



St. Mary's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Mustard Seed Church

The mission of St. Mary's is to invite all people into a relationship with God and each other in Christ.



March – April 2024

The Mustard Seed Church
Sowing Seeds in the Community...



Mosaic in Action's continues to work on residences in the West Columbia area. If you would like to volunteer or visit with the Mosaic in Action team contact Marcus George, Construction Supervisor, at 214-914-2646 or marcus@mosaicinaction.org.

Cakes for Senior Citizen Center

Five days a week, The Senior Citizen Center's Meals on Wheels program provides healthy, inexpensive meals for senior citizens and those who are unable to prepare their own meals. To help defray the cost of the meal, area churches provide cake mixes and icing for the program. St. Mary's members are providing cake mixes and tubs of icing for the Meals on Wheels program from April through June. Each week, the center needs 4 boxes of cake mix and 2 tubs of icing. The cakes for the week are made every Monday with one cake taking two boxes of cake mix and one tub of icing.

When you are out grocery shopping, please pick up some cake mixes and icing tubs. A collection basket will be placed in the Narthex and Parish Hall beginning Sunday, March 24th. Envelopes will also be available if you would like to make a monetary donation and have someone else do the shopping. For the three months, we will need 52 boxes of cake mix and 26 tubs of icing.



San Jacinto Festival

St. Mary's will be participating in the San Jacinto Festival held on April 26 and 27. We will be having a game booth in the Kid'Zone. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex and Parish Hall for the various times. We will work in two hour shifts with at least two people per shift. You can sign up for more than one shift.

Right now, a co-chairman is needed for our booth. Someone is needed to help make sure everyone knows their shifts and be a contact person. The person does not need to stay at the festival all day.

This is a great way to serve our community and get the word out about St. Mary's.



City Wide Clean Up

Spring is in the air and that means it's community wide clean up time! On April 13th, 8am - Noon, volunteers will be canvassing the streets of West Columbia for trash, planting flowers, raking leaves and much more. Bring your favorite gloves and a healthy appetite. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

West Columbia Civic Center at 512 E. Brazos.

- 8am - Sign up and a lite Breakfast
- 8:30 - Give back to the community
- Noonish - Lunch (Taco Bar)

Volunteer forms are available in the Narthex and Parish Hall. You can turn in the completed forms to the church office or take them to City Hall.

Let's have a great turnout from St. Mary's. We may be small in number, but we are definitely big in caring and giving.



EASTER FLOWERS

It is time to order the Easter flowers that add to the beauty of our church at Easter. The suggested donation is \$15 per plant. Please return this form with your check to the church office or drop in the alms basin on Sunday. Call Dani at the church office with questions. (979) 345-3456

Deadline to order is Tuesday, March 26.

I wish to order _____ Easter Flowers. I enclose \$_____.

Name _____

Dedications: To the Glory of God and

In Memory of _____

In Thanksgiving for _____

Attach extra sheets if necessary. You can print this form and fill it out. Additional forms will be available in the Narthex or church office

HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday – March 24th (9:00 a.m.)

The Palm Sunday service will begin in the St. Mary's Prayer Garden beside the church. Following the Liturgy of the Palms, the congregation will process into the church, waving palm fronds and making joyful noises. Once most of us are inside, the processional hymn, *All Glory Laud and Honor* will begin. The service includes the traditional reading of the Passion of Christ by members of our congregation.

Maundy Thursday – March 28th (5:45 p.m.)

The service will begin at 5:45 PM. Maundy Thursday commemorates the first Eucharist, The Last Supper, when Jesus met with his disciples the evening before he was to be crucified. Please come and celebrate this special Eucharist led by Rev. Paul Wehner, as we remember the last days of our Lord Jesus Christ. At the end of the service, the altar guild will strip the altar as a visual reminder of the dark events of Good Friday.

Prayer Vigil - March 28th - March 29th (7:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.)

As disciples of today, we are the ones that Jesus asks to stay awake and watch as he prays and suffers in his final hours. Our plan is to do this by taking turns throughout the evening to be present in church with the sacrament of his Body and Blood or at home. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex with different times. A suggested prayers booklet and the Book of Common Prayer will be available in the church and for those who would like to take them home. On our Facebook page, there will be a post of the inside of the church with the sacraments and "Garden of Gethsemane" for those praying at home.

Good Friday – March 29th (noon)

The service will begin at noon. The Good Friday service commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus, the day when our Lord Jesus Christ suffered *“death upon the cross so that we might be saved and become heirs with him of everlasting life.”* The liturgy of the day includes the Way of the Cross (a.k.a., Stations of the Cross), a moving reenactment of the walk that Jesus took from the place of his sentencing to the cross on Calvary. The service continues with intercession known as the solemn collects, and devotions before the cross. The Eucharist is not celebrated; instead, we will consume all of the reserved sacrament.

Holy Saturday – March 30th (9:00 a.m.)

The morning after the crucifixion, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took the body of Jesus and laid him in a new tomb. The liturgy this morning is a short prayer service that reminds us of the contribution of those two secret disciples, and provides an opportunity to reflect on God's mercy in the quiet of a church that is empty of its usual decorations. The service also offers prayers and encouragement for some of St. Mary's important disciples behind the scenes – our Altar Guild. After the service, the Altar Guild will set up the church for Easter.

Easter - March 31st (9:00 a.m.)

Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our service will include the Flowering of the Cross, so bring fresh cut flowers or use the ones in the basket in the Narthex. Following the service, we will have hospitality and our annual Easter egg hunt for the children.



Good Friday Offering

"The Good Friday Offering offers us the opportunity to celebrate and rejoice in the hope and opportunity for the very young and the very old, for needy families, students, and many others in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. For 10 decades we have provided an opportunity for every parish throughout our church to connect with the ministry of love and compassion carried out by our Anglican sisters and brothers throughout the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

The self-giving way of love and generosity makes a difference. That is what becoming a church that looks and acts like Jesus does." (from a letter by The Most Rev. Michael Curry)

During the Good Friday service, the offertory plate will be set out for anyone who would like to contribute to the Good Friday Offering. Donations can also be mailed to the church, donated through our PayPal account on the website, or put in the mail slot on the Rector's office door. Make sure you indicate your donation is for the Good Friday Offering.



Flowering of the Cross

The flowering of the cross has been traced back to the 6th century. It is a beautiful way to symbolize the new life that emerges from Jesus's death on Good Friday. When you enter the church on Easter Sunday, the cross will be bare, waiting to be transformed into a new life of beauty and color.

After the opening hymn and salutations, the congregation will be invited to put their flowers on the cross. We ask that everyone, old and young alike, take part in transforming an ugly symbol of death into a glorious sign of vibrant life. Bring your flowers from home, or take several from the baskets in the Narthex – we want our cross to be a magnificent reminder of God's glory.



Eggs Needed

Our annual Easter egg hunt is fun and exciting for all who participate. Once again, we are asking for parishioners to provide plastic eggs filled with goodies (candy, toys, coins, etc.). You can bring the eggs on Palm Sunday, anytime during Holy Week, or Easter morning. Children remember to bring your Easter baskets.

Message from Marvin Miller

*"Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
at all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can."*

John Wesley

★ The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

BISHOP DOYLE INVITES YOU

THE VERY FIRST GRANDE TEXAS

FAMILY REUNION ²⁰₂₄

May 3-5

A weekend of fun just for us at Camp Allen!

Archery	Nature Hikes	Outdoor Movie
Ropes Course	Biking	Petting Zoo
Fishing	Labryinth	Craft Room
Swimming	Live Music	Inflatables
Paddleboarding	Eucharist	Skeet Shooting
Canoeing	Reptile Show	Yoga
Giant Swing	Pickleball	Zip Line

Total Cost for Hotel Lodging : \$210 per room

Total Cost for Activities/Meals : \$152 per person

Family discounts available
Check in at 5 pm Friday
Check out at 1 pm Sunday

Packages Include
Six buffet meals and most programming.
Kids age 2 and under are free.

Register Now!
campallen.org

The Journey to Now

CASA Volunteer Information

Gulf Coast CASA is a non-profit organization that recruits and trains volunteers to become advocates for children in our local foster care system. CASA serves children and youth in foster care who are victims of abuse and neglect. The desire is to be a consistent presence in their life during such a chaotic and traumatic season for them.

If you are interested in knowing more about CASA, contact Savannah Henson, Recruiter for Brazoria County, at 979-308-4576.

St. Mary's Website

St. Mary's website has several continually updated tabs.

Under the "Calendar" tab there are events and services listed for each month. The calendar is kept up-to-date and edited as new events and services are added. If you click on the event or service, more details will pop up.

The most recent Upcoming Events will now be featured on the front page of the website. This will make it easier to remember what will be happening, so you don't miss anything.

The service bulletin for the upcoming Sunday service can be found under the Worship tab.

A new Photo Gallery has been added and will continually be updated with the latest pictures.

Our website is stmaryswestcolumbia.com. You can access it using the link below or at the top of the newsletter.



2024 Flower sign up

The forms to sign up for 2024 flower offerings are in the Narthex. Please stop by and sign up to honor or celebrate special days in your life. The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance.

For more information call the church office at 979-345-3456.

Congratulations NICE GOING!
GREAT! Way to Go!
Yea! FELICITATIONS
CHEERS Take A BEST
BOW! WISHES!

Aaron Mikel and Kayla Katsikaris became engaged on February 26th.

Madeline Roddy won 1st for her solo in the MA Twirling Competition.

Ressie Cantrell has been accepted to Texas A&M University as an Elementary Education Major.

Kendy Hankins got a Division 1 on her dance solo at Showtime Regional Competition.

Braylee Schill placed 4th at Regionals in Powerlifting.

Abigail Roddy won 2nd for her solo and 2nd for her group in the MA Twirling Competition.

Brayze Schill was named Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association Rookie Athlete of the Week.



Don't Forget

Remember to keep your empty print cartridges for St. Mary's. All brands and types are welcomed. We have been turning in 10 cartridges a month, earning a \$20 credit. This greatly helps defray the cost of our office supplies.

Community Assistance



During 2024, the committee approved funds to help 9 families or individuals with electric bills, partial rental assistance, or water bills.

If you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Tracy Lane or Jackie Walker.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Special thanks and gratitude to

- Gwynne Olson, Justin Hussey, Colleen Matocha, and Jackie Walker for serving on the 2024 Vestry.
- Buck Barnes, Dan Roddy, Donna Roddy, AJ Mikel, Dani Mikel, Ann Kay, Marvin Miller, Theata Miller, Gwynne Olson, and Jackie Walker for helping with the Pancake Supper.
- Theata Miller, Dan Roddy, Colleen Matocha, Dani Mikel, AJ Mikel, Marvin Miller, Shyanne Roddy, Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, Kendy Hankins, Wendy Hankins, Jasey Hussey, Hannah Hussey, Justin Hussey, Jay Wiggins, Tracy Lane, Sherry Wehner, Travis Prater, Braylee Schill, Jennifer Schill, Jackie Walker, Ouida Thomas, Reesie Cantrell, Bill Olson, Gwynne Olson, Dick McGuire, Buck Barnes, Vicki Vrazel, Tonya Hagaman, Theresa Crawford, and Adam Schill for serving as Worship Leaders in December, January and February.
- Amber Prater, Jay Wiggins, Gwynne Olson, Mary Stewart, and Jackie Walker for setting up the Livestreaming on our Facebook site, monitoring the feed during the service, and responding to those viewing on-line.
- Jackie Walker, Mary Stewart, Theata and Marvin Miller, Dan and Donna Roddy, Gwynne and Bill Olson. and the Brotherhood for providing treats for our December, January, and February Hospitality and Fellowship.
- Theata and Marvin Miller for stapling the service bulletins.
- Mary Stewart for organizing the children's bags for Sunday service.
- Gwynne Olson, Bill Olson, AJ Mikel, Dani Mikel, and the Reverend Paul Wehner for serving as our delegates at the Diocesan Council.
- The Reverend Nan Doerr and the Reverend Mark Crawford for serving as our celebrants when Father Paul was gone.

You are awesome, and St. Mary's greatly appreciates all you do.

Note of Thanks

I want to take this time to once again thank Saint Mary's for the continued faithful support of our students by sending them to Camp. It never grows old seeing them have live changing experiences that one can only have at camp. God bless your entire flock for investing in these kids and enriching their lives in such a meaningful way.

God bless you,
Roxana Bolton
WEC Principal



Prayer Request

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please notify the office by email or phone. The prayer list will be updated each month, so if prayers need to continue for an individual person, please fill out a new card or let Dani know. Prayers for the sick and those in need are the joyful duty of the Christian community. Help us keep our parish prayer list current by notifying us of those in need of prayer and when those listed are no longer in need.



Camp Allen Events

Summer Camp - June 4 - July 29: Applications are now being accepted for Camp Allen summer camp. St. Mary's pays 2/3 of the cost for camp. Once you have registered your child, let Dani Mikel know. If you need more information visit the Camp Allen website or contact Dani. A schedule of the camp sessions is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Abundant Living - March 27-29: Hosted with UTMB's Center for Spirituality of Aging, this conference is designed for seniors and caregivers. Learn from field experts and enjoy outdoor activities, good food, and workshops. Experience music, nature and labyrinth walks, yoga, and the gifts of friendship and hospitality.

Mahjong Retreat - April 29 - May 1: Escape to the beautiful piney woods for this two night weekday retreat and get your mahj-on! All experience levels are welcome to enjoy and learn the ancient made modern game among friends.

March and April Birthdays

Marglet Arana - Mar. 5

Kurt Hankins - Mar. 12

Jackie Walker - Mar.17

Tommy Cantrell - Mar. 22

Theata Miller - Mar. 24

Braylee Schill - Mar. 28

Maddie Hagen - Mar. 30

Emilea Anderson - Apr. 7

Saren and Scout Case - Apr. 9

Kayla Katsikaris - Apr. 13

Kip Olson - Apr. 20

March and April Anniversaries

Shyanne and Wade Roddy - Apr. 24

Dates to Remember

Sunday services are streamed on St. Mary's Facebook Live at 9:00 a.m.

March 3 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

**March 3 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Children Sunday School**

March 3 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)

**March 3 - Youth and Adult Sunday School and children activities
(10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)**

**March 10 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Nan Doerr
Children Sunday School**

March 10 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)

**March 10 - Youth and Adult Sunday School and children activities
(10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)**

March 17 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

**March 17 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Children Sunday School**

March 17 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)

**March 17 - Youth and Adult Sunday School and children activities
(10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)**

March 17 - Vestry Meeting (11:30 a.m.)

**March 24 - Palm Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
the service starts in the Prayer Garden
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Children Sunday School**

March 24 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)

March 28 - Maundy Thursday Service (6:00 p.m.)

March 28 - 29 - Prayer Vigil (7:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.)

March 29 - Good Friday Service and Stations of the Cross (noon)

**March 30 - Holy Saturday Prayer Service - (9:00 a.m.) After the service, the altar
guild will prepare the church for Easter.**

March 31 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

**March 31- Easter Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Flowering of the Cross**

March 31 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 11:00 a.m.)

March 31 - Easter Egg Hunt (10:30 a.m.)

**April 7 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Mark Crawford
Children Sunday School**

April 7 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)

April 14 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

April 14 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Children Sunday School

April 14 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)

April 14 - Youth and Adult Sunday School and children activities
(10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)

April 21- Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Children Sunday School

April 21 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)

April 21 - Youth and Adult Sunday School and children activities
(10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)

April 26-27 - San Jacinto Festival

April 28 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

April 28 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Children Sunday School

April 28 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)

April 28 - Youth and Adult Sunday School and children activities
(10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)

St. Mary's Leadership

Vestry

Rector: the Reverend Paul Wehner

Sr. Warden: Gwynne Olson

Jr. Warden: Justin Hussey

Clerk: Colleen Matocha

Outreach Chair: Jackie Walker

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, corner of 16th and Clay Street, West Columbia
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The Bells of St. Mary's is a monthly newsletter for members and friends of St Mary's Episcopal Church. Submissions for publication should be sent to the church office on or before the 25th of the month prior to the publication.