

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for February 18, 2024

THE WEEK AHEAD:

- Monday 2/19:** Office Closed for President's Day
2:30PM Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
- Wednesday 2/21:** 6:00PM Lenten Soup Supper
7:00PM *The Pilgrimage Way of the Cross* - church
- Thursday 2/22:** 6:15PM Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:15PM Voice Choir Rehearsal

Adult Forum: *The New Testament: Mark – Jesus the Suffering Son of God*

Today's Adult Forum following coffee hour will feature a 30-minute video by Professor Bart Ehrman introducing the Gospel of Mark. For Mark, Jesus was the Son of God, the Messiah – not *despite* the fact that he suffered and died, but precisely *because* he suffered and died. It is an excellent review as we begin the season of Lent.

Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers

Come enjoy a meal of **soup and salad at 6:00PM** in the **Parish Hall** starting **this Wednesday, February 21**, 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, written by the late Father Edward Hays, 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 on **Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM in the church** for this unique and thought-provoking journey with Christ.



Thank you to all Thrivent Choice Dollar givers!

St. Mark has received \$463 in Choice Dollars in 2024. If you have Choice Dollars available through Thrivent, you can still designate them until March 31.

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, or scanning the adjacent QR code.



Creativity Galore!

On Monday, February 5, the Fiber Arts team decorated 25 duffle bags for Moms on a Mission's "Foster February" project with the folks at Westfield Manor. These painted, iron-on decaled and rhinstoned bags will be given to children in the foster care program to pack their belongings as they move from one location to another.



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

Our project, inspired by Phillip's Wish in the movie *5000 Blankets*, concluded January 31 with the following AMAZING total items donated. THANK YOU to everyone who participated!

164 blankets; 231 hats/ear covers; 105 pairs of gloves; 85 neck scarves/mufflers; 116 pairs of socks.

Donations were distributed to:

St. George/St. Mark Food Pantry (2); Union United Methodist Church for their homeless program;

Belleville Christian Center in Belleville; Moms on a Mission in Dupo (2)

Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois; Pregnancy Care Center in Belleville;

St. Clair County Sheriffs Department Investigations Division; Liz's Blessings in a Bag



St. Mark Offerings for 2/11: General Fund: **\$4,824.26** (incl. online offerings received by 2/9);
Food Pantry: \$20; Disaster Response: \$85; Thrivent: \$415