

St. Mark's News – January 19

Social Hour Hosts Needed for after the 10:30 a.m. Service – St. Mark's has a long tradition of invitation to our third level conference room following the 8 a.m. Service and in our Parish Hall following the 10:30 a.m. Service. If you have not attended this time of refreshments and fun, know that you are welcome. Also, please consider signing up to host one of these social hours by providing cookies/bars/cheese and crackers and offering to set up and clean up. Snacks are meant to be light and simple and need not be a lavish spread. If you need reimbursement for the snacks provided you may turn in receipts to our financial manager, Pam, for up to \$75 per Sunday's offerings. Coffee and tea will already be provided. Also, we encourage the ministry teams to sign up for a Sunday as a way of also updating everyone on your ministry work.

Episcopal 101, Wednesday, January 22nd: Episcopal 101 is a presentation followed by a discussion on all things 'Episcopal'. We will have a desert and tea at 6:30 p.m. followed by our formation session open to adults and youth. A sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Desk so we can prepare for the evening. Come for fellowship and learning. ~Christian+

Lunch Bunch: Join us for our January outing on Sunday, January 26 after the 10:30 worship service. If you need any further information please contact Laura Kozminski at laurak@stmarksg.org.

Thank you for shining our light, Jan 26 Social Hours: Stewardship would like to thank everyone for your generosity in bringing us so very close to our goal for the 2020 budget. We would like to celebrate with you during both of the social hours following the Jan 26 Services with cake. Plan on joining us next week.

Soups On Volunteering Opportunity or Fundraising Event Outing: Catholic Charities Annual Soups On fundraiser for God's Kitchen will take place on Monday evening Jan 27 at the B.O.B. There are two ways of which you may support this Charity. Jeff Brown has organized a team of volunteers with 12 volunteer slots available for our group, split between two shifts. This has traditionally been a family volunteer event for G.R.E.Y but all are welcome to help. Bonus: you will get to sample the soups and other goodies before or after your shift. Please contact Jeff Brown to sign up and get the details for training and know that Catholic Charities values our support of this event. The second way to support this Charity is to purchase a ticket (\$50 if registering in advance) to attend and benefit and enjoy food and fellowship. If you plan on attending please sign up at the welcome desk and register on line for your tickets. We hope to have a good representation from St. Mark's to support this worthwhile cause. Funds raised at this event cover the annual cost of food for the lunch God's Kitchen serves to those in need every day. Thanks in advance!

Volunteers needed for food truck at East Leonard School: We were able to get a grant to allow free food distribution at our partner school, East Leonard. We need many volunteers to help with this distribution. We will need to set up and then stand or sit at tables to help hand out food as people come through a line. We will have three distribution dates between now and May. The first date is Wednesday, January 29th. Due to winter weather it will take place indoors at the school which is located at 410 Barnett St. NE, G.R., 49503. Please consider helping from 3:30-6:00pm. You may sign up at the welcome desk for the next two weeks or by calling the church office. Thanks so much!

Potential New Vestry Members: The Nominating Committee of the Parish met, prayed and discerned who might serve on the Vestry as a new member in 2020. The following parishioners were contacted and have graciously offered to serve for which we are very grateful: Dawn Buller; Nancy Dodge; Kate Dykema; David Ilem; Judy Freeman. Please, keep these individuals in prayer. Their bios will be

published on the foyer bulletin board and in eNews. They will be voted on at the Parish's Annual Meeting on Feb. 2. May God bless them! ~ *The Nominating Committee*

Cold and Flu Season: As we all know; we are in the midst of the cold and flu season. Please, wash your hands as often as possible. Hand sanitizer lotion can be found at both entrances of the Sanctuary. Please, feel free to use it when entering and leaving Church. Thank you

Parish Annual Meeting and Parish Lunch February 2 following the 10:30 Eucharist: The Parish Annual Meeting is a shared experience unlike any other during the year. Those who attended last year's Annual Meeting experienced a presentation of the state of the Parish, elections of new Vestry persons and Delegates to Convention and a wonderful potluck lunch. A signup sheet is on the welcome desk to sign up for a dish to pass as well as to help with the clean up after the meeting. If you are the Chair of a Ministry, please, submit your annual meeting report by so that we can gather all the reports and have them ready as soon as possible. All ministries are expected to be part of the Annual Meeting Report. If you wish to be considered as a delegate to Convention, the first Friday-Saturday of November, please let Christian know. We will elect four delegates and two alternates to represent St. Mark's. Only the Rector's report will be given but all the other reports and financials will be available in hard copy and online. Please, 'save the date' and plan to be with us. Childcare will be provided. Blessings and thanks. ~ *Christian+*

Family Fellowship Event: Family Fun Night at Altitude Trampoline Park, Saturday, February 8th, 3-5 pm. Address: 3495 Alpine Avenue Northwest, Walker, MI 49544. Family Fun Night is a time for food and fellowship for families with children 5th grade and younger. It is an opportunity to build community among families with young children (including extended families like grandparents) in a low key setting. Although aimed at young families, families with older children are always welcome! Please RSVP to Jackie Yam at jackie.yam@gmail.com

'Panhandling' at St. Mark's: Please, consider 'not' giving cash to anyone who asks either in the parking lot or in the Parish House, as that perpetuates expectations of further contributions on Sundays and during the week. A reminder that St. Mark's offers assistance to our neighbors and the broader community through our various programs which includes financial assistance to twelve local agencies and organizations, the list of which can be found on the Parish's website. In addition, the Parish's Discretionary Fund enables us to offer assistance to individuals by helping with such things as pharmacy bills, energy bills or rent assistance. We do not give cash or checks to individuals and ask that none of us give money to anyone requesting it. Many thanks.

Volunteer with Children's Ministry: Our Children's program is growing and we need more Sunday volunteers! You can sign-up to help just one Sunday a month or more as it fits with your schedule and interest. We need help during our 9:30 Formation Class and our 10:30 Children's Chapel. You can pick the time that works best for you! All volunteers must attend "Safeguarding God's Children" training and undergo a background check. Please contact Laura Kozminski if you are interested: laurak@stmarksgo.org

Stewardship Matching Grant: A generous parishioner has offered \$5,000 toward the *Shining Our Light* Stewardship Campaign for 2020. If you have not yet pledged, now would be a golden opportunity to pledge, so that matching dollars would be available to match your pledge. Please, consider this opportunity and make a pledge for 2020. Please, see the back page for Budget 2020 information. As of Friday January 10, we have 150 pledges totaling \$505,417 toward the Stewardship need of \$525,000 for 2020. ~ *Stewardship Ministry*

Reminder if you have requested Offering Envelopes: They are available for you to pick up at the Welcome Desk.