

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025
8:00 and 10:30 a.m.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
134 N. Division Ave
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
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 Information packed from a welcome folder inside the lobby podium.

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

Weather Policy: St. Mark's will post closures to WZZM 13, WOOD TV8, Facebook and our website by 7:00 a.m. or as soon as possible. The decision on afternoon and evening activities will be made separately, posted by noon.

Reserved Accessible Spaces: There are three shorter pews, two in the north transept and one on the north side of the nave. Please only sit there or in the adjoining pews if you have assistive devices or need of extra space.

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. Please pay attention to the nearest exit in the Sanctuary. In an emergency, an announcement will be made and children will be ushered 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 able, please consider not parking in the Parish Lot to reserve access for those less mobile. Consider the free metered parking on Pearl, Ionia, Lyon, Fountain and other streets near the church, the Kendall Lot across the street when the gate is up, the upper levels of the GRCC building on Fountain Street (only until 2 p.m.), and the Ellis Parking Lot at 210 Ionia just west of Lyon Street. For the Ellis Lot: vouchers for free parking on Sundays are available from an Usher (must be used with original parking ticket).

Rest Rooms are located on the main level of the Parish House under the exit sign at the top of the Foyer ramp. More rest rooms are available on the second level of the Parish House, if you are able to use the stairs.

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 at 8:00 p.m. via Facebook.

Sunday School: We offer children's and youth formation, including Make a Joyful Noise with Mr. Alex, from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Nursery care for children under kindergarten is available from 9:15 a.m. through the 10:30 a.m. Service. For more information please contact Jeff Brown, Director of Faith Formation, at jeffb@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 grades 6-12. We have regular formation gatherings during the school year and service as well as social activities throughout the year. Our Director of Faith Formation is Jeff Brown, jeffatgrey@gmail.com.

Adult Formation Ministry: *Adult Forums* are offered on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings at different times of the year. *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: contact Doug Karsen for more information at karsencd@gmail.com.

Breakfast Café Ministry: A program to nourish our neighbors with a hot meal every Saturday at 8:15 a.m.. If you would like more information and to possibly volunteer, please contact Judy Freeman at 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.

eNews: For the fullest expression of St. Marks' activities, get the weekly eNews in your email or from our homepage.

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

St. Mark's Staff

The Rev. David Blank, Interim Rector
The Rev. Jan Gockerman, Deacon

Pam Stevenson, Finance Manager
Kate Assarian, Administrative Associate
Dr. Gregory Crowell, Director of Music
Jeff Brown, Director of Faith Formation
Alexis VanZalen, Organ Scholar

Mike Armour, Operations Manager
Ronnie Hammond, Sexton
Craig Mosley, Sexton Associate, Video
Marquice Jackson, Weekend Sexton
Jamie Interrial, Security Representative
Eric Gable, Webmaster

The Gathering of the People

Prelude — Variations on “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Benjamin Carr

Introit — Sing Alleluia!

R.B. Farlee

Welcome

Gathering Hymn — Blue Hymnal No. 366, vv. 1–4: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Grosser Gott

Salutation for the Easter Season

Presider: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Presider: Let us pray:

People: **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**

Gloria (*Bells ringing.*)

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace— to his peo-ple on
earth. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al - might-ty 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

Deacon: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Deacon: Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading (*You may sit.*)

Acts 9:36-43

Lector I: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

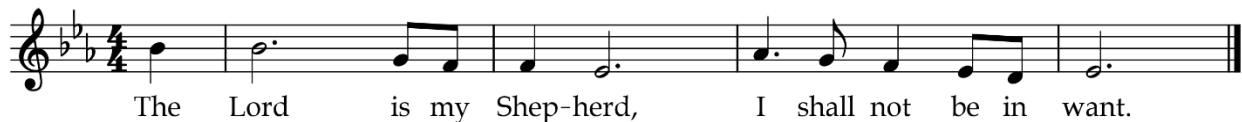
Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

(Prayed responsively by half verse at 8 a.m. Antiphon intoned by the choir and repeated by all at 10:30 a.m.)



The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures *

and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Antiphon

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

Antiphon

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Antiphon

The Second Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

Lector II: A Reading from the Book of Revelation.

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn — Blue Hymnal No. 478, vv. 1–2: Jesus, Our Mighty Lord (*continues after Gospel*) *Monk's Gate*

The Gospel

John 10:22-30

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Deacon: The Gospel of Christ.

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

Gospel Hymn (continued) — Blue Hymnal No. 478, vv. 3: Jesus, Our Mighty Lord

Monk's Gate

Homily (*You may sit.*)

The Rev. David Blank, Interim Rector

The Nicene Creed

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 he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 (*You may stand.*)

Lector I: As we celebrate this Season of Easter, we ask God to hear our prayers with our response: O God, hear us. During the periods of silence I invite you to add additional prayers either silently or aloud.

O God: We pray in thanksgiving for all those gathered here today. We pray for St. Mark's and our many ministries. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons: Sean, Presiding Bishop; the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes; 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; St. Paul's of Harsens Island and its Senior Warden, Kathy Harrison; St. John's of Grand Haven and its Rector, Jared Cramer; the Order of Naucratius. We remember the Anglican Church of Japan. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

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

Lector II: For the good earth which God has entrusted to us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: For the poor and the oppressed, the unemployed, the homeless, refugees and for all who seek a better way of life. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: For those who suffer from any grief or trouble. Give us grace to respond to the needs of those in distress, especially those who suffer because of hatred, racism, bigotry, violence and war. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: For our newly-called rector and family, in this season of new life for our St. Mark's community. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: For those who celebrate birthdays or anniversaries this week. Bless them with joy and well-being. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: For all those on our Parish Prayer List, our military personnel, the sick, all those for whom we have promised to pray and those we now name silently or aloud. (*Pause to add additional names silently or aloud.*) We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection. May they rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them. (*Pause to add additional names.*) We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: For what else or whom else shall we pray today? (*Pause.*) We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Deacon: For all these prayers we have named aloud and those which lie deep within our hearts. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

The Confession of Sin

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Presider and People: **Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Absolution

Presider: †Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider: May the peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.

People: And always with you.

Presider: Respectfully, let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Announcements

Mother’s Day Prayer

The Liturgy of the Table

Reception of Gifts

Offertory Music — The God of Love My Shepherd Is

Roy Hopp

Presentation Hymn

O Je - sus, King of gen - tle-ness, do you your-self our hearts pos-sess that
we may give you all our days the will - ing tri - bute of our praise.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I (BCP)

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Presider: It is a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Presider: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. †Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

†Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

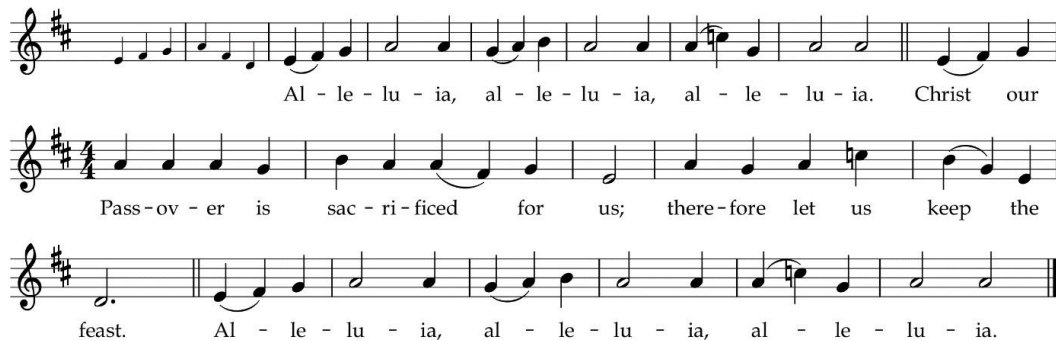
Presider: Let us pray the Lord's Prayer in whichever language or version you prefer.

(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 estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre; Venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy el pan de este día y perdona nuestras deudas, como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores y no nos dejes caer en la tentación mas libranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Reception of the Sacrament



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our
Pass - ov - er 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.

People: **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 Holy Communion which contains both consecrated bread and wine. An intinction cup with consecrated wine is available. Gluten-free consecrated bread without wine is also available upon request. Please follow the guide of the Ushers to receive the Sacrament at the communion rail by filling in from right to left. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your hands over your chest. All are welcome at the Table of the Lord.

Healing Prayer: *When present in the South Transept, healing ministers offer a brief and simple prayer.*

Communion Hymn — Blue Hymnal No. 663: The Lord My God

Crimond

Post-Communion Prayer (*You may stand.*)

Presider: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Holy God, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Solemn Easter Blessing

Presider: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us children through the resurrection of the Son, Jesus, the Christ, bestow upon us the riches of Christ's blessing. **Amen. Alleluia!**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make us holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen. Alleluia!**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring us to our eternal inheritance. **Amen. Alleluia!**

†And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us forever. **Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Hymn of Sending Forth — Blue Hymnal No. 522: Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Austria

Sending Forth

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Postlude — Allegro maestoso

Eugene Thayer

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

The St. Mark's Prayer List

Contact the church office to add names to the prayer list. Names may be removed after one month unless requested.

The Sick and Other Needs

Alissa Almonte
Dave Atkinson
Jayne Austin
Sally Bowie
Christopher Brewer
Ed Cox
Cullen Davies
Ellyn Davies
Derby Family
Terry Dusendang
Margaret Lara
David Leach
Kathryn Marmion
Laura Maslonka
Jackie McCarthy
Chris McClain
Jean McCormick
Carmela McIntire
Goebbert-McIntire Family
Bill Nasser
Ed Nicholson
Marilyn and Ron Oom
Joe Pinto
Linda Radke
Chris Reale
Michael Reale, Sr.
Julie Renauldo
Bea Rocco
Javier Ronquillo
Beverly Roye
Dan Scripsema
Meghan VanderMale

Sue Allen
Susan Andrews
Nita DeGraaf
John Gracki
Jennifer Julius
Mary Rollins
Irene Savara

In Military Service

B.G. Timothy Brower, Sr. USA
PV2. Cailen Donahue McLea, USA
Spc. Henry Dykema, ARNG
Cpt. Nathan Gaggin, USAF
Col. Todd Murray, USAF
2LT. John Nicholson, USA

Members of the Vestry

Ben Busman, Sr. Warden
Judy Freeman, Jr. Warden
Emily Krueger, Clerk
Gloria Lara, Treasurer
Steve Bell
Scot Gugle
Laura Kozminski
Penny Larsen
Dan McDonald
Carmela McIntire
Rex Miller
Michael Reale

Search Committee

Bob Brower
Doug Busman
Nancy Dodge
Karen Hunter
Carmela McIntire
Shawn Miller
Heather Tafel
Darren Walhof
Tom Woudstra,
Chaplain

Postulant for Holy Orders

Thon Deng

Candidate for Holy Orders

Cathy Stevens

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

Place check or cash in the offering plate

Electronic giving (email pams@stmarksgr.org)

Vanco Mobile App from any mobile device:



Pay by text – text 616-205-9714 from your phone to send a payment

Mobile App Square Cash – Cashtag: \$stmarksgr Web address: [cash.me/\\$stmarksgr](https://cash.me/$stmarksgr)




Mail a check to the church

Online at our website at www.stmarksgr.org through PayPal

Remember St. Mark's in your estate planning (A brochure is available at the Welcome Desk.)

Gifts or transfer of stock

Church Spotlight: Vestry Rector Search Update

We expect to be able to announce details about our called rector today at both Services. The news will then be published in a special eNews to our members and subscribers on Monday. 

Our search is over! Saint Mark's has signed a Letter Of Agreement with our next Rector, and the Vestry could not be more excited! We want to extend so much gratitude to our Search Committee who worked tirelessly to bring us amazing candidates. We also appreciate all the prayers offered to support our Discernment process.

We are working with our Diocesan partners on making a formal announcement that will occur in coordination between our congregation and the incoming Rector's current congregation. This is why we ask all personal identifying information to be kept confidential until the formal announcement is made in the near future. We ask for everyone's help in this.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Father David Blank for his time as our interim Rector. His leadership and spiritual guidance during our time of transition allowed Saint Mark's to remain a thriving community of Episcopal Faith. He will surely be missed! His final Sunday will be June 8th and final day in the office will be June 12th. Please join us in expressing our gratitude and thanks for his service to Saint Marks.
Thank you, *Saint Mark's Vestry*

Parish Notes

Welcome! Guests, please sign the book in the front lobby. Fill out the new parishioner information sheet (in the lobby podium) to get name tags, receive weekly eNews or officially join the St. Mark's Family in Faith.

Confirmation and Reception: This Saturday four of our participants from the recent Episcopal 101 course were confirmed or received into the Episcopal faith at Sudanese Grace Church. Join us in celebrating Jon Hiskes, Jake Solomon and Bryan and Catherine Molloseau! We also recognize all members of the Episcopal 101 cohort for their dedication to and spiritual growth during the study: Madison Crume, Joe Granger and John LoPorto, Jessica and Josh Harris, Jeff and Stacey Martin, Madeleine Snella and Erik Westenbroek-Alar.

Carnations in Honor of Mother's Day will be available after the Services for anyone who would like one—whether you are someone who mothers others, in remembrance of those who have mothered you or in celebration of Mother Earth and the loving parent we have in God. For those of us experiencing grief, loss or exhaustion this Mother's Day, may we find comfort in knowing that we are not alone in those feelings, either.

Social Hour Hosts Welcomed: Thank you to everyone who signed up to host our summer Social Hours. Several spaces remain, if you are interested in bringing refreshments (reimbursable up to \$75 with receipts) for either Service and/or serving the food and overseeing hospitality for the gathering after the 10:30 a.m. Service.

Weekend Sextons: We wish our regular weekend sexton Marquice well during a medical leave expected to last about five more weeks. If you haven't already, please welcome our temporary weekend sexton Cristian, who goes by "C". C has finished training with Ronnie and has already been a great help around the church.

Book Swap, May 18th! Parish Life is hosting another book swap for all ages. A table will be set up in the Parish Hall before the Social Hours. Please bring up to the maximum of three books (of any genre) to share with other readers in our community. Feel free to take one or more books home with you.

Memorial Day – Nursery Care will be available on May 25th, but Sunday School will not, due to historical low attendance. The church office will be closed on Monday the 26th.

Graduate Recognition & Celebration, June 1st: -Calling all Graduates! By Wednesday, May 21st, please get Kate and Jeff your graduate's name, grade level, the school they attended, and if they will attend a different school. Graduation recognition will take place during the 10:30 a.m. Service and Social Hour. We'd love to recognize those heading to middle school, high school, college, and those graduating with advanced degrees.

Baptisms at Pentecost, June 8th: We are delighted to have two candidates for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. The next opportunity will be All Saints' Day in November. Contact Fr. David, davidb@stmarksgr.org, if you have a candidate of any age considering Baptism before the fall.