

# MARK TIMES

## NEWS and NOTES for January 12, 2025

Tuesday, Jan. 14:	9:30AM	Health & Wellness meeting – conference room
Wed., January 15:	11:30AM	St. Mark Table Talk – conference room
Thursday, Jan. 16:	6:00PM	Yoga – parish hall
	6:15PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:15PM	Voice Choir Rehearsal

### Staff Gift Thank You!!!

We wish to thank the St. Mark congregation for their generous Christmas gift for 2024. We all feel so blessed to serve this congregation in the different ways we are called. May all of us continue to be blessed and thrive in 2025!!! ~*Evzlyn Duncan, Gary & Marilyn Huffman, Carol Kugler, & Randi Cardoza*

**Thank You** to all who contributed to the financial gift from the congregation and those who gave individual gifts, including those who fed my addiction to cookies and sweets! I continue to be deeply touched by your tremendous generosity. - *Pastor Brian*

### 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, pullups sizes 2T through 6T, and disposable pants sizes 2T through 6T 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](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-14EWR?access=tile_direct) through February 9.

### St. Mark Table Talk: ***Unholy Ink – What Does the Bible Say About Tattoos?***

For those of us over 50, any mention of a person with tattoos might bring to mind a rowdy sailor or a motorcycle gang member. Over the past generation, however, the art of tattooing has become part of mainstream culture, part of a larger phenomenon that includes the art of body piercing.



**Did the biblical writers weigh in on the practice?** We wouldn't have a class if they didn't! Come to Table Talk this **Wednesday, January 15 at 11:30AM** in the conference room for an ink-redible discussion!

## Installation of Church Council next Sunday

New and ongoing members of the Church Council will be installed during worship next Sunday, 1/19.

## Next Sunday's Adult Forum: *Hospitality in Ancient Israel*

In consideration of the weather, Pastor Brian has rescheduled his Adult Forum class on *Hospitality in Ancient Israel* to next Sunday, January 19 so that more people may be able to attend.

## Interested in Yoga at St. Mark?



Classes are held for 45 minutes on Thursday evenings at 6:15PM 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!

## Office Hours Changing

As of January 2, Randi's office hours are Monday-Friday from 12-4:30PM.

## Week of Christian Unity Service 1/29

Belleville's annual ecumenical prayer service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held on Tuesday, January 28 at 9:30AM at Holy Virgin Mary & Shoghagat Armenian Church (400 Huntwood Road, Swansea). A light reception will follow. Bishop Robert McGovern of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Belleville 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!

## Trivia Night!

Shake off the winter rust and get "Animated for God" at Christ Community Lutheran Church (Columbia) for their annual TRIVIA NIGHT youth fundraiser on Saturday, February 8 from 6-8:00PM! \*This event is to raise funds for this summer's youth mission trip to Milwaukee, which our youth from St. Mark will be participating in!

+ Cost is \$15 per person or \$100 for a table of 8.

+ Bring your own food; drinks will be available for purchase.

+ **Costume and Table Decorating contests!** Dress up as your favorite animated characters and create cool matching table décor!

+ **Generic trivia categories** – there will be something for everyone!

**Tickets on sale now!** Follow the link below to sign up yourself or an entire table of friends:

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLScsTqKie9IkeJ.../viewform>

If you are interested & able to serve on a snow removal team at church, please contact the office at (618)233-9809 or office@stmarkbelleville.org.

**St. Mark Offerings for 12/24 & 12/29:** General Fund: \$862.11; Food Pantry: \$1000; ELCA Disaster Relief: \$195.54; Diaper Drive: \$146.88 – January 5 offerings will be reported on 1/19