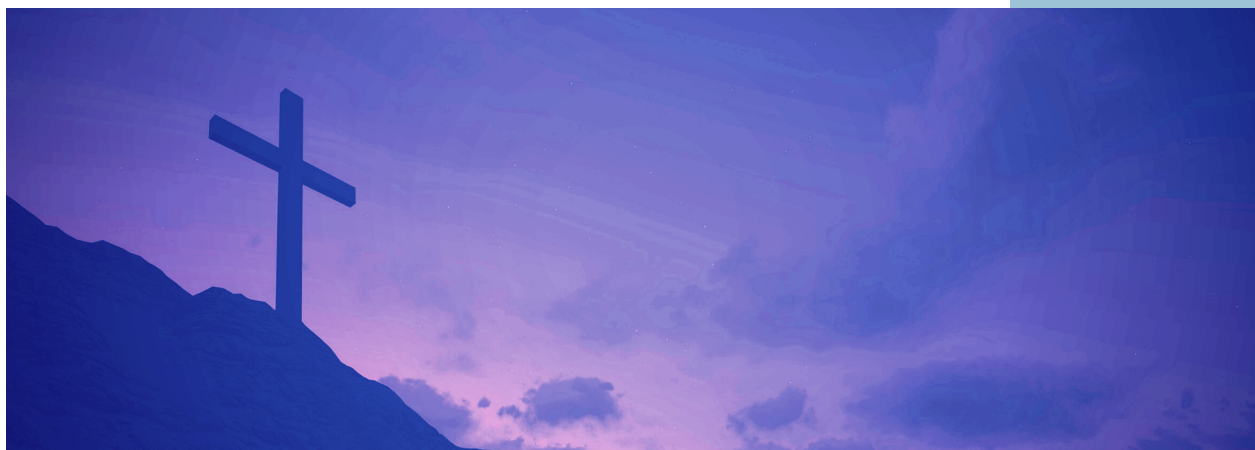


St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



Warden's Message

If you read the "Living Well Thru Advent" booklet donated by one of our members, you may have seen the following prayer:

Peace Prayer, attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

Grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console.

To be understood as to understand,

To be loved, as to love.

{Amen}

"To console, understand and love. If all peoples, leaders, and nations could strive for these basic principles, there would be less conflict.

I believe we at St. Andrew's abide by those principles. We truly are a "family" and look after each other. Continue to give your Peace to each other.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

PEACE BE WITH YOU

Jerry

Join Us Sundays

10:45

In-Person or on Zoom

Sunday School at 10:30

StAndrewsBurt.com

*St. Andrew's
Seeks to Share
the Unconditional
Love of God*

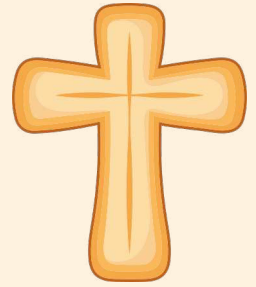


St. Andrew's Lay Leadership



THANK YOU to our NEW Warden & Vestry Members!

Jamie Gailie, Warden
Melissa Coleman, Vestry Member
Janelle Dengate, Vestry Member



THANK YOU to our Continuing Warden & Vestry Members!

Jerry Harrington, Warden
Natalie Beilein, Vestry Member
Sharon Rhodes, Vestry Member
Melissa Bleiler, Vestry Member
Tom Villeneuve, Vestry Member

Hello St. Andrews Family,

I am Jamie Gailie. In case you do not recognize my name, I am the one who sits right up front with Thatcher and Gage, when he graces us with his presence at church.

I am currently employed by the Niagara County Department of Health in the Early Intervention division. I have been in this position for only 2 and a half years, but have been a county employee for 27 years. My position in the county is a Service Coordinator. Essentially what I do is help families who have infants or toddlers who need some extra help. That could be speech therapy or physical therapy or other therapies, as needed. I personally do not do the therapy; I just coordinate the case and get the professionals in there to help. This requires me to go into homes and talk to all kinds of people. I was made for this job!! I LOVE meeting new people and helping children.

I have been a member of St. Andrews for about 14 years. I came to this church when I wanted Gage baptized. Then you were all so kind and welcoming I decided to stay and worship with you. Since coming to your church, I have been a part of the annual fish fry fundraiser and run the Adopted Family ministry, something that is very near and dear to my heart.

I feel a calling to be a part of the St. Andrews vestry to try and help our church thrive. I would love for one day to see our pews full and children's voices filling the church. I would like to make our church monetarily stable and help share the love of God to all who will listen. I would like to do my small part in making a difference.

Sincerely,
Jamie Gailie, Warden

St. Andrew's Lay Leadership

Melissa Coleman, Vestry Member

Education/Career: I am a recently retired music educator, instructor of voice, organ and piano. Retired nursery school teacher. 40 plus years serving as a church musician, organist/choir director, and director of music ministry at both St Mary's RC in Medina and then St Mary's RC in Lockport until its closure in 2011. I continued serving many different faith communities providing music for funerals, weddings, and special events until breaking my wrist very badly 2 years ago. The injury has made it very painful to play the keyboard since.

Why would you like to serve on the Vestry at St. Andrew's Church? I was actually approached and asked if I would be willing to serve in this capacity. I had not actually considered serving in this role until I was asked, but since I just recently retired I am excited to help St. Andrew's in this way. I think my many years of experience working in church 5 ministries may provide me with insight on a variety of levels, especially during this transition time as we search for a new pastor.

Other interests and Activities: I am kept extremely busy providing childcare for our three grandchildren. My husband Rick and I enjoy camping, boating, and traveling. My happy place is surrounded by my family or working in my gardens.

Volunteer Activities: I am just beginning to explore volunteer activities as my previous hours of work didn't really allow me the free time to commit to volunteerism. My entire family is extremely involved with Miller Hose Fire Company and I lend a helping hand whenever required there.

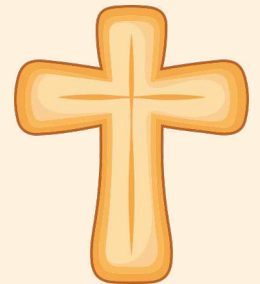
Janelle Dengate, Vestry Member

Education/ Current Career:

Associate Degree in Liberal Arts - NCCC (now SUNY Niagara)

Bachelor of Science in Education and History - Niagara University

Master's Degree in Special Education/Literacy - Niagara University



I am a general special education teacher for ON BOCES at the Newfane Learning Center.

Why would you like to serve on the Vestry at St. Andrew's Church? I would like to help in any way possible. Having never served on the Vestry before this will be a new opportunity to help and share ideas.

Other interests and Activities: I like sewing and crafting. I love to cook and attempt to bake. I enjoy reading and gardening. I used to paint and draw but it is hard to find time now. I love to be outdoors, camping, and hiking.

Volunteer Activities: I am a Girl Scout leader for a troop in Barker. I am a Newfane Library Board Trustee member and a programming board volunteer. I also am a volunteer at Fort Niagara. I worked there for 22 years, but I still volunteer for various events, from making breakfast to guiding visitors to crowd control. As a member of St. Andrew's Church since 2020, I have joined the Altar Guild, helped with the Bazaar, and last year started the New Day Coffee fundraiser that will start again this year, beginning February 24th.

Lenten Prayers

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

– *The Book of Common Prayer, pg. 265*

Rest

Jesus, I am stressed.

Help me to accept your invitation to come and receive the rest I need.

Help me to willingly release my fear, my worries, my agenda and my to-do list.

Ease the tension and replenish my body.

Silence the voices of doubt and speak your words of truth.

Remove the heaviness of my day and pour out abundantly into my life.

Fill me with your peace, joy and love.

Fill me until the overwhelm is consumed by your grace and my life reflects the beauty of resting in you.

Amen.

– Dr. Sandra Dalton-Smith

5 Short Prayers

Prayer for Repentance: Dear Lord, during this Lenten season, help me to recognize my sins and turn my heart toward you in genuine repentance. Grant me the strength to make amends and grow in your grace. Amen.

Prayer for Guidance: Heavenly Father, as I embark on this Lenten journey, guide my steps and illuminate my path with your wisdom. May your Word be a lamp to my feet and a light to my soul. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Prayer for Spiritual Renewal: Lord Jesus, during Lent, I seek spiritual renewal and a deeper connection with you. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, cleanse my heart, and draw me closer to your love and grace. Amen.

Prayer for Self-Denial: Gracious God, as I practice self-denial during Lent, may I grow in humility and reliance on you. Help me to turn away from worldly distractions and focus on your presence and purpose. Amen.

Prayer for Compassion: Dear God, during this Lenten season, open my heart to the needs of others. May I reflect your love and compassion in my actions, serving those who are suffering or in need. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Lenten Prayers

Repent

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

– The Book of Common Prayer, pg. 264

Restore

Lent should be more than a time of fasting.

It should also be a joyous season of feasting.

Lent is a time to fast from certain things and to feast on others.

It is a season to turn to God. May we:

Fast from judging others; feast on the goodness in them.

Fast from emphasis on difference; feast on unity of all life.

Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.

Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.

Fast from worry; feast on divine order.

Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.

Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.

Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.

Fast from hostility; feast on non-resistance.

Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.

Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.

Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.

Fast from facts that depress; feast on truths that uplift.

Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.

Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.

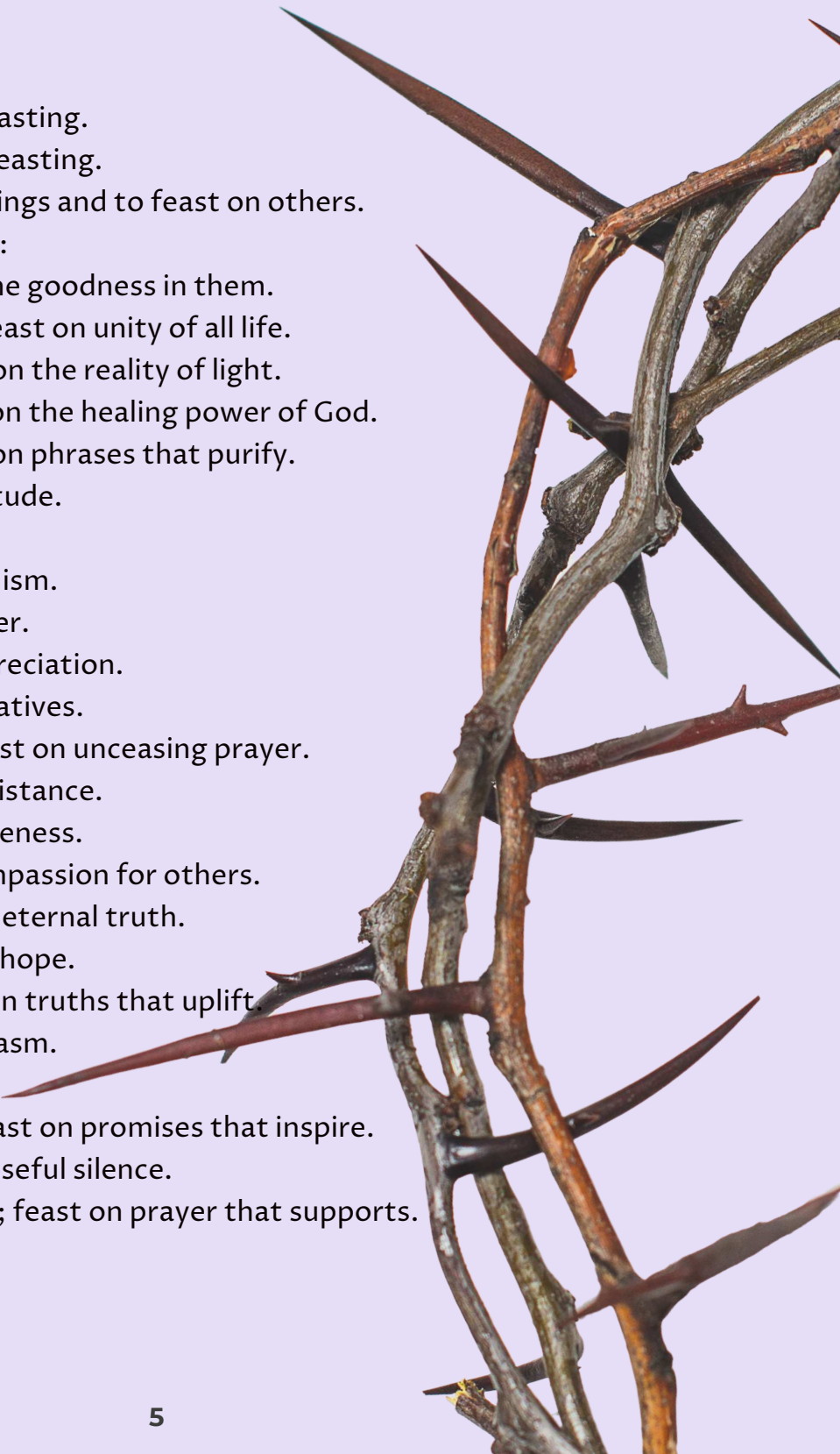
Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.

Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that supports.

Amen.

– William Arthur Wald



Deacon Martha's Report

As the new year unfolded in 2024, I felt the need to explore a new way of fulfilling and expressing my diaconal call. Through prayer, meditation, guidance from my Spiritual Director, with whom I meet every four to six weeks, discernment, and a meeting with then, Bishop Sean, in February, I had the opportunity to “spread my wings”.

Most of you know my passion for Creation Spirituality and Eco-justice. I was fortunate enough to realize a dream of reopening Chapel of the Good Shepherd, (Brookside) on Day Rd. in Lockport for a weekly Tuesday potluck supper and service from June 11-September 24. The tranquil setting and historic structure provided the perfect place to share a variety of services led by different people each week, among them a vigil before the election of our Presiding Bishop, an evening of meditation and healing, Eucharist, Evening Prayer, one that linked Love Rising events to those who attended Brookside, a night of music led by Doug Wintersteen, from St. Andrews, a guest speaker, a service dedicated to Creation Care, and at the request of a couple of attendees, the last service was a women's evening, discussing Women in the Bible. Still lingering is finding a way and a place, to create a “Forest Church” gathering for like-minded, like-hearted people who feel the connection between Creator and Creation and the wish to preserve such a precious gift. Please remember to let me know if you'd like to join in a creation care stations of the cross activity in mid-February to prepare stations for presentation during Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5.

My role as Deacon among you has shifted and has, for now, comfortably settled into Liturgy of the Word with Reserved Sacrament on the third Sunday of the month. It was with joy that I celebrated Christmas Eve in both Lewiston and Burt.

Earlier in the year, I added a Reserved Sacrament service for residents at Absolut, Gasport, and Heritage Manor of Ransomville. The service at Heritage came about because of the new relationship established by members of the Mission Committee (and others) at St. Paul's. I am privileged to continue a relationship with residents of Briarwood Manor in Lockport that began decades ago as Morning Prayer on the second Saturday of each month and evolved through assisting with Eucharist when a priest was available to the present Reserved Sacrament Service that has been the normal for a length of time now. I spent Christmas morning with several residents at Briarwood and was able to celebrate with 15 people in Heritage Manor the day after Christmas.

While pastoral care calls continue, they have been fewer in the past several months. I continue to send cards to homebound folks and retired deacons on a monthly basis and have had phone conversations with some who need to feel part of the fold. My life-long relationship with parishioners at Christ Church, Lockport, allowed me the honor to assist with the funeral services of three people, mentors and cherished friends, this past year. I was also blessed to assist at Bob Payne's (St. Andrew's member) funeral last January. As always, I am available for pastoral care concerns and emergencies.

(continued on next page)

Deacon Martha's Report

(continued from previous page)

The pet food pantry initiated by animal lovers from St. Andrew's, was supported by people at St. Paul's. What a wonderful way to work together for the good of all. In this vein, how good it was to share the basket raffle and chicken dinner event that benefitted each parish. St. John's, Wilson, contributed to the ABCD outreach along with St. Paul's Mission Committee, to strengthen the relationship with agricultural workers in this area that is a part of ministry being done through St. Andrew's Thrift Store. It was a delight to spend an evening at the Store while folks from ABCD shopped and took home a chicken and a bag of food for Christmas dinner.

Among other engagements, I was involved with the deanery meetings though they have been dissolved for now; met with Clericus (deanery clergy), attended monthly group meetings of Lockport Family Focus, a gathering of reps from non-profit agencies in the area (St. Andrew's applied for a grant through Grigg Lewis Foundation who sponsors the group), and with whom I've been associated for 10 years, continued to meet with my Spiritual Director, and have for the third year, provided monthly meetings as a spiritual guide.

My husband and I enjoy preparing a meal the first Monday of the month for Lockport CARES shelter and have, along with family members, made special meals for holiday celebrations. We participated in Coldest Night, last February, a walk that's held to boost awareness of "life on the street" and what being unhoused might feel like. I will be walking again this February, if anyone wants to sponsor me or give a donation.

Unrelated to my ministries is my involvement with my high school class of '74. Last July, we celebrated our 50th reunion. I chaired the event along with a few other classmates and we worked on the plans for 18 months. It truly was wonderful and memorable and though it took a lot of time and energy, it was a worthwhile effort. Part of our celebration included creating a scholarship/award presentation for the 2024 graduating class. It was a gratifying experience to put this together along with other interested class mates who live out of town and to be a presenter along with a classmate who lives in the immediate area. We've begun to work on awards for 2025.

I look forward to walking alongside you in the coming year as we continue to be co-creators of the Kin-dom on earth as it is in Heaven.

Faithfully,
Deacon Martha

Diocese

A Timeline Leading to the Special Convention on May 3rd

January 7th -8th: The Standing Committees offer two Zoom Conversations to share information with Clergy and Lay Leaders about the Special Convention. (will be recorded)

- o Tuesday, January 7 at 4pm
- o Wednesday, January 8 at 7pm

On February 17th: The Evaluation Report is released to the Standing Committees and the Lenten Planning Committee.

On February 28th: The Standing Committees meet in Jamestown, NY with the Evaluation consultants: The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas and The Rev. Gay Jennings to review report.

On February 28th: The Report is shared digitally with Diocesan Partnership in the afternoon.

On March 1st: Warden/Vestry/Congregational Leaders Day in WNY (Tonawanda, NY)

- ي Will include an in-person Standing Committee Listening Session with WNY Standing Committee

During the Week of March 9th: A Diocesan Partnership Lenten Discernment Program Begins and meets weekly through the week of April 6th (5 sessions)

Week of March 23rd: Standing Committee Listening Sessions by Diocese (will NOT be recorded)

- o For Clergy: Tuesday, March 25 at 4pm
- o For Lay Congregational Leaders: Thursday, March 27 at 7pm

- ي These sessions will occur in separate Zoom rooms by Diocese

On March 29th: Warden/Vestry/Congregational Leaders Day in NWPA (Franklin, PA)

- ي Will include an in-person Standing Committee Listening Session with NWPA Standing Committee

On April 6-8: Clergy Retreat in Celeron, NY

- ي Agenda will include Conversations about the Future of the Partnership

On April 22nd: Preconvention Meeting for Clergy/Delegates at 7pm (via Zoom)

On April 23rd: Preconvention Meeting for Clergy/Delegates at 4pm (via Zoom)

On May 3rd: Special Convention at St. Luke's in Jamestown, NY at 10am to 2pm

- ي Agenda will include Conversations about the Future of the Partnership



Transition

Our Profile Phrases

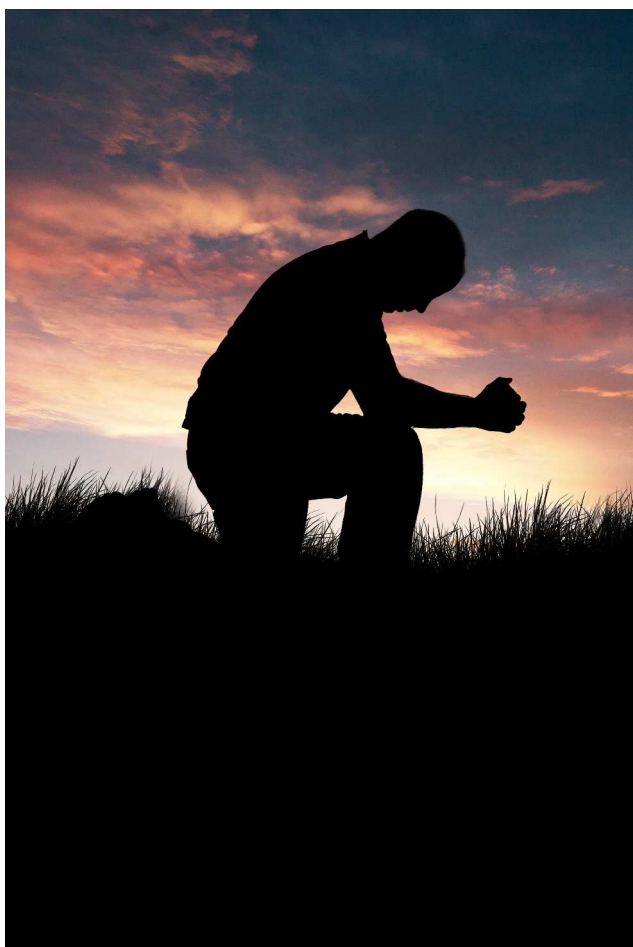
(based on responses from the September 8th meeting with Craig Dressler)

We seek a warm, compassionate, and down to earth minister who is family oriented and has a hopeful outlook on life.

We seek an effective communicator who listens with empathy, makes connections to our church community, and crafts sermons that are meaningful and relevant to people's everyday lives.

We seek a spiritual leader who inspires our congregation to deepen our connection to faith, offering comfort, support, and guidance in times of joy, sorrow, and spiritual need.

We seek a priest who finds joy in music, fellowship, and ministry and who will become an integral part of our St. Andrew's family.



Worship Schedule

February 2: Rev. Robert Duerr

February 9: Deacon's Mass (Jeffrey Tooke)

February 16: Deacon's Mass (Martha Farone)

February 23: Rev. Robert Duerr

March 2: Rev. Robert Duerr, along

with Canon Craig Dressler

March 9: Deacon's Mass (Jeffrey Tooke)

March 16: Deacon's Mass (Martha Farone)

March 23: Rev. Robert Duerr

March 30: Morning Prayer

FISH FRY!

"Here fishy fishy" to quote Ernie from Sesame Street. It's almost time!!!!

Get out your baking sheets and pie pans, the flour and the butter, your old stinky clothes and hats, and let's sell some FISH FRYS!!!!

Fish Fry will be takeout only, running this year for our usual 7 weeks:
February 28th - April 11th.

Mark your calendars, tell your neighbors!

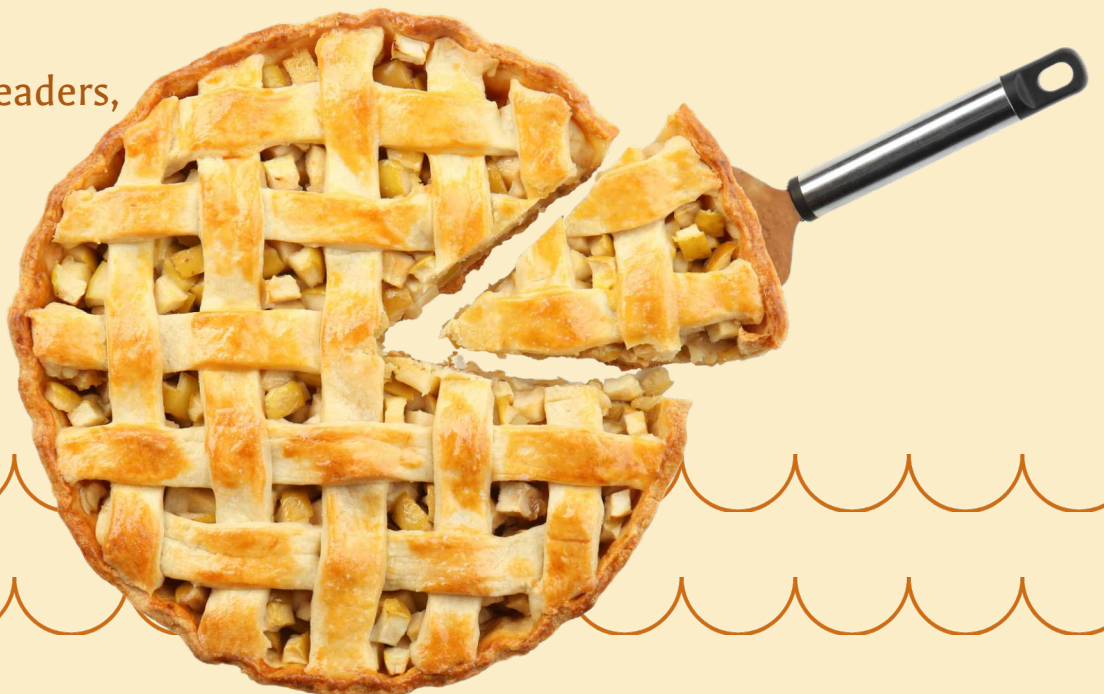
Please, if you can, consider making a dessert for one or all of the Fridays. We need LOTS every week!! For drop off, please message me or Tom. As of this writing, these are the only details I have available.

MORE TO COME SOON!!!

I have faith this will be our best-selling season yet!!

Your Fish Fry Team Leaders,

Tom & Jamie





An escape room game is a real life, interactive puzzle filled environment that challenges you to think our way out of a locked room in 60 minutes or less.

Escape games can have all kinds of themes, goals, puzzles and stories, but they all conform to a certain set of rules. You are in an unusual space. You have to explore. You're under time pressure. You must work together to solve your way out.

Join St. Andrew's Church at
"Escape Room Buffalo"
a real life, interactive challenge!

What:	Escape Room Buffalo
When:	Sunday, February 23rd
Time:	12:00 Lunch after service 1:30pm arrival at venue 1:45pm Challenge Begins
Where:	Escape Room Buffalo 290 Oliver Street North Tonawanda, NY 14120
Cost:	\$20.00/Adult \$15.00/Kids under 10

There are 4 Escape Rooms to choose from:

The Temple—Can you escape? for 3-10 players. 35% escape rate.

The Power Plant— The power plant is melting down, can you escape before it is too late? For 3-8 players. 29% escape rate.

The Prison Break 2.0—You must escape from your cell to join up with others from your cell block and escape! For 3-8 players. 33% escape rate.

The Castle— Can you escape? For 2-6 players. 44% escape rate.

R.S.V.P
Pam Leibring
By Sunday,
February 15th

Leibring@yahoo.com

(716) 807-9535

**All St. Andrew's families
& friends are welcome to
join in the fun!**

Schedules



February

Lay Readers

- 2 - Dorothy Cheasty
- 9 - Jerry Harrington
- 16 - Jamie Gailie & Sharon Rhodes
- 23 - Liz Depew

Video Producers

- 2 - Natalie Beilein
- 9 - Pam Leibring
- 16 - Lynn Schauer-Bewley
- 23 - Jamie Galie

Altar

Janelle Dengate & Sue Villeneuve

Collection Counters

The Depews

March

Lay Readers

- 2 - Dorothy Cheasty
- 5 - Ash Wed (TBA)
- 9 - Jerry Harrington
- 16 - Jamie Gailie & Sharon Rhodes
- 23 - Dorothy Cheasty
- 30 - Liz Depew

Video Producers

TBD

Altar

TBD

Collection Counters

The Harringtons

Community Store

Wednesday 11 am - 4 pm
 Thursday 10 pm - 4 pm
 Friday 12 pm - 3 pm
 Saturday 10 am - 2 pm



Building Our Future
Through Faith & Fellowship

Calendar



February

- 2 - Building & Grounds Meeting 9 am
- 12 - Vestry 7 pm
- 16 - Staff Meeting 12 pm
- 16 - Rehab Service
- 28 - First Fish Fry!

March

- 2 - Building & Grounds Meeting 9 am
- 5 - Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm
(Ashes To Go are paused for 2025)
- 7 - 2nd Fish Fry
- 12 - Vestry 7 pm
- 14 - 3rd Fish Fry
- 16 - Staff Meeting 12 pm
- 16 - Rehab Service
- 21 - 4th Fish Fry
- 28 - 5th Fish Fry

For Any Pastoral Concerns,
Please Contact Jackie at
716.553.9748

The Rector responds to concern that Lent is a downer



St. Andrew's Newsletter

February/March 2025

Bishop of Western New York: Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe

Deacon: Martha Faronc

Wardens

Jerry Harrington

Jamie Gailie

Vestry

Natalie Belein

Sharon Rhodes

Melissa Bleiler

Tom Villeneuve

Melissa Coleman

Janelle Dengate

Office Manager: Shawn Slother

Music Director & Organist: Joe Brezka, Jr.

Music Associate: Evan Bleiler

Treasurer: Doug Wintersteen

Sexton: Jerrilyn Carney

St. Andrew's Community Store: Cynthia Harrington

Church School Superintendent: Nancy Pestinger

Choir Librarian: Shirley Litz

Altar Guild Director: Jackie Jordan

Deanery / Convention Delegates:

Sarah Harrington

Janelle Dengate

Cynthia Harrington, Alternate

St. Andrew's Newsletter

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
2239 West Creek Road
P.O. Box 133
Burt, New York 14028-0133

Dated Material

To: