



The Messenger

from St. Mark's

April/May 2019

Bookstore Lecture and Luncheon
Holy Week and Easter
High School Spring Break Retreat

An Abundance of Riches - Holy Week, Easter, Fiesta, & the Feast of St. Mark

“Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord’s resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.”

-Collect from Easter Day

Joy. It’s a word we don’t always spend a lot of time really reflecting on. At times we can mistake it for happiness, when joy calls us to a deeper place of self-giving. Joy is the realized redemption that comes after the pain of Good Friday, the uncertainty of Holy Saturday, and the deep recognition of the Risen One who greets us by name in the garden that holds the empty tomb. Joy is at the heart of our Easter celebrations. It means we have walked the fullness of Holy Week and found that everything is calling us to new life. The beauty of spring helps call us forward into an experience of this. Community life also evokes in us the response to new life. Poet and essayist, David Whyte says, *“joy is a measure of our relationship to death and our living with death, joy is the act of giving ourselves away before we need to or are asked to, joy is practiced generosity.”*



The Rev. Beth Knowlton

Practiced generosity is something that our church community and city know something about. It takes countless people to practice generosity to offer ourselves to one another and our city in the ways we do. I’ve seen it in our Music in Park offering, we will see it in the Day of Prayer and Service, and our worship for Holy Week and Easter will invite us to rediscover this once again. This year the city will surround our liturgies with annual Fiesta celebrations. Rather than seeing this as a conflict, I wonder what it might be like to see it as a broadening of our joy? While it might make our calendars a bit fuller, there is something about the energy of this city celebration that can enhance our joy.

We will have our celebration of the Feast of St Mark this year, the week after Easter which is also the Sunday following Fiesta. If I were cynical, I’d be concerned about a “low” Sunday. But all the signs are to the contrary. We are having a combined celebration with Bishop Reed at 10.00am and we will confirm adults and youth at that service. We have 14 youth and 17 adults who are making a decision to proclaim their faith in the Risen One. This is a call for joy and community and will be but an extension of Easter this year.

I learned many years ago that the best way to experience joy on Easter morning is to fully commit myself to the days leading up to that glorious Sunday. This year we have a special opportunity to continue that by celebrating our community with our patron saint the next week. Join us. Invite your friends and neighbors. Practice generosity and look for joy in all places. Viva!

Peace,



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Adult Formation

Becoming A More Compassionate City - Faith in the City

The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton
May 5 and 12

Did you know that the City of San Antonio is a signatory to the Charter for Compassion? Using principles from the major faith traditions, it seeks to unite people of faith to increase our capacity to be compassionate. This two-week class will look at the charter for compassion and the principles we can incorporate into our own lives to become more compassionate individuals and civic participants. We will use the work of theologian and historian Karen Armstrong.

All Sermons and Formation classes are recorded each week and available on the website to listen to or download. These recordings are also available on the Stitcher App.

Bookstore Lecture and Luncheon

Thursday, May 2, 2019
11.30am

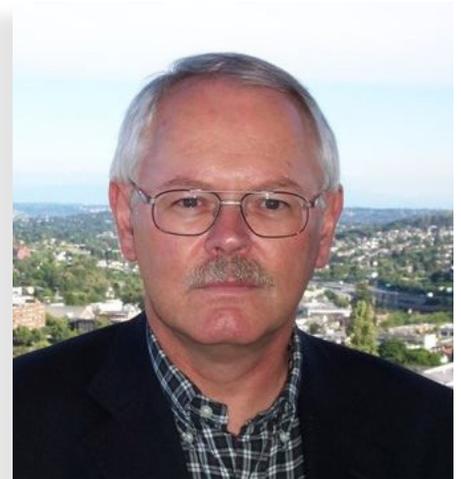
Guest Speaker: The Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI
President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio.

He is an internationally known writer and inspirational retreat leader with more than 10 books in print and author of the New York Times best selling book *The Holy Longing: Guidelines for a Christian Spirituality*.

Popular topics of Fr. Ron's are in the areas of contemporary spirituality and religion, and the secular world.

Cost per person is \$30, or a table of eight for \$230, includes lunch and speaker.

Register for the Bookstore Lecture and Luncheon online by visiting the website (www.stmarks-sa.org) and clicking Sign Ups/Reservations.



High School Spring Break Retreat

St. Mark's high school youth along with youth from Reconciliation and St. Thomas traveled to Mustang Island to spend some of their Spring Break (March 11-13) on the beach in community. Out of the 34 youth that attended, 11 of our high school youth played in the very cold ocean and on the beach, roasted s'mores, and learned about prayer. Extra special thanks to the St. Mark's sponsors – Sam Clements, Alida Garcia, Meredith Rogers, and Katie Young!

“Our retreat at the Mustang Island Conference Center was a big part of what made this year's spring break the best one yet. It would be hard to talk about just one thing that made my whole experience great, but I feel that the biggest one was the sense of family I got from spending time with other members of my faith community. I felt it in the songs of morning and evening worship, in the connections I made with people I'd never met before, and in the quiet moments when we prayed together. Of course, getting to spend time with my friends and playing at the beach was a lot of fun, but that can happen at any time in the year. Retreats like these are so special and so important because you get to bring your relationship with God into all of that, and you have the chance to make it even stronger. The talks that were given and the discussions that followed helped me to understand better that there's no “one size fits all” for prayer, nor for a relationship with God, and because of that I feel more confident in approaching both in my own way. Also important is that I was able to connect with some pretty great people because of this trip. I know that my experience is just one of many, but I personally feel like I gained a lot from the retreat, and hope that others in the future will too.”

- Submitted by Lilly Chipman

“I remember my older sister going to this retreat when I was younger and looking forward to the year I could go, and this year I did. I was able to grow in my faith with new people and those I have known for years. We did team building activities to get to know the other churches and we were encouraged to sit and talk with new people during meals, free time, and small group discussions. Each church has different ideas and getting to hear from not only those youth leaders, but also the youth, allowed me to learn how different churches lead their youth. The retreat's focus was awkwardness. We talked about how praying can be awkward, how talking to others about your faith can be awkward, and how the process of expressing your faith in your own words can feel very awkward. We worked through our awkwardness by doing all those actions/ideas listed above. We were able to do all these things once with the support of others and in the presence of others, knowing we are not the only one feeling the awkwardness. This practice really helped us to then be able to go out into our separate lives and implement those processes in the real world.”

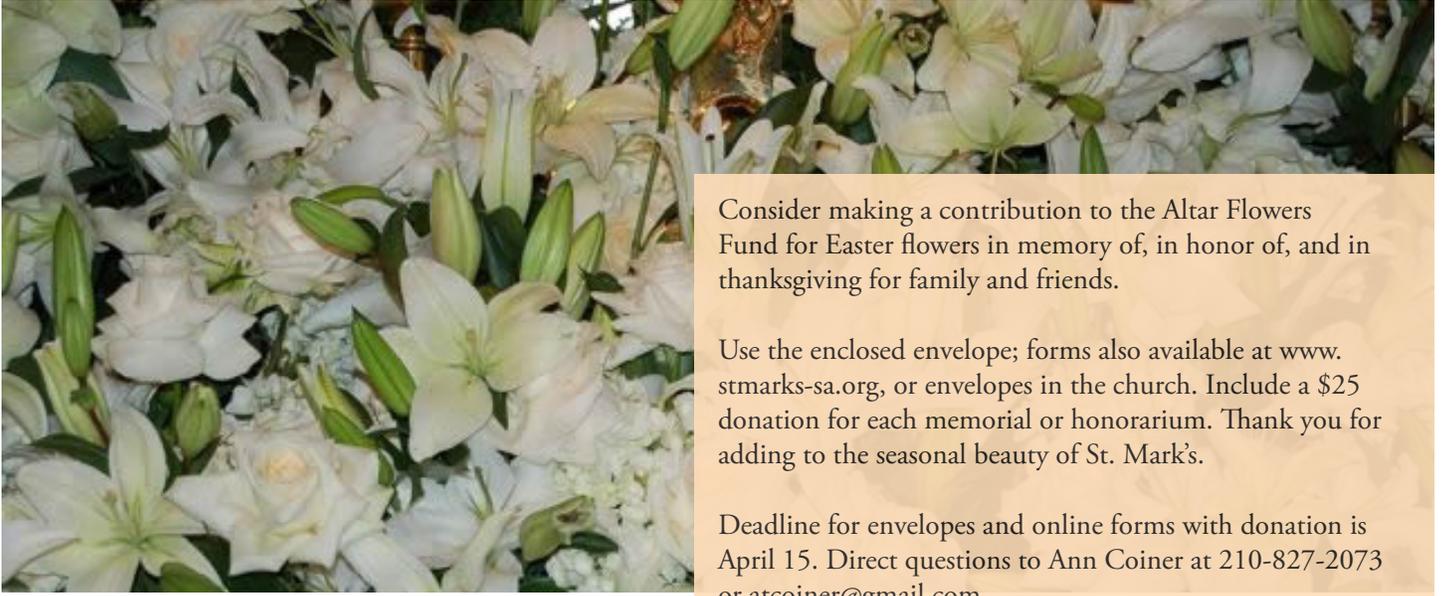
- Submitted by Ali Fowler



High School Spring Break Retreat



Easter Flowers



Consider making a contribution to the Altar Flowers Fund for Easter flowers in memory of, in honor of, and in thanksgiving for family and friends.

Use the enclosed envelope; forms also available at www.stmarks-sa.org, or envelopes in the church. Include a \$25 donation for each memorial or honorarium. Thank you for adding to the seasonal beauty of St. Mark's.

Deadline for envelopes and online forms with donation is April 15. Direct questions to Ann Coiner at 210-827-2073 or atcoiner@gmail.com.

Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic



Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic

Saturday, April 20

11.00am-1.00pm

The Bishop Jones Center (111 Torcido Dr, 78209)

It's time for our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic, and we are so excited! Please make plans to join us at the Bishop Jones Center for the Easter story, a picnic lunch (food provided), face painting, balloon art, and hunting for eggs. Children will also have the opportunity to have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. This is a wonderful, family friendly event, that we look forward to all year long. Children of all ages are welcome - don't forget your picnic blanket and Easter basket. RSVP by visiting the homepage of the website (www.stmarks-sa.org) and clicking Sign Ups/Reservations.

Donations of candy and/or plastic eggs are greatly appreciated! Please place these donations in the boxes located on the first floor of the Parish House. Donations of chewy candies, gummies, lollipops, erasers, temporary tattoos, and stickers will be much appreciated. Please refrain from donating chocolate, hard candy, and candy with peanuts. We will be accepting donations from March 24-April 14.

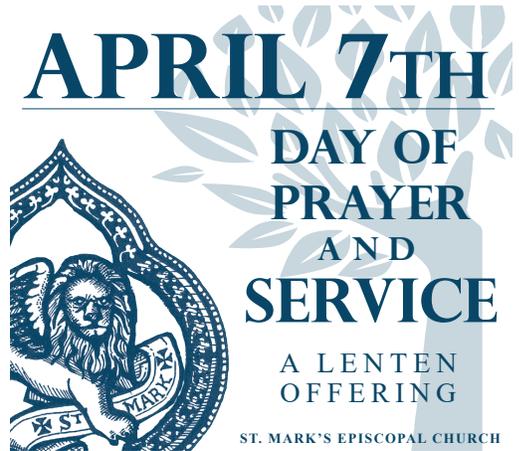
Day of Prayer and Service

...I am among you as one who serves.

-Luke 22:27

Don't miss the opportunity to put your faith into action on our Day of Prayer and Service on Sunday, April 7. We will begin with a combined worship service at 10.00am, followed by a light lunch in Gosnell Hall. After lunch, we will be sent out to "love and serve, with gladness and singleness of heart." We are partnering with organizations that are meeting vital needs in our city, and this is an opportunity to support that work in joyful community, called and sent by the One who serves. Volunteer duties might include landscaping or other beautification work, meal prep, crafts, sorting, and packing. Several of the projects are appropriate for families with children to serve together. The nursery at St. Mark's will be open for the duration for nursery aged children (6 weeks-5 years old).

To sign up, visit our website (www.stmarks-sa.org) and click Sign Ups/Reservations, and choose the project where you would like to make a difference.



Holy Week and Easter

Sunday, April 14 - Palm Sunday

7.45am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9.00am Liturgy of the Palms, Holy Eucharist Rite II
10.10am Palm Sunday Festival with live animals
11.15am Liturgy of the Palms, Holy Eucharist Rite II

Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday

12.00pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Bethlehem Chapel

Thursday, April 18 - Maundy Thursday

7.00pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II
9.00pm Gethsemane Overnight Prayer Vigil, Bethlehem Chapel

Friday, April 19 - Good Friday

7.00am Good Friday Liturgy with Communion from the Reserve Sacrament
12.00pm Good Friday Liturgy
1.00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 20 - Holy Saturday

11.00am Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic
1.00pm Holy Saturday service

Sunday, April 21 - Easter Day

6.00am The Great Vigil, Lighting of the New Fire, Holy Baptism, and First Eucharist of Easter, with incense. Breakfast to follow.
9.00am Festal Eucharist, Rite II
11.15am Festal Eucharist, Rite II (with incense)

Gethsemane Prayer Vigil

As part of experiencing Holy Week, we invite you to join in as we hold Vigil with the reserve sacraments overnight before Good Friday. The Vigil will be a time for quiet reflection and meditation. One hour slots are available beginning at 9.00pm on Maunday Thursday, April 18. We invite 2-4 people for each time slot. At the end of your shift, others will arrive and continue the Vigil. The Vigil ends at 7.00am with the Good Friday Liturgy.

The Gethsemane Prayer Vigil will be in Bethlehem Chapel, and the gate from Jefferson Street will remain open overnight. (We will have security present overnight as well.) As you pray and wait, we will have a table with resources to aid in your prayer time. Feel free to bring your own bible or prayer book, or some other resource if you would like.

To sign up for a time slot, visit the homepage of our website (www.stmarks-sa.org) and click Sign Ups/Reservations.

Music from St. Mark's - Fiesta Concert

Sunday, April 28

5.00pm

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

We will celebrate the conclusion of the music season with the annual Fiesta Concert. All of the St. Mark's choirs, under the direction of Jon Johnson, will join forces to present a concert featuring John Rutter's Gloria and Flor Peeters' Entrata Festiva. Assistant Organist and Choirmaster, Samuel Gaskin, will end the concert with Marcel Dupré's bombastic Pièce Héroïque for organ, brass, and tympani. Other pieces will include choral works for the season of Eastertide.

Gloria is one of Rutter's most ambitious concert works, and its premiere was the occasion for his first visit to the US in May 1974. The Voices of Mel Olson commissioned the work, and the composer conducted the performance by that chorale in Omaha, Nebraska. Rutter himself sees this work as analogous to a symphony, with three movements—allegro vivace, andante, vivace e ritmico—i.e., fast, slow, fast, in common with symphonic practice, and, says Rutter, “exalted, devotional, and jubilant by turns.” Gloria represents the second section of the Ordinary, the fixed-form portion of the Latin mass, i.e., the section following the Kyrie, and the introit, when the latter is used.

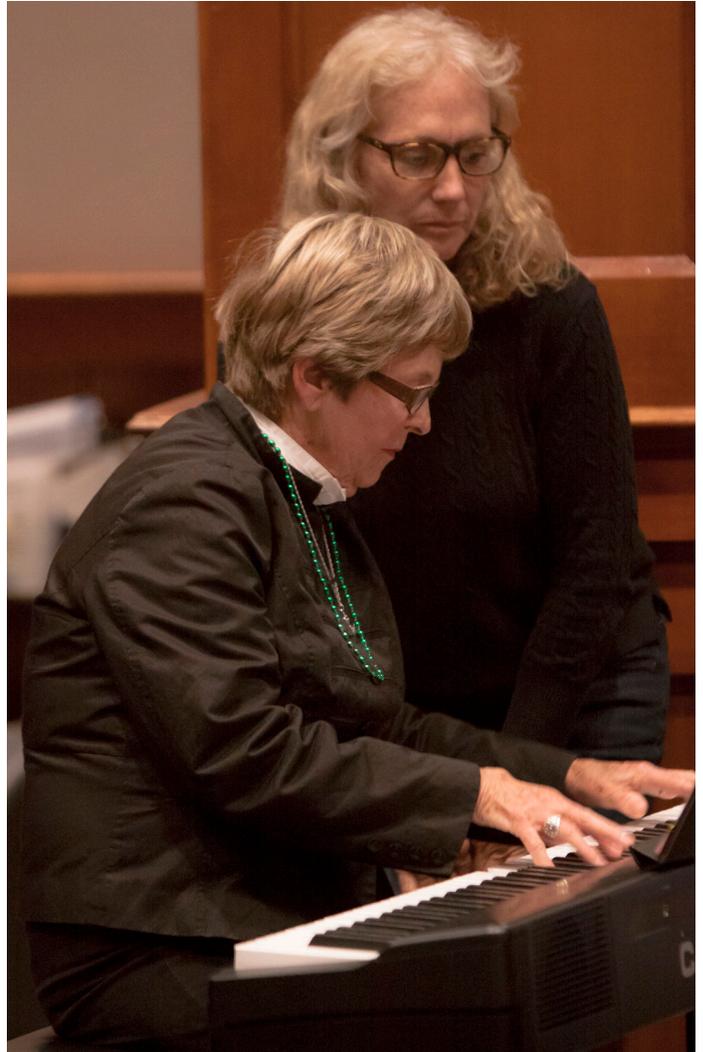
Many composers have set this text as an independent work. The practice of subdividing sections of the mass, such as the Gloria and the Credo, into separate movements dates from the time of Bach, who employed it in the B-Minor Mass, but it was popularized by early 18th-century composers. Rutter based his setting on one of many Gregorian chants which utilized this text. About the orchestration, he says, “The accompaniment is for brass ensemble with timpani, percussion, and organ - a combination which in the outer movements makes quite a joyful noise unto the Lord, but which is used more softly and introspectively in the middle movement.”

The Fiesta Concert is generously supported and made possible through contributions to the St. Cecilia Guild. Thank you to all who support St. Cecilia!

-Submitted by Jon Johnson, Organist and Choirmaster



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Talent Show



Summer at St. Mark's

Regular weekday programming will conclude on Wednesday, May 15 and Thursday, May 16.

Recognition Sunday will be Sunday, May 19 at 10.10am in Gosnell Hall. Join us for a reception honoring Children and Youth Choir, Sunday School Teachers, Youth Volunteers, and many more!

We will have the Annual Parish Picnic on Sunday, June 9, with services at 7.45am and 10.00am. Following the 10.00am service, join us in Travis Park for delicious lunch options, bounce houses, games for all, and fun and fellowship.

Summer Service Schedule begins May 26

7.45am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I, spoken service

9.00am - Adult Formation (beginning June 16)

10.00am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music



Save The Date - Vacation Bible School

Monday, July 22 - Friday, July 26

9.00am - 12.30pm VBS

12.30 - 1.00pm Lunch

1.00 - 3.00pm Music Camp

3.00 - 5.00pm Games and Activities

Vacation Bible School

Save the date for this year's Vacation Bible School - it's going to be a blast! We hope you will join us for an amazing time singing, dancing, making new friends, and learning about who God created us to be! This year we are adding some additional elements to our VBS week. First, we will be extending our week to five days. On Friday there will be a closing Eucharist for the children and their families, and an opportunity for parents to see all the work and activities that took place during the week. Second, we will be offering extended programming for those who would like to spend even more time with us! The second half of the day will begin at 12.30pm with lunch and will conclude at 5.00pm.

Music Camp

Music Camp at St. Mark's will be held July 22-26 from 1.00 – 3.00pm. Current and prospective rising 1st through 5th graders from St. Mark's and the greater San Antonio community are invited and welcome to participate. Children will have an opportunity to learn the very basics of singing and music-making through games, movement, vocal instruction, and preparing for the end-of-the-week Eucharist on Friday. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to get a glimpse of the Chorister program at St. Mark's.

In Remembrance and Thanksgiving (thru March 18, 2019)

MEMORIALS

Flora Crichton by Robert Buchanan

ST. CECILIA FUND

Willis McClung by Mollie and Bartell Zachry

Carolyn Parchman by Claiborne and Walter Gregory, Sylvia Maddox, Elizabeth and Cliff Waller, Mollie and Bartell Zachry

OUTREACH FUND

In honor of Dr. Jane Patterson and The Workshop by Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Baird

SPECIAL GIFTS

In thanksgiving for our grandfather, Robert Raney DDS, by Margaret and Miller Raney

In thanksgiving for Cliff Waller by Olga Raygoza

In honor of Ginny Halter on her birthday by Polly and George Spencer

In honor of the victims of the Alabama tornado by Oralia Torres

In honor of Elizabeth Cauthorn on her birthday

Financials

2019 FINANCIAL REPORT as of 2/28/2019

16.67% of annual budget	Actual (YTD)	Budgeted (YTD)
Pledge Revenue	\$423,381	\$463,088
Non-Pledge & Open Plate Giving	\$37,537	\$44,500
Seasonal Giving	\$0	\$0
Other Rev (parking lot, fees, carryover)	\$89,332	\$93,222
Endowment/Fund Revenue	\$11,558	\$26,266
Total Revenue	\$561,808	\$627,075
Total Expenses	\$426,447	\$459,944
Over/(Under)	\$135,362	\$167,131

\$1,640,850 in 2019 Pledges • 300 Pledges • Average Pledge is \$5,470 • Median Pledge is \$2,830

Clergy at St. Mark's

Parish Clergy: The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton, Rector; The Rev. Ann Benton Fraser, Associate Rector for Outreach, Pastoral Care, and Parish Life; The Rev. Matthew Wise, Associate Rector for Liturgy, Adult Formation, and Family Ministry

Making a Gift of Their Service: The Rev. Michael Chalk, Rector Emeritus; The Rev. C. Douglas Earle, Assisting Priest; The Rev. Mary Earle, Assisting Priest; The Rev. Dr. John Lewis, Co-director, St. Benedict's Work+Shop; The Rev. Mary Margaret Mueller, Assisting Priest; The Rev. Dr. Jane Patterson, Co-director, St. Benedict's Work+Shop

**24 hour pastoral care
emergency phone
210-507-0256**



Cafe Kairos, Wednesdays and Thursdays 5.00pm-6.30pm

Cost: \$8.00 adults | \$6.00 children (under 6 yrs old)

Cafe Kairos will serve the weekly Lenten soup, garden salad, and dinner rolls through Lent (April 18). We will not have Cafe Kairos April 24-25.

MAY 1-2
Pizza
Garden Salad
Cookies

MAY 8-9
Chicken Enchiladas Verdes
Mexican Rice
Frijoles a la Charra
Garden Salad
Dessert

MAY 15-16
Spaghetti with Meat Sauce
Sautéed Green Beans
Garden Salad
Garlic Bread Sticks
Dessert

Photos in this Issue

Cover photo: Eric Nelson

Photos in this issue provided by: Natalie Matthews, Eric Nelson, St. Mark's Youth