

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

September 25, 2025

Upcoming Events

**Shao-Shan Chen and David
Sutanto Piano Recital**

9/26, Friday

Blue Mass for First Responders

9/29, Monday

Folk Dance Class

10/1, Wednesday

Peggy Vernon Memorial Service

10/4, Saturday

Tell Out My Soul Campaign Begins

10/5, Sunday

**Bible Study at Cimarron Senior
Apartments**

10/7, Tuesday

Welcome Liturgy

10/19, Sunday

Fall Festival

10/25, Saturday



**From the Rector
Fr. Doug Wasinger**



As someone considered knowledgeable in theology, I carry the responsibility of being trustworthy and reliable. People often look to me for guidance, and when I offer advice, I become part of the outcome—whether it succeeds or fails. If things go well, I'm seen as wise; if not, I may be blamed.

Several years ago, I had an honest conversation with my doctor during a routine physical. We were discussing a medication decision that could have long-term implications. I noticed how carefully he responded to my questions. I told him plainly: "I am responsible for my own decision, but I need your knowledge and experience to make a sound choice." In other words, I trusted him to help me discern wisely.

[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](#)

Piano Recital

Shao-Shan Chen

and

David Sutanto

**Solo & Duo
Recital**

Del Mar College Department of Music and
Saint Christopher's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church
Present

Solo and Duo Piano Recital

Shao-Shan Chen
&
David Sutanto



Friday, September 26, 2025
7 PM

Saint Christopher's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church
820 Wildcat Dr. 78374
Portland, TX.

Free Admission

*Program includes solo and duo works by Beethoven, Liszt,
Ginastera, Peixun Chen, and William Hirtz*

For more information, contact Dr. David Sutanto (dsutanto@delmar.edu) OR
Fr. John Blackburn (frblackburn@stchristophersbythesea.com)



DMC
DEL MAR COLLEGE



Blue Mass for First Responders



Blue Mass for First Responders

Monday, 9/29, at 6:30 p.m.

**St. Christopher's by the Sea
Episcopal Church**

830 Wildcat Dr., Portland

St. Christopher's by the Sea Episcopal Church will celebrate the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, as well as honor all First Responders (Law Enforcement, EMS personnel, Firefighters, Military Personnel, and others) to pray for them and the people they serve. The service begins at 6:30 p.m. Fallen First Responders will be remembered with a traditional "End of Watch" ceremony following Communion. There will be a meal for the First Responders after the service.

This is a time for us to come together and pray for those who protect our communities. Please let St. Christopher's know if you plan to attend. They want to make sure they have enough seating available for everyone. Click here for the link to [St. Christopher's Facebook page](#) to let them know if you plan to attend.

Folk Dance Class

**Folk Dance Class
Wednesday, October 1st,
at 6:00 p.m.**

Gay deMontel will lead a class to learn folk dance on the first Wednesday in October. This promises to be an evening of fun for all. Before the class begins, we'll enjoy a meal provided by a few of our parishioners, so we won't have to worry about cooking!



We need to have a general idea of how many people will attend, so please sign up on the Connection Card that will be in the bulletins this Sunday. You may also contact the church office by calling (361) 994-0285 or emailing Judy at judy@stmarksgcc.org.

Youth Ministry

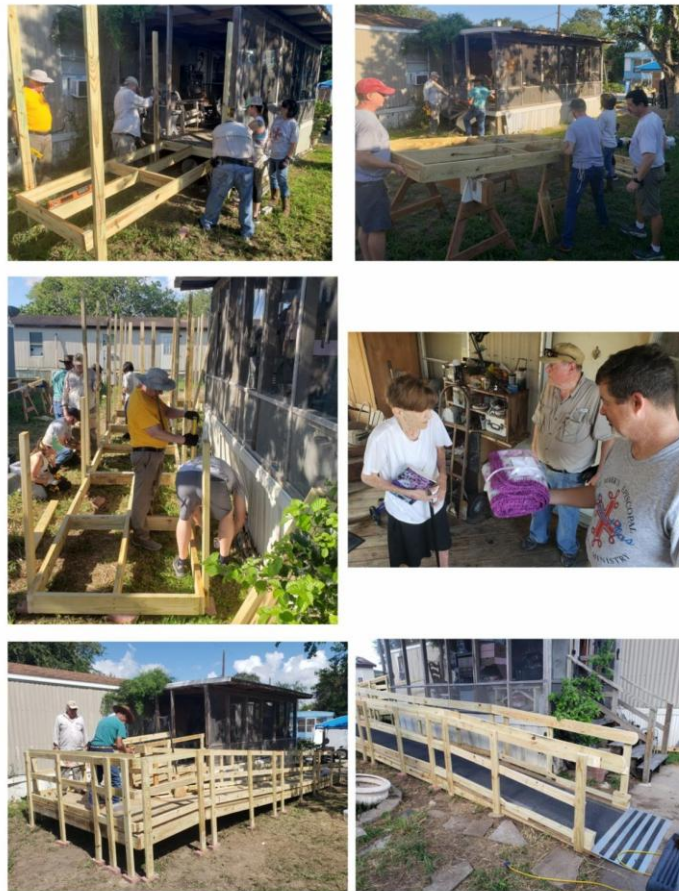


SEEK Youth Group Meets Sundays after the Service

Youth group will meet this week in the youth room for highs and lows and prayer. Grab some snacks and join the group in the youth room.

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

Access Plus Build Photos



Access Plus Ramp Build Photos from the September Ramp Build

Fall Festival



Adult Bible Study Class Sundays, at 11:30 a.m.

The Adult Bible Study group is now meeting again on Sundays after the service. Tom Curry is leading the study entitled "**Understanding the Old Testament in Jesus's Time.**" Bring your own Bible, or use one of the several that will be available. Pick up some refreshments, and join the

class in the fellowship hall library.

Fall Festival

**Fall Festival
Saturday,
October 25th
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Our annual Fall Festival will be on the last Saturday in October. Here's [a flyer](#) that you can download and print to use to invite others. The planning has begun for the event, and we need your help in several areas:

1. Donations of Halloween Candy and prizes for the Trunk or Treat cars and game stations. There will be boxes available in the sanctuary and fellowship hall for these items.
2. Volunteers to sign up to help in various areas. Here's a link to the [sign up form](#). You may print it, fill it out, and bring it with you on Sunday to put in the offering basket.

Free Family Event
FALL FESTIVAL
Saturday, October 25, 2025
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Activities: Bounce House, Crafts, Face Painting, Petting Zoo, Trunk or Treat, Live Music, Games, Hayrides, Raffle, and Silent Auction Items

Food: Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck and Kona Ice

**Wear your costume— please, not too scary
and bring a bag for goodies.**

**St. Mark's
Episcopal Church**
2727 Airline Rd.
361-994-0285 www.stmarksecc.org



**This is such a fun community event,
and we're looking forward to another successful year!**

Cimarron Senior Apartments Ministry



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

Conversations With God Bible Study Tuesday, 10/7, at 11:00 a.m.

Conversations with God Bible Study on the First Tuesday 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 serving to help with the monthly food distribution.

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 through 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 - 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 & National Church News

Annual Christian Formation Ministry Summit--The summit is for those who are leaders of children, youth, and adult formation. It is an overnight event hosted at Camp Capers on **October 3-4**. Click here for [details on the summit and registration information](#).

Cursillo Weekends--A Cursillo is a three-day spiritual retreat weekend for adults. There are two planned: one at **Mustang Island Conference Center, 10/9-12**, and one at **Camp Capers, 11/6-9**. [Click this link](#) for more information and to register.

Discovery Weekend at Camp Capers--This weekend, scheduled for **November 14-15**, is designed to help both lay and ordained persons discern a deeper call to ministry. [Click here 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 which 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. 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 [September ministry schedule](#). Click here for the [September church calendar](#), and here is the [October church calendar](#).

September 26 - Friday

7:00 p.m. - Shao-Shan Chen & David Sutanto Recital--St. Christopher's by the Sea, 820 Wildcat Dr., Portland

September 28 - Sunday

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist--Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. - Coffee and Conversation--Fellowship Hall
11:30 a.m. - SEEK Youth Group--Fellowship Hall Youth Room
11:30 a.m. - Adult Bible Study--Fellowship Hall Library

September 29 - Monday

8:45 a.m. - Clothing Shop--Timon's Ministry, 10501 S. Padre Island Dr.
9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting--Fellowship Hall Library
6:30 p.m. - Blue Mass--St. Christopher's by the Sea, 820 Wildcat Dr., Portland

September 30 - Tuesday

7:30 a.m. - Women's Reunion Group--Corner Bakery Cafe, 4928 S. Staples St.

October 1 - Wednesday

12:00 p.m. - Prayer Group--Fellowship Hall Library
6:00 p.m. - Folk Dance Class--Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. - Men's Reunion Group--Nolan's Restaurant--7426 S. Staples St.

October 4 - Saturday

2:00 p.m. - Peggy Vernon's Memorial Service--Sanctuary
Reception--Fellowship Hall after the service

**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](#)

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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