



# THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE with  
The Reverend Dr. Shaw Mudge

VOLUME XCVII  
ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2021  
ISSUE

## Christmas Message Fr. Shaw Mudge

As we look across the four Sundays of Advent, our minds and hearts draw us closer and closer to Christmas Day, Christmas Season, and the new year: 2022.

The coming of Christ our Savior in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago brought hope in uncertain times. Christ the Savior continues to bring hope to each of us in our day and age, in whatever circumstances we may find ourselves.

It is hope in eternal life, and hope of God's wisdom, revelation, guidance, love, peace, and even joy in the midst of our day-to-day, in the midst of our to-day. It is hope for each of us who worship together as God's people as well as to the special person to whom we reach out.

A voluntary assignment: be on the lookout for God's vision for St. Mark's, for you, and for those special to you, that you and the people you encounter may be blessed by your inspired actions this Christmas season because of Christ's hope within you.

A prayer:

Heavenly Father, we ask that your Holy Spirit would guide each of us and each person we reach out to this Christmas season, in the way of your wisdom, love, peace, and joy, that all may be done in your way, in your time, and to your glory. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Take care, and God bless you!

### Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Rev. Dr. Shaw Mudge*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *Contemporary Collects for December*
- *Save The Date*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Looking Ahead to Christmas - Help needed to clean the Chapel*
- *December Calendar*
- *Christmas Memorial Flower form*
- *NC Region (North Central Region) Advent Events*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*



THE CLERGY AND STAFF OF  
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
WISH EVERYONE A  
BLESSED CHRISTMAS.



## Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner

November 2021

Progress: St. Mark's is inching its way toward a closing date for the sale of our beloved 147 West Main St. church building and property to Deeper Life Bible Church. It may well have happened by the time you read this. We owe many thanks to Father Shaw, Stephen Hard, and the Vestry for supplying the numerous legal documents necessary. We also may be thankful for Stephen Hard's efficient organization of and advertising for our rummage sale. (We raised \$725) Bishop Ian Douglas performed a secularization service on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> which gave us some closure.

Now we can move forward with the things we do best.

1. We will have a Christmas Eve service in-person (and Zoom) in Erwin Chapel at 6 p.m. Albert Tomasso and his sister, Lucy, will play the organ and sing Christmas hymns. (Parameters: We are not in a Covid red zone and we have a team of volunteers to disinfect the chapel following the service.)
2. Community Ministry is busy. St. Mark's has been invited to participate in providing drivers for Afghan refugees and food donations for both the New Britain Police Christmas dinner and South Church's Christmas dinner. South Church is also collecting warm coats and clothing to distribute.
3. The Nominating Committee is seeking volunteers for the 2022 vestry and the Delegate to the diocesan convention (as a delegate, you could vote for our new bishop in the May election!)
4. St. Mark's Future Committee (vestry members currently but anyone is welcome to join) has met with Father George of St. James, Farmington and his vestry for an informal gathering. With the sale of our building and Father Shaw leaving, we are looking at all our options. Before the pandemic, we had started visiting area churches to see if there was an opportunity for shared ministry (possibly a merger many months down the road). We had a lovely time at St. James and they are willing to work with us. Shared worship? Shared ministry? Please let the vestry know what you think—better yet, join the committee!

Ultimately, God's enduring love is our constant. And that appears every day in our love for each other.

A prayer for guidance, faith, peace and hope.....

Allison Penick



## Contemporary Collects

### **Second Sunday of Advent - December 5**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Nicholas of Myra - December 6**

Grant, Almighty God, that your church may be so inspired by the example of your servant Nicholas of Myra, that it may never cease to work for the welfare of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor, and the help of those tossed by tempests of doubt or grief; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Third Sunday of Advent - December 12**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 19**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **Christmas Day - December 25**

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

## SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, December 5 - Second Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 8 - 5:45 p.m. - Exec. Committee Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, December 8 - 7:00 p.m. - Finance Committee Meeting

Sunday, December 12 - Third Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, December 14 - 6:45 p.m. - Vestry Zoom Meeting

Sunday, December 19 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Friday, December 24 - 6:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service (In-person and Zoom)

Sunday, December 26 - First Sunday after Christmas

Monday, December 27 - Parish Office Closed (Christmas Holiday )

Friday, December 31 - New Year's Eve



**JOIN US FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES!**  
**ZOOM & IN-PERSON SERVICE INFORMATION**

Our services will *always* be available on Zoom with Meeting ID 500-865-037. You can enter via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>. The bulletin is also available on our website. Please either print or have the bulletin open on a separate browser tab to participate fully in the service.

If New Britain is red on the weekly Thursday (about 3 p.m.) update on the Connecticut COVID-19 Data Tracker map, the Sunday service will be on Zoom only.

For the map, please go to: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Data-Tracker>.

An e-mail will be sent out to the parish every Friday to let you know if the service will be in-person or on **Zoom only**.

For in-person services at 90 Main St., everyone is required to wear a mask and maintain a safe distance inside the buildings of South Church. We will have masks available if you need one. Thank you.

**Broadcast Instructions**

You can enter the Zoom service via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>.

There is also a telephone number that can be used to join the Zoom service:

**1-646-558-8656**

**(phone charges may apply for the telephone call if you do not have unlimited calling).**

**If you are using a telephone to dial into the service: dial the zoom phone number, and then wait to be prompted by the voice to enter the meeting number. Then, enter the meeting number, and as part of the meeting number, please add the "pound" sign (#) at the end of the meeting number (as the verbal instructions direct).**

**The Zoom broadcast opens at 9:45 am when remote participants can be admitted and will be greeted by the e-verger.**

**Remote participants are encouraged to stay connected after the service and greet and be greeted during the coffee hour.**

**Issues that have come to our attention:**

**Issue: "my screen goes back and forth between speakers."**

**Response: you may be in "speaker" view. If so, change to "gallery view".**

Please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office if you have any questions.

**Looking Ahead to Christmas**

We are optimistically looking forward to Christmas Eve services in person here at 90 Main St. at 6:00 p.m.. in the Erwin Chapel.



In order to have services in person, we will need 5 people who are willing to sign up to be our Chapel Cleaners when the service is over. This will include the sanitizing of all the pews and the lectern that was used during the service. Cheryl has a supply of gloves, sprays and wipes to sanitize the area (chairs, tables, etc.) when we are done with the service.

If you are willing to help with the clean up please give Cheryl a call or email the parish office no later than **December 9th**. Thank you.

## DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Second Sunday of Advent - St. Nicholas Day	<b>6</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>7</b> 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting 5:45 p.m. Exec. Committee Mtg	<b>8</b> 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg	<b>9</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Third Sunday of Advent	<b>13</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>14</b> 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting 6:45 p.m. Vestry Zoom Meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Fourth Sunday of Advent	<b>20</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>21</b> 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve 6:00 p.m.	<b>25</b> Christmas Day First Day of Christmas
<b>26</b> Second day of Christmas	<b>27</b> Parish Office Closed Third Day of Christmas	<b>28</b> 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting Fourth Day of Christmas	<b>29</b> Fifth Day of Christmas	<b>30</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry Sixth Day of Christmas	<b>31</b> Seventh Day of Christmas	

**2021 CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE MEMORIAL LIST**

Christmas is a time for us remember our loved ones. There will be Christmas Remembrance Memorial List for our Christmas Eve Service.

If you would like add a name to the Christmas Remembrance list and to donate to the Altar Guild, please fill out and return the completed form (below) to the church office. A donation of \$20 - made payable to: St. Mark's Altar Guild is requested.

Please include the name of the person or reason for the flowers and by whom they are donated.

Please feel free to call Cheryl Rusczyk in the Parish Office at 860-225-7634 if you have any questions.



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**ALTAR FLOWER FUND (Please print information)**

**Donated by:** \_\_\_\_\_

On the following date:

1. Christmas Memorial 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ for Names: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Special Day(s) (\*Specify date and reason below.)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory of: (Names) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In thanksgiving for (Names) \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion: Please circle one:    Birthday    Anniversary    Graduation    Other

\_\_\_\_\_

Donations included: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For **Christmas**: Please complete and return to St. Mark's Church Office

**NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, December 17, 2021.**

**Additional copies of this form may be obtained by calling the church office at 860-225-7634.**



Nativity Narratives: A Deeper Look  
with Any-Jill Levine and John Dominic Crossan

December 5 & 12 - 5 p.m.  
Hosted by the John P. Webster Library - Virtual Event

To learn more and to register go to:  
<https://whfirstchurch.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/195/responses/new>

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Cathedral Quartet Virtual Concert  
Livestreamed from the Cathedral

December 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Contact Marianne Vogel at [directorofmusic@cccathedral.org](mailto:directorofmusic@cccathedral.org)  
for more information

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Candlelight Festival of  
Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 12 at 3:00 p.m.  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
679 Farmington Ave., West Hartford

Free admission - Reception to follow  
In-person and livestreamed

For more information go to: [RedDoorMusic.org](http://RedDoorMusic.org)

**St. Mark's Episcopal  
Church, New Britain**

**PO Box 1538  
90 Main Street  
New Britain, CT 06051  
The Rev. Dr. Shaw Mudge,  
Priest In Charge**

**Phone: 860-225-7634  
Email: parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org  
Website: www.stmarksnewbritain.org**

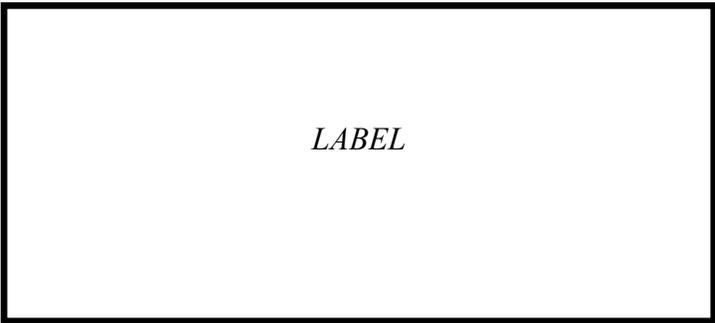
**PRAYER CHAIN: to activate the chain call  
Barbara Campbell 860-673-7607,  
Campbellba24@gmail.com**

**If you or someone you know is hospitalized,  
please inform the clergy or call the parish  
office.**

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***Open to God's Love -  
Serving Our Neighbor***

**Due date for all articles for the December  
Issue of the St. Mark's Message is  
November 17, 2021**



**Parish Office Hours.**

Monday through Friday  
from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Food Pantry**

Monday: 9 - 12 & 12:30 - 2:00  
Thursday: 9 - 12 & 12:30 - 2:00

**The Food Pantry will be closed on October 11  
for the Columbus Day Holiday.**



**Weekly Parish Services:**

**While New Britain is in a Red Zone, we will  
only have Zoom Services. We will hold in  
person services along with Zoom once we are  
no longer in a red zone. . To attend on Zoom,  
go to our website—  
[www.saintmarksnewbritain.org](http://www.saintmarksnewbritain.org) for  
information on joining the service.**

**Pledges and Offerings**

Please remember to keep sending in your  
pledges and offerings to the parish. Mail in our P.O.  
Box is picked up several times a week. Your pledge  
payments are compiled at least once a month and  
deposited.

The parish ministries to the community and worship  
services adapt and continue, even in these most  
challenging times.

Mailing address: St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
PO Box 1538 New Britain, CT 06050-1538 or to  
electronically send checks to the Church via your  
bank.

St. Marks keeps going in God's way, God's time, and  
to God's glory.

**St. Mark's Food Pantry**

Monthly Statistics: October 2021  
Unduplicated households - 105  
Children - 84  
Adults - 91  
Seniors - 42  
Total Food Donated to St. Mark's - 1135 lbs.  
Total food from Food Share - 0 lbs.

**Please give Cheryl a call in the parish  
office if you can help us a few hours a  
week.**