



# the EPISTLE



The Monthly Parish Newsletter of  
SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
JANUARY 2022 • ISSUE 274

## EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT

I am pleased to announce that we have called Michael Schreffler to be the organist at Saint Mark's. Michael is currently serving as Organist and Music Director at First United Methodist Church in London, Ohio.

Michael will be starting at Saint Mark's on January 10. His first Sunday will be January 16.

Please take a moment to read a little about him and welcome Michael to Saint Mark's.

I also want to thank Matt Bester and the organ search committee for all of their work in the search.

Vicki Zust, Rector

I very much want to thank my fellow members of the Organist Search Committee (Ted Meyers, co-chair; Steve Barker; Cheryl Boop; Amy Brokken; and Dianne Silliman) for all their time and effort in undertaking this important search. I greatly appreciate the many hours of attending Zoom meetings, reading resumes, listening to recordings, conducting interviews, and evaluating auditions. I could not have asked for a more congenial and dedicated group with which to work.

Matthew Bester, Director of Music

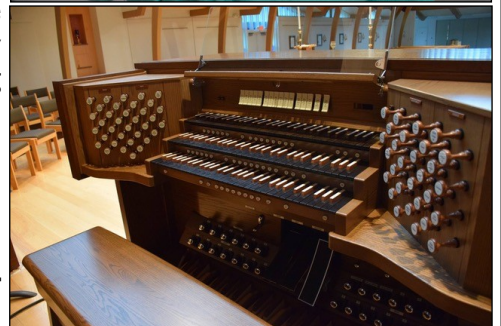
## A WORD FROM OUR NEW ORGANIST

Greetings Saint Mark's! I am quite excited to be joining you as your organist and to working with Pastor Vicki, Matt Bester, and the choirs of this parish. And I very much welcome the prospect of getting to know you and thought I'd get the ball rolling by sharing a little bit about myself.

The son of two educators, I grew up in southwestern Pennsylvania in a small town not far from Pittsburgh. My aunt played a key role in fostering an early interest in music, later paving the way for my first opportunities to study the organ and play for services in our local Methodist church. My grandmother, too, provided a gentle nudge toward the organ, and my parents, throughout my youth, were fully supportive and engaged in helping me to develop musically. I attended Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, earning a degree in English while also studying organ and serving as the college's chapel organist. From that point on, no matter what I did full-time for a living or where I happened to live, I was always able to find a church to serve.

In 1987 I started working with the State Farm group of companies as a casualty claims adjuster. This proved a rewarding career and, in 2017, I was afforded the opportunity to take early retirement. Already working as a part-time organist/choir director, I found myself with even more time to pursue my interest in music and, specifically, the organ. Over the years since graduation, I've been fortunate to have had opportunities to study organ privately with a number of terrific teachers, continuing those studies even today.

In 1995 I relocated to the Toledo area where I met my partner, Rob. Between the two of us, we have six adult children, all successfully 'launched', and four grandchildren. We have lived in Columbus since 2007 and make our home in Italian Village. I count it a privilege and an honor to have been invited to come to Saint Mark's. I am very grateful to Matt Bester, Pastor Vicki, and the search committee for the professionalism, courtesy and warmth they showed to me throughout the hiring process. Once again, I am delighted to be part of your music ministry.



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## TORNADO RELIEF

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Many communities in Kentucky and Tennessee were devastated by tornados. The best way to help is to send money to help with the recovery and rebuilding.

There are several ways that you can help:

1. Immediate on the ground assistance is being provided by the Red Cross. They have a tornado fund that is used to help with tornado recovery all over the country.

**[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)**

2. Two local area funds set up to help with both immediate and ongoing needs:

### Kentucky

The governor of Kentucky has set up a relief fund for communities in Kentucky.

**[www.kentucky.gov](http://www.kentucky.gov)**

### Tennessee

The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee has a relief fund for communities in Tennessee. **[www.cfmt.org](http://www.cfmt.org)**

3. Episcopal Relief and Development will be on the ground, working with local partners through the entire rebuilding process. You can donate to their US disaster fund.

**[www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org)**

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### SAINT MARK'S VESTRY MEMBERS' PHONE NUMBERS

Mark Drew, *Senior Warden* – 614-301-2675

Leslie Winters, *Junior Warden* – 614-327-6337

Cheryl Boop, *Stewardship* – 706-614-1682

Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt, *Formation*– 614-505-6792

Anice Ellis – 614-563-6984

Judith Grant, *Parish Life* – 614-956-6844

Jay Iams, *Member Connection* – 614-271-0849

Julia Johnson-Davis, *Stewardship* – 614-397-4650

Marilyn Karl, *Member Connection* – 614-562-1942

Bill Mayr, *Communications* – 614-537-0045

Irina Reed, *Formation* - 330-990-6593

Roman Skoracki – 614-583-8801

Sam Slee – 614-565-6179

Phil Glandon, *Treasurer* – 614-486-5806

Barbara Hyre, *Clerk* – 614-488-1567

### SAINT MARK'S STAFF

**The Rev. Vicki Zust, Rector**

[rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org](mailto:rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org)

**Dr. Matthew Bester, Director of Music**

[directorofmusic@saintmarkscolumbus.org](mailto:directorofmusic@saintmarkscolumbus.org)

**Gary L. Garber, Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus**

[emeritusmusic@saintmarkscolumbus.org](mailto:emeritusmusic@saintmarkscolumbus.org)

**Dr. Michael Murray, Organist Emeritus**

[emeritusorganist@saintmarkscolumbus.org](mailto:emeritusorganist@saintmarkscolumbus.org)

**Bill Silliman, Head Verger**

[headverger@saintmarkscolumbus.org](mailto:headverger@saintmarkscolumbus.org)

**Melanie Jacobs, Office Manager**

[officemanager@saintmarkscolumbus.org](mailto:officemanager@saintmarkscolumbus.org)

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## FROM THE MUSIC OFFICE

Matthew Bester, Director of Music

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### A Service of Light in the Taizé Tradition on January 9

On Sunday, January 9, at 5 p.m., Saint Mark's will present a special evening service with music from the Taizé tradition. For those who are unfamiliar with services in the Taizé tradition, the music consists of short, repeated melodies that are led by a cantor and instrument(s) and sung by everyone. The melodies are easy to learn, and repetition provides a frame for meditation on the divine. Taizé services also include an important visual element, with the presence of one or more icons illuminated by numerous candles. The contemplative style of Taizé is a wonderful way to begin the season of Epiphany.



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## OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

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### STREET CHURCH: YOU CAN HELP FEED THE HUNGRY (AND IT'S EASY)

If one of your New Year's Resolutions was to find a way for you (or your children) to help people in need, here is a good way to get started.

Our next turn to serve at St. John's Street Church is Sunday, **January 30**. Ground Turkey Pasta Bake will be the main course.

Saint Mark's Outreach Committee is looking for 10 households to sign up, buy ingredients, prepare and the recipe and bring it to church on January 30.

The Outreach Committee will provide a pan and the recipe and will do the final baking of the casserole.

The ingredients should cost under \$25 depending on where you shop and what you have in your pantry.

Sign-up sheet, baking pans and recipes will be available on Sunday, January 16 in the Outreach area of the parish hall. In addition, we are looking for volunteers to help after church and to travel to Broad and Central to help serve the meal to the Street Church congregants. If you or your family is interested in helping with this meal, add your information to the sign-up sheet on January 16 or contact Roberta Morton ([notvmorton@gmail.com](mailto:notvmorton@gmail.com) or 614-268-7021).

## OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

### FIRST SUNDAY PROJECTS

Thank you to everyone who participated in the First Sunday Project in December. The discussion of Columbus immigration programs was an interesting lead into Joyce Acton presenting an update on what she and others from Saint Marks have done to help settle the asylum-seeking family that arrived in Columbus from Mexico last summer. Many of the challenges and obstacles that the family has faced were an eye opener for all of us attending the talk. We finished the morning's activities by packing welcome grooming bags for the Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS). CRIS is assisting with the resettlement of the Afghan refugees who are arriving in Columbus.

There will not be a January First Sunday Project, but Outreach will be back in February with another First Sunday Project. The liturgical theme for February is spreading the light of Christ throughout the world. Our focus will be on the Layette Program we sponsor along with McArthur Trinity Episcopal Church. We will be preparing grooming bags for the mothers to go along with the layette bags.

In March the liturgical theme relates to hunger. We will be focusing on hunger issues in Columbus and the NNEMAP food pantry's operation. Our activity will be the assembly of meal kits.



### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts to the giving tree.

The gifts we collected along with the gifts collected by the other churches that participate in NNEMAP, made it possible to provide Christmas gifts for children in need in our community.

Saint Mark's Parish donated more than 400 gifts and \$160 in gifts cards to the cause.

The Outreach Ministry would also like to thank all of you who participated in the Cookie Walk, either by baking or by buying. We were able to raise more than \$700 for Freedom a la Cart. (To the left: a photo of this year's delicious cookies!)

## OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

### OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN IN ON THE FUN



#### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Saturday, **January 8**, we will take lunch to Habitat for Humanity volunteers. If you would like to see the current project, investigate working on the project, or would like to participate in the lunch, please join us. Contact Marilyn Karl at [mjkarl@yahoo.com](mailto:mjkarl@yahoo.com).

#### CATCH COURT

Saint Mark's day to serve CATCH Court lunch is **January 13**. We need people to help prepare the lunch, to bake cookies and to serve the lunch at Court. If you would like to participate in some way, please let Pat Iams know, [pati51@aol.com](mailto:pati51@aol.com)



#### SPICES AND DIAPERS



Packaging of spices and diapers will occur in the parish hall on Wednesday, January 12 at 10:30 a.m. Please join us for this activity. It only takes about an hour and is a wonderful time to either catch up with your friends or to get to know some of your fellow parishioners.

#### JANUARY COLLECTION

During the month of January, Outreach will be collecting items to be used in our March First Sunday Project.

Please consider picking up a few items when you are at the grocery store.

We will be packing meal kits and would like donations of:

- Large jars of meat spaghetti sauce,
- Shakers of dried parmesan cheese,
- Bottles of Italian salad dressing,
- Boxes of brownie mix,
- Boxes of spaghetti
- Boxes of roll mix



We cannot use anything that is perishable in the bags as there may be a delay in distribution.



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## EDUCATION & PARISH LIFE

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### ETIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

There is an old practice of blessing homes at Epiphany and chalking the top of the door to remind us that everyone who comes in brings the light of Christ with them and that as we go out into the world, we carry the light of Christ with us.

Chalk is used in this service as an ordinary substance made of common elements of the earth, put to holy use. Chalk will not permanently mar the dwelling. As its image fades from view over time, those who participated in its original placement will remember it and the purpose for which it was intended. In doing so, they may rededicate themselves to that purpose. After a year passes and a new Epiphany arrives, they will have the opportunity once again to celebrate the themes of this season and once again to seek God's blessing on their homes and on those who come and go through its doors.

Pastor Vicki is offering to come to your home and lead the short prayers of blessing and mark the lintel over the front door of your home with chalk on Epiphany – January 6.

The writing over the door is traditionally the year and the initials C, M & B in memory of the traditional names of the three Magi who visited Jesus. As a reminder for us to seek the presence of Christ when we go out of the door. The mark looks like this: 20+C+M+B+22.

If you would like to have your house blessed for Epiphany (with or without the chalking), please sign up on the Sign Up Genius link in the This Week at Saint Mark's e-news or let Pastor Vicki know [rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org](mailto:rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org)



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## EDUCATION & PARISH LIFE

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### NEWCOMER BRUNCH



Are you new to Saint Mark's? We want to welcome, celebrate you and let you find out a little bit about the congregation. Usually, we do that with a brunch in January.

COVID has altered our plans somewhat, but we are still having a Newcomers Brunch after the 10:30 a.m. service on January 9.

Because of COVID it will be Build Your Own Brunch. We will have a few simple activities, talk a little bit about Saint Mark's and then have a selection of goodies from which you can build a brunch to take home and enjoy.

If you are new to Saint Mark's and would like to attend the Newcomers Brunch, RSVP to Pastor Vicki at [rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org](mailto:rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org) or 614-486-9452.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Beginning on February 2, we will be having a book discussion on Wednesday evenings. This will be a hybrid event. You can join in person or by zoom.

We will be reading and discussing the book Looking For God In Messy Places by Jake Owensby, the Bishop of Western Louisiana.

Bishop Owensby will be joining us by zoom on February 16.

You don't have to have read the book before joining the discussion, but if you want to have it before we start, you can order it from anywhere books are sold.

### ANNUAL REPORTS

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 13. If you are part of a ministry or activity at Saint Mark's, start writing your annual report now and meet the February rush.

You can email your annual report to Melanie at [officemanager@saintmarkscolumbus.org](mailto:officemanager@saintmarkscolumbus.org)

### FRIENDSHIP SOUP ON SALE

The Canterbury Choir has kicked off its annual Friendship Soup Sale! Soup mixes will be available on Sundays after the 10:30 a.m. service through the end of the year.

Pint-size jars are \$7  
Quart-size jars are \$10

Please email George Reed at [gwrpowell@outlook.com](mailto:gwrpowell@outlook.com), and specify the size and quantity of jars you would like. Payment via check, cash, or Venmo will be accepted.

### ADULT FORMATION

In January and February Dan Morton and Pastor Vicki are teaching a series entitled "When God Calls, What Do You Do?" We will be looking at how various people in the Bible were called by God and how they answered that question.

This series will meet from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. in the parish hall on Sundays, January 9, 16, 23, and 30 and February 20 and 27.

### SUPPER GROUP

Due to COVID, the weather, and church restrictions to having food in the Parish Hall, we will have Supper Group virtually for the next few months unless restrictions change. So grab a cocktail and/or dinner and join us on January 8 and February 5 at 5:30 p.m. Please contact Gloria Wylie at [gawylie@att.net](mailto:gawylie@att.net) if you have any questions.

## EDUCATION & PARISH LIFE

### SAINT MARK'S GRIEF SUPPORT: THOUGHTS FOR HEALING

*WHEN YOU REMEMBER me, it means that you have carried something of who I am with you, that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are. It means that you can summon me back to your mind even though countless years and miles may stand between us...it means that even after I die, you can still see my face and hear my voice and speak to me in your heart....for as long as you remember me, I am never entirely lost.*

Frederick Buechner

The above quote is a powerful message that encourages us to hold memories of our deceased loved ones close. But sometimes the messages from society about death are not so positive. Here are six common myths about grief and some thoughts on what you can do if they're impacting you.

1. **Don't feel bad.** The earliest lesson we sometimes get as children is "don't feel bad". This is intended to comfort but some children learn to repress or bury naturally occurring sad or painful feelings – and practice doing so for life. As an adult you may struggle with the grief of loss and self-medicate with alcohol, food, shopping, gambling, binging on the internet or other behaviors to relieve anxiety and pain. Being aware of how you're react to the pain of your loss is the first step in healing.
2. **Replace the loss.** The message here is that you'll feel better if you marry again, get another pet, have another child, or find a way to fill in the hole left by your loss. The dark side of the message is the assumption that relationships are replaceable – like light bulbs or car batteries. It undermines the value of your lost relationship and impedes healing. If this is happening to you, try to find ways to validate the importance of the relationship that you lost through death by talking to someone who knows and understands what you're experiencing.
3. **Grieving should be done in private and alone.** We've all heard the phrase: "laugh and the world laughs with you, cry and you cry....alone". Having a "stiff upper lip" is deeply embedded in our society – you may have a fear of "losing it" or "breaking down" when your sadness swells into a grief surge. Putting on the "I'm fine" mask makes others feel better but does nothing good for you. Try to identify a few important people in your life with whom you can be honest using short simple statements to share your feelings. "Today is a hard day for me."
4. **Time heals all wounds.** Actually, time itself does nothing - it only passes. It is what we do within time that impacts the quality of our lives after a death. Finding meaning and purpose is an important step in healing the pain of grief, but (you guessed it) this takes time.
5. **You must be strong for others.** This is another message that protects others but may require you to lie to yourself about what you are feeling and needing. Do you like being lied to? Forget about being strong. Be human.
6. **Keep busy.** The idea that constant activity will prevent feeling the pain of your loss is challenging. During the first two years after a death you will need to gradually become involved in a new world that does not include your loved one. But... be careful that your days are not completely filled with short-term distractions because healing requires feeling. Staying busy to avoid pain means that at the end of the day not only are you tired - your heart is still broken.

Come to Saint Mark's Grief Support Group and spend some time with others who are working through loss. We next meet on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 3 p.m. in the Canterbury Center in the office. No matter where you are in your grief journey, you are welcome to join us – you'll be in good company!



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## IN AND AROUND SAINT MARK'S

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### NEW OFFICE HOURS

Beginning January 1 our office manager, Melanie Jacobs, will be moving from full-time to part-time. As a result, the hours for Saint Mark's office will be Monday – Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Pastor Vicki will be in the office other hours, but her schedule is variable, and she often has meetings or visits out of the office, so if you are dropping by the office outside of the regular office hours, make sure to call first to see if she is here.

### PASTOR VICKI WILL BE AWAY

Pastor Vicki will be away from January 24 – 28. She will be at a continuing education event from January 24 – 26 and on vacation from January 26 – 28.

If you need something while she is away, please contact the parish office.

### WELCOME CANON JOHANSSON



The Rev. Canon John Johansson will be the preacher at both services on Sunday, January 30. Canon Johansson is the Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Southern Ohio, that means that he is the Bishop's senior assistant. Please welcome Canon Johansson to Saint Mark's.

### END OF THE YEAR GIVING

Please consider making a gift to Saint Mark's if you are looking for a last-minute charitable contribution deduction.

Don't forget that if you must take the required minimum distribution from an IRA, you can avoid income tax on any amount of the distribution that you direct to be paid from your IRA to Saint Mark's.

Note also that you can avoid the capital gains tax on a gift of appreciated stock if you arrange for the stock to be transferred directly to Saint Mark's. Otherwise, if you sell the stock first and gift your proceeds, you will incur the capital gains tax on the appreciation. If you have questions or need transfer instructions, please contact our Treasurer, Phil Glandon at [treasurer@saintmarkscolumbus.org](mailto:treasurer@saintmarkscolumbus.org)

You may want to consult your accountant or financial advisor on how these tax planning strategies may impact your specific financial situation.

### PLEDGE ENVELOPES

If you would like 2022 pledge envelopes, please contact Melanie at [officemanager@saintmarkscolumbus.org](mailto:officemanager@saintmarkscolumbus.org) or 614-486-9452 to request to have envelopes mailed to you or to schedule a time to pick them up at the office.

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## IN AND AROUND SAINT MARK'S

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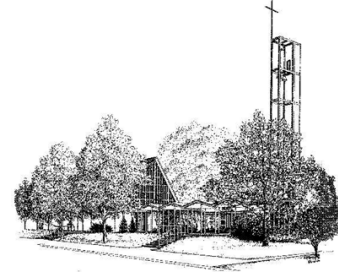
### EPISTLE DEADLINES

The 2022 Epistle deadlines are:

Epistle	Deadline
February	January 24
March	February 21
April	March 28
May	April 25
June	May 23
July	June 27
August	July 25
September	August 22
October	September 26
November	October 24
December	November 21
January 2023	December 19

Please mark your calendars.

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTER



#### **We offer condolences to the family of:**

Rick McClure, who passed away on December 4, 2021.

*If you know of the birth or marriage of someone related to the parish (but not a member as recorded in the parish register), a job change, retirement, achievement, student news, etc., we invite you to share it with us (and with the permission of the individuals involved, of course!) so we may pass along the good news.*

*Information may be sent to Robbie Hurley at [hurley.roberta@yahoo.com](mailto:hurley.roberta@yahoo.com).*



# SAINT MARK'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II 8 p.m. AA	3 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. AA - Men's Group	4 9:30 a.m. Al-Anon 1:30 p.m. Columbus Clergy Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting	5 4:30 p.m. Canterbury Choir Rehearsal	6 1 p.m. Knitting and Stitching Group 4 p.m. Epiphany House Blessings 6:15 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Saint Mark's Choir Rehearsal 8 p.m. AA	7 <i>Rector's Day Off</i> 8 p.m. AA	8 5:30 p.m. Supper Group
9 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation 9:30 a.m. Church School 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (with music by the Saint Mark's Choir) 12 p.m. New Member Brunch 5 p.m. A Service of Light in the Taizé Tradition 8 p.m. AA	10 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. AA - Men's Group	11 9:30 a.m. Al-Anon 1:30 p.m. Columbus Clergy Bible Study	12 10:30 a.m. Spices and Diapers 1 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting 4:30 p.m. Canterbury Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. The Marksmen (Zoom ID is 92836222249)	13 11 a.m. CATCH Court Lunch 3 p.m. Grief Support 6:15 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Saint Mark's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting 8 p.m. AA	14 <i>Rector's Day Off</i> 8 p.m. AA	15
16 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 a.m. Adult Formation 9:30 a.m. Church School 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (with music by the Saint Mark's Choir) 8 p.m. AA	17 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. AA - Men's Group 7 p.m. Sisters in Faith	18 9:30 a.m. Al-Anon 1:30 p.m. Columbus Clergy Bible Study 7 p.m. Outreach Ministry Meeting	19 1 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting 4:30 p.m. Canterbury Choir Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. The Marksmen Monthly Dinner 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group	20 6:15 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Saint Mark's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting 8 p.m. AA	21 <i>Rector's Day Off</i> 8 p.m. AA	22
23 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (with music by the Saint Mark's Choir) 11:30 a.m. Migration Ministries Meeting 8 p.m. AA	24 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5 p.m. February Epistle Deadline 5:30 p.m. AA - Men's Group 7:30 p.m. Monday Night Book Group	25 9:30 a.m. Al-Anon 1:30 p.m. Columbus Clergy Bible Study	26	27 6:15 p.m. AA 8 p.m. AA	28 <i>Rector's Day Off</i> 8 p.m. AA	29
30 <i>Guest Preacher: The Rev. Canon John Johansson</i> 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (with music by the Saint Mark's Choir) 11:30 a.m. Migration Ministries Meeting 8 p.m. AA	31 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. AA - Men's Group 7:30 p.m. Monday Night Book Group	1	2	3	4	5

## SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2151 Dorset Road

Columbus, OH 43221

Phone: (614) 486-9452

E-mail: [info@saintmarkscolumbus.org](mailto:info@saintmarkscolumbus.org)

Web: [www.saintmarkscolumbus.org](http://www.saintmarkscolumbus.org)

RETURN ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**12/20/2021—1/10/2021**



The “Service of Light” is one of several options for Evening Prayer in the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer.

The language and order of the service is a nice complement to a style of worship that is distinctive to the ecumenical monastery community of Taizé, in the Burgundy region of France. Taizé services feature simple song and chant, scripture readings, silence, and meditation, enriched by a contemplative atmosphere that includes iconography, candles, and an intimate setting.

The music of the Taizé tradition favors simple, accessible melodies that are meant to be sung and repeated by all, providing a frame for meditation on the divine.

Saint Mark's traditionally has a Taizé service at the beginning of the Epiphany season. This year, the Taizé service will be Sunday, January 9 at 5 p.m.