



THE MANE LION

DECEMBER 1, 2023

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works.

A Note from Fr. Hart

My Dear People of the Parish of St. Mark,

Happy Feast Day of St. Andrew to you all, but especially to those of you who claim some Scottish ancestry! Although St. Andrew never visited Scotland, he is considered their patron saint due to his relics having allegedly travelled there. With St. Andrew's Day, we know December and Christmas are in our near future! Please note the earlier time for the mass on Christmas Eve this year: the Christmas Prelude will be at 8:00 PM with the Mass at 8:30 PM. Christmas Day will be at 10:00 AM as usual. Because Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Advent will be at 8:00 and 10:00 AM as normal, and then Christmas Eve will be the same day. They do not "cancel each other out", so you will want to attend Sunday mass as normal, and then choose either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day in order to fulfill your obligation for that feast. We will decorate the church after the 10:00 AM Mass on the 24th.

It is good to be back with you all! My flights both ways were without incident, and while it was colder in Wisconsin than it has been here, there was no snow. The family is all doing well, and sends their greetings to you. We spent Thanksgiving Day with the priest of the parish where the family attends church. I had "turducken" for the first time and it was delicious! I had not heard of it, so if it is also new to you, it is a chicken stuffed inside a duck stuffed inside a turkey. Father Wirth did the cooking (a local butcher put it together), and it was very moist. My daughter however had some reservations about eating a duck. Many photos of cute, fluffy ducklings kept getting downloaded on my wife's computer...

We welcome our cantor Tom Busse back to our newsletter, who has written a very informative piece on Advent music. I guarantee you will learn something when you read it!

I wanted to give you an update on one of our homebound parishioners: I visit Karolyn Harding every couple of weeks. She was a regular attendee at 10:00 until her husband died a few years ago, but she does not drive. In March Karolyn suffered a very serious fall, and was in great pain for several months. The last vestige of her recovery was a "boot" she had to wear on her left foot. The doctor kept extending the length of time she had to wear it, but it finally came off this last week! This Karolyn is the second one that has been listed on our prayer list, so you will notice that her name will be removed this Sunday. Thank you for your prayers for her recovery!

Because there was no *Mane Lion* last week, I have statistics for two Sundays to report:

19 November:

8:00 attendance - 12

10:00 attendance - 26

Total attendance - 38

Collection - \$2,400

26 November:

8:00 attendance - 14

10:00 attendance - 31

Total attendance - 45

Collection - \$2,016

Thank you all for your continued devotion to God and our Parish!

Sincerely in Christ,

Upcoming Events and Announcements

- **Sunday, December 3rd:** **Vestry meeting** at Noon in the Parmenter Room
- **Monday, December 4th:** **Inquirers Class** following Evening Prayer
- **Saturday, January 27th:** **Save the date! St Marks will host its second Burns Night** in honor of Scottish poet Robert Burns on Saturday Jan 27. Expect food, drink, bagpipes and poetry. More information to come.
- **Sunday, December 10th:** Outreach Committee meeting at 9:00 in the Parmenter Room ; St. Nicholas coffee hour after 10:00 Mass

Like/Follow St. Mark on Social Media

- **St Mark's has a new Facebook page!** If you are on social media please follow and like our page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheAnglicanParishofStMark> Simply click on the link and when the page opens, then click **Like** on the top, right-hand side of the page.
- **Instagram:** Do you have a cell phone? Be sure to download the Instagram app and follow St. Mark's page at [TheAnglicanParishofStMark](https://www.instagram.com/TheAnglicanParishofStMark)



Lift UP! Reverse Advent Calendar

Help support NW Portland's Food Insecure through Advent Giving

As you recall, each day in Advent has a corresponding food item requested. Each Sunday in Advent, beginning this Sunday, you are asked to bring any or all items from the grocery list for the week. Here is a reminder of what is scheduled for this Sunday, December 3rd and we have included the grocery list for December 4th-December 10th. Please drop those groceries off next Sunday, December 10th and pick-up your grocery list for the following week. Thanks for helping our NW neighbors during this holiday season. *(December 10th grocery list is also available to pick-up this Sunday)*

December 3rd

ADVENT grocery list for Lift UP!

Box of whole grain cereal
Low-sodium peanut butter
Low or no-sugar snacks

December 10th

ADVENT grocery list for Lift UP!

Low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth
No sugar canned fruit
Box of macaroni and cheese
Canned tomatoes
Canned tuna
Boxed tea or coffee
Jar of applesauce

Music Notes for Advent, 2023

Advent Wreath Prayers

Although a folk Advent wreath tradition dates back to 16th Century Germany, it did not become common in American churches until the 1930's. As such, a liturgical lighting of the Advent wreath candles is one of the newest “traditional” parts of Christian worship. As it postdates the prayer book, there are no “traditional” plainchants or prayers to accompany the wreath liturgy. Still, something about lighting the candles during the mass just feels like it should have “traditional” music and prayers, just as we have plainchant introits to accompany the mass procession and plainchant alleluias to accompany the Gospel procession.

For this purpose, English composer Malcolm Archer wrote a set of four “Advent Wreath Prayers” in the year 2000 whilst choirmaster at Wells Cathedral, using prayers that had been adopted by the Church of England in 1990 as part of its official Advent service book. His newly-composed melodies are in a plainchant style modeled on Advent chants such as the 'O Antiphons' to which he intersperses a restrained irregular Anglican chant. This helps set an 'Advent mood' enhancing the change in liturgical color. These musical prayers have since become cherished in Anglican parishes worldwide.

Rorate Caeli – the “Advent Prose”

Rorate Caeli is a medieval chant that functions as the versicle and response in the Roman Catholic Vespers (the equivalent of the preces and responses at Anglican Evening Prayer), thus in the Roman Catholic monasteries that still sing daily vespers, it becomes the overall tune to define Advent. In the 1600s, it was arranged as a Roman Catholic Hymn suitable for congregational singing, and became popularized in the Anglican world by inclusion in the English Hymnal of 1910. This chant became the first “carol” sung at the 1918 Kings College, Cambridge service formalizing “Lessons and Carols” where it was called “The Advent Prose.”

Because St. Mark's does not offer Evensong services at the moment, this year we are singing one verse each Sunday at communion (and if you know the melody, feel free to sing the response!). What is very interesting to me is the opening of the offertory chant I sang at St. Mark's for the last Sundays after Trinity quotes the antiphon for the Advent prose – in other words, the last chants sung before Advent to Psalm 130 anticipate the first chants sung in Advent and reflect the somber mood “out of the deep” in which one might find oneself before a season of anticipation:

The antiphon is from Isaiah 45:8

☞ Pour down O heavens from above ☞ And let the skies rain down righteousness

Following the antiphon is a unison plainchant drawn from the verses in Isaiah that lament the iniquities of Israel and yearn for the coming of the Messiah, including the famous “comfort ye, my people” that opens Handel's *Messiah*. This year, we will use organ harmonizations by composer Stephen Cleobury.

John Merbecke - “First Communion Service”

To mark the change in liturgical season, we are switching out the mass ordinary (the Catholic term for “service music”) and omitting the Gloria. At many Anglican parishes, Merbecke's is the “default” service, and it is printed as the “First Communion Service” in the 1940 hymnal. Merbecke was a choirboy at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, which, because it was not a monastery, survived the dissolution of English church music between 1536 and 1541. Merbecke managed to stay on as organist and embraced Protestantism. In 1543, he was convicted of heresy and sentenced to death, but was pardoned because the Catholic Bishop of Winchester said he was 'but a musitian.'

Music Notes for Advent, 2023 (CONTINUED)

When the first Book of Common Prayer was released in 1549, Merbecke attempted to be first-to-market by publishing his *Book of Common Praier Noted*. This established the basic rule of English Reformation musical reforms: it was possible to retain choral polyphony and chant, but the rule was “one note, one syllable.” Reformers had argued it was impossible to understand the text in “Catholic” melismatic singing. All Tudor church music holds to the one-note-one-syllable rule.

Merbecke's service music became obsolete when the prayer book was revised in 1552, but it was rediscovered in the mid 19th century by Oxford Movement reformers who were looking to incorporate more Catholic chant-like music into services that could still be sung by a congregation in place of foursquare hymns – reviving the one-note-one-syllable model from the Tudor Renaissance. For this purpose, the hymnal editors adapted the service for the 1662 and later 1928 prayer books and updated the organ accompaniments.

New Music Library Acquisitions

St. Mark's has invested in a full set of “Advent for Choirs” from Oxford University Press. We hope this anthology of 52 pieces will enrich St. Mark's worship for the next 8+ decades and maintain our musical standards as we work to rebuild our choir. These publications are not inexpensive. If you want to sponsor a copy with a bookplate or sponsor a future music library acquisition, speak to our music director, Ron Hylton.



The Parish of St. Mark
DECEMBER 2023 KALENDAR

1. Bl. Nicholas Ferrar; Mass at 12:15
2. St. Bibiana; Mass at 8:00 AM
3. Advent I; Mass at 8 and 10
4. St. Clement of Alexandria, CD; Mass at 12:15
5. St. Sabas, Ab; Mass at 7:00 AM
6. St. Nicholas, BC; Mass at 6:30 PM
7. St. Ambrose BCD; Mass at 12:15
8. Conception of the BVM; Mass at 12:15
9. St. Barbara (tr.), VM; Mass at 8:00 AM
10. Advent II; Mass at 8 and 10
11. St. Damasus, PC; Mass at 12:15
12. St. Peter Chrysologus (tr.), BCD; Mass at 7:00 AM
13. St. Lucy, VM; Mass at 6:30 PM
14. St. Melchiades (tr.), PM; Mass at 12:15
15. Octave of the Conception; Mass at 12:15
16. St. Eusebius, BM; Mass at 8:00 AM
17. Advent III; Mass at 8 and 10
18. Raising of St. Lazarus, Our Lord's Disciple, BC (tr.); Mass at 8:00 AM
19. Monthly Parish Requiem; Mass at 7:00 AM
20. Vigil of St. Thomas; Mass at 6:30 PM
21. **St. Thomas the Apostle; Mass at 12:15**
22. Ember Friday; Mass at 12:15
23. Ember Saturday; Mass at 8:00 AM
24. Advent IV; Mass at 8 and 10
First Mass of Christmas – Christmas Prelude at 8:00 PM; Mass at 8:30 PM
25. **Christmas Day; Mass at 10:00 AM**
26. *Parish Office closed; NO MASS*
27. *Parish Office closed; NO MASS*
28. *Parish Office closed; NO MASS*
29. *Parish Office closed; NO MASS*
30. *Parish Office closed; NO MASS*
31. Christmas I; Mass at 8 and 10

Mass underlined indicates a Sunday. **Mass in bold indicates a Prayer Book Feast Day**

Important!! New St. Mark Facebook, Instagram & Emails

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/TheAnglicanParishofStMark>

Instagram

TheAnglicanParishofStMark

Fr. Hart's Contact Information

St. Mark's : (503) 223-2383

Cell Phone: (360) 261-9094

E-mail: rector@stmarkportland.org
(personal/private matters with Father Hart)

St. Mark Vestry Contact Information

If you need to contact a Vestry member, click on the link below:

vestry@stmarkportland.org

(direct communication regarding matters for the Vestry, monitored by the Senior Warden)

Other Useful Contact Information

KimBrooksby@stmarkportland (items for the *Mane Lion*)

stmark@stmarkportland.org (general inquiries and maintenance concerns/issues)

publications@stmarkportland.org (for requests for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin)

Diocesan Contact Information

The Right Reverend D.M. Ashman, Bishop Ordinary
Telephone (818) 749-8139 bishopashman@gmail.com

The Right Reverend Peter F. Hansen, Bishop Coadjutor
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