

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for December 29, 2024

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday 1/1:		Offices Closed for New Year's Day
Thursday, Jan. 2:	6:15PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal (St. Mark)
	7:15PM	Voice Choir Rehearsal (St. Mark)
Saturday, Jan. 4:	6:00PM	SHINE Contemporary Worship - Chapel

SHINE Worship Next Saturday

Join us for less-formal worship with guitar accompaniment led by combined musical talents from St. Mark and St. George's next **Saturday, January 4 at 6:00PM** in the **chapel!**



Epiphany Worship Next Monday

We join with our friends from St. George's for a special liturgy in celebration of the feast of the Epiphany on **Monday, January 6 at 6:00PM** in the church.

Diaper Drive for Epiphany!



As the Wise Men brought gifts to the baby Jesus, we will celebrate **Epiphany** with a **Diaper Drive** for little ones in need in our community.

Our Epiphany Diaper Drive will run January 5 through February 9. Items collected will be donated to The Pregnancy Care Center of Belleville, Fontabella Maternity Home in O'Fallon and other local organizations.

Diapers sizes 3 through 7, and pullups sizes 2T through 6T, and disposable pants sizes 2T through 6T and 3T are most needed. Open packages will be accepted. **Unopened packages of diaper wipes and diaper rash cream are also welcome.**

Realizing diapers are expensive, members are encouraged to join together on purchases or give monetary donations to Sherri Foppe or Ann Martens. Donations may also be made electronically at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-14EWR?access=tile> direct through February 9.



Interested in Yoga at St. Mark?

Formal classes will be held for 45 minutes on Thursday evenings at 6:15PM beginning on January 2, 2025 in the Parish Hall. A donation of \$5.00 is asked for each session. Please bring your own mat and water bottle for classes.

Practicing yoga can help with body flexibility, strength, mobility, and balance. It also requires you to shift into a more relaxed state, which can help decrease stress, increase focus, and promote a stronger connection with yourself. You can't ask for a more pose-ative experience!

Ladies Lunch Bunch

For January's gathering, the LLB will meet on **Wednesday, January 8 at 12 noon at Easy Buffet and Grill** (2524 Green Mount Commons, Suite 120, Belleville), across from SWIC on Carlye Ave.

Making a Joyful Noise unto the Lord!

On Sunday, December 8, a wonderful group shared the joy of Christmas with residents of local care facilities, including some of our own church members. We visited Colonnade Senior Living in O'Fallon, Charter Senior Living and Mercy Rehab and Care in Swansea, and Freeburg Care Facility. The residents made our visit even better by singing along to their favorite Christmas songs.



Angel Tree Project and more!

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in St. George's and St. Mark joint Angel Tree Project Christmas Drive through Lutheran Child & Family Services this year. Our faith communities generously provided gifts for **over 70 children!**

In addition to all the gifts donated by members, three (3) Thrivent Action Team grants provided a total of \$750 for gifts. A small portion of St. Mark's monetary donations were used to purchase gently worn coats and sweatshirts for Franklin School students in need. A special monetary donation was designated for new socks and leggings for the Franklin School students. Pictures are worth a thousand words so here's a few to show the amazing project results! Additional pictures are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.



St. Mark Offerings for 12/24 (Advent 4): General Fund: **\$8,000.82**; Coffee Fund: \$115; Muller Landscaping Fund: \$101; Fiber Arts: \$101; Grounds/Property Maintenance: \$101; Sunday Morning Coffee/Kitchen: \$30

Christmas Eve offerings will be reported in the January 5 Mark Times.