

Welcome to  
**ST. MARK'S CHURCH**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 18, 2022 AT 8 AM**

+ --Appropriate place to make the "Sign of the cross"

BCP—The "Black" Book of Common Prayer

Hymnal—The "Red" Hymnal 1982

LEVAS—Music from Lift Every Voice and Sing Hymnal (Episcopal)

WLP—Music from Wonder, Love, and Praise Hymnal (Episcopal)

VF—Voices Found Hymnal (Episcopal)

\*--A Parishioner's Favorite Hymn Pick

*Please silence all cell phones*



Notes on today's readings:

Welcome to St. Mark's Church. On this final Sunday of preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth, the central figures are the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. The Gospel reading is Matthew's account of Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Virgin. It is this Incarnation -- becoming flesh -- of God the Son that unites things earthly with things heavenly. In the quiet obedience of Joseph and Mary, we find the model for Christian living that enables us to be extensions of Christ's Incarnation. In today's reading from Isaiah, the prophet foretells the birth of a child in a passage that the New Testament writers, especially Matthew, considered to be fulfilled in Jesus' birth from Mary. Jesus' descent from David, his birth, his death and resurrection, are Paul's theme in the passage from Romans. That life, death, and resurrection are the source of our new life in Christ, and bring us the grace and power to live in faith and obedience. The liturgy centers on the fact that God comes to us in and through the material world. He came in the flesh of a human mother and lived within a human family. He comes to us now in bread and wine. He comes to the world in our flesh as we live in faithful obedience to him. The pattern for that obedience is the Holy Family of Nazareth for whom we give thanks today.

# God's People Gather Together

## Prelude

### Processional Hymn

*O come, O come, Emmanuel*

Hymnal 56 verses 1-3

(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - - ile  
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - - ledge  
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - - sions  
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - - ile

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

Em - man - - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

## The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Celebrant:* Today we light the first, second and third and Fourth candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third is JOY and the fourth is LOVE.

*All candles are lit except for the Christ candle.*

*Scripture:* "John 13:34 – Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

## PRAYER

*Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love, and following the example of your Son, spread that love to the love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen.*

**ADVENT WREATH HYMN** – Fourth Week of Advent (Hymnal 101 Tune: Away In A Manger)

*A candle is burning, a candle of Love; A candle to point us to heaven above. A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth; For Jesus is bringing God's Love to our earth.*

*Celebrant* The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Together, let us pray.

*Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

*Celebrant* + Blessed are you, holy and living One.  
*People* You come to your people and set them free.

## The Collect for Purity

*Celebrant and People*

*Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **Trisagion (Prayed three times)**

*Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us.*

### **The Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*        *And also with you.*  
*Celebrant*      Together, let us pray.

*Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

*The people sit.*

## **The Word of God**

### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 7:10-16*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.  
*People*        *Thanks be to God*

**Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18**      *Qui regis Israel*

- <sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
*shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.*
- <sup>2</sup> In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
*stir up your strength and come to help us.*
- <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
*show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*
- <sup>4</sup> O LORD God of hosts, \*  
*how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?*
- <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
*you have given them bowls of tears to drink.*
- <sup>6</sup> You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
*and our enemies laugh us to scorn.*
- <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
*show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*
- <sup>16</sup> Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
*the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.*
- <sup>17</sup> And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
*give us life, that we may call upon your Name.*
- <sup>18</sup> Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*  
*show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

*The people stand as they are able.*

## Hymn

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came*

## Hymnal 265

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,  
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,  
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

## The Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

*Reader*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People*    *Glory to you, Lord Christ*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Reader*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*    *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## Sermon

+ *May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts be always acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.*

*The people sit. After the Sermon, the people stand as they are able.*

## The Nicene Creed

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

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.*

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

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

## **Prayers of the People – Litany for 4 Advent (Written by Fran Pratt)**

- Leader** Creator God, we have celebrated the hope, peace, and joy that come from You. And now we celebrate Love, which is from You, and is Your very nature.
- People** ***God is Love.***
- Leader** You formed the universe out of the void, and breathed life into your creatures, all because of your great love.
- People** ***In You, we live and move and have our being. We exist because of Your love.***
- Leader** Humanity rejected You. But because of your love you made a way to restore us to relationship with Yourself.
- People** ***Love made a way. That love is Jesus Christ.***
- Leader** Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God-With-Us. Born of a virgin girl in a stable, laid in a manger, Jesus entered the world in humility and compassion.
- People** ***Jesus lived, was crucified, died, and was resurrected from death, all for love. Love has conquered death.***
- Leader** It is his example we live by: self-sacrificing love. And we know that “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs...”
- People** ***“... Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”***
- Leader** May our hearts be illumined with the light of Love....
- People** ***And may we share Your love wherever we go. Amen***
- Leader** We pray for those everywhere who suffer from the power of nature, those whose lives are impacted by senseless violence, and for the sick and the suffering, remembering especially those on our prayer list. (***The people may add petitions for any need or concern.***)
- Leader** We pray for those who have died. (***The people may add petitions for those they wish to have remembered.***)
- Leader** We pray for ourselves in this Advent time of waiting, that we may be thankful for all the blessings we enjoy and seek ways to share them with others. (***The people may name their thanksgivings at this time.***) We give thanks this week for who are celebrating their birthdays and anniversary.

### **For a Birthday**

***O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on Richard Caccavano, Michael Warner, Elizabeth Horan and Jennifer Marwood as they begin another year. Grant that they will grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

## **For the Anniversary of a Marriage**

*O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send your blessing upon Bill and Madeline Glover that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their lives together may be a witness to your love and forgiveness, and that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves, and one another, to the living God through Christ. *To you, O Lord our God.*

*All: O come, Son of David, hear our prayers this day, open our eyes to your presence and awaken our hearts to sing your praise, that we may announce in word and deed the good news of your reign. Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.*

## **The Confession**

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence may be kept.*

*Celebrant and People*

*Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **The Absolution**

*The Priest says*

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

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant      The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

*People        And also with you.*

## **Offertory Sentence**

But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.  
*Hebrews 13:15, 16*

## Offertory Hymn

*The desert shall rejoice*

WLP 722

The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose:

1. It shall  
2. For the  
3. For the  
4. For the

blossom abundantly and rejoice with praise and singing.  
ears of the deaf shall hear And the blind, their eyes be opened.  
tongue of the mute shall sing and the lame will dance with gladness.  
ground will become a pool and the dry land springs of water.

5. The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose:  
as the ransomed return to God and come singing back to Zion.

6. The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose:  
unto Zion we come with joy,  
for our God has come to save us.

## The Presentation of Gifts

*All things come of thee, O Lord; and of thine own have we give thee. Amen.*

# The Holy Communion

**The Great Thanksgiving—Eucharistic Prayer 2 from Enriching our Worship, a supplement to the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.**

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*        *And also with you.*  
*Celebrant*      Lift up your hearts.  
*People*        *We lift them to the Lord.*  
*Celebrant*      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*        *It is right to give him thanks and praise*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

**Sanctus—(8:00 a.m.)**

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
+ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

*The Celebrant continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, St. Mark, patron of this parish, St. Thomas the Apostle, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant* Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Savior taught us.

*People and Celebrant*

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### **The Breaking of the Bread--*Agnus Dei***

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.*

*Celebrant* These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Take them, feed on them in your heart and be thankful. *Amen.*

**Communion Norms**--We welcome our guests this morning. All are welcome at the Lord's table. You may stand or kneel (whichever you prefer). You are invited to eat the wafer and then drink from the cup. We regret that you are not permitted to intinct (dip the wafer) at this time. The people respond after receiving the bread or the wine by saying "*Amen.*" If you prefer not to receive the cup, please cross your arms over your chest. If you do not want to receive communion, you are still welcome to come forward, cross your arms over your chest, and receive a blessing from the priest.

## The Post Communion Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Celebrant Together, let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

*Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised savior: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## The Blessing for the Season of Advent (*Church of England*)

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty: + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## The Announcements



## Recessional Hymn

*Soon and very soon*

LEVAS 14

1. Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,  
 2. No more cry-in' there we are goin' to see the King,  
 3. No more dy - in' there we are goin' to see the King,  
 4. Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King;

1. Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,  
 2. No more cry-in' there we are goin' to see the King,  
 3. No more dy - in' there we are goin' to see the King,  
 4. Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King;

1. Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,  
 2. No more cry - in' there we are goin' to see the King,  
 3. No more dy - in' there we are goin' to see the King,  
 4. Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King;

— Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

1.2.                    3.4.

— Hal - le - lu - — jah, Hal - le - lu -

jah, Hal - le - lu - — jah, Hal - le - lu - — jah.

## The Dismissal for Advent

*LEM                  As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.  
People              Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.  
Postlude*

### THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>Monday</b>	(12/19)	<b>Parish Office Closed</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	(12/20)	9:00 a.m. Decorating of the Church 6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting at the Rectory
<b>Wednesday</b>	(12/21)	7:30 p.m. Alanon Meeting in the Atwater Room
<b>Thursday</b>	(12/22)	10:00 a.m. Advent Book Study in the Rector's Office 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing in Rector's Office 12:30 p.m. Threshold Singers Choir Practice in the Atwater Room 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Evening Prayer, or Compline in the Chapel 5:30 p.m. Choir Practice in the Church
<b>Saturday</b>	(12/24)	10:00 a.m. Winter Market in the Parish Hall
<b>Christmas Eve</b>		5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service in the Church 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service in the Church
<b>Sunday</b>	(12/25)	10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service in the Church
<b>Christmas Day</b>		

#### Serving Today Sunday, December 18, 2022 at 8:00 A.M.

<i>LEM</i>	Virginia Gilmore
<i>Lector</i>	Dick Gardner
<i>Usher</i>	Pete Williams
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Diane Stewart, Virginia Gilmore

#### Serving Today Sunday, December 18, 2022 at 10:00 A.M.

<i>LEM</i>	John Kern
<i>Lector</i>	John Kern
<i>Ushers</i>	Rich Caccavano, Paul Okula
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Victoria Garcia, Lee Wadelton

Coffee Hour will take place following both the 8 & 10 A.M. services in the Parish Hall.

Congratulations on the Birthdays of Richard Caccavano, Michael Warner, Elizabeth Horan, Jennifer Marwood.

Congratulations on the Anniversary of Bill and Madeline Glover.

For those serving in the Armed Forces: Amanda E. Degener, Kyle M. Degener, George L. Degener, Jesse Fritz, Nicholas LoRusso, Joshua Rudd, and Michael Keegan.

We ask that you remember those for whom prayers are requested: Chris Allen, Deana Chiusano, Fred Edwards, Nancy Fraser, Anthony Graviano, Noel Hayes, Barbara Ireton, Cathy Jones, Gretchen & Jim Jubinski, Cole LoRusso, Jock McLean, Sean McLean, Sudie Nostrand, Paul Oele, Cassie Panzarino, Joan Petrella, Betty-Rose & Stuart Richardson, Jean Scopinich, Sarah Witters, The Reverend Abigail Murphy, Rosemary Rees, and Cheryl Grove.

### THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Remembrances - The Altar Guild welcomes your gifts toward the beautification of the church for the Festival Celebration of the birth of our Lord. The Dedication Form can be found in the narthex and on the table outside of the church office. Today is the deadline for submitting requests. Kindly leave your form and check in Kate Gabrielsen's mailbox in the computer room. Thank you.

**Christmas Creches/Manger Scenes** – Fr. Chris would once again like to borrow your creches/manger scenes to decorate the windows in the church at Christmas time. Please drop them off at the Parish Office and please make sure to label who they belong to. Our hope is to display one from each family in the parish as a way to share in the birth of Jesus.

**Christmas Basket Auction** – **The bidding will end following today's 10 am service.** All proceeds raised will be used toward the installation of a beautiful stone altar in the columbarium to enhance our outdoor services! As always thank you for your support, donations, bids or volunteer time. We very much appreciate your help!

**Advent Book Study** is taking place on Thursday at 10 AM in the Rector's office and will continue until December 22<sup>nd</sup>. All are welcome!

**Mid-Week Services on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing in the Rector's office and at 5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, Evening Prayer, or Compline in the Chapel.**

**Choir Practice** is on Thursday at 5:30 PM in the church. The only requirement is the desire to make a joyful noise. For further information contact Stephen Hunt at [stephenhuntmusic@gmail.com](mailto:stephenhuntmusic@gmail.com).

**We Need Your Help on Sunday Mornings as a Lay Eucharistic Minister or Acolyte.** Please contact John Kern at [John@jkernlaw.com](mailto:John@jkernlaw.com).

**Altar Flowers:** If you would like to dedicate flowers for the Altar contact Laura Bott at 631-722-4749 or email her at [laura.bott17@gmail.com](mailto:laura.bott17@gmail.com). Each vase is \$40. There are two vases available for January 8, 15, 22 and 29<sup>th</sup>. You can find the sign-up book in the front lobby outside of the church office.

**Alanon** now meets at St. Mark's both in-person and online via zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Atwater Room. Please speak with Fr. Chris if you are interested in joining this group.

**Ways to Help the People of Ukraine...** When the donated non-perishable items were delivered to the Ukrainian Church in Riverhead we were told that what they need right now are bandages, pain killers, burn care products and **new winter clothing**. A complete list is posted on the bulletin board next to the church office. Please help us collect as much of these necessary items as we can. There is a box for them in the narthex. You can also visit our website at [www.stmarkswhb.org](http://www.stmarkswhb.org) for ways to help.

**Maureen's Haven:** "Thank you" for donations to Maureen's Haven. A box for donations, along with a list of suggested items such as individual containers of non-perishable food, is in the office lobby.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- December 24 – April 2023: Winter Market in the Parish Hall 10 AM – 2 PM.

#### **Our Christmas Services will be as follows**

- Christmas Eve: 5 PM & 9 PM
- Christmas Day: 10 PM
- (New Year's Day: 10 PM)

#### **Last Week's Attendance:**

Sunday, December 11      8:00 a.m. 15

Sunday, December 11      10:00 a.m. 49 (plus 25 households viewed us online.)

Total 64

## **ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

*A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island*

40 Main Street

P.O. Box 887

Westhampton Beach, New York 11978

Phone: 631.288.2111

[www.stmarkswhb.org](http://www.stmarkswhb.org)