



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 145th Edition - January 20th, 2023



From the Rector

I wrote most of this week's message on Wednesday—January 18, which is the feast of the Confession of St. Peter. Many of you know what that confession is; it is written in the sixteenth chapter of Matthew where in answer to Jesus' question "But who do you say that I am?" Peter says, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." To which Jesus answers, "Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I

will build my church."

January 18 also marks the beginning of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It's no accident that the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity always begins on the Confession of St. Peter since the interpretation of his confession, his profession of faith has been something that has been a source of contention among the Churches for many centuries. The traditional Roman Catholic take is that the rock isn't the words of the confession itself, but the man who said them. (Remember that Petrus means "rock.") St. Peter, so the argument goes, was the first Bishop of Rome and thus it follows that the true church is the Church of Rome. But the Protestant Churches say that the Church is built not on the rock of one man, but on the rock of his confession, namely that Jesus is the Son of God.

In Rose Macaulay's novel *The Towers of Trebizond*, the heroine and narrator Laurie is making a pilgrimage with her aunt to several holy places in Palestine and Turkey. She often meditates on the nature of the Church and of ecumenical relations. In one extended meditation she says,

No Church can have more than a very little of the truth. It must be odd to believe, as people do, that one's Church has all the truth and no errors, for how could this possibly be? Nothing in the world, for instance, could be as true as the Roman Catholic Church thinks it is, and as some Anglicans and Calvinists and Moslems think their Churches are, having the faith once delivered to the saints. I suppose this must be comfortable and reassuring. But most of us know that nothing is as true as all that, and that no faith can be delivered once for all without change, for new things are being discovered all the time ... we have to grope our way through a mist that keeps being lit by shafts of light, so that exploration tends to be patchy, and we can never sit back and say, we have the Truth, this is it, for discovering

the truth, if it is ever discovered, means a long journey through a difficult jungle, with clearings every now and then, and paths that have to be hacked out as one walks, and these lanterns are the light that has lightened every man.

I was lucky enough to twice be a guest at a luncheon at which Krister Stendahl was also present. Stendahl was a legend. One of the greatest New Testament scholars of his time, after an illustrious career as Dean of Harvard Divinity School, he returned to his native Sweden to become the (Lutheran) Bishop of Stockholm. One of his many legacies is what he called "Three Rules of Religious Understanding". Here they are:

First, when trying to understand another religious tradition, you should ask the adherents of that religion and not its enemies. Secondly, don't compare your best to their worst. And thirdly, leave room for "holy envy" by endeavoring to recognize elements in another religious tradition which you admire and wish could find greater scope in your own religious tradition.

Yet why should practicing these things be so important? We know why it's so important: if we can't even find a way to try to understand, live with, and stop demonizing people in our own Church with whom we disagree, we won't have any hope of learning to understand, live with, and stop demonizing people of other faiths who live with us in our global village. And when you think about it, isn't suspicion and hatred of those who differ from us the root of our current global woes?

Grace and peace,
Leighton

From the Wardens

Winter is reminding us it is still here, but we are one day closer to Spring as is St. Mark's to a positive future.

January and February are planning months culminating in the annual Vestry meeting on Sunday, February 26th.

Those who were in church last Sunday certainly enjoyed Susan McLaren being the celebrant and preacher.

We welcome Leighton back this Sunday.

As Corporation and Parish Council review the 2023 budget and make recommendations, we encourage any suggestions that may be considered. Revenue is the highest priority as the expense side of our operations is well monitored and controlled.

As we approach Vestry, please consider your role in the life of our church. How will you be involved?

As we mentioned last week, there continue to be event and rental requests.

We are very pleased Music Niagara has again selected St. Mark's as its priority venue to celebrate its 25th anniversary. Music Niagara's first concert took place at St. Mark's, beginning a long and valued relationship. Music Niagara's opening concert is Monday June 19 at St. Mark's.

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 over the fence!

Stay safe - keep well

Your Wardens

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

January 22, 2023 - Greeter(s) - Kathy Taylor, Joy Rogers

January 22, 2023- Reader - Wes Turner

Intercessor - Diane Turner

Altar Guild - Peggy Walker, Susan Baxter and Diane Turner

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".

Weekly Prayers

In the parish cycle of prayer, we pray for Gavin and Joyce James, Janet James, Chris and Jeanne Jennings, and Laura Kelley and their families.

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

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for St. George, Lowville, The Reverend Stephen Blackmore, Interim Priest-in-Charge, and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Most Rev. David Edwards, Metropolitan, and the people and clergy of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, and The dean, council, and congregations of the Atlantic and Montreal 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, and Jason.

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

Men's Communion and Breakfast

Next Men's Communion and Breakfast WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 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. 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.

Did you know...

that Robert Addison's desk may be seen at the Niagara on the Lake Historical Museum where it is permanently on display.



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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[St. Mark's Anglican Church Website](#)



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