

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

December 15, 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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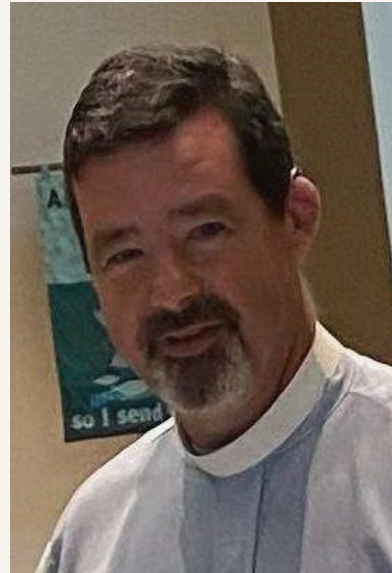
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From the Rector

Fr. Doug Wasinger



An annual event that I really enjoy this time of year is the children's Christmas pageant. I witness how the selected director pays close attention to all the details. That individual works hard to make sure the costumes are carefully laid out, the children understand their roles and lines, and everyone feels included and honored. I too want to make sure that everything works out for the children and their parents. I also want the congregation to have the spiritual moment that captures the hope of Christmas. As the church works hard to prepare for this annual ritual there is the lingering question: will we be successful? There is a strong belief that the leadership has control over what takes place when the kids are launched into the event, yet there is the distinct possibility of the unknown taking place, for children can act in unpredictable ways. For me this unknown quality of the children's Christmas pageant makes the event more special, for

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Sunday Worship Service
10:00 a.m.--Morning Prayer-Sanctuary

I never know what they will do, and most often it is the unexpected that becomes the blessing of the season.

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

[Visit our website](#)

Access Plus Ramp Build

Ramp Build
THIS 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.



Christmas Pageant



Christmas Pageant
THIS Sunday, 12/17
Rehearsal THIS Saturday, 12/16
at 10:00 a.m.

Gay deMontel has agreed to organize this year's Christmas Pageant once again. She needs people to help as either assistants or characters. All ages are invited to participate; there's something for everyone. There will be a rehearsal this Saturday, December 16th, at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

You may also contact Gay by calling her at (361) 944-4544, or email her at gaydemontel@gmail.com.

Christmas Caroling

Poinsettia Sponsorship Deadline THIS Sunday, 12/17

We use poinsettia plants to decorate the altar for our Christmas Eve services. It's a wonderful way to honor a special someone or event in your life. If you'd like to help by sponsoring a plant or two, please fill out the red dedication form that will be available in your Sunday worship bulletin. Simply, fill it out, fold it around your payment and put it in the offering basket during the offertory. Each plants costs \$13. You may also contact Judy in the church office by calling her at (361) 994-0285 or emailing her at judy@stmarkscc.org with your dedication information.



If you choose to take your plant, please wait to do so after the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. You may also pick one up Sunday, December 31st, after the service.

Christmas Caroling



Christmas Caroling at Corpus Christi Nursing & Rehab Center THIS Sunday, 12/17, at 11:30 a.m.

After our Christmas pageant Sunday, 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!

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](#).

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 5:00 p.m. and the

Candlelight Service at 10:00 p.m. Please make a note of this change. David Sutanto and the choir will lead the congregation in singing some Christmas carols beginning at 9:45 p.m. We'll also experience a special treat because Bella Rysavy will sing "O Holy Night" before the service begins.

If you'd like to attend a Christmas Day service, Church of the Good Shepherd will be offering one at 10:30 a.m. December 25th.

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.

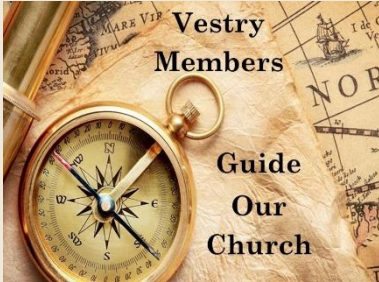
Here's a PDF of the [Ministry Support Card](#) if you would like to print out a copy.

Here is a PDF of an article from [Doug Wayland with an update](#) on where we are currently for our 2024 finances.



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

Vestry Nominations



Vestry Nominations January 2024

Dear St. Mark's Faithful. It continues to be a blessing and an honor to serve as your Senior Warden on our vestry. Our St. Mark's family is amazing, so full of the Holy Spirit and God's love for each other and the communities in which we live and serve. Your vestry is a small example of that love and commitment to serving our Lord and

Savior through St. Mark's.

The responsibilities and duties of the vestry are many; from managing the business and affairs of the Parish, acting as the Board of Directors; managing the property and financial resources; conducting Parish business openly and with full communication to our Parishioners and the Diocese of West Texas; leading and serving on Parish committees; all the way to officers approving and signing checks and online payments. We take our duties seriously, with the love and respect of our Lord and our congregation in mind.

January 28th, 2024, at our Annual Parish Meeting, we will be returning to a full vestry committee of 9 members. That means, that we will need 3 new members to serve our normal 3-year terms; one new member to serve a 1-year term (to coordinate with Penny and Chrystal serving one remaining year) and 1 new member to serve a 2-year term (coordinating with John D. and Lori serving 2 remaining years).

We would like to invite you to consider joining our vestry team. It is important, serious, and fulfilling service to St. Mark's and to our Lord. If you have been on a vestry before at any parish, please consider offering your name for any of the 1, 2, or 3 year commitments. If you have not served on a prior vestry, we would love to encourage you to offer your nomination for one of the 3-year terms.

Please consider serving and pray for guidance to assist St. Marks: "That all who connect with St. Mark's experience the unconditional love of Jesus; Prayerfully encouraging real faith for real life by taking Christ's ministry to people."

In Him, John DeMontel

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.



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.

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study of the Gospel of Mark Not Meeting Due to the Holidays Will Resume Sunday, 1/7/24

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

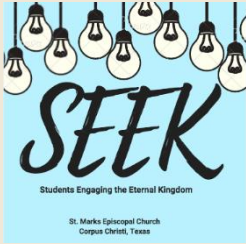
[chapter two](#) study notes

[chapter three](#) study notes

[chapter four](#) study notes

[chapter five](#) study notes

Youth Group & Children's Ministry



**SEEK Youth Group Meets
Sundays at 11:30 a.m.
Not Meeting Due to the Holidays
Will Resume Sunday, 1/7/24**

Youth group will begin meeting again in 2024, 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!

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 16 - Saturday

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

December 17- Sunday

10:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer--Christmas Pageant--Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. - Coffee Hour--Fellowship Hall
11:30 a.m. - Christmas Caroling--Corpus Christi Nursing & Rehabilitation Center (next door)

December 18 - Monday

9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting--Fellowship Hall Library
6:30 p.m. - Vestry Meeting--Fellowship Hall Library

December 19- Tuesday

7:30 a.m. - Women's Reunion Group--Corner Bakery, 4938 S. Staples St.

December 20 - Wednesday

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

OFFICE CLOSED 12/25/23-1/2/24

**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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