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## E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 253rd Edition February 28th, 2025

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### From the Rector

In Dorothy Sayers' *The Man Who Would Be King*, a blind man who has been healed by Jesus says, "I never set eyes on your face before. Faces mean nothing to me. But you look the way you ought to look if you're the man I take you for." Could the same be said of us? Sure, we say that we're Christians and that we love Jesus, but we know that what we say isn't very often manifested in our lives and reflected in our faces. Do we look like the people we profess to be? I suspect that what drives so much maladroit religiosity, and the manic attitudes

people often exhibit as they try to prove—as much to themselves as to anyone else—that they are truly spiritual, God-fearing folk, is that they are unwilling to take time to stop and think and pray and simply *be*.

The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is always told on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. Which means Lent, the season during which we're asked to make conscious and thoughtful efforts to engage in more serious and conscious spiritual practices, is about to begin. Such efforts yield results that are usually subtle and fleeting. Glimpses of transfigured faces tend to be momentary, and the drowsiness of life is hard to slough off. And no matter how hard we try, we're bound to disfigure the face of Christ that shimmers beneath our own hard faces. So we have to continue to be deliberate in our life of prayer and in whatever other spiritual practices we find helpful and enriching. We should carry the disciplines of Lent with us throughout the year—throughout our lives.

This is all the more important because we know all too well that those moments of despair will come when we will say that there is no meaning to life, when we will scoff at the claim that beauty is everywhere waiting to be unearthed, and when we will curse the fogs of ignorance. Lent helps us find a way to be still so we may better hear the voice which speaks into darkness and fog and tells us who we really are.

And what is it, that voice in the cloud? It's the voice of Christ which sleeps in our deepest selves. The voice that bids us to follow him into a life of which earthly eyes see only gore, not glory. The voice that calls us to come away from the cares of the world and get lost in the cloud of his transfiguring love. The voice that summons us to walk the way from illumination to resurrection by way of purgation so we may see clearly who we really are.

To see that we are the divine's beloved, created by light to be the light of God to the world. Though the world may see only a dark and lonely road ahead, we are called to live in such a way that the road will be illumined by courageous love, bright intelligence, and undying hope. And if we dare to trust the voice and to follow where it leads, even if it leads to Calvary, we will know for ourselves the glory of transfiguration, for we will see even ourselves for who we truly are. And little by little we will be transformed into his image from one degree of glory to another.

Grace and peace,  
Leighton

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**The annual meeting of Vestry will take place this Sunday, March 2, following the 10:30 service, in Addison Hall.**

**Please plan to attend.**

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### **MEN'S COMMUNION BREAKFAST**

Since this Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, **Men's Communion Breakfast is suspended until April.**

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**\*\*\*\*\*Your Support Needed for the Treasures Sale!\*\*\*\*\***

**We are reaching out to share an exciting opportunity to support the St. Mark's community during this year's Cherry Festival. Trudi Watson is leading the Treasures Sale, a much-anticipated event where we come together to offer a variety of items for sale in Addison Hall at the Cherry Festival!**

**However, we're facing a large challenge this year: we desperately need clean, dry storage space for the items we plan to sell. This is where you can make a significant difference! If you have a corner of your basement, garage, or even an extra bedroom that you can spare, we would be incredibly grateful for your help.**

**Trudi will handle all the logistics—she will transport all items to and from your home. Offering your clean, dry space will ensure items are kept safe and organized until the Cherry Festival on Saturday, July 5th.**

**Your offer to store items will help us make this event a resounding success.**

**If you're willing to help, please don't hesitate to contact Trudi at [trudi4566@gmail.com](mailto:trudi4566@gmail.com) or give her a call at 905-468-3314.**

**Every bit of space counts, and we would appreciate anything you can provide!**

**Thank you for your kind consideration and support. Together, we can make this year's Cherry Festival the best one yet!**

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**We are thrilled to announce that the  
St. Mark's Cherry Festival takes place on  
Saturday, July 5, 2025.**



**This year, we have organized a team to make cherry jam! This begins in late February.**



**We need volunteers to help make our famous cherry pies!**

There will be 4 pie-making sessions held in  
**Addison Hall from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM**  
on the following  
**Mondays:**

**April 14th  
April 28th,  
May 5th.  
and  
May 12th**

We do require volunteers. When contacted by Bev Lees or Sue Baxter, please respond with a **"YES"** if you can help.

**Donations of funds would also be appreciated.**

If you have any questions contact Diane Turner at 289-362-1827 or email at [19ab39@gmail.com](mailto:19ab39@gmail.com).

**Thank you for your support!**



The remarkable women who dedicate their time and talents each year to create the exquisite Cherry Pie and Cherry Jam are truly the backbone of St. Mark's Cherry Festival. Their unwavering commitment and selfless contributions do not go unnoticed, and we extend our deepest gratitude to all the ladies featured in this picture, as well as to the countless others not pictured, whose efforts enrich our traditions and strengthen our bonds.

St. Mark's holds each of you in high regard and recognizes the vital role you play in our collective success.

**Special congratulations to**

**Beverley Lees**

**who has devoted an astounding 30 years to this beloved endeavour, exemplifying the spirit of service and excellence. Beverley, your dedication and hard work inspire us all, and we thank you for your incredible legacy at St. Mark's.**



## **SHROVE TUESDAY MARCH 4 2025**

**Please come and enjoy a delicious Pancake Supper with us at St. Mark's from 5 pm to 7 pm.**

**What could be better than a stack of fluffy pancakes, sizzling sausages, syrup flowing like a river, and your choice of coffee or tea to warm your soul on a cold **Shrove Tuesday** evening?**

***The answer is simple: nothing!***

**So come on over to St. Mark's for our **PANCAKE SUPPER** — where we don't just flip pancakes, we flip the script on boring weeknight dinners!**

**Sink your teeth into warm, fluffy pancakes, and perfectly cooked sausages, drenched in syrup, and sip on coffee or tea, all while enjoying time spent with the lovely people who make up the community of Niagara-on-the-Lake.**

**Don't let this evening slip away—mark your calendars, gather your friends and family, and prepare for a night of good food, laughter, and friendship.**

**No advance tickets are required; just bring your appetite and cash, debit, or a credit card.**

**Only \$15.00 at the door.**

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***Four Last Things***

**Women of St. Mark's, are you familiar with the concept of the  
*Four Last Things*?**

**Join Susan MacLaren's series on the  
*Four Last Things*  
and discover more!**

**Join Susan at St. Mark's Addison Hall to hear the fascinating and  
informative talks.**

**Session dates are:**

**March 6th, 10 am - 12 pm**

**March 13th, 10 am-12 pm**

**March 20th, 10 am-12 pm**

**March 27th, 10 am-12 and**

**April 3rd, 10 am-12 pm**

**Coffee will be served.**



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**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**St. Mark's is seeking one or two people to participate in this year's World  
Day of Prayer event at Grace Church United on March 7.**

**A preliminary meeting for all local church participants will take place on  
Tuesday, February 18 at 1:30 pm at Grace Church.**

**Please call Jane De Munnich for further details at 905 468-9831 or 289 686-  
6010.**

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# World Day of Prayer Journée mondiale de la prière 2025

**"I Made You  
Wonderful"**

Psalm 139: 1-18

Artists: Tarani Napa and  
Tevairangi Napa



**« J'ai fait de toi  
une merveille. »**

Psaume 139, 1-18

Artistes: Tarani Napa et  
Tevairangi Napa

Ecumenical Worship Service Information/Renseignements sur la célébration œcuménique

**Friday, March 7, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.**

Day, Time/la date, l'heure

**Grace United Church  
222 Victoria Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake**

Location/l'endroit

**Accessible Entrance by the Church Office.**

Additional Information/informations supplémentaires

Service written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Cook Islands, prepared and adapted for use in Canada by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada  
Service rédigé par le Comité JMP des îles Cook, préparé et adapté pour le Canada par le Réseau des chrétiennes du Canada



## **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**

**March 2nd - Greeter(s)** - 8:30 a.m. - Carolyn Porter

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

**Reader** - Bob Cross

**Intercessor** - Larry Bourk

**Altar Guild** - Virginia Mainprize and Jennifer Smith

**Server** - Bob Cross

### **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: [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".

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### **Prayer Cycles - We pray for:**

**In St. Mark's parish:** Erin McKinley and Stephen Payne, Willard and Anita Miller, Hazel Milne, and Carol Milne and their families.

**In the Niagara Diocese:** St. John, Ridgemount, The Reverend Daniel Bennett, Rector; The Reverend Deacon Roderick McDowell, Deacon; and the people of that parish.

**In the Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer:** The Rt. Rev. John Organ, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Western Newfoundland; the dean, council, and congregations of the Georgian Bay and Huronia Areas of the Eastern Synod; and the people and ministries of New Dawn Moravian Church in Toronto.

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



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