

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 23 YEAR A OCTOBER 11, 2026 10:00 AM

Welcome

Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church! Whether this is your first time or thousandth time in worship with us, we are so glad you are here. St. Mark's is an inclusive community of faith, committed to celebrating God's creative love in all people. Together, we strive to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. You are welcome here—in worship, at the communion table, and in our walk together.

As we prepare our hearts and minds for worship each week, you are invited to find a comfortable space to sit quietly and listen to the prelude. The prelude is the first part of worship, setting the tone for what is to come and helping God's people to unplug from the rhythms of daily life and prepare for a time of worship. We hope this musical offering will resonate in your soul and invite you into our worship practice.

Prelude: “Trio, Dialogue”

François Couperin (1668-1733)

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn 411 “O bless the Lord, my soul!”

Blue 1982 Hymnal

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be the God of all Creation

People ***Whose Spirit renews the face of the earth.***

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Presider Let us glorify the Holy One as we sing.

Gloria S278 (Blue 1982 Hymnal) Mathias

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father;

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

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

Presider Together, let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lesson: Isaiah 25:1-9

O Lord, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt.

Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn 645 “The King of love my shepherd is”

Blue 1982 Hymnal

The Lesson: Philippians 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Sequence Hymn 515 “Holy Ghost, dispel our sadness” *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

Presider/Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

The Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

*Presider/Deacon The Gospel of the Lord
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Homily

The Rev. Dr. Delaney Schlake-Kruse

Profession of Faith: Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader Let us offer our prayers to God, who has prepared the heavenly banquet for all, praying, Lord, in your mercy, ***“Hear our prayer.”***

We pray for the church throughout the world, that we may accept God’s invitation to this eternal feast;

We pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Deon our Bishop, for Delaney and Jerre our clergy, for Chad our Intern Candidate for Holy Orders, and for all the holy People of God;

In the Diocesan Cycle, we pray for the people and ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church in St. James;

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for Sarah the Archbishop of Canterbury and for The Anglican Church of Burundi;

In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Hospital San Lucas Metro;

We pray for our Jubilee Ministry partner Isaiah 58 Ministries and our outreach partner Doorways Interfaith Housing;

We give thanks on their birthdays with Donald Frank, Gerrie Robards, and Laura Simon . We pray, Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the leaders of the nations that they may with truth strive for mercy, justice and peace in the world, and for all those seeking refuge; we pray especially for the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Cuba, and the Middle East; we pray, Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For our city and those who live in it, for the victims of injustice and violence, and those who live in fear of violence or separation from their community; we pray, Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray that you grant your wholeness and healing to all who live in the grip of illness or addiction, fear or danger; the hungry, homeless, and oppressed; for all immigrants and refugees; and for all those in distress;

We pray for those on our Parish Prayer list, and those whom we name, either silently or aloud [pause];

For those serving in the armed forces and those working in public service; we pray, Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For ourselves, our families, and companions, and all those we love; we pray, Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For those who have died, and for those who grieve, that they may be consoled with the faith that love never dies; we pray, Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Presider offers this concluding collect.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Confession & Absolution

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Presider and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not

loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

The Peace *We are a community of reconciliation and peace; therefore, we greet each other with a sign of our desire for peace.*

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

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

*The Congregation greets one another with the peace of Christ.
Announcements, Birthday and Anniversary Prayers*

Children's Time

Presider: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

“Christ, whose glory fills the skies”

Malcolm Williamson (1931-2003)

Text: Hymn 6

© 1962 Josef Weinberger

The Holy Eucharist II

S 120

Lift up your hearts *Sursum corda*

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff is for the Celebrant and the second for the People. The third staff is for the Celebrant and the fourth for the People. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; for you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

Presider and People

Holy, Holy, Holy S128

Mathias

Blue 1982 Hymnal

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Presider Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus.

Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life. On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

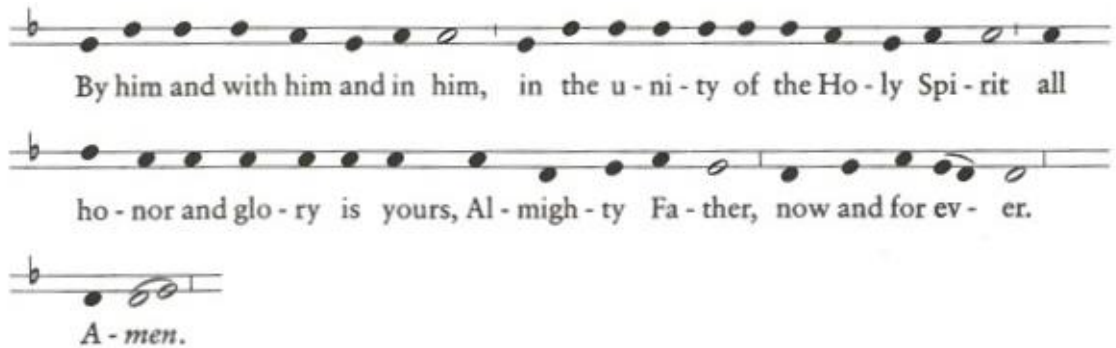
Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.



The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
People and Presider

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S165 *Mathias*

Blue 1982 Hymnal

Jesus, Lamb of God:

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins:

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world:

Give us your peace.

The Ministration of Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All who hunger and thirst for God are welcome to receive the Holy Communion at this altar. Gluten free hosts are available. Please let the minister know that you require gluten free.

Communion Hymn 650 “O Jesus, joy of loving hearts” *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

Prayer after Communion

Presider Together, let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen

The Blessing

Presider Holy eternal Majesty, Holy incarnate Word, Holy abiding Spirit, Bless you for evermore. ***Amen.***

Closing Hymn “Christ be beside me”

see next page

Dismissal

Presider/Deacon Our worship is ended. Our service in the world begins. Go into the world to love what God loves. Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Postlude

“Basse et dessus de trompette”

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault (1676-1749)

Music reproduced under OneLicense #A-704954

Liturgical resources offered by the Diocese of Missouri and the Episcopal Church Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

ASSISTING IN OUR WORSHIP

Lector: Chad Templin

Usher: Marilyn Wiethop

Greeter: Ellen Jeffery

Altar Guild: Lorri Glover

Crucifer: Scott Thompson

Livestream: Vicki Stegmann

Chalice: Greg Diekemper/Scott Thompson

Coffee Hour: Scott Thompson

CHRIST BE BESIDE ME

BUNESSAN



1. Christ be be - side me, Christ be be - fore me, Christ be be -
2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all a -
3. Christ be in all hearts think-ing a - bout me, Christ be on



1. hind me, King of my heart. Christ be with - in me, Christ be be -
2. round me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleep-ing, Christ in my
3. all tongues tell-ing of me. Christ be the vi - sion in eyes that



1. low me, Christ be a - bove me, nev - er to part.
2. sit - ting, Christ in my ris - ing, light of my life.
3. see me, in ears that hear me Christ ev - er be.

Text: 55 54 D; *St. Patrick's Breastplate* (8th cent. or later); adapt. by James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010,
© 1969, James Quinn, SJ. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.
Music: Trad. Scots Gaelic melody, found in *Songs and Hymns of the Gael*, Lachlan McBean, 1900.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped prepare and participate in children's liturgy on Sunday, October 4. The children of our parish did amazing work preparing for worship, sharing their gifts, and facilitating connection with God. Thank you, as well, to the parents and committed adults who have helped shepherd our children's ministries during this time of transition in Godly Play.

As we look forward to welcoming Celeste Kocot back into her role, we also welcome Michelle Cody as teaching assistant for Godly Play! Ministry with children is a vital part of our life here at St. Mark's; thank you to all who make it possible.

Bible Study Continues this week

Today at 11:30am we will meet to discuss Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet until October 18th. No prior attendance or experience required. Bring a Bible and a willingness to talk through the text! All are welcome!

Isaiah 58 Ministries Thanksgiving Baskets



It's time for our scavenger hunt for Isaiah 58 Ministries' Thanksgiving meal baskets! And we have an easy assignment this year - 175 boxes of **instant pudding**. Please bring Banana Cream, Chocolate, or Vanilla flavors of instant pudding into the bin we have in the back of church by October 25th.

Parental Leave

Rev. Dr. Delaney Schlake-Kruse, rector here at St. Mark's, will be on parental leave for three months beginning Monday, October 19 (assuming the new baby does not arrive early!) She will be away October 19-December 13 before returning to St. Mark's December 14-30. Delaney+ will then take her final month of leave from January 1-31, 2027. She will return full-time February 1, 2027. Delaney+ Is so grateful to work in a denomination with a three month parental policy—great work, Diocese of Missouri!

While Delaney+ is away, St. Mark's will be served by area priests as presiders and preachers on Sundays. Our field education intern, Chad Templin, will remain with the parish, and he will join the preaching and leadership schedule during this time as well.

Rev. Jerre Birdsong, deacon at St. Mark's, will remain present throughout this time, and he and Chad will respond to pastoral care needs as they arise. Melissa will continue in her role as parish administrator while Delaney+ is away. Thank you for your excitement and support as the Schlake-Kruse family welcomes a new member!



Trick or Treat at St. Mark's

Come spend the evening with the St. Mark's community sharing candy and fun with our neighbors. We will gather on the plaza at 5pm on Halloween. Sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall. Contact Chad Templin for more information.

Walking Through the Church Year

Why does the Church mark time differently from the rest of the world? Join us this fall as we explore the Liturgical Year and the rhythm of seasons, feasts, fasts, and holy days that shape our worship and Christian life. Together we will journey through the Church year, exploring its structure, major celebrations, and the historical and traditional practices associated with each season.

Classes will meet on October 25, November 1, 8, 22, and 29, from 11:30 am - 12:15 pm in the Parish Hall. Our final gathering, on the First Sunday of Advent, will include a Make-and-Take Advent Wreath as we begin a new liturgical year together. All are welcome!

Walking Through the Church Year

CLASS DATES

- October 25
- November 1
- November 8
- November 22
- November 29

TIME & PLACE

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM
Parish Hall

Why does the Church mark time differently from the rest of the world? Join us this fall as we explore the liturgical year. We will journey through the Church year, exploring its structure, major celebrations, and the historical and traditional practices associated with each season.

Are You Making Charitable Donations to St. Marks?
Are You Receiving Required Minimum Distributions From An IRA or 401(K) Plan?

If the answer to both of those questions is “YES”, read on to learn about a potential way to reduce your income taxes as you make your charitable donations to St. Mark’s.

The Federal Income Tax laws currently in place allow individuals receiving Required Minimum Distributions (RMD’s) from an IRA or 401(K) plan to make their charitable donations using a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). When charitable donations are made using a QCD, your brokerage company (for example, Edward Jones, UBS, or Charles Schwab, among others) uses funds from your RMD to pay the amount you specify directly to St. Mark’s.

There is nothing you need to do other than advise your brokerage company to make a QCD to St. Mark’s.

When made, 100% of the amount of the QCD directly offsets an equal amount of the RMD income that flows through to your income tax return. In other words, the amount of your RMD that is used to fund a QCD never shows as income on your tax return. For example, if your RMD is \$10,000 and you make a \$2,000 QCD to St. Mark’s, only \$8,000 of the RMD will appear as income on your tax return.

If using a QCD is appropriate for you, it might reduce your overall income tax bill because the QCD is not limited by your income (other than it cannot exceed 100% of your RMD) and further, it does not limit or count toward your standard deduction, if you do not itemize your deductions.

St. Mark’s already has two parishioners who are making their charitable donations to St. Mark’s using QCD’s.

If you answered “YES” to the two questions above and are not currently using QCD’s, you should consider speaking to your tax professional, brokerage company, or 401(K)/IRA advisor about whether using QCD’s would be advantageous to you.

Greg Diekemper
Treasurer – St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

Online Giving at St. Mark's

Thank you so much for your desire to support the ministry here at St. Mark's! If you would like to give online, simply scan the QR code using the camera on your smart phone to visit our online giving platform. Your generosity is a blessing!



We pray for those who are ill, in trouble or distress of any kind, especially Duane and Anne Benson, Yulia Borjte, Randy Borowiak, Canon Desiree Brattin, Maggie Brogan, Rusty Cates, Randy and Jenny Coffey, Volker Coleman, Alicia Crowe, Tom Gard, Sue Garrett, Mark Godfrey, Braden Hagberg & Family, Lynn Heritage, Yaz Hernández and their extended family, Denise Huber, Margaret and Tor Hvatum, Celeste Kocot, Jane Kozielec and Allen, Debbie Kramer, Becky Kruse, Stephanie Maass, Penny McCullough, Gary Medley, Beverly (Kocot) Meyers, Donna Musgrave, Neice Nelson, Betty Orlando, Nancy Raedeke, Joe Rodriguez and his mother Ellie, Brain Salci, Jennifer Salci and her parents, Cheryl Schulz, Joanne Schneider, Lois Schubert and her family, Tom Schroeder, John Sheridan, Logan Smith, Mitchell and Tracy Shelton, Michael Saphir, Gracie Stephens, Jeanette Swallow, Lou Swallow, Tom Tetrault, Scott Thomas, Bill Trafka, Casey Tyler, David and Doris Westfall, The White Family, Gene Wilberg, Susan Winfrey, Walter Zimmerman, Eric, Elizabeth, Gary, Marian, Ted, Karen, Larry, Doug, Fritz, Rebecca, Lynn, Catreta and Dennis, Kate, Maggie, Ari and family.

We give thanks on their birthdays with Donald Frank, Gerrie Robards, and Laura Simon.

We pray for those serving in the armed forces, especially Jesse Foy, Robert McCarthy, Brandon George, Jon Moore, Paul Malabar, Logan Smith.

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4714 Clifton Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63109

314/832-3588

revdelaney@saintmarks-stl.org

www.saintmarks-stl.org

parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org

The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson	Bishop of MO	Barbara Raedeke	Organist and Choir Director
The Rev. Dr. Delaney Schlake-Kruse	Rector	Celeste Kocot	Youth Christian Formation
The Rev. Jerre Birdsong	Deacon	Melissa Engle	Parish Administrator
		Frankie Danieleley	Nursery Assistant