

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for April 21, 2024

THE WEEK AHEAD:

Monday 4/22:	6:00PM	Pastoral Care Committee – conference room
	7:00PM	Church Council - conference room
Tuesday 4/23:	5:30PM	Food Pantry meeting – conference room
Wednesday 4/24:	1:00PM	Worship committee meeting – conference room
Thursday, 4/25:	6:15PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:15PM	Voice Choir Rehearsal

There will not be an Adult Forum class this morning, as Pastor is on vacation.

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Brian is on vacation **through today, Sunday, April 21**. We are very happy to welcome back Pastor **S. Blake Duncan** as our guest preacher and presider this morning!

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



Joint Service NEXT Sunday at 10AM!

You won't want to miss the second annual joint service to celebrate the feast days of St. Mark (4/25) and St. George (4/23) **next Sunday, April 28 at 10:00AM**. A joint coffee and fellowship hour follows the service.

Making the day more special, we are thrilled and honored to welcome Central/Southern Illinois Synod Bishop Greg Busboom to deliver the sermon and greet members after the service, as well as giving some insight on his first year as bishop.

BEACON Trivia Night THIS Saturday!

It's not too late to get in on the fun and fellowship at Beacon's trivia night **THIS Saturday, April 27!** St. Mark Team Sign Up Sheets are in the Narthex and the Parish Hall. You may sign up/pay by contacting Sherri Foppe at 618 791-6148. Payment can be given to Sherri Foppe or paid by mailing checks to BEACON, P.O. Box 23468, Belleville, IL 62223 or use PayPal (paypal.me/BeaconMinistry) *Please make checks payable to BEACON Ministry, be sure to write St. Mark Team in the check's memo line.*

St. Mark has one team participating and is looking for others to form a second team! Team members do not need to be members of St. Mark!

St. Augustine of Canterbury - 1910 West Belle, Belleville, IL 62226

Doors open: 6:15PM; Game starts: 7:00PM

Admission: \$20 per person

B.Y.O.S. (Bring Your Own Snacks); Beer, Wine, Soda, & Water available for purchase

SILENT AUCTION, 50/50 RAFFLES AND MORE WILL ADD TO THE FUN!



Donate Eclipse Glasses and Get a Discount!



Through the end of April, bring your used or unused eclipse glasses to **LongStory Coffee** (732 S. Illinois Street) and receive \$1.00 off your drink purchase for that day! The glasses will be sent to Latin America for school children to use for their eclipse observation in October.



Mark Times Newsletter Deadline

The Mark Times Newsletter is printed on Thursday each week. The deadline to add announcements to the newsletter is by Wednesday the week *prior* to the Sunday it needs to be included.

April Monthly Mission Donations: OBK and Beacon

\$300 to Our Brothers' Keepers (OBK) Since Kirsten Peterson's Adult Forum presentation on February 11, many folks have expressed realizing how much they were unaware of regarding the difficult process former inmates struggle with in attempting to rejoin communities as productive citizens. The 60-day rule was shocking to many of us! Want to know more? Visit their website <https://obkministry.org/> or contact them at obkministry2@gmail.com.

Their Mission: OBK is an ecumenical faith-based organization dedicated to the full inclusion of former individuals in custody (returning citizens), into St. Clair County, Illinois community.

OBK assists returning citizens in attaining productive citizenship through an array of reentry services, including counseling, life and employment skills training, and referrals to supportive services in order to build community, family and faith-based relationships. OBK reaches out to all social and human services providers, faith communities and government agencies, and to businesses, to help in the process of full inclusion.

Their Vision: We aspire to be an organization that honors the talents and contributions of all its stakeholders including clients, employees, volunteers, donors and vendors. As we assist returning citizens in finding real solutions to their critical needs, no one is left behind: we all progress together, care for the welfare of each other, and help each other grow in personal maturity and independence.

Their Core Values:

Accompaniment is the act of providing emotional, physical and spiritual support to people in need as well as walking in their shoes as a critical part in recognizing the human dignity and experiences of every person.

Growth is the capacity for people to develop their humanity emotionally, physically and spiritually in union with others who provide peer counseling to overcome the traumas of life and give all hope and confidence to succeed.

Respect recognizes all people worthy of high regard and esteem for the human dignity of each as decent and capable of good character behavior.

\$300 to Beacon Ministry Beacon is still in the rebuilding phase due to loss of volunteers during COVID. Several financial adjustments have been made but volunteers and financial assistance are needed to continue the rebuilding! Volunteers are specifically needed to pick up and deliver donated furniture. Volunteers are also needed for organizing donated linens and household products.

St. Mark Offerings for 4/14: Operating Fund: **\$5,458.1** (including online giving received by 4/12); Food Pantry/Barb Wurdinger Memorials: \$100; Disaster Relief: \$343.33; Sunday Morning Coffee: \$150