

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for April 14, 2024

THE WEEK AHEAD:

Monday 4/15: 2:30PM Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
Tue. 4/16-Sun. 4/21: *Pastor on vacation*
Thursday, 4/18: 6:15PM Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:15PM Voice Choir Rehearsal

There will not be an Adult Forum class this morning, as Pastor is teaching Confirmation.

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Brian will be on vacation from **Tuesday, April 16 through Sunday, April 21**. We welcome back Pastor **S. Blake Duncan** as our guest preacher and presider on April 21.

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



New Trash Can

Last Sunday after worship we dedicated a newly installed industrial trash can in memory of Don Muller. Many thanks to Frank Dressel for acquiring the can, and to Frank and Keith Kniepkamp for pouring the pad and installing the can, and to Don's family and friends for the donations to make this possible. Don was a dedicated caretaker of the grounds around the church, and it is our hope that the new can will help keep trash where it belongs and maintain the beauty of our campus.



BEACON Trivia Night

It's not too late to get in on the fun and fellowship at Beacon's trivia night on **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!



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) After 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 4/7: General Fund: **\$4,176.11** (*incl. online offerings received by 4/12*); Coffee Fund: \$191; Sunday Morning Coffee: \$18; Thrivent Choice: \$449

Land Acknowledgement

St. Mark Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Quapaw and Myaamia peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.