

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Our Vision:

To grow in Christ through worship and service

Our Mission:

Called to be Christ Centered

Touching Lives + Transforming Hearts + Teaching God's Word



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All Saints' Day and Dedication of 2027 Pledges

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

November 1, 2026, 10:30 AM

Welcome Home to Saint Mark's!

It is our privilege to worship with you this morning! Please know that all baptized Christians regardless of Church denomination, and all who seek a deeper knowledge and love of God in Christ are most welcome to receive the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist. Gluten-free wafers are available for those with allergies. Children are also welcome and encouraged to participate in all services at St. Mark's.

If this is your first time at St. Mark's, please complete a *Visitor Card* and let us know about your visit, especially if you have a specific need or prayer request. Visitor Cards are found in the pew racks. If you would like additional information about our many ministries and activities, speak to one of our Ushers or Greeters, or stop by the Parish Hall during the fellowship hour that follows each service. We would be honored to speak with you in person.

If you would like to make a financial offering or contribution you can do so by scanning this QR Code or via our website at www.stmarksgastonia.org



***Again, Welcome Home to St. Mark's!
May God's peace and love enfold you.***

Note: It is the custom in The Episcopal Church to prepare for worship by gathering in reverent silence and prayer, and during the worship service, stand for praise, sit for instruction, and, as you are able, kneel for prayer. Please respect the devotional needs of others by turning off cellular telephones and electronic devices, and by speaking with hushed voices.

All scripture passages are taken from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, © 1989, Division of Christian Education in the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Prelude:

Processional Hymn

“For All The Saints”
(Verses 1-4, 8 only)

Hymnal #287

The Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

BCP pg. 355

People: *And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Collect for Purity

The Gloria

Hymnal #S-278

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day:

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

People: *Amen.*

(All are seated for the readings from Scripture.)

The Lessons

The First Lesson:

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I, John, looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.”

Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Time for silent reflection follows the reading.)

The Response: Psalm 34:1-10,22

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 I will glory in the LORD; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.
- 3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; *
let us exalt his Name together.
- 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.
- 6 I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles.
- 7 The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him, *
and he will deliver them.
- 8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!
- 9 Fear the LORD, you that are his saints, *
for those who fear him lack nothing.
- 10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger, *
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.
- 22 The LORD ransoms the life of his servants, *
and none will be punished who trust in him.

(Time for silent reflection follows.)

The Second Lesson:

1 John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

(Time for silent reflection follows the reading.)

The Sequence Hymn: “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

Hymnal # 293

The Holy Gospel:

Matthew 5:1-12

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon:

The Ven. Brenda M. Gilbert

Archdeacon, The Diocese of Western North Carolina

A time for silent reflection follows the Sermon.

(The Leader and People pray responsively)

Leader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Leader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Leader: We pray for Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Leader: We pray for Donald, our President, Josh, our Governor, for our elected officials; and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Leader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: That our works may find favor in your sight.

Leader: We pray for those who are in harm's way, for those who have asked for prayers, for those who are sick, in sorrow, need, or any adversity. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Leader: Give to (_____ and to) all the departed eternal rest.

People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Leader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Leader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

I invite your prayers of intercession either silently or aloud.

(The people add their own petitions)

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Anglican Church in South America.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for All Saints, Franklin, All Saint's, Gastonia, and The Cathedral of All Souls, Asheville.

We pray for those who travel this week.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays this week, and for those celebrating their wedding anniversaries.

We give thanks those who serve as Daughters of the King and all the ministries and activities of this parish, and pray that God will continue to bless all who partake of, or serve in them.

The Priest offers a Collect concluding with:

... for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

People ***Amen.***

The Peace:

BCP pg. 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you

People ***And also with you.***

(Please greet your neighbor in the name of Christ)

The Announcements:

The Birthday Prayer:

BCP pg. 830

The Anniversary Prayer:

BCP pg. 431

The Offertory Anthem

The Presentation Hymn:

**“The Doxology”
(Vs. 3 only)**

Hymn # 380

The Pledge Cards are placed upon the Altar. Clergy and members of the Stewardship Committee lead the following Prayers of Dedication.

The Dedication of 2027 Pledges

Open our lips, O God, that we may proclaim your benevolent truth and justice in our communities, and in the world.

People: **Gracious God, open our lips.**

Open our minds, O God, that we might dream a Church reconciled, a Church that knows only your love so abundantly that it bursts with passion for ministry, a desire to give completely, and stewardship that seeks only to give back.

People: **Gracious God, open our minds.**

Open our hearts, O God, to be transformed by the mighty outpouring of your compassion, so that our will to serve others with humility, integrity, and urgency is your desired will for us, your servants.

People: **Gracious God, open our hearts.**

Open our eyes, O God, to the hurts and needs of others and us to ministry. Teach us to see where our abilities and resources, and the world's deep hunger, meet.

People: **Gracious God, open our eyes.**

Open our hands, O God, to be your instruments of witness to your redemption, mercy, grace and forgiveness. Help us to work without hesitation, serve without recognition, to do justice, to love kindness, and to serve humbly with you, our God.

People: **Gracious God, open our hands.**

Let us pray. *(All pray together)*

Gracious God in whose Son Jesus Christ all things hold together and work for good; we lift to you the offerings of our lives, our time, our passionate concern, and our material resources, asking you to bless and sanctify them by the transforming power of your Holy Spirit for the work of bringing your kingdom near and to the honor and glory of your Name. We pray this in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Table

The Great Thanksgiving: *Eucharistic Prayer D* **BCP pg. 372**

The Sursum Corda: **BCP pg. 372**

The Proper Preface: **BCP pg. 373**

The Sanctus: **Hymnal # S-129**

(All kneel as they are able)

The Prayer of Consecration:

The Lord's Prayer: **BCP pg. 364**

The Breaking of the Bread: *(The Fraction)*

The Fraction Anthem: **Hymnal # S-154**

The Ministration of the Communion:

Communion Hymns:

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Hymnal #324

“Let Saints on Earth in Concert Sing”

Hymnal #526

Post Communion Prayer:

BCP pg. 365

The Blessing:

(All are seated for the Commemoration)

The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed:

On this day, we give thanks for the witness of the faithful departed, especially members of this parish who died this past year, as well as those throughout the world who were known to the parish family.

In honor of these Saints of God, a bell tolls as each name is read aloud and a candle is lit in their remembrance. A brief time of silent prayer follows the final toll.

Concluding Prayer: (Adapted from the Burial Office)

Almighty God, You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all;
and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return.
All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

People: Amen.

Concluding Hymn: “Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”

Hymnal # 618

The Dismissal:

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, and joining with that great cloud of witnesses: the Communion of Saints, let us go forth, and in our words, our deeds, and through our daily lives, forever bless the Lord! Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude:

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
in celebration of Marquee’s birthday by Marilyn Almcrantz and
in celebration of St. Mark’s clergy and parishioners by Judy Jackson-Malina.*

Announcements

Stewardship Campaign

All completed and signed 2027 Pledge Cards received thus far will be dedicated at both worship services this morning. We thank you for your continuing prayers and financial support of our parish ministries and services now and in the coming new year.

If you have *not* received a pledge packet or need additional information, please contact Dionne in the Parish Office or speak with any member of the Stewardship Committee.

Youth Ministry Annual Spice Sale

Youth of the parish are sponsoring this morning's coffee hour and fellowship time in the Parish Hall. In addition, today begins their Annual Spice Sale fundraiser. Thank you for your support of our Youth programs and ministry,

St. Mark's Nursery

St. Mark's Nursery is open on Sunday mornings for children under 5 years of age. Volunteers are always welcome to help out. Contact Debbie Brake for more information.

Adult Christian Education (A.C.E.)

Join Fr. Allan in the Balthis Room at 9:15 am for "Part 2" of his series, "***The Drama of Christian Worship***". This series explores the depths of how The Episcopal Church proclaims "The Greatest Story Ever Told" throughout every worship service gathering.

Clothing Closet Needs

Our Clothing Closet needs continue. If you're out shopping and can add an item or two to your cart, it makes a real difference to those we serve at our doors during the week.

Men's Medium	Men's Large	Men's XL (1X)	Men's XXL (2X)	Men's Sneakers
-Sweatpants -LS & SS T-shirts* -Hoodies	-Sweatpants -LS & SS T-shirts* -Hoodies	-Sweatpants -LS & SS T-shirts* -Hoodies	-LS & SS T-shirts* -Hoodies	All sizes

** We ask that they not be white, as our guests tell us that colored shirts are much more practical and comfortable for them.*

We Could Use More Blankets

As the weather gets colder, we have more demand for blankets. We can use blankets of all sizes but what are needed the most are fleece, or faux fleece, throw blankets; usually about 50x60 in size. They usually come packaged in a roll, and their price ranges from \$5 to \$12 a piece (check Academy Sports & Outdoors this week for sales). Thank you!

Caring Cupboard Immediate Needs

We have a few emergency needs for our Caring Cupboard. Thank you!

- Canned beans (no green beans please),
- boxes or cups of Mac and Cheese,
- cheese/peanut butter crackers,
- Beanie Weenies.

Healing Service Ministry

Our **Healing Service Ministry** continues **Thursday mornings from 11:00 am - 12 Noon** in the sanctuary. This ministry is led by laypersons from the parish. For additional information, please contact Eileen Klimkowski.

Holy Cow! CAT Survey

If you have not yet done so, please fill out the St Marks's Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) Survey as soon as possible. The hyperlink to the survey is here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/STMARKECGASTONIA>

For those parishioners wishing assistance with accessing the on-line survey, we will have members of the Discernment Committee with computers/tablets posted in both the Volunteer Office & the Vestry Room. They can assist with the login process and provide information about the survey.

For those wishing a hard copy survey, they can be found in the Parish Hall on the tabletop nearest the door. There is a covered box to put your finished surveys in. We will upload the selections from each hard copy every week.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. R. Allan McCaslin.....	<i>Interim Priest</i>
The Ven. Brenda M. Gilbert.....	<i>Archdeacon, Dio. of Western NC</i>
The Rev. Deacon Cathy Wesson.....	<i>Deacon</i>
Ms. Dionne Browning.....	<i>Business Administrator</i>
Ms. Sarah Lynch	<i>Organist & Choir Director</i>
Ms. Debbie Brake.....	<i>Nursery</i>
Ms. Beverly Bieker.....	<i>Office Assistant</i>
Mr. Kris Kiser.....	<i>Church Sexton</i>

CURRENT VESTRY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Mr. Eric Lampke, '27.....	<i>Senior Warden, Bldgs-Grounds</i>
Mrs. Judy Jackson-Malina, 26.....	<i>Junior Warden, Outreach</i>
Mrs. Fe McLaughlin, 26	<i>Parish Life, Newcomers</i>
Ms. Marilyn Walters, '26	<i>In-reach</i>
Mr. George Sowersby, '27.....	<i>Buildings and Grounds</i>
Mrs. Pat Townsend, 27	<i>In-reach</i>
Ms. Elizabeth Whitford, '28	<i>New Member</i>
Mr. Chappell Harris, '28	<i>New Member</i>
Ms. Dionne R. Browning	<i>Vestry Clerk</i>
Mr. Steve Campbell	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mrs. Kenna Watts.....	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>

