

The Light



*Good News from
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Warwick, RI*

December 2025-January 2026

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear St. Mark's Family,

I am so excited about our worship in Advent. I have selected a short reading for each time we light the advent wreath together. And I thought it would be interesting for you to have a little background on what I selected for us. Each reading comes from an ancient O Antiphon for the season. The writings aren't attributed to anyone specifically but most scholars believe they come from the 14th century. I have selected them based on the Keeping Advent website that is hosted by the oldest Episcopal monastery in the country, located in Brookline, Massachusetts. I find the O Antiphon chants to be a centering piece of religious music to listen to and focus our thoughts upon. Some Episcopal churches have gone back to the ancient tradition of a seven week advent so for us, I have selected the four O Antiphons that correspond to the last four weeks of the seven week advent.

Each O Antiphon centers upon a name for Jesus. The first week for us will be "O Key of David". In the St. Mark's Email newsletter, each week I will send out a brief devotional about the corresponding O Antiphon as well as a link for you to listen to the chant. The first O Antiphon of the season is:

O Key of David and scepter of the House of Israel;
you open and no one can shut;
you shut and no one can open:
Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house,
those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

I hope this will be a meaningful series for you as we progress through Advent with anticipation and expectancy for the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas Eve.

There is also a really lovely family devotional guide from last year that some of you may enjoy for use at home. You can find it on the

Keeping Advent website under resources. I will print a few copies in case you want to take one home next week.

Peace and Blessings upon your Advent
Rev. Julia Matallana Freedman

VESTRY NOTES



Dear St. Mark's parishioners:

As we begin our holiday and Advent season, we have many things to be grateful for here at St Marks, Rev. Julia will be ordained on December 13th. We are working on setting up a screen so together we can watch her being ordained. The ordination is being done in Boston and would not be feasible for us to join her, but we would love to be part of it. We are truly blessed to have her join our family.

We look forward to having Reverend Julia celebrating with us during the special time of our Christian year.

Yours Faithfully
Karen Oshepsky

ORDINATION WATCH PARTY

Reverend Julia is being ordained in Boston on December 13th. If you wish to attend in person, please see her for information. However, we will be streaming the ordination in the church, for those that would like to watch, but not travel. The service starts at 10:30. Please arrive by 10:15.



Poinsettias may be given in thanksgiving or in memory of loved ones. Fill out the envelope in the pews. Please return by December 14.



Sunday, December 21

Following coffee hour please join us in decorating the church for Christmas. There is work for all ages and everyone is encouraged to participate.



Worship with

us at St. Mark's

Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24

5 pm - A Service of Holy Eucharist especially for families,
with the St. Mark Choir

10 pm - A Service of Holy Eucharist with carols and candlelight

Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25

9 am – A quiet Service of Holy Eucharist

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The Activities Ministry Team is happy to announce the following planning meeting dates. All are welcome to attend. Bring your ideas!

December: Saturday, December 6th, 10 am

January: Saturday, January 3rd, 10 am



January 10th, 6:30 pm
in the undercroft
\$5 admission
Light refreshments will be served
All levels welcome!

History of St. Mark's Church

Join us Saturday, January 17th at 6:00pm for a Pot Luck dinner and a presentation of how St. Mark's came to be and it's early days as a church.



Annual Meeting Sunday January 25, 2026
10 am
in the undercroft
All members of the parish (those who support St. Mark's with regular attendance and financial contributions) have voice and vote. This year we will elect a slate that includes members of the vestry, and delegates to Diocesan convention.

Annual Reports Due by January 11, 2026

Coffee hour: after the 9 am services

Please join us. It's a great time to catch up with your St. Mark's family. (And there are really good snacks. 😊)



Outreach

Please keep these dates in mind for the Food Pantry:



December 20 – Food Drop Off

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

December 27 – Food Distribution

11:00 am – 12:00 noon

January 24 – Food Drop Off

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

January 31 – Food Distribution

11:00 am – 12:00 noon

Vestry Meetings:

December: Tuesday, December 9th, 6:30 pm

January: Tuesday, January 13th, 6:30 pm

<u>FINANCIALS</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>
Revenues:	11,773.75	28,727.94
Expenses	7,760.35	14,813.11

THE DEADLINE for the combined February-March Light is January 15, 2026.

All articles should be submitted to the office. You may drop them off or send them by email to: office@stmarkswarwick.org.