



# MESSENGER

of St. Mark's



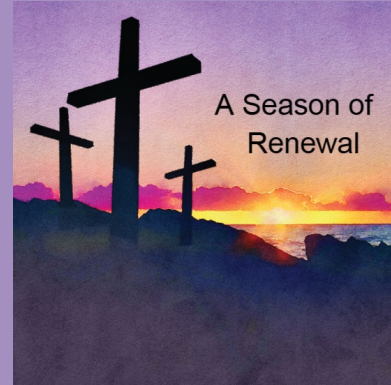
Feb. 27, 2025

## WELCOME TO LENT 2025

**Ash Wednesday Services**  
**March 5, 2025**  
**7 AM, 12 PM, and 7 PM**

Please take a moment to watch our video,  
[Welcome to Lent.](#)

[Click here](#) for a summary of Lent and Holy Week events.



## St. Mark's Mardi Gras Party!

Join us on Saturday, March 1, 2025 at 5 pm.  
Tickets are available for purchase on Sundays or call  
(505) 262-2484 for more information.



**Saturday, March 1, 2025**  
**Mardi Gras At St. Mark's**

Party Starts @ 5 PM

Catered Dinner by  
Bobbi's Homestyle Catering  
Award-Winning Jazz Band, Entourage  
Costumes, Raffle, and Live Auction

Mardi Gras 2025 is a Fundraiser for  
St. Mark's Montessori Preschool  
Our goal is to raise \$9,000 for a  
New Shade Structure

Ticket Prices  
\$30 for Adults - Youth (6-18) \$10  
Kids Under Six Are Free!  
Childcare Will Be Available

### Ways you can support the Mardi Gras fundraiser:

- Bring a wine, beer or other donation for the open bar sales.
- Sign up to set up, serve, clean up.
- Buy raffle tickets.
- Participate in the auctions.
- Make a donation to the Montessori's shade structure purchase.
- Wear a costume.



- Dance, have fun, bring your wonderful self to the party!

## Don't Forget your Palms!

Each year we kick off our Mardi Gras party by burning the palm branches from last year's Palm Sunday liturgy to create the ashes for this year's Ash Wednesday liturgy (as is the custom of the Church.) If you have palm branches from Palm Sunday at home, don't forget to bring them with you on Saturday to add to our Mardi Gras fire!



## Living Stories in Lent

Join Us For Films, Fellowship,  
Discussion, Songs, Scripture  
Stories, Reflection, and Prayers for  
ALL Ages

**Wednesdays, 5:30 - 6:00 PM**  
**March 12 thru April 9, 2025**

5:30 pm Living Stories/"Family Chapel" (Stoney Chapel)

6:00 pm Soup Supper (Parish Hall)

7:00 pm A Lenten Lens (Library)

St. Mark's has been invited to be part of a pilot project in which we can help experience, explore, and shape [Living Stories](#).

Living Stories is an emerging approach to preaching that turns the traditional sermon into a shared, interactive experience for all generations. Living Stories seeks to bring the Gospel to life with tactile storytelling, wondering questions, and a spirit of authentic communion. Through this innovative model, rooted in the traditions of the Church and inspired by methods like [Godly Play](#), participants co-create the sermon by engaging with Scripture and each other. The result? A deeper spiritual connection and a space where every voice helps tell the sacred story.

**We are looking for participants from every generation—*including young children, elders, and everyone in between*—to be part of St. Mark's "Living Stories in Lent" Cohort.**

Registrants should be able to commit to attending *at least* 3 of our 5 Living Stories Sessions, which will be held from **5:30-6pm in Stoney Chapel each Wednesday during Lent (March 12th, 19th, 26th, April 2nd, and 9th)**. Participants are encouraged to join other members of St. Mark's for a Lenten Soup Supper in the parish hall immediately following each session.

[Please click here to register](#) by Sunday, March 2nd. We need a minimum of six households or 12 individuals to register before March 2nd in order to offer this program.

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## Lenten Passion Play Working Group

**Sundays, at 11:15 AM**

**March 9 thru April 6, 2025**

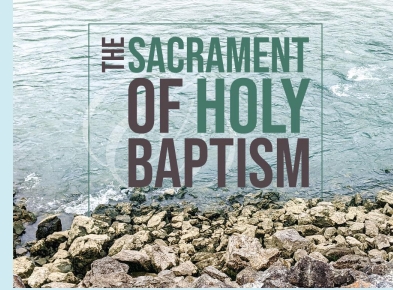
**Classroom #3 (Behind the Kitchen)**

For the past 6 years, St. Mark's Palm Sunday Liturgy has featured an intergenerational Passion Play, in which members of St. Mark's have embodied the homily for the day in the

form of a dramatic enactment of the appointed Passion Gospel. This year we are inviting anyone who is interested in helping imagine, create, direct and/or perform in the Palm Sunday Passion Play to be part of our Passion Play Working Group. Readers, Writers, Actors, Dancers, Composers, Musicians, Artists, and Performers of All Sorts, Ages, and Abilities are needed!

The Passion Plan Working Group will meet beginning March 9th in Classroom #3 (behind the kitchen) every Sunday in Lent during our "Education Hour" (11:15am-12:15pm) to dream, plan, and prepare together. We will have one final "dress rehearsal" in the Nave on Sunday, April 6th for those members, including children and youth, who are interested in performing in the Passion Play, but are not interested/available to participate in planning. The Passion Play will be offered during the Palm Sunday Liturgy on Sunday, April 13th. If you are interested in participating, please contact [Mother Sylvia](#).

## Preparing for Holy Baptism - Great Vigil of Easter



In the course of our life-long spiritual journey, there are various doorways of invitation into deeper commitment. Baptism is the doorway into full participation in the universal life and family of the Church. In the Sacrament of Baptism we are incorporated as full members of the Body of Christ. People may be initiated into Christ's Body through the Sacrament of Baptism at any age or stage in life. Baptism may be celebrated at any time, but is traditionally reserved for one of four baptismal feast days: Easter (March/April), Pentecost (May/June), All Saints (November), and Baptism of our Lord (January).

The Great Vigil of Easter is the primary occasion when, from the earliest days of the Church, new members were welcomed into the fellowship of the Church through Baptism, and it remains the primary occasion for baptism, especially for older children and adults.

In **2025 the Great Vigil of Easter begins on Saturday, April 19th at 8 pm**, and the liturgy is followed by a Feast and Dance Party (in other words, plan to take a long nap that day in preparation for a BIG CELEBRATION!).

During our Ash Wednesday service, we hear these words: " Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. **This season of Lent provided. a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.**" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 264-265).

It has become our custom at St. Mark's to formally mark the entrance of those who wish to be baptized at the Great Vigil of Easter into this season of preparation with special prayers during the Sunday liturgies during Lent, beginning the first Sunday of Lent (In 2025 that's Sunday, March 9th.)

If you (or your child) wishes to prepare for Holy Baptism at the Easter Vigil, please contact [Mother Sylvia](#) and/or [Father Christopher](#) in the coming week.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Important Dates:



- Saturday, March 1, at 5:00 pm - Mardi Gras Party
- Sunday, March 2, at 11:15 am - Not Just For Newcomers Class
- Wednesday, March 5, at 7:00 am, 12:00, & 7:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Services
- Thursday, March 6, at 12 pm, Preaching Reflection Group
- Sunday, March 9, at 11:15 am, Lenten Passion Play Group
- Wednesday, March 12, at 5:30 pm - Living Stories in Lent
- Saturday, March 22, at 10:00 am - St. Mark's Book Group

## Sacred Arts Exhibits - Library & Parish Hall



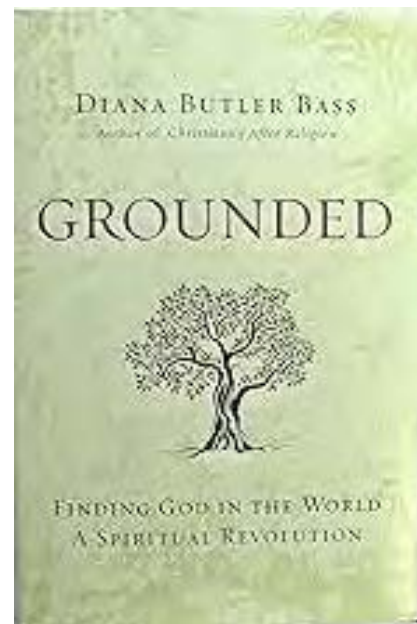
## THURSDAY STUDY GROUPS Following the Thursday Eucharist ~12 pm to 1:30 pm

### March 6: Preaching Reflection Group

Join this seasonal gathering for Thursday sermon preachers AND Thursday sermon listeners to reflect together on the art of preaching, what "works" for each of us, and how the practice of sermon preparation, sermon delivery, and sermon listening is helping each of us grow in faith.

### March 13 to 4/10: Book Study [Grounded: Finding God in the World, A Spiritual Revolution](#) by Diana Butler Bass

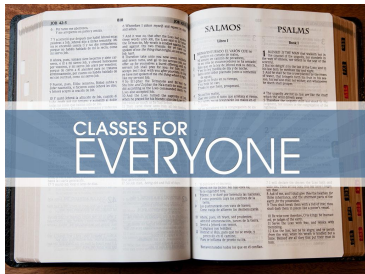
The headlines are clear: religion is on the decline in America as many people leave behind traditional religious practices. Diana Butler Bass, leading commentator on religion, politics, and culture, follows up her acclaimed book [Christianity After Religion](#) by arguing that what appears to be a decline actually signals a major transformation in how people understand and experience God. The distant God of conventional religion has given way to a more intimate sense of the sacred that is with us in the world. This shift, from a vertical understanding of God to a God found on the horizons of nature and human community, is at the heart of a spiritual revolution that surrounds us — and that is challenging not only religious institutions but political and social ones as well.



[Grounded](#) explores this cultural turn as Bass unpacks how people are finding new spiritual ground by discovering and embracing God everywhere in the world around us—in the soil, the

water, the sky, in our homes and neighborhoods, and in the global commons. Faith is no longer a matter of mountaintop experience or institutional practice; instead, people are connecting with God through the environment in which we live. Grounded guides readers through our contemporary spiritual habitat as it points out and pays attention to the ways in which people experience a God who animates creation and community.

Bass brings her understanding of the latest research and studies and her deep knowledge of history and theology to Grounded. She cites news, trends, data, and pop culture, weaves in spiritual texts and ancient traditions, and pulls it all together through stories of her own and others' spiritual journeys. Grounded observes and reports a radical change in the way many people understand God and how they practice faith. In doing so, Bass invites readers to join this emerging spiritual revolution, find a revitalized expression of faith, and change the world.



## **Not Just For Newcomers Class**

**Next Class is on March 2nd.**

Welcome to Sunday:  
A Deep Dive into our Worship  
and Life Together

Sundays 11:15 - 12:15 in Stoney Chapel

**Books you might want to explore during this class:**

[The Way of Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices](#) by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe

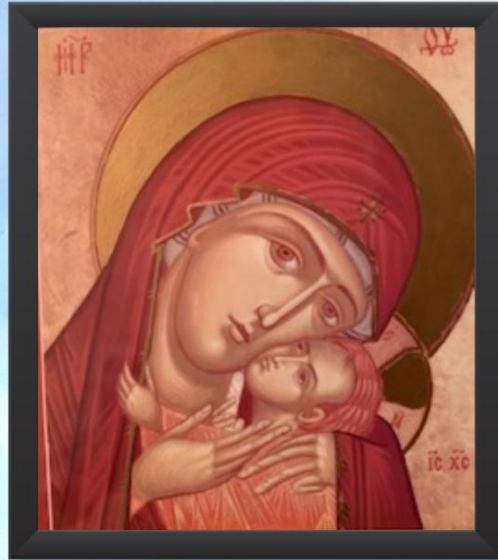
[Welcome to Sunday: An Introduction to Worship in the Episcopal Church](#) by Christopher Webber

[Welcome to the Episcopal Church](#) by Christopher Webber

# ICONOGRAPHY CLASS

for beginners!

## MOTHER OF GOD OF KORSUN



Instructor: Lin Marksbury

Cost: \$300 - all materials included

Dates: April 4 & 25, May 2 & 30, June 6 & 27  
9:00 AM - 12:00 noon

Space is limited.  
Email Lin at today reserve your spot!  
[marksburyL@yahoo.com](mailto:marksburyL@yahoo.com)

## Church Unbound

Next weekend, March 8 & 9, is Church Unbound. We will increase our sandwich count to 130. We always need baked cookies, brownies, or bar cookies; please drop them off in the cookie tub.



On March 15 & 16, we will help another church by making 75 sandwiches and snack bags. Sign-up sheets are available at the Church Unbound bulletin board.

### Socks & Bandages

Our monthly collection focuses on socks and band-aids. Individuals experiencing homelessness often walk long distances. Therefore, fresh pairs of socks and band-aids for blisters are greatly appreciated.

Is Central Avenue safe for distributing lunch?



We consider it safe because participants from Halfway House set up tents, tables, and chairs. Ruben, Mother Chloe's husband, oversees the operation to ensure everything runs smoothly. They remain present the entire time, making sure we return to our cars and head home safely. Any concerns contact [Barbara Jupin](#).

## DIOCESE & BEYOND



[Click here](#) for Bishop Michael Hunn and the Diocese's most recent videos.

### Vocation Course

**Are you considering a significant change in your life?**

Do you wonder what more God might be calling you to do? The Diocese offers a course of discernment that begins with a Vocations Course during Lent. The group meets online via Zoom at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays from March 12 through April 3. For more information about the Vocations Course or overall Diocesan discernment cycle, visit [the Diocese of the Rio Grande vocation page](#). Or you can [register for the 5-week course](#).



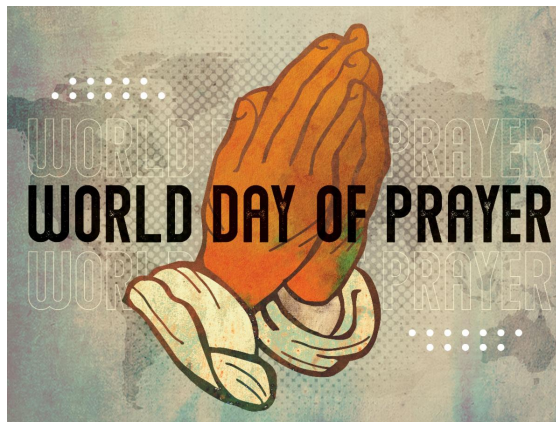
### World Day Of Prayer

**Friday, March 7th, at 9:00 AM  
Presbyterian Church  
215 Locust Ave, NE**

[Church Women United](#), an ecumenical Christian women's movement, will observe the annual [WORLD DAY OF PRAYER](#).

The women of Cook Islands, located near New Zealand and Australia, prepared the worship service, entitled "I MADE YOU WONDERFUL". It invites us to recognize that God created each one of us with great attention and loving care.

The morning begins at 9:00 a.m. with coffee, refreshments and good conversation, followed by the service at 9:30. There will be two offerings. One will go to the World Day of Prayer Committee, the second for CWU in NM. ALL the women from your congregation are invited to join us and bring a friend! Questions? Contact CWU President, [Shirley Nilsson](#).



### HB 9 Immigrant Safety Act Toolkit

There's so much that we can't do anything about right now, [here's](#)



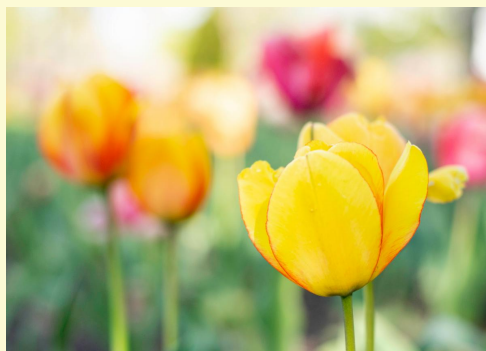
**something we CAN do!** The NM Immigrant Law Center has put together a resource for taking action during this difficult political climate. **EVERYTHING you need is in the toolkit below!**

Contact your legislators about House Bill 9, the Immigrant Safety Act (formerly Dignity Not Detention). If passed, the act will **prevent NM Counties from contracting with ICE to use private prison, which have poor safety records, to detain migrants** in NM.

At the link button below, you will find more information and sample language for calling or emailing representatives. The Legislature is now in session. The bill has passed one committee and needs every vote when it gets to the floor.

If you're not sure of your legislator, [click here](#), but feel free to write to ALL of them - they need to hear from us! The NM Immigrant Law Center thanks you and asks you to share the toolkit with your friends and neighbors who might also advocate for this law.

**HB 9 Toolkit**



## Cosmopolitan Woman's Club of Albuquerque

Yellow Tulip Garden with the help of the Yellow Tulip Project  
March 18-19, 2025

The [GFWC Cosmopolitan Woman's Club of Albuquerque](#) is planning a Yellow Tulip Garden with the help of the [Yellow Tulip Project](#). The goal of the YTP and the garden is to SMASH THE STIGMA of mental illness and spread hope and joy to young people struggling with this. [Click here to read more.](#)

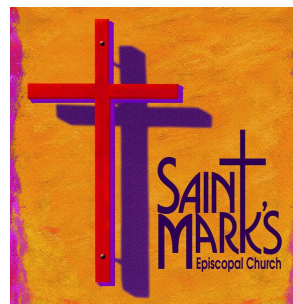
## WORSHIP CORNER

### For your thought:

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

-2 Corinthians 3:17

[Click here to study this Sunday's Readings.](#)







Worship on Sunday is both in person and virtually, every week at 9:30 a.m. We live stream Sunday liturgies on our [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#) channels.

Also, we offer a Midweek Eucharist every Thursday at 11 a.m. that is both in person and on our live-streaming platforms.

## Orders of Worship

## GIVE TO ST. MARK'S



**Give by mail** (St. Mark's has a secure mailbox and is checked regularly). Send to: 431 Richmond Place NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106.



**Give electronically by [PayPal®](#)**. Please consider checking the box that reads, "I'd like to add to my donation to help offset the cost of processing."



**Give electronically through the [Diocese of the Rio Grande Parish Donation site](#) and check the box next to "Albuquerque-St. Mark's".** Just fill out the rest of the information and **click the Next button at the bottom of the page.** Please make sure fill out "special instructions or comment" to let us know how to apply your gift (e.g., pledge, congregational relief fund, etc.)

## USEFUL LINKS

- St. Mark's [Home Page](#).
- To join an event of service, visit the [Offerings Page](#).
- [Call](#) or [email](#) the church office.
- [Fill out a form](#) to volunteer, donate altar flowers, fill out a new member/visitor form, and more!
- Access the [Member Directory](#).
- To read or view [previous sermons](#).
- Schedule a meeting with Mother Sylvia [by clicking here](#).

### **All are welcome! Come as you are!**

Join us for worship during our Thursday 11 a.m. midweek Holy Eucharists and our Sunday Holy Eucharists at 9:30 a.m. You may join us in person or on Facebook & YouTube.

Email submissions must be sent ([via email](#)) by 9:00 am Wednesday for inclusion on end-of-the-week's e-news.

[www.stmarksabq.org](http://www.stmarksabq.org)

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