



Catch the Spirit News

Winter 2016

Dear Friends,

I apologize for my belated "thank you" for your generous monetary gift when we left St. Mark's in the Fall.

As many of you will know, after driving over 2,000 miles without incident, within fifteen minutes of arriving home Margaret had a bad fall.

She is only just beginning to recover from it and still not able to move very much. My time has been taken up with looking after her.

We are awaiting the results of four more X-rays as I write.

Already we are looking forward to seeing you all in May.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Every Blessing, Geoff





RECTORS REPORT

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every year at this time there is a discussion about whether one should be saying “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holidays”. Every year there are stories on the news about “Holiday Trees” and the absence of Christmas activities in schools. Every year there are signs that remind us that “Jesus is the Reason for the Season” while, at the same time, there are facebook posts that highlight that many different religions and cultures are celebrating holidays at this time of year. Every year people we know and love grumpily and fiercely assert that we should only be saying “Merry Christmas” at this time of the year and every year, they are absolutely wrong. We should not be saying “Merry Christmas”...yet. See, we are in the midst of the season of Advent. Christmas hasn’t arrived yet. The first real opportunity to say “Merry Christmas” is at church on Christmas Eve and we should continue to share that greeting from that evening right through to the Epiphany on January 6th. There are 12 days of Christmas when the greeting “Merry Christmas” should roll off our tongues enthusiastically, but the truth is that doesn’t happen. As Christians we don’t hold off on Christmas, we anticipate Christmas right along with the culture around us instead of observing the season of Advent and preparing our hearts and lives for Christ to come again with the Kingdom of God.

Last weekend my sister was here to celebrate my daughter Rebekah’s birthday along with some other family and friends, some of whom were priests. On her way out the door my sister wished them a “Merry Christmas” and the three priests in the room all stiffened slightly because, as clergy, we are all acutely aware that it was still Advent and we shouldn’t be saying that yet, but every one of those priests cheerfully wished her a “Merry Christmas”. There’s something absolutely right about that and there’s an underlying principle that we ought to keep in mind there too. No matter what, whether it is out of season or we encounter another situation where we feel like our Christian celebration of Christmas is being sidelined, our response should be a cheerful “Merry Christmas”, because the joy, the hope, the peace, and the love that God shared with us through the gift of the Christ child is the reason we use that greeting at all. The gift of the Christ child fills our hearts and lives with joy, so let’s not be curmudgeons, let’s not be grumpy, let’s not even be fierce, instead let’s be cheerful with our “Merry Christmas” greetings and in that let’s share the good news that Christ has come, he has died and risen for us, and will come again to make our joy complete.

Wishing you every Advent and Christmas blessing, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Robert Lemon +

The Rev’d Fr. Robert Lemon
Rector, St. Mark's by the Lake





Advent and Christmas Services

Lessons and Carols ✨ December 18th 7 pm

Christmas Eve Family Service ✨ December 24th 4 pm

Christmas Eve Solemn Eucharist ✨ December 24th 9 pm

Christmas Day ✨ December 25th 10:30 am

Let's 'Take the Cake'!

Everyone should have a birthday cake! Let's join St. James church in Roseland on Sat Feb 25 from 3-5pm to help create Birthday Cake Kits for local families. (Address is 4276 Roseland Dr. E). These will be distributed to local area food banks to ensure that children have a birthday cake! We will have a party at St. James that day too!

Things you can do now:

Collect cake mixes (check expiry dates) , icing, pans (gently used are fine) and candles!

There will be a box at the church to place these items starting in January. More information about this program is posted on the board in the hallway and youth board. Thanks for helping local children celebrate their birthdays!!

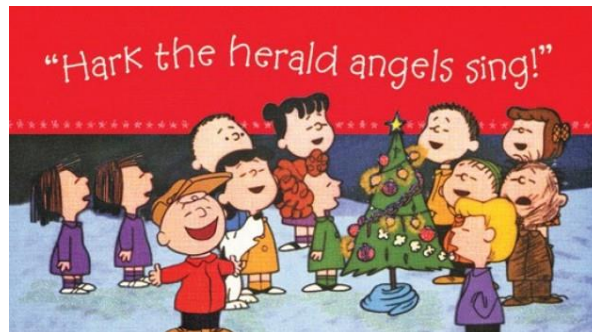


New servers!!

We are so happy to announce that we have 5 new servers beginning their ministry here at St. Mark's! Please welcome Elijah Paulton, Arnie and Stella Fuerth and Jack and Mary Berthiaume and keep them in your prayers! They are joining our wonderful team of dedicated servers! We will have a dedication service for them in the new year.



Altar Servers



Calling all carollers!!!! Meet at the church at 6 pm on Dec 18th and we will go carolling in the neighbourhood and collect items for our food banks (the neighbours will know ahead of time). We will have time to warm up with a mug of hot chocolate or cider before our Lessons and Carols begins at 7pm. Bring your jingle bells, your Christmas hats and your smiles and help spread some good cheer!



Victoria
Memorial Gardens
by Arbor Memorial

Shelley Alewick
Pre-Planning Director

tel: **519-969-6340** • fax: **519-250-0719**
after hours: 519-969-3939 • victoriacemetery.ca
email: salewick@arbormemorial.com

1185 Hwy. 3, Windsor (Oldcastle), ON N0R 1L0

The Two Birds are Returning to St Marks in January

It's true, in spite of the cold and winter blahs, the two birds are returning because they know that those of us who have not left for warmer climes in January need to eat, drink and socialize.



How it works:

There are some of us who have the gift of hospitality and who love to entertain people for dinner.

There are some of us who love to go out and eat because then we don't have to cook. We don't mind paying when we go out for this reason.

So there will be two lists available – one for hosts who can sign up with a date when they can host and a second list for those who like to be guests.

The hosts can serve whatever they choose and the guests donate to the host whatever they feel that mean is worth.

Why is it called "Two Bird's" because we are killing two birds with one stone as the saying goes. We raise funds for St Marks and you will make new friends by enjoying an evening with someone you might not have known very well.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you

Chris McVeigh

cmcveigh@cogeco.ca

DEANERY HOSTED FAMILY HOLIDAY BOWLING PARTY

Sunday, January 8th 2 pm

Rose Bowl Lanes 2482 Dougall Ave.

Please bring socks/hat/mittens for the Windsor Youth Centre.

RSVP to Jane Cornett by December 28th

Pizza Pop Shoes and Bowling

Warden's Report – December 2016

We are very grateful for the many gifts we have as Wardens of St. Mark's by the Lake.



Father Rob, now well into his third year of ministry, continues to impress us all, with his hard work in all areas of church life. He is a wonderful leader and teacher.



Greeters, readers, welcome desk workers, counters – all quietly doing God's work and helping us to be a friendly, welcoming church.



The finance committee, under the leadership of Stephen (chair) and Mark (treasurer) have been very active dealing with our future development and helping us to manage our debt.



The property committee (Steve White chair), comprises of several hardworking people who do a great deal of work dealing with day to day maintenance issues.



The Chancel Guild never fail to get the church ready for every service, especially at Christmas, Easter and many other festive occasions.



The choir and music programme lead by Andrea always do a beautiful job and provide moving and meaningful music throughout the year.



The Outreach Committee under the leadership of Jeanine continue to model the joy of helping others in our own community and beyond.



PAC under the leadership of Angie put on some wonderful and successful fund raising and social events.



The Sunday school and youth group continue to thrive under the leadership of Jane. We are pleased to see some new servers joining the ranks as well



Christie has proven to be an outstanding Parish Administrator. We are thankful for her kindness, efficiency and sense of humour.



The Knit-Wits meet every Tuesday morning and have produced an amazing amount of knitted goods for the newborns, the needy, and many other local charities.



Pastoral care under the leadership of Barb Lyons continues their visiting to shut-ins who are unable to attend services.



Envelop Secretary Jean Anderson does a wonderful job of keeping track of our parishioners. Her lists are particularly helpful to the Sunday morning counters, whom we also thank for their assistance.



There are many parishioners involved in the myriad of ministries above. We have avoided using names outside the ministry leaders, but you all know who you are. The Wardens thank you for all your work and commitment to the church.



We are very grateful for the continued ministry of Jack Dressler. It is wonderful to see Jack and Eileen at many Parish events, singing in the choir, sitting in the pews, and we appreciate Jack filling in for Rob from time to time.



We were blessed once again this summer to have had Canon Geoffrey and Margaret Dibbs with us. As always, we appreciate Geoff's contributions and assistance and we wish them well in Arizona.

We wish you all a happy, healthy and blessed Christmas!

Save the Date

Ok all you golf enthusiasts who are feeling sad because golf weather has disappeared, Never Fear! Our 2017 Golf Tourney has already been booked at Beautiful Rochester Place.

The date is Sunday, June 11th, so mark your 2017 calendars when you get them or put the date in your phone or your little black book.

If you would like to join our awesome Golf Committee, please let me know. We have lots of fun planning this great event.

Thank you

Chris McVeigh – Golf Committee Chair



OUTREACH JUSTICE TEAM

Our Team will be involved again this year in:

1. Toy Drive for the New Song Church. If you wish to participate in the Toy Drive please bring in your toy in a gift bag on or before December 18th, 2016. If you have any questions please see Carolynne Mastellotto or Jeannine St. Louis.
2. Seniors Christmas – please see Amanda Dibbs or Alyce Sandie to obtain a name of a senior and that senior's Christmas Wish.

On January 25, 2017 our team will be hosting a presentation with WEFIGHT on Human Trafficking. WEFIGHT is located at Legal Assistance of Windsor AT 85 Pitt Street, Windsor. Human trafficking is modern day slavery. Human beings are bought and sold for a number of different purposes: sexual exploitation, forced or bonded labour, forced marriages and organ removal. Victims are also used to smuggle drugs and guns across borders and are coerced into stealing various items. The common element in human trafficking is exploitation. Victims are being exploited for money or some material benefit. People may be trafficked internationally or domestically. You may be saying to yourself that this does not happen in the Windsor and Essex County area. Think again – it most certainly does. Come to this presentation and learn what is happening in your area – maybe in your own neighbourhood.

We are always looking for people to come and join our team. Come to any of our meetings which are held on the second Monday of each month.

The Outreach Justice Team would like to thank you for all your support during the year and to wish everyone a richly blessed Christmas, as well as much peace and joy over the holidays.

Sincerely – Jeannine Renaud-St. Louis





St. Mark's by-the-Lake
150 St. Mark's Road
St. Clair Beach On N8N 2H4

«AddressBlock»