

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for January 28, 2024

THE WEEK AHEAD:

Wednesday 1/31: 9:30AM Christian Unity Prayer Service (Cathedral of St. Peter)

Thursday 2/1: 6:15PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:15PM Voice Choir Rehearsal

Saturday 2/3: 6:00PM SHINE worship - chapel

Diaper Drive for Epiphany Extended through 2/4!

Our Epiphany Diaper Drive for little ones in need in our community has been extended through Sunday, February 4. 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.

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 **THIS 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!

Get Ready for a SOUPER Sunday!

We have designated the **second Sunday of each month** as a **special collection day** for the **Food Pantry**, and we want to make the first one on **February 11 a BIGGIE!** It's **Super Bowl Sunday**, so let's have fun with it – wear your favorite football apparel and bring cans of fruit and/or soup to put in the large basket for the Pantry. Let's score a big one for the home team!



Also on Super Bowl Sunday, St. George's will be selling its famous **white chili** (both mild and hot) 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. A sign-up order form is in the Parish Hall. When ordering in advance, please indicate your preference for **frozen** or **refrigerated** chili.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Returns!

St. Mark members are invited to St. George's annual **Pancake Supper** on **Tuesday, February 13** from **5:30-7:00PM** in the Parish Hall. Pancakes & sausage are the traditional fare for this day since meat, eggs, fat & butter were prohibited during Lent. There is no charge, but donations will be accepted.



Some St. Mark Wooden Ornaments Still Available

There are five dated wooden ornaments and one undated ornament available at the wholesale cost of \$5. This is the break-even price. Any donation above the cost will go directly to the Chapel Organ fund. Contact me 618-235-8823 or earhart500@aol.com.

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.

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! Donations can be dropped off at the office through Wednesday between the hours of 9AM and 3PM.

St. Mark T-Shirt Ordering Window Closes SOON!

The ordering window for St. Mark t-shirts will remain open until **Wed., 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.



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.

Lenten Quiet Day at Toddhall

On **Saturday, March 23**, from 9:30AM to 3:30PM, Fr. Mark will lead a spiritual Quiet Day at Toddhall Retreat and Conference Center. The event is free to attend, and a freewill offering will be taken on the day to cover the cost of lunch. However, **registrations are required by Thursday, February 22** to obtain an accurate headcount. You may register at <https://forms.gle/BPsnJMUoLxUctPpW8> or by contacting the church office.

St. Mark Offerings for 1/21: General Fund: **\$4,885.16** (incl. online offerings received by 1/19); Food Pantry: \$5; Diaper Drive: \$48.22