

Ministries at St. Andrew the Apostle Church

At St. Andrew the Apostle Church, our mission is to build and nurture the community of believers by proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ, worshipping God and reaching out to those in need. In order to fulfill this mission, we sponsor various ministries, which are listed below.

ADMINISTRATION

Art and Environment Committee - The Art and Environment Committee is responsible for decorating our church throughout the liturgical seasons of the year. If you are interested in joining us or would like more information, call Joanne McFerren at 783-1336.

House of Charity - The House of Charity is the Bishop's Annual Appeal to all Catholics in the Camden Diocese to consider a sacrificial gift to enable vital programs and services for our poor and vulnerable. St. Andrew's House of Charity Committee is a team of parish volunteers that reach out to all members of our congregation to encourage support of this worthy cause. The team solicits volunteers and makes preparation for the campaign early in the year. It is at this time that the Bishop publishes St. Andrew's yearly goal. During the campaign, volunteers invest time contacting our brethren via phone or mail to accept pledges or answer any related questions. Generally, they gather weekly to discuss progress and address concerns or make recommendations. The committee adjourns when the parish goal is met. This mission is truly rewarding and great fun. We encourage all those interested to consider joining. All are welcome. The contact person is Terry Guidotti (856-772-0153, TGuidotti@comcast.net).

Parish Council - St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Council is an advisory council to the pastor to ensure that parish activities are within the purview of the parish mission. The Council makes recommendations for issue resolution and identifies initiatives pertinent to parish life and mission. The pastor, parish staff, parishioners, and other ministries interact with the council as needed for respective issues. Discernment for membership on for Parish Council occurs every June. The contact person is Anne Marie Gavin (andrewapos@aol.com).

Finance Committee - Members are appointed by the pastor; the committee advises the pastor on administrative and financial matters of the parish. The committee participates with the pastor in long range planning for the parish. Members of the committee form a consultative body mandated by Canon Law and the Bishop. Contacts are Ann Marie Gavin (admstandrw@aol.com) and Dan Mc Gravey (danmcgravey@aol.com).

LITURGY: AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

The following ministries offer a variety of ways to serve St. Andrew's parish community. Our contact person for liturgical ministries is Regan Peiffer (standrewmusicmin@aol.com).

Lectors – Lectors are ministers who proclaim the first two readings of the liturgy. God's Word is voiced through our lectors who bring the printed Word to life for the congregation. In doing this, a lector enters into a deeper relationship with the Word of God as revealed in sacred Scripture. Lectors proclaim the Word at weekend Masses, for special liturgies, and at other parish worship or prayer services. They also begin the liturgy with important announcements that are pertinent to our parish and diocesan life, and read the Prayer of the Faithful when a Deacon is not serving at the Mass. Any confirmed Catholic may perform the duties of a lector, and teen members of the parish community are encouraged to consider this ministry. A lector at St. Andrew the Apostle Church is: a man, woman, or teen parishioner; a person with deep respect for the Word of God; and a person able to proclaim the Word of God with confidence, poise, projection and clear articulation.

Ushers - The ushers check with the Priest or Sacristan to see if there are any special needs for that Mass. They assist in seating, pick a family to bring the gifts up at the offering, oversee the offertory collection, direct the parishioners at Communion, and see to any special needs at Communion.

Sacristans – Sacristans are responsible for preparing the worship space before each Mass so that each liturgy is a beautiful, meaningful experience for the community. This includes preparations for the proclamation of Scriptures for the offertory and preparation of the gifts of bread and wine, and for the communion rite. Sacristans also ensure that the lector, ushers, and children's liturgy leader are present for the Mass.

Greeters – Greeters welcome parishioners as they arrive at Mass and offer assistance if necessary.

Nursery Volunteers – These adults watch young children in the nursery during Sunday Masses.

Hospitality - Volunteers provide refreshments throughout the summer months in the courtyard after Masses.

Altar Servers - This is a ministry for any child who is 9 years old or older, and has a desire to aid the priest during the celebration of Mass. This ministry requires attendance at training sessions and a commitment to serve at Masses. The number of Masses served depends on the number of altar servers there are. An altar server may choose Mass preferences, and all reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate those preferences. There is usually a fun social event each summer.

Misa de Gallo Filipino Community Celebration - Our strong Filipino community enables the celebration of the Misa de Gallo novena. Misa de Gallo means Mass of the Rooster. Cockcrow is one of the watches of the night. It was at this time that Peter realized he had betrayed the Lord. The disciples failed to keep the night watch in Gethsemane, and Pilate condemned Jesus at the morning watch. Misa de Gallo represents the church keeping watch each day for the coming of Christ as a sign of fidelity. The Masses are held at 5:30 AM on nine consecutive days preceding Christmas. All parishioners are invited to participate.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist – These ministers bring the Eucharist to those unable to come to Mass due to illness. They also bring meals to the homebound or families in need and serve at Masses held on weekday mornings at area nursing homes.

Nursing Home Mass – Volunteers assist the priest at Mass with singing, distributing Communion, and conversing with the residents. There is a great need for Eucharistic ministers to assist with taking the Eucharist to the residents in their rooms who are unable to attend Mass. Our contact person is Loretta Stech (856-784-3878).

MUSIC MINISTRY

Our contact person for Music Ministries is Regan Peiffer (standrewmusicmin@aol.com).

Cantors - The Cantor Ministry is for musically trained adults and teens who are willing to lead the congregation in singing at liturgical celebrations.

Instrumentalists - Any teens or adults who have had instrumental training are welcome to share their gifts at both weekly worship and special celebrations.

Adult Choir - The Adult Choir is a community of men and women who enjoy singing and praising God together. The Adult Choir rehearses on Monday evenings, and sings at the Sunday 10:00 AM Mass 2-3 times per month.

Children's Choir - The Children's Choir offers children ages 6 to 12 the opportunity to praise God through song. The Children's Choir practices on Tuesdays, and sings at Mass every other week.

Contemporary Ensemble - The Contemporary Ensemble is a group of musicians who play various instruments and sing in a contemporary style. The Contemporary Ensemble rehearses on Tuesdays at 7:30 PM.

Handbell Choir - The Handbell Choir offers anyone ages 13 and over the chance to praise God through music. No prior experience in music is necessary.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Spiritual Life Committee – Committee members help to plan and implement many programs of renewal, faith sharing, and adult faith development. Contact: Sr. Alma AASLCenter@aol.com or 856-784-8501.

Pro-Life Committee – The Pro-Life Committee is involved in the following activities:

Supplying brochures on *Rachel's Vineyard* ...a psychological and spiritual journey for healing after abortions with Retreat Weekends available. CALL HOTLINE at 1-866-4-RACHEL or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org

Having *Baby Showers* during Lent, where St. Andrew's Religious Education students bring in baby gifts, food or diapers, which are donated to the *1ST WAY*, a shop in Collingswood that supplies needy pregnant women and new mothers.

Sponsoring a Spiritual Adoption program whereby a family can spiritually adopt an unborn baby that may be in danger of an abortion. Each month the gestational development of that unborn child is published in the bulletin.

Attending meetings representing St. Andrew's to the Diocese and attending an annual fundraiser for *Our Lady of Good Counsel*; a home for pregnant and homeless women to be set up in Woodbury whose goal is re-education so the mother can go out into the workforce and become independent.

Attending the annual New Jersey Right to Life Dinner

Attending the *MARCH FOR LIFE*: every January, members join thousands of people in Washington, D.C. who march to protest the Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

Attending the Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Washington D.C.

Bringing in speakers from the Pro-Life office of the Diocese to speak to our Confirmation candidates here at St. Andrew's.

The Pro-Life Committee contact person is Kathy Fraser (searchisover@comcast.net).

Elizabeth Ministry - The Elizabeth Ministry is an outreach to women at particular stages of motherhood. We offer support, resources, prayers, and understanding during the joys and sorrows of the childbearing years and beyond. Women become mentors for one another along their magnificent journey through shared womanhood. This sharing of life experiences brings a caring commitment and a sense of connectedness to our parish community. Each Elizabeth minister becomes an instrument of its care, support, and resources to women and their families. The Elizabeth Ministry (following the example of Mary and Elizabeth):

Gives reassurance and encouragement to women who are pregnant or have a newborn.

Reaches out to women who have experienced a miscarriage or the death of an infant or child.

Celebrates birth with parents and family.

Supports parents involved in the adoptive process

Offers support to women dealing with infertility

Offers support to families with special needs children.

Empowers women to relate to one another in a spirit of inclusiveness and sisterhood; by sharing their stories and experiences, women serve one another in an atmosphere of faith, love, and hope.

The Elizabeth Ministry contact person is Kathy Frazer (searchisover@comcast.net).

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Members knit, pray and socialize once a week. Their creations are given to individuals who need our concern and support. Contact Audrey Ianni at 856-627-1044.

Cake Bakers - Parishioners sign up to bake cakes, cookies, etc. for various parish social functions, throughout the year. Contact Diane Rottler 856-282-7040.

Stepping Stones -This is a monthly prayer reflection group held on the first Saturday of the month in church after the 8:30 am Mass. Contact Kathy Emrich at kathy.emrich@comcast.net.

Holy Hour – This is the Catholic devotional tradition of spending an hour devoted to prayer, often in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. During this hour, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed. People pray silently or quietly remain in the presence of God. At St. Andrew the Apostle, we observe Holy Hour every Wednesday from 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. in the chapel, closing with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Anybody is welcome to join us during this time. Please call the parish office (856-784-3878) with any questions.

Mothers of Preschool Children – MOPS is a program designed to nurture mothers with children from infancy through kindergarten. We are one of 2,700 MOPS groups meeting in churches throughout the United States, Canada, and 19 other countries. MOPS exist to meet the needs of every mom ... moms with different lifestyles who all share the desire to be the very best mom they can be! MOPS of St. Andrews, seeks to provide a warm and caring environment where moms can gather, share ideas, learn, make new friends, participate in a creative activity, and enjoy a great breakfast. We take pride in our ministry and are always looking for ways to give back to our moms and those in our community. In the past few years, we have raised funds to adopt families through St. Andrew's at Christmas, collected needed items for Ancora Psychiatric Hospital, made and donated baby blankets for Project Linus, made and donated Easter treat bags for children struggling with HIV and AIDS in their life, and we have stocked our Christian Cupboard many times over, mostly in the summer when the shelves are quite bare. While ministering to our community, we minister to our moms through informative speakers, play dates and outings. We also provide meals for our moms who have just given birth, had surgery or have extenuating circumstances. We are truly here for one another and know God is with us in all we do. Our MOPS group began in March 1993 and currently has about 65 moms from several different churches and faiths. The Mops Co-coordinator is Jeanine Martin (856-767-7677).

Men's Faith Sharing Group - St. Andrew's Men's Group meets once per month, typically on the first Sunday of the month in the nursery of the church. The Men's Group is open to all men of the parish, and seeks to foster greater growth and support for men. The meetings consist of topics of interest to men, group discussion, and prayer. Participants find greater connection and fellowship with other men in the parish. For more information contact Mark Le Chevallier at 856-753-1906.

The Family of God Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group – This prayer group meets every Friday in the chapel from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. The meetings consist of music, intercessory prayer, Scripture sharing, and spiritual instruction. Participants are encouraged to grow in their daily prayer and Bible reading. After the meetings many participants go to a nearby diner for coffee and fellowship. The prayer meeting is open to everybody. For more information, contact Mark Le Chevallier at 856-753-1906.

Faith Reflection Group - This year the group's focus is on a meditation program based on the Scriptures of St. Paul as they apply to everyday life. Contact Rich Lipp at spazzr@comcast.net

Evangelization Committee – The mission of the Evangelization Committee is to increase attendance at the main event of Catholicism: the Mass. The committee attempts to reach out to the entire parish community by sponsoring social events, religious education programs, and family activities. In the past the committee has held various family movie nights, a square dance, a Lenten screening of "The Passion of the Christ," and presented various faith-strengthening programs such as "Catholics Returning Home." We would love to welcome new members who enjoy brainstorming new ideas and planning events that will increase the vitality and community spirit of St Andrew the Apostle and bring all our parishioners back to Sunday Mass. Contact Sam Parry at spcp1@comcast.net

Legion of Mary - The Legion of Mary meets every Monday morning. Every meeting includes saying the rosary. We serve our Church through work, prayer and evangelization. If you feel you may be ready to take the next step in serving Jesus and Mary, please come as a guest to discern if the Legion is for you. For more information, call Millie at 856-424-8130.

Cornerstone Retreats - Parishioners plan an in-parish retreat for fellow parishioners that provide a concentrated atmosphere for renewing relationships with God and enhancing relationships with the parish community. Men and women hold separate retreats. Contact Michelina O'Neil at michieo@earthlink.net

Messages of the Heart Day - This is a popular parish-sponsored get-together for women that mix some just-for-fun sessions with thoughtful programs on prayer. Enjoy a keynote presentation with the whole group, attend a small group offering of your choice, and gather again for lunch. Contact Barbara Vadenais at bvadenais@veriozon.net

Book Club - Women gather to discuss a book and rotate the meetings from home to home. Contact Sharon Hulbert at 856-346-4648.

Dimensions of Faith - This is a special set of sessions that is designed for anyone, Catholic or non-Catholic, who wants to question or investigate the many dimensions of Catholic life. Contact Tom De Cord at tdecord@comcast.net

Divorce Care - When a marriage fails, a person's whole life seems to fall apart. Many must deal with feelings of failure, anger, guilt, loneliness and anxiety. Take advantage of this diocesan program, which arranges discussion groups and other informative avenues for those who are divorced, who are ready to reach out to give and receive help, who are looking for ways to cope, who want to rebuild their faith in God. Contact Liz Donohue at 856-784-8684.

New Life / Bereavement Group - New life is an ongoing support/educational experience for adults who have lost a loved one. The group meets weekly for six consecutive weeks on Wednesdays, three times a year. Contact Sr. Alma at AASLCenter@aol.com or 856-784-8501.

Holy Name Society - The Holy Name Society at St. Andrew's is a branch of the world-wide Confraternity of the Church, founded to publicly proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Charged by the Pope over 700 years ago to strengthen the Church against error and opposition, Holy Name endures today as the same powerful ally in the mission to spread the Good News. The Society conducts monthly meetings, and the programs include instruction in the faith, normal business affairs, good fellowship, and occasional social events. Contact persons are Al and Jackie Medzie at 856-809-0074.

Baptismal Team Ministry - St. Andrew's welcomes new members to the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism either during Mass or in a private ceremony. Once parents decide to put their dear one in God's hands in this most precious Sacrament, they commit their child to the loving care of Jesus Christ. The Baptismal Team meets with parents prior to the ceremony to explain the rite of Baptism and what to expect during the ceremony. During the ceremony itself, the team is on hand to, assist the presider, and guide the families and guests. The rewards of this ministry are many-seeing the joy on the parents' faces and their enthusiasm introducing their child into the Church community, witnessing the Baptism, and being a part of the community present in support of the beginning of the child's faith journey. Any questions please e-mail Michelina O'Neill (mickieo@earthlink.net).

Marriage Preparation Program – This is a two-weekend program led by a priest or deacon at St. Andrew the Apostle, supported by Catholic married couples from the area. This program takes place in the spring and fall each year. During this period, engaged couples discuss some of the challenges married couples face, including compatibility, catholic theology of marriage and family life, conflict resolution and rules the couple is agreeing to follow (including, but not limited to, natural family planning). The engaged couples register at the diocese where they are assigned. Please call St. Andrew the Apostle (856-784-3878) if you are interested in joining the couples who support the clergy.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) – All adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith are invited to participate in the “Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults”. This process is a beautiful journey for adults who have never been baptized; Christians who wish to learn more about and convert to the Catholic faith; Catholics who have been baptized but have not yet received Eucharist and Confirmation. Parish witnesses (Catholic adults who have received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) are needed to share their faith, facilitate sessions, break open God’s Word, provide hospitality and/or be a godparent/sponsor for the adults receiving the Sacraments. Contact: Kate Vukecivich – 856-783-0550 or standrewsreleduc@aol.com.

Parish Nurse Council – A parish nurse is a registered nurse who provides primary, holistic nursing services for the purpose of assisting parishioners in maintaining optimal physical, mental, and spiritual health. The parish nurse recognizes that the spiritual dimension is central to the practice of parish nursing. The roles of the parish nurse are: health counselor, health educator, referral agent, advocate, integrator of faith and health, and coordinator of volunteer services. If you are a nurse and are interested in parish nursing, please contact Loretta Stech in the parish office (856-784-3878).

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

The Director of Religious Education is Kate Vukicevich (856-783-0550 or standrewsreleduc@aol.com).

Religious Formation (student) – All young people are invited. Would you like to know more about the God who made you, and loves you? What is your inheritance as a child of God? Come to religious formation classes. Learn the rich heritage of our faith handed down for generations and share your experience of the Lord with others!

Religious Formation (catechist) – Those who have been called by Baptism, please step forward! Help our parish children come into closer relationship with Jesus Christ through Scripture study, prayer, reflection on the mysteries of our faith and service to others. Participate as a catechist sharing the faith of the Church in our parish family. Models of formation are: Whole Community Catechesis, Family Catechesis, “The Way” Traditional, RCIA, individualized curriculum for those with special needs, and Sacramental preparation.

Religious Formation (classroom aide) – Parishioners are invited to assist the catechist with his/her plan to bring faith to life.

Children's Liturgy of the Word - Teens and adults are invited to share the Gospel of Jesus during weekend Masses. The Religious Education Office provides support to those who desire to help young children integrate the words of the Gospel into their everyday lives.

Vacation Bible School – This program is offered during the summer months for children ages 4-10. It is a one-week program where children experience the love of God in a whole new way! Catechists and teens join together to provide living Bible stories, films, crafts, games and food.

Galaxy Youth Group (8th-12th grade) – All teens are welcome to join Galaxy and participate in social, spiritual and service activities. Galaxy gives you the opportunity to meet friends, strengthen your faith and serve others. Galaxy offers countless service projects, day and weekend retreats, Six Flags Youth Rally, and other social and spiritual gatherings. Galaxy meets at least every other Sunday 7:00-8:45. Events posted at galaxyyouth.com. Contact Katie Witts at galaxyyouth@aol.com or 856-305-2914.

Youth Advisor - Galaxy Youth Group always welcomes new adults to help the youth in their social, spiritual and service activities. Galaxy needs adults to chaperone social and service activities, day and weekend trips and share your Catholic faith with the teens. All adults who work with youth need to be fingerprinted and go to a two-hour training class. If you enjoy working with teens, please contact Katie Witts for more information - galaxyyouth@aol.com or 856-305-2914.

Young Adult Group (18+) - The young adult group will offer you the opportunity to participate in social, spiritual and service opportunities around the diocese. The young adult group is a place to connect with people who share your faith and values. We are hoping to begin monthly meetings in January. Please contact Katie Witts if interested - Galaxyyouth@aol.com.

HUMAN CONCERNS

Faith and Justice Committee – This group is committed to building bridges of understanding between our parish and the local community. Through a prayerful and constructive environment we have begun the formation of English as a Second Language class for local residents. For more information contact Stacy Roche' at 856-809-0751 or stacy.roche@abeots.com

Adopt-A-Family – This program pairs families or groups from St. Andrew's with families who have been identified by DYFS as very needy. All are South Jersey residents who cannot afford to celebrate the gift giving of Christmas with their families. Our contact persons are Julie Waicus at waicus@verizon.net and Lisa Papp at the_papps@comcast.net

Armed Service Ministry – This ministry collects items requested by our troops serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, The items include personal care products, snack food, prepaid phone cards, magazines and sunglasses. The Yellow Ribbon Club of Marlton provides us with a list of items requested by our troops that will make their lives a little easier. Our contact person is Denise Fanelli at 856-770-9108 or tmarchsearch@aol.com

Christian Cupboard – Non-perishable food is donated to St. Andrew's and distributed to people in need who are known to the Parish community. On average, we serve fifteen to twenty families per month. Food drives are done periodically to keep the shelves replenished. Our contact person is Chris Parry at 856-906-5127 or spcp1@comcast.net

Clothing Drop – Clothes donated to St. Andrew's are distributed to needy families. Our contact person is Juanita Wilder at 205-750-8266.

Coat and Sneaker Drive – In early fall, donations of new and serviceable used coats are distributed in the South Jersey area, and in the spring, new and serviceable used sneakers are collected and distributed. Our contact person is Bob Borbe at bborbe@verizon.net

Holiday Baskets – This ministry provides holiday baskets at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter to the needy in our community. Schools provide us with a list of needy families and others contact the church directly to request food baskets. We prepare and distribute approximately 50 baskets each holiday. Our contact person is Chris Parry at 856-906-5127 or spcp1@comcast.net

Image and Attitude - St. Andrew's collects clean, gently used business attire for donation to Image and Attitude in Pennsauken, NJ. This non-profit organization helps economically disadvantaged men and women get properly outfitted to help ensure employment success. Our contact person is Joanne Taufer at taufer@comcast.net

International Affairs – Monies, clothing and gifts are sent to people in foreign countries who are in need. Donations have gone to Brazil, Ghana and Nigeria. These bonds strengthen our relationship with our sisters and brothers in foreign countries. Our contact person is Emmillio Mulenga at 856-885-3083 or ecmm32000@yahoo.com

Environmental Ministry – Volunteers will build awareness and implement programs to conserve and recycle in our area. Our contact person is Donna Hoel at donnahoel@comcast.net

Fundraising Committee – Volunteers raise funds for Human Concerns activities of Saint Andrew's parish. Our contact person is Kristen Littlefield at kcody82@yahoo.com

Job Development Ministry – Volunteers work with candidates who need assistance preparing a resume and filling out job applications. We provide job development skills and research job leads. Our contact person is Monique Melara at mmmelara@aol.com

Local Outreach - Volunteers assist the handicapped and the needy by providing transportation to appointments, running errands, etc. We have given furniture to many and provide them with numerous other services. Our contact person is Chris Parry at spcp1@comcast.net

Nursing Home Companion – Volunteers visit nursing home residents who do not receive many visitors. Our contact person is Chris Parry at 856-906-5127 or spcp1@comcast.net

Project Graduation – A graduation gift is given to teenagers who have overcome great personal and family difficulties to graduate from high school. Our contact person is Lisa Papp at the_papps@comcast.net

Second Saturdays – Volunteers participate in various building and renovation projects sponsored by the Heart of Camden on the second Saturday of each month. Our contact person is Sam Parry at spcp1@comcast.net

Prison Ministry – Volunteers go to Camden County Thursday mornings to minister to those confined in prison. Mass is said one time monthly and counsel is given as needed. Volunteers also go to the Camden Juvenile Transition Home, Camden, the second and fourth Thursday of each month to minister. Our contact person is Chris Parry at 856-906-5127 or email at spcp1@comcast.net

Meals for the Homebound – Volunteers provide meals for those who are in difficulty and cannot cook for themselves. Our contact person is Lisa Papp at the_papps@comcast.net

SOCIAL GROUPS

Saint Jude Council 6551, Knights Of Columbus – Our Council is comprised of more than 75 Catholic men, most of whom are members of the parish. We recently celebrated our 30th anniversary and are part of a worldwide organization with over 1.6 million members. Over the years, our activities have included: Breakfast with Santa; a free throw contest for boys and girls; Roses for Life and at Baptism; scholarships at grade school and high schools graduations; gifts to altar servers; participation in Adopt a Family at Christmas; gifts to clergy at Christmas; Keep Christ in Christmas and Easter coloring books; contributions to CYO Track Meet; collecting for special needs children; essay contest for children; donations to seminarians; and, Lenten Soup and Sandwich. Recently, we proudly donated the Papal Flag that hangs in the back of the church. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Come to a meeting and you will recognize a number of familiar faces, since we count a deacon, Eucharistic ministers, and ushers among our numbers. Or you can contact Grand Knight Gary Strain at gjstrain96@aol.com for more information.

Active Adults - St. Andrew's Active Adults group began back in 2005 when Monsignor and a few parishioners explored the idea of starting a group that would bring parishioners together in a different way. The purpose of our group was to create an opportunity where parishioners over 55 could come together to meet other parishioners and to get to know them better while participating in and enjoying social activities. Another of our goals was to initiate a service project that would draw in other St. Andrew's churchgoers. Our first event in 2005 was a New Year's Eve dinner and concert event at the Kimmel Center. Since then we have had many wonderful activities. Our Valentine Outreach Program to a local

Project Graduation – A graduation gift is given to teenagers who have overcome great personal and family difficulties to graduate from high school. Our contact person is Lisa Papp at the_papps@comcast.net

Second Saturdays – Volunteers participate in various building and renovation projects sponsored by the Heart of Camden on the second Saturday of each month. Our contact person is Sam Parry at spcp1@comcast.net

Prison Ministry – Volunteers go to Camden County Thursday mornings to minister to those confined in prison. Mass is said one time monthly and counsel is given as needed. Volunteers also go to the Camden Juvenile Transition Home, Camden, the second and fourth Thursday of each month to minister. Our contact person is Chris Parry at 856-906-5127 or email at spcp1@comcast.net

Meals for the Homebound – Volunteers provide meals for those who are in difficulty and cannot cook for themselves. Our contact person is Lisa Papp at the_papps@comcast.net

SOCIAL GROUPS

Saint Jude Council 6551, Knights Of Columbus – Our Council is comprised of more than 75 Catholic men, most of whom are members of the parish. We recently celebrated our 30th anniversary and are part of a worldwide organization with over 1.6 million members. Over the years, our activities have included: Breakfast with Santa; a free throw contest for boys and girls; Roses for Life and at Baptism; scholarships at grade school and high schools graduations; gifts to altar servers; participation in Adopt a Family at Christmas; gifts to clergy at Christmas; Keep Christ in Christmas and Easter coloring books; contributions to CYO Track Meet; collecting for special needs children; essay contest for children; donations to seminarians; and, Lenten Soup and Sandwich. Recently, we proudly donated the Papal Flag that hangs in the back of the church. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Come to a meeting and you will recognize a number of familiar faces, since we count a deacon, Eucharistic ministers, and ushers among our numbers. Or you can contact Grand Knight Gary Strain at gjstrain96@aol.com for more information.

Active Adults - St. Andrew's Active Adults group began back in 2005 when Monsignor and a few parishioners explored the idea of starting a group that would bring parishioners together in a different way. The purpose of our group was to create an opportunity where parishioners over 55 could come together to meet other parishioners and to get to know them better while participating in and enjoying social activities. Another of our goals was to initiate a service project that would draw in other St. Andrew's churchgoers. Our first event in 2005 was a New Year's Eve dinner and concert event at the Kimmel Center. Since then we have had many wonderful activities. Our Valentine Outreach Program to a local nursing home has also been very successful. Other activities include game night, our annual wine and cheese party, a pot luck dinner, and a Bunco night, as well as our end of year dinner in the spring. Our committee meets once a month to discuss ideas and plan events. If you would like to help on the committee or just join in the fun while getting to know other parishioners better, come on out to an event. Call Barbara Vadenais at 768-2546.

Yoga - These are classes to help you achieve balance and union of mind, body and spirit. Contact Bernadette Parisi at berncmt@aol.com

Valentine Social - Each year parishioners gather at a local restaurant to celebrate this special day. The invitation is extended to everyone, not just couples. Contact Pat and John Croghan at 856-566-9126.