

THE WORD from St. Andrew's December 2025



Rachel Weeping: Embracing the Darkness in Advent

During the Advent season, one verse always catches my eye like a red rose on a black coffin:



"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more" (Matt: 2:18, NRSV)

In the midst of the stories we read during Advent is a story about a massacre. Of children. This horrifying event, prompted by the magi's visit and Herod's discovery that a king had been born, results in the deaths of children, ages two and under, in and around Bethlehem. To call this a dark story is an understatement.

The reality is that the stories of Advent portray great darkness and fear. Think of Mary, all alone, being confronted by an angel declaring her mysteriously pregnant (Matt. 1:26-38), and Joseph sadly contemplating divorce when he found out about Mary's pregnancy (Matt 1:19), and Zechariah being struck mute in the Holy of Holies for questioning an angel (Luke 1:20), and Mary giving birth to her first baby at night (without a midwife) in a stable stinking with manure (Luke 2:6-7), and the holy family forced to flee their homeland for Egypt because of Herod's threat (Matt. 2:13), and the fear of the crowd when Zechariah suddenly regained his voice (Luke 1:65), and the terror of the shepherds in the dark of the night when the angelic host suddenly appeared (Luke 2:9), and Simeon's stark prophecy declaring that a sword would pierce Mary's soul (Luke 2:34). Think of how such events must have shaken the faith of these familiar characters we place in peaceful manger scenes!

These are stories of grief, scandal, threat, mystery, and exile—stories where terror overshadows the lives of ordinary people. We often gloss over these stories in our rush to hear the good news, in our desire to be awash in light and angelic pronouncements. And we forget how often the angels had to declare, "Fear not!" because their presence produced such terror.

The seasons of Advent, Christmas, and the New Year are difficult seasons for many people. The persons we sit next to in church (or we ourselves) may be bearing unfathomable burdens—economic hardship, broken relationships, grief over the loss of family members and close friends, the loss of a job, lack of secure housing, a devastating diagnosis, chronic pain, depression, doubt and, perhaps, the loss of faith, and a haunting sense of anxiety. We are surrounded by Christmas lights that start glowing the day after Halloween, music that tells us it's the most wonderful time of the year, and an incessant, throbbing marketplace clamoring for us to spend money because surely that will bring joy to the world.

Like Rachel, many of us are weeping, feeling completely alone in our sadness, wondering how we can face the cacophony of the days ahead, and quietly doubting whether or not God is real. We feel like we can't get past the fear and hope seems unreachable. Our hearts break because the sounds of the seasons remind us of who and/or what we've lost.



Perhaps a way forward is not to deny the darkness but to embrace it—to bear with our pain rather than flee from it. Embracing darkness requires us to seek its beauty, to recognize that our eyes must adjust when light is absent. And who knows what wondrous things we might see in the mystery of the dark?

- Susan+





St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

505 N. Pennsylvania Ave.
 PO Box 1495 Roswell, NM 88202
 Phone: 575-622-1353 FAX: 622-1384
church@standrewsroswell.com

Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande

Bishop

The Right Rev. Michael Hunn
 Phone: 505-881-0636

Rector

Rev. Dr. Susan Day Pigott
 Email: rector@standrewsroswell.com

Staff

575-622-1353
church@standrewsroswell.com

Parish Administrator: Janet Macaluso
Sexton: Don Lupien
Receptionist Vera Lupien

Officers

Senior Warden Greg Anderson
Junior Warden Cat Husby
Treasurer Charmaine Martin
Clerk Janet Macaluso

Vestry

Sara Armstrong 575-626-0485
 scram@aecnm.com

Shelly Currier 575-317-2042
 shellycswings1@gmail.com

Charmaine Martin 575-626-4715
 charmainem704@gmail.com

Ken Hernandez 575-808-1408
 strndedinroswell@yahoo.com

Catherine Husby 575-910-6275
 catherinehusby@gmail.com

Jerry O'Dette 575-420-0084
 jerryodette@yahoo.com

Greg Anderson 575-420-1300
 ganderson9440@gmail.com

Gini Bartley 895-901-2980
 geebart12@gmail.com

Derek Evans 575-914-1629
 evansderek33@gmail.com

Editor of The Word

Charmaine Martin 575-626-4715
 charmainem704@gmail.com

Choirmaster

Scott Tripp 305-929-3501
 scott@brackentripp.com

Organist

Karen Fuss 575-626-2229
 kfussnm93@gmail.com

Vestry Report

The Vestry met on Monday, November 17th.

Mother Susan reported on the Diocesan Convention, that included powerful sermon by Bishop Hunn at the Convention Eucharist. She stated that probably the most significant action taken by Convention was to pass a resolution on human dignity and support for immigrants in the United States legally. She said this resolution would be shared with other Dioceses in the hope that they will act likewise.

She met with the Trustees of the Diocese to discuss possible uses for our apartment. (ed. note: All the real property in the diocese is titled in the name of the Diocese, so the Chancellor and Trustees have the authority and ability to advise on major issues involving church facilities. They can be an invaluable resource for legal and practical advice.) They considered several uses for the apartment, and drew our attention to potential problems, and noted that any planned use would require a clear, written policy. They also pointed us to a Parish that had recently adopted such a policy, which we could adapt to our local circumstances.

Mother Susan will be out of the office on five weekdays during December, taking an online Continuing Education class, as per her contract, and diocesan policy.

During October, we assisted 15 families through the Rector's Discretionary Fund, for a total expenditure of \$1, 511.57, primarily for utility bills and rent.

The Senior Warden announced that he is looking into available programs for us to design and maintain our website in-house. Once we are proficient in the technical processes, we will be looking at what content is needed and how to organize it.

The Junior Warden reported that a repairman would be coming to examine the ovens in the kitchen, but he has not given a specific date and time.*

Committee reports: Shelly reported on plans for a inter-generational fun activity during the St. Nicholas Day Coffee Hour on December 7th.

Jerry reported on the nearly complete plans for the St. Andrew's table at the Downtown Christmas Market on December 6th.

The nominating committee submitted their report.

In Executive Session, the Vestry received the report of the Compensation and Review Committee and learned that Vera Lupien was resigning as receptionist to spend more time at her newly opened quilt Shop.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Vestry meeting will be December 15th at 5:00 pm, and parishioners are welcome.



* PS The Ovens have been recalibrated to hold their correct temperatures.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Sharon Collins, Kevin Taylor, Jim Manatt, John Ahlen, Ronnie Whitaker, Charles Berry, Suzanne Berry, Dan Johnson, Paul Butler, Marilyn Manatt, Teresa Patton, Kathleen Pittman, Bill Mayne, Bill Murphy, Beth Bierwirth, Nick Nickerson, John Fuss, Kap Kelley, Domenic Macaluso, Dom Perri, Jim Perri, Janet Macaluso, Pat & Carlton, Carol Anne Linson, Melody Green, Tim Wyatt, Jim Teel, Justin McClelland, John LeBarre, Cole Robinson, Chance Cavin, Eric & Gaylie, Mike Leshnov, David Knadle, Alice B. Smith, Emma Cortez & Jeremiah Bryant, Lynn Townsend, Sevie Bates, Andrew W., Cory Woodbury, Lew High-tower, Pat Wiberg, Jeannine Byron, Fern Simpson,

- Ministries of St. Andrew's: Mother Susan, the Vestry, and the Foundation; Layreaders, EMs (Eucharistic Ministers), Ushers, Altar Guild, the Choir, EfM, Advent Study, Kids Quest, Loaves & Fishes hospitality ministries, Men's Group, Women of St. Andrew's, & Daughters of the King.
 - Our Sexton Don Lupien, Parish Administrator, and Janet Macaluso.
The search for Nursery Attendants and Receptionist
- Outreach ministries: Andy's Community Breakfast, Four Paws Pet Pantry, Needle Arts ministry; Starting Line, Wings for L.I.F.E, Community Kitchen, Alzheimer's Caregivers' Support Group
 - The Episcopal Church, Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe
 - The Diocese of the Rio Grande, Bishop Michael Hunn, Canon Kristin Kopren
 - For Camp Stoney, and the Missioner for Christian Formation, Rev. LeAnna Brun
 - For all seminarians, for the Commission on Ministry, and the Bishop's School for Ministry.
 - For Diocesan Councils, Committees, Commissions, and the Cathedral Chapter
 - Borderlands Ministries, Bridge Chaplain Ana Reza
 - For the SE Deanery, Fr. James Brzezinski, Dean
 - All those in the Armed Forces and their families; and for First Responders
 - RCC Inmates & Officers, Guards, & Teachers; CCDC inmates & staff;
 - Those who are sick and those who care for them; for nurses, doctors and all medical staff
 - Those who Mourn
 - The People of Sudan, Ukraine, Haiti, and all who suffer the horrors of War
 - For those fighting Injustice or Suffering it
 - Refugees, and those providing help for them; for Episcopal Migration Ministries
 - For those in the path of storms, floods, fires, and other disasters, and all who work to relieve and support them
 - For the homeless; For the needy and hungry; For the will and means to help them
 - For the unloved and those who have no one to pray for them;
 - For our leaders in the city, state, and nation: wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties
 - For peace, and for those who threaten it, turning the hearts of those who would harm others

For Peace on Earth.



Artwork by Kelley Lattimore

*What child is this who fled that night
From Herod's wrathful order?
As Rachel wept
The family kept
On pressing toward the border.
This, this is Christ our king:
A refugee, a stranger.
Pray, pray for all like him,
The Babe, the son of Mary.*

- Victoria Emily Jones (2016)



- 12/2 - Richard Collins
Marilyn Manatt
Alexandra Steinback
- 12/5 - Dawn Willis
- 12/6 - Nick Macaluso
- 12/7 - Dan Whitfield
- 12/8 - Rob Shand
- 12/12 - Bryan Evans
- 12/23 - Diane Henderson
Kate McClelland
Mark Norman
- 12/26 - Ernie Meda
- 12/27 - Anne Crowder
- 12/29 - Sissy Mayne
- 12/30 - Bob Armstrong
- 12/31 - Mark Kelly

Downtown Christmas Market



The Mainstreet Roswell Christmas Parade will be accompanied by a Christmas market on the Courthouse lawn, on **Saturday, Dec 6th** Like last year, we are planning on having a St. Andrew’s table, to tell who

we are and what we’re doing.

If you’d like to help with this important (and fun) Outreach to the community, call Jerry Odette, or the office.

And plan to stop by the Market, and our table, on Dec 6th, anytime between 10—4. (Parade starts at 6)

St Nicholas Day Breakfast

Instead of a Fifth Sunday Potluck in the SAME Weekend as Thanksgiving , we’re going to have a turkey-free, fun breakfast the next weekend (Dec 7th) in honor of St. Nicholas Day. Loaves and Fishes and The Women of St. Andrew’s will collaborate on some tasty treats, and the Women will have games and small gifts for the kids. There’s a fun mixer planned to get the kids to know their church family better. AND, we’ll have a “surprise” visitor.

St. Nicholas Day is for Children everywhere, so bring your children, or the child inside you.



Daughters of the King

Monday December 15th

11 am Hunker Room

All women of St. Andrews are welcome!



The Quest Continues!

Kids Quest will meet all through December (except for Dec 28th) from 9 to 9:30.

In Kids Quest, we sing songs, learn about the Liturgical Calendar, study one of the lectionary texts for the day, and do related crafts and games. All kids from kindergarten through fifth grade are welcome! Bring friends!



The deadline for the **January 2026 Word** is **Dec 16th**. Send anything you would like to share to Charmaine:

charmainem704@gmail.com

Join **The Word Gang!** The extraordinary crew of Folders and Label-stickers!

Tuesday, **December 30th** at 9:30 in the Church Office
View The Word Online! In Full Color, with working links:

<http://www.standrewsroswell.com/the-word.html>

Needle Arts Ministry

In October we took six receiving blankets, hats, knit sweaters and knit booties to both Lovelace and ENMMC. I always check to make sure these are items they can still use and have been assured these items are very appreciated.

We continue to make the mini prayer quilts for Mtr. Susan to hand out to those she is working with in the office and in the community. If you or someone you know could use a mini prayer quilt let Janet in the office know or contact me. There are a couple of receiving blanket kits in the office if you would like to help by sewing a receiving blanket.

Thanks to all of you who sew blankets, knit hats and accessories, purchase fabric and yarn and make monetary donations. We could not do this outreach without your support!!

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, December 11th, at 10:00** in the conference room in the office.

Please come join us!!

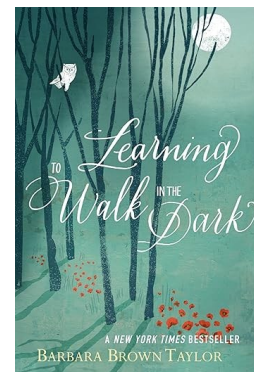
Debbi Smith

St. Andrew's Needle Arts Ministry



Advent Study

Our Advent Study this year will begin on **December 3rd** and meet for a total of three Wednesdays, always at **5:15pm**. We are using a book by Barbara Brown Taylor called ***Learning to Walk in the Dark***.



” Taylor has become increasingly uncomfortable with our tendency to associate all that is good with lightness and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness. Doesn't God work in the nighttime as well? In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us in the dark. She argues that we need to move away from our solar spirituality and ease our way into appreciating lunar spirituality (since, like the moon, our experience of the light waxes and wanes). Through darkness we find courage, we understand the world in new ways, and we feel God's presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most.”

Email church@standrewsroswell.com for Zoom link.

Books are available for \$10 from the church office, or from your favorite on-line bookseller.

FOUR PAWS PET PANTRY

Next Pet Pantry Day:

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

3:30 to 5:30 at the 5th Street Entrance



At our October distribution we helped 88 families, handing out 230 gallon bags of dog food, and 108 gallon bags of cat food for a total of 338 bags given out. We had 13 volunteers help bag the food and help with the distribution.

In October we received a very nice donation from the Humane Society of food they are unable to use because of the presence of red dye which can present false urine and stool tests. We appreciate this support and continue to try to help each other with our specific programs.

Thanks to all who have made monetary donations, brought in bags of pet food, and donated zip lock bags. We continue to purchase about 90% of what we hand out so this support is invaluable!!! Also thank you so much to our volunteers who show up each month - not only could we not do this without you but you also make it a lot of fun!!

Debbi Smith and Donna Eastes
Four Paws co chairs



Dog Food and Cat Food NEEDED!!

also Gallon size Ziploc Bags

Make monetary donations payable to St. Andrews, and write "Pet Pantry" in the memo line

OR just buy a bag of dog or cat food and drop it off at the Church

If you prefer you can order Pet food from

Chewy.com They Deliver!

The Women of St. Andrew's

will meet **December 8th** in the **Parish Hall**.

Coffee and **Pot Luck** goodies at **9:30**, meeting at **10:00**,
(all the Women of St. Andrew's are invited!)

The Loaves & Fishes Team for **December** is:

Team 1: Jan., May, Sept. & **Dec** (Chair: Greg Anderson)
Shelly Currier
Almeta & Tom LeBarre
Marilyn Manatt

If you would like to serve on this team, or any of the others, or would be a substitute, please contact Greg Anderson 575- 420-1300.



Team 2: February, June, August, Oct . (Chair: Sue Evans)
Team 3: March, April, July, Nov (Chair: Charmaine Martin)

A child once said her favorite saint was "Saint Scrooge." Not a bad choice, considering his conversion:

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."



Spotlight on Ministry...



Music Ministries

This month we are celebrating the Music Ministry of St. Andrew's. Led by Scott Tripp, the Choir provides musical leadership each Sunday through congregational singing and special anthems. This year, we've begun exploring another treasure of the Church's musical history, the chanting of the Psalm. Each Psalm includes an appropriate refrain to be sung by the congregation between some verses.

For many years, St. Andrew's has held an annual Advent Festival. Those of you who attended the tenth Anniversary Festival last year enjoyed a spectacular introduction to Advent through the beautiful voices of choir members from several churches and an orchestra. This year, we are instead holding combined choir practices in our Parish Hall to prepare for the Roswell Symphony Orchestra's Christmas Concert on **December 14th**, featuring selections from **Handel's Messiah**. This combined Choir is being prepared by our own Choirmaster, Scott Tripp, who is also claimed by New Mexico Military Institute, as he is their professor of vocal music.

Neither our practices, nor our services would sound the same without the accompaniment of our gifted organist Karen Fuss, who also shines in the Prelude and Postlude.

One of Scott's and Karen's biggest challenges is the smallness of our Choir, requiring them to seek out anthems that will fit, and make sudden changes when absences happen. We are always looking (and listening) for more voices to join in our joyful noise. Don't worry if you think you're not very good: Scott lives and breathes to teach (including how to sing and breathe at the same time). The Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m., in the education building. Come and join us. And if you hear a good voice in the pew next to you, encourage them (repeatedly) to join the choir. We'd love to have them or you.

Be sure to extend your gratitude to Scott, Karen, and all those who participate in our choir!

Andy's Breakfast!

Saturday, Dec 27, 2025

7:30 – 10 am

Everyone is Welcome!



In October, **111 plates** (including to-gos) were served to **74 guests**, by **13 Volunteers**.

Thanks to all who came, either as a guest or a volunteer! We can always use help with the clean up. Please call Greg Anderson (575-420-1300) to find out how you can help. Or just **show up** in the Parish Hall at **9:30** for clean-up crew.

We have plenty of travel-size toiletries, but we can use Warm Socks, Warm Clothes and Warm Blankets.

Monetary donations ALWAYS Needed !!!

Make checks to St. Andrew's Church and be sure to note in the memo line: **Andy's Breakfast**

Thank you again for your generosity and support!!

If you would like to help in the kitchen, call Greg Anderson.

To help with the other distributions, call Eileen Grooms.

Alzheimer's Caregivers' Support Group

If you are dealing with the challenges of caring for someone with dementia, there's help!

The Roswell Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

Meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11 am in the Parish Hall

The Group has a page on **Facebook**, where they share lots of useful information

On Saturday, November 1st, our team of facilitators (Greg Anderson, Sara Armstrong, and Cat Husby) joined with other groups and individuals in SE New Mexico for the **Walk to End Alzheimer's**. Collecting donations online, they raised \$1,750. Together, the 28 teams (almost 300 walkers!) raised \$49,500, which was 141% of goal!



From the Calendar of Saints...

St. Thomas the Apostle (December 21)

The Apostle Thomas (Hebrew or Aramaic for “twin”) was also called “Didymus” (Greek for “twin”). He was absent when the Risen Lord appeared to the other apostles on the evening of Easter Day, and refused to believe that Christ had indeed risen until he had seen him for himself, but when he had seen Him, he said to Him, “My Lord and My God.” (John 20:19-29)

Because of this episode, he has been known ever since as “Doubting Thomas.” But we ought also to remember his earlier words, when Jesus announced His intention of going to the Jerusalem area, brushing aside the protests of His disciples that His life was in danger there, at which Thomas said to the others: “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” (John 11:7,8,16) If Thomas was pessimistic, he was also sturdily loyal.

At the Last Supper, Jesus said: “I go to prepare a place for you.... And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.” Thomas replied: “Lord, we know not whither thou goest, and how can we know the way?” To this Jesus answered: “I am the way, the truth and the life.” (John 14:1-6)

Thomas is mentioned again (John 21) as one of the seven disciples who were fishing on the Sea of Galilee (Sea of Tiberias) when the Risen Lord appeared to them. Aside from this he appears in the New Testament only as a name on lists of the Apostles. A couple of centuries later a story was circulating in the Mediterranean world that he had gone to preach in India; and there is a Christian community in India (the Kerala district) that claims descent from Christians converted by the the preaching of Thomas. The tradition among Christians in India is that Thomas was speared to death near Madras, and accordingly he is often pictured holding a spear. Paintings of martyrs often show them holding or accompanied by the instruments with which they were put to death. A recently discovered work called the Gospel of Thomas is a collection of sayings attributed to Jesus. I know of no scholarly support for the notion that it is the work of the Apostle Thomas, but some scholars think that some of the sayings in it may be authentic sayings of Jesus.

These things did Thomas hold for real:
The warmth of blood, the chill of steel,
The grain of wood, the heft of stone,
The last frail twitch of blood and bone.

His brittle certainties denied
That one could live when one had died,
Until his fingers read like Braille
The markings of the spear and nail.

May we, O God, by grace believe
And, in believing, still receive
The Christ who held His raw palms out
And beckoned Thomas from his doubt.



(Thomas Troeger, 1984, Psalter/Hymnal of the Christian Reformed Church)

By James Kiefer

GIVING TUESDAY

There's Black Friday, and Cyber Monday, but there's also Giving Tuesday, the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving (Dec 2, 2025).

Giving Tuesday has been observed since 2012 as a way of giving Thanks by giving to those in need. Any donation to charity is a good thing, but if you can give in connection with Giving Tuesday, you might find matching funds that will double or triple your impact. Go to your favorite charities' websites, and donate this week.

Angel Tree

Angel Tree Angels: Time to Fly Home: bring your wrapped gifts with the tags attached to Church by Dec 7th or to the Office by Dec 8th, or contact Sara Armstrong. Thank you for making Christmas brighter for some little one who is missing their Ma-ma or Papa.



Ember Days

The winter Ember Days fall on December 17, 19, and 20. Ember Days have two meanings: the common one as a time to fast, pray, give thanks for the blessings of the seasons, and give to those in need. At St. Andrew's, we gather offerings for the Community Kitchen, where six days a week, they serve a hot lunch to all comers. Pray for the Community Kitchen on Ember Days, and on the Sunday after (Dec 21) bring your offerings of non-perishable foods* or monetary offerings. Make checks payable St. Andrew's, and write Ember Days or Community Kitchen.

For a discussion of the other meaning see the Online Word.

Food Drive for Hunger



*Large-quantity foods like rice, dried beans, pasta (except spaghetti) and large cans of vegetables and fruit.

In the Diocese ...



The Bishop's weekly video:

Honoring Veterans: A Call to Responsible Deployment and Care

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSYOw3R9V4E>

In this video, Bishop Michael Hunn reflects on the historical and constitutional foundations of the U.S. military, emphasizing the importance of responsible deployment and comprehensive care for veterans. It advocates for accountability in the use of armed forces and highlights the need to address physical, psychological, spiritual and moral wounds of those who serve. A prayer for Veterans Day from the Book of Common Prayer concludes the commemoration.

Life is Changed Not Ended,

The Bishop's Address to Convention 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahp792rZsPw>

Diocesan Convention

Mother Susan identified the adoption of this resolution as probably the most significant act of the Convention:

Resolution: On Human Dignity; Calling for a Humane and Moral Immigration System (Migration with Dignity)

Echoing both our Baptismal Covenant and the Declaration of Independence, the Diocese calls upon elected officials of all parties to enact comprehensive immigration reform that supports and respects the dignity of every human being, both those enforcing the law and those affected by it; and among other things, to permit renewed access to detention centers for Episcopal clergy and chaplains, as well as legal counsel, family members, and appropriate medical personnel

The full text can be found on the Convention page at the Diocesan Website (<https://dioceserg.org/convention-2025>) if you scroll down about halfway. The link is right above the Large Print title: Courtesy Resolutions.

It will also be printed in the Online Word.

Sign Up For the DRG Email Newsletter Today


<https://mailchi.mp/dioceserg/dioceseftheriogrande>



Every Valley: An Advent Reflection

Each year as the calendar turns to Advent, I find myself thumbing through my music library to pull up The Messiah. Best known for its ending movements and the rousing Hallelujah Chorus, the first movement is my favorite, and the one I begin humming to myself in early December. The prophets tell us of a great power, a person to come, who will level the field and reveal the right path. “Every valley shall be exalted!” the Tenor boldly asserts.

Whether it is the Tenor stepping forward for the first solo aria, or visions of a prophet standing in a rocky, winding landscape, the effect is the same: a great work starts with a promise, with a proud proclamation, with someone to point the way. The prophet has something exciting to share with us, something so important that the barriers that stand in the way of hearing and acting on their words will melt away. There is an exchange happening here: the prophet has something to share, and we, who hear the message, have something to receive. When we do, the shock waves of those words will batter down mountains and smooth the rough edges within us.

This same transformation happens when we share our gifts with the church. Our investments of time, talent, and treasure are the natural response to having heard the words of the prophet and having been changed by their message. However you respond to the prophet, the world around you is being made ready to receive what you will share with it. And in every direction, as the chorus answers the Tenor, “The Glory of the Lord will be revealed.” 



Questions for Reflection:

As you ease into Advent this year, pay attention to the tug of the prophet – what is it that you are hearing? How does it cause you to act? Does it fill you with the urge to share that good news and goodness with others?



Canon J. Davey Gerhard serves as Executive Director of TENS: The Episcopal Network for Stewardship, and works diligently each year to make space for Advent



THE EPISCOPAL
NETWORK FOR
STEWARDSHIP



Come to Sing! Or
Come to Listen
December 14th
2:30 PM
Pearson Auditorium

For tickets: <https://prod1.agileticketing.net/websales/pages/list.aspx?epguid=51e086b0-0902-4795-aa77-7085319fae8d&mdy=12%2F14%2F2025&>

NEW UPDATE Christmas Classics
The Messiah

Interested in joining the choir?

MONDAYS from 6:30 - 8:00 PM
Oct 20 & 27 / Nov 3 & 17 / Dec 1

Thursday, December 11th piano rehearsal w/ John Farrer
Rehearsals with the orchestra Saturday, December 13th
Concert Sunday, December 14 @ 2:30 PM
Monday night rehearsals at St. Andrew's Episcopal

From p. 8, the other meaning of:

Ember Days

An Article by Maria Evans from The Episcopal Café



<https://share.google/tOMSSfW9arrFOFnto>

For those in formation for Holy Orders, Ember Days mean, “I Need to Write a Letter to my Bishop Days,” but the days themselves are a fascinating holdover from the times when our society was mostly agrarian.

The name itself is a bit of a misnomer. Ember Days refer to four Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays in the year that were very likely four agricultural feasts in the ancient Roman religious calendar, and possibly even earlier than that, since many pre-Christian religious practices revolved around the equinoxes and the solstices. In Latin, they were called Quatuor Tempora (the four times). As Roman influence spread across Europe, they were called Quatember, and the English language corrupted the name even further by simply calling them Ember. By the time of Pope Gelasius I (492-496) they had somehow become incorporated into the Christian calendar, and moved from being feasts to times of prayer and fasting. Britain embraced the concept easily (after all, the Celts also had feasts at those times,) and the observance of Ember Days is connected to Augustine of Canterbury (597).

So how did this get connected to those in the process for ordination? Again, this began at the time of Pope Gelasius I, and was brought to the British Isles by Archbishop Ecgbert of York (732-766).

As Episcopalians, we can embrace the Ember Days from both angles. Ember Days are a time to consider the wonders of God’s handiwork in the seasons—the lengthening of days in the spring, our gardens and our farmers in the summer, the fall harvests, and the dormancy of winter the ground needs to prepare to do it all over again next year. Additionally, it’s a time to call our prayer attention to the “crop” of the future of ordained leadership in our church—our seminaries and seminarians—as well as the growing numbers of those preparing for Holy Orders outside the traditional 3 year residential seminary experience in our diocesan schools for ministry and hybridizations of both models (Hint, hint—I was one of the latter, and believe me, that’s a very interesting ride, too!).

What I can tell you about my days of being a “person in formation for Holy Orders” is it can feel just as unpredictable as the weather—it has all sorts of spiritual floods, droughts, sunshine and clouds. Writing those letters to my bishop was always one of the harder things to do. What should I talk about? What does my bishop want to know about me and where I am spiritually these days? What can I say that doesn’t just sound like some kind of pious drivel that I think bishops want to hear? I suspect my bishop did his share of laughing at my letters; yet at the same time, I believe he also prayed earnestly for me and that more than one of those prayers carried some intercessions on my behalf. His responses to them were always helpful and thought-provoking.

It also was a great comfort in my formation that I knew there were people out there in my “circle of supporters” praying for me on Ember Days, and praying with heartfelt words. It mattered to see it in the Prayers of the People on the Sundays of those Ember Weeks, and those little emails, notes, and the occasional trinket carried me through a lot of the droughts and floods. It matters to be prayed for while in formation—it really does. It’s something any of us can do that can truly make a difference in the life of a future deacon or priest.

How might you help tend the crop of our postulants and candidates this Ember Week?

Maria Evans splits her week between being a pathologist and laboratory director in Kirksville, MO, and gratefully serving in the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, as the Interim Pastor at Christ Episcopal Church, Rolla, MO.

Advent studies by Zoom:

At St. Andrews:

Mother Susan's Wednesday night course on the book *Learning to walk in the dark*.

Zoom link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81116914142?pwd=ex4UJgSyyuPwFo28XJEp3vdpaf7W1P.1>

Meeting ID: 811 1691 4142

Passcode: 210159

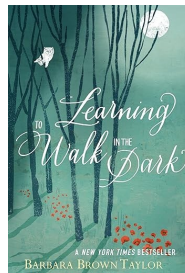
One tap mobile

+13462487799,,81116914142#,,,,*210159# US (Houston)

+14086380968,,81116914142#,,,,*210159# US (San Jose)

Join instructions

https://us06web.zoom.us/meetings/81116914142/invitations?signature=ZWg71hKgQH0kPyXD3nC_eRTHr3UOwx5wJ78O9B9pHF5



Diocese of the Rio Grande Study

Incarnation as Salvation: An Advent Adventure into how God Became Human so that Humans Might Become Like God"

An online Advent Class with Dr. Cindy Geppert

Tuesdays in December at 12pm MST (on Zoom)

Contact: For more information about the course, contact Cindy Geppert at ethicdoc@comcast.net or 505-934-0475

Registration: Click here to register https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeiW9nnnmaBAZA0GYEi0xnpwfiYctA38aK_pz2v8Q6HucD8A/viewform

Registrants will receive an email prior to the first class with zoom link, as well as an email following each session with necessary credentials to view class recording asynchronously. (In case you had to miss a session.)

Course Schedule:

Session 1 December 2nd : We Need to Figure this out: Early Christian Understandings of The Incarnation and Salvation

Session 2 December 9th : Who is a Heretic? It Depends on the Emperor

Session 3 December 16th : Let's all settle down at Chalcedon

Session 4: December 23rd : Athanasius brings it all together

Course Description: Most Christians have been taught that we are saved through Christ's death and resurrection. While that is a true article of faith, Christ first had to come to us as a human being: the creche is the necessary prerequisite for the cross. Some patristic theologians even speculated that the Incarnation alone was sufficient for salvation. In this short course we will accompany the fathers of the church as they struggle to work out Christological and Soteriological doctrines and their relationship and how their ancient insights can help deepen the meaning of Advent and Christmas for our spiritual lives today.

No preparation needed, no background required, no homework assigned: just bring a curious mind and open heart

The Beginning of Another World: Advent against Empire

Sandra Butler Bass & Tripp Fuller at Home-brewed Christianity talk about the Advent meditations in her new book *A Beautiful Year*.

Full Information & registration:

https://homebrewedchristianity.lpages.co/advent-2025-info-page/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email



Stir up Sunday (Third Sunday in Advent: December 14, 2025)

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*



Because of the first two words of the collect, the third Sunday of Advent is the traditional time to "stir up" the Christmas fruit cake. This gives the cake plenty of time to "cure" and soak up the brandy or rum it's been brushed with. Advice from our late parishioner, Hazel Fischer: Use GOOD rum!

Forward Movement (Day by Day) Advent Word <https://adventword.org/>

You can read the daily meditations inspired by word at the website, or sign up for them to be delivered to you email inbox.

More from the Diocese of the Rio Grande (p. 8)

A BLUE CHRISTMAS Service
Wednesday, December 17, 2025
10:00 am
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
1500 Chelwood Park Blvd.

This service is designed for people who have experienced losses and may not feel particularly in the "Christmas" spirit. The hope is that everyone will cast off their grief and leave with a heart open to the new possibilities that the Christ Child brings at Christmas. All are welcome!

The Gallery at the Cathedral of Saint John Is pleased to announce the opening of:

WINTER MAGIC

This exhibit showcases the New Mexico Watercolor Society and is accompanied by the annual Holiday Shoppe which features a selection of handmade toys, jewelry, miniature paintings and photos, ornaments, and other special items for holiday gift giving. This show will run until Sunday, January 25, 2026.

Gallery hours: Monday thru Thursday 10am to 4pm; Friday 10am to noon; Sundays during and after service hours until 12:30pm.

The Diocesan Website has greatly expanded the **Formation** page where they post lots of educational opportunities from across the Diocese in one place.

[Formation Opportunities — The Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande](#)

From the Diocesan Calendar:

December 10 - Celebration of the Feast of Ted Howden with Confirmations, Cathedral of St. John, ABQ, 6:00pm (MST)

December 11 - **Feast of Ted Howden**, Priest, Military Chaplain, and son of the Rio Grande (1941) (Rector of St. Andrew's in the 19030s. See his portrait in the Howden Room)

December 13 - 10th **Children's Messiah**, Cathedral of St. John, ABQ, 10:30am (MST)

December 19 - Christmas Cantata, **Comes the Prince of Peace by Olive Balla**, St. Matthew's, Los Lunas, 7:00pm (MST)

December 20 - Christmas Cantata, **Comes the Prince of Peace by Olive Balla**, St. Philip's, Rio Communities, 7:00pm (MST)

December 20 - **Bishop's Ridge** Christmas Open House, 3:00pm (MST)

December 21 - Christmas Lessons & Carols with Benjamin Britten's **A Ceremony of Carols**, Cathedral of St. John, ABQ, 4:00pm (MST) More information [HERE](#).



The Full Text of the Diocesan Resolution mentioned on p.3 & p.8:

**Resolution: On Human Dignity;
Calling for a Humane and Moral Immigration System
(Migration with Dignity)**

Submitted by: The Rev'd Michael Wallens, St. Paul's, Marfa, Texas

To: The 2025 Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande

Resolved, that the 2025 Convention of the Diocese of the Rio Grande affirm the God-given dignity of every human being, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, echoing both the Baptismal Covenant of the Episcopal Church and the Declaration of Independence that all are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights;

Resolved, that the Diocese of the Rio Grande urge elected officials, regardless of party, to pursue comprehensive immigration reform that:

- Distinguishes clearly among refugees, asylum seekers and those engaged in criminal activity,
- Honors due process and international commitments,
- Respects the lives and contributions of immigrants whose labor benefits our communities, and
- Creates a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and others who have lived otherwise lawfully in the United States for years, having committed no violent crimes, and have contributed to the United States with their life and labor, and that those who have been honorably discharged from service in the armed forces shall not be deported regardless of how they entered the United States,
- Ceases the practice of arresting and deporting individuals who are actively complying with the legal asylum process and other immigration and naturalization processes;

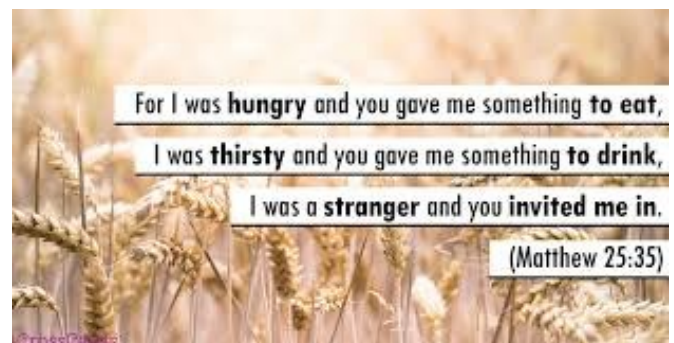
Resolved, that this Diocese reaffirms the command of Jesus Christ in Matthew 25 to visit those who are imprisoned, and laments that clergy and lay leaders have been denied access to detention centers for the purpose of pastoral care, spiritual support, and the offering of Christian sacraments and witness to those detained;

Resolved, that this Convention recognize the moral injury that can occur when law enforcement officers, including those employed by ICE, CBP, and detention facilities, are compelled to act in ways that violate their conscience, and calls upon public officials to adopt immigration policies that uphold the dignity of both those enforcing the law and those affected by it;

Resolved, that this Convention commend and support law enforcement personnel who serve justly and seek the common good, while calling on all people of faith to advocate for policies that prevent the dehumanization of migrants, detainees, and asylum seekers;

Resolved, that this Diocese, in the spirit of Archbishop Oscar Romero and our baptismal vows, commit itself to the ongoing work of conversion—to soften hearts that have grown indifferent, to speak truthfully about injustice, and to recognize Christ in the faces of migrants, detainees, and all who suffer fear and displacement;

Resolved, that the Bishop and appropriate diocesan leaders be authorized to communicate this resolution to state and federal representatives, to request renewed access to detention centers for Episcopal clergy and chaplains, as well as legal counsel, family members, and appropriate medical personnel, and to explore partnerships with organizations working for immigration justice and humane reform



Outreach Ministries Funds — October 2025

Unused funds carry over from one year to the next. This doesn't tell the whole story: much of our outreach ministry is accomplished by donated materials and **ESPECIALLY** by volunteer labors. **Thank you** for supporting these ministries.

FUND	Beginning Balance		OCT DONATIONS	OCT EXPEND-ITURES	Oct 31, 2025 FUND BALANCE
Andy's Breakfast	\$ 3,524.79		\$ 84.00	\$ 269.10	\$ 3,339.69
Needle Arts	5,575.40		0.00	0.00	5,575.40
Pet Pantry	7,210.39		114.00	523.06	6,801.33
Rector's Outreach (Discretionary)	4,698.26		616.07	1,645.32	3,669.01
Starting Line	1,294.66		250.00	191.17	1,353.49
Unspecified Mission and Outreach	8,943.17		0.0	37.21	8,906.05
Altar Fund	924.41		0.00	0.00	924.41
Capital Improvements Fund	8,212.41		0.00	0.00	8,212.41
Saving Grace Campaign Fund	14,500.00		5,500.00	0.00	20,000.00
Choir Fund (& Advent Fest)	5,715.79		0.00	.00	5,715.79
Children's Choir	4,216.77		0.00	0.00	4,216.77
Scholarship Fund	7,140.42		0.00	0.00	7,140.42

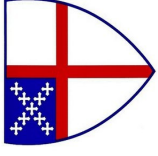
Income and Expense Report — Oct 2025











	Oct 2025	Oct Budget	YTD	YTD Budget
Ordinary Income:				
Plate Offerings	\$ 516.00	\$ 625.00	\$ 5,795.84	\$ 6,250.00
Current Pledges	10,311.00	9,634.67	113,209.50	96,346.66
Pre-Paid Pledges	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unpledged Contrib	1,010.00	4,166.67	37,339.01	41,666.66
Special Offerings *	.00	166.57	100.00	1,666.99
Foundation Income	0.00	0.00	95,538.52	95,538.52
Altar Flowers	35.00	133.33	1,146.00	1,333.34
Other Income	350.00	166.67	3,011.00	2,000.00
Income—Total	\$ 12,222.00	\$ 14,893.01	\$ 256,139.87	\$ 244,802.12
Payroll Expenses	20,042.91	22,492.42	216,001.82	219,426.31
Other Expenses	11,509.57	17,964.45	136,909.15	136,484.96
Total Expenses	31,552.48	40,456.87	352,910.97	355,911.27
Net Ordinary Income	(19,330.48)	(25,563.86)	(96,771.30)	(111,109.10)
Transfer from Savings**	10,000.00	0	10,000.00	0
Net Income + Transfer	\$ (9,330.48)	\$ (25,563.86)	\$ (86,771.30)	\$ (111,109.10)

*in addition to the donations to specific funds—see first table. **Trans from Money Market



December 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov 30 Kid's Quest 9 Holy Eucharist 10 1st Advent	1 Messiah Practice 6:30 pm	2 Tai Chi 4 pm  Giving Tuesday	3 Alz Group 11 Advent Study 5:15 NO Choir Practice	4  Nat'l Cookie day	5  St. Nicholas Day	6 Xmas Market
7 Kid's Quest 9 Holy Eucharist 10 St Nick Break-fast	8 Women of St. Andrew's 9:30	9 Men's Group 7:30 Tai Chi 4 pm	10 Advent Study 5:15 Choir Practice 6	11 Ted Howden Day Needle Arts 10 Messiah Practice 6:30 pm	12  Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe	13  N'tl Cocoa Day
14 Kid's Quest Holy Eucharist 10 RSO Messiah 2:30	15 Daughters of the King 11 Vestry 5  1st Night of Hanukkah	16 Tai Chi 4	17 Alz Group 11. Pet Pantry 3:30 Advent Study 5:15 Choir Practice 6 Ember Day	18  INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY 18 DECEMBER	19 WORD deadline	20 WORD deadline Ember Day
21 Ember Day Ingathering Kid's Quest 9 Holy Eucharist 10	22	23 Tai Chi 4	24 Christmas Eve Hymn Sing: 5:30 Eucharist 6:00	25 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">OFFICE CLOSED</div> Christmas Day	26 	27  Andy's Breakfast Clean-up Crew 9:30
28 Holy Eucharist 10 Lessons & Carols	29 Office Closed Int'l Cello Day 	30 Mail Word 9:30	31 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Office Closed</div> New Year's Eve	Jan 1 New Year's Day	Jan 2 JRR Tolkien Day 	Jan 3

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
PO Box 1495
Roswell, NM 88202

Phone: 575-622-1353
E-mail: church@standrewsroswell.com
Website: standrewsroswell.com
Asset Map: <https://www.episcopalassetmap.org/dioceses/diocese-rio-grande/map>

Vol. 45, No.12 #550 December 1, 2025
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 64
Roswell, New Mexico 88202

Saint Andrew's Church

505 N. Penn * Roswell, NM

Where you are welcome!



Sunday Services

In-Person and Livestream

[https://www.facebook.com/
St.AndrewsRoswell/videos](https://www.facebook.com/St.AndrewsRoswell/videos)

10 am

Followed by:

Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall



Christmas Eve Service
5:30 Prelude (Carol Sing)
6:00 Holy Eucharist