



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

📍 Sunday Services at 8am & 10am
515 48th St. NW Canton, OH 44709

office@stmarks-canton.org



Greetings!

Fourth Sunday of Advent

[Read This Week's Lesson](#)

Frankly Speaking

Friends,

Frankly speaking, what follows is a rerun. However, I consider this poem a classic. I hope it strikes a chord with you in these last days of Advent and throughout Christmastide.

Star Giving- by Ann Weems

What I'd really like to give you for Christmas is a Star . . .

Brilliance in a package,

something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans

or in the pocket of your being,

Something to take out in times of darkness,

something that would never snuff out or tarnish,

something you could hold in your hand,

something for wonderment,
something for pondering,
something that would remind you of
what Christmas has always meant:
God's Advent Light into the Darkness of this world.
But Stars are only God's for giving,
and I must be content to give you words and wishes and
packages without Stars.
But I can wish you life
as radiant as the Star
that announced the Christ Child's coming,
and as filled with awe as the Shepherds who stood
beneath its Light,
And I can pass on to you the love
that has been given to me,
ignited countless time by others
who have knelt in Bethlehem's Light.
Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a Star.

Kneeling in Bethlehem, p. 71.

O almighty God, who by the birth of your holy child Jesus has given us a great light to dawn upon our darkness: Grant, we pray you, that in this light we may see light. Bestow upon us, we beseech you, that most excellent Christmas gift of charity to all, that so the likeness of your Son may be formed in us, and that we may have the ever brightening hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Service and Prayers for Church and Home, Wilbur Patterson Thirkield

Notable *Music this Sunday*

For this final Advent Sunday, the focus is on the Blessed Virgin Mary with an anthem text by the Venerable Bede (b. 672) set to a French carol plus several contemporary hymns. The prelude will be Schubert's familiar "Ave Maria."

The family service at 5:30 on Christmas Eve will feature Purvis' "Carol Rhapsody" and Dupre's quiet "In Dulci Jubilo." The 12th c. French carol "The Friendly Beasts" will be sung by Morgan Wilson.

Our Christmas Eve 10: 00 pm service will feature guest pianist Joyce Corbett and our resident Ron Hill along with the choir singing a new anthem in our library "God Rest You" by Larry Shackley. A "Progressive Processional" will include several carols, and "The Friendly Beasts" will tell of the animals in the stable nurturing the Baby Jesus.

Stewardship Reflections

In early December, a "Dear Pastor" letter arrived at St. Mark's. The writer shared that 30 years ago she was a single mom looking for safe, Christian day care for her daughter so she could work and provide for her family. St. Mark's, specifically Mrs. Fortney and Father Sloan, came to her aid. "Because of their true Christian love, I was given the opportunity to succeed." The letter continues: "Many years have passed, and I now am able to bless you. I have never forgotten what your ministry did for me nor will I. Please accept this heart felt donation and token of my thanks." The writer's "token" was a sizable check which has bolstered the St. Mark's Capital Reserve Fund.

As we make our final preparations for Christmas, most of our focus is on giving. This year, let's take time out to reflect on how we receive gifts and expressions of love from others. A recent writer to "Dear Amy" remarked: "[T]he ability to accept an act of kindness is a lost art and it is this country's most desperately needed form of etiquette. We can't give kindness if we don't learn how to accept it."

Lord, as we prepare for the arrival of your Son, focus our minds and hearts on how we receive gifts. Help us accept with joy your love and the kindness of others, and share our gratitude in ways that bring new blessings to others.



UPCOMING
EVENTS

St. Mark's nursery will be open at 5:00pm on Christmas Eve for the Family Eucharist.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS

CHRISTMAS EVE December 24th Family Eucharist @5:30pm

Festive Eucharist @10:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY December 25th @10:00am

DECEMBER 30TH Lessons & Carols @10:00am



Christmas Office Hours



Monday, December 24th: 10am-Noon

Thursday, December 27th: 10am-2pm

Friday, December 28th: 10am-2pm

For pastoral emergencies, please call Rev. Beth at 234-815-3849. For non-emergencies, [click here](#) to email her.

Katie will be out of the office December 24-January 2.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Ken Pakenham, Joan Werren, Ron Hill, Peg Hill, Conley Family, Joe Hoot, Tom Burns, the Briggs family, Susan Hostetler

Family and Friends: Susan, Johnny Willoughby, The Shafer Family (friends of the Gordons), Layna (friend of

Boyds), The Moore Family (friends of Nadels), Erin, Carol Morton, Marcie (friend of Gordons), Baby Hudson, Shirley Allen (friend of the Mulls), Michelle Garber (family of Geoff and Bobbi Gordon), Matt Gagnon, The Kesslers, Mary Frech, Marcie Crowell, Deb Thompson (friend of Jan Hudson), Bobby Guerin (friend of Pam McCarthy), John and Phyllis Green (friends of Sue Little), Don Stock, Mike Lutsch (uncle of Bobbi Gordon), Weisenstine Family (friends of the Kennedys), Carson and Barb (friends of the Kieslings), Jim Mesko (friend of Jim Weaver), Carey Sloan

For all those serving in the armed forces: Marine Squadrons 152 and 242 stationed in Iwakuni, Japan.

For all those who have died:

Captain Jahmar F. Resilard of Miramar, Florida; Lt. Col. Kevin R. Herrmann of New Bern, North Carolina; Maj. James M. Brophy, 36 of Staatsburg, New York; Staff Sgt. Maximo A. Flores of Surprise, Arizona; Cpl. Daniel E. Baker of Tremont, Illinois; Cpl. William C. Ross, 21, of Hendersonville, Tennessee

-Please share updates with Bobbi Gordon.-

PRAYER CHAIN:

St. Mark's has a group of prayer warriors who pray for specific needs of those on the prayer chain. If you would like to place yourself or a loved one on the prayer chain, please contact Bobbi Gordon at

ggordon24@sbcglobal.net

Please note, prayer requests may be placed on the Prayer Chain, in the Sunday bulletin's Prayer Concerns, or in both places. Please let Bobbi know your preference.



THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF OHIO

This Week's Bicentennial Prayer comes from:

Grace Church - Sandusky

Holy God, holy and loving one,
we give you thanks for the ways
in which you are present in our lives,
in our companionship, in our neighbors,
and in our community.

We thank you for calling us out into your world,
to work in your vineyard,
and conspire with you to bring good news
to all whom we encounter.

We ask that you continue to love the people of grace
into your ways of generosity, care,
and companionship with all.

Amen.

Upcoming Servers

Servers Sunday, December 23rd:

Acolytes, 8:00am: Sharon Ryan

Acolytes, 10:00am: Justin Crowl, Joe Hoot, Marilyn Thorp, Karen
Violand

Eucharistic Minister, 8:00am: Bruce Schutrum

Eucharistic Ministers, 10:00am: Bruce and Judy Hixon

Ushers: John Willoughby, Bill Rand, Gary Mull

Altar Guild 8:00am: Sharon Ryan, Sara Strattan

Altar Guild 10:00am: Louise Moore

*If you are unable to serve, please try to find a sub as soon as
possible and notify the office. Thank you!*

Yours in Christ, *St. Mark's Episcopal Church*



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St. Mark's Leadership

We seek to unite all people with God and each other in Christ through worship, fellowship, education, and service.

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