

St. Andrew Parish

333 West Lotte Street
 Blue Grass, Iowa 52726
 Parish Office (563) 381-1363
 E-Mail: BlueGrassStAndrew@diodav.org
 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

December 4th, 2022
 Second Sunday of Advent



	Sunday, Dec 4	Thursday, Dec 8	Sunday, Dec 11
<i>Cross Bearer</i>	Anakin Lance	Anakin Lance	Anakin Lance
<i>Communion Ministers</i>	Kathy Schaefer/ Shirley Schmidt	Bonnie Strong/ Shirley Schmidt	Bonnie Strong/ Megan Kocal
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Janine Stevens Family	Tina Gipple	Shirley Schmidt/ Kathy Schaefer
<i>Hospitality/Greeters</i>	Kathy Schaefer	NONE	Shirley Schmidt
<i>Lector</i>	Angie Morrison/ Mary Nelson	Angie Morrison/ Dean Ehrecke	Lynn Rubley/ Shirley Schmidt
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Beau Stevens/ Phyllis Avesing	Matt Carlson/ Phyllis Avesing	Carter Lucas/ Matt Carlson
<i>Cantor/Song Leader</i>	Ray Harre	Rosie Barton	Ray Harre
<i>Ushers</i>	Mark & Cathy Bennett	Gosse Family	Al & Deb Ehrecke

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 listen and watch this 11-minute video on God's plan for Authentic Masculinity. For all ages, including teens.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xT2L1DJOz4>

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.



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.



The Knights of Columbus's next meeting will be **Monday, December 12th, @ 7 pm** in the Parish Center. An email will be sent along with the December agenda and minutes from November's 2022 meeting. If you have not received emails from the council, don't hesitate to contact Chris Rubley at 563-594-9851 or Clemente Escalante at 563-554- 0787.

Also, a **big** thank you to all who contributed to the Knights Coat Drive; we had a total of 28 coats and several big bags of fleece hats, mittens and scarves. We found homes for all these items in the community and the surrounding areas. Thank you, St. Andrew church community, for all that you do!!!

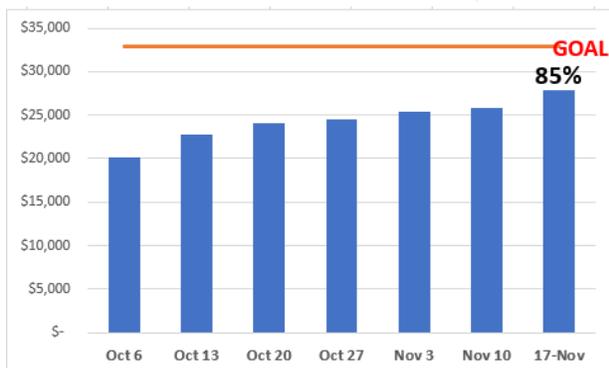


Mary's Angels will meet on Monday, Dec 5th at 6:30 pm. Discussion of upcoming election of officers scheduled for January and possible soup supper are on the agenda.



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!!!

This 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 Dec 4: 9:00 Religious Ed (PC)/ 10:00 Rosary (Ch) / 10:30 Mass (Ch) <i>Mass Intentions: Donald Schmidt, Eunice VanLaarhoven</i>
Monday, Dec 5: Music Ministry 6:00, Mary's Angels Meeting 6:30
Tuesday, Dec 6: RCIA meeting 7:00
Wednesday, Dec 7: Parish Council Meeting 7:00
Thursday, Dec 8: Feast of Immaculate Conception 7:00 <i>Mass Intentions: Timothy Robert Motto, Chris Hausch</i>
Friday, Dec 9: 9:00am Communion Service (Courtyard Estates)
Saturday, Dec 10: no events scheduled
Sunday Dec 11: 9:00 Religious Ed (PC)/ 10:00 Rosary (Ch) / 10:30 Mass (Ch) <i>Mass Intentions: Paul and Bernice Hughes</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.



Thank you to Russ and Toni Klaren for providing us with our one and only “Holy Moments Tree” for our advent program this year.

PLC CORNER

Looking for Jesus



When one of our sons and his family were staying with us for Thanksgiving last week, Elf on the Shelf visited the grandkids. Rosie and I remembered when our sons were young and had the same experience with all the expectation, wonder and excitement. In that secular tradition, looking past the “naughty/nice reporting to Santa” and anticipation of Christmas presents, there’s one aspect of this that we can see a spiritual parallel for our Advent preparations.

Like looking for the elf in the room, we can pay more attention to where Jesus is around us. He’s often in the corners and on the edges in our world, in places that we usually overlook in our busy lives. This Advent, we can take more time and be more aware of where and how Jesus is present to us. He’s in the face of the homeless man on the street that we pass by – or don’t even see under some blankets in the frigid cold. He’s in the family that is suffering a great loss. He’s in the person at school or at work who no one talks to and sits alone.

Seeing Christ in those places, is a marvelous gift of an opportunity to encounter Him more closely. There are many agencies and charities in our community that provide those opportunities – like helping families in need in ways like our Angel Tree. We can engage others to help people we know who are in need. We can get to know that person who has been pushed to the margins at school or work. In all these cases, we can have “Holy Moments” to hang on that tree in the Gathering Space.

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.



This month's **June Urmie's Church Ladies Lunch** will **be on Monday, December 12.** We will meet at the **Corner Grill in Blue Grass at 11:30 a.m.**

All women in the parish are invited and encouraged to attend! We hope you will be able to join us!