

# St. Mark's Remarks

Seek God ♦ Serve Others ♦ Transform Lives

DECEMBER 2017

Services: 10:00 am-Praise Service/Choral Holy Eucharist Rite II on alternating Sundays.— Spanish 8:00 am Sunday School 9-9:45 am Lion's Den 9:00 am Wed. 10 am-Healing Service



## • Prepare for Christmas • *The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols*

*at St. Mark's Episcopal Church*

*Fr. Gerardo Brambila, vicar*

*with The St. Mark's Singers*

*Chris Perry, director of music*

*~ Free admission ~*

*The tradition of Lessons and Carols is a one-hour service of Bible readings and Christmas music sung by the choir and congregation. Please join us for an evening of candlelight and carols to prepare your heart and mind for Christ's coming.*

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
322 N Horne, Mesa, AZ 85203  
Friday, December 8th, 2017 • 7pm

### *Schedule of Sunday Services...*

8:00 AM — Spanish Service  
9:00 AM — Sunday School  
9:00 AM — Lion's Den  
(Fellowship Hour)  
10:00 AM — Holy Eucharist  
Rite II

### *The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols*

December 8 — 7 pm

### *Support St. Mark's*

Sign up for Amazon.Smile  
and Fry's today!

### *Mark Your Calendars*

#### **Las Posadas**

Following the 10 am Service  
December 17th

#### *Merry Christmas Everyone!*

*Don't forget to buy your  
ticket(s) for ECW&M's  
'Dressed to a 'Tea' Party'*

*February 3, 2018*

*A 'Tea Party' ticket will  
make a GREAT stocking  
stuffer*

## *Christmas Services*

### **Sunday, December 24th**

8:00 AM Spanish Service  
10:00 AM Rite II & Children's Pageant  
7:00 PM Rite II Choral Service

### **Monday, December 25**

10:00 AM Christmas Day Service





## *Kid's Korner . . .*



Welcome to St. Mark's from all of the kiddos in Sunday School — giving thanks for all of their blessings! Their board adorns the Sanctuary as you arrive for service and reminds us as we leave how thankful we are to be a member of the St. Mark's family. For sure we have some mighty fine designers and artists in our midst!

## *Veteran's Day Celebration . . .*



With thankful hearts, St. Mark's celebrates its veterans with Flag Bearers **John Banker, John McMahon, Don Sally, Jim Davies, and Ray Haug. Mary Ortega** did an awesome job refreshing and redesigning our bulletin board. It was a day and celebration to remember!



*St. Mark's became the home of the young men training at Falcon Field during WW2 and gave last rites for 23 of those men who lost their lives — RIP.*

*Join us every Sunday morning, before the 10 am Service, in our Lion's Den Café, Knight Hall, at 9 am for welcoming fellowship, a cup of coffee plus a variety of tasty treats.*





# The Posada / A Christmas Tradition in Mexico

## Tradiciones Mexicanas Posadas

While riding the public bus past a church in Cancun, Mexican passengers make a relaxed fist gesturing the sign of the cross and then kiss their thumb as a sign of respect for the church. With a strong Catholic influence inherited from Spain, Mexico is alive with religious traditions. If the idea of Christmas in Mexico doesn't ring any bells, listen closely to the Christmas bells ringing loud and clear. Rich in traditional festivities, a Mexican Christmas is filled with wonder.

In other countries, the 12 Days of Christmas are recognized, but in Mexico, the nine days of posadas leading up to Christmas Eve - Noche Buena (Holy Night) - are observed. The Christmas holiday in Mexico continues through January 6th, which is El Dia de los Reyes (day of the kings or the wise men). Traditionally, this is the day Mexican children received their gifts, but with growing international influence,



they sometimes receive gifts on both Christmas Day and Dia de los Reyes.

Christmas in Mexico is a religious holiday, honoring the 'nativity' or birth of the savior. As part of the Christmas celebration, traditional fiestas called Mexican posadas (inns) are held for family, friends, and neighbors. A posada is the reenactment of the Census pilgrim-

age to Bethlehem by Mary and Joseph (los peregrinos) in search of a room. From December 16th through December 24th, Mexican families customarily hold a posada party one evening in each of their homes.

## Traditional Mexican Posada

During the reenactment, the posada hosts act as the inn keepers while their guests act as the pilgrims (los peregrinos). Holding lighted candles, each group takes turns singing verses to each other, for example:

(Pilgrims, outside)

"Mi nombre es José,  
Mi esposa es María.  
y madre va ser,  
del Divino Verbo."

"My name is Joseph,  
My wife is Mary.  
and mother to be  
of the Divine Word."

(Inn keepers, inside)

"Posada os brindo,  
Santos Peregrinos,  
y disculpa os pido,  
no os reconocía."

"The inn I give you,  
pilgrim saints,  
and offer an apology,  
for not recognizing you."

Then the inn keeper hosts open the door and welcome the pilgrims inside.

## Villancicos Mexican Traditions

Although primarily a religious holiday including attend-



ance at Christmas Eve mass (Misa de Aguinaldo or Misa de Gallo), Mexican holidays always offer an opportunity to enjoy a fiesta in true Mexican fashion.

Posada parties are not only marked by traditional rituals but are also filled with cheerful socializing, authentic food, and fun for the entire family, including a special Christmas drink and a piñata filled with candy.

Provided not only at Christmas but at birthdays and other celebrations, traditional Mexican piñatas are designed in the shape of a seven-point star; created with cardboard and paper mache; and decorated with crepe paper.



The seven points represent the seven deadly sins that need to be destroyed by the 'sinner' who is blindfolded (signifying blind faith). Hoping to conquer sin, he attempts to hit the swaying piñata with a stick and break open the center, which bestows him with 'blessings' (candy).

As each person takes turns swinging at the piñata, onlookers sing an encouraging verse:

Mexican Pinata Traditions: "Dale, dale, dale; no pierdas el tino,

porque si lo pierdes, pierdes el camino."

"Hit it, hit it, hit it; don't miss the shot,

Because if you miss it, you'll lose the way."

Once the piñata is broken and the falling candy has been collected, family, friends, and neighbors return inside to eat, drink, and be merry, indulging in a Christmas Mexican drink called Ponche con Piquete (sting), a delicious, hot fruit punch containing a spicy blend of seasonal fruits, cinnamon, and a shot of brandy or rum. Mexico even has its own Christmas cerveza (beer) called Noche Buena available during the holiday season.

It has been said that this delightful beer contains traces of chocolate. So lift a glass of Ponche or raise a bottle of Noche Buena, and give a toast.

*join us following the 10:00 am service*

*Sunday, December 17th*

*Knight Hall*



## Homeless Project . . .

Members of our Cursillo group and associated parishioners, friends and neighbors have been crocheting mats for the homeless using plastic shopping bags from which they make their yarn (aka plarn). A plethora of mats were blessed on Sunday, November 19th and will be sent to Jacob's Journey House on University on January 29th —



Second from left a resident of Jacob's Journey House; Sheryl, the Director of the House, and Pamela Vespie, of our Cursillo Ministry, with the six plastic mats for the homeless that we donated today on behalf of St. Mark's. Jacob's Journey House is on University in Mesa, within walking distance of St. Mark's. Sheryl, the Director of the House, who'll deliver the mats to the homeless, assured us that the recipients are always grateful for the sleeping mats, especially at this time of year. They'll be informed to return used mats for recycling. We believe we are

saving thousand of plastic bags from a landfill – giving them new life, helping the homeless. We are aware these bags do not biodegrade – it takes hundreds of years for them to decompose in a landfill. Recycling is the key.

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor." Luke 4:18*



## 'Tis the Season for Giving . . . Support St. Mark's



Great news! St. Mark's is enrolled in the Fry's Community Rewards Program, so every time you shop at Fry's, donations are made to St. Mark's. Just go to <https://www.frysfood.com/topic/community?activePage=community-rewards-2> to enroll. PLEASE NOTE: Before you can link your Fry's V.I.P card to an organization, you must have an email address. Here are the instructions . . .

### STEP 1: Creating an Online Fry's Account

**\*\*NOTE:** If you already have an online Fry's account, skip to #2

- \* Go to <http://www.frysfood.com/>
- \* Click on "Welcome! Sign In" (top right)
- \* Click on "No Account? Register" (top right)
- \* Under "Create an Account", enter your email and create a password (write down your email & password—you will need it in step 2)
- \* Under "Select your preferred store", enter your postal code and click "Find"
- \* Select your store then click on "Create Account"
- \* You will then be prompted to check your email for the confirmation email
- \* Click the hyperlink "View My Account" in your email to finish creating your Online Fry's Account
- \* Continue to step #2 to register for the Fry's Community Rewards Program of your choice

### STEP 2: Register for the Fry's Community Rewards Program

- \* Go to <https://www.frysfood.com/topic/community?activePage=community-rewards-2>
- \* Select "Sign-In".
- \* Enter your email and password then select 'sign in'. (this will be the email and password you created in step 1)
- \* Under "Welcome back!" click "Your Name/My Account"
- \* Under "Account Summary" scroll down to "Community Rewards"
- \* Click 'enroll' under "Community Rewards", if prompted, enter personal information
- \* Under Find Your Organization: Enter the NPO number or name of organization then select 'search'. (You can get the NPO number from your organization) NPO Number is 11316
- \* Under Select Your Organization: Select box next to your organization (left side)
- \* Then select 'save changes'.

If you have registered correctly, you should now see your organization information listed under 'Community Rewards' on your account summary page.

Coming  
Soon!

Welcome to  
**amazon smile**

You shop. Amazon gives.

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

Questions? [Learn more about AmazonSmile](#)  
Not interested? [Shop Amazon.com](#)  
Represent a charitable organization? [Visit org.amazon.com](#)

**Sign In**

Your email address or mobile phone number:

Your Amazon password:

[Forgot your password?](#)

[Sign in using our secure server](#)

[New to Amazon? Create an account](#)



## Communion Vessels Blessed...

Communion vessels blessed and dedicated to The Glory of God in memory of Tom Fountain, a long time member of St. Mark's. The vessels were donated by Tom's wife, Marge Fountain, and will be used during the Advent and Lenten seasons.



## Strategic Planning in Progress...



Canon Megan McClure Traquair from the Diocesan is conducting strategic planning workshops for St. Mark's leadership and ministry leaders. She writes on Facebook, "St. Mark's Mesa is doing great work on Strategic Planning and identifying many wonderful stories of ministry and service." The workshop will continue in March 2018 — in the meantime, please share stories and suggestions with the members of the Bishop's Committee and/or any Ministry Leader.

## St. Mark's Hosts Evangelical Lutheran Church...



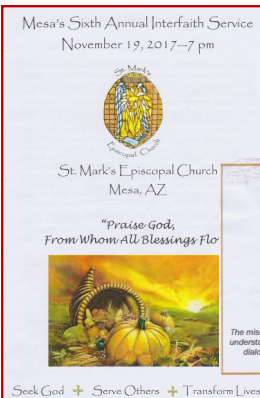
St. Mark's hosted members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mesa on Thanksgiving day. Here with Rev. Lynda Maraby for the Thanksgiving Service and later all enjoyed a superb Thanksgiving Dinner in Knight Hall.

## Divine Diners...

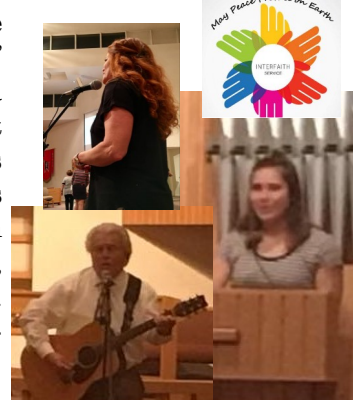


Members of the Divine Diners were "on the move" in November. Shirley Boswell hosted a fine BBQ and Bocce Ball competition, Mary & Carl Burgess hosted a delicious Italian Food Soiree and Elaine Austin hosted a grand fellowship dinner at her home. This is only a few events that I know — if you have pictures of your group, please share with me and I will be happy to highlight them in upcoming Newsletters.

## St. Mark's Hosts Mesa's Sixth Annual Interfaith Service...



What a wonderful service — hope that you didn't miss it. The evening was filled with Chris Perry's and the St. Mark's Singers' beautiful music, along with Testimonies by members of Mesa Churches and amazing solos by Michelle Evans singing "Let There Be Peace on Earth" and Bob Early on his guitar playing "Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling". Fr. Brambila gave an awesome sermon and David Luna, Assistant Mayor of Mesa, closed the service with a message from the City. In addition to the Mesa Churches noted, the Mesa Presbyterian Church was also in attendance.







## Have You Returned Your Giving Card?

If you have not returned your "Commitment to Christ Card" with your Joyful Generosity Commitment for the 2018 Calendar Year, please do so as soon as you can. The Bishop's Committee uses the information on the card to establish its 2018 Budget — so, don't procrastinate or hesitate any longer. Prayerfully consider what your Joyful Generous Gift will be for 2018, fill out the card and be a blessing to the BC.



## Food Pantry Feeds the Hungry . . .

## Thrift Store News . . .



Donations for the Thrift Store will be accepted between the hours of 9 am and 1 pm on



**THURSDAYS and FRIDAYS** (Sundays too) **ONLY.** Please do not leave your donations in front of the store at any other time. Thank You!

*Because of YOUR very generous donations, St. Mark's Food Pantry distributed 117 \$10 Food Cards to its patrons in November to help with their Thanksgiving Feast!!!!*



## Did You Know?

Located on the far North end of our beautiful Narthex is a pamphlet rack exclusively for information about St. Mark's and the Episcopal Church as well as other interesting material relevant to our mission. It is a wonderful resource to refer to when someone asks you about the many facets of the Episcopal Church, specifically St. Mark's. Don't be shy about welcoming new folks to St. Mark's — give them a Welcome Card, ask them to fill it out and return it to you before they leave so that we can send them a Newsletter. Along with the Welcome Card, try offering them a Newsletter and/or a pamphlet explaining Who We Are and perhaps a pamphlet about our many ministries. Please give your completed card to Al Rausch, Mary L. Burgess or Gloria McManus — or, in the alternative, you can just drop it in the offering plate.

*Thank You*



St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
322 North Home Street  
Mesa, Arizona 85203  
480-964-5820

E-Mail: [office@stmarksmesa.org](mailto:office@stmarksmesa.org)  
Website: [www.stmarksmesa.org](http://www.stmarksmesa.org)

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9 am - 1 pm

Wednesday: Healing Eucharist 10 am  
Sunday: Spanish Rite II Service 8 am  
English Rite II: 10 am

### Guest Information Card

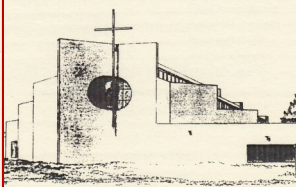
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Service Attended: ☐ 8 am ☐ 10 am ☐ Other

I would like to:  
☐ Join St. Mark's  
☐ Receive a call from a priest  
☐ Receive information about  
☐ Baptism ☐ Confirmation  
How did you hear about us?  
Website/Twitter/Facebook/Friend  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Lama:  
☐ First time guest  
☐ Returning guest  
☐ New resident  
☐ Winter visitor  
Invited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome!



St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
322 N. Home St.  
Mesa, AZ 85203  
Phone: 480-964-5820  
Email: [office@stmarksmesa.org](mailto:office@stmarksmesa.org)  
Office Hours:  
Tues-Fri: 9 am to 1 pm



**WELCOME!!**

*Who Are We?*

### A Brief History

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
322 N. Home St.  
Mesa, AZ 85203  
Phone: 480-964-5820  
Email: [office@stmarksmesa.org](mailto:office@stmarksmesa.org)



### Our Church

Rev. Gen. Ger. more than 10 years ordained capacity. Los Angeles the call fully. bills know its cultural wife Vivie Mexico. and have Geraldyn frigerardo

**Office Hours**  
Tuesday - Friday:  
9 am to 1 pm

**St. Mark's Ministries**

We encourage all of our parishioners to be actively involved in ministry in service to God and others through the church. Please ask your usher, the priest, parish administrator or contact the office for a list of all the wonderful ministries that St. Mark's has to offer. Also visit our website at [www.stmarksmesa.org](http://www.stmarksmesa.org).

Altar Guild—Prepares the worship space with the vessels, elements, linens, garments, and other appointments used in the liturgy. Contact Terry Gordon at [ttgordon@gmail.com](mailto:ttgordon@gmail.com)



## Upcoming Events . . .

**December 2 — Cursillo Ultreya** (See Article)  
**December 8 — Lessons and Carols Service**  
 — 7 pm (See Advertisement)  
**December 9 — Gunn/Collins Wedding** — 11 am (Entire Church is Invited)  
**December 10 — Our Lady of Guadalupe** — 8am Spanish Service  
**December 17 — Las Posadas — Knight Hall** — following 10 am Service (Hosted by Hispanic Ministry)  
**December 24 — 8 am Spanish Service; 10 am English Service with Children's' Pageant; 7 pm Choral Service**  
**December 25 — 10 am Service**  
**January 7 — Epiphany — 10 am Service** — King's Cake & Birthday Party following service in Knight Hall  
**January 14 — LOVE SHOWER** for Ebele Ubosi during Fellowship Hour — 9:00 am  
**January 16, 2018 — Ministry Council Meeting** — 7 pm  
**January 21, 2018 — Annual Meeting**  
**February 3, 2018 — Dressed to a Tea Party** — Buy Your Ticket Now!  
**February 14, 2018 — Ash Wednesday & Valentine's Day**  
**Lion's Den Café** — Open every Sunday between 9-9:45 am  
**Baptism/Confirmation Class — Every Sunday — 1:30 pm**  
 Follow the Calendar on the Web Site for updates and additions  
**Room Reservation Forms** are available in the Church office  
**Jr. Warden Schedule — 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 8-10 am — Fridays 7-11 am**  
**Wednesday Night Bible Study** — Contact Mary L. Burgess at mburg37114@aol.com or 480-218-5434



## Love Shower . . .



Congratulations are in order for Oluchukwu and Ebele Ubosi who are expecting their 4th child the end of January — Soooooo the members of ECW&M will host a Love Shower on Sunday, **January 14th** — yes, that is 2018, can you believe it! The purpose of the shower, of course, is to show our love for the expecting parents and their growing family. Please join us during the Fellowship Hour — 9:00 am in Knight Hall — to celebrate their new arrival.

## Don't Miss this Date . . .

**Sunday, January 7, 2018**

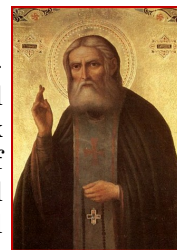


Following the 10:00 am service, please join the ECW&M Ministry to celebrate Epiphany AND Fr. Gerardo Brambila's Birthday

## Bible Study . . .

The Burgess Bible Study has just finished the book of Acts. After one year we have a core group and welcome new faces. We are now going to study a writing that deals with a discussion between St. Seraphim of Sarov and Nicholas Motovolov. St Seraphim instructs Nicholas on the Christian life and how to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We think this will be of benefit to anyone wanting to deepen their Christian life.

A footnote about St. Seraphim: Saint Seraphim of Sarov is one of the most renowned Russian saints in the Eastern Orthodox Church. He is also considered the greatest of the 19th-century elders. Seraphim extended the monastic teachings of contemplation and self-denial to the layperson. He taught that the purpose of the Christian life was to acquire the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps his most popular quotation amongst Orthodox believers is "Acquire a peaceful spirit, and thousands around you will be saved." Seraphim was glorified (canonized) by the Russian Orthodox Church in 1903. Pope John Paul II referred to him as a saint.



**Mark Downs Thrift Store**

**We are Open:**

**2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 9 am—Noon**

**Thursday and Friday, 9 am—1 pm**

Supporting the Ministries of the Episcopal Church

**MarkDowns is open every Sunday between 9:00 am—9:45 am for your shopping convenience!**

322 N Horns St., Mesa AZ 85203  
 South of University, on Horns, West of Stapley  
 Phone: 480-964-5020

We accept Donations

### Parish Directory

The Rev. Gerardo Brambila	Vicar
The Rev. Steven Ford	Assistant Priest
Chris Perry	Director of Music
Gloria McManus	Parish Administrator
Deb Cannon	Licensed in Children's Ministries
Terry Gordon	Senior Warden
Bob Cheatham	Junior Warden
Al Rausch	Treasurer

### Bishop's Committee Members

Caleb Collins	John Ddamba
Judy Hossack	Anali Perry
Paige Stalcup	Charles Vaughn

### Ministry Leaders

Acolytes	Paige Stalcup
Altar Guild	Terry Gordon
St. Mark's Singers & Musicians	Chris Perry
Christian Formation for Youth	Deb Cannon/ Dianne Nunez
Communications	Kathy Cheatham/ ML Burgess

### Ministry Leaders(Cont'd.)

Cursillo	Monica Larsen
Daughters of the King	Marge Fountain
Divine Dinners	Carolyn Morgan
ECW&M (Women's & Men's Ministry)	Jeanette Rogers
Food Pantry	Penny Place
Greeters	Judy Hossack
Hispanic Ministry	Fr. Brambila
Liturgical Arrangements	Viviana Brambila
Ministry Counsel	Terry Gordon
Office Angels	Gloria McManus
Pastoral Care	Elaine Austin
Scriptorium	Deb Cannon
Sunday Lay Ministries	Fr. Brambila/ Gloria McManus
Thrift Store	K Cheatham, B Haug, G Gordon
Ushers	Kathy Smith

Join us at [www.stmarksmesa.org](http://www.stmarksmesa.org) and on Facebook at St. Mark's Episcopal Church-Mesa, AZ for updates and more news!



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# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

## Dressed to a Tea . . . . Party . . . .



St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
322 North Horne Street, Mesa AZ  
February 3, 2018  
1:30 — 4:30 pm

St. Mark's ECW&M Presents . . .

Fashion Show — (Hosted by MarkDowns Thrift Store)

Afternoon Tea — featuring delicious edibles and a collection of elegant  
tea-time amenities



Entertainment by the Uptown Angels

The Uptown Angels  
(Mandy, Candy & Brandy)  
bring audiences back in  
time with their sassy energy  
-packed show. The delight-  
ful trio performs popular  
songs from the 20s, 30s, 40s,  
50s and 60s in the style of  
iconic sister acts (Andrews,  
McGuire & Lemon). Their  
spot-on act features toe-  
tapping choreography, vin-  
tage costumes and wonder-  
ful 3-part harmonies.



Wine Bar, Door and Raffle  
Prizes, Silent Auction, Shopping  
& Much More . . .

**\$25 Per Person**

Space Limited — Reserve Early  
Gift Certificates Available

**Buy Now!**

Contact Kathy Smith for Tickets —  
480-962-6875 or [1kathysmith@cox.net](mailto:1kathysmith@cox.net)

Great Gift Idea...  
Holiday? Birthday?  
Anniversary?



Have you bought  
your ticket(s) yet?  
A ticket will make a  
great gift in  
someone's Christmas  
Stocking!

**Buy now**

