

eNewsletter from St. Mark's Niagara-on-the-Lake

FEBRUARY

Setting Future Priorities

Observing a Holy Lent



Greetings!

Just as the day light of Epiphany lengthens and we reflect on the beginning of a new year and of Jesus' Ministry, we turn to Ash Wednesday and the 40 days and 40 nights of Lent leading up to Easter and springtime.

At St. Mark's we also mark this turn with our Annual Vestry Meeting on Feb 18 where we will receive all the encouraging financial and activity reports of our 225th Anniversary year in 2017. Then we plan ahead with new parishioners stepping up to Corporation and Parish Council, as well as a new budget for 2018. We are sending our new Lay Delegates, John MacBeth and Doug Hunter, to synod to elect a new Bishop on March 3rd. Our new Music Director Jim Bourne begins on March 4th.

Through it all we will continue with the teachings of the Bible, the exploration of Celtic and Franciscan spirituality, the breaking and sharing of bread, and the fun and fellowship of special events. In the descriptions below be sure to click on the [hyperlinks underlined in purple](#) for more information.

Join us as we make these turns into setting future priorities and observing a Holy Lent. Thanks be to God for the faith, hope and love we share at St. Mark's

Sunday and Midweek Services in February

Sunday February 4: Black History and our Community

At both 8:30 and 10:30 services we will observe Black History Month and the incredible stories and influences of Black History in NOTL and St Mark's. We will also learn about the [Voices of Freedom Park](#) planned for Old Town.

After the 10:30 service, sherry will be served for the first Sunday of the month, and we will continue to read, discuss and pray over J.P. Newell's book '[The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings](#)'.

Wednesday February 7

8 am Mens Communion and Breakfast

10 am Communion and the Rector will report on his time Monday and Tuesday at the Anglican-Lutheran Dialogue at the Mt.Carmel Centre in Niagara Falls.

Sunday February 11: Transfiguration Last Sunday of Epiphany

8:30 and 10:30 services with reflections on the 'Eight Points of Reconnection in Celtic Spirituality' that J.P. Newell writes about. Further discussion after both services.

Ash Wednesday February 14 (also Valentine's Day!)

10 a.m. and 7 p.m. services to begin a Holy Lent with the Imposition of Ashes

Sunday February 18: Parish Life Day

8:30 and 10:30 services with the Rector's Report

12 noon Annual Vestry Meeting with the 2017 Financial Statements and 2018 Budget, as well as the election of People's Wardens and Parish Council members for the year ahead.

Sunday February 26 First Sunday of Lent with Rev'd Canon Bill Mous

8:30 and 10:30 services will be taken by Bill Mous,

[Director of Justice, Community and Global Ministries for the Diocese.](#)

Following both services there will be a discussion with Lay delegates on '*What St. Mark's is looking for in a new Bishop for Niagara?*'

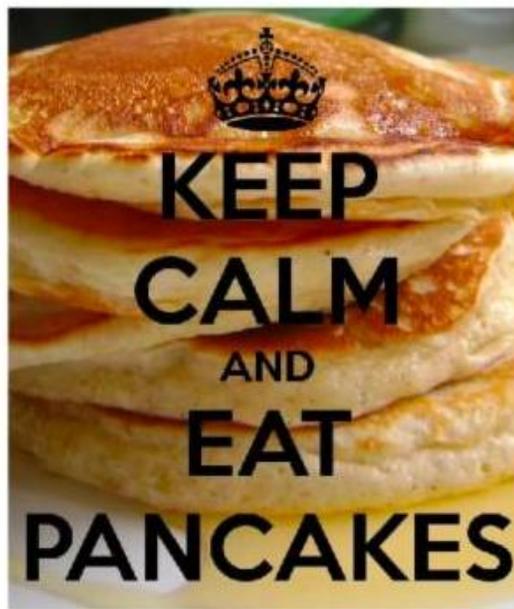
Upcoming

March 3 Diocesan Synod to elect a new Bishop

March 4 Jim Bourne begins and Report from Lay Delegates

**Pancake Supper Mardi Gras
Tuesday Feb 13, 5:30 to 8 pm**

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PANCAKE MARDI GRAS SUPPER

St. Mark's Addison Hall
5:30 - 8 pm Drop by for
only \$10 adult, \$5 children

All are welcome to our Pancake Sausage Supper with all the extras including Mardi Gras fun and special Caribbean Steeldrum Music with Panman Pat. Come one come all, even for a few Valentine Eve treats!

Governance Matters

Monthly letter from the Wardens [click on here:](#)

Thanks to Joy Rogers who is stepping down from an extremely busy year as People's Warden, and to Marilyn Robson who, as well as Deputy Rector's Warden, has served as recording secretary for Corporation

On Monday Feb 12th the Finance Committee meets at 5 p.m. to review the 2017 Financial Statements and finalize the 2018 Budget to be presented to Vestry. Parish Council then meets at 7 p.m. to review many matters in preparation for the February 18th Annual Vestry Meeting. Many thanks to Wendy Steel, our long-serving recording secretary, as well as to Anne Lindsay who are both stepping down from PC.

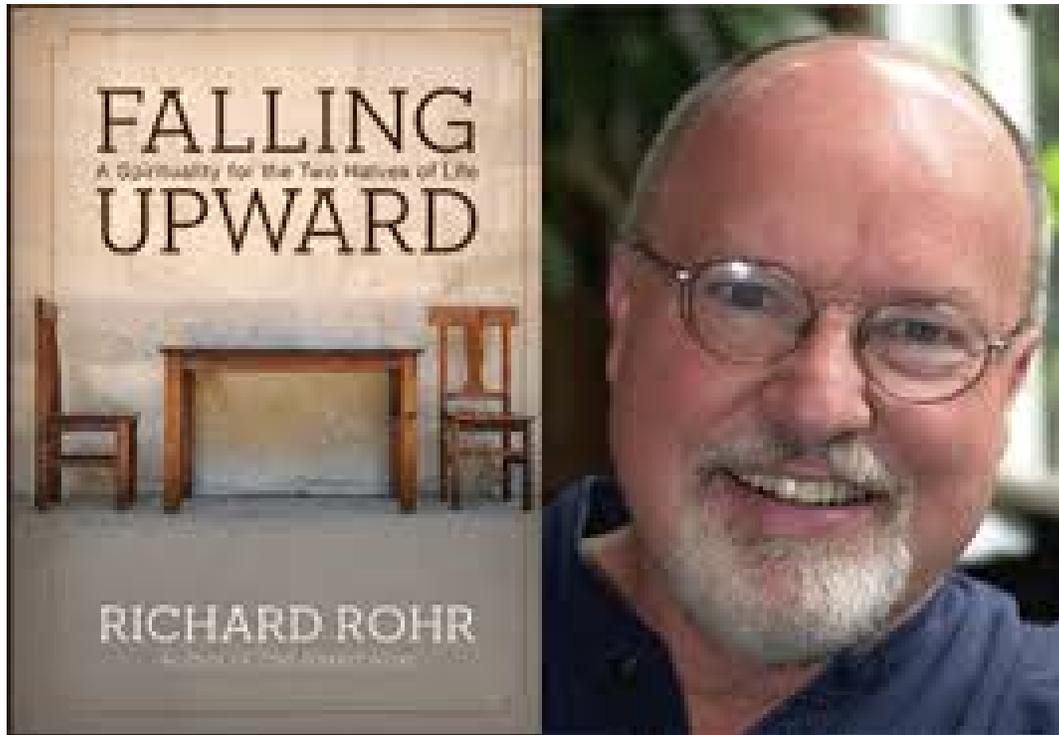
We encourage all parishioners to get involved in the governance and outreach of St. Mark's through our various committees and task groups in 2018.

For now we are seeking nominations for a new People's Warden and Deputy People's Warden, as well as three new members for Parish Council

for 2018.

Nomination Forms here, [click here](#):

Lenten Study with Father Richard Rohr's Falling Upward



Father Richard Rohr is a globally recognized ecumenical teacher bearing witness to the universal awakening within Christian mysticism and the Franciscan Tradition. He is a Franciscan priest of the New Mexico Province and founder of the [Centre for Action and Contemplation \(CAC\)](#) in Albuquerque New Mexico.

For Lent we will together focus on his writings and insights especially this book [Falling Upward: Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life](#).

Plans for a St Mark's Tour to Havana and our Partner Diocese of Cuba this November

With our many contacts in Havana and our [Partner Diocese of Cuba](#), the Rector is planning a week-long tour there this November. It will be an educational as well as recreational time to take in the sights and sounds of the culture and people, as well as meeting with those working in churches and in communities of this fascinating Island. Details are still be worked out in discussions with Parish Council and others to make it affordable and enjoyable for all. [If interested speak and contact the Rector](#).



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Forgive any errors or omissions and stay connected