

Saint Mark's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CANTON, OH



The Lion's Pause

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
CANTON, OH



Sunday, December 6, is the Feast of Nicholas, Bishop of Myra. Although the modern American Santa Claus, has his origins in the life of St. Nicholas, there are only a few loose connections remaining between the two. Santa Claus, as portrayed in the United States today, is more the creation of Clement Clarke Moore's poem, *Twas the Night Before Christmas*, and Coca Cola's marketing efforts than he is based in the life of St. Nicholas.

One of the elements that survives is the tradition of hanging stockings by the fireplace. Nicholas was born to wealthy parents in the third century. While he was still a young boy, Nicholas' parents died in a plague. He used his inheritance to assist the poor. There was a poor man in Myra who had three daughters. Because of their family's poverty, it was unlikely that the daughters would ever be married. Rather, they would most likely be sold into slavery. On three separate occasions bags of gold were tossed through the window of their home. It is said that the bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left by the fire to dry overnight. The gold provided the dowry necessary for the three girls to get married.

Far from the jolly old elf, whose belly bounced like a bowl full of jelly when he laughed, St. Nicholas was persecuted under Emperor Diocletian for his Christian faith. When Emperor Constantine declared Christianity a legal religion in the empire, Nicholas was a staunch defender of the full divinity of Christ. He was one of the bishops at the Council of Nicaea in

A.D. 325. There is a somewhat dubious report that Nicholas slapped either Arius or one of Arius' defenders at the council.

I will not try to settle the debate about what we should tell children about Santa Claus and his relationship to the historical St. Nicholas. I will let parents decide for themselves. However, if families would like to spend some time with St. Nicholas related materials during Advent, there are some excellent resources at stnicholascenter.org.

Fr. RJ

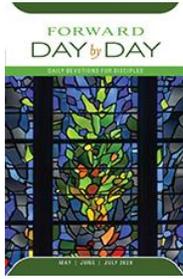
Christmas COVID Care Packages

St. Mark's Vestry approved a new outreach project presented by Bradley Mull to help area needy during the COVID-19 pandemic. In conjunction with Hope Outreach Ministry, he will provide 250 Christmas COVID Care Packages to be distributed during the annual community Christmas event at Hope. Normally, that event would feature lunch, clothing distribution, a Christian service, and gifts for children. The event serves over 750 people, many who are homeless and all who are in need. But with COVID-19 casting a cloud over our daily lives, the day will be different this year. Meals will be to go, clothing will be limited, the Christian service will be only in spirit, and there will be no Christmas party as usual.

Bradley's plan is to provide 250 care packages that will include hand sanitizer, masks, COVID fact sheets, small toys, coloring books, crayons, card games, stretchy gloves, Christmas treats, and personal items to children ranging in age from infant to teens. He is in the process of lining up sponsors, but can use help from St. Mark's. If anyone would like to join in, he is looking for sponsorships for the children (\$5 per child), sponsorships for items (for example, \$10 for 10 coloring books), or any other amount that people wish to donate. And if anyone has access to any of the items listed to be donated, that would be great also.

Checks can be made out to St. Marks (note FBO Hope Outreach Ministry at the bottom). Also, please know that Bradley is hoping to use this for his Eagle Scout project. He will be involving his scout troop, classmates, and any St. Mark's

youth that are looking for community service hours. Thank you!



Want a mailed copy of Forward Day by Day?
Email Katie in the office and she will send one
your way.



Upcoming

Wednesday, December 2

Evening Prayer, 4 p.m.

[Bulletin](#)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 998 0013 8748

Passcode: 418964

Sunday, December 6

Holy Eucharist, 9 a.m.

(If Stark County is Yellow or Orange, we will offer in-person. If
Red or Purple, we will offer streaming only.)

[Sunday Bulletin](#)

[Sunday Live-Stream](#)

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

Sunday School

St. Mark's Sunday School is continuing with their lessons each Sunday via ZOOM. All of our wonderful teachers are doing a great job keeping the lessons creative in this remote setting. There are some fun plans in store for the Advent season, so keep a



look out for that! If a child in your life is interested in joining us, please contact Emily Gordon at ecgordon16@gmail.com.

Online Giving

To facilitate stewardship during this difficult time, the Diocese has launched an online giving resource. Simply set up your one-time or recurring gift and select your parish from the pull-down menu (Canton, St. Mark's). The Diocese will transfer your gift to St. Mark's. We thank you for your continued support and prayers.



**Designate a Gift to St.
Mark's**

Second Sunday of Advent

**Read This Week's
Lessons**

Music Notes with Bob Morrison

Calvin E. Ball co-founded "Climalene" - a water softening product. In the 1940s his widow

contacted Don Farley, organist at First ME with a desire to memorialize her husband with a \$50,000 gift for an organ. Mrs. Ball told Farley to seek out a good company to build this organ, and Don did just that. He contacted major builders in several cities, but it was while in Boston that everything came together. While he was talking with G. Donald Harrison, president of Aeolian-Skinner, he met virtuoso Virgil Fox who said to Farley, "You will be a fool if you order anything other than an Aeolian-Skinner." Well, that did it. A contract was signed for a four manual pipe organ. But A-S was a busy builder and there were delays in fulfilling some of their installations, which proved a good thing for Canton. It was discovered that a large rood screen that allowed the Methodist sanctuary to accommodate an overflow was not needed, and that an Antiphonal Organ could be installed high on the rear ceiling. When Farley learned of this he contacted A-S - but, not wanting to increase Mrs. Ball's donation, the contract now called for an Antiphonal division, but one less manual - and that's the way it was when I auditioned on this instrument in 1951.



Amelia Rowland, Harry Kit, Ron Brookes, Charlie Becker, Paul Welch, Ron and Peg Hill, Jack and Pauline Briggs

Prayer Concerns

Family and Friends: Jillian (family friends to Kieslings), Conrad Johnson (father of Fr. RJ), Pam Belknap (friend of Judy Hixon), John Reft (family of Bill and Beck Rand), Judy Locke (friend of Ken Jaeb), Dr. Sanford Lopater (friend of Mulls'), Megan Nelson (family friend of Sara Strattan), Jan Atkinson (friend of Hixons'), Addelyn (friend of Hixons'), Jim Bellamy (friend of Marcia Kiesling), Bonnie Manos (friend of Judy Gibbs), Nancy Stewart Matin (friend of Norm and Rhonda Warren), Sarah (daughter of Bill and Beck Rand), Anne (friend of Sue Little), Karen Belden (friend of Cricket Boyd), Marc Hostetler (brother of Susan Hostetler), Gabrielle Karam (friend of Diana Cornell), Dave Jarvis

(family of Ron and Peg Hill), Cody Hixon (cousin to Bruce and Judy Hixon), Don, Suzy Clark (friend of Hixons'), Stacy Biglin (acquaintance of Derek Gordon), Autumn (granddaughter of Kerry and Zev), Bob Patterson (friend of Diana Cornell), Adriana (Pam McCarthy's daughter's friend), Lynn McBride (father of Beth Crowl), Monica McGrath (cousin of Katie Cerroni-Arnold), Baby David (friend of the Schaub's), Marianne L. (friend of Kieslings'), Conrad Family (friends of the Rands), Nancy Sauer and Helen Carnahan (friends to Diana Cornell), John Streb (friend of the Mulls), Pastor Marilyn Roman (friend of St. Mark's), Lynnda Hoefler (friend of Sue Little), Katie Campbell (friend of Boyds'), Johnny Willoughby, Bobby Guerin (friend of Pam McCarthy), Jim Mesko (friend of Jim Weaver), Michelle Gibson-Garber (friends of the Gordons) Donald Pentz (friend of the Rands)

For all those serving in the armed forces.

For all those who have died.

Please update Bobbi or Katie on the status of your friends or family members as to when they may be removed from the prayer lists.

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**](mailto:ggordon24@sbcglobal.net)

Please note: prayer requests may be placed on the Prayer Chain, in the Prayer Concerns list appearing here and in the Sunday bulletin, or in both places. Please let Bobbi know your preference.



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

[St. Mark's Church](#)
[The Episcopal Church](#)

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