



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 139th Edition - December 2nd, 2022



From the Rector

A seminary professor often spoke about how over time in the ecclesiastical world simple, practical things become imbued with spiritual meaning—much of it pious nonsense. He used to cite the chasuble (the poncho-like garment often worn by priests at the celebration of the Eucharist) as a case in point. It started out as a very practical piece of ancient Roman clothing, originally nothing more than what we would now call a rain poncho. Over time, this garment-cum-vestment became stylized and elaborate and now it symbolizes “the

seamless robe of Christ” (or some such thing.)

Advent wreaths are another case in point. They were originally intended for home use and, as each candle was lit, prayers would be offered. But now the appearance of Advent Wreaths is common—maybe even ubiquitous—in churches. An English friend experienced a crisis at the end of last week: no one could find his parish’s Advent Wreath. My suggestion that it wasn’t a cause for alarm since their introduction into the Anglican liturgy is less than a century old and they’re not essential to the celebration of the season, didn’t go down very well. I don’t know if they found it or not.

Well, we had no such problems and I know I am not alone in loving the look of our Advent wreath with its beautiful candles. These days we often hear that each candle has a different meaning—love, hope, joy, peace—or, even worse, that the pink candle symbolizes Mary. It does not. It is pink because the traditional liturgical colour for the Third Sunday in Advent is pink.

Now, there’s no harm in ascribing different meanings to the candles, but I wonder if this is an instance where once again we (that is, the Church) make too much out of something simple. Because the meaning of the Advent wreath is very simple indeed: it’s a circle of evergreen (to remind us of eternal life) and with each week, one more candle is lit (to remind us of the light coming into an increasingly dark world.) Frankly, I think that symbolism is powerful enough to stand on its own.

So this Sunday, another candle will be lit on our wreath. Maybe it will make you think of love or hope or joy or peace—all well and good. But I hope it also puts you in an expectant mood as we draw closer to the celebration of the coming of the light. Light we sorely need

in this darkened, wintry, and hostile world.

Grace and peace,

Leighton

From the Wardens

We have 31 days left in this year to do all those things that we keep putting off. It's too long a list, so we will have to cull as we did to many of our trees in the cemetery and yard this week. Some cards should have been written, and calls made for events long past. The "should haves" that we all think about way too often!

As our Rector often reminds us – stay focused on what we can do, not what we may have done.

Our letter this week is shorter as there is so much happening at St. Mark's this weekend and throughout the month of December.

Information about these events can be found in this E-News. Please be sure to click on the links for detailed information.

An early thank you to all the volunteers who have come forward to help with the Rotary Holiday House Tour and will serve lunch today and Saturday. Thanks, too, to the bakers who are supplying items for the Christmas Bake Sale, and those helping with installation of the Christmas tree and decorating.

A few reminders: Please consider a 13th month donation to support St. Mark's operations. Check your debit/credit card for any date or number changes. (The Diocese does not track this information). Call the office if you need assistance.

We continue to support Newark Neighbours and a collection food bin is on site. Enjoy the weekend and see you at all the activities.

**Robert (Bob) George White passed away on November 22, 2021, in St. Catharine's.
A funeral for Mr. White will be held at St. Mark's Church tomorrow, December 3, 2022, at 3 p.m.
followed by a reception in Addison Hall.**

Parish Updates

In-Person Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Wearing a mask is now an individual's choice.

On Duty this Week

Greeter(s) - Ann Lindsay, Gill Bryan

Reader - Jim Collard

Intercessor - Jim Collard

Altar Guild -Eve Wylie, Jennifer Smith

Order of Service

The Order of Service can be found on our website: [Order of Service Web Site Page](#)

Church Bells

A reminder to all that the Church Bells play on Sundays at 12:05 pm. Enjoy!

Staying Up to Date!

Click on this link to find this and recent copies of our E-News: [View our recent E-Newsletters](#)

Click on this link to view our Calendar: [Visit our Calendar](#)

[Click here to access St. Mark's Anglican Church Facebook page](#) You can also access our Facebook page when on our website by clicking on the Facebook icon that looks like an "f".

Did you know...

... Did you know that the most prized tree in our cemetery is a *Fraxinus excelsior* 'Pendula', **Weeping Ash?** Our arborists, Arborwood, are paying special attention to this tree as it is the only specimen of this tree in the area. All others have been wiped out by the ash borer.



Weekly Prayers

In the parish cycle of prayer, we pray for Dede Hacking, Helmut and Maggie Hammerling, Brian Harrison, and Ashley Hayes and their families.

We pray for those shut in their homes, Fred Habermehl, Fred Dixon, Joy Ormsby, Selina Appleby, and Joan Draper.

We pray for the sick, especially remembering Jacquie White, Jack and Lynn Taylor, Margaret Stimson, Terry, Jan Brown, Lisa, Dorothy Walker, Sharon, Dick, Bev Garrett, Jodey Porter, Sean, Joshua, and Ben Buholtz.

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for St. Elizabeth, Burlington, The Reverend Michael Coren, Interim Priest-in-Charge, and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Primate: Archbishop Linda Nicholls and the staff of the Primate's Office of the Anglican Church of Canada, and National Bishop: Bishop Susan Johnson and the national staff of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

St. Mark's Christmas Services

Christmas Eve 5 p.m.
Christmas Day 10:30 a.m.



St. Mark's Festive Christmas Bake Sale

Addison Hall

Thursday December 15, 2022

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to make cookies, loaves, tarts, cakes, scones, brownies, fudge, nuts, pastries, jams and preserves for this merry event.

Please contact Kathy Taylor (kathytaylor2536@gmail.com/905-468-2536) to let her know what sweet or savoury goodies you can contribute.

Volunteers are always welcome to join in the festive fun. Please contact Greg Walker (gregoryfwalker@gmail.com/905-262-6605) if you would like to assist in any capacity.

Wishing Glad Christmas Tidings to all.



Contributing to the Christmas Festive Bake Sale? [Click here for important](#)

Bible Study via Zoom

We are sending Zoom invites via Constant Contact to those who regularly join the Bible Study group. If you would like to attend Bible Study via Zoom, please contact the Rector to have your name added to the distribution. rector.stmarks.notl@gmail.com

Wednesday Morning Eucharist - 10:00 a.m.

We look forward to seeing you in Church!

Men's Communion and Breakfast

Next date: December 7, 2022

On the first Wednesday of each month men of our congregation and their guests will participate in a quiet spoken Eucharist service in the church at 8:00 a.m., followed by breakfast at 8:45 a.m. If you would like to join us, please contact Greg Walker by email or phone (905) 262-6605 by Noon on Tuesday prior so that we can confirm numbers for breakfast.

Newark Neighbours

currently has 69 registered clients for the food bank, 39 of whom are children. Four Ukrainian refugee families, including 9 children, are also registered.

St. Mark's Christmas gift and food drives will take place from
Sunday, December 11th through Sunday, December 18th.

Non-perishable food donations can be placed in the yellow Newark Neighbors' donation bin. Gifts can be placed under the Christmas tree in Addison Hall or in the donation box at the back of the church.

Please click on the links below to see a list of much needed food supplies and a list of gift suggestions for the children.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THOSE WHO NEED OUR SUPPORT
If you have any questions please contact Greg Walker 905-262-6605 or gregoryfwalker@gmail.com

[Newark Neighbours Food Requirements](#)

[Newark Neighbours Gift Requests](#)

PIE AND JAM MAKERS REQUIRED

Cherry Jam makers are required for two sessions in January OR February.
Cherry Pie makers are required for four sessions in April 2023.

If you are interested in joining a jam or pie making team please contact
Diane Turner
at
19ab39@gmail.com
289-362-1827

Newcomers are welcome!



St. Saviour's
Queenston

The Brock Memorial Church

Seasonal
Carols and Readings

Featuring

The Newark Singers

(Conductor: Michael Tansley)

Sunday December 18th, 2022 4 p.m.

Please join us! Free Admission! Freewill Offering

Please note if you unsubscribe from any email sent from St. Mark's Church via Constant Contact, you will no longer receive any emails or information from us. If you wish to unsubscribe from a specific mailing list (ie, Bible Study, E-News), please email the office at stmarks@cogeco.net Thank you.

St. Mark's Anglican Church Website



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