

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

December 15, 2022

Upcoming Events

Access Plus Ramp Build

12/17 Saturday, 8:00 a.m.

Christmas Pageant Practice

12/17 Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Pageant

12/18 Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services

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

Christmas Day Service

12/25 Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

In This Issue

Reflections from the Rector

Access Ramp Build

Christmas Pageant

Christmas Services

Flowers

SEEK Youth Group

Holiday Office Closure

All Things Council

Meet and Greet

Food for His Table

Diocesan Events

Giving Information

Weekly Calendar

Helpful Links

Reflections from the Rector



Fr. Doug Wasinger

The Christmas story has been told so many times that important details are overlooked. This became evident to me one Christmas season in Austin, Texas when I saw on the front cover of a newspaper a picture of a new mother with her baby in a mud hut with a blue tarp serving as the roof. My first thought was, "Why the careful staging of the picture? Could the money that was used to take the photograph be used to help the new child?" Then it hit me that this is how Jesus came in the world. I went from being upset at the picture to being grateful for God's mercy.

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

Sunday Worship Service:

10:00 a.m.--Morning Prayer-Sanctuary

Visit our website

Access Plus Ramp Build



Ramp Build Saturday, December 17th, 8:00 a.m. 5912 Ayers St.

The ramp build for November was moved to December because of bad weather. Harold, the recipient of this ramp, has been patiently waiting for his ramp to be built. He has been on the list for a year. What a blessing this will be for him!

Christmas Pageant

Christmas Pageant Practice THIS Saturday, December 17th, 10:30 a.m. Pageant Sunday December 18th, 10:00 a.m.

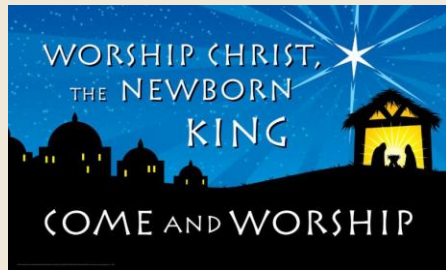


Our annual Christmas Pageant promises to be a wonderfully lively expression of the nativity story. It will be simple and fun, but we need our cast of characters. All are invited to participate, from the very young to the young at heart.

The pageant practice will be **THIS** Saturday, December 17th, at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. There will be a lunch provided for the cast and supporting crew.

Gay deMontel is overseeing the pageant this year and would be happy to visit with you about it. You may phone her at (361) 944-4544 or email her at gaydemontel@gmail.com.

Christmas Services



Christmas Service Schedule

Our Christmas services will be:

Christmas Eve Saturday, 12/24

5:00 p.m. Family Service

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Sunday, 12/25

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

[Click this link](#) for a flyer that you can give to friends and family to invite them to our Christmas pageant and our Christmas services. There will be flyers available on the name tag table in the entryway to the sanctuary as well.

Flowers

Poinsettia Plants for Christmas Services

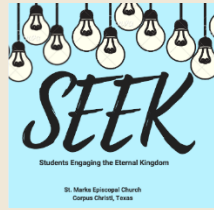
We use poinsettia plants to decorate the altar for our Christmas services each year and need your help with that project. You may sponsor a plant or two by filling out a dedication form that can be found in the Sunday bulletins. This is a wonderful way to remember a loved one or special event in your life. The plants cost \$12 each. You may put your dedication form and payment in the offering basket Sunday morning. Please write "poinsettia" on your check or offering envelope. The deadline for dedications is **THIS** Sunday.



Flower Chart Available in the Sanctuary

You may sign up to sponsor the altar flowers on a special Sunday in 2023 by writing your name by the date on the flower chart which is now available in the entryway to the sanctuary. The flowers cost \$55. An email requesting your dedication will be sent at the beginning of the month you sign up for. Please consider sponsoring the flowers in January; it's just around the corner!

SEEK Youth Group



SEEK Youth Group

Youth group will meet Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

Registration for **Camp Capers camping opportunities** are now open:

Mid-Winter Camp 1/6/23-1/8/23

Mid-Winter Camp 1/13/23-1/15/23

Mid-Winter Camp 1/20/23-1/22/23

Summer Camp:

Senior High (10th-12th grade)

Junior High (8th-9th grade)

Intermediate (6th-7th grade)

Primary (3rd-5th grade)

Here's a link to the [diocesan website](#) for registration and additional information.

Holiday Office Closure

Closed for the Holidays

The church office will close for the holidays Thursday, 12/22, at noon and reopen Tuesday, 1/3. We will monitor messages during that time.



All Things Council



Diocesan Council Delegate & Alternate Election Results

Four delegates and three alternates were elected this past Sunday. Here are the results:

Delegates:

Teresa Bacon
Mark Hartlaub
Jon Reily
Doug Wayland

Alternates:

Scott Chimelski
Lori Jones
Terry Wright

Calling all Cookie Bakers!

We need your help with the cookie project for Diocesan Council. We are supplying over 500 dozen cookies, but we're not responsible for baking all of them. Thank goodness! We will be inviting the eleven churches in our area to help. That means each church would need to bake 55 dozen, which is much more doable.



Here are the instructions:

- All types of cookies are encouraged.
- Please package your cookies in quart-size freezer Ziplock bags.
- Write the type and quantity on the bag.
- Freeze them.
- We now have a new freezer to store cookies, if you need help with storage.



Building Subcommittees for the 2023 Diocesan Council February 16-18

Bishop Reed asked St. Andrew's, St. Peter's, and St. Mark's to be co-hosts for Council. We are now ready to invite you to serve on a sub-committee. Council begins at the American Bank Center on Thursday, but the committees will set up Wednesday. Some committees have specific days and times when volunteers will be needed, while others require volunteers for the entire time that Council is in session.

Hotels—Chair: Beth Offutt. Two or three volunteers provide onsite check-in assistance and welcome guests.

Transportation—Chair: John deMontel. Several volunteers provide assistance for people getting on and off the shuttle service, which will be offered to those who have mobility issues, as well as those who will attend the luncheon at the Omni on Friday.

Hospitality—Chairs: Molly Wandel and Marybeth Maxwell. We need to have 584 dozen (6,000+) cookies available. Several volunteers will work to keep cookie trays full and the area clean, as well as work with the ABC staff to keep beverages well stocked.

Nursery/Childcare—Chair: Chrystal Wilkey. Four or five volunteers, who must have a current Safeguarding God's Children certificate, will set up space for 6-15 children, serve snacks and meals, provide age appropriate activities, and keep the children safe.

Worship Service—Music, Acolytes, and Ushers—Music Chair: Gay deMontel. Bishop Reed will plan and oversee the Holy Eucharist service Friday evening. Volunteers from all area churches and the surrounding area will participate. St. Mark's is responsible for the acolytes and the music. We will also need ushers/greeters to serve as ushers. We have all our acolytes but need a lot of singers for the choir and three or four ushers/greeters.

- To help with a sub-committee, please contact Judy in the church office at (361) 994-0285 or at judy@stmarkscc.org.

Meet & Greet Event

Getting to Know Father Doug

The Jones hosted a brunch Meet and Greet event last Saturday. Here are pictures of the group. Everyone had a great time.

There will be additional events scheduled later, so keep a lookout for that information in upcoming ENews letters.



Food for His Table



Meals for Fr. Doug

Thank you to those of you who have helped with providing Fr. Doug meals and gift cards! He has enjoyed the response so far.

We continue to need your help. Please consider participating in this project by either preparing a couple of meals for him or purchasing gift

cards to local restaurants between now and the end of January. Here is a link for you to sign up to bring him a meal through TakeThemaMeal.com. Information about his dietary restrictions and his likes and dislikes are included. You can sign up for as many dates as you'd like. You may also contact Lori Jones at (361) 903-5060 to sign up.

Diocesan Events

Diocesan News



Bishop's Blog on the Bishop Coadjutor Election--Click on [the link](#) to read Bishop Reed's blog.

Bishop Search Process--Here is a [link for information](#) on the search process for our next Bishop, including the diocesan profile.

Youth/Children's Camp at Camp Capers--For [information and registration](#), click here.

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!



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.

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

December 18 - Sunday--Christmas Pageant

10:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer- Sanctuary

11:15 a.m. - Pageant Reception/Coffee Hour--Fellowship Hall

11:30 a.m. - SEEK Youth Group--Fellowship Hall

December 19 - Monday

6:30 p.m. - Vestry Meeting--Fellowship Hall Library

December 20- Tuesday

10:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting--Fellowship Hall Library

December 21- Wednesday

12:00 p.m. - Noonday Prayer Group--Fellowship Hall Library

December 22 - Thursday

12:00 p.m. - OFFICE CLOSED until Tuesday, January 3

December 24 - Saturday--Christmas Eve

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

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

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](#)

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2727 Airline Rd
(361) 994-0285
www.stmarksc.org



Subscribe to our Enews