



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 295th Edition December 12th, 2025



Dear Friends -

My meditation this week is *Declaration of War* and it's about how every time this year, we hear another familiar refrain: there's a war on Christmas. You can watch it [here](#).

If you prefer to read, you can find the text [here](#).

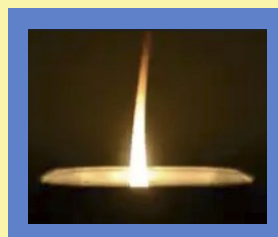
Stewardship packages were mailed out yesterday, Thursday, December 11th. E

Each Friday this month, I'm sharing a "Stewardship Snapshot" which will hopefully help us consider how we can support St Mark's in 2026.

This week, my snapshot reveals that at the end of November, our general offerings were \$35,000 below budget. So I hope you'll prayerfully consider how you you can support St Mark's in 2026. And consider joining our "13th Month" Campaign (more about that below) so we can end strong in 2025.

Something to think about!

**Grace and peace,
Leighton**



in loving memory

The flowers at the back of the nave are given to the
Glory of God
and
in loving memory of
Helmut Hammerling
from his wife Maggie
and
his loving family



13th Month Donation

As we approach the end of the year, it's a wonderful time for reflection and gratitude. We are truly blessed to have such a vibrant community at St. Mark's, and your unwavering support has made all the difference.

In this spirit of appreciation, would you consider making a special year-end "13-month" donation to St. Mark's? Let's embrace this opportunity to make a lasting impact and uplift one another as we step into a new year filled with promise!

Poinsettia donations now being accepted

We invite you to help us create a beautiful atmosphere in the church by filling it with vibrant poinsettias. If you would like to contribute, please use the "My Flower Offering" envelopes available in the pews or call the office.

Your contributions will help fill our sacred space with warmth and beauty, with each bloom representing a shared commitment to our community.

Memorial flowers

If you wish to honour a loved one during this special season, we encourage you to participate by dedicating flowers in their memory. You can easily do this by calling the office to make your donation by credit card, or by dropping off a cheque or cash. Erin will ensure that your loved one's name is recorded with care, and their memory will be celebrated in our E-News and in the Christmas Day Order of Service.

**The deadline for purchasing memorial flowers is
FRIDAY DECEMBER 19th**



We want to express our gratitude to our
Christmas Tree Decorating Volunteers
for beautifully decorating the St. Mark's tree again this year.

Thank you to:

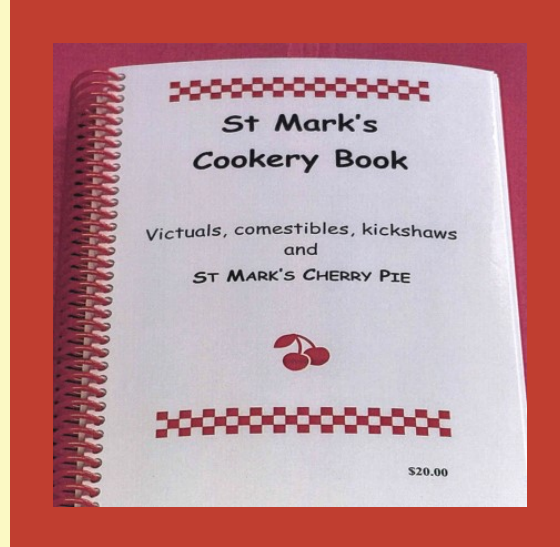
Gary Zanner, Kyle Spencer, Julian Mainprize, Rita Brown,
Sue Baxter, Peggy Walker, Valmai and David Elkins, Marsha Howe,
Virginia Mainprize, Mona Bailey, and Michael Bloss.



We invite you to honour the memories of your loved ones by donating memorial flowers at any time throughout the year.

Please submit your request to the office no later than the Wednesday before the Sunday you want the flowers displayed. This allows us time to include your tribute in both the Order of Service and the E-News.

If you wish to donate, please call Erin in the office.



Are you searching for the perfect gift for that person who seems to have it all?

Need some delightful stocking stuffers?

Consider gifting The St. Mark's Cookery Book!

This treasure is packed with delicious recipes that will inspire and satisfy every palate. Plus, it features the coveted St. Mark's Cherry Pie recipe!

This book makes an extraordinary gift. You can obtain this culinary gem through the office.

Parish Updates

In-Person Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist [Watch the live stream on YouTube](#)

On Duty this Week

December 14th , 2025

Greeter(s)

8:30 a.m. -

10:30 a.m. - Marilyn Bardeau and Chris Bjorgan

Reader - James Mainprize

Intercessor - Penny-Lynn Cookson

Altar Guild - Virginia Mainprize

Server - John Shaver

Flowers - Virginia Mainprize and Jennifer Smith

Order of Service

The Order of Service can be found on our website: [Order of Service Website Page](#)

Church Bells

A reminder to all that the Church Bells play on Sundays at 12:05 p.m. Enjoy!

Staying Up to Date!

Click on this link to find this and recent copies of our E-News: [Visit 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".

Christmas Holiday Hours for St. Mark's Office:

The office will be closed on:

December 24th

December 25th

December 26th

We will be in the office on:

December 29th

December 30th

December 31st

The office will be closed on:

January 1st, 2026

January 2nd 2026

Regular office hours will resume on MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH, 2026.

Prayer Cycles - We pray for:

In St. Mark's Parish: Jane DeMunnich, Andrea Douglas, and Lesley Dukes and their families.

In the Niagara Diocese: St. Stephan-on-the-Mount, Hamilton, The Reverend Naomi Kabugi, Rector; The Reverend Canon Bob Brownlie, Honorary Assistant; and the people of that parish.

In the Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer: Dr. Andrea Mann, General Secretary, and the staff of the General Secretary's Office; Peace Anthony-Idoko, Director of Finance and Administration, and the staff of Finance and Administration; and Mr. David Jones, District President, and the members of Board of Elders of the Canadian District of the Moravian Church Northern Province.

"December has the clarity, the simplicity, and the silence you need for the best fresh start of your life."

Vivian Swift

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



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