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## E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 204th Edition - March 15th, 2024

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### From the Rector

"The world breaks everyone," Hemingway wrote at the end of *A Farewell to Arms*, "then some become strong at the broken places." Jesus said, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." In order to really live, to deepen our spirituality and understand the meaning of our lives—the lives God is calling us to embrace—we need to have some heart-rending experiences. This is a difficult teaching to accept; all of us are risk-averse, and our tendency is not to do

anything very daring or risky, we are so afraid of disappointment and heartbreak.

Which isn't to say that to know the pain of a broken heart isn't a devastating and life-changing thing—especially when it comes to matters of love. There is no greater pain than the pain of being thrown over for another. This Sunday's reading from Jeremiah is about this. Even though God did magnificent and unexpected things for his chosen people, including rescuing them from their persecutors in Egypt, they turned aside from him, forsook him, and forgot him. They had a change of heart. Yet God kept trying to turn their hearts back to him.

Because God would not—could not—have a change of heart. Even though his covenant was broken time and again, he remade it. It was ignored; he proclaimed it anew. It was forgotten; he remembered it. So Jeremiah is speaking of the wondrous and reckless love of God—the big-heartedness of God, if you will—and how he will not rest until the covenant, which his beloved and chosen have followed imperfectly, is renewed and restored, and when the fickle hearts of his people are renewed and unchanging.

Was it a case of unrequited love? Before we answer "Yes" too quickly let's not forget that God has also made a covenant with us, one given at Calvary. All through Lent we've been drawing closer to Calvary, and when we get there we'll see again God's last-ditch attempt to turn our hearts. We may even find that our stony hearts are broken. But broken hearts are also open hearts, ready to be filled with the wondrous—and wondrously healing—sacrificial love of Christ. For only those who have had their heart's broken can respond to all of the world's pain and heartache. And that is what we are called to do.

Jesus said, "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - 'Father, save me from this

hour? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour." Part of us is deeply troubled by the likelihood of experiencing setbacks and regrets, and longs to be saved from the time of trial. But another part of us, the part that pays attention to the holy longing within, to the desire to have a deeper and richer and truer experience, knows that when we come to the hour of anxiety and doubt and heartbreak, we can find our true selves. It knows that when we fall down into the dirt, we need not lie there forever with our faces buried. We can look up at him, who fell so far down into the mystery of death, that when the world broke him he became so strong at the broken places of his wounds, that when he was lifted up from the earth he drew all people to himself, not because he was unbreakable, but because he was vulnerable and willing to show us just how much love costs.

Grace and peace,  
Leighton

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**James Bourne will be on a scheduled leave beginning Monday, March 18. In the meantime, we're delighted to welcome Glen DeLine to the organ bench.**

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**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**

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**A Unique Recital at St Mark's**

**THIS SUNDAY!**  
**March 17 at 4 pm**

**Award-winning mezzo-soprano Nicole Percifield, a member of St Mark's choir, is teaming up with another award-winner, pianist Minira Najafzade, for a one-hour recital in the church:**

**"Music of Fire and Water"**

***A musical exploration of the elements featuring works by Brahms, Duparc, Elgar, and Handel.***

**We are honoured that Nicole and Minira have chosen St Mark's for this event, the first in our 2024 concert series.**

**Tickets are just \$10, payable at the door.**

**PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THESE WONDERFUL MUSICIANS!  
TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS!**

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**HOLY WEEK and EASTER SERVICES 2024**

**Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday**

**8:30 am** Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist

**10:30 am** Liturgy of the Palms and Sung Eucharist

**Monday, March 25**

**5:00 pm** Holy Eucharist

**Tuesday, March 26**

**10:30 am** Blessing of Oils, Renewal of Vows and Holy Eucharist  
(at Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton – 252 James Street North)

**5:00 pm** Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, March 27**

**5:00 pm** Holy Eucharist

**Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday**

**5:00 pm** The Maundy Ceremonies

**Friday, March 29 – Good Friday**

**12 noon** The Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion

**Sunday, March 31- Easter**

**8:30 am** Holy Eucharist

**10:30 am** Sung Eucharist *Dr Timothy Pyper, guest organist*

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# An Evening of Choral Excellence with Cantilon Chamber Choir

**MUSIC**  
NIAGARA  
FESTIVAL | 2024

Immerse yourself in the exquisite soundscapes of the Cantilon Chamber Choir, hailing from Edmonton, Alberta. Under the visionary leadership of Heather Johnson, this choir has not only won international competitions but also touched hearts with their vibrant and emotive performances. This concert, symbolizing the deep-rooted partnership between Music Niagara and St. Mark's Church, promises an evening of sublime musicality in one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's most historically rich venues.

\*All proceeds from this special event will be shared between Music Niagara and St. Mark's, supporting our shared mission to enrich cultural life in the community

March 17, 2024 March 26, 7 PM

St. Mark's Church, 41 Byron Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Tickets only \$20 + HST

Scan QR code for tickets or go to [www.MusicNiagara.org](http://www.MusicNiagara.org)



St. Mark's Anglican Church  
Niagara-on-the-Lake



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
un organisme de gouvernement de l'Ontario

## Parish Updates

### ***In-Person Sunday Services***

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

### ***On Duty this Week***

**March 17, 2024 - Greeter(s)** - Jo-Anne Hill and Ian Russell

**Reader** - Jamie Mainprize

**Intercessor** - Penny-Lynn Cookson

**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".

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**We are planning a magnificent display of Easter flowers which traditionally are a donation from the congregation. If you would like to contribute to these, there are envelopes in the church pews. You may give your envelope to one of the sides people, or you can call the church office and speak to Erin to arrange a donation. You may indicate in whose memory or honour they are given.**



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**[A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS](#)**

**St. Mark's requires *volunteers* to count donations after Sunday 10:30 a.m. service each week.**

**This task should not take longer than 30 minutes, and the counters work in teams of two.**

If you are interested please contact

**Allan Magnacca  
allanmagnacca@me.com  
or Erin in the office  
as soon as possible.**

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**ST. MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

**INVITES THE LADIES OF THE PARISH TO  
JOIN**

**PASTOR SUSAN MacLAREN**

MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> – 10 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 consecutive Thursday morning meetings in Addison Hall. Come armed with a copy of the Beatitudes Matthew 5:3-11. We will use those as a jumping off point.

3- Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

4- Blessed are the patient; they shall inherit the land.

5- Blessed are those who mourn; they shall be comforted.

6- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill.

7- Blessed are the merciful; they shall obtain mercy.

8- Blessed are the clean of heart; they shall see God.

9- Blessed are the peacemakers; they shall be counted the children of God.

10- Blessed are those who suffer persecution in the cause of right; the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

11- Blessed are you, when men revile you, and persecute you, and speak all manner of evil against you falsely, because of me.



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**CEMETERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteers are needed to help keep the cemetery tidy. This includes trimming around the church building and memorial garden, branch and twig clean up after high winds, watering newly planted trees and assistance with shoveling earth into holes around the cemetery. Periodically we do require help laying sod in certain areas of the cemetery as well as the removal of large tree limbs after heavy winds.

**If you are interested in volunteering please contact Sally Mitchell  
[semitchell@cogeco.ca](mailto:semitchell@cogeco.ca)**

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**LARD COUNTDOWN**

**Donations of Tenderflake Lard in 1 lb. packages would be greatly appreciated.  
Please drop off your donation to the office.**

**NEEDED: 200 1LB PACKAGES OF TENDERFLAKE LARD**

**CHERRY FESTIVAL 2024 is SATURDAY JULY 6th**

**The St. Mark's "pie ladies" plan to make 700 cherry pies for this year's Festival!**

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**CHERRY PIE MAKING**

Pie makers are needed for four sessions from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon on

**April 15th, April 22nd, April 29th and May 6th.**

If you are interested in joining a pie making team, please come to **Addison Hall** on the dates listed above. Please bring an apron and a rolling pin.

We also require **volunteers** to transport cherry pails and frozen pies to and from St. David's storage.

If you can help please email Kathy Taylor **here** or call 905-932-2425.

**NEWCOMERS WELCOME**



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**MEN'S COMMUNION BREAKFAST**

The next Men's communion Breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday April 3rd, 2024

Please contact Greg Walker **here** for details.

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**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\*\***

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**SOUPS ARE AVAILABLE - INQUIRE IN OFFICE**

**Roasted Tomato**

*Butternut Squash*

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In the parish Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Roland and Claire Adams, Phebe Appleton, and Carroll and Ted Baker and their families.

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for St. John the Evangelist, Winona, The Reverend Antonio Ilas, Rector; The Reverend Paul Whitehouse, Honorary Assistant; and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Rt. Rev. Mary Irwin-Gibson, Bishop, and the people and clergy of the Diocese of Montreal, the Assistant to the Bishop and the staff of the Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario Synod, and the elimination of racial discrimination.

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***Did you know....***

... I am sure you do know that on March 17th the Irish celebrate St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Although this day is now popular for its parties and social gatherings, its origins have nothing to do with beer. In fact, up until 1970 all the pubs were closed on this day, meaning no one could drink alcohol. But why did it start out as a religious festival? This is because the day commemorates the death of St. Patrick after a life devoted to religion.

St. Patrick's birth name was Maewyn Succat. (He changed his name to the Latin name Patricius after becoming a priest.) And he was not Irish! He was born in Scotland or Wales. This does not make him British, as Britain was under Roman occupation at the time, making him a Roman citizen.

St. Patrick first traveled to Ireland at the age of sixteen, when he was taken captive by Irish pirates. He was sold as a slave to a Celtic priest in the north of the country. There he remained for six years, working as a shepherd, before escaping and returning to Britain.

That was his first visit to Ireland, but not his last. He returned some time later as a missionary. St. Patrick's Day is specific to Ireland because it was there that he first began his religious work, which lasted almost 30 years. St. Patrick is famous for being the first person to bring Christianity to Ireland, but historians do not believe this to be true. In 431 AD, Pope Celestine is believed to have sent a bishop called Palladius to Ireland, where some residents already believed in Christ.

It is famously stated that St. Patrick stood on the top of the Irish hillside and drove all the snakes to the sea. This is a delightful story, but the truth is there were never any snakes in Ireland to begin with. Irish fossils show no evidence of snakes. The country has been surrounded by water since the last glacial period, meaning no snakes could travel there.

We all associate the colour **green** with St. Patrick's Day, but **blue** is the colour historically associated with the festival. The knights in the Order of St. Patrick wore a specific shade of blue, known as 'St. Patrick's blue'.

So why is St. Patrick's Day now associated with the colour green? The link between green and St. Patrick is believed to date back to the eighteenth century, when the Irish independence movement used the colour green to represent their fight for freedom. Also, while preaching to the Irish, it is believed St. Patrick used a shamrock to help explain



the concept of the Holy Trinity, and the shamrock is, of course, green! "Shamrock" comes from the Gaelic word seamróg, which means "little clover." It is widely known that clover was already a fundamental part of paganism at the time St. Patrick was teaching. In paganism, the green of the clover represented rebirth. The number three is also believed to have been an important number. Therefore, if St. Patrick did use the three-leaf clover to explain the Holy Trinity, he did not come up with this idea by himself.

But to be safe, one should always wear green on St. Patrick's Day. It is believed that wearing green makes you invisible to leprechauns, hence the saying 'wear green on St. Patrick's Day, or risk getting pinched!'

Corned beef and cabbage have long been a special St. Patrick's Day dish, but it is not traditionally Irish. Pork was the preferred meat of Ireland, but early Irish immigrants to America found that beef was much cheaper, and they could easily cook the beef and cabbage in one pot, which was probably the only pot they had.

And finally, according to a recent census, there are almost forty million North Americans who list their heritage as primarily, or partially Irish, compared to the 6.3 million people actually living in Ireland today. So, although the St. Patrick's Day celebrations began in Ireland, it is common to see the colour green on display in the U.S.A., Canada, Scotland, Australia, and even China!

The most common way of wishing someone "Happy St. Patrick's Day" in Irish is:  
"Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona duit!"

The expression means "Happy St. Patrick's Day to you!" and is pronounced:  
"Law leh Paw-drig suna ghít."



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### **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](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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