



St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa ON K2C 1X6

Weekly Newsletter

December 22, 2020

Dear friends,

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

future.

Surprise!

You will notice that you are receiving a newsletter this week (although it is not on Friday!) In the spirit of "The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men Gang aft agley", circumstances changed so that we needed to communicate sooner rather than later.

A Note from Fr Julian

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!

We were in the process of rebuilding the community by the weekly in-person services, as well as through all the technological communication.

However, don't despair! When our Christ was born more than 2000 years ago, it was not a romanticised environment. There were social and political dynamics that worked against him and his family. No wonder, he was born in an animal trough. Despite all that, he became noted as the God-man of love.

With that said, 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.

At this time, I wish all of you and your loved ones a MERRY CHRISTMAS expressed through the acts of love.

Christmas In-Person Worship

There will be an in-person at 7 pm on Christmas Eve. Covid-19 protocols will be strictly observed.

Bells !!!

The introit on Christmas Eve will be Ding dong merrily on high, in heaven the bells are ringing!

Because of the pandemic, congregational singing is not allowed; however, you can still make a joyful noise at various points in the service:

- the choruses of the introit
- the Gloria
- in rhythm for the choruses of The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy (tambourines or clapping would also be good here)
- when we all say the Sanctus (Holy, holy, holy Lord God on High)*
- during the final piece of music (tambourines here too)**

*bells are often rung during the Sanctus in the AngloCatholic tradition.

**There will be a few sanitized bells available should you forget yours.

Video Services

This coming week there will be a service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve which will be released at noon on December 24 (all things being equal). There will be no video services for December 27 or January 3, giving the video staff a much-needed break. Video services will continue on January 10 every week until the end of lockdown and thereafter every other week.

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

As Alex has been very busy at work at the last while, I have been doing more and more of the editing and assembly. I have found that I can hear more than I used to and can now line things up, take out breaths and correct pitch as well as line up hands coming together with the sound of claps. What I cannot do, and what I consider magic, is what Alex does. What he does makes the sound come alive. – Joy

A Letter from Bishop Shane

Yesterday's Letter from Bishop Shane may be found [here](#).

Christmas Message from the Archbishop of Canterbury

Courtesy of Georgia's cousin, here is a link to the [Christmas message from the Archbishop of Canterbury](#).

St Mark's Bazaar 2020

I am very pleased to report that this year's bazaar, which lived in the virtual world, raised about \$3,600. Combined with funds collected earlier in the year from turkey pies that were made in early March and donations for masks, the grand total for the year is about \$4,900. Well done all!

It was certainly a different year! Thanks to Sandi Branker, we added frozen cookie dough to the offerings and have received good reports on how delicious it was. Pat Sinclair deserves a round of applause for her many delicious pies as well as her packaging of all the soup mixes and her contribution to the turkey pies. Pat and I have been making the turkey pies for the last few years, but because of conditions this year, we ended up training our husbands in the fine art of turkey pie assembling. Thanks also to Gail Denton for her carrot cakes, Penny Miller for her mince tarts, Janis Perkin for her cards and Margaret Blakeney, Georgia Roberts and Joanne Pagani for their contributions to the preserves. The bazaar this year would not have been possible without the dedicated team of Pauline Adams and Cynthia Greer who kept track of the items coming in, packed the orders and arranged distribution of all the many items.

Thank you to all of you from the bottom of my heart.

The first batch of turkey pies sold out quickly but we plan to make another batch in January. Soup mixes will be available on an ongoing basis.

With gratitude – Joy Bowerman

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

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 the show at this link.

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

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.

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 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.

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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. 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.

