

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for March 2, 2025

Monday, Mar. 3	9:00AM	Health & Wellness Meeting – Conference Room
	2:30PM	Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
Tuesday, Mar. 4:	5:30PM	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – Parish Hall
Wednesday, Mar. 5:	9:30AM	Ash Wednesday Worship - Church
	7:00PM	Ash Wednesday Worship - Church
Thursday, Mar. 6:	10:30AM	Joint Use Meeting – Conference Room
	6:15PM	Bell choir rehearsal
	7:00PM	Chancel choir rehearsal



Ash Wednesday

St. Mark hosts Ash Wednesday services celebrated with St. George's Episcopal Church **THIS Wednesday, March 5** at **9:30AM** and **7:00PM**, both in the **church**. Pastor Brian will preside at the Eucharist, both Pastor Brian & Father Mark will assist in the imposition of ashes, and Fr. Mark will preach.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Returns!

St. Mark members are invited to St. George's annual Pancake Supper **THIS Tuesday, March 4** from **5:30-7:00PM** in the **Parish Hall**. Pancakes & sausage are the traditional fare for this day since meat, eggs, fat & butter were prohibited during Lent. Freewill donations will be accepted for an upcoming outreach project



Today's Adult Forum: *Lent Me Your Ears: A Journey Through the Season*

Join us in the Parish Hall **TODAY, Sunday, March 2** as Pastor Brian offers a refresher on the origin, traditions, and symbols of the season of Lent, which begins this Wednesday.

Lenten Quiet Day at Toddhall – Deadline is Wednesday

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 Wednesday, March 5** to obtain an accurate headcount for the meal. You may register at <https://forms.gle/NZmXZGgz6hcQo4eo6> or by contacting the church office.

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*.



Food Pantry Donations

Next Sunday, March 9, is our **monthly food collection** for our pantry. This month we're asking for donations of **canned fruit** and **soups**.



Ladies' Lunch Bunch

For March's gathering, the LLB will meet on **Wednesday, March 19 at 12 noon** at **Papa Vito's** (318 East Washington Street, Belleville). Questions? Contact Mary Boxdorfer at 618-233-0160.

Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers

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

Form a group and host one of the suppers! A sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall near the coffee stand.

Game Day March 29

Bring a board game and a snack to share, or just pop over for a great time on **Saturday, March 29** from **2:00-4:00PM** in the **Parish Hall**. Invite other members and friends to join in the fun. Drinks will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be available soon.



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 the donations pictured and monetary donations, two members requested \$250 Thrivent Action Team gift cards which were used to purchase \$500 in additional diapers, disposable training pants and diaper creams.

Due to Target's \$15 gift card per \$75 of diapers purchased special, we were able to donate another 4 boxes. The items collected were distributed to St. George/St. Mark Food Pantry, Pregnancy Care Center of Belleville, Violence Prevention Center and Fontabella Maternity Home in Belleville. *Additional pictures*

are on the Parish Hall Bulletin Board.

From the Pregnancy Care Center:

Dear Members of St. Mark,

Thank you very much for the 21 boxes of diapers and the bag of baby items. Thanks to all the members for sharing with those in need. We really do appreciate your generosity.

It was requested by Sherri that we give you an idea of what other needs we have. We do try to help toddlers, sizes two to six as well as infants. We can always use clothes, slightly used or new in those sizes, and socks, shoes, and underwear for those same ages. Formula is expensive so we try to keep it on hand as well as baby bottles. We appreciate any donations.

Thank you again for your generosity and wonderful support in the work we do for our parents, infants, and toddlers.

Sincerely, Gloria Schwartz, Secretary, Pregnancy Care Center

St. Mark Offerings for 2/23: General Fund: **\$5,385.13**; Fiber Arts: \$101; Grounds Maint: \$101; D Muller Landscaping Fund: \$101

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 and the Newsome family**

Kids for Christ Trivia Night - April 5

Super fun trivia night with HUGE silent auction!! Doors open at 5:30PM. Trivia begins at 6:30PM

Tables of 8/\$160 - reserve by emailing lordsservant3@outlook.com

1st place prize - \$200 2nd place - \$100

Feel free to bring your own snacks, but no alcohol or outside drinks.

Soda and water will be for sale, and desserts are provided!



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 on **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.***

In the last year we learned so much about the difficult process it is for returning citizens (former inmates) to rejoin communities as productive citizens. Want to know more? Visit their website <https://obkministry.org/> or contact them at obkministry2@gmail.com and join us on March 15.

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 providing emotional, physical & spiritual support to people in need as well as walking in their shoes as a critical part in recognizing the human dignity & 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.

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 to help you navigate through difficult times.

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

Safety Volunteers Needed

I would like to thank those individuals who stepped up and volunteered to serve as members of our congregational safety volunteers.

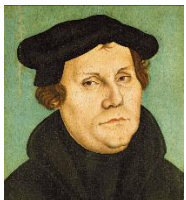
We could still use one (*or more*) volunteer so, if you would like to volunteer or simply would like more information, feel free to text or email Mark Bearth at 618-767-6543 or Mark.Bearth@gmail.com



Mark Times Email List

Due to technical difficulties at the year's beginning, the email list for the *Mark Times* had to be recreated from an old database. If you have not received the *Mark Times* emails lately, please call (618-233-9809), text (618-671-2693) or email (office@stmarkbelleville.org) the office to be added back to the list.

Martin Luther on the Transfiguration




In the Transfiguration, "the resurrection of the dead and the future glory and brightness of *our* bodies are shown. For this was something very remarkable, that Christ was transfigured while yet in the mortal body, which was subject to suffering. What then shall it be, when mortality shall have been swallowed up, and nothing shall remain but immortality and glory?

"There is added the appearance of Moses and Elias, who prove by their appearing that they had never really died, and that there is yet another life, besides the earthly life, from which they were transferred.

"This appearance teaches us also that we should despise death, and look upon it merely as an emigration or a sleep. In short, this appearance proves that this life is nothing at all in comparison with the future life.

"This appearance proves that sin is overcome. For it necessarily follows as an incontrovertible conclusion, that, where death is overcome, there sin is also overcome...

"The whole, holy Trinity appears here to strengthen the believers; namely, Christ in his transfigured form, the Father in the voice, and the Holy Ghost in the bright cloud."

Sunday		Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
2 Transfiguration of Our Lord	3	4	5	6	7	1	6:00PM SHINE worship - chapel
							8
9:00AM The Divine Liturgy 10:20AM Coffee & Fellowship 10:30AM Confirmation 10:30AM Adult Forum: <i>Lent Me Your Ears: A Journey Through the Season</i>	2:30PM Fiber Arts @ Westfield Manor	<i>Shrove Tuesday</i> 5:30P Pancake supper—PH	ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30AM & 7:00PM  Joint worship with distribution of ashes	10:30A Joint Use Meeting - CR 6:15P Bell Choir 7:00P Voice Choir	<i>Pastor's Day Off</i>		
9 First Sunday in Lent	10	11	12	13	14	15	12:15P Tour of Our Brother's Keepers (meet in PH)
9:00AM The Divine Liturgy 10:20AM Coffee & Fellowship 10:30AM Adult Forum: <i>Intro to GriefShare</i>	9:30A Health & Wellness - CR		9:30AM Evang/ Soc.Min mtg—CR 6:00PM Soup supper 7:00PM Evening Prayer for Lent	6:15PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Voice Choir	<i>Pastor's Day Off</i>		
16 Second Sunday in Lent	17	18	19	20	21	22	
9:00AM The Divine Liturgy 10:20AM Coffee & Fellowship 10:30AM Confirmation 10:30AM Adult Forum	2:30PM Fiber Arts @ Westfield Manor 6:00PM Yoga * <i>*Tentative</i>		12:00PM Ladies Lunch at Papa Vito's 6:00PM Soup supper 7:00PM Evening Prayer for Lent	6:15PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Voice Choir	<i>Pastor's Day Off</i>		
23 Third Sunday in Lent	24	25	26	27	28	29	
9:00AM Liturgy w/Healing Rite 10:20AM Coffee & Fellowship 10:30AM Adult Forum	6:00PM Pastoral Care Committee 7:00PM Church Council Mtg. 6:00PM Yoga *	6:30-8PM GriefShare—PH	6:00PM Soup supper 7:00PM Evening Prayer for Lent	6:15PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Voice Choir		2PM-4PM Game Day—PH	
30 Fourth Sunday in Lent	31						
9:00AM The Divine Liturgy 10:20AM Coffee & Fellowship	6:00PM Yoga *						
<i>Pastor on vacation</i>							

March 2025

St. Mark Lutheran Church
105 East D Street
Belleville, Illinois

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assist Min.</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Chalice Bearer</u>	<u>Tech Min.</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Safety Volunteer</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
Mar. 2	Greg G.	Charlie D.	Rex R.	Mike M.	Mike M.	Frank D. & Jason M.	Melanie R.	Team 1
Mar. 5 <i>Ash Weds.</i>	Greg M.	Kathy R. & David B. (9:30AM) Terry T. & TBD (7:00PM)	Joe B.	Fr. Mark	Melanie R.	TBD (9:30AM) Danielle T. & TBD (7PM)	Mark B.	NA
Mar. 9	Danielle T.	Aaron F.	Frank D.	Tom P.	Aaron F.	Rick Crosby & Rex R.	Jan R.	Team 2
Mar. 16	Sherri F.	Terry T.	Keith K.	Mike M.	Melanie R.	Danielle T. & Curt G.	Frank D.	Team 3
Mar. 23	Charlie D.	Curtis D.	Corbin M.	Greg M.	Aaron F.	Katly C. & Nancy G.	Tina P.	H&W
Mar. 30	Greg G.	Jan L.	Greg M.	Mike M.	Greg M.	Mark B. & TBD	Mark B.	Team 4



Alison K.	3/4	Gayle H.	3/8	Cathie S.	3/8
Sue P.	3/14	Aria H.	3/14	Diane K.	3/16
Nathan P.	3/16	Elizabeth B.	3/17	Renee S.	3/17
Tucker D.	3/17	Tina P.	3/18	Kylie M.	3/20
Allison B.	3/21	Amanda K.	3/23	Bella H.	3/28
Larry S.	3/29	Jackie W.	3/31		

