



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 240th Edition November 22nd, 2024



From the Rector

Sunday is the great festival of The Reign of Christ. It celebrates the kingship of Christ and sets the humble majesty of his kingdom against the coercive kingdoms of this world. An alternate first reading for the day (which we won't hear on Sunday) comes from the prophet Daniel. In a moment of ecstatic transcendence, he writes, "*As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven.*" In other words, he's dreaming.

Our dreams fascinate us, for only in them do we meet our real selves and receive a vision of what life could be like. But they also terrify us, and that's why being "a dreamer" carries such a pejorative connotation. Dreamers unsettle people because they're able to see beyond the limits of human insight to something greater. Sometimes they are called "seers" and sometimes they are called "prophets," but no matter what name they go by, they're able to point those of us who are less insightful to something deeper and truer than our present reality.

As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. All of us yearn for a glimpse of the glorious holiness of Christ that has sustained all of the great prophets, mystics, and visionaries of our spiritual tradition. True, there are still among us some who are wise enough to walk with God and enlightened enough to see visions of heaven. But most of us continue to plod along, dazzled by the klieg lights of worldly distractions. So until we learn to live as those seers did—on the border between sight and insight, view and vision—we will never be lifted above the horizon of the present moment.

We've almost lost the ability to dream of a grander vision.

Almost—but not quite. Sometimes we have a vision no less startling than Daniel's. The kind of vision that, when others see only ordinary, flawed human beings, we see people who have been raised to the status of the eternal king. When others see only ordinary, mortal flesh, we see the divine majesty is truly revealed and known through ordinary, mortal flesh. When others see only broken dreams, we see there's a place where we are accepted and loved and cherished for who we are, not for who we thought we should be. When others see

majesty that is coercive and domineering, we see that the only true majesty there is is the majesty of love. And having seen all these things, we must then proclaim with boldness and conviction that *this* love desires to draw all things and all people toward it, toward the place where spilled blood is exchanged for new life where the only things that dazzle are the wounds of the one who was crucified.

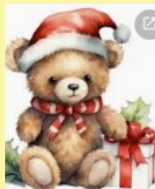
He's a king unlike any other, this King Jesus. But then again, his kingdom is not from this world, and he has no subjects, only friends—loved, redeemed, and set free to dream away the nightmares of this world so that the vision of a kingdom of joy and peace and light may even now begin to become true.

Grace and Peace,
Leighton

From the Wardens

Warmest greetings, Friends.

We are fast approaching Advent and the Christmas season with many upcoming events to mark in your calendars.



Tea with Teddy takes place next Friday and Saturday, November 29th and 30th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Addison Hall is already filled with vintage teddy bears and other toys, Christmas décor, clothing, treasures, and collectibles. Tea and scones and hot chocolate for the children will be served. This is an event not to be missed. Your children and grandchildren will surely delight in the Teddy Bear displays.

Admission is \$15.00 at the door.

On **Advent, Sunday, December 1st**, services at 10:30 a.m. will include readings and music. The 5 p.m. service on Christmas Eve and the 10:30 a.m. service on Christmas morning will also include special music.

We are very excited about "**A Christmas Homecoming**" our Christmas concert, taking place on Sunday afternoon, December 22, at 4:30 p.m. Tickets are available in advance, through the St. Mark's office, for \$25.

Five dollars from each ticket sold will be donated to Newark Neighbours.

The concert will feature Christmas music and readings, with special guests, Trillium Brass. Our own Michael Bloss will be directing. This promises to be a magical event and tickets are going fast. We urge you to obtain your tickets early as we expect this community-wide event to sell out.

Finally, as promised, our **Stewardship Package** is ready for delivery. We hope each of you will take the time to carefully review the material enclosed and give thoughtful consideration to your contributions to St. Mark's for next year. If it appears that the mail strike will continue beyond next week, we plan to deliver the packages to most of our parishioners by hand.

Andrea Douglas
Gene Anne Smith
Wardens



Dear Friends - We are sorry to report that long-time parishioner **Fred Habermehl** died on Thursday November 14, 2024, in London, Ontario, in his 98th year. Fred was an active participant at St. Mark's. Fred was a very close friend of the St. Mark's Archives Committee and one of its first members. His contributions were numerous in publishing some of the most interesting historical finds, along with his very close friend, Donald Combe. Please remember Fred in your prayers, as well as his family and close friends.

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them to good purpose of your perfect will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Obituary and funeral arrangements](#)



We invite you to embrace the spirit of giving this season by using the **"My Christmas Offering"** and **"Christmas Flower Offering"** envelopes now available in St. Mark's pews. Your contributions allow the Altar Guild to create stunning Christmas arrangements that fill our church with joy during this special time of year. Moreover, **Memorial Flowers** serve as a beautiful way to honour and remember our loved ones who are no longer with us.

To ensure your loved ones are honoured please submit **Memorial Flower** requests to the office by Friday, December 13. Your generosity enriches St. Mark's Christmas celebrations, enabling us to create a memorable and meaningful experience for all.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Men's Communion and Breakfast

Wednesday, December 4th, 8:00AM

Quiet spoken Eucharist in the Church at 8:00 a.m. followed by breakfast at 8:45 a.m.

If you would like to join, please contact:

Greg Walker by email: gregoryfwalker@gmail.com by Noon on Tuesday prior so that numbers for breakfast can be confirmed.

We look forward to seeing you!

Great news!

Tickets are now available at the St. Mark's office. Contact Erin to secure your tickets, as we expect them to sell out quickly.



*St Mark's Anglican
Church presents*

A CHRISTMAS HOMECOMING

*A Festive Celebration in
Story and Song*

— *with* —

ST MARK'S SINGERS · TRILLIUM BRASS

MICHAEL BLOSS

Music Director

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

AT 4:30 PM

Tickets: \$25

\$5 from every ticket sale
goes to Newark Neighbours

**ST MARK'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH**

41 Byron Street,
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

Ph: (905) 468-3123

stmarksnotl.org



Steve Hinchliffe from St. Mark's
plays a significant role in organizing these movie nights. Admission is
free, making it a wonderful way to spend an early Saturday evening.

SECOND CHANCE MOVIES

PRESENTS:



JOIN US FOR A SHOWING OF
"THE OLD OAK"

ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23RD 2024

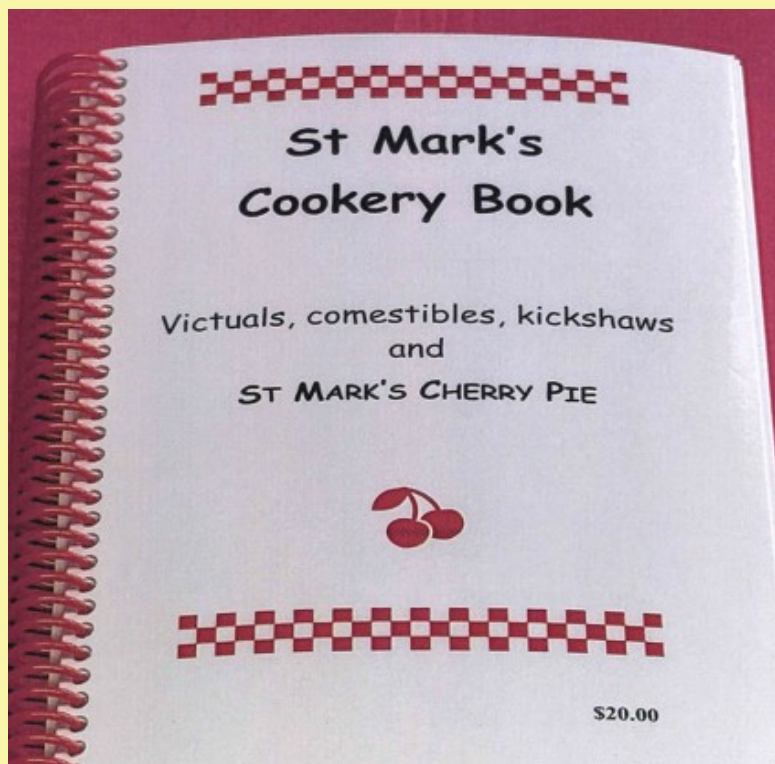
SHOWINGS AT 2PM AND 7PM

AT ST. ANDREW'S KIRK HALL.

DOORS OPEN 30MINS BEFORE THE SHOW

FREE ADMISSION

THIS MAKES A GREAT STOCKING STUFFER OR GIFT FOR THOSE WHO
ARE HARD TO BUY FOR



\$20.00

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

November 24 - Greeter(s) - Trudi Watson and Earle Waugh

Reader - Jamie Mainprize

Intercessor - Wendy Steel

Altar Guild - Peggy Walker, Susan Baxter and Diane Turner

Server - John Shaver

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: Keith Bullen and Mary Webster, Gary and Sarah Burroughs and Anjulika Chand and their families.

In the Niagara Diocese: Church of the Nativity, Hamilton, The Reverend Canon Matthew Groffin, Rector, and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer: The members of the Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Commission of Canada.

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





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