

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 3, 2017

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

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalm 9 | Isaiah 1:1-20 | Revelation 2:1-17

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
<i>The Gloria is omitted during Advent</i>	
The Collect:	page 95
The Old Testament Reading:	Micah 4.1-4, 6-7
Psalm 50:1-6:	page 392
The Epistle:	page 95
Gradual Psalm 85:4-7:	page 438
The Holy Gospel:	page 96
The Creed:	page 71
The Homily	
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in thy 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
<i>The Gloria is omitted during Advent</i>	
The Collect:	page 95
The Old Testament Reading:	Micah 4.1-4, 6-7
♪ PSALM:	<i>please see the bulletin insert</i>
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 _____

The Season of Advent is not for the faint of heart. Nothing that we read today has anything at all to do with the birth of Jesus: we hear no prophecy of its expectation, no account of its details, not even an explanation of its meaning.

This morning's passages from Holy Scripture don't say a thing about Christ's birth: no angels or shepherds or bright shining stars in the sky. We do hear, however, a story that we're more likely to think of as a Palm Sunday story; a story that we heard just eight months



ago and will hear again four months from now; a story of the day when Christ entered the city of Jerusalem and was greeted by all as the King, the long awaited, long-prayed for; much anticipated King of Israel, the Saviour they'd been waiting their whole lives to see; a story filled with joyful happy images, with celebration and praise and glory; until that moment when Jesus has to ruin absolutely everything by going into the Temple and throwing everyone out; a dark story that anticipates the even greater darkness that will unfold just five days later, on a dark day called Good Friday. The darkest day of all.

So, with all of that in mind, you might be thinking that St. Paul offers us a much better way in this morning's Epistle, when he exhorts us to ...*cast off the works of darkness, and ... put on the armour of light.* Because, in a way, isn't that what we try to do when we turn on the Christmas lights and head off to the mall to get our Christmas shopping done: to throw a little brightness into our ever shortening and darkening days?

But, as we all must realise when we're being honest with ourselves, some of life's challenges require more than just a few bright lights if they're going to get better. And that's where Advent can be helpful. In fact, that's where Advent, I think, is essential, to our peace of mind and our wellbeing.

Advent gives us a chance to clear away the clutter of our lives. I'm not talking about our houses but our hearts; not about storage units but the things stored in our souls. Such as the piles of insults we've stacked in one corner; and all the rejections we've ever experienced accumulated in another; images of unkind people hanging on the wall; rude remarks littering the floor; a display case of every knife that's ever stabbed us in the back; and a cabinet for all the wounds inflicted by people that we thought were our friends.

Isn't it time that we throw out the trash that's cluttering up our lives? And maybe, in the process, rediscover some of the priceless things that have gone missing beneath all of that stuff.

Unfortunately, when we start hoarding those kinds of negative treasures it become hard to give them up. And some can make a career out of hating others, even when they don't want to admit it. AS we are being reminded daily, people create a vocation out of despising a certain race or class of people.

When we get to this point, what can do? We can start praying for a king named Christ to barge into the temple of our souls, to clear out the trash and sweep the place clean.

Let this Advent be a time of preparation for the coming of Christ. Regain a sense of urgency about your faith, pray more often, read holy Scripture daily, find ways to share your faith with others, remember the poor. Make this season of Advent more than just a pre-extension of Christmas. If we do this, we will be prepared to receive the Christ when he comes again to judge the living and the dead, as we profess so boldly in the Creed; and we will be rightly prepared to celebrate his first coming as well.

Welcome to Advent!

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



For now we feel the world spin round
On some momentous journey bound -
Journey to what? to whom? to where?
The Advent bells call out 'Prepare,
Your world is journeying to the birth
Of God made Man for us on earth.'

Advent 1955, John Betjeman

Priest and Rector

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

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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 both congregations are warmly encouraged to gather with their sisters and brothers in Christ as we share the peace and joy which are have in Jesus Christ.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH BAZAAR AND CHICKEN PATTIE TEA was a huge success! Lots of happy people had the opportunity to share in the joy of our life together here at St. Mary's; and a large and enthusiastic crew raised more than \$2700 to date for our mission and ministry. 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!

ST. MARY'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY is held every *Friday, starting at 10:00 a.m.* at the Rectory. We're looking at the short but very important Epistle of St. James. 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 11th*, in the Parish Hall, beginning with their annual Christmas lunch at 12:00 noon followed by a business meeting. The women of St. Mary's are warmly invited to join them. For more information please speak to Joan Keswick at 472-2193 or the Rector.

ST. MARY'S BRANCH OF THE MOTHERS' UNION will be meeting on *Tuesday, December 12th*, at 7:45 p.m., following the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. They invite everyone to join them. For more information please speak to Adele Knox.

ALLAN AGNEW, OUR PARISH TREASURER, has prepared the 2018 offering envelopes, which are now available in the Parish Hall. If you're not currently using envelopes and would like a box for next year, please let Allan know.

CHURCH CALENDARS FOR 2018 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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE SOME OF THE DIFFERENCE you're making by your prayers and financial support? The most recent update, with lots of great pictures, about the construction of the new library at Bishop McAllister College and Anglican Seminary in Kyogyera, Uganda, where Canon Paul Jeffries is the Rector, has been posted to their webpage. The funds raised by the archdeaconry bowling tournament in March helped to get this started. Go to: <http://bishopmcallistercollege.com/library-construction-update/>

I grew up only dimly aware of the Advent season. We usually had an Advent calendar, but even in the 1950s, before Christmas had become the consumer feeding frenzy that it is now, the push to celebrate Christmas overshadowed the subtleties of Advent. It is through my affiliation with the Benedictines that I've learned how much the Advent season holds, how it breaks into our lives with images of light and dark, first and last things, watchfulness and longing, origin and destiny.

Kathleen Norris, *The Cloister Walk*, 1996

THE SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS CARE DEPARTMENT at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital is asking for help with their winter apparel drive. They're asking for donations of new items of winter apparel: hat, scarf, gloves, mitts, socks, sweaters even coats/ boots (including items you may already have but just never wore) for those who are homeless and less fortunate. Drop off is in front of the Spiritual and Religious Care Department, in the main lobby by the Gift Shop from November 15th till December 13th.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

DECEMBER 6: ST. NICHOLAS, Bishop of Myra, c. 342

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 7: ADVENT FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

Followed by time for personal prayer in the Church

11:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, *Alleira Assisted Living*

DECEMBER 9: THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 10: THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages!

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

Followed by Coffee & Conversation in the Hall