



The Good News

Sunday, November 13, 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.

Thank You for Your Service: Blessing Our Veterans

At both Sunday services we honor and thank those who served.

Thank You Business Manager and Controller Katherine Abdolhosseini

Please join me in thanking Katherine Abdolhosseini for her years as the Business Manager and Controller for St. Mark's Episcopal Parish serving the church congregation, K-8 elementary school, and the preschool.

Katherine stepped up from the school governing board of directors when the position became vacant suddenly and unexpectedly. She worked closely with Head of School Rev. Karri Backer to bring the school to a good place where staff morale was high and student enrollment was growing at unprecedented rates. When the time came close the elementary school due to the pandemic, Katherine's work ensured that the transition for all was as compassionate as possible. Her work enabled the church and preschool to remain in operation through lock-down. Katherine's work was essential to complete parish audits, PPP forgiveness, and some major buildings and grounds projects. St. Mark's is appreciative for Katherine's good work and her care and compassion for the people she served – including the students, staff, and families of St. Mark's.

To contribute towards a gift for Katherine, please put "Katherine" in the memo.

Many thanks and God's continued blessing,

Rev. Keith Yamamoto

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

Please note: Office will be CLOSED Friday, November 11 for Veterans Day and Monday, November 14.

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 from the website at <https://www.stmarks-upland.org/morning-prayer>.

Wednesday 9 AM St. Peter's Guild. Card games and other activities in person. For info, email 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.

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.

WORSHIP

Contemplative Prayer: Kay Lindahl, Founder of the Listening Center

Notice when you...

Choose to listen and when you choose not to listen.

Experience the art of listening - being a listening presence with another.

Start to interrupt someone and what happens when you don't.

Notice what happens when...

You give the gift of listening to someone else and what it's like to receive it.

Someone stops speaking and you ask, "Is there anything else?"

You let go of your agenda to be present with another.

Gratitude Challenge, now to Thanksgiving

Once a day, name something you are thankful for.

Once a week, express your gratitude through words or action.

Loving Our Neighbor: Masking

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

COMMUNITY & FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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 interest, concerns, or questions. The discernment sessions will be held after 8am and 10 am Sunday services on Nov. 13, Nov. 20, and Dec. 4 with more to follow. We will also offer a Zoom meeting on Sunday, Nov. 13, at 7:00 pm. Here is the link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88361408962> 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.

Saint Nicholas Dinner Will Be Saturday December 3 at 4pm

The dinner will be catered by California Cookout. Make your reservations in the Parish Hall after 8 am or 10 am service. Limited seating.

Freezer/Refrigerator Update

We made it! We have over 300 bags. However, keep those bags coming. Join other parishioners and community members to help improve church ministries – while clearing out your closets and drawers for the new year. November 13 is your last chance to bring a bag. If you have a problem getting your bags/boxes to the church on Sunday contact parishadmin@stmarks-upland.org

St Mark's Book Club, November 19

The club will meet on Saturday, November 19, 10:00 AM, at the home of Margaret Vizio. We will be reading the book, *Slouching Toward Bethlehem* by Joan Didion. If you are interested, please send an email to BookClub@stmarks-upland.org two days in advance. We hope to see you there!

Thank you for your Patience and Kindness

November and December are stressful months. Please be kind to yourself and others as we move through a holiday season that seems to accentuate grief and loss. Please remember that even through the worst moments – you are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Welcome to St. Mark's

Casting call for a website video to welcome people to St. Mark's. We are looking for individuals and families to welcome people to St. Mark's. Your "welcome to St. Mark's" will be stitched together to make a two minute. We will record on Sundays at various locations on campus.

Please see this video as a sample of how we wished everyone a "Merry Christmas" in a similar manner:
<https://youtu.be/D7usSgyMSZ4>

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Children's Sunday School

This Sunday in children's Sunday school we will be listening to the prophecies of Isaiah, announcing the coming of Jesus. Please have your child join us in room 18, located in the Parish Hall at 9:50 am to 10:40 am when they will join you in church for communion.

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 – Beginning November 27

If you have questions about how to become a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church or about the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, please join us for Sundays in Advent – November 27, December 4, 11, and 18, at 9AM in classroom 16 in the parish hall. Please sign up via the church office.

Prayer Requests

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

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, in 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=001U6LRkZXdabYIJYqZISzrkmzyU5rq8tIFsR8BjwSn3O58_hHc2JrChp--KcyslzbqSkVNdh9ycQVDkxdkw6GHWYTkwEmwUTJb

Attention for TOUCH - Beginning Sunday Nov 20 Until Sunday Dec. 11

Children's Sunday School, Fellowship, and Outreach ministries are asking for your help in collecting toys for the children that TOUCH assists. A box will be in the Parish Hall to collect donations beginning Nov 20. More information will be available in a flyer.

Recovery Ministries at St. Mark's

Compulsive Eaters Anonymous meets in room 30 on Saturdays, 9-10:30am.
Al-Anon meets in room 30 on Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm.

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](https://www.paypal.com), donations are being accepted through our email address, 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.

Giving/Financial Statements

Third quarter financial statements are being distributed. If we do not have an e-mail on file, then hard copies will be available for pick up on Sunday. If you cannot be here, then they will be mailed to you via USPS. Please check your junk/clutter e-mail folders. If you do not receive a statement or if there is a problem with your statement, please let the church office know. We will investigate and get back to you as soon as we can. Thank you.

Scam Alert: Spoofing (Impersonation Fraud)

"Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!'"

Please be vigilant for e-mails claiming to be the rector asking for gift cards. When you receive these types of e-mail, please ignore, or confirm on Sunday at church. These scams do not mean that accounts have been hacked - names, titles, and even logos are taken from public websites and newsletters. Scammers take advantage of the year-end and holiday season. Here is what to look out for: They may... use your name, the clergy's name and title, set up a situation that inhibits a call back, make an appeal to help the staff or an outreach ministry, and carry on a conversation over multiple days. Please use this as a reminder to pray those in need and to be generous in authentic ways.

DEANERY, DIOCESE, AND BEYOND

Advent Soup Suppers Wednesday Evenings In-Person at 6PM, Dec 14 at St. Mark's

"God loves things by becoming them. God loves things by uniting with them, not by excluding them." - Richard Rohr

During Wednesday evenings in Advent (Nov 30; Dec 7, 14 & 21) join Deanery 6 congregations for fellowship, soup supper, and a lively discussion on The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe by Richard Rohr. Host churches currently include St. Ambrose Claremont, St. John's La Verne, and St. Mark's and will be responsible for providing a simple meal of soup and bread. Make new friends around the deanery, explore different worship and fellowship spaces, and enjoy the variety of your Episcopal family. Dinner starts at 6; program at 6:30. St. Mark's will host Dec 14.

Benefit Concert for Refugee Relief, November 12

This Saturday, November 12, 2022 at 4:30 PM, Grace Lutheran Church (2108 N. Euclid Avenue, Upland CA 91784) will host a Concert for Refugee Relief featuring Tatiana Thibodeaux, piano, & Rachel Better-Huang, violin, performing works from Mozart, Chopin, Rao, Granados, and Auerbach. Stay for a reception following the concert and learn about how the Newcomers Access Center helps refugees in the local community. \$20 donation per ticket - proceeds go to Newcomers Access Center. Tickets available on newcomersaccesscenter.org

Good News Festival Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Dec 9&10 in San Diego

"There is no religious left and religious right. There is only a moral center. The scripture is very clear about where you have to be, to be in the moral center – you have to be on the side of the poor, the working, the sick, and the immigrant."

The Rev. Dr. William Barber II, founder of the Poor People's Campaign.

A festival of workshops, a holiday marketplace, music, and a revival service featuring messages from Curry and Barber. Learn more about The Good News Festival offerings [here](#).

PLEASE NOTE:

The deadline for article submissions is every Tuesday and must be emailed to parishadmin@stmarks-upland.org.

Please do not send them via Constant Contact.

Good News articles will be published every Thursday afternoon.

Grace Lutheran Church in Upland
and
Newcomers Access Center (NAC) in Claremont
invite you to a



Come hear acclaimed artists
Tatiana Thibodeaux, *piano*, & Rachel Better-Huang, *violin*,
perform works from
Mozart, F. Chopin, Madhuri Rao, E. Granados, and L. Auerbach.

Stay for a reception following the concert,
meet friends, enjoy wine and cheese,
and learn about how NAC helps refugees
in the local community.

Saturday, November 12, 2022
4:30 PM Concert
5:30 PM Reception

Grace Lutheran Church
2108 N. Euclid Avenue
Upland CA 91784

\$20 donation per ticket
(All proceeds go to Newcomers Access Center)

Ticket available on newcomersaccesscenter.org