



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 323rd Edition July 10th, 2026



Dear Friends,

My meditation this week is "Life Imitates Art" where I think about how Taylor Swift's Madison Square Garden was unreal - and very real, too. You can watch it [here](#).

If you prefer to read, the text can be found [here](#).

Grace and peace,
Leighton

Thank you

They say it takes a village to raise a child; well, it takes an entire parish and its extended family to produce **The Cherry Festival** each year.

This year, **over 150 volunteers** helped to transform St. Mark's church grounds, Addison Hall and the church itself into a festival for the entire community and visiting guests to enjoy.

It begins with a group of extraordinary leaders who dedicated their time, energy, creativity, and in some cases, their muscle, as early as last January, to achieve a fun-filled and financially successful event on July 4th.

Each of you guided your teams with care, steadiness, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

As a first-time Chair, I had the privilege of watching the different working groups come alive as the plans were executed for the last 6 months. Based on leaders' past Cherry Festival experience, innovation from newbies, and sheer determination by all to put on the best Cherry Festival on record!

Diane Turner, Nikki Sones, and the Pie Committee, lovingly referred to as our **"Pie Ladies,"** worked diligently since February, making crusts and cherry filling,

which turned into the delicious St. Mark's Cherry Pies, jam, and cherry juice—all of you displayed leadership that anchored the festival.

Elizabeth Jamieson (and the ever-talented Director of Merchandising, Trudi Watson) of the Emporium, along with a core group of volunteers, sorted, cleaned, priced, and arranged countless displays of clothing, china, treasures, and artwork.

Jane Dagg curated 40 unique items, ranging from priceless experiences to rare décor and memorabilia, for the **Silent Auction**. This year, Jane developed a new catalogue format to better showcase the auction items and enhance their profiles and value.

Carolyn Porter, together with Martyne Kupciunas, and the Jewellery Committee inspected, investigated, priced, and displayed each piece of jewellery to showcase its most favourable attributes.

Marilyn Bardeau and the Book Committee volunteers looked at every book, priced each one, toted heavy boxes, and displayed them in categories to make each one easier to peruse.

Susan MacLaren and the Bake Sale team coordinated volunteers to bake bread, cookies, and muffins, and ensured the all-important coffee was available first thing to all volunteers at 8 am.

Tammy Zalepa organized and ran the **Children's Activity Area** and coordinated the Tiny Museum's arrival and pickup.

Sue Baxter and her youthful crew made the **floats** with enthusiasm!

Gary Zalepa and his band of BBQ volunteers grilled burgers, peameal bacon, and hot dogs to meet the demands of the rain-soaked crowd.

Gary Burroughs and the Fresh Cherry Sales team garnered and sold the **cherries**; our hardworking **Chris Bjorgan, our house DJ**, kept the music alive and was **'the boss' for the setup and teardown**.

Ian Russell coordinated the **beverages and ice**.

Thank you to **Candace Bennett-Walker, Gary Burroughs, and Allan Magnacca, our money team**, for filling the floats, receiving the funds, keeping the money safe and organized, and handling the final count!

A heartfelt thank you to all who lifted and moved heavy tables, freezers, and equipment; erected canopies; hung signs; carted pies to and from St. Davids; distributed tables, chairs and linens, BBQs, and propane tanks; and picked up every necessity before the event.

To those who stayed behind to tear down the event and put everything back in place — thank you. Your efforts often go unseen, but they are **essential and deeply appreciated**.

Thank you to **Steve Hinchliffe**, who **made everything sparkle** before and after the Cherry Festival.

To the countless volunteers who worked tirelessly in every department: **thank you**. Your diligence, teamwork, and spirit echoed in every corner of the festival grounds.

Thank you to those of you who made monetary donations, enabling us to purchase lard, filling, display stands, name tags, and secure the POD for Emporium sorting.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to our **Parish Administrator, Erin McKinley**, who tirelessly worked behind the scenes creating ads, managing our social media advertisements, making and posting signs, while juggling her day-to-day responsibilities of running our office.

Finally, a special thank you to **Andrea Douglas, past Chair of the Cherry Festival** for many years, and **overseer of Ticket Sales in 2026**. Andrea, your willingness to be available to me, to answer questions, and to share your years of knowledge made an enormous difference. *I am deeply grateful for your guidance and support.*

It has been an honour to work alongside all of you, and I am deeply grateful for your support. Your guidance and support contributed to this year's success.

The success of the Cherry Festival is a direct reflection of your hard work.

With heartfelt appreciation,
Jo-Anne Hill
Chair, Cherry Festival 2026

Please click on the link below to enjoy wonderful footage of
The Cherry Festival 2026 and a fabulous interview with Jo-Anne Hill.

(Please note you must click on the image of the megaphone in the top left corner
to hear this video.)

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1029887342736939>

Inventory is going fast! Get yours before they are gone.

Pretty Pies \$27.00 vs. Ugly Pies \$23.00

Top Five Differences Between Pretty Pies and Ugly Pies

A guide to the sweet life of cherry pies.



- 1. Crust Confidence:** Pretty Pie struts out of the oven like it's on a pastry runway. Ugly Pie just hopes nobody notices the cracked ~~Crust~~.
- 2. Photo Readiness:** Pretty Pie gets invited to Instagram. Ugly Pie gets eaten before anyone notices.
- 3. Cherry Attitude:** Pretty Pie's cherries pose politely. Ugly Pie's cherries stage a jailbreak.
- 4. Price Tag:** Pretty Pie costs \$4 more because it moisturizes with butter and self-affirmations.
- 5. Taste Test:** Close your eyes—they're identical.

Only one has a better PR team.

Cherry Juice \$7.00

St. Mark's.

CHERRY JUICE

Sweet & Healthy!

- Needs Sugar to Gel.
- Cherry juice, if Frozen, can be kept for Six Months
- Cherry juice is good "medicine" for arthritis

Cherry Sauce Recipe

6 cups cherry juice	4 cups sugar
1 cups stgar	1 cup corn starch
Dash salt	

1. Strain juice through damp cloth (optional).
2. Pour juice into large saucepan.
3. Mix sugar, corn starch & salt in a bowl.
4. Make a paste with some juice, set aside.
5. Bring juice to a boil, stirring often.
6. Gradually add paste to boiling juice.
7. Cook until thickened and firm.
8. Pour into sterilized jars, keep refrigerated.

→ *Enjoy!* ←

Cherry Jam \$7.00

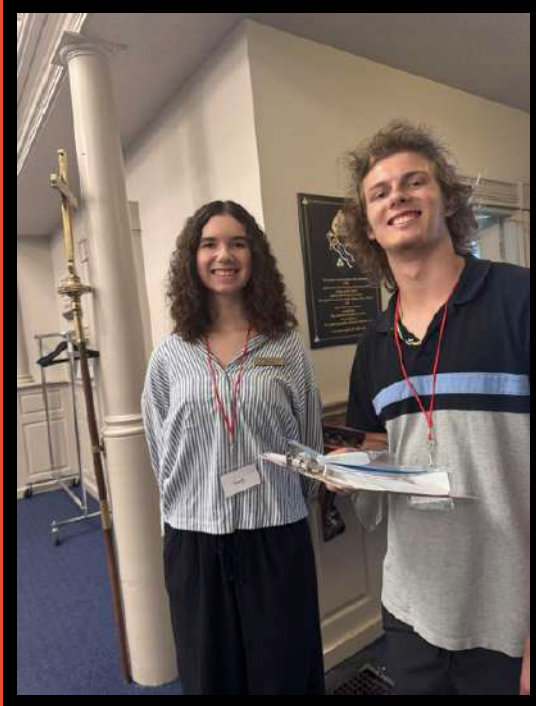


St. Mark's Cherry Festival 2026 in pictures























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

July 12th, 2026

Greeter(s) -

8:30 a.m. - David and Valmai Elkins

10:30 a.m. - Doug and Colleen Hunter

Reader - Steve Hinchliffe

Intercessor - Steve Hinchliffe

Altar Guild - Virginia Mainprize

Flowers - Gary Zanner

Server - John Shaver

Hospitality Servers - David and Valmai Elkins

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 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".

Prayer Cycles - We pray for:

In St. Mark's Parish: Joyce James, Janet James, Jeanne Jennings, and Nancy Kemball and their families.

In the Niagara Diocese: St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton; The Reverend Andrew Rampton, Rector; the Honorary Assistants: The Reverend Jeff Potter, The Reverend Canon Dr. Brian Ruttan, The Reverend Elizabeth Steeves, and The Reverend Dr. Peter Widdicombe; and the people of that parish.

In the Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer: The Rt. Rev. Rachael Parker, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Brandon; Bishop Trish Schmermund, the people and rostered ministers of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories; and the Van-Es Camp and Conference Centre.

We invite you to honour the memories of your loved ones by donating memorial flowers at any time throughout the year.

Please submit your request to the office no later than the Wednesday before the Sunday you want the flowers displayed. This allows us time to include your tribute in both the Order of Service and the E-News.

If you wish to donate, please call Erin in the office.

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



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