

# St. Mark's Messenger

## December 2025

### FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTIONS



When you go into our Chapel, you'll see this beautiful icon of Mary and baby Jesus. Carved into a large piece of butcher-block wood, it is beautifully painted. You are struck by how calm and peaceful the mother and child are, perhaps because they're surrounded by angels. But notice that one of the infant's sandals is dangling – this Baby will keep Mom busy.

Yes, we're all busy. But do we have time to see the work of God in this community?

We see it in the generous souls who are stepping forward to help with the ministries of this church: Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, Breaking Bread

Together, and Toys for Tots. People offer their time, their talents, and their treasure at the busiest time of year. Two weeks ago a stranger spent \$1,000 on toys at a local store and filled several boxes. Others made large donations to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

Look at the faces of the children from Sacred Heart who came to help Lillian and our other volunteers last week. Generosity is contagious.

“O come  
let us adore  
Him.”

Father John+



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### THE GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Please help us decorate the church for Christmas after our service on December 21.

Many hands will make the job go quickly. We will enjoy a light lunch after our work is done. Even if you're not able to help physically, your presence at the lunch will be festive.

### **FESTIVAL OF ICE CONCERT**

Enjoy some wonderful live music in the Parish House on Friday, December 5, at 6PM and 8PM.



### **MUSIC AT ST. MARK'S IN 2026**

January 4: Recital by two students from the Eastman School of Music (University of Rochester)

February 1: Organ recital by Mark Ferraguto (Penn State professor)

March 1: Barbershop Quartet

April 12: Kaley Yeager (yay!!)

May 3: Piano duets by two Penn State doctoral students in piano

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE**



Our Christmas Eve service will be held on Wednesday, December 24, at 5PM and will feature exceptionally wonderful music as well as a beautifully decorated church. Please bring a friend or neighbor. Please send your requests for Christmas flowers to the church office by December 13.

### **MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD AND BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER**

Because of the government shutdown in October, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard has been incredibly busy.

Total individuals- 784  
Total families- 288  
New individuals- 126  
New families- 50

The community has been very generous with financial contributions and donations of food. We also received many turkeys from the Shelter as well as FirstQuality. Breaking Bread Together continues to serve a home-cooked meal to about 80 people each month.

### **TOYS FOR TOTS: WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**



To bring joy to 300+ families and nearly 900 children when we distribute toys during the week of December 15-19, we will need lots of help. Even Santa has many elves. We will be working again this year in the Community Recreation Building (108 Montgomery Avenue), a beautiful facility that is fully accessible. We have distributed 46+ collection boxes in our community, and we hope that they all will be filled.

We need you to bring an able-bodied neighbor or friend. This should be an easy "ask": will you help us brighten the lives of needy children? Please let Father John know if you can help!

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

We will hold our brief annual meeting on January 18 immediately after the service. After reviewing the budget approved by the vestry in December, we will elect our delegate to our Diocesan Convention and new members to vestry. Each of our committees and areas of ministry will have a written report, and Father John will distribute them before the meeting. The meeting will last no longer than 30 minutes. Following the meeting we will have a light meal in the parish house.

### **PROPERTY UPDATE**

In 2026 we will continue our efforts to declutter and to preserve the fabric of our beautiful buildings. We'll need to replace some missing slate shingles on the roof of the church and then prepare for painting the exterior in 2027. First, though, we need to repair gutters and related soffit and fascia problems, including re-hanging church gutters: We'll also improve some neglected areas of our basement damaged by Hurricane Agnes in 1972, especially the kitchen floor. We want our Scouts' meeting space to be in great shape.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

We pray for Myra Bannon, Judy Clare, Larry Lasher, Shirley Mancino, Tony Hatfield-

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Nicholson, Doris McKee, Deacon Carole Mease, Lynn Stricker, Bob Welham, and Evelyn Wilson.

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

<p>Joe and Phyllis Sikorsky - 1(46th anniversary) Kathryn Grossman—6 Rob Smith—7 Michael Woodring—11 Susan Baumgardner &amp; Hal Jenkinson—18 Tony Hatfield-Nicholson—28</p>	<p>O GOD, OUR TIMES ARE IN YOUR HAND: LOOK WITH FAVOR, WE PRAY, ON YOUR SERVANT N. AS (S)HE BEGINS ANOTHER YEAR. GRANT THAT (S)HE MAY GROW IN WISDOM AND GRACE, AND STRENGTHEN OUR TRUST IN YOUR GOODNESS ; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.</p>
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