

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

December 8, 2022

## Upcoming Events

### Election of Delegates & Alternates to Council

12/11 Sunday, 11:15 a.m.

### 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.

## Reflections from the Rector



**Fr. Doug Wasinger**

Last week I revisited a spiritual practice that I have developed over the past 25 years, that of theological reflection in movies. I use this practice to sharpen my own view of the world as I listen and seek God's presence in all that I do. How this theological reflection works is that I focus on becoming aware of where the gospel message appears in the movie. I was re-watching the final three movies of the Star Wars series that were released in 2015. The first time I had seen the movies I was unimpressed for it seemed like the story was a repeat of a familiar retold plot. However, a good friend of mine loved the movie series, and so I reconsidered watching the movies again through a new set of eyes and with a different attitude. God didn't disappoint as I once again found the "nugget" I sought.

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

## In This Issue

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## Helpful Links

**Sunday Worship Service:**  
10:00 a.m.--Holy Eucharist-Sanctuary

Visit our website

## Election of Council Delegates & Alternates



### Bishop Reed's Final Diocesan Council Delegate & Alternate Election THIS Sunday

As many of you know, Bishop Reed will be retiring next year. The next bishop, who is called the Bishop Coadjutor, will be elected at Diocesan Council in February. The newly elected bishop will serve with Bishop Reed until his retirement, at which time he or she will move into the role as our new bishop.

Our delegates and alternates, who are the representatives we elect to send as our representatives, will help elect our new bishop. How exciting is that!

We need four delegates and at least two alternates, who will be elected **THIS Sunday, December 11th**, immediately after the worship service in the sanctuary. Please pray about your involvement in this historic council. Please be aware that if you are on a sub-committee for Council, depending on which one you serve on, you may still be a delegate or alternate. If you have questions, visit with either Judy Netek or Dayna Chimelski.

## Christmas Pageant

**Christmas Pageant**  
**Sunday, December 18th**  
**Pageant Practice**  
**Saturday, December 17th, 10:30 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. There will be a signup insert in the Sunday bulletins for those who would like to participate, from the very young to the young at heart.

The pageant practice will be Saturday, December 17th, at 10:30 a.m. 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 the pageant. You may phone her at (361) 944-4544 or email her at [gaydemontel@gmail.com](mailto:gaydemontel@gmail.com).

## Advent Devotional Books



## Advent Devotions

Advent devotional books are available on the name tag table in the entryway to the sanctuary. Be sure to pick up a copy Sunday if you don't already have a devotional to use during Advent.

## Flowers

### Poinsettia Plants for Christmas Services

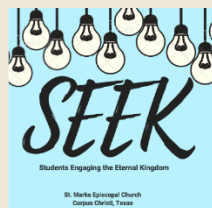
We use poinsettia plants to decorate the altar for our Christmas services each year and need your help with that project. You may sponsor a plant or two by filling out a dedication form that can be found in the Sunday bulletins. This is a wonderful way to remember a loved one or special event in your 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 Sunday, December 18th.



### 2023 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.

## 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.

## Meet & Greet Event

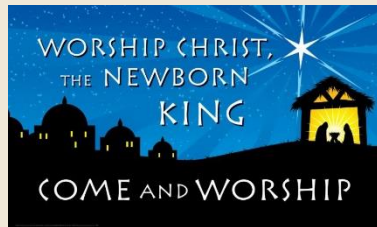
### Getting to Know Father Doug

The Wandels hosted the first Meet and Greet event last Friday. Here's a picture of the group, minus Molly, who was behind the camera. Everyone had a great time. The second Meet & Greet, hosted by the Wilkeys, took place last Saturday night in the fellowship hall. One more is scheduled for this Saturday.

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



## 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.

## 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!



## 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](https://www.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.

## 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.



## Cookies for Council



### 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.

## Council Subcommittees

### 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@stmarksgcc.org](mailto:judy@stmarksgcc.org).

## Estimate of Giving Card



## Renewing Life Through our Stewardship

**Thank you** to everyone who submitted an Estimate of Giving Card for 2023. If you weren't able to be at our Consecration Sunday to place your Estimate of Giving card on the altar, you can put your card in the offering basket as it's being passed around this Sunday. Fr. Doug will bless it when he blesses the offering. There will be cards available if you need one, or you can print one out from [this link](#).

## 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 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.
- 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 11 - Sunday**

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Sanctuary  
11:15 a.m. - Election of Council Delegates & Alternates--Sanctuary  
11:15 a.m. - Coffee Hour--Fellowship Hall  
11:30 a.m. - SEEK Youth Group--Fellowship Hall

**December 13- Tuesday**

10:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting--Fellowship Hall Library  
6:00 p.m. - Women's Group--Fellowship Hall Library

**December 14- Wednesday**

11:30 a.m. - Lunch with the Old Guys--Cafe Italia, 4117 S. Staples St.  
12:00 p.m. - Noonday Prayer Group--Fellowship Hall  
6:30 p.m. - Men's Reunion Group--Nolan's Restaurant, 7426 S. Staples St.

**December 17 - Saturday**

8:00 a.m. - Access Plus Ramp Build--5912 Ayers St.  
10:30 a.m. - Christmas Pageant Practice--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](#)

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