

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 19, 2025

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



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
134 N. Division Ave
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
www.stmarksgr.org
616.456.1684

**** See Parish Notes on p.12
for important information about the January 26th Annual Meeting. ****

Welcome to St. Mark's!

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

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

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: Note, there are three designated spaces for those with assistive devices or in need of extra space, two in the north transept and one on the north side of the nave. Please, leave those spaces available and the adjoining pews for family members.

Safety: The outer doors to the Parish House will be locked fifteen minutes after Services begin with a security guard on duty to be of assistance. Upon leaving a restroom, please wash hands with warm soapy water and sanitize. Please, pay attention to the nearest exit in the Sanctuary. An announcement will be made in case of an emergency. Children will be ushered out of the building to a designated place for safety away from the Church complex.

Parking on Sundays: Limited parking is available in the Parish Lot. If you are 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, a Greeter or on the Resource Table in the north transept (must be used along 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. Additional rest rooms are located on the second level of the Parish House; those able to use stairs are encouraged to use upper-floor restrooms.

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 live. All are always welcome!

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 youth in grades 6-12. We have regular formation gatherings during the school year and service as well as social activities throughout the year. Please contact our Director of Faith Formation, Jeff Brown, for more information: 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. Please, contact Doug Karsen for more information at karsenc@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

St. Mark's 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

The Gathering of God's People

The Prelude — Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word

J.G. Walther

Welcome — *Lector I*

Introit — Spirit of the Living God

Daniel Iverson

Gathering Hymn — Blue Hymnal No. 497: How Bright Appears the Morning Star

Wie schön leuchtet

Invitation (*You may stand.*)

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

People: **And blessed God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.**

Presider: Eternal loving God through the birth of your Son, you filled the world with the brightness of your one true light.

People: **May the light of Christ illumine our paths and shine in hearts forever.**

Presider: May the peace, joy and love of Christ's coming among us enable us to be people of justice, peace and love.

People: **May we share in the divine life of your son, Jesus, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.**

Presider: Bless us in the true gift of Christmas, your son, Jesus the Christ.

People: **Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

John Rutter

1. Glo-ry to you, Lord God of our fa - thers; you are wor - thy of
 praise; glo - ry to you. 2. Glo - ry to you for the ra - di - ance of your
 ho - ly Name; we will praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.
 3. Glo - ry to you in the splen - dor of your tem - ple; on the throne of your
 ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to you. 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed be - tween the
 Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.



5. Glo-ry to you, be - hold - ing the depths; in the high vault of
 hea - ven, glo - ry to you. 6. Glo - ry to you, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly
 Spi - rit; We will praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

Collect of the Day

Deacon: God be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Deacon: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

Lector I: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married.

For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.


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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 36:5-10

Dixit injustus

Lector I at 8:00 a.m.: Let us pray the Psalm responsively by half verse.



In your light, O God, we see light.

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, *
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
 your justice like the great deep; *
you save both man and beast, O Lord.

Antiphon

How priceless is your love, O God! *
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

They feast upon the abundance of your house; *
you give them drink from the river of your delights.

Antiphon

For with you is the well of life, *
and in your light we see light.

Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, *
and your favor to those who are true of heart.

Antiphon

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Lector II: A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn – Blue Hymnal No. 138, vv. 1-2: All Praise to You, O Lord (*continues after Gospel*) *Carlisle*

The Gospel (*You may stand.*)

John 2:1-11

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

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Deacon: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

After the Gospel reading during the 10:30 a.m. Service, children of all ages are invited to join us for Celebrate Jesus, a story and activity time in St. Mary's Chapel. We'll return to the sanctuary during The Peace.

The Homily

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: O God, you pierced the quiet by the utterance of your Word in Jesus. May your compassion and reconciliation resound in and through us that we may be people of integrity, reconciliation and love. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Lector II: O God, angels proclaimed the peace of your Son. Strengthen all who work for peace and justice. Help us to value the dignity of every human person. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Lector I: O God, you came to us in a manger. Open our hearts to the needs of the homeless, the hungry, the battered, he abused and all those in need. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Lector II: O God, shepherds heard your good news. Give us grace to spread your Gospel of peace. Bring an end to terrorism, violence, racism, bigotry and war. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Lector I: O God, Christians throughout the world celebrate Christ's birth. Unite us in one family that we may shine with the one light which scatters all darkness. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Lector II: O God, we pray for Sean, Presiding Bishop; Skip, our Assisting Bishop; Bonnie and Rayford, Bishops of Michigan and Northern Michigan; Moises, Bishop of the Dominican Republic and Craig, ELCA Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod; St. Paul's of Corunna and its Senior Warden, Carol Amsterburg; St. Paul's of Muskegon and its Senior Warden, Nancy Solon. We remember the Church in the Province of the West Indies. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Lector I: O God, give strength and comfort to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We especially remember those on our Parish Prayer List for whom we have promised to pray and those we name silently or aloud, especially remembering those suffering in areas of active conflict. (*Pause to include additional names.*) God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Lector II: O God, we give you thanks for all those who have gone before us in faith especially remembering those we name silently or aloud. (*Pause to include additional names.*) May they rest in peace and all who mourn them be comforted. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Lector I: We pray for our congregation, vestry, staff and search committee during this time of transition. We pray for direction and a call for St. Mark's next rector. We pray:

O God, hear us.

Deacon: O God, we ask you to hear these prayers, those we have named aloud and those which lie deep within our hearts. All these things we ask through the power of the Holy Spirit and in the Name of Jesus.
Amen.

The Confession

All: **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 and glory 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: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

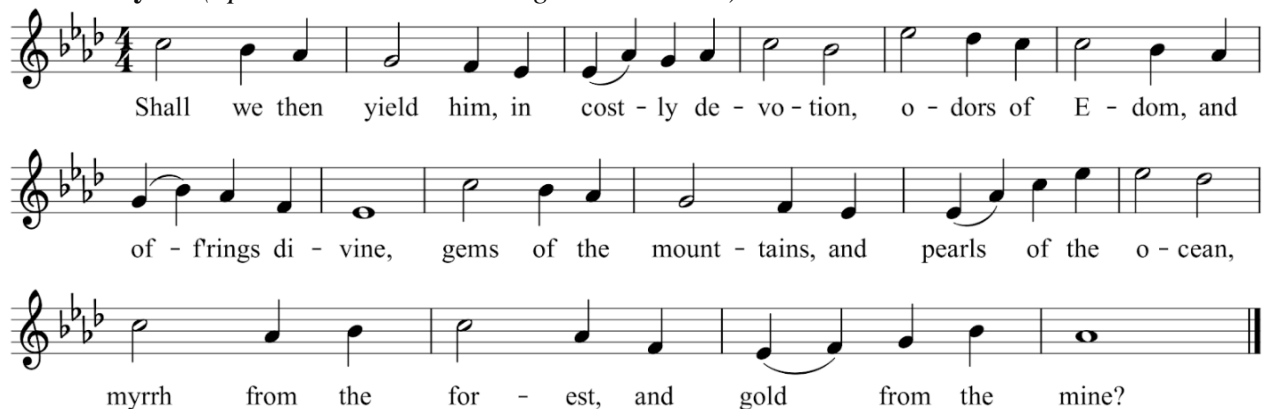
Presider: Let us offer one another a sign of that peace.

Announcements

Offertory Music — Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold Friedell

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



Shall we then yield him, in cost-ly de-vo-tion, o-dors of E-dom, and
of-frings di-vine, gems of the mount-tains, and pearls of the o-cean,
myrrh from the for-est, and gold from the mine?

The Liturgy of the Table

The Invitation

BCP, Church of England, Eucharistic Prayer E

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

Presider: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

And so, we gladly thank you with St. Mark and all saints and angels praising you, and as we pray:

Sanctus

Franz Schubert

Spoken at 8:00 a.m.:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Sung at 10:30 a.m.:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, — Ho - ly,
ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, — hea - ven and earth are
full, — full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes — in the name of the
Lord. — Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho san - na in the high - est.

Presider: We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, † send your Holy Spirit, upon these gifts that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us † the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died, Jesus had supper with his friends, and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended, he took the cup of wine. Again, he praised you, 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory:

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Presider: God of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. † Look with favor on your people. Gather us in your loving arms and bring us with St. Mark and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

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

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

The Breaking of the Bread and the Reception of the Sacrament

Franz Schubert

Spoken at 8:00 a.m.:

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world:
give us your peace.**

Sung at 10:30 a.m.:

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, bear - er
of our sins: have mer - cy on - us. Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the
world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

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

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

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

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

The Distribution of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Minister: The body and blood of Christ.

All: **Amen.**

Communion Hymn — Blue Hymnal No. 126: The People Who in Darkness Walked

Dundee

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

Deacon: Let us pray together:

All: **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, Father, 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.**

Blessing

May God, the Creator, fill us with light in abundance.

May God, the Son, illumine our paths.

May God, the Spirit, breathe new life into our lives of faith.

†And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Spirit be with us this day

And remain with us always. We pray: **Amen.**

Hymn of Sending — Blue Hymnal No. 423: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

The Sending Forth

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude — To Thee We Do Sing

Max Drischner

We are all invited to participate in the St. Mark's tradition to remain seated until the postlude has ended and the candles are extinguished. Then join us in the Parish Hall for further fellowship. The 10:30 a.m. Service is live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube and can be found at stmarksgr.org and on YouTube.

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 Almont
Dave Atkinson
Jayne Austin
Bill Bellinger
Sally Bowie
Ed Cox
Terry Dusendang
Ruth Hammond
Alena Kirova
Kathryn Marmion
Laura Maslonka
Jackie McCarthy
Chris McClain
Carmela McIntire
Goebbert-McIntire
Family
Bill Nasser
Ed Nicholson
Bea Rocco
Javier Ronquillo
Dan Scripsema
Meghan VanderMale
Tom Woudstra

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

In Military Service

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

Members of the Vestry

Dawn Buller, Sr. Warden
Judy Freeman, Jr. Warden
Brian Topolewski, Clerk
Gloria Lara, Treasurer
Jon Anderson
Ben Busman
Laura Kozminski
Emily Krueger
Penny Larsen
Dan McDonald
Carmela McIntire
Amy Richards-Duncan

Search Committee

Bob Brower
Doug Busman
Nancy Dodge
Karen Hunter
Carmela McIntire
Shawn Miller
Heather Tafel
Darren Walhof
Jackie Yam

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: Join Us at the Annual Meeting, January 26th at noon

Refreshments will be provided in the Social Hall before the meeting begins in the Sanctuary. Childcare available.

Ballots: The congregation will be asked to consider and approve a resolution relating to renovation plans for the Parish House and Church Building. You may read the entire resolution in the eNews. Hard copies are posted on the bulletin board and placed near the Welcome Desk. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, you may vote by absentee ballot. Please contact Kate in the church office for an emailed copy of the ballot, which needs to be completed and emailed back to Father Dave by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 25th.

2025 Vestry Candidates for four upcoming vacancies are Steve Bell, Scot Gogle, Rex Miller and Michael Reale. Current Vestry members Gloria Lara and Judy Freeman have agreed to be elected to a second three-year term.

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.

Church Closed Monday in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Congratulations to Cathy Stevens! Cathy is now a Candidate for Holy Orders, in the final stage of the canonical process leading to ordination. We are grateful for her time and gifts shared with us at St. Mark's, and we hope that our paths may continue to cross as she follows her spiritual journey.

Adult Formation, Sundays at 9:15 a.m. The video study of the Old Testament continues, led by Fr. David.

Sunday School has moved to 9:15 a.m. We hope your children and youth enjoy the new offering Make a Joyful Noise with Mr. Alex. Children of all ages present during the 10:30 a.m. Service may choose to adjourn to St. Mary's Chapel after the Gospel reading for a child-centered reading and discussion we're calling Celebrate Jesus. They will return to their families at the Peace.

Small Parish Dinner Groups! We're starting another round of small groups of six to eight fellow parishioners who meet in each others' homes for a casual dinner several times in the coming months. Groups will be assigned once RSVPs have been received. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or by email to Kate, officeadmin@stmarksgr.org. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know folks you may only see on Sundays. Whether you're new to St. Mark's, or have been attending for years, whether you're single or attached, or young or old, getting to know more of your fellow parishioners over a series of three potluck dinners can only be a good thing. ~*Kathryn Marmion and Nancy Dodge, Newcomer Ministry*

Episcopal 101 Continues, 12:30 p.m.: After refreshments in the Social Hall, meet in the Chapel. The course will continue through March 2nd (except for January 26th). Please wear your name tags.

'Love God, Love God's World': Join this exploration of creation care, every other Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.: January 22 and February 5, 19. Contact Rich, hiskesr@gvsu.edu, for access to free materials.

Bylaws Amendment: In December, the Vestry voted unanimously to amend the bylaws relating to Vestry terms. This served to clarify an ambiguity, bring our bylaws into alignment with the diocesan canons and allow for the benefits of some continuity in leadership. The amended bylaws allow members to fill an unexpired term and/or stand for a second three-year term, but the total years of service is capped. No member (including officers) may serve for more than six consecutive years. Read more in the eNews or bulletin board.

Vestry Person of the Day: Bring your questions or ideas to the Welcome Desk after the Services!