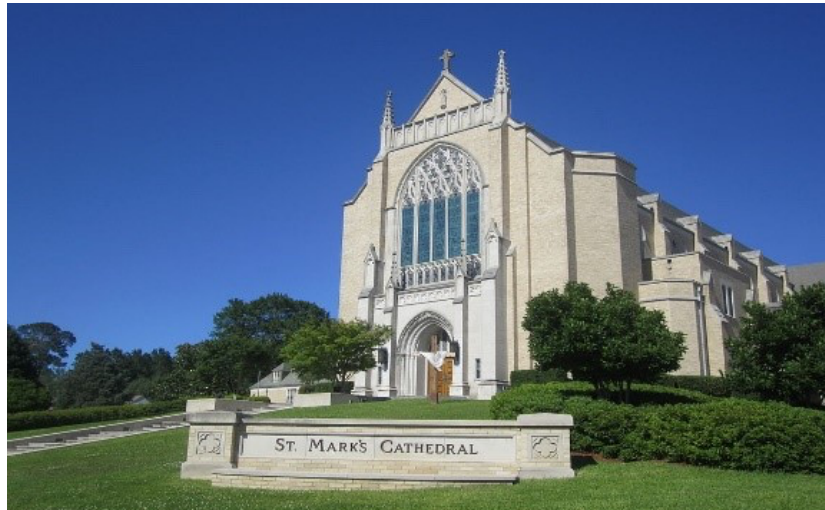


St Mark's Episcopal Cathedral



Handbook

Welcome to St Mark's

Dear Friend,

We are delighted to have you worship with us and we hope that you are spiritually uplifted by the experience. We believe our fellowship is always enriched by people who join us in praise of God.

We extend a special invitation to you to join us in worship again, and if you are looking for a church home, we sincerely hope you will consider St Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Shreveport.

Please feel free to ask an usher, a greeter, or any parishioner questions you may have about our church or worship service.

We look forward to greeting you again in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Faithfully yours,

The Very Rev. Alston B. Johnson, Dean

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS for Youth

Acolytes are students in Grade 5 and up. They lead the procession and assist the clergy during worship. Training sessions are held.

CAMP ABLE is a summer session at Camp Hardtner for special needs campers. High School students are invited to serve as counselors. Camp Able will return in 2023.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) are Junior High and High School students of the parish who normally meet on Wednesday nights and Sunday evenings for fun, fellowship, and Christian formation events. The schedule is variable, and you will want to contact Sarah Wilkes - Youth Minister - about being included in upcoming events and announcements.

Youth Bell Ringers is for ages 11 – 16. Practice is Wednesday at 6:00 pm. Ringout St. Mark's call to worship before 10:30 am Sunday Eucharist.

Camp Hardtner is a Christian Camp for Grades 2-12 sponsored by the Western Diocese Jr High Camp is for grades 6, 7 and 8th grades. Mid High is for grades 9,10 and 11th grades. Sr High Camp is for 11th and 12th grades.

Youth Confirmation Youth Confirmation is directed by the clergy with the assistance of lay leadership. It prepares young Christians to make their mature profession of faith, beyond that assured in their Baptisms. While all may be confirmed, it is not a step that is required in order to be a faithful communicant of St. Mark's. It is the hope of the clergy and lay leadership that your young people understand the gravity and significance of making mature commitments to worship and baptismal vows.

Normally these classes are taught in St. Mark's Cathedral School during the Spring, and on Sunday mornings during the year. Please watch for communications regarding Youth Confirmation.

Boys and Girls Choir is for ages 7-14. Practice Wednesday 4:00 -5:30 pm during the school year. This choir sings the Choral Evensong service on select Sundays at 5:00 pm.

Biscuits & Bible Study is for grades 6-8 in the Cathedral School during school year

ACTIVITIES and EVENTS for Children

Boys and Girls Choir is for children ages 7-14. Practice is Wednesday afternoon from 4-5:30 pm. This choir sings the Choral Evensong on select Sundays at 5:00 pm.

Christians in Action (CIA) is for grades 4-5. Quarterly outings are planned to places such as Air U, the Corn Maze, the movies, etc.

Camp Hardtner is a Christian Camp for grades 2-12 sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana just north of Alexandria, LA. Please visit www.camphardtner.org. First Camp is for 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades. Primary Camp is for 4th, 5th and 6th grades.

Communion Celebration is for grades 1-2. Students learn about and celebrate the Holy Eucharist. It is scheduled in the Fall as needed.

Nativity Pageant is for Pre-K to Grade 12. Our children share their version of the Birth of Christ at 10:30 am Sunday Eucharist before Christmas.

Vacation Bible School is for Pre-K to Grade 12 during one week in the summer. Kids explore Bible stories through song, art, games and mission work.



9:30 am

Sundays during the school year

CATECHESIS of the GOOD SHEPHERD – LEVEL 1 Atrium for children K3 through Kindergarten downstairs in Room 106

CATECHESIS of the GOOD SHEPHERD – LEVEL II Atrium for children entering 1st through 3rd grades downstairs in Room 105

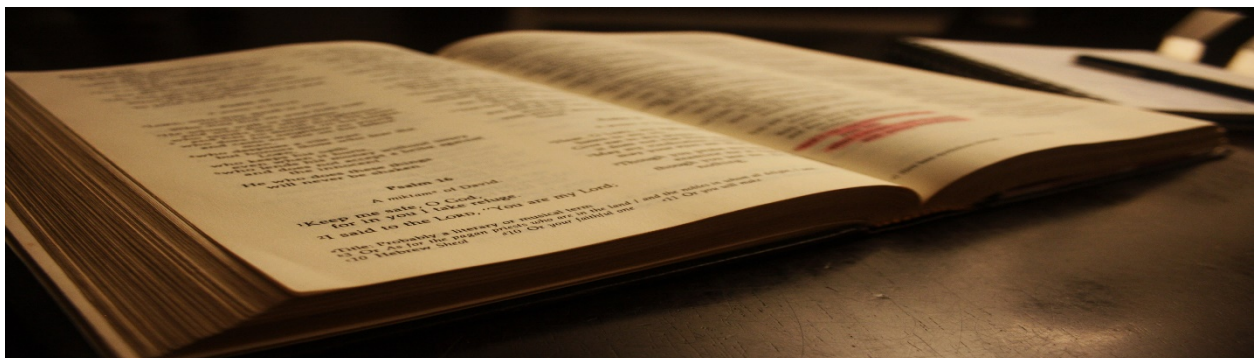
ADULT Christian Formation – led by others in the Ministry Center to include video series, book studies and spiritual and scholarly explorations

Other Adult offerings during the Week

Confirmation/Inquirers class TBA Learn about the Episcopal Church and your commitment to Christ.

Wednesday Night Book Study 6:00 pm in the Church Library are studied that provide spiritual inspiration or religious guidance.

Men's Wednesday Bible Study Noon in the Ministry Center led by Alston Johnson and Thomas Nsubuga. Group has a brown bag lunch and studies the Bible and other religious books.



Cathedral Ministries

Building Committee oversees the work done for the maintenance and refurbishment of the Cathedral.

Cathedral School is an accredited Episcopal school for grades pre-K through 8th . Please visit www.stmarksschool.com

Community Ministries identify and financially support worthwhile programs that serve the poor and disadvantaged.

Community Outreach includes collections and service work for Food Bank, Fuller Center, Hope House, Providence House, etc.

Cooking Crew prepares monthly meals for community groups and Thanksgiving, Christmas and Parish dinners.



Episcopal Church Women (ECW) is a service and social group for all women of the Cathedral.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) is for grades 6-12 with Bible study, outings, lock-ins, retreats, mission work, etc.



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Cathedral Events

Advent Wreath Workshop – Make a Wreath to prepare for the coming of Christ



Annual Meeting & Lunch is held in January after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Eucharist in the Parish Hall. We review the events of the previous year.

Baptism is held during the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist on special Sundays. We welcome St. Mark's newest members into the household of Christ.

Confirmation is in the Spring at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Eucharist where adults and students grades 8-12 make their commitment to Christ.

Lessons and Carols are offered on Sunday before Christmas at 4 p.m. This is Christmas gift from the Cathedral Choir to the community.

Pearls is held annually to honor our oldest female members.

Pillars Supper is held annually to honor our oldest male members.

Pentecost Picnic is held after the 10:30 am Sunday Eucharist in May to celebrate the birth of the Christian Church.

Rally Day and Lunch is held after Sunday 10:30 am Eucharist the Sunday before Labor Day. We celebrate all that St Mark's Cathedral has to offer.

Shrove Tuesday is when last year's palms are burned in the courtyard followed by a 6 pm Mardi Gras supper in the Parish Hall with pancakes and jambalaya served by the EYC.



Youth Sunday is held in MAY at the 10:30 am Eucharist. The EYC leads the Eucharist of the Word.

Worship in the Episcopal Church

We worship in a liturgical style where the congregation is intimately involved with all aspects of the service which includes standing and singing, sitting and listening, kneeling and praying.

The service bulletin provided by the usher will guide you during the service. We use the red Book of Common Prayer and the Blue hymnal. Service hymns, denoted with an S, are at the beginning of the hymnal. For example, **S128** is Sanctus and **Hymn 128** is “We Three Kings.”

Our service begins with a procession that is led by a vergers, followed by acolytes carrying the cross and candles, followed by the choir, additional acolytes and lay ministers who serve at the altar, and ending with the ordained clergy.

Everyone in the procession wears special robes to signify they are serving at the altar of the Lord. The clergy also wear stoles or other vestments reflecting the color of the current season of the Church Year:

Advent – BLUE
Christmas – WHITE
Epiphany – GREEN
Lent – PURPLE
Easter – WHITE
Pentecost – RED
Ordinary Time – GREEN

The altar cloths also reflect these colors of the Church Year.

If visiting, the Bishop will be the last person in the procession. He or she will wear a mitre (a pointed hat that suggests the flame of the Holy Spirit) and will carry a crozier (a staff symbolizing the Bishop’s role as Shepherd of the people of the Diocese).

The first part of the service is *The Liturgy of the Word of God*. It includes readings from the Old Testament, Psalms, the New Testament, and the Gospel. The Psalm is sung by the choir or said aloud by the people, we stand during the Gospel, the

Good News of Jesus Christ, and then a sermon is preached by the priest. *(If you have difficulty hearing the sermon, a printed copy is available at the back of the church.)*

Following this, we affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed, pray for the people of the world and of our church, confess our sins, exchange a Sign of Peace, and listen to any special announcements. Children rejoin their parents at this time.

The second part of the service is *The Liturgy of the Holy Communion*, and it begins with the **Offertory**. Oblationers from the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine to the celebrant at the altar along with the gifts of support collected by the ushers from the people of the church.

We continue with the **Great Thanksgiving** where the celebrant offers the prayers commemorating the Last Supper, we say the Lord's Prayer, and then we gather at the table of the Lord to receive Communion.

At **Holy Communion**, we go to the altar and kneel down at the rail to receive the bread and the wine. A priest will offer a communion wafer, the Body of Christ. A chalice bearer will offer a cup of wine, the Blood of the Christ. You may consume the communion wafer and the help guide the cup of wine to your mouth. Or you may present the wafer to the chalice bearer to be dipped into the wine, receiving the Body and Blood of Christ together. Gluten-free wafers are available if needed.

If you do not wish to receive, then place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion, regardless of age or denomination. You may also go to the side chapel to receive prayers for healing.

In the St. Mark's congregation, some are cradle Episcopalians and others have joined from different faiths. We are all here to worship God as His children. Some reverence God by making the sign of the cross or bowing. You may do so as well if you are so inclined, but nothing is required.

We are honored to have you here today. Thank you for joining us.

A Message from the Dean of St. Mark's Cathedral

If you are visiting for the first time, we are honored to have you here.

St Mark's is a Cathedral parish in the Episcopal and Anglican tradition. We are believers in the life, ministry, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We believe that the Gospel contains both a medicine and a message giving depth and meaning to human life. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God's grace for the means of our salvation.

We experience the power and presence of Christ in the midst of our worship. Our worship is shaped by the Prayer Book traditions of England and America, and our music is derived from the classical Western tradition of Christian hymns and composition. Essentially, we worship in a traditional style.

We experience the power and presence of Christ in seeking to serve our fellow human beings. You will find many avenues into the Shreveport and Bossier communities where St. Mark's members seek to be the hands and feet of our Lord. Perhaps this is a calling for you

We experience the transformative power of Christ in the midst of prayer, study and spiritual formation. At St. Mark's we have a number of ways through which families and individuals encounter the Word of God, pray together and discern the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Through classes, retreats and speaker's series, there is an opportunity to move more deeply into a life of faith.

There is so much more that we would like to share with you. Thank you for worshiping with us today. I hope that you will make yourself known to us in a way that is comfortable for you.

Blessings and Godspeed,

Alston Johnson

Dean of St. Mark's Cathedral