

This Week at St. Mark's

- Today** 8 a.m. HE, 9 a.m. Choir rehearsal (Lg. classroom), 9:10 a.m. Adult Forum, 10 a.m. Christmas Pageant, 1 – 3 p.m. Eucaristía - San Marcos (Sanctuary, Patience Hall, Gibson Hall), 3:30 – 5:45 p.m. Amazing Grace Ghanaian Fellowship (Patience Hall), 4 - 8 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
- Monday 12/15** 7-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
- Tuesday 12/16** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 7 – 9 p.m. Pan de Vida Bible study (Sanctuary), 7 – 8:30 p.m. GS Troop 4841 (Patience Hall)
- Wednesday 12/17** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 10 a.m. HE at The Fairfax, 5:30 – 9 p.m. Nurturing Families program (Patience Hall, kitchen, Gibson Hall)
- Thursday 12/18** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Chapel), 10 a.m. Holy Folders (Lg. classroom), 7-9 p.m. GS Service Unit mtg. (Patience Hall)
- Friday 12/19** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 7 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
- Saturday 12/20** 9 a.m. Greening of the Church, 5 – 7 p.m. Youth Group Christmas party (Patience Hall and fire ring), 6 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7-9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Patience Hall), 7 – 9 p.m. San Marcos Bible study (Lg. classroom)

Adult Forum Schedule

December (all Sundays) *The Readings of Advent*

Important Upcoming Dates

- December 20** 5 p.m. Youth Group Christmas party
- December 21** 10 a.m. Lessons and Carols
- December 24** **Christmas Eve**
5 p.m. Candlelight Family Eucharist with Brass
7 p.m. San Marcos Eucaristía
9 p.m. Candlelight Festal Eucharist with Brass
- December 25** **Christmas Day**
11 a.m. HE (said)

Church contact information:

Address: 6744 S. King's Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22306 • **Phone:** 703-765-3949; fax: 703-765-3981 • **E-mails:** Office: stmarksalex@netzero.net; Rev. John Weatherly: jweathe951@aol.com; Rev. Meredith Heffner: revmeredith@cox.net; • **Internet:** Website: www.stmarksalex.org; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stmarksalex>. • **Office Hours:** Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The office is closed on Fridays and national holidays.



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**“Opening the doors of Christ’s love:
an inviting, embracing and serving
community offering Good News in the midst
of a confusing world.”**

December 14, 2014

Today is the third Sunday of Advent - the Sunday of Joy. Therefore we light two purple candles and the rose-colored candle. Our joy is in God and in his son Jesus Christ. Like hope and peace, joy is a gift from God. It overtakes us and fills us when we remember what God has done and what he has promised to do. We light this candle today to remind us that Christ came, and is coming, so that all people might have a rich and abundant life. We thank God for the hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows, and for the joy he pours into our hearts.

Let us pray – *O God of Joy, Emmanuel, send your light into our hearts. Help us to be ready for day and hour of Christ’s appearing. Fix our hearts and our minds upon those things you have done and those you have promised to do that we may have the joy you have promised. As we worship you, strengthen us so that we may always do your will and so bless you and the world you have made. Amen.*



Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church welcome you to our services during Advent. If you are looking for a church home, or want more information about St. Mark's, please introduce yourself to the Vestry Person of the Day or to the Clergy. We hope you will fill out the newcomer's card that you will find in the church pew and put it in the offering plate or give it to one of the ushers. We are glad you are here! If you would like to receive our weekly announcements and other parish news by e-mail, please contact the church office at stmarksalex@netzero.net.

Prayer List

Please pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity, especially:

In the St. Mark's Parish: Shirley Hunter, Clara Bottner, Beth Oakes, Betty Hughes, Rebecca Carrier, Lindsay Drabick, Dick Stockstill, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet, Judy, and Geoffrey.

Our Extended Family: Donna Mayne, Elizabeth Jenkins, Nancy DeLay, Margo Digan, Phyllis Nezart-Biggs, Daniel Gold, Pat McDonald, Sylvia Beauchamp, Jan Varner, Evelyn Lang, Stacy Kley, Janet Coco, Julie Cain, Patricia Scott-Boyle, Conway Telfayan, Keith Derringer, Rich Line, Kamryn Jesperson, Cheryl F., Karla, Sandra, Aylene's father, Jack, Kerry, and John.

For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm's way. We lift up especially Andrew Kley, Robert Payne, and Tim, Emily and family. We pray for those of every generation who live with the wounds of war or who have given their lives for this nation. If you would like to add anyone to the list, please call the church office or let the clergy know.

If you would like someone who is sick or in need added to the prayer list, please write their name in the blue book on the table in the Narthex, or give the name to Father John or Rev. Meredith. Names will be kept in our intercessions for four weeks, unless notified otherwise.

Announcements

Special envelopes for Christmas Flower contributions are on the table at the back of the church. Names received by tomorrow, December 15, will be included in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service bulletins. We are also asking for gifts to the staff for Christmas, and those envelopes are included in the bulletin. Please make donations to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and its purpose on the notation line.

Youth Group Christmas Party! Join Rev. Meredith and Fr. John on Saturday, December 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. for our annual pizza dinner and bonfire. Signup Genius coming soon.

Angel Tree. A big thank you to all who contributed so generously to the Salvation Army Angel Tree program and to those who helped me track and load the gifts in our cars. We provided gifts to 64 children. I was told that as a small church, St. Mark's does more outreach than many large churches. We are very blessed. Bonnie Wilkins

Appreciated assets? Now is a good time to avoid Capital Gains by donating appreciated stocks or bonds to St. Mark's. Avoid taxes and get full credit for your gift!

Below is the annual message from The Compassionate Friends about the Worldwide Candle Lighting Event, in memory of all children who have passed away. This year, the event falls on the second anniversary of Newtown. You are invited to participate, and remember. It takes place today, December 14.

Every year the candle lighting ceremony unites family and friends around the globe for one hour to honor and remember children who have died at any age from any cause. As candles are lit at 7 p.m. local time, hundreds of thousands of persons commemorate and honor children in a way that transcends all ethnic, cultural, religious, and political boundaries. The Worldwide Candle Lighting is a gift from The Compassionate Friends to the bereavement community allowing us all to join together in unity to remember and honor the memories of all children so they may never be forgotten.

Birthdays

December 15 – Kim Lewis

December 18 – Betty Hughes

December 19 – Wilhemina Scott-Boyle