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## E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 150th Edition - February 24, 2023

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### From the Rector

I can't remember who said Lent should stand for "Let's Eliminate Negative Thinking"—and maybe that's just as well since it's one of the dumbest slogans I've ever heard. To say nothing of it being theologically shallow. Somehow the notion that Lent is a time of negativity and deprivation has taken hold of our spiritual imaginations, which is odd because it really isn't meant to be. It's certainly a time of *discipline*—you can read more on my thoughts about that in my contribution to this year's Annual Vestry Report. But it's also a

time of growth. Don't forget Lent is derived from the old English word for Spring.

So this is a springtime for the soul. And what's so negative about that? Isn't it in fact a quickening notion? All of you who are gardeners know what goes into the spring cultivation of a garden. Those herbaceous borders and verdant lawns we enjoy in the summer don't happen on their own. A lot of work goes in before we can enjoy them.

Lent calls us to get serious about our lives and our priorities, to get sorted out, and to make time for the things that really matter, things that lead to a life as rich, full, and enjoyable as a summer garden.

It won't surprise any of you to learn that I am a great believer in making spiritual practices a priority. The easiest way to do this is to come to services—either on Sunday or during the week. You'll see there are four options for worship at St Mark's every week during Lent.

**(Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 8:30 am and 10:30 am and Wednesdays at 10 am and Evening Prayer and Meditation on Wednesdays at 5 pm.)** I urge you to take advantage of at least one of them. Even more than that, I urge you to take Holy Week seriously. At these solemnly beautiful services we trace the central mystery of our faith and each is marked by its own particular liturgical and theological point of view. So get the dates on your calendar, especially for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and come. And invite your friends and neighbours, too.

You'll notice a few small variations to the Sunday services in Lent. This coming Sunday, we'll begin with The Great Litany, which is the oldest part of the Anglican liturgy (though we use a modernized version of Cranmer's original.) The litany is at once a comprehensive intercession and confession; it covers all the bases, as it were. In time we'll learn to sing it.

But on Sunday we'll say it.

Also on Sunday (and for all the Sundays in Lent) the final hymn will be replaced by another ancient text, The Lent Prose. This one we will sing. Don't worry: the congregational part is easy! I think you may even find it's a Gregorian ear-worm.

So there's nothing negative about any of this. In fact, it's positively wonderful that once again we are asked to do the necessary and rewarding work of spiritual cultivation as we prepare to celebrate Easter, the feast which is itself a foretaste of the Paradise Garden, life in which all our earthly strivings even now seek to anticipate.

Grace and peace,  
Leighton

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**Friday March 3rd is World Day of Prayer. The service this year has been written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Taiwan. There will be an ecumenical service at St. Saviour's, Queenston at 1:30. Everyone is welcome to attend.**

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### **From the Wardens**

The first Pancake Supper since 2020 was held Tuesday February 21st. It was delicious as usual and we had a reasonable group of diners considering it has been three years since the last one. It was well organized by Trudi and her team and as expected Gary Burroughs and his team prepared a delicious pancakes/sausages/strawberries dinner.

Ash Wednesday Services took place at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. The stormy weather held back some anticipated attendees at the 5 p.m. service. Father Leighton delivered an excellent sermon which is a must-read. You can find it on the St. Mark's Facebook page or ask the office for a copy.

The annual Vestry is this Sunday following the 10:30 a.m. service. We will gather in Addison Hall and begin at 12 p.m. The Vestry package has gone out to parishioners with additional information available at Vestry. Please attend as the 2023 budget and programs are outlined. Vestry is an important meeting for all parishioners as we look back at the past year, review the church finances and look ahead to the coming year.

A reminder that our Sunday concerts begin Sunday at 4 p.m. except for Palm Sunday, April 2nd, when the concert will begin at 1 p.m. James Bourne has arranged special guests for each concert which you will be sorry to miss. The tickets are available by cash at the door.

We have been asked by Greg Walker, now back from California, to remind the men and their friends that 8 a.m. Communion and the Men's Breakfast will be held on Wednesday March 1st am.. See the note below.

See you in church!

As always, a reminder to advise the office of anyone who requires assistance, including a phone call, food delivery or some phone companionship. Or even a chat over the fence!

Stay safe-keep well

### **Called to Life-Compelled to Love**

Your Wardens,  
Allan Magnacca  
Andrea Douglas

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Please visit The Farmworker Hub by hitting on the link above. They appreciate anything you may have to offer.

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**Men's Communion and Breakfast  
WEDNESDAY MARCH 1, 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. in Addison Hall. 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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**Music at St. Mark's**

presents a series of short recitals for the season of Lent 2023. These concerts will feature many of the fine instruments owned by the parish, chosen at each recitalist's discretion.

**February 26 - 4 pm** Karin Di Bella, James Bourne performing music by Franz Schubert and Samuel Barber for piano four hands

**March 5 - 4 pm** Lesley Kingham, organ

**March 19 - 4 pm** James van den Brink, organ

**March 26 - 4 pm** Matthew Larkin, organ

**April 2 (Palm Sunday) - 1 pm** Michael Bloss

**Please join us for beautiful music by these fine performers on the varied instruments of St. Mark's.**

Doors open 40 minutes before each concert start time.

Tickets are \$20 and available at the door or from the office.



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## Holy Week Services

**April 2nd** - Palm Sunday

8:30 am - Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist

10:30 am - Liturgy of the Palms and Sung Eucharist

**April 3rd** - Monday in Holy Week

10 am - Holy Eucharist

**April 4th** - Tuesday in Holy Week

5 pm - Holy Eucharist

**April 5** - Wednesday in Holy Week

10 am - Holy Eucharist

**April 6** - Maundy Thursday

5 pm - The Maundy Ceremonies

**April 7** - Good Friday

12 noon - The Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion

**April 9** - Easter Day

8:30 am - Holy Eucharist

10:30 am- Festal Sung Eucharist

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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***

February 26, 2023 - Greeter(s)-Colleen Hunter and Douglas Hunter

February 26, 2023- Reader - Jamie Mainprize

Intercessor - Gary Burroughs

Altar Guild - Virginia Mainprize, Eve Wylie, Gene Anne Smith and 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".

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## Weekly Prayers

In the parish cycle of prayer, we pray for John and Roxanne MacBeth, Barbara MacDonald, Judy MacLachlan, and Craig MacLean and their families.

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

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for Church of the Incarnation,

Oakville, The Reverend Brian Galligan, Interim Priest-in-Charge; The Reverend Randy Williams, Assistant Curate, and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Rt. Rev. John Organ, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Western Newfoundland, and The dean, council, and congregations of the Georgian, Huronia and Bay Areas of the Eastern Synod.

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, Marilyn Worrall and Maggie Hammerling.

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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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We are planning a magnificent display of Easter flowers which traditionally are a donation from the congregation. If you would like to contribute to these, there are envelopes in the church pews. You may give yours to one of the sides people, or you can call the church office to arrange a donation. And you may indicate in whose memory or honour they are given.



**Please note that flowers do not adorn the sanctuary during Lent.**

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

...that the first minister at Niagara obtained a Master's Degree from Trinity College, Cambridge University in 1785?

Trinity College library



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**PIE MAKERS REQUIRED**

**Cherry Pie makers are required for four sessions in April 2023.**

**If you are interested in joining a pie making team please contact  
Diane Turner**

at

19ab39@gmail.com

289-362-1827

**Newcomers are welcome!**



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