

Mark Times

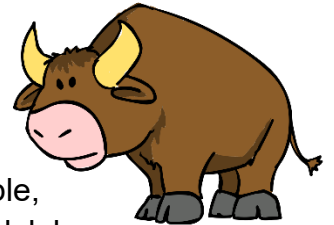
News & Notes for May 17, 2026

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, May 18:	2:30PM	Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
Tuesday, May 19:	5:00PM	Food Pantry Meeting – Conference Room
Wednesday, May 20:	10:15AM	Wellness Meeting – Conference Room
Thursday, May 21:	4:15PM	Chancel choir rehearsal
	6:00PM	Yoga – Parish Hall

Adult Forum: *An Ode to Oxen*

On what are traditionally called “Rogation Days,” the church has historically offered particular prayers around planting season in hopes of being blessed with an eventual good harvest. It is with this in mind that Pastor Brian offers **today’s Adult Forum, *An Ode to Oxen***. Cattle are a big deal in the Hebrew Bible, and the ox was a central biblical animal—an embodiment of how connected land, labor, worship, and power were. Join us in the Parish Hall after worship and see the ox as you never have before – **and that’s no bull!**



ConGRADulations Graduates!

Our sincerest best wishes and prayers for God’s blessings upon this year’s graduates:

Tucker Downen – Belleville East High School (*will attend Kansas University*)
Ellie Geppert – Belleville West High School (*will attend Saint Louis University*)
Kylie Martens – Freeburg Middle School (*will attend Freeburg High School*)



Belleville Summer Sack Lunch Program is Back!

We’re partnering again with Westview Baptist to provide **free lunches for low-income kids!**

Donations: Individually packaged Cheez-Its, chips, pretzels, nut-free cookies (homemade cookies are welcome!), and juice pouches (e.g., Capri Sun). Drop off at church or contact **Sherri Foppe** for other arrangements.

+ **Monetary gifts welcome:** Give to Sherri, Ann Martens, or online: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-15AC7>

+ **Volunteers Needed for...**

Packing: Wednesdays, 5–5:45 PM @ Westview Baptist

Delivery: Thursdays, 10:35 AM–1 PM

Dates: June 1–Aug 7 (weekly)

+ Sign-up in Parish Hall!

Info: Sherri (618)791-6148 | cookinsherri2@gmail.com or Ann (618)235-7762 | ga72mart@charter.net

St. Mark Logo Wear

If you missed the chance to purchase St. Mark logo wear (t-shirts, sweatshirts, polo shirts), the online ordering option remains active at <https://www.richsstitchesemb.com/store.php>.

♪ Music Notes ♪

There will be an opening for **one new bell player** in the fall. If you can read music even a little and would like to play bells, see director Carol Kugler.

It would also be wonderful to have new singers join the Chancel Choir. No requirements other than being able to carry a tune and a love for singing!

On another note, **many thanks and much appreciation to all members of both choirs for sharing their time and talent all season long.** Kudos!

Patriotic Potluck – Save the Date!

This year's "patriotic potluck" will be held in the Parish Hall on **Saturday, June 27** from **4:00PM-6:00PM**. Watch for a sign-up sheet for attendance and dishes to be out soon.

Singing at Care Facilities

Consider joining the group of us traveling to **EverVella** (formerly Mercy/Rosewood) **Rehab & Care Center** (Swansea) and **another location to be determined** on **Sunday, July 5** to **sing** some patriotic songs and other favorite melodies. More information coming soon!

Reflection on this Week's Readings

Looking skyward is a ready trope in cinema. Recent examples include *Nope*, the story of a family of Black horse ranchers and a mysterious something stalking their herds. Another is *Don't Look Up*, a tragicomedy that follows a group of scientists as they struggle to prepare humanity to face a planet-killing asteroid. Then there's *What Do We See When We Look at the Sky?*—a dreamy, modern fairy tale about love and perception from the nation of Georgia. This week, reflect on the many reasons we look to the sky, be it in worry, defiance, wonder, and more.

– from *Sundays & Seasons*



St. Mark Offerings for 5/10: General Fund: **\$18,283**; Coffee Fund: \$46

