St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

November 19, 2026

Upcoming Events

Blood Drive
11/22, Sunday

Fishpond Living Apartment Thanksgiving Food Distribution
11/24, Tuesday

Thanksgiving Day
11/26, Thursday

Beginning of Advent Season
11/29, Sunday

Missionary Sunday
11/29, Sunday

Christmas Pageant
12/13, Sunday

Christmas Eve Services
Family Service & Candlelight Service
12/24, Thursday

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SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Bringing Faith to Life.

Reflections from the Rector



Here's a riddle: What is the difference between a human being and God? Answer: God knows that God is not a human being.

It's a lighthearted line, yet it addresses a serious truth. Human beings are capable of remarkable things. We build cities and spaceships, produce more food than we need, and develop medicines that often heal. Even so, we cannot prevent disappointment, failure, or betrayal. We struggle to build relationships guided by mercy and natural charity, and our sense of justice too often leans toward punishment rather than restoration. When we run up against the limits of our own efforts, we are left frustrated, angry, and lamenting.

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

Plenty Good Room Stewardship Campaign

Plenty Good Room Stewardship Campaign

We are nearing the completion of the Plenty Good Room campaign. Thank you to the 42 families who submitted their 2027 Estimate of Giving cards to support the kingdom of God through St. Mark's.

If you weren't able to submit your Estimate of Giving card last Sunday, please bring it with you this Sunday and place it in the offering basket so Fr. Doug can bless it. You may also mail your cards to the office. Fr. Doug also takes each one to the altar and blesses it after it arrives.

Thank you for your commitment to St. Mark's and the work done through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure to our community!

Coastal Bend Blood Center Blood Drive

Coastal Bend Blood Center
Giving so that others may live

Coastal Bend Blood Center Blood Drive
THIS Sunday, 11/22, 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Coastal Bend Blood Center has asked us to sponsor another blood drive. This time, they set a goal of 15 units of blood, which is a little higher than our previous goal of 12.

All donors will receive a donor long-sleeve T-shirt and a pair of Ice Rays tickets.

If you'd like, you can schedule an appointment between 9:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. by clicking this link, or you can simply be a walk-in donor on that Sunday.



Thanksgiving Food Collection

Thanksgiving Meal Food Collection Complete Food Delivery Scheduled for Tuesday, 11/24, at 8:30 a.m.



Thank you to everyone who has donated food items for the residents of the Fishpond Living Apartments so that they will be able to prepare their Thanksgiving meals. We now have a surplus and will be able to provide that food to the residents at the Cimarron Senior Apartments, where we hold a Bible study and help with a monthly food distribution from the Food Bank.

You may also help offset the cost of the turkeys, rolls, and pies by donating to the Fishpond Living Thanksgiving project.

Calling all youth and families! Everyone who plans to help with the food delivery needs to be at the fellowship hall at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday morning, November 24th, to begin bagging up the food in preparation for the distribution.

The youth group will begin signing Thanksgiving cards for the residents during their meeting after church on Sunday, November 22nd. The residents look forward to receiving these cards each year. Any unsigned cards will be completed Tuesday morning. After the food has been bagged and the cards are all signed, everyone will leave to go to the Fishpond Living Apartments to deliver the food and cards.

Thank you to everyone who helps make this annual blessing for the residents at Fishpond Living happen!

Year End Giving



Year End Giving Opportunities by John deMontel

Dear St. Mark's Faithful!

As the end of the year approaches, it is a good time to evaluate your planned giving and make last-minute gifts count for the intended calendar year. A gift is generally considered complete for Federal tax purposes when you relinquish “dominion and control” of the asset. Most completions require that the donation must be physically received by the charitable recipient by December 31.

Anyone 70 ½ or older can make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) to the charity of his or her choice for up to $111,000 per individual. The charitable distribution must go directly to the qualified eligible charity, not to your personal account to then be transferred to the charity. The QCD cannot go to a donor-advised fund, private foundation, or supporting

organizations. The distribution may be used to satisfy or partially satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution from Pre-tax IRA's or retirement plans. The QCD is excluded entirely from your taxable income.

There can be several nuances in the QCD realm, so please contact your financial or tax advisors.

St. Mark's can accept checks directly from an investment account. If you would like to donate stocks or mutual funds to take advantage of tax laws, donations can be sent to the Diocese of West Texas, and funds will be forwarded to St. Mark's. Judy has a form describing that method if needed, and **here is a link to it**. Thank you for your consideration of gifts to St. Mark's.

Blessings,
John DeMontel

Youth Group



Youth Group

Youth Group will meet this Sunday after the service to sign Thanksgiving cards to be given to the residents of the Fishpond Living Apartments when the Thanksgiving meal food is delivered. Grab some refreshments and head to the Youth Room.

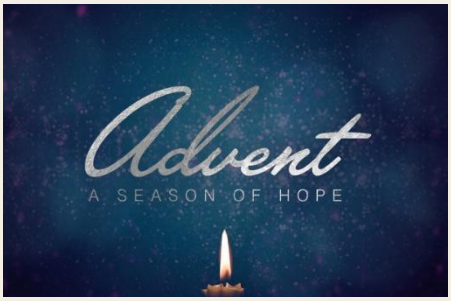
Missionary Sunday

Missionary Sunday
November 29th

The vestry dedicated the fifth Sunday of those months that have five Sundays as Missionary Sunday. November is one of those months. On November 29th, the loose offering and any designated gifts will go to support Erin Cottos and her ministry.



Advent Season



Advent Season Begins Sunday, November 29th

The season of Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. This year, it begins on November 29th. As has become our tradition, we use Rite I during Advent and Lent because they are penitential seasons. So, be prepared for the liturgy to look a little different during the four Sundays of Advent.

2027 Flower Chart

2027 Flower Chart Available in the Entryway to the Sanctuary



Sponsoring the altar flowers on a Sunday is a wonderful way to honor a loved one or a special event in your life while adding beauty to our altar. You can sign up for a Sunday on the flower chart in the entryway. Please note that we don't have altar flowers during Lent because it's a somber, penitential season.

Each flower arrangement costs $60. You will receive an email prior to your selected Sunday with information on how to take care of the cost, and you will be asked for your flower dedication, which will be printed on the back of the Sunday bulletin.

Below are the remaining dates that have not been sponsored. Please consider signing up to help make our altar beautiful on a Sunday.

Thank you for helping to make our altar beautiful!

April 4	August 8
April 18	August 22
May 2	September 19
May 9	November 14
June 6	November 28
June 20	December 5
July 4	December 19
August 1	December 26

Cimarron Senior Apartments Ministry



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

Conversations with God
Monday, 12/7, 11:15 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.

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study Class
Sundays after the Service

The Adult Bible Study group meets in the library in the fellowship hall. They are studying the book of Romans. All are welcome to join!



Gathering of Christmas Blessings





Gathering of Christmas Blessings

The members of the Gathering of Christmas Blessings group choose three groups that provide assistance to our local community to support each year. Our Access Plus Ramp Ministry was chosen as one of those three groups. St. Mark's will be presented with the proceeds of this event later in December. They asked that two representatives from St. Mark's attend the luncheon to represent the Access Plus Ministry.

What a blessing it is to have the Access Plus Ministry recognized by this group!

Healing Prayer

Time of Contemplation and Healing Prayer Wednesday, 12/9, 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. However, for the months of November and December, the fourth Wednesday meetings have been cancelled because they are so close to Thanksgiving, 11/25, and Christmas, 12/23. Please consider joining us for prayers for yourself or for others you know.

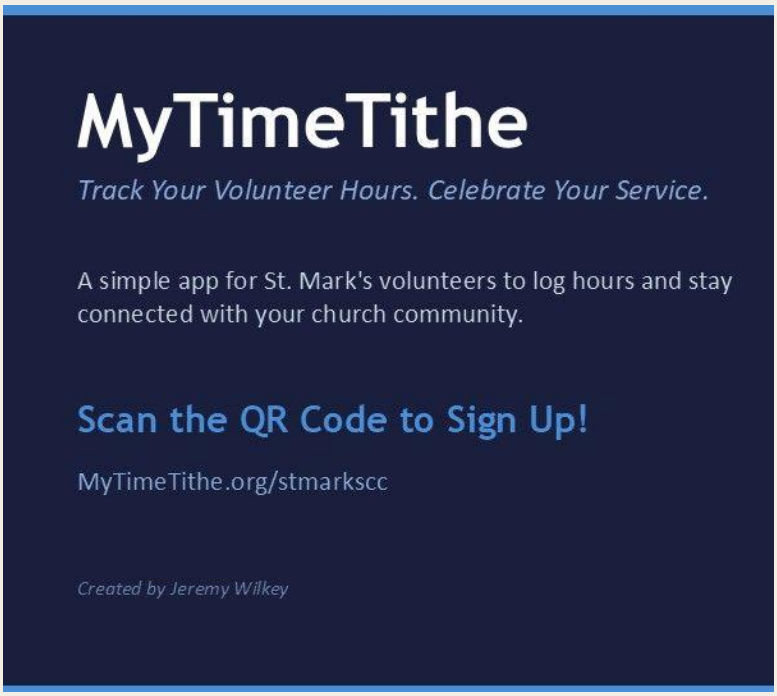


Personal Prayer Sessions

If you would ever like personal prayer, just let Judy know; prayer ministers can be available to pray with you individually. They usually pray in pairs. Just call the office at (361) 994-0285 to schedule a time. If you can't set up a time, just come into the office where Judy and Fr. Doug would be happy to pray with you.

Volunteer Hours App

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** 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.

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

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 so:

- Online accessing our website. There is a blue "Giving" button at the bottom of each page. Just click on it, 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.
- Using the QR code below.
- Mailing in your check to: St. Mark's Church, 2727 Airline Rd, CC, TX 78414. Our drop-in mailbox is locked at all times. We check the mail every day, so your check will be secure.
- Dropping your check off at the church. Just put it in the locked mailbox to the left of the red doors of the fellowship hall.
- Bequest giving 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 November ministry schedule. Click here for the November church calendar.

November 22 - Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist--Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. - Coffee & Conversation--Fellowship Hall
11:30 a.m. - Youth Group--Fellowship Hall Youth Room
11:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study--Fellowship Hall Library

November 23 - Monday
9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting

November 24 - Tuesday
8:00 a.m. - Women's Reunion Group--Corner Bakery Restaurant, 4928 S. Staples St.
8:30 a.m. - Fishpond Living Thanksgiving Food Distribution--Fellowship Hall

November 25 - Wednesday
12:00 p.m. - Office Closed

November 26 - Thursday
Thanksgiving Day

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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