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## E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 254th Edition March 7, 2025

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### From the Rector

Dear Friends,

Lent has begun, and this means there will be some changes to our liturgy to help underscore the solemnity of the season. The first of these is the singing of the Lent Prose in place of the final hymn at the Sung Eucharist on Sundays. This is a beloved custom at St Mark's. I like to call it a Gregorian earworm!

And the second is the introduction of a new (to us) setting of the communion service. Michael

Bloss and I agree that the time has come for us to learn Healey Willan's iconic *Missa da Sancta Maria Magdalena*. It was written in 1928 for the congregation of St Mary Magdalene in Toronto (where Willan was the organist for several decades.) Interestingly, it's far better known south of the border in the Episcopal Church. So we'll do our part here in Niagara-on-the-Lake to correct that!

And there's one more change, but this one isn't about liturgy. It's about our weekly E-news. For the Fridays in Lent, you can watch my meditations rather than read them. Just click the link below.

<https://youtu.be/8TIReZzANRg>

See you in church.

**Grace and peace,  
Leighton**

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### From the Wardens

We are so pleased to report that the annual **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, held in Addison Hall on March 4**, was a delightful success. Our caterer Robin Howe, assisted by Louise Howe, produced delicious pancakes, cooked by a truly indefatigable Chris Bjorgan. A team of equally tireless volunteers served pancakes, sausages, whipped cream, maple syrup and apple compote, seated and served 123 patrons, cleared and reset places, and cleaned

up afterwards.

This is a special evening of fun and fellowship for our parishioners and members of the wider community and we are grateful that we were able to host it for another year.

**Many thanks to Chris, Robin and Louise; servers Kathy Taylor, Virginia Mainprize, Rita Brown, Bob Cross, and Leighton Lee; serving and clean-up staff Susan Peacock, Lynne Heaman, Penny-Lynn Cookson, Ian Russell, Carolyn Porter, Steve Hinchliffe and Erin McKinley and her daughter Lily.**

**Special mention goes to Kathy and Erin for much help in organizing and setting up for this event and to Kathy for producing the delicious apple compote that makes our pancake supper unique.**

Wednesday evening saw the beginning of our Lenten worship with a beautiful Sung Eucharist for Ash Wednesday.

Do not forget that our musical director, Michael Bloss, is producing a short musical video for each day of Lent. These can be accessed through our website and on St. Mark's Facebook page.

**Gene Anne Smith  
Andrea Douglas  
Wardens**

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Lent is an important time in the Christian life, characterized by reflection and penitence. During this season, many of us engage in daily devotional readings to encourage soulful introspection. Music offers a powerful, non-verbal way to access the depths of our emotions and spiritual experiences.

To support your musical journey through Lent, I will share **a daily musical "reflection" video for each of the 40 days of the season.** The videos debut on Ash Wednesday, March 5th, and continue through the Eve of Palm Sunday. By clicking on the photo on **St. Mark's** website, you can enjoy a daily organ piece inspired by Lenten hymns and scriptural themes, composed by artists from the early Baroque period to contemporary times.

**You can also see the videos on St. Mark's Facebook page.** You will hear and see the organs at St. Mark's Church and gain context for each selection through my brief introductions.

Sundays during Lent are less sombre as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. To highlight this joyous aspect, I will feature videos of organ music recorded in some of the larger churches in London, Guelph, Toronto, and St. Catharines.

I invite you to leave a comment sharing your thoughts about the music. What emotions did the piece evoke for you? Did it remind you of a biblical story or a moment from your faith journey? Perhaps it recalled a personal experience you feel comfortable sharing. Please send your comments to [my email](#).

It is my sincere hope that these musical vignettes can become a meaningful part of your Lenten practice.

Michael Bloss  
Director of Music  
michaelbloss@hotmail.com

It is my fondest hope that these musical vignettes can become a part of your Lenten practice.

***Michael Bloss, Director of Music***



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**\*\*\*\*\*Donations are required for the Treasures Sale!\*\*\*\*\***

**I am happy to announce that I have received numerous offers to store items which will be sold at the Treasures Sale!**

**A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has generously offered their basements and garages. Your support and kindness are deeply appreciated!**

**We are now ready to accept donations!**

**We graciously invite you to consider donating your unwanted garden pots, statuary, artwork, china, household items, and decorative pieces for any occasion. We are also pleased to accept gently used hats, purses, and scarves. (However, we ask that you refrain from donating shoes or boots.)**

**Additionally, we welcome outerwear, including vests, coats, and jackets. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and your contributions will make a positive difference. Thank you!**

**If you have something to donate, please contact Trudi Watson at [trudi4566@gmail.com](mailto:trudi4566@gmail.com) or call her at 905-468-3314.**

**Thank you for your kind consideration and support. Together, we can make this year's Cherry Festival the best yet!**

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**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 28th,  
May 5th.  
and  
May 12th**

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

**Donations of funds would also be appreciated.**

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

**Thank you for your support!**

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**Four Last Things**

**Women of St. Mark's, are you familiar with the concept of the *Four Last Things*?**

**Join Susan MacLaren's series on the *Four Last Things* and discover more!**

**Join Susan at St. Mark's Addison Hall to hear the fascinating and informative talks.**

**Session dates are:**

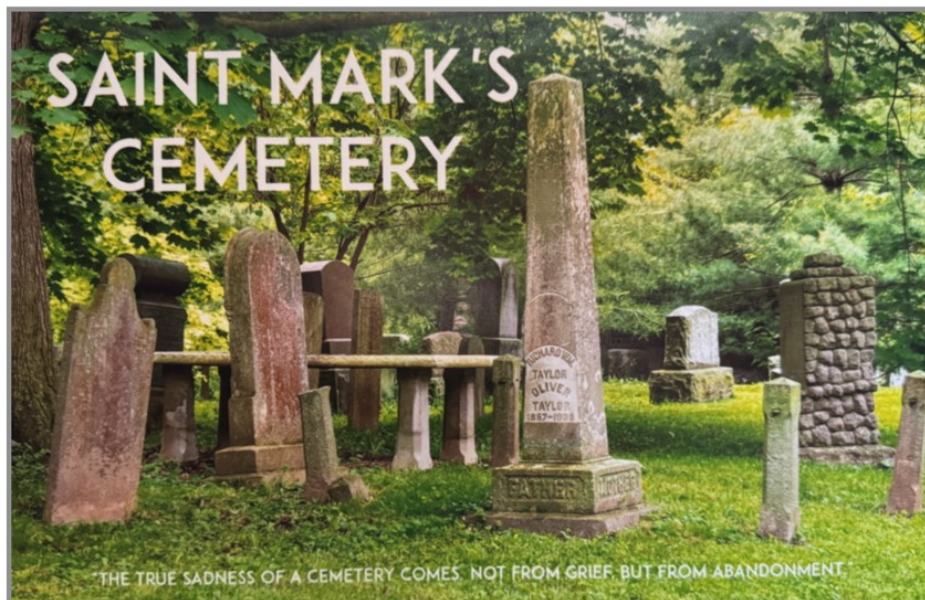
**MARCH 12 10-NOON  
MARCH 19 10-NOON**

MARCH 26 10-NOON  
APRIL 2 10-NOON

Coffee will be served.



*A new St. Mark's publication*



### **A New St. Mark's Publication**

There has been a burial ground in this location since at least 1782, when Leonard Plank, a retired soldier of Butler's Rangers, was interred here. It was, until the mid 1830s, the final resting place of all the town's people, young and old, ordinary, and prominent. More than 2,000 of them lie here in this idyllic plot of land, not far from Fort George and overlooking the mouth of the mighty Niagara. Monuments of every size, of marble, granite, slate, and of many styles proclaim the stories of lives lived. This is an extraordinarily historic, and beautiful place and one of significance for all Canadians.

Cosmo Condina, a prominent photographer of international reputation, grew up in our town and knows the cemetery well. During the summer of 2024, encouraged by Sally Mitchell, his trusty Hasselblad in hand, he focused his trained and astute eye and so captured images, not only of the essence of our cemetery, and its history, but more importantly, he caught the spirit of the lives of those here interred.

This superb fifty-page publication will be digitally printed by Carruthers Printery of Smithville on 100 lb. Creator Silk paper and hardbound with hinge pages stab-stitched by Van Huizen Bindery of St. Catharines. Never has our cemetery been so perfectly captured on film and so professionally presented. Profits from the sale of this publication will aid with

St. Mark's Cemetery's ongoing tree maintenance and monument restoration programmes.

We invite interested, and supportive individuals, to become patrons of this unique publication. Patrons' names will be listed in the front of the editioned volumes, a significant portion of the patron's donation will be eligible for an income tax receipt, and patrons will receive their unique copies at a formal reception in St. Mark's Addison Hall from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. on Thursday May 22, 2025.

**Patrons Contribution: Two hundred dollars**

**To ensure your patronage, and for further information,**

**[Please email Donald Combe](#)**

**or call him at 905.932.4175**

**Your two hundred dollar cheques can also be given to Erin in the office**

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### **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***

**March 9th - Greeter(s)** - Trudi Watson and Earle Waugh

**Reader** - Wendy Steele

**Intercessor** - Jamie Mainprize

**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".

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### **Prayer Cycles - We pray for:**

**In St. Mark's parish:** Sally Mitchell and Julian Trachsel, Peter Nixon, John Northfield, and Daryl Novak and their families.

**In the Niagara Diocese:** All Saints, Ridgeway, The Reverend Daniel Bennett, Rector; The Reverend Canon David Thomas, Honorary Assistant; and the people of that parish.

**In the Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer:** The Rt. Rev. Sandra Fyfe, Bishop,

and the people and clergy of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island; the dean, council, and congregations of the Northern Area of the Eastern Synod; and the people and ministries of Christ Moravian Church in Calgary.

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



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