

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

February 3, 2023

## Upcoming Events

### Leaders' Retreat

2/4 Saturday

### Installation Service for Fr. Doug

2/10 Friday, 6:00 p.m.

### Diocesan Council

2/16-18 Thursday through Saturday

### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

2/21 Tuesday

### Ash Wednesday Services

2/22 Wednesday,  
7:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

### Lenten Soup & Study

3/1 Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

## From the Rector



“Federal agents don’t learn to spot counterfeit money by studying the counterfeits. They study genuine bills until they master the look of the real thing. Then when they see the bogus money, they recognize it.” This statement is connected to John MacArthur’s book *Reckless Faith* that was published in 1994. I first heard this quotation in an Adult Education class on a Sunday morning, and it has stuck with me for years. I have found it to be a valuable resource as it becomes ever more challenging to separate fact from fiction in today’s world. A few days ago I came across an article about the use of an open source (aka free) chatbot called ChatGPT that realtors are using to write their property listings. ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence platform with the core function of mimicking human conversation. A growing number of experts have reported that there is a concern that students can use this app to do the work of writing their academic papers. This is another example of how hard it is becoming to distinguish between what is real and what is imitation or fake.

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

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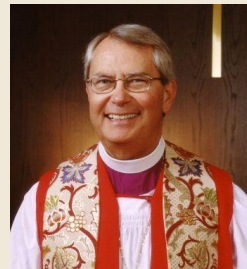
### Sunday Worship Service:

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

[Visit our website](#)

## Installation Service

### Installation Service for Fr. Doug Wasinger Next Friday, February 10th, at 6:00 p.m.



Fr. Doug will officially be installed as our rector in February by Bishop Rayford Hight. The service will be on a Friday evening with a reception to follow. There will be more information available later, but we wanted you to have the date now. Mark your calendars for this historic event in the life of St. Mark's.



## Ministry Fair



### Ministry Fair Signup Opportunity

We had a Ministry Fair during our Annual Meeting last Sunday to give everyone an opportunity to sign up to serve for a ministry that is of interest to them. If you didn't get a chance to do that, the sign-up sheets will be available this Sunday in the Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour. Be sure to come over and look at the ministry options and consider signing up to serve. It's also a great time to change from one ministry to another, if you'd like to try something new.

## All Things Council

### Diocesan Council February 16-18



Bishop Reed's final **Holy Eucharist Service** during Council will be Friday evening, February 17th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Henry Garrett Ballroom at the American Bank Center. It's open to everyone. You don't have to register for Council to attend the service. So, we want to encourage everyone to come. It will be a great celebration of Bishop Reed's ministry and service to our diocese.

**Prayers for Council**--Diocesan Council is fast approaching, and we could use your prayers. Please pray for:

- those who are working and planning for Council
- the Bishop Coadjutor election
- the Pre-Council meetings for our delegates and alternates
- the Walk About Discernment meetings to learn about the three candidates for Bishop Coadjutor

If you would like to actually come to the [Prayer Room at Council](#), please use the link to sign up for specific time and date.

**Bishop Coadjutor Candidates**--Our diocese offered a forum to give people a chance to get to know the candidates for Bishop Coadjutor on Saturday, January 28th at Church of the Good Shepherd and two other locations in our diocese. The questions addresses were different at each of the three meetings. Here is a link to all of the [discernment meetings](#) if you'd like to hear how the candidates answered those questions.

**Council in Action**--The host churches for each Council decide on an outreach project that the entire diocese can participate in. This year, the decision was made to support Agape Ranch through CarePortal. Agape Ranch provides care and guidance for foster children and families in South Texas. They are in need of monetary gifts as well as some specific items:

- Twin bedding sets including sheets and comforters
- Johnson's Bath Discovery Baby Gift sets (available on Amazon)
- Hygiene kits for older children and teens (toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, shower gel, combs and hairbrushes in a container)
- Waterproof twin mattress protectors
- Pack and plays
- Monetary donations by check or online to help fund the next bed build and other needs for foster care.

Please visit [agaperanch.org](http://agaperanch.org) to learn more about this ministry. You may bring items you'd like to donate to the church between now and Tuesday 2/14.

**Need Singers**--Gay deMontel is leading the music for the Eucharist worship service at Council on Friday, February 17th. She needs singers for the choir. If you love to sing, please reach out to her to get information. There will be two practices: the first is Saturday, February 11th, at 10:00 a.m. at Church of the Good Shepherd and the second will be Wednesday, February 15th, at 6:00 p.m. at the American Bank Center. Please consider helping out!



## 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 invited the eleven churches in our area to help. A second request for help went out to them recently. St. Bartholomew's and St. Andrew's have said they would contribute cookies, and we're confident that some of the other churches are baking cookies but haven't notified us yet.

Several of you have asked how many more dozen we need. Since many could be baking at home and freezing them, we have no way to really know where we are in the count. So please, just keep on baking! If we have extra, we'll freeze them for Coffee Hour.

Here's a shout-out to our Men's Reunion Group; they have baked approximately 200 dozen cookies to date. Way to go, guys!

Here are the instructions:

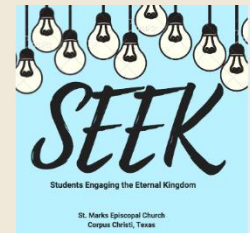
- All types of cookies are encouraged.
- Please package your cookies in quart-size freezer Ziplock bags.
- Write the type and quantity on the bag.
- Freeze them.
- Freezer storage space at the church is almost completely full, so please keep your cookies in your freezer. If you don't have enough space, call the office at (361) 994-0285 to see what other options are available.

## SEEK Youth Group

### SEEK Youth Group

**ATTENTION ALL ACOLYTES:** This Sunday, please enjoy Coffee Hour, then head to the sanctuary with Mrs. Michelle and Fr. Doug for a brief acolyte review/training. It will be a good time to brush up on your acolyting game and ask any questions you may have. This won't take too long. Please try to stay!

**As always, thank you to all acolytes for your service to God and St. Mark's!**



#### Coming up in February:

- **Sunday, 2/5** acolyte review after coffee hour
- **Friday, 2/10** Father Doug's Installation service
- **Sunday, 2/12** youth group after church
- **Sunday, 2/19** youth group after church
- **Tuesday, 2/21** Pancake Supper: opportunity to help cook pancakes, serve, cleanup if you'd like, or just come and eat pancakes!
- **Wednesday, 2/22** Ash Wednesday
- **Sunday, 2/26** We will watch season 1, episode 1 of *The Chosen* together. All are welcome to stay and watch with us!

### Summer Camp at Camp Capers

Registration for Camp Capers camping opportunities are now open:

#### 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.

## Ride to Church



### Parishioner Needs Help Getting to Church

Ginny Yager enjoys being a part of our St. Mark's family but has a hard time getting to church on Sundays and for parish events. Two people have been giving her rides to and from church on Sundays, but they could use some help. Ginny lives in the senior apartment complex directly behind the fellowship hall, so she's quite close to

the church.

She needs someone with a vehicle that is low to the ground. Trucks are difficult for her. If you can help, please phone Judy at the church office at (361) 994-0285 or email her at [judy@stmarksc.org](mailto:judy@stmarksc.org), and she'll give you Ginny's contact information.

## The Season of Lent

### Ash Wednesday Services February 22 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. We will have two services, one at 7:00 a.m. and the second at 7:00 p.m. We will have Holy Eucharist at the 7:00 p.m. service only.



### Lenten Soup and Study of *The Chosen* Series Wednesdays beginning 3/1

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd, which marks the beginning of the season of Lent. This year our Lenten event will consist of a soup supper with bread and dessert, followed by a discussion of the episodes of *The Chosen* series. Each week an episode will be assigned for you to view. A link will be sent out in the weekly ENews, so you'll have several days to watch it before coming on Wednesday to discuss it. If you can't view the episode at home, you may stay after Coffee Hour on Sundays to watch it in the fellowship hall.

If you would like to attend, you may sign up on the back of your Connection Card this Sunday. Please indicate how many members of your family will attend, so we can plan for the meals.

**Invite your friends and family to come too.**

## Diocesan Events

### Diocesan News



**Discernment Forums with Bishop Coadjutor Candidate**--Click on [the link](#) for more information.

**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!



### 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.
- 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 [February schedule](#) for our ministries, which is still a work in progress. Please check each week to see if there are any changes.

#### **February 4 - Saturday**

9:00 a.m. - Leader's Retreat--H.E.B. House, 3700 Ocean Dr.

#### **February 5 - Sunday**

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

11:15 a.m. -Coffee Hour--Fellowship Hall

#### **February 7 - Tuesday**

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

6:00 p.m. - Women's Group--Fellowship Hall Library

#### **February 8 - 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.

#### **February 10 - Friday**

6:00 p.m. - Installation Service for Fr. Doug--Sanctuary

7:30 p.m. - Reception to honor Fr. Doug.

## 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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