

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
The Nineth Sunday after Pentecost
August 7, 2022
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



This summer's Eucharist has been adapted from various resources, including: Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Cambridge, MA, the Parish of the Epiphany, Winchester, MA, the *Supplemental Eucharistic Prayers for the Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada*, 1998, *Enriching Our Worship*, 1998, The "Prayer of Thanksgiving" from *Christian Worship Resources for a Children's Sabbath*. This Service includes information in red for instructions on the actions and words of the Eucharist. It is our hope that the Service will be spiritually meaningful and uplifting for all ages at St. Mark's.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
134 N. Division Ave.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
www.stmarksgr.org

Welcome to St. Mark's

Welcome to historic St. Mark's, a vibrant community of faith, which has gathered for worship since 1836 and in the current building since 1848. If this is your first visit with us, please know that we are delighted you are here. Please, introduce yourself and be sure to sign our guest sign-in sheet in the foyer and/or fill-out a Visitor's Welcome Card. Also, please take a welcome folder on the Welcome Desk.



Safety: Everyone entering the St. Mark's Parish House is encouraged to wear a mask. Guests and visitors are asked to sign the register. The wooden doors to the Parish House will be locked fifteen minutes after Services begin with a security guard on duty to be of assistance. Upon leaving a restroom, please wash hands with warm soapy water and sanitize. Many thanks.

Weekly Worship and Prayer at St. Mark's: Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; Compline on Mondays and Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. via Facebook live. The bulletin is identical for both Sunday Services with musical elements not included in the 8:00 a.m. Service. **The Breakfast Café**, a program of our outreach ministry, is at 8:15 a.m. every Saturday. If you would like more information, please contact Judy Freeman at judyfw@comcast.net.

Children at St. Mark's: St. Mark's provides many children's activities and opportunities and welcomes you to contact our Director of Children's Ministry, Evan Knill, at eknill107@gmail.com for more information.

Summer Sunday School: This summer, we will continue to provide nursery care for children under 3 in the downstairs classroom. Sunday School during the 10:30 services for school-aged children will take place outdoors in the St. Mary's Garden. We'll run, play, sing and worship together! Join us!

Junior and Senior High Youth: Grand Rapids Episcopal Youth: G.R.E.Y. is a joint youth ministry between St. Mark's and St. Andrew's Episcopal Churches for youth in grades 6-12. We have weekly formation gatherings during the school year and service and social activities throughout the year. Please contact our Director of Youth Ministry, Jeff Brown, for more information: jeffatgrey@gmail.com.

Adults: We offer the *Education for Ministry* seminar during the program year, an *Inquirers' Class* for those preparing for Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirming one's faith and seasonal Sunday forums at 8:30 a.m. Please, see Fr. Christian for more details. We also offer a Monday book study for adults. For the book group, please contact Carmela McIntire at carmela0067@att.net.

A Note about Cell Phones: We ask that you turn off your cell phone; if you are on call, please turn it to vibrate when you enter the church.

Rest Rooms are located on the main level of the Parish House under the exit sign at the top of the Foyer ramp.

Parking on Sundays: Limited parking is available in the Parish Lot. Please, consider the free metered parking on Pearl, Ionia, Lyon, Fountain and other streets near the church, the upper and lower levels of the GRCC building on Fountain Street and the Ellis Parking Lot at 210 Ionia just west of Lyon Street. For the Ellis Lot: Please, pick up an exit ticket from an Usher, a Greeter or on the little table where the bulletins are in the north transept. Parking is free on Sunday only. A white ticket is required to accompany the parking ticket and to exit the lot.

St. Mark's Full- and Part-time Staff

The Rev. Dr. Christian Brocato, Rector
The Rev. Susan York, Priest Associate
The Rev. Jan Gockerman, Deacon
Megan Harding, Parish Administrative Associate
Pam Stevenson, Finance Manager
Dr. Gregory Crowell, Director of Music
Alexis VanZalen, Organ Scholar
Evan Knill, Director of Children's Ministry
Jeff Brown, Director of Youth Ministry
Kate Pyles, Director of Communications Ministry
Ronnie Bowen, Sexton
Craig Mosley, Sexton Associate
Doris Molina, Weekend Sexton

The Gathering of God's People

Our prayer begins with the offering of music to help us prepare for the words and actions to follow in the Service.

The Prelude – Fugue

Johann Pachelbel

Lector I The Welcome

Standing as able, we continue our prayer as clergy and ministers are called forth from the congregation to assist us as leaders in worship.

The Gathering Hymn — Blue Hymnal 427: When morning guilds the skies

Laudes Domini

Prayer of Invocation

Presider I: † Blessed be God, most holy, gracious and undivided Trinity.

All: **And blessed be God's reign, now and forever. Amen.**

Presider I: Let us pray.

All: **O God, stay with us, your beloved children, and remain with us in our prayer; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken new hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture, the Holy Eucharist, and in the faces of one another. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

To best prepare for what is to come in our worship, we openly ask God for forgiveness and seek reconciliation and peace.

Presider I: Let us confess our faults and admit our frailty. (*Pause for reflection*)

All: **Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness: to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world. We lay down what is past and look to the future. We take into daily life signs of hope and healing. We reach beyond ourselves, to share the lives of others and touch the wider world.**

Presider I: † May God forgive us, Christ renew us, and the Spirit enable us to grow in love.

All: **Amen.**

Presider I: Let us offer praise to God.

Gloria (*Spoken at 8 a.m. and sung at 10:30 a.m.*)

Frank E. White

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, He is the might-y King, mas-ter of
ev'r-y thing. The cap-tain of my soul, the u-ni-verse con-trol, God is the one
true ex-pres-sion of life. He's the cre-a-tor, a great cre-a-tor,
Hea-ven and earth His great-ness pro-claim. The cap-tain of my
soul, the u-ni-verse con-trol, ho-nor and ma-jes-ty se-cond to none.

Collect of the Day

Presider II: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider II: Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

At this point, we are seated to listen and hear the Word of God from the Sacred Scriptures of both the Jewish and Christian traditions.

The Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 15:1-16

Lector I: A Reading from the Book of Genesis

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." The Lord brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then the Lord said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Lector I: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 33:12-22

Reader I: Let us pray a portion of the Psalm responsively by half verse.

12 Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! *
happy the people he has chosen to be his own!

13 The Lord looks down from heaven, *
and beholds all the people in the world.

14 From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze *
on all who dwell on the earth.

15 He fashions all the hearts of them *
and understands all their works.

16 There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; *
a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.

17 The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; *
for all its strength it cannot save.

18 Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those who fear him, *
on those who wait upon his love,

19 To pluck their lives from death, *
and to feed them in time of famine.

20 Our soul waits for the Lord; *
he is our help and our shield.

21 Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, *
for in his holy Name we put our trust.

22 Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us, *
as we have put our trust in you.

The Christian Scripture

Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16

Lector II: A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, God has prepared a city for them.

Lector II: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Hymn — Blue Hymnal 209 (Text); Blue 276 (Music) We walk by faith

Alford/Dunlap's Creek

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight; No
2. We may not touch his hands and side, Nor
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
4. That, when our life of faith is done, In

gra - cious words we hear From him who spoke as
fol - low where he trod; But in his prom - ise
may our faith a - bound, To call on you when
realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you

none e'er spoke; But we be - lieve him near.
we re - joice, And cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near, And seek where you are found:
as you are, With full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.
Tune: DUNLAP'S CREEK, CM; Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816; Harm. by Richard Proulx, b.1937, © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Gospel (Standing as able)

Luke 12:32-40

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Gospeler: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Homily

The Rev. Dr. Christian Brocato

Silence is observed after the proclamation and preaching of the Word.

The Nicene Creed (*Please note the language for the Spirit.*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, the Spirit is worshiped and glorified. The Spirit has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the †resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The following prayers are offered to God on behalf of all people, those children of all ages gathered here in-person or praying with us online, and those around the world.

Lector I: O God, we ask you to hear the prayers of your people gathered before you, your children of all ages, and hear our prayer with the response, "O God, hear us."

Lector II: O God, help us to be at peace within ourselves. We pray:

All: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: O God, help us to accept that we are profoundly loved and need never be afraid. We pray:

All: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: O God, help us to be aware that you are the source of being common to us all and to creation. We pray:

All: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: O God, help us so to live that all your people may have clean air, food, water, and shelter, especially remembering refugees throughout the world. Give us grace to do all we can to protect and preserve your magnificent creation. We pray:

All: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: O God, may we cease to be a cause of suffering for others. Help us to end violence, hatred, anger, racism and war especially in Ukraine and other parts of the world. We pray:

All: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: For the President, Congress, our Governor, our Mayor and for all in authority, that they may be people of justice, integrity and truth. We pray:

All: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: For those who celebrate birthdays or anniversaries this week. (*silence is observed to add names here.*) We pray:

All: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: O God, fill us with the presence of your great compassion for us, for all those in need, those for whom we have promised to pray and those on our Parish Prayer List found in the bulletin. Today, we especially remember those recovering from natural disasters in various parts of our nation. We pray:

All: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection and all those who mourn their passing. May all who have died rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them. (*Silence is observed while additional names are offered.*) We pray:

All: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: Let us offer additional prayers, either silently or aloud. (*Silence is observed while additional prayers are offered.*) We pray:

All: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: O God, hear our prayers and kindle within our hearts a flame of love for our neighbors, our foes, our friends, and all our sisters and brothers throughout the world.

All: **O God of the poor and the yearning, from the humblest thing that lives to the name that is highest of all, kindle within our hearts a flame of love. Amen.**

The Peace

Presider I: The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us offer one another a sign of that peace.

Announcements

The Offertory

While special music is offered, our monetary gifts are received for the benefit of the mission of St. Mark's. The Table is prepared, and the collected gifts are presented to be blessed by God. The Liturgy of the Table asks God to receive our gifts of bread and wine and ourselves as we are blessed by God in the Holy Eucharist.

Offertory Music — Simple Song

Jacob Van Neuren, tenor

Leonard Bernstein

Doxology (*Spoken at 8 a.m. and sung at 10:30 a.m.*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow:

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, O heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; Amen.

The Liturgy of the Table

The Invitation

Bread and wine have been received and we now call upon God, the Father, through the Son, to consecrate them through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Presider I:

Sisters and brothers, the table of bread and wine is now made ready.

It is the table of company with Jesus and all who love him.

It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world with whom Jesus identified himself.

It is the table of communion with the earth in which Christ became incarnate.

Come, it is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer for Children's Sabbath

Presider: God be with you

All: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, amazing God, who made heaven and earth and sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever, who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry; you watch over the strangers, uphold children, parents and people of all ages. We give you thanks, O God, especially for children, for the blessing they are and the blessing we may be to them, as we seek to heed your prophets and do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

And so, we join the saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we pray:

Sanctus

Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heaven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We praise you, O God, for sending your beloved son, Jesus, born and nurtured by his family, and protected by strangers, who grew as a child, who was taught in the temple surrounded by his community, who was guided by his parents, who became an adult, who loved and blessed the children, who cared for those who were sick, poor, and left out, who taught that God loves us like a parent, and who called us his friends. Jesus, who was born among us, died our Savior whom we all need, triumphant even over death, freeing us to live as your beloved children.

Presider: For your gift of Christ, we praise you,

All: We worship and adore you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at the table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. As you do this, remember me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

Presider: For new life in Christ, we praise you,

All: We worship and adore you.

Around your table as your children of all ages O God, we remember Jesus Christ, who came in love, lived in love, and died in love, who was and is and is to come. We offer to you these gifts of bread and wine, and we offer to you †ourselves, our lives and all we are.

†Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, that †they strengthen us to welcome all your children, to show your love, to work for your justice and to bring your peace.

Presider: For the peace of Christ, we praise you,

All: We worship and adore you.

The now consecrated elements of bread and wine are held high as a final offering to God for blessing followed by the Great Amen, an important affirmation on the part of all gathered for Eucharist.

Presider: Through Christ our Redeemer, in the power of the Spirit, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

All: Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As an expression of the inclusivity of the Eucharist and the importance of The Lord's Prayer, we have included three options for praying this beautiful and meaningful prayer. Other languages are also welcome.

Presider I: Please pray the Lord's Prayer in whichever language or version you prefer.

(Traditional) **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

(Contemporary) **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

(Spanish) **Padre nuestro, que estas en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre; venga a nosotros tu reino, hágase tu voluntad, en la tierra como en el cielo, danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día, perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden, no nos deyes caer en la tentación y libranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.**

As the following words are offered, the Presider breaks the consecrated bread and holds it up so that all may see and respond. Hosts are prepared with wine added in advance of the Service. Each host contains both consecrated bread and wine.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Reception of the Sacrament

David Hurd

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Let us take them in remembrance that Christ died for us and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Presider: As is our tradition, all are invited to the Holy Eucharist at the Table of the Lord. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your hands over your chest, and you will receive a blessing. Please follow the guide of the ushers to receive Communion. All are welcome at this Table of the Lord.

We come to the Altar-at-the-Crossing to kneel or stand to receive the Eucharist, freely offered and received. The Eucharist contains consecrated bread and wine combined prior to the Service and now the Body and Blood of Jesus while also remaining bread and wine.

The Distribution of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Minister: The body and blood of Christ.

All: Amen.

Post-communion chant: (*Sung multiple times*)

Sure-ly the pres-ence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel his might-y
pow-er and his grace. I can hear the brush of an-gel wings, I see
glo - ry on each face; sure-ly the pres - ence of the Lord is in this place.

Post-communion prayer (*Please stand as you are able*)

Presider II: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, renewed, that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Presider I: May God shield us, East, West, North, South and wherever we go.

All: The God of life, love and grace.

Presider: And the blessing of God, †Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be upon us, now and for evermore, we pray:

All: Amen.

The Hymn of Sending Forth — Blue Hymnal 347: Go forth for God

Here, we are sent into the world having been nourished and fed for the journey of life. We will go with thanksgiving to be light in the world for those all around us.

The Sending Forth

Deacon: Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us go forth to love and serve God and all God's people. Alleluia. Alleluia.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Postlude — Toccata in E Minor

Pachelbel

Today's Altar Flowers are in celebration of the marriage of Lauren Todd and Peter Kooi yesterday here at St. Marks.

Following both Services, all are invited to the Parish Hall to share fellowship and light fare.

You are invited to participate in the tradition at St. Mark's to remain seated until all the candles are extinguished and the postlude has ended, fitting ways to conclude our worship together. A reminder that when the Rector preaches, his homily is available on the Resource Table in the north transept. Please, feel free to take a copy for further reflection. All homilies are videoed and can be found at www.stmarksgr.org at the Media tab and on YouTube at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids, MI.

Offertory and Ways to Give to St. Mark's Episcopal Church

- 1.) Place check or cash in the offering plate
- 2.) Electronic Giving (email Pam for form – see the attachment in our e-news)
- 3.) Give+ Mobile App from any mobile device
- 4.) Pay by text - text 616-205-9714 from your phone and send a payment
- 5.) Mobil App Square cash - Cashtag: \$stmarksgr Web address: [cash.me/\\$stmarksgr](https://cash.me/$stmarksgr)
- 6.) Mail a check to the church
- 7.) Online at our website at www.stmarksgr.org through PayPal
- 8.) Remember St. Mark's in your Estate Planning



Total budget for 2022: \$673,270

Gifts Pledged for 2022: \$484,255

Received Yr. to Date (Pledges, Special Gifts & Offerings not Pledged): \$364,530

Thanks to all who financially support the Ministry of St. Mark's. Please know that additional pledges can be received at any time. Any questions whatsoever, please feel free to contact our Finance Manager, Pam Stevenson or our Treasurer, Marc Vander Velde.

Announcements

eNews: Please visit our website at www.stmarksgr.org and click on the scroll that says "Newsletter" for our weekly announcements, opportunities and news. This is the same as our electronic newsletter (eNews) to which you may subscribe to receive in your email each week by filling out one of our Welcome Cards and placing it on Megan's desk.

Backpack drive thank you and festival invitation: St. Mark's Community, thank you so much for your enthusiastic, generous response to our call for backpacks and school supplies to support our neighbors in the St. Joseph the Worker parish! With your gifts of supplies and money, we were able to share 120 backpacks filled with school supplies and still have \$1,132.43 remaining to support our partnership with East Leonard Elementary School! A special thank you to all of you who helped us to shop, pack, and deliver the backpacks this week, too. The backpacks have been delivered, but you still have a chance to contribute to this ministry. We want to connect in person with our neighbors as we celebrate the beginning of another school year. Please make plans to stop by the Back-to-School Festival at LaMar Park (2561 Porter St SW, Wyoming) for a while today. The festival will run from 12 noon until 6 p.m. You'll be able to meet Fr. Jose Quintana and the families of St. Joseph the Worker while you enjoy games, dancing, music and, of course, food!

Eucharist for All Ages, August 21 and September 18: The next Eucharist for all ages Services will be on August 21 and September 18 at 10:30 a.m. This is a chance to worship together as an all-ages church family. Parents, if your child (or family unit) would like to participate, please contact Laura Kozminski. We need children and youth to serve in all aspects of these services.

Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church, Invitation: Please, join in the celebration as our sisters and brothers at Sudanese Grace celebrate their 2nd Anniversary in their current building on Saturday, August 27, 2022. The Church is located at 1550 Oswego St. NW, Grand Rapids, MI, 49504. The Service of Thanksgiving will be at 11:30 a.m. and will be followed by a Sudanese cooking demonstration, food and drumming, ~ Christian+

186th Anniversary Sunday: Please, consider joining us for worship on October 2, 2022 at either the 8:00 a.m. or the 10:30 a.m. Service, as we formally celebrate the 186th Anniversary of St. Mark's, originally established on October 6, 1836. A new plaque is being considered for the façade of the Church and a hoped-for historical marker from the Michigan Historical Society is being considered as well. The Anniversary dinner will be that evening at 5:00 p.m. at the Kent Country Club where we only pay for the dinners and not the rental of the ballroom. Look for your invitation and registration in your mail in the next couple of weeks. There will be separate menus for adults and children, photos displayed by Margaret Taylor, music from our youth, a silent auction and much more. Join us if you are able. Thanks!

Safety and Security Measure: The security guard will lock the Parish House doors 10-15 minutes after the Services begin on Sunday. The guard will remain on duty at the doors throughout the Services. In addition, we are in the process of hiring a second security guard. ~ *Safety Ministry Team*

The Parish House and St. Mark's Future: Many of you may remember that several years ago, a committee began work on a vision for the long-term needs of St. Mark's. With Vestry blessing, this work has resumed after a period of suspension due to COVID. Along with outside professional collaboration, the committee is again working to evaluate our needs in light of our approved Strategic Plan and the anticipated need for an increase in revenue in the future. As the work progresses and when there is more concrete information to share, we will provide you with updates as soon as possible. We would ask that you keep this exciting initiative in your prayers that our work be guided by the Holy Spirit and be in keeping with God's desire for us at St. Mark's. ~ The Feasibility Study Team

Save the Dates

Church Safety Workshop: Sept. 17
Celebration Sunday and Annual Picnic: Sept. 18
Ministry Fair Sunday: Sept. 25
186th Anniversary of St. Mark's: Oct. 2
All Saints' Day Evening Prayer: Nov. 1

The St. Mark's Prayer List

The Sick

The Bedford Family
Wendell Chivis
Anthony DeMello
Terry Harrison
Jennifer Julius
Soledad Lara
George Linde
Jean McCormick
Steve McNear
Jeff Merchant
Elizabeth Miller
John Oatley
Linda Peeler
Mary Rollins
Grace Schuurmans
John Slagter
Brian Topolewski
Dennis Vanderlind
David Varner
The Rev. William Whiting

Those in Military Service

Col. Timothy Brower, Sr. USA
HC. Yamar Chivis USN
Henry Dykema, USNG
Cpt. Nathan Gaggin, USAF
Col. Gabriel Monsalvo, USMC
Lt. Col. Todd Murray, USAF
1st Sgt. Deidre Piechocki, USA

Discernment for Ordained Ministry

Rachel Ravellette
Cathy Stevens

Homebound Parishioners

Sue Allen
Gertrude DeAguire
Nita and Chuck DeGraaf
John Gracki
Irene Haizman
Mary Rollins
Irene Savara
Shari Takus
Shirley VanDerBos
Roma Warmington
John Wells
Jean Zylstra

Officers of the Vestry

Nancy Dodge, Senior Warden
Dawn Buller, Junior Warden
Brian Topolewski, Clerk
Marc Vander Velde, Treasurer

Members of the Vestry

Kate Dykema
Judy Freeman
Joshua Gonzales
Chuck Hoyt
Gloria Lara
Jon Anderson
Amy Richards-Duncan
Mike Armour