

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

December 7, 2023

Upcoming Events

Christmas Pageant Practice

12/16, Saturday 10:00 a.m.

Access Plus Ramp Build

12/16, Saturday 8:00 a.m.

Christmas Pageant

12/17, Sunday

Christmas Caroling at CCNRC

12/17, Sunday 11:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services

12/24, Sunday 5:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Lessons & Carols Service

12/31, Sunday 10:00 a.m.

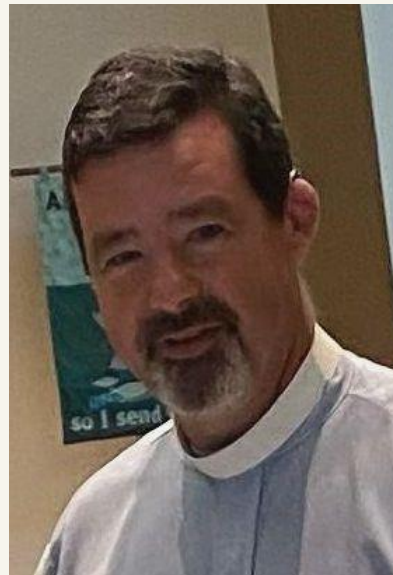
Office Closed

12/22/23 through 1/2/23

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From the Rector Fr. Doug Wasinger



December is an enjoyable time of year for most of us. The festive spirit of lights shines throughout the city of Corpus Christi. I have been enjoying watching my neighbors transform their front yards into beautiful scenes of lights. One house has Christmas ornaments hanging from several trees with large wire balls featuring small bright globes inside, and when I walk by at night my world brightens up. While driving home at night, I smile when I see how people use lights to decorate their trees and bushes. I chuckle when I see the different holiday themes of Star Wars, well known cartoons, and other popular cultural icons displayed for others' enjoyment. It is a nice gesture of generosity for the public good. For some though, this time of year is a challenge. It may be the first Christmas without a loved one, or painful

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Sunday Worship Service

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

[Visit our website](#)

memories of unmet expectations seem to grow sharper with the contrast of night and day. The church's response is to share the good news of how God arrived in our world as a human being to become one of us and bless us in tangible ways. God is not "out in the stars" but in our day to day lives.

To read the rest of the article, [click here.](#)

Council Election Results

2024 Delegates & Alternates to Council



We elected three delegates and three alternates to Council last Sunday. Please see the list below:

Delegates: Melanie Buchi, John deMontel, and Doug Wayland

Alternates: Kirk Buchi, Maria Skidmore, and Molly Wandel.

Thank you to all who participated in the election and those willing to serve as representatives of St. Mark's at Diocesan Council and at the election of a new Suffragan Bishop.

Christmas Pageant



Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 17th

Gay deMontel has agreed to organize this year's Christmas Pageant once again. She needs people to sign up to help as either assistants or characters. All ages are invited to participate; there's something for everyone. There will be a rehearsal Saturday,

December 16th, at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

You may sign up on the back of your Connection Card Sunday or visit with Gay. You may also contact her by calling her at (361) 944-4544, or email her at gaydemontel@gmail.com.

Access Plus Ramp Build

Ramp Build Saturday, 12/16, at 8:00 a.m. 1026 Vernon

The December ramp build is for a lovely lady named Carol. She is looking forward to the blessing that's coming her way as a result of the gift of a ramp.

If you'd like to be a part of this ministry but don't think you have enough skills, don't let that stop you. Doug Wayland and his crew would be happy to teach you what to do. Just show up Saturday morning and they'll give you all the instruction you need.



The Season of Advent



Advent Devotionals and Advent Online Series

Advent is time of preparation, and our tradition has us in a more observant, contemplative position even in the midst of very busy season.

This Sunday, our children and youth group kids will receive Advent devotionals that include activities and readings for the season of Advent. We'll also have various Advent Devotional booklets available on the name tag table in the entryway to the sanctuary. Just pick up a copy to use during Advent.

Fr. Doug found an Advent series called "Incarnation" by Adam Hamilton that is really good. He thought others would enjoy it. There are four videos to watch, one for each week. Here's the [link for the website.](#)

Shining Our Light Campaign

Ingathering of Ministry Support Cards

It's still not too late to submit your Ministry of Support for 2024 cards. We will have extra cards available Sunday if you need one. You may also mail yours in. Fr. Doug will take them to the sanctuary, where he'll place them on the altar to bless them before they are accounted for.

Here's a PDF of the [Ministry Support Card](#) if you would like to print out a copy.



THANK YOU for your support of the ministry that will happen through St. Mark's!

Adult Bible Study



Adult Bible Study of the Gospel of Mark Sundays, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

All are welcome to join the Bible study. Come to one week, or come to them all. The class meets in the fellowship hall at noon and ends around 1:00 p.m. Grab a cup of coffee and some snacks, then head over

to the designated tables to sit down.

Here are links for past study dates and the upcoming Sunday:

[the introduction](#) to the class

[map of the Sea of Galilee](#)

[chapter one](#) study notes

[chapter two](#) study notes

[chapter three](#) study notes

[chapter four](#) study notes

[chapter five](#) study notes

Christmas Caroling

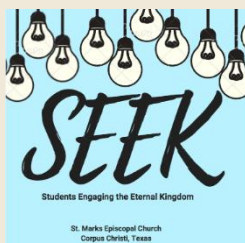
Christmas Caroling at Corpus Christi Nursing & Rehab Center

Sunday, 12/17, at 11:30 a.m.



After our Christmas pageant on December 17, we'll share the joy of Advent with our neighbors at the nursing home next door (CCNRC) with tidings of comfort and joy! We'll walk over right after the pageant. If you're in costume, please stay that way- they'll love it! We'll sing a few well-known carols and pass out small gifts to the residents before heading back to St. Mark's for coffee hour. The more, the merrier! Non-singers come too - you can ring jingle bells!

Youth Group & Children's Ministry



SEEK Youth Group Meets Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

Youth group meets right after the worship service, so grab a snack and a drink, and bring them with you to the youth room. Come see everyone and catch up!

Camp Capers Mid-Winter Camps I, II, and III: January 2024

Registration is open for Mid-Winter Camps at Camps Capers for the first three weekends of January 2024. With dedicated sessions for 9th-12th graders, 6th-8th graders, and 2nd-5th grade campers, Mid-Winter Camps are opportunities to recharge midway through the school year, reuniting with camp friends and making new ones, while growing and learning in faith.

Camp I--1/5-1/7--9th - 12th grade
Camp I--1/12-1/14--6th - 8th grade
Camp III--1/19-1/21--2nd - 5th grade

[Click here](#) for more information or to register.

Timon's Ministry Collection

Timon's Ministry Men's Clothing Collection

Timon's Ministry has requested donations of new or gently used men's small or medium sweatpants and jeans. They are also in need of tennis shoes of all sizes for men. If you can donate any of these items, please bring them by the church office. Thank you for your help.



December 24th Service Times



December 24th Services

The Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve are on the same day this year. So, we will not have a Fourth Sunday of Advent service the morning of the 24th. Instead, we will have our two regular Christmas Eve services: the Family Service at 5 p.m. and the Candlelight Service at 10:00 p.m. Please make a note of this change.

2024 Flower Chart

2024 Flower Chart Available

If you'd like to sponsor the altar flowers on a Sunday to honor a special event or person in your life, please sign up on the new 2024 flower chart available in the entryway to the sanctuary. A reminder email will be sent at the beginning of the month for which you signed up to sponsor the flowers. It will include a request for how you would like the dedication to read and information about taking care of the cost, which is \$55. Please remember that we won't have altar flowers during Lent.



Diocesan Events



Diocesan News

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

December 10- Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist--Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. - Coffee Hour--Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m. - SEEK Youth Group--Fellowship Hall Youth Room
- 12:00 p.m. - Study of the Gospel of Mark--Fellowship Hall

December 12- Tuesday

- 7:30 a.m. - Women's Reunion Group--Corner Bakery, 4938 S. Staples St.
- 11:00 a.m. - Tom Pennington's Memorial Service--Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. - Episcopal Clergy Christmas Party---Fellowship Hall

December 13 - Wednesday

- 12:00 p.m. - Prayer Group--Fellowship Hall Library
- 6:30 p.m. - Finance Committee Meeting--Fellowship Hall Library

December 16 - Saturday

- 8:00 a.m. - Access Plus Ramp Build--1026 Vernon
- 10:00 a.m.- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal—Sanctuary

**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](#)