



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 200th Edition - February 16th, 2024



From the Rector

Do you have the same problem I do, namely that the more you set aside time to be alone and figure things out, the more you're likely to want the distraction of society? And let's face it: it feels good to be in the company of others.

Of course, many people tend to think that those who spend Friday night at home alone with a book and some soft jazz playing are a little odd. We tend to think that people who live off the grid in a kind of contemporary re-enactment of Henry

David Thoreau's *Walden Pond* are a little odd. We tend to think that people who make the conscious choice to live at home with the companionship of nothing but a couple of cats are a little odd.

But to be continually seeking the company of others is to be ultimately and irredeemably alone. David Riesman, called such people "other-directed," and he proposed that they need constant reassurance from other people that they are acceptable, useful, and needed. A society dominated by the other-directed faces profound deficiencies in leadership, individual self-knowledge and human potential since it is a society made up of those who, unwilling to be alone with themselves for even a moment, never come to know who they are and what drives them to do what they do.

The Church's favourite image for Lent is the wilderness, which is why the season always begins with the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. It's a powerful story of being alone. Of course there was danger in his going out into the sun-baked desert — danger of ridicule, madness and death. But that danger was nothing compared to the promise of what was found during the forty days: sense of self, duty and destiny.

Of course, Jesus wasn't called to be alone for his whole life and to keep himself at a distance from people. His life and ministry found their fulfillment and purpose among all the various people he encountered and touched. But he was remarkably free of the need to be esteemed, assured and emotionally propped up by other people, and was free of such needs because he had journeyed through the wilderness of discovery and discernment alone. Because he knew himself, and was unafraid to step deeply into that truth, he was able to speak the stark truth of existence to the careless people who gathered around him: that the meaning of life is not found by going around and around in one great carnival of frantic

activity, unceasing chatter and constant togetherness.

Rather, the meaning of life is found in the stillness, the silence and occasional aloneness. It is found in the unflinching and uncompromising look into the depth of our very souls. It is found in the wilderness. So if we have the courage to enter the wilderness, to begin the long, strange, difficult journey of learning to be alone, we will discover that being alone is no fearful thing but the greatest possible joy, for we will discover our true selves yearning to be completely at one with the One who always abides and who binds all together in the true companionship known in the fellowship of his mystical body.

Grace and peace,
Leighton

From the Wardens

Pancake Tuesday was a huge success. More than 100 folks from the parish and the community enjoyed pancakes and sausages perfected by Gary Burroughs and Kathy Taylor and their team. There were lots of volunteers to serve, clear and pour coffee refills. It was not only the delicious dinner that made the evening a success. It was the heartwarming feel of a community together, enjoying themselves. Well done to all involved! A food donation on behalf of St. Mark's was made to James Morden School's breakfast program in Niagara Falls.

Tax receipts will be available in the church on Sunday and in the office starting on Tuesday (as Monday is a holiday). Please pick up yours so we don't have the extra cost of mailing.

Parish Council met yesterday for its last meeting before Vestry. It was encouraging to hear from the concert committee about plans for three concerts March 17, March 26 and in early June. More details soon.

A reminder about the annual Vestry on the 25th February at noon. Please attend this important meeting where the 2023 financial statements will be reviewed, the 2024 budget will be discussed and elections and appointments for various positions will occur. Come for coffee and treats after church and then we will move to the meeting.

We draw your attention to a wonderful opportunity for the women of the parish to join Pastor Susan MacLaren to explore how our faith addresses what we see and hear on the morning news. The meetings in Addison Hall run four consecutive weeks starting Feb. 29 at 10 a.m.

We are seeking volunteer drivers to assist parishioners who need rides to church or medical appointments. If you will help, please call the office.

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



Diocesan Weekly News



Day of Prayer and Fasting: February 16

[In a joint letter to Anglicans and Lutherans](#), Archbishop Linda Nicholls, along with Bishop Susan Johnson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, has called for a day of prayer and fasting on February 16, 2024. This is an opportunity to collectively list our voices and hearts united in prayer, centred around the continued violence in Ukraine, as well as in Israel and Gaza, trusting that God is listening, acting, and present with all who are suffering or feel powerless.



Those participating are invited to fast from food or from social media, computer time, music, television or whatever else may be appropriate. During the day, the primate and national bishop encourage us to stop and pray throughout the day, [using the prayers provided](#) or simply crying from our hearts to God about the situations in Israel, Palestine, Gaza, and Ukraine. Gathering with friends, family, or church members, is encouraged.

To conclude the day, join Bishop Susan Johnson and Primate Linda Nicholls [on Friday, February 16, at 7 p.m. EST for a 30-minute prayer service on Facebook](#).

Parish Updates

In-Person Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

On Duty this Week

February 18, 2024 - Greeter(s) - Trudi Watson and Earle Waugh

Reader - Larry Bourk

Intercessor - Larry Bourk

Server - Virginia Mainprize

Altar Guild - Peggy Walker, Susan Baxter and Diane Turner

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](#)

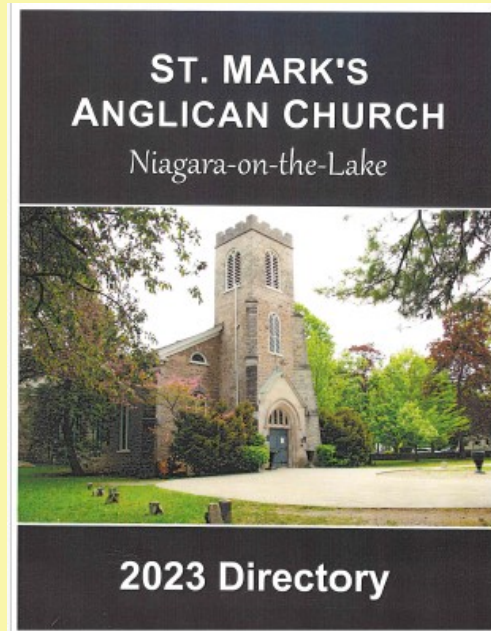
Click on this link to view our Calendar: [Visit our Calendar](#)

[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 St. Mark's Anglican Church 2023 Directory has arrived!

Please come to the office to pick up your copy.

(A reminder that the office is open Monday-Friday 9 am-2pm.)



You are entitled to receive a directory if you had your photograph taken by Universal Studios.

We have only a few copies for purchase at \$20.00.



**ST. MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH INVITES THE LADIES OF
THE PARISH TO**

JOIN

PASTOR SUSAN MacLAREN

FEBRUARY 29TH 10:00 A.M.

MARCH 7TH 10:00 A.M.

MARCH 14TH 10:00 A.M. and

MARCH 21ST 10:00 A.M.

Ever wonder how our faith addresses what we see and hear on the morning news? Let's talk about it!

The wonderful women of St. Mark's are invited - **encouraged** - to come together for 4 consecutive Thursday morning meetings in Addison Hall. The first meeting is scheduled for **Thursday February 29th at 10:00 a.m.** Come armed with a copy of the Beatitudes Matthew 5: 3-11. We will use those as a jumping off point.

MEN'S COMMUNION BREAKFAST
The next Men's communion Breakfast is scheduled for
Wednesday March 6, 2024
please contact Greg Walker
gregoryfwalker@gmail.com
for details

Gary Burroughs' Kitchen
made a fresh batch of delicious lasagna and cottage pies!
Be sure to get yours before they are gone!

Delicious items for sale also include
Chicken-Vol-Au-Vent and Pea Soup, Stewed Tomatoes
and
Cottage Pie
****Pop into the office to get your meals****

SOUPS ARE AVAILABLE - INQUIRE IN OFFICE



In the parish cycle of prayer, we pray for Harriet Tunmer, Wes and Diane Turner and Peggy Walker and their families.

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for St. Thomas, St. Catharines, The Venerable Bruce McPetrie, Interim Priest-in-Charge; The Reverend Canon John Cathcart, Honorary Assistant; The Reverend Jason Van Veghel-Wood, Honorary Assistant; The Reverend Canon Philip Velpel, Honorary Assistant; and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Most Rev. David Edwards, Archbishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Fredericton, the dean, council, and congregations of the Grand River and Thames Areas of the Eastern Synod, and an end to human trafficking and modern slavery.

Did you know ...

that Jacob Ball and his sons Peter and Thomas were Lieutenants in Butler's Rangers? The Rangers disbanded in 1792 and the British handed out land grants to militia. The Ball men, having held high positions in the military, were given their choice of a parcel of land. They chose what is now known as Balls Falls. The brothers, no doubt, saw the potential of the Twenty Mile Creek to power their mills.

Elizabeth Showers (1764-1844) married Peter Ball. Her fine marble monument rests in the eastern corner of our cemetery.



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

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.stmarks.org)



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