

Join us as we live out "Real Faith for Real Life" together!



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Weekly E-News
May 14, 2020

Your Weekly News & Updates

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In this Issue:

- * COVID-19 Update
 - * Coffee Fellowship Zoom
 - * Meet Under the Oaks
 - * Mother's Day at Brookdale
 - * Youth Sunday & Graduates
 - * King's Forest Update
 - * Online Service Info
 - * This Week with Fr. John
 - * Bible Verse of the Week
 - * Prayer or Concern
 - * Financial Support
 - * Weekly Calendar
 - * Helpful Links
-

Update on Recent Changes Regarding COVID-19

"In the very merry month of June?"



Many of you, like me, can't wait to resume physical, corporate Sunday worship in a space designed just for that.

Already some churches are beginning to do just that. Bishop Reed, however, has pushed the start date for all congregations to after May 24. Depending on the virus' spread, it's possible he may continue to move it back. It's a fluid situation.

In the meantime, our parish leadership is working on a plan. That plan will have to be approved by the vestry and be in accord with a covenant we will sign with the diocese. then by the diocese. Once it has been approved, the parish plan and its protocols must be sent to all members at least two weeks prior to our first gathering for worship.

We are hoping to resume worship some time in June. You can expect to receive a proposed start date before the end of May, and a description of the rules we will all be asked to follow. But realize, too, that the date could become a moving target.

In the meantime, remember to consider the opportunities the Lord is giving you to share His life with others. What opportunities have come your way today? Opportunities to serve, bless, witness, and to pray. Utilize them.

Remember, Jesus cannot fail you. Claim the peace of Christ, the gift He has given those who love Him. In this knowledge, we can honor what Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27) We can wait.

Fr. John

Zoom Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am Sunday, May 17

Missing the fellowship of St. Mark's? Others are, too. Join our online coffee fellowship for the third Sunday this Sunday, May 17, at 9:00 am. If you don't know a bunch of people at St. Mark's, this is a great way to start. (You don't actually have to talk!)

Here's [the link](#) to the Zoom meeting. The password is Gather.

Some of you may be new to Zoom. It's not hard. [Click here](#) for the instructions.



Under the Oaks Gatherings



Meet Under the Oaks

Today's rain excepted, the weather has been beautiful in the mornings. If your group would like a change atmosphere, consider meeting in the church courtyard under the oak trees. We're calling it the "Under the Oaks Gatherings." If you meet before noon, it's really pleasant.

We recommend that folks bring their own chairs. Bibles are good, too! Because we need to maintain physical distance, we suggest that not more than eight folks meet at a time, lest the circle get too big. Then enjoy each other's company as you conduct your meeting or just catch up! No reservations necessary.

Brookdale Mother's Day Parade



When she learned that Dorothy Myracle's son wasn't going to be able to come into town to celebrate Mother's Day with her, Sally Buck volunteered to be Dorothy's daughter for the day. She made this beautiful sign, put it on her car, and joined the car parade of family members celebrating their mothers who are residents at Brookdale. Check out Sally's Facebook Page to see other photos and a video. Thanks



Dorothy Myracle.

for sharing the love to a truly special saint, Sally!

Youth Sunday & High School Graduates

Our Youth Sunday will be May 24th this year. Although, we can't gather together yet, we want to have as many youth involved in the recorded service as are comfortable doing that. If your student would like to participate, please let Judy know--just email her at judy@stmarksgc.com. The service will be recorded Saturday, 5/23. We will get instructions out to everyone prior to that Saturday.

We have four seniors graduating this year from high school. They have had the most unusual senior year ever. Our graduates are: Cynthia Sutanto, Derek Steinbruck, Kate Wandel and Preston Wilkey.

Cynthia Sutanto:

Cynthia's life at St. Mark's began when she attended the nursery in her infant car seat at the age of 13 months under the watchful eyes of Mrs. Bea. Growing up, she enjoyed the many activities the church offered and has fond memories of them. The loving and caring people of St. Mark's, and the spiritual guidance of Fr. John compelled her to be baptized when she was 9. As she grew older, she was serving as an acolyte, choir singer, and lector in the church. Her experience at St. Mark's has undoubtedly helped shape the kind of person she is today.



Cynthia Sutanto

This year, Cynthia is graduating from London High School as the Valedictorian of her class. She is going to join the Class of 2024 at Yale University in the fall, majoring in Ethics, Politics, and Economics (B. A.).

Derek Steinbruck:

Derek will graduate this year from Flour Bluff High School. Over the



years Derek has taught himself to play guitar, piano, drums, and mandolin. He also produces his own music. He will continue his education in the fall at Del Mar College. Derek will be pursuing a degree in Music Production.

Derek Steinbruck

Kate Wandel:

Katherine Adele Wandel is the daughter of Molly and John Wandel and sister to Jack, Ella, and Livi. Kate attended Ray High School as part of the IB program for the first two and a half years of high school, then completed her studies as a homeschool student, including dual credit classes at Del Mar.

Kate has always had a dramatic flair. Some of her happiest times have been on stage at Harbor Playhouse and the Aurora Arts Theatre; possibly her favorite was singing "I Want It Now!" as Veruka Salt in "Willy Wonka: the Musical." At St. Mark's, she enjoyed narrating the Christmas pageant, dressing as the Easter Bunny, and singing a solo one year on Christmas Eve. She enjoys the beach, sailing, playing ukelele, and her kitty, Sergeant Pepper.



Kate Wandel

Kate will be attending TAMU-CC in the fall studying something other than math.

Preston Wilkey:

Preston Wilkey is graduating from Flour Bluff High School. Preston has attended St. Mark's his whole life and has been active in youth group, acolyting, and very involved with Camp Capers. Preston played football and basketball at Flour Bluff. Preston has been offered a scholarship to play football at Texas Lutheran University where he will be pursuing a degree in Psychology.



Preston Wilkey

King's Forest Work Evening Efforts

Workers have been in the King's Forest the last two weeks!

The first week, the Porterfield family showed up *en toto* last night, as well as Chase Wilkey, John De Montel, Doug Wayland, Adam, and Fr. John. Some removed and cut down weeds surrounding the water feature. Others worked on giving the baby oak trees a better home.

Yesterday, Adam Remlinger, Eddie Jackson, and Fr. John followed up.

The water well has been completed. We are still waiting on results of the water testing to see if it is good enough to use to water the trees. If not, it will supply our water feature, which happens to be running at this very moment!



Our prayers for rain have been answered and will continue to be answered this weekend. Thank you, Lord.

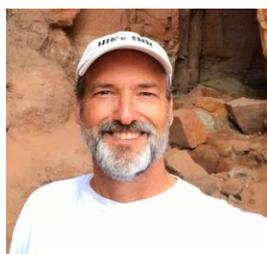


The recording of this Sunday's (5/17) service will be sent out via the ENews Saturday. It will also be posted on our St. Mark's Episcopal Church and Kids in Christ Facebook pages and in our St. Mark's Facebook Group before 9 am Sunday morning.

The sermon and Fireside Chats will be posted separately on Facebook. If one of them blesses you, share with your Friends!

**THANK YOU to ALL who are working to keep us
worshiping our Lord together.**

This Week with Fr. John



Fr. John is offering opportunities for you to join him, either through a Facebook Live or Zoom meeting to share a little time together. Here's the schedule:

Friday May 15, 9 am----- (No FB Live this day)

Sunday, May 17, 5 pm-----Zoom with Youth

Monday, May 18, 9 am-----FB Live with Children

Wednesday, May 20, 5 pm-----Zoom with Parents

Mark you calendars!

Bible Verse of the Week

What's the verse of the week? It's a simple verse taken out of the assigned lessons. The purpose of the verse is to give us one idea from God's Word to focus and meditate on each day, and to share and discuss with children.



In the ups and downs of your day, remember your verse. As you share it with your friends and family, as them to think about it how it applies to their situation. Share with them how it applies to yours. Put it into a prayer to God. Even if, for the moment, it may not seem to connect to what's going on in your life, thank God for it. Someday you'll remember it when it does make a difference.

This week's verse is:

**"Those who accept my commandments and obey them
are the ones that love me." John 4:21 NLT**

It's me, it's me... Oh, Lord.

If you have a need or concern, please don't hesitate to contact Fr. John or Judy on their cell phones. Fr. John's number is (361) 443-4916 and Judy's is (361) 425-8249. We are happy to take any emergency call at any time. For other requests, we appreciate your calls being made during normal business hours.



Our prayer chain is continuing to pray for any requests that come into the office. You can contact Judy at judy@stmarkscc.com or call her if you have a prayer need. This group has been praying for everyone in our congregation as well as your families.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTINUE THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF ST. MARK'S CHURCH!

Even though we are not able to congregate as we normally do, the church still has many expenses. We urge you to give out of faith, thanksgiving, and generosity, and never out of guilt. If you are blessed to be able to give, here are the four ways to do that:

- Online through our website. There is a blue "Giving" button at the bottom of each page. Just click on that and it will take
- you to our online EGiving. You will need to set up a user profile and then you can set up a one-time gift or recurring gifts. You can also give through the "Donate to St. Mark's" link at the bottom of this ENews.
- Through your cell phone using our app, Give+Plus. To get the app, go to the app store and search for "Give+Plus". The icon background is white, the word "Give" is gray and the "+Plus" is a mustard color. Download the app and follow the prompts. You can use it to set up a one-time or recurring gifts.
- Mail in your check to: St. Mark's Church, 2727 Airline Rd, CC, TX 78414. We have a drop-in mailbox that is locked at all times. We will be checking the mail every day, so your check will be secure.
- Drop your check off at the church. Just put it in the locked mailbox to left of the red door at the fellowship hall.



**THANK YOU for helping spread the Kingdom
through your continuing support of
St. Mark's Church.**

Calendar

May 17 - Sunday

9:00 am - Coffee Fellowship--Online--Zoom Meeting

10:00 am - Morning Prayer Service--Online--Facebook Page

5:00 pm - Fr. John Meets with Youth--Online--Zoom Meeting

May 18 - Monday

9:00 am - Fr. John live with the Children--Online--Facebook Stream

May 19 - Tuesday

7:00 pm - Bible Study and Prayer Group--Online--Zoom Meeting

May 20 - Wednesday

12:00 pm - Elders Meeting--Online--Zoom Meeting

5:00 pm - Fr. John Meets with Parents--Online--Zoom Meeting

May 21- Thursday

6:45 am - Elders Prayer Group--Under the Oaks

Helpful Links

Below you will find several links to websites or Facebook Pages that you might find helpful.

[St. Mark's Church Website](#)

[Donate to St. Mark's Church](#)

[St. Mark's Church Facebook](#)

[St. Mark's Children's Ministry Facebook](#)

[Diocese of West Texas Website](#)

[Diocesan Newsletter and Reflection Magazine](#)

[Denison Forum--News Discerned Differently](#)