

This Week at St. Mark's

Today	8 a.m. HE, 9 a.m. Choir rehearsal (Lg. classroom), 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum, 10 a.m. HE, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11:15 a.m. DoK Lenten study (lg. classroom), 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 3/23	7-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
Tuesday 3/24	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 3/25	9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 10 a.m. HE at The Fairfax, 12 – 3:30 p.m. GS Troop #1914 (Patience Hall)
Thursday 3/26	9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, 10 a.m. Holy Folders (Lg. classroom)
Friday 3/27	9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 7 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
Saturday 3/28	4-9:30 p.m. Private event (Patience Hall and kitchen), 6 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7 – 9 p.m. San Marcos Bible study (Lg. classroom)

Important Upcoming Dates

March 29	Palm Sunday
April 2	6 p.m. Maundy Thursday Agape meal 7:30 p.m. service with San Marcos
April 3	12 p.m. Stations of the Cross 6:30 p.m. San Marcos Estaciones de la Cruz 8 p.m. Tenebrae
April 4	11 a.m. First Communion class
April 5	Easter Sunday
April 25	Spaghetti Dinner
July 26	Bishop Shannon's Visitation
August 3 – 7	Vacation Bible School
August 21 - 23	Shrine Mont Weekend

Adult Forum Schedule

March 22	Lent Forum: <i>Embracing Forgiveness</i> – video & discussion
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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: 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.”

March 22, 2015

The Greeks approach Jesus directly through Andrew and Philip. These two disciples were from Galilee, which had a large Gentile population, and also happened to have Greek names, which could mean that Andrew and Philip were known by these Greek traders. But for our text, they represent the world seeking to know Jesus. Mysteriously, once they make their request, the Greeks disappear from the story. But it is a moment, when we see the foreshadowing of where Christ’s ministry is going. Those who were the intended mission field of Christ are overtaken by those who just happen to overhear the invitation and fully embrace his life.

Several years ago when I visited Jerusalem, our guide was a Christian, born in Nazareth. In every generation from the time of Christ, he could tell you by name those who had been Christians, to his own generation. Living stones these people are called, for they are connected to the places of Jesus, as well as his story. Today, you will find very few of these ancient Christians anywhere in the Holy land, for feel they no longer belong, being caught in the middle of the battle going on between Muslim and Jew.

Like the Greeks, and the disciples, whenever we are invited into the life of Jesus, we are always going to face a new challenge to the way we see the day to day world. And often, it will be through an image or possibility that we would not have considered. In our Gospel this morning we heard Jesus tell his disciples, “Anyone who loves his life will lose it, and anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” It is a hard testimony to accept, particularly when our lives, as confused as they may be, are still ours, and known, compared to his life, and the unknown places he is promising. But if our lives are to grow and mature as they are meant to, Jesus knew we would have to let go of the old ways of knowing God, or even ourselves.

Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church welcome you to our services during Lent. 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, Geoffrey and the Dean family.

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, 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

Today is the Plihcik family's last Sunday before they move to California. Join us in the parish hall after the 10 a.m. service to say goodbye. They will be missed!

Donations for Easter flowers in memory of or in thanksgiving for an individual or individuals may be made by using the special envelopes that are included in today's bulletin. All donations should be received in the church office by Monday, March 30 for names to appear in the bulletin.

The winners of the raffle to benefit the mission trip to Charleston, SC are: Jimmy Bailes, Katie Earle, Kay Shelton, Tyler Chui, Laura Landon, Elizabeth Biddle, Pat Straley, Ann Sparks, Carol Parker, Courtney Nugent, Susan Byers, and Tony DeSante. Thanks for all who supported us and especially to Kathy and Earl Hughes for donating the raffle items. If you haven't claimed your prize, see Rev. Meredith.

It's almost time for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! If you'd like to donate candy for the kids, please bring it to Rev. Meredith by Palm Sunday.

We are burdened to tell you that Emily Cole, our Parish Administrator, will be retiring at the end of April. We are looking for someone to work 20 hours a week, who has good people skills and is competent with Word and Excel. Please see the Rector if you know of anyone. Resumes are being collected now until Easter (April 5).

The Bishop's Visitation will be on July 26. Confirmation and reception classes will begin in May.

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

In his pastoral address to Annual Council, the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston announced a new racial reconciliation initiative for 2015:

"We will begin this effort by holding a series of listening sessions in the mid-year around our diocese. *Indaba* listening sessions involve no debate, no cross-talk, but rather give every person present the opportunity to speak their hearts and minds in a safe, non-reactive environment."

- Saturday, April 18: Trinity, Fredericksburg, 10-11:30 a.m.
- Thursday, April 23: The Falls Church, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

These Hand-in-Hand Listening Sessions are open to all members of the Diocese. The hope is to gather a group representing as many viewpoints as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Cameron at acameron@thediocese.net or 800-DIOCESE x1048.

The next VIC meeting will be Wednesday, April 8 at 11:30 a.m., location TBD. The topic will be "How Do Immigrants Survive?" See David Boyd or Rosemary Kley if you are interested in attending.

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 will be placed in the parish hall and a list of items needed is on the bulletin board.

Birthday

March 23 – Kevannah Campbell, March 25 – Fred Landon
March 27 – Margaret Duczakowski