



# St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa ON K2C 1X6

## Weekly Newsletter

March 19, 2021

Dear friends,

Welcome to the fifty-first edition of our weekly newsletter. We are continuing the weekly newsletter for the foreseeable

future.

### One Year Ago This Week

One year ago this week, the first electronic newsletter was sent out – how hard could it be for three weeks. Well, here we are one year later. There has been a newsletter every week except for two weeks in the summer when Joy took time off. At the end of this newsletter, there is a retrospective on newsletter.

Also, one year ago this week, we released our first YouTube video on our brand new YouTube channel. We didn't really know what we were doing but since Alex had training has in recording sound, our sound has always been good. Since then, we have produced a video every week except for the two weeks when Joy took time off and the two weeks following Christmas. However, we produced videos for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, an Act of Remembrance, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The video for this Sunday is video 55 on the channel.

### Shout Outs

If you would like some special occasion like an anniversary or birthday acknowledged in the Sunday service, Fr Julian will be more than happy to announce it. However, it must be into either Father Julian or the office by **MONDAY EVENING** for it to be included in the service for the following Sunday. We are now recording on Tuesday to accommodate Stephanie's schedule of classes.

### Video Services

Morning Prayer for March 14 should arrive in your inbox on March 13 at 12 pm. Video services will continue every week until in-

### Calendar

Mar 24 – Lenten Study. Details below

Mar 28 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Apr 1 – Maundy Thursday

Apr 2 – Good Friday

Apr 4 – Easter Sunday

person worship resumes and thereafter every other week.

Many, many thanks to Alex Dee who is doing the audio editing for this endeavour.

### Holy Week and Easter

The Bishop has announced that we will remain in red stage until further notice. There will be video services for Palm/Passion Sunday including a reading of the passion, a meditative service of Maundy Thursday, a service for Good Friday and, of course, Easter Sunday.

### Lenten Outreach Projects

At the Parish Council Meeting on January 20, it was decided that the projects for this year's Lenten Outreach would be St Luke's Table and the Diocesan Refugee Ministry.

### Lenten Study

The Lenten season will offer 30-45 min. reflection/Bible study via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7pm beginning on February 24. We will do a thematic approach to the Collect of the day along with two lectionary readings for each upcoming Sunday of Lent. The readings will be sent to you in advance. If you want to be a part of this exercise, please confirm by contacting the office.

One of the blessings of these strange and unusual times is that time and space are not barriers to participation. Even if you don't live in the city, even if you don't drive at night you are welcome to join in.

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### **Maundy Thursday Overnight Vigil**

St Mark's has had the tradition of holding an overnight vigil, beginning after the Maundy Thursday service and ending at dawn on Good Friday, remembering the hours Jesus spent in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane after the Last Supper. This year, again, the vigil will take place with each participant in their own home.

The time slots are now covered. However, more than one person can pray at a time. If you would like to participate Please contact her at [greercynthia69@yahoo.com](mailto:greercynthia69@yahoo.com) or by phone at 613-723-2680 if you wish to participate. Thank you!

### **Easter Flowers**

There will be flowers in the church for Easter. If you would like to contribute to the Easter flowers, please contact the office.

### **March Bazaar**

There are still turkey pies and hot cross buns available.

Another batch of **turkey pies** have been made. If you ordered turkey pies in December and did not receive them, they are now available. There are also a number of pies not spoken for. Please contact the office if you would like to purchase any. A reminder that there are also soup mixes available for purchase.

In a new venture, Joy is offering homemade **hot cross buns** during Holy Week. They will be sold in lots of 6 for \$6.00, likely available Wednesday through Friday. Please contact the office if you would like to order Hot Cross Buns.

### **A Message from Cynthia Greer**

Exactly a year ago, Paul and I, along with Kate and Steve's children returned hurriedly from a lovely trip to Colonial Williamsburg. I was worried the U.S. might close the border.

As soon as I arrived home, I knew we had to have a method of keeping in touch with our parishioners for 2 or 3 months!!

Georgia and I looked through the parish list to see who would be the most lonely, and chose people who lived alone, and those who did not have internet, or maybe the ability to use it, and wouldn't be receiving the newsletter or service. We then added a few others.

This has lasted much longer than anticipated. Therefore I am contacting all those who offered to be 'callers' to make sure they are still able to call the 2 to 5 names i have given them.

Many of our older parishioners also received a Christmas card separate from the one to all the parish, to continue that service which the church school children had started a few years ago. The youth send out cards 3 times a year when possible, Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving.

My daughter Joanne Pagani's children wished to continue that tradition and they wrote a short note in each card. About 45 parishioners can look forward to receiving an Easter card any time now. If you would like to be on that list, please let me know. Cynthia Greer(723-2680)

We will continue the calling as long as it is needed, and if you would like to be called by a caller, please let me know.

No matter how careful, someone frequently is left off the list.

Best wishes for a Blessed Holy Week and Easter.

### **New Request for Video Backgrounds**

I am particularly looking for the signs of emerging spring, especially if anyone has pictures/video of a sugar bush. Please make sure the pictures are in landscape orientation or they don't fill the screen. I can't guarantee I will use every picture but I do enjoy every picture. – Joy

### **Retrospective on the Last Year**

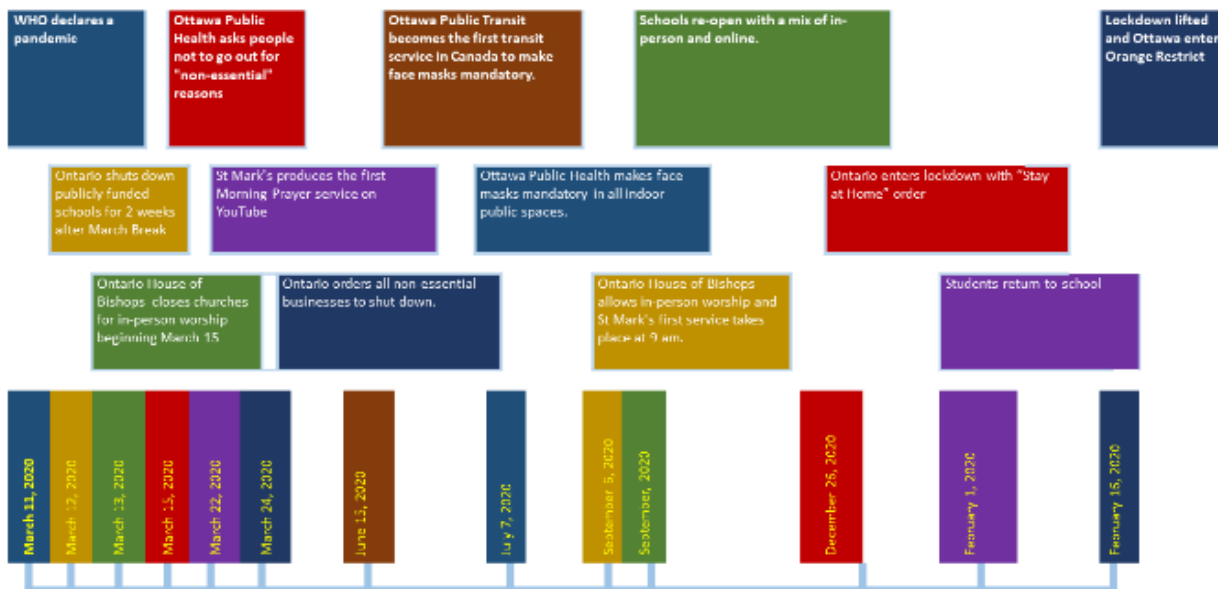
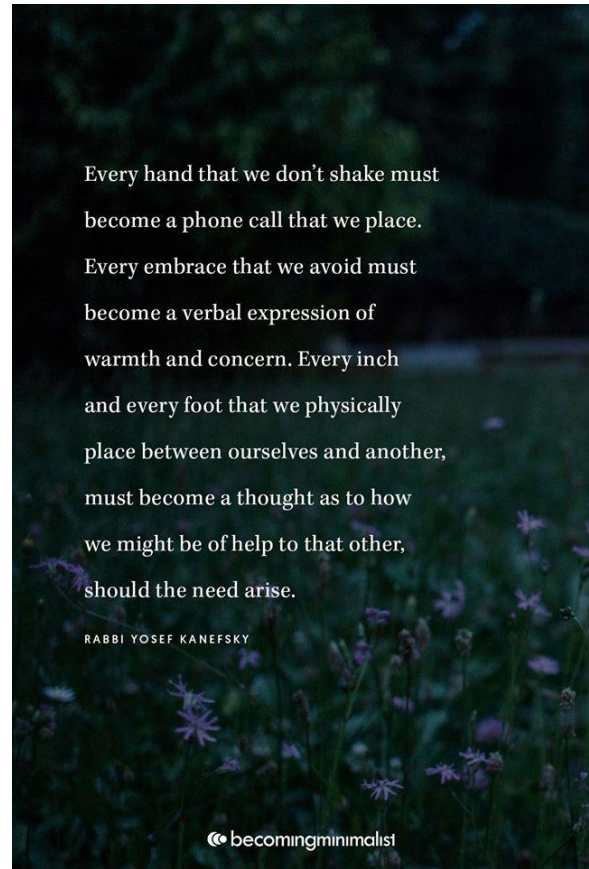
I put together a time line which contains what I consider important events in our life together at St Mark's. It was extremely difficult to format on the computer so it may

be somewhat difficult to read. What really struck me as I was putting it together was how quickly our life changed in March of last year. WHO declared a pandemic on March 11. By March 15, our churches and schools were closed. By the March 24, all non-essential retail was shut down. In less than two weeks, the world as we knew it was gone. Most of us couldn't process that huge a change to the structure of our lives and naively believed that it would be all over soon. The news reports that said that pandemics take 18 months to 2 years to recover from seemed unreal. Perhaps it was just as well that we could hope for a speedy recovery.

Following are some quotes from our newsletters over the past year:

Newsletter 20-03-22

The quote from Rabbi Kanefsky opposite was featured in the first newsletter.



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Newsletter 20-04-05

*“One of the realities for the Church living through this pandemic is our inability to physically gather as community for worship and mutual support. The Eucharistic Feast which we are used to celebrating week after week has been interrupted. Online celebrations, prayers, bible studies and devotions offered by parishes have been keeping us connected in a virtual way and we are grateful for these inspired links. This temporary absence from one another tests our very nature as a living body and reminds us of our deep longing to be together. We find ourselves in a time of Eucharistic Fast rather than Feast.”* Excerpt from a letter from Bishop John

Newsletter 20-04-12 Easter Sunday

*“In this topsy-turviness, our daily rhythms have been irrevocably disrupted. One day weaves into another seamlessly. The Lord’s Day, Sunday, seems so ordinary. Then to add insult to injury, Easter, the Queen of Feasts is just an extension of the seamless days. ... We will be re-established. For us, the life that the Lord speaks about in Ezekiel is now largely in the virtual world. Albeit, we will also continue that life on the other side of COVID-19. Christ is alive, rejoice!”* Excerpt from message from Fr Julian

Newsletter 20-04-26

The poem The Virus by Brenda Zanin was included in the April 26<sup>th</sup> newsletter.

Newsletter 20-05-10

*There is a certain amount of distrust in North America of people covering their faces, even with masks, unless they are in a job which makes it prudent. It may be something we all have to grapple with in the new “normal”.*

About 100 masks were made for members of the congregation and their friends.

Newsletter 20-05-31

#### THE VIRUS

What wisdom is there to inspire us  
As we confront Coronavirus?  
You’d think most people would be wiser  
Than those stock-piling sanitizer,  
And rushing to the grocery shelves  
To hoard the kleenex to themselves.  
Some know to cough into a sleeve,  
And from large groups to take their leave,  
And others, to the news addicted,  
Say Armageddon is predicted!  
Let’s all be thankful for the folks  
Who cheer each other and share jokes,  
Extend a hand -- inside their glove --  
To show compassion, even love.  
We’ll all come out of this, in time,  
(Cause COVID can’t turn on a dime)  
And realize the world’s okay,  
We helped each other make our way.  
So wash your hands, avoid your face  
And -- maybe -- save the human race!

B. Zanin

*Last week, Father Julian introduced the “shout outs”.*

Newsletter 20-06-07

*“What this means is that regardless of where the Government of Ontario is with its reopening plan, our churches will not be reopening for in-person worship until at least September. This decision was made in consultation with public health experts as well as our diocesan executive officers and chancellors, with the well-being and safety of all our parishioners and the communities we serve uppermost in our hearts and minds.”* Excerpt from letter from the Metropolitan. Rt Rev Anne Germond

Newsletter 20-06-14

*“Racism is utterly incompatible with the life and teachings of Jesus. We who seek to follow him must be unafraid to cross over the boundaries of denial and repression to hear how racism undermines the dignity of*

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*individuals and groups, and to understand our complicity in perpetuating racist structures, language and attitudes.”* Letter from Bishop Shane

Newsletter 20-08-30

*“Together, we started this journey and it is together we will see each other through. Like Isaiah says, the Lord is with us and we are with each other.”* Excerpt from message from Fr Julian.

We were preparing to open the church and we welcomed our theological student Stephanie McWatt.

Newsletter 20-12-22

*“Who would have thought that Christmas 2020 would have been clouded in a pandemic? The diocese sent out a communiqué yesterday advising that all churches would be closed for at least 28 days. How sad! But necessary! (...)*

*I encourage all of us to allow this love to be more evident as we journey through this time. In my Morning Prayer reflection (Christmas Morning Prayer), I used words from a song recorded by iconic entertainer, Tina Turner, 1984, "What love got to with it, what love got to do with it?" We can answer Turner by saying, love has everything to do with it, because with Christ, we can still love Him by loving each other in tangible ways. Let's continue to call, listen, share and laugh with each other. Above all, let us uphold each other in prayer.*

### **COVID 19 Vaccination**

As of March 15, the COVID-19 vaccination is available to all persons who were born in 1941 or before. The Nepean Sportsplex, Halls A & B is the site of the vaccination clinic and will continue to be used as a major vaccination site. You must book an appointment to get a vaccine. If you unsure whether you are eligible, OPH has a [Vaccine Screening Tool](#) that you can use to check. You can book an

appointment the province at [Provincial Vaccine Booking](#). Caregivers are allowed to accompany the eligible person but are not allowed to receive the vaccine.

### **Donations to the Church**

We are extremely fortunate at St Mark's that there are a number of people who use Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). If you are not on PAR, we would encourage you to continue your donations. Of course, putting a cheque in the mail is always a great option for getting your donation to us. If you wish to make a donation by credit card, you may do so at CanadaHelps.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/47820>.

You will have to remember when you go to do your taxes for 2020 where you have put your receipts from CanadaHelps. If you cannot find them, contact CanadaHelps and they will be happy to issue duplicate receipts. All money donated will be put into the appropriate income category when it comes to us.

### **Contacting the Church**

You may contact the office at 613-224-7431 or [stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca](mailto:stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca). Messages are being monitored and the business of the church is continuing, albeit remotely.

### **Comments and Suggestions**

If you have anything you would like to see in next week's newsletter, please email the church at [stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca](mailto:stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca)