ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

THE EVANGELIST

VOLUME 67, ISSUE 6 ✠ JUNE 2026 ✠ WWW.STMARKSCATHEDRAL.NET

Finding Life's Stillness...and Carrying It With You

Good morning. My name is Hart Snyder, and I am extremely grateful to be standing here with you today.

I have to be honest with you, I've stood in this church hundreds of times. I've carried the processional cross down this aisle. I've held the torches. I've walked with the banners. But standing up here, looking out at all of you, is somehow the most nervous I've ever been in this building. So thank you in advance for your grace.

I want to talk today about something I didn't fully understand until recently. I want to talk about stillness. And about what this place, what all of you, have quietly given me over the years.

There is a moment that happens every single time I serve as an acolyte. After the procession, after we've walked down the aisle, after everything settles, I sit down in the back of this church. Robes on. The service beginning in front of me.

And something happens to me back there that I've never been able to fully explain.

Everything goes quiet.

Not the building, the building is full of sound. But something inside me goes quiet. The tests I've been stressing over, the homework piling up, the quizzes, the pressure of figuring out what comes next, all of it just... lifts. It doesn't disappear forever. I know it'll be waiting for me when I walk back out those doors. But for that hour, it's gone. And in its place, there is just this quiet hum. A stillness I don't find anywhere else.

I used to think that was just me zoning out. But the older I get, the more I think it's something else entirely. I think that stillness is what faith actually feels like when it's working.

I started at St. Mark's Cathedral School when I was very young. So young that I don't really remember arriving, I was 3 actually. This place didn't feel like something new I had to get used to. It just felt like where I was supposed to be. I settled in as a Teddy Bear very quickly.

I grew up here alongside the same people, year after year. By the time I reached 8th grade, we weren't just classmates. We were family. We had grown up together, through the field trips, plays, tests, and coming to chapel every week. You don't manufacture that kind of closeness. It grows slowly, the way real things do. And St. Mark's gave us the soil.

I learned to read in this school. I learned to pray in this church. I learned what it looks like to actually believe something, not from a textbook, but from watching the people around me live it out, week after week, year after year.

After 8th grade, I left St. Mark's Cathedral School. I went to Loyola College Prep, a different building, a new chapter, a place where most people didn't know my story yet. That kind of transition is exciting and disorienting at the same time. You leave somewhere that knows you, and you walk into somewhere that doesn't know you.

But St. Mark's never let go of me. And I don't just mean I kept coming to church, though I did. I mean something deeper. The faith that was planted in me here, the moral compass that was set in me in these walls, it followed me into every classroom I sat in at Loyola. It followed me through every hard week, every stressful season. It was the voice underneath all the noise that told me who I was and what truly mattered.

Proverbs 22:6 says: "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

I always thought that verse was about obedience. But I've come to believe it's really about identity. When you are loved and formed and shaped in the right way, that doesn't just produce good behavior. It produces a person who knows who they are, no matter how far from home they wander.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP
8:00 am, 10:30 am, & 6:00 pm
Sunday Holy Eucharist

JUNE 7, 2026
The Second Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 5 :15- 6 :6 — Romans 4 :13-18
Psalm 50 :7-15 — Matthew 9 :9-13,18-26

JUNE 14, 2026
The Third Sunday after Pentecost

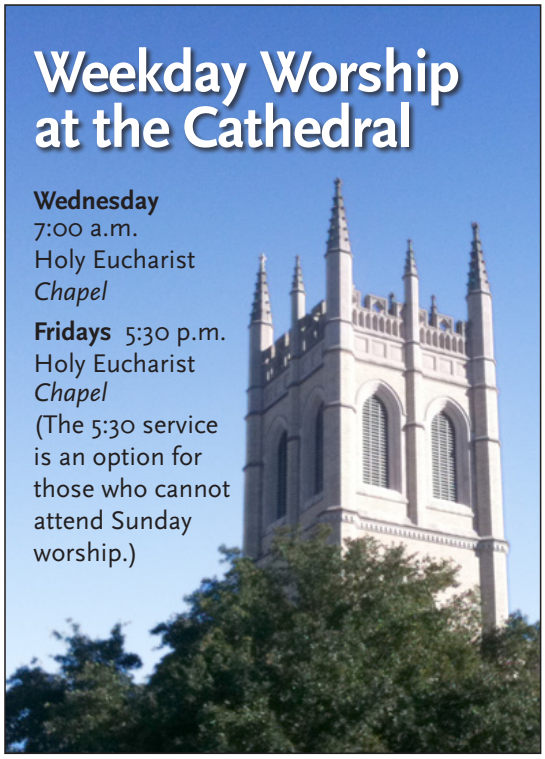
Exodus 19 :2-8a — Romans 5 :1-8
Psalm 100 — Matthew 9 :35-10 :8-23

JUNE 21, 2026
The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 am Holy Eucharist & Baptism

Jeremiah 20 :7-13 — Romans 6 :1b-11
Psalm 69 :8-11, 18-20 — Matthew 10 :24-39

JUNE 28, 2026
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 28:5-9 — 1Romans 6:12-23
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 — Matthew 10:40-42



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I've been trying to figure out how to say thank you to an entire community. I'm not sure it's fully possible. But I want to try.

Thank you for being a constant. When I left this school and walked into a new one, you were still here. Every Sunday, the doors were open. Every Sunday, there was a place for me in the back of this church with a robe and a cross and that quiet hum. For a young person figuring out who they are, that kind of steadiness is everything.

Thank you for letting me serve. I have carried this processional cross down this aisle more times than I can count. And every single time, I felt something. I felt like I was holding a piece of something ancient and alive, something that started long before me and will continue long after I'm gone. That is a gift I didn't ask for and didn't deserve, and I am grateful for it.

And thank you for that stillness. For giving me a place where the noise of life, the tests and the pressure and the uncertainty of growing up, can go quiet for an hour. I didn't know how much I needed that until I had it. And I didn't know how rare it was until I looked for it somewhere else and couldn't find it.

This fall, I'll leave Shreveport and head to the University of Mississippi. I'll walk onto a campus where most people don't know my name yet. And I'll carry this place with me.

Not just the memories, and not just the friendships, but I'll carry the compass. The one that was set in me when I was small, in these hallways and in this sanctuary. The one that points toward honesty, toward service, and towards loving your neighbors.

I'll carry the stillness. When things get loud, and they will get loud, I know now what it feels like for everything to go quiet. I know it's possible. And I know where it came from.

I think that's what this community has always been doing, whether it fully realizes it or not. Every Sunday, every service, every small act of faithfulness, you are giving people something to carry. You are sending people out into the world with a compass in their chest and a quiet hum in their hearts.

Don't stop doing that.

I started this morning with a confession. Let me end with a prayer.

Lord, thank you for places like this one. Thank you for communities that hold people while they grow, that root them before they fly, that tell them who they are before the world gets the chance to tell them otherwise. Thank you for St. Mark's Cathedral. Thank you for every person in these pews who, knowingly or unknowingly, gave a kid a place to find stillness, and sent him out into the world a little more whole than he came in.

Go and do likewise.

Amen.

Oblationers Needed

Our Hospitality Committee invites parishioners (families, adult singles, siblings, friends) to serve as oblationers (gift bearers) at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. This is a meaningful way to serve the faith community. For more information please contact **Kathy Williams at 469-9211**.

A full-color version of *The Evangelist* is on our website! Go to **https://stmarkscathedral.net/the-evangelist/**

Altar Guild Changing of the Guard

The St. Mark's Altar Guild of St. Margaret celebrated outgoing Directress Barbara Messier-Villafuerte at a reception last month.

2026-27 Directress Liz Montelepre,
2025-26 Directress Barbara Messier-Villafuerte,
2026-27 Assistant Directress Margaret Texada

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

June 7

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert D'Aquin, Mr. & Mrs. Dan Donald, Sr., and in honor of Father Seth Donald.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Scott Crichton's birthday.

June 14

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Burr D. Ilgenfritz and Mr. & Mrs. Warren C. West, and with Thanksgiving for the 65th wedding anniversary of Warren & Jane West.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Thomas Adams Watts and John Hunt Doak.

June 21

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Skip Simonton.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of William Robert Fair, Bettie Parks Fair, and Thomas Kalford Ratcliff.

June 28

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. James Davis Boyd, John Baylor Boyd, Mr. & Mrs. James Curtis Stevens, Mr. & Mrs. Sydney Algernon Cameron, Jr., Matthew Stevens Cameron, Mr. & Mrs. John Davis Boyd, William Michael Boyd, and Mary Taylor "Tal" Bourgeois Broyles.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Restarick and Dr. & Mrs. Jack Pou.

BAPTISMS

Arden Elizabeth Vanderberg and **Campbell O'Neal Vanderberg,** children of **Elizabeth & Robert Vanderberg,** on May 10, 2026.

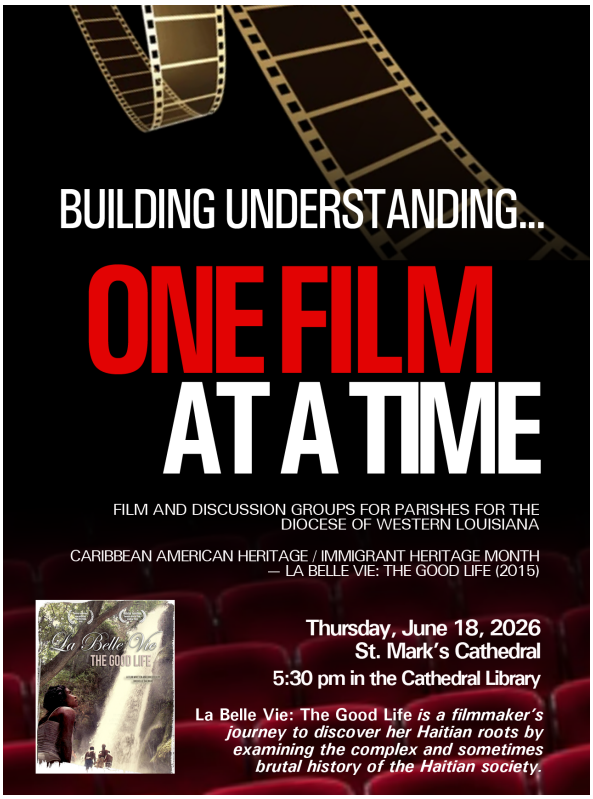
You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. Amen.

DEATHS

Rest Eternal grant to him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.

Jack Carlisle, husband of **Mikey Carlisle,** on May 6, 2026.

May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Racial Reconciliation series celebrates Caribbean American Heritage Month

Each month, we focus on a different community or cultural group — Join us on **June 18, and the 3rd Thursday of every month, at 5:30 pm in the Cathedral Library**.

La Belle Vie: The Good Life is a filmmaker's journey to discover her Haitian roots by examining the complexities of the Haitian society.

Haiti was the first Black republic to free itself from French colonialism, creating a worldwide image that slavery was inhumane. In later years, the US government intercepted thousands of Haitians, Cubans, and other immigrants; they were classified as "economic refugees" to justify swift deportations, disregarding claims of political persecution.

"People from all walks of life truly desire a beautiful life relative to their own reality, even if it means jumping on a boat to achieve it."

— Filmmaker Rachelle Salnave

Summer Is Here! Have You Registered Yet?

Our Music Camp will take place **July 13–17**, ending with a performance of "It's Cool in the Furnace" on **Sunday, July 19**!

Vacation Bible School will be held from **July 20–24**...a Tropical Trek!

St. Mark's "We Serve" service camp will take place from **July 27–31**.

EFM for All

by Sarah Roussel Hamm, EFM graduating senior

I was raised in an Evangelical tradition, and the Bible was quoted constantly. Verses were prescriptions for every human ailment, and my teen study Bible had special explainers to dispel any high schooler's curiosity. Despite my upbringing, I arrived in my early 30s as a fledgling Episcopalian with a lot of insecurity about my Bible intelligence. How did our sacred book get to its final point? Who compiled it and why were these stories included and not others? In short, do I really know what I believe and why? These questions clashed with my idea of what a good Christian should be, and I decided to finally find some answers.

I'm a perpetual student, notorious for signing up for one more class, one more hobby, one more workshop. EFM was a natural step. I naively assumed it would be another jewel of wisdom to add to my collection. And let's be honest, I was intrigued by the idea of winning debates with other Christians when they used scripture out of context. But God has a habit of converting human plans into something divine. My ego led me to EFM. I thought I would figure it all out, but my questions multiplied by the end of my first year.

What I discovered in EFM were not answers but people with a similar curiosity. Much like the liturgy, EFM groups are set apart. We are not a Bible study, book club, or traditional seminary. It does not offer easy solutions or confirm preconceived notions. EFM challenges us to reexamine our faith, to approach it from every angle with a microscope. The value of this work resides in the people who gather together to explore theological meaning. EFM encourages us to be vulnerable, and we are bound by a vow of confidentiality. It's taken almost four years, but I now understand that my presence and participation are more meaningful than sharing the most thought-provoking comment. The power of EFM comes from listening and learning from one another.

EFM set a rhythm for my life. For four years, from September to May, I intensely studied the Bible, church history, traditions, and my relationship with Christ. In full transparency, some weeks I finished the reading and others had me skimming and racing to get to the meeting on time. Thankfully, perfection is not a requirement. I was relieved at the beginning of my second year when I finally graduated from Old Testament to New Testament, foolishly thinking it would be light reading. Instead, I consumed each Gospel as though it were the first time. I imagined the apostles in Acts as they built the foundation of Christianity. I saw glimpses of myself in these stories. Like me, these people were asking questions about how to best follow the way of Christ.

The process of EFM helps us approach scripture with a new set of glasses. After four years, my faith has been renewed by the realization that I could spend the remainder of my life peeling back all the layers of this cosmic mystery. I witnessed God breathe new life into these ancient stories, and each year stretched me to go deeper. EFM is a bit like a prayer labyrinth, a journey that weaves and spirals versus a straight line. A good Christian commits to the journey, so I keep moving. EFM has taught me to find solace in seeking, and I have a lifetime to wrestle with my faith, my doubt, my fear. Most importantly, I am not traveling alone. My fellow Christians, especially my EFM classmates, walk with me.

Adult Christian Formation

9:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m. **The New Testament – N.T. Wright**
Dean Alston Johnson */ Ministry Center Garden Room*

9:30 a.m. **Renovation of the Heart by Dallas Willard**
Fr. Thomas Nsubuga **/** *Library*

ST. MARK'S WORK OUT

5:30 - 6:15 am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Necessary equipment onsite.

Call Dean Johnson in the office for more info.

Come join a group that rises early to exercise in the mornings with short runs, barbell workouts, and calisthenics.

Children's Christian Formation

Nursery (newborn to K3 - 3 years old by September 30th)
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 pm
First floor of Parish building next to Catechesis Atriums

Birthday Card Ministry

This year, we launched a birthday card ministry to celebrate all of our parishioners. If you find yourself wanting to serve but needing to do it on your own time, please consider this meaningful ministry. Materials are provided. For more information, please contact **Lauren Ewing** at **550-1743** or **lauren.ewing@me.com**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE 1
Scott Crichton
Karen Hardtner
Matthew Schoonover
Dodge McCraw

2
Paul Martin
Mike Cooper
Charlotte Ourso
Grayson Boucher

4
Bill Gray
Edie Williams
Andrew Atkins
John Perkins
Anne Jenkins

5
Charlie Burwell
Ellen Alley
Jimmy Campbell
Michael McGlothlin

6
Lisa Childs
John Reeks
Murray Viser
Debbie Hall
Patrick Davenport
Leah Muslow
Kate Hesson
Stacey Melerine

7
Richard Elston
Sandra Cason
Katie-Beth Morton

8
Karen FitzGerald
Louis Harrison

9
Sandra Leatherman
Barro Massad
James Haynes
Christopher David
Frances Hardtner
Mary Elizabeth Harper
Knighton Sample

10
Hugh Herzog
Whit Campbell
Alyssa Coggins
Taylor Slack
Becky Bryant

11
Christina Kilpatrick
Brett Schoonover

12
Susan Hardtner
Barron O'Neal
Oscar Berry
Anne Deupree
Barbara Newtown
Kaitlyn Stage

13
Margaret Texada
Ella Melerine
Camille Melerine
Andrew Dickson
Kayden Zimora
Kevin Bryan

14
William Comegys
Caroline Smith

15
Ione Dean
Brad Massad
Matthew Smitherman
Christopher Eldredge
Peyton Wood

16
Olivia Bradley
Sydney Fletcher
Henry Hood
Ari Knox

17
Susan Berry
Betsy Levels
Kendall Stage

18
Bob Ewing
Lauren Pettiette
Cecilia McElroy

19
Dee Peterson
Wade Sample
Edwin Byrd

20
Elaine Lee
Elizabeth Comegys
Jack Q=Petersen
Witt Caldwell
Corbin Lattier
Dudley Beene
Edward Craft

21
Charles Patterson
Beth Patterson
Greg Rembert
Jan Cook
Avery Glover
Loren Lepore
Patton Fritze
Dani Zoorob

22
Jeff Howell
Waldo Cecil
Max Fortiz
Coleman McFerrin

23
Jessie Short
Holly Woodard
Mary Louise Kneip
Elouise Latttier

24
Cristina Walker
Sharon Reed
Heidi Sanderson
Jonathan Hardtner
Pam Short
Camille Sample
Andrew Irion
William Dulaney

25
Cina Hodges
TalbotTrudeau
Lillian Ameen
John Henry Nelson

26
Debbie Camus
Wade Shemwell
Leslie Caraway
Kathy Williams

27
Marshall Jones
Karon Waguespack
Laura McFerrin
John Mazur

28
Frances Bowen
Trisha Hogan
Christine Martin

29
Pat Viser
John Van Hook
Amy Mata
Ryan Q=Petersen

30
Lee Schmidt
Leon Nims
Karen Popwell
Ann Walke
Catherine Roemer
Dorothy Lea
John Dulaney

Members of the Vestry of St. Mark's Cathedral

Lisa Love, Senior Warden – Dan Koruna, Junior Warden – Patrick Caraway, Treasurer – John Reeks, Chancellor

2026	2027	2028	2029
David Drummond	Michael Ameen	Lloyd Brown	Megan Campbell
Paul Guidry	Erin Dicharry	Matt Coady	Ginny Murphy
Val Irion	Catherine Evans	Jonathan Davis	Clay Nelson
Reid Jones	Kathryn Gaiennie	Laura Ashley Overdyke	Dee Peterson
John Turnage	Stephen Kneip	Adam West	Matthew Smitherman

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bishopjake@epiwla.org

The Very Rev. Alston Johnson
(Dean)
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The Rev. Thomas Nsubuga
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The Rev. Paul Martin (Priest Associate)
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Ely Bulnes (School Chaplain)
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Amy Garsee
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Lisa Bingham (Financial Office Manager)
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Bess Maxwell (Administrative Assistant)
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Priscilla McLean (Calendaring)
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Beth Reeks
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Mark Deverts (Sexton)
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