

St. Andrew Parish

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Blue Grass, Iowa 52726
Parish Office (563) 381-1363
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website; www.StAndrewBlueGrass.org

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Andrew-Church-111666438870042>



Deacon Steve Barton, Parish Life Coordinator, (563) 381-1363 or (563) 271-4900 (Cell)
Rev. Robert "Bud" Grant, Sacramental Minister (563) 343-2203 (Cell)
Very Rev. Thom Hennen, Priest Moderator (563) 324-3257 (Office)
Parish Secretary, Wendy Schnack/Mary Lucas (563) 381-1363
Director of Religious Education, Phyllis Avesing (563-381-1363)
Bookkeeper/Music Director, Abby Box (563)-381-1363

November 27th, 2022
First Sunday of Advent



	Sunday Nov 27	Sunday Dec 4	Thursday, Dec 8
<i>Cross Bearer</i>	Anakin Lance	Anakin Lance	Anakin Lance
<i>Communion Ministers</i>	Kathy Schaefer/ Shirley Schmidt	Kathy Schaefer/ Shirley Schmidt	Bonnie Strong/ Shirley Schmidt
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Tessa Dierickx/ Jill Ann Smith	Janine Stevens Family	Tina Gipple
<i>Hospitality/Greeters</i>	Mary & Larry Lucas	Kathy Schaefer	NONE
<i>Lector</i>	Bill Talken	Angie Morrison/ Mary Nelson	Angie Morrison/ Dean Ehrecke
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Kara Kurtz/ Phyllis Avesing	Beau Stevens/ Phyllis Avesing	Matt Carlson/ Phyllis Avesing
<i>Cantor/Song Leader</i>	Larry Ewers	Ray Harre	Rosie Barton
<i>Ushers</i>	Tina Gipple/ Candy Harlan	Mark & Cathy Bennett	Gosse Family

UPCOMING LITURGY SCHEDULE

Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation),

Thu 12/8/22 – Mass 7:00pm

Communal Penance Service, Thu 12/15/22 – 6:30pm

GROW IN YOUR FAITH!

Please watch this 9-minute video on Jesus' promises related to His Divine Mercy and how to take advantage of these promises...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlToQUZXwpw&authuser=0>

Welcome New Parishioners

If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Andrew Parish, please fill out the yellow card found on the bulletin board in the gathering area and return it to Deacon Steve. The Welcoming Committee will contact you with additional information.



National Retirement Fund for Religious Collection is Sunday Dec. 4th. This is used to care for the elderly and frail members now and in the future. These funds are distributed also to eligible national retired religious with the same goal in mind.



The St. Andrew Prayer Chain exists to pray for the needs of the members of the parish, which includes friends and families. If you would like to submit a request for prayers you can either contact Deacon Steve or Judy Matlock (563-381-1028), or by dropping a written request in the wooden box on the back table in the Gathering Space at the back of the church.

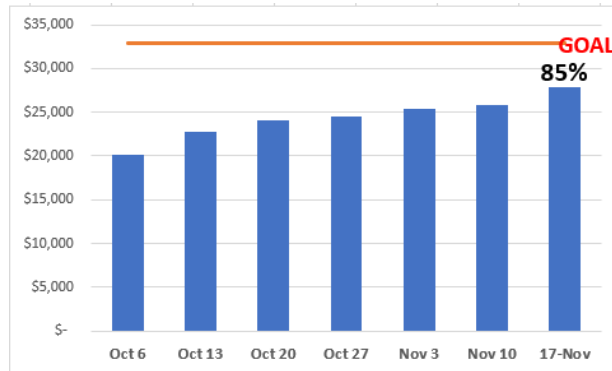
There is a **Knights/Mary's Angels Holiday Social** planned for **Thursday, December 1st at the Corner Grill in Blue Grass beginning at 6 PM.** If interested, there is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. Hope to see you there!!





Diocesan Appeal The Annual Diocesan Appeal "So Faith May Flourish"

We need everyone's support to make our goal.



We are now 85% toward our parish goal of \$32,928. We are making progress, but we still have over \$5,000 to go. Please remember if we fall short, the parish has to pay the difference.

For those who have responded, thank you for your generous support of Bishop Zinkula and our Diocese. **For those who have not returned their pledge envelope, I ask you to do so this week.** We will meet our goal quickly when you respond soon! Thank you, *Deacon Steve*

Mass Ministry Training for Lectors and Communion Ministers

On Wednesday, December 14 Deacon Steve will be providing training (or a refresher) to those who are currently serving or would like to serve in these roles. **At 6 PM the training will be for the Communion Ministers; following from 6:30-7:30 PM will be training for Lectors.** Please contact Dc Steve or the Parish Office if you plan to attend this training. Thank you for your service!!!

Next Sunday, December 4, we will take a **special collection** for **The Nazareth Sisters of the Annunciation.** This women religious congregation was founded Kenya in 1955 under the patronage of Our Lady of the Annunciation to proclaim God's love by empowering women, youth and children, especially the less fortunate ones. They have 200 members serving in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania – and in IOWA!

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday Nov 27: 9:00 Religious Ed (PC)/ 10:00 Rosary (Ch) / 10:30 Mass (Ch) <i>Mass Intentions: Mike Hermiston, Lionel Hermiston</i>
Monday, Nov 28: no events scheduled
Tuesday, Nov 29: RCIA meeting 7:00
Wednesday, Nov 30: no events scheduled
Thursday, Dec 1: no events scheduled
Friday, Dec 2: 9:00am Communion Service (Courtyard Estates)
Saturday, Dec 3: no events scheduled
Sunday Dec 4: 9:00 Religious Ed (PC)/ 10:00 Rosary (Ch) / 10:30 Mass (Ch) <i>Mass Intentions: Donald Schmidt, Eunice VanLaarhoven</i>
(LOCATION KEY) PC - Parish Center; Ch – Church; PCR – Parish Conf Room

ANGEL TREE



This year again we will provide Christmas gifts for children who have a parent incarcerated that cannot get them gifts. The tree with the Angels will be in the Gathering Space next Sunday, the 27th for you to select. Gifts must be turned into the church by Thursday, Dec 15th, for delivery to the children on Sun., Dec 18th. For questions, call Mary Nelson 563-570-0455.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS



If you want to contribute to flowers in memory of a dearly departed loved one, a box with donation envelopes will be on the table in the Gathering Space. Donations are due Dec 11th. We request a minimum donation of \$10.

PLC CORNER

Thanksgiving leads into Advent

This past Tuesday, St Andrew Parish participated in a Community Ecumenical Prayer Service for Thanksgiving at the Blue Grass Presbyterian Church (just across the road from us). I was privileged to serve with ministers from the Presbyterian Church as well as the First Baptist Church of Blue Grass and Calvary United Methodist Church of Walcott. This service gave witness of movement toward Christian unity. During his Passion, Jesus prayed to the Father, *“That they may all be one.”* (John 17:21) The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: *The desire to recover the unity of all Christians is a gift of Christ and a call of the Holy Spirit.*



Pastor Joy Mitchell of Calvary United Methodist Church gave the sermon about gratitude. She was first and foremost grateful for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and said that at the very least all Christians can agree on that. In our divisive society, this a beacon of hope that we can find common ground among people of different faith traditions, but with the same core belief in Jesus Christ. Sure there are serious differences in theology and tradition, but by focusing on what we have in common we can reconcile our differences.

As we move into Advent this Sunday, preparing ourselves to celebrate the Birth of our Lord and Savior, and at the same time preparing ourselves for the Second Coming of our Lord, we can continue the practice of gratitude. We can look more closely for the signs of Christ's presence in our lives, even in little ways, in "Holy Moments" – and give thanks to Him for those gifts. To do that and other preparations, the parish Faith Formation team has put together a special activity in which we all can participate to be more intentional in preparing our hearts for Jesus this Advent. The **“Holy Moment Tree”** insert in the bulletin explains how you can participate. Please look that over and see how you can prepare for our Lord's Coming.

Have a Blessed Week,
Deacon Steve

Divine Mercy

Thanks to a generous, anonymous donor, the Image of Divine Mercy has been added to our Day Chapel. The devotion to Divine Mercy comes from a vision that St Faustina had in 1931. Our Lord appeared to her and directed that this image be venerated throughout the world, to encourage souls to know of and request in prayer Jesus' divine mercy.

Jesus said "Proclaim to the whole world My unfathomable mercy. Proclaim that mercy is the greatest attribute of God." In the Divine Mercy image of Christ, the rays denote Blood and Water. Jesus said "no soul is beyond the reach of His infinite mercy, if only the soul will ask for it. Even the most hardened sinner will repent when they hear of My unfathomable mercy, about the compassion I have for them in my Heart". He encouraged frequent confession, frequent reception of Holy Eucharist to receive graces, and especially on Divine Mercy Sunday, on that day to receive total forgiveness of sins and punishment. He encouraged praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, coming to the font of His Divine Mercy, to save dying souls and pray for sinners.

