# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

**weekly news & updates**

**November 25, 2026**

## Upcoming Events

**Thanksgiving Day**
11/26, Thursday

**Beginning of Advent Season**
11/29, Sunday

**Missionary Sunday**
11/29, Sunday

**Election of Council Delegates & Alternates**
12/6, Sunday

**Conversations with God**
12/7, Monday

**Time of Contemplation & Healing Prayer**
12/9, Wednesday

**Christmas Pageant**
12/13, Sunday

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

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- Blood Drive
- Thanksgiving Food Distribution


SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Bringing Faith to Life.

## Wishing You and Your Family a Blessed Thanksgiving!



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## Sunday Worship Service

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

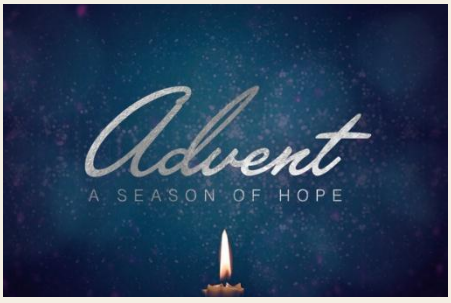
Visit our website

## The Season of Advent is Upon Us!

Advent begins this Sunday. Each week, we will have a word for the week to ponder and meditate on as we prepare our hearts during this season. This week, the word is "Watch." We watch for signs and wonders.



# Advent Season




## Advent Season Begins THIS Sunday

The season of Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year, and it begins this Sunday. 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.

## 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.



## Poinsettia Plants



### Sponsor Poinsettia Plants

We use poinsettia plants to decorate the altar for the Christmas Eve services and ask for your help with that project by sponsoring a plant or two. It's another way to honor a special someone or event in your life.

There are red forms in the Sunday bulletins for you to use to indicate how your dedication should read and how many plants you would like to sponsor. Please indicate on your check, offering envelope, or in eGiving that your monetary gift is for poinsettias. You may put the red insert wrapped around your form of payment in the offering basket as it is being passed. The plants are $12 each.

**Thank you for considering sponsoring poinsettia plants to help make our altar beautiful for the Christmas season.**

## Surviving Grief Event

### Surviving Grief during the Holidays
### Celebrating and Remembering our Loved Ones
### Tuesday, 12/1, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
### First Baptist Church
### 3115 Ocean Dr.



Christus Hospice and Palliative Care is offering an event for those who struggle with grief during the holidays. First Baptist Church is hosting the event in the Recreation Center on Tuesday, December 1st, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Chaplain Brian at (361) 994-3450.

## 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 46 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 Blood Drive

The Coastal Bend Blood Center set a donation goal of fifteen units of blood, and we came up a little short this time, with only seven units donated. Thank you to those who were able to give the gift of life on Sunday. The representative from the Blood Center said that those donations will help up to twenty-one people.

## Thanksgiving Food Collection



### Thanksgiving Meal Food Collection Blessing

Thank you to everyone who donated food items for the residents of the Fishpond Living Apartments so they can prepare their Thanksgiving meals. We had a significant surplus of donations.

We were able to take those extra gifts to the residents at the Cimarron Senior Apartments, where we do the monthly Bible study and assist with the Food Bank Food Distribution. So, your generosity blessed even more people.

**Thank you to everyone who helps make this annual blessing for the residents at Fishpond Living and Cimarron Senior Apartments 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.

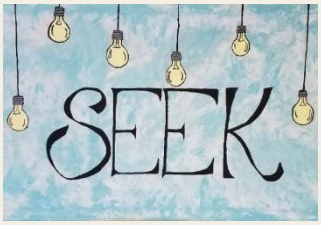
Anyone 70 ½ or older can make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) to the charity of his or her choice for up to $111,000 per individual. The charitable distribution must go directly to the qualified eligible charity, not to your personal account to then be transferred to the charity. The QCD cannot 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. So, grab some refreshments and head to the youth room.

## 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 as it is 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 19 |
| July 4 | December 26 |
| August 1 | |

## Upcoming Church Elections

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE of West Texas

### Election of Delegates and Alternates to Council Sunday, December 6

Our Diocesan Council meets annually in February to hear reports on ministry happening in our diocese, vote on committee members, and address other diocesan business. The dates for the 2027 Council are Thursday, February 18th through Saturday, February 20th. St. John's Episcopal Church in McAllen is the host church. St. Mark's sends three delegates and three alternates as our representatives. We will elect those delegates and alternates on Sunday, December 6th, immediately after our worship service. Please prayerfully consider being one of our representatives.

### Vestry Member Election Sunday, January 31st

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Bringing Faith to Life.

We have a governing board called the vestry, which oversees the ministries and the business functions of the church. The board has up to nine members. Each year, three people rotate off the vestry after they've served a three-year term. This year, we will elect four new vestry members because in addition to the three members rotating off, we have had a vacant spot for this year. So, there are three three-year terms and one two-year term.

Please consider serving as a vestry member. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at (361) 994-0285 or visit with any vestry member.

## 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.

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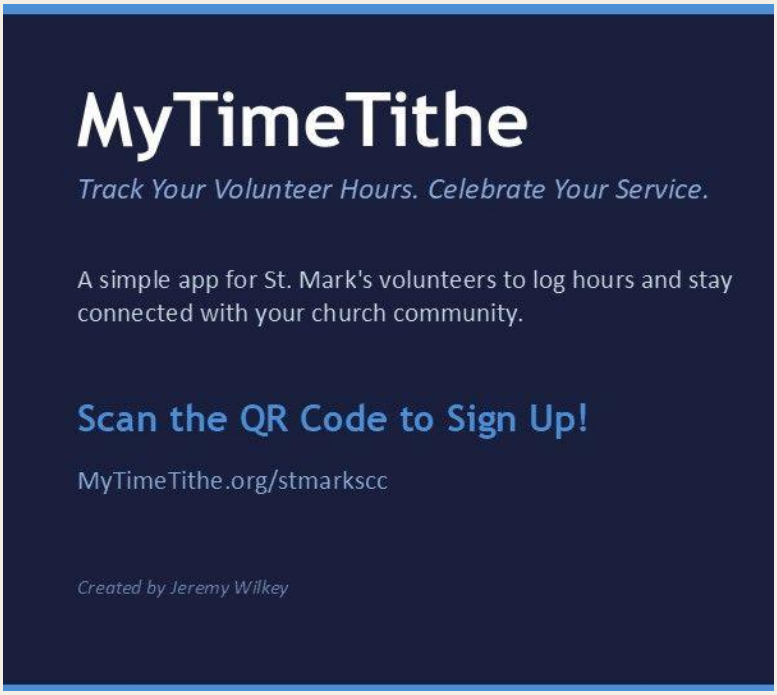


## Personal Prayer Sessions

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

**November 26 - Thursday**
Thanksgiving Day

**November 29 - 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 30 - Monday**

9:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting

**December 1- Tuesday**
8:00 a.m. - Women's Reunion Group--Corner Bakery Restaurant, 4928 S. Staples St.

**December 2 - Wednesday**
11:30 a.m. - Lunch with the Old Guys--Miller's BBQ Restaurant, 6601 Weber Rd.
12:00 p.m. - Prayer Group--Fellowship Hall Library
6:30 p.m. - Men's Reunion Group--Nolan's Restaurant, 7426 S. Staple St.

**December 3 - Thursday**
9:00 a.m. - Staff Planning Retreat--Wandel Home

## 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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