

THE WAY

The Newsletter of
St. Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church
1612 W. Genesee St. Syracuse, NY 13204
315-488-8511 || www.stmarkssyracuse.com



Advent 2022



Advent 2022 Schedule of Events you won't want to miss!
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Blessing of the Pets held
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Special Ministry not to be laughed at!
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Joint Luncheon huge success ...and fun!
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A Word ...

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Isaiah 40:3

Isaiah first offered these words to tell of Jerusalem's restoration after the exile and John the Baptist later repurposed them to speak of the beginning of the public earthly ministry of Jesus.



Time and again we humans tend to lose our way, both individually and as societies. Individuals are prone to temptation and overreach, civilizations rise and fall, but God remains steadfast and sure. God remains our "sure and certain hope" in times of trouble.

And because we are prone to stumble and fall away from the Way of Christ, each of us will find at some point in our lives the need of a straight pathway back to God. But who is to make those paths for us?

I would hope that those pathways are being created within the community of faith, the church. At its best, the church is a place where we can be our honest selves, be welcomed, and be encouraged back to the way of Christ. In a sense, our mission is to be busily making paths for one another to walk in Christ's light.

But even more than that, our mission is to be opening the gateways and clearing the path for those outside the church to discover the love of God for themselves.



Blessings,
Jon

ADVENT

The First Sunday of Advent this year is Sunday November 27th, marking the beginning of a new year on the Christian calendar. Here at St. Mark's the first thing you might notice is that the banners and hangings will switch away from the green they've been since the second week after Pentecost to a plain linen and our gospel readings will be drawn primarily from Matthew's gospel (this past year has been Luke).



And of course, our Advent wreath will be making its annual appearance. You may be surprised to learn that the Advent wreath is a fairly recent innovation. It first emerged in the 16th century among German Lutherans and at first the number and color of candles varied considerably. It was only in the late 19th century that the Advent wreath as we know it emerged and it wasn't until the 1930's that Advent wreaths began appearing in America.

Advent has traditionally been a time of self-reflection and transformation, much like Lent; and in recent times, an invitation to step away from the highly commercialized celebrations of Christmas. We hope you have a blessed Advent here at St Mark's.

Preparation

Reflection



Anticipation

Prayer



SPECIAL VISIT

St. Mark will welcome The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe on Sunday, Nov. 27. The Bishop will celebrate service and spend some fellowship time after the service at a special Coffee Hour hosted by the Vestry. We hope to see you there!

See you in the funny papers!

A parishioner and a stalwart St. Mark volunteer with the church in many ways for several years, Bill Zimmer has also been a foster grandparent at Van Duyn Elementary School for 13 years.

He works with Ms. Crockett's third-grade class where she came up with the idea that maybe if kids were given the chance to look at and read comics while eating breakfast, they could improve their reading skills without opening a textbook. It's just a fun way to get the kids to read, pointed out Bill.

In previous years, Bill said he would collect comics from leftover newspapers at Brighten Towers where he lives but for some reason, they had been scarce this year.



"I have to say that most of the kids do pick up the comics and read," said Bill. So he was determined to find comics for them once again and began a drive at St. Mark's. Parishioners who still receive print versions of the paper were happy to help and faithfully brought in their comics each week until he had enough to share with his "grandkids."

"It's been great and the kids love it," he said. "I just wanted to let St. Mark know that they have helped with another mission for kids and I thank them so much for their support!"

Christmas at St. Luke's & St. Mark the Evangelist



JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
THE BIRTH OF HOPE IN
STORY, SONG, AND PRAYER



December 18th following the Service -
Greening of the Church
At both parishes

December 18th at Noon – St Mark's
Christmas Party
In the St Mark's Parish Hall

December 24th at 4:00pm - Early
Christmas Eve
At St Mark's
Family-Friendly service with favorite
Christmas hymns

December 24th at 7:00pm -
Christmas Eve
At St Luke's

Festal Eucharist with hymns –
Champagne & chocolate reception to follow

December 25th at 11:00am -
Christmas Day
At St Mark's
Combined Sunday Eucharist

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS HELD

Folks had two opportunities on Oct. 2 to bring their beloved pet in for a special blessing from Fr. Jon as blessings were offered at both St. Luke and St. Mark. The weather was beautiful and the critters were very receptive! Here are a few pics from St. Mark's animal blessing...



CASA, Cassandra & St. Mark Food \$en\$e

St. Mark's [Food \\$en\\$e](#) program is blessed with some enthusiastic and much-needed volunteers from [AccessCNY](#) who have made it their mission to help out with the unloading, sorting and packing during the busy monthly Food Sense delivery.

Onondaga CASA is one of AccessCNY's programs that connects community volunteers, known as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), with neglected and abused foster children. When this program learned about Food \$en\$e, it began ordering through our site for its clients. Here is one story from Onondaga CASA's Fall newsletter of how CASA and the Food \$en\$e program helped one young woman...

Cassandra had numerous moves as she navigated her foster care journey and never found the right family fit. As she became older, it was unfortunate, but clear that Cassandra needed to learn how to be independent. CASA worked with Cassandra to teach skills for independence and encourage her growth.

With the Food \$en\$e program, CASA was able to provide support for Cassandra towards her goals. The food we were able to provide her is unprepared. Initially we worked with Cassandra to seek recipes and to try new recipes and skills with the provided food. CASA was able to use this as an opportunity to talk about cooking skills, cooking safety, healthy options, and meal preparation using the items available. Cassandra needed the support of the actual food, but also was able to learn skills towards independence as she learned to cook for herself. Cassandra will age out of foster care, but she will know how to cook safely and continue towards confidence to try new food.

Although Cassandra's file has officially closed and she is no longer in the care and custody of DCFS, our CASA continues to check in with Cassandra. (Another example of why our advocates are the best.) Recently our advocate helped Cassandra move into a new apartment and shares that she is doing well as an independent adult. Our advocate is the longest connection Cassandra has had and continues to have.



AccessCNY volunteers busy at work during a Food \$en\$e delivery.

About Food \$en\$e:

Sponsored and operated by the Food Bank of CNY, the Food \$en\$e program offers the community the opportunity to stretch their food budget dollars by offering a significant unit of food each month for only \$20.50. St. Mark is one of 40 sites for ordering and for delivery of the food within the Food Bank's 11 county region and one of just 3 in Syracuse.

St. Mark and St. Luke recently got together for fellowship and get to know each other at a fall dinner at St. Mark. A special thank you to Cindi Dundon of St. Luke's and Phyllis Honsinger of St. Mark's for all of their hard work as coordinators of the event. And thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to make it so much fun and a great success!



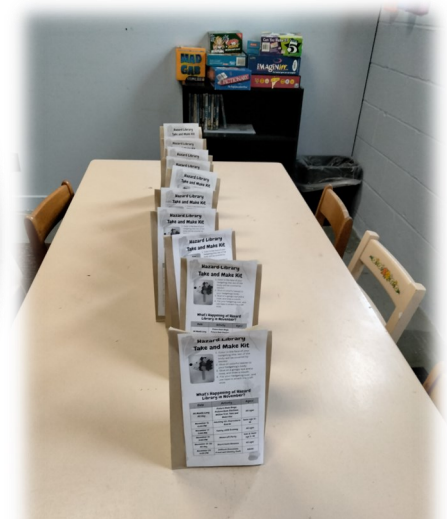
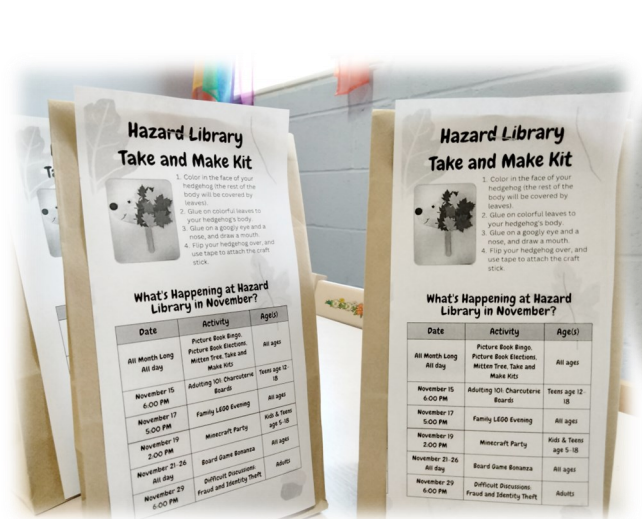
Another New Look...and Another Big Thank You!

We reported in our last edition that in mid-August, St. Mark's was blessed by visits from a very good – and very busy – fairy. This fairy transformed many of the rooms in a major and delightful way. In the nursery, the good fairy cleaned and disinfected the furniture and toys, shampooed the carpet, organized materials, and hung new blinds and curtains and hung affirmative wall decorations. In two rooms used by the Clothes Closet, the walls were scrubbed and painted, items were organized, and new curtains were hung.

During the fall, this very busy fairy continued her work, flittering into the room across the hall to make it inviting and ready for the slightly older children. The room has been cleaned, painted, and brightened up with colorful curtains creative artwork mostly hand-made by the Fairy herself.

Thank you, Good Fairy, for blessing us once again with your hard work and beautiful handiwork!

And to add another level of excitement to the changes at St. Mark, one of the librarians at Hazard Branch Library, Shauna Modrow, has volunteered to come to as many Clothes Closets as she can to do story time and crafts with the kiddos while mom and dad are busy shopping! Thank you to Shauna for this wonderful addition to the Clothes Closet!



A Delectable Share

Pumpkin Snickerdoodles

A great Fall and Holiday Treat contributed by Phyllis Honsinger

Ingredients

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon allspice
- 1 cup unsalted butter at room temperature
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup pumpkin
- 1 large egg
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract



Cinnamon Sugar Topping

- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, cream of tartar, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, and allspice. Set aside
2. With mixer, cream together the butter and sugars until smooth. Add the pumpkin and mix until well combined. Add the egg and vanilla and mix until combined.
3. Add the dry ingredients and mix until just combined. Don't overmix.
4. Wrap the dough in plastic or place in container. Chill for at least an hour or up to 48 hours.
5. When ready to bake, preheat oven to 350. Line baking sheets with parchment paper.
6. Whisk together cinnamon and sugar in a small bowl.
7. Shape the dough into round balls (about 1 tablespoon). Roll the ball in the mixture-generously coated.
8. Place on baking sheet about 2-inches apart. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Cookies should be set around edges but soft in the center. Let cool about 5 minutes before removing to cooling rack.
9. ENJOY!

A Delectable Share is a new series in The Way. If you have a popular or particularly yummy dessert or appetizer/savory dish to share, please email it to the office or bring it in with you to church.



*"Fall is proof that change is beautiful.
Allow the change in your life to transform
you."*

~ Kendra Zeller

The Vestry meets to examine and discuss old and new avenues that may transform both our inner and outer beings.

Here are some highlights from the October 17, 2022, meeting:

- ▶ Pat Dunn, treasurer, reported that our income should meet our budget. However, as in across the country, our investments took a substantial hit.
- ▶ Fr. Jon has created a chart of the average Sunday attendance numbers from 2020-2022. We are making steady progress since returning after the pandemic.
- ▶ Fr. Jon is enjoying the lively group at Brighton Towers on Wednesday nights.
- ▶ Sacred Ground groups are being productive and enjoying good discussions.
- ▶ November 6th is All Saints Sunday. Parishioners can provide names of loved ones to be remembered.
- ▶ We are discussing different options for the food pantry to reach more people.
- ▶ The Worship Committee met to discuss past practices of the holiday season and how to adjust with the two parishes.
- ▶ Stewardship Sunday will be November 20, 2022, with the gathering of pledge cards and a special coffee hour.
- ▶ St. Mark will be hosting the Joint Fall Dinner with our guest being the members of St. Luke's. Both parishes are looking forward to this event and more in the future.
- ▶ We are discussing possible memorial ideas for Fr. Bergin and Fr. Amaya.
- ▶ St. Mark's hopes to make Thanksgiving a little more pleasant for some Porter School families/neighbors. Donations are being accepted to buy \$35 gift cards from Wegmans.
- ▶ Since there was no picnic this year, we will be having a Christmas Party on Sunday, December 18th, after the greening of the church.

Questions, concerns, suggestions? Contact any Vestry member. We're here for you!

***Faithfully,
The Vestry***

CURRENT BUDGET REPORT 2022

Submitted by: Treasurer, Pat Dunn

Reported: Nov. 11, 2022

	Jan - Dec '22	Budget	\$ Over Bud...
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4000 — Pledges	45,909.20	49,000.00	-3,090.80
4100 — Plate/Loose Offerings	904.70	4,200.00	-3,295.30
4200 — Major Feasts	1,714.00	1,675.00	39.00
4300 — Long Term Inv. Income	36,000.00	48,000.00	-12,000.00
4500 — Diocesan CIF Income	3,759.88	4,000.00	-240.12
4600 — Memorial/Donations	1,500.00	150.00	1,350.00
4650 — 4650-Flower Fund Dona...	2,562.00	3,000.00	-438.00
4700 — Building Use Or Donation	2,101.00	2,380.00	-279.00
4900 — Miscellaneous Income	138.86	200.00	-61.14
Total Income	94,589.64	112,605.00	-18,015.36
Gross Profit	94,589.64	112,605.00	-18,015.36
Expense			
5100 — Diocesan Support	15,000.00	18,000.00	-3,000.00
5200 — Salaries	67,734.06	83,264.77	-15,530.71
5300 — Rector Benefits	8,886.67	6,250.00	2,636.67
5400 — Youth Programs/Scholars...	0.00	300.00	-300.00
5500 — Church School	282.71	375.00	-92.29
5600 — Outreach	2,949.15	3,500.00	-550.85
5700 — Human Needs	230.00	500.00	-270.00
5800 — Committees	1,573.58	3,150.00	-1,576.42
6000 — Office Operations	7,994.24	13,100.00	-5,105.76
6100 — Insurance	7,505.46	8,400.00	-894.54
6200 — Other Financial Expenses	4,649.99	7,650.00	-3,000.01
6300 — Building Operations	15,059.55	22,950.00	-7,890.45
6400 — Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Total Expense	131,865.41	167,539.77	-35,674.36
Net Ordinary Income	-37,275.77	-54,934.77	17,659.00
Net Income	-37,275.77	-54,934.77	17,659.00

Have Fun Christmas shopping at

St. Mark's Clothes Closet!

Saturday, DEC. 10
9am — 12pm



Browse through
Men's, Women's and Children's Clothing, Shoes, etc...
ALL FOR ONLY A 25-CENT DONATION PER ITEM!

FREE!
Bread
Bric-brac table
Coats, hats,
scarves, mittens &
boots!



At the Green Café!

Clothes Closet Donations Sought

The Clothes Closet is looking for new or gently-used children's books and small stuffed animals to be included in gift bags for children attending the Clothes Closets. A bin is available in the Parish Hall for these items or may be dropped off at the church during office hours.

Thank you!



St Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church

1612 W. Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13204

TO:



Service Time

Sundays

**11 am—Holy Eucharist
In-person and by Livestream**

Visit

**www.stmarkssyracuse.com
for information regarding**

All are Welcome!

Office Hours

**Tuesday—Friday:
9 am to 1:45 pm**

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.