

# THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT

November 20, 2016

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

## **8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:**

✠ Psalm 80 | Ecclesiastes 11 & 12 | Hebrews 11:1-16

## **9:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Introit Psalm 85:1-7:      | page 438                                     |
| The Gloria:                | page 86                                      |
| The Collect and Lesson:    | page 259                                     |
| Gradual Psalm 85:8-13:     | page 439                                     |
| The Holy Gospel:           | page 259                                     |
| The Creed:                 | page 71                                      |
| The Prayers of the People: | L: Lord, in thy mercy;<br>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:    | 1 (Nicaea) |
| The Gloria:             | page 86    |
| The Collect and Lesson: | page 259   |
| Gradual Psalm 85:8-13:  | page 439   |
| The Holy Gospel:        | page 259   |

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| ✠ Gospel Acclamation:      | Alleluia                                     |
| The Creed:                 | page 71                                      |
| The Homily                 |  |
| ✠ Offertory Hymn:          | 284 (Moscow)                                 |
| The Prayers of the People: | L: Lord, in thy mercy;<br>C: Hear our prayer |
| The Consecration:          | page 82                                      |
| ✠ Hymn during Communion:   | 388 (Duke Street)                            |
| Post-Communion Prayer:     | page 85                                      |
| ✠ Recessional Hymn:        | 335 (Battle Hymn)                            |

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

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## *From the Rector*

In this morning's Gospel John the Baptist speaks of Jesus as the 'Lamb of God' – and in those few words several different and apparently unconnected images are brought together.

One image comes from the story of Abraham and Isaac: when God tested Abraham by sending him off to the mountain to offer his young son as a sacrifice; and particularly that moment when Isaac asked his father where the lamb was for the burnt offering. It's a dark story that feels shocking and heartless. And while the story is fundamentally about testing, there's also within it an image of hope; an image of how God has the power to transform death into life; maybe even an image of resurrection. And Abraham's sure trust that God would provide a lamb when all seemed hopeless is a powerful message about God's power to open a way when we can see nothing before us but the end of the road. So the lamb in that story stands for God's provision, His gracious gift to us in all of our moments of pain and uncertainty.

The second of those superimposed images is the image of the Passover lamb – the lamb of liberation and freedom. For hundreds of years the people of Israel had been slaves, used as cheap, disposable, labour by their masters. They had cried to God for their freedom; and the time came when God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, calling him to lead His people to freedom. After several attempts at negotiation, and after a series of plagues and disasters sent on the captors, the night of release arrived. This, of course, is remembered still as the night of the Passover; and its central feature was a lamb. One was chosen to be killed for each household. But, for the People of Israel, it was a night not of death but of release; and again, maybe even an image of resurrection.

And in John's words, we are invited to see Christ as the Lamb of God, in whose

death we are given the freedom to live our lives differently.

But the last of those superimposed images is that of the sacrificial lamb, the lamb who takes away the sins of the world – the lamb of forgiveness. In the sacrificial system that we read about in the Book of Leviticus the sacrificial lamb is used to show the costliness of human sin, as well as the price of being forgiven.

In this morning's Gospel John the Baptist is speaking of the mystery which is the atonement, the work that Jesus does to bring us back into a right relationship with God; the work He does to bridge the division which our behaviour and our attitudes have created.

John the Baptist is wrapping up the work he had been sent to do; he has spoken in the harsh tones of prophetic justice. And now that he has seen the Christ, and heard the voice of God from heaven speaking of Jesus as the Son of God, John points those who have been following him towards the Christ, the Lamb of God, as he calls him, and John recedes to the background.

This morning, two of those disciples turn to follow Jesus. It's important to note the question that Jesus puts to them: "What do you seek?" He asks.

Not, 'What do you want to do? Not, 'Where do you want to go? Not the kinds of questions that move our culture: 'What do you want to produce or achieve or prove?' But, 'What are you looking for?' In other words: What is important? 'What will fill your life with purpose and joy and meaning?'

In time, Christ helps to answer all those questions. He fills the lives of those who followed Him with a purpose and a meaning, even a joy that they sought but could find nowhere else.

The call of God is not a call to be successful; it is only a call to be faithful. In the end, no matter what we seek, the answer will always be found in Christ. And if, day by day, we seek only to follow and be faithful, then in the end God will supply the success.



## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**NOVEMBER 23: ST. CLEMENT**, Bishop of Rome, c. 100

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

**NOVEMBER 26: THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

**NOVEMBER 27: THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

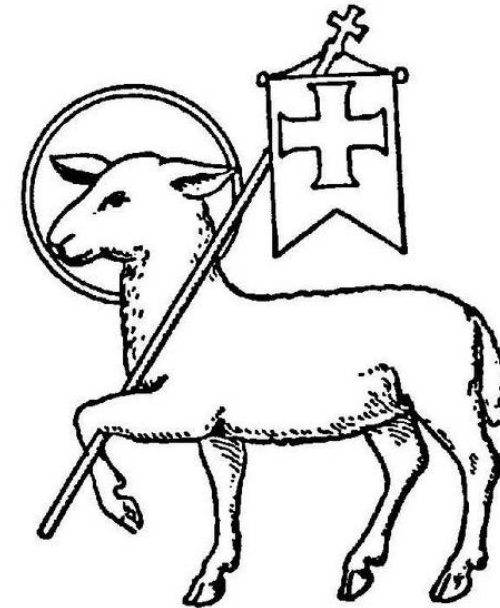
9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

*The Anglican Church of Canada*

*The Diocese of Fredericton*

# THE PARISH OF ST. MARY (YORK)



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I am being driven forward  
Into an unknown land.  
The pass grows steeper,  
The air colder and sharper.  
A wind from an unknown goal  
Stirs the strings  
Of expectation.

Dag Hammarskjold, Markings

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*Priest and Rector*

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

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*Honorary Assistant*

Fr. David Mercer

*Organist*

James O'Neil

*Pastoral Assistant*

Rick Bungay

## *Parish Notices and Updates* \_\_\_\_\_

**Members of the Parish Corporation (Wardens and Vestry) are reminded of the meeting scheduled for this afternoon, starting at 12:15 p.m. Those who are unable to attend are asked to convey their regrets either to the Rector or the Vestry Clerk.**

**Church Calendars for 2017 are now available** on the table in the Narthex for a very reasonable \$6.00. 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 the calendars.

**The Rt. Revd. David Edwards**, Bishop of Fredericton, will be in the Parish of St. Mary (York) to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on *Sunday, December 11th*. *As part of the Bishop's visit we welcome anyone who would like to make a reaffirmation of their Confirmation and Baptismal promises.* If you would like to do that in the presence of the Bishop, or if you have any questions as to what that means, please speak to the Rector.

**St. Mary's weekly Bible Study "Faithful and True: a Look at the Women in Holy Scripture,"** is held each *Friday at 10:00 a.m.* at the Rectory. 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.

**The Men of St. Mary's**, and their friends, are invited to join us for **PINT of VIEW**, a new informal parish discussion group. We plan to gather again on **Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 7:30 p.m. at *Bill & Adele Knox's (5 Ruby Court)* and we're very pleased to tell you that the Bishop of the Diocese, the Rt. Revd. David Edwards, will be with us to initiate a conversation on the question of: "Why bother with the Bible." Please join us for a stimulating conversation while we enjoy some of Fredericton's finest craft beer.

**Please join us on Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> for our annual Chicken Pattie Tea & Bazaar from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** The cost of the Tea is \$8.00.

\* The organisers are asking for your donations of items for the Food Table, Craft Table (knitting, etc.), the White Elephant Table (books, CDs, jewellery, Christmas decorations, ornaments, etc.), Silent Auction (items to make up baskets e.g. soaps, candles; or any **new items you would like to give** (e.g. a sheets, towels, a sweater, pictures, decorations, gift certificates, etc.. Everything is welcome.

\* They're also calling for volunteers to help with all aspects of the event. Please speak to the Rector if you have any questions.

**Christ Church Cathedral** is sponsoring a Live Auction on *Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>*, at the Cathedral Memorial Hall, featuring furniture, dishware, housewares, jewelry, paintings, and many other lovely items. Viewing will run from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. The auction will begin at 9:30 a.m. Light refreshments will be available. Auction proceeds will support the refugee sponsorship fund of Greater Fredericton Area Anglican Parishes.

**New Brunswick Community Harvest Gardens**, the organisation which manages St. Mary's Community Garden, will be holding their annual Fall Harvest Pot Luck here at St. Mary's on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Open for all members of the St. Mary's and Marysville gardens, they also wish to invite the people of the Parish of St. Mary (York) to join them. The theme this year is "Food from many Cultures." Bring along your favourite dish to share. Recipe cards are requested so that people with allergies can eat with confidence. They hope to see you there!

**Breakfast, Craft & Bake Sale:** Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Nasonworth warmly invites you to attend their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Breakfast, Craft and Bake Sale on, *Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>* from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. You can expect a great breakfast and lots of goodies and homemade crafts. They hope to *see you there!*

**We're planning our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual PARISH ADVENT PARTY**, *with a visit from St. Nick*, for pre-school and school-age kids (and their families!), on **Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the Hall. There will be Games and Crafts for all ages, with activities for younger children; and the decorating of St. Nicholas Cookies. Everything will wrap up with a Family Supper. Plan to join us on the 5<sup>th</sup> and please feel free to invite your friends. For more information please speak to Janice.

**St. Mary's Mothers' Union branch** is looking for contributions of new or gently-used baby monitors for *Women in Transition House*, Fredericton's emergency shelter for abused women and their children, for their use at the house. Those who are able to help are asked to please bring their contributions to church **by December 4<sup>th</sup>** and Mothers' Union will have a box in the hall for you to place them. Any questions can be directed to Adele Knox or another Mothers' Union member. Thank you for your assistance in this important cause.

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### *A Message from the Sunday School:*

*Throughout this Fall the Sunday School here at St. Mary's is studying the Lord's Prayer; and as part of that project, we will be producing a variety of visual representations which will be hung in the Nave.*

The most recent of these displays speaks symbolically of the words 'give us this day our daily bread.' We spoke about the many different ways in which God provides for our needs. We were reminded of God's provision of manna for the People of Israel in the wilderness. And we looked at how the Holy Eucharist feeds us spiritually. The artwork depicts a loaf of bread filled with pieces of paper representing manna; and grapes with the image of a chalice to remind us of God's unending generosity. (A special words of thanks is offered to Alice Whitney for her lovely drawings!)

*Please stayed tuned as we continue our exploration of the Lord's Prayer. We hope that you find the displays a helpful addition to your own spiritual journey.*