

This Week at St. Mark's

- Today** 8 a.m. HE, 9 a.m. Choir rehearsal (Lg. classroom), 10 a.m. HE, 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 12/29** 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 7-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
- Tuesday 12/30** 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 7 – 9 p.m. Pan de Vida Bible study (Sanctuary)
- Wednesday 12/31** **New Year's Eve**
- Thursday 1/1/15** **New Year's Day** – *Church office closed*
- Friday 1/2** 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 7 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
- Saturday 1/3** 6 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7 – 9 p.m. San Marcos Bible study (Lg. classroom)

Adult Forum Schedule

- December 28** No forum today

Important Upcoming Dates

- 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: jwheathe951@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 28, 2014

The First Sunday of Christmas 2014

The connectedness of all of life is one of the central messages of this season. Our hope is that we proclaim that message with great joy and gratitude, while recognizing that it is a uncertain world. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. challenged us, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of **mutuality**, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” (*Letter from a Birmingham Jail*)

We at St. Mark's know and feel that interconnectivity no more powerfully than in this season of Christmas, when good will, compassion, and community comes together. The central message of Christmas is that it is into our deepest nights that the light of God's love comes in a tangible way. God is always working in our *despair* and bringing us to the possibility of new life.

Today, through the Word, The Gospel of John declares, God created everything that is. Scientists, poets and theologians could not have done a better job than John at proclaiming the mystery and wonder of this day. Images of blazing light and deep darkness, expectation and enlightenment thrill our imaginations as we descend into the story of Christmas. Layer upon layer, we are captured all over again by this story. Every year, we wait patiently through the darkness of Advent and at last we arrive at this place, where angels sing, a baby is born and life begins anew. May the coming year continue to inspire your deepest affections and joy.

Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church welcome you to our services during this Christmas season. 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, 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, Janet Coco, Keith Derringer, Rich Line, Kamryn Jespersion, Jan, and Catheline.

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

Your 2015 pledge envelopes are ready. Please pick yours up in the Narthex today before you leave.

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.

Thank you all for your generous gifts to our staff.

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.

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.

Parishioners who are ill or unable to get out are sometimes not able to prepare meals for themselves. We would like to keep our church freezer stocked with casseroles (especially those that will serve two people) that can be taken to those who need them. Drop off your contribution in the freezer, labeled with the date made, ingredients (to avoid allergic reactions), and cooking directions.

Birthdays

December 28 – Mary Magnini; December 29 – Alan Norman
December 30 – Kathy Hughes
January 1 – Jackie Cerio, Nana Marfo; January 3 – Ann Sparks

Anniversaries

December 28 – Kathy and Earl Hughes
December 31 – Jean and Jim Bailes