

# MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for January 21, 2024

## THE WEEK AHEAD:

**Monday 1/22:** 6:00PM Pastoral Care Meeting  
7:00PM Church Council Meeting

**Thurs. 1/25:** 6:15PM Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:15PM Voice Choir Rehearsal

## Diaper Drive for Epiphany Extended through 1/28!

Our Epiphany Diaper Drive for little ones in need in our community **has been extended through January 28**. Items collected will be donated to The Pregnancy Care Center of Belleville, Fontabella Maternity Home in O'Fallon and other local organizations.



**Diapers sizes 4 through 7 and pullups sizes 2T 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 provide monetary donations to Sherri Foppe or Ann Martens. Donations may also be made electronically at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-14EWR> through January 15th.

## It's a New Year!

It's a great time to do something new and different, like **joining the choir!** Rehearsals are at 7:15PM on Thursdays. No tryouts or solo voices needed; just a love of singing, a desire to praise God, and the ability to more-or-less carry a tune. One or two bell ringers are also needed. See Music Director Carol Kugler for details or to sign up!



## Neighborhood Watch Opportunity for St. Mark & St. George's

The Joint Safety Committee has identified a neighborhood need our churches might be able to help with. St. George's has begun the process of organizing a Neighborhood Watch (NW) program, and they have invited St. Mark to participate. Beyond wanting to be helpful to the neighborhood, we have our own interest in neighborhood safety and health. Organizational leadership, facility support, and hosting quarterly meetings are just a few of the ways our churches could support a NW program. Anyone interested in serving to implement this endeavor, please contact Mark Bearth, [mark.bearth@gmail.com](mailto:mark.bearth@gmail.com).



## Adult Forum: *The House of Peter*

Because a number of members stayed home to avoid the extreme cold last Sunday, Pastor Brian will repeat his class on the archaeological search for "The House of Peter" this morning during the Education Hour.

## St. Mark/St. George's SHARE THE WARMTH Project

Inspired by Phillip's Wish in the movie *5000 Blankets*, our collection of clean GENTLY USED or new blankets, hats, mittens, gloves, scarfs, etc. for the homeless continues until January 31.

The collection bin in the Narthex/Canterbury Room has overflowed **4 times** and we have **EXCEEDED our 125 blanket goal!** I can't wait to see how far beyond we will be when the project ends!

As of January 6, the following donations have been received:

138 blankets; 149 hats/ear covers; 90 pairs of gloves; 51 neck scarves/mufflers; 95 pairs of socks

Donations have been distributed to:

St. George/St. Mark Food Pantry (2); Union United Methodist Church homeless program; Belleville Christian Center; Moms on a Mission in Dupo; Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois; Pregnancy Care Center in Belleville (planned for 1/16)

There's still time to check your closets and ask family and friends to share blankets/quilts gloves, hats, scarves that will help keep our homeless a little warmer this winter!

Do you or someone you know have the talent of knitting and/or crocheting? FREE yarn is available to anyone (member or non-member) to make hats, mittens, gloves, scarves for this project. Contact Peggy Anderson 618 791-0992 for your FREE yarn.

## Week of Christian Unity Service 1/31

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Belleville will host the annual **ecumenical prayer service** for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on **Wednesday, January 31 at 9:30AM** at the **Cathedral of St. Peter (200 W. Harrison Street, Belleville)**. A light reception will follow in the Undercroft. Bishop Brian K. Burgess of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield will be the preacher for this service. Clergy and members from many local congregations have been invited to participate in this annual event, which gives us an opportunity to know each other a little better as sisters and brothers in Christ. Any interested members of St. Mark are welcome and encouraged to attend!

## Great (Super) Bowls of Fire!



St. George's famous **white chili** (both mild and hot) will be sold **Sunday, February 11**, from **noon to 3:00PM** in the Parish Hall. Cost is **\$11/ quart when ordered in advance with payment; \$12/quart for walk-ins**. Orders with payment can be made to Henry in the office or by mail to St. George's.



## St. Mark T-Shirts



The ordering window for St. Mark t-shirts will remain open until January 31. Orders **must** be placed through **Rich's Stiches** <http://www.richsstichesemb.com>. When the webpage opens, scroll down to **Online Stores**, then scroll down and click on St. Mark Lutheran Church.

Adult shirts sizes S-XL are \$19.50 including tax 2XL, 3XL, 4XL & 5XL are \$22.75 including tax. *Payment is required when the order is placed.*

*For those who are not computer oriented, you may contact Sherri Foppe at 618 791-6148 with your order and payment information.*



**St. Mark Offerings for 1/14:** General Fund: **\$3,744.11** (incl. online offerings received by 1/12); Food Pantry: \$100