



St. Marks Episcopal Church
Called into community to do God's work.

August 20, 2021

BETWEEN THE LIONS

The Rev. Edward M. Cardoza
Rector

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Vestry Leadership Board

- Amy Van Dell - Co-Warden
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- Melissa Read - Co-Warden
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- Russ Montal - Treasurer
- Cheryl Dunnington - Clerk
- Eric Bridgham
- Lisa Conroy
- Tracey DeLeskey
- Tina Shinnick
- Christine Smith
- Rebekah Zabinski

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
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 508-543-8191
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 Contact us at office@stmarksfx.org

Pastoral Care: If you or anyone you know is in need of help please call or email Father Ed at priest@stmarksfx.org 508 261 4066 or Pat Dent at pjdent@verizon.net 508 404 6550.

Dear Parishioners,

While we continue to navigate the everchanging landscape of Covid-19, we are optimistic that we can, with an abundance of caution, return to some of our normal programs and activities. Please check out all of the upcoming activities on the calendar on page 2 as well as the article on an exciting new series - *On Sacred Ground*. Our Community Engagement Committee, led by Lisa Conroy, is hard at work planning a fun and interactive Parish-wide Picnic that is three weeks away! We hope you will join us as we kick off our programmatic year.

The ReGathering Committee is meeting often to evaluate the latest information and protocols from the CDC, State Government and our Diocesan leaders. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we do our best to offer as many opportunities to gather while protecting the health and safety of our most vulnerable.

This week, as we say goodbye to two longstanding members of our community, Ralph Brooks and Barbara Nordblum, we reflect on the last 18 months and think about how our faith community, country and the world has changed. To mark the many passings during the last 18 months, we invite you to join us for a Requiem Service on November 1st—All Souls Day. This service will offer a chance to come together and mourn all whom we have lost.

The fall also brings the return of our two services. Beginning September 19th, the 8:00am and 9:30am services will return. We will also be offering an opportunity to request individual prayers to be included in the Prayers of the People each Sunday. Look for our new Prayer Request Book as well as an online form to request prayers coming soon.

While this time continues to challenge us in many ways, we hope that our faith community can help you feel connected, engaged and cared for. As always, please reach out to Fr. Ed or one of us if you have questions or concerns.

Amy Van Dell and Melissa Read, Wardens



You're invited!

Celebrate our return to St. Mark's!

September 12th:
 Immediately following the 10am service
 (Rain date: September 19th)

Have you ever wondered what we do and what we offer here at St. Mark's? Those serving as leaders of our various ministries will be available for those who might like to connect and learn more!

The Aahhh-Roma Wood Fired Pizza truck and local Ice Cream truck will be there for individual purchases or you can bring your own picnic fare. Water and Juice will be provided. Join us for some fun, tournaments, games and prizes!

The festivities will be outside!
 Feel free to bring your own chair. Tables and chairs will also be available.

Ministry Spotlight

Hospitality at St. Mark's

St. Mark's has four groups who provide a warm and welcoming environment for parishioners and newcomers:

- Greeters/Ushers
- Child Care
- Coffee Hosts
- Bakers

Greeters/Ushers main responsibility is making people feel welcome at church! Some of the duties include greeting parishioners and visitors as they arrive, helping to orient guests and newcomers to our church, handing out the bulletins, assisting with seating, recording service attendance and answering questions. Arriving early for services, ushers help prepare the entry area of the church for services, collect and present the offering during the service and direct people from their pews during communion. Ushers can also serve at special services during holidays, holy days and funerals.

Child Care in the Nursery is provided by experienced teen parishioners. They rotate Sundays and provide a stable environment for our young children who may need an outlet for activity and play. While children are always invited to participate in the service, parents may choose to utilize the nursery to engage in the service more fully.

Coffee and Conversation is a time-honored favorite of our parish and a great way to meet new and existing parishioners. Coffee Hosts prepare and set out coffee, tea and refreshments for parishioners following the 9:30 Sunday Service. The Undercroft (Parish Hall) is set up with tables and chairs and is a great opportunity for fellowship. This time can consist of parishioners chatting and catching up with each other or a ministry sponsored activity.

Our Bakers step in to provide baked goods to supplement and assist the coffee hosts in their duties. These refreshments are dropped off before church to be distributed during coffee hour.

If you would like to join us in any of these ministries, please contact Jess in the church office – office@stmarksfx.org. We welcome you to join us in this ministry!

Mark your calendars!

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Mark your calendar and join us
as we celebrate the return to
services and programs*

September

- 12th** - Fall Celebration (9/19 rain date)
- 19th** - Return to 8am and 9:30am services
- 19th** - Youth Music Service
- 26th** - Annual Appeal Kickoff

October

- TBD** - *On Sacred Ground* series begins
- 3rd** - Blessing of the Animals—Feast of St. Francis
- 17th** - Youth Music Service
- 31st** - All Saints' Day

November

- 1st** - Requiem Service honoring those we lost during Covid
- 9th** - Annual Appeal Ingathering
- 21st** - Youth Music Service
- 28th** - Advent Begins



THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 

SACRED GROUND

A FILM-BASED DIALOGUE SERIES ON RACE AND FAITH

Join our Beloved Community by walking *On Sacred Ground!*

Become a part of the more than 1,700 registered *Sacred Ground* circles to help raise our voices in dialogue on race.

St. Mark's has a storied history of activism, social justice, and community care. From joining the Civil Rights movement in 1965, to opening the Foxboro Food Pantry, and the New Trading Post, St. Mark's parishioners have answered the call of doing God's work in Foxboro and beyond. *Sacred Ground* is a way for us to continue our work to transform our community, through meaningful examination of racial justice and inequity, forging a way forward in dialogue and reflection to better our connections and deepen our relationships. The foundational teachings of Jesus and the Episcopal Church are our guideposts in this imperative work.

What is *Sacred Ground*?

Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

The 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Sacred Ground is part of *Becoming Beloved Community*, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

Won't you join us in our commitment in action to "Do God's Work"?

For more information please visit our booth at the Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 12th or contact Erin Hunter at ecbatog@gmail.com or Sandy Cordes-Vaughan at scordesvaughan@gmail.com.



The New Trading Post

**Summer Clearance
Dollar Days!**

August 18th - 21st

All summer and clearance items are \$2

**Store Hours:
Wednesday through Saturday
11am to 2pm**

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



Last Call for Backpacks and School Supplies!

We will be wrapping up our drive next week, so as you head out for your own back to school shopping, please take a moment to pick up something for those less fortunate.

The items most needed are:

- New, full sized backpacks
- Ear buds (wired, not wireless)
- 3 hole punched folders
- binders (any size)
- Highlighters

Thank You!

Between the Lions is a bi-weekly newsletter of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Foxboro. If you would like to submit an announcement or information, please email office@stmarksfx.org. Deadline for submission is the Tuesday before the Friday distribution.