reflected in our parish's cross logo, is the symbol for St. Andrew, as are fish and fishing nets. Our parish's logo cross incorporates this "X" shape. The countries of Russia and Scotland have chosen St. Andrew as their patron.



A Prayer for the Feast of St. Andrew
Almighty God, who gave such grace to your apostle Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ, and brought his brother with him: Give us, who are called by your Holy Word, grace to follow him without delay, and to bring those near to us into his gracious presence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Orientation to St. Andrew's Dec. 9

The next session of *Class 101: Discover St. Andrew's* will be Sunday, Dec. 9 from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Parish House Conference Room. Class 101 is an orientation to St. Andrew's, and covers the benefits of belonging to our parish, our purpose, mission and beliefs. It is designed to show you how our "M.A.D.E. in Christ" spiritual development process will help you grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ and live out God's purposes for your life. The class is taught by **Fr. Ron Baird**, our rector.

You may register by contacting **Judy Baird**, 740-548-5112, ext. 3 or jbaird@standrewspolaris.org. Child care will be provided for those families who need it, but we do ask that you let us know when you register so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

Who should attend Class 101?

Anyone who is interested in joining St. Andrew's, or just wants to know more about our mission and ministry!

I'm already Episcopalian/Anglican. Do I still need to take Class 101?

If you want to join St. Andrew's, yes! Class 101: Discover St. Andrew's is our formal method of incorporation into the parish. We think it's important to know a little bit about who we are before you join our parish family. This class focuses more on the mission and ministry of St. Andrew's than it does on the Episcopal or Anglican faith tradition.

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SALT leadership follow-up Dec. 8

Fr. Ron Baird is calling St. Andrew's ministry and small group leaders to come together on Saturday, Dec. 8 for the follow-up to this past spring's SALT (St. Andrew's Leadership Touchstone) gathering. SALT II will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon that day in the Sanctuary. In his sermon on the mount, Jesus tells his followers, "You are the salt of the earth." And he goes on to say, "But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot." (Matthew 5:13)

In May, ministry leaders began a discussion of how they can be salt that remains flavorful to the people they serve and serve with, to their fellow

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Prepare ye the Way of the Lord

In this Advent season, prepare a place in your heart and life for the coming of God in the flesh: Emmanuel! Make a commitment to yourself and to God to come to church each and every Sunday in Advent, to confess your sins, to hear his Word preached and to receive him into your very life in the Holy Sacrament of the Body and Blood.

By keeping a Holy Advent we open the way to make a joyful Christmas for ourselves. It serves to keep the hustle and bustle of December and the commercialism with which the world hypes Christmas in perspective.

It serves as a reminder to us that Christmas is not about presents under a tree, but about the greatest gift the world has ever been given: The gift of the Son of God enfleshed by power of the Virgin Mary. Emmanuel: The gift of God with us. The salvation of the world! This advent let us heed the cry of John the Baptist and of the prophet Isaiah before him: Prepare ye the way!



Brotherhood collecting for Toys for Tots project

This Christmas season the Brotherhood of St. Andrew will be accepting donations of toys for the Toys For Tots campaign. There will be boxes at the church through Sunday, Dec. 9, marked for your drop-off.

The Toys for Tots Program was established to collect new, unwrapped toys and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. The objectives of Toys for Tots are to help less fortunate children experience the joy of Christmas; to play an active role in the development of one of our nation's most valuable resources — our children; to unite all members of local communities in a common cause during the annual toy collection and distribution campaign; and to contribute to better communities in the future.



You may donate toys for either boys or girls, ages birth to 14-years. The toys must be unwrapped. There are no gift suggestions or guidelines, although toy guns and other kinds of toy weapons are discouraged.

If you wish to give a financial donation in lieu of a toy, please make your check out to St. Andrew's and put "Toys For Tots" in the notes portion of your check. This is our opportunity to share from the bounty that God has given us with those who need assistance at this special time of the year. The Brotherhood encourages you to join us in reaching out to the families who could use the assistance.

Youth Christmas Party Dec. 22

The Youth Group Christmas Party will be Saturday, Dec. 22 at Skate Zone 71, which features a roller skating rink, games (skee-ball, air hockey, etc.), a small climbing wall, and laser tag. The cost of \$10 per person will cover admission, skate rental, one slice of pizza and wither 10 game tokens or one game of laser tab. Youth who wish to participate in the optional gift exchange are also asked to bring a gift valued at no more than \$15. Watch your email, "The Net" and our website for further details.

The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath dates back to ancient celebrations of the Winter solstice - that time of year when the sun reaches its Southern-most point in the heavens and the days are darkest and most gloomy. Because they longed for the return of the sun's light and life, the ancients stopped all usual activity, sacrificed the use of their wagon wheels and hung them up, festooned with lights and greens, in their celebration hall.



There they awaited the return of their sun-god, thinking of the warmth and life he brought. Celebrations culminated in the "nativity" of the sun — the turning point of the year.

As Christians, we use the same meaningful custom to anticipate the feast of light and life: The nativity of the Savior. We add one light on the wreath for each Sunday in Advent. We think of the darkness after Adam's sin and watch the growing hope and light as the prophets and the Virgin help us prepare for the saving birth.

Special chair for Mother Nancy almost paid for!

Didi Loseth, who is spearheading the project to purchase a special lift chair for **Mother Nancy Stanton**, reports we're two-thirds complete in donations, thanks to all who have shared in this wonderful gift!

This means that the back, the seat and the two sides of the chair are now paid for. We are giving her the whole chair, of course, but still need to cover the footrest and the powerlift. Let's do it! Checks payable to St. Andrew's, with "NS Chair" in the memo line, may be placed in the collection basket today, or mailed to the parish office at 7521 S. Old State Rd., Lewis Center, Ohio 43035.



Donations of new and gently used coats, hats and gloves will keep children in need warm this winter

Michael and Tiffany Christy and their two daughters, who attend the 9:30 a.m. service, recently visited a community center in inner city Columbus and saw many children in need of coats, hats and gloves. All sizes of new or gently used winter apparel are needed, including adult sizes for larger children. They felt called by God to help these less fortunate children, and have teamed up with the St. Andrew's Youth Group to collect these needed items.

Karen Osmond, one of the youth ministry leaders, has placed a collection box in the Gathering Area for coats, hats and gloves. The Youth Group, along with the Christy family, will be delivering these items on Saturday, Dec. 22. As the weather turns colder, please remember these children in need, who are so loved by God.



SALT leadership

— Continued from the front —

parishioners, and, most importantly, for our Lord. They were sent forth from the gathering with a question to take back to their ministry or group: How can you and the people in your ministry help our church family to increase the attitude of servanthood so that all in our church might feel valued and we might truly become one family with Christ as the Head?

The December meeting will again include a time of gathering for fellowship and worship, followed by discussion with Fr. Ron on how leaders and their groups have answered the above question.

If you are a ministry leader, a small group leader, a Vestry member, a Sunday School teacher, or other parish leader, please make every effort to attend the Dec. 8 gathering.

For information, or to register, please contact Judy Baird, 740-548-5112, ext. 3 or jbaird@standrewspolaris.org.

SALT in review

In May, SALT participants looked at the model that Jesus himself gave us, and which his apostles — most notably Paul — followed after his resurrection and ascension. It was a model that created the climate that allowed Christianity to take root and flourish, spreading across continents and centuries, up until today. We modern-day disciples are called to carry on the work, in the words of the St. Andrew's mission statement, of "transforming the world through Christ, one heart at a time."

In addition to servant leadership, meeting topics included turning problems into opportunities, and ways to unite our parish family as one in Christ.

There was an opportunity to celebrate the work God is doing in and through the ministries of St. Andrew's, and time for prayer with ministry leaders.

The name St. Andrew's Leadership Touchstone — or SALT — was chosen to help us begin focusing on being salt and light to the world. Immediately after using the salt analogy, Jesus told his followers that they were "the light of the world."

"A town built on a hill cannot be hidden," he said. "Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."

And he commanded us: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

The name touchstone in SALT was chosen to symbolize the role of Christians as salt and light in the world. A touchstone is a stone once used to test the purity of gold and silver. Today, it means a standard, a measure, or a model. Fr. Ron will be discussing what that standard is for us as leaders, and the leaders will discuss what it means for us to be that touchstone — or model — for others in the church, and how we can empower them to become that beacon of the hope that is Christ to a broken world.

Christmas 'voices' to be presented Dec. 23

Our annual "Twelve Voices of Christmas" presentation will be Sunday, Dec. 23 at the 9:30 a.m. service. This year's "voices" are Elizabeth, by Pat Carpenter; Anna, by Gwyneth Nelson; and the Angels, by Deryck Richardson, Mike Schroeder and Randy Smith, with St. Andrew's Adult Choir being the Heavenly Host.

Music has been composed by our organist, Laurie Darke, to support the voices and enhance this service. The Bell Choir, under the direction of Susan Sommerville, will also be playing for us. Additional surprises can be expected.

This Christmas, invite your family, neighbors and friends to come and experience the Nativity Story in through these first-person accounts.

Orientation

— Continued from the front —

I've been attending St. Andrew's for awhile. Do I need to take the class?

We welcome your presence with us in worship and other activities, regardless of whether you've made a formal commitment to membership at St. Andrew's. We believe, however, that there are some important reasons to make a commitment to a local church community, and this class will help you decide if that is something you'd like to do. Making a formal commitment to membership also makes you eligible to vote in parish elections and serve in positions of parish leadership.

If I take Class 101, am I obligated to join the parish?

Although you will be invited to join St. Andrew's at the close of the class, you are under no obligation to do so. Once you complete the class, you may join the parish at any time simply by signing and returning the Membership Covenant that is in the Participant's Manual that you will receive.

I'd like to have my child baptized at St. Andrew's. Do I need to take Class 101?

Yes! When your child is baptized at St. Andrew's, he or she becomes a member of this parish. We believe it's important that the parents be members too, since they are covenanting to raise the child in the faith, and our congregation is covenanting to support the child being baptized and his or her parents.

Christmas Flower Memorials & Thanksgivings

The Altar Guild is now accepting contributions toward flowers to decorate the altar and sanctuary for Christmas Eve. If you would like to make a gift in any amount in memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving for a loved one, an event or a blessing, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate along with your check made payable to St. Andrew's Anglican Church. Please note *Altar Guild* in the memo section of your check. Cash gifts should be placed in an envelope, along with this form.



Enclosed is a gift of \$_____ toward altar decorations for Christmas Eve.

Please print all information exactly as you would like it to appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

This gift is given by (please print):

Please contact me at the follow e-mail address or phone number with questions:

In memory of (please print):

In thanksgiving for (please print):

For more information, please contact **Ellie Schramm**, 614-846-0711 or ellieschramm@insight.rr.com. **Deadline: Sunday, Dec. 19.**

Prayers for the Church

Following the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, please pray today for **Archbishop Edmund Akanya** and for the clergy and people of the Diocese of Kebbi, in Kaduna Province, Nigeria. Kaduna, sadly, has been one of the sites of church bombings by radical Moslem militants. Just this past Sunday, two car bombs exploded outside a church within the confines of a military barracks with some 30 reported dead by Nov. 28. Please pray especially that real peace may come to the region. The Anglican Church in Nigeria has been growing at a rapid rate and the number of dioceses has grown from 91 in 2002 to 161 by May 2012 with some 18 million members. Please also pray for the continued spread of the Gospel.

Following the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, please pray for **Fr. Nate Long** and **Fr. PT Morgan**.

Following the Parish Cycle of Prayer, please pray today for **Jason, Trina, Justin and Jake Anthony** and **Cathy** and **David Allen**; for the **11 a.m. Adult Bible Study**, and for those who serve in the **Acolytes Ministry**.

Remember to visit our website for more news and photos of St. Andrew's events and activities, as well as this week's Lectionary.

Undies Sunday is Dec. 9

Undies Sunday returns to St. Andrew's on Dec. 9, with a plea for new underwear for shoppers at the Common Ground Free Store to help them get ready for Christmas. New underwear and socks in all sizes are needed for men, women, boys and girls; new t-shirts in all sizes are needed for men and boys, and new bras in all sizes are needed for women and older girls.

Common Ground Free Store Ministries believes God's mercy doesn't come with a price tag. Everything is available to everyone free of charge — from clothing, shoes diapers and linens, to small appliances, books and toys. There are no income requirements, no questions and no scrutiny. The store's philosophy is that everyone is on "common ground." To learn more To learn more visit www.commongroundfreestore.com.

Please contact **Sue Thomas** at Jim.sue@frontier.com or 740-524-4505 for more information about Undies Sunday.

December birthdays

Parker Elder
Christie Gales
Lissy Estrada
Sarah Fabian
Marcia Johnson
Larry Harper
Austin Stout
Jon Wallace
Sam Gatwood
Harlie Moreland
Rachel Cherubini
Burt Otani
Chris Haines
Aiden Darke
Avril Darke
Alane Evans
Alan Seitz
Deryck Richardson
Nnamdi Umeh
Barbara Lake
Kerri Brock
Robert Williams
Steve Sattler
Ben Haines
Kristin Lowery
Hope James

December anniversaries

Jason & Trina Anthony
Bill & Debbie Sterling
Carlo & Rachel Cherubini
Steve & Jan Zacharias
Bob & Alex Seyerle
John & Chin Osmond
Frank & Jo Edda Habeker
Jesse & Charlotte Hall