

THE WAY

THE NEWSLETTER OF
ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1612 WEST GENESEE ST.; SYRACUSE, NY; 13204
315-488-8511 + STMARKSSYRACUSE@GMAIL.COM

November 2017

Contents

Stewardship.....p. 2

Another Lesson from a Slow Learner....
.....p. 4

Special Christmas Concert.....p. 5

News from the Mustangs.....p. 6

Christmas Clothes Closet.....pg. 7

Movie Review: ‘Thor: Ragnarok’pg. 8

Stump the Rector/Circle V Luncheon/
Clothes Closet donations.....p. 11

Tidbit of History: Our Church Organ...p. 12

December Food Sense Info.....p. 14

The Bishop is Coming.....p. 16

December Ministry Schedule.....p. 17

Bottle/Can Drive & Food Pantry
Updates.....p. 18

Mission Statement: The Church of St. Mark the Evangelist is a community of faith sharing the love of Jesus Christ with one another and the world.

Flowers for Christmas.....p. 19



Service Time

Sundays:

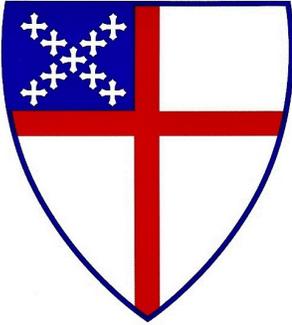
10 am-Holy Eucharist

Nursery available during service

Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday:

9 am to 2 pm



ST. MARK
THE EVANGELIST
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

1612 WEST GENESEE
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK
13204

Phone: 315.488.8511

The Rev. Adrian A. Amaya:
315.436.4020

E-mail:
fradianaamaya@gmail.com
or
stmarkssyracuse@gmail.com

“Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure--pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return (Luke 6:38).”

The one thing that has always impressed me about St. Mark the Evangelist is the desire to be a significant presence to the people in need of our neighborhood and our inviting of people into our life together by way of our hospitality. We know that the grace and love we have received by God in and through Jesus Christ is unearned, unmerited. It can only be received and it is the reception of that grace and love that changes us, transforms us, from the inside out. All of us here at St. Mark the Evangelist have been given an incredible gift because God first loved us. Our being hospitable to others is one way we communicate and reveal our gratitude to God for that unearned, unmerited love.

The same grace and love that calls us to respond in gratitude for the sake of others should call from out of us the giving of ourselves to one another. All of us need to be ministered to. All of us here at St. Mark the Evangelist need to experience the grace and love of God in Christ Jesus. We are no different than the world around us.

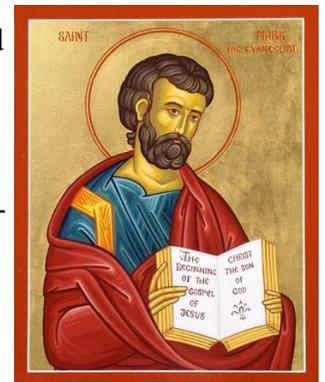
Stewardship Sunday this year will be Sunday, November 26. As you know, stewardship comes in many and various forms. Two-thirds of stewardship comes from our individual efforts on behalf of our parish, its members, and the community. The third part is our financial support of our parish and its varied ministries.

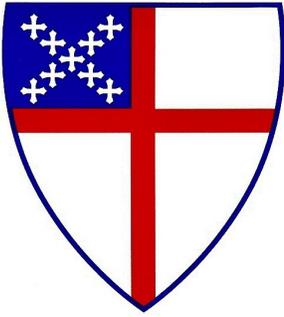
We, at St. Mark the Evangelist are to be a people who will celebrate God’s generosity by receiving the financial commitments of our members and friends and giving to them in turn. Pledging to the needs and ministries of the Church is one important way to express our thanks. It is fitting that the month of November is a month of Thanksgiving for Americans as we prepare to celebrate the Thanksgiving. Only you, God, and the treasurer, Pat Dunn, will know your pledge.

Annual pledges by our parishioners make up only about 40% of our budget. The vestry has tended to set the goal at \$65,000 from 60+ pledges. Over the past several years we have been increasingly relying on investment income thus forcing us into larger deficits. Therefore, in reality, we have been taking advantage of the generosity of our predecessors who remembered the church in their wills and estate plans.

Your pledge reflects not only your commitment to God and God’s kingdom but also your support of your sisters and brothers in Christ here at St. Mark’s. The decision to pledge and at what level is important for our parish because it allows us to create a budget and know what resources we will have in order to support our various ministries and other needs.

The level of your pledge is less important than the fact that you have made the decision to pledge. If you have





ST. MARK
THE EVANGELIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

never pledged, please join us in doing so for the first time. If you currently pledge, please consider a modest

increase in your giving level. It is our hope that you and your family pray about this very important decision on behalf of your parish family. We hope that this is an act of thanksgiving and joy.

Your rector and vestry are committed to decreasing the deficit and improving all of our parish programs in our efforts to model the teachings of Christ. God placed us in this location to focus on the needs of our neighborhood as well as those of our parishioners and Christ's greater world.

In my experience no one has ever been impoverished by their giving to their Church. They been impoverished by believing that they do not have enough, that their personal distractions and wants matter more, that someone else will be faithful in their stead, and forgetting that God will indeed bless them. Many of us will sacrifice and go without for vacations, cable, the newest smart phone, our daily Starbucks coffee, clothes, and other entertainments.

When we give we give to Christ. We give to Christ who is our sister in the pew next to us. We give to Christ who is our brother in the pew behind or ahead of us. We give so that they may experience the grace and love of God and we trust that they are giving so that we may experience the same. That is the Christian understanding. It is not an investment. It is not payment for services to be rendered. It is not a membership fee. It is our gift to Christ who is present in this community of faith. This understanding then allows our giving to become a joyful response to the Lord and in turn becomes a joy in supporting one's own community of faith.

Our vestry, finance committee, and budget committee has for the past four years has done a good job of providing financial stewardship by cutting expenses, maintaining and improving our physical plant, and partaking of grants and small low interest loans to cover mandated and necessary building upkeeps such as the required update of our fire alarm system a few years ago. However, we still run as a parish a \$6000 deficit every month from which we must draw from our endowment.

The dollars put into the offering plate is exactly that-an offering. It is not a "taking." It is an "offering." It is an offering through which God's people show their love for Christ, for one another, and for the world at large. The more we give the more God will give us to give. Pray with your family, pray about what you will give (not whether or not you will give), and create a plan or budget that includes your financial support of the Church. Pray on this and pray on this often.



Sincerely,

The Reverend Adrian A. Amaya
Rector; St. Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

The Power of Prayer...

Another Lesson from the Slow Learner

Spring, 1984. I was in my inaugural year at Corcoran High School, having prayed my way into my dream job [see *The Power of Prayer... a lesson from a Slow Learner* in the July 2017 *The Way*.] I was teaching a Global Studies (9th grade) unit on India and the movie *Gandhi* had just been released in 1983. Kitty and I had seen it the theater and I immediately began to plan how I might show my students - all 183 minutes of it!

In preparation, I rented the video version, watched it multiple times and created a detailed scene by scene summary of what was transpiring, between whom, and a glossary of key vocabulary. I then presented my plan to Dr. Hershberger, a strict principal focused upon order - understandable given some earlier history of Corcoran. My plan was to have ALL of my five classes (135 +/- students) report to the Auditorium at the first bell. They would remain there all morning and *Gandhi* would end at 11:13 just in time for their lunch. They would miss their first periods of classes.

This presented some serious concerns to the powers-that-be, but they were open to it if:

1. I got the "okay" from the affected teachers...they were fine with it.
2. I send home permission slips to the parents/guardians of my students explaining the activity and its rationale.

I then worked with Mohammed Tadros, our technology guru, who created a network of three 25-inch televisions strung out across the front of the stage and connected to a VCR. I brought in my state-of-the-art *Betamax* VCR (!) to use. We set all that up the afternoon before the big show.

In class, we had built the context of Gandhi and his non-violent, civil disobedience focused movement to oust the British. Students were well-prepared for the most part and came prepared to watch, jot notes, knowing they would be writing about the film and experience and be tested.

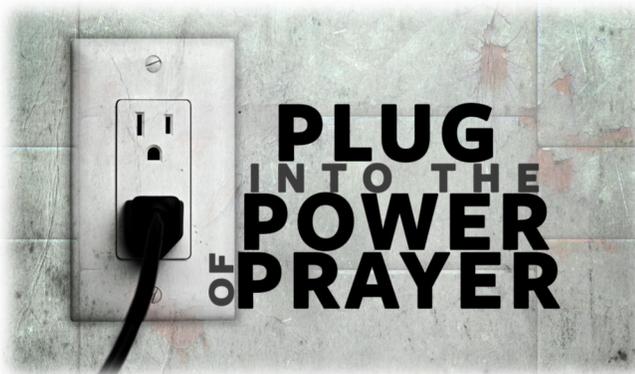
All set! That evening I went to bed reviewing all the plans and steps...and then it dawned on me quite rudely that I had forgotten to rent the video!!! As the ramifications raced through my mind I broke down in tears and removed myself to the couch downstairs. There I began praying as I ran through possible solutions. One was

that (now 3 a.m.) I would drive down to the video store on the corner of Geddes Street and West Genesee Street, read the emergency phone number (if there was one even posted) off the door and convince the manager to come, open the store and

rent me the video.

Fortunately, fervent prayer to God tired me to where I fell asleep before I could act on that one. I awoke about 5:30 a.m. with the dawning realization that the Wegman's Onondaga Store had just opened up a video department. I raced over there ahead of their 7:30 a.m. opening time and was able to rent not only the video (VHS) but a VHS player on which to play it. I then raced to Corcoran where Mohammed and I installed it and the film went off promptly at 8:10 without the students being the wiser.

I subsequently showed *Gandhi* each year until I retired in 2004. God works in mysterious ways...but does so 24/7! Thanks be to God!



~ Jim Miller



True Spirit of Christmas CONCERT

JOIN US for
Music of the Season
December 8
7-9 PM



Escape the Hustle and Bustle of the Holidays
And let your Heart be Filled with the Angelic Sounds of

TWO PREMIER Syracuse Singing Groups



MANNA & CNY VOICES

Performing Sacred & Classic Christmas Music

A Delicious Dessert will be served up during Intermission!



St. Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee St., Syracuse, NY

Concert is FREE

*Donations accepted to benefit the
Ministries of the Church*

News from the Mustangs...



In September, St. Mark's women's group, the Mustangs, attended their first retreat at St. Margaret's House in New Hartford. They plan another fall retreat in 2018.

On September 22, four women from The Mustang women's group started their first retreat at St Margaret's House in New Hartford. As many of you may know St Margaret's House is a former convent; now converted to a spiritual retreat center. We spent Friday till Sunday morning at the house. The food and lodging was included in our fee. Some of the activities were morning and evening prayer, singing ,intercessory prayer and some spiritual study. We learned a new way of praying...praying in color.

Praying in color is a different technique for focusing your mind on God while you pray. You could follow a template from a book or imagine your own doodle as your bring your concerns to Jesus. If you are

like me...it is easy to get distracted. It was fun to try a different method! We also did light hearted activities, we talked long into the night and watched movies. For me the most special treat was having our Sunday morning prayer outside and giving each other a blessing afterwards. We plan on a fall retreat for next October... more info to follow.

On Saturday, December 9th, we will be at the Clothes Closet Community Christmas event to sell gently used knickknacks for children to purchase for their families for Christmas. Children like to be 'Santa' too! Any items you may have please give to one of the Mustangs

In December we will offer our homemade cookies again for sale to support our ministries! Containers for cookies will be sold for \$6 and the larger ones for \$8. They will be on sale **December 17th** after service. One of our outreach efforts is for Joseph House. Kitty Spinelli spoke with us during coffee hour on October 22nd. Joseph House is a special home for women with unplanned pregnancies who find themselves without support and a home. It is the answer to abortions for women who want to keep their babies. The staff at the home not only houses the women but teach life skills to help them have a productive life for their family. The House receives no government financial support. They exist on donations and fundraisers. One Fundraiser is 'Bottles for Babies'. We have bottles you could put your spare change into..when it is filled up,we can deliver to Kitty Spinneli to support the home. For more information, go to their Facebook page or visit www.jhfw.org.



The Mustangs will be selling homemade cookies after service on Dec. 17 to benefit one of their outreach programs.

~ Debra Richardson

Community Christmas &

Clothes Closet at

*St. Mark the Evangelist
Episcopal Church*



**Saturday, Dec. 9
10:30 AM to 12:30 PM**

**The Green Café will
be open and serving
FREE
REFRESHMENTS**



There will ALSO be:

**A Cookie & Stuffed Animal for every child
A GOODIE Basket for every customer
A Coat/Hat/Mitten Table (FREE)**



*There will be a table with small gifts children may purchase
for their family as we know kids like to be Santa, too!*

**We will have clothing for Men's, Women's and Children
All items in the CLOTHES CLOSET are ONLY 25¢ !!**

St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204 Phone: (315) 488-8511 Email: stmarkssyracuse@gmail.com



For more Clothes Closet News and Needs, turn to page 11

‘Thor: Ragnarok’ Invites Us to a Bright, Boisterous Duel with Death

The God of Thunder’s return to the big screen strikes a timely balance between gravitas, humor, and big, dumb fun.



Image: Courtesy Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures

NOTE: This article contains spoilers for *Thor: Ragnarok*.

Is it ever okay to laugh at death?

This was the question stuck in my mind as I waited for the obligatory Marvel end-of-credits scene after *Thor: Ragnarok*. Many people/aliens/gods die in the thunder god’s return to the big screen—and I laughed a lot

Right from its opening scene, *Ragnarok* is a colorful, campy sendup of the superhero genre, even as its storyline and thematic elements are decidedly morbid. Thor (Chris Hemsworth) greets the audience in voiceover from a cage in the hellish domain of the fire demon Surtur. He’s chatty and smug, joking about Surtur’s appearance before the expected CGI-infused battle begins. This scene sets the tone for the remainder of the film: Even in the midst of hell itself, this is all meant to be a good time.

New Zealand director Taika Waititi’s previous two films, *What We Do in the Shadows* and *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, were

strong, smart comedies with similarly dark humor about issues of mortality. *Shadows* is a mockumentary following the undead escapades of a group of vampires living as flatmates. *Wilderpeople* is essentially a remake of Pixar’s *Up*, as both stories depict a cantankerous man’s journey of grief following the tragic death of a spirited spouse as he hikes around a jungle with an unwelcome boy.

Following suit, much of the plot (and the humor) in *Ragnarok* centers on the deaths of individuals and how people respond in the wake of death. Death is even personified in the goddess of death, Hela (Cate Blanchett), the elder sister of Thor and Loki (Tom Hiddleston) who appears after the sudden loss of their father, Odin (Anthony Hopkins). Hela is a formidable opponent, and it’s taken all of Odin’s efforts to keep her bay.

That the death of Odin mostly comes across as a non-event is significant here (it’s hardly a plot spoiler as it happens quite early in the story). Thor and Loki don’t truly grieve or

respond to their father's demise as much as they shrug, make a joke, and move on to battle Hela. Other key characters are also swiftly killed off—a bold move for Waititi and writers Eric Pearson, Craig Kyle, and Christopher L. Yost. The Shakespearian drama of this dysfunctional Asgardian family as depicted in the original *Thor* film has been traded for outright humor. Meanwhile, the darkness—in color, tone, and title—of *Thor: The Dark World* has been discarded for neon pink, purple, and turquoise.

The siblings' battle results in Hela invading Asgard in order to take her place on the throne of Odin, employing Skurge (Karl Urban) as her sidekick executioner. Loki and Thor are displaced and end up on the planet Sakaar, a garbage dump surrounded by interstellar wormholes, the largest of which bears a name with a crass reference to a certain bodily orifice. In this purgatorial hellhole, Thor ends up as a gladiatorial warrior at the behest of the planet's ruler, the Grandmaster (Jeff Goldblum, who appears to love his scenery-chewing role). Whether the filmmakers recognize the parallels between the film's gladiatorial spectacle scenes and the film audience participating in a similar venture (yes, I am comparing MCU films to gladiatorial games) is uncertain.

The subsequent battle between Thor and the Hulk hinted at in the trailers is more of the entertaining CGI-punchfest one can expect from the MCU films. The film merges the "Ragnarok" narrative with the "Planet Hulk" storyline from the Marvel comics, thus allowing for Bruce Banner (Mark Ruffalo) to be reunited with his Avenger pal and having more of a character arc than just being an elongated cameo. Trapped as the Hulk for the previous two years, Banner's identity issues run parallel to Thor's quest to save Asgard from Hela's violent reign. Both Avengers must wrestle with their true identity as they work their way toward escaping the garbage dump in order to save Asgard. The chemistry between Hemsworth and Ruffalo is palpable; they're certainly comfortable in their roles as these characters, and it shows in their affable demeanors. Hiddleston and Blanchett round out the cast's solid performances.

Visually, meanwhile, much

of *Ragnarok* channels the bright hues of the late 1980s and early 1990s, even as its pumping synth soundtrack furthers the nostalgic vibes. It's worth noting, then, that the most powerful and artfully crafted scene in the film actually addresses death with a sense of pathos and aesthetic vigor. In a flashback scene, an Asgardian warrior, Valkyrie, (wonderfully portrayed by Tessa Thompson) recalls a violent confrontation with Hela which left Valkyrie stranded and despondent with grief. Images of the battle flash across the screen in slow motion, painterly yet cosmic in their composition. It's the only moment where time and narrative slow down to allow for reflection; as such, it's one of the most memorable scenes in *Ragnarok*, even in the MCU as a whole.

The subtitle "Ragnarok" refers to an end-of-the-world event stemming from Norse mythology and adapted from the Thor comics. A fulfillment of prophecy, the Ragnarok event results in the entire world of Asgard being destroyed and reborn anew through water and fire. There are parallels to Christian end-of-the-cosmos interpretations of apocalyptic literature in the Bible—this is the Asgardian's version of the Book of Revelation. Suffice to say, it's a weighty event of world-shattering proportions, and the final battle between a new team of "Revenagers" against Hela leads to some surprising conclusions—ones which require Thor to take responsibility for his people as a good king should.

If one were to examine just the plot points from *Ragnarok*, it'd sound like a pretty dismal film. Imagine this: the violent deaths of family, friends, and fellow citizens; the destruction of one's entire world at the hands of a malevolent invading force; multiple locations which allude to Gehenna-like environments of discard and destruction; existential crises of identity and wallowing in grief. It all sounds quite serious, to put it mildly.

In light of that, I want to recognize the accomplishment of Waititi in his ability to infuse this film with such rich humor and—dare I say—joy. Amid chaos, Waititi offers us the comical (they are called "comic books" after all). There was criticism of previous MCU films

Continued on page 10



for the vast destruction of cities and anonymous lives lost. Such criticism prompted *Age of Ultron* and subsequent films to overtly portray the need to save lives, to show that each individual person matters and that death is to be taken seriously. *Ragnarok* swings the tonal pendulum back toward the direction of levity without veering into the snarkiness and underlying nihilism of this year's other colorful MCU sequel, *Guardians of the*

Galaxy, Vol. 2. Death is a prominent theme in *Ragnarok*, but it's not to be taken too seriously. I am reminded of Matt Zoller Seitz's recent interview with comedian Patton Oswalt about his new standup special, *Annihilation*—Oswalt's first since the death of his wife last year. To stand in front of an audience and be honest about one's grief while at the same time intentionally trying to make them laugh is a unique challenge for the comedic world. Citing C. S. Lewis's *A Grief Observed*, Oswalt suggests "that [grief] feels like fear." Stepping either onto a stage or into a movie theater requires a genuine sense of hope, the ability to laugh in the midst of and in spite of the fear that comes with grief and death.

Within some spheres and traditions of contemporary Christianity, levity and laughter can at times be relegated to the realm of the superfluous, placing comedy and the Christian life in combat. Consider, in contrast, the words of Conrad Hyers in *The Comic Vision and the Christian Life*:

"Religious expression at its best functions within a delicate dialectic between faith and laughter. On the one side is the peril of idolatry—the elevation of any finite form or understanding to an absolute, divine status. On the other side is the peril of a relativism for which nothing is sacred. Faith without laughter leads to dogmatism and self-righteousness. Laughter without faith leads to cynicism and despair."

Taika Waititi embodies this dialectic through his directorial skills, as well as his supporting performance as Korg, an alien rock monster. Korg's hilarious quips about death are the funniest moments in the film, as well as the most sobering. After Thor loses his hammer, Mjolnir, in his battle with Hela, he laments to Korg about the loss as they await their gladiatorial fates: "It sounds like you had a pretty special and intimate relationship with this hammer and that losing it was almost comparable to losing a loved one," replies Korg dryly in his New Zealand accent. After a brief (humorous) pause, Thor responds, "That's a nice way of putting it." And it is. Genuine comfort in grief may come in the form of a rock monster.

Is it ever okay to laugh at death? Sometimes. When threatened by cynicism amid overwhelming chaos, our laughter can be an expression of humorous hope. A rock monster on an alien garbage dump planet ruled by a heavily made-up Jeff Goldblum gives the Norse god of thunder an empathetic response about his personal loss. Such is *Thor: Ragnarok*—a perfectly silly spectacle, even as it alludes to the weightiest questions about meaning and mortality.

Joel Mayward is a pastor, writer, theologian, and film critic. He is a PhD candidate at the University of St Andrews researching the intersection of film, theology, and ethics. For his film reviews and essays, check out www.cinemayward.com. Follow Joel on Twitter: @joelmayward.



STUMP THE RECTOR!

Do you have a question of a liturgical nature? Perhaps why we do something the way we do? How effective is my prayer? How can I become better at prayers?

What would Jesus say if I....? Perhaps a historical question? There may be something bugging you—a Bible passage that doesn't make sense or a situation in your life for which you need a suggestion! If any or other questions pop up, we have a possible answer. You may e-mail the question/ concern to the church at stmarkssyracuse@gmail.com or write them down

and mail them to the church. Fr. Amaya will respond to them in the next issue of The Way! Or, if the mailbox overflows, in a subsequent issue. We think that if you have the question, there are likely others who might also benefit from the response and be glad you had asked it!

You may identify yourself or send your questions in anonymously!



You are invited to the Circle V Annual Christmas Luncheon



WHEN: Thursday, Dec. 7 at 12 Noon

WHERE: The Retreat, 302 Vine Street in Liverpool

Everyone attending is responsible for their own meal. There is a sign-up sheet on the Parish Bulletin Board or you can email Deb at stmarkssyracuse@gmail.com and she will add your name to the list! There is also a menu on the bulletin board as well.

We would appreciate if all those who are interested in attending the luncheon would please sign-up by **Monday, December 4**, so we can let the restaurant know.

All are welcome!



DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR CLOTHES CLOSET

In anticipation of the Christmas Clothes Closet, we are seeking donations of the following items:



COATS of all sizes (*Especially needed*)

HATS

MITTENS & GLOVES

SMALL STUFFED ANIMALS

GENTLY-USED CHILDREN'S BOOKS

There is a Donation Box in the Parish Hall for the Winter Wear

ALSO, any bakers who would like to contribute small loaves of **WRAPPED HOMEMADE SWEET BREAD** (example, banana or cranberry) or **COOKIES** (small bags of 12) are more than welcome.

For more information, please contact Cheryl or Gary Neddo at 315-505-6743.

A TIDBIT OF HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH ORGAN

Written by Lewis Samhammer

Submitted by Joan Green

In the last edition of The Way, I submitted an article written by former parishioner, sexton and nursery school teacher, Lewis Samhammer, who described heading up the volunteer effort in the 1960s to restore the church's pews back to their original natural wood luster and beauty. This month, please enjoy Lew's rendition of how the church got its organ...

~Joan Green

Just before I left for Southeast Asia, I called my parents to say goodbye and my Father started talking about the church needing a new organ. Once again, my Father approached the vestry with the idea of buying a new organ. A Committee was formed with my Father as one of its members. They visited many churches and listened to their organs, both pipe and electric. The decision was made to purchase a pipe organ.

The vestry gave their approval if the people could raise the necessary funds needed. So began the dinners and bake sales to raise money to purchase the organ. My Father had people saving their S & H green stamps. He contacted the company and got them to agree to give him cash for each book of stamps that were turned in.

In 1966, one year after I left, my Father followed me to that war torn land, but that did not stop him from thinking about his church, St. Mark's, and the pipe organ. He was stationed at Bien Hoa, one of the Army's larger camps. He was attached to the military intelligence unit where He interrogated prisoners, analyzed captured documents, and flew to outlying fire base camps to make sure they were secure.

My Father "wheeled and dealed" with his contacts in Saigon who worked in Supply, Transportation, and Quartermaster to acquire the necessary supplies he needed to have cookouts. He had the ability to get his hands on captured enemy supplies, flags, helmets, knives, knapsacks, patches, etc. By doing this, he sometimes could get cases of roast beef, steaks, turkey or ribs, potatoes or macaroni. He would procure a three ton truck and come back with fresh

vegetables from a nearby village market. He would borrow pots and pans and prepare a cookout, feeding the men in his unit, as well as soldiers of other surrounding units. The men would break out their guitars, harmonicas, and boom boxes and they were able to forget, if only for a little while, where they were...The meals were always well-received and appreciated. My Father would ask the men to give any donation they felt comfortable with for his church's pipe organ. They gave generously.

When his tour of duty was up, the men in the unit presented him with a plaque. On the top of the plaque were a crossed miniature knife, fork and spoon. A metal plate was in the middle of the plaque engraved with these words:

Norman J. Samhammer
Chef Extraordinaire
In Grateful Appreciation for His Untiring Efforts
In Creating Gourmet Delights
219th M I Det.
Republic of Viet Nam

When he returned home from Viet Nam, he picked up where he left off, writing letters, attending meetings, etc.—whatever it took to raise money for the organ. It was during this time that he and Reverend Malaney, our supply priest, developed a strong friendship. They traveled to many churches in the county and surrounding counties listening to pipe organs, talking to organ companies, and officials of the churches they visited.

One evening, sometime after I returned home, my Dad going over all the records of the money raised made the big announcement--“We now have enough money to purchase the pipe organ for the church” and the rest is, as they say... history.



St. Mark's pipe organ today courtesy of the efforts of Norman "Sam" Samhammer, the Rev. Malaney, the parishioners and some of the American soldiers stationed in Viet Nam in the 1960s.

DECEMBER 2017 FOOD \$ENSE MENU Westside @ St. Mark's

Inquiries can be made at:
(315) 488-8511 or (315) 378-4908
Email: stmarkssyracuse@gmail.com
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
StMarkTheEvangelistEpiscopalChurchSyracuseNewYork/](https://www.facebook.com/StMarkTheEvangelistEpiscopalChurchSyracuseNewYork/)

December Package* \$20.50:

- Boneless Pork Chops, 1 lb.
- Chicken Tenders, 2 lbs.
- Breakfast Sausage Links, 1 lb.
- Ground Turkey, 1 lb.
- Pancake Mix, 32 oz.
- Fresh Eggs, 1 dozen
- Honey-Nut Cereal, 15 oz.
- Hash Browns, 2 lbs.
- Cinnamon Raisin Bagels, pkg. of 5
- Frozen Strawberries, 1 lb.
- Fresh Produce Item 1
- Fresh Produce Item 2



JOIN US
for
Christmas
Fun
at *St. Mark's*

CLOTHES CLOSET
SATURDAY, DEC. 9

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This community event will include a visit with Santa, a reading of the Nativity story, refreshments, and **MORE!**

Also, browse through men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes, jewelry, etc...

ALL FOR ONLY 25 CENTS PER ITEM!

The Green Café will be serving **FREE** refreshments, beverages and, of course, **HOT CHOCOLATE!**

PLEASE READ:

We cannot hold food for you after the scheduled pick-up time. If there is a conflict, you may have someone else pick up your food for you. If you have any questions, please ask the volunteers when you sign up.

There are NO refunds or exchanges.
Any food NOT picked up on DEC. 20
will become a donation.

What is Food \$en\$e??

What is it? Food \$en\$e offers the opportunity to stretch your food budget by purchasing quality food at a discount.

Who is eligible? EVERYONE is eligible to purchase food from Food \$en\$e. No donated food is used in this program. It's a buying club -- so there is no income requirement.

How does it work? It's Simple. Order and pay in advance at our site.

Cost is ALWAYS \$20.50 per unit. Multiple units may be purchased, and/or single specials — YOU choose!

Cash or EBT are accepted. No checks. (EBT customers must bring card and sign a voucher).

When can I sign up?

Sundays

Dec. 3 & 10

10am –12 noon

Wednesday, Dec. 6

4-6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 9

10:30am—12:30pm



December Specials:

Spiral Ham: 9 lbs. (avg.) for \$19.00 - The ham is an all-natural, honey glazed, bone-in spiral ham and average nine pounds per special.

Stuffed Chicken Breasts: 2 lbs. for \$6.50 - The chicken is stuffed with apples and cranberries.

Shrimp: 2 lbs. for \$11.00 - The shrimp are not breaded and there are 26-30 per pound.

Pantry Box: \$10.00 - The Pantry Box includes egg noodles (12 oz.), crushed tomatoes (28 oz.), mixed vegetables (15 oz.), orange juice (64 oz.), peanut butter (18 oz.), spaghetti rings (15 oz.), canned chicken (5 oz.), baking mix (32 oz.), macaroni & cheese (7.25 oz.), and applesauce (15 oz.).

American Cheese: 5 lbs. for \$11.75 - The sliced American cheese is not individually wrapped.

Meatballs: 5 lbs. for \$12.50 - The meatballs are fully cooked; just heat and serve.

Scalloped Potatoes: 4.5 lbs. for \$10.00 - The scalloped potatoes are a family-sized Stouffers' product.

Pick-Up Date & Time:

Wednesday,

Dec. 20

12-2 P.M.



ST. MARK'S TO WELCOME THE BISHOP DEC. 3



The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe was consecrated as the 11th Bishop of Central New York on December 3, 2016, following her election to the position at a special convention of the Diocese of Central New York on August 6, 2016. She enjoys building up sustainable ministry, encouraging people in their service of God, and sharing the vibrant love of Jesus by organizing and implementing healthy church systems.

Bishop DeDe's vocation as a priest led her to serve in a wide variety of parish ministry settings, including two years in the Diocese of Massachusetts and nine years in the Diocese of Virginia. From 2009 until shortly after her election to the episcopate, she was the Rector of St. Peter's in the Woods Episcopal Church in Fairfax Station, Virginia. There she became the first woman to shepherd a church from mission to parish status in the Diocese of Virginia. She held a number of leadership positions in that diocese, and at the time of her election as bishop she was serving as Dean of Region VII, as Regional Priest of Northern Virginia for the Commission on Congregational Missions, and as a Board Member of the Diocesan

Missionary Society. She had also served as the Region VII Representative for the Diocesan Executive Board, as a founding member of the Diocesan Dayspring Committee, and as the Chairperson of the Vision Committee for Congregations.

Prior to entering ordained ministry, Bishop DeDe had a successful career in education and business. She began her professional life as an educator, teaching in public and private schools, including 2 years working with inner-city at-risk youth in Los Angeles, California. In 1994, she founded a grant-writing agency that successfully funded a counseling program for at-risk teens in the San Mateo Court and Community Schools of California. During that same year she and her husband co-founded a consulting firm, CA AeroComm Corporation, and she was the firm's Chief Operating Officer for five years. During her time in California, she also enjoyed a career as a professional singer, performing gospel, blues and jazz music with a variety of groups.

She holds a bachelor's degree in education from Stephen F. Austin State University, a master's degree in psychology from Pepperdine University, a Master of Divinity degree from The General Theological Seminary, and a doctor of philosophy degree in theology from The Graduate Theological Foundation, completed at Oxford University. She and her husband, Chris Probe, have three children. Bishop DeDe enjoys golfing, hiking, visiting art galleries, kayaking, tennis, and spending time with her family and their two dogs.

The Bishop will be with us on Sunday, December 3, at the 10 a.m. service. She will visit with the leaders of the Church on that day along with the confirmands. She will preach and celebrate the Eucharist and then join us for coffee hour. Please bring a heavy appetizer and other coffee hour items. Please support our confirmands on this glorious day.



Ministry Schedule:

DECEMBER 2017

	<u>3rd</u>	<u>10th</u>	<u>17th</u>	<u>24th</u>	<u>31st</u>
LECTORS	Forrest A. Sally T. Kitty M.	Nancy M. Tommy M. Warren O.	Noah H. Adam A. Kathi P.	Forrest A. Tom M. Kitty M.	Kayley R. Noah H. Sally T.
WORSHIP LEADER	Celebrant: The Rt. Rev. DeDe Dun- can-Probe	Dana M.	Gary N.	Jim O.	Dana M.
CHALICE BEARER	Pat D. Nancy M.	Jim O. Jim M.	Gary N. Ethel A.	Nancy M. Dana M.	Jim O. Tommy M.
GREETERS	Jackie E. Barb W.	Marie B. Ernestine L.	Phyllis H. Bob K.	Sally T. Barb W.	Jackie E. Ernestine L.
USHERS	Tommy M. Jim M.	Pat D. Tommy M.	Jackie E. Jim M.	Gary N. Pat D.	Gary N. Jim M.
PRESENTER OF THE GIFTS	Ethel A. Barb W.	Phyllis H. Leslie H.	Kim A. Joan Green	Barb W. Ernestine L.	Gary N. Forrest A.
ALTAR ASSISTANT	Phyllis H.	Gary N.	Tom M.	Jack O.	Annette S.
ACOLYTES	Adam A. Marie B. Tate L.	Noah H. Hendrik L. Adam A.	Marie B. Tate L. Alex A.	Tate L. Marie B. Alex A.	Alex A. Tate L. Marie B.
V.P.O.D.	Julie D.	Kathi P.	Cherry O.	Gary S.	Debra R.
ALTAR GUILD	TEAM C	TEAM D	TEAM A	TEAM B, C	TEAM D
COFFEE HOUR	Confirmation w/Bishop	Jim & Kitty Miller	Nancy M. & Helper?	Christmas Eve	New Year's Eve



Keep those cans and bottles coming!

Thanks so much to all of you who have donated cans and bottle to St. Mark's Youth Group! The collection continues and there are two collections bins available for recycling—one in the Undercroft and one by the door going up to the Parish Hall.

You may bring them directly to church or you may contact Phyllis Honsinger at (315) 214-9847 for pick-up service at your home. Also, the redemption center that has the account is located in Western Lights Plaza. You can bring them there and just ask for the amount to be added to the account for **St. Marks.**

We thank you again for your past donations and look forward to your future donations. Please let us know if you need any assistance!

St. Mark the Evangelist Youth Group



**BOTTLE AND CAN COLLECTION to benefit the
Youth Group at St. Mark the Evangelist Church**

Bring your empties to church and place in the collection bin or
to schedule a pick-up call Phyllis Honsinger (315) 214-9847



Latest Food Pantry Needs

*Thank you all for your generous donations in
support of this important ministry*

The Food Pantry needs do change on a weekly basis, however, here
are some items that are always in demand!

**Peanut Butter
Jelly
Cereal**

**Canned Hash
Canned Chili
Canned Fruits or Vegetables**



Advent 2017

Dear Friends,

December 3rd marks the beginning of the season of Advent. It is our time of preparation for Christmas. One of our customs is to adorn the church with poinsettia plants. As in the past, the plants will be distributed to those who are ill and to those parishioners who are unable to worship with us at the Christmas services.

THE LEGEND OF THE POINSETTIA

*In one village in Mexico it was customary for each person to place a gift on the altar of the church for the baby Jesus on Christmas Eve. One Christmas, an angel told a small child to take some dried up weeds she'd found along the road to the church for the baby. When the child placed the weeds on the altar, they turned into the first poinsettia. Since then the flower has been called "The Flower of the Holy Night" or "Flor de Noche Buena."**

If you wish to contribute to the Christmas Flower Memorials, an envelope has been enclosed so that you may fill in the necessary information. All names will be printed in the Christmas bulletin.

Please fill out an envelope by Wednesday, December 13th in order to allow time to compile the listing. Your check should be made payable: **St. Mark the Evangelist Flower Fund**. You may place the envelope in the collection plate or mail to:

Mrs. Joan Green
4040 Elmcrest Road
Liverpool, NY 13090

Extra envelopes will be available in the back of the church.

Christmas Blessings to You and Yours.
Peace on Earth,


Joan C. Green,
Flower Fund Chairperson

*Christmas Legend: <http://www.appleseeds.org/poinsettia-legend.htm>



St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204 Phone: (315) 488-8511 Email: stmarkssyracuse@gmail.com



St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204

TO:

