

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 2, 2018

*Our King and Saviour draws near;
O come, let us worship!*

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalm 9 | Isaiah 1:1-20 | St. Matthew 24:1-28

9:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit: Psalm 25:1-7: *page 358*

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Ten Commandments: *page 68*

The Gloria is omitted during Advent

The Collect: *page 95*

The Old Testament Lesson: Micah 4.1-4, 6-7

Psalm 25:8-15: *page 358*

The Epistle: *page 95*

Gradual Psalm 85:4-7: *page 437*

The Holy Gospel: *page 96*

The Creed: *page 71*

The Homily

The Prayers of the People: L: Lord, in your mercy;

C: Hear our prayer

The Consecration: *page 82*

Post-Communion Prayer: *page 85*

**9:45 a.m. – Sunday School: Parish Hall
Time with Fr. Stockall**

10:30 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

♪ PROCESSIONAL HYMN: **59** (St. Thomas)

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Ten Commandments: *page 68*

The Gloria is omitted during Advent

The Collect: *page 95*

The First Lesson: Micah 4.1-4, 6-7

♪ PSALM: *please see the bulletin insert*

The Epistle: *page 95*

♪ GRADUAL HYMN: **388** (Duke Street)

The Holy Gospel: *page 96*

♪ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia**

The Creed: *page 71*

The Homily

♪ OFFERTORY HYMN: **701** (Innocents 491)

The Prayers of the People: L: Lord, in your mercy;

C: Hear our prayer

The Consecration: *page 82*

♪ HYMN DURING COMMUNION: **232** (St. Agnes)

Post-Communion Prayer: *page 85*

♪ RECESSIONAL HYMN: **548** (Stuttgart)

*Everyone is invited to join us
in the Parish Hall following
the 10:30 Celebration for our
monthly Shared Meal!*



From the Rector _____

As we a whole new Church Year let's pretend that the four weeks that lie before us have nothing at all to do with Christmas; or even with getting ready for Christmas. I'm not suggesting that you shouldn't be doing the perfectly good things that you need to do to be ready. I'm just asking you to use your imagination. For just a moment, let's clear away all the stuff about Christmas preparations, because only then will this morning's readings from Holy Scripture begin to make sense. Nothing that we read today spoke of Christ's birth, nor about the prophecy of its expectation. But this morning's readings have a lot to say about how we might prepare for Christ's second coming by cleansing the spiritual temples of our lives, as we hear in this morning Gospel; and, as this morning's Epistle tells us, by ensuring that love is at the centre of all that we do and say.

That's why we hear this morning a Gospel from the Palm Sunday story rather than the Christmas story. Because on the day when Christ entered the city of Jerusalem on the very first Palm Sunday to claim his Kingdom where he would reign only when he'd been lifted up on the cross, he claimed it not by barging into Pilate's office to throw him out, as we might like to do, but by entering the temple and overturning the tables of those who had forgotten what the temple was for. The temple was that place where God had promised to be with his people; to answer their fears and console their hearts; to admonish and to bless. So we hear that story out of order because, at heart, human life is out of order; because we have gotten so wrapped up in other things that we have forgotten what life is really all about; because we have forgotten, each of us at one time or another, to make room in our hearts, and in our lives, for the Christ who comes to us each and every day.

So the Church challenges us, as we begin this Season of Advent, to overturn the tables and clear away the clutter that clogs up our hearts; to make sure that if Christ comes to us as He promised long ago; to mend all that is broken, then we'll be as ready as we possibly can be to meet him. That's what Advent is really all about: about making ready in every part of our lives for the Christ to come to us; this day, as he does every day, by grace; and on the last day in power.

Advent is a precious gift of time to straighten out what's not yet right; to overcome that one struggle, to heal what we've broken, to forgive, to be less addicted, to be more chaste, to be more generous, to bring Christ back into our lives as if this Advent were the last of all Advents. It's a time to interrupt our Christmas marathon and look into our lives to find Christ with us; the Christ who comes to us in the broken places where we know we can't make it on our own; the Christ who comes to us in those moments when we look beyond our own needs, to see the needs of others. To be a Christian is to live each day with hope; to live each day shoulder to shoulder with those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death and to bear their sorrows with them; but also to live all our days in the unshakeable, patient, hope of those who know that the dawn will come one day, even if we don't know when; all the time struggling to be faithful to the Christ who promises to come again by hating less and loving more, by spending less and giving more, by talking less and listening more, by judging less and caring more.

The Anglican Church of Canada *The Diocese of Fredericton* **THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK**



What other time or season can or will the Church ever have but that of Advent?

Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics*

Priest and Rector

The Revd. Canon Kevin M. Stockall, B.A. (Hons), M.Div.

Rectory: 770 McEvoy Street, Fredericton NB E3A 3B7

454.0245 (rectory) | 472.4661 (office) | 461.7685 (cell) | kevin.stockall@bellaliant.net

Visit us at: <http://www.stmarysfredericton.ca/>

Parish Notices and Updates

PLEASE JOIN US THIS MORNING, following the 10:30 a.m. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, for our monthly *Shared Meal*. Members of all three congregations are encouraged to gather with their sisters and brothers in Christ as we share the peace and joy which we have in Jesus Christ.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH BAZAAR AND CHICKEN PATTIE TEA was a great success. In spite of several other events in the city and a small reduction in the number of visitors, more than \$2300.00 was raised to support our mission and ministry here at St. Mary's; and the support of a large and enthusiastic volunteer crew made the work a pleasure as well. Thanks so much to our many different team leaders for ensuring a smooth and efficient operation; thanks to those who offered their time and talents; and thanks to all those who came out to support the event. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

CHURCH CALENDARS FOR 2019 ARE NOW AVAILABLE on the table in the Narthex for a very reasonable \$7.00. These lovely calendars are an ideal way of keeping track of the Church Year and are excellent small gifts for friends at Christmas. Please speak to the Rector if you can't locate them.

ST. MARY'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY is held every *Friday, at 10:00 a.m.* at the Rectory. We've resumed our study of the Gospel according to St. Luke. Everyone is warmly invited to join us; and if your schedule only permits you to attend occasionally, please plan to join us when you can.

ST. MARY'S BRANCH OF ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN will be meeting on *Monday, December 10th*, beginning with their annual Christmas Luncheon and gift exchange in the Parish Hall at 12:00 noon. The women of St. Mary's are warmly invited to join them. For more information please speak to Doreen Lawrence at 458-5402 or the Rector.

FLOWERS AT CHRISTMAS: Those who wish to place memorial flowers may do so by including a donation through the collection plate. Please ensure that your donation includes the names of those in whose memory the flowers are being placed, as well as complete information regarding the donor(s); **and to help us to include that information in the Christmas bulletin, we'll need to know by this coming Thursday, December 20th.** For more information, please speak to the Rector.

AS THEY DID LAST YEAR, THE MEMBERS OF THE PARISH VESTRY have designated \$1000 from parish funds to be given to local and international missions; and they are again asking the young people in our Sunday School and their families to decide how those funds will be spent. Last year half was given to Fredericton Homeless Shelters and half was divided between international development projects carried out by Primate's World Relief and Development Fund and World Vision. The Sunday School will soon be

doing their mission 'Christmas shopping' *but anyone who would like to make a donation to add to the funds available can do so through the collection plate, designating the additional donation as "Sunday School Mission project."* If you have any questions, please speak to Janice.

ALLAN AGNEW, OUR PARISH TREASURER, is preparing the 2019 offering envelopes, which should be available on December 16th. Current envelope holders will be assigned their current numbers. If you're not currently using envelopes and would like a box for next year, please let Allan know. And if you're not currently using e-offering please have a word with Allan about how that can be set up.

WITH THE RECENT ARRIVAL OF WINTER WEATHER, everyone is reminded that we have a weekly Celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Saturday evenings at 5:00 p.m. If you're ever concerned that driving conditions may make it difficult to attend one of the two celebrations of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday morning, make plans to attend on Saturday. Please speak to the Rector if you have any questions; and plan to join us any Saturday evening if this time is more suitable for your schedule.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

DECEMBER 5: ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 6: ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

Followed by time for personal prayer in the Church

11:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, *Eden Retirement Home*

DECEMBER 8: THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 9: THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

Followed by Coffee and Conversation in the Parish Hall

Cover art: **Entry into the City**, John August Swanson; 1990, owned by Notre Dame University, Indiana, and featured in Life Magazine's December, 1994 issue, "Solving the Mystery of Jesus..."