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## E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 140th Edition - December 9th, 2022

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### From the Rector

One of the great Advent hymns begins with an arresting imperative: "Wake, awake, for night is flying." It's an image drawn from the end of Matthew's gospel in which Jesus says, "Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."

Now the idea of keeping awake is innocuous enough and is even something we all do from time to time. But we can't be perpetually wakeful; sleep is essential for good health—even though we don't really know why. But we *do* know that a lack of sleep leads to all sorts of physical and cognitive problems and that if being unable to sleep develops into chronic insomnia, a person's health can be seriously compromised. So what are we to make of this Advent imperative: keep awake therefore?

Well, I don't actually think we're being asked to go without sleep. To assume the text is suggesting that is to fall into the worst kind of literalism. It's probably more helpful to instead of saying "keep awake" to say, "stay alert": Be ready. Be watchful. Be prepared. But in order to be these things—to be ready—we also need to be rested, which is one of the holy paradoxes of this season of Advent.

Now, when I say we need to be rested, I'm not talking about a state of physical, emotional, and spiritual dissipation, about sitting around doing nothing. I'm talking about taking a rest from all of the things that keep us up at night, the things that sap our energy: our anxieties, preoccupations, and fears.

Of course you and I are probably not incapacitated by anxieties, preoccupations, and fears but we still have them. No doubt they're quite minor, especially when set aside the real causes of sleeplessness and worry that are all too pervasive these days. Worries about the economy, current events, political upheaval—to say nothing of job security, the opioid crisis, and other signs of societal decay—are enough to keep all of us awake at night. And even though there's not much we can do about any of these things, we can't help but fixate on them.

A few summers ago a friend and I were on holiday and we both found ourselves awake in the early dawn. We realized we'd never actually seen the sunrise. Sure, there had plenty of

times when we'd tossed and turned through the night and had been awake for the sun's rising, but we'd never actually made an effort to see it come up over the horizon. So we drove east to a place where we could sit and watch the sunrise. As we sat there, I was amazed how the sun's light was discernible long before it came over the horizon. But when it *did* come over the horizon, it came with an intensity and speed that was downright surprising. And we would have missed it if we hadn't been able to sleep.

You see, Advent is about how God's intervention in the world was perceived by those who knew that the present cares of the world can make us miss the coming of the Kingdom. When Jesus said, "Keep awake therefore," he wasn't enjoining us to become spiritual insomniacs. Rather, he was cautioning us not to be enervated by all of the things that seem so powerfully and pressingly urgent. What's more, he was encouraging us to be alert to the beautiful and surprising signs of the Kingdom's sudden dawning in a darkened world. Sometimes, all we need to do is be open to its possibility. Sometimes, the only thing we can do is go out into the darkness in expectation of the rising light's benediction.

Grace and peace,

Leighton

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### **From the Wardens**

It is a busy time of year at St. Mark's with one week full of activity just ended and another about to begin. Just past are the Rotary house tour lunches, filming for the Addison Diaries, the Men's Communion and Breakfast, and trimming the church Christmas tree. Ahead is a big birthday for our Rector Leighton and the festive bake sale.

Leighton turns 50 on Tuesday. It's a milestone! Please join in celebrating this special birthday at coffee hour after church on Sunday. We don't want to give too much away so our rector will be surprised, but there will be cake.

The festive bake sale is Thursday December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please see the notice elsewhere in the ENews. Greg Walker, Dorothy Walker, Kathy Taylor, Anjulika Chand, Deborah Paine, Syme Jago, Virginia Mainprize, Joy Rogers and Lynne Heaman are working hard to ensure the sale is a success. Please support them and St. Mark's by baking and then coming to buy. There will be all you need for your Christmas gatherings.

Last Friday and Saturday we hosted the Rotary Holiday House Tour lunches in Addison Hall. They were a great success with close to 260 people served. We had many, many compliments and some folks came back a second day. It would not have happened without the hard work of Gary Burroughs, our head chef, along with Barbara O'Connor, Alex Clarkson, Kathy Taylor and Bev Lees. They did a fantastic job. Many volunteers under the leadership of Trudi Watson delivered the hot plated food and cleared and reset the tables while making it all look easy. The cash/ticket team of Donna Bell, Pat Lamb, Joy Rogers and Allan Magnacca greeted everyone with smiles and did a great job. Addison Hall was festive and welcoming with the Christmas tree, lovely table centerpieces, music and the charm of our volunteers. Along with the lunches, there were tours of the church. Andrea Douglas and our summer student Nicholas welcomed about 250 visitors.

Thank you to Jennifer Smith who arranged the lovely centerpieces for the Rotary lunch and the magnificent window boxes in the church.

Filming for the Addison Diaries project took place Monday in the church and on the grounds with Donald Combe and Peter Babcock reciting their lines under the direction of writer/producer Barbara Worthy. St. Mark's received a New Horizons grant to produce a video on Robert Addison, who founded St. Mark's in 1792. He was one of the most significant men in early Ontario history, but is largely unknown. Filming continues Monday at Addison's home Lake Lodge, close to Four Mile Creek.

The December Men's Communion and Breakfast took place Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. We had interesting conversations and a delightful breakfast. The next one will be Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome and

bring a guest, parishioner or not. Greg Walker and his team are working on an interesting schedule of speakers and topics for 2023.

Those in church last Sunday saw our large Christmas tree placed temporarily in a plastic bin and waiting to be trimmed. It was transformed this week under the direction of Gary Zanner into a magnificently decorated and beautiful tree. The tree was donated by friends of David Galloway and the ornaments were donated by David. Thanks to David's friends and to the decorating team of Gary, Peter Babcock, Virginia Mainprize, Paul Evans and Abbas Changizian.

All of the above is good news and exciting, however we need to remember that in our community there are more than 80 individuals and families who are not able to celebrate as they do not have all that we do. These are the ones we need to help. St. Mark's is working closely with Newark Neighbours and gathering food, clothing and toys. We are not the only church helping, but that should not lessen our support financially or with essential food to other organizations that are doing great work for the needy and disadvantaged. Remember to go out of your way to help others — it does wonders for the soul.

We are currently preparing the 2023 operating budget along with maintenance and cemetery needs.

**Please remember our 13<sup>th</sup> month donation suggestion. Thanks to those who have generously provided funds. If you wish to do an e- transfer or provide post-dated cheques for the end of December, please call the office.**

**TO GIVE IS TO RECEIVE**

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### **CELEBRATION INVITATION**

You are invited to help Leighton celebrate his 50th birthday.  
Please join us in Addison Hall immediately following 10:30 service on  
Sunday December 11th for coffee, cake and sherry.



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## **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) - Allan Magnacca, Chris Bjorgan

Reader - Tammy Zalepa  
Intercessor - Gary Zalepa  
Altar Guild -Jennifer Smith, Virginia Mainprize

### ***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".

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It is a tradition at St Mark's Church that Christmas flowers are donated by parishioners. These can be given in memory of family or friends and a list of these people is included in a Christmas bulletin inserted into The Order of Service for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. If you wish to contribute Christmas flowers, you will find envelopes in the pews and at the back of the church. Please bring your contribution to the office in an envelope with your name and the name of the person(s) in whose memory you are making the donation.



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**We thank some friends of David Galloway's for decorating the tree in his memory at Christmas.**

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### ***Did you know...***

... Did you know that in 1981 Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother attended morning service at St. Mark's?



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## Weekly Prayers

In the parish cycle of prayer, we pray for Jack Hazell, Lynne Heaman, David and Rosamund Hennessey, and Mary Hill 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, Ben Buholtz, and Jason.

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

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Venerable Alan Perry, General Secretary, and the staff of the General Secretary's Office; Melanie Delva, Reconciliation Animator; Dawn Maracle, Animator, Indigenous Justice – Interim, and Trina Gallop Blank, Assistant to the National Bishop, Communications and Resource Generation, and the staff of Communications; Kyle Giesbrecht, Director of Finance and Administration, and the staff of Finance and Administration.

We pray for those who have died, especially Wayne McRae.

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## *St. Mark's Christmas Services*

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

**Service will last approximately 75 minutes**





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## **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](mailto: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 ([gregorywalker@gmail.com](mailto:gregorywalker@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 information.**

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### **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](mailto:rector.stmarks.notl@gmail.com)

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**Wednesday Morning Eucharist - 10:00 a.m.**

We look forward to seeing you in Church!

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## Men's Communion and Breakfast

**Next date January 4th, 2023.**

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.

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### **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 11<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Non-perishable food donations** can be dropped off at the office or placed in the yellow Newark Neighbors' donation bin in Addison Hall.

**Gifts** can be placed under the Christmas tree in Addison Hall or in the donation box at the back of the church.

**All food donations will be picked up by Newark Neighbours on Monday December 19th, 2022.**

**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](mailto:gregoryfwalker@gmail.com)**

**Newark Neighbours Food Requirements**

**Newark Neighbours Gift Requests**

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If you prepare a bone in ham, please consider donating the bone and any leftover ham to "St. Mark's Winter Kitchen". Those who donate will receive a 1 litre container of pea soup. St. Mark's Winter Kitchen will be preparing pea soup, tomato sauce, cottage pies, pickled beets and lasagna.

**Volunteers are required to work in the Winter Kitchen.**

Please call the office if you are interested in volunteering.

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### **PIE AND JAM MAKERS REQUIRED**

**Cherry Jam makers are required for two sessions in February and March.  
Jam makers are required on Wednesday February 22nd and Thursday March 2nd  
9 a.m.**

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

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*Please be advised that St. Mark's office will be closed for the holidays from December 24th, 2022 to January 2nd, 2023, reopening at 9 a.m. on Tuesday January 3rd, 2023.*

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*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](mailto:stmarks@cogeco.net) Thank you.*

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