

**WELCOME TO  
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
✠  
CAPITOL HILL**

**ST. MARK'S MISSION STATEMENT**

St. Mark's is an open community, welcoming people wherever they are on their faith journey. We celebrate the gifts of God that empower us to engage boldly in the struggles of life and to care for others with love, justice, and compassion.



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 21, 2025**

**5:00 PM HOLY EUCHARIST  
& LAYING ON OF HANDS**

**Rector**

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

**Associate Rector**

The Reverend Caitlin Frazier

**Pastoral Associate**

The Reverend Patricia Catalano

**Seminarian**

Rebekah Taylor

**Interim Director of Music**

Michael McCarthy

**Children, Youth, & Family**

**Ministry Director**

Lisa Ramish

# Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church ✠ Capitol Hill



To view the **Parish Calendar online**, go to our homepage [www.stmarks.net](http://www.stmarks.net) and click “Calendar” at the top of the page.

**Hearing** – Infrared headsets providing amplified sound are in the tract racks by the doors, or ask an usher.

**Restrooms** are available in the foyer, with additional facilities located downstairs.

**Childcare** – The Nursery is open! Children up to age 3 are welcome. Take the stairs to the lower level; turn right to go down the hall to the Nursery, the last room on your right.

**Land Acknowledgement:** We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the peoples on whose traditional territory we are located, specifically the Piscataway and Nacotchtank (Anacostan) peoples. We make this acknowledgment mindful of the traumatic events and the ongoing forces of systemic racism and oppression that forced native peoples from their lands. We continue our commitment to learning, growing, and finding a new way forward for meaningful, mutual healing.



## Schedule of Advent & Christmas Services

**Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**

4 pm, Family Christmas Pageant & Service

8:30 pm, Congregational Caroling & Brass music

9 pm, Festival Eucharist



**Thursday, December 25 - 10 am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist**

**Sunday, December 28 - 10 am Christmas Lessons & Carols**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess how we have missed the mark of God at the center of our lives and of our truest selves.

*A period of silence is observed.*

Together,

**All Holy and loving God,  
we have dwelt in darkness  
and preferred it to the light;  
we have been proud of our accomplishments  
and despaired over our shortcomings.  
Smooth down the mountains of our pride,  
and lift up the valleys of our doubts.  
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives  
that we might find our way to you again.**

### ABSOLUTION

God forgives you, forgive yourself, and go in peace.  
**Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

Keep awake!  
**You know not when God comes.**

Prepare the way of the Lord:  
**A just and peaceful path!**

Keep awake!  
**God is coming.**

*A period of silence is observed.*

**THE COLLECT**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

**Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The people sit.*

**THE FIRST READING** Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25**

The Gospel of Jesus according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of Jesus.

**Praise be to you Lord Christ**

**HOMILY**

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

**MUSIC FOR MEDITATION**

## **AFFIRMATION**

**We believe in God the Creator, through whom every being in heaven and on earth has life.**

**We believe in God the Son, who walks with us and fills us with God's love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who lives in our hearts through faith and strengthens us with the power to be God's hands in the world.**

**We believe in one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen**

*Prayers Of The People - In the season of Advent, we will use Eucharistic Prayer D from the Book of Common Prayer so our prayers of the people are embedded in the Eucharistic Prayer.*

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of God be with you!  
And also with you.

## **VESTRY GREETING**

## **WELCOME**

## **ELECTRONIC OFFERING**

*Please consider supporting the work of the church. You may make an online gift, or learn about the other ways to give, by visiting the St. Mark's website, [stmarks.net](http://stmarks.net), and choosing "Donate or Pledge" at the top.*

*Gifts to St. Marks can also be made by texting "stmarks20003" to 73256, or by visiting the QR code. Thank you for your generous support of our collective work.*



## **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

“The days are surely coming,” says God, “when I will fulfill the promise of justice and righteousness.” I invite you now to be a part of fulfilling God's promise as you give generously. Your gifts to this community of faith, and our wider mission through Service and Social Justice provide hope as you help to bring justice a little closer to reality.

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we proclaim

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death.

In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Mother, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Mother, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

[Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember our bishops Mariann and Eugene, our priests, deacons, and lay leaders and all who minister in your Church. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember the poor, the oppressed, the hungry, those in prison, and those in war.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.]

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

And now, as Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## **THE FRACTION**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We recognize this as God's table set before us, and this bread and wine as God's food for all. Therefore, whoever we are, from wherever we have come, and whatever we believe or do not believe, all are welcome and invited to receive. Amen!

## THE COMMUNION

*St. Mark's receives communion "in the round" as a symbol of our strong belief in the power of community.*

*You will be offered bread by a celebrant and invited to drink from the common cup. Please put out your hands to help guide the cup to your lips, and drink.*

*If you do not wish to receive the wine, please cross your hands over your chest. Please refrain from intincting (dipping) the host (the bread) into the wine.*

*We offer Laying on of Hands in the chapel on the first and third Sunday of the month. On those Sundays, you may receive communion and go to the chapel to have prayers.*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Together, let us pray.

**Creator of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. In his living, dying, and rising, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## **Liturgical Leaders and Worship Participants**

<b>Ministers</b>	All the Members of St. Mark's
<b>Presiders &amp; Preacher</b>	The Reverend Michele H. Morgan
<b>Verger</b>	Martha Huizenga
<b>Laying on of Hands</b>	Stephanie Deutch

**Acknowledgements:** The Confession of Sin, Opening Sentences: First Sunday of Advent Prayers and Litanies, ©2015. Affirmation: adapted from Grace Cathedral. The Collect, The Peace, Eucharistic Prayer: Book of Common Prayer USA. Offertory Sentence: United Church of Canada. Post-Communion Prayer: A New Zealand Prayer Book. Blessing: Book of Occasional Services. Dismissal: Church of England Common Worship

**Cover Art** by Sue Carroll, [Art2liftspirits.com](http://Art2liftspirits.com)



**The Advent/Christmas Wreath**, given to St. Mark's by Scilla Adams in loving memory of her father, Colonel Neil Ramsay, was hand-forged by Richard A. Martin, a metal sculpture in Alexandria, Virginia. This work is made of steel and hammered drip pans, painted black and three feet in diameter, with a cross hanging beneath the central candle.

**The Advent Paraments** were designed by Tracy Councill and fabricated by Tracy and Doris Burton. The set was given by the Arts Council and dedicated in December 2005. The pulpit fall has four images relating to Advent, allowing a change for each Sunday. The fabric for the fall, Bible markers, veil, one stole, and two chasubles is hand-dyed Dupioni silk. The second stole and the bread cover were hand-woven by Doris Burton, representing the homespun fabrics of biblical times. That stole includes rose threads for Gaudete Sunday (3rd Advent).

# *Notes*

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# Cycle of Prayer

## *In the Diocese of Washington*

St. John's Church, Broad Creek • St. John's Church, Georgetown  
St. John's Church Georgetown Preschool • St. John's Church, Lafayette Square  
St. John's Church, Mt. Rainier • St. John's Church, Norwood, Chevy Chase  
St. John's Church, Olney • St. John's Episcopal School, Olney  
St. John's Church, Zion Parish  
St. Stephen and the Incarnation /San Esteban y La Encarnación, DC

## *Anglican Communion*

The Anglican Church of Burundi

## *Parish Prayer List*

Louise Abbot • Ben Alquiros • Nora Alquiros • Pam Baugh • Jackie Blondin  
Jackie Boddie • Joseph Boone • Suzanne Burnette • Charlotte Clymer  
Tracy Councill • Martin and Mary De Nys • Charley Donnelly • Dottie & Rudy  
Pete Eveleth • Eddie Garnett • Jack Guza • Barbara Harvey • Michael Henely  
Darnell Hill • Judith Holt • Jack Howell • Gale Johnson • Julia Jones • Shadi Khoury  
Hatcher Byrd Kincheloe • Pat Latin • Marwan Ibrahim Maadi • Lila Marks  
Nat Marks • Taylor Emerson Marks Walton Moody • Fred Muller (and family)  
Mariza Oliveira • Bob Pearson • James & Wanda Pittman • Susan Puhala (and family)  
Malik Robinson Jr • T.H. Salmon Jon Sand • Ben Schaibly • Stephanie Seely  
Elin Whitney Smith • Martha Kincheloe Spain • Deb Sullivan • Anthony Sullivan  
Yasser & Jawaher Toshtash • David Thacker • Stephanie Toth  
Mateo Martinez-Vega & Family • Stephen Wolf • Geoffrey Wood • Tom Zarek

## *Parishioners and Family Members Serving in the Military*

Chase Allen Ammon • Clint Billings • Jason Earnest • Noah Landen  
Ensign Andrew Loevinger • Lt. Tyler Gray-Hoehn • 1st Lt. Colin Gray-Hoehn

*If you would like to request to add or remove a name,  
please email the Bulletin Coordinator at [bulletin@stmarks.net](mailto:bulletin@stmarks.net)*

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill

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## Office Directory

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan, Rector	michele@stmarks.net
The Reverend Caitlin Frazier, Associate Rector	caitlin@stmarks.net
The Reverend Patricia Catalano, Liturgy & Pastoral Associate	adjunct@stmarks.net
Rebekah Taylor, Seminarian	seminarian@stmarks.net
Michael McCarthy, Interim Director of Music	mike@stmarks.net
Lisa Ramish, Children's, Youth, & Family Ministry Director	youthdirector@stmarks.net
Samantha White, Parish Administrator for Building and Facilities	parishadmin@stmarks.net
Annick Milde, Parish Administrator for Finance	pfa@stmarks.net
Judith Rautenberg, Children's Choir Director	judith@stmarks.net
Katherine Philipson, Bulletin Coordinator	bulletin@stmarks.net

## The Vestry

Senior Warden	Jim Brooks	srwarden@stmarks.net
Junior Warden	Martha Huizenga	juniorwarden@stmarks.net

Class of '26	Travis Beaty, Meg Platt & Todd Thorpe
Class of '27	Elizabeth Becker, Kristina Keenan & Doug Padgett
Class of '28	Mary Ellison, Ben Flowers, Katherine White

### Officers

Doug Ammon, <i>Treasurer</i>	Nick Simons, <i>Risk Manager</i>
Roy Phillips, <i>Asst. Treasurer</i>	Randy Marks, <i>Clerk</i> ,
Frank Nickerson, <i>Assistant Treasurer for</i>	Ryan Baugh, <i>Assistant Clerk</i>
<i>Special Gifts &amp; Bequests</i>	Rosemary Harold, <i>Vestry Counsel</i>

## Diocesan Delegates

J.R. Randall (2027), Mary Neznec (2027), Jan Lipscomb (2028), Randy Marks (2026)

Upcoming Vestry Meetings will be held on Jan 6th and 27th 7:00 PM via Zoom and in-person.  
If you have questions, contact the Vestry Clerk at [clerk@stmarks.net](mailto:clerk@stmarks.net)



# Welcome Guests!

We'd like to get to know you better!

Please complete this page, tear it off, and either drop it in the offering plate or hand it to a greeter as you leave. If you have questions, please speak with the clergy or a greeter after the service.

To complete this form online, or sign up for our weekly newsletter, use this QR code:



I attended: \_\_\_\_\_ 5 p.m. Worship Service on December 21, 2025

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in learning more about:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Becoming a member
- \_\_\_\_\_ Service and Social Justice
- \_\_\_\_\_ Adult education classes and prayer groups
- \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer during worship (Greet, Lay Serve, Altar Guild, Read, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Baptism/Confirmation (child, adult)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Music (choir, lessons)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Children/youth classes & programs including Sunday School
- \_\_\_\_\_ Affinity groups (20s/30s, Men's Group, Women's Group)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Getting married at St. Mark's
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meditation Center
- \_\_\_\_\_ Yoga classes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dance classes
- \_\_\_\_\_ St. Mark's Players (theatrical productions)

Anything else you would like to share?

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Thank you for visiting St. Mark's today. *Go in peace and return often!*