

This Week at St. Mark's

- Today** 8 a.m. HE and Healing, 9 a.m. Choir rehearsal (Lg. classroom), 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum, 10 a.m. HE and Healing, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11:15 DOK Lenten Study (library), 11:15 a.m. Vestry mtg. (lg. classroom), 11:15 a.m. Seminarian Support Committee mtg. (Rev. Meredith's ofc.), 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 4/13** 7-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
- Tuesday 4/14** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 7 – 8:30 p.m. GS Troop #4841 (Patience Hall), 7 – 9 p.m. Pan de Vida Bible study (Sanctuary)
- Wednesday 4/15** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 10 a.m. HE at The Fairfax
- Thursday 4/16** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, 10 a.m. Holy Folders (Lg. classroom), 7-9 p.m. GS Service Unit mtg. (Patience Hall)
- Friday 4/17** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 7 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
- Saturday 4/18** 6 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7 – 9 p.m. San Marcos Bible study (Lg. classroom)

Important Upcoming Dates

- April 19** Orientation meeting for Pastoral Care
April 25 Spaghetti Dinner
May 9 Workshop: "Being a Home Visitor"
July 26 Bishop Shannon's Visitation
August 3 – 7 Vacation Bible School
August 21 - 23 Shrine Mont Weekend

Adult Forum Schedule

- April 12** *The Power of Truth*

Church contact information:

Address: 6744 S. King's Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22306-1318 ♦ **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.”**

April 12, 2015

Sacrifice, Not Waste

By the Rev. Raymond Lee Wolven
Rector of the Church of the Ascension

Excerpted from the *Washington Post* or *Evening Star*, 1944

Many men and women today are in a state of sullen and rebellious confusion over what appears to them to be a senseless and wasteful squandering of all that is best and finest in our civilization.

Not long ago we were talking with a woman whose husband, a young officer in the Navy, had lost his life in action in an airplane. This lady and her young daughter were not only grief-stricken, but embittered by what they could see only as tragic and futile waste and destruction. “Why,” she asked, “should this have happened to my husband, who was so fine, so valuable, and who had so much to give to the world? Why was it not some one who better could be spared? He could have sent some one else on this particular mission, but he would not do it.”

We tried to comfort her by saying that this gallant officer would not have been so fine as he was if he had saved himself by avoiding danger and sending another in his place.

But as we left the house, the question kept pressing for an answer. Is the sacrifice of so much brave young life unrelieved and senseless tragedy and waste, and nothing else? Is it without meaning and without reason?

And then we thought of Calvary and the crosses that were raised on that green hill far away. Somehow we began to understand a little how it is only the best that can offer the effectual sacrifice. God's own Son, the Perfect Being, was the only one whose sacrifice could save the world. “There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin.”

The two thieves, crucified with Him, could not save the world. They came to their end through the course of human frailty. But He knew no sin. His was

the perfect life. He paid the price because he would not save Himself. He would not compromise with evil. He was the young Prince of Glory, the finest and the best. He alone could save the weak, the sinful human race.

It always has been so. The world always has been helped by the sacrifice of the best, the strongest, the bravest. It is the high privilege of the flower of humanity to give itself for the lesser, the weaker and the sinful.

This sacrifice of the best is not waste. It is the planting of a seed which will come to life and fruit in a world full of gladness, peace and salvation, instead of its present darkness, terror and confusion. The sacrifice of the best of your race today is akin to that of the Lamb of God, who after He had laid down His life for His friends, rose again on Easter, triumphant and vindicated, bringing the assurance of the victory that must come, of truth over falsehood, of right over wrong, of love over hate.

Submitted by Mary Stockstill

Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church welcome you to our services this Easter 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.

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, Betty Hughes, Lindsay Drabick, Dick Stockstill, Richard Sparks, Donna Anderson, Pete Farley, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet, Judy, and Geoffrey.

Our Extended Family: Donna Mayne, Elizabeth Jenkins, Nancy DeLay, Margo Digan, Phyllis Nezart-Biggs, Daniel Gold, Sylvia Beauchamp, Janet Coco, Quinn McLaughlin, Kamryn Jesperson, Don Wills, Bobby Bishop, Sunny Haggard, Young Boon Kim, Bob Schaeffer, Maudine Perry, Tom Simpson, Benjamin Harrison, Jr., Don Lopez, Vicki Robb, Cheryl F., Gulshan, Tom, Gloria and Krystal. We pray for those of every generation who live with the wounds of war or who have given their lives for this nation.

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.

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

The Seminarian Support Committee will meet today after the 10 a.m. service in Rev. Meredith's office. Bring your completed End of Year Assessment form on our seminarian, Alan Bentrup's year at St. Mark's.

Pastoral Care Ministry: We are forming a group of volunteers to assist our clergy by supporting and responding to other's needs, cares, concerns and joys. If you are looking for a way to serve our community, join Father John in his office after the 10:00 service on April 19 to learn more about our Pastoral Care ministry. We want to provide prayers, home visits, Eucharist, meals, a phone call or cards for those in need who are experiencing events such as new births, illness, or surgery, and for those who are alone or unable to attend church. Help us ensure that no one walks this journey alone.

Save the date - Saturday, April 25 is the annual spaghetti dinner. All proceeds will go to our Mission Team.

Parents of Young Children: Join us on Saturday, May 2 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the home of Ashley and Eric Bryda, 2630 Groveton St., to talk about children's formation at St. Mark's. Childcare will be provided at the church and refreshments will be served. If you haven't received an E-vite, RSVP to Revmeredith@cox.net or call the church office at 703/765-3949.

Starting on May 2, there will be a farmer's market at St. Mark's every Saturday. In addition to selling fresh produce, you will be able to join a CSA (community support agricultural endeavor). As a member of the CSA, you will purchase shares of farm produce on a weekly basis. You'll be able to sign up for the shares until May 15 then the farmer will begin to deliver the shares the first week of June.

If you are interested in serving as a substitute teacher for Sunday School, please contact Karen Ashworth at 703/768-3576.

One of the Boy Scouts from Troop 4077 is working on his Eagle project – collecting items for “hope bags,” which provide survivors of child sex trafficking with basic items they need immediately after they are recovered by law enforcement for a fresh start. A collection box is in the parish hall and a list of items needed is on the box.

Birthdays

April 13 – Maddie Murchie-Beyma, April 14 – Ben Bluey
April 17 – Eric Murchie-Beyma, April 18 – Al Dominic

Anniversary

April 12 – Bev and John Weatherly's 29th anniversary