

# CROSSCURRENTS

CURRENT NEWS AND THOUGHT FROM ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

My gift to St. Andrew's is:

November 2025

My gift to St Andrews is helping in the  
good news garden, Joy

My gift to St Andrews is Jokes & Laughter! silliness!  
Happiness. Playing & Am with toys!  
a love of monster trucks!

My gift to St Andrews is being kind, writing.

My gift to St Andrews is Helping and  
loving Grandma

My gift to St Andrews is Taking care of my  
brother and other people

My gift to St Andrews is drawing

My gift to St Andrews is to be kind.  
to be happy.  
to Sing. I Love You

My gift to St Andrews is Friendly, helpful.

Fun at sunday school. Silliness!

My gift to St Andrews is Joking around with Edson, Sunny,  
miles and freinds + laughter

My gift to St Andrews is HUGGING!

My gift to St Andrews is Helping pepple.

My gift to St Andrews is Being nice to  
everyone

My gift to St Andrews is being nice and making  
people smile.

My gift to St Andrews is LOVE

My gift to St Andrews is Helping in the good news  
garden.

My gift to St Andrews is CUTENESS

October 2025 Sunday School exercise

***For All the Saints***

November begins with All Saints' Day, November 1<sup>st</sup>, a day we remember and celebrate a concept called the Communion of Saints. It's one of our "high holy days" in the Church worldwide, right up there with the Feast of the Incarnation (Christmas), the Feast of the Resurrection (Easter), and the Feast of Pentecost. I've wondered, Why does a church holiday (holiday = holy-day) focusing on those who have died rank right up there with the birth or resurrection of Jesus? Why is it so important?



Part of it lies behind the question, is the fact that I was raised in a faith tradition that didn't put much stock (any, actually) in things like the liturgical calendar, church seasons, celebration of saints, or anything that smacked of being "Catholic". We didn't even say the Creed on Sunday mornings during worship. So when I came into the Episcopal Church, there was a lot I didn't know, a lot I wanted to learn, and a lot I needed to un-learn.

I remember early on in my Episcopal experience being puzzled by the bidding in the prayers, "We pray for those who have died." Why would we do that? They're dead - it's too late to pray for them. Thank goodness I was in a church where I could explore my questions and wonderings! That's when I encountered this concept of the communion of saints, something I had also recently been saying in the Nicene Creed in worship every Sunday.

The Outline of Faith (Catechism) found in the *1979 Book of Common Prayer* (pages 845-862) says this about praying for the dead and the communion of saints:

**Q.** Why do we pray for the dead?

**A.** We pray for them, because we still hold them in our love, and because we trust that in God's presence those who have chosen to serve him will grow in his love, until they see him as he is.

**Q.** What is the communion of saints?

**A.** The communion of saints is the whole family of God, the living and the dead, those whom we love and those whom we hurt, bound together in Christ by sacrament, prayer, and praise.

Both of these question-and-answer series are found in a section of the Catechism entitled The Christian Hope (pages 861-862), which I think is an important context piece. We - the living and the dead - are all together the whole family of God. Across the millennia, across continents, across national origin and language, across religious expression, friend and foe - we are all God's family. And we are all still connected in that family. Dead isn't the final separation we expect it to be. We are still in this love relationship we call "family", God's family. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is [made visible] in Christ Jesus." If this isn't a hope-inspiring message, I don't know what is.

What an amazing reminder in a time where we are more prone to draw tight and impermeable circles around who's in and who's out, sainting the ins, and vilifying the outs. The communion of saints, our Catechism teaches us, includes those we love and those we have hurt. May God give us the grace to see each person we encounter as a sibling in God's welcoming and all-embracing family.

Love,  
Gregg+



## NEWS FROM THE WARDENS – NOVEMBER 2025



The cold and dark month of November is upon us – but the light of Christ is shining bright at St. Andrew’s.

Once again, thanks to Catherine and Alan Tecktiel, Hileary Cleary, and their amazing volunteers and donors, a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner will be served at St. Andrew’s free of charge on Thursday, November 27th for dine-in service from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and for carry-out service from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please contact Catherine at [catherinetecktiel@gmail.com](mailto:catherinetecktiel@gmail.com) to make a reservation and keep an eye on the bulletin for details on how to lend a hand.

The annual dinner has become a holiday tradition for parishioners and area residents alike and is a blessing especially for those who struggle with food insecurity and loneliness. The outpouring of hospitality and friendship, and the example of servant leadership to meet the needs of our neighbors, is truly something for which to be thankful.

Our parish has a strong tradition of feeding people in and around Downers Grove not only at holiday time, but consistently through the year. The FISH food pantry basket is available in the narthex for canned and dry goods donations each week. The Community Kitchen hosts two meals weekly, feeding 15-35 unhoused and food insecure people on Fridays and Sundays, and Sandwich Board hosts once per month feeding hundreds of people in Aurora. Please consider making a donation to any or all of these ministries. We will put them to good use!

This is also the time of year when the Wardens, Finance Committee, and Vestry turn our attention to wrapping up the Stewardship Campaign and preparing the upcoming year’s budget for presentation at the 2026 annual meeting.

In addition, the Leadership Recruiting Committee is working on a slate of names to fill the Vestry, Convention Delegate, and Warden roles in the coming year. Please pray that God will move the hearts of those needed to fill these openings, and as you pray, remain open to the possibility that God may urge YOU to seek one of these leadership positions. Please see a committee member -- Matt Andrews, John Toussaint, Kurt Wiesner, Bob Sellinger, Gracia Morton or Fr. Gregg -- if you are interested in more information.

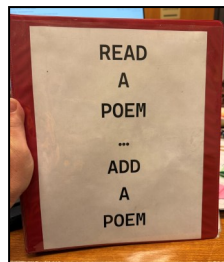
## **READ A POEM—ADD A POEM**

There is a new binder in the Library on the table called **Read A Poem—Add A Poem** created and written by *Linda Solomon*.

After reading the poetry please feel free to add your own work in the back where the empty page covers are.

This book is for all ages to enjoy and to share their works.

Do not miss this unique, beautiful, expression of the many talents found at St. Andrew's.



# Thanksgiving Eucharist - Rite II

NOVEMBER 27, 2025

AT 10:00 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME!

## **VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS – OCTOBER 2025**

Vestry met on Thursday, October 16, 2025, to discuss the business of the parish. Nine members were present, as well as the Rector, Associate Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Clerk.

The Outreach Committee, led by Laura Holm and Janine Pickett, reported that the Outreach Survey received 87 completed responses in total. Laura and Janine will analyze the data and discuss the findings with Fr. Gregg and Deacon Rose. A meeting will then be set for all parishioners interested in outreach to discuss next steps.

Bob Sellinger reported on the Stewardship Campaign to date. The campaign is behind last year's drive, which is concerning. The Stewardship Committee is working hard to communicate to the parish through weekly bulletin updates. An additional week will be added to the end of the campaign, and another outreach speaker will be scheduled.

Jacob Osojnak and John Toussaint will lead the committee to develop an Emergency Plan for the church and PDO. They will reach out to former committee members who worked on this issue a few years ago to get their input.

Jack Courtney will be the Vestry representative on the Fund-Raising Committee. This committee -- formed last year, and includes members who head up the pumpkin patch coordination -- will oversee making the parish aware of the new procedure and ultimately review fund raising events being scheduled by all St. Andrew's groups to insure they fall within the policy approved at the September Vestry Meeting. This committee will also coordinate the scheduling of these events as needed.

The Leadership Recruiting Committee reported that two additional names are needed to fill the slate of open Vestry positions as of this meeting.

The September 2025 financial report was approved as presented. The September 2025 meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

Pumpkin Patch volunteers are needed on weekdays from 5 to 7 p.m. and on weekends from 12 to 6:00 p.m. A joint Chili Cookoff is planned on Sunday, October 26 at Church of the Holy Nativity, and Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 25 at CHN and on Sunday October 26th at St. Andrew's.



# Meet your St. Andrew's Vestry



Fr. GREGG MORRIS  
Rector



Mo. TARA OSBORNE  
Associate Rector



ROSE CICERO  
Deacon



Rev. Dr. JO ANN LAGMAN  
Assisting Priest



GRACIA MORTON  
Senior Warden



BOB SELLINGER  
Junior Warden



MIKE DUNN  
Treasurer



Diane Sellinger  
Clerk of Vestry



MALINDA HAMANN  
Vestry 2023-2025



GARY ROBBINS  
Vestry 2023-2025



MATTHEW ANDREWS  
Vestry 2023-2025



NEIL CLEARY  
Vestry 2023-2025



BARBARA O'DELL  
Vestry 2024-2026



JACOB OSOJNAK  
Vestry 2024-2026



JOHN TOUSSAINT  
Vestry 2024-2026



CHLOE BANDA



JACK COURTNEY  
Vestry 2025-2027



LAURA HOLM  
Vestry 2025-2027



JANINE PICKETT  
Vestry 2025-2027



TIM SEIDLER  
Vestry 2025-2027



CHRIS NELSEN  
Convention Delegate

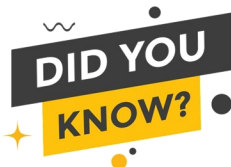


VERA MARTIN  
Convention Delegate



NINA KUHLMAN  
Convention Delegate

## **DID YOU KNOW?**



1. Time to Celebrate with your favorite pie - assuming the progress we've made continues through the end of our Stewardship Campaign, with everyone's participation, we'll celebrate a successful campaign on Sunday Nov. 16th after our 10AM service. Like last year's Celebration Sunday, we'll host a pie-pot-luck where everyone can bring their favorite pie to share with everyone else's favorite pies. Last year was a great celebration and we're looking forward to a repeat this year.
2. PDO Progress - 32 children are enrolled in PDO for the Fall semester. While 32 enrollees makes for a boisterous, high octane program, it's also financially significant for the future of this program. After a detailed analysis of the program's finances, Mike Dunn (our Treasurer) determined that the program breaks even (e.g., costs are covered by revenue) with 30 enrollees; with 32 enrollees it's making a positive contribution to our church's finances. This was made possible by increasing the fees paid by the children enrolled in this program. To continue this progress, Malinda Hamann volunteered to be the PDO Vestry champion.
3. Sign of the Times - as you'll read in the Vestry News article, the Vestry established an Emergency Planning Committee at its October meeting. Jacob Osojnak and John Toussaint volunteered to lead this important committee formed to anticipate and plan for some of the emergencies affecting worship communities. This committee will incorporate the recently installed entrance system at the south entrance doors and the new phone network into a comprehensive plan that will identify what additional improvements we need to make.
4. Save the Date - the All-Parish Meeting originally scheduled for Oct. 26 has been rescheduled for Sunday November 2. The format and content are the same - we'll meet after both the 8:00 and 10:00AM services to review the parish's financial status and our progress in meeting the goals of the strategic plan.
5. Fundraising Follow-up - we've also established a Fundraising Committee to implement the new fundraising policy recently approved by the Vestry. Among other things, this policy insures we follow the state's rules for when sales taxes need to be collected. Jack Courtney volunteered to represent the Vestry on this committee.
6. Protecting God's Faithful - Bishop Clark recently visited William Gonzalez, a parishioner of St. Paul and the Redeemer Episcopal Church, who was recently detained by ICE and is being held at a detention facility in Baldwin, Michigan. Mr. Gonzalez is an asylum seeker with a valid work permit. You can read Bishop Clark's letter to the Diocese describing her visit on the Diocese's website: <https://episcopalchicago.org/bishop-clark-reflects-on-visit-to-detained-parishioner/>



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Sunday School students and teachers have been having a ball together singing songs and learning about God's story. On November 2nd, each child chose a picture of a saint to decorate, and those pictures will be on display on the 3rd floor until December.

On November 9, students helped God's creation to flourish by passing out milkweed seeds and instructions for planting at home, so that we can help increase the natural habitat for monarch butterflies.

In December, the children will be preparing for the annual Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. To give to the less fortunate at Christmas time, our children and youth will also participate in an outreach program to gather donations for children who have been orphaned by the war in Gaza.

### **THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!**



Our annual Christmas pageant will be held during the 4PM Christmas Eve service. If you'd like a part, please sign up by Sunday, November 23.

Children and Youth of all ages are invited to participate!

RSVP using the QR code or at this link. If you're participating, it's just a few questions. If you're unable to participate this year, it's just a yes/no form, but helps us with planning.



Contact Anne Nelsen with any questions or to volunteer to help out:  
[avnelsen@gmail.com](mailto:avnelsen@gmail.com)



## **YOUTH MUSIC AND CHOIR AT ST. ANDREW'S**

Our Youth Choir has been meeting and singing during this new school year. The singers have been learning the special hymns for our Stewardship Campaign and singing during the 10:00 AM Family Services. We will have rehearsals on November 2 and November 9, in preparation to sing at the November Family Service on November 16. After this service we will begin learning the music to sing on Christmas Eve.



We will be entering the very busy holiday time of year, but we will still be having our regular choir rehearsals after communion on November 23 and November 30. I hope the singers will be able to attend as many rehearsals as possible as we prepare to sing on Christmas Eve. New singers are always welcome to join the Youth Choir. The wonderful music of Thanksgiving and Christmas is a perfect time to try singing in the choir.

Contact me if you have any questions. 630-464-2610 or [cpstansbury3@gmail.com](mailto:cpstansbury3@gmail.com)

Kindly,

Chris Stansbury

## **ST. LUCIA GUILD**

St. Lucia Guild will meet Wednesday, November 19 at 10:00 AM in the Bride's Room at St. Andrew's. Our meeting will start with a social time followed by a business meeting. Our program will be given by Mary Jane Haley, on the topic of Downers Grove History—Part 2.

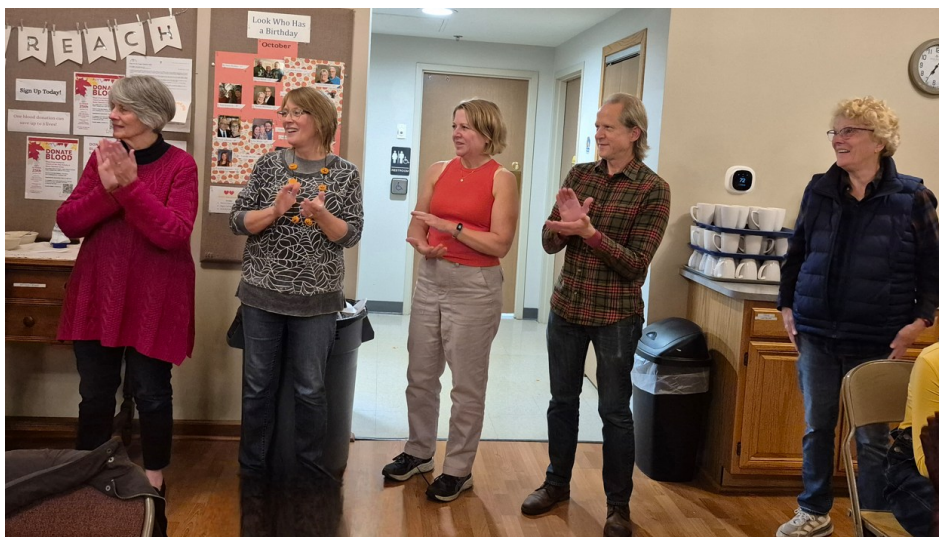
Reminder: the Guild is sponsoring a Revive Christmas basket, and the gifts or donations for gift cards will be due at the November meeting in order to be boxed for pick up. If any members have boxes they don't need, please bring them to the meeting.

St. Lucia welcomes all new members. If anyone has questions about the Guild and its activities, please call Nancy Stapleton, 630-964-4494.



## CHILI COOK-OFF SUCCESS!

The Youth Group raised close to \$1000 at the Chili Cook-Off to help with expenses for the mission trip to Casa Hogar in 2026! Our 6th-12th graders have been meeting twice a month to worship, make sandwiches for Community Kitchen, and have fun together. They are planning several more fundraisers throughout the year, so keep your eyes open for more ways to help these great kids get to Mexico.



## ECW (EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN) DOLLARS

There will be two opportunities to purchase gift cards in November. The first day will be November 2 and the second will be November 16. Just in time to cover all of your Thanksgiving needs and cards for the Revive Christmas Baskets. Check the table in the gathering space for a complete list of offerings.



## ECW (EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN)



ECW will be hosting a **“Walk in the Woods”** on **November 8, 2025**, at the Morton Arboretum. This is an event for **ALL** parishioners. Meet your fellow parishioners at the Pavilion on the **WEST SIDE** of the Arboretum at 11:00AM. Bring your water bottle and sack lunch. We’ll do our short hike through the Arboretum on the West side and then have lunch together at the Pavilion. Look for a sign up in the Gathering Space.. While the trails at the Arboretum are well maintained, this hike will be unpaved. This will be a weather permitting event, and we will plan on the following Saturday (November 15) if we get rained out on Nov. 8.

# 4B BASH AT ST. ANDREW'S

1.

**Worship at  
8AM or 10AM Service**



2.

**BEARS Vs. Vikings  
@ Noon 3<sup>RD</sup> Floor**



3.

**BINGO**



4.

**Bring your own snacks**



## Bible, Bears, Bingo & Bring-Your-Own Snacks

Come cheer on the Bears and enjoy fellowship, food, and a little friendly Bingo competition on Sunday, November 16, starting at NOON! We'll kick things off with a Bears vs. Vikings viewing party Upstairs at St. Andrew's, followed by Bingo at halftime and after the game. Water and soda will be provided—just bring your favorite football snacks to share (and your game-day spirit). All ages welcome!





Please join us for a **FREE**

*Thanksgiving  
Dinner!*

**Thursday, November 27th**

Dine-in: 11:15am-1:30pm

Carryout: 2:00pm-3:00pm

**E-Mail, Call, or Scan to Reserve!**

Catherine: catherinetecktiel@gmail.com

Alan: 630.400.9354



**Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church**

1125 Franklin St.

Downers Grove, IL

***Please note:***

*Reservations preferred; walk-ins accommodated as available!*

***Carry-out menu does not include all dine-in items.***



# PASTORAL CARE CORNER

## Giving Thanks



For the expanding grandeur of creation,  
worlds known and unknown, galaxies  
beyond galaxies, filling us with awe and challenging our  
imaginations:

We give thanks this day.

For this fragile planet earth, its times and tides, its sunsets and  
seasons:

We give thanks this day.

For the joy of human life, its wonders and surprises, its hopes and  
achievements:

We give thanks this day.

For our human community, our common past and future hope,  
our oneness transcending all separation, our capacity to work for  
peace and justice in the midst of hostility and oppression:

We give thanks this day.

For high hopes and noble causes, for faith without fanaticism, for  
understanding of views not shared:

We give thanks this day.

For all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world, who  
have lived so that others might live in dignity and freedom:

We give thanks this day.

For human liberty and sacred rites; for opportunities to change  
and grow, to affirm and choose:

We give thanks this day.

We pray that we may live not by our fears but by our hopes, not  
by our words but by our deeds.

We give thanks this day.



## *Take a Walk on the Cookie Walk!!*

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Cookie Walk,

a longstanding tradition,  
will take place on **Saturday, December 6,**  
in the Parish Hall from **9:00AM-11:00AM.**

**All Parishioners are welcome!!! Come choose from our wide selection of holiday cookies for your Christmas events and gifts.**

At the 2024 Cookie Walk, **20 bakers provided 60 platters** of cookies. Total cookie sales for our Cookie Walk event were **just under \$700.** Proceeds from this event has helped fund activities, events, and causes both at St. Andrew's and in our community.

**If you would like to bake for the event,** please sign up in the Gathering Space. Cookie drop-off will be Friday, December 5 in the kitchen from 10AM to 3PM.





**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN(ECW)  
ORNAMENT EXCHANGE**

**All Women are Welcome!!!!**

The **ECW ORNAMENT EXCHANGE** will be held on **December 9** from **7:00PM-9:30PM** at Kathy Johnston's home. This is a wonderful event and an excellent way to begin the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Each attendee brings a **wrapped Christmas ornament** for a fun and friendly exchange (there is some swapping involved). So, mark this on your calendar. Sign up in the Parish Hall to bring an appetizer or dessert.

**Kathy's address: 527 Wilson Street  
Downers Grove, IL**





## Illinois Department of Human Services

The Illinois Application for Benefits and Eligibility has stated that unless further action is taken to reopen the government, benefits cannot be administered. State officials have said they are awaiting further guidance from the federal government, and are posting updates at

[snapfederalimpact.illinois.gov](https://snapfederalimpact.illinois.gov).

### **RESOURCES FOR SNAP USERS IN ILLINOIS**

**Check your status:** If you are an Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents, check the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) website for information on whether the new (November 2025) rules apply to you and what steps you need to take.

Downers Grove Area FISH food pantry, which offers both walk-up/drive-up service and senior food delivery, and the St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) food pantry, located in the St. Joseph Parish Center and open on Thursdays are local Resources. Other resources include the West Suburban Community Pantry in nearby Woodridge.

### **LOCAL PANTRIES**

#### **Downers Grove Area FISH:**

- Offers a free, choice food pantry next to the Downers Grove Township building.
- Open for drive-up or walk-up service on Tuesdays from 4-6 PM and Fridays from 8:30-11:30 AM.
- Provides weekly food delivery to homebound, low-income seniors on Thursdays and Fridays.

#### **St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP):**

- Operates a food pantry out of the St. Joseph Parish Center basement, open every Thursday.
- Also offers food, clothing, and financial assistance to those in need.



## **NEARBY RESOURCES AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS**

### **West Suburban Community Pantry:**

- Located in nearby Woodridge.
- Offers food and resources for those facing food insecurity.

### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):**

- Provides benefits to help low-income households purchase food.
- Apply online through the Illinois Link Card website or in person at the Family Community Resource Center in Naperville.

## **OTHER PROGRAMS:**

The **Northern Illinois Food Bank** offers online resources and partners with local pantries.

**Loaves & Fishes Community Services:** While located in nearby Naperville, the organization provides food and other support to DuPage County residents.

- Check 211 of DuPage County (.gov) for a comprehensive list of food pantries and emergency food assistance options.

## **Social Services Referrals | Services | Village of Downers Grove:**

**[www.downers.us/socialservicesreferrals](http://www.downers.us/socialservicesreferrals)**

This web address leads to resources available to help people in need of referrals for services including mental health, substance abuse, financial assistance, housing or homelessness, food pantries, domestic violence, child/elder abuse, or sexual abuse.

## **DECEMBER CROSSCURRENTS ARTICLES**

**ARE DUE NOVEMBER 17, 2025.**



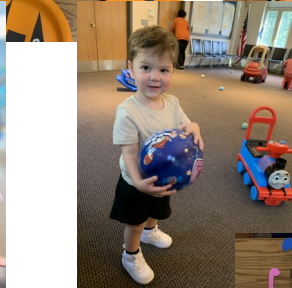
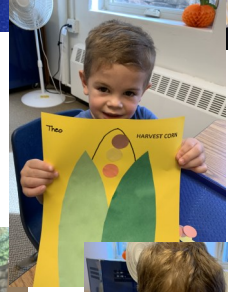


## Fall crafts and play fill the days at PDO

More than a month into the new school year, the children are adjusting well to the Parents' Day Out (PDO) routine. The days are filled with lots of fun and learning. Children have the opportunity to play with a toy kitchen, cars, dolls, figures, magnet letters and trains. They can color, sing, dance, put together puzzles, ride toy vehicles, run, eat snack and lunch, and interact with friends and teachers.

An important part of the day is doing a craft or art project. Art helps the children connect with their teachers, peers and their own creativity. For children ages 2-4, painting, coloring, stamping and gluing capture their interest. This year they have made fall leaves, apples, bears, Jack O'lanterns, witches and more.

They have also gotten a jump on Christmas decorating by making ornaments. PDO children make Christmas ornaments for the Downers Grove tree every year. The village only accepts ornaments until mid-November to allow enough time to hang them on the tree before the annual tree lighting ceremony the day after Thanksgiving. If you stop by to see the tree this holiday season, be sure to look for ornaments shaped like old fashioned Christmas lights. Each is brightly colored with a child's handprint in the center and a PDO sticker on the back.



# **ST. ANDREW'S NEW 2026** **CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY**

We will be taking individual and family portraits during December for our new color Church Photo Directory, published every two years. The directory will be printed and distributed in early 2026.

Photo dates for the directory are:

Sunday, **December 7**

Sunday, **December 14**

Sunday, **December 21**

## **2026 St. Andrew's Photo Directory**



**Photos will be taken in the Phil Room, (Room #5) 2<sup>nd</sup> floor opposite the Nursery, between services (9:00-9:45AM) and following the second service (11:00AM-12:00PM).**

Miles Boone, parishioner and professional photographer, will once again be taking the pictures, for which there is no charge nor sale of photos.

**Signup sheets for the three Sundays will be in the Gathering space in mid-November. Simply tell us the day and time period you plan to have your photo taken.**

You will be asked to verify phone and address information for the Directory before having your picture taken, which is about five minutes per family/person.

Seating will be available outside the photo room and “shoots” will be taken in order of your arrival rather than by specific time.

Please don't miss this opportunity to have an updated photo in our Directory, which benefits clergy and all of us in placing names with faces.

Please contact Kurt Wiesner if you have any questions or special needs.

Facebook: Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church of Downers Grove

Rector  
Associate Rector  
Assisting Priest  
Deacon  
Chaplain  
Chaplain  
Chaplain  
Chaplain  
Parish Music Director  
Organist  
Parish Administrator  
Youth Music Director  
Children's Ministry Assistant  
Bookkeeper  
Parents Day Out Director

Jack Courtney  
Laura Holm  
Janine Pickett  
Tim Seidler

10:00AM Holy Eucharist  
*In-person and on Facebook Live*