



December 13, 2021

*Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.*

-Latin 9th Century - 1982 Hymnal #60

Beloved Community of St. Mark's,

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, I give thanks for the gift of each person who is a part of the worshipping community at St. Mark's both online and in-person. Worship is at the center of everything we do at St. Mark's. Each week we gather together to create beautiful and moving worship that feeds our souls and opens our hearts to God. Our communal faith helps us reach out in loving care to one another and beyond with support and compassion for the many struggles we face as a human community.

The words to the hymn above, "Creator of the stars of Night," remind me of our incredible collaboration in Creating our Cosmic Mosaic in the Montessori playground area and the joy and light it brought into this community as we began to regather. I'm grateful for the resilience and creativity of the St. Mark's congregation and I'm looking forward to the year ahead as we take our first steps to resume Sunday formation classes for all ages.

As we celebrate the gift of God's own self to all creation, let us also consider what gifts each of us have been given to share with the people around us. The robust and meaningful community we desire cannot be purchased, but rather is lovingly made by our deep participation and the generous sharing of our gifts.

On behalf of the staff and vestry of St. Mark's, we want to wish you and your household all the blessings of this Christmastide. By God's grace we are creating something beautiful for God in our neighborhood that will nurture the spiritual hearts of many for years come.

May God bless you in this season of joy,

Fr. Christopher McLaren
Rector, St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Our Christmas Offering this year has been designated to help defray the costs of Christmas Flowers, Decorations and Musicians and to support the continuing work of our Borderland Ministries in the Diocese of the Rio Grande especially the ongoing support of Ana Reza, our Bridge Chaplain.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Schedule

Sunday, December 19

11:00 AM Luminaria Construction After Church

4 PM Christmas Pageant & Party

Monday, December 20

7:00 PM Rosary for Remembrance (Hybrid)

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

9 AM Luminaria Set Up

5 PM Christmas Eve Family Service (Children's Christmas Story)

11 PM Candlelight and Choral Midnight Mass (Incense in use)
Prelude begins at 10:45 PM

Monday, December 27

Offices Closed for Christmas holiday - Reopening Monday, January 3

Sunday, December 26

11:00 AM Luminaria Clean Up After Church

Sunday, January 2

9:30 AM Feast of the Epiphany Worship

Epiphany Party with King's Cake following the service

Sunday, January 9

9:30 AM Feast of the Baptism of our Lord
A Baptismal Sunday

Monday, January 17

Offices Closed in observation of MLK Birthday

Sunday, January 30

11:00 AM Annual Meeting

Monday, February 21

Offices Closed in observation of Presidents' Day

Wednesday, March 2

Ash Wednesday services at 7:00 AM, Noon, and 7:00 PM