



**Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Corpus Christi, Texas**



*Real Faith for Real Life*

St. Marks is a caring Christian **FAMILY** dedicated to helping people renew their faith in God.



We not only want people to know God, but to learn how to apply their faith to life's challenges. **FAITH** makes a difference!



We welcome people of all backgrounds and ages. No matter where we are in our faith journey, God himself works with us in **COMMUNITY** building faith.





We walk through life and call it **COMMUNITY**

We become an answer to another person's problems and call it **SERVICE**

We reverently reflect upon the Bible and call it **TRUTH**



*To our next Rector...*

*First, we are thankful that you are taking the time to read our profile and to learn more about us. In the following pages you will read about our history, our values, our church and our community. We've been praying that God is already preparing our next priest! After reading this profile, you will know quite a bit about us, and we hope that we will get to know you. We might not be a "big church" but we still think like one. We like to dream big, pray hard, and set our goals high. We want to accomplish big things because we worship a big God.*

*Sometimes, God achieves in us more than we can ask or imagine.*

*We hope you enjoy reading about us, and if you are moved to have a conversation with us, we will welcome the opportunity to have a conversation with you!*

*Blessings to you on your discernment!*

*The St. Mark's Family*

# Outreach Ministries at St. Mark's

## Access Plus-Ramp Builds

Access plus was established in 2001 with a goal of making homes more accessible to residents of Corpus Christi through the building of ramps and occasionally minor home modifications. All work is completed with volunteers and money designated in our outreach account. We build approximately one ramp a month, usually on the third Saturday of the month.



## Wrapped in Prayer

This ministry makes prayer shawls and blankets. The response from those who have received them is one of true blessing.

## Local Ministry Support and Beyond

St. Mark's supports the Coastal Bend Food Bank, Metro Ministry, Timon's Ministry for homeless and needy families, and Mission 911 that supports the homeless. We have also engaged in ministry abroad!



# Ministries at St. Mark's

## Worship Ministries

It takes a team! Volunteers help lead worship by serving as acolytes, in our altar guild ministry, in our music ministry, and as Lay Eucharistic Ministers who read the lessons, lead the Prayers of the People, assist with distribution of communion, and lead morning prayer at the Corpus Christi Nursing and Rehabilitation Center located next door to the church. We also have a team of greeters and ushers.

## Holy Locusts-Church Lawn Maintenance

A group of men, women, and children who mow, trim, and edge the lawns and clear the church courtyard/sidewalks/entryways on a weekly basis.

## Outreach Committee Members

A group of volunteers that are committed to involving St. Mark's in providing food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, and in meeting other emerging needs through hands on service, witnessing the Gospel, and managing monetary contributions to charitable organizations.

## Maintenance and Repair Volunteers

This group assists the Junior Warden to fulfill the task of maintaining the church buildings and grounds.

## Children's Ministry

This group of men, women, and youth volunteers work with the Director of Children's Ministry to nurture, grow, and disciple the children (newborn through 5th grade) and their families to become strong disciples of Jesus Christ. Volunteers prepare, organize, and teach lessons during Kids Church and Kids in Christ to children 3 years through 5th grade, and participate in special events for the children. Volunteers are required to complete a Safeguarding God's Children training.



# Ministries at St. Mark's

## Prayer Ministry

Volunteers serve in teams of two during Communion and Morning Prayer altar calls to pray with parishioners. This ministry also includes a prayer chain with committed volunteers receiving information by email regarding specific prayer needs. Our Wednesday prayer group meets in the parish hall every Wednesday at noon to pray for the church and other needs and concerns.

## Youth Ministry

This group of adult volunteers works to assist the Youth Minister to teach, grow, challenge, empower and lead the youth 6th through 12th grades in their spiritual journey with Jesus Christ to develop a solid Christian foundation. Volunteers help with activities, transportation, chaperoning events, and providing mentoring and pastoral support. Volunteers are required to obtain Safeguarding God's Children training.

## Communication Team

This small group of volunteers maintain the Church website with information/events/spiritual formation and links to appropriate sites. They also update our social media platforms through Facebook and our weekly E-News.

## Presentation Manager

This group of youth and adult volunteers is responsible for entering media and facilitating the presentation of the worship services media using the computer, sound board, lights and other technical equipment.

## Tuesday Night Bible Study

This group of adults meets at 7pm for Bible study for 1 hour, followed by a contemplative prayer time and sharing of insights/revelations.

## Men's Cursillo Reunion Group

This group includes men who have attended Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, or Journey to Damascus. The group meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30 at Nolan's Restaurant.

## Hospitality Ministry

This ministry offers refreshments after worship services and assists with food preparation, presentation, and clean up at special events. The volunteers also keep the kitchen clean, orderly, and ready to serve the needs of the parish and guests. They are trained in proper management of the kitchen, appliances, and the organization of materials. A food handler's card is required.

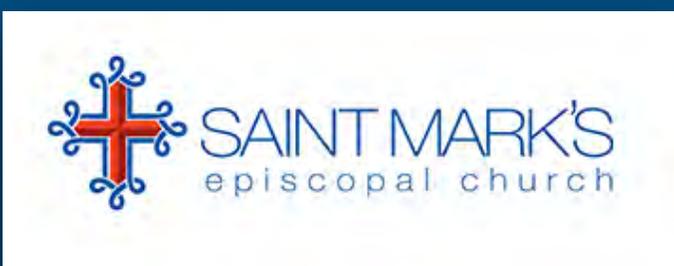
# Our History

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In the fall of 1982 the Right Reverend Stanley Hauser met with David Smith from All Saint's Church, Corpus Christi, who had met previously with Jerry Fisher from the Church of the Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi, with the first discussions of locations for a new congregation in Corpus Christi. On March 26, 1984 the Right Reverend Scott Field Bailey put together a local committee in Corpus Christi to continue to look for local land parcels for the new mission.

Reverend J. Douglas Stormont arrived in Corpus Christi in July 1984 and set up an office at All Saints Episcopal on Staples St. and began to organize a new congregation by hiring a part-time secretary, Annie Phillips, and visiting some sixty households before the first worship service was held. He visited each of the local Episcopal congregations and invited current Episcopalians to share their resources, both human and otherwise, to help start this new mission. Annie designed the cross that St. Mark's has adopted as the St. Mark's cross.

With Doug Stormont as deacon-in-charge, the first St. Mark's service was held on September 7<sup>th</sup>. It was held in Uncle Chester's Olde Crab House Restaurant, on Saratoga Blvd., with 240 souls in attendance and 91 families signed the guest register indicating an interest in becoming a member of the mission. The Rt. Rev. Scott Field Bailey celebrated the service and the Rt. Rev. John H. McNaughton, Bishop Coadjutor, was the preacher for the service. On this date the new mission received the name St. Mark's from Bishop Scott Field Bailey. Four services were held at Uncle Chester's Ole Crab House Restaurant before services were moved to the cafeteria at Paul R. Haas Jr. High on McArdle Road. On October 26 more than 100 people signed the original charter at a charter member dinner. St. Mark's was founded with 141 baptized members in 69 households, from which 65 pledges were made totaling \$62,671 to the initial operating budget.



# Our History (continued)

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Over the years, St. Mark's continued to grow and flourish. Ground was broken for the new church building on Airline Road on December 11th, 1988 with the first services held in September of the following year with 550 people in attendance with 50 children in the nursery. In 1999, Reverend John Hardie became the second rector of St. Mark's. The first service held in our sanctuary took place in January 2009.

Our history has been filled with a vision for outreach. We've helped countless individuals with clothes, food, eyeglasses, and other forms of assistance. Members of St. Mark's have traveled to other countries to answer our calling to the mission field. St. Mark's has celebrated milestones and we have persevered when times were tough. We are eager to open the next chapter in our history and we are praying that it will be a chapter filled with joy, blessing, and abundance!





Worship is central to our life together. We worship at 10:00 on Sunday mornings. Our liturgy is available on printed bulletins and we also project the music and liturgy on the walls to make it even more accessible. After receiving communion, we offer private prayer in the chapel located within our nave. During COVID we offered recorded services and since regathering we have livestreamed through VIMEO and Facebook live. If you want to see what worship is like at St. Mark's, please click on the link below to see our services!

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksctx>



St. Mark's is home to the only full immersion baptismal font in the Diocese of West Texas.

## Parish Profile Workshop

On October 10, 2021, the members of St. Mark's filled the fellowship hall after church for the parish profile workshop. We gathered for food, fellowship, and small group discussions that enabled us to have conversations about our church.

We spent 2-hours talking about who we are as a church, what our challenges are, our hopes, dreams, and prayers for our future, as well as the qualities and gifts we believe our next rector should possess.

Although we took the time together very seriously, we had fun! Whenever we are gathered together, the love we hold in our hearts for our church definitely shows. All of it reflects our love of God and our determination to show Christ to one another whenever and however possible.

The next few pages represent our most common responses to the questions we were asked at the workshop.



# St. Mark's is...

## **Warm, welcoming, and friendly**

When people arrive at St. Mark's for worship, a team of greeters and ushers is there to welcome you! Long time members, new members, and first time guests are often seen gathering in the narthex to begin the day in a spirit of hospitality and fellowship. We gather after church in our fellowship hall so that we can spend time with friends both old and new. We would like to explore new ways in which we can welcome newcomers and connect them with our church family. We see newcomers as a gift from God. Whether they are with us for a day, a month, or forever, we want to be good stewards of this incredible gift that God gives us and we want them to experience the way in which St. Mark's embodies the love of Jesus Christ.

## **A church with a heart for mission and outreach**

Throughout our history, we have worked hard to prayerfully discern where God wants us to be and where God wants us to help. Each year, we tithe our income for the specific purpose of helping others. There are great needs in the Corpus Christi community and beyond, and we will go wherever God leads us, and we will do whatever He calls us to do!

## **A family**

We love one another and we care for one another just like a family. We do not want the word "family" to imply that we are not receptive to new members (see above). When members of our church speak about their church family, they will often say "we were immediately welcomed and helped to become integrated into the congregation." We heard this often in our conversations at the workshop.

## **A biblically based, liturgical church**

We make every effort to live our lives according to biblical principles both as individuals and as a community. When our rector preaches, we are listening! Since we are an Episcopal Church, our worship is "liturgical". However, we also identify ourselves as "casual" and "not stuffy" when it comes to our worship. We work hard to make sure that everyone feels at home on Sunday mornings and that the liturgy is accessible to everyone; this is why the liturgy appears printed in our bulletins and projected on the walls of the church. We also livestream. For those who want to worship with prayer book and hymnal in hand, we have those available too. We never want our order of service to be a barrier to anyone, most especially for those who may have never worshipped in a liturgical church before.

# Our Greatest Challenges...

## **Our Finances**

Stewardship is an area where we need to grow. COVID-19 hit our budget hard, and our leaders have worked diligently to use the resources we have in the best way possible. However, our financial and budgetary challenges did not begin during the pandemic. We are praying that our next rector will join us in discerning new ways to encourage stewardship and increase financial giving. We also pray that God will move us into a spirit of abundance.

## **Apathy/burnout/low rate of volunteers**

We have some very dedicated members who will do whatever it takes to make things happen. When it comes to big projects, we normally have plenty of volunteers. However, we have far fewer for the smaller every day needs. Some of our hardest workers are experiencing some burnout. We know that everyone has lives outside of church and that calendars and schedules can fill fast. We also know that we can all do more. We pray that our next rector will help us to inspire a larger percentage of our members to participate in the life, work, and ministry of our church.

## **We want to grow**

We do not want to grow so that our ASA will be higher, our budget bigger, or so that we can have a larger pool of volunteers. Our prayer for growth finds its foundation in the fact that we believe Jesus Christ is encountered in our church through the worship, ministry, and people of St. Mark's. We know this because WE have encountered Christ in this way. We have a strong desire for those who have not yet come to experience what we have experienced, to meet the people who call St. Mark's home, and to join us in our walk with the Lord. St. Mark's has truly blessed all of us, and we want our pews to be filled with new people who are just as blessed by our church as we are, if not more!

## **Developing and maintaining a vibrant ministry for children, youth, and young families**

Relative to changes brought on by COVID, and our membership that includes military families who stay for a couple of years and then transfer out, the number of young families, children, and youth are lower than we could like. We have very few volunteers involved in our ministry to them. Although they do exceptional work, we pray that we can raise up additional leaders who can take these ministries to the next level. In time, our hope is that our budget can sustain both a children's minister and a youth pastor who can help us do powerful ministry with children of all ages in Corpus Christi, as we are aware of the unique challenges they face. We also pray that God will lead even more young families to St. Mark's, as a church full of children and youth is a very good thing!

# Our Hopes, Dreams, and Prayers...

A new rector that unifies and ignites the Spirit in the church and in our lives

All inclusive regardless of economic, political, or racial background

To be a church that is pleasing to God

To be known as the most Spirit-filled church in Corpus Christi

That our church can be known as one that can be relied upon

Our building is busting out at the seams

That we are not a secret anymore

More one time events and occasions

A leader for children's ministry

Flourishing youth and children's ministry

To become financially stable

Every member will choose to be involved in at least one ministry

To be so Spirit-filled that we become a magnet to those seeking a loving God and community

Ministry for all ages and generations

To be large enough for at least two services

Energetic, joyful spiritual formation and growth

A senior's program

To open our multi-purpose room to outside groups like AA meetings and gatherings.

That the love of Christ would exude from us as a community and as individuals



# Our Next Rector

We want to begin by acknowledging that we do not expect our next rector to do it all. The leadership and people of St. Mark's has been doing well in our season of transition and we have kept things going around the church. As you may have noticed in the previous pages, we are ready to open the next chapter in our lives together, and we are praying that our next rector will partner with us, equip us, and inspire us to become everything that God intends for us to be.

At the workshop, we were given a list of "rector qualities" and were asked to choose the five that we believe are most important. The people of St. Mark's chose (in order of importance):

## **Energetic preaching that relates the Gospel to our lives**

We value the time our rector spends in the pulpit and we want to understand how the scriptures relate to our daily lives and struggles. We appreciate sermons that get our attention and that give us something to "carry with us" as we go out into the world to live our lives. Preaching at St. Mark's can reach people around the world, as our services are live streamed every Sunday.

## **Developing and supporting formation for children and youth**

As previously mentioned, we have a strong desire to expand our ministry to children and youth in Corpus Christi. Our next rector should expect that we will be looking for leadership in this area. We do not expect our rector to do this alone, but to partner with our leaders to develop a strategy and a vision for this important ministry.

## **Emphasizes the spiritual growth of members**

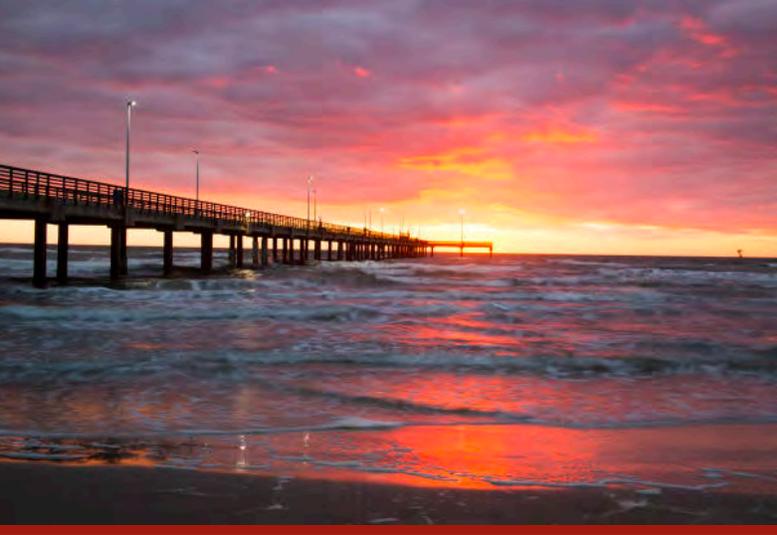
Spiritual growth and formation is important at St. Mark's. Our rector can help us grow by taking part in planning and leading Bible studies, book studies, and group discussions for all ages. We have lay people who are equipped to lead studies as well!

## **Pastoral Care**

It is important for our new rector to build relationships with us and to be invested in the lives of our people. We believe that one way in which our rector can do this is to offer ministry to the sick, bereaved, and the homebound in our community.

## **Equipping and involving the laity in planning and leading of ministries**

Greater lay involvement in all aspects of our church is vital to the health of our church. Our new rector can help inspire us to be involved, can help ignite us to do what needs to be done, and can be a cheerleader for us as we move forward. Together, we can create a new vision for using our gifts in the church and beyond.



## Welcome to Corpus Christi!

Do you love the beach? The City? Peaceful sunsets? Seafood? Known as the “Capitol of the Gulf Coast”, our city of over 325,000 people offers limitless opportunities for education, fun, food, and relaxing! We are also the home of “Whataburger”! Corpus Christi is served by six school districts, several charter schools, and several colleges and universities. There are numerous parks scattered throughout the city, and because of the higher wind speeds, Corpus Christi is considered one of the best places to sail, fly a kite, and wind surf (once hosting the World Windsurfing Championships). The Texas State Aquarium is considered one of the top 10 aquariums in the United States (according to [101corpuschristi.com](http://101corpuschristi.com)), and the city draws tourists from around the world.

Although our area attracts over 8-million tourists per year, there is plenty of beach for everyone (113 miles)! There are numerous attractions which include the Selena Museum, the historic USS Lexington (which served as a set for the movie “Pearl Harbor” in 2000), and the Corpus Christi Hooks Baseball Team (AA affiliate of the Houston Astros). If dining out is your “thing”, you cannot go wrong in Corpus Christi! Although you can find nearly every type of cuisine, we recommend trying the seafood because we know how to fry shrimp in Corpus Christi!

According to “Citytistics”, the cost of living in Corpus Christi is lower than the national average, and education ranks above the national average.





# St. Mark's by the Numbers

## Membership and Attendance

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Members	233	229
ASA	*107	108
Easter Sunday	**0	221
Baptisms	0	1
Confirmations	2	3
Burials	5	5
Marriages	0	1

## Stewardship and Finances

Pledge Cards	55	72
Total Amount Pledged	\$271,182	\$331,785
Total Operating Revenue	\$457,309	\$417,881
Total Operating Expenses	\$435,152	\$394,808
Total cash in checking/savings	\$52,764	\$36,966
Total investment at market value	\$302,712	\$672,261

\*ASA for 2020 reflect parochial report numbers, which asked for ASA January-February. Post COVID ASA, in general, is 40-60.

\*\*All churches in the Diocese were closed due to COVID.

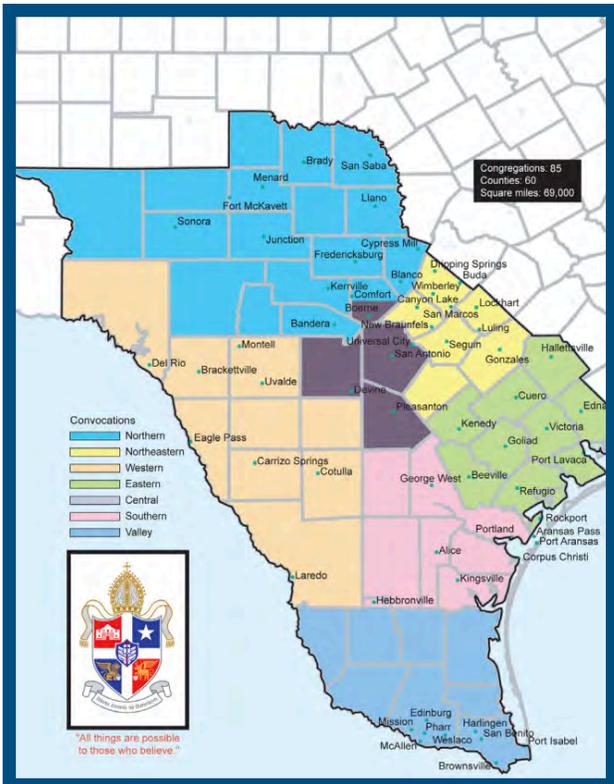


# EPISCOPAL DIOCESE

*of West Texas*



The Right Reverend David Reed, Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas, leads our Diocese in living into its core values of faith, scripture, prayer, sacramental worship, evangelism, mission, and reconciliation. Bishop Reed was born and raised in the Diocese (Rio Grande Valley) and truly loves the people and congregations he serves.



We are a part of the Diocese of West Texas, which is made up of 85 congregations spread out over almost 70,000 square miles. From Brady and San Saba to the north, the Texas Hill Country, to the coastal bend, to the Rio Grande Valley, you will find faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ doing the work that God calls us to do!

You are now entering the  
**MISSION FIELD**

Go in Peace...

*Taking Christ's Ministry to People  
Knowing His Spirit Lives  
Bringing Faith to Life*



**SAINT MARK'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
2727 Airline Road  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78414**