

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. Lessons & Carols, 1 – 3 p.m. San Marcos Eucaristía (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 12/22** 7-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
- Tuesday 12/23** 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 12/24 Christmas Eve** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall),
10 a.m. HE at The Fairfax, 5 p.m. Family Eucharist, 7 p.m. San Marcos Eucaristía, 9 p.m. Festal Eucharist
- Thursday 12/25 Christmas Day** – *office closed* 11 a.m. HE (said)
- Friday 12/26** *Office closed* 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall),
7 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
- Saturday 12/27** 6 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7 – 9 p.m. San Marcos Bible study (Lg. classroom)

Adult Forum Schedule

December (all Sundays) *The Readings of Advent*

Important Upcoming Dates

- December 24** **Christmas Eve**
5 p.m. Family Eucharist
7 p.m. San Marcos Eucaristía
9 p.m. Festal Eucharist
- December 25** **Christmas Day**
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist (said)
- December 28** 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10 a.m. Carol Sing-Out and Holy Eucharist
- January 25** Annual Meeting
- February 17** Shrove Tuesday Talent Show

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: jwethe951@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 21, 2014

Dear Friends and Members of St. Mark's,

One of the most challenging stories in the New Testament is that of the rich young man who asks Jesus, “What must I do to have eternal life?” And Jesus answers, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess, give it to the poor, and come, follow me”. But this was too much for him, and the young man goes sorrowfully away, because he many possessions. Remember Charles Dickens’ story of our friend Ebenezer Scrooge? How was his transformation brought about? He was led on a tour of his past, present and future, from that which closed his heart, to the fear which may have finally opened it. He sees all this, and from that encounter, decides to change his direction, and his life. Grace appears when he realizes that what he had seen about the future was only that which would be if he did not change his present life. As we know, he does take his life in hand, and that which was ice, becomes warm again with human kindness and generosity.

“For Behold, I Bring You Good News of Great Joy, For Unto You Is Born a Savior Which is Christ the Lord!” Because God took history back into his own hands, and entered into human life, he gave our lives back to us. It is our opportunity to pass on that gift, by ourselves becoming the gift givers. The great promise declares that in giving we receive, and in dying, that we enter new life. Our prayer for all of us this Christmas is that we find in this wondrous birth, the opportunities to change that which would deny life, and embrace that which would celebrate it. May the world sing its anthems of Joy for this Christ Child not only at his birth, but throughout the coming year.

*May the Guns Fall Silent on the Night the
Angels Sang*

On Christmas Day 1914, British and German soldiers held unofficial truce. In a few scattered locations on the front lines they played football matches. Currently the famous games are remembered by a simple cross in Belgium.



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, Lindsay Drabick, Dick Stockstill, Earl Hughes, Nell Brill, Richard Sparks, Len Slobodin, 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, Evelyn Lang, Stacy Kley, Janet Coco, Julie Cain, Patricia Scott-Boyle, Conway Telfayan, Keith Derringer, Rich Line, Kamryn Jesperson, Jan, 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

Everymember Canvass Update: As of December 17, we have received 67 pledges, for a total of \$204,221.

As we come to the end of the year, our outstanding mortgage balance is \$284,756. We thank those who made a special contribution to pay it down.

The Vestry Nominating Committee members are Jim Bailes, Karen Ashworth, Donna Anderson and Doug Varner. Nominations are now being received. Elections will be at our Annual Meeting on January 25.

Welcome back to Pacita Mushrush, our primary nursery childcare provider. Many of you will remember that she has worked with us in the past and we are delighted to have her back.

We are looking for a part-time nursery aide to work 10 to 11:30 on Sunday mornings. The pay is \$25 per week. See Fr. John or Rev. Meredith if you are interested.

Do we have your current contact information? Have you moved lately, changed your e-mail address or your phone number? If so, please let the church office know so we can keep our records up to date.

Reading the lessons today:

First Lesson – Spring Plihcik	Fifth Lesson – Jeff Gray
Second Lesson – Nell Brill	Sixth Lesson – John Youngquist
Third Lesson – Al Dominic	Seventh Lesson – Sarah Heffner
Fourth Lesson – Mike Foughty	

Serving on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day:

	<i>Christmas Eve</i>		<i>Christmas Day</i>
	5 PM	9 PM	11 AM
LEM	Jeanne Shafer	Pam Smith	Mike Foughty
	Donna Anderson	Sheryl Sims	N/A
Lectors	Doug Varner	Rodney Fisher	Nell Brill
	Rodney Fisher	Nihal Masih	Mike Foughty
Intercessors	Jeanne Shafer	Jimmy Bailes	Rosemary Kley
Acolytes	Katherine Larson	Tyler Chui	N/A
	Chloe Lewis	Andrew Alonzo	N/A
Greeters	TBD	Bonnie Brown Wilkins	Delta Youngquist
Ushers	Jimmy Bailes	Wally Tienken	Wally Tienken
	Steve Mitchell	Terry Tienken	Terry Tienken
Tellers	-----Ed Kley, David Powers-----		
Vestry Person	Doug Varner	Jimmy Bailes	Nihal Masih

Birthdays

December 21 – Mary Jane Stockstill, December 23 – Zach Heffner
December 24 – Aba Marfo, Alexander McIntyre; December 27 – Nik Garcia