

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for March 3, 2024

THE WEEK AHEAD:

- Monday 3/4:** 2:30PM Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
- Weds. 3/6:** 10:30AM Joint Use Committee Meeting – conference room
6:00PM Lenten Soup Supper
7:00PM *The Pilgrimage Way of the Cross* - church
- Thursday 3/7:** 6:15PM Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:15PM Voice Choir Rehearsal

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Brian will be on vacation from **Tuesday, March 5 through Tuesday, March 12**. We welcome back Pastor **Wayland Middendorf** as our guest preacher and presider on March 10.

In case of pastoral emergency, please contact **Fr. Mark Ohlemeier** of St. George's at **785-220-5528**.

Adult Forum: *Sites of the Trial and Final Hours of Jesus*

We continue with our video series on *The Holy Land Revealed*. This morning's video examines the history and archaeology of the *Sites of the Trial and Final Hours of Jesus*.

Second Sunday Food Collection

NEXT Sunday is our **monthly focus on food pantry donations**, and for this month we ask folks to bring **cereal** (family size boxes) and **canned meats** (chicken, Spam, etc.). Place them in the big basket as you come into church on **Sunday, March 10**. Thank you!



Thank You from Evelyn

I want to thank all of you for the many cards, messages, phone calls, visits, caroling, and prayers as I journeyed back to good health. I am blessed to be able to return as your organist. A special thanks to Carol Kugler for filling in while I was out. It was truly appreciated! - *Evelyn Duncan*

Noisy/Not-So-Noisy Change Collection TODAY

"Giving up" our loose change is a great way to observe Lent while serving our Franklin School families. As of February 16, students still owe \$3914.79 in past due lunch, snack and book fees. The Noisy/Not-so-Noisy change buckets will circulate today, **Sunday, March 3** and **next Sunday, March 10**. A bucket will also be available at the SHINE service on **Saturday, March 2**.

All donations will go to reduce student past due fees. The school staff will determine which student's accounts will be credited. Not so Noisy offerings may also be mailed to the church office with Noisy Change written on the Memo Line or be made at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-14EWR>

Ladies Lunch Bunch!

All ladies, come join the new "Lunch Bunch" in the St. Mark Parish Hall on **Tuesday, March 12** from **11:30A-1:00P**. Please bring your own lunch and beverage this first time only. This will be an organizational meeting to make plans for monthly gatherings at various local restaurants. If you need transportation, call Peggy A. at 618-791-0992 to find a volunteer chauffeur. The more, the merrier!

Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers

Come enjoy a meal of **soup and salad at 6:00PM** in the **Parish Hall this Wednesday, February 28**, before joining us in the church for evening prayer.

Get a group together and host one of the soup suppers! A sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall near the coffee stand.

Wednesday Evening Prayer: *The Pilgrimage Way of the Cross*

During Lent we renew our commitment to the radical living out of our baptismal promises. The extended stations we pray on Wednesday evenings this year recall not only Christ's death and resurrection, but also the challenges we each face in living out the baptized life that binds us intimately to both.

As we make this pilgrimage way of the cross, we will proceed with Jesus from his baptism to his death, resurrection, and ascension. We will likewise journey spiritually to those times and places in our own lives that echo the events and meaning of Christ's way of life, death, and resurrection.

Join us **Wednesdays at 7:00PM in the church** for this thought-provoking journey with Christ.

Church Decorating Day

The Altar Guild is holding a **decorating day** on **Saturday, March 30 at 9:00AM** to prepare the church for Easter Sunday. Come on down - many hands make work light and quick!



Discretion Regarding Sick Members

It is truly a blessing that we have so many caring people here at St. Mark. When we learn that members are having a hard time, it's not uncommon for folks to reach out to that person through cards, texts, and phone calls to show our support and to bolster their spirits. However, we should be aware that it is very easy to cross a line into being "nosy" or invasive. While the person who is struggling may very much appreciate the calls and texts, they may not be comfortable sharing exactly what is "going on" with them, which makes it awkward when a well-meaning caller asks about it. Even "how are you?" – a question we have become VERY accustomed to asking – may be difficult for the person to answer.

This is *not* meant to discourage anyone from contacting people who are going through difficult times – just an "FYI" to have some discretion when doing so. Certainly, versions of, "I was thinking about you and wanted to check-in," or "Just wanted you to know that I'm thinking of you and praying for you," *et cetera*, are perfectly appropriate and give the person the opening to share as much as they like.

Feel free to ask Pastor Brian if anyone would like some clarification. Thank you, and thanks be to God for your generosity of time and spirit.

Proclaim Christ's Resurrection with Easter Flowers! Orders are now being taken for Easter flowers. Special envelopes can be found in the pews. Please complete the front portion of the envelope and return it, with a check or cash, to the offering box or to the office **by Monday, March 25**. All dedications will be printed in the bulletin.



St. Mark Offerings for 2/25: General Fund: **\$2,690.16** (*incl. online offerings received by 2/23*); D. Muller Landscaping Fund: \$101; Fiber Arts: \$101; Grounds Maint.: \$101; S.Purdy Memorials: \$175