

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

December 5, 2024

Upcoming Events

Lay Eucharistic Minister & Lector Training

12/7, Saturday

Election of Delegates & Alternates to Diocesan Council

12/8, Sunday

Christmas Pageant

12/15, Sunday

Christmas Caroling

12/15, Sunday

Christmas Eve Services

12/24, Tuesday

5:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Office Closed

12/23 at noon through 1/6

Youth Group & Adult Bible Study

Sundays following the service

A Word from the Rector Fr. Doug Wasinger



Advent Begins

The Episcopal Church has moved into a new liturgical year. Advent is a season during which we are invited to give more thought to what it means for God to arrive in our world as a human being. Jesus was born as baby who was completely dependent on an ordinary couple of common background. This was a sign of God's trust in humanity and an example showing us the importance of taking care of one another. This puts flesh on the belief that God saw the world and said it is good, so good that God saw the world and humanity worthy enough for His Son to live among us as one of us.

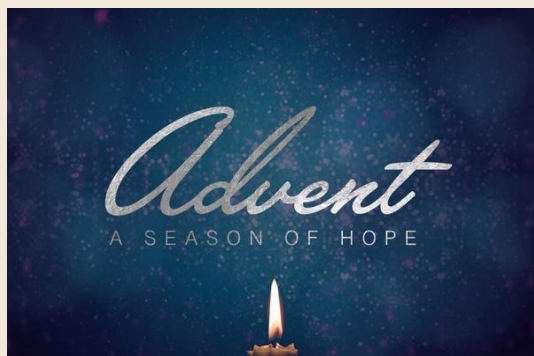
[Click here for the rest of the article.](#)

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Sunday Worship Service
Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.



[Visit our website](#)

Lay Eucharistic Minister & Lector Training

**Training for New and Seasoned
Lay Eucharistic Ministers
and Lectors
THIS Saturday, 12/7, 9:00 a.m.**



Training for those who are active in our lay Eucharistic minister ministry or as lectors are invited to come to a training THIS Saturday. Anyone interested in serving in either of these ministries is encouraged to attend as well. The training is a requirement of the diocesan office for those who serve in either ministry. Doug Wayland and Fr. Doug will lead the training.

Christmas Pageant



Christmas Pageant Sunday, 12/15

Gay DeMontel is overseeing the Christmas Pageant again this year. Thank you, Gay! She is seeking children and adult participants. Please call Gay at (361) 944-4544 regarding which part you would like to play and costuming. There will be only one practice, which will be Saturday, 12/14, at 9:30 a.m. beginning in the fellowship hall.

Immediately after the service we will go over to the Corpus Christi Nursing and Rehabilitation Center to sing Christmas Carols for the residents. Everyone is invited to join in the fun. If you participate in the pageant and want help with the singing, please leave your costume on. The residents enjoy having us there, especially if a few of us are in costume!

Election of Delegates & Alternates

Election for Delegates and Alternates THIS Sunday, 12/8, after the service



Each year we send representatives from St. Mark's to Diocesan Council. We need to elect three delegates and three alternates for the 2025 Council taking place in San Marcos February 20-22. The church will cover the cost of each participant's registration, but the cost of the hotel will be the responsibility of the delegate or alternate. The diocese works with the hotel to provide very reasonable rates. You may share a room with someone to help with the cost as well.

Poinsettia Plants



Poinsettia Plants to Decorate Altar for Christmas Eve Services

Our Christmas Eve services will be at 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. as usual this year. As part of our tradition, we use poinsettia plants to decorate the altar for the Christmas Eve services. There will be red inserts in the bulletins this Sunday to use if you would like to sign up for a plant or two.

Sponsoring a plant is great way to honor a special someone or event in your life, or you may write down a dedication in memory of someone. The plants cost \$12.00 each. Thank you for helping to make the altar beautiful this Christmas Eve.

The deadline for the dedications is Wednesday, 12/18.

2025 Flower Chart

2025 Flower Chart Available in the Entryway to the Sanctuary

Sponsoring the altar flowers on a Sunday is a wonderful way to honor a loved one or special date in your life. Please sign up on the flower chart that is available in the entryway to the sanctuary. As a gentle reminder, you will receive an email the last week of the month before your assigned date giving details about the flowers, cost, etc. and asking that you provide the dedication for that particular Sunday.



There are only two dates still available:
August 23rd
October 12th

Thank you to all who have signed up to sponsor the altar flowers for next year!

Christmas Services



Christmas Eve Services
5:00 p.m. Family Service
10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Service
10:30 a.m. Church of the
Good Shepherd

Youth Group



Youth Group meets Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

December heads up: The Christmas pageant is scheduled for Sunday, December 15th. If you will be participating, come to the practice starting in the fellowship hall at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 14th. Like last year, the pageant on Sunday will be followed by caroling at the Corpus Christi Nursing & Rehabilitation Center next door.

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study Meets Sundays after the Service

Participants in the Adult Bible Study Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall for Bible study after the service this Sunday. The group will continue the study of the Gospel of Mark. Bring your Bibles if you'd like; however, there



will be some available if you need one. Grab some refreshments and join in the conversation.

Below are the links to the previous study guides for chapters one through twelve if you'd like to review them or catch up. The group is currently discussing chapter 14.

Previous Chapters 1-10:

[Chapter 1 Mark](#)

[Chapter 2 Mark](#)

[Chapter 3 Mark](#)

[Chapter 4 Mark](#)

[Chapter 5 Mark](#)

[Chapter 6 Mark](#)

[Chapter 7 Mark](#)

[Chapter 8 Mark](#)

[Chapter 9 Mark](#)

[Chapter 10 Mark](#)

[Chapter 11 Mark](#)

[Chapter 12 Mark](#)

New Chapters 13-16:

[Chapter 13 Mark](#)

[Chapter 14 Mark](#)

[Chapter 15 Mark](#)

[Chapter 16 Mark](#)

Timon's Ministry



Ministry in Partnership with Timon's Ministry

Over the course of many years, St. Mark's has partnered with Timon's Ministry in various ways. Timon's goal "is to provide a hand up, empowering individuals to regain their strength, dignity, and ultimately, their place in the workforce." Our women's reunion group has discovered several ways to serve this community.

Members of the group have been volunteering their time at Timon's Ministry working in the Clothing Closet organizing items and visiting with people. The group has asked for help with their efforts through any of the following ways:

- Donating band aids, bandages, and gauze
- Donating clothing, especially men's shirts, jeans, or athletic shoes
- Donating travel size deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, bars of bath soap, body wash
- Donating toothbrushes
- Donating items for to-go food bags: tuna and cracker packs, granola bars, chips, bottled water, etc.
- Sorting clothing on Mondays from 8:45 - noon.

You may leave your donations in designated boxes located in the entryway to the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall. Contact Pam Cater at (361) 446-4498 for more information.

**Thank you for your help with this important
ministry opportunity.**

Diocesan Events

Diocesan & National Church News



Cursillo Information--Please use the link below to the diocesan page containing information on upcoming [Cursillo weekends](#).

Diocesan ENews--To stay informed on what is happening in our Diocese, you may sign up for the [Diocese of West Texas ENews](#) by clicking the link. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on a white button that has "Let's Connect" written in it.

Ways to Support God's Kingdom through St. Mark's

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT ST. MARK'S CHURCH!



Thank you for Your Generosity

Is the Lord blessing you? Are you grateful for what He has done in your life? Remember His Church. We have ministries to support and salaries and bills to pay. Give out of faith, thanksgiving, and generosity, and never out of guilt. If you are blessed to be able to give, here are several ways to do that:

- Online through our website. There is a blue "Giving" button at the bottom of each page. Just click on that and it will take you to our online EGiving page. You will need to set up a user profile, and then you can set up a one-time gift or recurring gifts. You can also give through the ["Donate to St. Mark's"](#) link.
- Through your cell phone using the app, **Vanco Mobile**. To get the app, go to the app store and search for "Vanco Mobile". The icon background is dark purple with a white circle and a purple letter "V" in the center. Download the app and follow the prompts. You can use it to set up a one-time gift or recurring gifts.
- You may also use the QR code below.
- Mail in your check to: St. Mark's Church, 2727 Airline Rd, CC, TX 78414. We have a drop-in mailbox that is locked at all times. We check the mail every day, so your check will be secure.
- Drop your check off at the church. Just put it in the locked mailbox to the left of the red doors at the fellowship hall.
- Bequest giving is another way to give to St. Mark's with a gift through your estate. Simply list St. Mark's in your will.

THANK YOU for helping spread the Kingdom
through your continuing support
of St. Mark's Church.



Weekly Calendar

Calendar & Ministry Schedule

Here is the link to the [December schedule](#) for our ministries. The schedule is an ongoing work in progress, so please check each week to see if there are any changes. Here's a link to the [December calendar](#).

December 8 - Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist--Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. - Election of Delegates & Alternates to Council--Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. - Coffee & Conversation--Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m. - Youth Group--Youth Room Fellowship Hall
- 11:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study--Fellowship Hall

December 9- Monday

- 8:45 a.m. - Clothing Sorting--Timon's Ministry, 10501 S. Padre Island Dr.
- 9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting--Fellowship Hall Library

December 10 - Tuesday

- 7:30 a.m. - Women's Reunion Group--Corner Bakery, 4938 S. Staples St.

December 11- Wednesday

- 12:00 p.m. - Prayer Group--Fellowship Hall Library
- 6:30 p.m. - Men's Reunion Group--Nolan's Restaurant, 7426 S. Staples St.

**Below you will find several links to websites or
Facebook Pages that you might find helpful.**

[St. Mark's Episcopal Church](#)

[Donate to St. Mark's Church](#)

[St. Mark's Church Facebook Page](#)

[Diocese of West Texas](#)

[Diocesan Newsletter and Reflection Magazine](#)

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