



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.”**

April 9, 2017

From the Rector

This Sunday, this Palm or Passion Sunday, holds more than any other Sunday of the Christian calendar in truth and despair. There is with it, a fierce request that we consider these events carefully, before entering into the disaster of Good Friday and the joy of Easter.

As Jesus breaks bread with his disciples on the final night of his ministry, he reminds them that he will always be part of their lives. Wherever they go and whenever they eat, they will remember this moment of community together. But there are undercurrents running through the meal. As he looks around, he sees that not everyone will be so happy to remember him. He knows that someone will betray him and that another will deny him. As he breaks bread, is he also wondering about the broken lives in his community? As he pours the wine, is he also wondering where he will find the courage to continue the story that is his life?

Later that night on a hillside not far from where he broke bread, Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss, and turns him over to the authorities. Later, Peter denies him, not once but three times. How does anyone in the world today bear the inhumanity of our humanity? There are more than enough tragedies in the world to go around.

Jesus could grasp his life and accept his death without losing sight of the One who made him. He knew his own truth. Whether people loved him, or wanted him, or listened to him, or walked with him, or rejected him, or spat on him, he held on to the truth of his life—the deep knowledge that he was God’s own. God’s beloved. It is from this core knowledge of belonging that he lived his life and gave his life.

This season of Lent, we have been asked to find our truth. What have you discovered?

Join us in the journey this week.

Invite, Welcome and Connect

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Following the example of former seminarian, now Priest in the Church in the Diocese of Texas, The Rev. Jimmy Abbott, St. Mark's is going to model a pattern of Invitation, Welcome, and Connection that they are using in his Diocese. That we will invite our neighbors to join us in worship and fellowship, welcome them when they arrive, and work to connect them and ourselves, in the community God has given us and Christ has shaped. Today, the first Sunday in April, and hopefully on every first Sunday of the month, members of your Vestry, clergy and seminarians invite all, and especially newcomers to the parish in the past month, to join us for coffee and conversation after worship. 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.

Intercessions, Thanksgiving, Prayer Requests

Please pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity, especially in the St. Mark's Parish: Clara Bottner, Beth Oakes, Donna Anderson, Nell Brill, Richard Sparks, Phil Brown, 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, the Magruder/Vangroll families, the Lewis family, including Tom and Gloria, and Kevan Campbell. Also for our extended family: Emmett Sims, Liz S., Phyllis Nezart-Biggs, Sylvia Valverde, John R., D. Crumel, William Pimental, Rod Pearson, Sr., Richard Stockstill, Betty Bradley, Sandra Robinson, Carol Ostergard, the families of John Jostin, Clifford Fisher, Aminah Robinson, Col. Wil Scudder and Elmore. For all military and civilian personnel and those serving in harm's way, we lift up Colin Maloney, Robert Payne, Tim, Emily and family, Walter Smiley, Andrew Kley and Pat Foughty. We pray for those of every generation who live with the wounds of war or who have given their lives for this nation.

Announcements

Remember your loved ones on Easter by making a donation to the flower fund in their memory.

Please bring your talent, any talent, to the International Dinner and Talent Show on April 29. Sing, dance, play an instrument, stand-up comedy, whatever. All are encouraged and welcome!

E-giving – Earlier this year, St. Mark's introduced e-giving as another option for fulfilling your pledge or making a donation. Now, you can help us track your online giving by placing an "I Give Online" card in the collection plate each Sunday. These cards are available in each pew. Getting started with online

giving is easy. Visit stmarksalex.org and click the “Donate Now” link to create an account and make your donation.

Give electronically to the ministries of St. Mark’s! Your help is needed to fund our 2017 Mission Trip to the Navajo Nation, June 23 to July 1. Twenty-three St. Mark’s and San Marcos’ Missioners are signed up to go and we have raised about \$12,000 of the \$22,000 needed. Our next fundraiser is a bake sale on Palm Sunday, then our Mother’s Day Breakfast, International Dinner at the end of April and our first car wash on May 7, during St. Mark’s in the Park. We are planning a Yard Sale and one more car wash in June.

First Sunday of the Month, please wear your name tag! If you do not have a name tag or need a replacement, please let us know.

Daughters of the King will meet in the library following the 10:00 am service today. Our Lenten study will be on “*Shadows, Darkness and Dawn*” by Thomas Steagald.

Good Shepherd Catholic Church is holding two sessions of "Know your Rights" on Saturday, April 22; 1:30 to 3:30 pm in English and 4 to 6 pm in Spanish. All concerned persons should GO and take friends! See flyers on bulletin board.

Working in DC on Good Friday? You are invited to join The Rev. Bruce J. Steward at the National Gallery of Art, East Building, Tower level, Tower 1 for the 31st annual Barnett Newman’s “The Stations of the Cross”, April 14 noon-1:00 pm. Please respond to ArtWithYou@aol.com

Small, wrapped candies for Easter eggs are welcome donations for St. Mark’s Easter Egg hunt! There are two baskets the Narthex for collection.

Upcoming Birthdays

4/10 – Amber Tussing, 4/11 – Christy Brennan, 4/13 – Maddie Murchie-Beyma,
4/14 – Ben Bluey, 4/15 – Ben Hardy, Jr, 4/16 – Molly McMillan, 4/17 – Eric
Murchie-Beyma, 4/18 – Al Dominic

Anniversaries

4/12 – John and Beverly Weatherly, 4/21 – Susan Byers and Len Slobodin

This Week at St. Mark’s

Today

8:00 am HE, 9:15 am Adult Forum, 10:00 am HE, No
Sunday School, 11:30 am – Daughters of the King, 1:00-
4:00 pm San Marcos (Sanctuary, PH, GH), 4:00-6:00 pm
Pan de Vida (S)

- Monday, 4/10** 7:00-8:30 pm BSA Troop #4077 (PH)
- Tuesday, 4/11** 10:30 am – Bible Study. All welcome! 7:30 pm – Vestry Meeting, 7:00-9:00 pm – Pan de Vida Bible Study (Sanctuary), 7:00-9:00 pm- GS Troop 4841 (PH)
- Wednesday, 4/12** 10:30 am HE, 7:00-9:00 pm – San Marcos (PH)
- Thursday, 4/13** 9:30 am – Morning Prayer, 9:00 am-12:45 pm – Biology Class (PH), 10:00 am – Holy Folders, 6:30 pm – Maundy Thursday Pot Luck with San Marcos, 7:30 pm – Eucharist/Foot Washing with San Marcos
- Friday, 4/14** 12:00 noon – Good Friday Collects with Stations of the Cross, 6:30 pm – San Marcos Stations of the Cross in Spanish, 8:00 pm – Tenebrae Service
- Saturday, 4/15** 9:00 am – Parish Wide Clean-Up, 11:00 am – First Communion Class for Age 5 and above, **7:00-** 9:00 pm – Pan de Vida (S)

Forum Discussion Sundays at 9:10 am

- Today Palm or Passion Sunday
- Holy Week Services**
- Today 8:00 and 10:00 am – Blessing of Palm, Procession,, 1:00 pm – San Marcos Eucharist
- April 11 7:30 pm – Vestry Meeting
- April 12 10:30 am – HE – The Fairfax
- April 13 6:30 pm – Maundy Thursday Pot Luck with San Marcos
7:30 pm – Eucharist, Foot Washing, with San Marcos
- April 14 12:00 noon – Good Friday Solemn Collects with Stations of the Cross
6:30 pm – San Marcos Stations of the Cross
8:00 pm – Tenebrae Service
- April 15 9:00 am – Parish Wide Clean Up
11:00 am – First Communion Class for Age 5 and above
- April 16 Easter, or Sunday of the Resurrection!
6:00 am – San Marcos Easter Sunrise Service
7:00 am – Eucharist, 7:45 am – San Marcos Breakfast
8:00 am – Easter Service with Music
10:00 am – Celebration Eucharist, Baptism, with Brass
Easter Egg Hunt follows