

# THE LION'S MARK

The Monthly Newsletter of Saint Mark's Church, Philadelphia

*From the Rector Mechanical Advantage*

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SAINT MARK'S CHURCH  
1625 LOCUST STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19103



*Saint Mark's is a community that gathers in faith,  
serves in love, and proclaims hope, through Jesus Christ.*

NOVEMBER 2009: 'THE LION'S MARK'



When my father taught me how to drive a stick-shift car, a 'gear' was to me just a number, not a mechanical device. But I learnt, nonetheless, how important it

is to have more than one gear—and to use them! Now, as I look it up, I am told that the great thing about gears is this: 'gears of unequal sizes can be used to produce a mechanical advantage'. That mechanical advantage is the only reason, I suppose, that the Volkswagen bus I learned to drive in could both make it up a hill and drive on the highway (not brilliantly in either case, but it got you there).

### MORE THAN ONE GEAR

One of the great secrets of Saint Mark's is that as a community of faith we have a 'mechanical advantage' that many churches do not have. Most churches run on single gear that begins its rotation once every week on Sunday. The Sunday offering of worship and praise may be the only time the lights are turned on in the church all week. Maybe there is a midweek celebration of the Eucharist on Wednesday, but this is an added bonus, not an extra gear.

At Saint Mark's we run on gears of different sizes. Yes, we have a gear that rotates on the weekly cycle, beginning each Sunday at 8 am. But we have another gear or two that operate all week long in our round of daily masses (7:30 every weekday morning and 12:10 every weekday


afternoon), and Daily Offices (Morning Prayer at 9 am, Evening Prayer at 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday). Mass has been said daily at Saint Mark's since Advent of 1884. The Rector at the time, Dr. Nicholson, is reported to have said, "Give us this day our daily bread for which Our Lord has taught his church ever to pray—has now its deepest and best fulfillment in our midst. May that daily offering never cease henceforth 'till time shall be no more'."

### MARKING EVERY DAY

The worship of God in prayer and praise, the daily entrance into his holy presence, the call to repentance and renewal of life day by day, and the proclamation of the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ mark every single day in this church. We remember the saints on their appointed days, we pray for this sick of the parish, we implore God to make peace in the world, we commend the dead to his care, we practice the seeking of forgiveness and the receiving of it—someone here is doing this every day, turning toward God and invoking the mystery of his love and the power of his Name.

It's not that this frequency of worship makes us somehow better than other parishes. But I believe that it gives us what we might think of as a mechanical advantage, helping us to enter more readily, more deeply into the life of holiness God is asking us to try to lead. A few of you know well the strange and quiet power of this mechanical advantage of the daily mass. And while it is perfectly all right that this is a smaller gear, with far fewer people participating on any given day than on Sunday, it is also the case that it takes at least a few of us to keep these gears running. The Mass is an act of thanksgiving, an occasion of forgiveness, and an opportunity for reflection, healing and blessing. The next time you feel the need for any of these, you might consider wending your way to Saint Mark's for a half hour in the morning or in the middle of the day, to add your heart and your voice to the prayers of the church at Mass that day.

### LISTEN FOR THE HUM

Meanwhile, you might sit quietly in church some Sunday, or any day, thinking about all the gifts that God has given to us at Saint Mark's. And in the silence of this dark stone space, you might listen for the hum of the smaller gears of daily worship and prayer, and see all that God has allowed us to do on Locust Street and all that he asks us to do, and see if you don't agree that we have a mechanical advantage. Thanks be to God! 



The community that gathers every day of every week at Saint Mark's is the heart of this church. Recognizing that's as varied and interesting a group as you're likely to find, The Lion's Mark will profile a member each month. It isn't that we're nosy (well, maybe a little nosy), but we thought you'd be interested to hear what Saint Mark's members have to say.

# People in the Pew

INTERVIEWS BY JOY TOMME

## NEIL SANDVOLD

All churches have one thing in common. They must balance the twin commitments of expanding and deepening the church's mission to fulfill God's purpose, while maintaining and enhancing the church's physical structure. One of Saint Mark's members, Neil Sandvold, is working on both responsibilities.

We caught up with Neil by phone recently.

**TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF** I'm an architect and have my own firm, Sandvold Blanda, on South 17th Street here in Philadelphia, but I was born and raised in the Midwest.

Originally, my family came from northern Minnesota, but I grew up all over the Midwest — Illinois, Oklahoma, Missouri. I'm a typical Norwegian in appearance — blond, blue eyes, tall, slim — and I'm skidding into 50!

I studied architecture in St Louis and came to Philadelphia to go to grad school at Penn.

I was raised in the Lutheran church, but started coming to Saint Mark's about 10 years ago, mainly because my life partner, Mark Robinson, is a parishioner. But I too found a church home at Saint Mark's.

This past year, I was asked to join the Building and Properties committee to help evaluate the Master Plan, to evaluate urgent priorities and to organize what needs to be grouped together as projects. The stewardship of our buildings is important. But another element is determining



what's possible regarding the ministry of the church.

There are plans to renovate the building, and we need to be clear about what we're renovating the building for! What's the mission and purpose and program for the building? We need to plan for 50 years from now.

I'm also very involved with the Philadelphia Art Museum and am chair of COLLAB, which supports and raises funds for the Modern and Contemporary Design Collection. But my term is running out. *(This may be very good for Saint Mark's. Neil hinted that with less time at the museum, he could become more active in the parish.)*

**FAVORITE ASPECT OF SAINT MARK'S**  
The music program.

**GREATEST CHALLENGE FOR THE PARISH** Envisioning the future and imagining what the church's history will be in 50 years.

**DESCRIBE THE PARISH TO A STRANGER** Saint Mark's is very welcoming. You can actually feel the presence of spirituality in the church building. The history of the church and its role in Philadelphia is remarkable.

**LAST BOOK READ** I tend to read a lot of books simultaneously. Right now I'm reading short stories by A.M. Homes, Follett's *Pillars of the Earth*, and *Lost Icons: Reflections on Cultural Bereavement*, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams.

**HYMN YOU'D TAKE TO A DESERT ISLAND** Oh gosh, I don't know. I can't pick one.

**THREE PEOPLE, LIVING OR DEAD, YOU'D TAKE ON A ROAD TRIP** I know I'd take Walt Whitman, but I can't choose from among about twenty others!

**WHAT PROFESSION, OTHER THAN YOUR OWN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEMPT?** I studied classical piano and I had to choose between that and architecture — so maybe I'd try that.

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR GOD SAY WHEN YOU PASS THROUGH THE PEARLY GATES?**  
'Good job!' Or 'You're done!' 🙏

# I IMAGINE THAT SOME OF US

perhaps even most of us, have had the experience of attending a church that was neither welcoming nor friendly. That's always a negative experience. That experience is increased, it seems to me, for people who are 'unchurched', since worship and 'church talk' are already alien and unwelcoming.

Finding a way into a new community can be a complicated and difficult process. Those of us who are already members of Saint Mark's feel comfortable here, but to those just coming to know the community, I'm sure that the parish is a complex and unusual place. It's not simply the worship that makes us daunting (even, I suspect, for Episcopalians), but our old buildings, the number of our ministries and groups, and the busyness of our schedule contribute as well.

## THROUGH THE DOORS

Large numbers of people visit our church on Sundays; we've never had trouble getting people through our doors. And once people find their way into our community, they experience that community to be welcoming and friendly.

But I have a feeling that the threshold to get through our doors *and* into our community is higher than we would imagine it to be and certainly more than we'd like it to be. I think we all need to be intentional about looking at these questions: Where

are new people in our midst? How can we better welcome them to journey with us? What we can do to ease their entrance into the common life of Saint Mark's Church?

The reality of our life is that we *need* new people to join us. We *need* the gifts that they have to offer to our life together, we *need* their wisdom and their energy, and we *need* their help in living into the mission that God is giving us here on Locust Street and at Saint James-the-Less.

## DEFENSES DOWN!


We are living in the midst of a city with tremendous need, in the midst of a time in the life of the Church when parishes are shrinking and closing. But if we are in defensive mode, we will be unable to fulfill our mission and we will, in point of fact, simply shrink and die. Only when we're aware that those who come through our doors represent the future of this parish, will our reception of them be a referendum on our own efforts for the Gospel.

## FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE

We need to do better at welcoming newcomers into our midst, telling them the story of this parish, its history, its ministry and its future, and encouraging them to enter into that story, to become members in this place, to support its mission, and work together for the Gospel.

We need to welcome younger folk and children—or else there will be no one to learn the work of this place and to carry it on into the future years.

As we come to this time of stewardship, when we consider what we give to the furthering of the Gospel, we need to think in terms of stewardship as caring for what we have received.

Our faith is the result of stewardship by those who have gone before us, and we need to care and steward those who will come in our own day, and carry on—and carry out—the work after us. 

THE CURATE'S  
Column





matthew glandorf

A short overview:

All Saints' Day: *Missa Sancti Johannes de Deo*, Joseph Haydn (the 200TH anniversary of his death)

All Souls' Day: *Messa di Requiem*, Pizetti  
*Song for Athene*, John Tavener

The Feast of Christ the King: *Deutsche Liturgie a 8*, Felix Mendelssohn (the 200TH anniversary of his birth)

Advent Sunday: Lessons and Carols, 4pm  
*An Advent Processional*

It is my firm belief that art, poetry, and music can give voice where logic and reason fail. I especially look forward this year to offering Haydn's brilliant and joyful *Little Organ Mass* for All Saints and on All Souls, Italian composer Ildebrando Pizetti's sublime setting of the Requiem Mass. For those of you who have lost a loved one this year or if you wish to remember those who have died in your life, this is one of the most moving Mass offerings of the year.

This tension continues to be felt as the days grow shorter, and the weather chills: I know my own mood is profoundly changed. In the scripture readings, it

Then as we emerge from our Thanksgiving fog, suddenly a voice of one crying in the wilderness, proclaiming the Incarnation, is near! So we gather in the now-darkened First Sunday of Advent and process around the church, sing carols and 'Sleepers Awake!' — and hope is rekindled as we make our pilgrimage towards Christmas. How meaningful it is to sing 'E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come' at our last station at Advent Lessons and Carols, having experienced the ambiguity of the previous month. It's all the more touching to know that the composer of the anthem, Paul Manz, wrote it to channel his own feelings of devastation when his son was in surgery

## Liturgical movement


It is often a wonderful and profound experience to offer music according to the liturgical calendar. At Saint Mark's, it is especially gratifying to keep the two Feasts of All Saints and All Souls. The dichotomy of rejoicing with the saints who have gone to their eternal rest in the Lord is juxtaposed with the much more somber Mass for the Dead on 2 November. They truly are not the same, and this dichotomy strikes me as far more honest.

The scriptures themselves offer a similar poetic vagueness about what happens when we die. Those who have died in the faith of Jesus are called to new life at the sound of the last trumpet. So what then happens "in the meantime"?

seems as if we are getting down to the brass tacks of the Gospel: how tricky it is to enter the kingdom of heaven, signs of the end times . . . the Minor Propers also include many passages for 'out of the depths', 'by the waters of Babylon', and 'Surely he hath borne our griefs', reflected in many of the motet choices in November-tide. All of this finds its climax on Christ the King, when this year we will honor the birth of Felix Mendelssohn with his relatively unknown setting of the Mass. (Usually by then, I'm exhausted!)

for a life-threatening illness.

There are many ways to use music as a part of your own spiritual practice: first of all, the Bach Cantatas which span every Sunday, a Feast of the Liturgical Year. There are several recordings either by season (Easter, Lent, Christmas, Advent, and so on.) by some of the finest choirs out there. I often make sure that listening is a part of my own spiritual formation. And of course, joining us on Sundays for Mass and other Feast Days is the greatest way to participate in the seasonal dance.

It is an honor to serve you, my brothers and sisters at Saint Mark's. All of us need to care and steward those who will come in our own day and carry on the work after us. 

# Saint Mark's



Every month we'll include news of interest and importance from the eight ministry areas you'll see on these pages.

## OUTREACH

*Saturday Soup Bowl Christmas Party on 19 December 2009:* Every year volunteers at the Soup Bowl prepare gift packages for our regular Saturday morning guests and distribute them the Saturday before Christmas. We provide light blankets and articles of clothing such as hats, scarves, gloves and socks that help keep folks warm and dry. We usually include a supply of toiletries, soaps, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, and so on. Folks also enjoy receiving small treats and food items such as small cans of potato chips, chewing gum, candy bars, and the like.

During Advent there will be large baskets in the rear of the church where you can place gift items that you wish to contribute. It is also a lot of fun to help "stuff" the packages during the week prior to the party and to help out at the Soup Bowl on the Christmas party morning. Please put our Soup Bowl guests on your Christmas list this year. Try to bring your gift items to church by Sunday, 13 December. We'll distribute the

gift packages on 19 December. Please talk with Sara McManus, Ken Pearlstein, Juli Reddy or Bob Hadfield if you have questions or need more information.

*Dove Tree:* On 30 November we begin our annual appeal for gifts for clients of Saint Mark's Food Cupboard. Each 'dove' on the tree represents a designated gift or a monetary gift in support of the cupboard. Gifts should be wrapped with the dove attached for purposes of identification and delivered to the church by 20 December. Additional donations of personal care items (deodorants, toothpaste and tooth brushes, soap) are especially appreciated at this time.

*Work Days at Saint James the Less:* Saturday, 7 November 2009, from 10am to 2pm; lunch provided. We'll finish preparing the walls for papering or paint by doing final scraping and sanding. Bring work gloves and a wide wall-paper scraper if you have one. We'll provide sanding blocks, sandpaper, and masks. We'll also complete yard work (we have 100 tulip and 25 daffodil bulbs to plant!) and finish clearing up dust and such in the house.

Richard Swayze and Mother Marie Swayze are coordinating these work days and hope you will come along and share in the joy of this mission at Saint James the Less. Please contact Richard with any questions and let him know that you will be on site and ready to go: [richard.swayze@verizon.net](mailto:richard.swayze@verizon.net).

The 8th Grade Confirmation Class from St David's, Radnor will spend a few hours working at Saint James the Less on Sunday, 13 December. We can use some help in supervising them — extra hands are always welcome. The work will probably include winterizing and garden maintenance and takes place from 1pm. Please contact Mother Marie Swayze for info.

## BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES

The date of the 2009 Advent Clean-up has been changed to Saturday, 21 November at 10:30 am. Please mark your calendars and spend a few hours helping us prepare Saint Mark's for the holidays. You'll find sign-up sheets at the usher's table. Or contact Libby Espey at [rosequeen8@comcast.net](mailto:rosequeen8@comcast.net) with questions or to volunteer. Refreshments will be provided.

## COMMUNICATIONS

We're working hard to improve our web site. Recent additions include an expanded photo gallery, a video montage of City Camp 2009 as well as HTML and PDF versions of *The Lion's Mark*. See what we've been up to at [saintmarksphiladelphia.org](http://saintmarksphiladelphia.org).

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Beginning in November, the 10am Adult Forum offers these sessions:



## EIGHT MINISTRY AREAS OF THE PARISH

# MINISTRIES

1 November: *Christian Stewardship*, by the Stewardship Committee

8 November: *The Treasures of Saint Mark's Church*, by Davis d'Ambly

15 November: *Pilgrimage and the Christian Life*, by Father Mullen

22 November to 6 December: *What we do on Sundays: The Mass Explained*, the Clergy

*Confirmation and Reception*: Are you interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church? Find out more at two informational sessions held at 10am on 13 December and 10 January, in the library. Classes preparing people for confirmation or reception will run from 17 January to 11 April 2010, culminating with confirmation or reception on Saint Mark's Day, 25 April 2010. If you're interested in learning more, contact the Curate, Father Andrew Ashcroft.

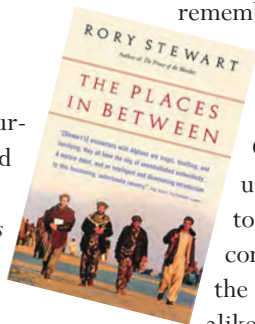
*Godly Play* continues with stories of the Ten Commandments (1 November), The Ark (8 and 15 November), The Exile and Return (22 November), and then beginning the story of Advent.

### COMMUNITY

The Book Club will meet Saturday, 14 November at 11am and will discuss

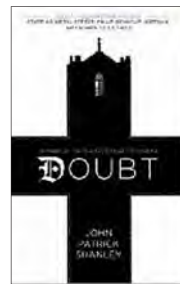
*The Places in Between*

by Rory Stewart, which narrates the author's walk in Afghanistan.



stan from Herat to Kabul in January 2002. The recounting of her journey makes for an engrossing, surprising, and often deeply moving portrait of the land and the people who inhabit it.

In December, the Book Club will meet on Saturday the 19th to discuss *Doubt*, by John Patrick Shanley. Set in a Roman Catholic school in the Bronx in 1964, Sister Aloysius Beauvier, a rigidly doctrinaire principal, concludes that a student is receiving too much attention from Father Brendan Flynn. Questions of doubt multiply for the characters and for the audience: Does something called "the truth" exist? How much should one accept on faith? When do doubts lead to growth?



### STEWARDSHIP

Please read *The Last Word* for more information on our stewardship goals for 2010. We look forward to seeing you at mass on Commitment Sunday, 8 November. Please remember to RSVP if you plan to attend the luncheon at the Racquet Club.

### WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Our new Sunday schedule keeps us busy and we're all still adjusting to it. We're trying to determine the configuration that works best for the 8am Low Mass. Kids and adults alike seem to like the 9am Sung Mass and we've had a steady stream of newcomers to that service. Christian Formation for all at 10am is working well. The High Mass

at 11am is as beautiful as ever. But we do need more volunteers:

- Ushers at all services (contact Lucyann Lonergan);
- Acolytes at all services, especially kids for the 9am Sung Mass (contact Dan Devlin or one of the clergy);
- Altar Guild members to help set up and clean up for services and to care for sacred vessels and linens (contact Kent John Pope); and
- Volunteers to help with hospitality after all services (contact John Bilinski).

Remember to invite your friends and acquaintances to church on Sunday. Most people find their way to church for the first time or come back to church because someone invited them!

### FINANCES

The Finance Committee is in the beginning stages of preparing a budget for 2010. The Trustees of Endowments have been carefully monitoring the parish's investments. The endowments saw a significant decline in value along with the markets as a whole, but our portfolio is participating in the recovery that's taking place.



## Dear fellow members and friends of Saint Mark's

This year, the Stewardship Committee has made our theme 'Something Beautiful for God'. We've spoken about how worship here radiates beauty, how it gives us eyes to see the Kingdom of God at work even in dire circumstances; how the beauty of music can stir and calm the soul; how our collective prayers and efforts have knit together the bundle of life that is Saint Mark's Church.

### HOW MUCH 'SOMETHING'?

It all very much seems like something beautiful for God. However, on Commitment Sunday, we each face a very concrete choice: How much 'something' am I willing to part with—not just to continue, but to strengthen our witness and worship at Saint Mark's?

As a congregation, we maintained our 2007 level of giving last year in 2008, a remarkable achievement just two months after the financial collapse peaked, at a time when many organizations were seeing 30 percent declines in giving. But the declined value of the endowments will result in diminished income for parish operations in the next few years, and we continue to face the possibility of tight budgets and a shortfall of operating funds in 2010.

### THE FIVE PERCENT CHALLENGE

The Biblical tithing of 10 percent intimidates most of us modern types, who are regularly solicited by many other worthy organizations.

So the committee decided to challenge the congregation to consider giving 5 percent of their after-tax income, either taking the plunge immediately or over the next two or three years. 'Great idea', said the Rector. 'Are you willing to back it up by making that pledge yourselves?' We were.

We thought it would be good to put this before the vestry, who, after extended discussion, also committed themselves to meeting our 5 percent giving challenge—unanimously.

### PLEASE CONSIDER, PLEASE PRAY

We realize it is unusual to come to a congregation with a proposed giving target. We also realize that Saint Mark's is blessed with a number of congregants who give more than five percent of their income, up to and beyond the Biblical tithing of 10 percent. To those committed givers, we encourage you to continue at current or higher levels. But for most of us at Saint Mark's, annual giving is well below 5 percent of after-tax income.

If you're a pledging member of the congregation (or thinking about becoming one) please prayerfully consider how you will express that commitment this year. 'Together, we can do something beautiful for God', as Mother Teresa put it many years ago.

### THE HEART OF IT ALL

At its heart, Saint Mark's is all about doing something beautiful for God. We can express our commitment to that goal as we bring our pledges to the wonderful alms bowl that committee member Kathie Regan Dalzell has crafted to receive them on Sunday, the 8th of November.

Yours in Christ,

*Bruce Nichols, Ken Pearlstein, Kathie Regan Dalzell, Charley Scott, Laura Spagnoli, Rick Stover, Aileen White*





# NOVEMBER 2009



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>ALL SAINTS DAY</b>  <b>Bishop Michel visitation</b> <b>XXIII SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8</b> 10am, Church Chat 11am, Guest Preacher Tony Jarvis 12.30pm. Celebration Brunch at Racquet Club 5pm, Mass at Saint James the Less	<b>ALL SOULS DAY</b>  <b>7pm Choral Requiem</b> <b>9</b>	<b>RICHARD HOOKER 3</b> 6pm Low Mass; group spiritual direction follows <b>LEO THE GREAT 10</b> 6pm, Low Mass	<b>4</b> 9am-11am, Child and Caregiver Play Group 12.10pm, Low Mass, with anointing and healing <b>MARTIN OF TOURS 11</b> 9am-11am, Child and Caregiver Play Group 12.10pm, Low Mass, with anointing and healing	 <b>2pm-4pm, Child and Caregiver Play Group</b> <b>CHARLES SIMEON 12</b>  <b>2pm-4pm, Child and Caregiver Play Group</b>	<b>WILLIAM TEMPLE, ARCHBISHOP 6</b> 12.10pm, Low Mass, with anointing and healing <b>13</b> 12.10pm, Low Mass, with anointing and healing	<b>WILLIBROD, ARCHBISHOP 7</b> 10am Workday at Saint James the Less till 2pm, with lunch provided.  <b>CONSECRATION OF SAMUEL SEABURY 14</b> <b>Diocesan Convention</b> 11am, Book Club 8pm, Piffaro concert
<b>XXIV SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 15</b> 5pm, Mass at Saint James the Less	<b>MARGARET, QUEEN OF SCOTLAND 16</b>	<b>HUGH, BISHOP OF LINCOLN 17</b> Episcopal Church Club luncheon; speaker Mayor Michael Nutter, 6pm, Low Mass 6.30pm, Vestry	<b>HILDA, ABBESS OF WHITBY 18</b> 9am-11am, Child and Caregiver Play Group 12.10pm, Low Mass, with anointing and healing	 <b>ELIZABETH, PRINCESS OF HUNGARY 19</b>	 <b>EDMUND, KING OF EAST ANGLIA 20</b> 12.10pm, Low Mass, with anointing and healing	<b>21</b> 10.30am, Advent clean-up. Contact Libby Espey at <a href="mailto:rosequeen8@comcast.net">rosequeen8@comcast.net</a> with questions or to volunteer.
<b>CHRIST THE KING 22</b> 5pm, Mass at Saint James the Less	<b>CLEMENT, BISHOP 23</b>	 <b>6pm, Low Mass</b> <b>JAMES HUNTINGTON, PRIEST &amp; MONK 24</b>	<b>25</b> 9am-11am, Child and Caregiver Play Group 12.10pm, Low Mass, with anointing and healing	<b>THANKSGIVING 26</b> Parish office closed 10am, Sung Mass 	Parish office closed 10am, Low Mass	<b>KAMEHAMEHA AND EMMA 28</b> 
<b>ADVENT SUNDAY 29</b> 4pm, Advent Lessons and Carols, followed by the Rector's Open House 5pm, Mass at Saint James the Less	<b>SAINT ANDREW, APOSTLE 30</b> World AIDS day 	<b>The REGULAR SCHEDULE of SERVICES at Saint Mark's Church</b>				

Sundays	Monday through Friday	Saturday
8am, Low Mass, Rite I 9am, Sung Mass Rite II 10am, Christian Formation for all ages 11am, Choral High Mass	7.30am, Low Mass 9am, Morning Prayer 12.10pm, Low Mass 5.30pm, Evening Prayer	9:30am, Confessions (Lady Chapel) 10am, Low Mass 10:30am, Holy Rosary

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>DECEMBER 2009</b> <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 6</b> 1pm, Informational meeting about Confirmation and Reception	<b>AMBROSE, BISHOP 7</b> 	<b>NICHOLAS FERRAR 1 DEACON</b> 6pm Low Mass; group spiritual direction follows <b>8</b>	<b>CHANNING MOORE 2 WILLIAMS, BISHOP</b> 9am-11am, Child and Caregiver Play Group 12.10pm, Low Mass, with anointing and healing <b>9</b> 12.10pm, Low Mass, with anointing and healing	 <b>2pm-4pm, Child and Caregiver Play Group</b> <b>10</b>	<b>JOHN OF DAMASCUS 4</b> 12.10pm Low Mass, with anointing and healing <b>11</b> 12.10pm Low Mass, with anointing and healing	<b>CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA, PRIEST 5</b>



### 'CHURCH CHAT' CONTINUES

At 10 AM on the second Sunday of every month, from October through June, Father Mullen hosts an informal discussion in his study called *Church Chat: Conversations with the Rector*. He'll talk on an identified topic, then free-flowing conversation, questions and answers will be encouraged. Especially for those new to the parish, the Episcopal Church, or the Christian faith, everyone who wants to learn more about Saint Mark's and the Episcopal Church is welcome!

#### 8 November

*If the love of money is the root of all evil, why does the church want mine?*

#### 13 December

*What's so special about Mary?*

#### 10 January

*The mission of Saint Mark's*

#### 14 February

*What is an Anglo-Catholic church, and is Saint Mark's one?*

#### 14 March

*Does anyone really still make confessions?*

#### 11 April

*Does anyone really come to all those daily masses?*

#### 9 May

*Who is the Holy Spirit and how would you know?*

#### 13 June

*What is Saint James the Less and how is it a mission of Saint Mark's?*

### SERVICES AT SAINT JAMES THE LESS

Did you miss a Sunday morning service? At 5pm you can attend mass at our mission parish of Saint James the Less, at 3227 West Clearfield Street in Philadelphia.

Like to learn more about our mission church? See [saintmarksphiladelphia.org](http://saintmarksphiladelphia.org)/  
[saint-james-the-less/](http://saint-james-the-less/)

### CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The 10am Adult Forum offers these upcoming sessions:

1 November: *Christian Stewardship*, by the Stewardship Committee

8 November: *The Treasures of Saint Mark's Church*, by Davis d'Ambly

15 November: *Pilgrimage and the Christian Life*, by Father Mullen

22 November to 6 December: *What we do on Sundays: The Mass Explained*, the Clergy

### 'A WOMAN WARRIOR' CONTINUES

Join us on the third floor of the Parish Hall every Wednesday at 6 pm. Here's the remaining schedule in the series:

#### 28 October

Judith 4-7, *Achior*

#### 4 November

Judith 8-10, *Judith*

#### 11 November

Judith 11-13, *Judith beheads Holofernes*

### CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION

Are you interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church? Find out more at two informational sessions held at 10am on 13 December and 10 January, in the library. Classes preparing people for confirmation or reception will run from 17 January to 11 April 2010, culminating with confirmation or reception on Saint Mark's Day, 25 April 2010. If you're interested in learning more, contact Father Andrew Ashcroft.

### THE BOOK CLUB IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

The Book Club will meet Saturday, 14 November at 11am and discuss *The Places in Between* by Rory Stewart, which narrates the author's walk in Afghanistan from Herat to Kabul in January 2002. And the club will meet again on 19 December at 11am and discuss *Doubt*, a play by John Patrick Shanley, winner of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLUB

Organized in 1895, membership in the Episcopal Church Club of Philadelphia is open to all lay people in the Episcopal Church and those who may have special interest in the church and its community.

The principal aims and purposes of the club are the promotion of fellowship; the exchange of ideas for strengthening church operation; and support for institutions that are themselves supported by the Diocese of Pennsylvania. The Episcopal Church Club of Philadelphia also provides scholarship grants to qualified diocesan seminarians. Bimonthly luncheons are held at the Racquet Club and feature noted speakers.

The next luncheon will be held on Tuesday, 17 November 2009 at noon. The guest speaker is the Honorable Michael Nutter, Mayor of Philadelphia.

The annual membership fee is \$15. Luncheon reservations are \$21.

For more information, see the club's website: [episcopalchurchclub.org](http://episcopalchurchclub.org)

### CHECK THE CALENDAR ON THE REVERSE FOR MORE EVENTS!



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2009 AT