Thanksgiving Meal Appeal

The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry needs your help to sponsor Thanksgiving Food Boxes and all year for local families in need from Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, Carol Stream, Glendale Heights, Lombard and Lisle. By sponsoring a Thanksgiving Food Box ($50 tax-deductible donation) you will be providing a family with a 12-14 pound turkey, a box of non-perishable foods and perishable foods (milk, cheese, yogurt, eggs). Donations of any amount are welcome, and will help the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry meet its goal for our community. Donations can be made online at www.glenellynfoodpantry.org or mailed to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, 493 Forest Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support. Any questions contact Tricia Benich at preb9@wowway.com or Joyce Frawley at joyree260@att.net.

Pumpkins!

$6,600+ to DuPagePads! It was another excellent year for our pumpkin patch! Sales at this year’s St. Mark’s Pumpkin Patch for DuPagePads exceeded $20,000, resulting in a donation of over $6,000 to DuPagePads. Since 2007, the combined donation to DuPagePads totals approximately $62,000! Thank you to everyone who unloaded pumpkins, took a turn at the sales tent, purchased pumpkins and helped with clean-up. A special thanks goes once again to Phil Adler for chairing this year’s Patch. Mark your calendar for October 7, 2017, when the next shipment of pumpkins arrives at St. Mark’s.

Advent Retreat at St. Mark’s: OUR DAILY BREAD

You are invited to claim a peaceful day for yourself during a time of pre-holiday stress. On Saturday, December 10 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Br. Joseph Kilikevice, OP, director of the Shem Center in Oak Park, will be at St. Mark’s to guide this retreat through the simple pleasure of baking a nutritious loaf of honey whole wheat bread to take home and share. Br. Kilikevice writes, “We become that “daily bread” of kindness and compassion for each other, the daily bread for which we pray in the prayer Jesus taught us.” All ingredients will be provided. Pre-registration form is found at www.shemcenter.org. See the page titled, “Advent Bread Baking Retreat” or call Br. Joseph Kilikevice at Shem Center for Interfaith Spirituality, 708-848-1095.

Welcome new Music Director Daniel Segner!

Read about him on page 3!
Rev. George Smith rector@stmarksglenellyn.org
In the Wake of the National Election: Curious and Humble

Historic, unprecedented, apocalyptic – these are some of the words that I have either read or heard to describe the outcome of the November 8 national election. St. Mark’s is not a political monolith, so some of us are stunned, fearful and depressed, while others are excited, giddy and happy. Perhaps everyone is surprised. For all of this, I turn to the words from the Compline service (a service for the end of the day) in the Book of Common Prayer: “Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, soothe the suffering, shield the joyous; and all for your love’s sake. Amen.”

The day after the election, I found wisdom in a quote by Episcopal priest and writer Barbara Crafton, who wrote on her Geranium Farm blog: “Regardless of what happens in life we can always walk in love, as Christ loved us. Look to yourself, and be as actively loving as you can be in the days ahead.”

St. Mark’s is a sacred space – a safe space for our joys and our sorrows, whether political or personal, which we offer before God. In chapter 21 of Luke’s Gospel – near the end of it, Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd are gathered at the temple in Jerusalem. The temple was the spiritual and physical center of the ancient city. The first temple, Solomon’s temple, had been destroyed in 586 B.C. The second temple, the one described in the Gospel was completed around 515 B.C. several years after the Jews had returned from exile in Babylon. Herod the Great, during his reign several decades before the birth of Christ, had enlarged and refurbished the second temple. Studded with precious stones and matted with gold leaf, the temple sparkled and gleamed in the sun’s light. Tourists and pilgrims, like the disciples, were in awe of such magnificence – a symbol of permanence and power. Jesus tells the crowd gathered in front of the temple that all will be thrown down, not one stone will be left upon another. Which is what happened. The temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. by a siege of Roman armies. The Gospel message is not so much that Jesus was a seer, but that the temple in Jerusalem is a metaphor for temples of all kinds – temples of theology, injustice, pride and materialism – that all of them that we have built will be toppled. People have and continue to put their trust and identity in temples. If you, as a follower of Jesus, say such things, you will be perceived as an enemy of the establishment – but the reality is that you are bearer of eternal truths. In the rubble, certain things will be unbroken: the dignity of every human being, the love of God for all people, and the deep desire within the human soul to help one another, to serve and to sacrifice ourselves for the well-being of others and the common good. These imperishable things are unbreakable because they are gifts from God. The testimony that every Christian carries is that we are to love everyone, even and especially our enemies. This testimony is mortar of the church – a community that offers welcome to anyone and everyone without exception. The church is a community that through its many members, goes out into the world to actively serve and help those who are vulnerable, persecuted and suffering in any way.

Gathered here five days after the national election, we reflect and regroup and remember what we are called to do and to be. For those who are stunned and fearful, you are called not to go down the path of cut-off, anger and depression, but to head in the opposite direction, toward curiosity. Throughout our Scriptures, the angels offer this message: “Do not be afraid!” Instead of being fearful, we must be curious. What the election showed is that many people felt the only choice they had was someone who promised radical change. Curiosity is possible when you know you are grounded in love, marked as Christ’s own forever. That is what we claim.

For those who are elated, giddy or surprised in a positive way, you are called to not go down the path to arrogance and disregard for those who feel differently. In The Song of Mary, Jesus’ mother proclaims: “he has scattered the proud and disregard for those who feel differently. In The Song of Mary, Jesus’ mother proclaims: “he has scattered the proud in their conceit.” The virtue correlated with elation is humility, which is possible when you know that all things come from God, and that none of us is his or her own master. Fear on the one hand and arrogance on the other are the ingredients for division and violence. Curiosity and humility are the paths to reconciliation, which intersect as bulldozers against walls of division and separation.

The vision of St. Mark’s is a community of people rooted in baptism, growing in faith and branching into the world. What we stand for, however imperfectly practiced, is to welcome everyone to taste and see – the love of God, the Kingdom of God come near.

The majority of the St. Mark’s community is white, heterosexual and privileged, but we are also Latino, Burmese, Iraqi, African-American, LGBTQ, Jewish, poor and illegal. Now more than ever is a time to recommit, double down on welcome and inclusion, seeing, responding and helping the world to see the dignity that is found in every human being. Has there been a generation which hasn’t said, “Surely this must be the end?” But Jesus made the point clear, “You can
not know the hour...you must always be on watch.” The disciples lived in the reality and expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, which enabled them to follow Jesus. We are called to do the same. We are called to shun fear and arrogance and to live into the virtues of curiosity and humility. Nourished and enriched by our community and sacraments, we will be able to respond with love to every human being who shares our planet.

Welcome to St. Mark’s
New Director of Music
Mr. Daniel Segner

The Music Planning Committee undertook in June 2016 the daunting task of setting a long-term vision for St. Mark’s music program and beginning a search for a new Director of Music to lead our parish in that vision. After several months spent examining music programs, refining our vision, and searching for qualified applicants for our position, our search committee is thrilled to announce our new Director of Music!

Daniel Segner is a graduate of Valparaiso University where he earned his Bachelor of Music in Church Music and Organ Performance. Most recently, he served as Principal Organist for First United Methodist Church at Chicago Temple in Chicago, Organist and Cantor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Downers Grove, and Interim Cantor and Organist at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Lincolnwood. Previously, he served as the Director of Music at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Chesterton, IN. Mr. Segner currently teaches piano, organ, and voice. Including his work as a capable accompanist, some of his notable past performances have included the opening recital for the Pipe Organ Encounter hosted by the American Guild of Organists, guest artist for Paul Manz Organ Recital Series, and recitalist for the organ rededication service at Augustana Lutheran Church in Hobart, IN. Collaborations have included performances with Chorus Angelorum, Civitas (Chicago Symphony Orchestra chamber group), and with the Valparaiso University Symphony and LaPorte Symphony Orchestras. In 2015, he performed alongside the Valparaiso University Chorale in their summer tour of Germany where he played in Luebeck, Jueterbog, and Leipzig. While at Valparaiso University, he received the Ronald G. Reidenbach Prize in Church Music and the Signature Artist Award. He is an active member of the American Guild of Organists, the American Choral Directors of America, and the Organ Historical Society.

Growing up, Daniel sang in the Christ Church Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys in Indianapolis, Indiana. This choir was internationally recognized as an exemplary choir in the Anglican tradition of music. Starting at the age of 7, Daniel moved through the ranks of the choir, eventually becoming Head Chorister of the Cantorus side of the choir and is featured in 2 CDs, one that is on the Four Winds Entertainment Label. While a member of the choir, he completed three European tours that included performances in some of Europe’s most important cathedrals and chapels.

Daniel is very excited to begin his work at St. Mark’s to carry on the great tradition of music here and to develop new and vibrant musical programs. Please take time to welcome Daniel to St. Mark’s and introduce yourself to him!

Giving Campaign

Please prayerfully consider your support for St. Mark’s for the coming year. Our goals are: $770,000 from 370 households. The average pledge for the Diocese of Chicago is $2,800. And what if we pledged $30,000 over anticipated expenses? What kind of tangible actions could we take for Jesus in this community?

Festival of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sunday, December 11

6:00 p.m. – Process outside. We invite all children to dress in white.
6:30 p.m. – Pray the Holy Rosary, a biblical prayer, as a community that prays at all times and in all places.
7:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist will have children performing a traditional dance from indigenous communities from Mexico.
8:30 p.m. – We sing the “Mañanitas” to our Lady of Guadalupe and gather for the “Convivio” for traditional Mexican food and Mariachi Band.
Campaña Anual de Generosidad 2016
San Marcos es una FAMILIA a la que pertenezco NO un lugar al que voy todos los domingos.

Para darle a Dios no debemos pensar en lo que no tenemos, sino que le damos de lo que ya tenemos

Estas dos frases nos invitan a la generosidad. Este mes de noviembre, comenzamos a recibir sus promesas que nos ayudan a calcular nuestro presupuesto para el año 2017.

¿Qué es una promesa?

Es un estimado de lo que quieres dar económicamente a San Marcos durante el año 2017. Es una forma de ayudarnos a pensar que cada persona, cada familia puede participar de la vida y funcionamiento de nuestra iglesia.

Nadie se empobrece dando, todo lo contrario, nos enriquecemos cuando vemos que toda una comunidad coloca una sola intención: queremos que San Marcos continue dando vida a otras personas como me ha dado vida a mi y mi familia.

Nuestro presupuesto tendrá un incremento del 10%. Queremos contribuir con $40,000.00. Estamos creciendo y como cuerpo que crece necesitamos responder mayor a nuestras necesidades y la de la comunidad en general.

Estas son las áreas de crecimiento que van a necesitar de tu generosidad. Es tiempo que pensemos de que somos capaces de marcar una diferencia. Así que te invito a que llenes una tarjeta de promesa. Ora y actúa. No podemos realizar esta campaña ni podremos responder a estas necesidades sin tu ayuda.

Si tienes preguntas, contacta al P. Victor Conrado al 312.342.3570.

La Iglesia Somos Todos/as Nosotros/as

La realidad de la iglesia y de nuestras vidas está cambiando. Ahora como iglesia y familia nos encontramos compitiendo con tantas actividades relacionadas a la escuela, trabajo, etc. Pero al igual que nuestra familia, la iglesia somos todos nosotros. Así que, al igual que en nuestras familias, estamos invitados a pensar en cómo estamos invirtiendo nuestro TIEMPO – TALENTO – TESORO.

Muchas veces pensamos que estas tres palabras no tienen nada que ver con nuestras opciones diarias, pero descubrimos que tienen mucho que ver y que la práctica de ellas nos ayudan a ser mejores con las personas que están cerca de nosotros, con Dios y con nuestro medio ambiente.

Pensemos por un momento, ¿Dónde invierto mi tiempo? ¿Dónde pongo en práctica mi talento? ¿Cómo gasto mi tesoro?

La iglesia quiere llegar a ser parte de esta reflexión. No se trata de volver a patrones de comportamiento del pasado en donde, muchas veces, nos relacionábamos con la iglesia por miedo o como refugio. No. La iglesia somos todos y todas nosotros que estamos en medio de nuestras luchas cotidianas.

La iglesia no es ajena a estas luchas. Queremos ser parte de ellas. Queremos darte la oportunidad de encontrar un espacio en donde reflexionemos y oremos acerca de la mejor manera de estar presente en medio de todas estas luchas y alegrías. Queremos estar presentes. No queremos que sientas que este espacio es una de las tantas cosas que debes estar envuelto durante el fin de semana.

Comparte con nosotros un poco de tu tiempo para que te celebremos, oremos y nos formemos. Cuando tú decides participar, otras personas te verán y querrán hacer lo mismo.
Comparte con nosotros tu talento para crecer. Tú sabes algo y queremos que nos lo compartas. Hay muchos talentos que se ocultan. Cuando decidimos sacarlos a la luz, estos talentos nos dan vida abundante.

Comparte con nosotros tu tesoro y considéralo una inversión para ti mismo, tu familia y la comunidad en general. Un dolor que recibimos de tu generosidad se convierte en un gran potencial para todos nosotros en la comunidad.

No estás solo o sola en tu familia. Te esperamos y nos alegramos cuando te veamos. Tú y tu familia hacen de San Marcos lo que somos una comunidad que Enraizada en Bautismo, Creciente en la Fe y que se Proyecta hacia el mundo.

Muchas gracias por darnos la bienvenida en tu vida y la vida de tu familia. Ayudamos a darles a bienvenida a otras personas que están a la espera de una Buena Noticia.

Jugar Junto a Dios – es un programa de catequesis que realizaremos en San Marcos de 1:00 PM a 1:45 PM todos los domingos, comenzando el domingo 13 de septiembre. Es un programa ideal para niños de 2do grado a 5to grado. Durante este tiempo también recibirán instrucción para el sacramento de la primera comunión. No se necesita inscripción para atender.

Proveedores de Oraciones por/para la parroquia han estado orando por las necesidades de la parroquia durante el verano. Este grupo reanudará sus reuniones el día miércoles, 2 de septiembre a las 11:00 AM y continuará sus reuniones el primer miércoles de cada mes hasta junio 2016. Eres bienvenido/a a participar de este grupo. ¿Preguntas? Contacta a May Anstee 630 889-0933 (manstee@comcast.net). Si tu o alguien que conozco está en necesidad de oraciones de intercesión, contacta a Rebecca Sandrok a rebeccasandrok@yahoo.com, o puedes contactar a cualquier miembro del clero.

Te Invitamos a la Celebración de Posadas
Desde el 16 al 23 de diciembre de 7:00 PM a 8:00 PM. Estaremos dando más información al respecto del lugar. Por el momento están programadas entre la iglesia y el sótano de la parroquia. Ven y comparte en familia esta hermosa tradición y esperamos juntos el nacimiento de nuestro salvador.

Nuestra Sra. de Guadalupe
El día domingo 11 de diciembre desde las 6:00PM te invitamos a que te unas y celebremos el cumpleaños de Nuestra Sra. de Guadalupe. Esta es una celebración que queremos compartir con toda nuestra parroquia de San Marcos y con toda la comunidad hispana/latina en general.

Esperamos que invites a tus familiares y amigos. Todos y todas son bienvenidos.

El programa para este día es el siguiente: Visita de la St. Virgen a todos los hogares – Desde el día miércoles 2 de diciembre, la virgen de Guadalupe estará visitando nuestros hogares. Nos reuniremos a las 7:00 PM en diferentes familias por 8 días. Estaremos presentando una lista de las familias que van a recibirla en su casa. Únete a este momento de oración en familia.

Celebración del día 11 de diciembre.
6:00 PM – Caminemos juntos con la Morenita. Tendremos una precesión a los alrededores de la iglesia para congregar a todos y todas. Invitamos a todos los niños y niñas a que vengan vestidos de Juan Diegos o con una prenda blanca.

6:30 PM – Oremos todos juntos por las intenciones de nuestra parroquia. Te invitamos a que oremos juntos con el Santo Rosario, una oración bíblica por excelencia, y contemplemos los misterios gozosos en la vida de nuestro Señor.

7:00 PM – Presentación de las apariciones de la Virgen de Guadalupe a San Juan Diego.

7:30 PM – Te invitamos a que partamos juntos el Pan de la Palabra y de la Eucaristía. La Santa Misa nos ayudará a recordar que el regalo de nuestra Señora ha transformado al mundo entero. Tendremos una danza tradicional preparada por un grupo de niños y niñas de la parroquia.

8:30 PM – Cantémosle las mañanitas a la Virgencita. Todos y todas son bienvenidos al Convivio que se ofrecerá después de la misa. Mientras compartimos de una rica comida escucharemos las Mañanitas cantadas por un grupo de Mariachis que vienen de Chicago.

Recuerden que esta nuestra celebración en honor a nuestra Sra. de Guadalupe. Invita a tus familiares y amigos a que participen en todos estos eventos. Esta es de verdad una celebración de familia.
Youth@StMarks
Contact: Kim Reed, Youth Ministry Coordinator
630-660-3611 (call or text) or email at kimreed178@gmail.com

Check out what's going on this month for youth!

Interested in performing a short play at St. Mark's? Contact Virginia Vagt for more information at virginia.vagt@gmail.com.
Interested in going on either the ASP (July 2017) or Mexico Mission Trip (June 2017)? Contact Kim Reed.
Middle School and High School Youth Groups meet Wednesday, Nov. 16, from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. We'll be making pumpkin pies for PADS (and sampling!) and playing "minute-to-win-it" again! We'll meet in the library!

Seen around St. Mark's!

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter! We have private Facebook pages for middle and high school youth. Send a request to Kim Reed to join. And you may follow us on Twitter at @stmarksyouth1.

ALL-IN SUNDAY:
The next All-In Sunday for youth is November 27. There will not be Sunday School for grades 6th through 12th grade at 10:15 am. Mark's youth will join their families in worship. We will gather as a parish between the 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. services to make Advent Wreaths and participate in other Advent activities.

Youth Needed for December 18 Pageant!
Youth participants wanted for the following roles: Speaking roles: Mary, Joseph, Narrator, 3 wise men, 6 shepherds, innkeeper & innkeeper wife, Caesar Augustus. Email Amber Lemar if you are interested in a nay speak part or assisting in other ways at mcg103@gmail.com.

Save the date for the "Miqra" Diocesan Retreat January 14-15, 2017 at St. James Cathedral in Chicago

FOR ALL YOUTH
Youth Bridge Group (opportunity for all youth, morning & afternoon, to be together!)
Sunday, December 4, 11:45 a.m., between the 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. services: join us in the St. Mark’s library to make PADS lunches. St. Mark’s youth, 6th grade and up, are invited to help!

Christmas Party for Middle School Wednesday, December 7! from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Gather in the St. Mark’s library! Come join us and bring a friend!

Christmas Potluck for High School+ Wednesday, December 21! From 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the St. Mark’s library. Bring a friend!
It’s a St. Mark’s Tradition!

Christmas Pageant is coming December 18 at the 10:30 a.m. Service! If your child is interested in participating, please get these dates on your calendar. Practices will be held in the Undercroft and Sanctuary.

December 3rd, Auditions and first rehearsal for speaking parts only (1st grade and up) 9:30-11:30 a.m.

December 10th Rehearsal (No sheep) 9:00 a.m.-12 p.m.

December 17th Rehearsal for all roles (Speaking roles must attend.) 9:00 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

December 18th Pageant! Speaking roles arrive by 9:45 a.m.; rest of cast by 10:00 a.m.

Youth participants wanted for the following roles: Speaking roles: Mary, Joseph, Narrator, 3 wise men, innkeeper & innkeeper wife, Caesar Augustus, 2 rabbits, 2 birds, 2 sheep dogs, donkey, cow and a cat (animal roles open to 1st grade and up). Non-speaking roles: sheep (ages 3-4), shepherds (ages 5-9) and angels (ages 5-9). Email Amber Lemar your child’s name and age and if they are interested in a speaking part at mcg103@gmail.com.

You are Cordially invited to St. Mark’s St. Nicholas Luncheon

Sunday, December 4th at 11:45 in Mahon Hall

This family event includes a warm meal, Christmas music and a visit from St. Nicholas himself telling his story and providing treats for the children. Reservations are required to ensure that adequate food is prepared. This event tends to fill up so please sign up in the Narthex or by email to Kristin419@sbcglobal.net by December 1st. A suggested donation of $12/adult and $6/child($40 maximum) will help to cover the cost of the luncheon. Reservations can be paid for in advance in the Narthex, office, online or at the event. We look forward to seeing you!

Advent Wreath Making

November 27th

11:45 a.m. in Mahon Hall.

Advent will be here soon! Make advent wreaths between the 10:30 and 1:00 services. A suggested donation of $12 helps to cover the cost of materials.

JAM (Jesus and Me) at 9:15 a.m.

JAM: This year-round Sunday School class is for children 4-8 years old. JAM stands for “Jesus and Me” and it is held at 9:15 am in room 123. This 35 minute class uses “Godly Play” which uses wooden figures and props to tell the stories of the Bible. Children join their parents for the remainder of the service.

UNICEF Pumpkin Decorating!

Thanks to those who voted during the Pumpkin Decorating Contest on October 30th. Congratulations to the afternoon Pre-K-1st grade class for winning the vote. Also, thank you to all the children who have Trick or Treated for UNICEF this year. So far we have collected $256.04! You can bring boxes up to the altar during the offering or turn them into the office.

Children or Grandchildren at your house?

Take part in a live action Christmas Eve worship at 3 p.m. or 5 p.m. on December 24. Children of all ages take an active part in assembling a living, wiggling, loud nativity as Pastor Robin tells the familiar story. Sing favorite Christmas hymns and receive Holy Communion together.

A baby in the family?

Pastor Robin Currie has published a book especially for the youngest on your list called Baby Bible Christmas. Order at Amazon or local bookstores!
**Music**

For more information, contact Daniel Segner, Director of Music
musicdirector@stmarksglenellyn.org.
Or Marsha Webster, Music Associate, musicassociate@stmarksglenellyn.org

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**Chorister Choirs are in full swing**

All children are invited to join now to sing in the Christmas Pageant and Christmas Eve Choirs

- K-1st grade Choristers meet on Wednesdays, 4:00 – 4:40 pm
- 2nd – 5th grade Choristers meet on Wednesdays, 4:45 – 5:30 pm

New members are always welcome!

It is never too late to join Choristers!

2nd – 5th Choristers will sing
November 20 – 9:15 am.
December 18 – 10:30 am (Christmas Pageant)
December 24 – 3:00 pm service

K-1st Choristers will sing
December 11 – 9:15 am.
December 18 – 10:30 am (Christmas Pageant)
December 24 – 3:00 pm service

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**Advent and Christmas are just around the corner!**

The Adult Choir is busy preparing music for Advent Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve. Why not add Choir to your Advent preparations this year?! Music is a stress reliever and the choir is always looking for new singers. We rehearse on Thursdays, 8:00 – 9:30 pm. We are now preparing music for Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve.

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**Do you play an instrument?**

Piano, violin, flute, clarinet, trumpet or other...

Let me know so I can add you to our St. Mark’s musician list. We always welcome soloists and occasionally gather groups together to play as an ensemble. Simply send an e-mail to the musicassociate@stmarksglenellyn.org or leave a message on the organ or in the church office.

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**The 9:15 Rite II Hymn Choir**

Do you enjoy singing, but don’t have time for a weekly rehearsal commitment? The 9:15 a.m. Rite II Hymn Choir may be just the outlet you need to stretch your vocal cords and sing praises to God! We rehearse once a month at 8:30 a.m., then lead singing for the 9:15 service. Next opportunity on December 4.

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**Christmas Baskets!**

Be part of the St. Mark’s tradition that goes back generations and sponsor a ReVive (formerly known as Cathedral Shelter) family to provide gifts and a Jewel gift card. Our pick-up date this year is Thursday, December 10th, but there is no reason to wait to start your shopping. Family sizes range from one to five; plan to spend about $25-$30 per person on gifts and $15 per person on the grocery gift card, so choose a family size that fits your budget. The family info packets are on the table outside the library; choose a family and write your name and contact info on the sign-up sheet. Detailed info on family members and shopping / packing how-to’s are included in the family info packet, including when to bring the completed boxes to church in the days before our pick-up date. For more information, contact Ginnie Judd ginniejudd@gmail.com or 708-837-281. Thank you!

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**Yoga at St. Mark’s!**

Join Stephanie Gutzmer every Thursday from 5:30pm - 6:30pm for a fun, energizing yoga flow and guided meditation beginning November 10th. All levels welcome! Only requirement is a desire to breathe and move! Take a moment from your day to find stillness in yourself so that you may live with wisdom, compassion, and integrity. Suggested class fee is $10 and includes a donation to St. Marks. Class will be held in Mahon Hall.

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**Your Parish Prayer Providers**

We meet on Wednesday, December 7, at 11:00 a.m. in the Library. Please contact May Anstee 630 889-0933 or e-mail m-anstee@comcast.net. If you or someone you care about is in need of intercessory prayer, please contact Rebecca Sandrok at rebeccasandrok@yahoo.com, or any member of the clergy.
Book Review
Father Walter Dunnett

PAUL & the GIFT, by John M. G. Barclay. MI: Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 2015. 656 pages. $70.00 (cloth).
The language of “gift” is pervasive in the letters of Paul—often a translation of the Greek word charis, a common term for “gift” or “favor.” Due to this Pauline influence the concept has become pervasive in the phrase “amazing grace.” Thus, the language of grace has found its way into Christian hymns and prayers “as a means of recognizing God’s gratuitous initiative toward inadequate or worthless human beings” (p. 1).

Another aspect of Paul’s ministry is, that he, a Jew, was called by God to be the apostle to the Gentiles. Thus he established new communities of Jewish and Gentile believers, bringing together two seemingly opposed concepts of “faith in Christ” and “works of the law.” Put differently, the apostle has argued in his letters that by faith in Christ believers have fulfilled the works of the law. Here is a definitive statement that sums up the directions Barclay is pursuing: “What lies before you is a reconsideration of ‘grace’ within the anthropology and history of gift, a study of Jewish construal of divine beneficence in the Second Temple period, and within that context, a new appraisal of Paul’s theology of the Christ-event as gift, as it comes to expression in Galatians and Romans” (p. 4).

Part I, including chapters 1-4, inspects the variety of meanings of gift and grace in the ancient world, including a section on “the six possible perfections of grace” (pp. 70-76), an important definitive unit. Here we discover (1) superabundance, the size, significance, or permanence of the gifts; (2) singularity, that the giver's mode of operation is benevolence or goodness; (3) priority, the timing of the gift; (4) incongruity, that the gift should be given graciously but selectively, given to worthy recipients; (5) efficacy, regarding the effect of the gift, that it fully achieves that which it was designed to do; and non-circularity, that it escapes reciprocity, a system of exchange. Chapter 3 is an extended discussion of the topic, giving an informed historical sketch extending from Marcion to the present day, showing a great variety of interpretations.

Part II is a detailed study of Second Temple Judaism, along with his earlier study of Greco-Roman thought, Barclay guides the reader through the major writings current in Paul’s own intellectual and theological environment. The Wisdom of Solomon and 4 Ezra are part of the Old Testament Apocrypha; The writings of Philo, and the book Pseudo-Philo, along with the important Qumran Hodayot (1QHa) are analyzed as well.

Parts III and IV are a grand inspection and exegesis of Paul’s letters to Galatia (pp. 332-446) and Rome (pp. 449-551). Along with the controversies in Galatia, and the need for clarifying his plans to visit Rome, Paul develops a detailed and exegetical treatment as to what is grace, and what are the relations between Israel and the Church. For theologically prepared and seasoned readers, I sense this will be the heart of the study.

On the Liturgy
David Fletcher, fletcherdavid29@gmail.com

1. The Lord is Come! The celebration of The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, or Christmas, has been observed in the Church every year since ancient times, at least from the 300s AD. Surprisingly there have been times and places where Christians didn’t celebrate this holiday, such as during the brief reign of the Commonwealth in England, 1649-1660, as well as in Puritan New England, when it was a crime to celebrate Christmas at all! Although the date of Christ’s birth is not recorded in the Gospels, December 25 was selected for the celebration of the Nativity, on the date of the Roman festival of the Birth of the Unconquerable Sun and the winter solstice, which now was given new meaning by the fact of the birth of God’s only Son.

The word “Christmas” was used in the twelfth century, as a contraction of “Christ’s Mass.” This feast has always been a special favorite of Anglicans because it celebrates the great doctrine of the Incarnation, the coming of the eternal Son of God into our humanity. This season of Christmas, also called Christmastide, continues until Epiphany, January 6.

2. The Church Year celebrates seven Feasts of our Lord, special Holy Days commemorating principal events in Christ's earthly life, such as his Presentation in the Temple and his Transfiguration (see the Book of Common Prayer, p. 16). The first of these is January 1, the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus falls on the eighth day after the Nativity; this would be the day that Mary's baby was taken to receive circumcision, the sign of the Jewish covenant, and was given his name. Unlike many parents, Mary and Joseph did not have to puzzle to come up with an appropriate name for their new baby, since the Angel had already told Joseph that the baby would be named Jesus (Hebrew: Yeshua, which means Savior or Deliverer) because he would "save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

Early Christian preaching proclaimed that this name is packed with meaning; it shows that while he was the Son of God, Jesus was also a flesh and blood human being who died a human death, and whom God raised to be our Savior (Acts 2:32, 4:12). With those who have preceded us in the faith of the Church, let us rejoice in the Savior at whose Name "every knee shall bow." Touchingly, the Church Year surrounds the infant Jesus with his first martyrs. December 28, celebrates the Holy Innocents, the male children under two years of age in Bethlehem that Herod ordered murdered in an attempt to eliminate the threat of a newborn King. The Church has always honored these young martyrs, whom St. Augustine called “buds, killed by the frost of persecution the moment they showed themselves.”
10

Nov/Dec 2016

Our Jewish Brothers & Sisters

What is Judaism? Adult Formation events will take place during the 9:15 service, however there are also opportunities at the 10:30-11:30 hour. Check out our Facebook Group - St. Mark's Adult Formation. You can find resources, conversations, events, and connections as we explore our faith as a community and individuals.

You are invited to a Bible study of the Gospel of Matthew: St. Mark’s offers a Bible study every Tuesday morning in the library, gathering at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 10:30 am. We are studying the Gospel of Matthew - which narrates the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Matthew is the Gospel that will be featured during worship services beginning in Advent and continuing through 2017. The Tuesday Bible study is open to everyone, including those who come occasionally or for whatever time their schedule allows. There is time for conversation about pastoral concerns, church news and current events. Questions? George Smith, rector@stmarksglenellyn.org or call 630-858-1020, ext 222.

St. Mark’s Financials at-a-glance. (As of September 30th, 2016)

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<th>YTD Budget</th>
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How can you help? Please consider accelerating any planned pledge payments earlier in the year. If you are a monthly giver please consider combining 3 months into a quarterly submission sent in at the beginning of the quarter. If you are a quarterly giver please consider going to a semi annual or an annual schedule. Any earlier contributions would be very helpful. Thank you very much for your prayerful consideration.

More detailed financial information at St. Mark’s website at http://www.stmarksglenellyn.org/. You can also send any question you may have to treasurer@stmarksglenellyn.org or by contacting a member of the Vestry.

As an alternative to a contribution made during the worship service, feel free to sign up for an online donation. Please visit the St. Mark’s website http://www.stmarksglenellyn.org/ under the “Give” section for directions on how to do this as well as providing your 2016 pledge.

Christmas Flowers & Music

Your Name _______________________________________________________________

For: Christmas Greens Christmas Brass

In Memory of:________________________________________________________________

In Thanksgiving for:_________________________________________________________

Put this form with your cash or check Place in the offering plate or bring to the church office. All requests must be received by December 18th. Poinsettias are $20 each.
Men’s Group Monthly Breakfast meetings – Tuesday, December 6 at Glen Oak Restaurant at 6:30 a.m. If you have any questions please contact Dick Anstee, ranstee@comcast.net.

Women in Touch
What My Parishioners Tell Me
Friday, December 9 from 9:30-11 a.m. in the library at St. Mark’s. Rev. Tracey Bianchi returns to WIT to share what she has learned from her parishioners over the course of her career as a member of the clergy. What are women’s most pressing emotional and spiritual needs? How can we better love one another in our community? Come for a candid, eye-opening discussion. Childcare is available.

Annual Ornament Exchange
Monday, December 12 at 7 p.m. in Mahon Hall. Contact Patty Weaver at patty.weaver@yahoo.com for more information on this (always favorite) event!

BFFs Every Wednesday
DON’T ATTEMPT PROJECTS AT HOME ALONE! Join the BUSY FRIENDLY FOLKS (BFFs) every Wednesday, 9:30 am to 12:00 pm, in the church library. Any portable project will do: from knitting, quilting, beading, to e-mail reading/writing, and all projects in between. BFF company is fantastic! Finishing a project is frosting on the cake. For info contact Cheryl at 630-790-3741 or at bobchero@gmail.com. Coffee is brewing!

Green Team Tip – Holiday Lights Recycling: Oh, this is timely! You are about to pull out the holiday lights from last year – and what do you when you find some of the strings don’t light? You, of course, take them to one of three locations provided by the Glen Ellyn Park District from November 21 through January 29 in partnership with Elgin Recycling. Holiday lights and cords in any condition can be dropped off at Spring Avenue Recreation Center, Main Street Recreation Center, or Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center. Addresses and more info here: http://gepark.org/event/holiday-lights-recycling-begins/ Last year with the participation of 49 villages, 7 park districts, 1 school, 2 libraries, 3 churches and 4 businesses, more than 112,000 lbs of holiday lights were recycled instead of being trashed in the landfill.

The Men’s Group meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month in the St. Mark’s Library. Coffee at 7:30 a.m. and then a DVD series followed by discussion. For additional information, please contact Leo Lanzillo Lanzillo@gmail.com.

Next PADS Service Opportunity
Our next service date is December 4-5. If you would like to find out more about our PADS ministry or to volunteer or make a food donation please contact either: David Dornblaser, 630.474.9706 H 630.215.7999 C or Donald Sutherland, drsmps@sbcglobal.net 630.469.8384 H, 630.661.5792 C. If you would like to be added to our PADS email list please contact David.

Share the Warmth
The cold and inclement fall and winter will soon be here. Our PADS guests are out in the elements during the day. We are collecting outdoor winter garments, boots, socks and underwear for both our male and female clients. We have many clients who are larger and will require larger sizes. For further information about St. Mark’s PADS ministry contact either David Dornblaser at 630.215.7999 C dornblaser@me.com or Don Sutherland 630.469.8284 H drsmps@sbcglobal.net

DuPage United
Did you know that it costs five times more to incarcerate someone than to provide mental health treatment? Learn more about the demand for diversion centers and effective police strategies in DuPage County. And find out about continuing the solidarity campaign. Join others at the DuPage United Fall Assembly from 7 to 8:30 pm on Thursday, Nov. 17 at the Islamic Center of Naperville, 2844 W. Ogden Ave. in Naperville. www.dupageunited.org, or call Nancy Gier at (630) 550-3250.

Ole!
Keep your brain active with beginner/intermediate conversational Spanish classes, available at St. Mark’s on Thursdays, 1:15 pm – 3:15 pm in the library from September through December. New session begins in January. Questions, email Carol Hanley at carolleehanley1@hotmail.com.

Read the Christmas story from these passages.
Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-12
John 3:16
2016 Advent and Christmas at St. Mark’s Episcopal

Sunday, November 27
Advent Wreath Making

Sunday, December 4
St. Nicholas Celebration at 11:45 a.m.

Wednesday December
Middle School
Christmas Party

Saturday December 10
Advent Bread Baking Retreat

Sunday, December 11
Virgin of Guadalupe
Service and Festival

Monday, December 12
Women’s Ornament Exchange

December 16-24
Posadas De Navidad

Sunday, December 18
Christmas Pageant
(No Sunday School)
Decorate the Church
Lessons And Carols

Wednesday, December 21
High School Christmas Potluck

Saturday, December 24
Christmas Eve 3 p.m.,
5 p.m. with Children’s message
8 p.m. Bilingual
10 p.m. preservice music
10:30 p.m. with choirs and brass

Sunday, December 25
Christmas Day 10:30 a.m.
(No Sunday School)

Something for everyone—bring families and friends!

Printed on recycled paper.