Greetings!

Ready or not, here it comes!!

We find ourselves squarely in the midst of the (commercial) Christmas season, before Thanksgiving has ended, and before Advent has even begun! While there is no avoiding the sense that we have, as citizens of our country, been transported into a reality for which we may not have been prepared, as Christian people we know differently. We know that the breaking-in of God's kingdom and rule is, in fact, like a thief in the night... sudden and unexpected. And yet, the reality is that we are also meant to prepare - to "keep awake" as the Lord commands. This is the challenge we face as we enter the season of Advent: confessing that our Lord appears often, and perhaps usually, when and where we least expect him.

First Sunday of Advent
Read this week's lessons Here

NOTABLE: Music for this Sunday
For this first Advent Sunday the choir intones "Come, Dear Christ: Your World Awaits!" Pianist Ron Hill joins with the organ in a rendition of "The Holy City."

**St. Mark’s 2016 Poinsettia Orders**

Christmas Poinsettia orders are now being taken. Each poinsettia is $15.00. Please complete a card and return it with your check to the office, or place it in the offering plate on Sundays. The last day for ordering your poinsettias is December 17th.

Thank you!
St. Mark’s Altar Guild

**Advent Study!**
On Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm during Advent, we begin our book study on *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*. It is a unique and challenging but accessible approach to scripture study. Please sign up in the office if you plan to attend, and if you would like a book ordered for you ($10). **Our first meeting is Tuesday, November 29.** We hope you will join us!
St. Mark's is holding an AED/CPR class on Monday, December 12th at 1:30PM and again at 6:30PM. The cost per person is $15, and each class will run about 3 hours.

To sign up, please email the office.

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To all of my St. Mark's friends & family... Thank you from Geoff & I for your diligent prayers, food, & cards of support. I could not have made it through my many months of long chemo sessions without knowing you were all behind me constantly praying on my behalf.

I trust God will continue to make me stronger, and I thank him for my wonderful church family for helping get me to this point.

Much love,

Bobbi Gordon
Monday, November 28th: Knitting, 1PM

Tuesday, November 29th: Advent Book Study 6:30PM

December 4th: Community Christmas Wrap

Tuesday, December 6th: Advent Study (Reading the Bible Again for the First Time)

Saturday, December 10th: Area Episcopal Church's Revitalize Ohio Meeting 9AM-3PM @St. Mark's

Sunday, December 11th: ECW Luncheon, Growth Committee 9AM in the Library

Monday, December 12th: AED/CPR Class. 1:30PM-4:30PM, and again at 6:30PM-9:30PM, $15.00 per person. (Email the office to register + pay.)

Sunday, December 18th: Puppet Gang Show, after the 10:00 Service. Coffee and treats to be served, and the Sunday School kids will again be a part of the show! Please come down and support your youth.

Monday, December 19th: Women's Christmas Lunch at the Massillon Women's Club, Puppet Gang Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 20th: St. Mark's Revitalize Ohio Team Meeting

No book club in December.

OFFICE HOURS: MWF 8-5 (lunch 12-1)
Katie out: December 26th, December 30th

HELP wanted: a few brave gift wrappers to help wrap the gifts for our Community Christmas families. Sunday, December 4, between services in the undercroft.
COOKIES needed for the ECW luncheon and raffle on Sunday, December 11. Please call or email Sue Little if you can help. Two dozen, please. Susanlittle@neo.rr.com. Or 330-494-0529 Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to have lunch at St. mark's!
Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve (Saturday)
5:30PM + 10:00PM Services

Christmas Day (Sunday)
One Service at 9:30AM

New Year’s Day (Sunday)
One Service at 9:30AM
St. Mark’s Financial Update  

<table>
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<th>October Year To Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expected Income to date</td>
<td>$164,740</td>
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<td>Actual Income to date</td>
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<td>Matching Gifts Donations</td>
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<td>From capital reserves to meet expenses</td>
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Sincerely,  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church

USE AMAZON?  
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