

Enews to the St. Mark's Pews
61st Edition May 28, 2021
St. Mark's Anglican Church est. 1792
Niagara-on-the Lake, ON

Hear the Good News! Hear the Good news!

From Isaiah 6: '...Whom shall I send and who will go for us? And I said, 'Here am I, send me!' The life of a parish pastor is often a matter of being sent, and received, and being sent again. Over a year ago, when being 'sent' to St. Mark's was first broached with me, I confess that I was somewhat conflicted. I was not sure, having 'retired' six months prior (retirement - now there's a subject for another day.....) that I wanted to make the commitment being asked of me. Knowing some of the parish's recent history, I also did not know whether I would be 'up' to it. At the same time, who in the Diocese of Niagara would not want to spend some time in NOTL? - a beautiful place, a well resourced and gifted parish community, a lovely church building. And so, at the request of Bishop Bell (and her persuasive ways.....) I was sent, and here I have been. And now, it is time to go, and someone else is being 'sent' to be among you. How fortunate Fr. Leighton is, and how blessed you all will be by his presence and ministry among you.

The Spirit is always full of surprises - most of them good. And it was a very good surprise to me that the Spirit sent me your way. These last 13 months have been a huge gift to me, and I want to thank you for it. Parishes - worshipping communities - are simply (and also not so simply....) collections of people, drawn together in the adventure of faith. We are blessed if we find, amongst that collection, friends, compatriots, inspiration, warmth, and challenge. So many of you have become friends (even when we have not been able to meet personally) and valued colleagues in this journey that I feel richly blessed indeed. You have welcomed me, supported me, inspired me, cajoled me, fed me, indulged my (many) idiosyncrasies, and forgiven me my many sins and omissions. I have enjoyed myself so much, and will miss each one of you. St. Mark's is a very blessed place - blessed by a vibrant staff, deeply committed volunteers, a strong and involved community. I know that great things lie ahead, and I look forward to visiting from time to time and meeting even more of you! With your help, Fr. Leighton will take you from strength to strength!
For my part, my deepest thanks and abiding affection!

Fr. Peter

Collect: Enfolding God, Trinity of love, you are our source, our goal, our life: may we be born again in you, no more to live alone and unconnected, but, sharing the Spirit's breath, be carried to your heart; through Jesus Christ, who lifts us up. **Amen.**

Hymn # 326: "Bright the Vision That Delighted"

Bright the vision that delighted once the sight of Judah's seer;
sweet the countless tongues united to entrance the prophet's ear.

"Lord, thy glory fills the heaven; earth is with its fullness stored;
unto thee be glory given, holy, holy, holy Lord".

"Lord, thy glory fills the heaven; earth is with its fullness stored;
unto thee be glory given, holy, holy, holy Lord".

PARISH UPDATES

Keeping in Touch On-line

*Our Sunday morning services are **streamed** on Facebook at 10:00 am. Simply go to St. Mark's Niagara-on-the-Lake Facebook page. The service will be uploaded to YouTube also by 10:00 in the morning.*

Please use these URLs to watch:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Anglican-Church-Niagara-on-the-Lake-235477056649804/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-vVgNf0GbuxrfljW4sOXzQ>

Our Facebook and YouTube channels can also be accessed through our website:

<https://stmarksnotl.org/>

Please call me: (905-317-0546, anytime) or the church office if problems.

Please, stay safe!

Fr. Peter

WARDEN'S LETTER

We must start this week's Enews knowing that our new Rector Leighton Lee will arrive, and that we will lose our interim cheerleaders, mentors, and pastoral guides.

The Venerable Lynne Marchant came as our first interim. She took us by the hand, heart and mind to begin the transition of ministry at St. Mark's. Lynne's experience along with her sense of humour and homilies that reminded us of what we need to understand during this time were a bridge to the new adventure for us. We are so pleased that Lynne and her husband Rick have become parishioners of St. Mark's and we will see them more frequently.

Then Dean Peter Wall joined us as Priest in Charge. Some of us had known Peter from his roles at the Diocese and Dean of the Cathedral. The transition for us continued. How

can we ever thank Fr. Peter for what he has meant to us? His depth in teaching, liturgy and pastoral strengths. Knowledge of the Bible and ability to interpret, discuss, and push us to become better people. His homilies every Sunday have become “a must” to hear. Always thoughtful words interspersed with personal anecdotes that bring home a message. Fr. Peter has helped us adapt to the new technologies for our online services and encouraged us to continue this important community delivery of our message. He has been a great listener and comfort to many of our needs as parishioners. Monday Bible Study has been embraced by us as well as the Wednesday morning Zoom services. Fr. Peter is a busy person. He is deeply involved in many areas. The Diocese, the National Church, Foundations, personal care responsibilities and still found time to be our Priest.

Our new Rector will arrive by car from Calgary over the weekend and will isolate for 10-14 days. He will be staying in a local hotel for a few days until his furniture arrives. Information will go out to parishioners over the next few days as to services next week.

Our Maureen Matthews has moved to Kingston and we wish her well, good health and to enjoy her new place. She will be 90 on June 3rd. Happy Birthday, Maureen! We are also wishing a very happy Birthday to Jim Bourne. He continues to make progress as does Gary Burroughs who does wander into the office a little bit each day.

Men’s Fellowship Zoom meeting will be on the SECOND Tuesday (**June 8th at 9:30 am**).

Please, remember to let the office know of anyone who needs any assistance — a phone call, special needs or other issues. We don’t want to miss anyone in need.

Take care and please, stay safe!

Called to Life – Compelled to Love

Your Wardens

WORSHIP: Sunday Prayers with Bishop Susan

Every week, the Bishop continues to lead Sunday Prayers at 10:00 am on our [Facebook page](#). An order of service is posted on our online [diocesan COVID-19 resource hub](#) on the Friday before. Join a few minutes beforehand and say hello to friends from your church and across the diocese! Afterwards, the service is posted [on our YouTube channel](#) and the Bishop's homily is available on the resource hub.

READINGS FOR TRINITY SUNDAY



[May 30, 2021 – Trinity Sunday – LINK](#)

Isaiah 6:1-8 - Isaiah gives the grounds for his authority as a prophet. Uzziah's reign has been prosperous, but uncertain times lie ahead. Assyria is expanding its borders, and the northern kingdom, Israel, is trying to coerce Judah into a military alliance against the Assyrian threat. Back then, dreams were taken seriously.

Romans 8:12-17 - Paul has told us how Christian experience is dominated by life in the Spirit rather than the desires of the flesh, or self-centeredness. People are still subject to suffering – to bearing crosses and affliction – but not to condemnation. Not being condemned, we have hope. We have been made children of God.

John 3:1-17 - God has told Isaiah that most people will reject his message, preferring their traditional ways. Now Nicodemus, a devout and learned leader in Judaism, shows himself to be so steeped in traditional ways of thinking about God that he rejects Jesus' teaching about how to enter the Kingdom of God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – TRINITY SUNDAY (Submitted by Tammy Zalepa)

As we worship the Holy Trinity,
let us present our needs before the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

That the one God in three persons may bring about unity and harmony among the many nations of the world, *Our Lord*, **Hear our prayer**.

Father God grant to us in our own lives a share in the mutual love of the Holy Trinity. May that unbroken harmony be shown in all our relationships, that we can love deeper than we have, act kinder, walk humbler, trust more.

We pray for our church and for all those who live, work, and visit here once restrictions are lifted.

Speak your word of peace in our midst, and help us to serve one another as Christ has served us.

We give thanks for the presence in this community of Roger Hughes, Doug and Colleen Hunter, Faith Jago, and Syme Jago and pray for them and their families.

For Leighton, Rector-designate of the parish, and for his safe and healthy transition to our community.

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for St. Stephen, Hornby, the Reverend Michael Clark, Priest-in-Charge and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil, Bishop; The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson, Suffragan Bishop; The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw, Suffragan

Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Toronto, and The Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute in Outlook Saskatchewan. *Our Lord, Hear our prayer.*

Son of God we pray for those weighed down with grief, fear, or sickness.
We pray that they may be aware of your comforting presence.

In the community of St. Mark's we pray for the sick, especially remembering Gillian MacKay, Terry, Don Dicarolo, Jan Brown, Lisa, Dorothy Walker, Sharon, Dick, Doug Garrett, Bev Garrett, Ross Tomlinson, Lea Parrell, Mimi McEwan, Peter Ford, Steve Atkins-Steele, Jodey Porter, Sean, Gail, Jackie Johnson, Gary Burroughs, and Sam Kingdon.

And for those shut in their homes, Fred Habermehl, Fred Dixon, Joy Ormsby, Selina Appleby, and Joan Draper. *Our Lord, Hear our prayer.*

Spirit of God remembering George Warren Sr., Sheila Pearson, and Yvonne Playle, and all who have gone before us in faith. *Our Lord, Hear our prayer.*

May our prayers be received in the unity of the Holy Trinity, three Persons and one God. **Amen.**

Hear now the words that Jesus taught us,

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.