

## This Week at St. Mark's

- Today** 8 a.m. HE and Healing, 9 a.m. Choir rehearsal (Lg. classroom), 10 a.m. HE and Healing, 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 1/5** 7-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
- Tuesday 1/6** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 7 – 9 p.m. Pan de Vida Bible study (Sanctuary)
- Wednesday 1/7** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 10 a.m. HE at The Fairfax, 12:30 p.m. HE at The Pentagon
- Thursday 1/8** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, 10 a.m. Holy Folders
- Friday 1/9** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 7 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
- Saturday 1/10** 6 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7 – 9 p.m. San Marcos Bible study (Lg. classroom)

### Adult Forum Schedule

- January 4** *New Year's Resolutions*

### Important Upcoming Dates

- January 23-24** Diocesan Council, Richmond
- January 25** Annual Meeting
- February 6-8** Vestry Retreat, Roslyn
- February 17** Shrove Tuesday Talent Show and Dinner

### Church contact information:

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## 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.”

**January 4, 2015**

On January 1 the church year calls us to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Name. "On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived." The child is presented and given a name, just like every Jewish boy who came before and after. Nothing special, it happens everyday.

That's what New Year's can feel like for many of us. The celebration and the excitement is over. It is time to head back to work, or to studies, or whatever occupies most of our days. It's time to put the bright colored lights and the rich green wreaths away and head back to the grey monotony of everyday. What happened to those names we heard sung in the prophet Isaiah? "Wonderful...Counselor...Mighty God...Prince of Peace"? Where is the good news the angels talked about?

We think of God's mighty acts and think of creation, of seas splitting from soil, of fire from heaven, but God shows his power even in the naming of babies. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple, they were recalling that God showed his power to Abraham, Sarah and their descendants. When they named the child Jesus as the angel told them, they were remembering God's promise through the angel, and they were trusting in God's promise for the future. They did not just recall what God did in the past, they declared by their action that God was still at work and would keep working. They believed. "God loves us as we are; and loves us too much to leave us as we are." The true significance of a savior among us begins with our awareness of the need for a savior. And His name is Jesus, and he will dwell among us and give us His peace, this day, and forevermore. Amen

## 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](mailto: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 Jesperson, George Daebelar, Jan, Catheline, Mike, Carolyn, Tess, and Mal.

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

**The flowers today** are given to the glory of God and in memory of mother Manbhari Masih by Nihal Masih.

**Your 2015 pledge envelopes are ready.** Please don't forget to pick yours up in the Narthex today before you leave. If you don't have a set of envelopes but would like one, contact the church office (703/765-3949 or [stmarksalex@netzero.net](mailto:stmarksalex@netzero.net)).

**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

January 6 – Albie Gallardy, Linda Larson, Sheryl Sims



*The Three Kings visited San Marcos on Christmas Eve*