



THE LION'S MARK

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR SAINT MARK'S CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA

A COMMUNITY THAT GATHERS IN FAITH, SERVES IN LOVE, AND PROCLAIMS HOPE, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

LEADERSHIP, STEWARSHIP & MISSION

BY FR. SEAN MULLEN

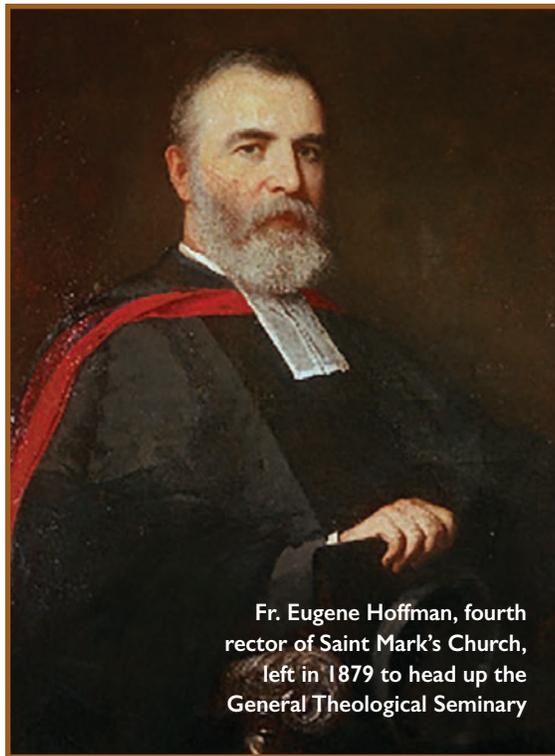
In 1879, after ten years of service at Saint Mark's as its fourth Rector, Fr. Eugene Augustus Hoffman left Philadelphia to take up his new post as Dean of the General Theological Seminary in New York City.

When he arrived at the seminary, the campus consisted of two buildings occupying a grassy plot of land in Chelsea, before that neighborhood was yet established. He must have pined for Locust Street when he got there! Although General is the oldest seminary in the Episcopal Church and the only one with a claim to be a national seminary (since it was established by the national church's General Convention), the seminary was not yet at that time much of an institution. The student body was smaller than it should be, the campus was inadequate, and the faculty was undeveloped and undistinguished. Hoffman set out to change all that, and he did.

Under his leadership, an entire campus was built: elegant brick neo-Gothic buildings along the perimeter of three sides of the entire city block, with a chapel in the middle. He recruited an impressive faculty, and students followed. The library acquired an astonishing collection, including a Gutenberg Bible. The example of leadership and accomplishment in ministry that Hoffman had demonstrated on Locust Street was in even greater evidence on Chelsea Square.

Hoffman was a rich man with rich friends and a rich family—this fact certainly facilitated his leadership. But he was also a man of vision with a restless desire to advance the mission of the church. When he was awarded an honorary doctorate at Oxford University in 1896, the citation mentioned that “a remarkable witness to the wisdom, power, and munificence of this man is the church of St. Mark in the city of Philadelphia, which is said to be the most beautiful parish church in the United States.” Although Hoffman had served several other parishes before Saint Mark's, our parish is the only one noted in the citation.

In 1978 the seminary sold the Gutenberg Bible for \$2.2 million in a bid to raise much needed cash. The sale did not, however, solve the seminary's woes. Budget challenges would continue to beset the institution until fiscal crisis loomed large in recent years.



Fr. Eugene Hoffman, fourth rector of Saint Mark's Church, left in 1879 to head up the General Theological Seminary

Never fear, interested parties were counseled by seminary leaders, the seminary sits on Manhattan real estate, that is a valuable commodity, upon which we will capitalize to solve our problems. But the fortunes of real estate development did not materialize so readily or so substantially, and several efforts to cash in on the value of seminary property (without actually selling it outright) fell short of their goals. Eventually, in the past two to three years, the seminary has sold to private developers as much of its land out from underneath it as it possibly could in order to stave off bankruptcy and keep the institution open, if somewhat compromised. A strong whiff of hope had been in the air at long last. But in the past month, conflict between the faculty, the dean, and the Board has erupted into an embarrassingly public, and frankly unholy row (as the British say). And many question whether or not the seminary will survive this new episode of conflict.

As an alumnus of the General Seminary, and as a successor to its great Dean Eugene Augustus Hoffman, as Rector (ten rectors removed) of this great and beautiful parish, I ask myself if there are lessons to be learned here. At this time of year I am particularly prone to think of those lessons in terms of stewardship—the care and use of all the gifts that God has entrusted to me, indeed to all of us. And I think that there are some important lessons to be learned in broad brush-strokes.

The first lesson is that leadership counts for a lot. American society is in the midst of what I consider to be a crisis of leadership in many areas of our common life, and the church is not immune to this crisis. Good leaders are hard to find in the church at a time when we very badly need them. And real progress is made when good leaders are empowered to make good decisions and do good work. The church needs to cultivate faithful, effective leadership at every level.

The second lesson is that real estate – even Manhattan real estate – is not a balm to cure all financial woes. Many is the parish that has sold off its assets (usually real estate assets) to raise money in a crisis, only to discover that the money is not enough, it does not fix the underlying problem, and whatever little good it accomplished in the short term is quickly forgotten, while the problems persist. Liquidating assets to raise cash is usually a sign of desperation not hope in the church, and desperation is seldom possessed of a very good vision of the future.

The third lesson is that there is no substitute for the mission of the Gospel. I have often pointed out that Saint Mark's was a leader in ministry of great variety and impact during Hoffman's years as Rector here. This point is not merely incidental: I contend that the dons at Oxford knew full well that it was not Hoffman who had built Saint Mark's, and so it was not the architecture alone that made it "the most beautiful parish church in the United States."

Whether the Oxonians knew it or not, it was the ministry that was born in this place, that was practiced here, and that was sent out from these gates that made this parish a place and a community of astounding beauty. The fine architecture here was greatly enhanced by the

bright light of so much Christian ministry directed toward a great variety of people, including the very needy, and steeped in an unflinching tradition of prayer and the worship of God. Saint Mark's may have been, and may still be the most beautiful parish church in the United States, but we could never claim that moniker on the basis of architecture alone – so much of our beauty is derived from the ministry of prayer and service here, and it always has been!

We do need to be good stewards of our real estate, and well as good stewards of the endowments and other treasures that have been entrusted to our care. But most of all we need to be good stewards of the ministry that has been given to us. Saint Mark's has a rich legacy of ministry that began before Eugene Augustus Hoffman was Rector here, flourished under his leadership, and has continued for many generations. It is this rich legacy of ministry, together with our beautiful church building, that makes this among the most beautiful parish churches in the world. And it is because of that legacy of ministry – and the call that God has made to us in our own time to carry on that ministry – that I am unabashed in asking you to think and pray carefully about making a generous pledge of support for 2015. It is your support that allows us to grow.

Our strategy for fruitfulness at Saint Mark's is to engage more wisely, more powerfully, and more munificently (to borrow the language from Oxford) in the mission and work of the Gospel. We have been working to increase our capacity for ministry, and we are seeing this happen. And we continue to share with one of our great Rectors a vision for our future and a restless desire to advance the mission of the church and to build up the kingdom of God. May we always be worthy of that legacy!



DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov 2	All Saints Sunday <i>We're keeping the feast on Sunday this year at all services, including Choral Evensong & Benediction at 3 pm (Remember to set your clocks back!)</i>	Nov 19	20s/30s Simple Supper
Nov 3	Solemnity of All Souls <i>Choral High Requiem Mass at 7 pm</i>	Nov 22	Family Service Project <i>Parish Kitchen, 11:00 am</i>
Nov 15	Garden Cleanup <i>9:30 am - 2:30 pm</i>	Nov 23	Advent Cleanup Day <i>1-4 pm</i>
Nov 16	Commitment Sunday <i>Visiting Children's Choir at 9 am Celebration Brunch at 12:30 pm</i>	Nov 30	Advent Sunday <i>Procession of Advent Lessons & Carols at 3pm Open House at 4 pm</i>

THANKSGIVING SCHEDULE

Wednesday, November 26
1:00 Parish Office Closed
– Evening Prayer read privately

Thursday, November 27
10:00 Sung Mass for Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 27 •
10:00 Low Mass – offices read privately

PAY GOD FIRST

DIANE FRYER

I am a “newbie” when it comes to being an Episcopalian. I was received into the Episcopal community here at Saint Mark’s on April 28th of this year. Last November, I experienced my first Commitment Sunday as a member of Saint Mark’s, and one thing that struck me was how eager everyone seemed to get their pledge card into the earthen bowl. I wouldn’t call it a free-for all, but it was close. I also didn’t fully understand the importance of it. It wasn’t until I was asked to serve on the Stewardship Committee that I was able to appreciate the significance of what our pledges achieve.

So in thinking about what to write about renewing our commitment by making our pledges, I asked for help from my friend Juli (a “cradle” Episcopalian) about pledging and what it means to her. One of the things she said was that she feels like she is “paying God first.” Now that stopped me. *Paying God first?* I thought. Who could ever afford His salary? But as I continued to listen to Juli more, I began to understand what paying God first must mean. We were, after all, standing in Saint Mark’s kitchen at Saturday Soup Bowl. Although gallons of soup are made by dedicated volunteers, we still need to provide bowls, napkins, butter, coffee and tea. Our parish provides warmth in the winter and a cool respite in the summer months to our Soup Bowl guests. Your pledge helps to provide this for a section of our community that is often overlooked.

Juli reminded me that when we pledge and renew our commitment for the upcoming year, it is a way for the Vestry to set a budget. We all like to know how much money will be coming in for our own households. Same for our Vestry. We have a remarkable amount of programs going at Saint Mark’s and our pledges help them to continue and grow.

Personally, I look at the insert that has the Parish Announcements and wonder how this all happens! There is always something going on for whatever may interest you—music programs, lectures, and forums. And all the things that go on for the children—Schola, The Boys and Girls Choir and Child Care. All these things happen through dedicated parishioners and through our financial support.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 16TH.



You hopefully have already received your pledge card in the mail along with your response form for the Parish Brunch, which will take place after the 11:00 o’clock Mass at the Philadelphia Racquet Club.

The members of the Stewardship Committee ask you to consider your pledge prayerfully and thoughtfully, and I now look forward to the rush to drop off our pledge cards in the beautiful hand-crafted bowl as everyone rushing to pay God first!

20S/30S SIMPLE SUPPERS

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19

The 20s/30s Simple Suppers continue to be incredibly popular. Our next dinner will be at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, November 19th right here in Center City. Join us for food, worship, and really meaningful fellowship with other young adults at Saint Mark’s.

The dinners are casual and fun! Bring a friend (or seven if you want). Upcoming dates for these monthly Simple Suppers include December 10th and January 21st.

FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22: SOUP MAKING WITH RAY

Every year, the Saint Mark’s families come together on a Saturday in November to make soup for our Soup Bowl. We are led in this endeavor by the gracious and talented Ray Moderski, who helps us (children and adults) chop and sauté, stir and season. Even the very smallest children are given important tasks to do so that we can all contribute to helping to feed the hungry in this city. This is a really wonderful opportunity to serve Christ as a family and as a part of the faithful Saint Mark’s community.

The date for our soup making service project this year is Saturday, November 22. We’ll meet in the parish kitchen at 11:00 am to begin cooking. We’ll provide snacks to help fortify us for the morning. If you’d like to bring supplies for soup, please let Mother Takacs know. We’ll be making “Dad’s Chicken Soup,” a recipe that is on our website on the Soup Bowl webpage, or Mother Takacs will be happy to send it to you.

ADVENT AT SAINT MARK'S

INCARNATION AND EUCHARIST

“Sometimes, after receiving Holy Communion, as I look around a congregation, large or small, I have a sensation I can only sum up as this is it—this is the moment when people see one another and the world properly; when they are filled with the Holy Spirit and when they are equipped to go and do God’s work. It may last only a few seconds, but there it is. It has happened and it happens again and again.”

Rowan Williams, *Being Christian*

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

— Matthew 28:20b

This Advent, Saint Mark’s will undertake a period of prayer and study with a special focus on the Eucharist and Christ’s presence among us. Join us on Saturday mornings for 10:00 Mass followed by a quiet, prayerful hour of Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. On Sunday mornings at the 10:00 Forum, all are invited to learn and talk about the place of Eucharistic devotion in our lives as Christians. Advent is a famously busy time when all our priorities seem to get mixed up; come spend a quiet season with us preparing for the Feast of the Incarnation.

SATURDAYS

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Come to 10:00 Mass on Saturday mornings in Advent and stay for an hour of quiet Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. This simple liturgy is a beautiful way of honoring the Sacrament of Holy Communion and drawing closer to Jesus. Never prayed this way before? We’ll have materials on hand that will help you pray and meditate. All are welcome! Saturday December 6th, 13th, and 20th, immediately following 10:00 Mass at the St. John’s Altar.

SUNDAY 10:00 FORUM

Join us for a series of conversations about Eucharistic devotion. We’ll explore the history, theology, and beauty of the Eucharist. We’ll talk about what the Church believes, what we practice, how we are invited to grow closer to God through Eucharistic participation, and what we are doing when we pray in and through the Eucharist.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT: EUCHARIST AND INCARNATION

What’s the relationship between Jesus incarnate among us and Jesus present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist? What’s the difference between saying that Jesus is present with us and saying that God is everywhere? In this class we will talk about how the Eucharist shapes our relationship to the world around us: people, things, places, and time.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT: EUCHARIST AND HISTORY

Come learn about the history of the Eucharist: what Christians have believed, practiced, fought over, and devoted themselves to. We will put a special focus on the wide range of Anglican beliefs and practices, including Adoration and Benediction.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT: EUCHARIST AND BEAUTY

In this session we will talk about the way the Eucharist trains us to see: how it sharpens our “spiritual senses” and offers us an opportunity to perceive God breaking through in the material world. What does it mean to contemplate the Eucharist? How is that contemplation related to receiving Communion?

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT: EUCHARIST AND COMMUNITY

We hear it all the time: we are the Body of Christ. How does the Eucharist shape us as the Body? What are the consequences of understanding ourselves in this communion-shaped way?



TREBLE CHORISTERS VISIT

THE CHILDREN OF DELAWARE'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL TO JOIN SAINT MARK'S BOYS AND GIRLS CHOIR ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

BY DARRYL ROLAND

On Sunday, November 16, choristers from the Cathedral Choir School of Delaware and their director Arreon Harley will join our Boys and Girls Choir to sing for the 9:00 a.m. Family Mass at Saint Mark's Church. The choir festival will give our choristers an opportunity to sing with other peers who are receiving similar training and make new friends.

We're anticipating approximately 25 choristers from Delaware who will arrive in Philadelphia on Saturday, November 15 at 10:00 a.m. They will rehearse with our choristers from 10:30 to noon and then enjoy a lunch together in the Parish Hall. A second rehearsal will resume at 1:00 with sightseeing at 2:30. They'll come back to Saint Mark's around 5:00 to enjoy a choir supper together before evening falls.

On Sunday morning, the choristers will present two anthems, including César Franck's *Panis angelicus*, as well as lead hymns and service music. In the spring, our choristers will travel to Wilmington, Delaware to join their newly made friends in singing a Choral Evensong on Sunday, April 26.

Although we were anticipating providing homestays for our guests, the Delaware choristers and their chaperones will spend Saturday night with sleeping bags in the Parish Hall. If you would like to join our choir families in providing a casserole for the Saturday choir supper or a breakfast casserole for Sunday morning, please contact Ellen Doster at edoster@saintmarksphiladelphia.org.

Also, plan on inviting friends and family to our 9:00 Family Mass as a way of supporting our young singers and encouraging other families to get involved!



SUNDAY FORUM AT SAINT MARK'S

Join us throughout the month of November for a cup of coffee and a rich discussion. All classes are held in the parish hall at 10:00

NOVEMBER 2

Bloomsbury Goes to Church:
The Religious Art of Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell.

Parishioner John Williams will discuss and show religious murals that Bloomsbury painters Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell did in an Anglican country parish and Lincoln Cathedral. Both Grant and Bell were at best irreligious, but these works speak to a deeper level of understanding God through art. Mr. Williams received a Master's Degree in Liberal Studies from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida and was a Humanities adjunct instructor there, teaching among other classes, a course on the Bloomsbury Group.

NOVEMBER 9

An Introduction to Islam.

Parishioner Roy Clouser, Emeritus Prof. of Philosophy and Religion, will teach a three-part introduction to Islam, providing theological and historical background to help us think about contemporary issues in faith and politics. Series continues on November 16 and 23.

NOVEMBER 16

An Introduction to Islam, part two

NOVEMBER 23

An Introduction to Islam, part three

NOVEMBER 30

Eucharist and Incarnation.

Mother Nora Johnson begins an Advent series on Eucharistic devotion and Christ's presence in the world among us. Continues on December 7, 14, and 21.

WHO WAS FREDERICK THOMAS AVERAY JONES?

BY MATT GLANDORF

ABOVE ALL I AM NOT CONCERNED WITH POETRY. MY SUBJECT IS WAR, AND THE PITY OF WAR. THE POETRY IS IN THE PITY. YET THESE ELEGIES ARE TO THIS GENERATION IN NO SENSE CONSOLATORY. THEY MAY BE TO THE NEXT. ALL A POET CAN DO TODAY IS WARN. THAT IS WHY THE TRUE POETS MUST BE TRUTHFUL.

- *Wilfred Owen*

As the choir and clergy gather each Sunday in the Cloister to sing the prayers before Mass, we meet at a point where there is an unassuming plaque in memory of Frederick Thomas Averay Jones, one of my predecessors. It is easy to miss this small, dark memorial against the backdrop of the dark stone. Our parishioners Todd Rieder and Libby Espey approached me at the beginning of the year and asked if there was maybe some way we could commemorate our former organist and choir-master since this was the anniversary of the Great War, and Jones himself left Saint Mark's to fight for the allied forces where he died at the Battle of Cambrai in 1917.

Since November is a time when we remember the dead, I thought there might be an opportunity to find a work that would honor him. Luckily, other long-time parishioner Bill Marsh tipped me off about a virtually unknown short Cantata by Harold Darke (of "In the bleak Midwinter" fame) written in memory of the fallen of World War I. Borrowing Bill's copy I knew we HAD to sing this piece! Reminiscent of Elgar and early Vaughan Williams, Darke's Communion settings feature so prominently, it is quite a thrill to discover this neglected masterpiece!

That begged the question: so who was Frederick "Fritz" Jones (1884 - 1917)? It turns out that there's not a lot of information to go on. With the help of Michael Krasulski who has been doing a vast amount of archival work for the Diocese, he was able to track down a basic outline of Jones' life, combined with the scanty information we could retrieve from the Vestry Minutes.

Frederick Thomas Averay Jones was born in 1884 in the town of Ballingham, Herefordshire to Rev. Alexander G. Jones and W. Cecilia Jones. His father was a parish priest in Yarkhill, Herefordshire. By 1901 he was living in Hereford and listed as a student of music at the Hereford Cathedral Choir School where he was most likely an articulated pupil to the Cathedral Organist George Robertson Sinclair.

Jones arrived in Philadelphia on 20 November 1905 on the SS Merion and Fr. Mortimer paid for his passage. Mortimer set him up at 126 S.

17th Street first serving as assistant to Minton Pyne. Upon Pyne's death, Jones became organist and choirmaster in 1906. He was also a member of the Musical Arts Club. As war breaks out in Europe Jones decides his place was to join the armed forces of his native England.

The Vestry Minutes include the following paragraph October, 1914. This statement is recorded in the vestry minutes:

"The Vestry desires to express to the choir master their readiness to cooperate with his desire to return to England with the object of taking part in the war with the Allies, if he should be so called upon. The matter of granting Mr. Jones leave of absence for the above cause is referred to the committee on the choir, with power to act."

He resigned from Saint Mark's Church to sail to England in April, 1915, to fight with British Army troops during World War I. Jones is wounded in action at Cambrai, France, and dies at age 34 on November 30, 1917, in a military hospital in Rouen, France, as cited on the plaque to his memory located in the Cloister to the right of the exit to St. James Street. His body is buried at Saint Sever Cemetery in Rouen, Department de la Seine-Haute-Normandie, France, in Plot: Officers, B.7.14. The inscription on his grave reads: "Frederick Averay Jones, 2nd Lieutenant, 3rd Herefordshire Regiment, 12/5/1917". (Source: Burials at Rouen, France, online). (The discrepancy in date of death between the online source and the plaque is possibly because interment in the Rouen Cemetery occurred on December 5, 1917).

The vestry honors Mr. Jones by deciding to award a Choir Cross in his name each year to an outstanding chorister. He died on 5 December 1917 in the Battle of Cambrai and served in the 1st Battalion of the Herefordshire Regiment.

A Requiem Mass was sung for him at Saint Mark's on December 19th with the service music of John Merbecke, and celebrated by Father Elliot White, and Jones' successor Lewis Wadlow leading the music.

It was said that World War I was the "war to end all wars". Indeed, the ravaging affects of modern warfare claimed more dead than any war before or since. The "advances" in war technology created more carnage and suffering known up until that point. Jones left behind virtually nothing as a legacy. No compositions, recordings, letters or anything else as of yet have surfaced. He was one of thousands plucked from this earth way before his time.

Words fail us in the face of such inhumanity. That leaves only poetry and music.



HERE IS THE POEM HAROLD DARKE SET WHICH WE WILL SING IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF SAINT MARK'S FORMER ORGANIST:

“AS THE LEAVES FALL”

Poem of Joseph Courtney, Autumn, 1916

And the leaves fall . . .
The silver and the golden fall together,
A-mingled irresistibly like tears.

The low-branched elms stand idly
In all the full-leaved glory of their life :
Yet here and there a yellow flake slips slowly,
And the branch, where once it hung, lies bare.
Below they lie the golden fruits of day.
And a soft spirit of the night
Weaves the white spell of sleep about their feet.

And the leaves fall . . .
The great sleep of the trees is nigh :
The flowers are dead.
Yet through the fine-spun web of mist
Gleams faintly Michael's pale blue star . . .
A time of sad soul-hunger, unspeakable desire,
That clutches at the heart and drags the soul!

And the leaves fall . . .
Is there a far faint life
Whispers with blood-choked voice thy name?
Whispers but once no more?
Then weep ye now, O Mothers!
And, Maidens, weep!

O England, rend the raiment of thy wealth :
Tear the soft vesture of thy pride !
Let the tears fall and be not comforted !
In all their youth they went for thee ;

In all their strength they died for thee ;
And so they fell,
As the leaves fall.

Yet they say you are dead ?
Ask of the trees. Perchance they hear
A distant murmuring of pulsing sap.
Perchance in their dim minds they see
Pale curled leaves that strive to greet the sun.
Perchance they know of yellow daffodils
Will dance again.

Yet the leaves fall . . .
And yonder through the mist is Michael's star-
Saint Michael with his angel-host !
Ay ! see them as they sweep along
Borne on an unseen wind to the far throne of God.
And, Mothers, see ; O Maidens, look
How the world's Christ stoops down and kisses each.

And listen now and hear their cry,
As, lances raised, they greet their King
“There is no death . . . There is no death . . .
No death . . .” and comfort you,
When the leaves fall . . .

UPCOMING MUSIC

BY MATT GLANDORF

NOVEMBER 2 – ALL SAINTS’ SUNDAY 11AM

HIGH MASS

Missa Brevis - Zachary Wadsworth

O what their joy - William Harris

The Beatitudes - Arvo Pärt

EVENSONG & BENEDICTION 3PM (NOTE
CHANGE OF TIME)

Salve Regina - Plainsong

Preces and Responses - Stephen Caracciolo

Evening Service in F - Harold Darke

As the Leaves Fall - Darke

(Cantata in memory of the Fallen in the Great War.
Philadelphia Premiere)

O salutaris - Herbert Howells

NOVEMBER 3 – SOLEMNITY OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

SOLEMN REQUIEM, 7 PM

Messa da Requiem - Ildebrando Pizzetti

In paradisum - Edwin Fissinger



OUTREACH REPORT

BY JAMES ROLL

So, what's been going on here at St. Mark's? It seems that there is always something that needs to be done—whether it's picking up 350 apples that have been generously donated to the Food Cupboard, or whether figuring out how turkeys are going to be acquired for the Food Cupboard, or showing people where soup needs to be stored for the Saturday Soup Bowl. Ellen Doster, my partner in crime, has spearheaded a project to begin knitting scarves and hats for the Soup Bowl Community, which is a task that can always use more hands to accomplish their goal. (If you're interested in being a knitter, or donating some yarn email Ellen at edoster@saintmarksphiladelphia.org).

THE DOVE TREE

We invite everyone to partake in the joys of the Dove Tree this Advent. Beginning in Advent, as has been the custom in the past, people are welcome to take a dove off of a tree that will be in the church. The dove will have an item on it that we are asking for to be able to give to the members of the St. Mark's Food Cupboard. This year, in particular we are continuing on the theme of finding warm clothes for our friends. This may range from socks to gloves to hats, or even to the occasional sweatshirt. I can't express enough how much the receivers of these gifts appreciate your generosity the continued care that St. Mark's as a whole has shown them over the years. Please email jroll@saintmarksphiladelphia.org for more information.



SAINT MARK'S CHURCH
PHILADELPHIA

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COMMITMENT

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16
COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Join us for 11am Mass followed by
12:30pm Brunch at The Racquet Club of Philadelphia

PLEASE RSVP BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2014
Your name and number of guests (215) 735-1416
or email jroll@saintmarksphiladelphia.org

KNITTING AS SERVICE

BY ELLEN DOSTER

I first learned to knit when I was twelve years old. A woman in my church met with a group of us on Wednesday evenings to teach us how to knit hats for merchant mariners who came through port. Ever since, knitting has become a hobby of mine, an outlet for creativity that is therapeutic at the same time. And while I've made plenty of hats, scarves, and mitts for my friends and family over the years, my earliest experience with knitting was meeting a need – giving, in my own small way, a little bit of warmth to men and women who were far away from their homes and families.

This December, as Saint Mark's continues our important work providing meals in the Saturday Soup Bowl, we are working to provide a little extra warmth for the people we serve this winter. Our goal is to have at least 150 pairs of hats and scarves for the Soup Bowl on December 20th. If you knit or crochet, or if you have yarn and needles or finished hats and scarves to donate, every contribution can help us reach this goal. If you're interested in learning how to knit, feel free to get in touch with me; knitting can be easy and relaxing, and you will be giving someone warmth and love this winter.

