



THE LION'S TALE

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE REV. MARK A KOZIELEC, RECTOR
4714 CLIFTON AVE., ST LOUIS MO 63109
314/832-3588
WWW.SAINTMARKS-STL.ORG

OCTOBER 2019



SOCIAL MEDIA SUNDAY
@ ST. MARK'S
OCTOBER 6, 2019
Blessing of the Animals @ 10 AM

Simply snap a photo or share a sentiment and tag
 #saintmarksstl #diomo #episcopal and #saintlouis
 in what you post on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or
 Twitter.

Show what you love about St. Mark's.
 Be sure to tag St. Mark's on Facebook @stmarks.episcopal.stl

St. Mark's Bowl-a-Rama is
Sunday, October 6 from
3 to 5 pm at Sunset Lanes
\$20 per person, 6 bowlers per lane

Price includes unlimited bowling fun, shoe rental,
 and \$5 gift certificate for food & drinks. Also
 Giveaways and Raffles for fabulous prizes!!
 Blacklights & music!!

Contact Doug Jeffery dsjeffery73@gmail.com or
 314/602-5661 for more information.

THE BLESSING OF THE
ANIMALS SERVICE SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 6TH AT 10:00 A.M.

Calling all dogs, cats, reptiles, parakeets,
 furry things and crawling things of all
 kinds! During the 10:00 am worship
 service, in which we celebrate the Feast
 of St. Francis, all creatures for whom we
 are caretakers are invited to come
 forward to the altar to be blessed.

Weather permitting, we will gather
 outside on the lawn and process into the
 church for this celebration of all creation.
 All pets need to be firmly under their
 caretaker's control at all times (leashes,
 carriers, cages, etc.). Whether a pet rules
 your life or not, please join us for this special liturgy.



Civil Conversations

In this space a few months ago I invited everyone to a forum on June 23rd that asked, “What does the Episcopal Church Say About...?” wherein those gathered that Sunday heard about the Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations and the wealth of information—and ways to take action—on various social justice issues that the Church, by its very nature, is called to address.



At that forum, several issues were brought forward that we were interested in examining further—issues like immigration, health care, education, poverty, the environment, and violence. With these issues in hand, Jerre and I then developed a Sunday Forum Series that would invite St. Markans to engage these issues by gathering for civil conversations in which all could be heard and respected, as together we learned more about the issues as well as how we might respond as Christians in an increasingly secular world.

Our first civil conversation forum was held on September 22nd, and more than 20 St. Markans gathered in a circle to discuss the topic of immigration. Sarah Paradoski from the Immigrant & Refugee Women’s Program helped to facilitate our discussion and was able to provide many answers to the questions raised in the circle.

Of course, the first thing we learned is that immigration is a very complex issue. We also heard some very personal stories about how immigration had impact on the lives of some St. Markans. We discussed current national policies and what they might mean in light of our recent interaction with Welcome Neighbor St. Louis and the Syrian refugees we heard from at the dinner they prepared for us. At the forum people asked how they might be involved and one way that was discussed was by signing up for alerts from the Episcopal Public Policy Network (at the Government Relations site: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/office-government-relations>).

Less than a week later, a national policy was announced that reduced the current refugee quota from 30,000 to 18,000—a further drastic reduction from the 100,000+ quota in 2016. That same day, I received an email from EPPN advising of the change in policy and inviting me to let my representatives know my feelings on the matter. By clicking one link and filling in my address I was able to send an email to my three national representatives letting them know that, as a Christian—and one who votes—I was not in agreement with this new policy. I have also been receiving EPPN notifications under the heading “Creation Care” that will come in handy when our Sunday Forum Series discusses environmental issues.

Our next forum will be on Sunday, October 27th, and our topic will be “Health Care Disparity.” As the public conversation around Medicaid expansion in the state of Missouri continues, it is important for us to understand—especially from a Christian perspective—what is being proposed. Jerre and I invite you to what we hope will be a rewarding conversation and also invite you—whether you are able to make the forum or not—to read the Rev. Dr. Marc D. Smith’s well written expansion argument “For the Least of These,” which can be found at: <https://www.diocesemo.org/files/3013/9465/1195/ForTheLeastOfThese.pdf> .

We look forward to seeing you on the 27th!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark +".

Flute & Organ Recital

A Flute and Organ Recital to mark the 10th Anniversary of the installation of our Juget-Sinclair Opus 32 Organ was held on September 22nd with Wendy Hymes on flute and Barbara Raedeke on organ. A reception for the 65+ attendees followed in the parish hall.



Barbara Raedeke (left) and Wendy Hymes.

At the reception.



The appreciative audience.



**The
Dogs
Are
Ready!**



FROM YOUR DEACON ...

On Monday evening, September 30, I attended the Interfaith Committee on Latin America's program called *Keys to Asylum*. With the caveat that I am not a lawyer and do not pretend to understand immigration law, here is some of what I learned. Current U.S. law is that anyone may arrive at the U.S. border and request asylum. The asylum request must specify what is feared for one's safety in their home country and the reason for that fear. It must also state that they receive no protection from their home government, and that there is no place in their home country where they can be safe. The granting of asylum requires a hearing in U.S. court, and current requests are backlogged until 2023. While awaiting this hearing, asylum seekers may be detained, or if not detained, required to check in with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (anywhere from more than weekly to monthly) after possibly posting a bond or being constantly monitored with an electronic ankle bracelet. The requirement for such monitoring is unexplainably greater in the St. Louis area than other places in the nation.

And yes, we have many asylum seekers from Latin American here in St. Louis. Hearings for asylum seekers in St. Louis only occur in Kansas City. Over the last year, the denial rate in that court has exceeded 80%. The criteria for asylum have narrowed over the last three years, not by legislation, but by decrees from the executive department. Now, it is not sufficient that family members have endured violence in the home country; it must be the seekers themselves. The violence cannot have stemmed from anyone in their family. The request must be originally sought from the home country (not at the border as the law states). This requirement is particularly difficult for those that have fled Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador to Mexico and then would be expected to return to the violence of their home countries before seeking U.S. asylum.

Those seeking asylum in Arizona are still mostly allowed to await their asylum request in this country, but in Texas, they are returned to Mexico to wait there. After their initial detention, those allowed to remain in this country are generally bussed to hospitality centers run by many churches on the border. The churches get very little advance notice of their new arrivals, all of whom show up without their shoelaces and belts which have been confiscated in detention. The churches, in addition to providing them food and temporary shelter, help them to communicate with their contacts across the nation and arrange their transportation to reach them. These centers in Texas are now mostly idle as asylum seekers have been immediately returned to Mexico.

What can we do? There are several organizations in St. Louis that are assisting immigrants. We have met a couple of them at St. Mark's – Welcome Neighbor STL and the Immigrant and Refugee Women's Program. They both provide volunteer opportunities for us to assist, as do several other organizations that I'd be glad to point you toward. We can discuss what may be an appropriate volunteer opportunity for you. And remember to contact your legislators. I was told that if I'm not doing that at least once a week, I'm not doing it enough. The web-site of the Office of Government Relations of the Episcopal Church makes this a very easy thing to do.

In Christ,
Deacon Jerre

PHOTOS FROM ART IN THE PARK





WHAT'S COMING UP?

TUESDAYS 9:30 A.M. Al Anon Meeting in Parish Hall

WEDNESDAYS 8:00 p.m. AA meeting

THURSDAYS

~Prayer Hour 10:30 a.m.

~Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.

FRI. OCT. 4th ECM Birthday Party

SUNDAY OCT 6TH

~Social Media Sunday

~Blessing of the Animals

~Bowl-A-Rama

TUESDAY OCT. 8th 7:00 P.M. Vestry Meeting

SUNDAY OCT. 27TH

~9:45 a.m. Hymn Sing

~11:30 a.m. Sunday Forum. Topic "Health Care Disparity" (*see page 2*)

COFFEE HOUR HOSTING

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall to host Coffee Hour which follows the 10:00 service.



Vestry Nominations

In preparation for our Annual Meeting in January, the vestry is seeking nominations from those individuals with the passion and commitment to be part of St. Mark's leadership. We will be electing three new members to three-year terms. If you are interested—or know someone who you think would be a great addition to the vestry—please contact Kathy Watts, Senior Warden and Chair of Nominations at kathleenlwatts@gmail.com no later than October 31st.



HYMN SING

SUNDAY OCTOBER 27TH

Deadline for filling out the Hymn Sing forms is Sunday October 6th. Let us know three of your favorite hymns and we will sing selected hymns beginning at 9:45 a.m.

Hymns not selected for the Hymn Sing will be held for future use.



BISHOP SEARCH UPDATE

The Search Committee has posted the nominees' names, along with their resumes, bios, written responses to selected questions from the search committee, and an introductory video from each candidate. You can find all the information at www.diocesemo.org.

EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION NEWS

ECM Youth Birthday Party Friday October 4th 6:30 pm

Volunteers Please Join Us and The Episcopal City Mission Chaplains for the October Youth Birthday Party at the City Youth Detention Center School.

The youth play Bingo games and Win Candy Bars. We serve pizza & Ted Drewes Custard and Sing Happy Birthday.

Meet here at St. Mark's

Car Pools leave at **6:30pm** (Sharp)!

Can't attend? Consider donating packs of candy bars, Sports T Shirts or sponsor a Pizza at \$7.00 each. (*Please drop off donated items in marked plastic bin outside parish hall doors*)

??? Contact Chuck Doyle at

cjdoyle9051@gmail.com or call **314.345.0298**



"Touching Lives with Hope and Healing" MOMENT IN TIME GALA

**Wednesday October 23, 2019
6:00 – 9:00 pm**

at Greenbriar Hills Country Club

Make plans now to join Episcopal City Mission (ECM) for its annual Moment in Time Gala.

This year's Moment in Time Gala will be a cocktail reception, dinner, and a celebration of 65 years of Episcopal City Mission's presence in the Juvenile Justice System. For more information go to www.ecitymission.org.

IF YOU WOULD like to receive the weekly "MARKINGS" by email, send your email address to the church office. And don't forget you can follow on Facebook or visit our webpage at www.saintmarks-stl.org

VESTRY MEETING

Tuesday October 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Proehl Conference Room.



PRAYER HOUR

This autumn each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in the parish hall there will be an additional opportunity to enter into prayer at St. Mark's. You are invited to come

together for an hour of prayer. *An **hour** of prayer? What?*

Based on the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina*, we will gather to hear a portion of scripture, to meditate on what we have heard, to pray and to contemplate. And then go forth into our day nourished by our relationship with the One who Creates. And for those who wish, perhaps also nourished by lunch!



**1st Thursdays @
River's Edge Social
October 3 @ Noon
Everyone Welcome!
Fellowship, Food & Fun**
6997 Chippewa Street

Questions: Deacon Jerre jebirdsong@att.net

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

DOORWAYS is always seeking volunteers to better assist our clients and staff. We currently have opportunities in the following areas:

Kitchenette Painting -- great for small groups!

Property Clean-Up (Assist in cleaning up a DOORWAYS Property -- great for large groups!)

[Cooper House](#) resident companions
Bakers (provide special treats to residents)
Activity Assistants (go on activities with residents)

Administrative Volunteer (make phone calls, assist with mailings, etc.)

If interested in volunteering, please contact Patrick Young at pyoung@doorwayshousing.org



JOIN THE ALPINE RAIL TRAVEL CLUB

For a **TRIP FLYER** and for more info see the Markings or contact Chuck Doyle 314.345.0298 Email cjdoyle9051@gmail.com.

Episcopal Church Women Retreat

Join the Diocese of Missouri's Episcopal Church Women (ECW) for a retreat, "Encountering God in Nature," October 18 and 19 at the Marianist Retreat Center in Eureka. The retreat, led by the Rev. Leslie Scoopmire, will use scripture, music, reflection and interaction with on-site places to help us reconnect with our Creator and our own creativity. Visit [ECW Episcopal Church Women | Episcopal Diocese of Missouri](#) for more information or to register. All women in the diocese are members of ECW and welcome to attend the retreat.

SCHNUCKS E SCRIP CARDS are available in the parish hall. Registration can be done online or by phone. When you shop at Schnucks a percentage of the amount that you spend is donated to St. Mark's. Thank you St. Markans for using your cards.

COMING UP IN NOVEMBER



**All Saints' Sunday,
November 3rd**
*A favorite feast at St
Mark's.*

We remember our connection to all God's holy ones throughout the ages. Also at both the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services we will pray for those who have died. We will gather in the parish house before the 10:00 a.m. service for a procession to the All Saints' Memorial Garden and then into the church. The piper will also be here. Make sure that you give the names to the office by Oct. 29th.

**Consecration Sunday Is
Coming
November 3, 2019**



More information and an invitation to the

Consecration Sunday Celebration Brunch will be coming soon.

Daylight Savings Time will end on Sunday, November 3rd. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour.



FORWARD DAY BY DAY for November-January is now available at the back of church. Also available in large print.

For the St. Mark's Calendar, please visit our website www.saintmarks-stl.org and click on the calendar tab.

ST. MARKANS AT THE LABOR DAY PARADE





Consecration Sunday Is Coming November 3, 2019

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship the Rev. Jerre Birdsong will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Vestry. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Kathy Watts
Sr. Warden

St. Mark's Episcopal Church presents...



COSMIC BOWLING FUNDRAISER

Giveaways!
Raffles for fabulous prizes!

Blacklights & music!

SUNDAY
3 - 5 P M

Sunset Lanes

7777 Watson Road

\$20 per person

6 bowlers per lane

Price includes unlimited bowling fun, shoe rental, and \$5 gift certificate for food & drinks

Proceeds benefit St. Mark's community outreach programs

To reserve a lane or for more info, email stmarks107@gmail.com