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## E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 191st Edition - December 8, 2023

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### From the Rector

On Sunday, we'll hear a familiar verse from the prophet Isaiah: *A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"* What shall I cry? Some of us cry out by nervously filling the air with an unending stream of mindless blather. Some of us cry out with insensitive and unthinking carelessness. And some of us cry out with the assumption that there's nothing so wonderful as the sound of our own voices or so sensible as our homespun wisdom.

All of us love to talk, to be experts, to give advice, to chatter away noisily. But do we really say anything of value? Do we do anything except fill the room with more hot air? As one whose vocation is in large measure about talking in public, I have often asked myself the prophet's question what shall I cry? What *can* I say? What can any of us say to neighbours who are hurting and world that is reeling?

"What shall I cry?" What words do we have to offer to the world which cries and groans for mercy? We all know that Advent is a time for preparation, but not the kind of preparation that manifests itself in busy-ness and a whirlwind of activity. It's a time of preparation when we strain to listen for the baby's cry in the night that will tell us once again that God has come among us.

"What shall I cry?" We ask the question and then remember the old phrase that actions speak louder than words. Which means we cry out through the living of our lives. This Advent we are once again preparing again to live like Jesus. It's hard to do this, for to live like Jesus means that we must live wildly in self-offering as he did, and thereby help to answer the world's cries of agony. I don't know how this wild self-offering will play out in your life or in mine. But I do know that you and I wouldn't be on the Advent journey if we weren't somehow aching to hear again the message of the angels and longing to go again to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass.

We are aching to see the path he trod and longing to walk in his footsteps, for we know, as if by some homing instinct, that the answer to the question, "What shall I cry?" is found by seeing him and by following him. For it is by following—however tentatively and clumsily—that we proclaim our Advent hope to the world: The darkness won't last forever. Peace isn't an illusion. Love is always being born among us. There is a Christmas gift that changes

everything. A gift from God proving decisively that actions *do* speak louder than words.

See you in Church!

Grace and peace,  
Leighton

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### **From the Wardens**

Over the top! Over the moon! We are not sure which is the best description for the Holiday House Tour Lunch and the Sip Savour and Shop, which took place in Addison Hall last Friday and Saturday. It was certainly fun, with our local community, visitors from out of town, parishioners, and friends all coming together.

There are so many people to thank! Almost 300 diners enjoyed a fabulous lunch and dessert! Gary Burroughs and his kitchen team worked very hard! Andrea Douglas and her servers and church guides also worked hard! Trudi Watson and Sally Mitchell, with what only those two can accomplish, with their planning, sorting, pricing and selling, were incredible! Everyone on the teams, almost 50 people in total, are all to thank for the tremendous success of the event. The diners and shoppers gave us many compliments and all gave thanks to St. Mark's for putting on the wonderful event.

We now head to the Christmas season. We draw your attention especially to the Food and Gift Drive for Newark Neighbours to bring Christmas joy to those in need. Two dates are important: December 13th is the deadline for toy donations. December 17th is the deadline for food donations and grocery gift card donations which will help families in need enjoy a Christmas dinner. Please see details elsewhere in E-News.

Thank you for the generosity of those who have given to our 13<sup>th</sup> month request for donations. Also a reminder to parishioners that if you have not donated so far this year, December 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to receive a tax receipt.

**A reminder to please consider supporting St. Mark's operations by donating to our 13th Month initiative.**

**Please know that giving an extra month's offering will be an immense help.**

**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 companionship. Even a chat over the fence!**

**Called to Life-Compelled to Love**

**Allan Magnacca  
Andrea Douglas**

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### **Parish Updates**

#### ***In-Person Sunday Services***

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

#### ***On Duty this Week***

December 10, 2023 - **Greeter(s)**- Chris Bjorgan and Marilyn Bardeau  
December 10, 2023- **Reader** - Donna Belleville  
**Intercessor** - Donna Belleville

**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".



**The Christmas Food and Gift Drive**  
for Newark Neighbours has begun!

St. Mark's is once again working with Newark Neighbours to bring some Christmas joy to those in need.

Clearly marked bins are available in Addison Hall for  
**toy donations until December 13th.**

*Toys will be available to parents to pick up on December 12th and 14th from Newark Neighbours so let us try to meet the donation deadline of December 13th!*

**Let's not forget the teenagers this Christmas. We suggest gift cards for teenagers from Walmart, Zellers or H&M.**

Please do not gift wrap your toy donations. Please label with the gender and suggested age range.

**Food for Christmas dinner**

will be distributed the week of December 18th. Newark Neighbours will provide fresh turkey or ham. Donations of non-perishable foods to accompany the meat would be appreciated. These could include stuffing mix, canned vegetables, canned gravy, bottled juice, cookies or candy etc.

A Newark Neighbours yellow bin will be available in Addison Hall for food donations of non-perishable food items from Dec 4th to Dec 17th.

**\*\*\*\*\*Grocery gift cards\*\*\*\*\***

**from either NOTL Independent Grocers, in any amount, would be greatly appreciated.**

**Grocery gift cards may be dropped off to the office.**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR REACHING OUT TO THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY NEEDING HELP!**

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The Men's Communion Breakfast will resume on Wednesday January 10, 2024 , and will continue on the **first Wednesday** of each month going forward. Watch for details from Greg Walker to be posted here!

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**Gary Burrough's Kitchen**

Delicious items for sale include

**Lasagna, Chicken-Vol-Au-Vent and Pea Soup, Stewed Tomatoes  
and  
Cottage Pie**

**\*\*Pop into the office to get your meals\*\***

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**SOUPS ARE AVAILABLE - INQUIRE IN OFFICE**





St. Saviour's Anglican Church, Queenston,  
presents

# CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

with

THE NEWARK SINGERS

Conductor: Michael Tansley

Sunday December 17  
at St. Saviour's 4 p.m.

Please join us to enjoy and participate in  
the music of the season.

Freewill offering.  
Proceeds to St. Saviour's

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In the parish cycle of prayer, we pray for Scott Nesbitt and Bonnie Hartwick, Janet Newey, Peter Nixon, and John Northfield and their families.

We pray for the sick, especially remembering Margaret Stimson, Terry, Jan Brown, Lisa, Sharon, Dick, Bev Garrett, Jodey Porter, Joshua, Ben Buholtz, Maggie Hammerling, Gail and Murray Paton, Elizabeth Channing, Janis Manning and Donna Wybrew.

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

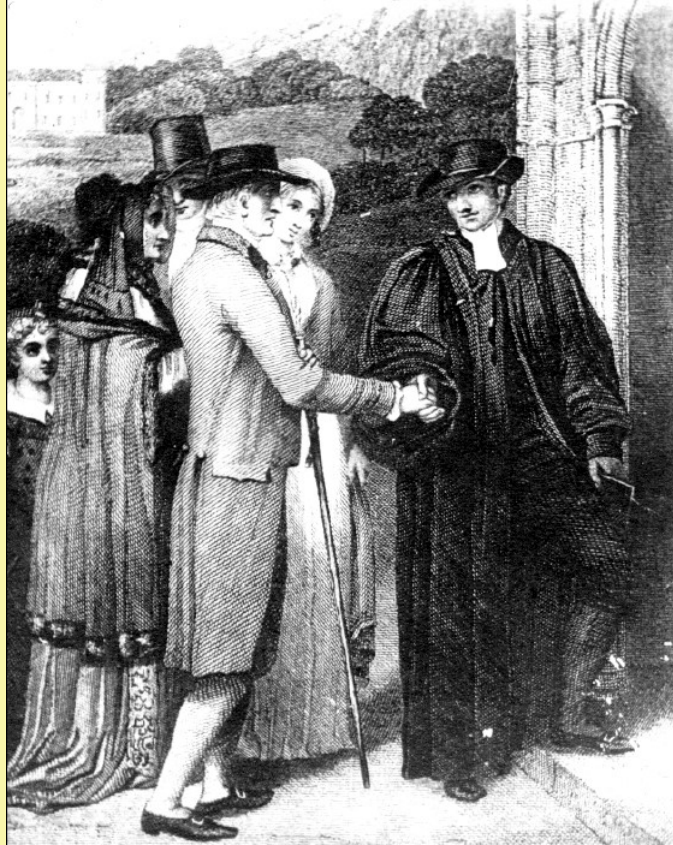
In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for St. Luke, Smithville, The Reverend Dr. Eleanor Clitheroe, Rector, and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Primate Archbishop Linda Nicholls and the staff of the Primate's Office of the Anglican Church of Canada, and National Bishop Susan Johnson and the national staff of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

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

... that this image has been widely used and accepted as a depiction of the Rev. Addison? It was created by English artist John Westhall and entitled Going to Church. There is absolutely no connection to Addison!



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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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***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](mailto:stmarks@cogeco.net) Thank you.***

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



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