

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

December 23, 2021

Upcoming Events.

Christmas Eve Services

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

Christmas Day Service

Sat, 12/25 10:30 a.m.

Church of the Good Shepherd

Church Office Closed

12/22-12/30

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Sunday Worship Service:

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

[Visit our website](#)



"Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High"

Luke 1:30-32a

Take a minute to think about God's promise to Mary that she would give birth to the Savior of God's people. That's pretty spectacular, but the way God planned for it to happen required a level of trust from Mary that causes me to pause and consider my own level of trust. There was a potential for Joseph to leave her, for her family to shun her, and for her community to treat her unjustly. But she chose to trust in what the angel told her as God worked out the journey for her and Joseph.

The truth of God's promise to Mary was clearly announced through the angels that appeared to the shepherds when Jesus was born. They brought that word to Mary and Joseph in the manger to confirm just what a miracle God had done through them who were simple, ordinary people. After the shepherds shared what the angels said, Luke tells us that "Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." I think that was probably an understatement! I can only imagine the questions that swirled in her mind, the absolute awe over who Jesus was, the wonder of what life was going to be like for Him, as well as the awareness of the awesomeness of the God she served.

This scripture reading serves to give us all much

hope as we ponder God's promises for our lives and those we love. Spend some time praying about how this will work for God's glory in your life; ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He's already done in your life to prepare you and what the next first step might be for you, because all of this is happening, whether we are aware of it or not.

**Seek God! Pray!
Give it ALL to Him!**

LATEST **LY**

The Gift of Love. The Gift of Peace. The Gift of Happiness.
May All These Be Yours at Christmas.

Merry Christmas!



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Services

We will have two service, both with Holy Eucharist, on Christmas Eve. The first service will begin at 5:00 p.m. and is more family oriented. The second service, starting at 10:00 p.m., will be our candlelight service.

Be sure to make plans to come worship on Christmas Eve!



Christmas Day Service Saturday, December 25th, at 10:30 a.m. Church of the Good Shepherd

St. Mark's will not have a worship service on Christmas Day, but if you would like to attend a service, Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church is offering one. It will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will include Holy Eucharist.

Church of the Good Shepherd is located downtown at 700 S. Upper Broadway. Here is a link to [a map](#).



Holiday Office Closure

Office Closed Beginning 12/22 at Noon

The office will be closed for the holidays beginning Wednesday 12/22 at noon through the end of December. We will be checking email and voicemail during that time. If there is an emergency, please contact Judy on her cell phone at (361) 425-8249.



Warden's Corner

Opportunity to Serve

Typically, three **vestry members** rotate off the vestry each year and are replaced by three new members. However, this year only two vestry positions will be vacated. Jon Reily was scheduled to step down from the vestry but has graciously agreed to serve as Senior Warden one more year as we continue to go through the search process for our new rector. So we will have two positions to fill instead of three at our annual meeting in January. Vestry members typically serve a three year term, which means three positions are open each year to ensure both continuity and opportunities for fresh ideas. If you'd like more information about serving on the vestry, please contact Jon or any vestry member to get answers to your questions.



Our **delegates** for Diocesan Council in San Marcos this February are:

- Jon Reily
- Paul Baen
- Teresa Bacon
- Jane Helm

Thanks everyone!

Flowers

Flower Chart for 2022

Sponsoring the altar flowers on a Sunday is a great way to honor a special someone or event in your life, as well as add more beauty to our altar. Each year a flower chart is available for people to sign up on for a particular Sunday. The flower chart for 2022 is now available in the entryway to the sanctuary.



After you sign up, an email will be sent out at the beginning of the month of the date that you requested. You will be asked how you would like the dedication on the back of the bulletin to read and whether you want to take the flowers after the Sunday service or have them donated. The cost is \$55.

Poinsettia Plants

The altar guild and those who volunteered to help decorate the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve services did an amazing job. It is beautiful!

If you sponsored one of the poinsettia plants, thank you! You may pick yours up after the service this Sunday, 12/26.



Thank you for your help!

Search Process

Links for Search Process Resources

Here is a list of useful links to use during the search process for our new rector:

Parish Profile on Mark's [website](#),

Dioceses of West Texas website [churches in transition](#)

Prayers during the search process: [prayers](#)

Scripture to study: [Ephesians 4](#)



Stewardship Season

Support Kingdom Work through St. Mark's

If you have not already done so, please let the church office staff know what your intentions are for 2022 in terms of stewardship by submitting an Estimate of Giving Card by 12/31. There are cards available in the sanctuary. You may also email the office with your intentions for 2022.



Camp Capers Mid-Winter Camps

Camp Capers will be hosting its weekend overnight Mid-Winter Camps this year in January. Camp offers the opportunity for our kids to experience new friends, campfires, outdoor games, singing, worship, growth in faith, and so much more. Scholarships are available.

- Mid-Winter Camp I--Jan 7-9 for 9th through 12th graders
- Mid-Winter Camp II--Jan 14-16 for 6th through 8th graders
- Mid-Winter Camp III--Jan 21-23 for 3rd through 5th graders

Here's [the link](#) to the registration and information page.



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

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

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 the four 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.
- **NEW APP**----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.
- 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.

**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 still a work in progress. Please check each week to see if there are any changes.

December 22 at noon--OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

December 24 - Friday--Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. - Family Holy Eucharist Christmas Eve Service--Sanctuary

10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Holy Eucharist Christmas Eve Service--Sanctuary

December 25 - Saturday--Christmas Day

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

700 S. Upper Broadway

December 26 - Sunday

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist--Sanctuary
NO SEEK YOUTH GROUP OR KIDS IN CHRIST

December 27 - Tuesday

7:00 p.m. - Bible Study & Prayer Group--Online-Zoom

December 29 - Wednesday

11:30 a.m. - Lunch with the Old Guys--Location to be determined

Helpful Links

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](#)

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