



The Good News Christmas

Welcome Home

Welcome and Merry Christmas! It's okay if you only came to please Grandma or don't really know why you're here at all. You are welcome to whatever peace, hope, joy, or love you may find. Christmas can stir up a lot of feelings – and not just bright shiny ones, but also grief, nostalgia, longing, and loneliness. While some are spending time with loved ones, others are not – for all kinds of reasons. While some are dwelling with happy memories, others have sad or painful memories. There is space and room for all. We are glad you are here.

A Church Minute

The Christmas season is 12 days and culminates with the Epiphany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on January 6. The texts assigned for Epiphany rounds out our Christmas story with the appearance of the star that calls out to those beyond the boundaries of God's original people. Epiphany (manifestation) truly becomes an apt depiction of the entire season, as this incarnation of God manifests God's very-self "among us" ALL.

Commemorations: Boxing Day, Hanukkah ends, Kwanzaa begins, St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr, Dec 26; St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, Dec 27; Holy Innocents, Dec 28 Please pray for children in danger around the world; Holy Name, Jan 1 What are your names for Jesus, for God?; Epiphany, Jan 6.

An Invitation from St. Mark's Guilds and Ministries

There are many ministries, guild and groups to join here at St. Mark's we like to think there is something for everyone. We hope you will be inspired by some of the offerings here. For more information, please visit our website or call the church office at 909-920-5565.

WORSHIP

Sunday Mornings at St. Mark's

8 AM Holy Eucharist: Fellowship and refreshments follow in Parish Hall.

9:50 AM Children's Sunday School – Catechesis for children ages 3-6-years in the Chapel; Journey with God, 7-10 years in Sunday School Room off Parish Hall.

10 AM - Holy Eucharist with Music: Fellowship and refreshments follow in Parish Hall.

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

Prayer Requests

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

Bread Bakers: Bringing the Body of Jesus Christ to the World

For those who love to bake, we at St. Mark's use real bread for communion. We welcome new bakers and will give some training to anyone who wants to join. For more info, please contact Connie Williams.

Flower Guild: Create Something Beautiful for Our Corporate Worship

Would you like to try your hand at flower arranging? The flower guild is looking for new team members. All newcomers are mentored through the process of choosing and purchasing flowers, arranging and other basics of this most rewarding of ministries. The flower guild will be with you every step of the way to help you create the beautiful floral offerings that grace our sanctuary each Sunday. For more info, please contact Christy Hyder.

Ushers and Greeters: Striving to be a Friendly Community, Not Just a Community of Friends

Ushers and Greeters are the important people who those coming to St. Mark's meet first each Sunday. New members are always needed and welcome, especially for the 8 AM service. Come and be friendly! For more info, please contact Kimberly Cortner.

FELLOWSHIP

Volunteers Welcome for Hospitality (Coffee) Hour for 8 AM and 10 AM Services

What would Sundays be without coffee hour after the service? This is a time to catch up with friends meet some new ones and enjoy some fellowship. The hospitality group provides teams of hosts throughout the year to set up coffee and light refreshments. If you have enjoyed the hospitality in the past, please consider helping to provide it for others by signing onto a team. For more info, please contact Sharon Muehlbacher.

St. Peter's Guild (Wednesdays) Jan 5

St. Peter's Guild meets on Wednesday mornings from 9 AM to 12 Noon in the Guild Room by the Parish Hall. We enjoy Pinocle coffee, snacks, and good fellowship. Please join us. For more info, please contact Chris Watson.

Book Club (Third Saturdays) Jan 15

St. Mark's Book Club meets on the third Saturday of the month. Our next meeting is on January 21 at 10 am. All are welcome, but it's nice to let the hostess know that you are coming. For more info, please contact Sally Drake.

Men's Coffee in Rancho Cucamonga - Wednesdays at 10:30 AM

We meet for coffee and conversation at Bad Ass Coffee of Hawaii in Rancho Cucamonga. For more info, contact David Nalbach.

Deanery 6 Epiphany Eve High Mass & Dinner, 6PM, January 5, 2023, Christ Church Ontario

Another chance for Episcopalians of Deanery 6 to come together to celebrate and get to know each other.

Christian Education/Formation Classes for All

“Episcopal Identity,” Thursdays in January 12, 19, 26 & February 2, 7, 7-8:30 PM at Bloy House, the Episcopal Theological School at Claremont.

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 from Jan to May 2023 via zoom 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. Meetings will be held every other Tuesday evening, beginning on January 3. For more information, contact Rev. Keith Yamamoto or Kimberly Cortner for more information.

OUTREACH

TOUCH Ministries

TOUCH Ministries was founded in 2003 by Connie Anaya. It has been recognized by the State of California, and the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino as an “Outstanding non-profit.” TOUCH provide a program of guidance, food distribution, and clothing for the homeless and the underserved. TOUCH operates out of the Fortress Church in Ontario. On December 29, a meal will be provided and served in the parish hall of the church. Volunteers to help with set-up, serving, and clean up should arrive between 11 AM and noon. For more information about TOUCH Ministries, contact Dave Nalbach or Betty Farrell.

Foothill Family Shelter

There is always a need for nonperishable packaged food, diapers, wipes and gently used clothing to the shelter Tuesday through Friday, 9am-5pm, (closed for lunch from 12-1pm) 1501 W. 9th St, Suite D, Upland. For more information, contact Rosalyn Foster.

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.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Go Tell it on the (Social Media) Mountain

How? Check-in, subscribe, follow, rate, or write a review sharing what you love most about St. Mark's. Our goal is to increase our digital media presence by Jan 6, Epiphany aka the revelation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles - a very appropriate day to celebrate sharing and inviting. Yelp: 3 reviews; Facebook: 40 ratings; Instagram: 502 followers; YouTube: 114 subscribers; Google: 10 reviews; YouTube: 114 subscribers. Did you know that most viewed video of 2022 was our Celebration of Juneteenth, June 19, 2022 featuring preacher Dr. Jim Brown, thank you Choir, and farewell Music Director/Organist Blane Abernathy with almost 3,000 views.

Last Day for 2022 Contributions

Last minute contributions for the 2022 year should be postmarked by Saturday, December 31.

2023 Stewardship Campaign: More than Enough

Thank you to all those who made a pledge to St. Mark's for the 2023 fiscal year. If you did not receive an acknowledgement, please contact Rose in the Church office. If you have not turned in your estimate of giving, there is still time. Pledges are revocable and may be amended at any time. Please pick up a pledge card in the Narthex or if you prefer, you may contact Rose directly in the church office. Please know that your information will be confidential and secure.

Parish Staff to Observe Holidays

Members of the parish staff will take days off for Christmas and New Year's. The church office will be closed on the following dates: December 23, 26, 30, and January 2, 2023.

Office Hours

Monday–Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM (closed for lunch 12:30-1 PM); Friday 9 AM to 12 PM. The Rector will be away on a retreat and will be back on January 8.

Zoom Morning Prayer and Bible Study

Monday–Friday 9 AM

Church Calendar

All meetings/events must be scheduled thru the office. Don't see your event? Email or call the office to schedule a date and time with the rooms available.

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.

Merry Christmas and Thank You

Thank you so much for celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ with us.

Thank You to All Who Enhanced Our Worship: Thank you to our Parking Attendants and Sextons led by Dale Biggs; Ushers and Greeters led by Kimberly Cortner; Eucharistic Ministers led by John Flasher; Lectors led by Andrea Flasher; Bread Bakers led by Connie Williams; Oblation Bearers; Altar Guild; Flower Guild led by Christy Hyder; Counters led by Kathy Walker; Digital Ministry led by Bob Mattus; Liturgical Arts led by Canon Serena Beeks; The Greening/Starring of Church Brigade and everyone who put in many long hours in setting up for our services and decorating and beautifying the church and grounds. Thanks especially to all those who made a special Christmas dedication and gave generously for our beautiful Christmas flowers and decorations.

Thank You to All Who Participated in the Children and Family Christmas Pageant: The preschool teachers, children, their parents and grandparents, to the grips, gaffers, stagehands, lighting, stage, and costume designers and especially to Pageant Director Susan Mackall and her assistants.

Thank You to Those Who Provided the Music for Our Services: St. Mark's Choir, St. Mark's Band, musicians, soloists, and our guest organists and pianist Dr. Sonia Lee, Rachelle Gensolin, Matthew Morrison, and Tyler Zimmerman. Special thanks to Rev. Sally Monastiere, Canon Serena Beeks, and Marcia Godwin, acting music coordinator.

Thank You to Our Church Ministers: To the Leaders of Guilds, Task Forces, and Committees, Groups, the Vestry, Senior Warden Carol Morgan and Junior Warden Kimberly Cortner. This year has been challenging as we adjust in-person worship and in the building ministries.

Thank You to Those Who Made Our St. Mark's Crèche Experience: The Betty Davenport Ford crèche is enhanced by the Loyal Nixon display cabinet crafted by the Rev. Richard Rubin. Also on display is a crèche made by an artisan from Haiti. Look for a bag of rice, a chicken, and bananas. It is from the collection of Canon Serena Beeks. The Haitian-style crèche at the Altar is a reminder of our partnership with St. Andre's in Haiti as well as our shared mission and ministry to children between the preschool and church. *With them may we go to Bethlehem; in them may we see ourselves; by them may we be reminded of our heritage and our horizons; and through them may we remember that God loves us and dwells with us. Amen.*

Thank You to All Those Who Participated in Our Advent Events: St. Nicholas Dinner with Santa Visit coordinated by Betty Farrell and Susan Mackall – many thanks to Santa for taking time from his busy schedule to join us; Blue Christmas: Candlelight Ceremony for Coping with Loss during the Holiday Season; The Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols with the Deanery 6 congregations, combined choir, cantors at Holy Trinity Covina; Family to Family: Sharing a Christmas with the Families of the Foothill Family Shelter coordinated by Rosalyn Foster; Deanery 6 A St. Francis Advent Quiet Day at Christ Church Ontario; Haiti Partnership Table and Silent Auction Paintings Fundraiser coordinated by Canon Serena Beeks and Guen

Vinnedge; TOUCH Backpacks and Christmas Toy Drives with Connie Anaya; Cookie Exchange; Home Crèche Figures Blessing.

Thank You to All Those Who Participated in Our Pre-Advent Events: Foothill Family Shelter Thanksgiving Dinner Program; Stewardship Drive Coordinators Vicki and John Levario; Annual Diocesan Convention – lay and alternate delegates Kathy Walker, Carol Morgan, and John Flasher; Trunk-or-Treat – a community event welcoming our neighbors coordinated by Betty Farrell.

Thank You to Those Who Tried Something New: Our new website; church database management system Breeze; in-person in-the-building singing with our guest musicians; Family Movie Night featuring Disney's Encanto coordinated by Melissa Diaz; Lent and Advent Newcomers Class; Deanery 6 Advent Book Discussion and Soup Supper coordinated by Susan Mackall; contemplative/centering prayer practice; wearing a mask to show love for your neighbor when not required; and staying home when you were not feeling well to take care of yourself and your neighbor.

Thank You to the St. Mark's Preschool: Thanks to the staff, teachers, parents, and students for the wonderful Advent and Christmas programs including the Preschool Christmas Pageant and Visit with Santa; the Preschool Afternoon Session "Who Will Guide My Sleigh?" Holiday Play Extravaganza. Thanks to Interim Preschool Director Jackie Wilds for all her hard work. Blessings as they prepare to move to a new location as Angels Academy in 2023. To add your thanks and well wishes, greeting cards are available in the narthex. For a monetary gift, please use the offering basket and put "Preschool Teachers" in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank You to Our Partners in Ministry:

The Foothill Family Shelter was started by St. Mark's over 30 years ago at what was once the Upland Motel. During the years, the effort grew to include food donations and eventually the purchase of apartments to house homeless families. Today, the Foothill Family Shelter includes 28 two-bedroom apartments, a community food pantry (also open to those outside of the shelter who are in need), professional counseling, job placement, parenting classes, and most importantly hope. They are led by executive director Megan Nehamen and a diligent board including Rosalyn Foster, great staff, and wonderful volunteers.

Haiti Partnership with St. Andre's led by Canon Serena Beeks and Guen Vinnedge. Your prayers and support for St. Andre's are appreciated more than ever. Together we have been able to send \$14,500 this calendar year for support of the school at St. Andre.

T.O.U.C.H. Ministries serves the homeless. Thank you for your continual contributions via the bin on Sundays: 302 Food items; 668 Clothing items; 494 Toiletries; 98 miscellaneous; \$1,562 in gift cards; and \$1,135 in checks. For more info, contact Cheryl Hunley or Dave Nalbach.

Thank You Taskforce & Special Committees: Many thanks to those who served on some important groups that have almost completed their work in 2022: the Freezer Workgroup led by Susan Mackall; the Music Director Search Committee led by Kimberly Cortner; the San Bernardino County's Head Start Liaison Group; and the Music Working Group coordinated by Marcia Godwin.

Thank You to Our Clergy: Priest Assisting, the Rev. Sally Monastiere, for her faithful devotion and service to St. Mark's Parish; Rector Emeritus, the Rev. Konrad White; and Dean Emerita, the Rev. Canon Judy Heffron.

Thank You to Our Office Staff: Parish Administrative Assistant Rose Barraza and Business Manager and Controller Katherine Abdolhosseini.

**And thank you for making St. Mark's part of your Christmas celebrations.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

The Very Rev. Keith Yamamoto
Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church – A Community of Grace

Mark Your Calendars: Coming Soon!
Sunday, Jan 8: Chalking of the Doors
Friday, Jan 27: Red Cross Blood Drive

Merry Christmas!

On our "Merry Christmas" page you can find the members of the vestry, staff, clergy, the Bishop of Los Angeles, and Jerusalem Archbishop Hosam Naoum.

**We are a community of grace feeding hungry hearts in the Episcopal branch
of the Jesus movement.**

The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

The Rt. Rev. John Taylor, Bishop Diocesan of Los Angeles

The Rev. Canon Melissa McCarthy, Canon to the Ordinary

Church Elders: Skip and Bobbi Arjo, Murray Duvall, Alice Granewich, Helena Kooiman, and Peter Mow - A Church Elder is a long-time member with a sacred spirituality, energy, and wisdom. Like the grandparent at the family gathering, the tasks of fixing, preparing, and organizing have been passed on to another. Instead, the elder sits in the comfortable chair with the grandchildren gathered around to listen to the family stories.

Emeriti: Canon Serena Beeks, Head of School Emerita; William Carrington, Organist and Choir Director Emeritus; and The Rev. Konrad White, Rector Emeritus

Canons: Canon Serena Beeks, D.Min. US Coordinator, Haiti Episcopal School Partnerships; Canon Clare Bangao, Coordinator for Mission Congregations; Canon Gisele Tackoor, JD, Director of Recruitment and Admissions at Pilgrim Place; The Rev. Can. Judy Heffron, Dean Emerita - The title "Canon" is an honored name by the bishop in recognition of significant service to the larger Church and is to be a wholesome example for all Christians. The title "canon" dates from medieval times; it denotes a key advisor to a bishop or a cathedral community. The person may be lay or clergy.

Media: Bob Mattus, Digital/Broadcast Media; Guen Vinnedge, Instagram and Facebook.

Staff: Administrative Assistant Rose Barraza; Business Manager and Controller Katherine Abdolhosseini; Interim Preschool Director Jackie Wilds; Rector the Very Rev. Keith Yamamoto.

Vestry Members: Carol Morgan, Senior Warden (2024); Kimberly Cortner, Junior Warden (2025); Nick Adams, Men's Breakfast (2025); Sharon Muehlbacher, Buildings & Grounds (2024); Marcia Godwin, Finance (2024); Barbara Nalbach, Outreach, Education & Formation (2025); Karin Brown, Vestry Affairs (2025); Dean Billman, Legacy Society (2024); Derek May, Treasurer (2023); and Vicki Levario, Clerk (2023)

St. Mark's Episcopal Parish: A Community of Grace

VISION

We will be a faith community
that spreads God's word,
loves like Jesus,
enjoys worshiping together,
and helps our neighbors.

MISSION

To be a place where love and hope abound...
we welcome everyone to our worship and communion,
we help one another understand God and know Jesus,
we nurture our community and the world, and
we celebrate diversity and work for social justice.

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