

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

## 2025 Annual Report

January 25, 2026



\*The Storm on the Sea of Galilee - Rembrandt

*Rooted in baptism. Growing in faith. Branching out into the world.*

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# Annual Meeting Agenda

<b>Opening Prayer</b>	<i>Rev. George Smith</i>
<b>Appointment of Liam Dunch as Clerk of the Annual Meeting</b>	<i>Rev. George Smith</i>
<b>Review and Approval of the Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting</b> <i>Please see pages 48 and 49 of this annual report for the minutes of last year's meeting.</i>	<i>Rev. George Smith</i>
Cake Auction	
<b>Appointment of Senior Warden and Junior Warden</b> Josh O'Shea & Rebecca Fortner	<i>Rev. George Smith</i>
<b>Appointment of Youth Representative to Vestry</b> Nola Gross	<i>Rev. George Smith</i>
Cake Auction	
<b>Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members, Youth Representative, Sr. Warden and Delegate to Diocesan Convention</b>	<i>Patti King</i>
<b>Voting</b> Election of Vestry Candidates	<i>Patti King</i>
Cake Auction	
<b>Reports</b> 2025 Year End Results	<i>Leo Lanzillo &amp; Cam Gowans</i>
Cake Auction	
2026 Budget	<i>Leo Lanzillo &amp; Cam Gowans</i>
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<b>Questions and Answers</b>	

## Rector Report for the St. Mark's Annual Meeting, January 25, 2026

They've never been caught, and it's now thirty-five years since two men dressed as Boston police officers walked in to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and walked out with 13 works of art, including "The Storm on the Sea of Galilee" or "The Storm" for short – one of Rembrandt's great masterpieces and his only known seascape. Isabella Stewart Gardner, known as "Mrs. Jack" was a devout Episcopalian and colorful figure in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Boston society, who purchased "The Storm" in 1898 for \$6,000. If it were to be brought to auction today, it is estimated that someone would pay up to \$250 million or perhaps more. Although it is the most famous missing painting in the world, the image itself is fortunately not lost and appears on the cover of the St. Mark's annual report for 2025. True to the Scripture verses in Matthew, Mark and Luke, Rembrandt depicts Jesus as calm and serene in the midst of pure chaos, crashing waves, and expressions of human anguish and terror. A master of light and dark, Rembrandt's storm combines charcoal-grey water and clouds with patches of blue sky with a monster-like wave thrusting against the bow. We can't take our eyes off the intense drama in the wet-looking depth and vibrancy of the oil paint. Beyond the art is the theme that hits us with its truth and relevance – a world that is chaotic, dangerous, out of control...with Jesus at the center. For Christians, this is our Gospel. In the storms of life, Jesus is with us, our guide, our bearing and our truth.

In today's Gospel reading from Matthew, the tableau for the entire Gospel is laid out. First, the background is named: John the Baptist has been shut up in jail by Herod who represents a system of corruption and injustice. Jesus meanwhile makes his home in a fishing village called Capernaum along the Sea of Galilee. He immediately recruits four followers and begins going from town to town, teaching and preaching about the kingdom of God. In the middle of this passage, he shouts out to two fishermen as they casting their net: "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Their response is immediate. Peter and Andrew drop their nets, jump out of their boats and go with Jesus. Jesus does not order or command them to follow him. What he says is, "do this, and this will happen." Like fish, they take the bait. For us who are either reading or listening to this, this is bait for us as well. The "follow me" that Jesus says to us doesn't mean that we should jump out of our boats and leave whatever nets we are casting - but it urges us to "read on" or "keep listening." The Gospel itself is a kind of net that captures our attention. Matthew, like a fisherman, wants to catch you and me because as Jesus says, "I will make you fish for people." Jesus is saying to Peter and Andrew and to us, that he will teach us how to fish - to change people's lives. Unlike fish caught for eating, the Gospel brings us to a new way of living. As a fish caught in a net is brought out of the water, a person caught in the Gospel comes up from the water of baptism into a new reality. Through the Gospel, Matthew has Jesus teaching us, making us into fishermen for people.

This community we call St. Mark's fishes for people. We are a net, and like a fishing net for all kinds of fish, we are net for all kinds of people, young and old, those who speak different languages, single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, trans, those who have ADD, autism, bipolar or mental health challenges, bank accounts flush and bank accounts empty. From personal experience, I can say that fishing is hard work, both for actual fish and people. Fishing takes patience, perseverance, and commitment. We wait for things we can't see. Fishing for people, like fishing on the Sea of Galilee, takes a team, and all of us are invited to be part of the St. Mark's team. Today's churches deploy different kinds of nets. There are nets of entertainment, where people are drawn in with stages, lights, special effects, guitars and drums, and with messages of affirmation, self-improvement and success. There are also other kinds of nets that are made with barbs of guilt and shame, laced with threats of divine and eternal punishment. The St. Mark's net is neither of these, made of the material of the original call to fish for people for the kingdom of God. These threads are worship, service and learning that turn us into fishermen. We are a net of music and art, support groups, schools and advocacy for our community and its residents. The St. Mark's fishermen include a special team called the vestry. There are a group of twelve plus two additional helpers called wardens who steer the ship's financial and strategic direction. Today, seven new vestry members are beginning their three-year terms. They are: **Chip Bennett, Wilson Sanchez, Jamie Hommowun, Juanita Jimenez, Wyatt Steele, Peter Fellowes, Rita Colorito and Nola Gross.** Their pictures and bios are in the annual report. Please pray for them for wisdom and patience and all the needed skills of a fisherman. There are

also vestry members who are concluding their terms. Those are: **Cam Gowans, Ana Gutierrez, Tim Kocher, Marcy Troy, Maria Torres, Patti King and Kai Hill.** Pray for them and be sure to thank them. In fishing for the vestry team and any other team, whether it is the choir, altar ministry, outreach committee or office volunteers, there are four categories of responses: A good yes, a good no, a bad no and a bad yes. Let me explain. A good yes is a yes that is carefully considered and is made with a sense of right fit, timing, curiosity and a willingness to learn and take some risk. A good no is a no that is also carefully considered and made with a sense of not the right time, not the right fit with openness to other opportunities at another time. A bad no is a no that is made in haste without careful consideration or out of fear or apathy. And the fourth is a bad yes, which is saying yes to something isn't a good fit, that isn't well considered, done out of obligation and that will likely cause the person to feel resentful or guilty and therefore not engage in the work and commitment required. I feel confident that each of our incoming vestry members has given a "good yes."

On the annual meeting Sunday, we come out of our trenches and climb the mountain for a panoramic view of where we have been and where we are going. This is following the example of Jesus who will take us to a mountain for a panoramic view of the kingdom of God. From our cold but clear St. Mark's summit, we can see quite far. With my own eyes, I can see a fishing landscape going back to 2006. Some of you can see that too if not beyond. Here are some of the things I can see:

**2006:** A group of adults and youth travels from St. Mark's to San Marcos in El Nigromante, Mexico for the beginning of a lasting companion relationship.

**2007:** There are two thousand pumpkins on the front lawn. The St. Mark's Pumkin Patch nets \$5,900 for DuPagePads.

**2008:** A Vision Statement reads, "Rooted in Baptism. Growing in Faith. Branching into the World." The St. Mark's Parents' Day Out program expands to 5 days a week.

**2009:** A celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Mark's becoming a parish.

**2010:** In the depths of the Great Recession, "The Second 100 Years Campaign" secures \$795,000 in pledges with an additional \$600,000 in matching funds from the Bishop and Trustees of the Diocese of Chicago to pay down a significant portion of debt; the St. Mark's Preschool opens with nine students and three teachers.

**2011:** A 1 pm Sunday service in Spanish begins; PDO offers a summer session; Miguel Briones is ordained to the diaconate.

**2012:** St. Mark's becomes a dues-paying member of DuPage United; there is a celebration for Charles Snider and his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as organist and choirmaster.

**2013:** An art exhibit called Icons in Transformation brings 3,000 visitors to St. Mark's; ten youth and adults travel to Martin, Kentucky for the Appalachian Service Project (ASP).

**2014:** The year ends with the first balanced budget in ten years; the Rev. Clint Moore joins the preaching rotation.

**2015:** The Lifting Heat and Voice Campaign raises \$200,000 needed to complete the Walker Pipe Organ, purchase pianos and celebrate with a concert series of renowned organists.

**2016:** 400 people come through the St. Mark's library for "Ashes to Go" on Ash Wednesday.

**2017:** The Rev. Catherine Phillips renovates a room at St. Mark's for spiritual direction meetings; total St. Mark's operations exceed \$1 million with a balanced budget.

**2018:** Hundreds of mum plants appear on the front lawn; the sale raises \$3,000 for the Walk-in Ministry; The Columbarium is expanded with an additional 120 niches.

**2019:** A series of conversations and listening results in the launch of CREO DuPage with 24 students enrolled; a team of dentists and hygienists travels to El Nigromante, Mexico for a dental clinic that provides cleaning and exams to over 100 children and adults.

**2020:** The Covid pandemic shifts worship and community life to Zoom and online meetings; St. Mark's Preschool operates with outdoor classroom spaces; A Black Lives Matter sign is placed in front of the library windows facing Main Street; over 40 participants complete the Sacred Ground program, leading to an on-going St. Mark's Sacred Ground program.

**2021:** Hybrid worship begins with in-person and Zoom options; in-person attendance increases gradually; the rectory mortgage paid off.

**2022:** A windstorm topples the copper-clad spire; the vestry votes to rebuild; the vestry approves a Land Acknowledgement statement and prayers for reconciliation are added to the weekly prayers of the people.

**2023:** St. Mark's begins sponsoring Cub Scout Troop 158.

**2024:** A “rapid response” team of volunteers delivers coats, hats and mittens to asylum seekers passing through Glen Ellyn; Lehman Parlor is remodeled in memory of David Fletcher.

**2025:** The Grow & Renew Capital Campaign exceeds a “stretch” goal of \$850,000; the long-planned for narthex renovation goes to next step with a signed contract with architects; as storms swirl around us, St. Mark's recommits to being a space of sanctuary and respect with training and vigilance.

**2026:** The bank mortgage originating in 2002 is paid off on January 16.

This mountain view also offers us a moment to imagine what lies ahead in 2026 and beyond. The vestry has worked on identifying mending and expanding our net in these ways:

**Re-affirm the Vision Statement for St. Mark's:** Developed in 2009, the vision statement for St. Mark's is “Rooted in Baptism. Growing in Faith. Branching out into the World.” We will make this claim more visible and related to what St. Mark's is today. The short summary of the vision statement is:

*St. Mark's is a vibrant, growing, inclusive community rooted in our shared baptismal covenant and secure in the promise that baptism marks us as Christ's own forever. Respecting the dignity of all people, we welcome all, embrace differences, foster creativity, and nurture the unique gifts of each person. We join together in worship drawing on our ancient liturgical traditions enriched by newer expressions. We come together to learn and grow in our faith, welcoming questions, inviting dialogue, and forming the whole person in Christ. We joyfully carry our faith into the world, sharing Christ's love through our actions towards each other, our community, the Diocese of Chicago, and the world. We worship, learn, and serve, proclaiming our commitment to understand and follow Christ's challenging Gospel.*

**Strengthen our companion relationship with San Marcos in El Nigromante, Mexico:** Beginning in 2006, a group of youth and adults made a yearly trip to Mexico to visit our companion church, San Marcos, in a small town called El Nigromante, in the Mexican state of Veracruz. These visits included overnight stays in the homes of residents of El Nigromante, conducting a Vacation Bible School for children in the town, hosting a community dinner and helping with various projects such as painting the church interior and roof. In December, 2019, the trip was a dental “mission” with two dentists and three hygienists who were able to provide dental care to over 100 adults and children. Because of the pandemic, the next trip did not take place until January, 2024. The question now

is how to continue and renew our relationship with San Marcos in 2026 – with another dental mission trip, or something else.

**Establish a ten-year plan for the St. Mark's Buildings and Grounds:** St. Mark's has a large facility composed of a group of connected structures built between the 1920s and 2000s; a rectory; two parking lots, a columbarium garden and series of lawns and gardens. Establishing a ten-year plan for maintenance and upgrades is a priority for 2026, including:

- Narthex renovation (per Grow and Renew Capital Campaign)
- Interior painting of all spaces
- Replacing tables and chairs in Mahon Hall and classrooms
- Replacing the sound system in the sanctuary
- Maintaining parking lots and signs
- Replacing light bulbs as needed for efficiency
- Improving lighting in the Mahon Hall basement
- Replacing carpet in the sanctuary and Mahon Hall hallway

**Strengthen multi-cultural connections in the St. Mark's community:** From its inception, the 1 pm Sunday worship service in Spanish was meant not to create a separate “Spanish church” but to be part of one church, one St. Mark's, a St. Mark's that has services in both English and Spanish. It was a bold experiment that has changed St. Mark's over the past 14 years. Nearly one-third of St. Mark's households speak Spanish. This healthy blend of English and Spanish under one mission and vision is unique, not just for Episcopal churches but for churches in general. However, the appearance and reality of separation between two cultures exists. Most people who attend the 1 pm service are Hispanic. There are some Spanish-speakers attending the 8:30 and 10:30 am Sunday services. Currently there are services and events that are intentionally bilingual, including: Christmas Eve 8 pm; bilingual Advent Lessons and Carols; Ash Wednesday bilingual service; Maundy Thursday and Good Friday bilingual worship; bilingual confirmation services; the summer outdoor worship service at Lake Ellyn; the Cinco de Mayo fundraiser (last held in May, 2023); pumpkin unloading has been a time when the community comes together. There are opportunities to experiment with ways to build more connections and community between Anglos and Hispanics: additional combined Sunday worship services, with the time of the service at 11 am, keeping the 8:30 am service at its regular time, such as the first Sunday in October, followed by pumpkin unloading and the first Sunday of Lent; potluck dinners with both Anglo and Hispanic dishes; recitals with Anglo and Hispanic youth; intro to Spanish classes with participation from Hispanic members; ESL classes with participation from Anglo members.

Other areas of our net to work on include expanding our **youth programming** by offering Youth Nights every Wednesday, more participation in the ASP trip and other service projects. We also have an opportunity to restart a children's choir and create stronger bonds with our  **PDO, Preschool and Sunday School** programs.

Standing at this summit today with all of you, I give thanks to God for God's faithfulness and to all of you as together we answer the call to be “made into fishers for people” with its challenges, risks, failures, successes, joys and wonder, with Jesus in the midst of us through calm and storms. This annual report offers an in-depth look at the comprehensive “net” of our community and the work of casting, mending and pulling it that never ends. It is truly inspiring to see the treasures of time, talent and money that are invested in this community. The weave of our net is strong as we have now paid off our 20+ year bank loan and have a plan in place to be completely debt free and pay off our obligation to the Bishop and Trustees of the Diocese of Chicago by 2030.

This coming February will mark 20 years since Cecilia and I arrived at St. Mark's along with our three children Lydia, Frances and Geo. I can't imagine the journey without them and I am continually thankful for their love and unconditional support. As we take in the view of 20 years, I am humbled and grateful for the work we have done and the myriad blessings God has bestowed on us. Like Peter and Andrew, James and John, Martha and Mary, we are called to be made into fishers for people, and we can expect that our being made and remade will continue without end. Yours in Christ,  
George+

## **Senior Warden's Report for Annual Meeting**

As I reflect on 2025, I am deeply grateful for the faithfulness, generosity, and resilience of the people of St. Mark's. It has been a joy to work with George Smith, Josh O'Shea, and the Vestry team! This year has been marked by both careful stewardship and a growing sense of what God is calling us to do as we come together. One of the most encouraging trends this year has been the Vestry's intentional movement from short-term, moment-to-moment management toward longer-range, mission-driven planning.

The Vestry's work this year was shaped by prayerful listening and intentional focus. We began the year mindful of the extraordinary energy and commitment required by the capital campaign, and we end the year encouraged by the fruits of that labor.

Thanks to the leadership of the campaign committee and the considerable generosity of parishioners, we surpassed our stretch goal and laid a strong foundation for the next phase of improvements to our building—particularly the redevelopment of the narthex. Important work remains ahead as we refine designs, manage costs, and prepare for construction.

### **Finance & Stewardship**

Financially, 2025 required attentiveness and flexibility. Early in the year we benefited from strong pledge income, followed by the more familiar rhythms of seasonal fluctuation. The Finance Committee, Treasurer, Internal Audit Team, and Vestry worked collaboratively to keep a clear view of both short-term realities and long-term health. I am especially thankful for the thoughtful evolution of our financial reporting toward a more forward-looking model, and for the internal audit undertaken this summer as part of our commitment to transparency and good governance.

### **Vestry Focus Issues**

The Vestry Retreat early in the year helped ground our work spiritually and relationally. Through shared prayer, reflection, and practical tools for understanding how we work together, we identified strategic focus areas that will guide our efforts beyond a single year or vestry term. These areas—including children's & youth ministry, member engagement, mental & spiritual health, accessibility, welcome & hospitality, social justice, buildings & grounds, capital campaign, giving, financial planning, and music ministry—reflect a shared desire to strengthen the heart of parish life and to invite others more fully into it.

### **Welcome**

Much of our discussion this year centered on welcome. We considered how we greet newcomers, how we support families and children, and how we communicate who we are as a church. From Holy Week and Easter hospitality to renewed energy around children's ministry and high school outreach, the Vestry has been asking not only what we do, but why we do it. These conversations are ongoing and I am greatly encouraged by the creativity and care with which they are unfolding.

## Building Community

We are also mindful that we do not exist in isolation. Diocesan strategic planning conversations, changing cultural realities, and concerns within our wider community continue to shape our community. In moments of uncertainty, St. Mark's has been committed to calm preparation, compassion, and justice—making our church a place of safety, welcome, and faithfulness for all who enter our doors.

## Giving Thanks

The work of the Vestry would not be possible without the steady leadership of our Rector, Fr. George. His pastoral presence, vision, and deep love for this parish are evident in countless ways. I am grateful as well for my fellow Vestry members, whose time, wisdom, humor, and prayerful engagement make this work both meaningful and joyful. Serving alongside such dedicated people has been a gift.

## Looking Ahead

As we look toward 2026, we do so with trust that God is at work among us—sometimes quietly, sometimes boldly—always faithfully. As we work through the development of our children's ministry, the implementation of the internal audit recommendations, the capital campaign distributions and effectuation, expansion of support for our staff and church & community members, addressing the issues in our community thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your participation in the life of St. Mark's. It is an honor to serve this parish as Senior Warden.

Patti King, Senior Warden, [cellowatti@gmail.com](mailto:cellowatti@gmail.com)

## Wardens, Vestry, Youth Representative and Diocesan Delegate Nominees

We are pleased to announce the list of candidates for the 2026 election to St. Mark's Vestry.

### **For Senior Warden:**



**Joshua O'Shea:** A parishioner of St Mark's for nearly 10 years, Joshua is Outreach Librarian at Glen Ellyn Public Library with a Master's of Library and Information Science from Dominican University in River Forest. He is in Sewanee Education for Ministry (a four-year course in bible reading, theology, and practical application) and on College of DuPage Native American Studies Committee. He enjoys reading, exploring new places, and doing terrible paintings.

### **For Junior Warden:**



**Rebecca Fortner:** Rebecca and her family - including husband David, and children Stella, 15, and Wesley, 13 - have belonged to St. Mark's since 2022. Rebecca's mom, Marcia Reinert, introduced them to the parish. They enjoy the welcoming and open atmosphere, as well as the many opportunities for youth and service. Rebecca is a former middle and high school English teacher who now works in benefit communications.

### **New Vestry Members:**



**Jamie Hommowun:** Jamie Hommowun is a clinical psychologist working for the State of Illinois at Elgin Mental Health Center. She has been a member of St. Mark's for over two years, where she has organized St. Mark's PrideLion, an LGBTQIA+ support and activity group, and has been an active planner in local multifaith transgender services to mark the Day of Remembrance and the Day of Visibility. She was honored to be invited to share a homily with the congregation last year and looks

forward to continuing to serve the St. Mark's community – now by taking a more active role with the Vestry. She lives in Bloomingdale with her two t(w)een daughters and her wife, Sarah, with whom she is celebrating 25 years of marriage this July!



**Wilson Sanchez:** Mi nombre es Wilson Sánchez, tengo 39 años soy hispano originario de Guatemala actualmente llevo viviendo 25 años con mi esposa Yesica en este bello país Estados Unidos se la cual me a dado la dicha de ver crecer mis 4 bellos hijos: Wilson Daniel, Mia, Bella y Sophia Sanchez. Afortunadamente llevo 10 años siendo dueño de mi pequeña compañía de Yardas, cemento,snow plow construcción y ladrillo. Será un honor a servir en la junta parroquial.

My name is Wilson Sanchez. I am 39 years old and originally from Guatemala. My wife Yesica and I have been living 25 years in this beautiful country, the United States, which has given me the joy of seeing our four beautiful children grow up. They are Wilson Daniel, Mia, Bella and Sophia. I am the owner and operator of a landscaping and construction company for 10 years. I look forward to serving on the vestry.\\



**Juanita Jimenez:** Mi nombre es Juanita Jiménez soy una migrante de la Ciudad de México radicando en Estados Unidos en la ciudad de Chicago por más de 35 años. Soy madre de tres hijos y casada con un hombre maravilloso por 35 años. También mi profesión es Wedding Planner y estoy trabajando en un grupo de mujeres latinas y migrantes donde les estamos enseñando a creer en el potencial que tiene una mujer latina emprendedora empresaria y lo lejos que puede llegar una mujer aprendiendo a buscar su propia identidad. Soy parte de la parroquia San Marcos por casi 14 años. siempre estoy dispuesta a apoyar y ser parte cuando se me es requerido para mí es un orgullo ser parte de la familia San Marcos y será un honor una vez más ser parte de la mesa directiva gracias.

My name is Juanita Jiménez. I am a migrant from Mexico City, living in the United States, in the city of Chicago, for over 35 years. I am a mother of three children and married to a wonderful man for 35 years.

My profession is Wedding Planner, and I am also working with a group of Latina and immigrant women where we are teaching them to believe in the potential of a Latina entrepreneur and how far a woman can go by learning to find her own identity. I have been part of St. Mark's parish for almost 14 years. I am always willing to support and participate whenever needed. It is a source of pride for me to be part of the St. Mark's family, and it would be an honor to be part of the board of directors once again. Thank you.



**Chip Bennett:** My wife Lesa and I began attending services at St. Mark's in January of 2024. We immediately found St. Mark's as a warm, welcoming, and nurturing place of worship. Lesa and I have been married 47 years and have two sons Andrew (Andy) and Ryan. Andy and his wife Sarah have blessed us with two beautiful grandsons, Theodore (Theo) and Olliver (Ollie). Lesa is a retired school psychologist, and I am a retired technology executive within the business areas of banking and capital markets. Lesa and I enjoy extensive travel including spending lots of time in the north woods of Wisconsin. I have a passion for bass fishing and hunting and spend as much time as possible in the outdoors. I look forward to being a meaningful part of the St. Mark's community, supporting the vision of St. Mark's as a parish *rooted in baptism, growing in faith and branching out into the world.*



**Rita Colorito:** I attended my first St. Mark's service in August 2023 and immediately felt a sense of belonging. A former Catholic (and Catholic student from grammar school through college), I was officially received into the Episcopal Church during the confirmation ceremony in 2024. This means so much to me, as I've been looking for a spiritual home, focused on social justice, for quite some time. Originally from Somerville, Massachusetts, I moved to Glen Ellyn in 2008 and now live in Wheaton. I have served the community in various ways since; on the Lincoln PTA and as Holiday Sharing co-leader, as a kitten foster volunteer for DCAS, and a youth hockey team manager. At St. Mark's, I currently co-lead the Women's Ministry, serve on the Hospitality Committee, Prayer Group, and Community Meals, and recently completed my discernment to become a Daughter of the King. In my spare time, I work as a freelance

health writer for various healthcare systems and media. I have one son (said previous hockey player) who is in college.



**Peter Fellowes:** Peter and his wife Kate and kids Kenny (5) and Freddy (3) have been members of St. Mark's since shortly after moving to Elmhurst in 2023. Originally from the Cleveland area, Peter attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church there, participating in the choir. Arriving after a year in Philadelphia to conclude Kate's medical training, we have found St. Mark's a warm and welcoming place for us and our children to find community in faith. In his career, Peter has worked on finding ways to apply Data Science insights to a variety of fields: medical, online dating, logistics, and finance.



**Wyatt Steele:** My family and I initially became involved in St. Mark's when my wife, Emily was looking for a workspace to prepare for roles and teach voice. Since then, my son Julian has entered the St. Mark's Preschool and we now attend Sunday services. My varied career in finance and insurance has led me to a rewarding role in captive insurance. I'm looking forward to getting further involved in the work of the Vestry.

### Continuing Vestry Members:



**Andy Labis:** Andy and his wife, Berny, became members of St. Mark's in the spring of 2023 after moving to Glen Ellyn. Originally from outside Cleveland, Ohio, Andy came to Chicago to study engineering and management. He ultimately settled his professional career on the accounting side of the construction industry. Outside of work, Andy enjoys writing and publishing short stories, pursuing photography, and being an early adopter of technology. At St. Mark's, Andy can be heard singing with the St. Mark's Singers and participates in the Saturday morning Men's Group. Andy looks forward to expanding his involvement at St. Mark's as a member of the vestry.



**Hester Bury:** I have been a member of St. Mark's for about six years having previously been at Calvary Episcopal in Lombard for 25 years. I was brought up in the Anglican church in England and the traditions and music at St. Mark's are bring back memories of many church and cathedral services there. I have worked as a fundraiser for Northern Illinois Food Bank since 2008 and volunteer at The Outreach House in Lombard. I also enjoy flower photography and gardening.



**Karen Volk:** My St. Mark's experience began in October, 2022 with Sunday Mass. Until then, I had been Catholic, what many call "a cradle Catholic." From the moment I walked through St. Mark's doors, I felt I was finally home: this is truly a loving, caring, and welcoming community. I would like to give back to all of you by serving on the vestry. I have a history of being involved in both the community and my church. My husband, Mike, and I moved to Glen Ellyn in 2003 with our two daughters, Cathryn and Michelle, who attended Park View Elementary at that time. I was involved in both of their Girl Scout Troops, the Park View PTA, and then moved on to the Glen Crest PTA and Music Boosters, and finally the Glenbard South Boosters and Citizen's Advisory Council. Currently I am in my fifth year of serving on the Glen Ellyn Library Board of Trustees as the Board President. Throughout my adult life, I was also involved in the Catholic church. Religious Education, Parish Council, Eucharistic Minister, and women's and moms and tot's groups are some of the many ways I have given of my time and talent. We have been empty nesters for a while; Cathryn and her husband, Jack, live in Idaho, and Michelle resides in Michigan. I look forward to new chapters in my life and getting involved in my church once again.



**Bill Constien:** Bill resides in Carol Stream along with his wife Janet. We have been members of St. Marks for about 5 years. We enjoy actively participating in the church community. Janet has participated with CREO and I have assisted with the Building & Grounds committee. We spend as much time as we can with our 5 grandchildren both in and out of town and travel frequently. I look forward to contributing to the buildings and grounds committee's effort with maintaining the beautiful facilities of St. Mark's!



**Joe Cuttome:** Joe has been a member of Wheaton Rotarian with 36 years of perfect attendance. He is a previous Columbia Recording artist with the Hounds and still playing bass guitar in BannedJoe. He is the CEO and Owner of American Fidelity Mortgage Services, a 43-year-old company. Joe is a member of the new chapter of the Wheaton Elk Club and is a proud parishioner of St. Mark's. Joe is the life partner of Tracy Smith and father of Quinn, Autumn, and Bella.

#### **Youth Representative to Vestry:**



**Nola Gross:** I am so excited to be joining saint marks vestry as the youth representative! I am 15 years old and go to Wheaton North high school. I do cheer and track! I have been going to saint marks since I was a baby. I have been serving since 2nd grade as an acolyte. I have grown up to love this church, and I cannot wait to help serve! My goals are to help expand and build on our youth program and get more youth excited about the lord! I cannot wait to get to know you better! Please come to me if you have any ideas or questions, I would love to hear it!

#### **Delegates to Diocesan Convention:**



**David Dornblaser:** David has lived in the Wheaton/Glen Ellyn area since he was in High School; and his wife has lived in the area since 1980. David and Lynn have been members of St. Marks since 2013 and David has during that time organized a number of social events and fundraisers, been the St. Marks PADS coordinator and took our PADS involvement from a summer fill-in position to a year 'round ministry prior to the pandemic. Currently David coordinates the Meals-to-Go, Community Dinner, and the Rapid Response programs. He also serves as the Education for Ministry Mentor which meets at St. Marks and is on the Diocesan Council.



**Debbie Pope:** Debbie began attending the 6:30 a.m. Thursday Eucharist services at St. Mark's in 1984 when she was a graduate student at Wheaton College and gradually started bringing 6-8 other grad students with her for those Thursday morning services, after which they all shared breakfast at what used to be Tiffany's (Fire & Wine) with Father Raymond Cole. At Cole's invitation she taught a confirmation class and was confirmed with her students in April 1986 at St. Mark's. After moving away from Glen Ellyn, she worked for the New York State Dept. of Health AIDS Institute while living at an Episcopalian convent on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, The Community of the Holy Spirit, and then spent a year teaching English in Kochi, Japan. She taught full-time at the college level in both English and Communication in Seattle, Washington, for 24 years and since returning to Glen Ellyn continues to teach as an adjunct at Wheaton College, North Central College, and the College of DuPage. She's owned and operated by several spoiled cats and one gloriously handsome retired champion show dog, a Blue Merle Cardigan Welsh Corgi named Link. She is a self-confessed Jackson Browne groupie and a Jazzercease fanatic who lives to drink coffee and read anything and everything by Flannery O'Connor, Frederick Buechner, and Louise Penney.

Debbie grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and continues to be a recovering Pentecostal, which explains a lot (she says).



**John Mueller:** I am a life-long Episcopalian and a graduate of Southern Illinois University Carbondale with a major in film and photography. Following my undergraduate degree, I was a suburban photojournalist. Then I became an academic and reference librarian and professor at Triton College. I have a master's degree in photography from Governors State University and a second master's degree in library and information sciences from Dominican University. I am retired from Triton College after thirty years of service. My wife, Janet and I live in Lisle. We initially attended St. Mark's in the 1970's and 1980's, returning in 2019.

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**2025 Annual Report**  
**Comparative Balance Sheet**  
**Dec 31, 2024 and Dec 31, 2025**

	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Current Year Change Inc/(Dec)</u>	<u>Balance</u>
	<u>12-31-2024</u>		<u>12-31-2025</u>
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Operating Assets</b>			
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>			
1101.00 - Operating Checking	\$ 143,668	\$ (71,879)	\$ 71,789
1101.05 - Schwab Fund	108,771	532,856	641,627
1102.00 - Treasurer's Savings Account	234,880	(170,732)	64,148
1106.00 - DOK Checking	4,096	50	4,146
1107.00 - PDO-Checking	26,337	12,049	38,386
1109.00 - St. Mark's Preschool Checking	73,393	32,242	105,635
1115.00 - Rector's Discretionary	8,218	(1,884)	6,334
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>\$ 599,363</b>	<b>\$ 332,702</b>	<b>\$ 932,065</b>
<b>Investments</b>			
1201.00 - Diocesan Foundation -General	\$ 111,423	\$ 23,094	\$ 134,517
1201.05 - Diocesan Foundation - Carey Music	51,382	6,038	57,420
1201.10 - Diocesan Foundation - Lewis Trust	367,842	33,556	401,398
1201.15 - DF - Pahnke/Peck Endowment	13,532	1,590	15,122
1209.00 - Wintrust- Operating Stock Donations	7,270	(7,270)	-
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$ 551,449</b>	<b>\$ 57,008</b>	<b>\$ 608,457</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>			
1315.00 - Prepaid Expenses	\$ 8,326	\$ (8,326)	\$ -
1400.20 - Rectory Utilities Receivable	1,447	(1,447)	-
1601.50 - Other Receivable	1,423	(1,423)	-
1607.50 - STM Preschool Ancillary Activity	420	(420)	-
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 11,616</b>	<b>\$ (11,616)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total Operating Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,162,428</b>	<b>\$ 378,094</b>	<b>\$ 1,540,522</b>
<b>Non-operating Assets</b>			
<b>Property and Equipment</b>			
1701.00 - Church Buildings	\$ 6,098,900	\$ -	\$ 6,098,900
1705.00 - Furniture and Fixtures	703,303	-	703,303
1710.00 - Computer Equipment	593	(593)	-
1715.00 - Stained Glass	163,000	-	163,000
1720.00 - Rectory	473,000	-	473,000
<b>Total Property and Equipment</b>	<b>\$ 7,438,796</b>	<b>\$ (593)</b>	<b>\$ 7,438,203</b>
<b>Total Non-operating Assets</b>	<b>\$ 7,438,796</b>	<b>\$ (593)</b>	<b>\$ 7,438,203</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 8,601,224</b>	<b>\$ 377,501</b>	<b>\$ 8,978,725</b>

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**2025 Annual Report**  
**Comparative Balance Sheet**  
**Dec 31, 2024 and Dec 31, 2025**

	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year</u>	
	<u>12-31-2024</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Inc/(Dec)</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<b>Liabilities , Fund Balance, &amp; Restricted Funds</b>				
<b>Liabilities</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
2101.00 - Accounts Payable	\$ 877	\$ (877)	\$ -	
2115.00 - Rector Security Deposit	4,000	-	4,000	
2130.00 - Prepaid Pledges	50,185	(12,845)	37,340	
2606.00 - PDO Reimbursables	110	(110)	-	
2607.00 - Preschool Reimbursables	(4,092)	4,092	-	
2101.50 - Payroll Liabilities	(269)	1,035	766	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 50,811</b>	<b>\$ (8,705)</b>	<b>\$ 42,106</b>	
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>				
2172.00 - Building Mortgage Payable	\$ 396,422	\$ (46,736)	\$ 349,686	
2173.00 - Debt Reduction Loan -Diocese of Chicago	494,419	(25,000)	469,419	
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 890,841</b>	<b>\$ (71,736)</b>	<b>\$ 819,105</b>	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 941,652</b>	<b>\$ (80,441)</b>	<b>\$ 861,211</b>	
<b>Fund Balance</b>				
3100.00 - General Fund Balance	\$ 2,418,819	\$ 32,383	\$ 2,451,202	
3200.00 - Investment in Property & Equipment	4,384,015	(0)	4,384,015	
Excess Cash Received	54,038	21,490	75,528	
<b>Total Fund Balance and Excess Cash Received</b>	<b>\$ 6,856,872</b>	<b>\$ 53,873</b>	<b>\$ 6,910,745</b>	
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
Total Temporary Restricted	\$ 258,522	\$ 339,790	\$ 598,312	
Total Permanent Restricted	544,178	64,279	608,457	
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>\$ 802,700</b>	<b>\$ 404,069</b>	<b>\$ 1,206,769</b>	
<b>Total Liabilities, Fund Balance, &amp; Restricted Funds</b>	<b>\$ 8,601,224</b>	<b>\$ 377,501</b>	<b>\$ 8,978,725</b>	

**St. Mark's Glen Ellyn**  
**Statement of Operations**  
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
<b>Operating Income</b>			
<b>Church Operating Income</b>			
Contribution Income			
Pledge Income	\$ 629,000	\$ 599,512	\$ 638,000
Anticipated Pledges	-	-	55,000
Cake Auction	-	8,385	8,000
Other Collections and Gifts	<u>137,086</u>	<u>126,972</u>	<u>113,250</u>
Total Contribution Income	<u>\$ 766,086</u>	<u>\$ 734,869</u>	<u>\$ 814,250</u>
Parking and Rental Income	-	-	-
Usage Income (Parents' Day Out & Preschool)	125,200	131,981	130,000
Release from Restriction	20,000	9,971	14,000
Other Income	<u>8,000</u>	<u>16,477</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Total Church Operating Income	<u>\$ 919,286</u>	<u>\$ 893,278</u>	<u>\$ 963,250</u>
Preschool Fee Income	<u>\$ 273,048</u>	<u>\$ 274,408</u>	<u>\$ 290,037</u>
Parents' Day Out Fee Income	<u>\$ 147,381</u>	<u>\$ 147,381</u>	<u>\$ 150,000</u>
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,339,715</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,315,067</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,403,287</u></b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
<b>Church Operating Expenses</b>			
Programs & Administrative Expenses			
Ministry Program	\$ 25,935	\$ 23,792	\$ 25,925
Music Program	17,220	12,526	13,400
Children's Program	9,400	8,700	8,700
Mission & Outreach Program	19,950	20,085	21,200
Cake Auction	-	-	8,000
Buildings & Grounds Program	137,000	142,203	137,364
Administrative Expenses	50,437	53,812	52,827
Mortgage & Interest	65,809	65,821	29,500
Insurance (Property & Casualty)	<u>63,402</u>	<u>63,282</u>	<u>69,402</u>
<b>Total Program and Administrative Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 389,153</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 390,201</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 366,318</u></b>
Staff Expenses			
Clergy	\$ 230,422	\$ 218,191	\$ 228,000
Music	86,433	94,894	98,000
Children & Youth	49,145	50,134	53,000
Ministry	38,537	39,655	81,130
Buildings & Grounds	31,666	33,316	34,000
Administrative	<u>94,691</u>	<u>97,931</u>	<u>102,000</u>
<b>Total Staff Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 530,894</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 534,121</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 596,130</u></b>
<b>Total Church Operating Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 920,047</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 924,322</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 962,448</u></b>
<b>Preschool Operating Expenses</b>			
Administrative Expenses	\$ 50,247	\$ 50,113	\$ 49,789
Classroom Expenses	4,160	4,503	5,613
Employee Expenses	<u>203,145</u>	<u>201,466</u>	<u>218,619</u>
<b>Total Preschool Operating Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 257,552</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 256,082</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 274,021</u></b>
<b>Parents' Day Out Operating Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 125,332</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 125,332</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 130,000</u></b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,302,931</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,305,736</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,366,469</u></b>

St. Mark's Glen Ellyn  
Statement of Operations  
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>			
Church Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (761)	\$ (31,044)	\$ 802
Preschool Operating Surplus (Deficit)	15,496	18,326	16,016
Parents' Day Out Operating Surplus (Deficit)	22,049	22,049	20,000
<b>Total Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<u>\$ 36,784</u>	<u>\$ 9,331</u>	<u>\$ 36,818</u>
<b>Non-Operating Income (Expense)</b>			
Church Non-Operating Income (Expense)	\$ -	\$ 31,044	\$ -
Preschool Non-Operating Income (Expense)	-	-	-
Parents' Day Out Non-Operating Income (Expense)	-	(10,000)	-
<b>Total Non-Operating Income (Expense)</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 21,044</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>			
Church Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (761)	\$ -	\$ 802
Preschool Net Surplus (Deficit)	15,496	18,326	16,016
Parents' Day Out Net Surplus (Deficit)	22,049	12,049	20,000
<b>Total Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<u>\$ 36,784</u>	<u>\$ 30,375</u>	<u>\$ 36,818</u>

**Key Balance Sheet Items as of December 31, 2025**

Loan from the Diocese	\$ 469,419
Wintrust Mortgage	349,686
Operating Cash	204,649
Endowment Funds	608,457
Parents' Day Out and Preschool Cash	129,104
Restricted Funds - Excluding Grow & Renew	181,300
Restricted Funds - Grow & Renew	417,022

\* Note: Preschool & PDO operate on a school year basis, but their results are reflected here on a calendar year basis.

Preschool's budget for July - December 2026 is not yet finalized, but is estimated for this report. PDO has not yet begun to prepare annual budgets, so the 2025 budget is set to actual for this report, and the 2026 budget is estimated.

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**Summary of Restricted Accounts**  
**YTD January - December 2025**

Account	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expenses	Net Change	Ending Balance
<b>Temporary Restricted</b>					
In Wintrust Checking Account					
8120.58 - David Fletcher Memorial Fund	\$ 1,536	\$ -	\$ 1,598	\$ (1,598)	\$ (62)
8201.28 - United Thank Offering	-	494	494	-	-
8201.30 - Food Pantry	793	1,785	2,578	(793)	-
8201.34 - UNICEF	-	421	421	-	-
8201.35 - Crop Walk	-	50	-	50	50
8201.37 - Mum Sale	-	7,829	7,829	-	-
8201.50 - Mission & Outreach	326	-	-	-	326
8201.51 - Holy Family Ministries	310	545	855	(310)	-
8201.65 - Meal Ministry	4,903	3,235	5,866	(2,631)	2,272
8201.71 - Pumpkin Patch	461	28,000	28,102	(102)	358
8201.75 - World Relief	-	50	50	-	-
8201.76 - Walk-in-Ministries	13	-	13	(13)	-
8201.77 - Glen Elyn Youth & Fam. Services	-	4,159	4,159	-	-
8310.00 - B & G RESERVE	15,000	16,250	1,250	15,000	30,000
8410.00 - Virgin of Guadalupe/SLS Events	8,029	1,018	2,886	(1,870)	6,180
8410.41 - Womens Ministries	2,597	-	191	(191)	2,407
8410.60 - Youth Program Development	1,954	-	-	-	1,954
8410.61 - Appalachia Service Project	66	19,269	16,962	2,308	2,373
8410.63 - Youth: S.E. Mexico Trip	8,206	-	-	-	8,206
8410.69 - Robert C. Judd: Boycoutr trap 44	50	-	-	-	50
8410.70 - Fund Raising Events	495	695	715	(20)	475
8411.25 - Friends of Music	104	411	-	411	515
8411.58 - Organist Honorariums	1,000	1,900	2,900	(1,000)	-
8411.61 - Carey Instrument Maintenance	(155)	-	135	(135)	(290)
8411.62 - Music Continuing Education - P/P	602	-	-	-	602
8420.00 - Columbarium	20,457	-	11,770	(11,770)	8,687
8420.01 - Extraordinary Income Fund	-	143,945	64,264	79,681	79,681
8441.01 - Kathy O'Rourke Purse	-	730	730	-	-
8441.02 - Melody Mordini Purse	-	385	385	-	-
8441.03 - New Piano Fund	-	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
8444.00 - Vanest Fund	1,628	-	-	-	1,628
<b>Total Temp Restricted in Operating Checking</b>	<b>\$ 68,375</b>	<b>\$ 241,170</b>	<b>\$ 154,152</b>	<b>\$ 87,018</b>	<b>\$ 155,393</b>
In Separate Checking Accounts					
8420.25 - Fr. Smith Discretionary Fund	\$ 8,218	\$ 4,785	\$ 6,169	\$ (1,384)	\$ 6,834
8420.29 - Conrado Discretionary Fund	-	100	100	-	-
8420.50 - Daughters of the King	4,097	953	904	49	4,146
<b>Total Temp Restricted in Separate Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 12,315</b>	<b>\$ 5,838</b>	<b>\$ 7,172</b>	<b>\$ (1,334)</b>	<b>\$ 10,980</b>
Capital Campaign					
8310.61 - Capital Campaign Receipts (income)	\$ 196,242	\$ 283,689	\$ 10,060	\$ 273,629	\$ 469,871
8310.65 - Capital Campaign Expenditures	(18,409)	-	34,439	(34,439)	(52,848)
<b>Total Temp Restricted Capital Campaign in Schwab</b>	<b>\$ 177,833</b>	<b>\$ 283,689</b>	<b>\$ 44,500</b>	<b>\$ 239,190</b>	<b>\$ 417,022</b>
Preschool Temporary Restricted					
Preschool Scholarship Fund	\$ -	\$ 8,445	\$ 1,380	\$ 7,065	\$ 7,065
Preschool Playground Fund	-	4,036	-	4,036	4,036
Preschool General Use Fund	-	3,816	-	3,816	3,816
<b>Total Temp Restricted in Preschool Checking</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 16,297</b>	<b>\$ 1,380</b>	<b>\$ 14,917</b>	<b>\$ 14,917</b>
<b>Total Temporary Restricted Cash</b>	<b>\$ 258,523</b>	<b>\$ 546,994</b>	<b>\$ 207,204</b>	<b>\$ 339,790</b>	<b>\$ 598,312</b>
<b>Permanent Restricted</b>					
Cash Held in Diocesan Endowment Funds					
9101.10 - Lewis Trust Fund	\$ 367,842	\$ 42,553	\$ 8,996	\$ 33,556	\$ 401,396
9101.20 - Carey Music Fund	51,382	6,038	-	6,038	57,420
9101.25 - Pahnke/Peck Music Fund	13,532	1,590	-	1,590	15,122
9101.30 - Diocesan Foundation - General	111,423	23,094	-	23,094	134,517
<b>Total Permanent Restricted Cash</b>	<b>\$ 544,179</b>	<b>\$ 73,275</b>	<b>\$ 8,996</b>	<b>\$ 64,278</b>	<b>\$ 608,457</b>

## **St. Mark's Endowment Fund**

In November 2017, the Vestry of St. Mark's voted to establish the Endowment Fund of St. Mark's Episcopal Church ("Trust") to "benefit St. Mark's for so long as it operates as an Episcopal church for the benefit of Glen Ellyn and its surrounding communities." The Trust is intended to exist in perpetuity and there is an expectation that the Trust will grow over time through parishioners' donations. Under the Trust Instrument, three Trustees are appointed by the Vestry to fill staggered three-year terms. The Trustees appointed by the Vestry for 2022 were Chip Johnson, Leo Lanzillo and Karen Hill and Jim Treleaven.

The Trust documents establish a perpetual trust fund and allow the addition of "designated purpose funds" (including those heretofore made to St. Mark's). The assets of all designated purpose funds and other Trust assets shall be commingled and invested by the Trustees. Combining our various investment accounts in this way allows the Trustees to achieve better investment results and simplifies management and record keeping. The Trustees have selected the Common Fund of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, commonly known as the "Diocesan Foundation" to hold the Trust funds. Founded in 1952, the Diocesan Foundation is a collective investment vehicle currently serving more than 35 parish and group investors. More information is available on the diocesan website <https://episcopalachicago.org/for-clergy-and-parish-leaders/budget-and-management/diocesan-foundation-common-fund/>.

St. Mark's established four fund accounts with the Diocesan Foundation. The General Endowment Fund is a perpetual trust account. The Lewis Trust Fund, the Carey Music Fund, and the Augusta Pahnke and Mary Peck Fund are designated purpose funds.

The annual distributable amount for the General Endowment Fund is 4% to 5% of the fund balance at the end of the prior year. Those and can be used for: (1) "the purchase, construction, installation, and repair of its capital improvements, (2) outreach and missionary projects and (3) special one-time projects (and not for usual and ordinary expenses and maintenance of St. Mark's)." In 2025, we deposited \$10,000 of Columbarium funds into this endowment fund.

The Carey Music Fund distributes 90% of its annual income to the St. Mark's Treasurer with the designated purpose of providing regular tuning, servicing, and maintenance of St. Mark's Episcopal Church's pianos (including replacement as necessary) and the Walker Organ.

The distributable amount of the Pahnke/Peck Fund is also 90% of income received during the year. The amount can be used for musical education, training and professional education of the Director of Music and other musicians at St. Mark's.

We normally request/receive these \$ in the following year, however we did not request in 2025 for the 2024 distributions. In 2Q, 2026, we will receive \$ for both 2024 & 2025 from the Carey, Pahnke/Peck and General fund. The quarterly distributable amount of the Lewis Trust Fund is the income received during the year, but not capital gains. The applicable income is paid quarterly to the St. Mark's Treasurer directly by the Diocesan Foundation and can be used only for "the purchase, construction and installation of its capital improvements (and not for usual and ordinary expenses and maintenance of the Church)."

The chart below shows the summary of the church's investment accounts. Any questions about the endowment fund should be addressed to the Trustees.

**ST. MARK'S INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS SUMMARY FOR ( 10/1/2024 - 9/30/2025)**

FUND	OPENING BAL	DEPOSITS	DISBURSEMENTS	GAIN /( LOSS)	YEAR-END BALANCE
	(as of 9/30/2024)				(as of 9/30/2025)
General Fund	\$111,423	\$10,000		\$13,094	\$134,517
Lewis Trust Fund	\$367,842		-\$8,996	\$42,553	\$401,398
Carey Music Fund	\$51,382			\$6,038	\$57,420
Pahnke/Peck Fund	\$13,532			\$1,590	\$15,122
<b>TOTAL ENDOWMENT</b>	<b>\$544,178</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>-\$8,996</b>	<b>\$63,275</b>	<b>\$608,457</b>

Leo Lanzillo, [llanzillo@gmail.com](mailto:llanzillo@gmail.com)

## 2025 Giving Campaign

The 2025 Annual Giving Campaign concluded with strong results, reflecting the continued generosity and commitment of our parish community. A total of 96% of pledged contributions were collected, amounting to \$599,512. Parishioners gave faithfully throughout the year, and in close collaboration with the Finance Committee and Vestry, regular pledge reminders were sent to support the fulfillment of commitments. As a result, most pledged dollars were fully realized, and many households participated in pledging for the first time. For those who did not fulfill their pledge in 2025 there is still time to do so, bringing us closer to reaching 100%. Please fulfill your pledge here: <https://onrealm.org/stmarksglenellyn/-/form/give/default>.

In addition to pledged giving, open plate donations totaled \$91,985, further strengthening the parish's financial position for the year. These unrestricted gifts demonstrate the ongoing willingness of parishioners and visitors alike to support the mission and ministries of the church beyond formal pledge commitments.

Looking ahead, the campaign for the 2026 budget has secured \$660,000 in pledge commitments from 272 households. This achievement was made possible through the collaborative efforts of dedicated vestry members and giving campaign volunteers. While this represents a strong foundation, an additional \$40,000 in pledges is still needed to reach our goal for the 2026 budget. For those who have pledged for 2026, THANK YOU! As we operate on a balanced budget, every dollar pledged is budgeted for ministry activities. If you have not made your pledge for 2026, please consider doing so here <https://onrealm.org/stmarksglenellyn/-/form/pledge/2026pledge>.

Patti King, [cellopatti@gmail.com](mailto:cellopatti@gmail.com)

## Annual Pledge Campaign Pledges for 2026 (as of January 20, 2026)

Sarah Adler	Geoff Arnold
Jose Luis Alarcon-Garcia & Martha Rodriguez	José Arroyo & Likelot Ramirez
Chad & Rachel Alcorn	Bob & Jo Ayo
Rinda Allison	Glenn & Nancy Babbitt
Jerry & Prilla Anderson	Kristen Baier
Judy Anderson	Brett Baker
Suzanne Anderson	Kristen Balisi
Dick & Anna-May Anstee	Santiago Bautista & Leticia Cruz Reyes
David & Suzanne Arch	Fran Baylor

Greg & Amy Becker  
Michael & Tricia Benich  
Chip & Lesa Bennett  
Patty Bergh  
Elliott & Mimi Black  
Linda Borgstrom  
Richard Borowski  
Doug & Jen Bradbury  
Dave & Ellen Brannegan  
Omar & Ana Briceño  
Richard & Jessica Briggs  
Miguel & Norma Briones  
Dave Brookhart & Chris Cahill  
Martin & Jessica Brunback  
Janet Budzicz  
Kirk Burger  
Hester Bury  
Itsmar & Evelyn Cabrera  
Higinio Camarillo & Esther Dávalos Llanos  
Elvira Camilo Escobar & Adrian Bernabe Miguel  
Bob & Ann Cardwell  
Gerald Carey & Tanya Carey  
Chris Carter  
Jarrod & Martha Cebulski  
Esmeralda Chavez  
Francisco Chavez & Itzel Ramirez  
Jen Chavez  
Sari Chick  
John Cole  
Rita Colorito  
Scott & Jess Commo  
Dan Conaway & Teresa Dietz  
Ed Conklin & Diane Galligan  
Bill & Janet Constien  
Darren & Glenda Coombes  
Sue Crosson-Knutson  
Bethany & Joe Cullen  
Joe Cuttone & Tracy Smith  
Kevin & Christy Diamond  
Linda Dickey  
Todd & Ellen Dickey  
Dianne Dinse  
Jeff & Elizabeth Diver  
Pat & Karen Doran  
Andrew & Jennifer Dorn  
David & Lynn Dornblaser  
Dorothy Douglas  
Liam & Annie Dunch  
Harvey & Ellie Dunham  
Rich Edwards  
Scott & Kim Eichenauer  
Crystal & Thomas Elapumkal  
Daniel & Laura Ellison  
Scott & Deanna Ellison  
Karen Evans  
Peter Fellowes & Katherine Grunzweig  
Maria Fernandez  
David & Sheri Fiala  
Pat & Amy Finn  
Joyce Fletcher  
Ashley Flores  
David & Rebecca Fortner  
Bill Francik  
Tim & Joyce Frawley  
Jared & Gina Friebel  
Nestora & Brygethe Garcia  
Ervin & Beth Gemkow  
John & Cindy Glavin  
Chris & Joy Goebbert  
Cam & Carrie Gowans  
Tom & Florrie Gramm  
Steve & Kelly Gross  
Jim & Kit Grotelueschen  
Adam Gurgiolo  
Ana Gutierrez  
David & Rexine Hamill  
Margi & Troy Hamilton  
Edna Heatherington  
Mauro Hernandez & Alejandra Montes  
Ron & Joyce Hetzel  
Bill & Liz Heun  
Jeff Hill  
Karen Hill & Oo Thein Maung  
T.J. Hill & Renee Hughes  
Dave & Katy Hodges  
Suzi Holding & Bob Doak  
Jamie & Sarah Hommowun  
Kathleen Horn  
Jim & Phyllis Jenkins  
Abraham & Juanita Jimenez  
Chip Johnson  
Ginnie Judd  
June Judd  
Tim & Christi Kane  
Wade & Eileen Kennedy  
Mallory & Kerry Kenny  
Gretchen Kenower  
Don & Rhonda Kent  
James & Ozana King  
Patti & Alex King

John Knepper  
Tim & Leslie Kocher  
Ken & Gail Kramer  
Gary Kreutz & Carolyn Faivre  
Arthur & Jeanne Kreymer  
Berny & Andy Labis  
Martha Lakin  
Steve & Jan Langford  
Nancy Lanham  
Leo & Elizabeth Lanzillo  
Tim & Heidi Lardner  
Kirk Larsen  
Joseph & Maggie Latona  
Dave & Amber Lemar  
Terry Lin  
David Lincoln & Nancy Purcell Lincoln  
Dan Lobraco & Kim Bella  
Alex Lopez & Lindsey Paris-Lopez  
Henry Lopez  
Rudy Lopez & Flor Itzel Carmona  
Suzanne Luchs  
Mark Lukas  
Seth & Hannah Luna  
Bob Lundin  
Carmen & John MacDonald  
Paul & Annie Mahon  
Jason & Lisa Malikow  
Guido & Susan Mariottini  
Jake & Kristal Marsh  
Will & Kelly Martin  
Liliana Mazariegos  
Kyle & Rebecca McCordic  
Jenn & Eric McFadden  
Roby & Laura McGovern  
Drew & Megan McGuire  
George & Dorothy McGuire  
Barrett & Sydney McRay  
David Medina & Maritsa Carrillo  
Juan & Rosa Mendoza  
Mike Merlo & Jane Anderson  
Kevin & Erin Micklo  
Dan & Maggie Miekina  
Richard & Fiona Miller  
Billy Mills & Samantha Kyrkostas  
Kristen Mitchell  
Greg & Mary Ann Mongolis  
Matt & Rosemary Mongolis  
Clint & Jane Moore  
Joe & Melody Mordini  
Francisca Moreno & Porfirio Vivaldo  
Mr. & Mrs. Cash  
John & Jan Mueller  
Mary Kay Mutz  
Richard & Sue Mylander  
Barry & Erica Nelson  
Sally Neuert  
Barbara Newsom  
Karen Nicholson  
David & LB Norton  
Heather Norton  
Greg & Marylu Olsen  
Karen Olsen  
Samuel & Nancy Orona  
Joshua & Aubrey O'Shea  
Anna Panor  
Linda Parduhn  
Mike Petrushka  
Mark & Martha Pfefferman  
Sheila & John Plecha  
George Pliml  
Greg & Alice Plutko  
Naren & Emily Prasad  
Rick & Beth Quoss  
Steve Raftery  
Jose Ramirez & Tania Medina  
Claudia Rangel  
Robert & Nicole Redini  
Lane & Kim Reed  
Mike & Jennifer Reese  
Marcia & Bill Reinert  
Julio & Angeles Reyes  
Mario & Reyna Reyes  
Adolfo & Monserrat Reynoso  
Gary Rittmann  
Mark & Laura Roberts  
Chris & Kate Rodriguez  
Julian & Jan Rogus  
Keith & Pam Rojc  
Paul & Heidi Ruskusky  
Roman Salgado  
Steve & Kristin Sassi  
Ted & Dianne Saul  
Bill & Katie Schaefer  
Jim & Sue Schmitt  
Rose Schnell  
Susanne Schnell  
Peggy Schoen  
John Schoff & Jane Stoller-Schoff  
Lydia Schulz  
Brian Shallcross & Vicki Chase

Mary Shapley & Rich Osborne	Bill & Joy Tyburk
Lois Sheridan	Bob & Tina Ulrich
Scott & Susan Shorney	Javier & Liz Valdivia
Ron Sienkiewicz	James & Grayson Van Camp
George & Cecilia Smith	Myles & Jessica Van Camp
Nancy Smith	Mark Van Wieren & Anne Windholz
Fatima Sotelo & Luis Solano	Russ & Laurie Vanderlei
Wyatt & Emily Steele	Alice Vanest
Jack & Deb Stein	Karen Volk
Laura Stokes-Gray	Mike & Corina Wagoner
Hannah Strait	Rob & Briel Wakerly
Hal Stratton	Hunter & Julie Walor
Liz & Lacey Stricker	Bob & Kara Ward
Tim & Pat Sullivan	Chris Warman
Joy Talsma	Andrew & Libby Wassef
Michael Terrill-Hollins	Andy & Amy Waters
Paul Terrill-Hollins	Jeff & Fiona White
Ai & Hoi Thai	Denis & Sandra Wiener
Jack & Kim Toliver	Joe & Susan Williams
Alberto & Maria Torres	Barbara Wilson & Lynne Jacobson
Helen Tosch	Don & Sharon Winkelmann
Jim & Cheryl Treleaven	Eric Woerle & Nicole Pecyna
Todd & Beth Treleven	John & Mary Wolaver
Drew & Gail Trieger	Lynn Wollstadt & Roger Matson
Matt & Michelle Trower	Bob Wyatt & Terri Lackey
Dan & Marcy Troy	Jane Zaccaria
Jean True	John Zelman
Jeanne Tschampa Lopotko & Bobby Lopotko	Chris & Elizabeth Zwolan

## Grow and Renew: Capital Campaign

The Grow and Renew Campaign kicked off in October of 2024 and concluded in May 2025, with pledges received from 199 households totaling \$863,300 to be realized by the end of 2027. This exceeded our goal of \$675,000 and our challenge goal of \$850,000. The Grow and Renew Campaign's three goals include:

- Growing our Ministries: Retiring our bank loan (\$323,000 balloon payment due in July 2026), to free up \$68,000 annually that can be devoted to our programs and ministries instead of to mortgage payments
- Expanding our Welcome: Renovating our Narthex to make it more welcoming to all, by installing a lift to create access to the office and library level and updating lighting, flooring, and ceilings in the narthex and hallway (architect's preliminary estimate: \$236,000)
- Strengthening our Building: Designating initial capital funding for expensive upcoming maintenance projects including extensive masonry repair and replacement of our boilers.

Many thanks to all who helped to make the campaign successful, including dozens of campaign volunteers, the Vestry members, kick-off and conclusion celebration hosts, prayer team, communications chair, Javier Valdivia and volunteer coordinator, Karen Hill, and most of all, to our generous donors (listed below).

Elizabeth Lanzillo, Tim Kocher, and Mauro Hernandez, Co-Chairs

## Grow and Renew: Capital Campaign Pledges (as of January 20, 2026)

Sarah Adler	Scott & Kim Eichenauer
Chad & Rachel Alcorn	Daniel & Laura Ellison
Rinda Allison	Scott & Deanna Ellison
Jerry & Prilla Anderson	Karen Evans
Judy Anderson	Peter Fellowes & Katherine Grunzweig
Suzanne Anderson	Pat & Amy Finn
Dick & Anna-May Anstee	Joyce Fletcher
David & Suzanne Arch	David & Rebecca Fortner
Sarah Armantrout	Bill Francik
Bob & Jo Ayo	Tim & Joyce Frawley
Glenn & Nancy Babbitt	Jared & Gina Friebel
Brett Baker	Rafael Garcia & Michelle Roman-Garcia
Kristen Balisi	Ervin & Beth Gemkow
Greg & Amy Becker	John & Cindy Glavin
Michael & Tricia Benich	Cam & Carrie Gowans
Chip & Lesa Bennett	Tom & Florrie Gramm
Patty Bergh	Myrna Grant
Elliott & Mimi Black	Drew & Rachel Grider
Linda Borgstrom	Jim & Kit Grotelueschen
Richard Borowski	Adam Gurgiolo
Dave & Ellen Brannegan	Ana Gutierrez
Miguel & Norma Briones	Merrilee Hall
Janet Budzicz	David & Rexine Hamill
Kirk Burger	Margi & Troy Hamilton
Hester Bury	Edna Heatherington
Bob & Ann Cardwell	Mauro Hernandez & Alejandra Montes
Gerald Carey & Tanya Carey	Diane Hessinger
Chris Carter	Bill & Liz Heun
Jarrod & Martha Cebulski	Jeff Hill
Jen Chavez	Karen Hill & Oo Thein Maung
Sari Chick	T.J. Hill & Renee Hughes
George & Deirdre Churchill	Suzi Holding & Bob Doak
John Cole	Kathleen Horn
Rita Colorito	Jim & Phyllis Jenkins
Dan Conaway & Teresa Dietz	Chip Johnson
Ed Conklin & Diane Galligan	Matthew & Diane Johnson
Bill & Janet Constien	Ginnie Judd
Sue Crosson-Knutson	June Judd
Bethany & Joe Cullen	Tim & Christi Kane
Joe Cuttone & Tracy Smith	Gretchen Kenower
Leslie Delany	Don & Rhonda Kent
Kevin & Christy Diamond	Patti & Alex King
Todd & Ellen Dickey	John Knepper
Dianne Dinse	Tim & Leslie Kocher
Jeff & Elizabeth Diver	Roz Korbar
Andrew & Jennifer Dorn	Gary Kreutz & Carolyn Faivre
David & Lynn Dornblaser	Arthur & Jeanne Kreymer
Liam & Annie Dunch	Berny & Andy Labis

Steve & Jan Langford  
Nancy Lanham  
Leo & Elizabeth Lanzillo  
Dave & Amber Lemar  
Terry Lin  
David Lincoln & Nancy Purcell Lincoln  
Alex Lopez & Lindsey Paris-Lopez  
Mark Lukas  
Bob Lundin  
Paul & Annie Mahon  
Lidia Maldonado & Jose Padilla  
Jason & Lisa Malikow  
Guido & Susan Mariottini  
Jake & Kristal Marsh  
Will & Kelly Martin  
Ben Maxson  
Kyle & Rebecca McCordic  
Jenn & Eric McFadden  
Roby & Laura McGovern  
George & Dorothy McGuire  
Mike Merlo & Jane Anderson  
Kevin & Erin Micklo  
Richard & Fiona Miller  
Billy Mills & Samantha Kyrkostas  
Kristen Mitchell  
Greg & Mary Ann Mongolis  
Clint & Jane Moore  
Joe & Melody Mordini  
Jan Morton  
Mr. & Mrs. Cash  
John & Jan Mueller  
Mary Kay Mutz  
Richard & Sue Mylander  
Barry & Erica Nelson  
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Greg & Marylu Olsen  
Karen Olsen  
Joshua & Aubrey O'Shea  
Anna Panor  
Mike Petrushka  
Mark & Martha Pfefferman  
Sheila & John Plecha  
Greg & Alice Plutko  
Naren & Emily Prasad  
Rick & Beth Quoss  
Steve Raftery  
Lane & Kim Reed  
Mike & Jennifer Reese  
Ken & Cathryn Reick  
Marcia & Bill Reinert  
Julio & Angeles Reyes  
Mario & Reyna Reyes  
Keith & Pam Rojc  
Ted & Dianne Saul  
Susanne Schnell  
Peggy Schoen  
John Schoff & Jane Stoller-Schoff  
Debbi Schroeder & Hank Sikora  
Steve Sedall  
Brian Shallcross & Vicki Chase  
Lois Sheridan  
Scott & Susan Shorney  
Ron Sienkiewicz  
George & Cecilia Smith  
Nancy Smith  
Karen Stebel  
Wyatt & Emily Steele  
Jack & Deb Stein  
Hal Stratton  
Liz & Lacey Stricker  
Tim & Pat Sullivan  
Joy Talsma  
Michael Terrill-Hollins  
Paul Terrill-Hollins  
Ai & Hoi Thai  
Jack & Kim Toliver  
Alberto & Maria Torres  
Jim & Cheryl Treleaven  
Todd & Beth Treleven  
Dan & Marcy Troy  
Jean True  
Jeanne Tschampa Lopotko & Bobby Lopotko  
Bob & Tina Ulrich  
Javier & Liz Valdivia  
James & Grayson Van Camp  
Mark Van Wienen & Anne Windholz  
Russ & Laurie Vanderlei  
Zoila Via Gambini  
Karen Volk  
Rob & Briel Wakerly  
Hunter & Julie Walor  
Bob & Kara Ward  
Chris Warman  
Andrew & Libby Wassef  
Andy & Amy Waters  
Jake & Patty Weaver  
Jim & Kelli Wheeler  
Denis & Sandra Wiener  
Joe & Susan Williams  
Barbara Wilson & Lynne Jacobson

Don & Sharon Winkelmann  
Eric & Bryn Wulf  
Bob Wyatt & Terri Lackey  
Jim & Mary Yehling

Jane Zaccaria  
John Zelman  
Bud & Paula Zwiebel

## Reporte de Ministerios Latinex

La iglesia San Marcos como congregación multicultural está enfrentando muchos desafíos especialmente los miembros de la misa en español de la 1:00 pm. Ante las políticas antinmigrantes de la presente administración en la que busca detener, separar y deportar a personas que no cuentan con un estatus legal en este país. Estas políticas han creado mucho temor y preocupación a muchas familias en todo el país y por supuesto a las familias que son miembros de nuestra comunidad como a las familias hispanas.

A estos acontecimientos, San Marcos junto con nuestro rector a tomado muy enserio lo que esto significa a nuestros hermanos que sufren estas medidas antinmigrantes por lo que se avocado a apoyar a nuestra comunidad que está siendo afectada, para ello a llevado a cabo talleres de información como Conoce tus Derechos, Clínicas Legales para familias que necesitan protegerse y prepararse en caso de ser afectados o enfrentan la detención por parte de las autoridades migratorias o un caso de deportación, así como consultas con abogados de emigración como medida de precaución y prevención a esta hola de acontecimientos. San Marcos nuestro Rector y otros miembros del clero así como algunos hermanos laicos de nuestra congregación los cuales están trabajando arduamente en mantener información actualizada colaborando con nuestra Obispa Paula Clark y el comité Santuario de nuestra Diócesis Episcopal de Chicago y así con otras institución del condado de DuPage para mantenerse alerta, bien informado y colaborando con cada una de estas instituciones.

Todas estas medidas no han evitado que miembros de nuestra congregación hispana sean afectadas, actualmente conocemos de por lo menos un miembro de cuatro familias están ahora en centros de detención de ICE. San Marcos está muy de cerca apoyando pastoral y con diferentes recursos.

La comunidad de San Marcos está muy agradecida por la respuesta inmediata a los hermanos en desgracia. Un agradecimiento especial a la Sra. Kim Reed y muchos otros que han respondido al llamado de solidaridad mostrando empatía y amor en las diferentes formas en las que se les ha invitado a participar y apoyar esta causa. Actualmente San Marcos cuenta con un grupo de voluntarios que patrullan cada domingo los alrededores de la iglesia durante la misa de la 1:00 pm y otras celebraciones significantes como la celebración de la Virgen de Guadalupe, las Posadas y otras actividades. Este apoyo se ve reflejado en la muy buena asistencia en cada una de estas celebraciones a pesar de miedo y la preocupación por la que están pasando la familias.

Por otra parte les compartimos un reporte las actividades, Celebraciones y Eventos que se han llevado a cabo:

Celebración del día de los tres Reyes Magos con la tradicional rosca de Reyes, juguetes de regalo para los niños y juegos que integraron a las familias, el apoyo y la participación en estas actividades fue muy significativa.

Meditación del viacrucis como un acto devocional y penitencial en el que espiritualmente nos unimos a los padecimientos de Cristo, participando de los actos litúrgicos propio de la estación (semana santa)

El interés por la formación es un elemento muy bien marcado en la iglesia de San Marcos muestra de esta es el gran esfuerzo realizado por todas las personas involucradas en los programas de formación para la Primera Comunión y para la Confirmación, estos programas no sólo involucran a los niños y niñas o jóvenes que se preparan para recibir estos sacramentos, también involucran la formación para sus padres, resultado de este esfuerzo común el 4 de Mayo del 2025 tuvimos la celebración de Primeras Comuniones cabe destacar que la iglesia San Marcos fue Anfitriona para las confirmaciones del 26 de Abril del 2025 abriendo las puertas a otras iglesias.

La gran iniciativa de nuestro director de música ha logrado continuar que nuestros servicios de la 1:00 pm. sea más dinámico y participativo, abriendo espacio para todos los que quieran ser parte del Coro de Alabanza, cabe mencionar que el Coro de Alabanza de San Marcos.

Este año la kermés y el festival de las calabazas no se pudo llevar acabo por seguridad de nuestros hermanos de la misa de la 1:00 pm.

El 11 de Diciembre celebramos a la Virgen de Guadalupe con un Festival con un programa en el cual tuvimos una procesión de la esquina de la Roosevelt Rd por la Main St. en la cual contamos con el apoyo y participación de más de 10 hermanos anglos caminando juntos como hermanos. Además de un rosarios, las Apariciones de la Virgen y de la una litúrgica (misa) con música de Mariachi, las Mañanitas a la Virgen y un convivio.

Durante el año 2025 la imagen de la Virgen visitó a más de 25 familias en sus hogares en el cual invitaron a familiares y amigos para orar un rosario, este año fue muy significativo para las familias ya que pudieron sentir la presencia pastoral de San Marcos.

Entre posadas, piñatas y pastorelas llegan los eventos propios de la Navidad y la iglesia San Marcos como una Familia, conjugando las culturas, disfrutando cada evento y participando como una congregación se preparó para celebrar juntos y el acontecimiento de la Navidad, disfrutando del gran regalo que tienen las tradiciones: unir el pasado con el presente y motivarnos a seguir construyendo juntos el futuro.

Un agradecimiento al grupo de líderes de la misa en español por todo su trabajo y dedicación para que todos estos eventos pudieran llevarse a cabo.

Miguel Briones, [miguel@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:miguel@stmarksglenellyn.org) & José Arroyo, [jose@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:jose@stmarksglenellyn.org)

## **Report on Latinx Ministries**

St. Mark's Church as a multicultural congregation is facing many challenges, especially the members of the 1:00 p.m. Spanish Mass. The policies and actions of the current administration seek to detain, separate and deport people who do not have legal status in this country. These policies have created a lot of fear and concern for many families across the country and of course for families who are members of our community.

In response to these events, St. Mark's has taken very seriously what this means to our brothers and sisters who suffer these anti-immigrant measures, so we are committed to supporting our community that is being affected. We have offered information workshops, such as Know Your Rights, and Legal Clinics for families who need to protect themselves. Our clergy and lay members are working hard to maintain updated information, collaborating with our Bishop Paula Clark and the Sanctuary committee of our Episcopal Diocese of Chicago and with other institutions in DuPage County to stay alert, well informed and collaborate with each of these institutions.

All of these measures have not prevented members of our Hispanic congregation from being affected. We currently know of at least four families who have members who are now in ICE detention centers. St. Mark's is supporting the families with pastoral care and financial resources.

The community of St. Mark's is very grateful for the immediate response to those in distress. Special thanks to Kim Reed and many others who have answered the call for solidarity by showing empathy and love in the different ways in which they have been invited to participate and support this cause. Currently St. Mark's has a group of volunteers who patrol the surroundings of the church every Sunday during the 1:00 pm mass and other significant celebrations such as the celebration of the Virgin of Guadalupe, the Posadas and other activities. This support is reflected in the very good attendance at each of these celebrations despite the fear and concern that families are going through.

Here are some of the activities, celebrations and events that have been carried out:

- Celebration of the day of the Three Kings with the traditional rosca de Reyes, gift toys for children and games that integrated families, the support and participation in these activities was very significant.
- Meditation on the Stations of the Cross as a devotional and penitential act in which we spiritually unite ourselves to the sufferings of Christ, participating in the liturgical acts proper to the season (Holy Week).
- The interest in formation is a very well marked element in the church of San Marco, proof of this is the great effort made by all the people involved in the formation programs for First Communion and for Confirmation, these programs not only involve children or young people who are preparing to receive these sacraments, they also involve formation for their parents, as a result of this common effort on May 4, 2025 we had the celebration of First Communions, it should be noted that St. Mark's Church hosted the confirmations of April 26, 2025, opening the doors to other churches.
- The great initiative of our music director has managed to continue making our services at 1:00 p.m. more dynamic and participatory, opening space for all those who want to be part of the “Coro de Alabanzas”.
- This year the “Kermes” and the pumpkin festival could not be carried out for the safety of our brothers and sisters of the 1:00 pm mass.
- On December 11th we celebrated the Virgin of Guadalupe with a Festival program in which we had a procession from the corner of Roosevelt Rd down Main St. in which we had the support and participation of more than 10 Anglo brother and sisters. In addition to a rosary, the Apparitions of the Virgin and a liturgical (mass) with Mariachi music, the Mañanitas to the Virgin and a convivio.
- During the 2025 the image of the Virgin visited more than 25 families in their homes in which they invited family and friends to pray a rosary, this year was very significant for families as they could feel the pastoral presence of St. Mark.
- Posadas, piñatas and pastorelas are celebrations that unite the past with the present and motivate us to continue building the future together.

Thank you to the leaders of the “Misa en Español” for all their work and dedication so that all these events could take place.

Miguel Briones, [miguel@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:miguel@stmarksglenellyn.org) & José Arroyo, [jose@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:jose@stmarksglenellyn.org)

## **Children's Ministries**

The goal of Children's Ministries at St. Mark's is to provide a variety of opportunities for faith development for children from infants to grade 5. The curriculum incorporates the weekly Gospel, the Bible, Godly Play stories, music, and art. We are happy to have our returning students, and new friends joining us!

We added a fourth Sunday School classroom this year, Friends in Faith for 4th & 5th graders at 10:30am. It has also been wonderful to see some of our parents and youth volunteering to help lead our Sunday School classes at 10:30am, we still have many volunteer opportunities for parents and other church members to get involved! We look forward to another year offering learning, faith, activities and opportunities for service!

Sunday School Offerings:

**Little Blessings Nursery** - Childcare and free play provided for children from infants to 3 years old from 9:00 am - 2:30 pm, and special events as requested.

**Play and Pray Pre-K for 3-5-year-olds at 10:15am** including:

- Welcome discussion, opening song, and prayer
- Age-appropriate story
- Follow-up craft activity
- Music and singing
- Friendship-building time in free play

**Godly Play for Pre-K---5th graders at 8:30am and Kindergarten &1st graders at 10:15am** including:

- Welcome discussion, opening song, and prayer
- Godly Play presentation with wondering questions and discussion
- Follow-up artwork, craft, or Lego Creations activities review and response
- Monthly special activities or service projects

**Faith Builders for 2nd & 3rd graders at 10:15am** including:

- Welcome discussion, opening song, and prayer
- Story presentation with discussion
- Follow-up Lego Creations activities or artwork review and response
- Monthly special activities or service projects

**Friends in Faith for 4th & 5th graders at 10:15am** including:

- Welcome discussion, opening song, and prayer
- Children reading story directly from the Bible
- Follow up discussion and questions and artwork review and response
- Monthly special activities or service projects

**First Communion Class for 1pm service/Historias Biblicas/Escuela Dominical a las 12pm-1p**

- Bible Story/Godly Play presented in creative manner in Spanish
- In person Bible Story/Godly Play with teachers with wondering questions and response group discussion
- Follow-up artwork, craft, or Lego Creations activities review and response
- History and meaning of Eucharist

**Vacation Bible School:**

In July, the children of St. Mark's and their friends and family returned for another fabulous week of fun and learning with Vacation Bible School (VBS) True North! Children Preschool age to 5th grade met for one week Monday-Friday mornings with a variety of ways of learning Bible stories and lessons through crafts, games, music art, and dramatic presentations. Each day we would gather with Ms. Gina, Bruce the Moose, and Wolfy (our wolf friend) for our opening Bible stories and songs. The K-5 students rotated between story time with Miss Sarah, snacks and discussion with Miss Alice, games with Miss Carrie, & Mr. Caden, and Miss Ellen, and art projects with Mr. Dan & Lucia. Miss Diane headed up the preschool students' activities with art, snacks, music, crafts, and stories. All the children gathered for closing songs and sharing "God Sightings" and taking home a little bit of the mountains with our egg geodes.

On the last day of VBS week, they performed for parents at pick up! Thank you to all our wonderful grade level group leaders including our fabulous Junior High and High School team leaders, parent volunteers, Mr. Mark, and especially Miss Megan!

### **Other opportunities for learning:**

- Palm Sunday procession with Thelma the Donkey
- Good Friday instruction and Easter Events including our Easter Egg Hunt
- St. Nick Visit in Mahon Hall with refreshments and chocolate coins and a history of Saint Nicholas
- Christmas Pageants both at the 10:30am and 1pm services

### **Opportunities for service:**

- Backpack in-gathering and blessing –generous donations of many backpacks, and school supplies were collected and donated to Holy Family School
- Pumpkin decorating and donations for UNICEF
- Food Pantry collections for Glen House
- Valentines Cards for seniors
- \* Bubbles and Blessings Car Wash with Youth Ministry

It takes a congregation! None of these wonderful activities and opportunities would be possible without the help of our wonderful staff, volunteers, and all our excellent youth helpers who give their time and talents to serve on the Children's Ministry Team:

- Gina Wood—Children's Ministry Director & Pre-K--5th grade teacher
- Norma Cid – Nursery Supervisor
- Jocelyn Briones – Nursery Assistant
- Diane Hessinger, Megan McGuire, & Gina Wood—Vacation Bible School Coordinators
- Alice Plutko & Juliet Adas—Children's Ministry Activity assistant and regular Sunday School teachers

We are so grateful to the congregation of St. Mark's for making children a priority in your plans and prayers!

Gina Wood, [childrensministry@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:childrensministry@stmarksglenellyn.org)

### **Youth Ministry Report 2025**

Youth from 6th grade through 12 grade participate at St. Mark's by attending our twice-monthly Youth Night, participating in our Confirmation program, helping with Children's ministry, by serving as acolytes, readers, and ushers, and through participation in the Appalachian Service Project (ASP). During Fall 2025, attendance ranged from 7 - 18 young people.

In Fall 2025, we began partnering with the youth programs at First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn (FCCGE) and First United Methodist Church of Glen Ellyn (FUMGE) and formed *"The Collective"*—*Glen Ellyn churches coming together to give 6th-12th graders a place to grow through faith, friendship, and fun*. During the fall, we gathered at the Congregational Church for a Halloween Party, at the Methodist Church for Sleep Out Saturday and at St. Mark's for a Friendsgiving Celebration. We also offered 2 Saturday night gatherings for Christmas fun and reflection—one for junior high kids at St. Mark's and one for senior highers at FCCGE.

Youth Nights were well attended and finished strong in the first half 2025. We had an overnight at the church in January, did a car wash, learned important lessons about how to integrate our faith into daily life and grew in friendship and connection with each other. The summer was slow for youth nights, but we kicked off again in the fall with lessons focused on Jesus' teaching. We participated in the refugee simulation and partnered with other local youth groups to do some combined events together. We are thankful for the volunteers who make youth nights possible and for our great kids who show up full of energy and wisdom.

A big shout out goes to our team of volunteers: Mary Kay Mutz, Molly Solway, Emily Sexauer, and Cass Echeverria who have given their Wednesday evenings to Youth Night! David Profitt, Youth Minister, continues to plan and lead activities and discussions. Rector George Smith is a frequent supporter and Joyce Fletcher, Ministry Associate, organizes the space, food, and communication.

Of course, the most important element of St. Mark's Youth Ministries are the students themselves who choose to make time to participate in Confirmation, Wednesday Youth Nights, acolyting, ushering, assisting in Sunday School and in the life of the congregation. Junior and senior High kids are choosing to be part of the St Mark's community and that says something about their values and priorities!

So, what are we doing with the opportunity that this environment of connection affords us? Our goal is to listen to the kids and to hear from them what they need. Then we attempt to discern what we can offer to help them grow in community and in faith. We want kids to connect to God and each other—to find ways to have their faith be an encouragement in their daily lives. Often kids are the best teachers, sharing their successes, challenges and life experiences to encourage each other. That kind of faith community is unique. Conversations that may not happen on the sports field, at school or during extracurricular events are happening at St Mark's.

We value being a safe space for everyone. By fostering kids' curiosity and wondering and by welcoming the students' challenges and questions, we hope to create an environment that weaves faith into their lives. We pray that whether they are participating in extracurriculars, competing on the sports field, or learning and interacting at school they can access the values and guidance of their faith. As they do that, they can know that they have adults who care in their corner, cheering them on.

It is a privilege to watch young adults prioritize faith and community. Over 30 young people from our three services were confirmed in April and at least 15-20 will be confirmed in April 2026. Students going through confirmation attend classes, serve the St. Mark's community, and examine their faith.

Additionally, 18 St. Mark's youth and volunteers participated in the Appalachian Service Project last summer, travelling to Kentucky to help local residents repair their homes. Summer 2026 will offer another opportunity for involvement with ASP. Anyone who has completed 8th grade is invited to join the group travelling to Appalachia from June 7 - June 13, 2026.

We are all deeply indebted to the people of our community who choose to walk alongside these kids. We also are thankful to the parents of our young people who support and encourage their faith aspirations, and nurture and guide the students in powerful transformative ways. St Mark's has the honor of partnering with parents to help students live out their faith and we are grateful. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, prayed, served, welcomed and been there for our students. And thank you to our students for being the awesome, vibrant, intelligent, empathetic and kind people that you are—you are a gift to your community.

David Profitt, Youth Ministry, [davidprofitt@gmail.com](mailto:davidprofitt@gmail.com)  
Joyce Fletcher, Ministry Associate, [joyce@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:joyce@stmarksglenellyn.org)

## **St. Mark's Forum 2025 (formerly Adult Formation)**

St. Mark's Forum (formerly Adult Formation) is open on a drop-in basis to anyone interested in increasing their knowledge and getting to know other church members. We meet each Sunday at 9:30 a.m., which allows participants at both the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services to attend. No registration or commitment is required. Our current attendance is approximately 20 participants. We recently rebranded to "St. Mark's Forum," reflecting our desire for all ages (including youth) to participate and for all to feel welcome to attend when a topic appeals to them.

Each season a committee gathers to brainstorm topics for the upcoming semester. Around 10 or 15 people attend these brainstorming sessions and offer many ideas to further our learning and discussion.

In the Spring of 2025, we addressed a number of topics, ranging from Peacemaking Themes in the OT, Spirituality, Compassion, God as Mother, Getting to know the St. Mark's Walker Organ and more.

During the summer, we read the Gospel reading for each Sunday and discussed the themes contained in each reading.

In Fall 2025, we again had an impressive line-up of presenters on topics such as War and Peace in the Bible, Hinduism, AI, Spiritual Direction, Iconography, Refugees and Immigrants, and the Episcopal Church—both the Chicago Diocese and the National Church.

St. Mark's Forum is again offering an illuminating series for Spring 2026. We hope each St. Mark's parishioner will consider attending. For more information contact

Joyce Fletcher, Ministry Associate, [joyce@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:joyce@stmarksglenellyn.org)

## **Music Ministry**

Beginning in September 2025, our children's music ministry was integrated into morning Sunday school led by Ms. Gina. This is an obvious choice because Gina, in addition to being our Children's Ministry Director, is also a musical theater director. The children learn one song each month before singing it in church on the final Sunday of the month. One strength of this model is that our children consistently share music in the 10:30 am service without limitations based on attendance at a weekday rehearsal. We are continuing with this model in 2026 even as we discern additional ways to engage our young people in music ministry.

The Coro de Alabanza, which encompasses all our Spanish language music ministry, continues as a strong and committed ensemble. It is a joy to see this ensemble grow in its musical ability and continue to expand the musical repertory of the mass. A particular achievement of the ensemble was mastering the very challenging López *Misa Santa Cecilia* for Easter 2025.

The St Mark's Singers, in addition to its weekly Sunday morning music, continues to offer regular evening services. The outstanding project this past year was the performance of the Charles Wood *St Mark Passion*. It is the largest and most demanding musical project the choir has completed under my direction, and it was a deeply meaningful devotional contribution to the observance of Holy Week. I am grateful to my choral assistants, Becca Fitzpatrick and Bethany Brewer, whose leadership, particularly in sectional rehearsals, has been of great benefit to the choir. Finally, I want to express my gratitude to some of the extraordinary professional musicians in our congregation that contributed throughout this last year, Tanya Carey, Patti King, and Emily Steele.

Seth Luna, [music@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:music@stmarksglenellyn.org)

## **St. Mark's Visual Arts Group**

St. Mark's showcases the work of artists from our church and the broader community each year, seeking pieces that enrich and elevate our Worship. The relationship between congregation and artist is mutually generous, recognizing the presence of God in our lives and in our expressive gifts. Some works align with spiritual art, while others reference the spiritual through celebrations of nature and personal experience.

### **2025 Highlights**

- Spring: Chicago-based artist Marcia Whitney-Schenck presented *The Cloud of Witnesses*, a watercolor and fluid acrylic series that blends contemporary expression with Christian themes. The body of work portrays spiritually inspired individuals in a modern context.
- Summer: Cecilia Smith offered an exhibit featuring framed descriptions of the sanctuary's stained-glass windows.

- Fall: St. Mark's parishioner Dan Lobraco exhibited *Landscapes and Musings*, a collection of watercolor works inspired by travel and invented landscapes. His travel pieces are created *en plein air*, a practice he finds deeply fulfilling and contemplative, allowing him to connect with a location through attentive detail.

### **Reception and engagement**

Marcia and Dan's shows attracted strong attendance, with artist receptions and Q&A discussions that deepened visitors' understanding of the works. These connections enrich the experiences of both artists and viewers.

### **Church responsibilities and ongoing exhibitions**

From Advent through Lent, the Visual Arts Group installs and de-installs the Advent and Christmas wreaths and Stations of the Cross in the church. We also rotate additional pieces as needed—such as Ludmilla Pavlovská's blue cross painting and Richard Rush's lion—and we provide bilingual descriptions (English and Spanish) for the Stations during Lent.

### **Looking ahead to 2026**

We plan spring, summer, and fall shows again and welcome new members and nominations for contributing artists. There are many ways to participate—installing and de-installing works, publicizing events, assisting with receptions, and working directly with artists. If you'd like to contribute or have suggestions, please contact Beth Trebelhorn-Treleven at [beth@tre2creative.com](mailto:beth@tre2creative.com).

Beth Trebelhorn, [beth@tre2creative.com](mailto:beth@tre2creative.com)

### **Daughters of the King**

The Order of the Daughters of the King is an international order for women of the Episcopal Church. St. Anne's chapter has served St. Mark's continuously since 1931, supporting the clergy and parish through prayer and service.

Prayer is a major aspect of our ministry, keeping world events and the church prayer list in mind, along with our own prayer requests. A devotional is part of every monthly meeting. We are always looking for ways to pause, pray, reflect, and meditate. This year we had for the third time our Winter Solstice, Spiral of Light, at St. Mark's. This year, it was specifically for children, giving them and their families a wonderful, inspiring, and peaceful event. Special thanks to Beth Quoss for spearheading this initiative.

In addition to prayer, Daughters serve the church via other ministries:

- Our Funeral Receptions Ministry coordinates with clergy, families, and caterers to help in hosting receptions following funeral or memorial services. This ministry provides grieving families and friends the opportunity to share, reminisce, and support each other. Serving on this ministry is open to all members of the congregation; we currently have several volunteers who are not DOK who serve and bake.
- Wedding Ministry assists in the coordination of weddings, supporting the wedding party and representing the church in its use and care.

Our DOK group meets once a month on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:30pm with social time about 30 minutes before the meeting. We meet in person whenever possible, but if weather requires it, we will meet via Zoom. In May we host a salad supper, to which other women in the congregation are invited.

Lyn Dornblaser, [ldornblaser@me.com](mailto:ldornblaser@me.com)

## **Usher Ministry, Lay Readers, Chalice Bearers and Acolytes**

We are fortunate to have many volunteers for the various ministries needed for our worship services. We use Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) to generate assignments for these roles. MSP is a robust software package that generates a schedule, allows users to request substitutes, and communicates with all users.

Currently, we have 20 Acolytes, 18 Chalice Bearers, 71 Readers, and 52 Ushers. While that sounds like a lot of people, each service uses many volunteers so we can always use more! We encourage all parishioners to participate in these important roles. Ushering is a great activity for families. Readers should be in 6th grade or older. Acolytes should be in 3rd grade or older. Chalice Bearers should be 18 or older.

If you would like to be added to the rotation for these important ministries or if you have questions, please reach out.

Joyce Fletcher, [joyce@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:joyce@stmarksglenellyn.org)  
Father George, [rector@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:rector@stmarksglenellyn.org)

## **Pastoral Care**

The Prayer Providers are a group of St. Mark Parishioners who have made a commitment to hold in prayer those on our parish prayer list. The prayer providers meet monthly on the first Wednesday of the month at 11:00 AM, both in person and via Zoom to stay current on the status of those persons on our parish prayer list. It is not necessary to attend the monthly meetings to be a part of this group--we keep in communication about the Prayer List via email, text message and snail mail.

There are currently 12 participants in the parish prayer provider group, and new members are always welcome. This is a great way to be of service to St. Mark's community. Contact Carolyn Faivre 630-334-1053 if you would like more information or are interested in joining us.

Carolyn Faivre, [carolyn@drfaivre.com](mailto:carolyn@drfaivre.com)

## **Education for Ministry (EfM)**

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a unique four-year distance learning certificate program in theological education based on small-group study and practice. Since its founding in 1975, this international program has assisted more than 100,000 participants to discover and nurture their call to Christian service. EfM helps the faithful encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experiences of the world as they study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together. Our Education for Ministry group meets at St. Mark's on Thursdays at 7:30 pm via Zoom and in person. The year starts in September and runs through June. The EfM website is <http://efm.sewanee.edu/about-efm/about-efm>.

David Dornblaser, [dornblaser@me.com](mailto:dornblaser@me.com)

## **Parish Administration**

The parish continues to be a busy place and keeping the pieces in order takes many hands. St. Mark's office is now staffed by Sarah Adler, Parish Administrator, and Mary Kay Mutz, Parish Administrator Assistant. In addition, the office has a stellar group of nine volunteers who provide the backbone of the office's work. The office oversees the day-to-day function of the church office, facilities and grounds, their use, condition, and safety. The goal is to

provide the support necessary to translate the hospitality, warmth, and energy of St. Mark's parishioners, staff, and community into visible action.

Some specific items that the office continues to work on in 2026 are: maintaining and upgrading the office's computer systems, continuing to improve our electronic record keeping, and creating consistent training and support for our volunteers.

Sarah Adler, [pa@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:pa@stmarksglenellyn.org)

## **Church Tellers 2025**

The tellers for St. Mark's work faithfully every Monday morning to open the giving envelopes and count the Sunday offering. They provide the proper recording of contributions in the Church's accounting system and take the deposit to the bank. Their efforts in this critical function are vital to St. Mark's financial process, and St. Mark's is blessed to have them serve so faithfully in this capacity.

The tellers that served during the 2024 calendar year were May Anstee, Bob Cardwell, Jerry Carey, Karen Evans,, Jim Grotelueschen, Dave Hamill, Gretchen Kenower, Chris Warman, Don Winkelman, and John Zelman. Thank you all.

Dick Anstee, [ranstee05@gmail.com](mailto:ranstee05@gmail.com)

## **Outreach**

Outreach in the local community and beyond continues to be an important focus for St. Mark's with many members participating in regular and one-time outreach activities throughout the year.

The following annual fundraising events or collections are supported by the Outreach Committee and detailed elsewhere in this report: Appalachian Service Project, Back to School Collection, Meals to Go, Community Meal, Mum Sale, Pumpkin Patch, ReVive Christmas baskets and Walk-in-Ministry.

**Jazz Night** was held in February and raised \$6,000 to benefit Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Counselling Services. Thanks to Geneva Jazz Ensemble for once again providing great music and to GEYFCS Board members and St. Mark's volunteers for helping make this a successful fundraiser for an important local cause.

St. Mark's members support the **Glen House Food Pantry** throughout the year with food and financial donations and especially on food drive Sunday in June. Glen House also benefits from the annual Mum Sale. Several members also volunteer at Glen House.

In addition to supporting annual fundraising and collection drives, The Outreach Committee also supports non-profits through an **Annual Grant Program**. In 2025 we revised our strategy and adjusted the eligibility to focus on non-profits with operating budgets of less than \$1M and serving DuPage and Glen Ellyn residents. We also decided to award larger grants to less organizations in order to hopefully have a bigger impact. We had nine applications and we gave grants totaling \$7,550 to the following organizations:

- CREO
- ESSE
- Kiwanis Glen Ellyn
- Immigrant Solidarity DuPage

GEYFCS was not funded as they benefitted from the Jazz Night. The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry and Walk-in Ministry were not funded as they benefitted from the Mum Sale.

In 2025 members of St. Mark's volunteered at **Northern Illinois Food Bank** on six occasions to sort and pack food for local food pantries. Due to the popularity of this opportunity, we will be scheduling monthly volunteer shifts in 2026.

**Glen Ellyn/Wheaton CROP Walk** - 11 members of St Mark's walked in the CROP walk in May and raised \$1,715 to support hunger relief around the world and locally.

Thank you to all the Outreach Committee members for their work throughout the year and the many St. Mark's members who have made donations or volunteered to support these outreach ministries. If you are interested in joining the Outreach Committee, please contact Hester Bury at [hesterbury@gmail.com](mailto:hesterbury@gmail.com).

Hester Bury, [hesterbury@gmail.com](mailto:hesterbury@gmail.com)

## **Mum Sale 2025**

The annual Mum Sale was held in September. We ordered 650 mums from Sunrise Greenhouse Inc, out of Grant Park, IL. and sold out. Our net proceeds of \$3,504 was split equally between the Glen House Food Pantry and the Glen Ellyn Walk-in Ministry. Thank you to everyone who purchased mums or volunteered to unload and sell.

Hester Bury, [hesterbury@gmail.com](mailto:hesterbury@gmail.com)

## **St. Mark's Meals to Go, Community Dinner & Parish Breakfast**

Meals-to-Go: On the first and third Saturdays of each month, from 12 pm to 1 pm, St. Mark's provides hot meals, made from scratch, to-go, for anyone who can use or needs a hot meal. Many local families take advantage of these meals.

Community Dinner: On the third Thursday of each month St. Mark's hosts a Community Dinner from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in Mahon Hall that is open to all parishioners and anyone in the community. A made from scratch dinner is served and live music is enjoyed during the meal. October through May. All are welcome.

David Dornblaser, [dornblaser@me.com](mailto:dornblaser@me.com)

## **Backpacks for Holy Family School**

Thank you to everyone that donated school supplies in August for the children of Holy Family School! We collected 62 backpacks, and many folders & notebooks, crayons & markers, pencil cases, rulers, erasers, pencils, pens and more! The supplies and contributions were worth over \$1,800!

Gina Wood, [childrensministry@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:childrensministry@stmarksglenellyn.org)

## **Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser**

Every October since 2007, St Marks has conducted a fundraiser to sell pumpkins to the community to benefit DuPagePads, which is dedicated to ending and preventing homelessness in our county. The St. Mark's Pumpkin Patch has provided us with friendship, fellowship and many compliments from our neighbors and community. Each year we have unloaded approximately 2,500 bulk pumpkins, not to mention many boxes of mini- and softball-

sized white and orange pumpkins and numerous types of other gourds. The community came out in droves to purchase pumpkins from the St. Mark's Pumpkin Patch with total sales over these past 19 years of over \$400,000 and total donations to DuPagePads exceeding \$140,000.

2025 was another great year of sales, resulting in a donation of over \$10,000 to DuPagePads.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Philip Adler, whose leadership and hard work have been instrumental in making the St. Mark's Pumpkin Patch a Glen Ellyn institution. I came on board to succeed Phil in running the patch this year and want to thank him personally for his guidance and support in continuing this fundraiser.

Next year will mark the 20th year of running this fundraiser – we look forward to promoting and celebrating this milestone for the Pumpkin Patch this coming fall.

Mike Petrushka, [mdpetrushka@gmail.com](mailto:mdpetrushka@gmail.com)

### **Spiritual Direction Ministry**

The Spiritual Direction Ministry at St. Mark's was added in September 2024. We offer one on one spiritual direction in English and Spanish. We also were able to participate in St. Mark's Lunch and Learn program, and Adult Formation offerings. We look forward to establishing more relationships in St. Mark's community with spiritual direction, and other offerings such as Forest Bathing and Imago Divina. Opportunities to listen to the connection with the spirit inside us all.

Our Spiritual Direction Ministry appreciates the support of St. Mark's.

“Contemplation is not a privilege of the few but a vital necessity for our interconnected lives. We are called to stillness, to pause, and to listen deeply.” - Dr. Barbara Holmes

Tammy Minuti, [tammyminuti@gmail.com](mailto:tammyminuti@gmail.com)

### **ReVive Christmas Baskets**

Thank you for your generous support of the ReVive Christmas Basket families this year! We were assigned 50 families this year for a total of 73 adults and 118 children. We had fifty-one sponsors this year, including Daughters of the King, primarily St. Mark's families and some friends of St. Mark's. A handful of volunteers loaded 135 boxes from the church library to the ReVive truck transporting the gifts back to their warehouse. It was a joy to see the number of families that participated in this project and the collaboration involved to celebrate our assigned families. I look forward to being part of this longstanding service and celebrating the 105<sup>th</sup> ReVive Christmas Basket program.

Sheila Plecha, [Splecha24@gmail.com](mailto:Splecha24@gmail.com)

### **Blood Drives**

For the fifth year in a row, St. Mark's has continued to host blood drives, which helped to ease the ongoing urgent need for blood in our community. Partnered with Versiti Blood Centers, a non-profit blood donation organization, St. Mark's hosted drives in Mahon Hall in March, June and November. We currently plan to keep up this life-saving effort and host blood drives in 2026. If you'd like to donate blood at future drives or assist with the running of

these events, please contact Jack Stein.

Jack Stein, [jackstein768@gmail.com](mailto:jackstein768@gmail.com)

## **Walk-In-Ministry**

In 1994, the Glen Ellyn Ministerial Association initiated this coordinated effort to meet certain types of emergency needs of people and families living in Glen Ellyn and/or members of the partner churches. St Mark's has been part of the ministry since the beginning.

WiM operates Monday through Thursday, 10 am-noon, from an office provided at First United Methodist Church, convenient to First UM's main building entrance on Forest Avenue (immediately south of Duane Street - very near St Mark's). The ministry offers financial assistance to help people facing utility cutoffs, eviction, auto repairs and insurance, and costs for medical prescriptions, with procedures to ensure correct payments and proper records for clients. Food certificates and gas vouchers are also provided, and assistance in reaching other community resources.

The need for money increases every year. St Mark's assigns the earnings from the mum sale to Walk-In. The need for volunteers continues, and St Mark's presently has none. The work is scheduled to staff the 2-hour office hours those 4 weekday mornings. You learn by joining an experienced volunteer during some office hours. Volunteers typically work in pairs.

St Mark's also needs a representative who can attend and participate in the board meetings, about every other month.

Edna Heatherington [ednah60137@gmail.com](mailto:ednah60137@gmail.com)

## **St. Mark's Green Team**

The Green Team welcomes anyone interested in making St. Mark's a greener, more sustainable community. Please contact Fr. George ([rector@stmarskglenellyn.org](mailto:rector@stmarskglenellyn.org)), Ginnie Judd ([ginniejudd@gmail.com](mailto:ginniejudd@gmail.com)), or Jan Langford ([janlangford1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janlangford1@sbcglobal.net)).

**Pollinator Garden:** Some background on our garden: The Green Team took responsibility for the large garden at the northwest corner of the church property, at Main and Hillside, in Spring 2017, and has continued to tend it since then. The garden had been overgrown with lots of undesirables that were choking out the plants that provide food for butterflies, bees, birds, and other creatures, so the goal in 2017 was to identify what was growing there and remove anything that was hindering the beneficial plants. It was rewarding to see how many lovely perennials emerged once the turf grass and thistles were removed. Our big addition in May 2018 was a Fruit Guild – a permaculture garden (all edible perennials) centered around a Redhaven peach tree. Let us know if you are interested in participating in garden maintenance. All ages welcome.

**SCARCE's Pumpkin Smash program to collect for composting:** For the tenth year, we arranged for a 20-foot container to put the leftover pumpkins from the Pumpkin Patch and to be a site for the community to bring their pumpkins for composting on the first Saturday of November. Jan Langford again provided great signage to direct the community to the container in the Hillside parking lot. Between the cleanup of our own Pumpkin Patch and the 50 or so drive ups and walk ups from the community to bring pumpkins, we collected 2.52 tons of pumpkins and kept them out of landfill! We had help from Cub Scout Pack 42 who helped unload pumpkins from community members' cars and led some very enthusiastic smashing of pumpkins with other kids who brought their pumpkins from home. The contents of the container were taken to a commercial composting site instead of being put into

landfill. Keeping food/yard waste out of landfill means a reduction in methane gas production as well as capturing the nutrients and water contained in the plant materials for use in compost.

Ginnie Judd, [ginniejudd@gmail.com](mailto:ginniejudd@gmail.com)

### **Companion Relationship with San Marcos in Nigromante, Mexico for 2025**

St. Mark's continues a 20-year companion relationship with San Marcos in Nigromante, Mexico. Our first trip was in June of 2006. We still find ourselves in a challenging position with the Diocese of Southeast Mexico, specifically, with Julio Martin, who, because of unacceptable behavior, is no longer recognized as the bishop of the Diocese of Southeast Mexico by the Anglican Communion, the Board of Directors of the Mexican church, the Mexican government, the National Episcopal Church, and the Diocese of Chicago, but he remains in position and refuses to leave.

We continue to stay in touch with Padre Senobio and the leaders of San Marcos and pray that this situation will be resolved. We have received permission from our Diocese to send money to companion parishes and resume visits to those parishes. We are weighing those options.

History: Beginning in June of 2006, St. Mark's sent parishioners to Mexico each year, which included a dental mission trip in December 2019. Then came the 2020 Pandemic, and our visits were put on hold for a few years. In January 2024, we were able to return with the same dental team, and we hope to go back for a third dental trip when the time is right.

Throughout this companion relationship, fundraising, support, and prayers from St. Mark's have been a critical to this companion relationship. Please continue to remember the people of San Marcos and the Diocese of Southeast Mexico and keep them in your prayers, especially Padre Senobio and his family. Padre Senobio recently lost his wife, Cecilia Lopez Cruz, que en paz descance.

Kim Reed, [kimreed178@gmail.com](mailto:kimreed178@gmail.com)

### **Appalachia Service Project**

In June, St Mark's combined with the First United Methodist Church of Glen Ellyn and First Congregational church, Glen Ellyn to send 18 volunteers to Appalachia. We spent a week working on two homes. On one home, we repaired and/or replaced some of the flooring of the structure which had rotted, and on the other we applied house wrap, insulation, and siding of a home that had been flooded. It was a positive experience for both the volunteers and the homeowners, and we look forward to summer 2026 for our next trip.

John Zelman, [jzelman86@gmail.com](mailto:jzelman86@gmail.com)

### **Communication Report 2025**

2025 was a busy year for St. Mark's communications. We continue to learn about the many parts of our church information system, Realm, that we enrolled with in the fall of 2022. The system allows us to better communicate with our parishioners through groups, emails, donations tracking and a directory. St. Mark's continues to offer a hybrid church service (in-person & via Zoom) at the 10:30 am & 1:00 pm services, while the 9:00 am service moved to an 8:30 am in-person only service. We continue to send out a weekly news email with all of the information about St. Mark's and scheduled events. We are continually updating and making improvements to our website. We also continue to make improvements to our social media presence with Facebook and Instagram. St. Mark's

advertises our events with the Glen Ellyn Patch, local Facebook groups, the Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce and the Daily Herald.

Wes Clay-Anderson, [wes@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:wes@stmarksglenellyn.org)

## **Men's Ministries**

The Tuesday morning group meets every Tuesday at 8:00 am at Glen Oak Cafe in Glen Ellyn. According to group coordinator Dick Anstee: "We are a social group, and our meetings have no agenda or program. We enjoy each other's company and talk about events of the day, family events, recent trips, and past accomplishments. As one of our regulars frequently observes, "I always learn something new at these breakfasts."

We would love to have you join us and check us out. No reservation is needed!

Dick Anstee, [ranstee05@gmail.com](mailto:ranstee05@gmail.com)

The St. Mark's Saturday Morning Men's Group gathers in the Church Library every week. Drop in any time between 08:00 and 09:30. There is no agenda, no attendance taken and no topic is on or off limits. The only requirement is fellowship. Coffee is on, and doughnuts (usually) appear. Please join the St. Mark's Men's Group on Realm to receive updates on our get togethers.

Cam Gowans, [cbgowans@yahoo.com](mailto:cbgowans@yahoo.com)

## **Women's Ministry**

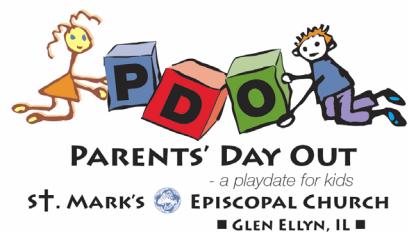
The Women's Ministry—open to anyone who identifies as a woman—had a joyful, creative, and community-filled year! We kicked things off with vision board creation and gathered throughout the year for a chocolate tasting and poetry reading, accessory exchange, indoor plant clinic, bowling night, and our always-festive Christmas ornament exchange. Highlights also included a summer kickoff potluck at Libby Wassef's beautiful home, a fall welcome potluck in Mahon Hall, and Ofrenda creation in the St. Mark's narthex. In addition to our first-Wednesday evening gatherings (6:30–8:30 pm in the library, BYO snacks), we hosted monthly Saturday morning tea, crafts, and conversation.

In 2026, we'll be polling members to learn how the Women's Ministry can best meet the needs of our community as we plan for the year ahead. Wednesday evening events will continue, and all are warmly invited! Co-leaders are Rita Colorito, Patti King, Ashley Richardson, and Libby Wassef. Announcements are shared in the bulletin and via Realm.

Rita Colorito [ritacolorito@gmail.com](mailto:ritacolorito@gmail.com)

## **Parents' Day Out Ministry**

St. Mark's Parents' Day Out (PDO) offers care for children ages 2 to 4. PDO has had a strong community following since it began in the late 1980's. Both the school year and summer care programs include fine and large motor skill activities, arts and crafts, songs and stories, as well as plenty of play time. Families register for one or two days per week during the school year, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



There are 66 children currently enrolled in the program for the 2025-2026 school year. PDO also maintains a substitute list.

Scholarships: In keeping with our mission, we offer scholarships and financial flexibility to suit a variety of circumstances. Please contact Director Katie Anderson for more information.

School Year Calendar and Summer Session: PDO follows the Glen Ellyn D41 public school system calendar during the school year and offers a summer program on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in June and July.

PDO's Gifts: PDO donates \$600 monthly to the parish's general operating fund. An additional \$10,000 was donated in 2025. The PDO Board is in discussions with the Preschool about improving the playground area off of the lower parking lot.

Staff: We said goodbye to Director Kathy O'Rourke and teachers Melody Mordini and Carrie Pihl in 2025. While Melody is officially "retired," she has been a godsend, willing to fill in for teachers who have been absent or when PDO has needed an extra hand! We are also very grateful for the leadership of our new director, Katie Anderson, and for our new as well as continuing staff members. They are all wonderful and dedicated to the children, their families, and the program: Norma Cid, Ofelia Bustamente, Jocelyn Briones, Maria Torres, and Elidia Casiano. \*Tinee Flores was with us for the fall, but she had to leave because she and her husband are moving.

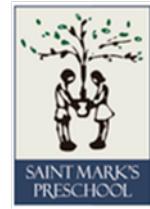
PDO Board: PDO Board members are Kim Reed (Chair), Kelly Gross, Joan Nicholas, Rosio Barrera, Rachel Grider, and the Rev. George Smith. If you are interested in serving as a board member, please contact Kim Reed at [kimreed178@gmail.com](mailto:kimreed178@gmail.com).

Registration: Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will begin on Tuesday, April 7 for St. Mark's parishioners and St. Mark's Preschool families. New families can register on Monday, April 13. Summer registration will open on Monday, April 20.

PDO Board President Kim Reed, [kimreed178@gmail.com](mailto:kimreed178@gmail.com)  
PDO Director Katie Anderson, [pdo@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:pdo@stmarksglenellyn.org)

## **St. Mark's Preschool**

The 2025/26 school year marks St. Mark's Preschool's 15th as a part of the St. Mark's community. The Preschool is influenced by the Reggio Emilia project approach to teaching, which features child-directed learning. We continue to approach learning with the whole child in mind, first and foremost. The Preschool has grown from offering one class of nine children with two teachers its first year, to the current offerings of 3-day and 4-day classes, a STEAM program, Kindergarten Enrichment, and an Extended Day Play program. We also offer a morning summer camp program in June. Throughout the year, our eight-member staff serve 60-70 families.



The Preschool is DCFS certified and is a member of The National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES) and the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA). We follow the Glen Ellyn D-41 and D-89 calendars.

Preschool payroll and expenses, including a monthly payment to the church for operating expenses, are covered by tuition payments. In addition to tuition, donations and fundraisers have netted \$14,730 in 2025. A successful fundraiser was held this fall to support our operating expenses and plans for future improvements. We have also received generous donations from the preschool and church communities to support our scholarship fund.

With the help of a supportive Preschool Board, the preschool has returned to pre-pandemic numbers and is consistently enjoying full enrollment each school year.

Alongside the church and PDO, the preschool will make improvements to the “Gus” playground with a goal of completion by fall of 2026.

We are blessed with the families and alumni that contribute to and participate in our preschool community. Partnerships with the parents and the community are a cornerstone of our philosophy. We are grateful the students and staff can explore their own community and be provoked and inspired by their surroundings.

Many thanks to Father George for his enduring support of the preschool and its programming and the Preschool Board members: Janet Constien (Chair), Diane Hessinger (Vice-Chair), Jill Martelli (Secretary), Berny Labis (treasurer), and Jessica Reynolds (events/fundraising) for volunteering their time and talent to the Preschool, helping to ensure future success and growth.

Priority registration for the 2026-27 school year opens January 26 for church and PDO members. Applications are available in the Church office, Preschool office, or online.

St. Mark’s Preschool Director Kristine Osmond, [psdirector@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:psdirector@stmarksglenellyn.org)

## **Buildings and Grounds**

The Building and Grounds Committee’s mission is to maintain the facilities at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in a clean, safe, and welcoming way for worship, fellowship, outreach programs, and preschool functions. The facility is used consistently during the week for worship, church functions, groups, meetings and community involvement.

The committee ensures that all building systems and functions are clean, operational, maintained and inspected. This includes coordinating with a number of agencies to ensure the building and grounds meet current code and regulations.

St. Mark’s has been blessed in 2025; despite all the activity and use the facility has seen during the year, no major service or maintenance issues arose. (knock on wood!). In addition, most of the service contracts we have in force have remained active without any or minimal cost increases. Lawn maintenance, fire and elevator system inspection services and snow plowing are a few examples of these services.

The year has required what can be explained as normal expected issues that required attention, such as door repair, plumbing issues, electrical issues and the like. Fortunately, many of these issues were able to be addressed internally and repaired without outside services or costs. As a result, the B&G budget has remained consistent and within budget expectations. In line with that, it is also encouraging to see the building and grounds fund grow because of the Capital Campaign commitment.

While always being able to react, the committee also attempts to be proactive in preventative maintenance to avoid any unexpected issues. The vines that had been growing and clinging to the exterior of the church have for the most part been removed and treated to hopefully limit their return. It is an issue that is constantly monitored as the vines are a major cause of gutter damage and deterioration of the exterior.

The rectory also falls under the care of the B&G committee and remains in very good condition. The driveway was replaced this past year. We expect a couple of appliances in need of replacement in the near future.

Finally, we always try to identify needs around the facility for improvement. An example is the recently installed large screen (100”) TV installed in Mahon Hall for meeting and group entertainment use! We look forward to the beginning of the Narthex renovation as defined by the Capital Campaign. Steps are currently being taken to secure the general contractor and begin the bid process. We hope to find a solution for improved lighting in the basement. That area is used consistently by the preschool, youth groups and other functions. Mahon Hall is in need of some

updating. We hope for a plan to have the hall repainted, and perhaps some new tables, chairs and coverings. The sound system in the church is targeted for updating.

And as always, if you have the ability or desire to assist with the improvement of St. Mark's facilities just contact the church office for information.

Bill Constien, [bconstien1@gmail.com](mailto:bconstien1@gmail.com)

## **Sacred Ground**

Sacred Ground was busy almost every month of 2025 with a planned trip, a gathering, an activity or a lecture, all with the purpose of learning, helping, and following our Episcopal commitment to others

Sacred Ground started off the year with a Church-wide MLK Day of Service on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

There were several field trips throughout the year: In February, the field trip was to the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie; in May we went to the DuSable Museum in Hyde Park; and October we saw the Gichigamiin Indigenous Nation Museum in Evanston.

In March we sponsored a Lenten Series of 2 documentaries. Volunteers provided soup and bread, and we concluded with a discussion about the video we had seen. It was very successful, having between 25 to 35 people attending each of the four sessions.

Later in March, we hosted Rachel Zola's original one-woman show, "Late, A Love Story" co-sponsored by Sacred Ground, and One Community, and Pizza & Social Justice.

In June, St. Mark's collaborated with other churches in the community to participate in the Juneteenth event at Peoples Community Church. Many members of St. Marks attended the presentation.

In August and September, Sacred Ground showed 2 films, the latter of which was in cooperation with Northern Illinois United Methodist Conference and co-sponsored with Pizza and Social Justice.

At the Sacred Ground Meeting of September, Kirk Burger gave a talk about the McKee Cultural Center and in October, Exodus World Services set up a simulated refugee experience. At November meeting, Sara Dady, an Immigration Lawyer, spoke about refugees.

To be noted: members of St. Mark's volunteered at every Spanish service looking for ICE agents so they can alert the assembly, and we continue to do so in 2026. This also took place during each of the Posadas leading up to Christmas Eve service.

Beth Gemkow, [bethanderv@gemautomation.net](mailto:bethanderv@gemautomation.net)

Joyce Fletcher, [joyce@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:joyce@stmarksglenellyn.org)

## **Cub Scout Pack 158**

Cub Scout Pack 158 had remarkable growth this year and is a group of 47 boys between kindergarten and 5th grade and their parent leaders. The boys are organized in dens by grade level rank and participate in regular den meetings working toward building skills in camping, first aid, physical fitness, community service and spiritual faith along with monthly pack meetings or activities.

In 2025 the pack has organized a fishing derby at Lake Ellyn, model rocket launch at East Branch Forest Preserve, fall campout at Pratts Wayne Woods Forest Preserve, night hike on the Glacier Ridge trail near the Prairie Path, and hosted an animal meet-and-greet in the basement that included a sloth and armadillo! The pack looks forward to the popular Pinewood Derby hosted in Mahon Hall in late January, a spring service project, and overnight "campout" at the Field Museum. The pack's main fundraiser is a holiday greens sale in October and delivered ahead of Thanksgiving.

The pack appreciates the support of St. Mark's and looks forward to future opportunities to engage in the life of the church.

Rob Miller, [rdmiller@gmail.com](mailto:rdmiller@gmail.com)

## **CREO DuPage 2025**

CREO DuPage is a local nonprofit organization that began as a ministry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The word CREO means "I believe." CREO DuPage provides resources and mentorship to local high school students from Spanish-speaking families who believe they can accomplish what might seem impossible: graduate with a college degree that leads to a rewarding career.

Several St. Mark's members volunteer as mentors, and many current and former CREO students and their families are also members of the church. CREO is fortunate to use St. Mark's space for monthly workshops and events.

In 2025, CREO expanded to serve 48 high school students with academic coaches, and 13 graduates joined 38 other graduates studying at regional, public, and private colleges and universities.

CREO successfully raised over \$96,000 in 2025 from corporate, family, and community foundations, as well as other funds from generous individuals. This includes ongoing support from the Episcopal Charities of Chicago, which gave \$19,000 in 2025 and pledged \$19,000 in 2026. CREO also received funds from the DuPage County Small Nonprofits Grants and the DuPage Foundation. To learn more about CREO, please visit our website: [www.creodupage.org](http://www.creodupage.org).

CREO DuPage es una organización local sin fines de lucro que comenzó como un ministerio de la Iglesia Episcopal de San Marcos. CREO DuPage brinda recursos y tutoría a estudiantes de escuelas preparatorias locales de familias latinas que se atreven a creer que pueden lograr lo que podría parecer imposible... graduarse con un título universitario que los lleve a una carrera gratificante.

Varios miembros de St. Mark's sirven como voluntarios y muchos estudiantes y familias actuales y anteriores de CREO también son miembros de la iglesia. CREO tiene la suerte de utilizar el espacio de St. Mark's para talleres y eventos mensuales.

En 2025, CREO emparejó a 48 estudiantes con tutores académicos, y 13 graduados de la preparatoria se unieron a otros 38 graduados que están estudiando en universidades regionales, públicas y privadas.

CREO exitosamente recaudó más de 96.000 dólares en 2025, fondos que vienen de corporaciones, familias, y fundaciones de la comunidad y también de personas individuales que han donado generosamente. Esta cantidad también incluye el apoyo de Episcopal Charities of Chicago, que donó 19.000 dólares en 2025 y se comprometió a donar otros 19.000 dólares en 2026. CREO también recibió fondos de las subvenciones para pequeñas organizaciones sin fines de lucro del condado de DuPage y de la Fundación DuPage.

ALCANZANDO LO "IMPOSIBLE"



REACHING THE "IMPOSSIBLE"

Para obtener más información sobre CREO, visite nuestro sitio web: [www.creodupage.org](http://www.creodupage.org).

James. Johnson, [jjohnso@creodupage.org](mailto:jjohnso@creodupage.org)  
Monserrat López, [monserrat.lopez@creodupage.org](mailto:monserrat.lopez@creodupage.org)

## **Altar Ministry**

Altar Ministry is a volunteer group whose ministry is to set up and care for the altar, vessels, altar linens and vestments of the parish for worship services. Time commitment and schedule can vary as you are available. This would include ages junior high and up. New members are always needed and for the most part it is Saturday morning and service times on Sunday. Commitment time varies depending on the time of year.

We want to thank Chris Carter for all her years of service and leading the team. Please reach out with interest in joining our group.

Chris Warman, [christine.a.warman@gmail.com](mailto:christine.a.warman@gmail.com)

## **Altar Flowers Ministry Report**

From bare sticks in Lent to greens during Advent, there will seldom be a time when there is nothing in the vases on either side of the altar. Altar flowers are provided by a team of three, who take turns buying and then arranging the bouquets on site.

Flowers can be given for a variety of occasions, in memory of a loved one, for birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, funerals, etc. Occasionally, the team has also supplied bouquets for weddings. It is requested that a donation of \$50 will be given a week before the chosen date. When larger arrangements are desired, this fee may increase. Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias are bought with donations from the congregation for these dates.

Whenever there is a single rose on the altar, it is a sign that a new life has been born. We attempt to get these to the new mothers.

We would love to develop a team that would take these flowers to the sick, shut ins, the grieving, or those with special celebrations of joy. These would be coordinated through Fr. George Smith. Leadership of the Altar Flowers Ministry is in progress.

Father George, [rector@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:rector@stmarksglenellyn.org)

## Parish Register 2025

### 2025 Average Sunday Attendance (estimates):

in-person: 280  
per zoom service: 30  
views YouTube: 45  
views on Facebook: 75

### Baptisms

Adrian Joseph Cullen  
Alondra Salgado  
America Lopez  
Atlas Martin Schultz  
Damian Diaz Carmona  
D'angelo Hernandez  
Eleanor Claire Schwartz  
Ellen Regina Esteban Morales  
Galilea Ayala Urquiza  
Jaylon Jewel Dubose  
Julian Jaylen Dubose  
Lester Cain Garcia Miguel  
Lucio Jesus Vivaldo  
Martha Salgado  
Melanie Lilliana Anderson  
Milani Ailin Jeronimo  
Nancy Vivaldo  
Romina Coronel Carmona

Scarlett Atenea Jiménez Pere  
Scarlett Guzman Garcia  
Sophia Salazar  
Xaviar King  
Yaquelyn Sorto

### Confirmations

Yumalay Castro Alarcon  
Serjio Aragon  
Estrella Bautista  
Jennifer Bernabe  
Leo Bjorn Brunback  
Cristian Jesus Carrillo  
Luis Castorena  
Vaoletth Castorena  
Ben Coombes  
Sofie Clare Eichenauer  
Andy Granados Meza  
Emily Granados  
Eric Hernandez Moreno  
Emerson Hurley  
Delaney Lemar  
Charlie Luttenton  
Quinn Luttenton  
Destiny Martinez  
Angel Gonzalo Medel  
Olivia Mercadante  
Ivan Armando Moreno

Richard David Muñoz  
Jen Carlo Nieto López  
Andrew Plutko  
Robert Quezada  
Brandon Ramirez  
Fernando Ramos-Vivaldo  
Daniel Rayo  
Valerie Rayo  
Jacob Roth  
Anna Connie Salazar  
Ariana Salazar  
Santiago Salmeron  
Mateo Taylor  
Nichole Tochimani  
Ayelen Atzimba Torralba  
Brissa Vazquez  
Paul Anthony Hollins  
Bladimer Ramirez  
Yesica Dominguez  
Mia Sanchez  
Wilson Sanchez

## **Receptions**

Paul Anthony Hollins Joseph A. Cuttone

## **Quinceañeras**

Aleidy Lopez  
Cristina Juarez  
Shomara Piñeda  
Mia Natalia Vargas  
Vanessa Roman  
Andrea Lopez

## **Weddings**

Kathryn Murray - Nicholas Pantaleo  
Jocelyn Briones Cid – David Salinas  
Michael Terrill-Liesz – Paul Anthony Hollins  
Hannah Dakis – Trevor Dominguez  
Jazmina Castillo – Eddy Trigueros  
Ayerim Yohanest Andrade Guerro - William Cater Hironimus-Wendt  
Guadalupe Velazquez – Carlos Bencini  
Hannah Nagieb Labeb Luna – Seth Luna

## **Funerals & Committals**

Eleanor Krause  
Emmarie Burger  
Ralph Quintana  
Margaret Barclay  
Donald Warman  
Carlena Sue McKee  
Marjorie McNeil  
Ralph Jess Quintana  
Relia Ann Spencer  
Patrick Dorgan  
Manuel Davalos Perez  
Kathleen Tett

## Minutes from January 26, 2025 Annual Meeting

**Meeting Date:** Jan. 26, 2025

**Meeting Location:** Mahon Hall (w. Zoom)

**Meeting called to order:** 12:07pm

This was the 128<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of St. Mark's, chaired by Fr. George and Andrew Dorn, the outgoing Senior Warden. Approximately 125 members attended either in person or on Zoom. The hospitality committee organized a tasty lunch for those attending in person. Throughout the meeting, breaks were taken to allow for the excitement of the annual cake auction, ably led by Andrew Dorn and Karen Hill. This effort, always awaited with great anticipation by the entire congregation, successfully raised over \$8,000. This will be put towards a new stove for Mahon Hall kitchen as well as new carpeting between the sanctuary and Mahon Hall. Those present were grateful to David Dornblaser, who purchased the first cake and generously made it available to all who wished to partake as part of their lunch.

The meeting opened with a prayer for St. Mark's and for the Grow & Renew Capital Campaign. This was followed by the appointment of Liam Dunch as Clerk for the meeting.

Time was given for review of the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting, which incorporate the 2024 Annual Report. Jane Moore moved that the minutes be approved as published, this was seconded by Emily Sapsauer and the minutes were so approved.

Fr. George announced the appointment of Patti King as Senior Warden and Josh O'Shea as Junior Warden. Both accepted these appointments. Kai Hill accepted appointment as the Youth Representative to the vestry.

Andrew gave thanks for the service of the outgoing vestry members (Karen Hill & Chip Johnson), Diocesan Representative (Jim Grotelueschen) and Youth Representative (Isabelle Friebel).

Fr. George offered a vote of thanks to the hospitality committee for the delicious lunch.

The year-end financial report was presented by the Treasurer, who offered thanks to Asst. Treasurer Scott Eichenauer and the finance committee for their ongoing support. The parish ended the year with a small surplus. Income was slightly above budget and expenses a little below budget. Our asset totals also increased during the year due to investments and interest. The preschool and Parents Day Out programs are also in good financial shape. A big thanks is owed to Berny Labis for assisting the preschool with their 2024 accounts and 2025 budget. There were no questions from the floor on the 2024 financial report.

The 2025 budget was presented. Fr. George noted that the number of households pledging is up for 2025, but that we still need a little more to meet our 2025 budgeted amount. Every pledge is important, no matter the size. He reminded those present that setting up an auto-pledge is very easy through the church's website. The 2025 budget shows increased expenses from 2024, mainly due to rising insurance costs and the commitment to start repayments to the diocese towards our loan balance with them. The budget also incorporates a cost-of-living salary increase for staff. There were no questions from the floor on the 2025 budget.

Andrew presented his Senior Warden's report, referencing the information included in the agenda packet. It has been an honor for him to serve, and he expressed his deep appreciation for Fr. George, Patti King (Junior Warden) and all the vestry members. He is happy to be leaving his role with St. Mark's in a great position to continue to grow and thrive. Particular note was made of the 36 baptisms the church has hosted in 2024. Andrew also gave

special thanks to the team involved with the Grow & Renew capital campaign, which is closing in on attaining our 'stretch goal.'

Fr. George thanked Andrew and offered a gift on behalf of the congregation in recognition of his outstanding service as Senior Warden.

The meeting was opened to questions from the floor; there were none. It was noted that our next major event will be the capital campaign wrap-up celebration on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Everyone was thanked for their attendance at the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned: 1:16pm**

Liam Dunch, [lsdunch@earthlink.net](mailto:lsdunch@earthlink.net)

**Land Acknowledgement Statement  
St Mark's Episcopal Church  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois**

We are a community of faith that strives for justice and peace among all people and respects the dignity of every human being. It is our desire to publicly acknowledge and pay respect to those who inhabited this land which St. Mark's Episcopal Church now occupies.

This sacred ground at what is now the intersections of Main Street, Hillside and Phillips Avenues in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, has a history we do not fully know nor comprehend. We wish to acknowledge and thank all the Indigenous peoples and Nations who inhabited this land for many thousands of years before us, for their care, respect and attention given to this ground on which we now stand. We also acknowledge the sin of forced displacement of Indigenous peoples by non-Native settlers and the sin of past and ongoing injustices against Native peoples.

It is our hope that this gathering here today, on this sacred ground, will mark a commitment to continuing dialogue and connection across cultures, leading to ongoing recognition of the truthful history of our community and country. It is our sincere desire to continue to learn about these ancestral homelands and to honor all Indigenous peoples who called and call this land home.

This Land Acknowledgement was developed by participants of Sacred Ground of St. Mark's, Glen Ellyn, in collaboration with Joseph Standing Bear of Midwest SOARRING Foundation, and utilized the Downers Grove Public Library Land Acknowledgement as a framework.

This Land Acknowledgment was approved by the St. Mark's Vestry on August 31, 2022 and took place on the front lawn of St. Mark's on Sunday, September 18, 2022.

**A Prayer for St. Mark's and the Grow and Renew Capital Campaign**

**LORD OF MERCY AND GOODNESS**, we thank you for the abundant gifts you have bestowed on St. Mark's Church, showing us how to be a blessing to all people. O God, keep our hearts true to Your vision for St. Mark's and guide our work to ensure the future of this holy place. Holy Spirit, as we reflect on your presence in the life of this church and in our own lives, we ask You to bless, direct, and inspire our leadership, campaign team, and donors with courage and determination for the work ahead, so that St. Mark's may serve as a beacon of Your Light to all who search for it. We are Your hands. In Christ, may we come together in prayer and service as we Grow and Renew our church for the future. **AMEN.**



*Rooted in baptism.  
Growing in faith.  
Branching out into the world.*

**A Vision for St. Mark's  
Adopted by the Vestry in 2009.**

St. Mark's is a vibrant, growing, inclusive community rooted in our shared baptismal covenant and secure in the promise that baptism marks us as Christ's own forever.

Respecting the dignity of all people, we welcome all, embrace differences, foster creativity, and nurture the unique gifts of each person.

We join together in worship drawing on our ancient liturgical traditions enriched by newer expressions.

We come together to learn and grow in our faith, welcoming questions, inviting dialogue, and forming the whole person in Christ.

We joyfully carry our faith into the world, sharing Christ's love through our actions towards each other, our community, the Diocese of Chicago, and the world.

We worship, learn, and serve, proclaiming our commitment to understand and follow Christ's challenging Gospel.



### *Bishop of Chicago*

393 North Main Street  
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*The Rt. Rev. Paula E. Clark, Bishop*

### *Clergy*

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clint@stmarks.glenellyn.org  
bob@stmarks.glenellyn.org  
miguel@stmarks.glenellyn.org*

*The Rev. George D. Smith, Rector  
The Rev. José C. Arroyo, Priest Associate  
The Rev. Canon Suzann Holding, Priest Associate  
The Rev. Dr. Clint Moore III, Priest Associate  
The Rev. Dr. Robert O. Wyatt, Priest Associate  
The Rev. Miguel Briones, Deacon*

### *Program Staff and Office Staff*

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*Elise Brinich, Bookkeeper  
Norma Cid, Nursery Supervisor  
Wes Clay-Anderson, Communications Coordinator  
Sarah Adler, Parish Administrator  
Joyce Fletcher, Ministry Associate  
Seth Luna, Director of Music Ministries  
Julian Mendoza, Sexton  
Mary Kay Mutz, Parish Administrator Assistant  
Katie Anderson, PDO Director  
Kristine Osmond, Preschool Director  
David Profitt, Youth Ministry  
Irma Solorzano, Ministry Associate  
Laura Waterman, Administrative Assistant  
Gina Wood, Director of Children's Ministry*

*Senior Warden*

*Junior Warden*

*Clerk of the Vestry*

*Treasurer*

*Assistant Treasurer*

*Chancellor*

*Vestry*

*Youth Representative to Vestry*

*Patti King*

*Joshua O'Shea*

*Liam Dunch*

*Leo Lanzillo*

*Scott Eichenauer*

*Brian Shallcross*

*Hester Bury, Bill Constien, Joe Cuttome, Rebecca*

*Fortner, Cam Gowans, Ana Gutierrez, Tim*

*Kocher, Andy Labis, Maria Torres, Marcy Troy,*

*Karen Volk*

*Kai Hill*