The Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

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



Christ Carrying the Cross, El Greco



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

Welcome to St. Mark's!

... a vibrant community of faith, which has gathered for worship since 1836 and in the current building since 1848. If this is your first visit with us, know that we are delighted you are here. Please introduce yourself and be sure to sign our guest sign-in sheet in the foyer and/or fill-out a Information packed from a welcome folder inside the lobby podium.

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

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

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

Safety: The outer doors to the Parish House will be locked fifteen minutes after Services begin with a security guard on duty to be of assistance. Please pay attention to the nearest exit in the Sanctuary. In an emergency, an announcement will be made and children will be ushered to a designated place for safety away from the Church complex.

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

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

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

Sunday School: We offer children's and youth formation, including Make a Joyful Noise with Mr. Alex, from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Nursery care for children under kindergarten is available from 9:15 a.m. through the 10:30 a.m. Service. For more information please contact Jeff Brown, Director of Faith Formation, at jeffb@stmarksgr.org.

Youth Ministry: Grand Rapids Episcopal Youth: G.R.E.Y. is a joint youth ministry between St. Mark's and St. Andrew's Episcopal Churches for grades 6-12. We have regular formation gatherings during the school year and service as well as social activities throughout the year. Our Director of Faith Formation is Jeff Brown, jeffatgrey@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

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

St. Mark's Staff

The Rev. David Blank, Interim Rector The Rev. Jan Gockerman, Deacon Pam Stevenson, Finance Manager Kate Assarian, Administrative Associate Dr. Gregory Crowell, Director of Music Jeff Brown, Director of Faith Formation Alexis VanZalen, Organ Scholar Mike Armour, Operations Manager Ronnie Hammond, Sexton Craig Mosley, Sexton Associate, Video Marqurice Jackson, Weekend Sexton Jamie Interial, Security Representative Eric Gable, Webmaster Worship during Lent (Ash Wednesday - Wednesday of Holy Week): During Lent, our liturgies take on a different and somewhat less celebratory character due to the penitential nature of the Lenten season. The liturgical environment is sparse and the liturgical color changes to a deep purple. The prayers of the liturgy reflect the season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

The Gathering of the People

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

Prelude—Pastoral Meditation

Alan Hovhaness

Welcome—Lector I

Introit— Now Quit Your Care

French Carol

(You may stand.) We continue our prayer as clergy and ministers are called forth from the congregation to assist us as leaders in worship.

Gathering Hymn—Red Hymnal No. 228: When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

Negro Spiritual

Invitation to Prayer

Presider: † Bless God, who forgives all our sins.

All: God's mercy endures forever.

Presider: Jesus said, the first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love

the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment

greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31)

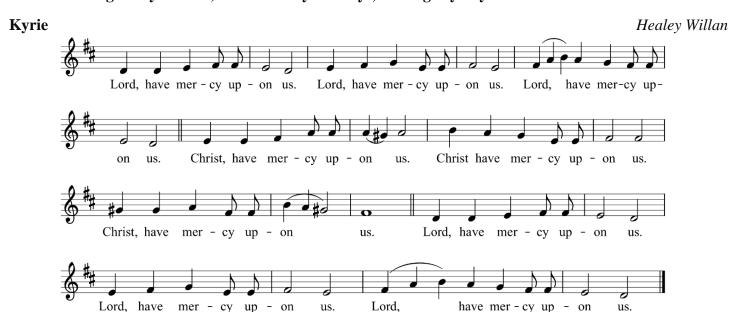
The Confession

Presider: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess

our sins, God, who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(1 John 1:8-9) Silence is observed.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.



Absolution

Presider: May †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.**

Collect of the Day

Presider: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for

ever and ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

We listen and hear the Word of God from the Sacred Scriptures of both the Hebrew and Christian Traditions.

The Hebrew Scripture (You may sit.)

Exodus 3:1-15

Lector I: A reading from the Book of Exodus.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you." God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63:1-8

Deus, Deus meus

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

At 10:30 a.m., the Antiphon is intoned by the choir and repeated thereafter.



O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; * my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, * that I might behold your power and your glory.

Antiphon

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; * my lips shall give you praise.

So will I bless you as long as I live * and lift up my hands in your Name.

Antiphon

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, * and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

When I remember you upon my bed, * and meditate on you in the night watches.

Antiphon

For you have been my helper, *

and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

My soul clings to you; *

your right hand holds me fast.

Antiphon

The Christian Scripture

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

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

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn— Red Hymnal 147, vv. 1, 2: Come, ye Disconsolate (continues after Gospel) Sammuel Webbe

Gospeler: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Christ.

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Gospeler: 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 at The Peace.

Gospel Hymn (continued)— Red Hymnal 147, v. 3: Come, ye Disconsolate

Sammuel Webbe

The Homily

The Rev. David Blank

A brief silence is observed for reflection.

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.

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

Prayers of the People (You may stand.)

Lector I: O God, you uphold all those who fall and lift up all who are bowed down. Therefore, during this Season of Lent, we pray in humility with the response, hear our prayer.

Lector II: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons: for Sean, Presiding Bishop; the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes; Bonnie and Rayford, Bishops of Michigan and Northern Michigan; Moises, Bishop of the Dominican Republic and Craig, ELCA Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod; for all the staff in our parishes; Church of the Mediator of Harbert and its Rector, Darlene Kuhn; St. John's of Charlotte and its Priest-in-Charge, Wendy Brown. We remember the Anglican Church of Central America. We pray:

All: Hear our prayer.

- *Lector I:* God of love, hear the cry of those who yearn for love; fractured families, broken homes, neglected, feeling unwanted, alone. God of love, **Hear our prayer.**
- *Lector II*: God of justice, hear the cry of those who yearn for justice; persecuted and oppressed, exploited, ill-treated, broken. God of justice, **Hear our prayer**.
- *Lector I*: God of peace, hear the cry of those who yearn for peace in battle zones and broken states, frightened, fearful, anxious. God of peace, **Hear our prayer.**
- Lector II: God of healing, hear the cry of those who yearn for healing or those feeling physical and spiritual hurt, weakness, depression, especially remembering those on our Parish Prayer list in the bulletin and all those for whom we have promised to pray. (Pause to add names silently or aloud.) God of healing, **Hear our prayer.**
- *Lector I:* God of mercy, hear the cry of those who yearn for mercy; conflicted, in need of your grace, contrite, humble, bowed down, God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- Lector II: God of the living and the dead, we pray for those who have died and those who will die this day, especially those unremarked or unattended. I invite you to add the names of those for whom you wish to pray. (Pause to add names.) O God, hear us. O God, graciously hear us.
- *Presider:* O God, we ask you to hear these prayers and give us your love, justice, healing and mercy, this day and all days. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

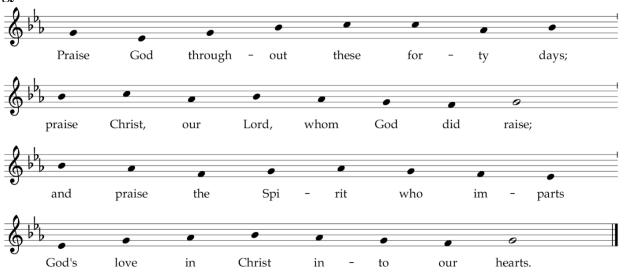
Announcements

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Music — Out of the Depths

Hovhaness

Doxology



The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

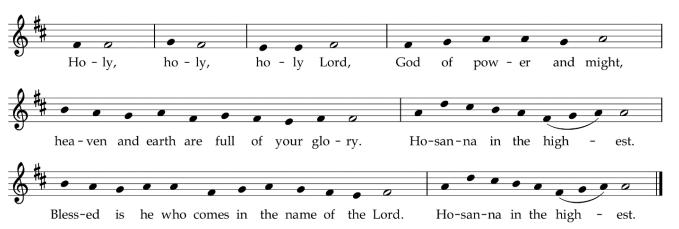
Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider: Worship and praise belong to you, maker of light and darkness. Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos, brings a harvest out of sorrow and leads the exiles home. In Christ your Son's enemies are reconciled, debts forgiven and strangers made welcome. Your Spirit frees us to live as sons and daughters in our Creator's house, and so we pray:

Sanctus David Hurd



(The people may stand or kneel.)

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father, for Christ in whom the world is reconciled. Lifted on the Cross, his suffering and forgiveness spanned the gulf our sins had made. Through that dark struggle death was swallowed up in victory, that life and light might reign. Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which the sons of Egypt died, your Chosen One, himself the First-Born, freely offered his life.

At supper with his disciples, Jesus took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you." Do this in remembrance of me.

After supper, Jesus took the cup. He offered you thanks and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command.

We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Reign.

Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father and †send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be for †us the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Holy Reign.

Help us and all the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into the heritage of the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles, the prophets, St. Mark and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, God of all ages, world without end. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

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

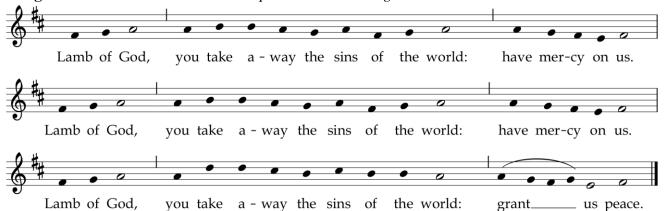
(Traditional) Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.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

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

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



David Hurd



Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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

Presider: All are invited to receive Holy Communion which contains both consecrated bread and wine. Following the distribution of consecrated bread, please feel free to dip your host into consecrated wine offered in a cup for intinction. Gluten-free consecrated 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.

Communion Hymn—Blue Hymnal No. 309: O Food to Pilgrims Given

O Welt, ich muss dich lassen

Post-Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

People:

O gracious God, Jesus stretched out arms of love upon the hard wood of the cross to embrace all the peoples of the earth. We thank you for feeding us with the Sacrament of that precious Body and Blood, the sign and instrument of our common life, food for our Lenten pilgrimage and the foretaste of the heavenly banquet to come; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Presider: May the peace of Christ which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the

knowledge and love of God, and may the blessing of God, †Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be

upon us this day and remain with us always, we pray: Amen.

Hymn of Sending Forth—Blue Hymnal No. 344: Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing Sicilian Mariners

Dismissal

Presider or Deacon: Let us go in peace to love and serve God and all God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude – Processional of Peace

Hovhaness

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

The St. Mark's Prayer List

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

The Sick and Other Needs	• •	Members of the Vestry	Search Committee
Alissa Almont	Sue Allen	Ben Busman, Sr. Warden	Bob Brower
Dave Atkinson	Susan Andrews	Judy Freeman, Jr. Warden	Doug Busman
Jayne Austin	Nita DeGraaf	Emily Krueger, Clerk	Nancy Dodge
Sally Bowie	John Gracki	Gloria Lara, Treasurer	Karen Hunter
Christopher Brewer	Jennifer Julius	Steve Bell	Carmela McIntire
Ed Cox	Mary Rollins	Scot Gugle	Shawn Miller
Terry Dusendang	Irene Savara	Laura Kozminski	Heather Tafel
Jon Hamm	Roma Warmington	Penny Larsen	Darren Walhof
Ruth Hammond	Jean Zylstra	Dan McDonald	Tom Woudstra,
Kathryn Marmion		Carmela McIntire	Chaplain
Laura Maslonka	In Military Service	Rex Miller	
Jackie McCarthy	B.G. Timothy Brower, Sr. USA	Michael Reale	Postulant for
Chris McClain	PV2. Cailen Donahue McLea, USA		Holy Orders
Jean McCormick	Spc. Henry Dykema, ARNG		Thon Deng
Carmela McIntire	Cpt. Nathan Gaggin, USAF		
Goebbert-McIntire Family	Col. Lt. Gabriel Monsalvo, USMC		Candidate for
Bill Nasser	Col. Todd Murray, USAF		Holy Orders
Ed Nicholson	2LT. John Nicholson, USA		Cathy Stevens
Marilyn and Ron Oom			
Joe Pinto			
Michael Reale, Sr.			
Julie Renauldo			

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 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

Bea Rocco Javier Ronquillo Dan Scripsema Meghan VanderMale Guillermo Venecia



Church Spotlight: "125 Years of the YWCA: Helen Claytor, Leader and Activist"



Join us this Thursday at the local event celebrating Helen Claytor, the mother of St. Mark's parishioner Judith Claytor, and learn how that work is carrying into our future here in Grand Rapids.

March 27th, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

GRPL Main Library, Ryerson Auditorium, 111 Library St NE

Organized by the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council

Join Julie Tabberer, a member of the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council and head of the Grand Rapids History Center, as she shares how Helen

Claytor's leadership and activism transformed the YWCA from a place where women could have lunch together without being escorted by a man - to an organization committed to eliminating racism and empowering women and girls.

Michelle Rabideau, YWCA Board President will talk about the YWCA's mission today and what they have planned for the future. Refreshments and cake will be provided. *Dismantling Racism Ministry*

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.

Quarterly Special Collection for the Breakfast Café is this Sunday. Thank you all for your ongoing support of this important ministry that carries God's love out into the community through our hands.

Thank You, Meijer! Meijer, Inc is in their ninth year of partnership with our Breakfast Cafe. For the last four years they have extended their contributions to \$10,000 per year. We just learned that this is the amount of their donation for the upcoming year. They are our strongest food partner and we are so grateful for their strong support. Please join us in thanking those you may know at Meijer and use the hashtag **#meijercommunity** as you talk about their support of our community. We are so very grateful!!

United Thank Offering (UTO): Have you grabbed your United Thank Offering Blue Box yet? They are at the Welcome Desk. UTO encourages people to notice each good thing that happens during the day, give thanks to God, then drop an offering for that blessing into the box. 100% of the collection goes toward innovative mission and ministry. See video in the eNews for UTO's impact on the Diocese of California.

Give Something Up, Give Something Away: Thank you to everyone who has taken up the Outreach Ministry challenge to set aside grocery items for the Downtown Food Pantry. See eNews for a photo of what a difference your generosity is making for the growing number of households facing food insecurity.

Adult Formation, Wednesdays of Lent: Join us for soup supper at 6:00 p.m. on March 26th, April 2nd, 9th and 16th. Sessions begin at 6:30 p.m., led by Rev. Dr. Steven Manskar and Steve Bell. We explore *Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer* and close with Compline by 8:00 p.m.

St. Philip's Episcopal Church Fish Fry: Eat in or carry out from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Fridays, March 28th and April 4th and 11th. Fried catfish filets (\$15) or ocean perch (\$12), sides: coleslaw, spaghetti, bread, cake.

Education for Ministry (EfM) Book Study, March 30th and April 6th, 12:15 to 1:30 p.m: EfM is an adult education course that dives deeply into scripture, church history and theology. All are welcome for a book discussion of "The Four Vision Quests of Jesus" by Steven Charleston, a Native American priest within the Episcopal Church. Contact Laura if you want to join the study or possibly EfM: laurakozminski@gmail.com.

Relational Meetings Training, **April 8th**, 7:00–9:00 p.m. Together West Michigan invites you to this intro to "house meetings" and "one on ones." What are they for? How do you do them? Organizing language can get a little wonky, but these two practices are the basis of everything we do. Join us to learn more about these tools and how to use them to build relational power in your institution and your community! It's hosted next door at Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain Street NE. Free street parking or use our lot.