

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

December 11, 2025

Upcoming Events

Christmas Pageant & Christmas Caroling

12/14, Sunday

Access Plus Ramp Build

12/20, Saturday

Office Closed

12/24-1/4

Christmas Eve Family Service

12/24, Wednesday

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

12/24, Wednesday

New Year's Eve

12/31, Wednesday



From the Rector Fr. Doug Wasinger



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Time is a tricky thing to understand. For a long time, I believed time was consistent. Then I learned that there are different ways to think about time. There is clock time, the way we commonly measure hours and minutes. But there is also a purposeful time when events align for a greater reason. The birth of Jesus was such a moment when time converged for a divine purpose. And then there is waiting time, the time we experience in the "in-between" spaces.

Advent is the season of the in-between. Its purpose is to prepare us with hope and expectation for God's arrival in our world. As early as the 4th century, the Church recognized Advent, originally as a time to prepare baptismal candidates for Epiphany in January. The tone of the biblical passages assigned during Advent points toward a future event—the restoration of all creation to its original purpose. Yes, Jesus has been born, and yet we still wait for His return.

- Year-End Giving
- Giving Information
- Weekly Calendar
- Helpful Links

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

Sunday Worship Service

Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m.

[Visit our website](#)

Brown Bag Christmas Pageant

Brown Bag Christmas Pageant THIS Sunday, 12/14

Gay deMontel and her helpers have organized the Christmas Pageant for this Sunday. We are using the Brown Bag Christmas Pageant program. Everyone who chooses to participate will be able to do so. Bags will be given out to those who want to join the fun as they arrive on Sunday morning. Each bag will include a costume and any lines to be spoken. Even young children may participate as manger animals.



After the service, everyone is invited to walk across our parking lot to the Corpus Christi Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in costume to sing Christmas carols to the residents. You are encouraged to join in the singing even if you don't have a costume. The residents are looking forward to our visit.

Poinsettia Plants



Poinsettia Plants Deadline Wednesday, 12/17

We use poinsettia plants to decorate our altar for the Christmas Eve services each year. Could you help us with that project? This Sunday, you will find a red insert to use to sign up to sponsor a plant or two. It's a wonderful way to honor someone special or a special event in your life. There is a place for you to write the dedication for your plants on the red form. The plants cost \$12.00 each.

Christmas Eve Service Times

Christmas Eve Service Times 5:00 p.m. Family Service 9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Please take note that the Christmas Eve service times have changed this year. The Family Service will be at 5:00 p.m. and will include Holy Eucharist. The nursery will be available for this service as well. The Candlelight Service will be at 9:00 p.m. and will include Holy Eucharist.



Tell Out My Soul Campaign



Tell Out My Soul Stewardship Campaign

If you weren't able to submit your ministry support card, you can still do so by placing it in the offering basket on any Sunday or by mailing it to the office. There are extra ministry support cards in the sanctuary and in the office.

Thank you to everyone who is supporting St Mark's Church through our Tell Out My Soul stewardship campaign. Your gifts and commitments help to further the Kingdom of God through St. Mark's.

Below is a reflection from Davey Gerhard, Executive Director of The Episcopal Network of Stewardship.

Advent Reflection

Every Valley: An Advent Reflection

Each year as the calendar turns to Advent, I find myself thumbing through my music library to pull up The Messiah. Best known for its ending movements and the rousing Hallelujah Chorus, the first movement is my favorite, and the one I begin humming to myself in early December. The prophets tell us of a great power, a person to come, who will level the field and reveal the right path. "Every valley shall be exalted," the Tenor boldly asserts!

Whether it is the Tenor stepping forward for the first solo aria, or visions of a prophet standing in a rocky, winding landscape, the effect is the same: a great work starts with a promise, with a proud proclamation, with someone to point the way. The prophet has something exciting to share with us, something so important that the barriers that stand in the way of hearing and acting on their words will melt away. There is an exchange happening

here: the prophet has something to share, and we, who hear the message, have something to receive. When we do, the shock waves of those words will batter down mountains and smooth the rough edges within us.

This same transformation happens when we share our gifts with the church. Our investments of time, talent, and treasure are the natural response to having heard the words of the prophet and having been changed by their message. However you respond to the prophet, the world around you is being made ready to receive what you will share with it. And in every direction, as the chorus answers the Tenor, "The Glory of the Lord will be revealed."

2026 Flower Chart

2026 Flower Chart Available

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to sponsor the altar for flowers on a Sunday in 2026. There are only a few dates remaining:

- May 10
- July 5
- September 27
- November 1
- November 29
- December 6



You may sign up on the flower chart in the entryway to the sanctuary. If you would like to sponsor a Sunday but can't be here to sign up, call Judy at the office at (361) 994-0285 or email her at judy@stmarksgcc.org so, she can put your name down for that date.

Near the beginning of each month, an email will go out to all who signed up to sponsor a Sunday in that month, reminding them of the Sunday they signed up to sponsor. The email will include a request for a dedication for the flowers and information on how to cover the \$55 cost of the flowers.

Thank you for helping to make our altar beautiful each Sunday!

Youth Ministry



SEEK Youth Group Meets Sundays after the Service

Registration for [Mid-Winter Camp and Summer Camp at Camp Capers](#) is open. Click on the link to the diocesan page to obtain more information and to register.

This Sunday is the Brown Bag Christmas Pageant, and everyone is invited to be a part of it. Come a little early to pick up your brown bag with a costume and any lines that go with that part.

Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face continually. (1 Chronicles 16:11)

Cimarron Senior Apartments Ministry

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

**Food Distribution
Monday, 12/15, at 11:30 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 11:30 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 the residents after it has arrived. If you have an hour or so to give, please consider helping with the monthly food distribution.

Access Plus Ramp Build



**Access Plus Ramp Build
Saturday, 12/20, 8:00 a.m.
1002 Acacia Dr.**

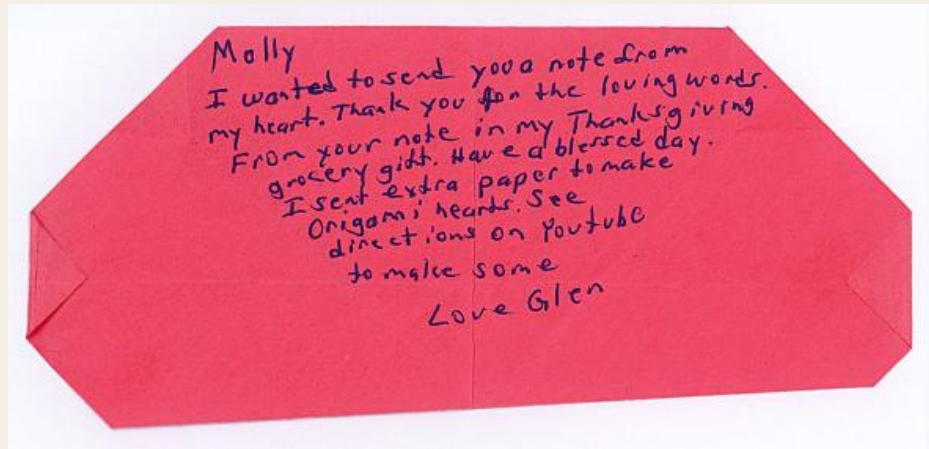
The Access Plus December ramp build is for a lady named Rachal. She and her family will be very happy to gain better access to her home.

If this ministry is of interest to you but you don't feel like you have the skills to participate, please don't let that stop you. Doug Wayland and his

team are happy to train people. Just bring a willing heart!

Fishpond Living Resident Thank You

Thank You Note from a



Fishpond Living Resident

Glen, a resident of the Fishpond Living Apartments, received a Thanksgiving Food Basket and sent this sweet thank-you note. It is actually an origami piece. When folded, it becomes a heart. He also sent construction paper for the kids to make hearts, too.

Council Delegate & Alternate Election Results



Election for Delegates & Alternates to Council Results

Three delegates and three alternates were elected to represent St. Mark's at the diocesan Council next year in February.

Delegates:

- Teresa Bacon
- Sally Buck
- Tom Curry

Alternates:

- Pam Cater
- Clay Cavazos
- Liz Henrich

Thank you to those who volunteered to be our representatives!

Office Closed

Office Closed for the Holidays from 12/24 at Noon until Monday, 1/5

The office will be closed during the holidays. However, we will monitor phone messages and our email. If you have an emergency, please contact Judy Netek at (361) 425-8249 or Fr. Doug Wasinger at (307) 620-0061.



Adult Bible Study



Adult Bible Study Class

The class met for the final time for 2025 on December 7th. It will resume in January. Check back to find out which Sunday the Bible study will resume.

Timon's Ministry

Ministry in Partnership with Timon's Ministries

Over the course of many years, St. Mark's has partnered with Timon's Ministries in various ways. Timon's goal "is to provide a hand up, empowering individuals to regain their strength, dignity, and ultimately, their place in the workforce." Our women's reunion group has discovered several ways to serve this community.



Members of the group have been volunteering their time at Timon's Ministries, working in the Clothing Closet, organizing items, and visiting with people. The group has asked for help with their efforts in any of the following ways:

- Donating band aids, bandages, gauze, etc.
- Donating clothing, especially men's shirts, jeans, shorts, athletic shoes, flip-flops, socks, and belts, and women's jeans, shorts, undergarments, socks, and purses

- Donating sleeping bags, backpacks, tote bags, suitcases, and recyclable plastic bags
- Donating travel-size deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, bars of bath soap, body wash, bath towels
- Donating toothbrushes and new or used shoelaces
- Donating laundry supplies
- Donating items for to-go food bags: tuna and cracker packs, granola bars, chips, bottled water, etc.
- Sorting clothing and helping clients on Mondays from 8:45 to noon

You may leave your donations in designated boxes located in the entryway to the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall. Contact Pam Cater at (361) 446-4498 for more information.

Thank you for your help with this important ministry opportunity.

Diocesan Events



Diocesan News

Mid-Winter Camps and Summer

Camps at Camp Capers--Mid-Winter I, for youth 6th through 12th grade, begins on January 2nd. Mid-Winter II, for kids in 2nd through 5th grade, starts on January 9th. Registration for Summer Camps has also opened. [Here is a link for more information.](#)

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.

Year-End Giving

Year-End Giving Information

As the year comes to a close, many people want to bless others with a year-end gift. Here is a flyer that explains some of [the opportunities](#) that are available to us and what needs to be considered.



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

December 14 - Sunday

10:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer-Christmas Pageant--Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. - Christmas Caroling--Corpus Christi Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
(Across the parking lot)
11:30 a.m. - Coffee & Conversation--Fellowship Hall

December 15 - Monday

8:45 a.m. - Clothing Shop--Timon's Ministry, 10501 S. Padre Island Dr.
9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting--Fellowship Hall Library
11:30 a.m. - Food Distribution--Cimarron Senior Apartments, 2802 Cimarron Blvd.

December 16 - Tuesday

7:30 a.m. - Women's Reunion Group--Corner Bakery Cafe, 4928 S. Staples St.
6:30 p.m. - Vestry Meeting--Fellowship Hall Library

December 17 - Wednesday

11:30 a.m. - Lunch with the Old Guys--Dao Authentic Asian Cuisine Restaurant,
2022 Airline Rd.
12:00 p.m. - Prayer Group--Fellowship Hall Library
6:30 p.m. - Men's Reunion Group--Nolan's Restaurant, 7426 S. Staples St.

December 20 - Saturday

8:00 a.m. - Access Plus Ramp Build--1002 Acacia Dr.

**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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