



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.”**

November 27, 2016

From the Rector

Welcome to this first Sunday of Advent, the first Sunday of a new liturgical year. We note this passage by moving to a new year of readings, marked as Year A, which you can find in the back of the Book of Common Prayer and our Lectionary insert. In our Sunday liturgy we use the Kyrie instead of the Gloria, and chant the Psalm, instead of saying it. On the altar our colors change from green to royal purple, and of course, there is the Advent Wreath. The Advent wreath includes many symbols that help us remember the season: First, note that it is a circle. This reminds us that there is no beginning and no end to God and that God's love and caring are forever. The light from the candles - which grows stronger each Sunday in Advent, reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world. Today we light the candle of Hope.

The name Advent comes from a Latin word, *adventus* meaning “an arrival”, and refers to Christ’s coming into this world. Throughout the history of the church the few weeks preceding Christmas have been set aside for preparation. It is that period of the year during which the Church invites the faithful to prepare for the celebration of the Feast of the Incarnation, the anniversary of the birth and coming of Jesus Christ.

The focus of Advent is by no means limited to Christ’s first coming. We will hear an important theme in today’s Gospel reading, which was Jesus’ description of the Second Coming—those events when He comes again to judge and redeem the world. During Advent we are given the opportunity to re-order our lives, and to prepare our lives for this new birth. There is no “one size fits all” formula for this re- Advent but it promises us the joy of new life in Christ and the assurance that God will come to all of us.

In His name,

The Rev. John A. Weatherly

Confirmation and Reception Classes – 11:15 am – Rector’s Office

Today Introduction to the Episcopal Church

December 4 11:00 am – Confirmation

Now available on the Tract table in the back of the church is “Alleluia! Amen”
A Child’s Guide to Communion.

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.

Please pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity, especially in the St. Mark’s Parish: Beth Oakes, Donna Anderson, Richard Sparks, Phil Brown, Shirley Hunter, Betty Hughes, Lindsay Drabick, Dick Stockstill, Juliana, Albie, Lou, Janet, Judy, Sarah Derringer, Muriel Hughes, Mary, Caroline Bradford, Don Lopez, Jeanette Parris, Kimberly Earle, Carol Farley, Fred Landon, the Lewis family, the Magruder/Vangroll families and Kevan Campbell.

Also for our extended family: Emmett S., Cordelia S. Warren S., Shirley and Marva Alums, Abdulazeen W., Liz S., Phyllis Nezat-Biggs, Sylvia and Rev. E. Valverde, John R., D. Crumel, William Pimental, Vicki Robb, Kenneth Leland and family, Ken Crabb and family, friends of Dickie Emerson, Rod Pearson, Sr., Barbara Butler, Richard Stockstill, Carol Ostergard, Chantia Savoy, Monica Hietsch, family and friends of Grace Riggles, E. Ray Antone of Machias, Maine who is very ill and close family friend of the Dells, Betty Bradley, Sandra Robinson, Sally Belk, Terry Swette, Carly Allphin, Chris Coley and Keitch and family.

For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm’s way, we lift up Colin Maloney, Patrick Bates, 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.

** Names are kept on the prayer list for four weeks unless requested otherwise. If you would like to add or remove someone, please call the Church office Tuesday-Thursday between 9:00 and 3:00. Thank you. **

Announcements

Welcome back Reverend Meredith!

Pledge Count: As of November 20th, St. Mark's has received 59 pledge cards for 2017 for a total of \$190,132 (plus \$7,550 toward the mortgage fund.) We are making progress but still need more pledges to meet our goals. If you haven't submitted a pledge card already, please consider filling one out as soon as possible to help our Treasurer and Vestry make plans for the upcoming year.

Salvation Army Angel Tree. If you signed up to sponsor a child, please bring your gifts to the church or to Bonnie Wilkins before December 4. Contact her at 703-765-4253 or email greytdog@verizon.net.

Family and children Advent calendars are available in the Narthex for those who would like to observe the Season. A donation of \$1.00 is appreciated.

Service of Light and Hope, December 4 at 5:00 pm, at Iglesia de Santa Maria, 7000 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington.

We need helpers and greeters for our Nurturing Parent dinners this Wednesday, November 30 and December 14. Please contact Kathy Hughes or the Rector.

Can you make a commitment to joining one of our Sunday ministries? We have some wonderful ministries for you to consider joining: Altar Guild – Pat Hoppe, Flower Guild – Delsa Chui, Lay Eucharistic Ministers - Donna Anderson, Lectors – Russ Bradley, Intercessors – Jeanne Shafer, Acolytes – Pam Hamrin, Choir – Tatiana Andronikova, Ushers – Wally Tienken, Greeters – Bonnie Wilkins, Tellers – Karen Ashworth, Andronikova and Daughters of the King – Sheryl Sims. Please consider signing up at <https://goo.gl/forms/5jpgHi6Ypqv8y452>.

UCM is collecting gift donations, such as books, games, puzzles, balls and small denomination gift cards for their Holiday Gift Room. The collection is for 1,000 children and a box will be in the Narthex until December 4 and will be delivered for you or you can take them to UCM by December 9. See Bonnie Wilkins or Rosemary Kley for details.

Shared Thanksgiving and/or Christmas dinner at Rising Hope on Russell Road, across from Aldi. If you are looking for a place to volunteer, they can use help in preparation or serving.

Coming in January: Romans, the Book that changed Christianity. A Bible study for Tuesday mornings to examine the book that influenced Martin Luther and the beginning of the Reformation, which will celebrate its 500th anniversary.

Upcoming Birthdays

11/27 – Nihal Masih, 11/28 – Clara Bottner, Cherian Pulimootil, 11/29 –Max Donaldson, 11/30 – Terry Tienken, 12/1 – Davis Jenkins, Carpenter, Allison Foster and Zoe Buckles, 12/5 – Bill Mendez, Jr.

This Week at St. Mark's

Today 8:00 am HE, 9:15 am, Adult Forum (PH), 10 am HE, 1:00-4:00 pm San Marcos (Sanctuary, PH, GH), 4:00-6:00 pm Pan de Vida (Sanctuary)

Monday, 11/28 7:00-8:30 pm BSA Troop #4077 (PH), 5:00-7:00 pm NVA Tutoring (large classroom)

Tuesday, 11/29 7:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida Bible Study (Sanctuary), 7-9:00 pm- GS Troop 4841 (large classroom)

Wednesday, 11/30 10:00 am HE - The Fairfax

Thursday, 12/1 9:30 am – Morning Prayer, 9:00 am-12:45 pm – Biology Class (PH), 10:00 am – Holy Folders, 5:00-7:00 pm – NVA Tutoring (classroom), 7-9:30 pm – San Marcos (large classroom), 7-9:00 pm – Girl Scout Troop 4841 meeting (PH)

Friday, 12/2 7:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S)

Saturday, 12/3 9:00 am-noon - Parish Clean Up, noon – 9:00 pm – private event (PH), 6:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S)

Adult Forum - 9:10 am in Patience Hall

Today Hazardous Saints, Oscar Romero

December 4 Bishop Gulick

December 11 Pageant with Live Animals

December 18 Lessons and Carols