

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

August 4, 2023

## Upcoming Events

### Strategic Planning Retreat

8/4-5, Friday and Saturday

### Blessing for Back to School

8/6, Sunday

### Hooks Game

8/11, Friday

### St. Mark's Day at the Beach

8/19, Saturday

### Parish Meeting & Potluck

8/27, Sunday

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## Sunday Worship Service:

10:00 a.m.--Holy Eucharist-Sanctuary

## From the Rector

Fr. Doug Wasinger



This coming Sunday is designated as The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ Sunday, and the primary theme of the selected readings is departure. In the Old Testament reading from Exodus, Moses had a face-to-face conversation with God on a mountain, and because of that encounter, Moses's face shined. The Gospel of Luke explains that Jesus was on a mountain with three of his closest followers, who later became key figures in the early church. As Jesus was praying, God's presence shone all around the small group. Two key figures from scripture, Moses who represented the Law and Elijah who represented the prophets who interpreted the Law, also appeared as a means of communicating the importance of what was taking place. In the New Testament reading, Peter is providing his last words of advice, as he knew he was soon going to depart this world.

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

Visit our website

## Strategic Planning Retreat



### Strategic Planning Retreat Friday & Saturday, 8/4-5

Approximately 20 of the leaders here at St. Mark's will gather to work through the process of forming a strategic plan that will map out our direction for the next three to five years. Please keep them and the process in your prayers that all are guided by the Holy Spirit.

## Back to School Blessing

### Back to School Blessing Sunday, August 6th

Each year before school starts, we have a blessing said over our students and those who work in schools-- not just in elementary, middle, and high school but those at colleges, trade schools, and everything in between. Backpacks are also blessed, so don't forget to bring yours on the 6th to make sure it receives a blessing too!



## Meals for Beth



### Meals for Beth Offutt through Take them a Meal.com

We need your help to provide meals for Beth Offutt. We are using an online tool called TakeThemaMeal.com, which allows people to see who has signed up to take a meal and what they are providing. It's very helpful when a lot of people are a part of the team.

Dietary needs are listed on the website, as well as contact info and other instructions. Click here for the link to [Beth's schedule](#). If the link gives you trouble, you may go to [takethemameal.com](http://takethemameal.com), click on the "Find a Meal Schedule", and enter Offutt in the name area and 1238 for the password. It will take you directly to Beth's page. Select a date and type in what you want to bring.

Please be aware that Beth doesn't need full meals; providing a serving or two will be great.

# Game Night

Fun  
Fellowship  
and  
Games  
Last Night

The turnout was great and  
everyone had a blast!



Game Night  
Fun



Game Night Fun

# Remind Texting System



## Remind Church Texting Service

We will begin using REMIND as a communication tool. It is utilized by 80% of national school districts. REMIND will give us the ability to send text messages directly to your phone, and it will allow you to respond with a message if necessary. Another positive aspect of this platform is that your phone number is protected.

We are using the free version and are limited on the number of groups we may create. Below is a list of nine groups that have been created for our ministries, some of which have been combined. If this works well for us, we may expand our plan to include more ministry groups.

Please be sure to sign up for every ministry group you're involved in. We're asking everyone to sign up for the "**General Announcements**" group because it will be used for event reminders and emergency related information. The group will be one-way texting only.

To sign up for important updates from your ministry group, please text **@(the code for the ministry you are signing up for)** to **81010**.

- **General Announcements @stmarkgen**
- **Youth and Children's Ministry @739d77**
- **Ushers and Greeters @6hed62**
- **Sunday Worship Services** (This includes Presentation Managers / Livestream / LEMs / Lectors / Security Officers / Newcomer Ministers) **@a8c8d8**
- **Outreach Team / Access Plus @82fghdh**
- **Hospitality /Coffee Hour @7c8g6k**
- **College/Young Adult Ministries @69f48hh**
- **Altar Guild @6g9b847**
- **Acolytes @gkf737**

We are excited about having another tool to help with our communications.

## St. Mark's Day at the Beach

## Beach Day in Port Aransas Saturday, August 19

The Wandels have rented a large tent to provide shade for us while we enjoy a Saturday at the beach with our church family. They will also provide tables and ice chests filled with ice. You'll need to bring your own food or snacks, drinks, towels, sunscreen, chairs, sand toys, boogie boards, and anything else you would take for a trip to beach.



The mile marker identifying where the tent will be set up will be available soon. For now, put the date on your calendars!

## Parish Meeting & Potluck Lunch



## Picnic Themed Potluck and Parish Meeting Sunday, 8/27

Make plans to be here Sunday, August 27th, for a picnic themed potluck lunch and a parish meeting after the worship service. We'll share great food and hear about the plans moving forward from the strategic planning retreat that will take place tomorrow and Saturday. Sign up on the back of your Connection Card this Sunday to bring a dish, or call the church office (361) 994-0285.

## New Stove

### The New Stove Is In!!

The wait is over! Our new stove was installed this week, and it works great!

We'll be able to use it during our next potluck lunch Sunday, August 27th, after our worship service.



## Children's Activity Bags



### Children's Worship Activity Bags

During the COVID pandemic, we had to stop offering cloth activity bags for the children to use during our worship service. Now that we're post pandemic, we're bringing the bags back.

As you walk into the sanctuary, you'll find them in a red plastic bin on the bench located on the left side of the entryway . Please pick one up for your child to enjoy and return it to the red bin as you leave the service, so the contents may be replenished for the next Sunday.

## Outreach Opportunities

### Outreach Opportunities

**New Life Refuge Ministries** is having an event called "Christmas in July," which gives people an opportunity to support their ministry of caring for child survivors of trafficking as they work their way through healing. [Click here](#) to participate in purchasing gift cards for goodies for the children.



**Mission 911** is hosting a [Cost of Poverty Experience](#) for those who have never experienced poverty first hand but have their own assumptions and theories about what poverty is. Tony Reyes says that poverty is both a cause and an effect of homelessness, drugs, crime, and violence. Women and children are often the victims.

COPE (Cost of Poverty Experience) is an annual poverty simulation event through which participants can actually experience poverty first hand — the situations, decisions, and dilemmas that the poor face every day. This year it is scheduled for October 12th.

## Diocesan Events



### Diocesan News

**New: Youth, Children, and Family Ministry Summit**--Click on [this link](#) for information on this one-day event August 19th. The cost is \$75 per person.

**Connecting with College Missions**--Click on [this link](#) if you'd like to get connected with the diocesan college ministry.

**Diocesan ENews**--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. Though we have experienced limitations for worshiping together, we still 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 [August schedule](#) for our ministries, which is an ongoing work in progress. Please check each week to see if there are any changes.

**August 4 - Friday**

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Strategic Planning--Fellowship Hall

**August 5 - Saturday**

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Strategic Planning--Fellowship Hall

**August 6 - Sunday**

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist--Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. - Coffee Hour--Fellowship Hall

**August 7 - Monday**

9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting--Fellowship Hall Library

1:30 p.m. - College/Young Adult Ministry Meeting--Fellowship Hall Library

**August 9 - 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.

**August 11 - Friday**

7:05 p.m. - Hooks Game--Whataburger Field



**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](#)

[Denison Forum--News Discerned Differently](#)

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
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