

Saint Mark's  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
CANTON, OH



## The Lion's Pause

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
CANTON, OH



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### LAUDABLE LIONS

After writing more than 80 such introductions over the last 19 months, I will be writing my final one next week. Because I will want to focus then on welcoming your next rector, I will attempt to acknowledge this week many of the lions who have maintained the spirit and momentum of St. Mark's during a period of unprecedented challenges. Attempting such a list is risky, as I will inevitably overlook someone, but I will rely on you to bring omissions to my attention so that I may make amends.

- **Katie Kuceyeski** We take for granted her competence as an office manager, but her resourcefulness, her creativity, and her imagination have served St. Mark's especially well during a time of transition.
- **Derek Gordon** His sustained leadership has offered St. Mark's important strength and continuity during a challenging period.
- **Robert Morrison** Our organist and choirmaster has overcome logistical obstacles in order to provide musical support for our liturgies whenever possible—even within the Fortney Chapel. Prior to the pandemic, we were blessed also by the members of a talented and dedicated **choir**. They will return!
- **Bruce Hixon** An invaluable source of guidance and an exemplary lay minister, Bruce has offered leadership and support for the many of our dedicated **lectors** who have maintained the quality of our services despite the many changes in location, scheduling, and liturgies. Similarly, members of the **Altar Guild**, both visible and invisible, have made possible our welcome return to celebrating the Holy Eucharist. While the pandemic has largely deprived us of the services of **ushers** and **acolytes**, they doubtless will return in full force when circumstances permit. Thanks especially to **Gary Giammarco**.
- **John Werren** and **Anne Cohen**. St. Mark's is fortunate to have within its congregation three licensed lay preachers. (Bruce is the third.) Always an invaluable resource, they have stepped up during a difficult period. I should mention also my colleague, the **Rev. Barbara Bond**, who led many of our 8:00 services prior to the pandemic and who has continued to offer valuable backup



during it.

- **Joe Hoot** Together with the dedicated members of the **Rector Search Committee**, Joe encountered more than one setback in a difficult job at a difficult time. But he—and every member of his committee—persevered.
- **Bill Rand** Although the pandemic has for the most part prevented him from blessing us with his presence, Bill offers us the blessings of his photographs of St. Mark's. (And of his bluebird family.)
- **Bobbi Gordon** One of many who supports the St. Mary's Prayer Chain, Bobbi's leadership in coordinating this valuable ministry makes a difference!
- **Charlie Kiesling** He expresses his long-standing dedication to St. Mark's through his financial acumen, attention to details, and a collegial approach to management.
- **Bob Kennedy** Our energetic and knowledgeable "can do" parishioner, Bob offers every week an example of inconspicuous but vital support.
- **MaryAnn Kiesling** Having agreed to serve as the head of our **Welcoming Guild**, she soon found herself and her guild members stymied by the pandemic restrictions. They have persisted nevertheless and have made our services as hospitable as possible under the circumstances.
- **Carol Popovich** The wonderful British novelist, Barbara Pym, speaks of "excellent women" in the Church of England—those who serve behind the scenes to offer service and hospitality. Carol is my candidate for this title! She offers St. Mark's much in many ways—in the kitchen, in the church, and in the community.
- **Kathy Kennedy** and **Sandy Paradis** deserve thanks for reviving the IDG (Informal Discussion Group). We have had many good discussions already. More to come!
- **The Vestry** I have already shared with you my affection for the Vestry's understanding of servant leadership. Let me do so again. Your vestry is terrific!

## **A DIFFERENT KIND OF "TOGETHERNESS"**

Last Sunday, we celebrated the Eucharist "together"—virtually. Although I am grateful for the opportunity to be with you in any way, I was disappointed that Stark County's red alert forced us to rely exclusively on streaming. The good news is that the technological improvements we have implemented during the summer have made possible an improved broadcast. I hope that we will be able to gather (while social distancing, of course) next Sunday. If not, Robert, the lectors, and I will see you on the air at the usual time. (By the way, we were joined on Sunday morning by a few faithful parishioners who had missed the bulletin about the pandemic surge. We welcomed them, of course.)

## **ST. JAMES OF JERUSALEM**

Given the length of my list of "lions," this week's calendar note will be brief, but we should remember on Friday to acknowledge St. James "of Jerusalem," who is described in the NT as Jesus' brother. A few bullet points to guide our observance:

- What evidence there is suggests that James did not become a disciple of Jesus until after the Resurrection. Paul mentions James as among those present for at least one of Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances.
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- James led the young Christian church in Jerusalem.
- He may have been the author of the Epistle of James.
- When visiting Jerusalem for the last time, Paul pays a visit to James.

Our collect:

*Grant, O God, that, following the example of your servant James the Just, brother of our Lord, your Church may give itself continually to prayer and to the reconciliation of all who are at variance and enmity.*

Fr. Paul

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**Katie will be out of the office October 26-November 2.**

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### **Name Tags**

During a recent Thursday Discussion Group, Fr. Gaston was asked “How can we best welcome our new priest?” He emphatically replied “Wear name tags, please.”

In light of our putting our best foot forward to welcome Fr. RJ and to assist him in getting to know us, name tags will be used. They will be printed and assembled in house and include first and last names. Your help is needed by providing the correct spelling of the first name that you would prefer on your name tag – example: if you are Edward, would you like Edward, Ed, or Eddie? Please let Katie know by email or phone beginning today through October 23.

Please let her know the names of your children for whom you would like name tags.

Email the  
Office

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### **It's Time for Vestry Nominations!**

Submit your vestry nominations [here](#) by **December 11.**



**NOMINATIONS!**

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Evening Prayer  
Thursdays at 4:00 P.M. 



Sunday School 



Discussion Group  
Thursdays 4:30-6:00 P.M.



Sunday Services  
9:00 A.M.  
In-Person or Stream Online

**Wednesday, October 21st:**

Evening Prayer, 4:00 p.m.  
For the bulletin, click [HERE](#).



Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://zoom.us/j/91926019999?](https://zoom.us/j/91926019999?pwd=emVSemRUTkpKMUM3bCs5bUZWbVJ0dz09)  
[pwd=emVSemRUTkpKMUM3bCs5bUZWbVJ0dz09](https://zoom.us/j/91926019999?pwd=emVSemRUTkpKMUM3bCs5bUZWbVJ0dz09)

Meeting ID: 919 2601 9999  
Passcode: 106772

**Thursday, October 22nd:**

Discussion Group, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Sign up [HERE](#).

**Sunday, October 25th:**

Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. (If Stark County is in emergency level yellow or orange, we will offer in-person services. If we are red or purple we will offer streaming only. Please check [here](#) for updates.)

Volunteers needed. Sign up [HERE](#).  
Sunday School (Zoom) Sign up/get info [HERE](#).

To download the Sunday bulletin, click [HERE](#).  
To view the Sunday live-stream on Facebook, click [HERE](#).

## Reminders:

- Masks are required (worn over mouth and nose)
  - Social distancing of at least 6 ft. and limited capacity in certain areas of the building (as marked)
  - Sanitizing stations available throughout the building
  - Please stay home if you feel unwell
- 



## Altar Flowers Update

Altar Guild is now accepting flower dedications since St. Mark's has resumed getting flowers for Sunday services. As in the past, each donation is \$15 "in memory of", "in celebration of" or "in thanksgiving for" someone or something. Please enclose your check to St. Mark's Altar Guild with your dedication.

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*Online Giving*  
EASY · FAST · SECURE

## 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](#)

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**2021 Stewardship Pledges Due All Saints Day Sunday,**

## **November 1st**

While 2020 has proven to be one of the most challenging years in recent memory, we still have so much to be thankful for at St. Mark's. Albeit in a unique way, the adaptive nature of our church leadership and congregation has made it possible to continue worship and advance church improvements safely throughout the pandemic. With the completion of our search for a full-time Rector, we are ready to advance St. Mark's into a new era.

Sometimes, parishes scale back their commitment to stewardship during an interim period between rectors. This was not the case at St. Mark's, and we are extremely grateful for the strong support throughout the transition.

This year, we ask you to consider your pledge in celebration of the arrival of our new Rector, The Reverend Ronald A. Johnson. We believe the hard work by our Search Committee and Vestry throughout our transition has provided Father RJ with the strongest platform possible to advance St. Mark's into the future. However, your continued financial commitment is a critical part of that future success. Please reflect prayerfully on your commitment to St. Mark's and on your ability to meet that commitment with your time, your talent, and your gifts.

### **Thanksgiving Baskets & Community Christmas Contribution Due All Saints Day Sunday November 1**

In the past, St. Mark's parishioners have generously supported both these programs with food donations, shopping for families, wrapping gifts, and financial contributions. Due to COVID -19, both of these programs have had to adjust. This year, only cash donations are being requested and need to be sent to the organizations the first week of November.

All donations will be split between the two organizations. The October loose plate offering and some budgeted mission funds will be included in St. Mark's support.

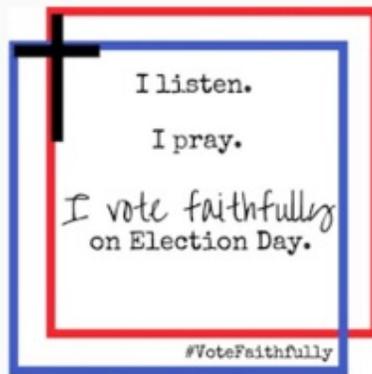
Limiting the number of personal volunteers will surely raise the cost for these two valuable programs during the 2020 holidays. Please consider making a contribution if you are able. Your checks can be sent to the church office or put in the Sunday offering. Please note on your check Thanksgiving Baskets, Community Christmas or Holiday Mission.

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## Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost:

Read This Week's  
Lessons

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### Voting Faithfully

*"It is a Christian obligation to vote, and more than that, it is the church's responsibility to help get souls to the polls."*

- Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

Getting souls to the polls isn't just about casting our own vote, but about working together so we all can vote and vote faithfully. We can empower every voice in our congregation in this work.

The Episcopal Church has put together a list of ways you can help:

1. Encourage those with limited mobility to apply to vote by mail.
  2. Make sure your neighbors know where to vote.
  3. On election day, drive a voter to the polling place.
  4. Provide childcare during voting hours.
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## Music Notes with Bob Morrison

Following my audition at William Street Methodist in Delaware, OH in March of 1951, Dr. McCurdy, at my next lesson, asked how things went. I told him about the cordial reception from the church personnel, the thorough questioning by Ohio Wesleyan music professor Rexford Keller, and my experience with the



organ. I made the mistake of saying that I was disappointed in the pedal division: it only had two stops. Well, that remark took care of the rest of the lesson. "Oh, my," said Dr. McCurdy. "In my day we started at the bottom and gradually worked our way up. But not Mr. Morrison. He wants -- right away -- an organ with a full display of numerous pedal stops and a console fit for Westminster Abbey." I tried to interrupt him by saying that someday it would be nice to have such a full-ranked organ. But my pleas fell on deaf ears. He continued: "Lynnwood Farnam (legendary organist and teacher of McCurdy) was the parish musician at Church of the Transfiguration in NYC. The organ there had only ONE stop in the pedal division; but the musical world beat a path to his door. But that's not good enough for Mr. Morrison....." And on and on he went. But, at my next lesson, I got quite a surprise.

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# Prayer Concerns

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

**Family and Friends:** Jan Atkinson (friend of Hixons'), Addelyn (friends of Hixons'), Jim Bellamy (friend of Marcia Kiesling), Bonnie Manos (friend of Judy Gibbs), Jim Locke (friend of Ken Jaeb), Earl Hoot (father of Joe Hoot), 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), Judy Provo (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), Jacobo-Quijada Family (Mandy Pelger's Student), 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'), Amara (granddaughter of Ken Jaeb), 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 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\*\*](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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330.499.2662 | [OFFICE@STMARKS-CANTON.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@STMARKS-CANTON.ORG)  
[WWW.STMARKS-CANTON.ORG](http://WWW.STMARKS-CANTON.ORG)

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](#)  
[The Diocese of Ohio](#)  
More Links [HERE](#)

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