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## E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 233rd Edition October 4, 2024

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### From the Rector

If—when!—we're blessed to have lots of children in the congregation, don't expect a children's sermon from me. From a liturgical point of view, there are few things I like less. That's because they're almost inevitably done for the amusement of the adults in the parish. Kids say the darndest things—and all that. They're less about teaching children something about the Bible and more about teaching them that they're there to be cute in front of grown-ups. And what kind of message is that? I think it says that children are welcome because they give the adults a few chuckles before being

sent away. Or, to put it more starkly, children aren't welcome except when they give the congregation something.

And that's how we generally think about new members. They give us something.

All congregations wrestle with how to attract new members—especially younger members. And there's no doubt that all congregations need new members—that is, they need more of them—if they're going to survive. The current membership in our parishes is ageing. Many folks are on fixed incomes. Many are simply worn out. These are all serious issues, but they shouldn't be the driver for seeking new members. The trouble comes with what a retired bishop once called "Vampiric Membership": the need for new blood.

We need to be careful not to fall into the trap of thinking about church growth as being about survival. Because it's about salvation. And if any parish doesn't think that's the only reason people should become members of a congregation, they do deserve to close. A parish isn't an end in itself, but a means to an end.

Which isn't to say we don't want to grow. Of course we do. The more people who join as co-workers in the proclamation of the life-saving gospel, the better. But this means we also need to live in a way that shows evidence of changed lives. We need to talk about how our lives have been changed. And we need to really embrace the truth that unlike other communities, Christian communities exist for the sake of those who aren't their members.

I had a lovely email from someone who came to the Blessing of the Animals on Wednesday. They were deeply touched and extremely appreciative. Will they become members? Probably

not. Did they go away with a good feeling about St Mark's. Certainly. In a couple of weeks, we'll be participating in Doors Open. Most of the folks who will tour St Mark's will simply come to look. That's fine, because "doors open" is what we're about. And that's how evangelism works: a door is opened. An invitation is made to walk through the door. And hopefully that open door and that invitation offer a glimpse of something so beautifully compelling and obviously life-changing that folks can't help but want to see for themselves what this is all about.

Grace and Peace,  
Leighton

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### **From the Wardens**

Parish Council met last week after a two-month summer break, full of enthusiasm for a new year. Plans for the fall include a Christmas concert, date and details to be announced, a Teddy Bear Tea, and a Chili Supper to thank parish and community volunteers.

**The Teddy Bear Tea** is organized by Trudi Watson in response to a generous donation to St. Mark's of 30 collectible teddy bears to be used for fund raising. You will not be surprised to learn that Trudi has expanded the idea to include a lovely tea and sale of treasures, clothes and Christmas decor, in addition to the sale of teddy bears! Please note the full announcement below and plan to bring a friend and enjoy this event. **The dates are Friday and Saturday, November 29th and 30th 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**The Chili Supper** is to be held on All Saints Day, **Friday, November 1 at 6 p.m.** It is a potluck supper to celebrate and thank all the volunteers who support St Mark's, both in the parish and in the wider community . **Parish members are asked to bring a pot of chili or a dessert to share.** Salad and drinks will be provided. There will be announcements closer to the date.

The choir continues to grow and develop under the leadership of our interim music director, Michael Bloss. If you wish to sing or know anyone in the community who would appreciate this opportunity to sing with an organized group under a talented director, please contact the church and let us know.

It is our very great pleasure to announce that St. Mark's has received a very generous donation of \$80,000, earmarked to be used for stone and monument restoration in the cemetery, from the Estate of William Humphries and The Robertson Charitable Trust. Although the benefactors behind these gifts were not parish members, St. Mark's parishioners may remember that William Humphries and his wife funded restoration of our bell carillon and there is a plaque recognizing this earlier generosity in the church

**Please remember to mark your calendars for our upcoming events.**

**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**

**Andrea Douglas  
Gene Anne Smith  
Wardens**

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### **CEMETERY UPDATE STONE CLEANING TRAINING**

On September 21st, Al Ernest gave a training session to nine enthusiastic students on how to clean historic headstones in the cemetery in a non invasive way. Al is a respected and experienced historic monument restorer and has completed over 110 restorations in our

cemetery over the past four years.

The group cleaned nine headstones near the entrance to the cemetery (the west side at the end of the circular driveway). It was remarkable to see the names come alive once again! The stones are made of various materials including Queenston limestone, and Carrara marble (most common in Ontario cemeteries from the 1790's to 1880's. The veined Vermont marble became popular in the 1870's.) A good example is the newly cleaned Crouch obelisk near the bench in the same area. You can see Sarah McBride's name now on the second stone on the right directly at the end of the driveway. Other stones cleaned include the Grier (John and Mary), McKee twin stone (children) Maria McKee (another child) and the Rolph headstone.

Next spring we will start the 2025 cleaning program and will ask for volunteers to assist. They will be trained by those trained this year (train the trainer). It is a very rewarding experience. The beauty of it is you can work at your own pace and whenever you feel motivated. MORE TO COME IN THE SPRING OF 2025!

### **TREE PRUNING**

Our annual tree pruning will take place over three days October 7 to 9. The pruning program is to maintain the health of the trees as well as to ensure the safety of those walking through the cemetery.

### **FALL CLEAN UP AND FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY**

A fall clean up of the leaves is scheduled for late October:

The cemetery board encourages everyone to give a helping hand when out in the cemetery by picking up small twigs and branches.

Three individuals have helped us over the summer to try and keep the cemetery neat by raking leaves, picking up small branches, pruning ivy and shrubs (near the Memorial Garden) and elsewhere. Their assistance has been invaluable!

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ENTHUSIASTIC FOR **SINGING** IN AN ENSEMBLE?



INTERESTED IN **EXPLORING**  
REPERTOIRE OLD AND NEW?

MOVED TO **SHARING** LITURGY  
AND MUSIC IN COMMUNITY?

CONSIDER **JOINING**  
**THE ST. MARK'S SINGERS!**

CONTACT INTERIM DIRECTOR OF  
MUSIC MICHAEL BLOSS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

[MICHAELBLOSS@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:MICHAELBLOSS@HOTMAIL.COM)

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### **Men's Communion and Breakfast**

**Wednesday, November 6th, 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](mailto:gregoryfwalker@gmail.com) by Noon on Tuesday prior** so that numbers for breakfast can be confirmed.

We look forward to seeing you!

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### **Ladies Discussion Group**

It will be a wonderful thing if you could join us. Susan MacLaren will be leading a ladies discussion group at 10AM during the Wednesdays in October and the first Wednesday in November. We start on 2 October. Up for discussion will be The Lord's Prayer. What does it say? What does it mean? Why do we care? Format will be just like last year's discussion group. There will be coffee!!!! Come and see!!

### **Wednesdays**

**October 9th, 16th, 30th and November 6th at 10:00 am.**

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### **Christmas Fundraising Tea and Sale**

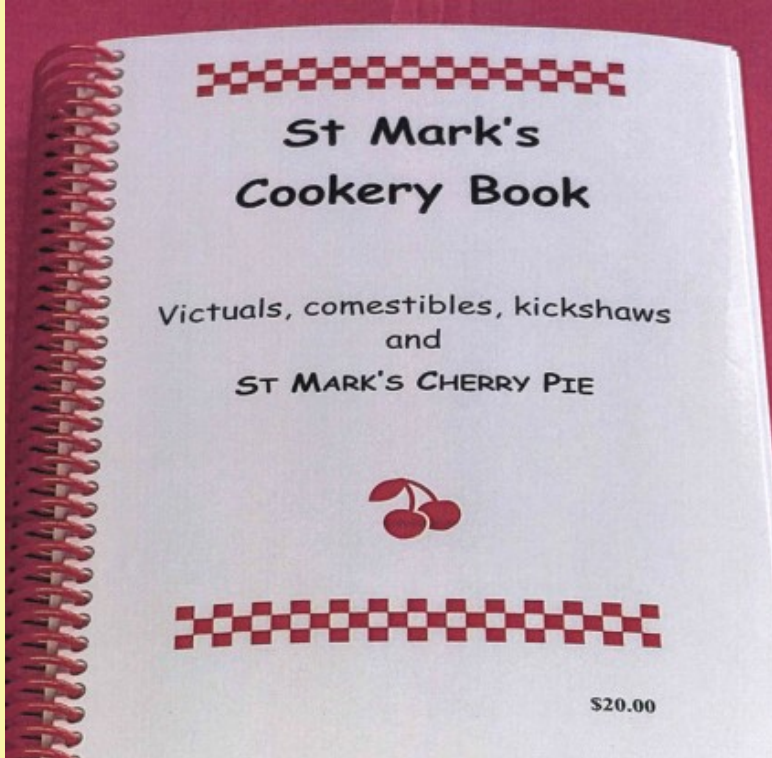
A tea and sale of Christmas items will be held **Nov. 29-30, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, in Addison Hall. It is a fundraiser for St. Mark's operations, and an outreach to the community to enjoy tea and some festive shopping.

The event, **Tea with Teddy**, gets its name from 30 collectible teddy bears that were donated to St. Mark's. They will be for sale along with an array of Christmas items.

We need your help to fill the sales tables with Christmas items. Donations sought include holiday season clothing, Christmas decorations, linens, china, crystal, and jewelry. We'd welcome more teddy bears, too.

Donated items will be picked up. Please call Trudi Watson, 905-468-3314, or Elizabeth Jamieson, 416-577-0750 to arrange.

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**St. Mark's Cookery Book**

Everyone knows that St. Mark's Anglican Church makes the most delicious cherry pies each year for our famous

**CHERRY FESTIVAL.**

Until now, the recipe has been a well-kept secret.

**Now, we are sharing our recipe with you!**

**St. Mark's Anglican Church NOTL  
presents  
ST. MARK'S COOKERY BOOK  
\$20.00**

**Have you ever wondered about the connection between  
St. Mark's and cherries?  
Wonder no more!**

Legend has it that on one St. Mark's Feast Day long ago, His Holiness Pope Gregory I had a sudden overwhelming desire for cherries. (Like most NOTLers do every July!) The servants and gardeners were at a loss. The cherry trees were in bloom, but the fruit was weeks away. Miraculously, St. Mark appeared to one of the gardeners and when he heard about Gregory's craving, he blessed a cherry tree causing it to be covered with ripe, red cherries.

Church ladies are often good cooks, and this is certainly true of the ladies (and gentlemen) of St. Mark's who have contributed their recipes to this book.

Not only will you have access to St. Mark's famous Cherry Pie recipe, but you will also have recipes for Appetizers, Soups and Snacks, Main Courses, Salads and Sides, Jams, Chutney, jellies, Cherry Blossom syrup, and many recipes for sweet and savoury baked goods including

**Cherries Jubilee.**

**If you would like to purchase a copy of St. Mark's Cookery Book  
Call St. Mark's at 905-468-3123  
or email us at  
stmarks@cogeco.net**

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How much do you know about St. Mark's Cemetery? Why not take a tour with Dr. Earle Waugh and learn all about Ontario's oldest operating cemetery? Afterward, you can enjoy some nibbles, a glass of wine, and a discussion about what you have just learned!

***Tour Ontario's oldest burial ground***

At

**St. Mark's Anglican Church in Niagara on the Lake**

Dr. Earle Waugh

leads the tour which is followed by refreshments and informal discussion

**The \$25.00 admission fee supports our on-going Monument Restoration Programme**

Tour group is limited to 10

**Last tour of 2024 takes place on**

**Tuesday October 22**

**3:30-5:00 pm**

For more information and to purchase tickets please call St. Mark's office at 905-468-3123

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## **Parish Updates**

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

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist [Watch the livestream on YouTube](#)

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

**October 6th - Greeter(s)** - Trudi Watson and Earle Waugh

**Reader** - Wendy Steel

**Intercessor** - Larry Bourk

**Altar Guild** - Eve Wylie, Gene Anne Smith and Jennifer Smith

**Server** - Bob Cross

### ***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:** Roland and Claire Adams, Phebe Appleton, and Carroll and Ted Baker and their families.

**In the Niagara Diocese:** St. Jude, Oakville, The Reverend Canon Dr. David Anderson, Priest-in-Charge; The Reverend Canon Dr. Patrick Patterson, Priest, Assistant; The Reverend Sarah Grondin, Assistant Curate; and the people of that parish.

**In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer:** The Rt. Rev. David Lehmann, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Caledonia, and the dean, council, and congregations of the North Region of the British Columbia Synod. For people and ministries working to address issues of poverty, homelessness, and affordable housing.

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



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