

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

July 30, 2026

Upcoming Events

Come Make Chrismons

8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22, Saturdays

Conversations with God Bible Study

Monday, 8/3

Back to School Blessing

8/9, Sunday

The Ven. Mike Besson Visit

8/9, Sunday

Time of Contemplation and Healing Prayer

8/12, Wednesday

Access Plus Ramp Build

8/15, Saturday

Walk in Love Classes

8/16, Sunday

Pasta with the Priest

8/16, Sunday

Food Distribution

Monday, 8/17



Reflections from the Rector



One of the defining aspects of Christianity is that as Jesus Christ God experienced human life firsthand. Thanks to the Incarnation, we do not pray to a distant, abstract God but instead relate to a God who truly knows what it means to live a human life. God doesn't simply analyze humanity from afar; as Jesus, God experienced it personally. Jesus knows what it feels like to laugh, to weep, to feel joy, and to carry deep disappointment.

Consider the context of this week's Gospel reading. John the Baptist had spoken truth to power, confronting the misguided leadership of his day, and paid the ultimate price with his life. Executed as a political threat, John was not just a prominent prophet to Jesus; he was family and a close companion. When Jesus learned of John's execution, the news hit him hard. His human grief was real and intense.

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

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Sunday Worship Service

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

[Visit our website](#)

Blood Drive



Coastal Bend Blood Center

Giving so that others may live

Coastal Bend Blood Center Blood Drive Results

The results are in! Our goal was to have 12 units of blood donated this past Sunday. We came in with 11 units, which equates to 33 lives saved. Each whole

blood donation can save up to three lives. You helped make a difference in many people's lives!

The gift of blood is a gift of life!

Come Make Chrismons

Come Help Make Chrismons for Our Trees for Advent Saturdays in August

Chrismons are white and gold ornaments that are symbols of Christ and the meaning of Advent. They will be used for decorating our sanctuary trees for Advent. "Chrismon" means Christ Monogram.

We want them to be lovely and durable, so we are using materials that will last for many years. If you like to embroider, needlepoint, do beadwork, paint on wood, or otherwise craft with long-lasting materials, please consider joining us.

We have some patterns and a variety of materials/supplies to begin this project, but you are welcome to use others as you wish.

We will meet on Saturdays in August in the fellowship hall.

- **August 1st and 8th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**
- **August 15th and 22nd from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

There is no requirement to attend all four sessions. Come as you are able. We will have more get-togethers later, dates and times to be determined.

For questions, contact Paula Baen by calling her at (832) 289-9842 or emailing her at paularupp57@gmail.com.

This is a link to some [photos of Chrismons](#) gathered from the web - simply for ideas.



Cimarron Senior Apartments Ministry



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

**Conversations with God
Bible Study**

Monday, 8/3, 11:00 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.

The Ven. Mike Besson Visit

The Ven. Mike Besson Guest Preacher on August 9th

The Ven. Mike Besson will be with us on Sunday, August 9th, for an informal visit. Rev. Besson is the Archdeacon for our diocese and guided us through the search process to find Fr. Doug. Not only will he be our guest, but he will also preach.



Back to School Blessing



Back to School Blessing Sunday, August 9th

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 9th. Not only will the Ven. Mike Besson be with us, but Fr. Doug will bless all students, school staff, and backpacks. Be sure to bring your backpacks that Sunday!

Time of Contemplation & Healing Prayer

Time of Contemplation and Healing Prayer Wednesday, 8/12, 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. Please consider joining us for prayers for yourself or someone you know, or to offer your prayers for others.



Access Plus Ramp Build



Access Plus Ramp Build Saturday, 8/15, 8:00 a.m. 6017 Skyline Dr.

The August ramp build is for a man named Samuel. He and his family are looking forward to having better access to his home.

The Access Plus Ramp ministry builds one ramp a month for someone who can't afford to have one built. It is completely free to that person. Everyone is invited to come help on the ramp builds. They are almost always the third Saturday of the month. You don't need

any building experience, just a willing heart. Doug Wayland and his team are happy to train anyone who would like to participate in this important ministry. For additional information or questions, please contact Doug by calling him at (361) 813-1781.

Walk in Love Course

Walk in Love Course Begins Sunday, August 16th



Fr. Doug will offer the Walk In Love course by Rev. Scott Gunn and Rev. Melody Shobe as a five-week class in preparation for confirmation or reception into the Episcopal Church, or for reaffirmation of your faith if you've already been confirmed or received. Bishop David Read will be with us on Sunday, September 20th, for our annual bishop's visit. He will confirm and receive people during the service, as well as bless those who wish to reaffirm their faith. Everyone is welcome to attend the sessions. At the end of the course, those who participated will be given the opportunity to decide if they would like to be confirmed, received, or renew their faith during the service. Please sign up for the course on the back of your Connection Card, or call the office at (361) 994-0285.

Pasta with the Priest



Pasta with the Priest Sunday, August 16th, at 5:00 p.m.

Fr. Doug has teamed up with Michelle Markert to offer a relaxed time for youth to ask him questions about faith and the Church, or anything else concerning spirituality. Michelle will provide a wonderful pasta meal, while Fr. Doug will offer answers to the kids' questions.

Youth Christian Formation

Happening Weekend for Youth August 7th-9th Christ Episcopal Church San Antonio



Happenings are spiritual renewal weekends for older high school students, led by their peers. Any student in the 10th grade through 12th grade can attend. A small number of adults may also attend. Weekends tend to fill quickly, so don't delay! You will receive detailed information about the weekend via email after you register. Each Happening begins Friday at 7:00 p.m. sharp, and wraps up around 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. It is a lock-in, so prepare to stay the entire weekend. The registration fee is \$60.00.

Grief Share Program



Grief Share Program to Begin a New Session

**8/27/26, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
St. Bartholomew's
Episcopal**

**Church Parish Hall
622 Airline Rd.**

Grief Share is a program designed for people who have experienced the death of a loved one and may need support coping with the emotions and stresses of grief. Janice Sykora lost her husband Wayne and attended a Grief Share program. It helped her so much that she decided to go through the training program so she could offer the course to others.

Janice will be with us Sunday to speak about the next Grief Share session set to begin Thursday, August 27th, at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. The cost of the program is \$25, which covers the cost of the workbook; the sessions are free. Please [register through this link](#). Here is a [flyer with more information](#).

Invitation to Loss of a Spouse Seminar

Janice is also offering a one-time seminar for those who have lost a spouse. The seminar is scheduled for **Sunday, August 16th** from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church.

Topics include:

- What to expect in the days ahead.
- How to handle the loneliness.
- Practical tips for surviving the coming months.
- How God's Word offers hope.

You will receive a copy of the book *Loss of a Spouse* to take home.

40th Anniversary Celebration

Save the Date!
40th Anniversary
Saturday, 9/19



*40 Years of
Bringing Faith
to Life*

**Mark your calendars
for Saturday,**

**September 19th,
for our 40th anniversary celebration.**

Volunteer Hours App

MyTimeTithe

Track Your Volunteer Hours. Celebrate Your Service.

A simple app for St. Mark's volunteers to log hours and stay connected with your church community.

Scan the QR Code to Sign Up!

MyTimeTithe.org/stmarkscc

Created by Jeremy Wilkey

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](#) or scan the QR code 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.

Christian Formation Summer Break

Adult Bible Study Class and SEEK Youth Group Summer Break

The Adult Bible Study class and SEEK Youth Group are still taking a break for the summer. They will resume in the fall. We'll let you know when we have those dates.



Timon's Ministry



Ministry in Partnership with Timon's Ministries

The volunteer work at Timon's Clothing Closet has been temporarily suspended due to changes in its hours of operation. We are hoping the volunteers can return soon to the ministry they have come to enjoy.

We will not be collecting items for the time being. Thank you!

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



Diocesan News

Cursillo Weekends-- There are two Cursillos planned for the fall: one at Mustang Island Conference Center, October 8-11, and a Spanish Cursillo at Camp Capers, November 5-8. [Here is a link for more information.](#)

21st Annual Bishop's Golf Classic--The Bishop's Golf Classic is scheduled for Monday, 9/21. Registration opens on August 16th. Proceeds go to support the Diocesan Camp Programs. [Here's a link to more information](#) on the event.

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 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 our [August ministry schedule](#). Click here for the [August church calendar](#).

August 1 - Saturday

10:30 a.m. - Chrismon Project--Fellowship Hall

August 2 - Sunday

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

11:30 a.m. - Coffee & Conversation--Fellowship Hall

August 3- Monday

11:00 a.m. - Conversations with God, Cimarron Senior Apartments, 2802 Cimarron Blvd.

August 4 - Tuesday

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

August 5 - Wednesday

11:30 a.m. - Lunch with the Old Guys--Niko's Steakhouse, 5409 Saratoga Blvd.

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

6:30 p.m. - Men's Reunion Group--Nolan's Restaurant, 7426 S. Staples St.

August 8 - Saturday

10: 30 a.m. - Chrismon Project--Fellowship Hall

**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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