

The Grapevine

St. Mark's Episcopal Church



February 2026

A Note from Nancy – February 2026

It is ironic to me that I moved to Pennsylvania almost 12 years ago to get away from the blistering heat of the “sunny South”. I have liked seeing the change in seasons and the occasional snow and cold in the winter, but the weather we have been “enjoying” recently is over the top. I was extremely grateful for my neighbors who used their snow blowers to clear my drive way of over 15" of snow. The frigid temps, though, are a bit more than I can handle. I have been known to say, “you can’t take off enough clothes to cool off from the heat, but you can put on enough clothes and blankets to stay warm”. I was almost right, as long as the coverings are heated in some way.

I feel that my country has turned almost as cold as the outside temperatures. For some reason the government has turned against the “tired, poor and huddled masses yearning to breathe free” that the Statue of Liberty invites to our shores. But I am encouraged by the outpouring of those protesting against the cold and bringing warmth and hope to those affected by the injustices happening in our cities.

We are still in the liturgical season of Epiphany. It is the season during which we are reminded that Christ came into this world to save everyone, not just a few. Jesus is the light and warmth needed to break through the cold. As Christians, we are called to continue Christ’s work here on earth. Let us Love God and Love Each Other and break this current cold spell.

Love, In Christ,
Mother Nancy

*Sharing Christ's love unconditionally
through transformational worship and service.*

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

335 Locust Street
Johnstown, PA 15901
814-535-6797

Email: stmarks@atlanticbbn.net
Web site
www.saintmarksjohnstown.com

Our Staff:

Priest: Rev. Nancy L. Threadgill
Verger: Cindy Leap
Organist: Dolly Lopresti
Treasurer: Pam Hysong
Secretary: Joanne McKinley
Sexton: Nikki Forsythe

The Vestry:

Senior Warden:
Lisa Bell-Loncella
Colleen Curry
Junior Warden: Richard Burkert
Secretary: Doug Zawiskie
Treasurer: Pam Hysong

2026

Lisa Bell-Loncella
Richard Burkert
Tina Grata

2027

Donovan Pendell
Doug Zawiskie
Colleen Curry

2028

Louise Mead
Valarie Schultz
Cynthia Frank

*Please remember
St. Mark's Church in your will.*

From the Discernment Committee

Members of Discernment Committees and Senior Wardens of St. Mark's and St. Francis in the Fields met with Bishop Ketlen Solak on Thursday, January 15, 2026. The meeting was requested following Rev. Nancy Threadgill's announcement that she will retire effective March 1 of this year. It was a productive meeting and all were candid sharing their thoughts and ideas.

Various concerns were aired and there was brainstorming about how the two congregations might be served by clergy until a fulltime priest can be found. Asked if there is a list of "supply priests," Bishop said that the number is limited. Most of the priests who serve as supply priests are retired and are not interested in driving from the Pittsburgh area out to Johnstown/Somerset.

All agreed that not offering a Holy Eucharist service for months on end would have a negative impact. Several attendees asked if offering a Deacon's Mass on some consistent basis might be an interim solution. All agreed that the Diocese should take the lead in identifying and encouraging people who would consider coming to the Johnstown and Somerset churches to celebrate Eucharist on a supply basis.

Bishop Ketlen shared that there has been discussion at the Diocesan level about the needs of the smaller churches, especially those on the edge of the Diocese. Diocesan leadership is aware of the impact that the absence of a priest has and is in the process of developing a "Small Church Missioner" whose ministry will be to care for the smaller churches.

Bishop Ketlen also assured all that she will be more actively involved in seeking a candidate for the priest position at Johnstown/Somerset. She also encouraged the parishes to look at what ministries might be done by the laity, such as pastoral outreach. Representatives of the two congregations assured the bishop that the shared priest relationship can work.

Also present at the meeting was the Rev. Canon Joann Saylor, the Canon to the Ordinary who is taking over Canon Kim Karashin's responsibilities working with churches in transition.

We will continue to keep everyone updated as we continue in the discernment process.

Please keep the Discernment Committees, Vestries of both parishes and this process in your prayers as we begin the search anew with the new year! See the prayers on the next page.

Colleen Curry (potsie1008@hotmail.com) & Richard Burkert rburkert89@outlook.com)

St. Mark's Discernment Committee Co-chairs

St. Mark's Website: <https://saintmarksjohnstown.com/our-search-for-a-new-priest-2025/>

St. Francis Website: <https://www.saintfrancisinthefields.org/our-search-for-a-new-priest>

Prayers for our Search

Prayer for Guidance during our Discernment Process

Gracious and loving God, you teach us that things happen in your time. As we continue to wait for clergy candidates, encourage us, the people of St. Francis in the Fields and St. Mark's Episcopal Churches, to grow steadfastly in our ministries to love and serve our neighbors by sharing the Good News in Jesus Christ.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we open our hearts and minds to new opportunities and ideas, following where you lead — knowing that Jesus Christ walks with us each step of the way. As this discernment period evolves, empower the members of our Vestries and Discernment Committees to share their thoughts openly and honestly; to respect the opinions of others; and to encourage humility, patience, and joy.

Finally, instill in us a glorious vision of the future: one where we are united in love and ministry in fulfilling the mission of our baptismal vows; through our savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

For a New Priest

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, we humbly ask you to supply your grace to all priests who are called to the ministry of your peoples. Fill them with the Holy Spirit, the truth of your doctrine, and clothe them with piety so that they may faithfully serve where they are called. Open their hearts to the possibility and consideration of a new path whereby they may serve you. We beseech you to guide to us, the pastor you would have shepherd your people at St. Mark's and St. Francis in the Fields. Open the hearts of these parish families to acceptance of your choice for us, so that together, we may increase our faith, devotion, and obedience, and be prepared to readily do the good works you have planned for us to do. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

News of Note

Annual Stewardship Campaign

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart ...

for God loves a cheerful giver.

As we close out 2025 and enter into 2026, we can look back at the past year with gratitude. St. Mark's Episcopal Church is closing out another year of faithful ministry. Because of your gifts, we have continued to do important work. As we work to be good stewards, St. Mark's Church embodies our mission to "Share Christ's love unconditionally through transformational worship and service."

If you have already submitted your pledge card, THANK YOU! If not, there is still time. Pledge cards can be obtained by calling the church office or on the web site. **Pledge payments can now be made online!** <https://saintmarksjohnstown.com/give-to-support-st-marks-and-its-ministries/>

Mark your Calendars!

Special Celebration for Mother Nancy

5 PM, Sunday, March 1

The Boulevard Grill

Watch for more information in your mailbox soon!

For Guidance

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. (BCP, p 832)

Sharing Christ's love unconditionally
through transformational worship and service.

St. Mark's Annual Pledge Campaign

STEWARDSHIP

Time • Talent • Treasure

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

As we near the end of 2025, we can look back at the past year with gratitude. St. Mark's Episcopal Church is closing out another year of faithful ministry.

Because of your gifts, we have continued to do important work. We have welcomed new people and families to the congregation. We have maintained our ministries – weekly worship, the choir, pet food ministry, and others. We have shared celebrations and sorrows. We have strengthened our bond with St. Francis in the Fields congregation in Somerset, as we jointly seek to discern our shared futures and leadership.

As we work to be good stewards, St. Mark's Church will embody the mission that the Vestry adopted in 2020:

Sharing Christ's love unconditionally through transformational worship and service.

During Advent, the Vestry reaches out to each member of St. Mark's Church parish, asking you to make a commitment to support the Annual Pledge Campaign.

Please join the Vestry, clergy and the stewardship team in making a commitment to sustaining our beloved St. Mark's Church while we work to discern what God will have us do!

When you receive the 2026 Pledge letter and card, please fill it out and make your commitment to our church, our work, and our community.

A copy is available on the Church website.

(<https://saintmarksjohnstown.com/stewardship/>)

*The Rev. Nancy Threadgill, Priest-in-Charge,
St. Mark's Stewardship Team, and The Vestry*



2026 CHURCH ENVELOPES & PLEDGE PAYMENTS

Pledge Cards are available through the church office (call (814) 535-6797 or email: stmarks@breezelinebiz.net).

The 2026 Offering envelopes may be picked up at the church during regular office hours.

The 2025 Statements will be sent through the mail next week.

There are several ways you may make your pledge payments:

- **By mail:** send to the church
- **In the offering plate** on Sunday
- **In person in the Office:** Tuesday through Friday 9:30 to 3:00
- **Online at:** <https://saintmarksjohnstown.com/give-to-support-st-marks-and-its-ministries/>

The Envelope, Please

Offering envelopes for 2026 are available. We ask your assistance with the task of counting and recording the offering each week. Please include the following on the envelope:

- Your name
- The amount
- Indicate if cash or check
- Indicate if for regular donation (i.e. pledge) or a contribution to a special ministry
 - Heat & Snow Removal (first Sunday)
 - Building Campaign (second Sunday)
 - Missions (third Sunday)
 - Pastoral Care (fourth Sunday)
 - Flowers or Memorials
 - Pet Food Pantry
 - Organ Fund
 - Other special collection

How much we give and to which ministries is always between us and God. These details will help assign all donations to the proper category for accurate bookkeeping. They also ensure that your donation is properly recorded for your annual statement. And when you run out, please ask for more envelopes.

Many Thanks from the Treasurer and Counters

Calendar and Hospitality Committee Tentative Plans for the Coming Months

February:

- Shrove Tuesday, February 17
- Ash Wednesday, February 18
- Chicken & Biscuit Take-Out (2/21)
- Compline (2/25, 8 PM)
- Farewell Celebration of Ministry for Mother Nancy (2/28)

March:

- Saturday's Kitchen (3/7)
- Ham Loaf Prep (3/14 or 3/21)
- Compline (3/18, 8 PM)
- Palm Sunday (3/29)

April:

- Maundy Thursday (4/2)
- Good Friday (4/3)
- Easter (4/5)
- Compline (4/15, 8 PM)

May:

- Pot Luck Brunch (5/3)
- Mother's Day (5/10)
- Calendar Committee meeting (5/19)
- Memorial Day (5/25)

Children's Church is Here!

Our Children's Church began two years ago on the first Sunday of Advent in the "Children's Corner" of the Fellowship Hall. The children meet from the beginning of the service (9:00) and join the congregation at the Peace to celebrate the Eucharist. There are no age limits at this time, but the lessons will be best suited for children between 2 and 12.

Volunteers are needed to assist – please reach out to Lyssa Nickle-Madden at 229-630-2499 or by email at lyssanickle@hotmail.com if interested.



Readers and Greeters – February, March & April 2026

Sunday	*	Readers	Greeters & Ushers
February 1	HE	Richard Burkert & Donna Carosi	Sam & Heidi Buchan
February 8	MP	Doug Zawiskie & Pam Hysong	Jane & Gerry Strittmatter
February 15	HE	Joann Lacko & Lisa Bell-Loncella	Amy & Penn Whitlow
February 22	MP	Donna Carosi & Colleen Curry	Tina Grata & Joann Lacko
March 1**	HE	Richard Burkert & Tina Grata	Melisa Babalonis & Aiden
March 8	MP	Donovan Pendell & Pam Hysong	Sam & Heidi Buchan
March 15	MP	Doug Zawiskie & Colleen Curry	Jane & Gerry Strittmatter
March 22	MP	Lisa Bell-Loncella & Donna Carosi	Amy & Penn Whitlow
March 29	MP	Richard Burkert & Joann Lacko	Tina Grata, Colleen Curry
April 5	MP	Donovan Pendell & Pam Hysong	Melisa Babalonis & Aiden
April 12	MP	Colleen Curry & Tina Grata	Sam & Heidi Buchan
April 19	MP	Doug Zawiskie & Donna Carosi	Jane & Gerry Strittmatter
April 26	MP	Joann Lacko & Lisa Bell-Loncella	Amy & Penn Whitlow

*HE is Holy Eucharist; MP is Morning Prayer. On the Sundays when we do Morning Prayer, one reader will lead the Psalm, read the first (OT) lessons and lead the first canticle. The second reader will read the second (NT) lesson and lead the second canticle.

If you are unable to read or usher on the day you are scheduled, please find a substitute or let Mother Nancy know so a sub can be found in a timely manner. Thank you. For a listing of the readings see <https://www.lectionarypage.net/>

You can find the readings in the bulletin that Joanne sends out at the end of the week. Alternatively, you can find them online at the Lectionary Page, <https://www.lectionarypage.net/>.

** Mother Nancy's last Sunday at St. Mark's

Chicken & Biscuit Take-out Dinner

Saturday, February 21^{rst}

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Menu

Chicken & Biscuits, Mashed Potatoes,
Strawberry-Spinach Salad, and Homemade Cake

\$10.00

To order, call (814) 535-6797 or email stmarks@breezelinebiz.net

Looking for Volunteers and Donations!

We already have the chicken in the freezer at the church. The biscuits will be donated by Heidi and Sam. We have two big boxes of Idahoan instant mashed potatoes, and vinegar and sugar for the salad dressing.

We need donations of the following:

- 6 - 22.6 oz. bags of Trio Chicken Gravy Mix (order from Conrad's)
- milk and butter for the potatoes
- For the salad
 - 1 gallon of vegetable oil
 - ground mustard
 - poppy seeds
 - 14 pints of strawberries
 - 14 pints of blueberries
 - 14 bags of baby spinach
- **Homemade cakes!** Please let us know if you can donate a cake and what it will be. Bring it to the church Friday or Saturday morning.

The strawberries, blueberries and baby spinach can't be purchased until Thursday of that week. We're asking for monetary donations to defray the costs and let us do the shopping.



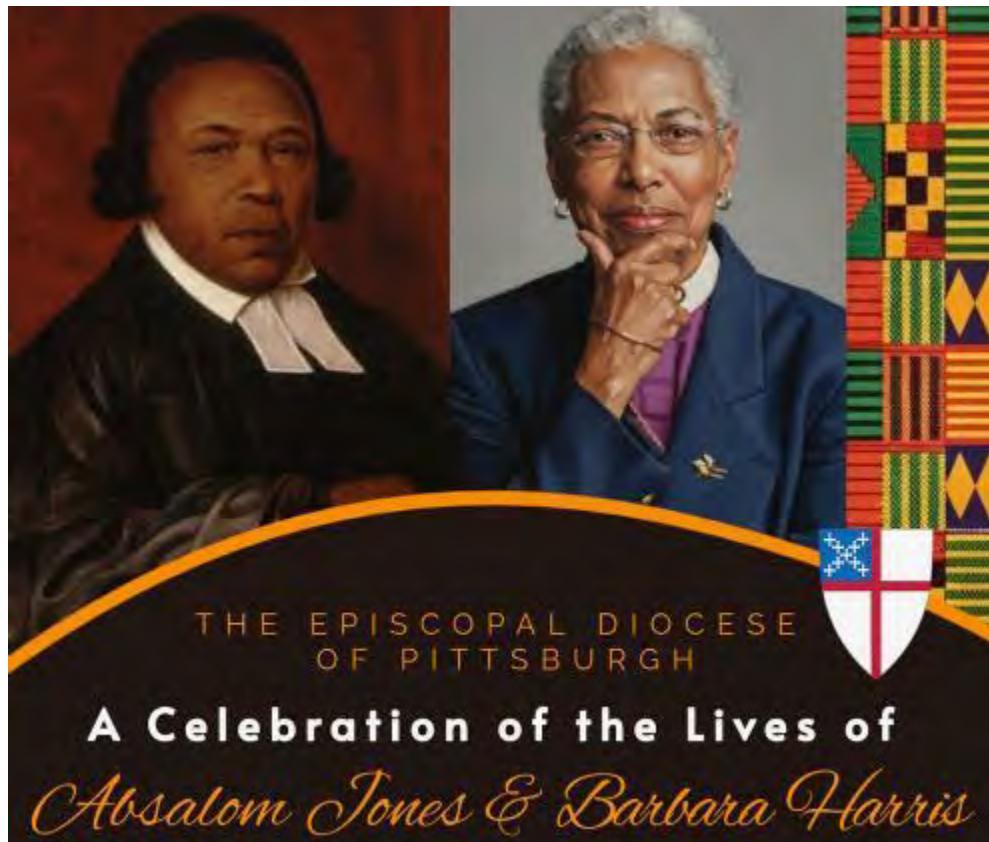
Saturday, February 7, 2025 at 1 p.m.
Trinity Cathedral
328 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Welcome all and join us at Trinity Cathedral for a Celebration and Eucharist of the lives and ministries of the Rev. Absalom Jones and the Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris on Saturday, February 7, at 1 p.m.

[Absalom Jones](#) was the first African American to be ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church in 1802. [Barbara Harris](#) was the first woman to be ordained a bishop in the Episcopal Church, and in the Anglican Communion, in 1989.

The Celebration will feature the **Right Rev. Ketlen A. Solak**, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, as celebrant and the **Rev Charles L. Fischer, III**, Vice-President for Seminary Advancement at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Priest-in-Charge, The Church of the Holy Cross, Homewood, as the preacher.

So we can best plan for hospitality and light refreshments, [please register here](#).



Sunday Worship Schedule for February

The Service begins at 10:00 AM

1rst & 3rd Sunday of the month

Holy Eucharist

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

Morning Prayer

Compline Wednesday Evenings

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 8 PM via Zoom for Compline, the “good night prayer of the church”. We'll meet on the fourth Wednesday, February 25 , but on the third Wednesday in March (3/18) and April (4/15). An email with a copy of the service bulletin and the Zoom link will go out the beginning of each week.



*Guide us waking and guard us sleeping
That awake we may watch with Christ
And asleep we may rest in peace.*



For those who may not be aware, our diocese produces a monthly e-letter titled *Grace Happens*. If you are not already a subscriber go to <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/resources/grace-happens/> and you will be redirected to the sign up page.



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ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Well another year has begun here at the Pet Pantry and we are seeing new families coming to us for help. Because of the generosity of so many, during the months of November and December, we can continue to keep our doors open. Thank you to those who continue to support us in the New Year: Bill & Cathy Sampson, J Sharon Flick, Marion Gaydos, Valerie Kasper, Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Hess, Carol & Lou Schaffer, Annika & Casen Bracken, Elizabeth Shearman, Wendy Arcurio, Tom Birk, Pat Taylor, John & Betty Gritzer, Theresa Kosaber, Linda Cordes, Tim Cicotello, Patricia Valari, Joanne Ondecko, Carol Harp, Helen Petruska, Mary Milavec.

During the month of January, we assisted **115** Families which included 7emergency walk ins during the month.

We gave out a total of 421 lbs. of dog food, 51 lbs. of puppy food, 680 lbs. of cat food and 165 lbs. of kitten food.

We are seeing an increase in so many stray cats. We hope that in the upcoming months families will take an interest in our low-cost spay-neuter program that is sponsored by the Nardecchia Spay-Neuter Foundation.

Our total distribution for January:

Dry Food Dog 472 Cats 845 Pounds

We are proud and grateful for all of our volunteers who continue to help us.

The Pantry will be open on Thursday, February 5th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Thank you for your continued support.

Cynthia Greig and Joanne McKinley



2026 Weekly Altar Flowers & Monthly Altar Candles

Donation price is \$30 a Sunday for flowers and \$8 a month for candles.
Please contact Parish Office with your requests.

We have openings for the entire year.

February 15 (2)
April: 5 (1), 12 (2)
May: 10 (1), 17 (1), 24 (2)

During Lent, February 18th through April 3rd, there are no flowers on the Altar.
However, if you wish, you can request a seven-day sanctuary candle which
will burn in the Lady Chapel in honor of your loved one.



Fuel & Snow Removal

During the next few months, the extra collection for the First Sunday of the Month will help defray the cost of our heating and snow removal.

BUILDING CAMPAIGN

The Extra Collection for the Second Sunday of the month will help defray the cost of our numerous work projects throughout the Church.



Vestry Meeting
Sunday
February 15th
Following the 10 AM Service
Also on Zoom

Missions

All families of the church are encouraged to donate \$1.00 on the third Sunday of each month (Feb. 15th) for our Missions Offering.
Please mark your donation separately for MISSIONS.

Pastoral Care

All families of the church are encouraged to donate one dollar on the fourth Sunday of the month (Feb. 22nd) for Pastoral Care.
Please mark your donation separately for Pastoral Care.

Remember Today In Your Prayers:

Stacy Moskal,, Jane & Gerry Strittmatter, Cynthia Frank, Cindy Leap, Carol Adams, Louise Mead, Susan Kelly & Mike Teore, Catherine McCloskey, Maryann Marchl, Rick McKinley, David Wertz & Rebecca Church, Stacy Moskal, Ardean Kreasko, Dan & Rosalie Danchanko.

Continue to Remember In Your Personal Prayers:

Donovan Pendell, Cynthia Greig, Bill & Doris Horner, Dottie Venet, Bonnie Murray, Vince & Irene Joyce, Richard Burkert, Regina Hoover, Shawn & Tyler McKinley, Keith Hipp, Marlene Rhin, Lou Hoffer.



Help us keep our Prayer List up to date

If you wish to add a loved one to the list please call the office (814-535-6797) or email (stmarks@atlanticbbn.net). Please also let us know if you wish to remove the name of those who have recovered or passed on.



No February Anniversaries



Happy February Birthdays

Name

Date

Name

Date

Sam Buchan

3

Stacy Moskal

15

Dolly Lopresti

6

Tina Grata

22

Lauren Grata

9

Mother Nancy

23

If we have forgotten your Birthday or Anniversary, please let us know. Call the office with your information (814-535-6797) or email us at stmarks@atlanticbbn.net.

Thanks, Joanne

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
February						
1 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rt II Church & Zoom	2	3	4	5 PET FOOD PANTRY 10:00 AM TO 1:00 P	6	7
8 10:00 AM Morning Prayer Rt II Church & Zoom	9	10	11	12	13	14  Happy Valentine's Day
15 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rt II Church & Zoom	16 Presidents' Day	17	18 Ash Wednesday 7:30 PM	19	20	21 CHICKEN & BISCUIT TAKE OUT 11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM Prep work Chicekn Biscuit
22 10:00 AM Morning Prayer Rt I Church & Zoom	23	24	25 Compline 8 PM Zoom	26	27	28
1 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rt II Church & Zoom Mother Nancy's Last Sunday				2-14 Valentine's Day Take Out Lunch 11:30 am 2-18 Ash Wednesday 7:30 pm 3/5 Ashes to Go: 8:00 am to 10:00 am 3-1 Mother Nancy's Last Sunday		