



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 137th Edition - November 18th, 2022



From the Rector

One of the best books of popular theology published in the last few years is Diarmaid McCullough's *Silence: A Christian History*. In it, he traces the use—and abuse—of silence. (The final section in which he speaks of the Church's historic silence surrounding the Holocaust, slavery, clerical abuse *and* the Church's repeated silencing of non-heterosexual, non-male voices within the church, is both sobering and damning.)

But it is his examination of the theological, spiritual idea of silence which is truly compelling. Noting that Søren Kierkegaard published his seminal work *Fear and Trembling* under the pseudonym Johannes de Silentio, McCullough suggests that both scripture and the greatest thinkers of our spiritual tradition have much to teach us about the value of silence. The psalmist writes, "For God alone my souls waits in silence," and John the Divine, being granted a vision of the consummation of all things, says "When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour." St John of the Cross wrote "Silence is God's first language" and Meister Eckhart famously said that "Nothing is so like God as silence".

In other words, silence is a spiritual discipline, one which most of us are not very good at keeping. We live in a world filled with noise and the ceaseless babble of all kinds of talking heads. Even dining in public in silence—or at least without loud and intrusive music—hardly happens any more.

I was thinking about all of this after our Remembrance service. Before the service I said to Doug and Allan that the two minutes silence would seem VERY long. And in a way it did. It was a powerful reminder of the importance of keeping silence—deliberately keeping silence.

Spiritually speaking, silence is language, and the language we speak before God is in the silence of a recollected heart. That's why it's a venerable tradition to keep or observe a reverential silence before the service. So I want to encourage us at St Mark's to be more diligent in keeping silence before services. To be more mindful of taking a few quiet moments before worship to recollect ourselves. To let go of all of thoughts and concerns that occupy our minds most of the time.

No: I'm not making a plea for sepulchral silence! That is both infeasible and unnecessary.

But I think reserving more lively conversations to the coffee hour is no bad thing. Neither is being mindful of those who like to spend a few minutes before the liturgy in quiet contemplation. Think of the prelude not as pleasant background music but as an invitation into this divine silence and time for preparation. I believe that if we do this we will also truly know the joy of the words of the invitatory at Morning Prayer:

Lord, open our lips
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Grace and peace,

Leighton

From the Wardens

What a quick change in the weather from pleasant to rain, and then snow! We are Canadians so no surprise. Our favourite saying as we enter winter is "close the door to Buffalo!" especially as an extreme snowstorm bears down on the city today.

We received a lot of compliments on the November 11 Music Niagara concert in partnership with St. Mark's. There was a good turnout and generous donations to the Last Post Fund. Thanks to The Olde Angel Inn for donating the light lunch.

It is mid-November, and much is going on in NOTL and at St. Mark's. Many charities, non-profits and others are holding Christmas events. A major concern this year is the need for donations of food, clothing, and other essentials. We at St. Mark's will be doing all we can to support these agencies. More in next week's ENews.

The Rotary Holiday House Tour is Friday December 2nd and Saturday December 3rd. It is a major fundraiser for Rotary. Each year a different church offers lunch both days and this year it is our turn. Our kitchen team is preparing the lunch and a request for volunteers is noted below. **PLEASE contact the office by phone or email and/or email Allan Magnacca allanmagnacca@me.com if you can help.** If you have a preference for one day, please tell us. We will send a confirmation of time and role.

We are pleased to welcome some new folks as parishioners. In the past week we have added nine new envelope donors. The greeters, wardens and our Rector are ensuring these new parishioners are recognized and welcomed to St. Mark's.

We will be back to live streaming of our Sunday service on November 27th. We know so many who are homebound or who live outside Niagara have been patient in waiting for this to be resolved.

Parish Council met last evening, and many subjects were discussed. A brief summary: the Christmas Tea will change in format, but we will still have a Christmas event. Because of some uncertainty around timing it was recommended we postpone the Mission Action Plan process until January. The next Parish Council meeting will be in January 2023.

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, Harriet Tunmer
Reader - Jim Collard
Intercessor - Donna Belleville
Altar Guild -Pat Kingdon, Virginia Mainprize, Mary Webster

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...

...that there is a bell in the cupola above Addison Hall and that it has not been heard for many years?



Weekly Prayers

In the parish cycle of prayer, we pray for Bill and Karen Ford, Sal Fusullo, Bob Gaines, Ted and Pam Garrett, and Beverley Garrett 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 Taylor, Margaret Stimson, Terry, Jan Brown, Lisa, Dorothy Walker, Sharon, Dick, Bev Garrett, Jodey Porter, Sean, Joshua, Ben Buholtz, and Lynn Taylor.

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for Christ Church, Woodburn, The Reverend Canon Claire Wade, Priest in-Charge, and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Secretary General and staff of the Anglican Communion Office, the General Secretary and staff of the Lutheran World

Federation, and the members of the Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission.

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

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.

Volunteers are needed December 2nd and December 3rd at St. Mark's Rotary Luncheon.

Tasks include handling cash, setting tables, delivering plates, clearing tables and resetting tables.

If you can lend a hand, please contact Allan Magnacca at allanmagnacca@me.com or call the office.

Volunteers are needed to assist Andrea Douglas in greeting visitors eager to see our historic and beautiful church. **Please contact the office or email Andrea at adouglas@bell.net.**

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.

Volunteers are also needed to work in the winter kitchen. St.

Mark's Winter Kitchen will be preparing pea soup, tomato sauce, cottage pies, pickled beets and lasagna.

Please

call the office if interested in volunteering.

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

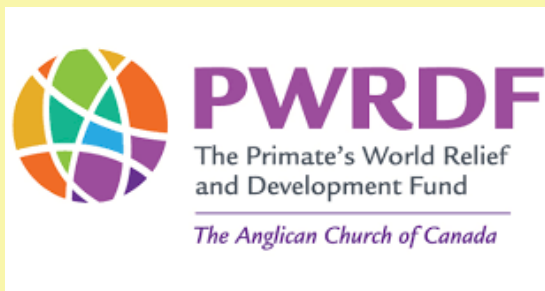
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Newcomers are welcome!



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[Click here to go to PWRDF Website](#)

Christmas Cards 2022



The Holy Family at the Nativity, © Laura James, 2006

Choose one or both designs



Peace on Earth

Counters

Counters are needed to collect and record the envelope and open plate funds after the 10:30 a.m. service each week. On a rotation basis, a counter would need to volunteer **only once per month**. Counting takes about 15 minutes and always requires two people. Please call the office or Allan Magnacca 416-727-0839 to volunteer or if you have questions.



Queenston Women's Chorus

HERE WE COME A-CAROLLING!

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4TH

TRILLIUM UNITED CHURCH

415 LINWELL ROAD, ST. CATHARINES

3 O'CLOCK

TICKETS \$20/ADULTS, \$15/STUDENTS

SPECIAL GUESTS -
NIAGARA STAR SINGERS

*Net proceeds to Newark Neighbours & Niagara Festival of
Performing Arts Scholarship Fund*

WWW.QUEENSTONWOMENSCHORUS.COM

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](http://www.stmarksanglican.org)



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