

Enews to the St. Mark's Pews
70th Edition July 30, 2021
St. Mark's Anglican Church est. 1792
Niagara-on-the Lake, ON

Hear the Good News! Hear the Good news!

I couldn't have been much more than six years old when I first heard of Louis XIV. I already had a mania for royalty, crowns, robes and ermine and things Louis Quatorze came to head on two successive birthdays.

When I turned nine, I asked for a "Louis XIV" birthday cake. I had visions of it being iced to resemble Hyacinth Rigaud's famous portrait of the Sun King. My mother was more ingenious. In one of my favourite books about European Royalty, Great Dynasties, there was a picture (in silhouette) of Louis XIV's death mask. She cunningly used this as a pattern, iced the cake to resemble a face, and used mini marshmallows for the powdered perruque the king inevitably wore. It was almost too fabulous to eat—almost!

The next year was even more exciting. My mom and sisters and I had gone to the mall to shop for Christmas presents and as we passed bookstore, there it was: a large, lavishly illustrated coffee table book on Versailles with page after page of glorious illustrations of the state apartments, the King's and Queen's bedchambers, and—of course—the Hall of Mirrors.

I had been obsessed with this room for as long as I had its builder—even now I can type its dimensions without resorting to Wikipedia: 240 feet long, 34 feet wide, 40 feet high—but the only picture I had seen of it was in black and white, taken before it had been restored to its former glory, before the chandeliers, gueridons, and lustres had been returned. But here it was in full colour: a vision of glorious and dazzling opulence. I needed to own this volume immediately. My mother refused to buy it for me.

And the reason was because my parents were going to give it to me as a Christmas present. But because my birthday is December 13, and I had become insufferable by talking incessantly about the "Versailles book", they advanced the delivery date to my birthday. Of all the gifts I've ever received, this one is still the best.

I spent the next fourteen-or-so years trying to figure out how to get to Versailles in person. It almost happened in 1989. Two of my sisters and I were sent to England and (we thought) France for a month. We were supposed to arrive in Paris on July 14—the 200th anniversary of Bastille Day—and for once common sense took hold of me and I thought we'd better call ahead to confirm our reservation. The hotel had never heard of us. There was no reservation. Not wanting to be homeless in Paris, we stayed put in London.

I finally saw the palace for the first time at the age of twenty-four on a bitterly cold, grey January day. It's a day I will never forget. Neither will my friend Bryan, who discovered that I have a remarkable facility for examining every detail of Boulle marquetry, ormolu gilding, and passmanterie without flagging. But who could blame me? After all, I'd waited long enough to see it—and it was better than I could have ever imagined.

Louis and his descendants believed in the Divine Right of Kings and took great pains to show that they were God's earthly representatives. The point of Versailles, of course, was to show the wealth and power of the French monarch. It was built to overawe. And it became the style and pattern all other European monarchs aspired to. None ever surpassed it, of course, although Catherine the Great came close. Too bad they never understood that Christ's only glory was the gore of the cross, his only cross a circlet of thorns, his only throne the human heart.

For all of its impressiveness, the kingly might Versailles was built to buttress is a sham. Yet there is one true thing amid all of that gilded splendour. It's the central painting on the ceiling in the Hall of Mirrors. It's called *Le roi gouverne par lui-même*: The King Governs by Himself Alone. Indeed he does. But his kingdom is not of this world, and he has no subjects, only friends—loved, redeemed, and set free.

Sometime over the Christmas holidays the fateful year I was given the book, I showed it to my grandmother. She was a woman with the kind of simple faith only a person of deep spirituality can have and when she came to the photograph of the Hall of Mirrors, said, "Just think. Heaven is better than that!" Indeed. So have faith that one day, the splendour we have learned of from a book—splendour we can hardly imagine and yearn to see—will be ours forever.

Every blessing
Leighton

PARISH UPDATES

Keeping in Touch On-line

Now that we are back to Church in-person our Sunday morning services are **live streamed** on Facebook and YouTube at 10:30 am. Simply go to St. Mark's Niagara-on-the-Lake Facebook page.

Please use these URLs to watch:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Anglican-Church-Niagara-on-the-Lake-235477056649804/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-vVgNf0GbuxrfIjW4sOXzQ>

Our Enews and Order of Service can also be accessed through new website:

Enews: <https://stmarksnotl.org/news/news.>

Order of Service: <https://stmarksnotl.org/worship-ministry/order-of-service-bulletin>

WARDEN'S LETTER

Yes, we will see you in church on Sunday August 1st! Those attending will have registered by Thursday 2 pm and will follow the process by going into Addison Hall first to complete the registration. No need to bring ID as we believe we will know who you are even after all this time. Unfortunately, we will not be able to socialize in the Hall yet with coffee and treats. You will be pleased though to see how nice the Hall looks after a huge effort by Roxanne and Gary B. to do some moving and storing of many items.

The church flooring has been installed, and the sanding and finishing will take place next week. The final item will be new carpeting sometime in the Fall. The service on Sunday will be live streamed and that will become the new norm. New equipment to improve the sound quality will be installed over the next week or two, so please be patient. We will continue with Friday's Enews.

Fundraising such as cherry pies is still on hold because of Diocese policy. It is unlikely there will be any approvals for a while yet, but on the positive side the cherries for 2022 have been purchased.

For those who have been through the cemetery lately, the stone workers have completed a number of restorations on many of the older stones. This work is the result of many special donations by parishioners and others to the Cemetery funds for this purpose.

An area of disappointment has been the necessary cancellation of quite a few weddings which have been a stream of revenue in the past. Several weddings in the late fall and in 2022 are still booked, but Covid-19 has had a large impact. St. Mark's new website has had a lot of positive comments. If you have not had a look, please do as we will be using this for much of our news, events and all happenings at St. Mark's. We have also had some suggestions and some corrections and we appreciate you letting us know of these.

Please remember to contact the office, Fr. Leighton or a Warden if you are aware of anyone needing a call or requires any assistance. The office will be closed on Monday.

Another reminder, please look at your credit card or debit card to ensure your church donations are going through as expected. If not your expiry date may be passed and you need to advise of the new expiry date.

Stay safe - keep well

Called to Life – Compelled to Love

Your Wardens

WORSHIP:

Sunday Prayers with Bishop Susan in the Summer

Start Date: July 4, 2021 - 10:00am

End Date: September 6, 2021

We invite you to join Bishop Susan and people from across the diocese and beyond for a time of worship, prayer, fellowship, and teaching.

Each Sunday during the summer our diocesan service will begin at 10:00am on our [diocesan Facebook page](#) and then will be posted on our [YouTube channel](#). We'll have a number of special guest preachers to open up the Word of God for us.

On the third Sunday of the month the service will include spiritual communion. Spiritual communion will take place on August 22 during the summer months.

READINGS FOR TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

[Sunday, August 1, 2021- Tenth Sunday after Pentecost -LINK](#)

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a While David's troops were off fighting the Ammonites, he has lain with Bathsheba, Uriah's wife, making her pregnant. David has tried to get Uriah, home on leave, to lie with his wife (so he will think the child is his), but when this has failed, David has ensured that Uriah is killed in the fighting.

Ephesians 4:1-16 The author has told his readers of the present exalted state of Christ and the Church, the new unity of God's people, and the Church as an established growing structure where God dwells. Now he tells us the obligations of being members of this new humanity.

John 6:24-35 The crowd has misunderstood the nature of the food Jesus gives. They have taken him for a political messiah who will free them from Roman occupation. John continues to pursue the question: Who is Jesus? Is he divine?