

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

The First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
134 N. Division Ave.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
www.stmarksgpr.org

Welcome to St. Mark's

Welcome to historic 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, please 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.



Safety: Everyone entering the St. Mark's Parish House is encouraged to wear a mask. Guests and visitors are asked to sign the register. The wooden 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. Many thanks.

Weekly Worship and Prayer at St. Mark's: Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; Compline on Mondays and Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. via Facebook live. The bulletin is identical for both Sunday Services with musical elements not included in the 8:00 a.m. Service. We offer a mid-week Eucharist Service in St. Mary's Chapel each Wednesday at noon.

The Breakfast Café, a program of our outreach ministry, is at 8:15 a.m. every Saturday. If you would like more information, please contact Judy Freeman at judyfw@comcast.net.

Children's Formation: Sundays throughout the fall, we will be holding our children's formation series during 10:30 services. This includes formation, nursery care, and every third Sunday, Eucharist for All Ages. This is an inclusive service that gets children and youth involved. This Fall's theme is the 12 disciples. Come join us!

Junior and Senior High Youth: 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 weekly formation gatherings during the school year and service and social activities throughout the year. Please contact our Director of Youth Ministry, Jeff Brown, for more information: jeffatgrey@gmail.com.

Adults: We offer the *Education for Ministry* seminar during the program year, an *Inquirers' Class* for those preparing for Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirming one's faith and seasonal Sunday forums at 8:30 a.m. Please, see Fr. Christian for more details. We also offer a book study for adults. For the book group, please contact Carmela McIntire at carmela0067@att.net.

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

Rest Rooms are located on the main level of the Parish House under the exit sign at the top of the Foyer ramp.

Parking on Sundays: Limited parking is available in the Parish Lot. Please, consider the free metered parking on Pearl, Ionia, Lyon, Fountain and other streets near the church, the upper and lower levels of the GRCC building on Fountain Street and the Ellis Parking Lot at 210 Ionia just west of Lyon Street. For the Ellis Lot: Please, pick up an exit ticket from an Usher, a Greeter or on the little table where the bulletins are in the north transept. Parking is free on Sunday only. A white ticket is required to accompany the parking ticket and to exit the lot.

St. Mark's Full- and Part-time Staff

The Rev. Dr. Christian Brocato, Rector (FT)
The Rev. Susan York, Priest Associate
The Rev. Jan Gockerman, Deacon
Megan Harding, Parish Administrative Associate (FT)
Pam Stevenson, Finance Manager (FT)
Dr. Gregory Crowell, Director of Music
Alexis VanZalen, Organ Scholar
Evan Knill, Director of Children's Ministry
Jeff Brown, Director of Youth Ministry
Kate Pyles, Director of Communications Ministry
Ronnie Bowen, Sexton
Craig Mosley, Sexton Associate
Doris Molina, Weekend Sexton

The Gathering of God's People

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

The Prelude — O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

G. Winston Cassler

Lector I **The Welcome**

Standing as able, we continue our prayer as clergy and ministers are called forth from the congregation to assist us as leaders in worship.

Welcome and Invitation to a Holy Advent (*Standing as able*)

Presider I: † Blessed be God, most holy, gracious and undivided Trinity.

All: **And blessed be God's reign, now and forever. Amen.**

Presider I: Advent is a season of waiting and preparation to celebrate the coming of our Savior and the promised salvation for God's people. This time of waiting is also a time for us to work for peace and justice. It is a time for us to consider our priorities as we walk in the light that God gives us.

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

Presider I: Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,



People: **Have mercy on us.**

Presider: Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Presider: Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Presider: Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, One God,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Presider: Govern and direct your holy Church, especially here at St. Mark's; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will.



People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Give your people grace to witness to your word and bring forth the fruit of your Spirit.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Strengthen those who stand; comfort and help the fainthearted; strengthen the first responders and medical professionals across the world.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory and for the good of all.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Guard and protect all children who are in danger.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Shower your compassion on prisoners, hostages, refugees and all who are in trouble.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Presider: Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins: and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your word. And may God, forgive our sins, those things we have done and those things we have left undone, in the †Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessing of the Advent Wreath and Candle Lighting

Presider I: Blessed are you, O God. You sent your Son to be the light of the world and to spread his light of love to all.
†Bless this wreath and candles made by human hands. May increasing light be a sign to us of the approaching nearness of your Son, that we might prepare in joy for Christ's coming among us and be ready to receive him at his coming again in glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Presider I: Today as we light the first Advent candle, the flickering of the flame reminds us that our waiting is a time of both contemplation and action. *(The first Advent candle is lit.)* Let us pray together:

People: **Dear God, through your Spirit you spoke to the Prophets, and the people prayed and waited for a Messiah to come. Through your Spirit, speak to each of us, that we may feel your presence and know your will in our Advent waiting. Amen.**

Hymn – Blue Hymnal 56: O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni veni

Cantor: Stanza I

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

All: Stanza II

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Collect of the Day

Presider: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

At this point, we are seated to listen and hear the Word of God from the Sacred Scriptures of both the Jewish and Christian traditions.

The Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 2:1-5

Lector I: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122:2-9

(Prayed responsively by half verse at 8 a.m.; Antiphon intoned by the choir and repeated by all at 10:30 a.m.)



2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;

Antiphon

4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, *
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the Lord.

5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.

Antiphon

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.

7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.

Antiphon

8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.

9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

Antiphon

The Christian Scripture

Romans 13:11-14

Lector II: A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Hymn — Blue Hymnal 601: O day of God draw nigh

St. Michael

The Gospel (Standing as able)

Matthew 24:36-44

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Gospeler: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Homily

The Rev. Dr. Christian Brocato

Silence is observed for reflection.

The Nicene Creed (*Please note the language for the Spirit.*)

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 a 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, the Spirit is worshiped and glorified. The Spirit 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 (*Standing as able*)

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

Lector I: God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed: We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: Blessed are you who join us together in the communion of Christ’s Body. Renew and energize your holy Church here at St. Mark’s and throughout the world, that we may be a resurrection people, manifesting your steadfast love in our common life of praise and service. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: O Perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world. May we entrust all our labors to the work of Providence. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: O Deliverer, you unlock every door and make a way where there is no way. Set free all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or spirit. Resurrect their hope, grant them peace and refreshment, and restore their joy. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal, illumining all things with your radiance: Come, enlighten all who sit in darkness, and those who dwell in the shadow of violence and death. Grant us your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of your unfailing promise. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: O Compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick especially those for whom we have promised to pray, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: O Desire of every heart, the answer to our longing: You are the strong force which draws us into the mystery of love divine. Lead us ever deeper into your Way. Today's altar flowers have been provided by Jeanne Howell in loving memory of The Rev. Joseph A. Howell on the 68th Anniversary of his Ordination. Rev. Howell was the Rector of St. Mark's from 1971 to 1993. Bless those who have died and those who mourn their passing. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector II: God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us ready and alert to welcome and receive you in the stranger, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare you room. We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Lector I: For what else, or whom else, shall we pray? *(Pause to add additional prayers.)* We pray: **O God, hear us.**

Presider II: O Emmanuel, God-with-us, you show us the face of divinity and reveal the fullness of our humanity. Come: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become your faithful and loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

**Adapted: www.episcopalcafe.com*

The Peace

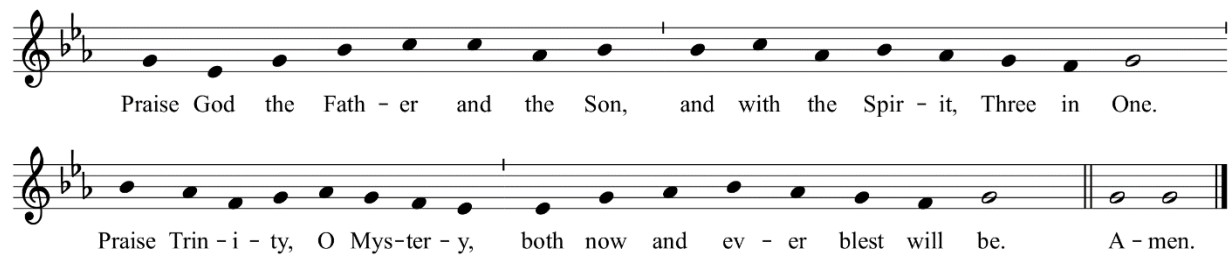
Presider I: The peace of Christ be with you always.
All: **And also with you.**
Presider: Let us offer one another a sign of that peace.

Announcements

While special music is offered, our monetary gifts are received for the benefit of the mission of St. Mark's. The Table is prepared, and the collected gifts are presented to be blessed by God. The Liturgy of the Table asks God to receive our gifts of bread and wine and ourselves as we are blessed by God in the Holy Eucharist.

Offertory Music — Comfort, Comfort Now My People *John Ferguson*

Presentation Hymn *(Spoken at 8 a.m. and sung at 10:30 a.m. **Please note the new tune and the text**)* *Gauditer*



Praise God the Fath - er and the Son, and with the Spir - it, Three in One.

Praise Trin - i - ty, O Mys - ter - y, both now and ev - er blest will be. A - men.

The Liturgy of the Table

The Invitation BCP, Church of England, Eucharistic Prayer E
Bread and wine have been received, and we now call upon God, the Father, through the Son, to consecrate them through the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Spoken at 8 a.m. and sung or spoken or sung at 10:30 a.m.)



Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Presider: O God, we give you thanks because when Jesus humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago and opened for us the way of salvation.

So now, we watch for the day, knowing that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ will come again in glory. And so, we gladly thank you with St. Mark and all saints and angels praising you, and as we pray:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full
 of thy glo - ry. Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that
 com - eth in the name of the Lord. 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:

People: **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.

The now consecrated elements of bread and wine are held high as a final offering to God for blessing followed by the Great Amen, an important affirmation on the part of all gathered for Eucharist.

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.

Celebrant *People*
 A-men.

The Lord's Prayer

As an expression of the inclusivity of the Eucharist and the importance of The Lord's Prayer, we have included three options for praying this beautiful and meaningful prayer. Other languages are also welcome.

Presider I: 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.

As the following words are offered, the Presider breaks the consecrated bread and wine and hold them up so that all may see and respond. Hosts are prepared with wine added in advance of the Service. Each host contains both consecrated bread and wine.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Reception of the Sacrament *(Spoken at 8 a.m.)*

O Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sins of the world,
have mer-cy up-on us. O Lamb of God, that
tak-est a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy up-on
us O Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the
sins of the world, grant us thy 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.

Presider: As is our tradition, all are invited to the Holy Eucharist at the Table of the Lord. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your hands over your chest, and you will receive a blessing. Please follow the guide of the ushers to receive Communion which contains combined elements of consecrated bread and wine. If you prefer a host without wine, gluten free consecrated hosts are available and are without wine. If you Wish, please feel free to dip your host into consecrated wine offered in a cup for intinction.

We come to the Altar-at-the-Crossing to kneel or stand to receive the Eucharist. Gluten free wafers are also available.

The Eucharist contains consecrated bread and wine combined prior to the Service and now the Body and Blood of Jesus while also remaining bread and wine.

The Distribution of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Minister: The body and blood of Christ.

All: Amen.

Communion Hymn — Green Hymnal 771: O God of gentle strength

Carlisle

Post-Communion Hymn: Lead me, Lord (Stanzas 1 and 2 Sung three times)

1. Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy right - eous-ness, make Thy way
2. Lead me, Lord, lead me in true hol - i - ness, teach me to
plain be - fore my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord,
love and trust in thee. Thou art our God, the God of our sal -
on - ly, that mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.
va - tion, all na - tions shall praise thy ho - ly name.

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

Presider: Let us pray together:

People: **Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Blessing

Presider II: Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of the †God who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us be with us now and forevermore we pray. **Amen.**

The Hymn of Sending Forth — Blue Hymnal 59: Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

Merton

Here, we are sent into the world having been nourished and fed for the journey of life. We will go with thanksgiving to be light in the world for those all around us.

The Sending Forth

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

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The Postlude — O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

John Ferguson

You are invited to participate in the tradition at St. Mark's to remain seated until all the candles are extinguished and the postlude has ended, fitting ways to conclude our worship together. Following the Service, please join us for further fellowship in the Parish Hall just across the foyer from the Sanctuary.

A reminder that when the Rector preaches, his homily is available on the Resource Table in the north transept. Please, feel free to take a copy for further reflection. All homilies are videoed and can be found at www.stmarksgr.org at the Media tab and on YouTube at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids, MI. The 10:30 a.m. Eucharist is live-streamed and can be found on the Parish's website at www.stmarksgr.org and on our Facebook page and YouTube channel both with links on our website.

Offertory and Ways to Give to St. Mark's Episcopal Church

- 1.) Place check or cash in the offering plate
- 2.) Electronic Giving (email Pam for form – see the attachment in our e-news)
- 3.) Give+ Mobile App from any mobile device
- 4.) Pay by text - text 616-205-9714 from your phone and send a payment
- 5.) Mobil App Square cash - Cashtag: \$stmarksgsr Web address: cash.me/\$stmarksgsr
- 6.) Mail a check to the church
- 7.) Online at our website at www.stmarksgsr.org through PayPal
- 8.) Remember St. Mark's in your Estate Planning
- 9.) Gifts or Transfer of Stock



Finances as of November 20, 2022:

Total budget for 2022:	\$673,270	Proposed Budget (2023):	\$724,000
Pledged Amount for 2022:	\$484,255	Pledges Needed (2023):	\$500,000
Received Yr. to Date (Pledges, Gifts and Income):	\$534,786	Pledges Received to Date:	\$487,983

Thanks to all who financially support the Ministry of St. Mark's. Please know that additional pledges can be received at any time. Any questions whatsoever, please feel free to contact our Finance Manager, Pam Stevenson or our Treasurer, Marc Vander Velde.

The St. Mark's Prayer List

The Sick

The Ash Family
The Bedford Family
Wendell Chivis
Charlie Coplin
Anthony DeMello
Jennifer Julius
Tom Klein
Anais Laurent
George Linde
Jean McCormick
John Oatley
Rev. David Pike
Mary Rollins
Craig Timm
Jim Todd
Jeanne Zylstra

Homebound Parishioners

Sue Allen
Nita and Chuck DeGraaf
John Gracki
Irene Haizman
Mary Rollins
Irene Savara
Shirley VanDerBos
Roma Warmington
John Wells
Jean Zylstra

Officers of the Vestry

Nancy Dodge, Senior Warden
Dawn Buller, Junior Warden
Brian Topolewski, Clerk
Marc VanderVelde, Treasurer

Those in Military Service

Col. Timothy Brower, Sr. USA
HC. Yamar Chivis USN
Henry Dykema, USNG
Cpt. Nathan Gaggin, USAF
Col. Gabriel Monsalvo, USMC
Lt. Col. Todd Murray, USAF
1st Sgt. Deidre Piechocki, USA

Members of the Vestry

Kate Dykema
Judy Freeman
Joshua Gonzales
Chuck Hoyt
Gloria Lara
Jon Anderson
Amy Richards-Duncan
Mike Armour

Discernment for Ordained Ministry

Rachel Ravellette
Cathy Stevens

Upcoming Events

Advent Retreat, Dec. 3, 10:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Advent II Dec. 4: Christmas Tree Lighting and Carols at 4:30 p.m. and Sacred Sounds Concert 5:00 p.m.
Advent Sunday Forums Dec. 4, 11 and 18, 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
Catholic Information Center Advent Event "From Grieving to Joy," Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
featuring Rev. Woong-Sik Chon (see flyer in Parish House Foyer)
Advent Wednesday Forums, supper at 6:00 p.m., forum from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Dec. 7 and 14
Advent III, Dec. 18, 5:00 p.m., Sacred Sounds Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols
Labyrinth, December 21, prayer 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Eucharist Service at 10:30 a.m. (only)
New Year's Day (Sunday) Services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Announcements

eNews: Please visit our website at www.stmarksgsr.org and click on the scroll that says “Newsletter” for our weekly announcements, opportunities and news. This is the same as our electronic newsletter (eNews) to which you may subscribe to receive in your email each week by filling out one of our Welcome Cards and placing it on Megan’s desk.

Advent Retreat, Dec. 3, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: During Advent, the Church invites us to reflect on the coming of Christ. Please, consider taking time to retreat and to consider Advent themes of anticipation and hope through the lens of the 13th-century mystic St. John of the Cross. Using his prayers and quotes from his mystical writings, we will take time for reflection, silence and writing to explore the spirituality of Advent and its potential benefits for our lives of faith. A sign-up sheet is available on the Welcome Desk of the Parish House or contact me, and I will add your name for you. A light lunch will be provided. ~ *Christian* +

Christmas Tree Lighting and Carols, December 4 at 4:30 p.m.: Bundle up and join us for Christmas Carols and the blessing and lighting of the newly planted Christmas tree on the lawn of the Parish House. Stay for the Sacred Sounds Concert at 5:00 p.m.

Sacred Sounds Concert December 4 at 5:00 p.m.: Hannah De Priest, soprano, is praised for her impeccable singing and vivid performances. She is in high demand on both sides of the Atlantic. Joining this Prize Winner of the 2021 International Cesti Vocal Competition is the celebrated pianist Michael Pecak. You will not want to miss this event. This concert is free but donations to the Sacred Sounds program will be graciously accepted. The concert will be followed by a reception in the parish hall.

Advent Event: From Grieving to Joy, December 6, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.: Please, join me and others for prayer, reflection and discussion at the Catholic Information Center, 360 Division Ave. South (See flyer in the Parish House Foyer) as we gather for an evening in Advent. I volunteer at the CIC and hope that you will want to be with us for this unique Advent opportunity. Also, there is a need for a few volunteers at the Center on the following: Preparation of packets on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Set-up on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 1:00 p.m. Clean-up after the event on Tuesday, Dec. 6 8:45-9:30 p.m. If you can help, please, contact at church or via my cell or sign-up at the Welcome Desk in the Parish House. ~*Blessings, Christian*+

The Kent Philharmonic Orchestra presents a Christmas Concert for All Ages, Friday Evening December 9, 7:30 p.m.: The Kent Philharmonic Orchestra presents a holiday concert featuring The Carol Symphony by Victor Hely-Hutchinson. The orchestra will also perform A Christmas Festival and Sleigh Ride by Leroy Anderson and excerpts from the Nutcracker Suite by Peter Tchaikovsky. The St. Cecilia Auditorium is located at 24 Ransom NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Tickets are available at the door.

Visit the resource table in the north transept: We offer Advent Daily Devotional Booklets, The Daily Bread, Day by Day and so much more!

The Parish Life/Hospitality Civic Theater annual holiday musical on Sunday, December 11 for the 2:00 matinee: This year they are performing Mary Poppins! We have the group rate if we have 20 or more. Tickets are \$28.00 for adults and \$16.00 for students. That is a \$7.00 savings with the group rate. We also are planning on a complimentary luncheon at the church prior to the play. Please send your check to Pam Stevenson, our bookkeeper. Remember that your check will insure your reservation. Deadline for reservations is December 2.

Sanctuary Giving Tree: Our annual Giving Tree will be dedicated this year to providing additional winter clothing to our homeless neighbors and Breakfast Cafe guests. While we had a generous outpouring of gifts in October to provide many of these items, we are experiencing an increase in the number of newly homeless neighbors. Beginning this Sunday, November 20, please consider bringing hats, scarves, gloves, and socks to carefully place on or below the tree in the south transept. These items will be distributed at the Christmas Breakfast Cafe in December. Thank you for your generosity. ~ *Outreach and Social Justice Ministry*

Episcopal 101: An Inquirer's Journey, January to April 2023: If you wish to be received into the Episcopal Church, to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church or to reaffirm your faith as an Episcopalian, please, consider this opportunity at St. Mark's. All participants will be expected to prepare the materials whether in attendance or not, and that only a minimum number of sessions can be missed. A variety of days and times will be offered to try and accommodate as many schedules as possible. If needed, I will schedule a make-up session or two. A sign-up sheet is available at the Welcome Desk in the foyer of the Parish House or you can contact me as well. Many thanks. ~ *Christian*+

Sunday Forums in Advent: Join us for Advent Sunday forums in the Canterbury Room on Dec. 4, 11 and 18. Teams of individuals from the Adult Formation Ministry will lead presentations and discussions on "All Earth is Waiting: Good News for God's Creation at Advent." Sessions will be from 9:30 to 10:15. Please, join us if you are able. ~ *Adult Formation Ministry*

Wednesday Forums in Advent: Please, join us for several unique opportunities in Advent on Wednesdays, Dec. 7, 14 and 21. On Dec. 7 and 14, we will have supper together as we have this fall and then retreat to the St. Mary's Chapel for a combination of reflections and prayers by candlelight from 6:30-7:45. The themes will be longing, hoping for hope, active anticipation and preparation and Taize-style chants will be part of our evening together, as we journey together in Advent toward Christ's coming again. On Dec. 18, the Parish Labyrinth will be on display for prayer in the Parish Hall from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Please, come and pray with this unique method for prayer and meditation. *Adult Formation Ministry*