



# The Good News

Sunday, December 4, 2022

## St. Mark's Episcopal Church: A Community of Grace

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

### **Haiti Partnership**

Our partner church and school, St. Andre in Trianon, Haiti, will celebrate its patronal festival on St. Andrew's Day, November 30. We will celebrate with them in spirit on Sunday, December 4, and we will have various Haitian arts, crafts, and other items for sale in the Parish Hall, with all proceeds to benefit our partners. Please be generous! We are able to include several professionally framed ready-to-hang Haitian paintings at this time which will be available by silent auction, with the bidding to end December 19. Each painting will also have a "Buy it Now" price which will allow you to take it away for a donation slightly above its value. (Check out "Indigo Arts" and "Myriam Nader Gallery" online for price comparisons.) Come by and see what we have for your Christmas shopping needs!

### **Deanery 6 A Franciscan Quiet Day for Advent Quiet Day, Sat, Dec 3**

10 AM to 2 PM at Christ Church Ontario (1127 N. San Antonio Ave.)

Enjoy a day of rest & reflection between the holidays. This Advent Quiet Day is done in conjunction with The Third Order of the Society of St. Francis, an Anglican/Episcopal religious order for people of all kinds – single and in committed relationships, lay and ordained – who live by Franciscan principles "in the world." This is the order founded by Francis himself for those who were drawn to his way but felt called to live it out right where they were. A light vegetarian lunch will be served. A donation of \$10 towards lunch is appreciated. RSVP and donation may be made via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-franciscan-quiet-day-for-advent-tickets-466021953207>

### **Week at a Glance at St. Mark's**

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

Sunday 8 AM and 10 AM Holy Eucharist. Both in-person and streaming online on YouTube and Facebook. Go to <https://www.stmarks-upland.org/services/in-spirit-worship/>. Bulletins are available at church, by e-mail, and on the website. Hymnals are available for home use.

Monday–Friday 9 AM Zoom Morning Prayer and Bible Study.

Go to <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93780545256>. Download prayer sheets <https://www.stmarks-upland.org/wp-content/uploads/November-2022-Morning-Prayer.pdf>

Wednesday 9 AM St. Peter's Guild. Card games and other activities in person. For info, email [stpeters@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:stpeters@stmarks-upland.org).

Wednesday 10:30 AM Men's Coffee Fellowship. Meet at Bad Ass Coffee in Rancho Cucamonga. For info, email [menscoffee@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:menscoffee@stmarks-upland.org).

Church Calendar: All meetings/events must be scheduled through the church office. If you don't see your event, email [parishadmin@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:parishadmin@stmarks-upland.org). Or call the church office at 909-920-5565 to schedule a date and time to reserve the rooms that are available.

## WORSHIP

### **Contemplative Prayer: The Universal Christ by Richard Rohr**

Christ is everywhere.

In Him every kind of life has a meaning and a solid connection.

Contemplation is waiting patiently for the gaps to be filled in, and it does not insist on quick closure or easy answers.

### **Loving Our Neighbor: Masking**

Masking is strongly encouraged. Masks are worn by those serving people face-to-face in close proximity—for example, hospitality hosts, ushers, greeters, Sunday School teachers, and Eucharistic ministers. Masks may be removed at the lectern, altar, or presiders' chairs. Unvaccinated persons and those who are immunocompromised are especially encouraged to wear masks indoors, particularly when in a small room with minimal air circulation.

## COMMUNITY & FELLOWSHIP NEWS

### **Cookie Exchange, Sunday, Dec 18 after the 10 AM service – Bake, bring, and take home a dozen.**

### **Sunday School, December 4**

This Sunday, children will continue to explore the traditions of Advent. Please have your child join us in room 18 in the Parish Hall at 9:50 AM until 10:40 AM when they will join you in church for communion.

### **Show Your Appreciation for our Preschool Teachers**

We are saddened that our St. Mark's Preschool will be closing in December, but we are thrilled for the staff that they will be moving and opening Angels' Academy at a new location in January. To show our appreciation for their long and faithful service and to assist them in their new venture, we are collecting gifts from the parish. Please place your gift of cash in an offering envelope marked "Preschool Teachers" or write that on the memo line of your check. Your gift of any amount will be added to others received and go directly toward their personal and professional expenses. Thank you for your generosity.

### **Saint Nicholas Dinner Will Be Saturday December 3 at 4 PM**

The dinner will be catered by California Cookout. Make your reservation now. Seating is limited.

### **Fellowship Events Ministry Meeting: Sunday December 4**

The Fellowship Events group will meet at 11:15 AM in room 18. This will be an important meeting. We will discuss the result of the fundraiser for a new refrigerator/freezer unit for the kitchen—reviewing models, prices, uses, and ensuring that the funds will be available. This is the time to take advantage of the sale prices. Please attend.

### **Nativity Play: Sunday, December 18**

We need volunteers of any age to participate. Practice will be on December 4 and 11 at 9:30 AM. The Nativity play will be held during the 10 AM service. Please come to the Parish Hall, room 18 by 9:00 AM so you can be ready for the play at 10 AM.

### **Vestry Discernment Meetings**

Leadership in our parish is so vital. We are offering several Vestry Discernment meetings this Fall. We invite you to attend one of them to determine if you may have a call to serve on the Vestry beginning in 2023. Please come with your interests, concerns, or questions. The discernment sessions will be held after 8 AM and 10 AM Sunday services on Dec. 4 with more to follow. If you have an

interest, please let the rector or a vestry member know, and we will be pleased to talk with you about our Vestry experience.

## **SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

### **You are invited to walk on Sacred Ground – Beginning in January 2023**

Sacred Ground is a dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. The 11-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. We will be offering this course on Zoom from January through May 2023 as a joint project between St. Mark's and St. George's, Laguna Hills. Meetings will be held every other Tuesday evening, beginning on January 3. Space is limited. An interest list is forming now. Please contact Rev. Keith Yamamoto or Kimberly Cortner for more information or go to <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/>.

### **Inquiry and Membership Class at 9 AM in Room 16**

If you are interested or have questions about how to become a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, please join us for Sundays in Advent—now through December 18, at 9 AM in Room 16 just off the Parish Hall. We will be using the book *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices* by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe. This class is open to those who have questions for a friend, want a refresher course, are deconstructing their faith, or are interested in a safe space to share their spiritual journey.

### **Prayer Requests**

Please send your prayer requests to [prayer@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:prayer@stmarks-upland.org).

## **OUTREACH**

### **Our Biggest Outreach**

There are many benefits to being a member of a global network like the Episcopal Church—pooled resources, diverse perspectives, and outreach that is both international and local. When a person gives to St. Mark's Upland, they also contribute to ministries in prisons, schools, shelters, at the border, in the Holy Land, for neighbors affected by severe weather, and more. Learn more about how your pledge makes the world a better place by subscribing to The Episcopal News:

[https://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001U6LRkZXdabYIJYqZISzrkrmzyU5rq8tIFsR8BjwSn3O58\\_hHc2JrChp-KcylzbqSkVNdH9ycQVDkxdkw6GHWYTkwEmwUTJb](https://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001U6LRkZXdabYIJYqZISzrkrmzyU5rq8tIFsR8BjwSn3O58_hHc2JrChp-KcylzbqSkVNdH9ycQVDkxdkw6GHWYTkwEmwUTJb)

### **Toys for T.O.U.C.H. – Until Sunday December 11**

Children's Sunday School, Fellowship and Outreach ministries are asking for your help in collecting unwrapped toys for the children that T.O.U.C.H. assists. A box will be in the Narthex to collect donations. Look for an information flyer.

### **Recovery Ministries at St. Mark's**

Compulsive Eaters Anonymous meets in Room 30 on Saturdays, 9-10:30 AM.  
Al-Anon meets in Room 30 on Tuesdays, 6:30-8 PM.

### **Episcopal Relief & Development Supports ACT Alliance Response to Crisis in Ukraine**

Donations to Episcopal Relief & Development's Ukraine Crisis Response Fund will help the organization and its partners continue to provide assistance to people displaced by the crisis in Ukraine. Donate here: <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/product/ukraine-crisis-response/>.

## **Collecting Data for 2022 Reports: Attention Church Ministry Leaders**

Church ministry leaders, we are needing end of the year data for 2022 to complete the Parish Annual Meeting report and for the Parochial report which is submitted to the National Church via the Diocese. Please be aware of the following guidelines for reporting:

Number of volunteers involved; number of new volunteers this year (2022); and number of people served per month. All totals may be estimated.

Does the congregation donate space for this ministry? Yes or no.

Does the congregation make financial or in-kind donations for programs provided by others?

Also, please let us know who the active participants are in your church ministry. St. Mark's is asked to report how many active participants there are in each of the following age groups: Children (0-12), Youth (13-17), Young adults (18-34), Middle adults (25-64), and Senior adults (65 and better). Because we don't want to double-count and people are members of more than one ministry, it will be helpful to have names. The office will sort/count for the parochial report. A person's age will not be disclosed.

## **FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP**



### **Your Generous Contributions are Appreciated**

Thank you for keeping current with your pledge or donating to St. Mark's. Please send in your contribution to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 330 E. 16th Street, Upland, CA 91784. Alternatively, you may wish to set up automatic "bill pay" or "online banking" through your financial institution. You may also make your donation through [PayPal](#), donations are being accepted through our email address, [contributions@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:contributions@stmarks-upland.org). Please consider remembering Saint Mark's in your estate planning.

### **Breeze for Contributions**

With our new church software come some changes in our contribution recording. If you are splitting your donation between funds, please state that in the memo line of your check or note it in the memo in PayPal. All unmarked funds will be placed in the Operating Fund Account.

## **DEANERY, DIOCESE, AND BEYOND**

### **Advent Soup Supper and Book Series, Wednesday Evenings in December – In Person**

"A mature Christian sees Christ in everything and everyone else. That is a definition that will never fail you, always demand more of you, and give you no reasons to fight, exclude, or reject anyone."

*The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe*  
by Richard Rohr

Please join Deanery 6 in our rotating Advent Soup Supper and Book Series! During the four Wednesdays in Advent, the host church for each Wednesday night will be responsible for preparing the Soup Supper. There is no cost to attend, but you will want to purchase a copy of the book for the series. We will gather at 6PM for the Soup Supper and begin our program at 6:30 PM with a closing prayer at 8PM

Nov 30, Christ Church, Ontario, Chapters 1-3

Dec 7, St. John's, La Verne, Chapters 4-7

Dec 14, St. Mark's, Upland, Chapters 8-12

Dec 21, St. Ambrose, Claremont, Chapters 13-17

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

The deadline for article submissions is every Tuesday and must be emailed to [parishadmin@stmarks-upland.org](mailto:parishadmin@stmarks-upland.org).

Please do not send them via Constant Contact.

Good News articles will be published every Thursday afternoon.