

December 2007

Volume 7 Issue 4

THE LION'S ROAR

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Advent and Christmas at St. Mark's

For four Sundays of December, we live into the curious season of Advent. Best viewed in its own light—and much more than a prelude to Christmas—Advent looks back to the first coming (or *adventus*, in Latin) of Christ while pointing to the second coming of Christ in the fulfillment of God's plan for this world.

Just as autumn's light fades toward the winter's solstice and we risk seasonal somnambulism, Advent Scripture engages themes of darkness, light and watchfulness at multiple levels. Our Sunday texts tell us, in slightly anxious tones, about the sun that will be darkened, the moon that will not give its light and the stars that will fall from heaven when the Son of Man comes on clouds of power and great glory. (Did you wonder why these themes never make it into the merry holiday music that envelopes us in the coming weeks?)

At St. Mark's, I invite you to live into the full spirituality of Advent, even as we make joyous preparation for Christmas. At 9:00 a.m. on the four Sundays of Advent beginning December 2, Anne Richards will lead a centering prayer experience in the Library while I lead a discussion on the infancy narratives of Jesus' birth in our Education Center. Both classes seek to help you live into the themes of this great season while connecting with fellow parishioners in new ways.

In this *Lion's Roar*, explore the many rich opportunities to engage Advent and Christmas. The Advent wreath workshop, Christmas doves, St. Nicholas Tea, Messiah concert, Midnight Run, the Christmas pageant and Christmas liturgies should serve as spiritual antidote to the season's frenzy.

Join us for rich scripture, music, teaching and preaching for Advent and Christmas. I look forward to joining you for St. Mark's at its best in the coming weeks.

DMR

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Rector Search Update

As our wardens and search co-chairs notified us last week, the final candidate in our rector's search process withdrew his name from consideration. The details of final discernment were unique to the individual and although the result is not typical, it is also not uncommon. The vestry had not entered into negotiation on the call and his withdrawal was accepted with regret but full consensus of both the entire Search Committee and Vestry.

Our search committee and vestry put many hours into the final phase of consideration, and they naturally felt the deep disappointment and frustration of a process that did not conclude as hoped. Both groups deserve our heartfelt thanks for their personal sacrifices of time and energy, especially as they move quickly to regroup to plan the continuation of the search.

Co-chairs and wardens have already met to initiate plans for the next phase of the search process. Further meetings are planned in December including time with our diocesan search consultants. The Diocese of Connecticut's Transition Ministry office will screen and forward a new list of potential names for consideration and our search committee will discuss and pursue additional avenues to identify potential strong candidates. By mid-January, our search committee should have 6-10 names of highly qualified candidates with whom to begin conversation. It is the strong hope of the vestry and search committee that the work will be completed within or close to the original timetable of 12 - 18 months of the October 2006 commissioning of the Search Committee. Watch for updated progress reports as the committee moves forward.

Daily Morning Prayer to be Offered Throughout Advent

Beginning Monday, December 3 and continuing through Friday, December 21, a group of St. Mark's parishioners will present the office of Morning Prayer at 8:00 AM, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. All are welcome at these services.

If you would like to learn to officiate at the Daily Office or, if you are already proficient and would like to be added to the rota, please call Mother Carol at 966-4515, ext. 102 or e-mail her at choindra@stmarksnewcanaan.org

Beginning your day with this traditional prayer office is a wonderful way to observe the holy season of Advent.



Five Churches Join Episcopal Bridgebuilders

Outreach Commission Update

The Episcopal Bridgebuilders coalition has good news to report. The new coalition now has 5 churches on board, and representatives from member churches held the first organizational meeting of the new coalition last Wednesday in the Outreach Center at St. Mark's. In addition to St. Mark's, the new members include St. Luke's Darien, Christ Church Greenwich, St. Paul's Riverside and St. Francis North Stamford. The Rev. Matt Calkins of St. Timothy Fairfield shared his experience in organizing and running the original EB coalition that built 5 houses in Bridgeport in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

The coalition of Episcopal Churches will sponsor construction of a 3-bedroom unit in Habitat for Humanity's new Stamford project, a 6-unit condominium project at the corner of West Main and Spruce Street. The coalition hopes to more than double its membership in the next few months and raise \$100,000 to sponsor the unit. Volunteers from member churches will participate in on-site construction work on the project with work scheduled to begin next spring.

You can make a donation by sending your tax-deductible check payable to "Habitat for Humanity CFC" to Habitat for Humanity--Coastal Fairfield County, 1470 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06610. Be sure to **put "Episcopal Bridgebuilders #6" in the memo line** so the coalition gets credit for your donation.

Dear Friends:

What a joy it has been to be with you at St. Mark's this fall. Thanks to your hospitality and warmth, I have felt part of your community since my first Sunday here.

Some highlights of the fall have been your beautiful sanctuary, so perfect for worship; your amazing choir, a delight Sunday after Sunday; your efficient altar servers and ministers of communion (always ready to cover the missteps of a new priest); the children and teachers of the Sunday School, who make leading children's worship so much fun; and the women of the Altar Guild, their behind-the-scenes elegance enhancing everything we do during the service.

And most of all: you! I love teaching and preaching at St. Mark's and I am enjoying getting to know you all. I look forward to serving with you for the remainder of the interim period.

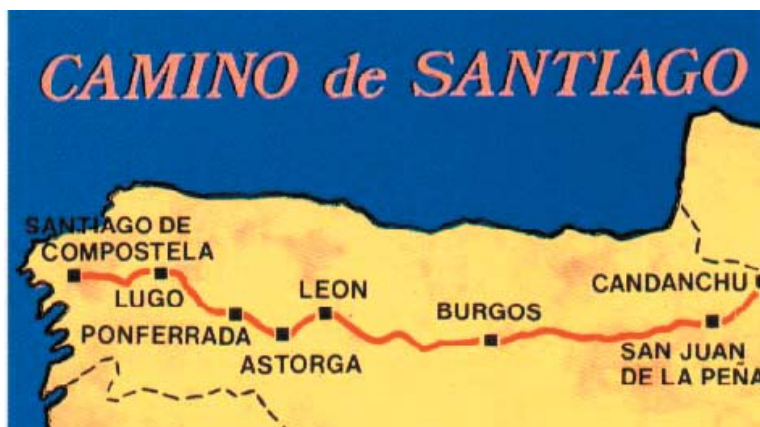
I would like to close with a Benedictine Christmas prayer:

*Child of Bethlehem – house of bread;
Man of Jerusalem – city of peace;
You have loved us
Without limit or condition;
In our greatness and in our misery,
In our folly and in our virtue;
May your hand be always upon us,
And may your heart be within us,
So that we too may become
Bread and peace for one another.*

Every blessing always,
Anne+



Anne Richards leading the Children's Eucharist on a Sunday morning.



El Camino de Santiago

Pilgrim's Progress on December 9 at 11:30

Brian and Catherine Hollstein have just completed a pilgrimage across northern Spain to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. According to legend the cathedral holds the remains of St. John.

They will share their experiences on the 700km walk into medieval history on Sunday December 9th after the 10:00 a.m. service. Thirty days on the trail walking with backpacks through mountains, plains, mud, wind and rain will be condensed into 30 minutes of slides and the observations of 21st Century pilgrims following a 1,000 year old tradition. Grab a cup of coffee, then come to the library.

2008 Stewardship Report aka Let's put the "ALL" in the St. Mark's ALL-Parish Appeal

First, a heartfelt "thank you" to the 187 parish families who have pledged \$756,072 so far. That comes to an average of \$4043 per family. Yeah!



However, since this is an ALL-Parish Appeal, which means we ALL participate in the financial support of our church, we are still looking for another \$443,928 from the remaining 138 families who have not yet submitted their pledges. Can we meet the \$1.2 million stewardship goal for this year? Absolutely, that is if we ALL participate. Since we have decided to track pledges according to affinity groups this year, we thought you ALL would want to know how we are doing. Here are the results so far for the 12 affinity groups within St. Mark's:

The top four (60% - 70% participation) are:
 Vestry, Search, Nominating, and Stewardship Committees
 Flower Committee and Altar Guild
 Columbarium, Property, and Finance
 Outreach and Church Growth

The group giving at 50% participation:
 Ushers

Those groups hovering between 20-40% participation:
 Ministers of Communion and Lectors
 Church School Teachers
 Adult and Youth Choirs
 Sunday School Families
 Confirmation and EYC
 Flying Buttresses
 May Fair Committee

Kudos to the top four affinity groups, and particularly to the Flower Committee/Altar Guild, for making their timely and generous pledges! And for the rest of the groups, we hope to see a substantial increase in participation by year-end. Take pride in your affinity group! Show the rest of the parish that your group really cares about St. Mark's!

Frankly, without your pledges in hand and a firm dollar amount with which to work, it is virtually impossible to set a 2008 budget. So, please submit your generous pledges – in December - if possible.

To help you along in this endeavor, your stewardship committee will be making follow up phone calls this week. Be nice to them. They are your friends and fellow parishioners and are trying to do what they can to make St. Mark's be the best it can be. We are hoping you will do the same.

Advent Adult Education Classes

Sunday, December 2, 9, 16, & 23 at 9:00-9:45 a.m.

Centering Prayer Group

Anne Richards leads a Centering prayer group this Advent. Each session begins with some brief instruction in centering prayer, a short discussion of that Sunday's gospel, and then 20 minutes of centering prayer. Centering prayer is silent prayer that focuses on sitting in God's presence with the aid of a sacred word or mantra. Infuse your busy Advent season with peace and nourish your spirit with quiet prayer in this congenial group, which meets in the Library. Optional reading: *Open Mind, Open Heart* by Thomas Keating (Continuum).

Birth of The Messiah

Fr. Rider explores the Christmas story through the lens of raging Christological debates of the early Church. How does the manner of Jesus' birth speak to his humanity and divinity? Why does Scripture contain three different birth stories? Join us for this provocative and illuminating discussion.



Church school children in reflective prayer during a Sunday morning yoga session.



Art Show at St. Mark's

ST. FRANCES FELLOWSHIP TO DISPLAY ORIGINAL WORK, DEC. 9

"Creative Endeavors", an exhibit by the St. Frances Fellowship will be on display at St. Mark's on Sunday, December 9, from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. The exhibit includes members' paintings – oil, watercolor, and acrylic – as well as creative handwork including a needlepoint rug and pillows, crewel work, glass flowers, an Archangel Michael icon, a hooked rug, a Christening dress, and an embroidered picture. Stop by this amazing display of talent. Sneak a preview after church on Sunday, December 9th. The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

In 1994, Gloria Major-Brown, with the blessings of the Rev.'s Roland Jones and Maggie Minnick, created a support group for widows of St. Mark's Church. Since then, the group has grown to include women from the entire community who share their experiences of coping with loss and responsibilities of managing their lives while enjoying dynamic and varied programs. As chair Carole Buffett says, "We have programs of interest for everyone".



Martha Derby Doscher, long time parishioner, in front of her recent painting, *The Red Barn*. The barn was a nostalgic part of the Doscher home property on West Road. This will be one of many works of art on display at the Creative Endeavors Exhibit on December 9. A bit of interesting local trivia: the Doscher house was designed and built in 1948 by the architect, Willis Mills, who later was the architect of St. Mark's Church.



Book Group Selections for December through January

Day Change: 2nd Wednesday of the Month, 12:30-2p.m.

Please note the change of meeting day, we are going back to meeting on the second Wednesday of the month from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. in the Education Center. All are welcome – you do not need to come to all the meetings. Come when you can; bring a lunch. The schedule alternates fiction and non-fiction. The meeting dates are the second Wednesday of each month. Each month's selection will be available to order in the Lion's Den Book and Gift Store. Any questions, call the church office, 203.966.4515.

Wednesday, December 12

Shepherds Abiding: A Mitford Christmas Story by Jan Karon

This eighth book in the Mitford series focuses on "the most wonderful time of the year" --- Christmas. The narrative revolves around Father Tim's restoration of an old, battered nativity set, which he hopes to complete for his wife Cynthia as a surprise for Christmas. Every chapter in *Shepherds Abiding* pertains to a specific figure in the nativity set as Father Tim brings each one back to life. As he painstakingly sands the plaster figures, uncovering their natural beauty, he also uncovers a surprising talent for working creatively with his hands. When a nativity piece must be discarded because it is damaged beyond repair, Father Tim also discards some of his fondest dreams for the future --- and creates some new ones. The restoration of the figures becomes symbolic of Father Tim's personal restoration as he enjoys his retirement. He finds himself reminiscing about past Christmases with his mother and father, and remembering the lonely and imaginative child that he had been.



Wednesday, January 9, 2008:

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote . . . One School at a Time by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Rel
 "... one of the most remarkable adventure stories of our time. Greg Mortenson's dangerous and difficult quest to build schools in the wildest parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan is not only a thrilling read, it's proof that one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, really can change the world."

St. Nicholas Tea

Feast of St. Nicholas
Thursday, December 6, 3-5pm

Share a peaceful moment this season and stop by St. Mark's for the long standing traditional St. Nicholas Tea on Thursday, December 6 at 3:00 p.m. Set up in the library will be a traditional Victorian tea replete with scrumptious holiday delights and perfectly brewed English tea amidst candlelit tables of linen and lace and a toasty fireplace. Special guest of honor will be stopping by.



Children, friends, neighbors and guests are always welcome to stop by.



5th Grade Church
School Class
collecting, sorting,
shelving food for the
Food Pantry



Pledge Payments

Whether you are considering paying the balance of your 2007 pledge commitment or contemplating prepaying your 2008 stewardship pledge, you might want to do so by donating stock. A little over a year ago, we made arrangements through The Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut to maximize stock transaction funds realized by St. Mark's. By using the Diocesan account, we enjoy minimum expenses associated with these stock sales.

If you decide to sell stock and donate the proceeds to the Church, it is critical that you follow the steps outlined below:

1. Advise Dick DePatie, Parish Administrator, or Nadia Cwiach, Financial Secretary, at the Parish Office (966-4515), that you have decided to make a stock gift to St. Mark's. Give the name of the stock and the number of shares to be donated. Once that information is obtained, we can track this transaction. (Since other parishes use the Diocesan account, it is hard to trace a donation when this information is missing.)
2. Once you have notified the Parish Office of your intentions to sell stock, give your broker the particulars of the Diocesan account:
 - ~ Stock brokerage firm: Merrill Lynch, Hartford
 - ~ Telephone numbers: (800) 937-0863; (860) 728-3627
 - ~ Fax number: (860) 728-3618
 - ~ Account representative: Margaret Woods
 - ~ Account Number (The Episcopal Diocese of CT.): 814-04b22
 - ~ DTC Number: 5198
3. Your broker then contacts Merrill Lynch, Hartford, with all the above pertinent information and the stock will be sold.
4. The Diocese will monitor the transaction and relay a report to St. Mark's - once Merrill Lynch sells the stock. Proceeds of the sale go from Merrill Lynch to the Diocese to St. Mark's.

This is a wonderful way to meet your stewardship obligations. Be sure, however, to follow the instructions described above. Many have used this process and are pleased with the results. We are confident you will be pleased as well.

EYC TEENS TO GO ON "MIDNIGHT RUN"

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

Our EYC members and the students of the seventh and eighth grade confirmation classes are working together on a pre-Christmas "Midnight Run" ministry to the homeless. We will distribute warm clothing, food and personal care items to the homeless on the streets of New York City throughout the night of December 23.



Clothing and supplies we will be collecting are noted in the flier on this page. Please note: used clothing must be clean and in good condition.

Help with sandwich, soup making, shopping, sorting is appreciated. Let us know if you can spare some time and hands this month.

For more information about Midnight Run, visit Midnightrun.org. To join the St. Mark's Midnight Run volunteers, headed this year by Laurie Saggese, please call the church office (966-4515) and ask to speak with the _____ Rev.

Carol Hoidra.



On each Sunday in Advent, members of EYC will be in the narthex after the 8:00 and 10:00 services to explain how you can help us by donating new or gently used clothing for this worthy cause.

Midnight Run is a volunteer organization dedicated to finding common ground between the domiciled and the homeless. In more than 900 relief missions every year, Midnight Run volunteers from churches, synagogues, schools and other civic groups distribute goods and food to the undomiciled poor who need our help.

St. Mark's Youth 3rd Annual Christmas Midnight Run

Donations needed of new or gently used adult size:

- * **Winter Coats - Large/Extra Large**
- * **Jeans/Durable Pants - Men's sizes 32-40**
- * **Sweaters/Warm Long-Sleeve Shirts/
Hooded Sweatshirts - Large/Extra Large**
- * **T-Shirts - Medium, Large, Extra Large**
- * **Long Underwear - Large**
- * **Tube Socks - white or dark**
- * **Underpants: Jockey style, NEW, Men's sizes 32-40**
- * **Hats - knitted**
- * **Gloves - ski or knitted, dark colors**
- * **Shoes: sneakers, work boots, soft soled shoes
- Men's sizes 9-12**
- * **Belts * Backpacks * Travel size toiletries**
- * **Financial Gifts (to help purchase supplies)**

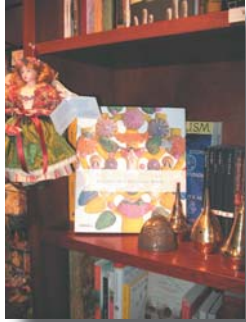
**Donations must be brought to Morrill Hall or
the Narthex by December 23rd
Call the Church Office for details, 203.966.4515**

Christmas At the Lion's Den

Great Books for Christmas

Clergy as Personal Book Consultants

Tired of giving (or receiving) another tie for Christmas? Thanks to our new Lion's Den Bookstore, you can give great book gifts (or add some to your own Santa wish list).



For four Advent Sundays, you can access your own book consultant to choose from our wonderful titles on spirituality, fiction, scripture, history and contemporary issues. During the coffee hour on December 2, 9, 16 and 23 David Rider, Carol Hoidra or Anne Richards will be present in our bookstore to make book suggestions. Tell them something about the gift recipient (they promise not to squeal), and they will suggest several great book options.

Can't make it on Sunday morning? Contact us by email or phone for the same consultation.

Shopkeeper's Christmas Favorites:

Children's Books:

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey by Susan Wojciechowski

Angela and the Baby Jesus by Frank McCourt



Young Adult Books

The Absolute True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie....winner of the 2007 Young Adult National Book Award.

Gift Books

Biblica: The Bible Atlas: A Social & Historical Journey Through the Lands of the Bible
by Professor Barry J. Beitzel

Art of the Creche: Nativities from Around the World by James L. Covan

Stocking Stuffers

Jesus Band-aids, \$3.50 per box with a surprise toy inside.

Barbara Gerweck of New Canaan, "What a perfect gift to give to the sisters at St. Birgitta's!"



Sterling silver mobius bracelets with inscribed verses....story bracelets with matching earrings....tree ornaments from Peru, Denmark, Germany, US from \$5-\$100....prayer spirituality and advent books and calendars....gorgeous holiday music...candles....choir mice.....creches...and lots more!



Holiday Bazaar - December 16 from 11-2pm

The halls will be decked with all our goodies, Christmas books, gift items, lots of our volunteer elves to wrap and get you on your way!

Extended Holiday Hours....

Wednesday, 9-1 Thursday, 9-1 & 4-7 Friday, 9-1 Saturday, 9-1 Sunday, 9-2

ST. MARK'S NURSERY SCHOOL



St. Mark's Nursery School has been very busy this season! With Thanksgiving around the corner, the children made a trip to the Food Bank at St. Mark's to meet the people organizing the distribution and to drop off their food. The children selected a particular food to bring to the Food Bank to help the needy in our community. They all enjoyed seeing the food being placed on the shelves and knowing that it would reach a deserving family.

The children delighted in the wonderful storyteller who came to visit on Monday, November 19th! He told the story of the "Three Billy Goats Gruff" among others. The children in both the three's and the four's classes had a very full morning listening to interesting stories!



There have been some great themes circulating about the classrooms, helping the children learn about sorting, helping others, mixing and measuring, colors, families and feelings. There is so much for our pre-schoolers to learn and they have the best teachers to nurture them here at St. Mark's!

The last day of school this year will be December 13th, when we celebrate with a Holiday-Sing-Along. Families and friends are invited to come enjoy the sweet sound of Christmas songs from the mouth of our little babes! Until then, we will be practicing our songs, baking treats, creating gifts for our family members and decorating our classrooms. We anticipate



Person - To - Person Christmas Doves

This holiday season, St. Mark's joins with 18 area churches in support of Person-to-Person's Christmas Dove Program. Through this program, we provide nutritious Christmas meals for families and seniors in our community who might otherwise have a hungry and bleak holiday. 2007 has 220 more families in need of Christmas food boxes, please help.

Doves will be distributed in the narthex and outside Morrill Hall on December 2nd and 9th and are also available in the church office. Families who choose a White Dove contribute \$15 for a supermarket gift card and fill a box with food for a needy family or senior (instructions are included with each Dove). Or, families can make a financial contribution to Person-to-Person's Scholarship or Emergency Assistance Fund by choosing a Green Dove.



Last year, St. Mark's parishioners helped make Christmas a more joyous time for over 50 families. Be an angel and pick up your Dove early – they fly right off the table! Request one by contacting the church office and it will be mailed to you, 203.966.4515/rmorrill@stmarksnewcanaan.org.



**We could use a few drivers with SUVs or station wagons on December 16 to deliver the boxes to a central point in Stamford. If you can help, please call Rhonda Morrill in the church office.

Doves must be brought to the Church House foyer the week of December 10 -15. We must have them all by noon Saturday, December 15.

Children's Christmas Pageant

December 23 during the 10:00 Service

The Church School Children present the annual Christmas Pageant during the 10 o'clock service on the Sunday before Christmas. All children are invited to participate, contact Rhonda Morrill, 966.4515x117 or rmorrill@stmarksnewcanaan.org.

Rehearsals for the pageant are:

*Dec. 9 – at 10:00 during Sunday School for all children – please meet in Sunday School classes. Costumes may be picked up after church



*Dec. 16 – at 9:15 only speaking parts and characters – meet in library.

10:00 for all parts - meet in Sunday School classes

* Please take home costumes and accessorize them.

Pageant Day

Dec. 23 – at 9:00 for all. Meet in the church; come dressed in costumes.



Cookie Reception in Morrill Hall

Please bring a dish of your favorite Christmas cookies or breads to share after the pageant



♦ Bakers and Savory makers: please bring a dish to the Messiah Reception on December 14. Let Margot Thorsheim know....mrbright@bresnan.com

♦ 2 loving middle-aged cocker spaniels looking for a loving home. Contact Rhonda Morrill if you are interested: rmorrill@stmarksnewcanaan.org.

Advent Devotions on Web Calendar

www.stmarksnewcanaan.org

Visit the St. Mark's Advent Virtual Calendar on our website:

stmarksnewcanaan.org.

Click to the calendar function on the home page.

December 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Starting the 1st of Advent,

December 2, each day you will find a new devotion and activity.

Sorry, we can't fit any virtual chocolates on the screen.

ST. MARK'S PARISH REGISTER
NOVEMBER 2007

BAPTISMS

Annabell Claire Bristol
daughter of Dana Cleford and Christopher Bristol

Edward John Kollitides
son of Karen Schmitt Kollitides and George Kosmos Kollitides

George Kosmos Kollitides, III
son of Karen Schmitt Kollitides and George Kosmos Kollitides

Olivia Jane Martucci
daughter of Meghan Kelly Phelps and David Nicholas Martucci

Jerome Verity Roscoe
son of Margaret Getzendammer Roscoe and Keith Roscoe

William Forbes Roscoe
son of Margaret Getzendammer Roscoe and Keith Roscoe

Altar Flowers



Contact the church office now to request altar flowers/plants for Christmas or another Sunday (966.4515 or

tmcgee@stmarksnewcanaan.org).

For Christmas poinsettias, please notify the office by December 17 to have your dedication acknowledged in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Upcoming Baptism Dates:

†	Baptism of Our Lord	January 13, 2008	10:00 a.m.
†	Easter Vigil	Saturday March 22, 2008	8:00 p.m.
†	Pentecost	Sunday, June 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
†	All Saints' Day	Sunday, Nov. 2 2008	10:00 a.m.

At St. Mark's, we celebrate Baptism on the feast days listed above. For information, please call the church office and if you want to schedule a baptism be sure to call several weeks before the desired date.



*Earth
Ministries
Wishes You
A Very Green
Low-Carbon
Christmas!*

Here are some ways
to help you get there:

① Decorate with
LED Christmas lights
they are 90% more efficient

② Ship gifts by ground
transportation; shop earlier

③ Shop on-line rather than driving
to the mall

④ Cancel unwanted printed catalogs:
www.catalogchoice.org

⑤ Reduce carbon emissions, give the
gift of carbon offsets:
<http://www.carbonfund.org/>

Weekly Service Times

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Rite I Holy Eucharist
	10:00 a.m.	Rite II Choral Holy Eucharist
	10:00 a.m.	Children's Eucharist
	6:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist II with Taize Music
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist II with Healing

The
Lion's
Roar



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

111 Oenoke Ridge Road
New Canaan, CT 06840
203.966.4515
203.966.0439 (fax)
203.972.7888 (nursery school)
203.966.3838 (bookstore)
www.stmarksnewcanaan.org

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The Rev. David Rider
Interim Rector

Richard DePatie
Parish Administrator

The Rev. Carol Hoidra
Assistant to the Rector

Helen Palmesi
Nursery School Director

The Rev. Anne Richards
Priest Associate

Melanie Mandler
Bookstore Manager

Brian-Paul Thomas
Organist and Choirmaster

Nadia Cwiach
Financial Secretary

Rhonda Morrill
Director of Christian
Education & Communications

Thea McGee
Parish Secretary

Advent and Christmas 2007 At St. Mark's

Advent Wreathmaking

Sunday, December 2 after 10:00am Worship

Advent 9:00am Sunday Classes

December 2, 9, 16, 23

Birth of the Messiah

David Rider in the Education Center

Centering Prayer Group

Anne Richards in the Library

St. Nicholas Tea

Thursday, December 6 ~ 3:00-5:00pm

Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

December 9, 16 & 23 during Church School

Handel's Messiah

Friday, December 14 ~ 8:00pm

Lion's Den Book & Gift Store

Holiday Bazaar

Sunday Morning, December 16

Children's Christmas Pageant at 10:00am Service

followed by

Christmas Cookie Reception

Sunday, December 23

No Taize Service

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship

5:00pm Family Service

6:00pm Carillon Serenade

6:30 Caroling at God's Acre

10:30pm Music of Christmas

11:00pm Christmas Eucharist

Christmas Day Worship

10:00am Holy Eucharist



December 2007

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

New Canaan, CT

www.stmarksnewcanaan.org



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



Advent Wreath Making
Dec. 2 at 11:15



St. Nicholas Day

9-1:00p Bookstore
3-5p St. Nicholas Tea
4-7:00p Bookstore
6:15 Food Bank
7:00p CaTS St. M
7:30p Adult Choir

1

10-12:00p Bookstore
10:00a Adult Choir

2 Advent 1

8:00a HE I
9-2:00p Bookstore
9:00a Adult Ed 10:00a
HE/Children's Ed/Worship
11:15 Advent Wreath
Making
6:00p Taize HE
7:00p EYC party

3

12:00p ACOA/Al-Anon

4

9-11 Food Bank
10:00a AA
12:00p Al-Anon
4-4:30p Joyful Noyze

5

9-1:00p Bookstore
Coffeehouse
9:30a Eucharist &
Healing
10:00a Bible Study
10:00a AA
4-5:00p Choristers
7:30p Confirmation

6

7

9-1:00p Bookstore
10:00a Senior Men

8

10-12:00p Bookstore
10:00a Adult Choir

9 Advent 2

8:00a HE I
9-2:00p Bookstore
9:00a Adult Ed
10:00a HE/Children's Ed/
Pageant Rehearsal
11:15 Coffee Hour
11:30 Compostelo Talk
2-4:00p Creative Endeavors
6:00p Taize HE
7:00p EYC

10

12:00p ACOA/Al-Anon

11

10:00a AA
12:00p Al-Anon
4-4:30p Joyful Noyze

12

9-1:00p Bookstore
Coffeehouse
9:30a Eucharist &
Healing
10:00a Bible Study
10:00a AA
12:30p Book Group
4-5:00p Choristers
7:30p Confirmation

13

9-1:00p Bookstore
4-7:00p Bookstore
7:30p Adult Choir

14

9-1:00p Bookstore
10:00a Senior Men
8:00p Concert



15

10-12:00p Bookstore
12:00p Dove dropoff

16 Advent 3

8:00a HE I
9-2:00p Bookstore
9:00a Adult Ed
10:00a HE/Children's
Ed/Pageant Rehearsal
11:15 Coffee Hour
12:00 Dove Delivery
6:00p Taize HE
7:00p EYC

17

12:00p ACOA/Al-Anon

18

9-11 Food Bank
10:00a AA
12:00p Al-Anon
4-4:30p Joyful Noyze
7:30p Vestry TBD

19

9-1:00p Bookstore
Coffeehouse
9:30a Eucharist &
Healing
10:00a Bible Study
10:00a AA
4-5:00p Choristers
7:30p Confirmation

20

9-1:00p Bookstore
7:00p CaTS Pres
4-7:00p Bookstore
6:15 Food Bank
7:30p Adult Choir

21

9-1:00p Bookstore

22 Winter Solstice

10-12:00p Bookstore
10:00a Adult Choir



23 Advent 4

8:00a HE I
9-2:00p Bookstore
9:00a Adult Ed 10:00a
HE/Children's Pageant
11:15 Cookie Reception
EYC Midnight Run
No Taizé Service

**24 Christmas
Eve**

Office closed
12:00p ACOA/Al-Anon
5:00p Family Eucharist
6:00p Carillon
6:30p Caroling God's Acre
10:30p Music of Christmas
11:00p Holy Eucharist

25 Christmas



26

10:00a AA

27

9-1:00p Bookstore

28

9-1:00p Bookstore

29

10-12:00p Bookstore

30

8:00a HE I
9-1:00p Bookstore
9:00a Adult Ed
10:00a HE
No Children's Program
11:15 Coffee Hour
No Taizé Service

**31 New
Year's Eve**

12:00p ACOA/Al-Anon

Jan 1, 2008



Händel's Messiah
Friday, December 14
8pm at St. Mark's