

St. Mark's Remarks

Seek God • • Serve Others • • Transform Lives

NOVEMBER 2016

Services: 7 am-Spanish Service • 8:30 am-Praise Service • 9:45 am-Children's Chapel • 11 am-Choral Holy Eucharist Rite II • Wed. 10 am-Healing Service

A Thanksgiving Feast - The Religious Kind



Episcopalians corner the market on Thanksgiving. Sure, everyone across the United States celebrates Thanksgiving in some way, from cranberries and turkey dinners to lazy afternoons

watching football and parades to studious planning of Black Friday shopping

But the best I can tell from Google searching and quizzing my resident priest, the Episcopal Church is the only denomination that considers Thanksgiving a feast – of the religious kind.

I love that we set aside this day as special within our common life of prayer.

I'm sure there is some deep theological reasoning that determined why Thanksgiving is a holy day in The Episcopal Church. It probably took some long, windy path through legislative debates at General Conventions and impassioned arguments that infuriated

some, delighted others and didn't matter to most. I hope someone can share the history of why we include Thanksgiving in the feasts of our church.

But regardless of how Thanksgiving came to be considered a holy day, I like the reminder that I should offer praise to God first, giving thanks for God's presence in my life and for the many blessings God provides.

Then I can settle into the couch with the sale ads and another piece of chocolate pie.

It is Thanksgiving, after all.

Thanksgiving Day

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we beseech thee, faithful stewards of thy great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

by [Richelle Thompson](#) — Episcopal Church Foundation

St. Mark's Episcopal Church



322 North Horne Street, Mesa, AZ 85203

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Web Site: www.stmarksmesa.org



Join us at www.stmarksmesa.org for updates and more news!

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
Kevin Nunez	Senior Warden
Terry Gordon	Junior Warden
Al Rausch	Treasurer

Bishop's Committee Members

Mayra Alvarado	John Ddamba
Elizabeth Hernandez	Dudley Jans
Patrick Mack	Jim Poulos

Paige Stalcup

Delegates to the Annual Diocesan Convention

Mayra Alvarado	Caleb Collins
Gloria McManus	Jim McManus
Julia Coleman, Terry Gordon and Samuel Mungai will serve as first, second and third alternates respectively.	

Ministry Leaders

Acolytes	Paige Stalcup
Altar Guild	Terry Gordon
Choir and Praise Ensemble	Chris Perry
Christian Formation for Youth	Deb Cannon
Communications	Dianne Nunez
	Kathy Cheatham/
	ML Burgess
Cursillo	Monica Larsen
Daughters of the King	Marge Fountain
ECW (Women's Ministry)	Jeanette Rogers
Food Pantry	Penny Place
Greeters	Judy Hossack
Hispanic Ministry	Fr. Brambila
Liturgical Arrangements	Viviana Brambila
Office Angels	Gloria McManus
Pastoral Care	Elaine Austin
PRIDE (Men's Fellowship)	Glenn Gordon
Scriptorium	Deb Cannon
Sunday Lay Ministries	Fr. Brambila/
	Gloria McManus
Tai Chi	Dee Greiner
Thrift Store	Sally Worthington
Ushers	Kathy Smith/
	Bob Cheatham

Visit us on the Web: www.stmarksmesa.org and join us on Facebook at St. Mark's Episcopal Church-Mesa, AZ

Kid's Korner . . .



Hooray for St. Mark's Kids They ROCK! Youth Sunday, generally the last Sunday of the month at the 8:30 am service, the kids participate in all aspects of the service. Following the 8:30 am service, the little ones meet in the Children's Chapel and have their

own service — here they are helping Fr. Gerardo bless prayer blankets which the children made for the residents of the Good Samaritan Assisted Living facility. The older teens enjoy a night of movies and games — lotz of fun!

Food Pantry Preparing for Thanksgiving . . .



Food Pantry volunteers are collecting donations toward the purchase of \$10 Thanksgiving gift cards in lieu of turkeys this year as the cost of turkeys has become prohibitive. They hope to be able to give all of their families a gift card which they can use to purchase their choice of meat for Thanksgiving.

Daughters of the King Renew Vows on All Saints Day . . .



Pulpit Cross Dedication and Blessing . . .

On All Saints Day Fr. Steve Ford dedicated and blessed the new pulpit crucifix which was carved from a single block of wood by our own Glenn Gordon. The crucifix will grace the church for many generations to come. Thank you Glenn!



Upcoming Events . . .



November 12 — Cursillo Ultreya — Knight Hall 1-4 pm
November 13 — ECW Meeting — Conference room following the 11 am service
November 13 — Men's Ministry Meeting — Knight Hall following the 11 am service
November 23 — Thanksgiving service followed by Thanksgiving Dinner — 10 am Service—Dinner in Knight Hall following service
November 27 — First day of Advent
November 29 — East Valley Pops Concert — 7 pm
December 11 — Our Lady of Guadalupe — Time to be announced
December 16 — Los Posada — Trinity Cathedral-Phoenix, 6 pm
December 17—Los Posada—Iglesia Sao Pablo — Phoenix, 6 pm
December 24 — Christmas Eve Services — 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm (with music preludes 30 mins before service)
December 25 — Christmas Day — 10 am service
Cursillo Grouping — Every Wednesday — 11 am in the Conference Room
***Baptism/Confirmation Class —** Every Sunday — 12:30 pm
Scriptorium — new meeting times TBA* — All are welcome
Tai Chi — Every Saturday Morning — 10 am in Knight Hall — All are welcome
 *Note change in day and time.

Transportation Ministry . . .

As a church family, one of our first priorities is to ensure that our brothers and sisters in Christ are in our prayers and when the need arises, extend that love to a visit or even a ride. We are currently recruiting parishioners who are able to provide rides to others who would like to attend one of our many services but have limited or no means of transportation to do so. It is a great fellowship, deeply appreciated by those in need and allows us to grow deeper in faith and love with one another. Whether you are in need of a ride or may be able to provide transportation to someone in need, please contact Mayra Alvarado at 830-765-8088 and leave a detailed message.

Mark
Downs

Thrift Store . . .

Big Sale on Thursday, December 1st
 9 am—1 pm
 Everything on Sale for \$1 . . .
 Shop 'til you drop!

Info from the Office . . .

ATTENTION: I received a notice at the church from City of Mesa indicating that the light rail is being extended from Mesa Drive to Gilbert Road. It will include two stations, a transit center and a park-and-ride. "Construction is scheduled to begin in fall 2016 and be completed in 2018." So Main St will probably become problematic in your efforts to get to St. Mark's. University is back to normal right now. No telling how it will affect Horne as progress is made.

ECW "Kicks Off" United Thank Offering . . .



Maureen Davies and Kathy Bishop Smith, members of St. Mark's ECW, rolled out the United Thank Offering (UTO) campaign on All Saints Day, Sunday, October 30th. The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church.

Through UTO, men, women and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who participate in UTO discover that thankfulness leads to generosity. Extra UTO boxes are available in the Narthex if you did not get one or if you need an extra box or two. The campaign will end in the Spring on Ascension Day.

If you're wondering where all of the pictures are for the Trunk or Treat, All Saints Day and Dia de los Muertos events . . . Check the bulletin board in the breezeway. It was an action-packed weekend full of fun — spooks & goblins — delicious food — great books and amazing fellowship. Also, check out our web site and our Facebook page.

Men's Ministry . . .



Men's Ministry gears up to assist the East Valley Adult Resources with their "Meals on Wheels" program. Join all of the guys at their next regularly scheduled meeting in Knight Hall on Sunday, November 13th following the 11:00 am service.

Blessing of the Animals . . .



Knight Hall was the place to be on October 2nd — we had a great turnout for the Blessing of the Animals. Thanks Jan Northcutt and Deb

Cannon for your excellent calligraphy skills, Amanda Varney for the treats, Jeanette Rogers for the medals and Caleb Collins for the great pictures. All of our guests were so well behaved — hardly a bark or growl (or a meow) could be heard. Check for more pictures on the bulletin board in the breezeway.

"Pasta La Vista" Fundraiser — Memorable Success . . .



Our October 8th Spaghetti Dinner and Concert aka "Pasta La Vista" Fundraiser was funtastic, delicioso and entretenido! The East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers, the quartet during dinner and the group in the sanctuary, were FABULOUS — bringing back so many memories associated with their repertoire of songs throughout the evening and during the concert. The parish hall was decorated so beautifully . . . and for those who were not able to attend — we used cloth tablecloths, china and silver, "real" wine glasses and real live servers (members of the Men's Ministry — decked out in white shirts, black pants with the headwaiter sporting his bow tie.) The tables were decorated by our own **Jeanne Buckingham** and they were beautiful. The "exquisite" silent auction was filled with up-scale items that brought "top" dollar and the food was extraordinarily "out of this world".

Maureen and **Jim Davies** along with **Deb** and **Rick Cannon** kept the wine flowing and our own **Sandy Eiker** and **Hazel Buehlman** "rocked" the night selling 50/50 raffle tickets!

There were over 120 tickets sold for the event . . . everyone had a WONDERFUL time. But how did this all happen you ask? St. Mark's is so blessed to have an active and energetic chapter of ECW (a ministry that includes and welcomes ALL women in the Church) with a volunteer sub-committee that plans and executes events for receptions, fundraisers, etc. The sub-committee chair is **Judy Hossack** and her co-chair is **Kathy Bishop Smith** — Our Ministry Leader is **Jeanette Rogers** and our Spiritual/Team Leader is **Fr. Gerardo Brambila**. WOW — but wait! What's that adage that HRC introduced us to years ago . . . "It Takes A Village" . . . Well, it does take a village — great leaders and many members of the parish to orchestrate such a successful event. . . so, let's give a big hand to each person who volunteered their time and talent to plan, decorate, cook, serve and clean up and those who donated items for the auction and those who donated the wine and the food, and to those who gave a donation even though they were unable to attend and for all of you who came to the event. Thank you everyone!

At this writing the proceeds are still being calculated but one thing I know for sure (sounds like Oprah, huh), there will be more events in the future so don't be shy about donating or volunteering — come and join us . . . You're always welcome.

Worship FAQs and Etiquette at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Mesa, Arizona 85203

“I am drawn particularly to the services in the Sanctuary, with the choir, the pipe organ, and the enlightening and thought provoking sermons. I would invite anyone who has a love for Christ and the desire to see the world changed through His work to visit St. Mark’s.”
– Donna K.

We are often asked “What should I wear?” and “Can I take Communion?” St. Mark’s wants you to feel welcome and comfortable from the moment you arrive. Here are some things you may find helpful for yourself or for those who may be visiting.

What to wear . . .

It’s up to you. Some come dressed in their “Sunday best” while others prefer more casual attire such as jeans and a nice shirt. The same goes for children. We invite you and your family to dress in whatever way you feel is comfortable and appropriate.

Family-friendly worship services . . .

On Sundays, all of our services are open to infants and children. Many families enjoy our 8:30 a.m. Sunday service, and The Lion’s Den, coffee hour, at the Knight Hall after mass. This is a contemporary space with worship geared towards families. We also offer an 11:00 a.m. Sunday service in our Church which includes Choir, organ music, and procession, sometimes we can use incense as well. Children are welcome as well.

Taking Communion . . .

All baptized Christians are welcome to take Communion in the Episcopal Church. In the Historic Church, when it is time for you to go forward to the altar rail, an usher will direct your row. Proceed to the altar rail, and take the next available spot. Our custom is to kneel, but standing is fine if you are more comfortable that way. Fold your right hand on top of your left, palms facing up, and receive the wafer (gluten-free wafers are available, just ask for one.) You may immediately eat the wafer or wait and dip it in the wine. To sip the wine from the chalice, guide it to your lips with your hand on the base of the chalice. Receiving just the bread or wine alone is considered full communion. When you are done, you can return to your seat. If you are unable to come to the rail, please let an usher know, and we will bring Communion to you. Those wanting to take Communion or get a blessing gather around the altar when directed by the priest, and bread and wine are distributed.

All baptized children are welcome to receive communion. You or your children are also welcome to a blessing if you would prefer that instead. Simply come to the rail or altar, kneel if you like, and cross your arms over your chest.

Moving about during services . . .

Even life-long Episcopalians will ask, “When is it okay to move about the sanctuary if I need to leave?” Our general rule is that if you can wait until the sequence hymn before the Gospel reading or during the Passing of the Peace, those are the best times. We understand, especially if you have children with you, this may not always be possible. Quietly entering or exiting the sanctuary can also be done when everyone is singing or standing. It’s best to avoid entering or leaving the worship area during prayer so as not to disrupt others.

Another note:

1. How Do I Follow the Service?

When you arrive, an usher will give you a bulletin that tells which pages in the Book of Common Prayer and the hymnal to use. Many parishes print the entire order of service in the bulletin itself.

2. Are my Kids Welcome? Is There a Cry Room?

Kids are always welcome. While most buildings lack a specified cry room, there are usually places where you can take your kids if they

get fidgety where you can still hear the service. Nursery and children’s chapel are generally available.

3. What Should I Do Before the Service?

It’s appropriate to spend the pre-service time in quiet prayer or reflection.

4. How Do I Remember When to Stand, Sit, or Kneel?

Here’s the typical rule of thumb: stand during hymns, the Gospel reading, the Creed, the Peace, and the first part of the Eucharistic prayer; sit during the readings, sermon, and offertory; and kneel for prayer. During the Eucharistic prayer, it’s acceptable to either stand or kneel.

5. Do I Have to Do Everything the Other Worshipers Do?

No, but it is considered rude to not stand during the Gospel reading unless physically unable to. If unable to kneel, sitting is perfectly fine.

6. Am I Required to Put Something in the Offering Plate?

It’s not required, and no one will be offended. Whatever amount you feel like contributing is fine.

7. How Do I Receive Communion?

Usually, you’ll go forward to the altar rail. Stand or kneel at the rail, where you’ll receive the bread first. If receiving from the common cup, you can consume the bread first. When the chalice bearer comes to you, either take a small sip from the chalice, or dip the bread into the chalice, then consume. You can also have the chalice bearer dip the bread and place it in your mouth.

8. What Should I Do If I’m Not Receiving?

It’s okay if you choose not to receive for whatever reason. However, it’s a good idea to avoid leaving prior to the communion part of the service, as this can be somewhat rude. If not receiving, you can simply stay in your seat. You can also go forward, but cross your arms over your chest to indicate you’re not receiving. The priest will give you a blessing instead. If you cross your arms again when the chalice bearer comes by, they’ll go on to the next person.

9. What If I’m Disabled and Can’t Go Forward?

Let an usher know, and they can have someone bring the sacrament to you in your seat.

10. And After the Service?


You’ll have a chance to greet the clergy as you’re leaving. If there’s a coffee hour, you’re invited, of course!



East Valley Pops Orchestra

Coming to St. Mark’s . . .

The East Valley Pops Orchestra
is pleased to present a *free* concert for
The Bill & Cynthia Richey Fund for Music Education
Tuesday, November 29, 2016 • 7pm



St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
322 N. Horne Street, Mesa AZ
(Located just south of University on Horne,
a 1/2 mile east of Mesa Drive)

*A goodwill offering will be collected during the
concert, which will be shared with St. Mark’s.
Visit our website for more information:
www.eastvalleypops.com*

Come and support Music Education in Mesa Schools!
The East Valley Pops Orchestra is making great strides in
helping music education in the Mesa Public School
District. To date, we have given thousands of dollars to
local schools for the purchase of musical instruments and
musical supplies. Come and learn about what we’re trying
to do and listen to some great music!

This section of the Newsletter is provided for Parishioners to advertise their business. We will print a copy of your business card for a period of three (3) consecutive Newsletters. Rather than assess a fee for the publication, we are asking for a monetary donation to help defray the cost of printing the Newsletter. Currently, the Newsletter is distributed to all of our parishioners and guests — approximately 200 copies per edition. At the end of the three printings, you may renew your business card along with an additional monetary donation. Contact Mary Lou Burgess at mburg37114@aol.com or 480-218-5434 for further information.



Space available . . .

