



St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa ON K2C 1X6

Volume 4:39

Weekly Newsletter

December 15, 2023

Dear friends,

Welcome to our weekly newsletter. We are continuing the weekly newsletter for the foreseeable future. Please send any

news items or announcements for the newsletter to stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca

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 Wednesday Evening for it to be included in the service for the following Sunday.

- Ida Findlay celebrated her birthday on December 12th.
- Carolyn Findlay celebrates her birthday on December 18th.
- Patrick Findlay celebrates his 16th birthday on December 22nd

Live Streaming

The service will be streamed at 10 am on Sunday. Here are the links for the [service](#) and the [bulletin](#). The link is also available on the home page of our website.

Christmas Flowers

Anyone wishing to give a donation for Christmas flowers in thanksgiving or in memory of loved ones should contact the office as soon as possible, Wednesday at the latest.

2024 Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2024 will be available soon. This year, because of our usage patterns, most of the offering envelopes will be monthly envelopes. If you wish to continue with weekly envelopes, please contact the office if you have not already been contacted by the Envelope Secretary.



Advent Giving Tree

As in past years, you are invited to bring gifts to send to our local charities. This is the last week and the items are drink boxes, snack bars, small treats, reusable shopping bags. We choose different things each week simply to help people focus. Anything is acceptable if it will help someone in need.

Giving to the needy is as much a blessing to the giver, as to the recipient.

Place your gifts under the Advent tree at the front left, not in the link or cloakroom. Thank you for caring. – Cynthia



Reflections on Advent – continues this Sunday

The Sunday evening reflection on Advent via zoom will continue this Sunday at 6:30 pm. Please contact the Fr Julian for the Link.

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Advent Soup & Chili Luncheon

The Advent lunch was successful, and enjoyable, with 50 or more people participating. Thank you to all who helped in some way, and there were many ways. Thanks especially to the Mothers' Union members who always work to make any event a success. This year thanks also go to our youngest members, Ann Matthews' grandchildren, and the Ojo family's 2 young ones, who all helped clear off the tables very efficiently without being asked, at least not by me. It's lovely to see such energy and willing participation. Thank you. - Cynthia



Fall Bazaar

The fall bazaar has officially wrapped up but there are some turkey pies still available.

Financial Update

Our financial position has improved since the report at the end of September. While we are still below the expected collections income, we are not as far behind as we were at the end

of September. We are also almost \$10,000 ahead in collections income compared to where we were last year. We have received almost \$10,000 more in User Fees than was budgeted. While our Expenses have exceeded our income by almost \$20,000, this amount is less than the ~\$26,000 predicted and ~\$27,000 reported at the end of September.

December is a critical month in the financial life in the church. Although the position has improved, we are still predicting that our expenses will exceed our income at the end of the year by at least \$15,000. Often, collection income is large in December due to end of year donations. We need that to continue this year if we hope to end the year in a hopeful position.

Coffee, Company & Conversation

Coffee, Company and Conversation on Thursday was a relaxed one with tables of people chatting over coffee and tea, and of course, wonderful snacks (homemade dips and crackers, cheese and fruit, homemade cookies and other goodies). People were so enjoying their conversations that games "went by the board".

Next week's program is a very special Christmas one that is now traditional at CCC. "Christmas Joy" refers to our own Joy Bowerman leading us in joyful Christmas singing and playing the piano in accompaniment. This is a wonderful way to end our 2023 season and is always much anticipated. Join us for some Christmas spirit with seasonal goodies and much music, as we head into a very special time of year.

We'll be back in 2024 on January 11, and look forward to seeing you all.

Outreach

My thanks to all who have been so generous over the past year with donations to DDFH of cash, food, clothes, school supplies and household items. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

I would like to encourage donations in December of cash and cheques. Each dollar given enables DDFB to buy food and

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household supplies in bulk. This has been a difficult year for all Food Banks as the demand exceeds the supply. Let us help as much as we are able.

I will be at St Mark's every Sunday in December to accept your monetary donations. If I'm not at church at a convenient time please leave your envelope with the office staff. (If you are not able to get to church I can come to you. Feel free to reach out at 613 262 4108)

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

Joan

Forward Day by Day

Prepare yourself for Advent with daily devotions from Forward Day By Day. Readings from the daily office are provided, as well as suggestions for your Christian journey. The newest edition is now available, covering November, December and January. The cost is \$3 per copy.

Looking for Volunteers for Church School

We are looking to start a church school program, possibly every second week to start but desperately need volunteers to make this dream a reality. Please contact Janis Perkin or the office if you can help in this capacity.

Janis_perkin@rogers.com

PWRDF Advent Resource: *Hope in Action: Reflections on Farming, Family and Faith in the midst of the Climate Crisis*

Beset with climate-caused disasters, it's easy to feel helpless. But in actions both big and small we can find hope. This season of Advent you are invited to join Karri Munn-Venn – writer, climate activist and wool farmer – as she weaves together reflections, scripture readings and prayer. Subscribers to this free resource will receive an email each day that also includes a PWRDF story or video. You may also download the resource in its entirety as a PDF (you will be required to provide your email address).

<https://pwrdf.org/advent2023/>

PWR World of Gifts

This annual PWRDF gift-giving campaign allows you to support PWRDF partners working to accompany refugees, improve security and livelihoods, provide clean water, empower women and support Indigenous programs in Canada and around the world. We have exciting updates this year, including a newly-designed gift guide, online and in-print.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, every gift will be matched up to \$110,000!

Watch for the 2023 World of Gifts guide in the November and December editions of the Anglican Journal, or shop our [online gift guide](#) 24/7!

Office Hours

The office will be open Monday and Friday mornings from 9:30 am to noon and Wednesday morning from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Please call ahead to make sure someone is there.

COVID Status

In his most recent communique, our Bishop announced a revision of the Diocesan COVID restrictions. Parishes can now observe normal social and liturgical practices, with one exception, while following the three main public health recommendations. These are:

- asking people to stay home when sick;
- encouraging mask-wearing in indoor spaces; and
- keeping up-to-date on COVID boosters.

The one liturgical exception to normal practices is that LAC's must wear masks when administering communion.

An easy tool for determining whether you are eligible for a new COVID booster, and how to book one, is found at <https://www.ontario.ca/booster-recommendation/>

E-Transfers to the Church

We can accept e-transfers to the main church account. We cannot do autodeposit because of the type of account but you may e-transfer

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money to stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca. You will be required to give a question. Please either make the answer obvious or email the office and let them know the answer to the question. This option has no cost to the church.

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>.

Contacting the Church

You may contact the office at 613-224-7431 or stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca. Messages are being monitored. Email is faster.

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