



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 202nd Edition - March 1st, 2024



From the Rector

On Sunday, we'll hear this from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians: *For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.*

Lots of folks find the claims of Christianity to be a stumbling block. Lots of folks think it's anti-intellectual. In an effort to refute that idea, they Episcopal Church, our American counterpart, once produced an ad showing an image of Christ crucified with the following slogan underneath: "He died to take away your sins, not your mind." I heartily agree with the sentiment! We can, and must, examine what we believe and profess, and to hold beliefs that are plainly contrary to what human intellect has discovered is, I believe, spiritually irresponsible. Why, for example, should the Bible be exempted from the kind of scholarship every other form of literature is subjected to? Simply because it's the Bible?

Nonetheless, the deepest truths of our faith are beyond the power of both intellect and science to prove. Their truth is confirmed by experience, and through the living of our lives. We won't win through to a deep, abiding and lively faith by argument and intellectual proposition. Nor can we become wise in the things of God through study alone. Only when we learn to live our faith will its truth begin to claim us; only when we begin to have the mind of Christ will we know the wisdom of God.

On Sunday, we'll also hear about Jesus cleansing the temple. He did this to make a dramatic statement against a corrupt religious system and its leaders who thought they had God and religion figured out and who therefore considered themselves to be the custodians of the truth.

The truth of Christianity is shown in the life of Jesus of Nazareth, and it's wrought on the hard wood of his cross. If we're to be wise in the things of God, and know the truth of our faith, then we must be willing to live, as far as is within our power, as Christ lived. In a world and Church in which the familiar ground beneath *our* feet is slipping away, we are tempted to cling to dead certainties. But it's the cross, which, in T. S. Eliot's memorable phrase, is the "still point of the turning world" which tells that only when we learn to let go of all that we cling to, all that we think we are owed, all that we desire, even all that we

possess, will we find the truth and meaning of our lives and our faith. The still point of the turning world is the crux of our faith, the place where the foolishness of God and the wisdom of humanity are exchanged. It's the place where that probing question, "Is Christianity true?" is gloriously answered.

It's the truth of a God who breathes in every simple, decent act of justice and compassion and who is alive in every soul that dedicates itself to human redemption. It's the truth of a God who died not just once on a cross, but who dies on every cross of hatred, selfishness and arrogance. It's the truth of a God who rose from the dead not just once long ago, but who rises in the lives of everyone who has gone from being self-centred, arrogant and stingy to unselfish, compassionate and generous. It's the truth of a God of hopes that cannot die, and of faith that is rising again. It's the truth of a God who chose an instrument of death to be an everlasting throne, and the weakness of the human frame to be his enduring power.

Grace and peace,
Leighton

From the Wardens

The Warden's Letter will now appear monthly in the E-News, unless there is something that must be communicated sooner.

**Andrea Douglas
Gene Anne Smith
Wardens**

**The 2024 Vestry meeting was well attended.
This is the list of people serving in various positions for 2024-2025.**

Wardens

Andrea Douglas – The Rector's Warden
Gene Anne Smith – The People's Warden

Parish Council

Leighton Lee
Greg Walker
Ian Russell
Trudi Watson
Carolyn Porter
Andrea Douglas
Kathy Taylor
Gene Anne Smith

Lay Delegate

Carolyn Porter

Alternate Lay Delegate

Steve Hinchliffe

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

Parish Updates

In-Person Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

On Duty this Week

March 3, 2024 - Greeter(s) - Chris Bjorgan and Marilyn Bardeau

Reader - Wes Turner

Intercessor -Diane Turner

Server - John Shaver

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".

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.



**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.



ST. MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
INVITES THE LADIES OF THE PARISH TO
JOIN
PASTOR SUSAN MacLAREN

MARCH 7TH – 10 A.M.
MARCH 14TH – 10 A.M.
MARCH 21ST – 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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Please R.S.V.P. Erin in the church office.

MUSIC NIAGARA PRESENTS
THE CANTILON CHAMBER CHOIR

**ST. MARK'S ON MARCH 26th, 2024 AT 7 P.M.
TICKETS ARE ONLY \$20.00 + HST**

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

17 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



cantilonCHOIRS
LET YOUR HEART SING!



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



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

CHERRY FESTIVAL 2024 SATURDAY JULY 6th

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

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

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 contact **Kathy Taylor**
905-468-2536
kathytaylor2536@gmail.com

NEWCOMERS WELCOME



MEN'S COMMUNION BREAKFAST

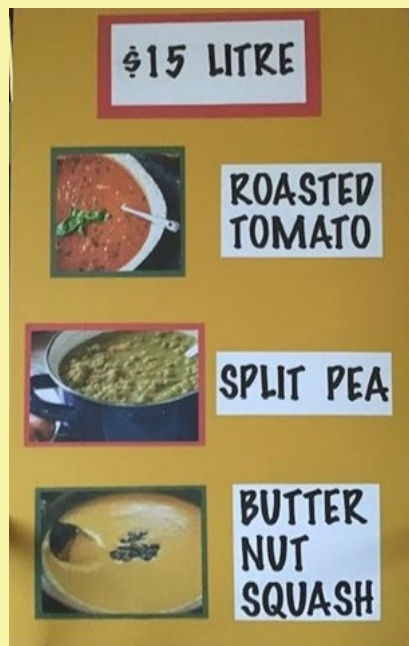
**The next Men's communion Breakfast is scheduled for
Wednesday March 6, 2024
please contact Greg Walker
gregoryfwalker@gmail.com
for details**

**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 Garry and Shirley West, Arn Westlake, Beverley Whittingham, and Keith Worrall and their families.

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for Transfiguration, St. Catharines, The Venerable Sheila Van Zandwyk, Rector; The Reverend Deacon Sandra Thomson, Deacon; and the honorary assistants and people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Rt. Rev. Sandra Fyfe, Bishop, and the people and clergy of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and the dean, council, and congregations of the Northern Area of the Eastern Synod.

Did you know....

that Maria Rye who was born in England in 1829, was a social reformer? With support from the British and Canadian governments, by 1867, she had established an emigration system for the "gutter children", a term she coined to describe orphaned and abandoned children of England. To house the children, in 1866, Maria purchased the old Court House in Niagara-on-the-Lake. She called it "Our Western Home", which opened on December 1, 1869.

Girls and young women were taken from slums and workhouses in England and were shipped to Canada in the hopes of a brighter future, by being "adopted, fostered or hired" into families, or married off into "good Christian marriages". Sadly, few were adopted. Most were placed with strangers, until the age of 18, who wanted cheap labour. Despite this, most of the children probably would have died had they not been given a second chance for a better life in Canada.

By the 1920s Canadians began to question the practice of child emigration. James S. Woodworth, a member of Canada's Parliament said to the House of Commons that "We are bringing children into Canada in the guise of philanthropy and turning them into cheap labour".

After the stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression of the 1930's that followed, it was no longer cost effective to ship British children to Canada, and the practice ceased.

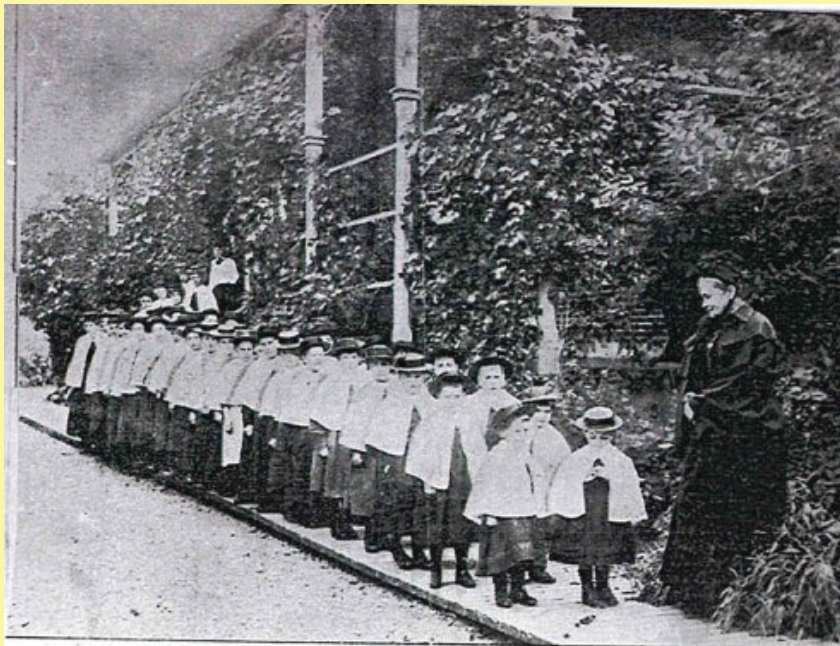


Marie Rye was the first woman to actively participate in a **Vestry Meeting at St. Mark's**, when she seconded a motion in 1892. Liberation had begun.



Marie Rye's "Western Home" no longer stands. The location is now home to **Rye Heritage Park**. A plaque marks the spot where the building once stood.

When Maria Rye left Niagara-on-the-Lake to live in retirement in England, **she left without paying her pew rent to St. Mark's!** St. Mark's tried to sue for the money owing, but her London lawyer stated, "Miss Rye is a character that is not easily frightened". No outstanding rent was ever received.



Marie Rye and some of the "Rye girls" on their way to church at St. Mark's.

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](#)



St. Marks Anglican Church | 41 Byron Street, P O Box 582, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S 1J0
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