

SAINT ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH

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



December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

Schedule for the Christmas Holiday

Masses for Christmas

Christmas Eve, December 24, **livestreamed only**
5:00 PM from the Chapel

Christmas Morning, December 25
10:00 AM in the Chapel

Congregation limited to 20, also livestreamed

Communion will be distributed outside the Chapel immediately following Mass

Masses for Mary, Mother of God

December 31, at 5:15 PM and January 1, at 10:00 AM in the Chapel

Congregations limited to 20, both Masses also livestreamed

Communion will be distributed outside the Chapel immediately following

There Will Be No Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on December 25 or January 1.

SAINT ANDREW
CATHOLIC CHURCH
209 Sloan Street • Clemson
(Physical Location) 864-654-1757

Mass Schedule

Saturday *(None at this time)*

Sunday at CU Madren Center
8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM
(10:00 AM also livestreamed)

Weekdays

5:15 PM in the Chapel

Eucharistic Adoration

Fridays 9:00 AM–5:00 PM in the Chapel

Confessions – Chapel

Saturdays 10:00–11:00 AM
Or by appointment

Religious Education

K4–Grade 5

Catechist-guided Home Study

Youth Ministry

HS Bible Study Thursdays 7:00 PM
MS & HS weekly Discipleship Groups

(Virtual) Office Hours

200 Edgewood Avenue
Monday–Thursday 10:00 AM–5:00 PM
Friday – 10:00 AM–Noon

Mailing Address

PO Box 112
Clemson, SC 29633

After Hours Pastoral Emergencies

Call 919-699-6323

www.saclemson.org
www.facebook.com/saclemson

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

I'm Dreaming of a GREEN Christmas

What is a green Christmas? Living a waste-free Christmas means helping the earth, but it also allows us to live the simplicity of the Christmas message. Consider the following tips as you plan your holiday celebrations:

- **Reduce plastic products:** Think of how toys and gadgets have a short lifespan and a final destiny in our landfills or oceans.
- **Buy local and from craftspeople and artisans:** This supports our community and reduces your carbon footprint.
- **Rethink decorations:** Cuttings from garden plants, pinecones, and reused wrapping paper can take the place of plastics. Try decorating your own paper that can be recycled or using cloth gift bags.
- **Think about non-material gifts:** Services or donations to your loved ones' favorite charities.
- **"Green" your table:** Eat less meat by adding lots of sides and veggies. If you choose to serve meat, local sources reduce the impact and help farmers.

During this Advent Season, may we better realize our kinship with one another and the earth, so we may create a common dream of justice and peace.



Make a Difference

"Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses," says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

Parish Staff

Fr. Dan McLellan, OFM, *Pastor/Campus Minister*

Fr. Bob Menard, OFM, *Friar in Residence*

Rich Campana, *Deacon*

John Leininger, *Deacon*

Gordon Snyder, *Deacon*

Jamie Dean, *Director of Music*

Christy Hébert, *Director of Operations*

Christopher Kerfoot, *Youth Minister*

Nancy Leininger, *Parish Secretary*

Stephanie Manasa, *Associate Campus Minister*

Laura Witt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

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Sunday Mass at Saint Andrew

The dispensation from attending Sunday Mass continues. We will continue to offer in-person Sunday Masses off-site at the Madren Center (in Ballroom A) during the construction of our new church. All are still asked to follow recommended safety guidelines and distancing protocols – **MASKS ARE REQUIRED**).

The livestream Mass continues at 10:00 AM on the parish Facebook page until further notice.

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

Missed the livestream but don't want to miss Mass? Use the **same Facebook link** to view the video later at your convenience.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 12

5:15 PM No Mass due to construction

Sunday, December 13

8:30 AM Our Parish Family

10:00 AM Children and Grandchildren

11:30 AM Special Intention for Family

Monday, December 14

5:15 PM Special Intention

Tuesday, December 15

5:15 PM † Diana Preston

Wednesday, December 16

5:15 PM Our Parish Family

Thursday, December 17

5:15 PM All Who've Suffered Child Loss

Friday, December 18

5:15 PM Our Parish Family

Saturday, December 19

5:15 PM No Mass due to construction

Sunday, December 20

8:30 AM Special Intention Family

10:00 AM Our Parish Family

11:30 AM Our Parish Family

To schedule a Mass Intention, contact the office.

Weekly Scripture Readings

Psalter 3

Sunday, December 13

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54

[Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday, December 14

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc,

8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 15

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19

and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 16

Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10,

11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday, December 17

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17

[cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Friday, December 18

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/

Mt 1:18-25

Saturday, December 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17

[cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Sunday, December 20

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5,

27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

A Note From the Pastor

Sin is something we usually pay special attention to during Lent. But I wonder if it doesn't deserve some thought during Advent, too.

While "sinfulness" is an inherited condition which we medicate with daily prayer, Communion, care for one another, and personal discipline, "sin" is a deliberate giving in to our sinfulness in matters small or great. Even small sins (aka, "venial") are remedied by the prescription for sinfulness. Great sins (aka, "mortal") need more than over-the-counter treatments.

Thinking about sin belongs in Advent since Christmas is the celebration of God's answer to humankind's prayer for God himself to be the physician. And given the potential deadliness of sinfulness and sin, one would think that the Divine Physician would prescribe something akin to the complexity of the vaccines we're expecting to deal with COVID. And yet, God doesn't.

I got an early Christmas greeting this week. It included a short letter bringing me up to date on what's happening with this family and why these folks are celebrating Christmas 2020 with gratitude. The writer penned what many of us would find a bit startling.

And finally, this year, we are thankful for the pandemic. Why? In its original Greek pan:demos means "all, whole" and "people." Though the pandemic caused fear and worry, it has also led us to an appreciation of "all people," when in rare moments of socialization, we understood the value of genuine community and connection.

Not only has the virus savaged all nations, but all classes of people – rich, poor, prominent, unknown.... It has affected us all in a variety of ways. Some, it has killed, others, disabled. It's savaged jobs and created food insecurity and potential loss of shelter. It's created fear and worry that has caused some to wear masks for both self and other protection. And caused others to refuse lest it be the slippery slope to an erosion of liberties that will include, as one person said, "our guns and our kids."

But, thankfully, for most people it has – as my greeter noted – led us to appreciate one another. And that is the Divine Physician's prescription for sinfulness and sin: appreciation of one another.

When all is said and done, the various disciplines and obligations we live by as Catholics are all meant to promote that appreciation. But in the end, as Matthew's Gospel reminded us a few weeks ago, our care for each other manifested in things – even in our sinfulness – we do well: feed, clothe, shelter, visit. And not just our own kind, but all in need.

Christmas celebrates God taking in flesh (aka, "incarnation") to take of us as one of us. And in doing so, to offer us an example as Jesus explained his washing of the disciples' feet. An example of what it means to "love one another as I have loved you." To remedy our sinfulness by prescribing that we become one another through compassion and empathy. Again, something that we can frustrate, but habits of the heart that every one of us is born with.

A pandemic is a terrible thing, and so is a Cross. God desires neither but salvages good from both. Preparing for Christmas makes the day more worthwhile when we give some thought to what we let happen to us as we face the Cross and even this pandemic. We hope never again to resort to a Cross nor suffer something like COVID. And what we learn from each – Cross and COVID – will determine whether or not this hope will be realized.

Christmas is the great feast of God's intimate communion with us, not simply as Creator but as a creature. The Gospel of the Word made flesh is not simply a book of instructions. The Gospel is a person, one like us. Whose life is "Good News" (aka "Gospel") about what we mean to God and how sinfulness and sin are ultimately meant to be conquered. Communion. Union among *pan demos*.

While this will be a very different Christmas in many ways, it will be the same Christmas as the one in Bethlehem if we remember that what began then continues now.

Fr. Dan

Healing Prayer Ministry's Petition

Loving Lord, we have come to you so often this year for comfort and relief from our problems and our pain. Advent is the season for hope, anticipation, and joy! Fill our hearts with thankfulness as we recall the precious moments of 2020. Help us to keep the true meaning of Christmas, the day we celebrate the birth of Our Savior, in our minds as we make plans for the holiday. Free us from anxiety, so that our souls may be at peace. Amen!

Faith Formation

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE – No Faith Formation classes for December 20 and 27.



ADVENT FAMILY CALENDAR ACTIVITY – Read Matthew 2:1–12 as a family and learn about the Magi who followed the star to find Jesus after his birth. Go outside with your family tonight and do some stargazing. Pray about the beautiful world that God has created for us.

Please contact laura@saclemson.org to be added to Flocknote's full list of family Advent activities.

Laura Witt • laura@saclemson.org

Music Ministry

Jamie Dean • jamie@saclemson.org

One of my favorite Christmas hymns is *Of the Father's Love Begotten*. This hymn, with very ancient roots, is a confession of faith about the Christ, the eternal Son of God, whose birth and saving ministry were the fulfillment of ancient prophecies (st. 1-3). The final stanzas are a doxology inspired by John's visions recorded in Revelation 4-7 (st. 4-5).



The text is based on "Corde natus ex parentis," a Latin poem by Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius (b. Northern Spain, 348; d. c. 413), one of the greatest Christian poets of his time. In the 19th century, Anglican clergymen John Mason Neale and Henry T. Baker separately translated the Latin poem; current translations are consolidations of their efforts.

The tune named *DIVINUM MYSTERIUM* is a plainsong, or chant, associated with the *Divinum mysterium* text in manuscripts dating from the twelfth to fifteenth centuries. This tune is notable for its strong wave shapes. (Think of how the melody rises to "Father's" then falls through the phrase "Of the Father's love begotten.") It is most effective when chanted in speech rhythms, with some freedom in phrasing and tempo—not in the block-chord style of regular meter singing, such as *Now thank we all our God*. The same tune was also published in a dance-like triple meter in 1582. (Think: "OF_ the FAH_ther's LOVE_be-GAH_ah-TEN.")

For reasons related to the flow of the liturgy, we do not always sing all five stanzas that are printed in our hymnals, missing this powerful one:

*This is he whom heav'n-taught singers
sang of old with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in the faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected;
let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore (or Saecilórum saeculis).*

By the time this article appears, a harp performance of this hymn should be available on the parish's Facebook page.

Saint Andrew Holiday Fundraiser

All Proceeds to Benefit Our Building Project

Working with UnitedScrip, Inc. in Seneca, Saint Andrew will benefit from the purchase of gift cards through this program that can be **used as holiday gifts or used for the purchase of holiday gifts or groceries**. Remember, there is no cost above the card's actual face-value. **This is truly "free Money."**

Please go to this link, <http://bit.ly/2020holiday-flyer-orderform>, for more details.

Our final deadline is Monday, December 14.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Sheila Hogan at 864-207-1132 or hogan_family@bellsouth.net or
Nancy Leininger at 864-903-0021 or nancy@saclemson.org.

CARES Act Reminder

To encourage more charitable giving during the pandemic, the CARES Act of 2020 provides additional tax relief for individual and corporate donors.

For individual taxpayers who **do not itemize and therefore use the standard deduction**, the Act creates a \$300 deduction per individual taxpayer.

For individual taxpayers who **do itemize deductions**, the Act modifies the deductibility of charitable contributions from 60% of Adjusted Gross Income to 100% of Adjusted Gross Income.

For corporations, the deductibility of contributions moves from 10% to 25% of Adjusted Gross Income.

Some, or all of these modifications may continue beyond tax year 2020, but at this point all are due to end with tax year 2020 on December 31. As always, please discuss with your tax professional.

A note from parish office staff – A final year-end deposit will be made Wednesday, December 30. If possible, please mail any checks by December 23 to be included in that deposit. Online donations dated on or before December 31 will be credited to 2020 tax year. The best mailing address is PO Box 112, Clemson, SC 29633.

Stewardship of Treasure*

	November 30	Budgeted	Difference
Offertory	\$55,053	\$69,835	-\$14,782
	Year-To-Date	YTD Budgeted	YTD Difference
	\$265,838	\$307,649	-\$41,811

* as of November 30, 2020

Baptism Preparation

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

Marriage Preparation

Contact Deacon Gordon Snyder no fewer than six months prior to the desired wedding date,
262-965-5500 or gjssnyder@charter.net.

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.

Prayer Support

For prayer support, please contact Sandra Harbin at sandra_terry.harbin@yahoo.com or 864-885-9527 and leave a detailed message with your prayer request.

Friday Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is in the Chapel on Fridays beginning at 9:00 AM and concludes with Benediction at 5:00 PM. Daily Mass follows at 5:15 PM. Masks are required.

Take This Opportunity to Try Out the Parish Subscription to FORMED®

Everyone is reminded that parishioners at Saint Andrew have full access, through our parish subscription, to all media resources for the ENTIRE FAMILY provided by FORMED® to strengthen and enrich our Catholic Faith.

This subscription includes *"The Road to Bethlehem"* with daily Advent reflections and enrichment for the whole family.

Free login at: www.saclemson.formed.org

Parish Giving

Thank you to all those who continue to support our parish during this time of absence from public Masses. Many have sent weekly offertory envelopes with their checks included directly to the office or have gone to our online giving option. If you would like to do the same, you can send your Sunday offerings to:

**Saint Andrew Catholic Church
PO Box 112
Clemson, SC 29633**

or go to www.saclemson.org and click **Give** in the navigation bar. By making your offering online, you continue to support our good works even if you are away.

NOTE: If on your mobile phone, be sure to click **"view full site"** for best results. Any questions, please feel free to contact Christy Hébert at christy@saclemson.org or call 864-356-2406.

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