



St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa ON K2C 1X6

Volume 6:38

December 19, 2025

Weekly Newsletter

Dear friends,

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

Newsletter

Please send any news items or announcements for the newsletter to stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca with the word newsletter in the subject line.

Shout Outs

If you would like some special occasion like an anniversary or birthday acknowledged in the Sunday service, we will be more than happy to announce it. However, it must be in to the office by Wednesday Evening for it to be included in the service for the following Sunday.

No Newsletter Next Week!

Church School Resumes January 11.

Live Streaming

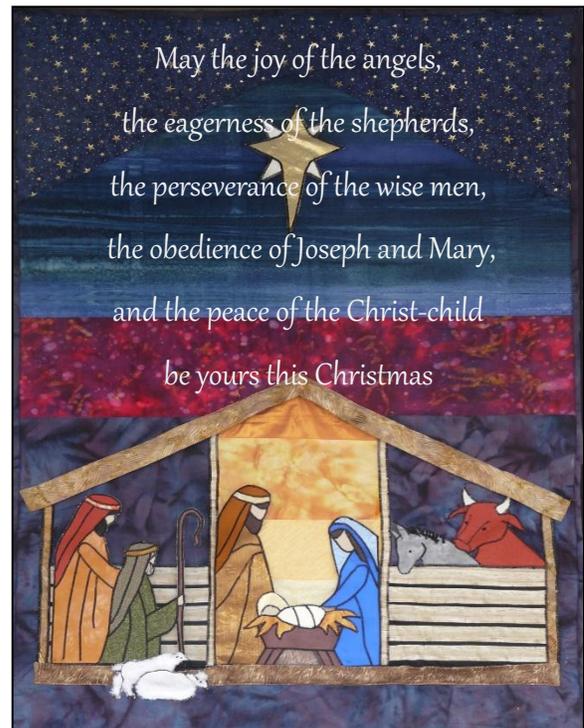
- December 21 - 10 am [service](#) [bulletin](#)
- December 24 – 7 pm [service](#) [bulletin](#)
- December 25 – 10 am [service](#) [bulletin](#)
- December 28 – 10 am [service](#) [bulletin](#)



Lighting the third Advent candle.

2026 Offering Envelopes

The monthly 2026 offering envelopes will be available Sunday morning. Weekly envelopes will be available by Christmas Eve.



Light Advent Potluck Luncheon

Many, many thanks to the Mothers' Union for organizing the delightful Advent luncheon after the 10 am service last Sunday. It was a lovely time of fellowship – with delicious food!

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Coffee, Company & Conversation

The final morning of the year 2025 at CCC was a happy one with Christmas music and singing. Joy Bowerman, our pianist and song leader, made "Christmas Joy" once more. There were 42 people at the festive gathering, with many in their red Christmas attire. It was colourful and joyous. Many thanks to Joy for sharing her love of Christmas music with all who attended.



Wonderful seasonal food covered the buffet table accompanying the coffee and teas. There were sausage rolls, curried chicken in toast cups, micro croissants filled with St. Mark's holiday jam or marmalade, gluten free lace cookies, assorted Christmas cookies, St. Nicholas cake and Bourbon cake. As well, assorted cheeses, Brie, Blue, and Cheddar, along with a variety of crackers and red and green grapes, completed the morning feast. Thank you to Pat Sinclair and Joan Hounsell, the morning's baking food team, for such a lovely array of goodies.



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The season and year have ended for CCC, but it will be back in 2026 with a whole new program from January 8 to March 26. It will be an interesting and lively one. If you haven't been to a CCC morning, you are most welcome to share good food and coffee, as well as lots of conversation. Bring a friend.

From the CCC team, Merry Christmas to all, and a Happy New Year to come.



Stewardship: Tis the Season!

Yes, Christmas is next week. If your family is anything like our

family, it has probably been something like Dr. Dolittle's llama, sort of a Push-Me-Pull-You time, a time of planning, a time of doing and a time of oh my gosh what is next? I know that we have felt conflicted. Should we be spending time enjoying the Advent tradition of waiting and looking for the miraculous birth of baby Jesus? Or is it time to shop and bake and then shop and bake some more as well as spend more time and money shopping for Christmas presents... then repeat every week for the rest of the year (and yes, I did not forget Boxing day)?

I can also imagine the wise men, seeing the star appear and being pulled back and forth about where to go, should we study this some more, when should we leave, what shall we bring and what are the appropriate gifts. Along with all the other "stuff" they probably worried about what would happen while they were gone, who was going to continue our work and look after our homes? So many conflicting emotions, thoughts and activities. We know now that they worked through all of this and set off just in time to arrive and brought just the right gifts.

Thinking of these things brings to mind how we move through the season of Advent into Christmas, a journey of transaction to transformation. I remember the old stories from O'Henry such as "The gift of the Magi." You remember, she sells her hair so she can buy a watch fob for her husband's treasured pocket watch and he in turn sells his watch for a comb for her long and cherished hair. The story reminds me of how we are willing to sacrifice for what we hold important in order to show those whom we love how much we are willing to do for them. We focus on the transactions (what we do) and in the

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process we transform into the reality that was with us from the beginning, Love. I read recently that one of our Christmas traditions, that of putting out cookies and milk for Santa originated in the great depression. I imagine folks at that time felt that the sacrifice of a little milk and cookies helped the whole family focus on gratitude and generosity of God's gift of love, the baby Jesus.

Now what would a Stewardship reflection just before Christmas be without a reminder to keep St. Mark's and other charities in your heart and consider a financial gift, as you are able, at this time of the year. Your continued support helps us to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. As an additional bonus your financial donation will help defer your tax burden, consider this a gift from Mr. Carney.

I came across a reflection from Brian D. McLaren, *Naked Spirituality: A Life with God in 12 Simple Words*

"God is joyful, and God's joy is contagious. When we tap into the joy of the Lord, when we step into the pure joy that burns like a billion galaxies in the heart of God, we'll soon find ourselves shouting, dancing, singing, leaping, clapping, swaying, laughing, and otherwise jubilating and celebrating."

As Saint Francis prayed, God with us Jesus our Emmanuel, praise is on our lips, for you are born here and now again in our hearts. As we gather at the manger your hope fills us, your peace comforts us, your joy stirs us, your love meets us. May we carry these gifts in the days ahead and share them with all those we meet, especially those who do not know your

Hope – Peace - Joy – Love.

My Christmas wish is that everyone revels in the joy of God's gifts to us. May you sing, dance and celebrate your way into the new year.

Michael Perkin Stewardship

Notes from Parish Council

Parish Council wishes to thank Mothers' Union for their work in hosting the Advent Potluck Luncheon on December 14.

We will be celebrating Black History Month in February 26. Keep your eye on this space for further news.

Property Update

Link Doors Repainted

The interior and exterior link doors have been fully prepped and repainted, improving both appearance and durability. Thanks as well to Russell for his support and contributions to this improvement.

Lighting Upgrades (Ongoing)

New fixtures continue to be added where needed.

Seasonal Lighting Installed

Completed on schedule — thank you to Russell for his help in making the church warm and welcoming.

Fire & Safety Training – Session 1 Completed

The first training session provided an overview of current conditions. The wardens will now review findings to determine next steps for compliance.

New Maintenance Group Formed

The first meeting will take place in the new year (TBD). This group will help organize tasks, set schedules, and assign responsibilities while ensuring we continue to meet safety standards.

Backflow Prevention

Backflow prevention (a new requirement of the city of Ottawa) has been installed and registered with the city.

Financial Update

November was a pretty good month. The collections income was closer to what was budgeted for the month but we are still well behind where we hoped to be and ~\$12,000 lower than last year. On the upside, user fees are up over last year and the bazaar was 40% higher at the end of November than it was last year.

In terms of expenses, our repair and upgrade category is significantly higher than was budgeted. This is mostly due to the cost of new lawnmower and trimmer, new fridge and new rugs for the hall. However, a large portion of these expenses were covered by donations.

Overall, we are in good financial shape this year although the collections income is a constant source of stress and concern and will be more significant next year as we resume our responsibility for full-time clergy.

Debra Dynes Family House

As the weather turns colder, our hearts hopefully get warmer. Please remember to contribute to the blue bin in the Link. Together we can help to prevent anyone in the Debra Dynes community from going hungry.

There is always a demand for the list below.

- Canned evaporated milk
- Canned tuna
- Apple Sauce for school snacks
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce

Some on-sale items from local flyers:

Shoppers Drug Mart

No Name tuna - \$1.49 (starts Saturday)

Nature Valley lunch box granola bars - 2/\$6.00 (starts Saturday)

No Frills:

No name pasta- \$2.00

Primo pasta sauce - \$2.00

Food Basics:

Selection evaporated milk - \$1.88

Carnation evaporated milk - 2/\$4.00

Selection pasta - \$1.97

Barilla pasta - \$1.99

Monetary donations are another way to give. You may place your donation in the collection plate in a plain white envelope clearly marked for Debra Dynes or give it in person to Joan Grayer to take to Debra Dynes. If you require a tax receipt, please indicate and provide any information needed for that. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Joan Grayer.



Thank you to the Findlay Family!

Forward Day By Day

The newest edition of Forward Day By Day, covering November, December and January is now available. Enhance your prayer life with these daily devotions, carrying you through Advent, Christmas and into the new year. Copies are placed in the link, and are \$3 apiece.

E-Prayer

E-prayer is now managed jointly by Cynthia Greer and Joy Bowerman. If you have a concern for which you would like prayer, you may contact Cynthia Greer at 613-723-2680 or greercynthia69@yahoo.com or send an email to Eprayer@stmarksottawa.ca. Likewise, if wish to be included on the E-prayer list, you may use the same contact information.

Belong Ottawa Wishlist



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Rev Mary-Cate's contact information

Mary-Cate's email is MaryCate@stmarksottawa.ca. We are still finessing the access details. You may call her at 613-231-7451 or 416-709-3487.

Dollar for Dollar Coupons

We still have some dollar for dollar coupons from before the pandemic. We will be selling these at coffee hour until they are gone. They can be used at participating Loblaws, Dominion, No Frills, Real Canadian Superstore, Maxi, Provigo, Extra Foods, Your Independent Grocer, Atlantic Superstore, Zehrs Markets, Valu-mart, Fortinos, Wholesale Club and T & T Supermarket. Please talk to Joy about purchasing coupons.

Emails Addresses for Key People

The wardens, as well as the paid staff (Rev Mary Cate, Joy and Elaine) all have email addresses in the StMarksOttawa domain. They are:

Rev Mary Cate: MaryCate@stmarksottawa.ca
Joy: stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca
Elaine: Elaine@stmarksottawa.ca

Janis Perkin : Janis@stmarksottawa.ca
Joseph Amuah : Joseph@stmarksottawa.ca
Mike Duval : Mike@stmarksottawa.ca
Gillian Martin: Gillian@stmarksottawa.ca

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 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 unable to get to church, putting a cheque in the mail is always an 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.