

# **The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

## ***Eucharist for All Ages at 10:30***

### **September 17, 2023**

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (in-person and live-streamed)



#### **History**

Serving God and God's people since 1836 and worshipping in this Sanctuary since 1848.

#### **Mission**

We are an inclusive community of faith, reflecting Christ's love, ministering to all who hunger in body, mind and spirit.

#### **Vision**

Our strength as a faith community depends on our inner vitality, inclusive welcome, and outward action. Grounded in these values, we continue our strong tradition of liturgical worship and education for all ages. We advocate for justice, serving those in need.

#### **Statement of Inclusion**

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is a growing, welcoming, and affirming community of faith in a vibrant urban community. In our worship and in our service to the community, we proclaim that all people are worthy of God's love. We celebrate and uphold the dignity of all people whose ethnicity, cultural heritage, and denominational traditions are examples and celebrations of God's love. We welcome visitors and parishioners from all social, political, and educational backgrounds, and all abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities. We affirm all people and celebrate diversity, as we work to fulfill God's love for all people as a community of faith.

### **St. Mark's Episcopal Church**

**134 N. Division Ave  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
[www.stmarksgr.org](http://www.stmarksgr.org)  
616.456.1684**

## Welcome to 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, 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.

**Church Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday— 9 a.m. to noon.**

**Reserved Spaces for Those in Need:** Note, there are three designated spaces for those in need, two in the north transept and one on the north side of the nave. Please, leave those spaces available and the adjoining pews for family members.

**Safety:** The outer 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. Please, pay attention to the nearest exit in the Sanctuary. An announcement will be made in case of an emergency. Children will be ushered out of the building to a designated place for safety away from the Church complex.

**Parking on Sundays:** Limited parking is available in the Parish Lot. If you are an able-bodied person, please, consider not parking in the Parish Lot to enable those less mobile more parking potential. 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: Vouchers for free parking on Sundays and to exit are available from an Usher, a Greeter or on the Resource Table in the north transept. A white voucher is required and must accompany the original parking ticket in order to exit the Ionia Lot.

**Rest Rooms** are located on the main level of the Parish House under the exit sign at the top of the Foyer ramp. Additional rest rooms are located on the second level of the Parish House; those able to use stairs are encouraged to reserve main-floor restrooms for others.

**Weekly Worship and Prayer at St. Mark's:** Eucharist on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Midweek Eucharist on Wednesdays at noon from September through May. Compline (Night Prayer) on Mondays and Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. via Facebook live. All are always welcome!

**Children's Ministry:** Sundays, we offer children's formation during 10:30 services. This includes formation, nursery care and church school. Please contact Evan Knill, Director of Children's Ministry at [evank@stmarksgr.org](mailto:evank@stmarksgr.org).

**Youth Ministry: 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 regular formation gatherings during the school year and service as well as social activities throughout the year. Please contact our Director of Youth Ministry, Jeff Brown, for more information: [jeffatgrey@gmail.com](mailto:jeffatgrey@gmail.com).

**Adult Formation Ministry:** *Adult Forums* are offered on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings at different times of the year. Seasonal *Saturday Retreats* for adults are offered by the Rector. *Episcopal 101: An Inquirer's Journey* is offered yearly for adults especially those seeking Confirmation, Reception into the Episcopal Church or to Reaffirm one's faith. A multi-year seminar, *Education for Ministry* (EFM), is offered during the program year. Please, contact Doug Karsen for more information at [karsencd@gmail.com](mailto:karsencd@gmail.com). A *Book Study* is offered for adults.

**Breakfast Café Ministry:** A program to nourish our neighbors with a hot meal, is at 8:15 a.m. every Saturday. If you would like more information and to possibly volunteer, please contact Judy Freeman at [judyfw@comcast.net](mailto:judyfw@comcast.net).

**Land Acknowledgment:** St. Mark's recognizes that our property sits on land of the indigenous people of the Three Fires. It is our privilege to occupy this land while recognizing and acknowledging with sadness the deep wounds created many years ago by our forebears.

St. Mark's eNews: For the fullest expression of St. Marks' activities, see the weekly eNews in your email or our website.

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

### St. Mark's Full-Time\* and Part-Time Staff

The Rev. David Blank, Interim Rector*	Pam Stevenson, Finance Manager*	Mike Armour, Operations Manager
The Rev. Susan York, Associate Rector	Kate Assarian, Administrative Associate*	Ronnie Hammond, Sexton
The Rev. Jan Gockerman, Deacon	Dr. Gregory Crowell, Director of Music	Craig Mosley, Sexton Associate, Video
	Evan Knill, Director, Children's Ministry	Doris Molina, Weekend Sexton
	Jeff Brown, Director of Youth Ministry	Jamie Interial, Security Representative
	Alexis VanZalen, Organ Scholar	Eric Gable, Webmaster

# The Gathering of the People

Prelude — Evening in the Village

Rowan Kozminski, piano

Béla Bartók

Welcome and Greeting — *Lector I*

Gathering Hymn — Blue Hymnal No. 400: All Creatures of Our God and King, vv. 1-4 *Lasst uns erfreuen*

## Prayer of Invocation

*Presider I:* † Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All:** And blessed be God's reign now and forever. Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

*Presider II:* Let us confess our faults and admit our frailty. (*A pause is observed 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 II:* † May God forgive us, Christ renew us, and the Spirit enable us to grow in love. Amen.

*Presider I:* Let us offer praise to God.

Gloria (*Spoken at 8:00 a.m. and sung at 10:30 a.m.*)

Frank E. White

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace — to his peo - ple on  
earth. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the  
Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have  
mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our  
prayer, For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, — you a - lone — are the Lord, you a -  
lone are the Most — High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
glo - ry of God — the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Collect of the Day

*Presider II:* God be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

*Presider II:* Let us pray.

O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness we so often fail to care rightly for your Creation, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may soften and unite our hearts with all living beings who suffer; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### The Hebrew Reading

*Genesis 50:15-21*

*Lector I:* A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves."

But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 103: 8-13

*Legem pone*

*(Prayed responsively by half verse at 8:00 a.m.; chanted by the choir with antiphon repeated by all at 10:30 a.m.)*

The Lord is full of com - pas - sion and mer - cy,  
slow to an - ger and of great kind - ness.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
**slow to anger and of great kindness.**

He will not always accuse us, \*  
**nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
**nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

### *Antiphon*

For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
**so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

As far as the east is from the west, \*  
**so far has he removed our sins from us.**

As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

*Antiphon*

**The Christian Reading**

*Romans 14:1-12*

*Lector II:* A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel Hymn — Blue Hymnal No. 405: All Things Bright and Beautiful**

*Royal Oak*

**The Gospel**

*Matthew 18:21-35*

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

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

*Gospeler:* The Gospel of Christ.

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

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 a 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**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Lector II:* O God, fill us with the presence of your great compassion for us, for all those in need, and those for whom we have promised to pray, especially remembering those on our Parish Prayer List found in the bulletin. We pray for those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries. We pray:

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

*Lector I:* O God, bless our leaders of the Church with wisdom and grace: Michael, Presiding Bishop; Bonnie and Rayford, Bishops of Michigan and Northern Michigan; Moises, Bishop of the Dominican Republic and Craig, ELCA Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. We pray:

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

*Lector II:* O God, bless our brothers and sisters in the Western and Eastern Dioceses of Michigan: the Standing Committees of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan; St. James of Cheboygan and its Priest-in-Charge, Lewis Crusoe; Plainsong Farm of Rockford and its Executive Director, Nurya Love Parish. We remember the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean. 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. Give us grace to do all we can to protect and preserve your 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. We pray:

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

*Lector I:* O God, we pray for those who have died and those who will die this day unremarked or unattended. May they rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them.

*(A pause is observed while additional prayers are offered.)* We pray:

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

*Lector II:* Let us offer additional prayers, either silently or aloud.

*(A pause is observed while additional prayers are offered.)* We pray:

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

*Presider II:* O God, hear our prayers, and kindle within our hearts a flame of love for our neighbors, our foes, our friends, our kindred all.

*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 I:* With respect, let us offer one another a sign of that peace.

### **Announcements**

## **The Liturgy of the Table**

**Reception of Gifts** — Please know that your monetary support is needed and very important. Electronic giving options are listed near the end of the bulletin. Please be as generous as you are able.

**Offertory Music:** Jesus Is My Heart's Delight

*J.S. Bach*

**The Doxology** (*Spoken at 8:00 a.m. and sung at 10:30 a.m.*)



With grat-i-tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to God to serve God's cause and  
share God's love at home, at work, a - broad. O God, who gave us Je - sus Christ, your  
own be-lov-ed Son, help us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

### **The Invitation**

*Presider I:* Friends in Christ, 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.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Presider I:* Eternal Triune God, Source of all being, we give you thanks and praise for your faithful love. You call us into friendship with you and one another, to be your holy people, a sign of your presence in the world.

Loving God, through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of these gifts, and in all creation.

We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared through the centuries and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Therefore, we raise our voices, forever praising you and saying:

### Sanctus *(Spoken or Sung)*

*William Matthias*

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.  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

*Presider I:* Blessed are you, most Holy, in Jesus Christ, who came among us as a servant and a friend to reconcile us to yourself. We thank you for that life of love, the good news of your reign, and the promise of a banquet where all your children will be free.

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

**All: we worship and adore you.**

On the night before he died, your Son, Jesus, took bread; he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said, take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you; do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

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

**All: we worship and adore you.**

Therefore, loving God, recalling now Christ's death and resurrection, we ask you to accept this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. †Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine and upon us, that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son and be filled with your life and goodness. †Strengthen us to do your work, and to be your body in the world. Unite us in Christ and give us your peace.



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

**All: we worship and adore you.**

Through Christ our Redeemer, in the power of the Spirit, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise. Blessing, honor and glory be yours, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Presider I:* In whichever language or version you prefer, let us pray the words that Jesus has given us.

(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 dia, 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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread** (*Spoken or Sung*)

*David Hurd*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant\_\_\_\_\_ us peace.

*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.**

***Instruction for Receiving Communion:*** All are invited to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Jesus. Following the distribution of consecrated bread, an intinction cup of consecrated wine is available. Gluten-free consecrated bread is also available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward with hands crossed over your chest. Please follow the Ushers' direction to the communion rail and fill in from right to left. All are welcome at the Table of the Lord.

**Healing Prayer:** When a healing minister is present in the South Transept, a brief and simple healing prayer is offered to anyone who would like a prayer.

**Post-Communion Chant** (*Sung three times at 10:30 a.m.*)



**Post-Communion Prayer**

*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.**

**The 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 390: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

*Lobe den Herren*

**The Sending Forth**

*Deacon:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**



**The Postlude — Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

*Jan Bender*

*Thank you for being with us today. We are all invited to participate in the St. Mark's tradition to remain seated until the postlude has ended and the candles extinguished. Then, join us in the Parish Hall for further fellowship at our annual parish picnic. Thank you.*

*The 10:30 a.m. Service is live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube and can be found at [www.stmarksgr.org](http://www.stmarksgr.org) and on YouTube.*

**Offerings and Multiple Ways to Give to St. Mark's**

- 1) Place check or cash in the offering plate
- 2) Electronic giving (email [pams@stmarksgr.org](mailto:pams@stmarksgr.org))
- 3) Vanco Mobile App from any mobile device 
- 4) Pay by text – text 616-205-9714 from your phone to send a payment
- 5) Mobile 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](http://www.stmarksgr.org) through PayPal
- 8) Remember St. Mark's in your Estate Planning (A brochure is available at the Welcome Desk)
- 9) Gifts or Transfer of Stock

<b>Total Budget for 2023:</b>	\$788,329	Income needed per week for operations:	\$15,160
Pledged Amount for 2023:	\$530,654	Collection online & in-person received:	\$ 6,194
Pledges Received for 2023:	\$360,717		

All gifts received are much needed and appreciated. Please know that additional pledges can be received at any time. Feel free to contact our Finance Manager Pam Stevenson or our Treasurer Marc Vander Velde with questions.

## The St. Mark's Prayer List

### The Sick and Other Needs

Juan M. Almonte	Kathryn Marmion
The Ash Family	Rob Marmion
Jen Baker	Laura Maslonka
The Bedford Family	Chris McClain
Chuck Bocskey	Goebbert-McIntire family
Haleigh Brown	Kristen Milke
Linda and Doug Busman	John Oatley
Judy Coby	Rev. David Pike
Bishop M. Curry	Jeanne Reale
Anthony DeMello	Cat Rogg
Apiew Garang	Petra Rozinska
Ruth Hammond	Mary Rollins
Brad Helder	Steve Sandel
Michael Joshua	Larry and Sandie Snellink
Jennifer Julius	Jeff Streberger
Cathy Karsen	Craig Timm
Tom Klein	Pam Todd
Mary Knill	Tony Tran
Nelson Knill	Mother Sue York
Anais Laurent	Jean Zylstra
George Linde	Iker Oliveros Espinoza and the East Leonard Elementary School community
Jim Lozer	

### Discernment for Ordained Ministry

Rachel Ravellette

### Inbound Parishioners

Sue Allen  
Susan Andrews  
Nita DeGraaf  
John Gracki  
Irene Haizman  
John and Jennifer Oatley  
Mary Rollins  
Irene Savara  
Roma Warmington  
Jean Zylstra

### In Military Service

Col. Timothy Brower, Sr. USA  
Henry Dykema, USNG  
Cpt. Nathan Gaggin, USAF  
Col. Gabriel Monsalvo, USMC  
Lt. Col. Todd Murray, USAF  
1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Deidre Piechocki, USA

### Postulancy

Cathy Stevens

### Members of the Vestry

Dawn Buller, Sr Warden  
Chuck Hoyt, Jr Warden  
Marc Vander Velde, Treasurer  
Brian Topolewski, Clerk  
Jon Anderson  
Judy Freeman  
Joshua Gonzales  
Laura Kozminski  
Gloria Lara  
Penny Larsen

Dan McDonald

Amy Richards-Duncan

### Search Committee

Bob Brower  
Doug Busman  
Nancy Dodge  
  
Karen Hunter  
Penny Larson  
Shawn Miller  
Heather Tafel

Darren Walhof

Jackie Yam

**Prayer for the Transition:** Holy Spirit of God, so many come to our Parish for a sense of home. The consistency and constancy of our community provides a special peace, a haven. Now, our Parish family faces a change which may be frightening or discomfoting. We ask for calm and an openness to hear every voice. May we remind ourselves and one another: We are in God's hands. We ask for Shalom—balance, patience and peace. May we find our hearts strangely warmed by this process. May we find strength, joy and endurance. Amen. ~*Laura Kozminski*

## Important Parish Notes

**Welcome!** Guests, please sign the guest book. To receive the eNews or become a member of the St. Mark's Family in Faith, fill out a Welcome Desk contact card or reach out to Kate at the front office.

**Eucharist for All Ages, Today:** Our 10:30 a.m. worship involves as many children and youth as possible in roles traditionally held by adults. We value them and their offering of their gifts to all of us.

**Annual Parish Picnic Today!** Everyone is warmly invited to attend. If you did not bring a dish to pass and wish to contribute, clean-up help is always appreciated and is a great way to get to know each other.

**Season of Creation:** Between the September 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Prayer for Creation and the October 4<sup>th</sup> Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Mark's joins a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer and action for our common home. Listen for the focus on environmental stewardship in the Collect and other messages.

**Join us for the Mid-week Eucharist Service on Wednesdays at noon, in St. Mary's Chapel.**

### Adult Formation Offerings for the Fall:

Sunday mornings at 9:10 a.m.:

- Video series study of the Book of Revelations, 5 weeks, September 24<sup>th</sup> –October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Advent Preparation study, 3 weeks, November 5<sup>th</sup> –19<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m.:

- Study on Spiritual Gifts, 3 weeks, September 20<sup>th</sup> –October 4<sup>th</sup>
- Series on Difficult Life Situations (framework, homelessness, aging, death and dying), 4 weeks, October 11<sup>th</sup> –November 1<sup>st</sup>
- Series About Prayer (what is it, is it real, how to), 2 weeks, from November 8<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup>

All are welcome and encouraged to participate. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or simply come.

**Spiritual Gifts Series Begins this Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m.** The gifts of the Spirit are found in three of Paul's epistles (Romans, 1 Corinthians and Ephesians). They are given by God to equip the people for serving with Christ on his mission in the world. Join this 3-week series, led by Steve Manskar, to explore the teachings on spiritual gifts and examine your own spiritual callings.

**Calling All Tutors for East Leonard School: Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** Principal Hersberger requests all St. Mark's volunteers to meet with her at the school at 410 Barnett St. NE. Your presence makes a difference! Tutors go to the school on average one hour per week and work with a child in grades K–5. Outcomes of this time are developing a positive and trusting relationship with the child, while teaching vocabulary through meaningful conversation. Email Judy Freeman, judyfw@comcast.net, for information.

**Announcing Our New Campus Ministry Partnership:** Beginning next week, St. Mark's will open its doors to local Kendall and GRCC students for a weekly lunch in partnership with United Campus Christian Fellowship (UCCF). Students are invited into our Parish Hall between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Wednesdays for a free meal and fellowship. They will be invited to attend our Mid-week Eucharist. UCCF is led by Pastor Kate Van Valkenburg and includes local Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, UCC and (now) Episcopal churches. If you know a student, encourage them to attend! It is an open, affirming and safe place to explore faith or simply get a meal. To help with this ministry, contact laurakozminski@gmail.com.

**Sharing the Bounty, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1:00–3:00 p.m.** This fundraiser for the Westminster Food Pantry and St. Mark's Breakfast Cafe features a guided 1.75 mile walking tour of historically significant Heartside buildings and murals led by resident Daniel Drent. It will be wheelchair and stroller accessible and have porta potty access. Walkers are encouraged to get pledges for this vital fundraiser. Get your sign up packet from the Welcome Desk on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> or from the special table during the social hour on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend or pledge! ~Sue Poll

**Keeping Up with Together West Michigan (TWM): Good News and Two Calls to Action.** After five months of work by TWM on the childcare crisis, The Kent County Commission is considering a proposal to let voters decide to expand the Ready by 5 Early Childhood Education Millage in 2024! To get this on the ballot, your County Commissioners need to hear from you. **1.** Call or write. See the eNews to find contact information and sample letters. **2.** Rally as many folks as you can to the October 7<sup>th</sup> TWM Delegates Assembly, 10 a.m. at Calvin Christian Reformed Church, 700 Ethel Ave SE. Our power in numbers will help secure support from local officials at the event.

**Changes in St. Mark's Outreach to Our Unhoused Neighbors:** For over 15 years, St. Mark's has hosted Spa Days for the downtown homeless community. To match needs, the Outreach Committee is redirecting Spa Days resources to the growing number of Breakfast Cafe folks at our church door each Saturday. In addition to a delicious hot breakfast, neighbors may receive weekly clothing and toiletries, as well as monthly haircuts, exams by medical students and a concert by members of the Grand Rapids Symphony Musicians Association. *Opportunities to serve:*

- Consider a monetary gift. The quarterly special collection for Breakfast Café is coming up next week.
- Join the 'St. Markers' and other volunteers weekly, monthly or on holidays. (To help in the kitchen, contact Judy Freeman. To distribute clothing or provide care, contact Sharon Bossemeyer or Sue York.)
- Place clothing donations in the cloak room: hotel-sized toiletries, packs of new socks and underwear, and gently used jeans, sweatshirts, tshirts, shoes, bath towels and knapsack or duffel bags.

**Other Upcoming Events:** September 17 Pinball Land G.R.E.Y. (Youth) Event, 6-8 p.m.