



Advent Wreath made by the Children of St. Mark's

## The First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2019

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist



### **Mission**

We are an inclusive community of faith, reflecting Christ's love, ministering to all who hunger in body, mind, and spirit.

### **Vision**

Our strength as a faith community depends on our inner vitality, inclusive welcome, and outward action. Grounded in these values, we continue our strong tradition of liturgical worship and education for all ages. We advocate for justice, serving those in need.

## Welcome to St. Mark's

Welcome to St. Mark's community of faith! If this is your first visit with us, please know that we are delighted you are here. Please, introduce yourself and be sure to sign our guest book at either entrance to the Sanctuary and/or fill-out a Visitor's Welcome Card. Our order of worship is provided here for your convenience and is taken from the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) starting on page 355. Our hymnals, *The Hymnal 1982* (Blue) and *Wonder Love and Praise* (Green) and the *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (Red) can be found in the pews. "S" numbers are found in the front of *The Hymnal 1982*. We recognize that language in liturgy could be more inclusive and hope for a time when that will be a reality. We invite you to join us for refreshments and conversation following today's Service. Know that you are always welcome to be with us, and we would look forward to having you worship with us again.



**Weekly Worship at St. Mark's:** Sundays at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, Eucharist and Healing Prayer at noon.

**Safety and Security on Sundays:** Please take a moment to locate the exit nearest you in the event of an emergency. If you see something abnormal or concerning, please see an Usher for assistance.

**Sundays at St. Mark's:** Services are at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. **The Breakfast Café**, a program of our outreach ministry, is at 8:15 a.m. Following the 8:00 a.m. service we gather to socialize in the third level Conference Room. *Exit to your left, go up the stairs on your left, and up the next set of stairs – the Conference Room is on the top level to the left at the top of the stairs.* Our 10:30 a.m. service is also followed by a social hour and occasional special receptions in our Parish Hall. *Exit to your left, and the Hall is straight ahead.* **All are welcome!**

**Children:** Faith Formation for children and youth in 4th-12th grade takes place Sunday mornings at 9:30 on the 3rd floor. Childcare is available at that time so families can arrive together and parents can either attend Adult Formation or relax and socialize. Children's Chapel for Pre-K through 3rd grade takes place during the first half of the 10:30 service. Please bring your child downstairs to check them in. We will escort children into the service after "the peace." Nursery care is available for infants and little ones through age three throughout the 10:30 service. Children are brought into service during the Peace so families can receive Communion together. For more information, please speak to **Laura Kozminski**.

**Junior and Senior High Youth: Grand Rapids Episcopal Youth:** G.R.E.Y. is a joint youth ministry between St. Mark's and St. Andrew's Episcopal Churches for youth in grades 6-12. We have weekly formation gatherings during the school year and service and social activities throughout the year. On Sundays during the school year, youth gather from 9:30 a.m.-10:20 a.m. to explore Faith Lens, a weekly Bible study that engages them in connecting world events with the Bible, faith, and everyday life. On Wednesdays evenings during the school year, youth meet for Oasis, our weekly youth group gathering, with potluck at 6 p.m. followed by program from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Both classes meet in the 3rd floor youth room at St. Mark's. Please contact our Director of Youth Ministries, Jeff Brown, for more information: [jeffatgrey@gmail.com](mailto:jeffatgrey@gmail.com).

**Adults:** We offer the *Education for Ministry* seminar during the academic year as well as an *Inquirers' Class* for those preparing for Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirming one's faith. On Sunday mornings, we have adult devotional groups. Seasonally, there are Wednesdays at St. Mark's from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for a potluck, presentation, discussion, and Evening Prayer. Please see **Father Christian** for more details.

**A Note about Cell Phones and exits:** We ask that you turn off your cell phone; if you are on call, please turn it to vibrate when you enter the church. **Rest Rooms** are located on the main level of the Parish House under the exit sign at the top of the hallway ramp.

**Parking on Sundays:** Street Parking is available on Pearl, Ionia, Lyon, Fountain and other streets near the Church. Parking is available in the Parish lot, the upper and lower levels of the GRCC building on the corner of Division and Lyon (access from Lyon) and the Ellis Parking Lot at 210 Ionia just west of Lyon Street **with entrances off both Ionia and Crescent**. For the Ellis Lot: Please, pick up an exit ticket from an Usher, a Greeter or at the Front Desk of the Parish House. Parking is free on Sunday only. A white ticket is required to accompany the parking ticket and to exit the lot.

# The Gathering of the People

**Prelude** – “Sleepers Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

J.S. Bach

**Welcome and Invitation to a Holy Advent** (*standing as able*)

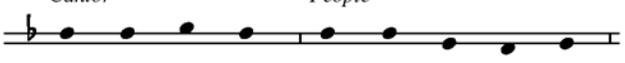
*Presider:* †Blessed be God: most holy, glorious and undivided Trinity.

*People:* **And blessed be God’s reign, now and forever. Amen.**

*Presider:* Advent is a season of waiting and preparation to celebrate the coming of our Savior and the promised salvation for God’s people. This time of waiting is also a time for us to work for peace and justice. It is a time for us to consider our priorities as we walk in the light that God gives us.

**The Procession and Litany** (*Please stand as you are able*)

*Cantor* *People*



God the Fa - ther, Have mer - cy on us.

*Cantor* *People*



God the Son, Have mer - cy on us.

*Cantor* *People*



God the Holy Spir - it, Have mer - cy on us.

*Cantor* *People*



Holy Trini - ty, one God, Have mer - cy on us.

*Cantor* *People*



We pray to you, Lord Christ. Lord, hear our prayer.

*Cantor*



For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the Day of your Coming,

*People*



we pray to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For deliverance from all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred and malice and from all evil intent, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For families and the members of households, that they may be sustained and upheld by your grace, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who fear God and believe in you, O Lord, that our divisions may cease and that all may be one in you, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the peace of the world that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you,  
O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the forgiveness of our sins and peace in our hearts, that we may be sources of reconciliation in our lives and in the world, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For freedom from famine and disaster; from violence, murder, and dying unprepared, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power; by the preaching of your reign, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who make decisions about the resources of the earth, for those who work on the land and sea, in city and in industry, for artists, scientists and visionaries, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who through their own or others' actions are deprived of fullness of life, for prisoners, refugees, the disabled, and all who are sick; for those in politics, medical science, social and relief work, and for your Church and for all who seek to bring life to others, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Mark and all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another,

*People*

and all our life to Christ our God. To you, O Lord our God.

*Cantor*                      *People*                      *Cantor and People*

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

*Presider:* †Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

*Presider:* Dear Friends in Christ, as part of our Advent waiting, we celebrate Christ's coming by lighting the candles of our Advent wreath to remind us of the hope Christ brings to the world. The round shape of the wreath reminds us of the unbroken love of God. The greens speak of new life, and the candles proclaim the light that came into the world with Jesus Christ. Stir up your power, O Christ, and come,

***People:* That by your protection we may be rescued from darkness and saved by your mighty deliverance; for you live and reign with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

### **Blessing of the Advent Wreath and Candle Lighting**

*Presider:* Blessed are you, O God, king of the universe. You sent your Son to be the Light of the world and to spread his light of love to all. †Bless this wreath and candles made by human hands. May increasing light be a sign to us of the approaching nearness of your Son, that we might prepare in joy for Christ's coming among us and be ready to receive him at his coming again in glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Today as we light the first Advent candle, we are reminded that the flickering of the flame reminds us that our waiting is a time of both contemplation and action. (*The first Advent candle is lit.*) Let us pray together:

***People:* Dear God, through your Spirit you spoke to the Prophets, and the people prayed and waited for a Messiah to come. Through your Spirit, speak to each of us that we may feel your presence and know your will in our Advent waiting. Amen.**

**Hymn – Blue Hymnal 56, vss 1 and 2: O come, O come, Emmanuel**

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

### **Collect of the Day**

*Presider:* God be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Word of God**

**The Hebrew Scripture** (*Seated as able*)

*Isaiah 2: 1-5*

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 122** (8:00 a.m. Prayed by all; 10:30 a.m. Antiphon intoned by the choir and repeated by all)



- 1 I was glad when they said to me, \*  
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- 2 Now our feet are standing \*  
within your gates, O Jerusalem. *Antiphon*
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city \*  
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the LORD, \*  
the assembly of Israel,  
to praise the Name of the LORD.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, \*  
the thrones of the house of David. *Antiphon*
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*  
"May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls \*  
and quietness within your towers. *Antiphon*
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, \*  
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, \*  
I will seek to do you good." *Antiphon*

**The Christian Scripture**

*Romans 13: 11-14*

A Reading from Letter to the Romans

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Sequence Hymn: Blue Hymnal 61: "Sleepers wake!" A voice astounds us**

Wachet auf

**The Gospel Reading** (*standing as able*)

*Matthew 24: 36-44*

*Presider or Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

*Presider:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Homily**

The Rev. Susan York

**The Nicene Creed** (*Please note the language for the Spirit.*)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, the Spirit is worshiped and glorified. The Spirit has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People** (*All remain standing as able*)

*Intercessor:* God of wonder and awe, we watch for your signs and wait for your coming during this Advent Season. Hear the prayers we offer and our response, O God, hear us.

For the Church that watches and waits during this Advent Season, that the path may be made straight for your coming.

We pray:

**O God, hear us.**

For this community at St. Mark's. Bless us today and as we offer our time, talents and monetary gifts in support of our ministry together.

We pray:

**O God, hear us.**

For our President, our Governor and our Mayor that they and we may work toward equality and an end to racism, gun violence and disrespect of any kind.

We pray:

**O God, hear us.**

For Archbishop Justin; Bishops Michael and Whayne; Christian, our Rector; Mother Sue, Deacon Jan, Father Hugh and all those at St. Mark's who offer themselves in service to God and God's people.

We pray:

**O God, hear us.**

For those who celebrate birthdays or anniversaries. Bless them with health and well-being throughout the coming year.

We pray:

**O God, hear us.**

For those who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially remembering those on our Parish Prayer Lists, the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer and all those for whom we have promised to pray. (Pause to add additional prayers either silently or aloud)

We pray:

**O God, hear us.**

For those who have died. May they rest in peace and those who mourn them be comforted. (Pause to add additional prayers either silently or aloud)

We pray:

**O God, hear us.**

*Presider:* O God, we ask you to hear these prayers, those we have named aloud and those which lie deep within our hearts. All these things we ask through the power of the Holy Spirit and in the Name of Jesus.  
**Amen**

### **The Peace**

*Presider:* May the peace of Christ be always with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

### **Announcements**

## **The Holy Communion**

**Offertory Music** - Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers!

Adam Gumpeltzhaimer

**Presentation** (*standing as able*)



Praise God, our mak - er and our friend, praise God through time, till time shall end, till  
song and psalm God's name a - dore, through Heav'n's great day of ev - er - more.

**The Great Thanksgiving** (spoken at 8 a.m. and sung at 10:30 a.m.)

Eucharistic Prayer, Enriching Our Worship, 3

*Celebrant*                      *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Presider:* All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our Advent journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout for joy:

**Holy, Holy, Holy** – (Spoken at 8:00 a.m. and sung at 10:30 a.m.)                      F.P. Schubert

Holy, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of  
power and might, hea-ven and earth are full, full of your glo-ry, Ho-san-na  
in the high-est, Ho-san-na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord Ho-san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

*The people may stand or kneel as the Presider continues.*

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you call a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you have Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the New Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death.  
 Rising, you restored our life.  
 Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

† Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time, gather us with St. Mark and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Blessed are you now and for ever. **Amen.**



And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

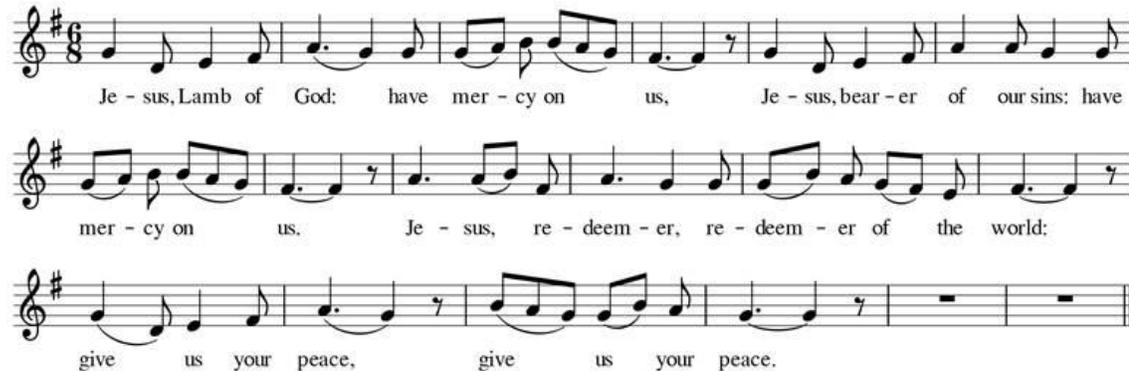
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Breaking of the Bread and Distribution – (A period of silence is kept).**

8 am *Presider:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

10:30 a.m.



*People:* **Let us take them in remembrance that Christ died for us and feed on him in our hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.**

**Healing Prayer:** When a Healing Minister is present during Communion, you are invited to receive a prayer for healing and wholeness for yourself or for a loved one near the Meditation Chapel.

*All who seek a deeper relationship with Christ are invited to receive Holy Communion. Parent(s), please feel free to make a decision for your child even if not baptized. If you are able, please come forward toward the High Altar, entering on the organ side, filling in the Communion rail from right to left, and returning to your seat from the Lectern side. At the 10:30 am Service, you may choose to receive the Eucharist at the Communion station to the left of the Lectern. Consecrated bread and gluten-free bread are available on both levels. You may also choose to receive consecrated wine from the shared cup or from a separate smaller cup of intinction (dipping). If you prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your hands over your chest.*

**Communion Music – Blue Hymnal 53: Once he came in blessing**

Gottes Sohn ist kommen

## Post Communion Prayer *(standing as able)*

*Presider:* Let us pray.

**People:** Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Blessing

*The priest blesses the people, saying:*

The Wisdom of God, the love of God, and the grace of God strengthen us to be Christ's hands and heart in the world, and may the blessing of God, †Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us this day and remain with us always, we pray, **Amen.**

**Hymn of Sending Forth—Blue Hymnal 68: rejoice, rejoice believers!**

Llangloffan

## Dismissal

*Priest or Deacon:* As we await our coming Savior, let us go forth in the peace of Christ.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Postlude – Once He Came in Blessing**

Johann Gottfried Walther

You are invited to participate in the tradition at St. Mark's to remain seated until all the candles are extinguished and the postlude has ended, fitting ways to conclude our worship together. Thank you.

Following the 8 a.m. service, all are invited to the Social Hour in the third-floor conference room.  
(Please use the double doors on your left and take the Foyer stairs to access the upper levels.)

Hosts: Doug and Cathy Karsen

Following the 10:30 a.m. service, all are invited to the Social Hour in the Parish Hall.  
(Please use the double doors on your left and cross the gathering area.)

Hosts: Parish Life

A reminder that when the Rector preaches, his homily is available on the resource tables of the church. Please feel free to take a copy for further reflection. All homilies are video-taped and can be found at [www.stmarksgr.org](http://www.stmarksgr.org) at the Media tab and on YouTube at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids, MI.

## Save the Date

Advent Retreat – Dec 7

Sacred Sounds Concert – Dec 8

Cookie Walk – Dec 8

St. Mark's Caroling Party – Dec 15

Women's Spa Day – Dec 19

Greening of the Parish Church – Dec 22, 3 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services – Dec 24, 5 p.m. and 10 p.m.

No Christmas Day Service

# Sunday News – December 1

**Stewardship Season Continues:** As of Tuesday afternoon, November 26, we received 129 pledges with an amount of \$453,450 pledged toward the goal of \$525,000. We are very grateful to all those who have pledged and look forward to receiving many more pledges in support of the ministry needs for 2020. If you have not yet pledged, please consider joining others in support of the Parish as proposed in the 2020 budget. Copies of the entire budget are available at the Welcome Desk in the Foyer of the Parish House. Pledge cards are available in each of the pews and also on the welcome desk. Please, consider the many gifts given by God and consider making a pledge for 2020. We need as many of us as possible to make a pledge for 2020. Blessings and thanks! ~ Stewardship Ministry Team

**Church Tour, Today:** If you would like to know more about the church's history meet at the main doors on the west side of the sanctuary following the 10:30 a.m. postlude.

**Advent Retreat, Dec. 7:** Please, consider this opportunity for prayer and reflection on the first Saturday of Advent. Using an ancient method of praying the Scriptures, *Lectio Divina*, we will explore important Scripture passages and have periods of silence in the Dominican Chapel and elsewhere. The retreat will begin at 9:15 and conclude after lunch at 1:00. If possible, a \$15 contribution to help offset the cost of the retreat would be much appreciated. (checks made out to St. Mark's or cash). The Dominican Center at Marywood can be found at 2025 Fulton Street, Grand Rapids with parking in the lot on Lakeside Drive. A sign-up sheet is available at the Welcome Desk in the Parish House for fourteen participants. Please, consider this opportunity for Advent. ~ Christian+

**St. Mark's Annual Cookie Walk, Dec 8:** St. Mark's annual Cookie Walk will be held December 8 after the 10:30 Eucharist. Bakers are invited to bring their cookies to the kitchen before the service. Following the Service you may purchase these freshly baked cookies by the bag. Funds collected will go towards Children's Formation programming.

**Giving Tree:** The Giving Tree stands in our sanctuary ready to accept our gifts of warm hats, gloves, mittens, scarfs, fleece blankets and underwear for men and women. Toiletries for both men and women are also good choices. Soon the tree becomes a wonderful Symbol of Giving and Gratitude as the branches fill with our gifts to our breakfast café neighbors. The children of our parish and their families will fill gift bags with these and other gifts the week of Christmas, and we will distribute them on the morning of Sunday Dec.22. May our Giving Tree be a reminder of all that we have been given and of our promise to Jesus that we will love our neighbor as ourselves.

**Sacred Sounds: A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols: Dec. 8:** Anticipate Christ's birth in this service of scripture readings and new and traditional carols sung by the St. Mark's Choir under the direction of Gregory Crowell.

**St. Mark's Caroling Party, Dec. 15:** Meet at the church at 3:45 p.m. for a fun evening of caroling. Caroling teams depart at 4 p.m. Chili supper in the parish hall starting at 6 p.m. Chili, Mac N Cheese and Cider provided. Please bring a side or desert to pass. Festive holiday attire encouraged (break out those Christmas sweaters). Come spread some cheer. See Kelley Stoppels or sign up at the welcome desk.

**St. Mark's Liturgical Calendar:** Free wall calendars are available for you on the resource table in the north transept. These calendars include the dates for the Principal Feasts, Holy Days, Days of Special Devotion and Requiem Eucharist. The book of common Prayer guides the usage for each entry in this Ordo Kalendar.

**Women's Spa Day, Dec. 19:** Please consider volunteering to help with this day in which we open up the doors and parish house to pamper women in need. Women are invited in for a boutique, foot care, dental care, hair care, crafts, massage and a delicious meal. Many hands are needed to make this a great day. A signup sheet is located on the welcome desk. If you have any questions please contact Mother Sue.

**Greening of the Parish Church, Dec 22:** The tradition of decorating the Church for Christmas, "Hanging of the Greens" will take place on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 3 p.m. If you wish to help, please come!

**Vestry 2020:** A number of Vestry positions will be filled in 2020. If you are interested in serving, please, see Chris Trevathan, Senior Warden, or Fr. Christian for qualities and qualifications needed for this important ministry.

**Grants Ministry Update:** The Grants Ministry group has been meeting for about the last 16 months. In the last fiscal year (2018-19) we received grants from the Frey Foundation for \$8,000 (for the building planning feasibility) the Cook Foundation for \$14,000 (for food for the Cafe) Meijer Donations for \$2,000 (for Cafe food) and the Whittemore Foundation for \$8,039 (for security personnel). We are happy to announce that this week we learned that the Wege Foundation has committed \$35,000 over the next two years. This new funding will pay for a (15 hour per week) kitchen coordinator and for additional food for the Breakfast Cafe. As we have let the community learn about our outreach efforts in the downtown neighborhood, they are willing to assist us in this effort and are helping us plan for safety, other needed training, and the necessary building enhancements at the same time. We are so grateful to all of our partners and thrilled to have the Wege Foundation join us in this work.

**Advent Wednesday Series:** Please, join us as we join others at St. Andrew's for three Wednesdays in December. The series is entitled, "Hope for the Present" and the youth will follow an Advent Curriculum of Journeying the Way of Love. The evening will begin at 5:30 with a potluck dinner; Program to begin at 6:15; Evening Prayer to conclude the evening at 7:00. 12/4 at St. Luke's (3215 4 Mile Rd NE) - Mark Smeby playing piano; 12/11 at St. Andrew's (1025 3 Mile Rd NE) - Pastor Dave Blank talks about Hope in the Community; 12/18 at St. Luke's -- Mother Molly Bosscher talks about Hope in the City. There is parking at both churches. All are welcome!

**Advent Prayer Materials:** Please help yourself to the 2019 Advent Meditations. Thank you so much to Anne and Mike Armour who edited and compiled the meditations and all of the writers who gave of their time and talent to give us these meaningful devotions. Two other prayer resources are available as well and all of these materials may be found on the resource tables.

**Breakfast Café Volunteers Needed:** If you can help with dishwashing and cleaning on a Sunday, please consider volunteering. We are in search for a new staff person for six hours to assist with kitchen and other cleaning duties. Please, help if you can, and if you know of anyone, please let me know. We are also hoping to have parishioners involved with welcoming and security from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings. ~Christian+

#### **Volunteers Today, with Gratitude:**

**8 a.m. Service:** Assisting Minister – Doug Karsen; Lector – Bea Rocco; Ushers – Cathy Karsen and Doug Karsen; Healing Prayers – Doug Karsen; Altar Guild – Margaret Stretton, Bea Rocco and Celeste Lamar  
**10:30 a.m. Service:** Verger – Phyllis Rood; Crucifers – Miranda and Nicholas Lee; Acolyte: Hailey Green and Shannon Gould; Chalice Bearers – Jan Gockerman, Robert Rood and Miranda Lee; Lectors & Intercessor – Vijay Dillet, Judy Coby, Judith Claytor; Ushers – Tom and Judy Walker and Patrick Keenan

#### **Sustaining St. Mark's Ministry in 2019:**

Thanks to all those who sustain our ministry together at St. Mark's with pledges and offerings. The total budget for 2019 is \$726,157, which requires an estimated \$13,888 income per week. Last week we received \$11,487, contributions in pledges and offerings.

Contributions Received YTD	Needed YTD	Difference YTD
\$ 637,798	\$ 652,719	\$ (14,921)

A reminder that we gratefully receive pledges at any time throughout the year. (Pledge cards and envelopes are available on the resource table in the church, which can be given as cash, check, or direct deposit.) Want more details about the Parish's giving or finances? Please, email questions to our Finance Manager, Pam Stevenson, at [pams@stmarksg.org](mailto:pams@stmarksg.org).



Sunday, December 1

- 8:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary)**
- 8:15 a.m. Breakfast Café (Parish Hall)
- 8:45 a.m. Social Hour (Third Floor Conference Room)
- 9:15 a.m. Devotional Group (Canterbury Room)
- 9:15 a.m. Childcare Nursery (Lower Level)
- 9:30 a.m. Children 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade (Third Level)
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Choir Warm Up (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 a.m. Children age 3 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (Lower Level)
- 10:30 a.m. **Choral Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary)**
- 11:30 a.m. Church Tour (Sanctuary)
- 11:30 a.m. Social Hour and Christmas Fair (Parish Hall)

Monday, December 2

- 12:00 p.m. Meeting outside group (Third Level)

Tuesday, December 3

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting (Parish Hall)
- 5:30 p.m. FAN Board Meeting (Library)
- 5:30 p.m. Meeting - outside group (Level three middle classroom)
- 5:30 p.m. Vestry Dinner (Third Level)
- 6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. FAN grief group (Canterbury Room)
- 7:00 p.m. Families Against Narcotics Meeting (Parish Hall)

Wednesday, December 4

- 12:00 p.m. Midweek Eucharist Service (St. Mary's Chapel)
- 5:30 p.m. Stewardship Ministry Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary Balcony)
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, December 5

- 12:00 p.m. Meeting - outside group (Level three middle classroom)

Saturday, December 7

- 9:00 a.m. Meeting outside group (Third Level)
- 10:30 a.m. Santa Lucia Festival (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 8

- 8:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary)**
- 8:15 a.m. Breakfast Café (Parish Hall)
- 8:45 a.m. Social Hour (Third Floor Conference Room)
- 9:15 a.m. Devotional Group (Canterbury Room)
- 9:15 a.m. Childcare Nursery (Lower Level)
- 9:30 a.m. Children 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade (Third Level)
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Choir Warm Up (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 a.m. Children age 3 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (Lower Level)
- 10:30 a.m. **Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary)**
- 11:45 a.m. Social Hour and Cookie Walk (Parish Hall)
- 5:00 p.m. Sacred Sounds Concert and reception (Sanctuary and Parish Hall)



**Prayers are requested:**

Suzanne Brown  
Lynn & Toby Burk  
Sharon Buursma  
The Casines-Abreu family  
Emily Doyle  
Roger Faber  
Patricia Hoxie  
Karie Ingersoll  
Ty Karsen  
Alex Kidd  
Doris Kilmer  
Tom Klein  
Sarah McIntire & Kate Goebbert  
Alissa Monsalvo  
John Oatley  
Aila Olivia  
Robert Pitylak  
Jesse Roby  
Kari Rosema  
Wolf and Inge Schrey  
Howard Soehl  
Kip Taylor  
Ray VanderMeer

**Our inbound and semi-inbound parishioners:**

Irene Haizman  
Jane Jawahir  
Doris Olson  
Earle & Mary Slenker  
Lee Strodtman  
Shari Takus  
Margarett Tanase  
Jean Zylstra

**Prayer for Discernment**

Bea Rocco

**Those in Military Service**

LTC Timothy Brower Sr. USA  
LCpl Gabriel Monsalvo, USMC  
Maj Todd Murray, USAF  
1/Sgt Deidre Piechocki, USA

**Officers and Vestry Members**

Chris Trevathan, Sr. Warden  
[chris.t@tds.net](mailto:chris.t@tds.net)

Michelle Jennings, Jr. Warden  
[michelle@sorrelleagency.com](mailto:michelle@sorrelleagency.com)

Andrew Knapp, Clerk  
[andrew.n.knapp@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.n.knapp@gmail.com)

Serving through Jan 2020  
Anne Hiskes  
Chris Trevathan  
Kenny Williams-Buck

Serving through Jan 2021  
Scot Gugle  
Michelle Jennings  
Andrew Knapp

Serving through Jan 2022  
Mike Armour  
Brandon Beyer  
Brian Topolewski

The Right Rev. Wayne M. Houglan,  
Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan

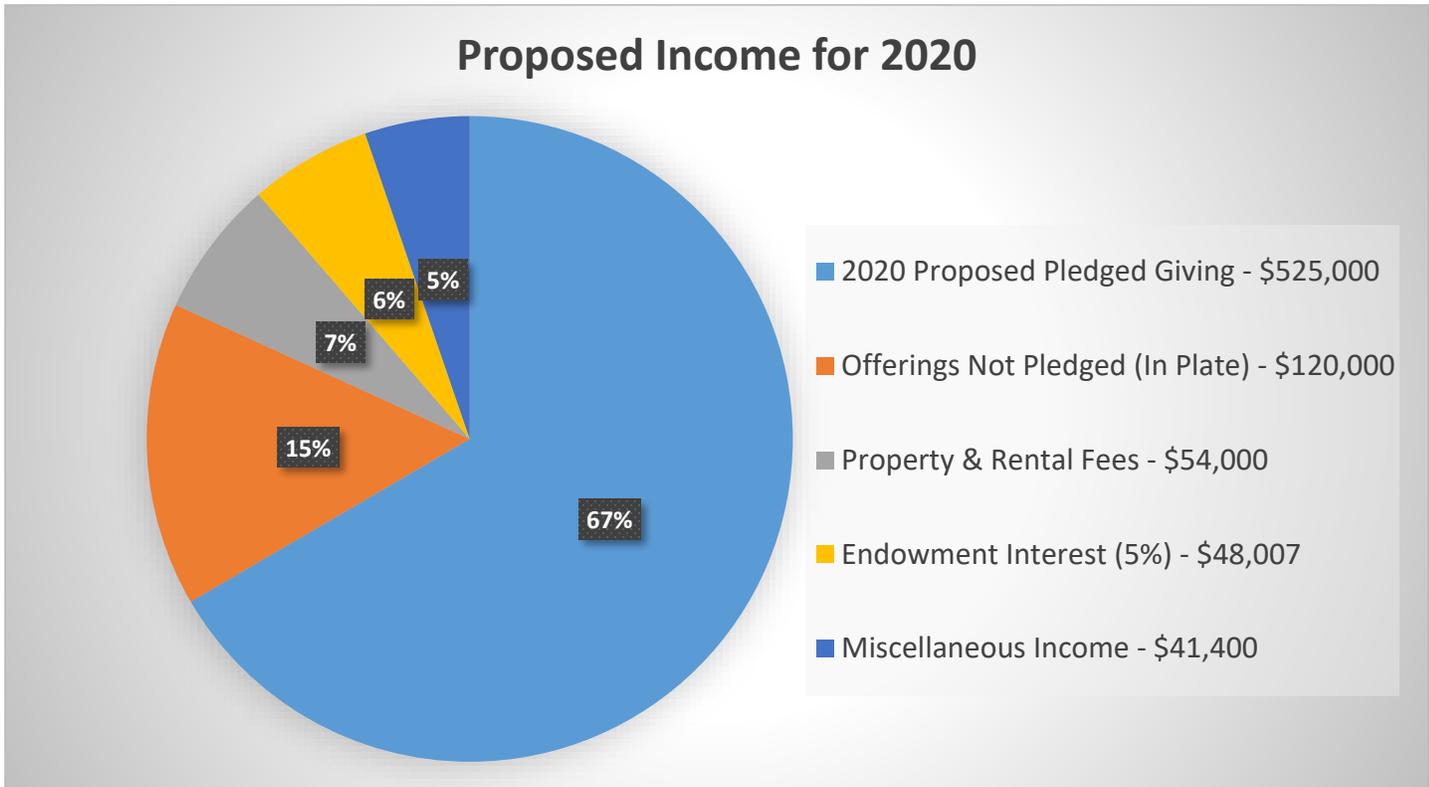
**Clergy and Staff of St. Mark's:**

The Rev. Dr. Christian Brocato, Rector  
[christianb@stmarksgr.org](mailto:christianb@stmarksgr.org)  
The Rev. Susan York, Associate Priest  
[susanyork@prodigy.net](mailto:susanyork@prodigy.net)  
The Rev. Dr. Hugh Dickinson,  
Priest Associate  
[hughd0537@gmail.com](mailto:hughd0537@gmail.com)  
The Rev. Jan Gockerman, Deacon  
[jangoc@umich.edu](mailto:jangoc@umich.edu)  
Dr. Gregory Crowell, Music Director  
[gregc@stmarksgr.org](mailto:gregc@stmarksgr.org)  
Noah Jacobs, Organ Scholar  
Pam Stevenson, Finance Manager  
[pams@stmarksgr.org](mailto:pams@stmarksgr.org)  
Megan Harding,  
Parish Administrative Associate  
[meganh@stmarksgr.org](mailto:meganh@stmarksgr.org)  
Jeff Brown, Director of Youth Ministries  
[jeffatgrey@gmail.com](mailto:jeffatgrey@gmail.com)  
Laura Kozminski, Director of Children's  
Formation  
[laurak@stmarksgr.org](mailto:laurak@stmarksgr.org)  
Wendell Chivis, Sexton  
Monica Peak, Associate Sexton  
Kate Pyles, Communications Ministry  
[katep@stmarksgr.org](mailto:katep@stmarksgr.org)  
Natalie Green, Robin Green, Samantha Green,  
Nursery Caregivers  
David Messelink, Webmaster  
[davidm@stmarksgr.org](mailto:davidm@stmarksgr.org)  
Donley Mackey, Historian/Archivist  
[donleym@stmarksgr.org](mailto:donleym@stmarksgr.org)

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## 2020 Stewardship Ministry Snapshot

As we near the giving season and you consider your pledge for 2020, the Stewardship Ministry would like to provide some important information regarding our church’s finances to inform your pledge decision. As part of our overall 2020 budget, **our goal is \$525,000 in pledged giving for 2020 to go towards an overall budget of \$779,367.** To date as of November 26, we have received pledges in the amount of \$453,450.



While we are grateful for a variety of income sources that support the work of our parish, **over 67% of our budget comes from parishioners like you.** As can be seen above, pledged giving forms the core of this, allowing us to plan effectively and remain wise stewards of God’s gifts.

Our 2020 pledged target of \$525,000 is not an “aspirational” goal, but is derived from the set needs of the important work and ministries of St. Mark’s. A snapshot of the 2020 operational budget is provided at right; these categories encompass the broad range of our ministries (such as Dismantling Racism, Youth Formation, Parish Life, and Supportive Care Ministry) as well as our music program, staff salaries, and building maintenance. The new 2020 proposed budget also allows us to hire a full-time sexton, a vital role for a parish of our size.

### Proposed Expenses for 2020

• Staff Salaries & Benefits (3 Full-Time Staff, 10 Part-Time Staff)	\$ 430,421
• Diocesan Apportionment	\$ 76,466
• Pastoral Leadership Operational Expenses	\$ 32,550
• Property Expenses	\$ 97,410
• Administration Expenses	\$ 68,478
• Adult Formation Ministry Expenses	\$ 2,000
• Children’s Formation Ministry Expenses	\$ 4,100
• Youth Formation Ministry Expenses	\$ 4,775
• Music Ministry Expenses	\$ 7,500
• Supportive Care Ministry Expenses	\$ 1,000
• Dismantling Racism Ministry Expenses	\$ 1,700
• Breakfast Café Ministry Expenses	\$ 52,967

**Join with us as we seek to continue the work that God has for us in 2020!**