

The Grapevine

St. Mark's Episcopal Church



December 2018

A Note from Nancy – December 2018

Happy New Year!!!! It's the beginning of another liturgical year. We are moving into Year C of the Sunday lectionary so most of our Gospel readings will be coming from St. Luke and Year One of the Daily Office Lectionary. This is what we will hear about each Sunday during Advent:

Dec. 1-2nd – “Be on guard” and “Be alert at all times” (Luke 21)
Dec. 7-8th – “Prepare the way of the Lord, ...” (John the Baptist) (Luke 3)
Dec. 15-16th – “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...” (Luke 3)
Dec. 22-23rd – Mary visits Elizabeth (Luke 1) “My soul magnifies the Lord,...”

Perhaps you can catch a theme in these readings or you remember from previous years. Advent is the time we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ, both the infant, Jesus, and the adult Christ at his Second Coming.

We are admonished to find extra space in our hearts, minds and bodies for our God who takes the form of a human person to show us how to live a life of love, respect and mercy. Let us do the work to find that space and learn to become the people of God that God wants us to be. We are capable of that, if we take Christ's teachings and life examples seriously and add them to our daily lives.

Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, has a set of small books out that are designed to show us how to follow Jesus more fully in our lives by following “The Way of Love”. They are titled: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go and Rest. One of these will be featured in our Advent Quiet Day scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 8th. Please come and see what this is all about.

Remember to take time out from your busy activities before Christmas to truly prepare for the coming of Christ.

May you have a blessed Advent Season.

Peace, In Christ,

Mother Nancy

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

335 Locust Street
Johnstown, PA 15901
814-535-6797

Email: stmarks@atlanticbbn.net
Web site

www.saintmarksjohnstown.com

Our Staff:

Priest: Rev. Nancy L. Threadgill
Verger: Cindy Leap
Organist: Dolly Lopresti
Treasurer: Pam Hysong
Secretary: Joanne McKinley
Sexton: Nikki Forsythe

The Vestry:

Senior Warden: Lisa Loncella
Junior Warden: Adam Sprinkle
Secretary: Lyssa Nickle-Madden
Treasurer: Pam Hysong

2019

Lyssa Nickle-Madden

2020

Kitty Batrus
Heidi Buchan
Adam Sprinkle
Penn Whitlow

2021

Courtney Foreman
Lisa Bell-Loncella
Donovan Pendell
Douglas Zawiskie

*Please remember
St. Mark's Church in your will.*

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 1st	5:00 pm	Holy Eucharist Rite II
Dec. 2nd	7:30 am	Holy Eucharist Rite II
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite II
Dec. 5th	12:00 pm	Holy Eucharist
Dec. 8th	9:00 am	Quiet Day
	5:00 pm	Holy Eucharist Rite I
Dec. 9th	7:30 am	Holy Eucharist Rite I
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite II
Dec. 12th	12:00 pm	Holy Eucharist
Dec. 15th	5:00 pm	Holy Eucharist Rite II
Dec. 16th	7:30 am	Holy Eucharist Rite II
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite II
		Vestry Meeting
	6:00 pm	Community Common Prayer/Advent Lessons & Carols
Dec. 21st	6:00 pm	Blue Christmas
Dec. 22nd	5:00 pm	Holy Eucharist Rite I
Dec. 23rd	7:30 am	Holy Eucharist Rite I
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite I
		Greening of the Church/Potluck Luncheon
Dec. 24th	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service/Holy Eucharist Rite II
	10:30 pm	Christmas Prelude
	11:00 pm	Midnight Service/Eucharist Rite II

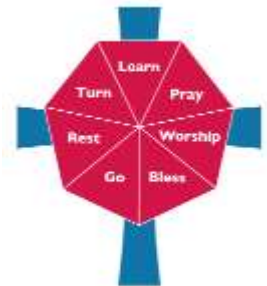
NO CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Dec. 29th	5:00 pm	Holy Eucharist Rite II
Dec. 30th	7:30 am	Holy Eucharist Rite I
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite II
Dec. 31st	5:00 pm to 10:00 pm	“Celebrate Johnstown”

What is a Quiet Day?

It is a time of respite during a busy schedule when time is set aside to be quiet, spend some time with God and refresh your spirit for the days ahead. They are frequently scheduled during Advent and Lent, seasons during which we are called to open our hearts to God and renew our relationship with God. Please join us.

Saturday, December 8, 2018
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
St. Mark's Chapel



ADVENT QUIET DAY Topic: The Way of Love

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Welcome and first meditation (Chapel)
9:15 AM – 10:00 AM	Quiet time
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Second meditation (Chapel)
10:15 AM – 11:00 AM	Quiet time
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Third meditation (Chapel)
11:15 AM – NOON	Quiet time
NOON – 12:15 PM	Final prayers (Chapel)
12:15 PM	Lunch

During quiet time there are activities set up in the parish hall for relaxation and books available for learning or you may find a quiet spot in the church or offices to read and/or meditate. Please do not talk until after the final prayers.



Blue Christmas Service
6:00 pm
Friday, December 21st

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is having a Blue Christmas service at 6:00 pm on Friday, December 21st. This liturgy is especially for those whose experience of the Christmas season is not one of cheer and festivity. For many Christmas can be a profoundly sad and lonely time, a reminder of loss and brokenness. The death or impending death of a loved one, loss of health or employment, family crises, separation or divorce, and depression are some of the many reasons that Christmas can be painful and isolating.

Held on the longest night of the year, the winter solstice, this is a quiet, meditative service of Holy Communion honoring the birth of Christ. The lighting of candles offers opportunity for remembrance, reflection, prayer and spiritual healing. One can grieve knowing they are not alone and be comforted and strengthened by the love of Christ and those present. In Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God is with us. Burdens can be lightened, peace and hope restored.

Come for yourself, for someone you love or for those who suffer around the world. A light shines in the darkness. All are welcome!

Peace in Christ,
Mother Nancy

*Christmas Memorial Flowers
deadline
Friday, December 21, 2018*



- ✕ Money is due by December 21st
- ✕ The price is \$10.00 per every two names. However, a donation of \$25.00 will cover an unlimited amount of names.
- ✕ Please CLEARLY PRINT your requests.
- ✕ Please see Doris Horner with requests or contact Joanne in the Parish Office—535- 6797.
- ✕ To ensure your request is handled properly, please mail your listing request to the Church

**Christmas Flowers Honorarium/Memorial
LISTING REQUEST FORM**

Please drop this in the collection plate for the ushers to forward to the Parish Office. Or you may mail it to the Parish Office. Please see Doris Horner with any questions or call Joanne in the office at 535-6797.

Please carefully print the following information:

Donor: _____

Please specify “In honor of” or “In memory of”

In Honor _____ In Memory of _____ In Thanksgiving for _____

Payment Enclosed _____ Yes _____ No





GREENING OF THE CHURCH

POTLUCK DINNER

Sunday, December 23rd

There will be a sign up sheet in the Parish Hall for our Potluck Dinner, or you can call Joanne at the office and let her know how many are attending and what “potluck” item you are bringing.

Please take time from your busy schedule to join us after the 10:00 am Service to decorate the Church in time for the Christ Child’s visit.



Community Common Prayer
Advent Lessons and Carols
December 16th
6:30 PM

Please join us Sunday evening, as we sing joyfully in preparation for the coming of the Christ Child.

Happy December Anniversary!



Bob & Sharon Howarth
December 2, 2006

Doug & Cynthia Greig
December 2, 1977
"Happy 40th"

Don & Rhonda Lowry
December 8, 2012

Scott & Dana Lilly
December 3, 2016

Happy December Birthday



<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
Penn Whitlow	1	Brian Gunnlaugson	16
Jim Russell	2	Regina Hoover	17
Lucie Whittle	2	John Mead	19
Connor Rager	5	Andrew Rudnik	22
Rene Fetchkan	8	Baby Jesus	25
Irene Joyce	10	Hannah Joyce Lilly	26
Katy Shaffer-Miller	13	Penn Whitlow-son	28
Amy Whitlow	14	Sam Buchan	31



Remembering our “Homebound ” during this Holy Season

Take a few minutes of your time during this hectic holiday season to remember our “Homebound.” I am sure that they would enjoy hearing from you. Below is a listing of our Homebound:

Liz Hysong
66 Carey School Road
Bethlen Home
Ligonier, PA 15658

Lois Bender
102 Jacob Albright Drive
Johnstown, PA 15904

Dorothy Veale
Rose of Sharon Home
P. O. Box 336
St. Michael, PA 15951

Louis Hoffer
PA. Soldiers & Sailors Home
560 E. 3rd Street
Erie, PA 16507

Steve & Regina Hoover
1167 Shaffer St.
Johnstown, PA. 215905

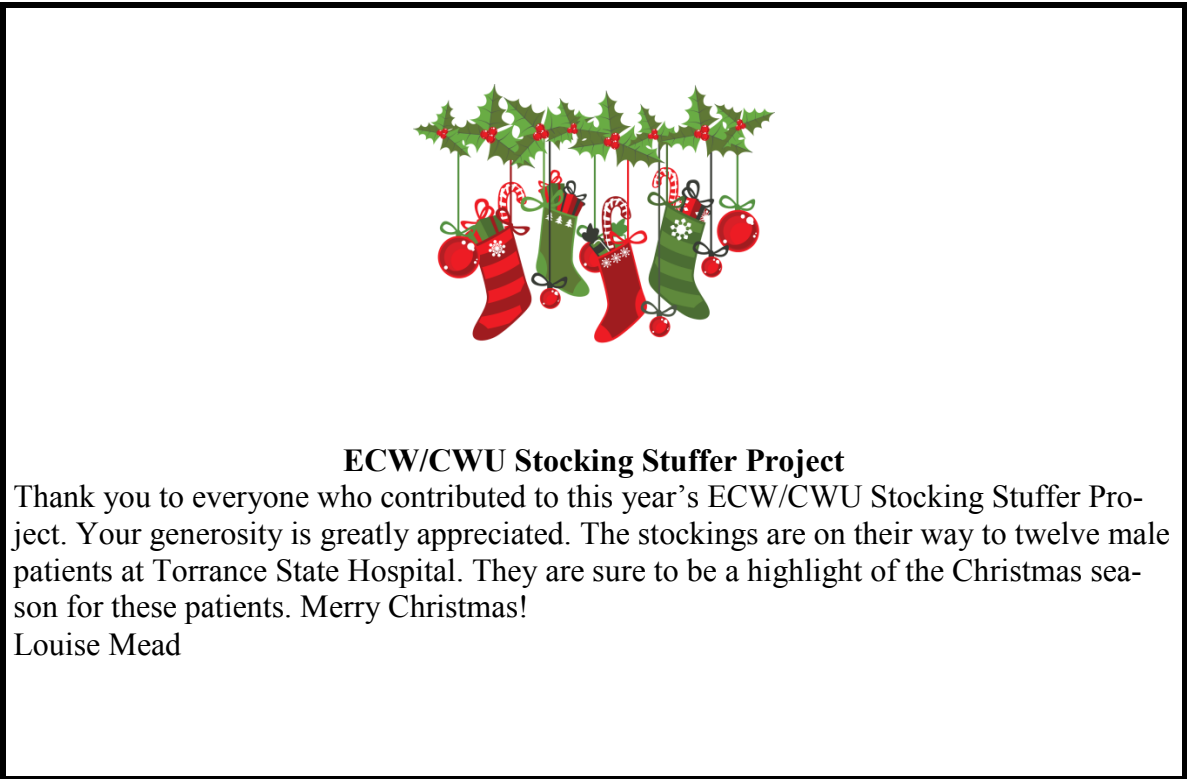
Also remember our friends who are miles away this holiday

Connie Bokros
25402 Hollybush Lane
Spring, Texas 77373

Pam Mayer
743 Indies Road
Ramrod, FL 33042

Betty McGrath
3709 Jolane Terrace SE
Conyers, GA 30094-3874

Allie Ireland
1701 SW Waterfall Blvd.
Palm City, FL 34990-4774



ECW/CWU Stocking Stuffer Project

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's ECW/CWU Stocking Stuffer Project. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The stockings are on their way to twelve male patients at Torrance State Hospital. They are sure to be a highlight of the Christmas season for these patients. Merry Christmas!

Louise Mead

2019 STEWARDSHIP CARDS

The 2019 Stewardship Pledge Cards will soon be in the mail. Please take time to fill them out and return them as soon as possible.

Your Pledge allows us to plan a 2019 Budget.

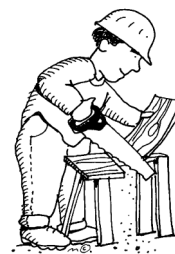




FUEL AND SNOW REMOVAL

During the next three months, the extra collection for the First Sunday of the month will be for our Snow Removal and Heating Bills.

BUILDING CAMPAIGN



The Extra Collection for the Second Sunday of the month will be for our Building Campaign to continue our ongoing project renovations.

Finance Meeting
Wednesday
December 5th
1:00 pm

Vestry Meeting

Sunday, December 9th
After the 10:00 am Service

Rwandan Orphan

All families of the church are encouraged to donate \$1.00 on the third Sunday of each month (Dec. 16th) for Josian, our Rwandan orphan. Please be sure to mark your donation separately for her.

Pastoral Care

All families of the church are encouraged to donate one dollar on the fourth Sunday of each month (Dec. 23rd) for our Pastoral Care. Please be sure to mark your donation separately for Pastoral Care.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
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814-535-6797
stmarks@atlanticbbn.net



ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

The Tribune Democrat ran a special Plea for Cat and Dog Food on November 27th. We will have more information in January on the amount of donations that we receive. We are so grateful to those of you who continue to support our Pet Food Pantry: Marion C. Gaydos, Joan Cesare, Vickie & Greg Geiger, Judy Zubal, June Farougi, John & Betty Gritzer, Annette M. Kristofco, Joe & Michelle Soltis, Don Hoffman, Northwest Savings Bank, Patricia Taylor, Helen L. Mishler, and Marge Kiefer. The winter is upon us and we hope to assist everyone who walks through our doors for help in feeding their pets. God Bless all of you!

During November, we assisted **132** Families(16 new families).

We also assisted seven emergency walk-ins from November 19th to November 30th.

Our total distribution for November:

Dog and Cat Food	1037 lbs	dog	906 lbs	cat
Dog and Cat Can Food	197	cans dog	354	cans cat

Total Distribution January through November:

Dry Food	Dogs	11,924 lbs	Cats	8,338 lbs
Wet Food	Dogs	2,776 cans	Cats	2,355 cans

We are proud and grateful for all of our volunteers who continue to help us.

The Pantry will be open December 18th, 19th, and 20th from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Thank you for your support.

Cynthia Greig and Joanne McKinley



Pastoral Care Ministry

'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' **Matthew 25:35-40**

Holiday Food for Families

Through your generosity, St. Mark's was able to assist 14 Families with Thanksgiving Dinner. We surpassed our goals by 4 Families. More and more we are seeing people coming to us for assistance whether it be for utility bills, food, etc.

Warm Hands/Warm Hearts

Pastoral Care has placed a collection box in the parish hall for donations of hats and gloves for adults and children. These items are a small way to share warmth and care with our downtown neighbors who do not have them.

Blankets

We will continue to collect blankets (any size, new or good condition) throughout the winter to distribute to those in need of one. If you have coats or jackets you no longer use and they are in good condition, we will be happy to find them a good home. Thank you!

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him – give him my heart.
~ Christinia Rosetti

A very Merry and Blessed Christmas to you and your families!

Amy Whitlow

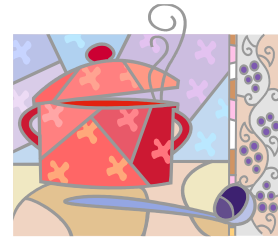
Soup and Study
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Most Monday Nights

The Soup & Study Group will meet at Panera Bread, located in the Richland Town Center, 400 Town Center Drive.

We plan to meet on the following Mondays:

December 3rd
December 10th
December 17th



Coffee Shop Bible Study

We meet at The Mill House Café at the corner of Diamond Blvd. and Luzerne Street in Old Westmont. This charming little coffee house is bright, cozy, and friendly. The sandwiches, soups, and yummy baked goods are very tempting.

Drop in any Tuesday morning at 10 for coffee or tea, study, & fellowship. We read and discuss the lessons for the next Sunday's service. Copies of the Synthesis CE Lectionary Study Guide are available for anyone in the parish hall.

To receive e-mail notices, please contact Adam Sprankle at awsprankle@gmail.com

COOKIES NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

When you are baking during the next few weeks, please set aside a few dozen cookies for our Coffee Hour after the Late Service.

Many thanks!



SATURDAY'S KITCHEN

We are still in need of 42 bottles of shampoo for Saturday's Kitchen.

We have received an ample supply of Christmas Bags.

We would also like to give them an assortment of cookies for their luncheon and are asking your help in donating at least 2 dozen cookies.

You can drop them off at the Church before December 13th.



As Always, "Thank You for your generosity" Angie Herbein

**Happy
New Year!**

Celebrate Johnstown

Once again we have been asked to host "Celebrate Johnstown" at St. Mark's on Monday evening, December 31st from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

If you are interested in helping for an hour or two, please call the office and let us know. We will be serving refreshments during this time and may need help in the kitchen.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
December						1 Medieval Group 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist II
2 7:30 am Holy Eucharist II 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II	3 6:00 pm Book Study 7:15 pm Boy Scouts	4 10:00 am Bible Study Mill House Café	5 12:00 Holy Eucharist 1:00 pm Finance Mtg. 6:00 pm Put People First 6:30 pm Choir Practice	6 7:15 pm Unity Coalition	7	8 9:00 AM Quiet Day 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist I
9 7:30 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II Vestry Meeting	10 6:00 pm Book Study 7:15 pm Boy Scouts	11 10:00 am Bible Study Mill House Café	12 12:00 Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir Practice	13	14	15 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist II
16 7:30 am Holy Eucharist II 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II	17 6:00 pm Book Study 7:15 pm Boy Scouts	18 10:00 am Bible Study Mill House Café 9:30 - 12:30 Pet Food	19 9:30 - 12:30 Pet Food 12:00 Holy Eucharist 6:00 pm Put People First 6:30 pm Choir Practice	20  9:30 - 12:30 Pet Food	21 6:00 pm Blue Christmas	22 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist I
23 7:30 pm Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist I Greening of the Church Potluck Luncheon	24 Christmas Eve 6:00 pm Holy Eucharist II 10:30 am Prelude 11:00 pm Holy Eucharist II	25  Christmas Day No Service	26 MERRY CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED	27	28	29 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist II
30 7:30 am Holy Eucharist II 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II	31 Celebrate Johnstown 			12-2 Advent Begins 12-8 Quiet Day 12-16 6:30 pm Community Common Prayer - Advent Lessons & Carols 12-21 6:00 pm Blue Christmas Christmas Eve Services 6:00 pm and 10:30 pm 5:30 to 9:30 pm Celebrate Johnstown		

		Lay Ministers	Acolytes	Altar Guild	Ushers	Coffee Hour
December 1st	5:00 pm	L. Loncella (L)				
December 2nd	7:30 am	V. Joyce (L)		Herbeins		Open
	10:00 am	A. Whitlow (L)	Available	D. Horner C. Adams	Available	
December 8th	5:00 pm	L. Loncella (L)				
December 9th	7:30 am	V. Joyce (L)		Herbeins		Open
	10:00 am	B. Horner (L)	Available	A. Whitlow	Available	
December 15th	5:00 pm	C. Foreman (L)				
December 16th	7:30 am	V. Joyce (L)		Herbeins		Open
	10:00 am	D. Horner (L)	Available	L. Loncella	Available	
December 22nd	5:00 pm	L. Loncella (L)				
December 23rd	7:30 am	V. Joyce (L)		Herbeins		Potluck Luncheon
	10:00 am	A. Sprankle (L)	Available	All available	Available	
Christmas Eve December 24th	5:30 PM	A. Sprankle (L)				Christmas Cookies
December 24th	10:00 pm	L. Loncella (L)	Available	All available	Available	
December 29th	5:00 pm	C. Foreman (L)				
December 30th	7:30 am	V. Joyce (L)	Available	Herbeins	Available	Open
	10:00 am	A. Whitlow (L)		K. Batrus		