

ST. MARK'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PARISH LIFE HANDBOOK

2018-2019



WWW.STMARKS-SA.ORG

From the Rector - A Question of Identity

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer."
- Romans 12:12

One of my wonderful past senior wardens, Cathy Dawson, once said to me, "Every priest has some theme they always talk about. Yours is community." I've reflected on that quite a bit since she said it several years ago, and it is definitely accurate. I spend a lot of time thinking and praying for the St. Mark's community, trying to listen to where I think God is calling us, enjoying the rhythms of our corporate and communal life.

All of us have many competing claims in our life and many competing communities that call upon our time and energy. My hope for the people of St. Mark's is that our parish is a community that is both nurturing and challenging. I trust it is a place where we can gather and be nurtured in our love of God. And I hope it is also a place where we are challenged to grow more into fully living out our baptismal identity. Ultimately, our journey as Christians should make a difference in every other aspect of our lives. How we are in our families, how we participate in civic life, and how we discern our generosity.

This Parish Life Handbook is meant to be a guide for all the many ways you can be nurtured and challenged in the coming years. Whether it is committing to a weekly bible study, participating in a new outreach activity, joining a guild, or attending a Quiet Day for the first time; there are daily and weekly opportunities to choose a way of life that will undergird the relationships of your life.

We will be welcoming our new Organist and Choirmaster, Jon Johnson this program year, and looking for a new Associate Rector as we bid The Rev. Carol Morehead goodbye. New staff bring new opportunities and fresh eyes to our community. We will welcome new families and members as well. Be on the lookout for ways in which we can offer hospitality and connection to those who are looking for a church home. Better yet, invite someone to come with you!

We also have some exciting opportunities to reflect on our identity as a community in the coming year. We will celebrate our 160th anniversary with a Founder's Day celebration on October 14. We can give thanks for all those who have come before us and imagine our common future. Much like we did when I first arrived four years ago, we will gather in homes over the course of the year to reflect on what our hopes and dreams are for the parish as we live out our Core Vocation in the city.

And we will do the foundational acts of ministry that bind us together. We will worship with one another. We will learn and study. We will support one another in our suffering and rejoice in all that gives us hope and life. Take the time to look at what is planned for the coming year and commit to making this community one that claims you and forms you in the image of Jesus Christ.

Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, at this past summer's General Convention called us to form our lives in a rule of life that is a way of enacting love. He suggests we **turn** to follow Jesus, **learn** from scripture, **pray** intentionally, **worship** in community, **bless** others through service, **go** by crossing boundaries, and **rest** in the gift of God's grace. My hope is that St. Mark's gives each of us the resources we need to live this out.

Peace,



The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton



Services at St. Mark's

Sundays

Unless otherwise noted, each Sunday service of worship includes the Holy Eucharist, also called Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper, the principal act of worship on the Lord's Day. Both the Liturgy of Word and of Sacrament are included, along with a sermon and an opportunity for the faithful to receive Christ. Please check the website for seasonal variations.

7.45am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

The Rite I service meets in the church at 7.45am and is a spoken service (no music) using traditional language with an emphasis on reverence, penitence, and silence.

9.00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

9.00am Eucharist welcomes all, including families with children. See the Children's page for more information. Children's Chapel offers an opportunity for 3 yr olds through 3rd graders to experience the lessons in age-appropriate ways. This service is supported by our choirs.

11.15am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

11.15am Eucharist presents the splendor of the Christian faith in its most glorious Anglican fashion. Our music, prayers, and sermons draw upon the finest sources of our tradition. This service is supported by our choirs.

Weekday Services

Wednesday Holy Eucharist, Bethlehem Chapel

5.30pm

A simple spoken service, without a sermon. This service is preceded by Centering Prayer at 5.00pm in the Dean Richardson Room.

Thursday, Evening Prayer, Bethlehem Chapel

5.30pm

The Daily Office from the Book of Common Prayer.

Special Services

Weddings

A wedding is a joyful celebration of worship and praise when two lives are joined together in Christ in marriage. When considering a wedding at St. Mark's, it is essential to understand this occasion as a worship service, much like Sunday morning. If you are interested in pursuing a wedding at St. Mark's, visit the website and complete the Wedding Inquiry Form. A member of the clergy will be in touch with you.

Baptism

Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the Church (BCP, p. 298). At St. Mark's, we welcome people into the community of faith in this sacrament of inclusion. Baptisms are meant to happen in community; the days for Holy Baptism outlined in the Book of Common Prayer offers us the opportunity to both celebrate those being baptized and to renew our own baptismal covenant.

Baptism Preparation for parents and godparents will be the preceding day at 9.00am. If you would like to schedule a baptism, fill out a Baptismal Request Form on the St. Mark's website. After we receive the form, one of our clergy will contact you.

Available Dates:

2018

September 9 Homecoming Sunday
November 4 Feast of All Saints'

2019

January 6 Feast of the Baptism of our Lord
April 21 Easter Day at Easter Vigil Service
April 28 Feast of St. Mark
June 9 Pentecost
November 3 Feast of All Saints'

Funerals

Losing a loved one is a difficult time in a person's life. No one should face this time alone, and we are here to assist you in these difficult times. As Episcopalians, our understanding of death and funerals is shaped by the Book of Common Prayer. When a person is near death, the Minister of the Congregation should be notified, in order that the ministrations of the Church may be provided. It is appropriate that the family and friends come together for prayers prior to the funeral. Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church; the service should be held at a time when the congregation has opportunity to be present. The Funeral Service is for us, the living, to celebrate the life of our loved one who has died. The priest will officiate the service, which may include the reading of scripture from the Book of Common Prayer, hymns, a sermon, and a remembrance by a close friend or family member. If the body is not present for the service, a memorial service will be arranged.

We encourage members to pre-plan for their funeral service. If you would like to do so, please contact a member of the clergy and together we will explore the options for funerals and burial. We will keep these records on file at the church.

For more information, contact one of the St. Mark's clergy or email stmarks@stmarks-sa.org.

Sunday Mornings, Track 1: The Rector's Forum

"But Who Do You Say I Am?" - Luke 9:20

Christian Identity In An Increasingly Polarized World - The Rector's Forum 2018-2019

The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton, The Rev. Mary Earle, The Rev. Dr. John Lewis, and The Rev. Dr. Jane Patterson

"Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, 'Who do the crowds say that I am?' They answered, 'John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'"

- Luke 9:18-20

As followers of Jesus Christ, we believe that modeling our lives through our baptismal promises is a primary way we are formed as Christians. With so much division and polarization in our world, there can be a tendency to step away from practices that form us, and instead try to label and judge our identity in ways that do not allow for individual discernment and the particular expression each of us is called to offer to the world. This year we will explore in depth the promises we make and reaffirm in our baptismal covenant. The hope is that further reflection on these promises gives us a clearer understanding of who we are as Christians and why it makes a difference to us and our world. We will explore the history, theology, practices, and habits that help us to live a life that embodies an *"inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, and a spirit to know and love God, and receive the gift of joy and wonder in all God's works"* (adapted from the service of Holy Baptism, BCP p. 308).

Introduction: What is the Baptismal Covenant? Why renew it several times a year? How is it meant to inform our lives?

September 16

Part I: How do we continue in the apostles teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

September 23 - October 7

Part II: How do we persevere in resisting evil, and whenever we fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

October 21, 28, November 11, 18

Part III: How do we proclaim by word and example the Good News?

January 13 - 20

Part IV: How do we seek Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves?

January 27 - February 24

Part V: How do we strive for justice and peace?

March 3 - 31

Becoming A More Compassionate City - Faith in the City

The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton

May 5 and 12

Did you know that the City of San Antonio is a signatory to the Charter for Compassion? Using principles from the major faith traditions, it seeks to unite people of faith to increase our capacity to be compassionate. This two-week class will look at the charter for compassion and the principles we can incorporate into our own lives to become more compassionate individuals and civic participants. We will use the work of theologian and historian Karen Armstrong.

Sunday Mornings, Track 2
“*But Who Do You Say I Am?*” - Luke 9:20

RISING STRONG: Transformation After Falling

The Rev. Matthew Wise

Class meets: September 16 - October 7

Since her book *Daring Greatly* was published, Brené Brown and her team have received emails every week from people who write, “I dared greatly. I was brave. I got my butt kicked and now I’m down for the count. How do I get back up?” What do the women and men who have successfully staggered to their feet after having fallen and found the courage to try again have in common? Using Brown’s book *Rising Strong* as a launch pad, this introductory four-week class will explore the process of regaining our footing in the midst of struggle. We will reckon with our emotions. We will rumble with our stories. We will practice this process until it becomes nothing short of a revolution in our lives.

Wrestling with God

James Dennis, OP

Class meets: October 21, 28, November 11, 18

This four-week class will use Ron Rolheiser’s book *Wrestling with God* as a framework to look at and explore the fears and doubts that lead us away from knowing who Jesus is and who we are in Christ. The book “*offers a steady and inspiring voice to help us avow and understand our faith in a world where nothing seems solid or permanent. Drawing from his own life experience, as well as a storehouse of literary, psychological, and theological insights, he examines the fears and doubts that challenge us.*” The class will explore key themes from the book.

Planning for Life’s Seasons

Various members of St. Mark’s and Guests

Class meets: January 13 - February 24

In this class, we will look at a theology of life and of death and how that shapes our understandings of health and wellness. The eight week class will also include sessions on getting things in order at different life stages, medical directives, estate planning, death and dying, considerations for funerals, and an opportunity for asking questions of experts in these various areas.

An Altar In Your Heart – Lent 2019

James Dennis, OP, The Rev. Mary Earle, The Rev. Mary Margaret Mueller

March 10 - 31

This four week Lenten class will look at *An Altar In Your Heart: Meditations on the Jesus Prayer* by The Rt. Rev. Robert B. Hibbs. Using the Jesus Prayer as a framework for meditation, Hibbs invites us into a special Lenten discipline, allowing for a deepening in knowing Jesus as we continue to seek to know who we say Jesus is. In the 20th Anniversary Edition of the book, The Rev. Mary Earle writes, “*Twenty years after the first edition of this book, we live in a culture beset by distraction and phenomenally shallow life. As this fragmented, distressed version of the human psyche predominates, the Jesus Prayer offers us an alternative. As Bob points out, we come home to ourselves. Our truest selves. We come home to the fact of ever being in the loving presence of the Risen Christ, who holds our very cells in being. We come home to the awareness that there is no place where God is not. We come home to the stunning truth that we are never, ever alone, for the Risen Christ is the One in whom we live and move and have our being.*” This class will explore that invitation to come home again.

Worship Support

Acolytes

Youth acolytes, sixth grade and above, assist at the services. Training is offered at the beginning of each school year. Fifth graders will be trained as Torch Bearers in the spring. For information, contact Meredith Rogers at mrogers@stmarks-sa.org.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild sets the table for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist for services at St. Mark's and cleans up after the service. Members usually serve at one or two services per month. For information, contact Mike Duffey at rmduffey@gmail.com.

Baptism Guild

Baptism Guild members serve on the day of baptisms by greeting families, preparing baptismal records, and assisting the clergy. For information, contact Megan McPherson at mmcphe1975@aol.com.

Eucharistic Ministers

Also called chalice bearers, these licensed members administer the chalice during services. For information, contact James Dennis, OP at tiodennis@gmail.com.

Eucharistic Visitors

These licensed members take the Holy Communion from the Sunday services to those who are homebound. Training is required and offered each year. For information, contact The Rev. Matthew Wise at mwise@stmarks-sa.org.

Finance Count Teams

These teams are responsible for counting the offering from Sunday morning. Team members often discover a great opportunity for fellowship in this behind the scenes ministry. To volunteer, contact Priscilla Briones at pbriones@stmarks-sa.org.

Intercessors

These members lead the congregation in the Prayers of the People during the Sunday morning Eucharist. Training is required and offered each year. For information, contact James Dennis, OP at tiodennis@gmail.com.



Lectors

These members read the scriptural lessons at the Sunday services on a rotating basis. Training is required and offered each year. For information, contact James Dennis, OP at tiodennis@gmail.com.

Pastoral Care

Parishioners in need should contact a member of the clergy. For hospital visits or visits to the homebound, contact the clergy at stmarks@stmarks-sa.org.

**24 hour pastoral care
emergency phone
210-507-0256**

Ushers

Both men

and women serve on usher teams to greet and welcome members and visitors, distribute worship bulletins, assist in the seating of our worshippers, and be attentive to those who need assistance. During Holy Communion they assist people moving to and from the altar rail. Usher teams serve for a month at a time on a rotating basis, usually two months out of the year. Ushers are also needed at special services. For information, contact Craig Donegan at craig.donegan@gmail.com.

Wedding Guild

These members assist the clergy and families during the wedding rehearsal and ceremony. Members serve several times per year. For information, contact Jody Kelly at jkelly@globalimage.net.

Weekday Lay Readers

These confirmed members lead the Daily Office. For more information, contact The Rev. Matthew Wise at mwise@stmarks-sa.org.

During the Week Formation Offerings

Rector's Lectionary Morning Bible Study

Facilitated by The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton
Monday 7.00-8.00am
Gish Hall

Start your week with a study of the upcoming lectionary readings. Generally, we start with a reflection question and then read and study the upcoming gospel lesson for the next Sunday. Coffee is provided, and you may come as you are, whether that is in workout clothes, or professional attire. All are welcome beginning Monday, September 10. We end promptly at 8.

The Path: Reading the Bible Thematically

Facilitated by The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton
Wednesday 6.30-7.30pm
Dean Richardson Room

During the last Diocesan Council, we were encouraged by our Bishops to read the Bible in its entirety in the coming year. That can be an overwhelming task, especially for those who are newer to bible study. This year we will be using a resource published by Forward Movement called *The Path* which is a thematic approach to reading much of the bible. Using the actual text from the New Revised Standard Version, it is a way to engage major themes of scripture in a small group setting. This class is specifically intended for those who have not had much bible study in the past. It's a great continuation of our Adult Confirmation class and will provide a regular midweek opportunity to gather for reflection and conversation. To ensure we have adequate study materials available, please sign up by expressing your interest to Rachel Dugger at rdugger@stmarks-sa.org. The first class will be held on September 12.

Group Centering Prayer

Facilitated by The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton
Wednesday 5.00pm
Dean Richardson Room

This weekly offering is a time prior to the Wednesday Eucharist during which people can gather for quiet reflection as they center in prayer. Prayer time will last for 20 minutes.

Time Out Bible Study

Facilitated by The Rev. Matthew Wise
Thursday 10.00am-11.15am
Gish Hall

Class resumes this fall on September 13 and will run through December 6 and then in 2019 will run from January 10 through May 16. Please join us as we continue to study the Book of Genesis. No prior participation in the class is required. Childcare available.

Images of the Divine in Film

Facilitated by The Rev. Matthew Wise
October 12 and March 22 at 6.00pm
Youth Suite

God is often experienced in varied and unusual ways, and we often find images of the Holy in media and film. This class will be an experiential one in which we will share dinner, view films together, and discuss. We will meet twice during the program year on Friday nights. A wide variety of films will be a part of the curriculum, with the emphasis on images and experiences of the Holy.

Education for Ministry (EfM)

EfM classes will continue this year at St. Mark's. A unique four-year distance learning certificate program in theological education that uses seminar groups as its format, EfM helps the faithful encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and then apply it to their experiences of the world as they study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together. Two classes meet for 36 weeks from September through May. For more information about EfM, email stmarks@stmarks-sa.org.

Gifted Years Book Study

Tuesdays in October and March from 10.00-11.30am
Dean Richardson Room

Gifted Years will once again be exploring faith through a book study. All are welcome at this study aimed at anyone interested in reading and in group discussion for spiritual growth in connecting with the unchanging in a rapidly changing world. The year the group will read *The Shattered Lantern* by Ron Rolheiser. For more information, contact Lillian Morris or Lou Taylor.



St. Mark's Calendar

September

Sunday, 9/2		Last Sunday of Summer Schedule, no formation
Wednesday, 9/5	5.00pm	Daughters of the King Book Study, meets weekly
	5.00pm	Centering Prayer (followed by Eucharist at 5.30pm in Bethlehem Chapel)
	5.00pm	Boy & Girl Choir Novices, meets weekly
	5.00pm	Boy & Girl Choristers, meets weekly
	5.00pm	Café Kairos, weekly (ends at 6.30pm)
	5.30pm	Eucharist in Bethlehem Chapel, meets weekly
	5.30pm	Youth Choir practice, meets weekly
	6.15pm	Youth Wednesday Night Fellowship, meets weekly
Thursday, 9/6	5.30pm	Treble Choir practice, meets weekly
	6.00pm	Lector/Eucharistic Minister Training
	6.30pm	St. Mark's Choir practice, meets weekly
Saturday, 9/8	9.00am	Baptism Workshop
	9.00am	Lector/Eucharistic Minister Training
Sunday, 9/9		Homecoming Sunday, Baptisms, Ministry Fair at 10.10am, Jon Johnson's First Sunday, regular Sunday schedule resumes (7.45am, Rite I; 9.00am, Rite II; 11.15am, Rite II)
Monday, 9/10	7.00am	Rector's Lectionary Bible Study, meets weekly
Wednesday, 9/12	6.30pm	The Path: Reading the Bible Thematically, meets weekly
Thursday, 9/13	10.00am	Time Out Bible Study, meets weekly
Friday, 9/14	6.30pm	Mind the Gap Symposium
Sunday, 9/16	10.10am	Formation for Adults, Children, and Youth resumes
Sunday, 9/23		Reception for The Rev. Carol Morehead, following the 11.15am service
Sunday, 9/30	4.30pm	Musics from St. Mark's: Pre-Evensong Recital and Evensong
	6.30pm	Dinners for 8 Kickoff Potluck



October

Tuesday, 10/2	10.00am	Gifted Years Book Study, meets weekly in October
Wednesday, 10/3	6.00pm	New Connections (preceded by optional Docent Tour at 5.45pm)
Thursday, 10/4	5.30pm	Youth Parent Night
Sunday, 10/7	5.00pm	Blessing of the Animals
Friday, 10/12	6.00pm	<i>Images of the Divine in Film</i>
Sunday, 10/14		Founders Day, combined 10.00am service , reception following Halloween Parade and Blessing of the Costumes
Wednesday, 10/24	5.00pm	Junior High Lock-In
Fri-Sat, 10/26-27		Mind the Gap Sunday Social
Sunday, 10/28		

Halloween Parade and Blessing of Costumes October 24

Join us for an evening of family fun! Wear your costume and be ready to get silly. We will meet in Gosnell Hall for food and games. Our clergy will bless the Halloween costumes and lead a costume parade through the grounds of St. Mark's.

Stewardship Ingathering and Parish Meeting

Sunday, November 4 at 10.10am

On November 4, we will celebrate Feast of All Saints' and collect pledge cards during the services. Whether you are renewing your pledge or considering your pledge for the first time, be on the lookout for the stewardship mailing in October.

Between services, we will hold a Parish Meeting during which you will hear from the Rector and lay leaders about our accomplishments as a parish, our challenges, and our plans for the future. Come hear about how we, as a community, use our resources for the well-being of this congregation, our neighbors, and our city. At the last Parish Meeting we shared our plans to move to a slate of Vestry candidates to be presented to the parish for election. An expanded Vestry Discernment Committee has done the good work of assembling a five-member class of 2021 for your approval.

A printed St. Mark's Annual Report will also be distributed during the parish meeting containing more detail on the financial and programmatic health of our community.



Mind the Gap



The play on the English subway reminder is two fold: we mind – as in we pay attention to AND as in we don't like the gaps we perceive/experience/feel between our home, work, and faith lives and we want to live differently. We begin the work of connecting these areas of our lives by building relationships and in spending time being formed with and by one another. We have two primary gatherings:

Symposium

- 2nd Friday of each month (Sept.-May)
- 6.30-9.00pm
- Childcare provided at St. Mar's with RSVP
- Hosted in one another's homes
- Dinner and drinks followed by discussion
- To host, please email The Rev. Matthew Wise (mwise@stmarks-sa.org)

Sunday Lunch Social

- 4th Sunday of each month (Oct.-May)
- 12.30-2.00pm
- Located at a kid-friendly restaurant, so children are welcome, Dutch-Treat
- To suggest a restaurant, please email The Rev. Matthew Wise (mwise@stmarks-sa.org)

Detailed EVITES are sent to announce each event, so please make sure we have your correct email address!

November

Saturday, 11/3	9.00am	Baptism Workshop
Sunday, 11/4		Feast of All Saints', Baptisms, Parish Meeting, and Stewardship Ingathering at 10.10am, start of holiday pie sale
	5.00pm	Music from St. Mark's: All Saints' Concert
Wednesday, 11/7	2.30pm	Senior Tea
Friday, 11/9	6.30pm	Mind the Gap Symposium
Sunday, 11/11	5.00pm	Remembrance Sunday Service
Wednesday, 11/14	5.00pm	Café Kairos Thanksgiving Dinner
Tuesday, 11/20		Pie Pickup
Wednesday, 11/21		No Café Kairos or evening programming
Sunday, 11/25		Combined 10.00am service
		Mind the Gap Sunday Social



December

Saturday, 12/1	9.30am	Advent Quiet Day
Sunday, 12/2	10.00am	Advent I: Combined Worship Service (in lieu of 9.00am and 11.15am services)
		Wreath Making with teaching at 9.00am
		7.45am service cancelled
Friday, 12/7	9.00pm	Christmas to the Street Lock-In for youth and No Ties Allowed BBQ preparation
Saturday, 12/8	11.00am	Christmas to the Street BBQ
Sunday, 12/9	10.00am	Advent II: Combined Worship Service (in lieu of 9.00am and 11.15am services) St. Nicholas Day Celebration at 9.00am
	5.00pm	Music from St. Mark's: A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols
Thursday, 12/13	11.30am	Women of St. Mark's Luncheon
Saturday, 12/15	10.00am	Pageant Rehearsal
	3.00pm	Music from St. Mark's: Christmas Concert
Sunday, 12/16	10.00am	Advent III: Combined Worship Service (in lieu of 9.00am and 11.15am services)
		Pageant and Living Nativity at 9.00am
Sunday, 12/23	10.00am	Advent IV: Combined Worship Service (in lieu of 9.00am and 11.15am services)
		Las Posadas at 9.00am
Monday, 12/24		Christmas Eve services 4.00pm, 7.00pm, 10.30pm
Tuesday, 12/25	10.00am	Christmas Day, Nativity of Our Lord (one combined worship service)
Sunday, 12/30	10.00am	Christmas Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist (one combined worship service)



January

Saturday, 1/5	9.00am	Baptism Workshop
Sunday, 1/6		Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, Baptisms, Daughters of the King Epiphany Baby Shower
Friday, 1/11	6.30pm	Mind the Gap Symposium
Sunday, 1/13		Formation for Adults, Children, and Youth resumes
		Acolyte Training (following the 11.15am service)
Sunday, 1/27		Mind the Gap Sunday Social

Synchronizing Pulses: An Advent Quiet Day

Saturday, December 1, 9.30am - 2.00pm

Facilitated by The Rev. Matthew Wise

Slow down. Breathe deeply. And wait.

These are some of the most difficult things for us to do in our busy, on-demand lives. Often times, they aren't comfortable and they seem counter-productive.

So, come join us in a day of discomfort and counter-productivity as we try and sync the pulse of our lives with the pulse of the season of Advent.

Sundays in Advent

Starting December 2

Morning worship services will be held at 7.45am and 10.00am every Sunday in Advent.

Programs begin at 9.00am in Gosnell Hall preceeding the combined worship service at 10.00am.

Breakfast will be provided.

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|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Advent I | Wreath-Making with teaching |
| Advent II | St. Nicholas Day Celebration |
| Advent III | Christmas Pageant and Living Nativity |
| Advent IV | Las Posadas |



Christmas Eve

December 24

3.45pm Prelude, 4.00pm Holy Eucharist

7.00pm Holy Eucharist with St. Mark's Choir

10.00pm Prelude, 10.30pm Holy Eucharist with St. Mark's Choir (with incense)

Christmas Day

December 25

One Combined Holy Eucharist at 10.00am

First Sunday After Christmas

December 30

One Combined Holy Eucharist at 10.00am



Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord

January 6

Regular Sunday Schedule

7.45am, 9.00am, 11.15am

Daughters of the King Epiphany Baby Shower at 10.10am

February

Fri-Sun, 2/1-3		Vestry Retreat at Mustang Island
Friday, 2/8	6.30pm	Mind the Gap Symposium
Sunday, 2/10	5.00pm	Music from St. Mark's: Jon Johnson Organ Concert
Saturday, 2/16		Little Hands at the Altar, facilitated by The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton and The Rev. Matthew Wise
Wednesday, 2/20	6.00pm	New Connections (preceded by optional Docent Tour at 5.45pm)
Sunday, 2/24		Mind the Gap Sunday Social

March

Saturday, 3/2	9.30am	Lenten Quiet Day
Sunday, 3/3	5.00pm	Music from St. Mark's: Pre-Evensong Recital and Choral Evensong
Tuesday, 3/5	10.00am	Gift of Years Book Study, meets weekly in March
	5.30pm	Pancake Supper and Shrove Tuesday Talent Show (Talent Show at 6.00pm)
Wednesday, 3/6		Ash Wednesday services at 7.00am, 12.00pm, 7.00pm (no evening formation)
Friday, 3/8	6.30pm	Mind the Gap Symposium
Mon-Wed, 3/11-13		High School Spring Break Retreat
Wednesday, 3/13	12.00pm	Lenten Offering: Music in the Park
Friday, 3/15		All Youth Movie Day
Wednesday, 3/20	12.00pm	Lenten Offering: Music in the Park
Friday, 3/22	6.00pm	<i>Images of the Divine in Film</i>
Sunday, 3/24		Mind the Gap Sunday Lunch Social
Wednesday, 3/27	12.00pm	Lenten Offering: Music in the Park

April

Wednesday, 4/3	12.00pm	Lenten Offering: Music in the Park
Saturday, 4/6		Junior High Extravaganza Day
Sunday, 4/7	10.00am	Combined Worship Service followed directly by lunch and outreach to the community, a Day of Prayer and Service
Wednesday, 4/10	12.00pm	Lenten Offering: Music in the Park
Friday, 4/12	6.30pm	Mind the Gap Symposium
Sunday, 4/14		Palm Sunday with Festival and live animals at 10.10am
Monday, 4/15	12.00pm	Holy Monday service
Tuesday, 4/16	12.00pm	Holy Tuesday service
Wednesday 4/17	12.00pm	Holy Wednesday service
Thursday, 4/18	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday (see page 13)
Friday, 4/19		Good Friday services 7.00am, 12.00pm (see page 13)
Saturday, 4/20	9.00am	Baptism Workshop
	11.00am	Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic at Bishop Jones Center
	1.00pm	Holy Saturday service
Sunday, 4/21		Easter Day services 6.00am Vigil, 9.00am, 11.15am (childcare during all services) Breakfast served after the 6.00am service
Saturday, 4/27	9.00am	Baptism Workshop
Sunday, 4/28	10.00am	Feast of St. Mark, Confirmation
		Sunday, combined 10.00am service
	5.00pm	Music from St. Mark's: Fiesta Concert



Lenten Quiet Day
Lessons from the Desert: Wisdom from the
Desert Mothers and Fathers

Saturday, March 2, 9.30am – 2.00pm
 Facilitated by The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton

There is a particular spirituality that emerges from desert terrain. No place is this more obvious than the wisdom of the early church desert mothers and fathers who chose a life of austerity as a way of growing in closeness to God. Take some time out of your busy schedule to engage with their witness as part of your own Lenten observances. There will be time for silent reflection, sharing, nourishing food, and the fellowship we find with one another. Give yourself the gift of this time.



Worship for Holy Week and Easter

Sunday, April 14 - Palm Sunday

7.45am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 9.00am Liturgy of the Palms, Holy Eucharist Rite II
 10.10am Palm Sunday Festival with live animals
 11.15am Liturgy of the Palms, Holy Eucharist Rite II

Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday

12.00pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Bethlehem Chapel

Thursday, April 18 - Maundy Thursday

7.00pm Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Eucharist, Rite II
 9.00pm Gethsemane Overnight Prayer Vigil, Bethlehem Chapel

Friday, April 19 - Good Friday

7.00am Good Friday Liturgy with Communion from the Reserve Sacrament in Bethlehem Chapel
 12.00pm Good Friday Liturgy
 1.00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 20 - Holy Saturday

1.00pm Holy Saturday service

Sunday, April 21 - Easter Day

6.00am The Great Vigil, Lighting of the New Fire, Holy Baptism, and First Eucharist of Easter, with incense. Breakfast to follow.
 9.00am Festal Eucharist, Rite II
 11.15am Festal Eucharist, Rite II with incense

May

Thursday, 5/2	11.30am	Bookstore Lecture and Luncheon
Sunday, 5/12		Youth Sunday
Thursday, 5/17	5.00pm	Last Café Kairos for the program year
Sunday, 5/19		Recognition Sunday
		Mind the Gap Sunday Social
Sunday, 5/26		Summer Worship Schedule begins, 7.45am, Rite I and 10.00am, Rite II

Bookstore Lecture and Luncheon

The Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Thursday, May 2, 2019
11.30am

President of the Oblate School of
Theology in San Antonio.

Internationally known writer and
inspirational retreat leader with
more than 10 books in print

Author of the New York Times
best selling book *The Holy Longing:
Guidelines for a Christian Spirituality*

Popular topics of Fr. Ron's are
in the areas of contemporary
spirituality and religion and the
secular world.



June

Saturday, 6/8	9.00am	Baptism Workshop
Sunday, 6/9		Pentecost, Baptisms, Parish Picnic in Travis Park
Sunday, 6/16		Summer Formation Begins

July

Mon-Fri, 7/22-26		Vacation Bible School Junior Outreach Experience
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Member Information

If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Mark's, please contact Dina Aboul Saad at dsaad@stmarks-sa.org, call 210-226-2426, or fill out a membership form online.

If you have not been baptized, please contact The Rev. Matthew Wise at mwise@stmarks-sa.org to meet with other adults in an enriching process leading to baptism. If you choose to become a baptized member, we encourage you to attend the Adult Confirmation Class.

There are several different categories of membership. The word "member" denotes either a confirmed communicant, baptized member, or an active participant whose letter remains elsewhere.

Confirmed Communicants

Confirmed communicants are baptized persons who have been confirmed in, or received into, the Episcopal Church and whose names are enrolled in the parish register. Names are enrolled either by confirmation, reception, or letter of transfer from another Episcopal Church. One must be listed in the parish register to be eligible to vote in parish elections and to hold various offices in the church.

New to St. Mark's? Come to New Connections

This program is designed especially for people new to St. Mark's and for those who are considering whether to become a member of the community. It's an opportunity to get to know one another as well as provide you with a clearer picture of how to connect at St. Mark's. We will begin with an optional Docent tour of the church at 5.45pm, followed by dinner and conversation at 6.00pm with clergy and staff of St. Mark's. It is offered two times this year. The dates are October 3 and February 20. Don't hesitate to reach out any time to learn more about what's happening and how to get connected! Contact Dina Aboul Saad for more information at dsaad@stmarks-sa.org.

Adult Confirmation

Led by The Rev. Matthew Wise

Adult Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation class will be held on Wednesday evenings January 16, 30, February 13, 27, March 20, 27, and April 10 from 6.30-8.00pm. Each class builds on the previous class, so plan to attend every session. If you are interested in participating but know you must miss a class, it may be possible to participate at the confirmation service, but prior arrangements should be made. We will also gather at the Bishop Jones Center on Saturday, January 26 from 9.00am-2.00pm, where we will share a meal, meet the bishop, and cover some additional ground. The class is open all those seeking to be confirmed, received, or who would like a refresher. Confirmation will be on Sunday, April 28 at the combined 10.00am service. For more information, sign up online.

Youth Confirmation

Youth Confirmation is for 8th grade youth, and those older who wish to be confirmed. Join the weekly Youth Confirmation Class that meets during the formation hour on Sunday mornings, starting January 27. Confirmation will be on Sunday, April 28 at the 10.00am service. See page 23 for more information and dates.

Baptized Members

All baptized persons of any age may be enrolled in the parish register. Names are enrolled either by baptism, letter of transfer, or personal request.

Associates

Associates are persons who are active in the life of this congregation, but whose official membership remains elsewhere.

Mailing List and Database Updates

If you would like to receive the electronic version of the St. Mark's weekly eNews, please fill out a visitor card or subscribe on our website at www.stmarks-sa.org.

Have you recently moved, married, added a new member to your family, or changed your email address or phone number? Call us at 210-226-2426 or go online to www.stmarks-sa.org and click on My Account. There you can update your information by clicking on the My Information button.



Music at St. Mark's

More than 125 people make up the choirs at St. Mark's, including volunteers, staff singers, and four choral scholars (high school students who commit to spending a year of musical formation with the St. Mark's music program.) Together they provide music for the many services that are offered throughout the year. In addition, St. Mark's music program invites the San Antonio community to experience the beauty of worship and creativity through the Music From St. Mark's offerings. Sponsored by the St. Cecilia Guild, these programs are free to all.

St. Mark's Choir

The St. Mark's Choir (adults and youth) sings the 11.15am service each Sunday during the program year. The choir, consisting of 65 members, rehearses every Thursday evening from 6.30-8.45pm. In addition to its Sunday morning duties, the choir regularly sings Evensong and a major choral work with orchestra each April (as an official event of the San Antonio Fiesta celebration).

Direct your questions about music to Jon Johnson at jjohnson@stmarks-sa.org



Boy & Girl Choristers (grades 3rd-6th)

Wednesdays 5.00-6.00pm

Youth Choir (grades 7th-12th)

Wednesdays 5.30-6.15pm

Treble Choir (grades 4th-12th, auditioned)

Thursdays 5.30-7.00pm

These choirs are highly committed groups that provide music for the 9.00am worship service throughout the program year. These children learn about liturgy and the seasons of the church year as they rehearse service music, hymns, and anthems. Rehearsals are in the Choir room (3rd floor of the parish house). All choirs are affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) training curriculum.

Boy & Girl Novices (grades 1st-2nd)

This training choir consists of boys and girls in 1st and 2nd grades. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 5.00-6.00pm. This group is a preparatory group and sings once a month.





2018-2019 Music Events

September 30

Pre-Evensong Recital and Festal Choral Evensong

November 4

All Saints' Concert

November 11

Remembrance Sunday

December 9

A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols

December 15

Christmas Concert

February 10

Organ Concert

March 3

Pre-Evensong Recital and Choral Evensong for the
Last Sunday of Epiphany

April 28

Fiesta Concert: The Feast of St. Mark



Children's Ministry - Weekly Events

There are many ways for children and families to engage in fun and meaningful activities throughout the year at St. Mark's. Through Nursery, Sunday School, Children's Chapel, and many special events, children will learn of God's great love for them, and experience the joy of being a part of a church family who cherishes who they are and their important role in the life of this community.

Nursery

Sundays 8.30am-12.30pm and during special events/committee meetings as specified in the Announcements, eNews, Messenger, and website. Located in the Parish House on the 1st floor for ages 6 weeks-5 years old.

Children of all ages are always welcome in our worship services. They are a vital part of our St. Mark's family, and it's wonderful to hear their voices while we worship. However, the Nursery is provided for parents who would like to leave their child in a loving, nurturing, and safe environment while they participate in Christian Formation and/or the worship services. The nursery is staffed by highly qualified caregivers who provide playtime, activities, and a place to rest for the littlest parishioners at St. Mark's.

Direct your questions about
Children's Ministry to
Abby Richards at
arichards@stmarks-sa.org

Direct your questions about
the Nursery to Janet Carrizales
at jcarrizales@stmarks-sa.org.

Children's Chapel

Begins at 9.00am in Jerusalem Chapel, located in the Parish House on the 2nd floor.
Recommended for children age 3 years old through 3rd grade.

Children's Chapel is held every Sunday during the 9.00am service. We begin in Jerusalem Chapel with a service designed especially for the children, where we pray together, read scripture, and learn the gospel story for that week. After our worship time, we move to our common area where we do a craft project relating to our lesson. The children enjoy both components of Children's Chapel, listening intently to the stories and working hard on the projects!

Sunday School

Sundays at 10.10am on the 2nd Floor of the Parish House
Ages Pre-K - 5th Grade

Sunday School at St. Mark's is a special time for the children to gather together with those in their age group and dig deeper into the stories of the people of God. Each class is led by two teams of two teachers, and includes time for listening to the story, enjoying crafts and games, sharing a snack together, and learning how to use the lessons in their everyday lives. This year we will be using "Hearts Alive", a new and engaging curriculum for children of all ages.

Sunday School Socials

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday during the program year the children and their families gather in the common area of the second floor after Sunday School and enjoy refreshments and a time to visit and get to know one another better. These gatherings are always full of energy and laughter. All children and their families are welcome to join us!

Children's Ministry - Special Events

We have several special events throughout the program year - each one eagerly anticipated by the children and their families.

Blessing of the Backpacks - August

Each year, the children bring their backpacks to church. The children (and their backpacks) are blessed by our clergy during the service and are sent off to school with a blessing from their St. Mark's community!

Blessing of the Costumes – October

The children have the opportunity to dress up in their costumes and come together to enjoy dinner, games in Gosnell Hall, and a costume parade to the church. In the church, we sing spooky songs with the organ, and the clergy pray over the children's costumes. This is one of our most fun and wild evenings of the year!

Advent Intergenerational Activities – December

Each year during the season of Advent we combine our children, youth, and adults during Formation for breakfast and an intergenerational activity. This time is always very meaningful as families enjoy being together and people of all ages have the opportunity to get to know one another better. This year's Advent activities include: Wreath Making, St. Nicholas Day Celebration, Christmas Pageant and Living Nativity, and Las Posadas.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) - Summer

Every summer the Children's Ministry takes over the church for a week of Vacation Bible School! This week is always a blast, filled with games, songs, and meaningful times of worship and learning. This past summer, amidst slime making, snack art, catapults, and clay, we learned all about Daniel and his "Courage in Captivity". Most importantly, we learned that no matter what the situation, God is always with us. We hope to see you July 22-26, 2019 for VBS!



Outreach Partners and Opportunities

The Bread of Life Grant:

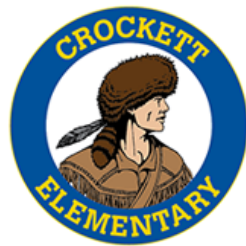
Communities in Schools, San Antonio

The Bread of Life Grant offers the St. Mark's community three years to engage and build real relationships with a specific organization and their work in the city. This takes our outreach to another level, providing the inroads for us to make a deep impact. Now in the second year of our partnership with Communities in Schools, San Antonio (CIS-SA) at Crockett Elementary School, which is only 2.5 miles away from St. Mark's you have opportunities to:

- help plan and run the school's annual festival
- distribute food through collections and preparing snack packs for students who have food insecurities
- mentor students in literacy programs
- collect winter coats and holiday gifts for students
- after school club participation and facilitation
- career days at the school
- sponsor/facilitate field trips and the explorer's group

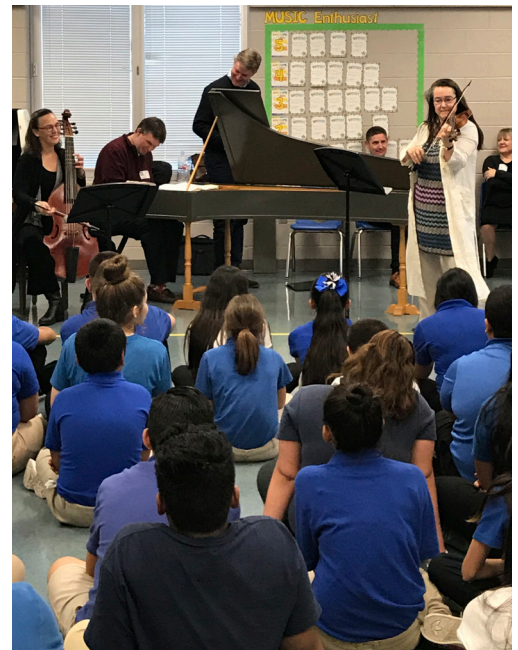
Crockett Elementary was a high at-risk school until CIS-SA was brought in by the state of Texas four years ago. Some facts about the school and CIS-SA's involvement: 46% of the students are classified as "at-risk", 186 CIS-SA cases currently being managed in K-5th grade, 2 CIS-SA site coordinators on campus (usual model is only 1 per school), CIS-SA is focusing primarily on the non-academic (social) needs of students, and many students are being raised by single parents or grandparents.

If you would like to volunteer in any of these or many other opportunities throughout the year, please email The Rev. Matthew Wise at mwise@stmarks-sa.org.



San Antonio Independent School District

David Crockett
Elementary School



Core Vocation Grants

The Core Vocation Grants are the smaller, one-year grants dispersed to multiple entities. A total of \$40,000 was awarded to 12 organizations for the 2018 grant cycle in which the committee focused on programs or projects aimed at the second arm of St. Mark's Core Vocation - *"Feeding those hungry for knowledge and meaning."* These recipients are listed below with a brief description of each project in the organization's own words. These grants will provide our community with multiple volunteer opportunities over the next year. If you are interested, please email The Rev. Matthew Wise at mwise@stmarks-sa.org.

The Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas

Support Programs for Grieving Families

Grieving the loss of a loved one is a complex and difficult process, especially for a child. It is important for families to grieve in healthy ways to heal emotionally and go on to lead productive lives. The chief goals of this program are to stabilize grieving families and prevent maladaptive behaviors and unhealthy outcomes for children.

The Children's Chorus of San Antonio

Neighborhood Choirs Project

The Neighborhood Choirs project is a program that lasts the entire academic year for 3rd-8th grade students. The program teaches and coaches young artists to sing, work as a team, and find their voices both musically and individually.

The Children's Shelter of San Antonio

Art Therapy Program

The Art Therapy Program consists of the school year art program and the summer camp, Open Mind, Open Heart. These programs combine the healing properties of art in all its forms with the confidence needed by children who have suffered trauma to be able to express themselves in a safe, non-threatening environment. These programs utilize an Art Therapist/Teacher with two activity instructors to ensure all children are provided with the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of artistic endeavors.

Corazón Ministries

Café Corazón

Meals are at the heart of Corazón Ministries. Serving meals is where Café Corazón began 18 years ago when a group of young adult members of Travis Park UMC decided they wanted to open the church to the homeless neighbors in the area and began serving breakfast on Palm Sunday in 1999. Their services have grown from that time, but sharing hot, nutritious meals remains an important part of the ministry. Each year, the Café serves 25,000 hot, nutritious meals to the homeless and marginalized neighbors. They offer breakfast Sunday morning, dinner and a Prayer Circle Wednesday evening, and lunch with Bible Study Thursday and Friday at noon.

Haven for Hope

Spiritual Services

The Spiritual Services offerings at Haven for Hope have a two-part mission: to provide spiritual care on campus and to provide spiritual connections to faith communities beyond the gates of the campus. Providing spiritual care and connections correlates with and positively impacts emotional, mental, and physical wellness as people transition into permanent housing.

Lifetime Recovery

Recovery Links Program

Recovery Support Service Programs, like Recovery Links, are designed to holistically address all domains of an individual's life over a two-year period to ensure successful transition from treatment to day-to-day living in order to help improve the chances of achieving long-term sobriety.

Supported through the Outreach Grants of St. Mark's

The Children's Bereavement Center
The Children's Chorus of San Antonio
The Children's Shelter of San Antonio
Corazón Ministries
Communities in Schools-SA
Haven for Hope
Lifetime Recovery
Mission Road Development Center
Morningside Ministries
San Antonio Christian Hope Resource Center
The San Antonio Public Library Foundation
San Antonio Youth Literacy
Youth Orchestras of San Antonio (YOSA)

Outreach Partners and Opportunities

(continued from pages 20-21)

Mission Road Developmental Center free.to.be Program

The free.to.be is a program offered on the south side campus of Mission Road serving 171 adults with varying levels of an Intellectual or Development Disability (IDD). Clients have life skills goals which volunteers and staff help them attain through a robust curriculum of academics, recreation, and spiritual activities. Through this program, the caregivers of the adults with IDD trust the reliable, safe, professional programming provided for their vulnerable loved ones so that the caregivers can confidently work, attend school, or enjoy respite to rejuvenate their own spirits.

Morningside Ministries Creative Aging

Life-long learning and continued personal growth are keys to healthy aging. Creative Aging programs make it possible for older adults to enjoy meaningful activities that stimulate their minds and spirits. Morningside residents are able to attend a scientific lecture on space exploration, explore the history of Christian hymns, or watch the performance of Renaissance music by a violin quartet.

San Antonio Christian Hope Resource Center Pathways Out of Poverty

Pathways Out of Poverty is a human capital development program that meets the needs of low-income families and provides them with the knowledge and support they need to overcome the psychosocial underpinning of poverty.

The San Antonio Public Library Foundation The Mayor's Summer Reading Club

This reading club works to fill an educational gap during the three-month summer vacation when many children in our schools are without much educational stimulation. The club is hosted throughout the city's 30 public libraries and provides opportunities for students to engage in reading and educational activities.

San Antonio Youth Literacy Reading Buddy Program

The Reading Buddy Program is a volunteer-driven tutoring program created to address literacy deficiencies in elementary aged students who are struggling to read at their grade level. The program offers enrichment tools designed to address comprehension, fluency, and/or accuracy skills, while at the same time building positive attitudes about reading.

Youth Orchestras of San Antonio (YOSA) Tuition Assistance for Economically Disadvantaged Youth

YOSA works to keep our tuition costs accessible by seeking community support to subsidize the expense of high-quality music education. For economically disadvantaged families that cannot afford the cost of tuition, YOSA offers need-based tuition assistance to further reduce the tuition cost to an affordable level. This year, nearly \$90,000 will be provided for an estimated 200 families whose children participate in YOSA Orchestras or YOSA Summer Symphony Camp, but do not have the resources to cover the cost of tuition.

Additional Outreach Ministries and Agencies Supported directly through the Annual Budget

Diocesan Support
Christian Assistance Ministries
Good Samaritan Community Services
SAMMinistries
St. Paul's Montessori
Christmas to the Street
Haven for Hope (food)
Walk-In Assistance
Youth Outreach Projects

Youth Ministry

St. Mark's is committed to bringing all people to a transformative relationship with Christ, through diverse and creative worship, education, and ministry. This is clearly evident in the Youth Ministry program. Through weekly programming and numerous events throughout the year we seek to create an inclusive, hospitable, compassionate, and nurturing community where youth from all backgrounds share relationships that can grow into the full stature of Christ. They will be empowered for ministry in their daily life; and by practicing mutual accountability through creative Christian formation programs, participate meaningfully in ministries, missions, and outreach in the San Antonio community and beyond.

Direct your questions about Youth Ministry to Meredith Rogers at mrogers@stmarks-sa.org

Youth Wednesday Night Fellowship

Wednesday Night Fellowship (WNF) is for youth in 6th-12th grade and meets each Wednesday during the program year from 6.15-8.00pm in the Youth Suite. Come to a safe place where you can be yourself, be the Episcopal church now, and have a blast with other youth. Dinner will begin at 6.15pm in the Youth Suite, provided by Café Kairos. Our discussion and worship time will start at 6.45pm.

Youth Sunday Formation (6th - 12th grades)

Weaving God's Promises is a three-year Christian education curriculum developed and written exclusively for the Episcopal Church. All 6th-12th graders will come together every Sunday morning during the formation hour in the Youth Suite. We will utilize activities, prayer, and fellowship to learn how God's promises of salvation are inextricably woven into our lives.

Youth Confirmation (8th grade and above)

Youth Confirmation is for 8th grade youth and any high school students who would like to be confirmed. The class will meet for eight weeks throughout the winter and spring during the 10.10am formation hour. The youth will be led in discussion of topics including: church history, the sacraments, becoming a young adult, the community of the church, and living a life of faith. Students are allowed to miss only two classes. Class dates are as follows: January 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 24, and 31. Youth will be introduced to a mentor on Wednesday, February 6. Students will be expected to participate in the Day of Prayer and Service on Sunday, April 7; attend a dinner with the Bishop during the week prior to confirmation; and participate in a rehearsal for confirmation on Saturday, April 27. Confirmation will be held on the Feast of St. Mark during the 10.00am Eucharist on Sunday, April 28. For more information, please contact Meredith Rogers at mrogers@stmarks-sa.org.

Followership (9th-12th grades) - Brand New Offering!

Followership is a brand new offering for youth in 9th-12th grade. This group will meet on the second Tuesday of each month during the program year from 5.30-7.00pm in the Las Almas building at Los Patios (2015 NE Interstate 410 Loop, 78217). The dates for this year will be: September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11, January 8, February 12, April 9, and May 14. Dinner will begin at 5.30pm and afterwards we will be using the Little Books of Guidance series to help discuss life's big questions and how we can best be followers of Jesus.

Volunteer with the Youth

The youth of St. Mark's are not only the future of the church, but they are also the present. Please help serve them and help them grow with your presence through relationship. All who work with youth must have been through Safeguarding God's Children within the last five years. We have opportunities to volunteer Wednesday evenings, Sunday mornings, Tuesday evenings, and at retreats and events throughout the year. Email Meredith at mrogers@stmarks-sa.org with your interest in volunteering with our fantastic youth.

Community Care

Caring for one another in community is part of the core of who we are as the church. For us at St. Mark's, community care includes parish ministries of clergy and laity who respond to needs and concerns.

We want to know when anyone has a need. During the day, the easiest way to share a need, whether urgent or not, is by calling the church. After hours, we have an emergency call system that contacts the priest on call in order to respond to urgent needs. We welcome any call, for whatever reason a member is led to be in contact, and we value the deep relationships that form as we journey together through times of both great sorrow or great joy.

Prayer is an important part of our care for one another, and we have several prayer lists. The Sunday prayer list is what we hear during the Liturgy of the Word and is comprised of names of members and relatives of members; this list is public and is posted on our website and printed in our bulletin. The Staff prayer list and the Daughters of the King prayer list are confidential lists and are comprised of the Sunday prayer list and of prayer requests that may be more private. These people are prayed for daily and remain on these lists as long as there is need. When a friend or loved one dies, we offer prayers for them. Any person, both members or non-members, may be included in the Sunday prayers for those who have died.

Our Community Care is coordinated by the clergy in close collaboration with the Care Committee. Together we seek to provide compassionate and confidential emotional and spiritual support to the St. Mark's community as we live out our baptismal vows to seek and serve Christ in all persons. If your sense of vocation is to help care for the community in this way, there are both long term commitments and short-term assignments.

Pastoral Care Opportunities:

- Community of Hope
- Daughters of the King
- Flower Delivery Ministry
- Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs)

For more information about each of these volunteer opportunities, please email stmarks@stmarks-sa.org.

Parking at St. Mark's

Our parking lots serve an important role in supporting all that we do at St. Mark's. Between the east and west lots we have 248 parking spaces. Our main lot (east) is most visible to members and visitors as our parking lot. But we also have a smaller lot on the west side of the church with 74 spaces. A parking sticker identifies your car as belonging to a member of St. Mark's. Complimentary member parking is offered for all St. Mark's worship times and our events in both lots.

Given our prime location, our lots are attractive for plenty of other venues including Travis Park, festivals, and the River Walk to name just a few. When you park in St. Mark's lots for a non-St. Mark's event, please remember to pay for parking. We have a lease agreement with Hospitality Parking that provides a significant revenue stream for the church.

Would it surprise you to know that we receive as much revenue from the parking lot as we do from our endowment and designated funds combined? Parking revenue accounts for 10% of our annual revenue.

We have an excellent working relationship with Hospitality Parking that allows us to maximize revenue for the church while keeping our lots available for our own events.

On Sunday mornings, you'll often see the gate at the back of the east lot open for overflow parking. This gate is closed again after services to help protect cars that contract for longer-term parking.

If you come to church and find the east lot full, which happens from time to time, remember to check the west lot. We actually have fewer security issues in this lot; we have empirical data to back that up! And while it may seem like a farther walk, it's actually the same distance to the main church and parish house entrances.

Getting Connected at St. Mark's

Bookstore

Under the umbrella of Christian Formation the bookstore is open Sundays from 8.30-11.00am. We are happy to do special orders for you or a group that needs books. Our gift selection is handpicked with an emphasis on Fair Trade items from around the world.

Carla Pineda
carlaleedpineda@gmail.com

Caregivers Support Group

This ministry provides emotional, practical, and spiritual support for those caring for loved ones with long-term illness.

Annabelle McGee and
Lillian Morris
abelle39@gmail.com/
lillian.morris@hotmail.com

Commission on Ministry (COM)

COM supports current ministries and facilitating the process of establishing new ministries. The Commission is a vehicle for communication, recruitment, and accountability.

Trey Thompson
RLT@sa-mh.com

Daughters of the King

An order for laywomen who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, or churches in communion with it, or churches who are in the Historic Episcopate. Members undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service.

Denise Dahm
dahmdr@gmail.com

Dorcas Stitchers

The Dorcas Stitchers carry on the tradition of creating linens for use at worship services since the founding of the church. Group members create and embroider baptismal towels as well as altar linens, priests' vestments, and tend to altar linen mending as necessary.

Pat Donegan
pdonegan@aol.com

Dinners for 8

Dinners for 8 gives parishioners a great chance for feast and fellowship with other members in a social setting outside the church.

Pam Chambers
plchambers54@gmail.com

Funeral Receptions

Provide hospitality for grieving families and friends attending a funeral at St. Mark's. The team prepares Gosnell Hall for funeral receptions including food, beverages, and décor.

Kelly Cavender
kelscav@aol.com

Gardens

Deems Smith
deemssmith@att.net

Greeters

Exhibit hospitality to all who come to St. Mark's on Sunday by greeting everyone with a warm welcome. Hosts are positioned at the main entry points to the church.

Susan Thompson
sthomp303@hotmail.com

Gryphons Cycling Club

The Gryphons Cycling Club includes riders of all ages. They hold three or four rides a year.

Merritt Clements
mclements@tomrhodeslaw.com

Haven for Hope Volunteer Network

An entry point for St. Mark's members wanting to volunteer.

Pat Bridwell or Patsy Jordt
pbridwell@att.net/
patsyjordt@sbcglobal.net

Kitchen Ministries

Volunteers help with special events and Café Kairos on Wednesday evenings.

Leah Thomas
lthomas@stmarks-sa.org

Mind the Gap

For more information see page 9.

The Rev. Matthew Wise
mwise@stmarks-sa.org

Newcomers

Dina Aboul Saad
dsaad@stmarks-sa.org.

Outreach Grant Committee

Responsibly allocates outreach funds.
stmarks@stmarks-sa.org

Seasoned Saints

A monthly evening of fellowship for the more "seasoned" members of St. Mark's.

Dee Whiteside
dwhiteside@satx.rr.com

Threads of Blessing

Threads of Blessing is an inter-generational group of women who support and nurture the creative process of design and embroidery.

Susan Beardslee
susanbea@swbell.net

See **Worship Support** on p. 6 for information on Acolytes, Altar Guild, Baptism Guild, Eucharistic Visitors, Count Teams, Intercessors, Lectors, Pastoral Care, Wedding Guild, and Weekday Lay Readers.

Clergy and Staff



The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton
Rector
bknowlton@stmarks-sa.org



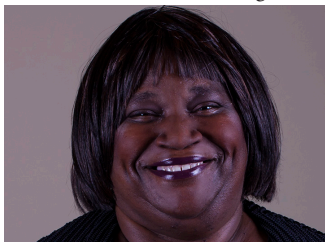
The Rev. Matthew Wise
Associate Rector
mwise@stmarks-sa.org



Jon Johnson
Organist & Choirmaster
jjohnson@stmarks-sa.org



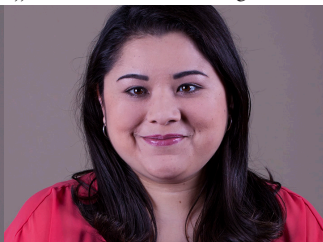
Dina Aboul Saad
Director of Advancement
dsaad@stmarks-sa.org



Ruby Merrill
Facilities Manager
rmerrill@stmarks-sa.org



Eric Nelson
Operations Manager
enelson@stmarks-sa.org



Priscilla Briones
Accounting Manager
pbriones@stmarks-sa.org



Leah Thomas
Special Events Coordinator
lthomas@stmarks-sa.org



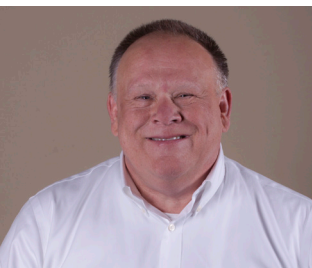
Meredith Rogers
Director of Youth Ministry
mrogers@stmarks-sa.org



Abby Richards
Director of Children's Ministry
arichards@stmarks-sa.org



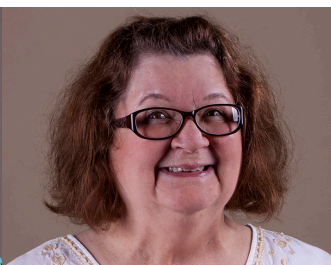
Rachel Dugger
Communications Coordinator
rdugger@stmarks-sa.org



Robert Brewer
Organist & Artist in Residence
rbrewer@stmarks-sa.org



Kathy Kelly
Children's Music Assistant



Marsha Kimura
Music Department Admin



Chuy Mendoza
Kitchen Supervisor & Chef



Richard Maldonado
Chef



Janet Carrizales
Nursery Director
jcarrizales@stmarks-sa.org



Estella Devora
Nursery Staff



Ruby Alderete
Nursery Staff



Tasia Sherman
Nursery Staff



Desiree Maldonado
Nursery Staff

Daira Monrreal
Nursery Staff

Mary Helen Sarabia
Nursery Staff

Callie Sanchez
Nursery Staff



Derek Shively
Head Sexton

John Aranda
Sexton

Jason Hernandez
Sexton

Kirk Rojas
Dishwasher

Café Kairos

Dinners on Wednesdays and Thursdays

Mid-week dinners are served at St. Mark's to make it easy to attend events and activities in the evenings. Open from 5.00pm - 6.30pm. No reservation required! Menus are posted on the website under About Us, in the Messenger, and in the weekly eNews.

Cost: \$8.00 adults | \$6.00 children (under 6 yrs)

\$28.00 family of four

For to go containers, add \$1 per person



Café Kairos To Go

Want a bite to eat but no time to cook? Tired of grabbing fast food on the road? Well have no fear, Café Kairos is here! Take out is available on Wednesday evenings. Chuy, Richard, and Leah are planning some tasty dishes this year so stop by. There are plenty of opportunities for volunteers. If you are interested in helping this wonderful ministry, contact Leah Thomas at 210-226-2426 or lthomas@stmarks-sa.org.

Catering

If you would like to have Café Kairos cater your next event, contact Leah Thomas at lthomas@stmarks-sa.org.

Vestry



Paul Allen, Senior Warden



Gary Chambers



Gene Alderman



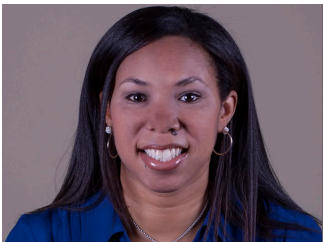
Jan Briley, Junior Warden



Anne Connor



Ann Leafstedt



Dawna Boudreaux



Kate Crone



Greg Merritt



Joey Oliver, Treasurer



Mike Duffey



David Ross



Angela Torres-Lopez



Kelly Ranson



Ralph Voight



Agatha Wade

The Vestry is the governing body of the church that determines policy issues, sets goals, and provides stewardship of the St. Mark's operations.

Each year, a Vestry Discernment Committee identifies candidates for the vestry based on the goals and future direction of the parish. Contact the Senior Warden to nominate candidates for the Vestry Discernment Committee.

Phone: 210-226-2426

Fax: 210-226-2468

315 E Pecan Street
San Antonio, TX 78205

Photo Credits

Thanks to the many who have made a gift of their photography and whose work is included in this Parish Life Handbook, including Dina Aboul Saad, Cindy Clancey, Rachel Doyle, Rachel Dugger, Carol Morehead, Eric Nelson, Patrice Oliver.

Love taking photos? Contact Rachel Dugger at rdugger@stmarks-sa.org if you are interested in documenting parish events.