



The Lion's Tale

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

The Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals was well represented this year. We had several dogs that were blessed as well as photographs of pets that could not make the service. The Godly Play class enjoyed meeting all the dogs at the Blessing of the Animals. Even though they did not bring any of their own pets, they had a lion, tiger, frog, and more animals that were blessed to represent some of the other creatures in God's kingdom.



art in the Park St. Louis Hills

Art in the Park was once again a huge success. We had spin art, and we did finger print art on bookmarks. We also had some temporary tattoos and fingerprint art on paper too. If you were lucky, you had a chance to hear Kittie Golomski and her band perform. Thank you for everyone that took the time to come out and help make this year a success.





JustFood

How do I Participate?

Donate Time

Sign up at diocesemo.org/justfood-truck/

- Cook
- Serve
- Greet
- Ministry of Presence: lay/clergy who are willing and able to listen to those who wish to talk, to pray with those asking for prayers. No preaching or teaching, only listening and praying. And Love always; always Love.
- Develop a Parish Team of at least 4-5 people
- Prayer partners (intercessory prayer)

Donate Money

Financial gifts are always a blessing.

- Online at diocesemo.org/give, then select the **JustFood** truck fund
- Text **DIOMO JustFood** to **73256** to give. Standard text messaging rates may apply
- Send a check to Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, **JustFood** Truck, 1210 Locust St, Saint Louis, MO 63103

Donate Goods

- Adopt the **JustFood** truck and make monthly contributions of a requested good like coffee, sugar, creamer, non-foam cups/plates/bowls

Donate Gift Cards

- Send a gift card from Costco or Sam's for food or fuel to The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, **JustFood** Truck, 1210 Locust St. Saint Louis, MO 63103

diocesemo.org/justfood-truck/





FROM YOUR DEACON –

As you know, St. Mark’s is a Jubilee Ministry Center of the diocese through our ministry partnership with Isaiah 58 Ministries. Jubilee Ministry centers empower those who are poor and oppressed in their communities by providing direct services, such as food, shelter, and healthcare, while also advocating for human rights and social justice. The Jubilee Ministry’s newest addition is the operation of a food truck – “Just Food” (get the double entendre?). The Just Food truck will bring free food to high poverty areas of our diocese, beginning with south St. Louis city and north St. Louis city. Deacon Barbi Click, Jubilee Ministry missionary, explains, "This truck will not only offer good food to people who are hungry, it will offer a ministry of presence in areas that the Episcopal Church rarely goes -- into neighborhoods of high poverty. It is about meeting the people where they are." This Jubilee Ministry will soon start selling t-shirts as a fund raiser that will have the inscription, “The church has left the building!”

We are all invited to be a part of this exciting new diocesan ministry. Please see the ways you can participate in the flyer included in this issue of the Lions Tale, (see page 2) and let me know any questions you might have.

In Christ,
Deacon Jerre

St. Mark’s Rector Search

As Margaret Hvatum announced on October 22, the search committee undertaking our Rector search has been selected and has already met. The committee consists of:

- Tom Bradley
- Matt Cashen
- Susan Goen
- Margaret Hvatum, Chair
- Jeanette Schoenberg
- Erica Wilson White
- Marylin Wiethop



We are fortunate to have such a great team! The committee will be meeting in the near future with the Rev. Canon Doris Westfall from the Diocese about the search process, preparing a parish profile, and finding a suitable candidate. Please hold the members of the committee and their work in your prayers.


Watch the Markings for information about our Parish-wide Survey.

St. Mark's Events

All Saints Sunday

All Saint's Sunday is on November 5th this year. We will once again gather in the All Saint's Memorial Garden that day and remember those who have passed. The bagpiper, Laurie Hartung, will return and lead the processional into church.

Consecration Sunday

 Our Consecration Sunday Ingathering will be on Sunday, November 19. Our theme this year is *What brought me to St. Mark's?* Given our Rector search, it is a good time for us to reflect on what led us to St. Mark's, what keeps us here, and what we see for the future of St. Mark's. Look in the mail for a letter concerning Consecration Sunday and the luncheon reception following the service as well as an Estimate of Giving Card. Additionally, we will have parishioners address the congregation on the Sundays leading up to the 19th about what brought them to St. Mark's Church. In the coming weeks, please prayerfully consider the importance of the continued vitality of St. Mark's Church and where the Holy Spirit is leading our community.

Thanksgiving Morning Prayer Service

A Service of Morning prayer will be offered on Thanksgiving Morning, November 23rd at 9:00 am. Preheat that oven and begin your Thanksgiving with prayer and praise!

Slow down. Quiet. It's Advent.
TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS TO SEE NEW LIES WITHIN AND AROUND YOU



Advent at St. Mark's

The Season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st. Join us as we light the first Advent Candle in our Advent Wreath as we pray in anticipation of the coming of Emmanuel, God-with-Us. Advent supplies will be available as of November 19th on the credenza in the back of the church.

St Mark's Christmas Light Walk down Candy Cane Lane



This year's festive walk will be held on Saturday, December 9th. 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. And

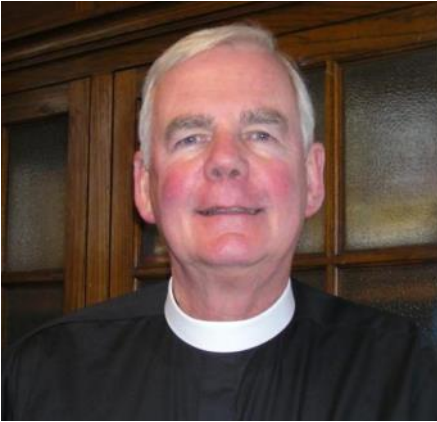
don't forget your camera so we can post pictures on our St Mark's Web Site for potential new rectors to see! For more information, please contact Margaret Hvatum..

St. Mark's Annual Christmas Party



The Annual St. Mark's Christmas Party will take place on December 17th 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 .

Welcome Reverend Michael Dunnington!



Michael will be joining St. Mark's as our Interim Priest in Charge effective November 1. His first Sunday leading us in worship will be All Saints Sunday, November 5. He reports that he found our congregation very friendly and welcoming when he and his wife, Leslie, worshipped with us on October 15. We are blessed to have Michael joining us to lead us in worship and assist us with our Rector search process.

Here is a brief bio of Michael:

The Rev. Michael Dunnington is an "officially" retired priest of the Diocese of Missouri. "Officially," because he has found that you really can't stay totally retired.

The Rev. Dunnington was raised in the Roman Catholic church, and early on felt a call to priesthood. After graduating from St. Louis University High School in 1963, he entered the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), where he spent 7 years learning about Ignatian spirituality/prayer, earning both a BA (Philosophy and Letters) degree and an MA (American History) degree from St. Louis University. He went to Belize to teach (part of the Jesuit formation program) at St. John's College, where he discovered that he didn't have a calling to priesthood in the Roman Church and returned to lay life.

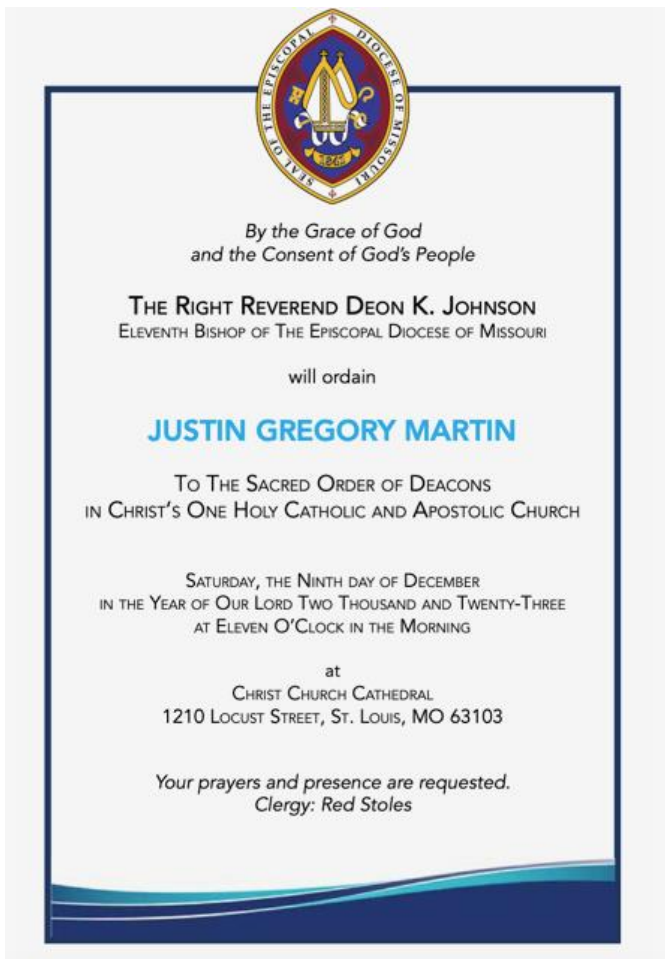
Since joining the Episcopal Church during a career in industrial marketing and sales (during which time, he earned an MBA degree from SIU-E), the Rev. Dunnington again felt a call to priesthood, and moved through "the process" leading to ordination, and spent three years at Sewanee (University of the South) and earned his Master of Divinity degree. He was ordained a priest in the Diocese of North Carolina in 1997, where he served as Assistant Rector in Burlington, and Rector in Henderson. He returned to St. Louis in 2000, and has served as Priest in Charge at Ascension Episcopal Church (2004-2010), then at All Saints for several years (2010-2019), and finally oversaw the merger of the two parishes.

More recently, he has served as Priest in Charge at St. Barnabas in Florissant (July, 2019 – June, 2020), and served for several months as Interim Priest at St. John's, Tower Grove. Most recently, the Rev. Dunnington served as Interim Pastor at St. Stephen's, Ferguson for just over a year (June, 2022 – July, 2023).

Godly Play this Fall

The children in the Godly Play class will be in church, starting at the Peace, through Communion. They may choose to remain in church through the end of the service, or return to class. During this time, we will often be doing service work, which includes making holiday cards for Casey Paige Assisted Living and recycling the annual plants from the garden in the yard waste bin. The sunflowers provided food for many of our feathered friends during the growing season. They will continue their usefulness in the future as compost. We are looking forward to many more projects in the future.





Putting Our Faith into Action: Gathering Signatures for the Missourians for Healthy Families and Fair Wages Ballot Initiative.

Missourians are fortunate that we still have the century old grassroots ballot initiative process available to us. Getting a proposition on the Missouri ballot requires collecting about 200,000 signatures from registered Missouri voters, with a certain threshold achieved in at least 6 of 8 US Congressional districts. Getting a constitutional amendment on the ballot requires even more qualified signatures than a proposition. It is a very arduous and labor intensive process, which I have participated in numerous times since 2006.

This year, Rita Mauchenheimer and I are collecting signatures for the Missourians for [Healthy Families and Fair Wages Ballot Initiative](#). Signatures collected between now and spring 2024 will simply get the initiative on the ballot in November 2024. They are not a vote for the initiative itself. Here are the key details of the initiative policy language:

- The initiative will raise the minimum wage to \$13.75 on January 1, 2025 and to \$15 on January 1, 2026. It will continue increasing annually with the cost of living thereafter.
- All workers will earn 1 hour of paid sick leave for every thirty hours worked. Employers with under 15 employees can limit usage to 40 hours/year per employee. Employers with over fifteen employees can limit usage to 56 hours/year per employee. Sick leave can be taken to care for yourself or family members.

I hope that you will ask Rita about signing the initiative petition, if you haven't already. I encourage you to read the blog post I already wrote for the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri as Missioner for Public Advocacy [HERE](#), which includes a link to a powerful reflection by the [Rev. Deacon Barbi Click](#) about the importance of this Ballot Initiative to the clients at Trinity Food Ministry, as well as a lot of other information. If you have any questions, please ask me! Thank you! Faithfully, Teresa+

Musical Notes from Barbara



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 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). We would be delighted to have you join us!

Barbara Raedeke

Kairos Sunday Returns in January

Kairos Sunday provides the opportunity for folks of *all ages to come together to learn something new, to learn from one another, and to have fun. Everyone meets in the church at 9:30 am* for a half-hour of formation around topics such as: “What’s going on at the altar?”, “Why do we sing the psalms?”, “What does ‘Being Christian’ have to do with recycling?”, and more. Immediately following this half-hour, we gather for worship at 10:00 am—with worshippers of all ages taking on various roles in our liturgy. [Kairos: Greek: the suitable time, the right moment, God’s appointed time] **The next Kairos Sunday will be the 4th week in January, January 28th.**

St. Mark’s Holiday Schedule



- November 23**-Thanksgiving: Morning Prayer 9am
- December 24th**-4th Sunday in Advent Service 10am
- December 24th**-Christmas Eve Service 5pm (Family Friendly)
- December 24th**-Christmas Eve Service 10:30pm with Carols
- December 25th**-Christmas Day Service 10am
- December 31st**-1st Sunday after Christmas Service 10am



Junior Warden's Corner

If you have technical knowledge about the following:

1. Wireless Bridge Adapters (outside)
2. VOIP Adapters (cell, multi channel)
3. Configuration of a network with multiple routers,

the church could use your expertise. Please contact the Jr. Warden, Dennis, at (314) 443-8372



Daylight Savings Time

November 5th at 2:00am is time to set your clocks back one hour for Daylight Savings time. Don't forget before you go to bed Saturday night to set your clocks back one hour!

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays 7:00pm	AA Meeting
Thursdays 7:30 pm	Choir
November 3rd-4th	Diocesan Convention
November 5th	FALL BACK Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 5th	All Saints Day Service 10AM
November 19th	Consecration Sunday Ingathering <i>see page 4</i>
November 21st	Vestry Meeting
November 23rd	Thanksgiving Morning Prayer 9am
December 3rd	First Sunday in Advent (Begin Year B)
December 9th	Justin Martin ordination as Deacon <i>see page 6</i>
December 9th	Holiday Lights walking tour <i>see page 4</i>
December 17th	Christmas Party Parish Hall 6PM <i>see page 4</i>
December 19th	Vestry Meeting
December 24th	Fourth Sunday in Advent Service 10AM
December 24th	Christmas Eve Services 5pm & 10:30pm
December 25th	Christmas Day Service 10AM
December 29th	Deadline for checks for 2023 Pledges-12pm
December 31st	New Year's Eve-First Sunday after Christmas



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.
Deadline for article submissions are listed below.

December 27th Deadline for January/February

February 23rd Deadline for March/April

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

4714 Clifton Ave St. Louis, MO 63116

www.saintmarks-stl.org