



SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

the EPISTLE

A Monthly Newsletter of Saint Mark's, Columbus

May 2026

● Issue 323

*Mark your calendars and
Join the fun!*

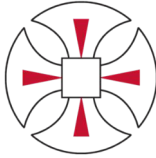


Saturday, May 2

10 am-3 pm

2151 Dorset Road





SAINT MARK'S CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Vicki Zust, Rector

rector@saintmarkscolumbus.org

Dr. Matthew Bester, Director of Music

directorofmusic@saintmarkscolumbus.org

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organist@saintmarkscolumbus.org

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emeritusmusic@saintmarkscolumbus.org

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Melanie Jacobs, Office Manager

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SAINT MARK'S VESTRY

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George Knight, Treasurer

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Jody Porreca, Clerk

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Vestry meetings occur every first Tuesday of the month in the Canterbury Center. Meetings are open to parishioners. Meeting minutes are available online at: www.saintmarkscolumbus.org/publications

The Epistle is the monthly newsletter of Saint Mark's Episcopal Church. The deadline for submissions is the fifteenth day of the preceding month. Send photos, announcements, or story ideas for inclusion in the Epistle to: communications@saintmarkscolumbus.org.

Music

Canterbury Choir Evensong May 17

At 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, the Canterbury Choir will conclude its season with a service of Choral Evensong.

Music will include the stirring Evening Service in C by George Dyson. Admission is free. Donations will be gratefully received in support of the Gary L. Garber Canterbury Choir Scholarship Fund, which subsidizes choristers' attendance at Royal School of Church Music summer camps. A reception will follow.

Please join us for this beautiful and uplifting service, and be sure to invite some friends!



Choral Matins May 31

The morning of Sunday, May 31 (Trinity Sunday), the Saint Mark's Choir will conclude its season with a special service of Choral Matins with Holy Eucharist, taking the place of the usual 10:30 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist.

Choral Matins, or Morning Prayer, is the morning counterpart to Choral Evensong, alternating prayers, readings, and inspiring music. The service can stand alone or proceed directly to the Offertory and Communion of a regular service of Holy Eucharist, which is how we will be doing it that morning.

Music will include the stirring Morning Service in B-flat by Charles Villiers Stanford.

75th Anniversary Events

On May 7, 1951, the Convention of the Diocese of Southern Ohio accepted the Tri-Village Episcopalians as a mission of the Diocese, appointed the Reverend Eldred Johnson as the priest, and named the congregation Saint Mark's. So, May 7 is the actual 75th anniversary of the founding of Saint Mark's.

We are honoring the anniversary in several ways.

The first part is on Sunday May 10, the Sunday closest to the anniversary.

We are using a Eucharistic prayer that was inspired by the youth group based on their experiences and reflections on the meaning of Saint Mark's to them at both services. We are also using a litany for the church in place of the prayers of the people in both services.

After the 10:30 a.m. service we are having a 1950's themed coffee hour. There is a sign up sheet in the parish hall with authentic 1950's recipes, such as may have been served at the early worship services. Please take a recipe and bring the delicacy to church with you on Sunday May 10.

Because the 10th is Mother's Day, we are having the major birthday party as part of the Pentecost Picnic on Sunday May 24.

The Pentecost Picnic will take place after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday May 24.

The Marksmen will be providing hamburgers, hotdogs and vegetarian burgers. There will be a lion pinata, birthday cake, lawn games, and a place for you to record your memories of and wishes for Saint Mark's.

There is a sign up sheet in the parish hall and on the website to sign up to bring side dishes to the picnic.

We will have other events in the fall to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the first worship service of Saint Mark's, which was on September 9, 1951.

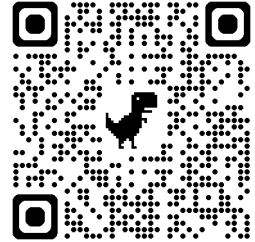


Sound Stories from St. Mark's

During our 75th Anniversary year Saint Mark's is seeking people to share their stories, memories and antidotes about Saint Mark's. Everyone in the congregation is invited to participate in making an audio remembrance.

There will be an area set up for you to record your story and have a few guided questions to make it easy to get started.

- 1) What brought you to Saint Mark's and how long have you been here?
- 2) What are your areas of interest?
- 3) What are your favorite memories?
- 4) What keeps you coming back?



The recording session will take about 10 Minutes of your time and there will be someone to operate the recorder and guide you through the questions.

Sunday May 17th and Sunday May 24th will be our first story telling opportunities. You can also fill out a google form with your answers to these questions. The link is on the 75th Anniversary page of the website or you can scan the QR code.

Be thinking of your story and join in telling what makes Saint Mark's special!

A black and white photograph of a bouquet of flowers, including roses and hydrangeas, arranged in a clear glass vase. The bouquet is set against a light, textured background.

Fun With Flowers.

—•—

An evening discovering:

- * How to select flowers
- * Choosing the right container
- * Preparation of flowers, containers and oasis
- * Tips to make beautiful arrangements

—•—

Wednesday May 20th
at 6:00 p.m.
St. Mark's Parish Hall
Light dinner provided

—•—

Please respond to Diane Hartney
(dalehartney1942@gmail.com)
or Barb Keyes (bkeyes25@gmail.com)

Exciting News for Saint Mark's

Saint Mark's is getting a curate. For those of you asking, what is a curate? A curate is an Episcopal clergy person who has recently graduated from seminary and is serving their first call as a clergy person. The goal is for the new priest to serve a congregation where they can learn the ins and outs of congregational life with a supervising priest and a healthy congregation who can help them grow into their priesthood. Think about doctors doing an internship or residency or something similar.

The Rev. MaryJane Plote will start her ministry at Saint Mark's on July 1 and will serve with us for two years. The Diocese of Southern Ohio will cover the majority of the cost of MaryJane's salary and benefit package. Saint Mark's is responsible for her discretionary fund and mileage reimbursement.

Mother MaryJane is currently a transitional deacon and will be ordained to the priesthood on Tuesday July 28 at Saint Mark's. She is finishing her Master of Divinity degree at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas.

We are in the process of converting the small conference room across from Pastor Vicki's office into Mother MaryJane's office. There will be a small support committee to help her as she moves to Columbus and becomes a part of Saint Mark's.

Over the summer Pastor Vicki and Mother MaryJane will work together on how they will share the pastoral leadership of Saint Mark's. The goal of the next two years is to give Mother MaryJane as broad an experience in ministry as possible. She will share fully in preaching, celebrating Eucharist, pastoral care and all the other ministries of Saint Mark's.

In preparation for Mother MaryJane's arrival, please check and make sure that you have a name tag and get into the habit of wearing it. She has a lot of names to learn. If you don't have a nametag, please contact Melanie Jacobs (officemanager@saintmarkscolumbus.org) so she can get one made for you.

Mother MaryJane's email will be curate@saintmarkscolumbus.org. Please don't send her emails yet, she is still finishing up seminary. We will have note cards in the back of the church during June for you to write notes to welcome her.



The Rev. MaryJane Plote



I am excited to be the curate at St. Mark's. I have a B.A. in History from the University of Dallas, an M.A. in Pastoral Ministry and Theology from the University of Dayton, and (soon) a Master of Divinity from The Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, in Austin Texas.

I am originally from El Paso, Texas. I lived in the South Bronx, NY for a year of service where I taught 4th grade at a public charter school, before moving to Dayton for graduate school in 2018.

I served as a Campus Ministry Graduate Assistant at the University of Dayton (Go Flyers!) where I worked primarily with undergraduates involved in liturgy and taught undergraduate courses on liturgy and LatinX theology and migration.

Most recently, before seminary, I was serving as Programs Assistant at Christ Church, Dayton, leading formation for children and families, as well as teaching adult formation and running the live streaming for worship.

While in seminary I did field education at Texas Canterbury and Jubilee Episcopal Church, and was the Mental Wellness Chaplain at Procter Summer Camp in 2025.

I am passionate about the Book of Common Prayer and bringing joy into ministry.

I am excited to explore Columbus and get to know each of you!

Parish Life

Brown Bag Sermon

Sunday May 3 Pastor Vicki will do a Brown Bag Sermon.

All children and youth are welcome to bring an item to put in Pastor Vicki's bag before the 10:30 service starts. Pastor Vicki has to use everything in the bag in her sermon. Items are returned to the children after the sermon.

There are a few rules:

1. Nothing alive
2. Nothing sharp
3. Nothing sloppy

Other than that, your imagination is the only limit.

Pub Theology

Pub Theology is going to head back to Counter Balance Brewery on Dierker Road for April.

Pub Theology will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday May 19.

Vinton County Baby Shower – Thank You!

Our baby shower for the Moms-to-Be of Vinton Co was a wonderful event April 12th. Samantha and Kami from Help Me Grow were with us for a meaningful conversation about the program and the needs of the families. Our congregation was truly generous in support of these moms. Your beautiful gifts and monetary donations for larger items were overwhelming. Thank you to all who came and supported this ministry. Your warmth and friendliness were so appreciated by Samantha and Kami!



Lenten Grooming Kit Collection - Saint Mark's SHOWED UP!

For several years now, Saint Mark's has collected grooming items as part of our parishes' observation of Lent. Almsgiving is a foundational discipline of the Lenten season, helping us to cultivate compassion for those less fortunate and to reflect on God's abundance. Our goal was to put together 25 grooming kits (shampoo, deodorant, soap, etc.) to donate to the new moms of Vinton County, and if there were any extras, to donate those to NNEMAP. Saint Mark's parishioners were so generous that we were able to assemble all 25 kits for Vinton County with plenty of items left over to donate to NNEMAP. And that's just the in-kind donations. Many folks opted to make cash donations, and since we didn't have to dip into the cash to fulfill our pledge to Vinton County, we have a head start on our fall grooming kit drive. Thank you to everyone who helped make this drive such a success!

Parish Life

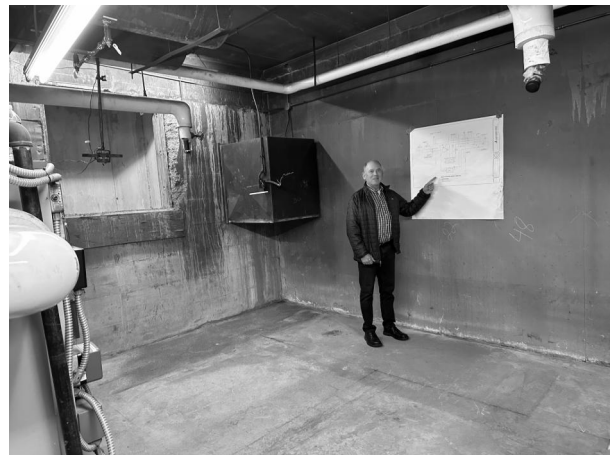
HVAC Replacement Update

The HVAC replacement project is well under way. The air handler system from the old system has been dismantled and removed and the new duct work installed in the boiler room. If you were around the church on April 29, you saw a crane removing old units and placing new ones on the roof of the education building.

In the next few weeks units will be removed and new ones installed behind the church, new split systems installed in the Sunday School rooms and Bishop's library and the old boiler will be dismantled and removed and new boilers installed. The estimated end date for the project is the end of May.

There will be temperature disruptions as well as dust and noise in the building during the remainder of the project. Please be patient with us as we get the infrastructure ready for the next 30 years.

Junior Warden Bill Silliman stand in the space created by the removal of air handling ducts as part of the HVAC replacement project.



Farmers Market

The Upper Arlington Farmers Market takes place on Dorset Road in front of Saint Mark's on Wednesdays. We open the church, provide water and allow people to use our bathrooms and tables.

The market runs from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. from May 13 to October 21. We need a few people each week to provide hospitality to our community. There is a sign up sheet in the parish hall and a Sign-up Genius on the website.

There is no parking on Dorset Road between 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Farmers Market Wednesdays.



Outreach

NNEMAP Food Pantry

Saint Marks continues to support the NNEMAP food pantry for Franklin County residents experiencing food insecurity. Current pantry needs include: canned meat, canned pasta with meat, laundry pods, dog & cat food, and toilet paper. For questions about general volunteering at NNEMAP, please contact Bill Karl (mrbill.karl@gmail.com)

Diapers & Spices: Our next diapers and spices packing day is Wednesday May 13 at 10:00 a.m. We will meet back in the Parish Hall this month. Many hands make light work, so come and join the fun if you are available. No experience required! Please contact Marilyn Karl with any questions (mjkarl@yahoo.com).

Migration Ministries - IT'S FAIR TIME!!!

Saturday May 2, Saint Mark's will host the fourth annual Culture and Artisans Fair. We will again partner with CRIS (Community Refugee and Immigration Services) and the City of Upper Arlington to showcase the artistic creations of those individuals who are in the refugee or asylum-seeking process as well as those who have become citizens after migration.

The next meetings of Migration Ministries will be Tuesday May 5 at 7 pm on Zoom to review the Fair activities. If you have questions or would like the Zoom link, please contact Elizabeth Anstaett (oxford4234@aol.com).

If you are interested in ways to help our immigrant neighbors, scroll down to the bottom of the Saint Mark's website for information.

Mark Your Calendars!

Culture & Artisans Fair	May 2
Migration Ministry Post-Fair Review Meeting	May 5
Diapers and Spices packing	May 13
St. John's Street Church	May 31

Street Church Meals

Our next commitment is scheduled for May 31. We will be asking for some volunteers to make pasta bake casseroles. There will be a sign-up sheet posted in May for that.

Meanwhile, if you are interested in helping St. John's Street Church Ministry in a deeper way, St. John's celebrated its 20th Anniversary of their Street Church ministry this Easter. St. Mark's has been participating in this ministry for most of this time. We are committed to doing 5 meals in 2026 plus monthly deliveries of fruit.

For further information on St. Mark's partnership with St. John's Columbus, please contact Roberta Morton at 614-268-7021, or notvmorton@gmail.com.

Outreach Contact Information

Questions about anything Outreach can be sent to the Outreach Administrative Committee (Outreach@saintmarkscolumbus.org).

The Outreach Administrative Committee members are Leslie Winters, George Knight, Ellen Berndt, Melanie Tepley and Vestry Liaison, Nicole Moon-Koharik.



BIRTHDAYS

Christine Barth	May 1
Keegan Conklin	May 1
Riley Jones	May 3
Freya Brokken	May 3
Alexander Nisbet	May 3
Jay Iams	May 5
Agnes Bowman	May 5
Cullie Rechner	May 7
Trent Porterfield	May 8
Sarah Alexander	May 8
Jocelyn Dunlap	May 9
Bill Shillington	May 10
Bruce Warthman	May 11
Jane Iams	May 12
Claire Iams	May 12
Carter Findley	May 12
Steve Hess	May 14
Angela Wallenbrock	May 14
Jim Keyes	May 18
Deborah Brower	May 19
Peter Lenz	May 21
Rob Brubaker	May 22
Andy Iams	May 24
Broder Russo	May 25
Bruce Klemesrud	May 28
Matilda Drew	May 30
Eve Hartranft	May 32

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Jim Acton
 Terry Bowman
 Ted Carey
 Anna Dougherty
 Hannah Dugan
 The Flynn Family
 Judith Grant
 Carolyn Gunther
 Patrick Hreachmack
 The Ibarra-Benito Family
 The Karcher Family
 Brad Klemesrud
 Lynn Klemesrud
 The Karcher Family
 Sylvia Martin
 Marta Mojzer
 Chris and Harmony Morgan
 Joe Nowark
 Amy Schreffler
 Paul St. Germain
 Melanie Tepley
 Audrey Trotier
 Greg Wittmer
 Anna, Jose and Family
 Bill
 Mark & Margo

If you have people you would like add to the prayer list
 please let Melanie Jacobs know.
 (officemanager@saintmarkscolumbus.org)

*Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless
 and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they
 stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up
 if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth
 understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus
 Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Support Groups

Saint Mark's provides meeting space for AA and
 Al Anon in the parish hall on the following days
 and times:

Sundays, 8 p.m. AA Open Group
 Mondays, 5:30 p.m. AA Men's Group
 Mondays, 7 p.m. AA Open Group
 Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. Al-Anon Group
 Tuesdays, 11 a.m., Al -Anon Small Meeting
 Thursdays, 6:15 & 8 p.m. AA Open Group
 Fridays, 8 p.m. AA Open Group

Worship, Music & Formation		
Holy Eucharist Rite I 8 a.m.	Sundays	Sanctuary
Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 a.m.	Sundays	Sanctuary
Adult Formation 9:30 a.m.	May 3, 10 & 17	Parish Hall
Children's Formation 10:30 a.m.	Sundays	Formation Area
Sisters in Faith: Monday 7 p.m.	May 18	Canterbury Center
Canterbury Choir Rehearsal 4:30 p.m.	Wednesdays	Sanctuary
Saint Mark's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	Thursdays	Sanctuary
Rector's Day Off: all day	Fridays	
Brown Bag Sermon 10:30 service	May 3	Sanctuary
Canterbury Choir Choral Evensong 4 p.m.	May 17	Sanctuary
Parish Life and Vestry		
1950s Coffee Hour after 10:30 service	May 10	Parish Hall
Vestry: 7:30 p.m.	May 12	Canterbury Center
UA Farmers Market 3 – 6:30 p.m.	May 13, 20 & 27	Dorset Road
Daytime Knitting Group: 1 p.m.	May 7 & 21	Canterbury Center
Contemplative Prayer 6 p.m.	May 12	Bishop's Library
Sound Stories from Saint Mark's	May 17 & 24	
Pub Theology: 7 p.m.	May 19	Counter Balance Brewery
Fun with Flowers 6 p.m.	May 20	Parish Hall
Pentecost Picnic Noon	May 24	Parish Hall & Patio
Women's Supper Group & Marksmen 6 p.m.	May 27	TBD
Outreach Ministries		
Culture and Artisans Fair	May 2	Front Lawn
Diapers & Spices: Wednesday 10 a.m.	May 13	Parish Hall
Migration Ministry 7 p.m.	May 5	Zoom

Visit saintmarkscolumbus.org for a full calendar of events & activities



SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2151 DORSET ROAD
COLUMBUS, OH 43221
(614) 486-9452



Congratulations TO OUR **Saint Mark's Graduates**

Matilda Drew is graduating from Upper Arlington
and is heading to Seattle University

Theodore Warren is graduating from Upper Arlington
and is heading to The Ohio State University

Congratulations also to **Allison Lee Wolfe**, granddaughter
of Ila Jean Stamper, who is graduating this year.