



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 250th Edition February 7th, 2025



From the Rector

Filling in for Leighton is Michael Bloss.

Praying into our songs and singing out of our prayers.

The noted American preacher, Fred B. Craddock, in his book *Preaching* states, "Passion makes one persuasive". While these words inspire the context of a preaching vocation to the church, we might easily take onto ourselves this idea of "passionate persuasion" whenever we participate in the

drama of the liturgy. So, who exactly are we trying to persuade and how is this to be *in praxis*?

Faithfully we recite the Nicene Creed each week in the Eucharist. We take the translation of *credo*, the first word of this creed in Latin, as "I believe". However, consider a more literal meaning as "I give my heart..." It is the language of one's heart, the most profound expression of commitment, not simply a list of statements to which one gives intellectual assent. Essentially, the first person to persuade us of our faithfulness is ourselves.

The process of self-expression, bringing to voice the emotional connection and spiritual awareness to our faith, lies at the very heart of our sung and spoken responses in the liturgy. The invitation to do so is rooted fundamentally in scripture, but also in the philosophy of the Reformation. We are compelled to "make a joyful noise to the Lord", and "Rejoice! And again, I say Rejoice". I've also written about Wesley's 1761 instructions for singing. As we wholeheartedly participate, we become a **community**, rather than just an impersonal **congregation**.

What does this mean? Principally, it means joining your voice to the ones around you. Sing and speak in an "outdoor" voice; strong, projected, and with confidence. Do not let any perceived inhibitions get in the way. Your neighbouring worshipper is waiting to be inspired by the **presence** of your voice so they can be encouraged to strengthen their voice with another, becoming a cascading response! Singing the psalms is just as much your primary role as are the hymns. Responses to the prayers and the other spoken parts of the liturgy benefit from the same projective approach.

Remember, please, that the role of the choir is to encourage by joining your singing, **not** to replace your participation. Besides, why shouldn't the presence of singing between choir and community encourage strength and proclamation at least as much as would be expected from within the community?

Nothing invites the **visitor** to a community of faith like the strength and vigour of its participation in the liturgy. And so, the persuasive passion is for much more than just St. Mark's, it is also vital for our outreach into the community. It reveals an invitation to be a part of the open, authentic, and beautiful parish that we are.

May St. Mark's full-throated Credo affirm a commitment to persuading the world that the Gospel is real, alive, and meaningful for life. Our Credo. Our Life.

That is something to sing about!

Blessings,

Michael Bloss



It's hard to believe that this is the **250th edition of St. Mark's E-News!
We hope you find the E-News informative and engaging.**

If you have any suggestions, please feel free to email Erin at the office at stmarks@cogeco.net. We would love to hear your feedback on how we're doing, what you'd like to see more of in E-News, or anything you'd prefer to see less of. Our goal is to make E-News as interesting, informative, and occasionally funny for you, our parishioners.

2 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. Mark's is looking for 2 volunteers to represent our church at

**The World Day of Prayer
which takes place on March 7th, 2025, at Grace United Church.**

The preliminary observers meeting for local churches is scheduled for
February 13th at 10:30 a.m. at Grace United Church.

For further information please contact Jane deMunnich at 289-686-6010.

**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 21st, April 28th, and May 5th.**

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

We are also requesting **donations of Tenderflake lard in 1-pound packages. Donations of funds would also be appreciated.**

Please drop off the lard or your cash donation at the church office.

Additionally, if you can assist with setting up chairs and tables in Addison Hall for the four pie-making sessions, please reach out to Steve Hinchliffe, the chair for Transportation.

Contact Steve at 905-687-0048 or shinchliffe@outlook.com.

If you have any questions contact Diane Turner at 289-362-1827 or email at 19ab39@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!

MORE CHERRY FESTIVAL NEWS!

St. Mark's is now accepting donations for the upcoming Cherry Festival boutique sale.

If you have articles you wish to donate please contact

**Trudi Watson
905-468-3314
trudi4566@gmail.com.**

St. Mark's Vestry Meeting

will take place in
Addison Hall on March 2nd, 2025
immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service.

Please plan on attending.

**Please note there will be no Evensong on
Wednesday, February 12th 2025**

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

February 9th - Greeter(s) - Doug and Colleen Hunter

Reader - Bob Cross

Intercessor - Jane deMunnich

Altar Guild - Virginia Mainprize and Dorothy Walker

Server - Sue Baxter

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".

Prayer Cycles - We pray for:

In St. Mark's parish: Ann Lindsay, Richard, and Lynne Liptrap, Susan Lower and Henry Vens, and Timothy and Dana Lutton and their families.

In the Niagara Diocese: St. John the Evangelist, Niagara Falls, the clergy and the people of that parish.

In the Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer: The Rt. Rev. John Watton, Bishop, and the people and clergy of the Diocese of Central Newfoundland; the dean, council, and congregations of the Two Rivers, Nith Valley and Niagara Areas of the Eastern Synod; and for a growing openness to dialogue and encounter with people of other faith traditions during World Interfaith Harmony Week.

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



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