



ST. MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

THE FOUNDATION

JANUARY 2024

Youth and Children's Ministry Newsletter

FROM THE YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S DESK...

I cannot believe that it is 2024 already!

There are so many exciting things happening in January at St. Mark's Cathedral. **Youth Confirmation classes kick off on January 7.** They are led by Patrick Caraway, Bob McVie, Bob Ewing, and Gary Love. Please keep these young people and their leaders in your prayers.

St. Mark's Kids Club kicks off January 10. We will meet in the youth rooms in the ministry center. There will be activities for Kindergarten - 2nd grade (Club K-2) and for 3rd - 5th grade (Club 345)

High School Prayer Breakfast and Youth Bible Study also begin January 10. Prayer Breakfast will meet at Julie Anne's from 7:15-8:15 on Wednesday mornings. Youth Bible Study (6th-12th grade) will be at 6pm on Wednesdays.

Continue to pray for our youth and adults that are preparing to travel to Honduras in March. They are praying and preparing for this journey that Christ has set before them. We need some financial sponsors for the trip. If you would like to help support our mission, please contact Amy.

SAVE THE DATES

Communion Celebration Workshop

(1st-3rd grade) April 13

Communion Celebration

(1st-3rd grade) April 14 10:30 service

Youth Sunday/Senior Recognition

May 12 10:30 service

Confirmation

May 19 10:30 Service

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Please pray for our Honduras Mission Team as they prepare.

1. Amy Garsee
2. Ely Bulnes
3. Patrick Caraway
4. Emma Caraway
5. France Jenkins
6. Dixon Wright
7. Taylor Garsee
8. Gordon Caraway
9. ?
10. ?

There are still spots available on our team.

Contact Amy if interested.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 7

- Youth Confirmation Class 4-5pm Room 101
- EYC 5-7pm in the Youth Rooms

January 10

- St. Mark's Kids Club 6-7pm Ministry Center
- Youth Bible Study 6-7pm in Ministry Center

January 14

- EYC 5-7 in the Youth Rooms

January 17

- St. Mark's Kids Club 6-7pm Ministry Center
- Youth Bible Study 6-7pm in Ministry Center

January 20

- Youth Lock in at SMC

January 21

- Youth Confirmation class with mentors 4-5 pm (All Confirmands)

January 24

- St. Mark's Kids Club 6-7 Ministry Center
- Youth Bible Study 6-7 in Ministry Center

January 28

- Pastalaya fundraiser for Honduras /Annual Meeting
- Youth Confirmation Class 4-5pm Room 101
- EYC 5-7pm in the Youth Rooms

January 31

- St. Mark's Kids Club
- Youth Bible Study 6-7 in Ministry Center

February 4

- Youth Confirmation Class 4-5pm Room 101
- EYC 5-7pm in the Youth Rooms

February 7

- St. Mark's Kids Club 6-7pm in Ministry Center
- Youth Bible Study 6-7pm in Ministry Center

February 9

- Parents Night Out 5:30-8:30 Ministry Center

February 11

- Youth Confirmation Class 4-5pm Room 101
- EYC 5-7pm in the Youth Rooms

February 13

- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 14

- St. Mark's Kids Club 6-7pm in Ministry Center
- Youth Bible Study 6-7pm in Ministry Center

February 18

- No EYC or Confirmation class

February 21

- St. Mark's Kids Club 6-7pm in Ministry Center
- Youth Bible Study 6-7pm in Ministry Center

February 25

- Youth Confirmation Class 4-5pm Room 101
- EYC 5-7pm at St. Paul's

February 28

- St. Mark's Kids Club 6-7pm in Ministry Center
- Youth Bible Study 6-7pm in Ministry Center

EYC spotlight

3 Questions with Cooper Varnadore



School: St. Mark's Cathedral School

Grade: 8th

Birthday: October 7

My favorite part of EYC is the fellowship. I really like it when we just get to hang out and be together.

My favorite St. Mark's memory is getting candy on Easter Sunday.

When I grow up I want to be wealthy.



Christmas Eve

Nativity Pageant



Gingerbread houses with St. Paul's EYC



Parent's Night Out



SUNDA School

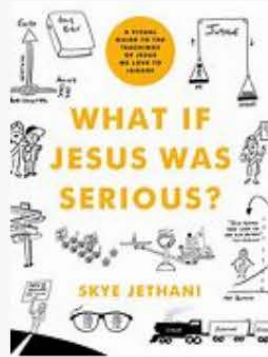
collaborate
Bible Study



Middle School
Study



High School
Study



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS at St. Mark's



- 4:15pm Boys & Girls Choir
 - 5:30pm Parish Dinner
 - 6:00pm* Adult Choir
 - St. Mark's Kids Club (K-5th)
 - Youth Bible Study
 - Women of Faith Bible Study
 - Wednesday Night Book Club
 - 6:15pm* Adult Confirmation Class
- *Nursery Provided

Join us on Wednesday Nights for Fellowship, Food and Spiritual Formation



St. Mark's

KIDS CLUB

Kickoff Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Kindergarten - 5th grade

Every Wednesday from 6-7 pm in the Ministry Center



Games



Crafts



Bible Study

Join us for Family Dinner in the Parish Hall at 5:30pm

Club 345

Club K2

For more information contact Amy Garsee amy@stmarkscathedral.net or Laura Grayson Ameen laura@stmarkscathedral.net

ST. MARK'S EYC

PARENTS Night Out

HONDURAS MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

5:30 - 8:30 PM

ST. MARKS CATHEDRAL
MINISTRY CENTER

\$20 per child*

*CHILDREN MUST BE POTTY TRAINED

DINNER MOVIES
GAMES SNACKS
& MORE

FINDING

Grace

IN THE TRENCHES

Fresh Starts and Redos
by Corrie Gerbatz - Proverbs 31 Ministries

I stood beside the festively decorated table as I balanced my fancy, shiny plate, which was much too small for my tower of finger foods and sweets. Another holiday gathering.

The topic of the hour was the new year to come and the goals people hoped to follow through with this time. I listened politely (and munched continually) as talk of workout routines, detox specials and “life-changing” reads were discussed and debated at length. People were either cutting something out — foods, behaviors, social media, toxic relationships — or adding something in — more gratefulness, more nature, more downtime, more kindness. But regardless of where they fell on that spectrum, everyone was waiting until the new year to start fresh. And it made sense. A do-over sounded good, especially after the year of uncertainty and upheaval we’d all just struggled through. Cue the “New Year — New You!” banner slogan here.

Later that night, I lay in bed obsessing about my own grand plans for the new year. Was I going to cut things out or add things in? My head could obviously do with less self-criticism, my waistband perhaps less sugar and my nights less Netflix. But also, it couldn’t hurt to bolster my heart with a little more thankfulness, patience and a lot more prayer! Before long, my grand list of to-dos for the “new me” was not feeling so grand, and instead, I felt as overburdened as my shiny snack plate — ready to crack under the mounting pressure. No wonder most New Year’s resolutions failed in the first month! It was all too much! I dramatically fluffed my pillow and was ready to continue my aimless tossing and turning when a forgotten truth burst through my grumbling tangle of thoughts:

But His mercies are new every morning.

My body instantly stilled. Did I hear that right? I waited two breaths more before scrambling to grab my Bible and search for the words which hung heavy in the air.

“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23).

There it was before me. Words of hope to cling to! Words which were first proclaimed over God’s people when they were desperately in need of their own restart.

They had gone astray in a big way — cutting out a lot of good, adding in a lot of bad — and they were reaping the heartbreaking consequences. But even then, the Lord’s compassion was ever present. Even then, He offered His mercy. Why? Because they were His people! They belonged to Him ... just as I belong to Him.

My heart exhaled in relief. I didn’t need to wait for the start of a new year, a new season or even a new week to pursue a fresh start. And I definitely didn’t need to quit in shame if (and when) my fresh start needed another restart ... and another ... and seven more for good measure. I belong to the Lord! He is my fresh start every morning, and His mercies are never-ending.

The same is true for you!

Friends, when we belong to the Lord, we are given the grace-filled privilege to seek His mercy at any time. (Hebrews 4:16) There are no strings attached. Our heavenly Father simply invites us to begin again ... with Him. And with Him is what makes all the difference in the world!

With Him, we are not alone.

With Him, our strength is renewed.

He And with Him, our restarts and redoes are redeemed!

So whether we find ourselves needing to add in more of the good stuff — humility, gratefulness, self-control, tolerance, forgiveness — or cut out the bad — addiction, shame, guilt, greed, envy, bitterness — with Him, we can feel hopeful for this new year because our gracious and merciful Lord is sovereign over it all.

Heavenly Father, we are humbled by Your unending love and mercy for us. We praise Your holy name. Realign our steps to Yours every morning and embolden our hearts to trust You fully in this new year. Thank You, Lord. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Contact Us:

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St Marks EYC