



## Liturgy Schedule

### Saturday Vigil:

5:00 p.m.,  
7:00 p.m. (Spanish)

### Sunday:

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,  
11:30 a.m.,  
4:00 p.m. (Lifeteen)

### Daily Mass:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 7:30 a.m.;  
Wed, 12 p.m. (noon)

### Adoration:

Mon, Tue, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.;  
Wed, 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.;  
Fri, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.

### Confessions:

Sat, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

## Funeral Planning Ministry Provides Care and Guidance

*I*n our tradition of caring for our St. Mark Parish family through all stages of life, the Funeral Planning Ministry provides a valuable service at a time of sorrow.

Suzie Barger, Val Piburn and Susan Stack have been taking care of fellow parishioners through the ministry for at least six years.

Their service begins when Fr. George has met the bereaved family regarding the time for the funeral Mass, and then calls Suzie. She then contacts the family and arranges a meeting with them at the parish office to help them plan the Liturgy.

"We go over the readings so they can select from the ones offered by the Church," Suzie says. "If they want music for the Mass, we help them select the hymns. I contact the Music Director and

let her know the selections. We also offer them the service, through the Funeral Meal Ministry, a meal reception after the funeral in the parish hall. If they do want a meal, I contact the coordinator."

The Funeral Planning Ministry also offers a worship guide for the funeral Mass. Susan Stack uses her artistic talents to design the piece.

All three members then assist during the Mass and set up everything that is needed in advance.

"I help the family in making decisions about who will participate with the reading and bearing the gifts," Suzie says.

The three ministry members took on their duties when Fr. George asked them to join. All three already were Eucharistic

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# *St. Mark Practices* Safe Environment Stipulations *Set Forth by Diocese*

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**I**n September 2018, Bishop Michael F. Olson unveiled a new Safe Environment training program, which replaced the previous training mandated for volunteers every three years via a video training. An in-person, three-hour training is now required for all church volunteers every two years.

“Every volunteer at the parish is required to participate, not just those working with children,” says Safe Environment and Volunteer Coordinator Kim Harbert. “We are all advocates for the vulnerable and this helps keep it at the forefront of our minds.”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People was established in 2002, and outlines important specifications to avoid further acts of abuse. One such specification is “creating a safe environment for children and young people.”

“The bishop decided it would be best to do the training face-to-face,” Kim says. “People can learn more from each other and have more interaction than they would with a video training.”

The training is offered two times per month at St. Mark’s and even more frequently throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth. Each parish has a trained facilitator. During the three

hours, the group gathers to watch two videos, learn some of the warning signs of abuse, discuss myths and facts about perpetrators, and learn how to monitor their ministries.

“Abuse happens every day and we don’t want to become complacent,” Kim says.

Kim appreciates all she learned from the Safe Environment training and knows that church volunteers are doing more than attending a training — they are becoming advocates and a watchful presence in the community.

“I do appreciate learning new ways to keep my family safe from things one might think are innocent, for example taking a photo of your child in front of the school or posting to social media, she says. “That’s one way a perpetrator could target a child.”

Kim stresses that all volunteers need to be prepared to take this training and plan accordingly. She also emphasizes that this isn’t just for volunteers working with children, as anyone volunteering may come in contact with someone who is vulnerable.

“It is important that we become advocates for the vulnerable, no matter our role,” Kim says. “Unfortunately, there seems to be more and more cases of this in society.”

If you would like more information on Safe Environment training, please contact Kim Harbert at [kharbert@stmarkdenton.org](mailto:kharbert@stmarkdenton.org) or 940-222-6702. To view upcoming sessions and create a profile with VIRTUS, which is required for certification, please visit <https://fwdioc.org/training-sessions>. Upcoming training sessions at St. Mark’s are on June 8 and June 22, from 9 a.m. to noon.

**PROMISE**  
To Protect



Pledge  
To **HEAL**





# Take VACATIONS from Work or School, NOT FROM GOD

Dear Parishioners, —

**B**y now, many schools across America have let out for the summer. In almost no time, camp programs for younger students will be underway. Meanwhile, many older students are ready to trade their homework and notebooks for seasonal jobs until it's time to return to class in a few months.

Whether or not we're directly involved with schools — as students, teachers or parents — we find that the calendar for the school year also impacts our lives at work, at church and in our leisure time. And although some people are on vacation at any time of year, summer traditionally retains its place as *the* vacation season.

Vacations, no matter when or where we take them, provide us with a wonderful opportunity to refresh our lives by following a totally different daily pattern. Whether it's a day trip to the beach or hiking in the mountains, an excursion to the big city or a road trip out to the country, a visit to relatives or friends, or even a quiet and relaxing week spent at home, a vacation offers a break from our daily routines. We get to spend our time the way *we* choose.

A vacation also provides a good opportunity for us to make some permanent changes in our use of time. When

we're free from the demands of everyday life, this is a perfect chance to try something that is not part of our regular routine, such as spending a few minutes a day in prayer or meditation. "Try it — you'll like it!" as the old commercial said. It may have some lasting, positive results in fostering a stronger spiritual life.

Importantly, we must also remember that this is a time of year when our parish will be welcoming visitors who are on vacation themselves — whether they are visiting family, spending time in the area, or just happen to be passing through on the way to their next destination. So, let us all uphold the Stewardship Pillar of Hospitality and provide a warm welcome to those visiting our parish.

Be sure to worship at Mass, wherever you happen to be each Sunday. You'll come back from vacation refreshed both emotionally and spiritually.

In Christ,

Fr. George  
Pastor



# *Celebrating First Communion and the Initiation Mass*

*On May 11, we celebrated First Communion and the Initiation Mass here at St. Mark's. We thank all in our parish community who joined us for this wonderful day of celebration!*





# *Youth Ministry Opportunities on Offer This Summer!*

We invite our parish youth to attend these summer events, which present fantastic opportunities for service, formation, fun and fellowship.

## **Teen ACTS — June 13-16**

Teen ACTS is a high school retreat centered around four pillars of faith — Adoration, Community, Service and Theology. Teens will be encouraged to share their faith in small groups, partake in the sacraments, and engage in community-building activities. Teen ACTS will be held from June 13-16 at Briarwood Retreat Center in Argyle. The cost is \$225 per person. Teens must have completed their freshman year of high school in order to be eligible to attend.

## **Steubenville Lone Star — June 21-23**

Steubenville Lone Star is a Catholic youth conference hosted by Franciscan University that welcomes over 4,000 youth every year in Dallas. Teens get the opportunity to grow in their faith by participating in workshops, listening to national Catholic speakers, praise and worship in XLT Adoration and partake in the sacraments. The

conference will be held from June 21-23 at the Irving Convention Center. The cost is \$225, which covers the conference pass, hotel commendations, and transportation.

## **Metanoia Retreat — July 21-26**

The Fort Worth Diocese has combined the Camp Fort Worth and Young Disciples Retreats into one week-long retreat. Metanoia is Greek for “change of heart” or “repentance.” The purpose for the Metanoia Retreat is to draw high school students into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ and empower them to become leaders in their parish communities. Students will have the opportunity to participate in service projects, Mass and adoration, and small-group discussion, as well as having the opportunity to grow deeper in their knowledge of Sacred Scripture and the Traditions of the Catholic Church. Metanoia is held from July 21-26 at St. Ann’s in Burleson, Texas. The cost is \$100 for Teens and \$50 for chaperones. For more information on any of these, please contact Brad Horn at [bhorn@stmarkdenton.org](mailto:bhorn@stmarkdenton.org) or 940-222-6703. Information may also be found at <https://stmarkdenton.org/upcoming-youth-events-1>.



# For Parishioner *Joe Davis*, ..... *Stewardship*



*The Davis family — (from left) Haley, Rachel, Joe, Joe and Robin.*

Some parishes are lucky to count among their parishioners a “jack of all trades” — someone who is always there when something needs to be done, whether the task involves making a small repair or serving on a committee. Here at St. Mark, we are certainly blessed to have our very own “Joe of all trades” in parishioner Joe Davis!

At any given time, you might find Joe coming in after a full day’s work with his HVAC business to help out around the parish in various ways — setting up and taking down tables and chairs for a big parish event, pressure washing around the church campus, picking up mulch for the garden beds, or pouring coffee for fellow parishioners after Mass.

Although Joe likes to joke that the best thing to do when encountering a pastor is to “avoid eye contact and keep moving,” the truth is that our pastor, Fr. George, continues to inspire Joe to lend a hand to the parish whenever possible.

“I just do whatever Father asks,” Joe says. “Fr. George is a very spiritual and faith-filled person, a very humble guy who serves his parishioners in many ways. He represents Christ to others in a powerful way, and I’m just thankful to be able to help him in some way.”

Joe is currently head usher at St. Mark and a member of both the Pastoral Council and the Building Committee. He also serves refreshments after all of the weekend Masses, extending hospitality with a smile. Joe recently wrapped up 10 years of participation on our Stewardship Committee, and has also filled the roles of Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator for our Knights of Columbus.

For Joe, finding ways to be of service to others is a natural part of life. During his formative years, he witnessed strong examples of stewardship in his mother, who raised 13 children, and his father, who risked his own life as a Chicago firefighter to save others and provide for his children. A young Joe was also inspired by his elementary school priest, a humble man who led by actions instead of words.

As an adult, Joe has been encouraged by the active faith life of his wife, Robin. Raised in the Lutheran church, Robin converted to Catholicism following an unexpected close encounter with the Blessed Mother.

***“When I’m climbing and come to a crest, seeing all that beauty brings me closer to God. I’m blessed to have my health and be able to hike. I’ve been blessed in my family and my business. I’m super blessed to be in the St. Mark Parish. Fr. George is an extremely Christ-filled person, and there are so many good and spiritual people who all have different gifts and talents.” — Joe Davis***



# *Takes Many Different Forms*

“When my old school in Chicago closed, my parents bought two of their statues, Joseph and Mary,” Joe says. “I had brought the Virgin Mary into my garage to make some repairs on it. In the middle of the night, my wife woke me up and said that she had a dream that Mary had touched her stomach twice and made her feel warm all over. We had been married about five years without having kids, but a month after that dream, we found out she was pregnant with twins.”

Robin began attending RCIA classes shortly after her experience with Mother Mary, and in the 20-plus years since she joined the Catholic Church, she has always been active in parish life, participating in and helping with various Bible study groups.

In thanksgiving to the Blessed Mother and her Son, and in memory of his own earthly mother, Joe still prays the Rosary regularly in addition to attending Mass

and helping out in countless ways around the parish. As the father of three young adults — twin daughters, Haley and Rachel, and son, Joe — he takes seriously his responsibility to help get his children to heaven and strives to lead them by example.

An outdoors enthusiast, Joe is reminded of the power and beauty of the Lord every time he hikes around one of our national parks. Taking in the wonders of God’s creation, he feels tremendous gratitude for all that he has been given.

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*A hiking enthusiast, Joe Davis enjoys witnessing the beauty of God’s creation in nature.*



# Saint Mark

6500 Crawford Road | Argyle, TX 76226  
(940) 387-6223 | [www.stmarkdenton.org](http://www.stmarkdenton.org)



## ***Funeral Planning Ministry*** *continued from front cover*

Ministers. They view their work as a team effort — if Suzie isn't available when a funeral is being planned, Fr. George will call on Val. She and Susan can help the family with the arrangements.

Although they had never thought about joining the ministry before Fr. George asked, Suzie believes she and the others are in agreement about what their service means to them.

"I find it a blessing that I'm able to assist them," she says. "They have so much to contend with, from the loss itself, to all the arrangements that have to be made. I and the other two get the feeling that whatever we can do to ease them, offer consolation and make it easier for them — I consider it a blessing to be a part of that."

Throughout the care that the ministry provides, there is always a sharing of Christ's love.

"A big part of why I do everything I do is to bring Christ to others," Suzie says.

"Sometimes it's an evangelization process. Some family members may have been away from Church, and this is an opportunity to familiarize them with the Mass and with the funeral process itself."

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Saint Mark