



Important Links

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The Good News

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
A Community of Grace

We spread God's word,
love like Jesus,
enjoy worshipping together,
and help our neighbors.



Sunday, March 17, 2023 Holy Eucharist (Communion) Service at
8 & 10 AM

10 AM service can be viewed live or on demand via the church's
website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel.

[Click HERE for Sunday Worship Information](#)



Worship

Penitential Order, 8 AM

During Lent the 8AM service is ordered differently. Following the acclamation, the service continues with the confession of sin and absolution. It continues with the decalogue (aka 10 commandments), and an appropriate sentence(s) of scripture (see the Summary of the Law, Mt 22:37-40 or Mark 12:29-31; 1 Jn 1:8-9; and Heb 4:14, 16). The Penitential Order (see BCP, pp. 351-353) emphasizes the penitential aspect of the eucharist.

Instructed Centering Prayer

During Lent at both services there will be more time for instruction and centering prayer. This will include directions for breathing, focus, and posture.

Hiding of Alleluias, Bells, Brass, and Altar Flowers

During the season of Lent, we prepare for Easter by hiding the "Alleluias." The "Gloria" is replaced with the "Trisagion" or "Kyrie." The large cross above the Altar is

covered by a hanging. The decorated cross is replaced by a simple wooden cross. The Sanctus bells are replaced with a seed pod shaker. The candle pillars are covered and small wood candle holders on the Altar are used instead. Altar flowers are replaced with bare branches. All this helps amplify the joy of Easter, when we will return flowers to the altar, ring bells, and joyfully sing out our "Alleluias."

Seed Pod Shakers and Crotalus

Since bells customarily signify joy, during Lent we are using a seed pod shaker in place of the Sanctus Bells. Traditionally, a wooden clacker or "crotalus" (meaning rattle) is used in place of the Sanctus Bells from Maundy Thursday to Holy Saturday. The seed pod shaker and crotalus maintain a somber mood during the Eucharist while reminding the community of the transformation that is taking place in these moments of worship.

Rehearsal for Maundy Thursday in the Sanctuary

We will be meeting Sunday, March 17 for the Maundy Thursday rehearsal.

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Handbook and Calendar

See the [handbook](#) for what's happening.

Click [here](#) for the calendar.

Please contact the office if you have any changes or submissions.

Prayer Requests

Please send your prayer requests to prayer@stmarks-upland.org.



Community & Fellowship

Easter Sunday Announcements

In order to streamline the announcements following the Peace on Easter Sunday, please let the office know of any announcements you wish to appear in the bulletin. Please include "Good News" in the subject line. Also, please send your announcement/flyer to Digital Ministry for posting on the electronic bulletin board. Please submit by Sunday, March 24. Your cooperation is appreciated.



Hospitality Volunteer Needed for 8AM Easter Sunday Visitors

Because we wish to be hospitable to our 8AM Easter guests, we would like to have a coffee, tea, and water station in the narthex following the 8AM service. Please let the clergy know if you are able to assist. Thank you.

St Marks Electronic Bulletin Board

The Electronic Bulletin Board is up and running in the parish office and the church hall.

1. If you have an event flyer or event announcement that you want displayed on the bulletin board, send a copy to: digitalministry@stmarks-upland.org
2. If you take photographs of church events – send your photos to: digitalministry@stmarks-upland.org

Format your photos as jpeg and reduce the resolution to medium.

For either 1 or 2 above, be sure to include your name and contact information so that Digital Ministry can get clarification or additional information if required.

If you are a leader of a church ministry, please send Digital Ministry a picture of you and your contact information so that a list of ministry leaders can be created and displayed.

St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 16, 5:00PM

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting a St. Patrick's Evening event in the parish hall on Saturday, March 16. This celebration of Irish Heritage will begin at 5:00 PM with a variety of potluck dishes as our parish gets their Irish-on. Dishes may feature traditional favorites with cabbage, potatoes, corned beef, soda bread, etc. or anything that says Irish to you! The evening will feature a traditional Irish dance performance by Tamora School of Irish Dance at 6:30PM. This event is not only an opportunity to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, but also a chance for our church community to come together and strengthen bonds of friendship and fellowship. We encourage you to bring your family and friends along to join in the festivities and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of the event. Potluck dishes and donations appreciated. See sign-up sheet. Your presence and support are greatly appreciated, and we look forward to having a fantastic time together.



Update on COVID Announcement Policy

In order to improve communication and pastoral care, we are updating our COVID announcement policy. The office/rector will no longer include an automatic announcement in the Good News about a person testing positive at a St. Mark's event or worship service. If a person tests positive, then they are encouraged to notify those who were in close contact with them. We hope the change in policy will allow those testing positive to connect with the clergy and church community for pastoral care more freely. We continue to encourage getting the booster, wearing masks, and isolating as appropriate. The community's spiritual and physical health are important to us.

Loving Our Neighbor: Admitting the Problem with Holy Week and Easter Texts

As we move through Holy Week and Easter, let us be aware that the narratives about the passion and crucifixion of Jesus and the birth of the early church have been used to promote supersessionism (aka replacement theology), Christian triumphalism, and Christian violence and hatred against our Jewish siblings. Let us recall our own role, culpability, and helplessness in the crucifixion of Jesus. Blame does not belong to a single religious, national, or ethnic group. See further conversations, resources, and strategies to **texts** and **hymns**.

An Invitation (revised)

Do you like to sing? Sound OK in the shower or in a crowd singing Happy Birthday? Read music a little bit or you can usually follow along with the person next to you? Always wanted to sing while walking in a procession? Love the Easter hymns? Wonder about the view from the balcony? Then you are cordially invited to be part of St. Mark's Very Special Easter Choir for a limited engagement culminating on Easter Sunday. Your commitment: Attend two rehearsals, 7:30-9:00pm, Tuesdays, March 19 & 26 (the rehearsal on the 26th will start after the Tuesday in Holy Week service at 7:00pm.) Be present at both Easter Morning services, 8:00am and 10:00am, with a warm-up before the 8:00 service, probably at 7:20. Are you worried that you can't sing in parts (soprano, alto, tenor, bass)? You're

welcome to sing the melody on the hymns and service music, and then you may sit out the anthems if the parts are too daunting (but give it a try in rehearsal -- you will be sitting with other people singing the same part.) And to top it off, the choir robes are a shade of blue that looks good on everyone. Please think about it -- we welcome your participation! Little or no risk and much joy. Please let Serena or one of the other choir members know you will be joining us for rehearsal so we can prepare a place for YOU.

Serena Beeks, temporary choir director

Vestry Update: Bill Brooks

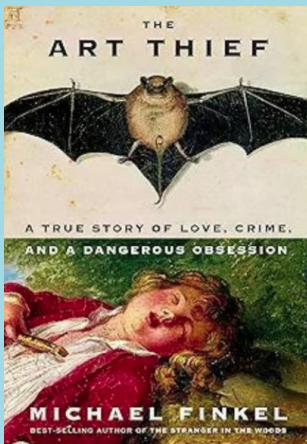
Bill Brooks will be stepping away from vestry due to health concerns. He recently received a diagnosis of a cancer recurrence. Bill was elected to the vestry at the annual meeting in January 2024. We are grateful for Bill's dedication to St. Mark's and, although brief, we will miss his leadership and presence on the vestry. Please keep Bill and Patti in your prayers.

Music Director Update: Larry Goddard

Music Director Larry Goddard is back in town after three months of rehabilitation. Larry will continue his recovery and physical therapy at home, and we look forward to his return to church in April. We are grateful for the leadership of Canon Serena Beeks and Gigi Garner and the musical talents of Organist Ken Rudolf and Pianist Rachelle Gensolin during the interim.

Easter Dedications

If you're interested in making an Easter Dedication, you can print and fill out the **attached form** (or pick one up in the Narthex) and place it in the Easter Dedication envelope located in the church.



St. Mark's Book Club, March 16

St Mark's Book Club members recently enjoyed an animated discussion of "The First Ladies" at Roslyn Foster's home. Our commentary was complemented by tasty baked goods and fruit freshly picked from Roslyn's fruit trees. Thank you, Roslyn!

Our next meeting will be hosted by Sharon Muehlbacher on Saturday, March 16th, at 10am. Our book is "The Art Thief" by Michael Finkel, "a riveting story of art, crime, love, and an insatiable hunger to possess beauty at any cost."

For centuries, works of art have been stolen in countless ways, but no one thief has been more successful than Stephane Breitwieser, who stole more than three hundred art works, worth an estimated \$2 billion before his unprecedented crime spree fell apart in spectacular fashion.

Please join us for what promises to be a fascinating conversation about art thievery in general and Breitwieser's bizarre, fascinating world in particular.

Want more details? Contact Rose Barraza in the church office or Maggie Vizio.

Climate Connections, our diocese's disaster resilience planning program, aims to foster connected communities that are prepared to deal with the immediate aftermath of disasters. St. Mark's Upland has been selected to participate in this year's Climate Connections cohort. Climate Connections has two overarching objectives. The first is to offer a framework for use by individual congregations in developing disaster action plans. The second is to create connections between communities to foster mutual support in the event of a disaster. Both are critical to the goals of building resilience and empowering effective responses. Climate Connections envisions that the work of developing an action plan is done within the parish. Periodically, the cohort will meet to exchange ideas, share lessons learned, and build the relationships that are crucial to mutual support. The cohort's efforts culminate in mid-October with participation in The Great California Shakeout (<https://www.shakeout.org/california/>), which is a statewide earthquake preparedness exercise.

Attached you will find a copy of "*Climate Connections: A Disaster Resilience Plan for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles*". This document, developed by Dr. Lucy, will guide our work.

For more information, please contact the rector.

Calling All Acolytes

We are revitalizing our youth acolyte program. If you are interested in serving at the altar, carrying torches, cross, gospel book, and banner, please contact Paul Beardsley at Acolytes@stmarks-upland.org. We will be hosting an information and training session soon.

FINANCIAL WELLNESS WORKSHOP, March 21

FINANCIAL WELLNESS WORKSHOP SERIES

Get your financial life on track and learn skills to reduce financial stress, improve relationships, and maintain a sustainable budget.



This 5 week series is for those of all financial backgrounds and will cover important topics applicable to ages 16 to 99!

- *How to make & adhere to a monthly budget
- *The importance of an emergency fund
- *Paying down debt
- *Understanding interest, credit cards, mortgages, etc.
- *Getting through college debt free
- *Saving, investing, retirement, and giving



330 E. 16th St., Upland, CA 91784 (909) 920-5565
www.stmarks-upland.org

Newcomers/Inquirers/Seekers Class: 9AM Sundays in the Mason Webber Library

This is an opportunity to get to know more about St. Mark's, the church and one another. Participants will explore the Bible, Worship, Church, and Discipleship. At each session we will have a time for prayers, questions, introductions, and a brief orientation on a topic with helpful suggestions for further formation.

We meet for 50 mins on Sundays at 9AM in the rector's office.

We will skip Palm Sunday (3/24) and Easter Sunday (3/31) and resume Easter 2 (4/7).

Youth Group News

Saint Mark's Youth for Christ is open to all young people in 6th through 12th grades and meets every first and third Sunday of the month in Room 18 from 11:30 – 12:30 after the 10:00 AM service. We enjoy fellowship together, choose and carry out service projects, and consider how Christians can do God's work in the world, especially through climate care. Please join us.

Sunday School Aides and Teachers Opportunities

Are you interested in learning more about the Bible, church, liturgy, prayer, and a relationship with God? Try being an adult aide for Sunday School. Watch the presentations from the best teachers and curriculum. Although targeted for children, the theological and ecclesiastical principles are solid. You are not required to know all the answers. In fact, it is more important to listen to the children and ask questions than it is to provide the correct answers. See Susan Mackall or the rector for more information.



Creation Care

Carbon Fast for Lent

Week 5

Challenge: Fast from Driving

This week we turn our attention to transport and consider the environmental impact of our daily travel. The challenge is to fast from all unnecessary driving: in other words, skip the car for any trips where you can reasonably walk, bike, or use public transportation to get where you're trying to go. If car travel is necessary, do your best to combine trips and carpool with others when possible.

If you are already living car-free, we'd love to hear how that's working for you. Do you have any advice for others who are considering taking the same step?

Modern life is fast-paced and can leave us feeling under pressure to be always on the move. Slowing ourselves down by changing our travel habits can help us focus on God. Walking, cycling, or catching a bus or train can make the journey longer in time but richer in experience, by providing opportunities to appreciate God's creation and to enjoy interactions with others.

Below, you will find this week's challenges:

Easy – Think ahead about what you'll be doing this week, and make a plan that combines car journeys into as few as possible. Get connected with friends and colleagues making similar journeys to you, and arrange to carpool when you can.

Medium – Where possible, walk, cycle, or take public transport. Download the apps for your local transport services so you can plan your journeys. Where driving is unavoidable, organize a carpool to share rides to work or church.

Hard – Avoid using your car at all this week, instead walk, cycle or take public transport. Consider purchasing an ebike to make long cycle journeys quicker!

Episcopalchurch.org/creation

Father God, thank you for the privilege of cars and the convenience they bring to our daily lives. Please help me this week to slow down, to make time to walk, cycle or use public transport. As I do so, please open my eyes to the beauty of your Creation, and renew in me in a desire to care for it. In Jesus name, Amen.



Outreach



Blood Drive, March 22, 11AM-5PM

The next blood drive will be held on Friday, March 22. Please schedule an appointment online by visiting www.redcrossblood.org and enter code: stmarks or call 1-800-RED-CROSS

How You Can Help Those in the Holy Land

Pray: Join an online community of prayer [here](#).

Learn: To keep informed about what's happening, check out the **American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem**.

Give: To give, please go to the **Good Friday Offering** or the **Episcopal Relief & Development Middle East Fund** . Or write "Holy Land" in the memo line of your check/envelope and we will forward to one of the aforementioned organizations.

Good Friday Offering

The Good Friday Offering supports the ministries of the three dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Pastoral care, education and health care continue to be primary ministries through which the reconciling spirit of the Christian faith serves all in need. The generous donations of Episcopalians help the Christian presence in the Land of the Holy One to be a vital and effective force for peace and understanding among all of God's children. Because of the great ongoing need in the Holy Land, we are raising awareness of this fund before Good Friday.

Episcopal Relief & Development (February 15, 2024 Web Statement)

Episcopal Relief & Development, in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Anglican Alliance, is expanding its support to additional communities where people have been physically, emotionally and financially impacted by the war in the Holy Land.

Foothill Family Shelter donation drive results and a suggestion for Lent

Once again, the members of St. Mark's came through for the Foothill Family Shelter. You donated 31 items for babies and 15 items for women's personal hygiene, as well as 20 general hygiene items and 18 boxes, cans, or packages of non-perishable food, for a grand total of 84 items. Thank you!

During Lent, we encourage you to remember those who rely on the Foothill Family Shelter and TOUCH for food, clothing, and personal hygiene items. Consider making a donation each Sunday of non-perishable food or a personal hygiene item to the Foothill Family Shelter box or canned meats or fruits with pop-top cans, personal hygiene items, underwear, socks, beanies, or gloves, or \$10-15 fast food gift cards or \$25 Target or Walmart gift cards to the TOUCH box. Your Lenten sacrifice helps to recognize the dignity of every human being.



Stewardship & Finance

Zelle is here! New option for online giving to St. Mark's

Zelle is a convenient, no-fee way to directly give to St. Mark's. Zelle is a collaborative effort by banks to allow customers to directly transfer funds without a wait and without the fees charged by vendors like PayPal. You can set up Zelle once you log into your bank account. There also is a mobile application, although we recommend making sure that password protection and other security features

are enabled. St. Mark's donations can be made by using give@stmarks-upland.org. Donations will go directly to the operating fund to pay for our regular costs (including our nice air conditioning) unless you designate otherwise.

How to Give Stocks or Mutual Fund Shares to St. Mark's

We have a brokerage account through Charles Schwab to accept stock and mutual fund gifts to St. Mark's. Donors are not assessed capital gains if the stock is transferred to St. Mark's. Please contact Rose in the church office at (909) 920-5565 or parishadmin@stmarks-upland.org for a handout on the specific codes and steps that you need to take. You will also need to let us know the amount and type of donation so that we can appropriately track the donation. Our policy is to sell any stock upon receipt. Donations completed before December 31 will count as 2023 donations. Donations beginning in January will count toward 2024.

Thank you for your generous gift.
No matter how, how much, or how often you give,
you make a difference. Your contribution is appreciated.

Give to St. Mark's



The Episcopal
Church

St. Mark's
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Episcopal Diocese
of Los Angeles

St. Mark's Episcopal Church A Community of Grace

330 East 16th Street, Upland, CA 91784
(909) 920-5565
stmarks-upland.org

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM (closed 12:30–1 PM);
Friday Closed



St. Mark's Episcopal Parish | 330 East 16th Street, Upland, CA 91784

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