

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for March 9, 2025

- Monday, March 10:** 9:30AM Health & Wellness Meeting – Conference Room
- Wednesday, Mar. 12:** 9:30AM Evangelism & Social Ministry meeting – Conference Room
12:00PM Ladies' Lunch Bunch – Papa Vito's, Belleville
6:00PM Soup Supper – Parish Hall
7:00PM Evening Prayer for Lent - Church
- Thursday, March 13:** 6:15PM Bell choir rehearsal
7:00PM Chancel choir rehearsal
- Saturday, March 15:** 12:15PM Tour of Our Brother's Keepers (meet in church parking lot)

Today's Adult Forum: *Introduction to GriefShare*

Join us in the Parish Hall **TODAY, Sunday, March 9** as Nurse Becky offers an introductory class about the GriefShare program beginning at St. Mark on March 25 (see below).

GriefShare Group at St. Mark Begins March 25

With the success of the November holiday event and positive reviews of the program overall, St. Mark will host a full GriefShare program at the church **beginning Tuesday, March 25**. Sessions will be held from **6:30-8:00PM** in the **Parish Hall on first, fourth, and fifth Tuesdays, and in the conference room on second and third Tuesdays** due to available space.



A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 11-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

The program includes video seminars, small group discussions, and personal study and reflection. Each session covers different aspects of grief, providing valuable guidance and support.

Sign up at <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/261743>. All are welcome! The program is free but freewill donations are accepted.

Tour of Our Brother's Keepers on March 15



Members, family and friends are invited to **tour the Our Brother's Keepers of Southern IL facility** at 614 N. 7th Street in East St. Louis **THIS Saturday, March 15**. We will meet in the church parish hall at **12:15pm** and carpool to the facility for our 45-minute to 60-minute tour.

Those planning to attend are asked to **sign up to ensure enough transportation** and no one is left behind! ***Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex (Canterbury Room) and in the Parish Hall.***

St. Mark Offerings (3/2): General Fund: **\$4,312**; Franklin Lunches: \$191.08; Coffee Fund: \$26;



Ladies' Lunch Bunch – THIS Wednesday*

The LLB meets **THIS Wednesday, March 12** at **12 noon** at **Papa Vito's** (318 East Washington Street, Belleville). Questions? Contact Mary Boxdorfer at 618-233-0160.

*An incorrect date (3/19) was initially reported to the office. The event is indeed **THIS Wednesday, 3/12**.

Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers and Evening Prayer

Come enjoy a nice evening of fellowship over a meal of **soup and salad at 6:00PM** in the **Parish Hall** starting **THIS Wednesday, March 12**, before joining us in the **church for evening prayer at 7:00PM**.

One spot remains open for **a group to host one of the suppers!** The sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall near the coffee stand.

Noisy/Not-So-Noisy Change Collection for Franklin School

Dig through your couch, car seats, purse and other places change hides! Interaction with Franklin school determined many students still owe past due lunch, snack and book fees totaling ~\$2900. Collection will be taken March 9 and 16 during worship. Electronic donation may be made to https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-14EWR?access=tile_direct,



Lenten Quiet Day at Toddhall

On **Saturday, April 5**, from 9:30AM to 2:30PM, Pastor Brian will lead a spiritual Quiet Day at Toddhall Retreat and Conference Center in Columbia. The event includes time for worship, prayer and reflection, lunch at Toddhall, as well as spiritual lectures and opportunities to walk the grounds of the retreat center. The event is free to attend, and a freewill offering will be taken on the day to cover the cost of lunch. **Registrations are required by end-of-day today, Sunday, March 9** to obtain an accurate headcount for the meal. Register at <https://forms.gle/NZmXZGgz6hcQo4eo6>.

Yoga Classes PAUSED

Due to the Parish Hall being unavailable on Thursdays during Lent, a new day is being proposed for the yoga classes. Since changes to the schedule must be approved by St. George's Vestry, and since the current agreement ran only through the end of February, **yoga classes are paused until after the Vestry meets on March 11**. Watch for further information here in the *Mark Times*.

Diaper Drive Thank You!

Thank you to all who contributed to our **Epiphany Diaper Drive** January 5 through February 9 for little ones in need in our community. In addition to product and monetary donations, Thrivent gift cards enabled us to purchase \$500 in additional diapers, training pants and diaper creams. Through Target specials, we were able to donate another 4 boxes. The collection was distributed to our Food Pantry, the Pregnancy Care Center, and the Violence Prevention Center and Fontabella Maternity Home.

Thank You from Newsome Family

Dear St. Mark friends - Thank you so much for your care-filled cards, notes and messages on the recent passing of Mae Newsome. Dick and I appreciate them more than you know. Mae had a long and happy life, and it was enhanced these last years with many of you. Sharing your time, listening to her speak (that accent!) and completing projects with the sewing group all brought meaning to her life. Thank you again for your care and concern. Sincerely, **Cheryl Newsome**