# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

**weekly news & updates**

**November 12, 2026**

## Upcoming Events

**Due date for Fishpond Thanksgiving Food Collection**
11/22, Sunday

**Blood Drive**
11/22, Sunday

**Fishpond Living Apartment Thanksgiving Food Distribution**
11/24, Tuesday

**Thanksgiving Day**
11/26, Thursday

**Beginning of Advent Season**
11/29, Sunday

**Missionary Sunday**
11/29, Sunday

**Christmas Pageant**
12/13, Sunday

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SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Bringing Faith to Life.

## Reflections from the Rector



We live in a society that rewards success and discourages failure. From an early age, we are taught to avoid mistakes and play it safe. Yet the Gospel often invites us to see things a different way.

During many walks with a friend of mine, I learned another way to look at life. He had spent most of his career in the oil industry, and upon his retirement he became a visionary, developing a plan for a community where everyone could benefit. Many people criticized his ideas because they believed that opportunity is limited and that for one person to gain, another has to lose. My friend saw things differently. He believed generosity and creativity create opportunities that could bless everyone. His vision was often misunderstood, but he remained convinced that different did not mean wrong. Through our conversations, I

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learned that life can be more generous than we imagine and that taking risks often brings unexpected blessings.

**Click here for the rest of the article.**

## Sunday Worship Service

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Visit our website

# Plenty Good Room Stewardship Campaign




## Plenty Good Room Stewardship Campaign

Our Giving in Gratitude potluck was a big success. Thank you to Kirk Buchi for preparing the brisket for us and to him and Melanie for overseeing the potluck. We appreciate the help with setup and cleanup and all the dishes that were brought. Thank you to Donna Burks for the photo video of our year in review. We wouldn't have had such a wonderful potluck without everyone's contributions.

Thank you to John deMontel for organizing the campaign and to those who shared their stories of their experiences. Thank you to the 35 families who submitted their Estimate of Giving cards for 2027 to support the kingdom of God through St. Mark's.

If you weren't able to submit your Estimate of Giving card last Sunday, please bring it with you this Sunday and place it in the offering basket so Fr. Doug can bless it. You may also mail your cards to the office. Fr. Doug also takes each one to the altar and blesses it after it arrives.

**Thank you for your commitment to St. Mark's and the work done through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure to our community!**

# Thanksgiving Food Collection

## Thanksgiving Meal Food Collection for the Residents of Fishpond Living Apartments



We are collecting nonperishable food items for the residents of the Fishpond Living Apartments so they can prepare their Thanksgiving dinners. We don't know exactly how many residents will participate, so for now we're planning for 110 residents, which is last year's number of participants. Below are the totals of what is still needed based on what has come in as of today, 11/12/26.

Specific items and numbers still needed:

- **85--Stuffing--6 oz. box**
- **62--Turkey gravy-- 1 oz. packet**
- **93--Sweet Potatoes/Yams--individual cans, 15 oz. (no large cans, please)**
- **93--Cranberry Sauce--14 oz. can**
- **54--Green Beans--14 oz. can**
- **69--Corn--14 oz. can**

Here is a PDF of the list that you can print to take with you when you're shopping. There will also be a list in your bulletins this Sunday.

The food items will be delivered to the residents on Tuesday, November 24th.

# 2027 Flower Chart



## 2027 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 a special event in your life while adding beauty to our altar. You can sign up for a Sunday on the flower chart in the entryway. Please note that we don't have altar flowers during Lent because it's a somber, penitential season.

Each flower arrangement costs $60. You will receive an email prior to your selected Sunday with information on how to take care of the cost, and you will be asked for your flower dedication, which will be printed on the back of the Sunday bulletin.

**Thank you for helping to make our altar beautiful!**

## Cimarron Senior Apartments Ministry

### Ministry to the Residents at Cimarron Senior Apartments
### 2802 Cimarron Blvd.



### Food Distribution
### Monday, 11/16, 11:15 a.m.

**Conversations with God Bible Study on the First Monday of Every Month at 11:00 a.m.**
Once a month, John deMontel, Fr. Doug Wasinger, and others provide snacks and a Bible study they call "Conversations with God" for the residents. It generally lasts an hour. If you'd like to help with this ministry, please contact John at (361) 815-9498.

**Food Delivery to Residents on the Third Monday of Every Month at 11:15 a.m.**
The Coastal Bend Food Bank delivers food to the Cimarron Senior Apartments once a month. A team of dedicated St. Mark's volunteers helps distribute the food to residents. If you have an hour or so to give, please consider helping with the monthly food distribution.

## Year End Giving




### Year End Giving Opportunities by John deMontel

Dear St. Mark's Faithful!
As the end of the year approaches, it is a good time to evaluate your planned giving and make last-minute gifts count for the intended calendar year. A gift is generally considered complete for Federal tax purposes when you relinquish “dominion and control” of the asset. Most completions require that the donation must be physically received by the charitable recipient by December 31.

Anyone 70 ½ or older can make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) to the charity of his or her choice for up to $111,000 per individual. The charitable distribution must go directly to the qualified eligible charity, not to your personal account to then be transferred to the charity. The QCD cannot go to a donor-advised fund, private foundation, or supporting organizations. The distribution may be used to satisfy or partially satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution from Pre-tax IRA’s or retirement plans. The QCD is excluded entirely from your taxable income.

There can be several nuances in the QCD realm, so please contact your financial or tax advisors.

St. Mark’s can accept checks directly from an investment account. If you would like to donate stocks or mutual funds to take advantage of tax laws, donations can be sent to the Diocese of West Texas, and funds will be forwarded to St. Mark's. Judy has a form describing that method if needed. Thank you for your consideration of gifts to St. Marks.

Blessings,
John DeMontel

## Coastal Bend Blood Center Blood Drive

### Coastal Bend Blood Center Blood Drive Sunday, 11/22, 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Coastal Bend Blood Center
*Giving so that others may live*

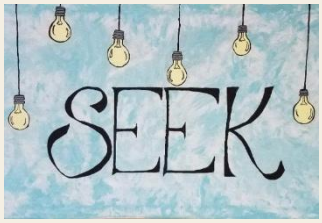
The Coastal Bend Blood Center has asked us to sponsor another blood drive. This time they set a goal of 15 units of blood, which is a little higher than our previous goal of 12.

All donors will receive a donor long-sleeve T-shirt and a pair of Ice Rays tickets.

If you'd like, you can schedule an appointment between 9:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. by **clicking this link**, or you can simply be a walk in donor on that Sunday.



## Youth Group




### Youth Group

Youth Group will meet this Sunday after the service. Grab some refreshments and head to the Youth Room.

**A Happening** is scheduled for November 20-21 at Episcopal Church of Reconciliation in San Antonio. A Happening weekend is a spiritual retreat for high school students in the 10th through 12th grades. The retreat costs $60 per person. **Click here for more information.**

## Adult Bible Study

### Adult Bible Study Class Sundays after the Service

The Adult Bible Study will resume meeting after the service this Sunday, November 15th. The group is studying the book of Romans. All are welcome to join!



## Healing Prayer




### Time of Contemplation and Healing Prayer Wednesday, 12/9, 5:45 p.m.

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, this service is for you. The first part of the service includes hearing scripture, listening to worship music, being quiet before the Holy Spirit, and praying for people as a group. The second part is a time for individual prayer with prayer ministers.

The services are scheduled for the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. For the months of November and December, the fourth Wednesday meetings have been cancelled because they are so close to Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please consider joining us for prayers for yourself or for others you know.

## Personal Prayer Sessions



If you would ever like personal prayer, just let Judy know; prayer ministers can be available to pray with you individually. They usually pray in pairs. Just call the office at (361) 994-0285 to schedule a time. If you can't set up a time, just come into the office where Judy and Fr. Doug would be happy to pray with you.

# Volunteer Hours App




## MyTimeTithe App to Track Volunteer Hours

The time we serve in ministry at St. Mark's, in the community, or in any other capacity matters and has economic value. Wouldn't it be interesting to know how much time we serve? Jeremy Wilkey developed an app for us to use to log those hours. You can **click on this link** to get started.

Enter your name in the space provided. If it's your first time, click "Don't see your name? Add yourself" to enter your name. Then fill in the page that opens up. You will select the date, the number of hours you served, which ministry the hours were for, and you may add a note about your service if you'd like.

# Spiritual Growth Resources

## Tools for Spiritual Disciplines




Here are some online resources to use for spiritual growth. Each one also has an app that you can download on your phone. Just search your app store to find them. Most of them are free; two have subscription fees, which are noted below.

**YouVersion Holy Bible**--Here's a link to it online. You'll have access to the Bible in several different versions. There are Bible reading plans available. You can also search for a specific subject, such as prayer, and receive reading plans that span several weeks.

**Forward Movement Day by Day Devotionals**--Here's a link to it online. Once you're on the site, you'll see many resources that you might enjoy.

**The Daily Office**--Here's a link to it online. If you enjoy the Daily Office, this app makes it easy to access each day.

**Centering Prayer**--Here's a link to it online. If you enjoy centering prayer, this app offers various ways to participate, including chimes and other sounds, that help you get to a place of inner peace and quiet.

**Abide**--Here's a link to it online. This site includes meditations set to music, which are especially helpful to use before bed. There is a subscription fee for this one.

**She Reads Truth**--Here's a link to it online. This one is specifically for women. There is a subscription fee for this one too.

## Diocesan Events

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE of West Texas

### Diocesan News

**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 on 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 so:

- Online accessing our website. There is a blue "Giving" button at the bottom of each page. Just click on it, 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.
- Using the QR code below.
- Mailing in your check to: St. Mark's Church, 2727 Airline Rd, CC, TX 78414. Our drop-in mailbox is locked at all times. We check the mail every day, so your check will be secure.
- Dropping your check off at the church. Just put it in the locked mailbox to the left of the red doors of the fellowship hall.
- Bequest giving 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 our **November ministry schedule**. Click here for the **November church calendar**.

**November 15 - Sunday**
10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist--Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. - Coffee & Conversation--Fellowship Hall
11:30 a.m. - Youth Group--Fellowship Hall Youth Room
11:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study--Fellowship Hall Library

**November 16 - Monday**
9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting
11:15 a.m. - Food Distribution--Cimarron Senior Apartments, 2802 Cimarron Blvd.
6:30 p.m. - Vestry Meeting--Fellowship Hall Library

**November 17- Tuesday**
8:00 a.m. - Women's Reunion Group--Corner Bakery Restaurant, 4928 S. Staples St.

**November 18 - 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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