

This Week at St. Mark's

Today	Palm Sunday 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, 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 3/30	7-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (Patience Hall)
Tuesday 3/31	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 4/1	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 4/2	Maundy Thursday 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, 10 a.m. Holy Folders (Lg. classroom), 6 p.m. Agape dinner, 7:30 p.m. service with San Marcos
Friday 4/3	Good Friday 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. fitness class (Patience Hall), 12 p.m. Stations of the Cross, 6 p.m. San Marcos Estaciones de la Cruz, 8 p.m. Tenebrae
Saturday 4/4	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. parish clean-up day, 6 – 9:30 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7 – 9 p.m. San Marcos Bible study (Lg. classroom)

Important Upcoming Dates

April 5	Easter Sunday 5:30 a.m. San Marcos Eucaristía 8 & 10 a.m. Festal Eucharist
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 29	<i>Forgiveness</i>
April 5	No Adult Forum

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.”

March 29, 2015

From the Rector: Passion or Palm Sunday

As any clergy person who has to plan this day will tell you, today is a liturgical trapeze act. I never learned how to walk a tight rope, but I would think that it would need a lot of concentration. Our salvation lies in the fact that we will hear this story once today, and then it will be broken out for us each day this week in our suggested readings, until finally we come to an empty tomb. One of the earliest accounts of Palm Sunday is from the fourth century when a woman named Egeria traveled to Jerusalem from Spain to observe the rites of Holy Week and wrote about it in a letter to her friends. Egeria's group spent most of the day gathering at several places in and around Jerusalem, singing the Psalms and reading scripture. At 5:00 PM, they heard the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem while standing on the Mount of Olives, then processed into the city waving tree branches and singing Psalm 118 (which we read as part of the Liturgy of the Palms). Marion Hatchett, who wrote a commentary on our *Book of Common Prayer*, says about this procession, “[it] moved slowly because it included elderly people and people carrying babies”. Fortunately for me, he wrote his book in 1980, a year before my Ordination Exams to the Priesthood asked me to design and explain the complexities of Palm and Passion Sunday. I have always thanked my fellow Sewanee colleague for his detail and research.

The procession continued to the site of Jesus' tomb, where a service of Evening Prayer was held, and ended at the site of the cross, where a special prayer was said before the people were dismissed. The Sarum Use, a medieval English form for worship after which a great deal of the first Prayer Book was patterned, has a complicated liturgy involving both the triumphant entry and the crucifixion. Protestant reformers in the 1600's eliminated the blessing of the palms and the procession, so that by 1928, the worship centered around the arrest, trial, and crucifixion narrative. Even so, the triumphant entry worked its way back into the liturgy, so that by 1979, Palms and Passion, came together, forever. Amazingly enough, this was one of several questions the answers to which seemed to have met the approval of my readers, and I passed my exams. I kept a copy if you ever want to check my truthfulness.

Welcome Newcomers and Visitors

The members, staff, and Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church welcome you to our services. 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 those who have died, especially Krysta Byorick, friend of the Luxners.

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

Donations for Easter flowers in memory of or in thanksgiving for an individual or individuals may be made by using the special envelopes that can be found on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. All donations should be received in the church office by tomorrow, Monday, March 30, for names to appear in the bulletin.

On Maundy Thursday there will be a potluck dinner at 6:00, prior to the 7:30 service with San Marcos. Please join us for both and bring something to share for the dinner if you are able.

First Communion Class for first graders and above will be offered on Saturday, April 4 at 11 a.m. Please contact the church office if you or someone in your family is interested.

Join us for a parish clean-up day on Saturday, April 4 from 9 a.m. to noon. Help us get St. Mark's looking its best for Easter!

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 703/765-3040.

Bring your favorite Easter treat to share at coffee hour after the 10 a.m. service on Easter Sunday while the children enjoy the Easter egg hunt.

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

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.

The next VIC meeting will be Wednesday, April 8 at 11:30 a.m. at UCM's headquarters at 6511 Fordson Road. The topic will be "How Do Immigrants Survive?" The following month, the meeting will be May 6 at 11:30 a.m. at Rising Hope Methodist Mission. The speaker will be Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay, who will discuss demographic changes. See David Boyd or Rosemary Kley if you are interested in attending either meeting.

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.

Outreach Opportunities: St. Mark's provides a meal for 12 people at Mondloch Place on the second Sunday of every month. See Kathy Hughes if you would like to help. We also make bag lunches for Rising Hope Methodist Mission once a month. See David Boyd if you are able to help out.

Birthday

March 31 –Quincy Dominic, Ben Miles, Pat Straley
April 1 – Tanner Beck, Stephanie Miles; April 2 – Tâm Slobodin
April 4 – Eulie Campbell, David Powers, Joy Haggard