



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Sunday Services at 8am & 10am

515 48th St. NW Canton, OH 44709 office@stmarks-canton.org



Greetings!

First Sunday of Advent

Read This Week's Lesson

Frankly Speaking

For a few years I have received emails from a group called Living Compass with The Rev. Scott Stoner's Weekly Words of Wellness. Last week, Scott shared a repeat which I had hoped to share with the 10am Thanksgiving Day faithful. A technology glitch thwarted that effort, but alas I will try again through this medium.

Each Thanksgiving Scott shares a TED talk which combines the time-lapse photography of Louie Schwartzberg and words spoken by a Benedictine monk, Brother David Steindl-Rast. The result is an inspiring video worth sharing with everyone and anyone who might be part of your festival of family and friends. You can view the video [here](#) or ask Siri for the Schwartzberg TED talk on gratitude.

To entice you further, here is the text of Brother David's commentary:

You think that this is just another day in your life... It's not just another day. It's the one day that is given to you - today... It's given

to you. It's a gift. It's the only gift that you have right now... ..and the only appropriate response is gratefulness.

If you do nothing else but to cultivate that response to the great gift that this unique day is... If you learn to respond as if it were the first day in your life and the very last day then you will have spent this day very well.

Begin by opening your eyes, and be surprised that you have eyes you can open. That incredible array of colors that is constantly offered to us for our pure enjoyment. Look at the sky. We so rarely look at the sky. We so rarely note how different it is from moment to moment, with clouds coming and going. We just think of the weather, and even with the weather we don't think of all the many nuances of weather... We just think of "good weather" and "bad weather."

This day, right now, with its unique weather, maybe a kind that will never exactly in that form come again.. The formation of clouds in the sky will never be the same as it is right now...

Open your eyes. Look at that.

Look at the faces of people whom you meet. Each one has an incredible story behind their face, a story that you could never fully fathom. Not only their own story, but the story of their ancestors. We all go back so far...

And in this present moment on this day, all the people you meet, all that life from generations and from so many places all over the world flows together and meets you here like a life giving water if you only open your heart and drink.

Open your heart to the incredible gifts that civilization gives to us. You flip a switch and there is electric light. You turn a faucet and there is warm water, and cold water, and drinkable water... a gift that millions and millions in the world will never experience.

So these are just a few of an enormous number of gifts to which you can open your heart.

And so I am wishing you will open your heart to all these blessings and let them flow through you. That everyone you will meet on this day will be blessed by you, just by your eyes, by your smile, by your touch, just by your presence.

Let the gratefulness overflow into blessing all around you. Then it will REALLY be a good day.

Brother David Steindl-Rast

Notable

Music this Sunday

A vigorous prelude with lots of trumpet calls by Paul Manz will be heard based on "Sleepers, Wake." The choir will sing "Come, Dear Christ, Your World Awaits" by Dr. Mary Louise Bringle with music by Bonnie Duckworth. A contemporary hymn "Signs of Endings All Around us" will be our Gospel hymn. During the penitential season of Advent our Service music will change. We will be singing the Kyrie (Lord have mercy...) instead of the Gloria, and the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) fraction anthem. We will use settings from Anglo-Canadian composer Healey Willan.



Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our AGO Concert night. The musical collaboration and food were enjoyed by many.

Photo credit: Bill Rand

ADVENT IS ALMOST HERE!!!
This Sunday, light one candle, and watch

for Messiah.

Check out resources available in the Narthex.

[Click here](#) for information on Praying with Color Advent Calendars.

Stewardship Reflections

During this Sunday's offertory we will offer the pledge cards received to date to the glory of God. (Thank you Vestry for taking the lead in pledging your time, talent, and treasure for 2019.) However, this does not mark the end of stewardship season. Stewardship is a practice for all seasons, a life-long challenge and opportunity to practice receiving and sharing the many blessings God bestows upon each of us. We hope this chart and prayer will help you explore and develop your practices of and approaches to stewardship.

Fundraising or Stewardship?

Effective Stewardship

Motivated by gratitude

Premise of abundance

Emphasis is on faith
Focus is on mission

Long-term objectives

Basic element is conversion

Need to give

Effective Fundraising

Motivated by guilt

Premise of scarcity

Emphasis is on finances
Focus is on maintenance

Short-term objectives

Basic element is the case

Give to need

Derived from TENS Handout, June 22, 2002

A Prayer for Stewardship

By Suni Montgomery, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Palmer, Alaska; Reprinted from A Steward's Book of Prayers, p. 91

Lord, I put my all before you
All you've given me.
I want to learn to let go
And trust what I can't see.

Remembering that all I have
Is all you've given me.
What else can I learn to do
To use these gifts for you?

My home, a haven
Of warmth and peace
A model for the nations
We long to reach.

My heart for love
To trust and teach,
Learning to share
And not just preach.

My health for the missions
You're calling me to,
Opening doors
With faith brand new.

My wealth for your church
And the work we're called to do
(It's all yours already
but it'll teach me to be true!)

Lord, this is a challenge
That I'm called to.
But you cause the harvest—
It's great but the workers too few.
Humble me please, Lord
And bring me to you. Amen.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 2nd:

Community Christmas Wrap, 9:00am
Parish Bylaws Special Meeting, 9:15am

Tuesday, December 4th:

Finance Committee, 3:30pm

Wednesday, December 5th:

Study Group, 10:30am
Vestry, 6:00pm
MOD Squad at the Main Street Grille 6:30pm

Sunday, December 9th:

Puppet Gang + Sunday School Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, December 16th:

Puppet Gang Show, 11:15am

Tuesday, December 18th:

Women's Christmas Luncheon at the Massillon Women's Club
Sign up in the lobby. (1:00pm)

Christmas Services

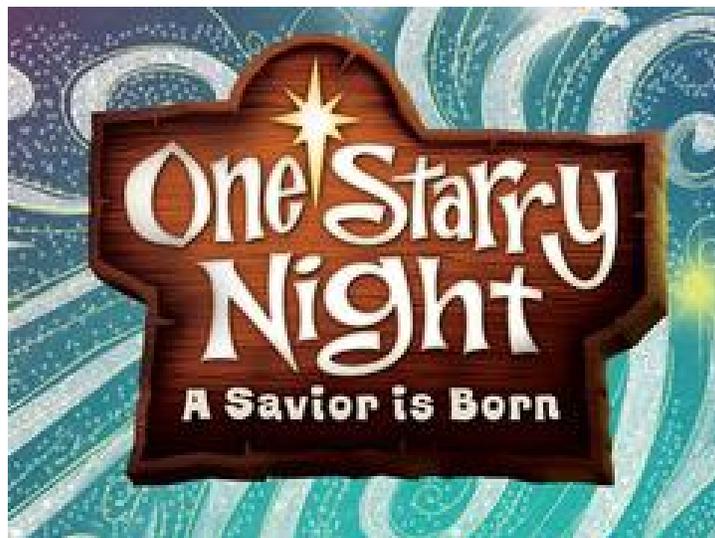
Christmas Eve, 5:30pm (family service) and 10:00pm
Christmas Day, 10:00am
December 30th: Lessons and Carols 10:00am

Thankful *Thursdays*



Thankful Thursdays is sending food home once a month to 8 families from Schreiber Elementary School this year. After packages were sent home in October and November, we need to restock our shelves so that we can send home a larger package before the kids are off school for winter break. Please consider donating any of the following to help us supply these 8 families with some meals. Thank you in advance!

- Pasta
- Tomato or Spaghetti Sauce (no glass please)
- Fruit (in plastic containers or cans)
- Canned vegetables
- Hamburger helper or similar
- Boxed mashed potatoes
- Oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Cereal
- Applesauce (no glass please)
- Monetary donations



"One Starry Night"

Come warm your hearts with the Puppet Gang and Sunday School children as they perform the Christmas show after the 10am service on December 16th. The

show begins at 11:15am. Refreshments will be served afterwards and you'll get to meet our performers.

Sandy and Jan



PRAYER CONCERNS

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

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, Barry (friend of Gordons), James McIlvaine (Sandi Kaustinen's father), 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)

For all those serving in the armed forces.

For all those who have died.

-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:

St. Paul's Church - Oregon

Dear God,
give St. Paul's, Oregon the strength
as a congregation to share your love
with one another
and our neighbors
and be welcoming to all.
Amen.

Upcoming *Servers*

Servers today Sunday, December 2:

Acolytes, 8:00am: Susie Hines

Acolytes, 10:00am: Lesley Kiesling, Alexis Wilson, Colin Jenkins,
Lauren Hoot, Justin Crowl

Eucharistic Minister, 8:00am: Paul Sack

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

Ushers: Bob Kennedy, Derek Gordon, Ron Brown

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

[Vestry](#)
[Staff](#)

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

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