

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



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Weekly E-News
August 13, 2020

Your Weekly News & Updates

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Where Are You?

We are meeting as a community every Sunday "under the oaks" at 9:00 a.m. to learn about and worship our God. We need and want you. I refer to our church as the people who are St. Mark's. The power of a community coming together to celebrate and worship together can make even a pandemic better. There is nothing more powerful, more loving, more miraculous, and more healing than our God working through a community who is serving and worshipping Him.

Is it safe?

I am sure you are like me and ask that question throughout the day. I am worshiping "under the oaks" on Sunday with members of our St. Mark's family. I am immune compromised due to a kidney transplant and therefore in the highest risk category. I don't go to stores or restaurants and I even retired from teaching to try to stay safe from COVID-19.

I DO attend St. Mark's Under the Oaks. It feels safe and I don't ever want to get out of the habit of getting up on Sunday morning and coming to worship. Everyone who comes wears a mask, uses social distancing, and hand sanitizer abounds. You can bring your own chair and choose where you will sit. Chairs are also provided. God provides a wonderful shade and beautiful breeze. The Holy Spirit is present.

Please come, the family of St. Mark's is not complete without you.

Your sister by the blood of Christ,
Susan Ames



Preparing the Table.



Worship Participants--including Susan (far right).



Ray Paz assisting with worship music.

School to Began Today

The new school year started for many of our children and youth today, which marks yet another first as a result of COVID-19 for our students, teachers and school staff--distance learning, wearing masks in class, social distancing, and so on. There are many unknowns, changes and opportunities for new adventures.

With all that's they're facing during this time, let's commit to pray for them. Here are some suggestions to start you off:

- Pray for peace knowing Jesus is with them
- Pray that kindness fill their classrooms
- Pray that understanding and compassion be the first thing that comes from their hearts
- Pray that they don't worry or grow weary
- Pray that they are challenged beyond what they think they are capable of
- Pray that they are Jesus' hands and voice to those He puts in their path

Here's to a wonderful, adventurous new school year!



Youth and Friends' Beach Cleanup Project Ropes Park Sunday, 8/16 6:00 p.m.

Ropes Park is a pretty little park located at 3560 Ocean Dr.

The beach below it isn't so pretty. During heavy rains lots of storm water empties into the bay at this beach in order to keep the city from flooding. With the water comes city-street trash that ends up on the beach.

Yuck. Trash is not only ugly, it hurts wildlife. So let's clean it up!

St. Mark's Youth regularly participate in outreach ministries. During this COVID-19 season, we have to limit our contact with people; but we *can* still minister to God's creation. In fact, according to the Bible, taking care of the earth was humanity's first assignment from God. (See Genesis 1:28-31)

Youth, parents, and other volunteers will meet at Ropes Park at **6 p.m. this Sunday, August 16. The address is 3560 Ocean Drive**, not far from where it intersects Doddridge. There's not much parking. You may have to park across Ocean Dr. on a side street. If so, please be careful when crossing!

Everyone will need to sign a [waiver](#). And:

- Wear a mask when you are close to other people.
- Wear close-toed sturdy shoes.
- Wear gloves. Bring your own latex gloves if you have them. We will bring a limited supply.
- If you have a bucket, bring it.
- If you have a rake (the kind that rakes dirt and pebbles, not leaves), bring it.
- Wear a St. Mark's t-shirt if you have one.



Back to School Event August 19th from 6 - 7 p.m.



You are invited to join your St. Mark's family on Wednesday, August 19th to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. The Kona Ice truck will be in our church parking lot to offer a sweet treat from 6-7 pm. Father John will be on hand to pray over students, teachers, and families and bless backpacks and/or devices.

If you're comfortable, park the car for a bit and visit with friends from a safe distance! If you'd prefer to stay in your car, that's okay, too; drive-through prayer and Kona Ice are available. We hope to see you there!

If you think you will be coming, please let Molly Wandel know by emailing her at molwandel@gmail.com with an approximate count for Kona Ice. It's okay if you're not sure; it's just to give them an estimate.





If you are unable to attend the 9:00 a.m. outdoor service or it is rained out, the recording of this Sunday's (8/9) service will be available via our ENews Saturday. It will also be posted on our St. Mark's Episcopal Church, SEEK Youth, and Kids in Christ Facebook pages, and in our St. Mark's Facebook Group before 9:00 am Sunday morning.

Instead of recording a Fireside Chat, Fr. John will now be doing an introduction to our Sunday service on Fridays and a recap of Sunday's service on Mondays via Facebook. Be sure to check them out.

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

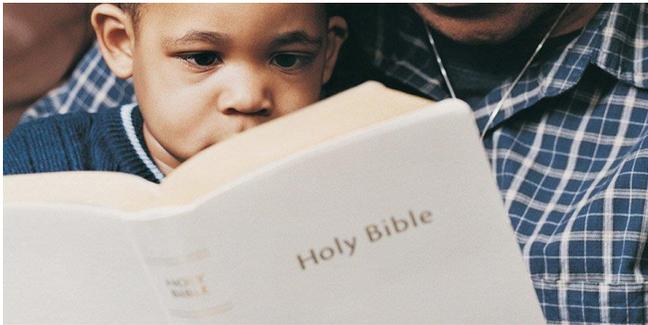
Remember to "Like" us or comment. It lets us know someone out there is listening!

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

Bible Verse of the Week

Psalm 67:2

***"Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations."***



This week's Verse of the Week is a prayer. It's not a prayer for yourself. It's not a prayer for someone you know personally.

It's a prayer for *everybody*.
Everybody on earth!

"Let your ways be known upon earth." This prayer to God asks God to keep on showing Himself to people so that everybody on earth would come to know God's ways. Not just some people. Everybody!

What are God's ways? Well, the Bible tells us that God is *good*. Even though He does keep some secrets, (God doesn't have to explain why He does certain things) we can trust that He is preparing us for a great future. He loves us!

What else? He is truthful; He keeps His promises. He is forgiving; He lets us make mistakes and gives us second chances. He is serious about expecting us to do the right things.

Just think what the world would be like if *everybody* was truthful, if *everybody* kept their promises, if *everybody* was forgiving, and if *everybody* really tried to do the right thing all the time. Wow! the world wouldn't need prisons! We'd be healthier and happier - hey, that must be what "saving health" means! Instead of being worried and sick, we'd be happy and healthy.

What a difference knowing God's ways makes! God us yourself more and more!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ARE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT ST. MARK'S CHURCH!

Is the Lord blessing you? Are you grateful for what He has done in your life? Remember His Church. Though we haven't been worshiping, we still have ministries to support and salaries and bills to pay. 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 the 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 & August Schedule

Here is [the link](#) to the August schedule for our ministries.

August 16 - Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Under the Oaks--Courtyard
10:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer Service--Online--Facebook Page
6:00 p.m. - Beach Cleanup--Ropes Park

August 17 - Monday

6:30 p.m. - Vestry Meeting--Online--Zoom

August 18 - Tuesday

10:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting--Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study and Prayer Group--Online--Zoom Meeting

August 19 - Wednesday

12:00 p.m. - Elders Meeting--Fellowship Hall

August 20- Thursday

6:45 a.m. - 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](#)

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