



St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa ON K2C 1X6

Weekly Newsletter

December 11, 2020

Dear friends,

Welcome to the thirty seventh edition of our weekly newsletter. We are continuing the weekly newsletter for the

foreseeable future.

“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 **Tuesday noon** for it to be included in the service for the following Sunday.

- Ron Lewis celebrated his birthday on December 9th

Sunday Services

Please remember to let the office know if you would like to attend the service. Although walk-ins are allowed, there is a strict limit of 50 people in the building and numbers were up last Sunday.

The Pandemic Planning Committee has prepared a [Reopening Brochure](#) with [Re-Opening Q & A](#). The Q & A has been updated. These updates can be found later in the newsletter. For those of you who would like to have more information on what we are doing as a diocese, the full Diocesan Plan was revised on October 14 and is available at [Diocesan Plan - In This Together](#). There is a summary of the plan on pages 3-5.

Christmas In-Person Worship

You many now register for the in-person service Christmas Eve at 7 pm. There is a strict limit of 50 people so if you would like to attend, you might be wise to register early.

Video Morning Prayer Service

This week’s service is the fortieth video on our YouTube channel. (Extra videos for Holy Week and Remembrance) Hard to believe!

Morning Prayer services will continue for the foreseeable future. As usual, you should receive an email with a link to the service and the bulletin on Saturday.

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

Christmas Flowers

There will be flowers in the church at Christmas. If you would like to make a donation to flowers, please let the office know by Sunday, December 20.

Songs of Advent

During Advent Fr Julian and Stephanie will be doing a series of sermons on four of the historical figures from the bible and their associated Canticles. They encourage you to send in any questions you may want to have answered about these people or songs.

frejc@stmarksottawa.ca

Advent 1 – Zechariah
A Song of Faith
Advent 2 – Angels
A Song of Peace
Advent 3 – Mary
A Song of Trust
Advent 4 – Simeon
A Song of Hope

St Mark’s Bazaar 2020

Each week for the next several weeks we will be adding new items to the selection available. Our new item this week is Dish Cloths.(See

December 11, 2020

photo on next page) Due to COVID-19, the card party did not run this year and, as a result, Carol Russell, our organizer has a lot of hand knitted dish cloths. They are about 8" square and will sell for 2 for \$5 or 5 for \$10. The cookie boxes will be available on Sunday, December 13. If you have not ordered and want one or two, order now. There may be extra or there may be plates of cookies leftover from the boxes. If you are interested in the plates, let the office know and you can have first dibs. There are 3 dozen mince tarts available in lots of 6. These will be available on December 13 for \$6 for 6. The tarts are made with St Mark's Mincemeat. Most of the preserves are gone. There are a few odd jars of preserves but only salsa, strawberry jam, piccalilli and Seville orange marmalade are left in any quantity. Those that are left will be available after church along with the tarts, cookie boxes and remaining frozen cookie dough, maintaining the correct social distancing. There are still soup mixes available and more can be made. Click [Bazaar Order Sheet](#) to see the list of items available. To order, contact the church office by email or phone. Give your contact information and then list the item number, name and number ordered. Please include the time you are calling if you are ordering by phone. (We can see the time on an email.) You can pay by cheque made payable to St Mark's or cash. Within a few days, you will be contacted to make arrangements for pick-up or delivery. You are encouraged to share the order sheet with your friends and neighbours.



Knitted Dishcloths

Winter Safety - Debra Dynes Family House (DDFH)

This winter DDFH are organizing a "Winter Safety" initiative for approximately 100 children in the local community where they will receive new hats, scarves and mitts. During the month of December, St Mark's will be collecting winter accessories for babies, toddlers and school age children. Other items including toothpaste, hand cream, and other toiletries, are also needed for the food bank.

Items can be brought to the church on Sunday or parishioners can call the office at 613-224-7431 to arrange pick-up.

At this time, we acknowledge our thanks to Doreen Matweow for her continued generosity to DDFH. Last month Doreen donated several bags of new and gently-used baby and toddler clothing, blankets, and other items. Doreen has let me know that she has several bags of knitted items and toiletries that she will be delivering to me shortly. Many thanks, Doreen!

Rev. Rhondda MacKay's Artwork

The Rev. Rhondda MacKay is an artist and currently has an online show with 50% of the proceeds going to PWRDF. You may enjoy

Christmas Worship

December 24

In-person 7 pm

Online Lessons and Carols for Christmas

December 25

Morning Prayer for Christmas Day

the show at this link.

<https://sites.google.com/view/rhondda-art>

Video Backgrounds

Whenever you see a particularly photogenic sight which you think would suit as a background, please feel free to share.

Landscape pictures are the best. I can't guarantee I will use every picture but I do enjoy every picture. – Joy

PWRDF

As your parish PWRDF Rep and as we are now starting to think about Christmas, please think about the PWRDF "World of Gifts" and the PWRDF Christmas cards. The website is well worth a visit:

<https://pwrdf.org/> Our "All Mothers and Children Count Covid-19" programme serving five African countries has been extended and donations are now being matched by the Government at 6: 1. You should also have received the "World of gifts" in your Crosstalk. Jenny 613 225 6301

A Story of Special Foods

Special foods are always a part of special seasons -- pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving, Easter chocolates, and, of course, all those treats that only appear around Christmas time. In our household, when our kids were young, on Christmas morning, sitting on the hearth under their Christmas stockings, there would be a big box of Froot Loops from Santa! They knew it was from him, because Mum would never allow them to eat sugary cereals like that. While we grownups enjoyed our warm wedges of Italian panettone, they'd be eagerly digging in to big bowls of rainbow coloured circles. And Mum looked the other way.

Another family favourite that has persisted into our kids' adulthood is lemon poppyseed bars. They are small squares of a poppyseed filled bottom layer topped with a tangy lemon frosting and sometimes decorated with red and green coloured sugar crystals. (The thing I like best about them is they bake in a 15x10

pan in 15 minutes and produce a lot of yummy squares with little effort!).

This year there is one special food that I will not be tasting. I have not come forward to the Lord's Table to receive the eucharist ever since the pandemic caused churches to shut their doors. It has been a long fast, and I have missed that weekly feast more than I can say. It was never something that I took for granted, but as I participated in the service of Holy Communion week after week, I could never imagine a time when I would not, for any reason.

I don't know when I will be able to return to church. The risk of bringing the COVID19 virus home to my husband Val -- 75 years old and recovering from a heart attack and triple bypass surgery -- is too great for now, so I "attend" church on Sunday with my laptop tuned to St Mark's YouTube video. I am grateful for that -- and thankful that I could actually be part of some videos, since the recordings are made in an empty church with two or three others only.

A couple of weeks ago I received a wonderful message that has made this unwanted fast a bit easier to endure. I've been reading *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas a Kempis as part of my daily devotions (on the suggestion of my *Forward Day by Day* booklet), and in it the author stresses the importance of regular attendance at the eucharist. He acknowledges that there may be times when that is impossible, for whatever reason. And here's the part that really spoke to me "When a man is genuinely prevented [from coming to the eucharist], he will always have a good intention and a holy desire to communicate, and so he will not be deprived of the fruit of the Sacrament. For anyone who knows devotion can freely have spiritual communion with Christ every day and at every moment to his own great profit." What comforting words! I'm sharing them here in the hope they will do the same for you.

December 11, 2020

And here's my recipe for those poppyseed bars:

2 eggs
1 cup packed brown sugar
 $\frac{2}{3}$ cup vegetable oil
1 tsp vanilla
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sifted all purpose flour
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ tsp baking powder
1 tsp salt
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup whole wheat flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup poppy seeds

Preheat oven to 350F. Grease a 15x10x1 jelly roll pan. Beat eggs. Gradually beat in sugar, then oil and vanilla. Sift in the next three ingredients. Add whole wheat flour and poppy seeds and mix very well. Spread in pan and bake 15 minutes, till centre springs back when touched. Spread with lemon icing while still warm (recipe follows), sprinkle with coloured sugar if desired, then let cool. Cut into bars about 2 inches by 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Makes 50.

Lemon Butter Icing

$\frac{1}{3}$ cup butter
3 cups sifted icing sugar
1 Tbsp lemon juice
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ tsp grated lemon rind
1 Tbsp water (approx)
Coloured sugar crystals (optional)

Mix ingredients (except crystals) using enough water to make an icing that is easy to spread.

Brenda Zanin

Sharing Coffee Hour

If you would like to share a photo, a recipe of what you would have made for coffee hour and/or a short hello message with a few details of what you've been up to, then you are welcome to do so. The editor will not seek out people but would be happy to receive submissions.

Greetings from the Pagani Family

Last week, we had lovely greeting from the Pagani family – but I forgot to include the photographs. Here are the photographs.



An Evening Making Christmas Cards



Envelopes for 2021

The envelope secretary is preparing the 2021 offering envelopes. If you would like envelopes or to change your monthly PAR, please contact Karen Roberts at graniteseven@yahoo.ca. It has been a little difficult this year to figure out how to get the

December 11, 2020

envelopes to you. What is going to happen is that the envelopes will be out at the church for pickup, if you attend church. If you do not, you can contact the office to arrange for pickup. However, your envelope number will be the same as 2020. You can just put your offering in a plain envelope and write the number on – or we can always look it up.

Contacting the Church

Contacting the office has actually not changed at all. You may contact the office at 613-224-7431 or stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca. Messages are being monitored and the business of the church is continuing, albeit remotely.

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.

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.