

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



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Weekly E-News

July 2, 2020

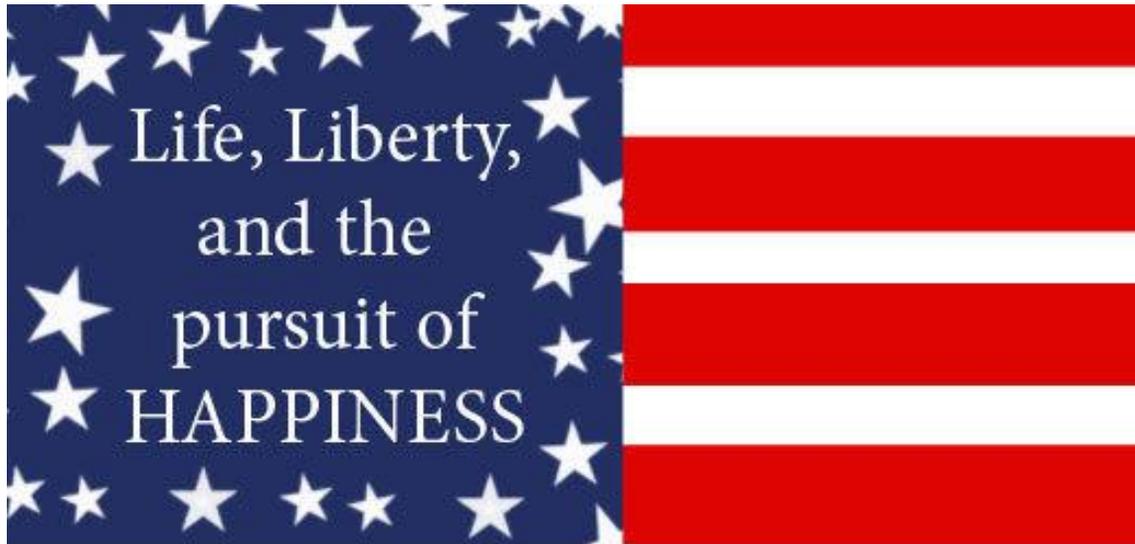
Your Weekly News & Updates

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Happy Fourth of July! Stay Safe!



Re-Opening Services Update

St. Mark's Responds to Growing Numbers of Active Cases

Looser restrictions in May have resulted in a significant rise in active COVID-19 cases in Texas in June. Although we know of no parishioners who have caught the virus, we believe it is best to scale back our recently opened worship services.

Starting this Sunday, **July 5**, we will only hold **one Sunday service**. It will be outside, under the oaks at **9 a.m.** Because of our governor's ruling on July 2, masks will be mandatory. **If possible bring your own chairs and masks.**

As you can see in the photo below, there's plenty of room for more people even while maintaining physical distancing.



9 a.m. Service

We will resume indoor worship when the numbers of active cases have dropped. In the meantime, we will continue to record sermons and services in St. Mark's Memorial Chapel. We will send the links to you by e-mail. They will also be posted on our Facebook page and Family Group, as well as our website.

THIS SUNDAY, JULY 5

9 a.m. "Under the Oaks"

Bring Your Own Chairs

A recorded service will be available online for those who can't join us in person.

Calling all Facebookers



Facebook offers us a unique way to share our lives and ministries. We'd like to begin using our resources on Facebook to help us stay connected when we can't be together. We're planning to make daily posts utilizing different categories, like the Sacred Stores, Youth/Children, etc.

This is something new to us and we're excited about the possibilities. It's also a large undertaking, so we would like to ask for your help if this appeals to you. We need people who are good at videoing; people who are comfortable in front of a camera to read stories and such; artists to help illustrate and those who like to be creative on Facebook. Please contact Judy at judy@stmarksc.com if you're interested or call the office (361) 994-0285.

Zoom with Fr. John Youth *and* Children



Fr. John will meet with the children and youth in separate Zoom meetings.

He would like to meet with the Youth online each Sunday at 5 p.m. via Zoom. Be sure to join him this weekend.



AND he'd like to meet with young children via Zoom Mondays, at 10 a.m. Parents and older siblings, please help them to use this

link. It's <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87432754953>. And warn them that they will be "muted" when they sign in. So even though they can see each other no one will be able hear them until after Fr. John's lesson. After the lesson, Fr. John will let the children talk and ask questions. But they will have to raise their hands!

Apologies: Fr. John didn't receive any feedback from last week. IF someone got stuck in a Waiting Room, he is so sorry. His computer didn't indicate there was anyone there.



Anybody may request an appointment with him by texting 361-443- 4916.

Share Your Photo Stories with your St. Mark's Family Our Facebook Fellowship Page is now called "St. Mark's Church Family Group"

We've had problems with an old FaceBook Fellowship page - so we've started a new one. It is called "[St. Mark's Church Family Group](#)". This group has been created specially for current St. Mark's members only as way for us to share our lives and get to know one another. Once you're on the group page, "Like" it and request approval to join.



The old group will be going away very soon. Invite your St. Mark's friends into this group as soon as possible.

Note the rules for the group:

1. Promotion of Business/Nonprofit/Sales/Self

This group is for communicating with our St. Mark's Church family. Promotion of a personal business or non-profit, sales of any kind or self-promotion will not be allowed and will be removed.

2. Respect Privacy

Respecting the privacy of those in this group is important. We want parents and grandparents to feel comfortable sharing pictures of their children and grandchildren. Do not share anything outside the group.

3. Respectful Content

You are welcomed and encouraged to share joys and sorrows from your life on this page. Avoid political commentary. Direct any grievance you may have with the church directly to the person most responsible. Be respectful of all, as though to the Lord.



Checking on Each Other

In light of where we are with COVID-19, we find ourselves needing to be more cautious about what we choose to do outside our homes, who we interact with and what we feel comfortable with in terms of our own health issues. But there are those who have no choice because they fall in the high risk category.



We have several folks in our church who fall in that category and have been isolated for over three months. Our children and youth made cards, wrote notes and created beautiful pieces of art work that were sent to those who can't participate the way they used to before the pandemic. The response has been one of overwhelming thanks and appreciation--they feel **loved**. So much so, that they are all looking forward to their next little gift of inspiration and love.

We, as adults can follow the example our children and youth have shown us by calling those we haven't seen in a while or writing notes to those who have been alone. These gestures would mean a great deal to each of them. So, pray about who God would like you to reach out to and do just that!

If you need contact information, let Judy know and she can get you what you need. Call the office at (361) 994-0285 or email her at judy@stmarkscc.com.

These seemingly small acts have had a profound impact. Let's continue to let them know that they are loved and missed!



If you are unable to attend the 9:00 a.m. service, the recording of this Sunday's (7/5) 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.

The sermon and Fireside Chats 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

Matthew 11:29

***"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart."***

This verse shows us that our relationship with the Lord involves taking and learning.

Jesus is offering His Lordship. What an opportunity! He offers, but does not impose.

He offers. It is up to us to take.



Once we take His yoke upon us, we are to learn. There no point in having a great Teacher if we will not learn from him or her. Same with Jesus. Thank goodness he's left us the Bible so we have a way to learn what He wants to teach. Thank Him that he is gentle and patient, too.

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 & July Schedule

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

July 5 - Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Under the Oaks--Courtyard

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Service--Online--Facebook Page

5:00 p.m. - SEEK Youth Group Meeting--Online--Zoom Meeting

July 6 - Monday

10:00 a.m. - Kids in Christ--Online--Zoom Meeting

July 7 - Tuesday

10:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting--Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. - Bible Study and Prayer Group--Online--Zoom Meeting

July 8 - Wednesday

12:00 p.m. - Elders Meeting--Online--Zoom Meeting

July 9- 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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