



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 20, 2016

From the Rector

Jesus makes his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem before the Passover riding a donkey. And we are told the people "took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord - the King of Israel." The word "Hosanna" in Hebrew means "Lord save us now." And following centuries of persecution the Jews of Jesus' day had adopted rituals around certain festivals when they would shout "Hosanna - God save us, right now," while waving palm branches that they thought would get the attention of God looking down from on high.

So palm branches became associated with the urgent cry to God for salvation. And when Jesus came, these people realized that their cry was answered. The people waved their palm branches in triumph; at long last victory had been won.

But we know the rest of that story. Jesus did not come into Jerusalem to defeat the forces of oppression and evil through a military or political conquest. No, Jesus's victory came through his own tortured execution. The last thing any of those people waving palm branches on that Sunday desired or expected.

The palm branches which greeted Jesus' ride into Jerusalem are transformed into ash, symbolic of death, and representing a new journey that began on a day of confession and repentance and acceptance of our own mortality, the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday. It is a perilous journey which is why Lent is the most dangerous season of the year, and Passion, or Palm Sunday, the most dangerous day of all.

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 make use of one of our visitor's cards and give to our clergy or place in the offertory plate.

Your pledge to the work and ministry of the church is desperately needed. Pledge cards may be found in the back of the church and will be received whenever you are able to prayerfully consider your commitment.

Important Upcoming Dates

March 24 – Maundy Thursday, 6:30 pm Dinner, Eucharist, Stripping of Altar with San Marcos

March 25 – Good Friday
Noon – Stations of the Cross
8:00 pm – Tenebrae

March 26 – 9:00 am- noon - Parish Clean-up

March 27 – Easter Sunday
6:00 am - San Marcos Sunrise Eucharist
7:30 am – Breakfast
8:00 am, 10:00 am – Festal Eucharist with Brass

Please pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity, especially in the St. Mark's Parish: Beth Oakes, Richard Sparks, Phil Brown, Shirley Hunter, Clara Bottner, Betty Hughes, Lindsay Drabick, Dick Stockstill, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet, Judy, Sarah Derringer, Muriel Hughes, Mary, Caroline Bradford and Candace Fisher.

Also for our Extended Family: Donna Mayne, Elizabeth Jenkins, Nancy DeLay, Margo Digan, Phyllis Nezart-Biggs, Daniel Gold, Sylvia Beauchamp, Janet Coco, Kamryn Jesperson, Susan Oldow Patterson, Josephine, Linda, Ashley, Avery, Fr. R. Stephen Powers,

Doug Smith, Sr. and Jr., Matt, Bill, Al, Gretchen, Gerry Massey, Shawn West, Martise Williams, Victoria and family, Walter, Keleigh, Father Paul Platt, Rosalie Duncan, Robert, David Biggs, Juliana, Vicki Robb, Janet Davis, Sandy Powell, Shaina Friend, James Kent, Chris Coley, Carol Ostergard, Tom Flick, Sandra Robinson, LaVonne T., the Chatmon and Fullerton families and Julie Stockstill. For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm's way, we lift up Andrew Kley, Colin Maloney, Tim, Emily and family and Walter Smiley. We pray for those of every generation who live with the wounds of war or who have given their lives for this nation.

Announcements

Flower Guild seeks volunteers to help decorate the church on Saturday, April 26, from 8:00-9:00 am. Everyone is welcome!

Mission Trip Update:

<u>Estimated Cost</u>	
for 21 missionaries	\$31,884.50
<u>Income as of 3/10</u>	12,515.96 (including \$6,000 from last year)
<u>Estimated Income</u>	4,800.00
<u>Total to Raise</u>	\$14,568.54

Please help the Mission Team reach its goal by donating through our GoFundMe site: gofundme.com/stmarkssanmarcos. We thank you in advance for your continuing generosity!

St. Mark's Easter Egg Hunt is in need of candy! Please deliver to Rev. Meredith's office and thank you!

Women of Spirit: We will begin meeting on Wednesday, April 20th, from 6:30-7:30 PM. We will be reading "Mere Christianity" by C. S. Lewis. Please read the prologue and Book I before our first meeting. See you then!

Giving Securities to the Church: If you would like to make a gift of stock or equities to the church, please call Ms. Carol Savage or Mrs. Patricia Drabick at 202-842-5608. St. Mark's also has an investment fund with the Diocese. Gifts may be made through the Diocese directly to St. Mark's Endowment Fund, 1-800-DIOCESE. Finally, donations may be made to pay down our mortgage at John Marshall Bank. **Are you 70.5?** You can make a tax free donation from your IRA!

Fruit of the Spirit Community Garden 2016 Season from Candy Thompson:

Welcome Gardeners! We are working on getting the plot assignments completed so please let me know at your earliest convenience if you are interested. If needed, we will advertise for new gardeners using the local neighborhood newsletters. I am excited for this gardening season and look forward to hearing from you on your intentions for 2016 gardening at St. Mark's. candythompson9@gmail.com.

UCM Cynthia Hull Food Pantry is in urgent need of volunteers who can help manage the Food Pantry. One or two weekly shifts are available to help with this critical need: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9:00 am. to 12:00 noon and Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 1:00 pm. to 5:30 pm.

Keys Found: We have found two sets of keys. Please call the office at 703-765-3949 to claim.

March Birthdays

3/20 – Josh Pritchett, Jennifer Thomas, 3/22 – Elizabeth Jenkins, 3/23 – Kevannah Campbell, 3/24- Faith Frederick, 3/25 – Fred Landon, 3/27 – Margaret Duczakowski, 3/30 – Earl Winsor, 3/31 – Patricia Straley, Quincy Dominic, Ben Miles, Hailey Johnson

This Week at St. Mark's

Today	Palm Sunday - 8:00 a.m. HE, 9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal (large classroom), 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum (PH), 10 a.m. HE, 11:15 am – Daughters of the King (large classroom), 1:00-3:00 p.m. San Marcos (Sanctuary, PH, GH), 4:00-8:00 p.m. Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)
Monday, 3/21	7:00-8:30 p.m. BSA Troop #4077 (PH)
Tuesday, 3/22	8:45-10:00 am - workout class (PH), 7-8:30 pm – GS Troop 4841 (PH), 7:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida Bible Study (Sanctuary)
Wednesday, 3/23	10:00 am HE, The Fairfax, 1:30-4:00 pm – GS Troop 1914 (PH), 7:30-9:30 pm – San Marcos (PH)
Thursday, 3/24	8:45-10:00 am – workout class (PH), 9:30 am – Morning Prayer, 10:00 am – Holy Folders, Maundy Thursday with San Marcos – 6:15 pm Dinner, 7:30 pm Eucharist
Friday, 3/25	Good Friday – 12:00 noon – Stations of the Cross, 8:00 pm – Tenebrae, 7:00-9:30 pm – Pan de Vida, 7:00-9:00 pm – San Marcos
Saturday, 3/26	8:00 am-noon – Parish Clean Up, 6:00-9:30 pm – Pan de Vida (Sanctuary), 7-9:00 pm – San Marcos Bible Study (large classroom)

Adult Forum

Today	No Forum
March 27	Easter Day, No Forum
April 3	Joyful Faith
April 10	Victorious Faith
April 17	Examining Our Core Values