

THE LION

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RECTOR'S CORNER

Friends in Christ,

Advent greetings! This time of year can evoke wonderfully tactile sensations — the feel of green garland, the smooth curve of a beloved ornament, the rub of mittens and scarves on cold hands and necks. Advent comes with sweet memories of traditions and family — roaring fires and cozy houses insulated against the dark and the chill of winter.

For Christians, though, Advent is not just a cultural event that remembers a largely northern European heritage filtered through the Norman Rockwell paintings of post-war America. Advent is instead a season of expectation, not without a bit of fear and a bit of trembling.

Biblical authors have an ambivalence about the coming of God. On one hand, this is the event which will bring peace and justice in the world. On the other hand, the coming of God brings upheaval and change — the eradication of the structures that disadvantage the poor, the humbling of the prideful, the leveling of mountains. So, when we prepare for the coming of God among us, we're not just waiting for a cozy night by the fire. Instead, we are awaiting the reorienting of the entire planet to the reign of God. No wonder our spiritual forebears talked about it with some anxiety.

So how are we to experience these four weeks? Are we to be trembling with the disciples waiting for the return of Jesus? Or are we to lean into the sweet Advent that we see depicted in greeting cards? As with so many things in the Christian life, the answer is both. It is appropriate to prepare for the coming of Christ with introspection and a careful examination of the ways in which the world does not reflect the values of the Kingdom of God. And, it is also appropriate to spend time with loved ones and experience this sweet time of year.

Experience the warmth and the spirit of Advent. And then spend time in prayer and worship, reflecting on what it means to really ask for God to come among us. It will be a little bit scary. But it will also be glorious.

Advent blessings,
Ian+
(Fr. Burch)

DEACON'S CORNER

When my family was growing up, we had a Christmas tradition. We would get together with family friends and see a musical or play. Christmas traditions are a wonderful way to make Christmas time feel less commercial. I challenge you to take it a step further, make a tradition that focuses on others.



The Riverwest Food Pantry is in the St. Casimir's Parish Hall. It is located at 924 E. Clarke Street, Milwaukee, 53212. They are always looking for donations. Of course we give food donations to the pantry all year around, but it might make it more meaningful and special to shop and donate some holiday food. You can call their office at 414-301-1478 to find out what they might need for the Christmas time.

We take food that the parish has donated over there about twice a month. If you don't want to make a trip to the pantry, you can bring it to church and make it part of our regular Sunday offering. Just remember all food should be non-perishable. The pantry also prefers to have all canned goods be low sodium.

I hope you'll consider giving to the pantry at Thanksgiving and Christmas time a new activity, even make it a new tradition. It will be appreciated by those families who find it hard to provide food for their tables, and give you and your family or friends a sense of love and compassion for those who are in need.

I know I look back on my family's Christmas traditions with fondness. Let's make a new tradition that serves others in need this Christmas.

~Michelle

RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY

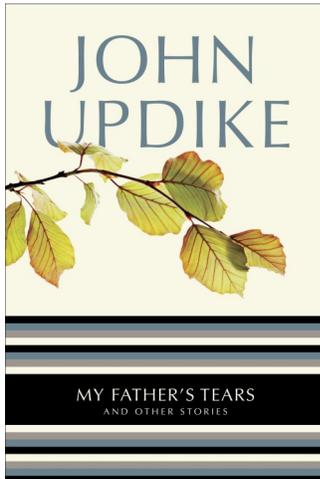


Items needed this month:

- Canned Fruit in its own juices
- Whole grain cereal and oatmeal
- Low sodium canned vegetables
- Dried fruits and 100% fruit juices
- Low sodium chicken, beef, and vegetable stock

Thanks as always for your generosity to our pantry community!

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP



December Book Selection

The last meeting of the year for the Women's Book Group will be on Monday, December 10, at 7 p.m., at the home of Ellie Moseley. Our book for discussion will be *My Father's Tears* by John Updike. This book is a collection of short stories. The author revisits the subjects of faith and infidelity.

Books can be purchased at Boswell for a ten percent discount or borrowed from the library. If you need directions to Ellie's home, please contact the church office at sara@stmarksmilwaukee.org. All women of the church are welcome. Guests are also very welcome. Come join us and tell us your favorite story in the collection.

~Ellie Moseley

COFFEE HOUR

If you haven't been in the kitchen recently, you're in for a big surprise. The flooring is brand new, as is the paint on the walls and ceiling. Cabinets, windows and appliances scrubbed clean. It's amazing how you don't notice dirt until it's gone. Some things were moved for easier access, and a few new items have been added. We have a new, user-friendly dishwasher — YIPPEE! Thanks to all who made this happen so seamlessly. Thanks, also, to all who managed to host coffee hour from the library. It was challenging, to say the least.



We continue to have delicious, well attended coffee hours. Thanks to all who have hosted. It seems that no matter how much baking/prepping is done, every last morsel is eaten. We have a well fed congregation.

Thank you, we all know who you are, for your hard work. At a recent newcomers brunch, the friendliness of all the folks at St. Mark's and the invitations to coffee hour were a recurring compliment. Yet another testament to the importance of this ministry.

If you're interested in participating, please feel free to contact me at zingpeople@sbcglobal.net.

~Jamie Zingler



Don't see your birthday or anniversary listed?
 Send Sara an email with the details!
sara@stmarkmilwaukee.org

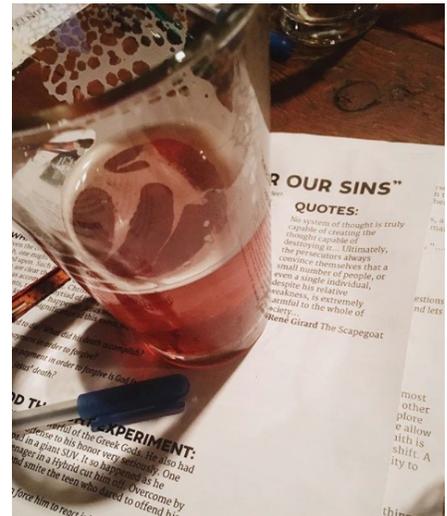
- 12/1 Barbara Costanzo
- 12/2 John Dudek
- 12/2 Jyoti Bratz
- 12/10 Ellie Moseley
- 12/11 Georgia Cain
- 12/15 Justin Mortara
- 12/19 Kris Kreuziger
- 12/20 Judy Young
- 12/21 Amy Diliberti

RECLAIMING JESUS: GENUINE PEOPLE, SPIRITED CONVERSATIONS

Join Kyle Potter and Brandon Brown for conversations about faith and American life that you'll find exciting and interesting – and maybe awkward, transgressive, irreligious, or freeing. Your curiosity about life, faith, truth, or God are welcome. We have more questions than answers, but we love to listen and explore together. We're committed to matching our passion and often spirited disagreement with respectful conversation.

- 1st Tues of each month: East Side at Von Trier, 8 p.m.
- 2nd Tues of each month: Waukesha at Bernie's Tap Room, 8 p.m.
- 3rd Tues of each month: Wauwatosa at Dugout 54, 8 p.m.

Our conversation is hosted by Jesus + Beer MKE and St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Email kyle.potter@gmail.com for a once-a-month reminder of our topics and meeting dates.



~Kyle Potter

PUMPKIN SALE 2018



Another year's Pumpkin Sale has come to an end. Many thanks to all who made it a success. Twice people gathered to unload thousands of pounds of pumpkins, a particularly dirty job this year! Many shifts of selling were filled by the faithful who sat in heat, rain, cold and wind. This year saw extremes of every type of weather Milwaukee has to offer.

As a result of challenging weather (we lost quite a few pumpkins to rot) and the Brewers trip to the NLCS (which we believe kept people glued to their TVs), our profits were not as high as in the past few years. We still managed to make over \$6,000 to contribute to St. Mark's Outreach program.

We appreciate all your help and would like to especially thank Harry Moseley, Michelle Mooney and Leslie McCormick for opening and closing the pumpkin patch.

Until next year,

~Ron Zingler



MUSIC CONFERENCE REPORT

A heartfelt thank you to Ian and the Vestry for sending me to a four-day music event in August — the 30th Annual Conference on Church Music. The conference emphasized the music of the Anglican and Episcopal Churches. Attending was a wonderful way to learn and identify where to purchase new music for choir and for organ, to discuss our work, network with and be inspired by other church musicians, and to participate in Morning Prayer, Evensong and Sunday Eucharist with the fifty other attendees. In addition, I was able meet and learn from a renowned musician and composer, Malcom Archer — organist and choirmaster at various English cathedrals and churches of prominence including Wells Cathedral, St. Paul's Cathedral in London, and the Chapel of Westminster College. The conference was held at Trinity Center, a conference and retreat center belonging to the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina— a beautiful campus on the Atlantic in Salter Path, NC. Thank you, St. Mark's, for that exciting gift of learning and for a re-invigoration of my spirit.

~Steve Wolff



Advent and Christmas at St. Mark's

December 2, 4 pm
Advent Lessons & Carols

December 16, 9:30 am
Christmas Pageant

December 24, 4 pm
Christmas Eve Eucharist

December 24, 11 pm
Christmas Eve Eucharist with Special Music

December 25, 9 am
Christmas Day Eucharist

SINGERS WANTED



Want to sing in the St. Mark's choir? Join us as we prepare for Advent Lessons and Carols and the Christmas Eve Eucharist. If you're interested in offering gifts of music during this joyful season, please talk to Steve or just show up. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

~Steve Wolff

HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR EASTSIDE SENIOR SERVICE

Each year St. Mark's parishioners have purchased small gifts (\$5 - \$10) for the older adult clients served by Eastside Senior Services. These gifts are delivered by our many volunteers.



Suggestions:

- gift cards to grocery or drug stores
- non-perishable foods (no candy)
- gloves
- scarves
- hats
- towels
- small throw blankets
- stationery with postage stamps

There will be a table in the Guild Hall for these items. For some clients, this may be the only gift they receive.

On December 9 during coffee hour, the gifts will be wrapped and labeled. This is a great event for families. All wrapping supplies will be provided.

Questions? Carolyn Davis thced@sbcglobal.net.

USHERS NEEDED

Two of the five teams that are short one person – which means we need your help. We need at least two more people to join our teams.

Ushers are often the first person to greet newcomers when they arrive at our red doors. It is a service of hospitality, warmly greeting newcomers as well as well established parishioners each Sunday morning. There are a total of five teams of four persons, so you serve just ten times a year.

If you are interested, please contact Harry Moseley at hmoseley39@gmail.com or 414/333.9682.

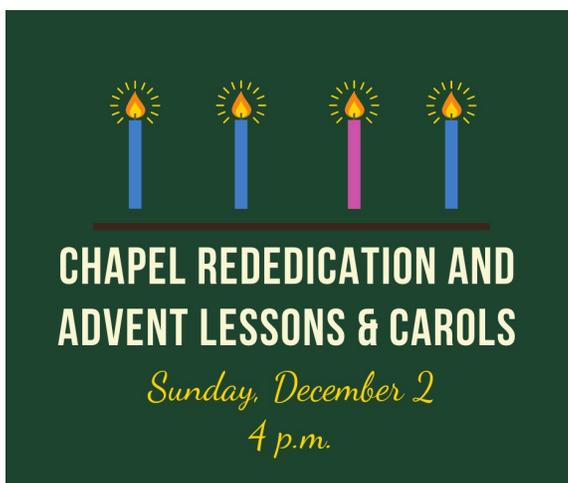
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

St. Mark's Flower Guild is planning to have a huge red and green Christmas season, with poinsettia-filled urns and plants, cut flowers all in red, several varieties of seasonal greens plus wreaths and trees. A special feature of our afternoon service on Christmas Eve will be a trumpet, and for the late service on Christmas Eve there will be an English horn and an oboe.



We will place envelopes in the service bulletins for you to make a contribution towards flowers and music for St. Mark's holiday services. There will be a form included in the envelopes for you to indicate dedications (e.g. memorials, thanksgivings) that will be printed in the holiday service bulletins. The deadline for having these included in holiday bulletins this year is Sunday, December 16.

Contributions may be made after this date, but due to the busy season, the office will not be able to include those details in holiday bulletins. You may pay by check (mark Christmas Flowers/Special Music on the memo line) or electronically (click DONATE on our website, and choose "Christmas Flowers and Musicians"). As always, contributions will appear on pledge statements and are fully tax-deductible.



SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS NEEDED

The Salvation Army is looking for volunteer bell ringers for Saturdays in December. The time slots start at 2 hours.

There are both indoor and outdoor locations. Get the family involved. It is fun and easy — even kids can participate. Have a big group? Divide in two and have a fun competition to see who can raise the most.

Hint Hint kettles with music often raise more money, so bring musical instruments or just sing Christmas carols.



If interested in volunteering call or email

Kiran_kuhn@usc.salvationarmy.org or 414.763.9797.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

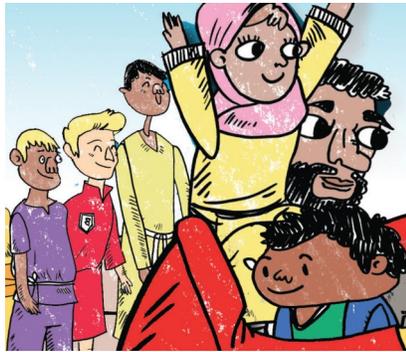
RESPOND: YOUTH GROUP

All youth in grades 7-12 are invited to join RESPOND, our Youth Group. Join us right after church in the Gathering Room (2nd floor) every 2nd Sunday of the month until 12:30 p.m. as we share lunch, sing songs, play games, and respond to God's call for us to love and serve our neighbors.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, December 9 for our Christmas (Advent) Celebration! To register or to learn more about RESPOND, please email Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org) today.



HOLY MOLY | ST. MARK'S CHURCH SCHOOL



All children from K4 through 5th grade are welcome to attend Holy Moly, our church school here at St. Mark's. Join us as we learn a new bible story each week through video, reading, discussion, and engaging crafts!

St. Mark's Church School gathers upstairs every week for the first part of Sunday worship beginning at 9:30 a.m., and ends in time for students to join their families in church for Communion. Periodically throughout the year, we'll have special events in place of Church School, such as our Advent Wreath making day (Sunday, November 25) and our annual Christmas Pageant (Sunday, December 16). To register or learn more about Holy Moly and our Church School, email Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org) today.

Church School begins Winter Break on Sunday, December 16. Church School will resume on Sunday, January 13.

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS

We need Church School teachers for the 2018-2019 School Year. Not only is teaching Church School important, but it's easy, spiritually nourishing, and fun, too. The Holy Moly Curriculum is easy to follow as it gives step-by-step instructions on how to facilitate class each week. Then the students do the rest! If you would like to volunteer to teach Church School for a four-week block this fall or this spring, please add your name to our sign-up sheet, located next to the kitchen in the Parish Hall, or email Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org) today.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Our annual Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 16, during our 9:30 a.m. service. All children and youth are invited to participate in this year's pageant as we tell a special Christmas story.

Our first pageant rehearsal will be during church school (9:30 a.m.) on Sunday, December 9. Our second pageant rehearsal will be at church on Saturday, December 15, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. To sign your child up to participate, or for any questions about our pageant, please email Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org).



20S & 30S ADVENT DISCUSSION GROUP

All people in their 20s and 30s (and college students) are invited to join our Advent discussion group over four Tuesdays leading to Christmas. Join us at church from 7-8:30 p.m. to prepare for Christmas by sharing dinner as we read and discuss selections on the following topics and figures:

Tuesday, November 27 | Expectation

Tuesday, December 4 | Mary the Blessed Virgin

Tuesday, December 11 | Saint Joseph

Tuesday, December 18 | Emmanuel

Please join us for any or all these dates. To RSVP or for questions about this event, please email Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org).



MONTHLY CAMPUS MINISTRY EUCHARIST AND DINNER

Every second Sunday of the month during the academic year, students are invited to worship and eat together at St. Mark's, starting at 5:30 p.m. Join us as we celebrate Holy Eucharist Rite II, complete with music. Food and fellowship follow.

Our December meeting will be on December 9.

DINNER & DIALOGUE

St. Mark's is partnering with The Corner House and Better Together to bring Dinner & Dialogues. All college students and adults in their 20s and 30s are invited to join an evening full of great food and great discussion about our faith and the world. Dinner & Dialogue meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m. at The Corner House (3074 N Maryland Ave.) For more information, please email Matt Phillips (matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org) today.

Our December meeting will be on December 12.

DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9 AM Choir Rehearsal 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
2 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 10:45 AM Stewardship Wrap-Up Party 11 AM Adult Education 11 AM Haiti Project Art Sale 1 PM Choristers 4 PM Chapel Dedication and Advent Lessons & Carols	3 3:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 6:15 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods	4 7:30 AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 6:30 PM UWM Guitar Student Recital 7 PM 20/30s Advent Discussion Group 8 PM Reclaiming Jesus	5 4 PM Bible Study 6 PM Midweek Eucharist Zao Band Practice Economic Justice Reading Group 6:30 PM UWM: International Foods 7 PM Choir	6 7:30 AM Yoga 8 PM AA	7 Rector's Day Off 8 PM AA	8 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
9 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 11 AM Adult Education 11 AM ESS Gift-Wrapping 11 AM RESPOND Youth Group 1 PM Choristers 5:30 PM Campus Ministry Eucharist	10 3:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 6:15 PM SWEATnDANCE 6:30 PM UWM: Healthy Foods 7 PM Women's Book Group	11 7:30 AM Yoga 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 6:30 PM UWM Guitar Student Recital 7 PM 20/30s Advent Discussion Group	12 4 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Dinner & Dialogue 6 PM Midweek Eucharist Zao Band Practice Economic Justice Reading Group 7 PM Choir	13 7:30 AM Yoga 8 PM AA	14 Rector's Day Off 4 PM Piano Studio Concert 8 PM AA	15 9 AM Men's Fellowship 9:30 AM Quilting Circle 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 1:30 PM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
16 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist/Christmas Pageant 11 AM Adult Education	17 6:15 PM SWEATnDANCE	18 7:30 AM Yoga 8:15 AM Breakfast Fellowship @ Hollander 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop 1 PM Spirituality and Aging 6:30 PM Vestry 7 PM 20/30s Advent Discussion Group	19 4 PM Bible Study 6 PM Midweek Eucharist Zao Band Practice Economic Justice Reading Group 7 PM Choir	20 7:30 AM Yoga 8 PM AA	21 Rector's Day Off 8 PM AA	22 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
23 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist 12 PM Flower Guild	24 Office Closed 4 PM Christmas Eve Service 10:30 Choral Prelude 11 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed 9 AM Christmas Morning Service	26 Office Closed/Midweek Eucharist Canceled 6 PM Zao Band Practice	27 Office Closed 7:30 AM Yoga 8 PM AA	28 Office Closed 8 PM AA	29 10 AM–12 PM Thrift Shop
30 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	31					

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Mark's is a growing, welcoming parish on Milwaukee's Eastside. We are a vibrant community of sojourners and seekers. We are young and old, families, singles and couples, gay and straight, from a variety of backgrounds. Together we represent a diverse array of perspectives and life experiences. We believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives and in the world and that we are called, both as individuals and as a community, to share Christ's love with our neighbors. We hope that the community at St. Mark's will help you to grow deeper in your faith and that you will find yourself enlivened by service to God and to God's world.

The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller, Bishop of Milwaukee
The Rev. Ian C. Burch, Rector
ian@stmarksmilwaukee.org
The Rev. John Hickey, Priest Associate
The Rev. Michelle P. Mooney, Deacon
Stephen Wolff, Director of Music
steve@stmarksmilwaukee.org
Matt Phillips, Director of Campus and Youth Ministries
matt@stmarksmilwaukee.org
Virginia Chappell, Senior Warden
Randy Miller, Junior Warden
Bruce Jacobs, Treasurer
Sara Bitner, Parish Administrator
sara@stmarksmilwaukee.org
Daniel Klopitz, Children's Choirmaster
daniel@stmarksmilwaukee.org
Bill Davies, Bookkeeper
bill@stmarksmilwaukee.org
Jyoti Bratz, Housekeeper
Skrauss, Sexton
Kiran-Joy Kuhn, Lion Newsletter Editor

Vestry Members
Bill Hunt
Tom Lacy
Ellie Mixter-Keller
Brooke Frizzell
Cheryl Johnson
Michael O'Hear
Georgia Cain
David Miyama
Ginny Schrag

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
2618 N. Hackett Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211
414-962-0500
stmarksmilwaukee.org

Sunday Eucharist
9:30 a.m.

Childcare is provided
from 9:15-11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Eucharist
6:00 p.m.

Office Hours
Tuesday and Wednesday
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.;
Friday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Eastside Senior Services
414-210-5881