



THE GOOD NEWS

Sunday, February 20, 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.

Because St. Mark's cares for the young, elderly, and immuno-compromised, because vaccinations are essential to creating a safer/healthier workplace and worship space, because our health and strength are intertwined with one another, and because health is not an individual endeavor, we show proof of vaccination and wear masks for in-the-building services. Masks may be taken off at the pulpit, altar, or presider chairs when reading (not singing). State and health officials allow churches to determine their own mask/vaccination policies. Thank you for your continued support.

Introducing Our New Office Administrator, Rose Barraza



Rose will take on the duties previously performed by Natalie Dunlap and Barbara Harris. Please be patient while our generous volunteer office staff trains Rose in her new duties. If you should call or visit the office, please give her a warm welcome. And, of course, please thank our office volunteers, Kimberly Cortner, Barbara Nalbach, and Joan Watson, for stepping up when we needed help.

Week at a Glance at St. Mark's

Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9AM to 3PM; Closed for lunch 12:30-1PM

- Sunday 8AM and 10AM 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.
- Sunday 9:50AM Sunday School. "Children of the Good Shepherd" for little ones ages 3-6, in the Chapel. "Journey with God," for children ages 7-10, in the Curriculum Room off the Parish Hall (Room 18). All children welcome!
- Monday–Friday 9AM Zoom Morning Prayer and Bible Study. Go to <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93780545256>. Download prayer sheets from the website at <https://www.stmarks-upland.org/morning-prayer/>.
- Tuesday 3:30PM Choristers. See Blane Abernathy for more information.
- Wednesday 9AM St. Peter's Guild. Card games and other activities in person. Email stpeters@stmarks-upland.org for more information.
- Wednesday 10:30AM Men's Coffee Fellowship. Meet at Bad Ass Coffee in Rancho Cucamonga. For info email menscoffee@stmarks-upland.org.
- Wednesday 5:00PM Handbell Rehearsal. See Blane Abernathy for more information.
- Wednesday 7:30PM Taizé Service. In person and streaming online on Facebook. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/saintmarksepiscopalparishupland>.
- Thursday 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal. See Blane Abernathy for more information.

Church Calendar: All meetings/events must be scheduled through the church office. If you don't see your event, email 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.

HEALTH & COMMUNITY PROTOCOLS FOR WORSHIP

Unvaccinated individuals ages 12 years and older participate online and all ages 2 years and up wear a mask. Please consider getting a booster and social distancing.

We will be singing less but still having music, be meeting outside for hospitality/coffee hour but still having socially distanced refreshments, and be avoiding large in-person sit-down meals but still be church and community for one another and the world.

Masks: Worn by those 2 years and up. We have disposable (surgical/medical/paper) face masks for your use.

Social distancing: We are respectful of those around us and adjust for healthy spaces between households. Direct physical contact with young children is avoided; elbow bumps are fine, but no hugs or handshakes.

Exchanging “The Peace”: Everyone's space and sensitivities are respected. When someone offers their elbow, fist, or a peace sign, we respond appropriately.

Restrooms: If it can wait, only one person/household uses the restroom at a time.

Hospitality: To reduce multiple handling of shared objects such as the coffee urn, hot water dispenser, and serving utensils, we let the hospitality host serve us. For February, we will be outside.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Prayer Requests

Please send your prayer requests to prayer@stmarks-upland.org. Or complete the prayer request form at <https://www.stmarks-upland.org/saint-marks-prayer-list/>

Lenten Quiet Day, Saturday, March 5, 9AM

Spend a few hours in contemplation during the first week in Lent. A “Quiet Day” will be offered on Saturday, March 5, from 9AM to 12:30PM, on Zoom. Join us for readings, prayers, silence, journaling, etc. Watch for more details. All interested, please email stillpoint@stmarks-upland.org.

VESTRY & PARISH NEWS

Welcome Wardens and New Vestry Members

At the St. Mark's Parish 2022 Annual Meeting, Nick Adams, Karin Brown, Kimberly Cortner, and Barbara Nalbach were duly elected to the vestry. Carol Morgan has been appointed by the rector as Senior Warden. Kimberly Cortner was elected by the new vestry to be Junior Warden. Also, appointed were Derek May as Treasurer and Vicki Levario as Clerk.

Convention Delegates Elected

Kathy Walker, Carol Morgan, and John Flasher are the lay delegates for St. Mark's to the 2022 Diocesan Convention in November. Alternate delegates welcome. Please see the rector.

Transitions of Ministry Coordinators: Thank You and Welcome

A number of guilds and ministries have new coordinators. We wish to thank those who have served and are retiring and to welcome those who are taking over: Weddings – Thank you Bobbi Arjo, and welcome Myrna Dole; Funerals/Memorials – Thank you Joan Watson, and welcome Cheryl Hunley; Lay Eucharistic Ministers - Thank you Joan Watson, and welcome John Flasher; Altar Guild – Thank you Ann Porter and Kathy Walker, who are retiring; Digital Ministries – Thank you Jana Garner, who is retiring; Praise Band – Thank you Andrea and Jim Griffin, also Jana Garner, who are retiring; Lectors – Thank you Chris Watson, who is retiring.

COMMUNITY & FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Call for Palms, Feb 20

We will soon be preparing ashes for our Ash Wednesday services. Please return your dried palm fronds from previous years to the basket in the Parish Hall before Sunday, February 20.

Shrove Tuesday Moves to Sunday, Feb 27: Bonfire of Disappointment; Palms to Ash; & S'Mores
On Sunday, Feb 27, we will hold a special expanded hospitality hour following the 10AM service. Instead of a pancake/waffle sit-down dinner for Shrove Tuesday (March 1, the day before Ash Wednesday aka Mardi Gras), this year we will shift our tradition to Shrove Sunday, Feb 27, following the 10AM service.

Bonfire of Disappointment

In addition to the burning of palms to ashes, we will be burning representations of all the ways this past year has brought frustration and disappointment. Sample contributions include the following: wedding invitations that had to be skipped, names of those we have missed this year, headlines of stories that revealed the human condition at its worst, and a 2021 appointment calendar.

S'mores

Instead of traditional pancakes for Shrove Sunday, we will use the fire to make smores. Clean out the chocolate and cookie bin and bring a topping for your smore.

Fifth Annual Ash & Dash, March 2

Drive-through imposition of ashes will be available beginning at 6AM and ending midmorning on Wednesday, March 2, in the front parking area on 16th Street. If you are interested in helping with this event, please sign up in the Parish Hall.

Newcomer Class for Lent, Sundays in March and April 3

For all who have recently joined us in worshiping at St. Mark's, a Newcomer Class will meet on the five Sundays in Lent—March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3. Each week, from 9:10-9:50AM, we will have a book discussion on *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices* by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe. A practicum will immediately follow the 10AM service, when we will introduce you to our St. Mark's ministries and guilds, our worship practices, our new Breeze church management system, and much more. Please see Rev. Keith if you are interested in signing up or email rector@stmarks-upland.org.

An Invitation to Host a Sunday in Lent for the Newcomer Class

The Lent program will have two components: a lecture and discussion between Sunday services and a practicum following the 10AM service. Samples include a tour of the Sacristy hosted by the Altar Guild who explain the vestments, vessels, and linens; tour of the choir loft and a handbell lesson by the music department; a tour of the memorial garden by the 1910 Legacy Society featuring a workshop on POLST forms; and an open house of the Sunday School rooms (including the chapel) with all the manipulatives out with docents in each room to explain the programs.

Think engaging, interactive, relevant, and passionate. Handouts for later reference with contact information is encouraged. Think about what you want the participant to do, be, think, know, or feel afterwards. Are you hoping that they join your group or recruit others? Think about how you plan to follow up or equip them to take the next step. Consider a video running in the conference room for a multi-media presentation. Also have a wish list to encourage a sense of partnership/sponsorship/ownership of the program.

The five Sundays in Lent are March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3. We are not having any classes on Palm Sunday, April 10.

Hospitality Hosts Needed

The Hospitality group is looking for volunteers who would like to prepare coffee and provide light snacks after the 8AM and 10AM services. No experience is required. Please contact Sharon Muehlbacher for additional information or to sign up! Email hospitality@stmarks-upland.org

Seeking Flower Donations

We offer the opportunity for the parish members to sponsor flowers for the altar on Sundays. Flowers may be requested in honor of, in memory of, or in thanksgiving for a loved one, and always to the Glory of God. If you would like to sponsor flowers for a particular Sunday, please email flowers@stmarks-upland.org.

New Greeters and Ushers Welcome

If you're looking for a new way to serve at St. Mark's this year, here is an important ministry to consider. We are hoping to add a number of people to our ranks of greeters and ushers. No experience is necessary. Training will be provided. Scheduling is very flexible. Please contact Kimberly Cortner at ushers@stmarks-upland.org.

New Acquisitions to the Narthex Children's Library

Many thanks to Susan Venske for the new additions to the children's library.

OUTREACH

T.O.U.C.H. Ministries

This time of year, the need is great for families and those living on the streets. T.O.U.C.H. Ministries provides clothes, food, and bedding, and welcomes your donations. Especially needed at this time of year are tarps, socks, gloves, beanies, and always Walmart or fast-food gift cards. For more information, contact Dave Nalbach or Cheryl Hunley. Email touch@stmarks-upland.org.

Foothill Family Shelter

There is always a need for nonperishable packaged food, diapers, wipes, and gently used clothing. Bring to the shelter Tuesday through Friday, 9am-5pm, (closed for lunch from 12-1pm), 1501 W. 9th St, Suite D, Upland. For more information or current needs, contact Yelitza Banuelos at yelitza@foothillfamilyshelter.org.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

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.

2022 Stewardship Campaign "Every Perfect Gift"

Thank you to all those who made a pledge to St. Mark's for the 2022 fiscal year. We are in the process of finishing our pledge drive and verifying those who have submitted a pledge card. We will be contacting those for whom a card has not been recorded. Please be patient with us as we complete our stewardship program and develop our 2022 budget.

If you have not turned in your form, there is still time. All pledges are kept confidential and may be amended at any time if your situation changes. Please pick up a pledge form in the Narthex or if you prefer, you may fill out your pledge information through our [website](#), where there are two pages, and you must fully complete the form to have it submitted. Please know that your information will be confidential and secure. Questions should be directed to Katherine Abdolhosseini, our business manager at contributions@stmarks-upland.org.

DEANERY, DIOCESE, & BEYOND

Announcing the Launch of the Bishop's Commission on Climate Change

They plan to hold their first meeting in March and will spend time doing some education on climate change as well as discerning what ways we as a diocese can make a positive impact on this most critical issue. The commission will be led by Rev. Melissa McCarthy, Canon to the Ordinary, who served as one of the Presiding Bishop's delegates to COP26, the United Nations climate change conference. If this is an area of interest to you, please let the rector know.

Deanery 6 Collaborative Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

The following services will be held at various churches in the Deanery: Mar 2 - Ash & Dash, St. Mark's Upland; Mar 5 - Deanery 6 Lenten Retreat on the Enneagram, led by the Rev. Jesse Smith; Apr 10 - Palm Sunday, Grace Glendora; Apr 13 - Holy Wednesday Tenebrae, St. John's La Verne; Apr 14 - Maundy Thursday Agape Meal, foot-washing, Holy Eucharist, and stripping the altar, St. Ambrose, Claremont; Apr 15 - Good Friday Evening, St. Paul's Pomona; and Apr 16 - Easter Vigil, Christ Church, Ontario.

Easter Vigil Creation Story Readers Needed for Presentation at Christ Church Ontario

Are you interested in making the Creation Story from Genesis come alive? Learn how to make this ancient story come alive for readers for the Deanery 6 Collaborative Easter Vigil at Christ Church Ontario on Saturday evening, April 16. For more information, please contact the rector.

"Engagement Across Difference: A Spiritual Practice of Love in Action," Feb 17, 24

On Feb. 17 and 24, from 6 - 8PM members of the One in the Spirit ministry will host conversations via Zoom structured around "From Many, One: Conversations Across Difference"—the initiative inviting Episcopalians and our neighbors to engage in one-to-one listening and sharing across the many differences that challenge us. Participants will have a chance to see how this framework can enable them to communicate with others with whom they disagree on contentious issues and transform their relationships in the process. For more information or to register, see the diocesan website.

Holy Land Pilgrimage

September 5-16, 2022, led by the Rev. Canon Kelli Grace Kurtz and the Very Rev. Peter Browning and local Guides Canon Iyad Qumri and Rami Qumri. For more information go to <https://www.iyadqumripilgrimages.com/copy-of-itinerary-21>