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## E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 194th Edition - January 5, 2024

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### From the Rector

We're into the New Year but doesn't it feel like the same old thing? The same depressing news, the same aches and pains, the same community frustrations—even the same thing in church week in and week out. Does nothing ever change?

We ask that and yet we also don't want things to change. Familiar routines are not only comfortable, they're also comforting—a point so obvious I need hardly make it. But sometimes routines become familiar because we don't give

much thought to them, or don't know how to change them.

One of the things I think we need to change is the way we pray as a community. And, strange though this may sound, communal prayer—Intercession—isn't something most faith communities are very good at. Where our personal lives of prayer are concerned, we're probably very good—or at least good enough. That's because there's a difference between prayer and intercession. Prayer is speaking to God on our our behalf. But intercession is speaking to God on behalf of another person, group, situation, church, or community. It asks us to put our focus outward rather than inward.

And this is what I want us to work on. But in order for this to happen, we need to teach ourselves some different behaviour. And we need to likewise learn what intercession is—and what it isn't. One thing it certainly isn't is a cosmic vending machine. Nor is it a divine newsletter. Even less is it a wish list delivered to God. These are some of the reasons why I'm ambivalent about having a laundry list of world catastrophes in public prayer on Sundays. Yes, we *do* include places where disaster has struck, but usually only in the immediate aftermath after the crisis.

It's the word **do** that's so important. Praying for something or someone publicly doesn't shift our responsibility over to God. Praying for, say, the grieving, but not doing anything to help comfort those whom mourn, is of dubious use.

All of which is to say, the prayers that are offered on Sundays should remind us of our responsibilities to our neighbours and the world. And they should be timely.

Next week, I will have some practical guidance on how we might go about doing this, about

how each of us can help communicate the needs of our community to one another, how we can intercede for one another through the power of the Spirit. It will be a work in progress as we develop and live into new systems of intercession. But, like I said, it's a new year. So why not resolve to work to make our public prayer more timely and specific? We'll be all the richer if we can.

Grace and peace,  
Leighton

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### **From the Wardens**

As we start a new year filled with promise, we reflect on a glorious Christmas season at St. Mark's.

By all accounts the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service was profoundly moving. Some said it was the best they have ever experienced. The church was filled to capacity and the organist and singers excelled. Not to be outdone, worshippers lifted their voices and sang heartily. Leighton's thoughtful homily was perfect for the occasion. Add to this the magnificent tree and beautiful flowers adorning the church and the result was a Christmas that will long be remembered.

None of this would have happened without the talents and hard work of so many. THANK YOU!

The first week of January is almost over and we are beginning to plan for 2024.

Mark your calendars for the Pancake Supper at St. Mark's on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 13. Gary Burroughs has kindly offered to lead the event, and is assembling a team to ensure its success. If you will help, please contact the office or Gary.

The date for the annual Vestry meeting is Sunday Feb. 25 at noon. This is the most important meeting of the year for our parish and we urge you to attend. The financial statements are reviewed and received, wardens and lay representatives are elected or appointed, reports of activities in 2023 are received and any other business pertaining to the operation of St. Mark's is conducted. As this meeting approaches please consider how you will contribute to the life of our parish in the coming year.

Happy New Year!

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***

**January 7, 2024 - Greeter(s)** - Marilyn Bardeau and Chris Bjorgan

**Reader** - Wes Turner  
**Intercessor** - Susan MacLaren

**Altar Guild** - Virginia Mainprize, Jennifer Smith and Dorothy Walker

**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](#)

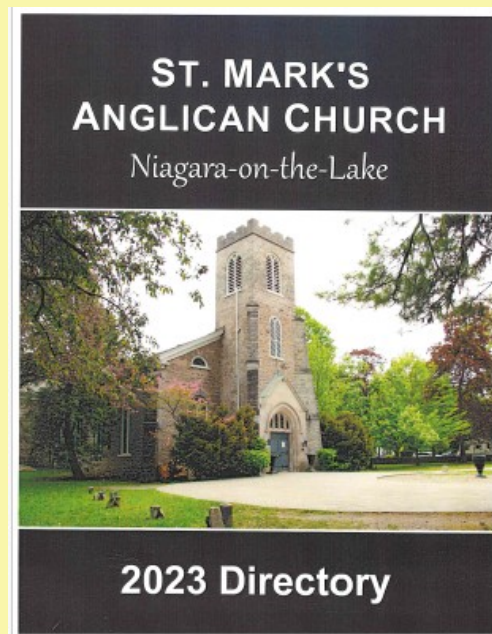
[Click here to access St. Mark's Anglican Church Facebook page](#) You can also access our Facebook page when on our website by clicking on the Facebook icon that looks like an "f".

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**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.**

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**The printed donation envelopes for 2024 have arrived.  
Please come to the office for pick up.**

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**William Brown**  
**PERSPECTIVES: The Evolution of the Cosmos, Life, Humans, Culture and Religion and a Look into the Future**

At St. Mark's, we know William Brown as Bill Brown. Bill will be presenting his book **'Perspectives'**

[in Addison Hall on Tuesday January 23, 2024 at 2 p.m.](#)

'Perspectives' begins with discussion on the Evolution of the Cosmos followed by the Life of millions of Species; Evolution of Humans; Culture; Religion and a look into the Future - it is a journey through time.

With the creation of the universe to the beginnings of life, and our human origins, questions are often asked, "are there alternate universes," and "are we humans working towards mass extinction with our cultural and ethnic classes"?

If you are curious about understand ourselves as human beings and would like to join us and enjoy some fellowship, cookies and coffee, please contact

Dorothy Walker @905 262 6605 or email [walkerdorothy2021@gmail.com](mailto:walkerdorothy2021@gmail.com)

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**The Men's Communion Breakfast  
Wednesday January 10, 2024**

**Stagecoach Restaurant  
45 Queen St**

**Please RSVP**

*Greg Walker*

*(905) 262-6605*

[gregoryfwalker@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryfwalker@gmail.com)

The next Men's communion Breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday February 7, 2024 and the first Wednesday of each month going forward.

Watch for details here.

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**Gary Burroughs' 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**



In the parish cycle of prayer, we pray for Susan Peacock, Gloria Petrunick, Jodey Porter and Ben Buholtz, and Carolyn Porter and their families.

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

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, Oakville, The Reverend Garfield Adams (Wu), Priest-in-Charge, and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for Sheilagh McGlynn, Youth Ministries Animator; the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, and Deacon Gretchen Peterson, Assistant to the National Bishop, Youth and Leadership; Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the National Bishop, Justice and Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations.

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### Did you know.....



...that Elizabeth (Masters) Ascher, after the death of her husband in 1898, worked for the Buffalo News and the St. Catharines Standard? During the first Great War she took a vital interest in Polish affairs and conducted a press campaign on behalf of the Polish army and the Polish nation. She also collected money and clothing for Polish relief, and later for orphanages in Poland. In recognition of this service, she was made a life member of the Polish White Cross Society, the Women's Section of the National Polish Relief Committee, and other organizations.

***"A notable tribute was yesterday afternoon accorded the late Mrs. Elizabeth C. Ascher, whose funeral service was held at historic St. Mark's Church, of which she was an active member. At the graveside, following the committal service by Rev. Mr. Smith, Col. Francis E. Fronczak, Health Commissioner of Buffalo, spoke briefly. "The people of Niagara, - he said "mourn your passing, and besides your friends there are those of another race, people of different religious views, people who speak a different language come to bid you farewell and pay their respect. Wherever the Polish language is spoken, you may be sure they will offer pious prayers for the repose of your soul."***

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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