

# St. Mark's Messenger

December 15, 2020

3502 CLAIREMONT DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92117

Vol. 47 Issue 50



**Rev. Darin Arntson**  
Lead Pastor



**Sunday, December 20, 2020**

9:30 a.m. Streaming at

[vimeo.com/stmarkssandiego](https://vimeo.com/stmarkssandiego),

YouTube and on our  
Facebook page.

Find our on-line Christmas  
Eve service at 6:00 p.m. these  
same places & on-demand  
afterward.



858-273-1480

## Keeping In Touch

When I had envisioned what would be our first Advent and Christmas together, I must say, this is not quite what I had in mind. I love learning the traditions of a congregation around these important holidays. Being brought in to the busyness and fellowship of planning and decorating and singing and celebration feels much like a rite of passage, as if being adopted into the family. I know your expectations for gathering with friends and loved ones these days have largely been set aside, too, and I grieve for all of us the blessings we are missing this year.

We have been in this quarantine now for nine full months. It feels rather like an eternity, this much waiting.

I suppose any mother or expectant parent could tell us this. And I wonder how much longer those months felt for the young mother of Jesus, without ultrasounds and pregnancy apps and monthly check-ups to mark her progress. What was it she anticipated as she nurtured and grew the divine incarnate in her very body? What hopes, what fears, what expected transformation also grew within her over all that time?

I suspect that in our waiting, God has also been at work in us. Maybe to reveal what of our former life we want to leave behind; maybe to reprioritize what feels important; maybe to grow our investment in the relationships most important to us; maybe simply to deepen our trust in God's presence. I hope that we, too, expect to emerge from these months transformed by God's work in us, into a new season of Light and peace.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Darin

***There will be no Messenger the week of December 28 as the office is closed from Dec. 25 to Jan. 3.***

**Final Advent Monday:  
7:00 p.m. Each Monday  
via Facebook and Email**

**Dec 21: Longest Night Service.** Whether you are grieving the loss of a loved one, the laying aside of plans or dreams for now; or you want to be present for the dark before the dawn, come, o come.



*This service will be delivered to your inbox and Facebook just like Sunday service. Check your inbox at 6:30 p.m. The service will start on Facebook and YouTube at 7:00 p.m. It is not to be missed.*

***Please Note Changes from Last Week!***  
**Christmas Worship in COVID Times**

Your worship team is working diligently and with joy to bring you a meaningful, inspirational Christmas worship celebration.

Christmas Eve worship will be released on-line at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 24. It will be on-demand after that. Feel free to share with friends and family everywhere!

***Please note that because of the worsening nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 11 p.m. outdoor communion service has been CANCELLED.***

On Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, rather than an in-person, outdoor communion service at 11:00 a.m., there will be a Zoom communion service. Zoom information will be delivered with the Christmas Eve service as well as at 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day.

ST. MARK'S YOUNG PEOPLE

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

## ELEMENTARY

### Cherub Choir

Thur. Dec 3, 10, 17 @ 3:30p  
K-8th over Zoom

### Sunday School

Dec 6 @ 11a  
K-6th over Zoom

## JR & SR HIGH

### Youth Group

Dec 13 @ 12p  
6th-12th over Zoom

## FAMILY

### Cookie Decorating Party

Dec 20 @ 11a  
Everyone over Zoom

### Christmas Eve

Dec 24 Churchwide

### Movie Day

Dec 27 @ 11a  
Everyone over Teleparty



## A Gift For The Staff

During this holiday season the Staff/Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) wishes to offer you the opportunity to thank the hard working church staff and ministers with a monetary gift. If you would like to contribute to this gift from the congregation, please send your donations to the church office. Make sure to designate your contribution as "Staff Gift" so they get handled appropriately. Thanks from the SPRC.



## The January/February Upper Room Has Arrived!

If your New Year's resolution is to do a daily devotional, request a copy of the *Upper Room*. They come in pocket-sized and a large-print version. They make a great stocking stuffer, too! Please call or email the office to have your request mailed to you.

**Pick Up Poinsettias, Christmas Eve Bulletins and Candles  
Wednesday, December 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the North Lot**

Staff and volunteers will be in the North Lot from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to distribute poinsettias, bulletins and candles. If you requested poinsettia delivery, they will arrive later that afternoon.

We may not be able to gather this Christmas season, but it is our hope that we can equip you with all of the elements to experience the specialness of this service in your home.



**Christmas Eve Offering**

Over the past few years St. Mark's has received your Christmas Eve offerings and donated them for a mission ministry program. Because we are a community of peace and compassion, St. Mark's will again receive an offering for our neighbors in need through the work of CCSA.

St. Mark's Missions will match your funds received for this year's Christmas Eve offering. Mission ministry has designated \$2000 to accompany your gifts for our neighbors who rely upon CCSA for their support. Each dollar received will be sent to CCSA for their on-going work in Clairemont and PB. Please put Christmas Eve in the memo line so we can match your gift with the mission ministry designated matching funds.

**A Virtual Living Nativity**

by Karen Scanlon

During Christmas week of December 21 you will receive the link for the St. Mark's Annual *Living Nativity*. You will recognize the beloved characters: The Levite in the Temple, the Holy Family, Magi and their entourage, shepherds, angels, and the fellow who caused such a stir ordering a census, the Roman governor. But due to God's particular order of events, the census was part of the plan. Had sojourners not been at the busy crossroads of Bethlehem and throughout the town, shepherds hearing the news from angels would have had only townsfolk to tell. The news of the Savior's birth would not have gone much farther than Bethlehem. It was the World-as-they-knew-it-Wide Web of the day, word of mouth. All those people leaving Bethlehem to other cities and towns spread that news like wildfire.



## Pastor's Bible School Wednesdays @ 1 p.m.

Join Rev. Jeri Wednesdays in December at 1 p.m. via Zoom as we explore the Lectionary Passages of the week. A Zoom link will be sent by email each Wednesday morning. Here are the passages for next week:

### Wednesday, December 23, 2020

- **Isaiah 61:10-62:3**
- **Psalm 148**
- **Galatians 4:4-7**
- **Luke 2:22-40**

## In Our Prayers

*Please keep all those in prayer who are experiencing grief, chronic illness, addiction, loss of direction and disenfranchisement. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### Our military personnel:

- ♡ Brook Bossen, Coast Guard
- ♡ Kris Brendal, Army
- ♡ Robert S. Chisholm, Navy
- ♡ Craig Clemans, Marines
- ♡ Paul Clemans, Air Force
- ♡ Blake Cross, Navy
- ♡ Nathan Streeter, Navy
- ♡ Lenny Hezelett, Navy
- ♡ Henry Hoadley, Navy
- ♡ Milo Riegle, Marines
- ♡ Adam Shelar, Navy
- ♡ Robert Tarango, Navy



You are invited to participate in the St. Mark's prayer chain via email. Prayer requests will be sent to you via an email account you provide; you will not be asked to do anything other than offer your private prayers for requests you receive. **To participate, please email Carol Brown at [carol.brown@cst.edu](mailto:carol.brown@cst.edu).**

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 Find us on  
**Facebook**  
Facebook : St. Mark's San Diego

## Next Week @ A Glance

### Wednesday, December 16, 2020

1:00PM Bible Study w/ Rev. Jeri/Zoom

### Thursday, December 17, 2020

3:30PM Cherub Hallelujah Choir/Zoom

### Sunday, December 20, 2020

9:30AM Worship broadcast from St. Mark's

11:00AM Cookie Decorating Party/Zoom

### Monday, December 21, 2020

7:00PM Advent Monday: Longest Night Service/Vimeo, YouTube, Facebook

### Wednesday, December 23, 2020

11:00AM Poinsettia, Bulletin, Candle Pickup

1:00PM Bible Study w/ Rev. Jeri/Zoom

### Thursday, December 24, 2020

6:00PM Christmas Eve Worship Service/Zoom

### Friday, December 25, 2020

*Merry Christmas!*

11:00AM Christmas Day Communion/Zoom

### Sunday, December 27, 2020

9:30AM Worship broadcast from St. Mark's

11:00AM Movie Day Teleparty

## Catch Up/Get Ahead

Some people find it advantageous from a tax standpoint to prepay their church commitment for the coming year. All gifts, whether they are to fulfill your 2020 intentions or to prepay part or all of your 2021 planned giving must be in the church office by noon, Thurs, Dec 31 (or postmarked no later than 12/31/20), in order to be credited on your 2020 giving statement for tax purposes. There is no "grace period" as far as the IRS is concerned!

If your gift is a prepayment of part or all of your 2021 planned giving, please make sure that you label it as such so that it gets credited properly. If you would like to find out whether or not you are caught up on your 2020 intended giving, please call our finance secretary, Arlene Dempster, at (858) 273-9938.