



**St. Mark's Anglican Church est. 1792**  
**Niagara-on-the Lake, ON**  
*Hear the Good News!*  
*Hear the Good News!*

**E-News to the St. Mark's Pews**  
**93rd Edition January 7, 2022**

## **FROM THE RECTOR**

Dear Friends,

We live in an age in which the spiritual has become fashionable and ubiquitous; spiritualities are legion. Yet most of those interested in spirituality, in those things concerning the spirit, don't think that the Church is a place they might go to find and to nurture it. Christians aren't seen to be spiritual people, nor are we seen to be people whose hearts and minds have been so transformed that our lives reflect something of God's abundant love and joy. Most often, we're seen as merely dull, or as conformists who don't practice what we preach, or even as escapists who shut ourselves away from reality. And the truth is, that's by-and-large a fair assessment of what passes for Christianity these days. We have lost both our sense of adventure and our enthusiasm and have become, in the process, restrained and uninspired.

All too often, the Church is a place of transaction, but it should be a place of transformation. On Sunday we'll observe the Baptism of the Lord. We used to think of baptism as the ultimate transaction: get baptized into Christ's body and you'll be given eternal life. But it isn't a transaction; it's an act of transformation. The waters open us up to the radical—and radically renewing—love God which has power to transform lives with the understanding that to be a member of Christ's body follower is to yearn to set the world on fire and to be given tongues to speak of things we do not yet understand.

But talk is cheap and simply talking to people about our faith makes very little difference. What does make a difference and change lives is an experience of the transformative liberation of the Spirit through things such as gestures of kindness, expressions of sympathy and acts of forgiveness. You see, it isn't belief that is most important, nor is it even understanding that is paramount. The thing that is most important is action. We can believe

all the things we like about God; we can say the right words and observe the correct rites, but if we don't do anything that will help to make all of the things we believe and say and do come true, it won't, in the long run, matter one iota.

But if we can find a way to dare to seek to make our communities of faith places of genuine transformation, if we can find a way to strive to make our lives occasions for transformation, if we can find a way to dare to endeavour to fan the flames of transformational fire, we may begin to feel the Spirit rushing like a mighty wind: a wind mighty enough to, once-and-for-all, truly take our hearts and set them on fire.

Grace and peace,

Leighton

## **PARISH UPDATES**

### ***Recorded Sunday Services & Order of Service***

Until we are able to return to in-person Sunday services, the recorded Sunday Services will be available on Facebook and YouTube by 10:30 a.m.

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

**YouTube:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozjc\\_vpYqH4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozjc_vpYqH4)

*The Order of Service for Sunday, January 7, 2022, is attached and can also be accessed through our website:*

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

### ***Church Bells***

A reminder to all that the Church Bells play carols on Sundays at 12:05 pm. Enjoy!

### ***Church Envelopes***

Church envelopes are now ready for pick up in the Church Office (Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – 9:00 am to 2:00 pm).

## **Canadian Church Calendar (Anglican Edition) 2022**

If you would like to purchase a 2022 calendar, please email ([stmarks@cogeco.ca](mailto:stmarks@cogeco.ca)) or call the office (905.468.3123) to place your order. As per previous years, the cost would be \$10 per calendar. As soon as we receive the calendars, we will let you know your calendar is ready for pick up.

## **Bible Study via Zoom**

You can join the weekly Bible Study through the Zoom invite sent from Father Leighton.

## **Wednesday, Morning Prayer Services – 9:30 a.m.**

You can join the weekly Morning Prayer Zoom service through the Zoom invite sent from Father Leighton.

## **Keeping in Touch On-line**

*Please use this URL to watch Sunday services:*

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

*The Order of Service is attached and can also be accessed through our website:*

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

*Use this Link to find this and recent copies of our E-News:*

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

*On-Line Calendar:*

St. Mark's website is kept up-to-date on what is happening in the Parish.

Here is the Link to the Calendar: <https://stmarksnotl.org/events>

## **FROZEN CHERRY PIES & CANNED GOODS**

The following items are available to purchase from the Church office.

- Cherry Pies \$20 each – Frozen with easy-to-bake instructions
- Pea Soup – Frozen – 1 Litre - \$15
- Cherry Juice – 1 Litre - \$15
- Cherry Juice – ½ Litre - \$8
- Pickled Beets – Medium - \$8
- Cherry Jam – Small - \$5

- Cranberry Sauce – Medium - \$8
- Cranberry Sauce – Small - \$5
- Stewed Tomatoes – 1 Litre - \$15

## **WEEKLY PRAYERS**

In the parish cycle of prayer, we pray for Clare Cameron, Dolores Careless, Anjulika Chand, and Alexandra Clarkson and their families.

We pray for those shut in their homes, Fred Habermehl, Fred Dixon, Joy Ormsby, Selina Appleby, and Joan Draper.

In the Cycle of Prayer for the All Saints, Ridgeway, the Reverend Daniel Bennett, Rector; Canon David Thomas, Honorary Assistant, and the people of this parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for Dr. Andrea Mann, Director, and the staff of Global Relations; Ryan Weston, Lead Animator, Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice, and the Assistants to the Bishop and the staff of the Eastern Synod.

We pray for the sick, especially remembering Dennis Hawley, Jackie White, Jean Baker, Jack Taylor, Margaret Stimson, Gillian MacKay, Terry, Jan Brown, Lisa, Dorothy Walker, Sharon, Dick, Doug Garrett, Bev Garrett, Jodey Porter, Sean, and Joshua.

