

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

weekly news & updates

December 1, 2022

Upcoming Events

Newcomer Meeting

12/4 Sunday, 11:15 a.m.

Election of Delegates & Alternates to Council

12/11 Sunday, 11:15 a.m.

Christmas Pageant

12/18 Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services

12/24 Saturday, 5:00 p.m. &
10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

12/25 Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Reflections from the Rector



Fr. Doug Wasinger

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A couple of years ago I was asked to attend a County Commissioner meeting to provide support for two presenters who were going to express the real need to set up a local suicide help line. The presentation was scheduled to start 10 minutes after my arrival, so I was present for the end of an update on a lawsuit in which the County was attempting to recapture tax revenues from an energy company. The two appointed presenters had finished making their case when the Chair of the Commissioners saw me sitting in the back of the room and said, "I see that Father Doug is here today, and I wonder if he has anything he wants to add?" I turned to my friend and said quietly, "Not really." Then this passage from Matthew came into my mind, "...

do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit." – 13:11b I approached the front of the room, and what followed surprised me as the conversation moved from what we don't have to what we do have: personal relationships and the ability to care for one another. It was a fruitful dialog, and I think it was a moment when we looked to our public leaders as resources who can make a difference for our communities.

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

Sunday Worship Service:

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

Visit our website

Meet Fr. Doug



Getting to Know Fr. Doug

Six families have agreed to host a **Meet and Greet** event with Fr. Doug to provide everyone an opportunity to visit with him, get to know him, and share in fellowship. These will mostly be held in parishioners' homes. One or two will be held in the fellowship hall. There will be around ten people at each event besides the hosts and Fr. Doug. Either a meal or simply dessert will be provided.

We have dates and times for three events and will let you know about the dates for the other three when we know what they are.

The current dates and times are:

Friday 12/2 6:30 p.m. dinner at the Wandels' home

Saturday 12/3--CLOSED

Saturday 12/10 11:30 a.m. brunch at the Jones' home

You may sign up on your Connection Card this Sunday, contact the church office at (361) 994-0285, or email Judy at judy@stmarksc.org to let her know which date you would prefer.

Open Door Policy

Fr. Doug has an "**open door**" policy. You can drop in anytime, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., to visit with him, as well. You are also welcome to call to make sure he is available.

Newcomer Ministry Meeting

Meeting THIS Sunday, December 4th, after the Service

Do you have a heart for those who are new to St. Mark's, for those who need to be a part of a Christian family? Do you love to make people feel welcomed and at home? Then come to the Newcomer Ministry meeting Sunday, December 4th, and take part in the discussion about how this ministry moves forward now that we are back to regular worship and ministry.

Lori Jones is the leader of this ministry and has a huge heart for it. Come join in the fun!



Election of Council Delegates & Alternates



Bishop Reed's Final Diocesan Council

As many of you know, Bishop Reed will be retiring next year. The next bishop, which is called the Bishop Coadjutor, will be elected at Diocesan Council in February. The newly elected bishop will serve with Bishop Reed until his retirement, at which time he or she will move into the role as our new bishop.

Our delegates and alternates, who are the representatives we elect to send as our representatives, will help elect our new bishop. How exciting is that!

We need four delegates and at least two alternates, who will be elected **Sunday, December 11th** immediately after the worship service in the sanctuary. Please pray about your involvement in this historic council. Please be aware that if you are on a sub-committee for Council, depending on which one you serve on, you may still be a delegate or alternate. If you have questions, visit with either Judy Netek or Dayna Chimelski.

Advent Devotional Books

Advent Devotions

Advent devotional books will be available on the name tag table in the entryway to the sanctuary. Be sure to pick up a copy Sunday if you don't already have a devotional to use during Advent.



Flowers



Poinsettia Plants for Christmas Services

We use poinsettia plants to decorate the altar for our Christmas services each year and need your help with that project. You may sponsor a plant or two by filling out a dedication form that can be found in the Sunday bulletins. This is a wonderful way to remember a loved one or special event in your life. The plants cost \$12 each. You may put your dedication form and payment in the offering basket Sunday morning. Please write "poinsettia" on your check or offering

envelope.

2023 Flower Chart Available in the Sanctuary

You may sign up to sponsor the altar flowers on a special Sunday in 2023 by writing your name by the date on the flower chart which is now available in the entryway to the sanctuary. The flowers cost \$55. An email requesting your dedication will be sent at the beginning of the month you sign up for.

Christmas Pageant

Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 18th

Our annual Christmas Pageant promises to be a wonderfully lively expression of the nativity story. It will be simple and fun, but we need our cast of characters. There will be a signup insert in the Sunday bulletins for those who would like to participate, from the very young to the young at heart. Gay deMontel is overseeing the pageant this year and would be happy to visit with you about the pageant. You may contact her at (361) 944-4544 or email her at gaydemontel@gmail.com.



Daily Office App



The Daily Office App

Fr. Doug talked about an app for the Daily Office that might be helpful to us. It is called The Daily Office from the Mission of St. Clare. Here are the links for the Android and iPhone versions.

[Morning and Evening Prayer](#)---Android

[Mission St. Clare](#)---iPhone

Food for His Table

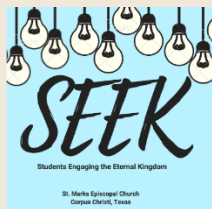
Meals for Fr. Doug

Thank you to those of you who have helped with providing Fr. Doug meals and gift cards! He has enjoyed the response so far.

We continue to need your help. Please consider participating in this project by either preparing a couple of meals for him or purchasing gift cards to local restaurants between now and the end of January. Here is a link for you to sign up to bring him a meal through TakeThemaMeal.com. Information about his dietary restrictions and his likes and dislikes are included. You can sign up for as many dates as you'd like. You may also contact Lori Jones at (361) 903-5060 to sign up.



SEEK Youth Group



SEEK Youth Group

Registration for **Camp Capers camping opportunities** are now open:

Mid-Winter Camp 1/6/23-1/8/23

Mid-Winter Camp 1/13/23-1/15/23

Mid-Winter Camp 1/20/23-1/22/23

Summer Camp:

Senior High (10th-12th grade)

Junior High (8th-9th grade)

Intermediate (6th-7th grade)

Primary (3rd-5th grade)

Here's a link to the [diocesan website](#) for registration and additional information.

Cookies for Council

Calling all Cookie Bakers!

We need your help with the cookie project for Diocesan Council. We are supplying over 500 dozen cookies, but we're not responsible for baking all of them. Thank goodness! We will be inviting the eleven churches in our area to help. That means each church would need to bake 55 dozen, which is much more doable.



Here are the instructions:

- All types of cookies are encouraged.
- Please package your cookies in quart-size freezer Ziplock bags.
- Write the type and quantity on the bag.
- Freeze them.
- We now have a new freezer to store cookies, if you need help with storage.

Vestry Members

New Vestry Members for 2023



Mark Hartlaub spoke about our upcoming vestry elections several Sundays ago. We need to replace four members who will be rotating off the vestry at the end of 2022. You can speak to any of the current vestry members to ask them questions about what it has meant to them to serve on vestry. Here is a list of the vestry members:

Dayna Chimelski
Mark Hartlaub
Jane Helm
Penny Hughes
Jon Reily
John Wandel
Doug Wayland
Chrystal Wilkey
Terry Wright

They would all be happy to visit with you and answer any of your questions.

The election of the new vestry members will take place at our Annual Meeting January 29th, with a leaders' retreat to follow February 4th at H.E.B. House.

Council Subcommittees



**Building Subcommittees for the 2023
Diocesan Council**

February 16-18

Bishop Reed asked St. Andrew's, St. Peter's, and St. Mark's to be co-hosts for Council. We are now ready to invite you to serve on a sub-committee. Council begins at the American Bank Center on Thursday, but the committees will set up Wednesday. Some committees have specific days and times when volunteers will be needed, while others require volunteers for the entire time that Council is in session.

Hotels—Chair: Beth Offutt. Two or three volunteers provide onsite check-in assistance and welcome guests.

Transportation—Chair: John deMontel. Several volunteers provide assistance for people getting on and off the shuttle service, which will be offered to those who have mobility issues, as well as those who will attend the luncheon at the Omni on Friday.

Hospitality—Chairs: Molly Wandel and Marybeth Maxwell. We need to have 584 dozen (6,000+) cookies available. Several volunteers will work to keep cookie trays full and the area clean, as well as work with the ABC staff to keep beverages well stocked.

Nursery/Childcare—Chair: Chrystal Wilkey. Four or five volunteers, who must have a current Safeguarding God's Children certificate, will set up space for 6-15 children, serve snacks and meals, provide age appropriate activities, and keep the children safe.

Worship Service—Music, Acolytes, and Ushers—Chair: Gay deMontel. Bishop Reed will plan and oversee the Holy Eucharist service Friday evening. Volunteers from all area churches and the surrounding area will participate. St. Mark's is responsible for the acolytes and the music. We will also need ushers/greeters to serve as ushers. We have all our acolytes but need a lot of singers for the choir and three or four ushers/greeters.

To help with a sub-committee, please contact Judy at the church office at (361) 994-0285 or at judy@stmarkscc.org.

Estimate of Giving Card

Renewing Life Through our Stewardship

Thank you to everyone who submitted an Estimate of Giving Card for 2023. If you weren't able to be at our Consecration Sunday to place your Estimate of Giving card on the altar, you can put your card in the offering basket as it's being passed around this Sunday. Fr. Doug will bless it when he blesses the offering. There will be cards available if you need one, or you can print one out from [this link](#).



Diocesan Events



Diocesan News

Bishop's Advent Blog--Click on [the link](#) to read Bishop Reed's blog.

Bishop Search Process--Here is a [link for information](#) on the search process for our next Bishop, including the diocesan profile.

Youth/Children's Camp at Camp Capers--For [information and registration](#), click here.

Diocesan ENews--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 in it.

Ways to Support God's Kingdom through St. Mark's

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT ST. MARK'S CHURCH!

Is the Lord blessing you? Are you grateful for what He has done in your life? Remember His Church. Though we have experienced limitations for worshiping together, we still 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.
- 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 the December schedule for our ministries, which is still a work in progress. Please check each week to see if there are any changes.

December 4 - Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. - Coffee Hour--Fellowship Hall
- 11:15 a.m. - SEEK Youth Group--Fellowship Hall
- 11:15 a.m. - Newcomer Ministry Meeting--Fellowship Hall

December 6- Tuesday

- 10:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting--Fellowship Hall Library
- 6:00 p.m. - Women's Group--Fellowship Hall Library

December 7- Wednesday

- 12:00 p.m. - Noonday Prayer Group--Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. - Men's Reunion Group--Nolan's Restaurant, 7426 S. Staples St.

December 10 - Saturday

- 11:00 a.m. - Meet & Greet Event--Jones' home, 3448 Newcastle

Helpful Links

**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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