

Saint Mark's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CANTON, OH



The Lion's Pause

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
CANTON, OH



WELCOME!

Writing to the Rev. Ronald Johnson (Father RJ) a couple of weeks ago, I used an analogy—that of a relay race. I told him that I was looking forward to passing the St. Mark's baton to him. And I do so now with confidence in the leadership and inspiration you will find in Father RJ's ministry. As you probably know, a smooth handoff in the race depends both on a strong finishing kick by the retiring runner and a strong running start by the anchor leg. RJ and I are following that strategy!

CHANGE IS GOOD!

It has been claimed that the Seven Last Words of the Episcopal Church are "But We've Always Done It That Way." That same sentiment appears in a "light bulb" joke: "How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb?" The answer, naturally, is an aghast "*What! Change?*" Feel free to smile—but celebrate the opportunities for change that will arise as your new rector begins his ministry. To be sure, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (*NRSV Hebrews 13:8*). But the ways in which we worship God and care for one another can change—for the better.

A HEALTHY PROTOCOL

Whenever I conclude one of my interim appointments, I often hear parishioners say, "Let's stay in touch!" I always want to



say, “Yes, I hope we will.” But I don’t. There is a healthy protocol in the church that calls for a clear and decisive transition when a new rector arrives. That protocol encourages the departing minister to, well, *depart*. My departure does not mean that you will not be in my prayers. You will be. Nor does it mean that I will no longer take an interest in St. Mark’s. That would be impossible. But it does mean that I will henceforth refer to your new rector any needs on the part of St. Mark’s parishioners that may be brought to my attention. Godspeed!

WYCLIF, FINALLY

During the past few weeks, we have remembered and recognized many of those who have contributed to the translation of the Bible into English, noting especially those who suffered under accusations of heresy. We will round out their number by giving our attention on Friday to John Wyclif of the fourteenth century. Although a multi-dimensional reformer, we know him best for supporting the translation of the Bible. Dying as a result of strokes, he escaped retribution in his lifetime. For the rest of the story, I suggest the account by James Kiefer that you can access at http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/john_wyclif.htm

Our Collect:

O God, your justice continually challenges your Church to live according to its calling: Grant us who now remember the work of John Wyclif contrition for the wounds which our sins inflict on your Church, and such love for Christ that we may seek to heal the divisions which afflict his Body. Amen.

Fr. Paul

Read Fr. Paul's Final St. Mark's Sermon [HERE](#)

Farewell to Fr. Gaston

It is hard to believe that 10 years ago this month, Fr. Gaston presided over the wedding of Emily and me. While it was a wonderful day for us, it was also the first wedding Fr. Gaston had conducted. Not surprisingly, he did a tremendous job and only afterwards did we discover it was his first.



Fast forward 10 years, and we find ourselves in a similar place, where Fr. Gaston will be leaving us for a second time as our Interim Rector. A lot has occurred since his last tenure, but I am hopeful that, just like last time, we will have plenty of occasions for Fr. Gaston to visit us at St. Mark's.

On behalf of the Vestry, I thank Fr. Gaston for his exemplary and unwavering professionalism and leadership during his time at St. Mark's. He answered our call at a challenging time of transition and led us admirably during an even more challenging time of a pandemic. It has been a pleasure to work with him, and I am very confident that his efforts and planning will offer a very smooth transition to Fr. RJ's tenure.

Derek Gordon, Sr. Warden

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

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



UPCOMING
EVENTS

Wednesday, October 28

Evening Prayer, 4 p.m.

[Bulletin](#)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 964 4276 8624 Passcode: 642661

Thursday, October 29

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

Sunday, November 1

Morning Prayer, 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](#)

Financial Stewardship Minute:

It is Stewardship Season at St. Mark's! **Pledge cards are due by November 1**, which is the first Sunday of Father RJ as our new Rector. As was stated in the recent letter accompanying the pledge card, we should all take a few minutes to think about what St. Mark's has meant to us, what it currently means to us, as well as what it can be for us in the future. When doing so, please also consider that in addition to the spiritual side of St. Mark's, there is the financial side. That means Stewardship, and our personal desire and ability to contribute.

We have demonstrated that we can make and fulfill our commitments to St. Mark's, both by our prior annual pledges and our about-to-conclude Restoration Campaign. In addition, many of us have made unpledged donations, either for special purposes or general church benefit. All those donations have been very much appreciated. God bless all.



As we start our new chapter with Father RJ, some additional things to consider from personal and practical perspectives:

First, please complete and return your pledge card. Do the best you can to commit to amounts that you can manage, but also keep in mind that pledged amounts provide the basis for financial planning and activity in 2021. Along those lines, please try to fulfil your pledge for 2020.

Next, take a look at your current financial/tax situation as the end of the year approaches. Should I make an extra donation this year? That very thing happened with Restoration donations when some advanced payments were made in anticipation of the tax law changes that increased the IRS Standard Deduction. And even in 2020, there are circumstances that could make a substantial charitable donation beneficial from a tax or estate planning standpoint. In fact, St. Mark's Endowment Trust did receive a substantial donation of stock recently from Rich and Marcia Tirpak. Special appreciation for their prayerful generosity.

Finally, along those same lines, did you notice that on the pledge card there is a reference to legacy giving? This would involve more than purchasing space in our Columbarium, although that is worthy of thought. This reference to legacy giving is to consider including St. Mark's in your estate planning bequests. More information on this form of giving will be available soon. (Please contact your personal tax and/or estate adviser on these matters.)

It is hoped that you feel strongly committed to St. Mark's, both spiritually and financially, for the present and the future. Please know that your gifts have been, and will continue to be, among the blessings that keep us together as the family of St. Mark's.

Finance Committee

Thanksgiving Baskets & Community Christmas Contributions Due on 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.

Online Giving

To facilitate stewardship during this difficult time, the Diocese has launched an online giving resource.

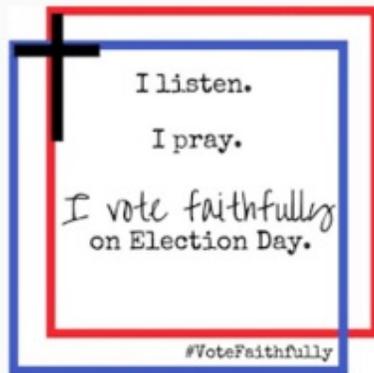
Simply set up your one-time or recurring gift and select your parish from the pull-down menu (Canton, St. Mark's). The Diocese will transfer your gift to St. Mark's. We thank you for your continued support and prayers.



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

All Saints Day

**Read This Week's
Lessons**



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.

Music Notes with Bob Morrison

After my dressing-down at the hands of my Westminster Choir College organ teacher Alexander McCurdy, when I complained about an organ of only two pedal stops, I had quite a surprise at my next lesson. McCurdy said to me, "Ralph Burrier needs an accompanist for the Brahms Requiem which he's directing at his New Jersey church, and I've recommended you for the job."

Burrier was on the conducting staff at Westminster; in fact, he was the first teacher I encountered there on my first day, a man of fiery temperament. Incidentally, he hailed from Minerva, OH, had been in the Navy during the war, and was picked by Choir College founder John Finley Williamson to be conductor of the Symphonic Choir.

I was honored by this request, but nervous at the same time. McCurdy said, "Mr. Morrison, don't make a fool of me for suggesting you for this job." I agreed to give it a try. So, at the first rehearsal, I played the lengthy opening bars of the Brahms Requiem -- beautiful themes over an "F" major chord. When it came time for the choir's entrance, they botched it.



Burrier was furious. He threw down his score and said, 'We'll try this one more time. This young man has just played endless measures of 'F' major and I expect you to find your pitches. If you can't do this, the concert is cancelled.'" Well, trembling in my boots at this outburst, I played those opening chords and -- *voila!* -- the choir just happened to come in with the right notes!

And no problems after that.

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

Prayer Concerns

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), 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

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.

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