



# *The Lion's Tale*

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

## Godly Play

On September 20th, the class participated in Sacrament Day. They learned about the sacraments of baptism and communion, heard stories, baked the bread that would be used for communion, made crafts, and more!



The children enjoyed the summer classes, listening to the parables and telling stories to each other. They continue to harvest a few more vegetables from the garden.

# Music Notes



November is upon us, and that means December, with its wealth of beautiful music for the Advent and Christmas seasons, isn't far away. I'd like to invite anyone who enjoys singing but isn't able to sing with the choir on a regular basis to join us for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 p.m. and will sing for all the Sundays in Advent as well as the 10:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. If you'd like to sing with us during Advent and/or for Christmas Eve, please be in touch with me ([braedeke@aol.com](mailto:braedeke@aol.com)). We would be delighted to have you join us!

Barbara Raedeke

## Opening Day and Art in the Park





## From your Rector...

### Rector Reflection

It's hard to believe 2025 is nearly over. In some ways, it feels like we just met and yet, here we are at the end of the year. As we prepare to host and feast at the end of November, and as Christmas trees are lit and decorated, as day grow shorter and nights are punctuated with twinkling lights, I find myself feeling an immense sense of gratitude and wonder. I love the holiday season; I love Advent hymns in worship, lighting the wreath, and preparing for the birth of Jesus. I love the decorations that will light our neighborhood, and I can't wait to walk candy cane lane with all of you. As we move into this season of festivities and light, I am also reminded of the deep anxieties I have heard from many of you over the past several months.

It has seemed at times that peace is far off, with violent headlines and continual political upheaval. There have been times when our conversations have been marked by desolation and wondering whether God will intervene in a way we can recognize. Some of you have lost loved ones this year; I, too, have lost people I love in 2025. Amid the joys of our new relationship and moments of wonder and hope, there have also been times of sorrow and grief. This, my friends, is another reason I love this time of year—the darkness of the natural world and the expectant waiting of Advent makes space for this jumble of emotions and experiences. We sing with joy alongside Mary, even while we hope for salvation with Isaiah. We light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, even as we notice the world longing for those gifts. Advent is a time to experience the joy and wonder of the incarnation, and it is also a time to tell the truth about the hard spaces of shadow in our lives and our world. Like those beautiful lights twinkling in the winter night, Jesus comes to us with hope and salvation, offering a glimmer of hope in a world that may, at times, feel dark.

This year, it is my hope that we may each experience gratitude and wonder, and that church may be a place which makes room for our grief and our joy.

Delaney+

### Advent Devotions

This year, Rev. Delaney has worked together with her colleagues to write weekly Advent devotions for our parish. Keep an eye out for a digital copy of these devotions, and engage scripture and spirituality this Advent season!

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Food & Supplies Drive

LET'S FILL OUR NEIGHBORS' CUPBOARDS  
NON PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS,  
DEODORANT,  
DISH SOAP,  
DENTAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS,  
& UNSCENTED LAUNDRY DETERGENT

*All donations will be shared with ministries at  
Trinity Episcopal Church in the Central West  
End, and St. Stephens and the Vine in Ferguson*

Please bring your donations to church and place them in the basket in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity!

Items Our Neighbors Need:

- Non-Perishable Food Items
- Deodorant
- Dish Soap
- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
- Canned goods (pop-top preferred) of vegetables and chili
- Unscented Laundry Detergent
- Cereal

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, please indicate your donation is specifically designated for "food outreach" (this is an option for online giving as well).

# St. Mark's Events

## Fall in the Beer Garden

Over the summer St. Markans got together for monthly connection at the Rockwell Beer Garden at Francis Park. After a summer of fun, we are extending these monthly get togethers into the cool months of fall! Our last meeting this fall is Wednesday, November 12 at 5:30pm. Join us (weather permitting)

## Consecration Sunday



On November 23 we will celebrate the culmination of our stewardship season in worship. Please send in your 2026 pledge card or bring it with you to worship on November 23 as we give thanks to God through generosity! And don't forget to bring a pie for our Pie Social.

## November in the Nave

This month, St. Mark's will be open for prayer and quiet reflection on Wednesday mornings. Stop by and spend some time with Rev. Delaney in the quiet sanctuary at St. Mark's.

- Wednesday, November 5 10-11am
- Wednesday November 12 10-11am
- Wednesday November 19 10-11am

## St. Mark's Annual Christmas Party



The Annual St. Mark's Christmas Party will take place on December 21st at 5PM. Carols, a buffet dinner, and load of good cheer will be on hand as we wait for a "special guest" to complete the festivities. \$15 Adults, \$8 Children over 5 years, \$50 family max. Once again, we'll be asking folks to help with the dessert and snacks table. Please see the signup sheets in the parish hall to RSVP and to bring a dessert. You may also call/email to: 314-832-3588 / parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org .

## St Mark's Christmas Light Walk down Candy Cane Lane



This year's festive walk will be held on Saturday, December 6th. We will meet at 5:00pm at the Parish Hall for some pizza, then dress up warmly and walk together down Angel Alley and Candy Cane Lane. We will meet back afterwards for hot chocolate and cookies. There will be a signup in the Parish Hall. Please plan on bringing a small donation to cover the cost of the pizza, and make sure to put which pizza you prefer on the signup sheet; Cheese, Veggie, Gluten-free, or Pepperoni along with the number of people in your group. This is a fun family event, so you are welcome to invite friends to join us. For more information, please contact Margaret Hvatum. The sign-up in the Parish Hall.

## Coffee Hours in December

Join Delaney+ in December for coffee hours around the neighborhood. Stop by for a few minutes or an hour to spend time together, share what's on your mind, and grow in relationship. Delaney+ will be at the following coffee shops:

**Wednesday, December 3** 10-11:30am MountainHouse Café  
2901 Macklind Ave

**Thursday, December 11** 10-11:30am Knead Bakehouse + Provisions  
3467 S Hampton Ave

**Wednesday, December 17** 10-11:30am Espresso Yourself Coffee & Café  
5351 Devonshire Ave



## FROM YOUR DEACON ...

Do you remember the Parable of the Rich Fool? It's the one where the already-wealthy farmer had such a bumper crop that he could not store it all. So, in deciding what to do, he only thought of himself. He did not think of his neighbors who did not have enough to eat. He gave no gratitude to God for the receipt of his unexpected windfall. Being overtaken by greed, he could only think of building bigger barns. Then he said to his soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, and be merry." God told him that he was being a fool

for not being rich toward God, for not being rich in what matters to God, forgetting about God's true riches.

It was the prevailing thought in first century Palestine that the only way to wealth and elite economic status was by exploiting the masses. (Think of the tax collectors who were agents for Rome and took as much for themselves as they could.) For a rich landowner, the only way he could possibly have amassed such a great amount of land was by foreclosing on the lands of his neighbors when they were in economic difficulties.

We know today that there are ways to earn a living, to be financially fortunate, without exploiting the poor. It does matter to God how we obtain our treasure and that we realize the true source of these riches with gratitude. And then it also matters to God how we use our treasure along with our time and talent. I don't think in the Parable of the Rich Fool that Jesus is advising us not to save for our future or to entirely avoid relaxing to eat, drink, and be merry every now and then. He wants us to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us, focused on God's true riches. We should have an appropriate balance between our concern for the economic uncertainties of the future and the mandate to show compassion and bring about God's kingdom on earth. We show that compassion by caring for our neighbor, providing for the poor and marginalized, for those without access to the world's wealth or even to the basic needs of survival.

Mahatma Ghandi said that the "earth provides enough to satisfy everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed." So, let's be rich in what matters to God. Let's use our time, talent, and treasure with compassion. Let us be rich toward God.

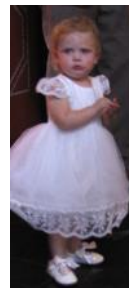
In Christ,

Deacon Jerre

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## Celebrations

We celebrated the baptism of Juliet and a book shower for baby Finucane.



# Godly Play

The Godly Play class participated in the October 5th service and blessing of the animals on the plaza immediately afterwards. They sang "All Things Bright and Beautiful" as they processed down the aisle behind the cross, the Bible, and Delaney, before joining the congregation. Children of all ages participated as they were able, as greeters, ushers, readers, and even helped Delaney in the breaking of the bread. Celeste told the story of St. Francis, in place of the homily, in the same way the story is told in the Godly Play class. An amazing thing happened. The week before, in the community garden, a wild bird came down and Celeste showed a photo of the bird on her hand--just like St. Francis! There was even a surprise visit by our own St. Francis. The class painted large animals on paper that were attached to the front of the altar and on the lectern and pulpit. At the end of the service, the children gave everyone in the congregation a special, painted animal rock as a remembrance of the special day.



Blessing of the Animals cont.



# Upcoming Events

**Wednesdays 7:00pm**

**Thursdays 7:30pm**

**Fridays 7:00pm**

**November 2nd**

**November 2nd**

**November 5th**

**November 9th**

**November 12th**

**November 12th**

**November 13th-15th**

**November 16th**

**November 17th**

**November 19th**

**November 23rd**

**November 27th**

**November 30th**

**December 3rd**

**December 6th**

**December 11th**

**December 17th**

**December 21st**

**December 22nd**

**December 24th**

**December 25th**

**December 31st**

AA Meeting in Parish Hall

Choir Practice (Starting September 4)

SMART Recovery Group in Parish Hall

All Saints Day Service

Daylight Savings Time (Fall back one hour)

November in the Nave 10am-11am (see page 4)

Worship Committee Meeting 11:30am

November in the Nave 10am-11am (see page 4)

Fall in the Beer Garden 5:30pm (see page 4)

Diocesan Convention

Bible Study after Service

Vestry Meeting (Zoom)

November in the Nave 10am-11am (see page 4)

Consecration Sunday and Pie Social (see page 4)

Thanksgiving

1st Sunday of Advent

Coffee Hour with Delaney + (see page 4)

Walk to Candy Cane Lane (see page 4)

Coffee Hour with Delaney + (see page 4)

Coffee Hour with Delaney + (see page 4)

Christmas Party (see page 4)

Vestry Meeting (Zoom)

Two Christmas Eve Services 5p.m. & 10:30p.m.

Christmas Day Service 10a.m.

All 2025 pledges due by 12p.m.



**The Lion's Tale is published bi-Monthly by St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Melissa Engle-Editor**

To submit an article email it to [parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org](mailto:parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org).  
Deadline for article submissions are listed below.

**December 26th**     Deadline for January/February Lion's Tale

**February 23rd**     Deadline for March/April Lion's Tale

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**

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**[www.saintmarks-stl.org](http://www.saintmarks-stl.org)**