



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 246th Edition January 10th, 2025



From the Rector

On Sunday we'll hear how after his baptism, Jesus heard a voice call to him from heaven: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Whoever Jesus was, and what his plans for life were before he decided to be baptised, no one knows. I imagine he was quietly going about life as the rest of us do, until one day the holy longing deep within grew so strong that he turned the page of his life and in so doing discovered that God had a

divine purpose for him.

The story of Jesus' baptism is about new vision, new life and new beginning—or to put it more succinctly: before and after. For most of us, our lives are like a palimpsest: an overwritten manuscript in which the mistakes and failures of the past continually bleed into, and spoil the present, making them an ever-present, albeit shadowy, reality.

Before and after: this is possible for us too. The Jordan is the dividing line between "before" and "after," that place we cross over when we answer the holy longing, when we decide that the pain of holding on to the past is greater than letting it go, and when we know that the comfort of our present lives is actually dull routine, and we face the fact that our refusal to begin again means nothing less than self-destruction. If we are willing to go down into the Jordan, if we are willing to die to the old, to break free of our present limitations and tear off the over-written page of our life, we will come out on the other shore able to see the vision of God's glorious calling breaking upon us.

Jesus heard the voice saying, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Likewise the voice of God speaks to you and to me and says, "You are my beloved." The sound of the voice is the epiphany that we are children of God, named by him and called by him, to begin again, to start really living and loving and giving. The voice of God calls out in answer to our holy longing, and when we look up and see our life torn in two, we see that what lies before us is the fresh and glorious opportunity of new life which is called into the service of God and the world. Washed clean, and freed by the waters, we see the dawn breaking with the first rays of light

piercing the darkness, we feel new and whole, and feel that our lives have meaning. Though we have known the darkness of despair and doubt, and have stood on the void of nothingness, we are finally, at last, alive.

Grace and Peace,
Leighton

Friends,

This is a reminder to complete and drop off your
ST. MARK'S 2025 PLEDGE FORMS BY THE END OF JANUARY 2025

Greeters will be happy to receive them after Sunday services, or you can drop them off at the office Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

You can also email your pledge form to stmarks@cogeco.net.

DONATION ENVELOPES FOR 2025

The donation envelopes for 2025 are now available for collection. They are located in the church; please request assistance from a greeter to obtain yours following the service.

St. Mark's is pleased to present

**General George Washington's Expense Account as Commander of the
American Continental Army
(1775-1783)**

presented by Dr. Wes Turner

**January 28th, 2025
2 pm
Addison Hall**

Join us for an engaging discussion led by Wes Turner, a dedicated member of St. Mark's Church and an acclaimed historian. With nine published books on the War of 1812 and the Life and Times of Upper Canada, Wes is sure to captivate you with his insights and stories.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with our community while enjoying delicious cookies and coffee. We invite you to participate and contribute to the conversation!

Please R.S.V.P. Dorothy Walker at 905-262-6605 or via email at walkerdorothy2021@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Get ready for a fantastic night out!

St. Mark's very own Steve Hinchliffe warmly invites you to join him at St. Andrew's Kirk Hall for a movie experience like no other. Best of all, admission is free—an offer you can't beat!

SECOND CHANCE MOVIES

PRESENTS:

JANUARY 4TH

"TICKETS TO PARADISE"

JANUARY 11TH

"KNIVES OUT"

JANUARY 18TH

"THE BEST EXOTIC MERIDGOLD HOTEL"

JANUARY 25TH

"IN THE HEIGHTS"

SHOWINGS AT 2PM AND 7PM

AT ST. ANDREW'S KIRK HALL.

DOORS OPEN 30MINS BEFOFRE THE SHOW

FREE ADMISSION

**Steve and I are fully aware of the epic spelling blunder on the "Marigold" poster —looks like someone tried to play Scrabble while blindfolded! We received the poster in this "artistic" form, and editing it was about as easy as teaching a cat to do yoga.*

While we appreciate creativity, we want to clarify: We will not be held accountable for this botanical brain freeze! 😊

And don't worry, folks, we know our flowers and their spellings better than a gardener knows his weeds! So, as they say, when life hands you misprinted posters, just chuckle and plant some real marigolds! (see, I told you we could spell!)

Erin



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

January 12th - Greeter(s) - Marilyn Bardeau and Chris Bjorgan

Reader - Wendy Steel
Intercessor - Larry Bourk

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: David and Rosamund Hennessey, Steve Hinchliffe, Marsha Howe, and Peter and Judy Howe and their families.

In the Niagara Diocese: St. Paul, Fort Erie, The Reverend Daniel Bennett, Rector; The Reverend Deacon Roderick McDowell, Deacon; The Reverend Canon David Thomas, Honorary Assistant; and the people of that parish.

In the Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer: Dr. Andrea Mann, Director, and the staff of Global Relations; Ryan Weston, Lead Animator, Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice; Executive Director, Will Postma, and staff of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund/Alongside Hope; and Chief Executive Officer, Karin Achtelstetter, and staff of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, the Assistants to the Bishop and the staff of the Eastern Synod; and the people and ministries of Edmonton Moravian Church in Edmonton.

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



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