

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 23, 2018

*Rejoice in the Lord always!
And again I say, Rejoice!*

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalm 33 | Isaiah 35 | St. Matthew 25:31-end

9:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit: Psalm 19:1-6: *page 351*

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Gloria is omitted during Advent

The Collect: *page 102*
The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-9
Psalm 25:16-22: *page 359*
The Epistle: *page 102*
Gradual Psalm 145:18-22: *page 517*
The Holy Gospel: *page 103*
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: **63** (Merton)

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Gloria is omitted during Advent

The Collect: *page 102*
The First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-9
Psalm 145:18-22: *page 517*
The Epistle: *page 102*

♪ GRADUAL HYMN: **65** (St. Stephen)

The Holy Gospel: *page 103*

♪ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia**

The Creed: *page 71*

The Homily

♪ OFFERTORY HYMN: **Herald! Sound the Note of Judgement**

please see the bulletin insert

The Prayers of the People: L: Lord, in your mercy;
C: **Hear our prayer**

The Consecration: *page 82*

♪ HYMN DURING COMMUNION: **229** (Picardy)

Post-Communion Prayer: *page 85*

♪ RECESSIONAL HYMN: **No Crowded Eastern Street**

please see the bulletin insert

*Please join us in the Parish Hall
following the 10:30 Celebration
for Coffee & Conversation.*



From the Rector _____

As you may be aware, for many years we have been wrestling with a number of issues related to our building that in some cases diminish our efficiency and effectiveness but, in others, are a threat to the long-term safe use of our facilities.

- . The most substantial concern is the ongoing leak in the ceiling in the women's washroom. Efforts have been made by contractors over the years to identify and correct the source of the leak but without success; and it seems that the problem is getting worse rather than better.
- . For some time we've also been looking at the main entrance and how we might expand the narthex to improve movement between the church and hall and reduce congestion.
- . Related to that issue has been the need to update our washrooms to fully comply with current accessibility codes, as well as to address the need for a non-gender specific washroom that can serve as washroom space for young families.
- . We've also been discussing the need for expansion of our kitchen to allow for the rationalisation of storage, production, service, and cleanup functions, as well as the insulation of the exterior walls.
- . Finally, we've noticed in recent years an increasing problem with the paved surface immediately in front of the main doors in winter and early spring due to frost heaves.

Conversations around these concerns have frequently stalled because anytime one issue was addressed it quickly became obvious that fixing one problem would intersect with several of the others. Following discussions with several of our parish team leaders, the Parish Corporation came to the decision that a comprehensive renovation would be the most practical solution to this list of related concerns. To that end, in the spring of this year the Corporation contracted with D.M. White Architecture to create a conceptual design that would attempt to resolve all of these problems at the same time. That report was received in November and the Parish Corporation has reviewed the design, as well as the cost estimates, and believe that we are now at the point where we need to consult with the wider Parish Family. We need your feedback and input to ensure that we're moving in the right direction.

To facilitate that feedback, **a Parish presentation has been scheduled for Sunday, January 6th, immediately following Coffee & Conversation.** It's our hope that members of all three congregations will make every effort to attend the presentation. If we are to go forward as a Parish to ensure that our facilities will serve our ministry for decades to come we'll need to address the deficiencies that have arisen in recent years. We look forward to hearing from all of you as we discern what God is calling us to do.

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



True saints know that the place where all joy comes from is far deeper than that of feelings; joy comes from the place of the very presence of God. Joy is God and God is joy and joy doesn't negate all other emotions – joy transcends all other emotions. Though my marriage tree may not bud and though my crop of children may fail and my work produce little yield, though there is no money in the bank and no dream left in the heart, though others may choose different ways to live their one life, till my last heaving breath, I will fight to the death for this: “I will take joy.” I will struggle to heed this until I am no more: “dear brother and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy”, and I will listen and again I will listen and I will wrestle to put skin on it: “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

Ann Voskamp, *One Thousand Gifts*, 2010

Priest and Rector

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

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Parish Notices and Updates

MEMBERS OF ST. MARY'S ALTAR GUILD will be decorating the Nave and Sanctuary for Christmas this morning following Coffee & Conversation. Anyone who would like to share in this fun and joyful activity is warmly welcome to come along!

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.

ALLAN AGNEW, OUR PARISH TREASURER, has prepared the 2019 offering envelopes. Current envelope holders have been 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.

NEWS! NEWS! NEWS! Members of all three congregations are invited to a presentation regarding the proposed entrance and kitchen renovation on *Sunday, January 6th*, following Coffee & Conversation. Come join us as we review the design concept and see how proposed plan can serve as a solution to several building issues that we wrestled with in recent years. For more information please speak to one of the wardens, James & Thomas, or the Rector.

✦ **Please note that we will be cancelling the usual Shared Meal on the first Sunday in January to allow more time for the presentation.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Everyone is warmly invited to join us for a *Parish Breakfast* on *Sunday, January 13th* between our two Sunday morning Celebrations. It's our hope that members of both congregations will gather together as members of one Parish Family. The breakfast will start at approximately 9:45 a.m. and run to about 10:30. We'll be looking for some members of the 10:30 congregation who will work during the first service to prepare a delicious, as well as members of the 9:00 a.m. congregation who will help with clean up during the second service. You'll hear more over the next couple of weeks but, in the meantime, please mark your calendars so that you'll be sure to join us on the 13th!

EACH WEEK PRINTED COPIES OF THE HOMILY are available on the small table on the right hand side of the entrance to the church for anyone who would like to reflect further on the issues discussed. Please speak to the Rector if you're not able to locate a copy.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

6:00 p.m. – Family Eucharist of the Nativity
With our annual Pop-UP! Pageant

9:30 p.m. – Carol Sing

10:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist of the Nativity

DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist on the Morning of the Nativity

DECEMBER 26: ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 27: ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 28: THE HOLY INNOCENTS

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 29: THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 30: THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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



God is coming! God is coming!
All the element we swim in, this existence,
Echoes ahead the advent. God is coming!
Can't you feel it?

Walter Wangerin, Jr.,
from "The Signs of the Times," in *The Manger Is Empty*