

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

## weekly news & updates

December 2, 2021

### Upcoming Events

#### Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Sat, 12/4 10:00 a.m.

#### Christmas Pageant

Sun, 12/12 10:00 a.m.

#### Christmas Eve Services

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

#### Christmas Day Service

Sat, 12/25 10:30 a.m.

Church of the Good Shepherd

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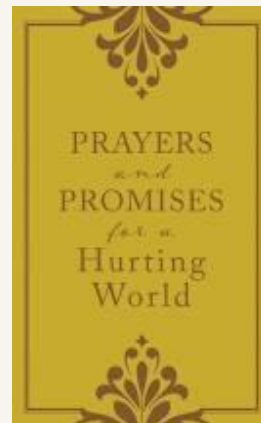
Weekly Calendar & Schedule

Helpful Links

#### Sunday Worship Service:

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

[Visit our website](#)



### Excerpt taken from "Prayers and Promises for a Hurting World" by Laura Freudig

*"I am holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain."*  
Philippians 2:16

Dear Lord, You gave Your servant Paul a message for the church in Philippi, and through Your grace and the miraculous preservation of Your Word, we get to read it still. This message was sent to the Philippians then and is sent to *us* now. We marvel, perhaps, that Paul, who wrote it under house arrest in Rome, could have so much to say about joy. But that word *joy* rings like a bell throughout his letter. Joy, joy, joy! Rejoice!

Lord, we long for our circumstances to change. We long for the end of fear, anxiety, worry, grief, and suffering. But You long for *us*. Help me to long for You with the same fierce love. Paul endured shipwreck, snakebite, earthquakes, imprisonment, hunger, and poverty, but his eyes were not

on himself; he was looking beyond this world to Jesus. Just like Paul says, it is all good, whether we die and depart to be *with* Christ or we remain in the body and perform fruitful labor *for* Christ. Lord, work in our hearts so we truly believe, as Paul did, that our joy is not rooted in our circumstances, but in the unchanging truth and beauty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To our God and Father be glory for every and ever, amen.

**Seek God! Pray!  
Give it ALL to Him!**

## Christmas Pageant

**Dress Rehearsal Saturday 12/4  
Pageant Sunday 12/12**

Marybeth Maxwell has graciously agreed to lead our Christmas Pageant this year in partnership with parent and youth helpers. This is a joint effort, and the youth are always so willing to participate and help the younger children.



There will be a dress rehearsal Saturday, December 4th, at 10 a.m. So parents, please be sure to mark your calendars because it's the only scheduled practice!

**Important Dates:  
THIS Saturday 12/4 Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal  
Sunday 12/12 Christmas Pageant**

## Flowers

### Flower Chart for 2022

Sponsoring the altar flowers on a Sunday is a great way to honor a special someone or event in your life, as well as add more beauty to our altar. Each year a flower chart is available for people to sign up on for a particular Sunday. The flower chart for 2022 is now available in the entryway to the sanctuary.



After you sign up, an email will be sent out at the beginning of the month of the date that you requested. You will be asked how you would like the dedication on the back of the bulletin to read and whether you want to take the flowers after the Sunday service or have them donated. The cost is \$55.

## Poinsettia Plants

Each year we use poinsettia plants to decorate the altar for Christmas Eve, and we need your help to continue that tradition. Please consider purchasing one or more plants. You will be invited to take them home after the Sunday service on December 26. Each plant costs \$12.

There will be red forms in the bulletins for the next three Sundays that will give you the opportunity to sign up and let us know how you would like to dedicate the plant. It could be in thanksgiving for someone or an event, or in memorial of a loved one.



**Thank you for your help!**

## Christmas Services

### Christmas Eve Services Friday, December 24th 5:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

We will have two services, both with Holy Eucharist, on Christmas Eve. The first service will begin at 5:00 p.m. and is more family oriented. The second service will start at 10:00 p.m. and will be our candlelight service.

Be sure to make plans to come worship on Christmas Eve!



### Christmas Day Service Saturday, December 25th at 10:30 a.m. Church of the Good Shepherd

St. Mark's will not have a worship service on Christmas Day, but if you would like to attend a service, Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church is offering one. It will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will include Holy Eucharist.



Church of the Good Shepherd is located downtown at 700 S Upper Broadway. Here is a link to [a map](#).

## Stewardship Season

### Support Kingdom Work through St. Mark's

Our acts of obedience to what God calls us to do in terms of giving to His Kingdom are always blessed. We may not see how God chooses to use our gift, but do not doubt that God uses all gifts to bless others.



TIME  
Talent  
TREASURE

Living a Life of Stewardship

When you decide to make a commitment to give to God's Kingdom through St. Mark's, your commitment is not taken lightly. Your Estimate of Giving Card is prayed over and blessed even before the envelope is opened. God will do more with your act of obedience than you will ever know.

If you haven't been able to submit your Estimate of Giving Card, you still have time. There will be cards available in the sanctuary Sunday, or in the office. You can also email the office with your intentions for 2022.

## Camp Capers Mid-Winter Camps

### Support Kingdom Work through St. Mark's

Camp Capers will be hosting their weekend overnight Mid-Winter Camps this year in January. Camp offers the opportunity for our kids to experience new friends, campfires, outdoor games, singing, worship, growth in faith, and so much more. Scholarships are available.

- Mid-Winter Camp I--Jan 7-9 for 9th through 12th graders
- Mid-Winter Camp II--Jan 14-16 for 6th through 8th graders
- Mid-Winter Camp III--Jan 21-23 for 3rd through 5th graders

Here's [the link](#) to the registration and information page.



## 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 worshipping 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 the four 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.
- **NEW APP**----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.

**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 5 - Sunday**

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

11:30 a.m. - Coffee Hour--Fellowship Hall

**No SEEK Youth Group this Sunday**

### **December 7 - Tuesday**

10:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting--Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. - Men's Cursillo Reunion Group--Nolan's Restaurant on Staples near Yorktown

7:00 p.m. - Bible Study & Prayer Group--Online--Zoom Meeting

### **December 8 - Wednesday**

12:00 p.m. - Noon Day Prayer Group--Fellowship Hall

## 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](#)

[Denison Forum--News Discerned Differently](#)

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