



The Grapevine
St. Mark's Episcopal Church



June 2026

A Note from the Wardens – June 2026

What a wonderful turnout we had for Pentecost Sunday at St. Francis! And on Trinity Sunday, we hosted our brothers and sisters from St. Francis in the Fields! It was wonderful sharing worship!

The month of June will bring two Sundays of Holy Eucharist. The Rev. Norm Erb-White will officiate at St. Mark's on June 14. On Sunday, June 28th The Rev. Regis Smolko will be presiding. Our Lay Worship Ministers will lead the service of Morning Prayer on June 7 and June 21.

In the coming weeks you see more small changes to our Sunday worship. On the Sundays when we have Holy Eucharist, we will have a procession. The readers will share in reading the Prayers of the People: one reader will read the Old Testament and New Testament lessons and lead the Psalm while the other reader will lead the Prayers of the People.

In the coming weeks there will be a training session for all acolytes: and introduction for new acolytes and refresher for seasoned ones. More details coming soon!

A trivial liturgical note: During the “long green season” after Pentecost Sunday, the lectionary provides two offerings for the Old Testament reading and a Psalm that complements the theme of the reading. As there are many more books of the Old Testament, this arrangement introduces us to more of the scriptures. We are in Year A and for the past two cycles of Year A, Mother Nancy selected the readings from Track 2. This year we’ll follow Track 1. The Old Testament readings in Track 1 follow the major stories and themes and we read them mostly continuously from week to week. We begin with Genesis in Year A (fitting since the OT reading for Trinity Sunday was Genesis 1); in Year B we read some of the great monarchy narratives and in Year C we read from the later prophets.

Good’s Blessings,
Lisa and Colleen

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@breezelinebiz.net

Web site
www.saintmarksjohnstown.com

Our Staff:

Priest:
Verger: Cindy Leap
Organist: Dolly Lopresti
Treasurer: Pam Hysong
Secretary: Joanne McKinley
Sexton: Nikki Forsythe

The Vestry:

Senior Wardens:
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.*

Items of Note

From the Vestry ...

The Vestry is working on several big projects which include resolving the issue with the sewage and some blocks that have fallen out of the exterior walls of the church. Our Junior Warden, Richard Burkert, is working with the Buildings and Grounds Committee to get these issues sorted out. We'll keep you updated.

Worship and Pastoral Care

Two of our Vestry committee, Worship and Pastoral Care, seek individuals who feel called to share in these ministries. Are you interested in helping plan the worship service, joining the Altar Guild to help prepare the church for Sunday worship, or making phone calls and sending cards to check on parishioners who cannot attend Sunday services or visiting parishioners who are in the hospital? If you feel called to one of these ministries speak to Colleen or Lisa.

Small Matters

See the message from Rev. Kim Karashin, Small Church Missioner of the Diocese on the next page. Please take a few minutes to read it and subscribe to the "Small Matters" digital newsletter.

Discernment Continues ...

The Discernment process has been happening slowly in the background. As we noted in the May Grapevine, the Diocese is also taking a more active role in trying to find a permanent priest for St. Mark's and St. Francis in the Fields. Please continue to keep the Vestries and Discernment Committees of St. Mark's and St. Francis-in-the-Fields in your prayers.

From the Calendar Committee

The Calendar Committee met May 22 to plan the calendar for June through December. We planned special occasions for St. Mark's and also identified several events around town and throughout the Diocese. Please check the overview on page 6 and the full page monthly calendar at the end.

For Guidance

*Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen. (BCP, p 832)*



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



“Small Matters.” Small acts of Kindness. Baby steps in the right direction. The mustard seed and the widow’s mite.

And in the life of our diocese and the Church overall, Small matters. Small *churches* matter.

Small churches are not “baby big churches.” They have unique gifts to offer, unique challenges to overcome, and unique opportunities to meet the needs of neighbors.

Small churches don’t have to wait for bigger numbers or a return to the “good old days” to do the work of Christ in the world. Waiting for *bigger* causes us to miss the *better* things that Jesus has for us today.

As our diocese's Small Church Missioner, I look forward to Partnering with others to strengthen the ministry of our small parishes, to lighten the load of the leaders within them, and to make being a part of a small church community a life-giving, God honoring experience.

In Christ,

Kim+

The Rev. Kimberly Karashin
Small Church Missioner

What is a Small Church Missioner, and how can she help?

Your small Church Missioner ...

- Helps provide the spiritual and pastoral need of small parishes (a parish with an Average Sunday Attendance under 50).
- Curates and develop resources that have particular usefulness in a small parish setting.
- Creates opportunities for small church leaders to learn, grow, serve, rest, and fellowship with one another.

Coming Soon!

The “**Small Matters**” **digital newsletter** will be a source of support and encouragement for our diocese’s small church leaders and congregations. It will include:

- Insights into the dynamics of small church communities – what makes them unique and important, quirky and challenging.
- News about small parishes making a big impact in their communities.
- Invitations to gather with and learn from other small church leaders from throughout our diocese for learning, fellowship, and mutual support.
- Links to tools and resources designed or curated especially for use in a small church context.

Don’t miss a single edition of the *Small Matters* newsletter! Click on [this link and complete a brief form](#) to subscribe or contact Rev. Kim at kkarashin@episcopalpgh.org to be added to the subscriber list.

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

Prayer 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. Francis in the Fields and St. Mark's. 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

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Schedule for Readers and Greeters – June, July & August 2026

If you are unable to read or usher on the day you are scheduled, please find a substitute or let Lisa or Colleen know so a sub can be found in a timely manner. Thank you.

Sunday	Readers	Greeters & Ushers
June 7	MP Joann Lacko & Donna Carosi	Amy & Penn Whitlow
June 14	HE Doug Zawiskie & Colleen Curry	Tina Grata & Joann Lacko
June 21	MP Donovan Pendell & Richard Burkert	Melissa Babalonis & Aiden Barlow
June 28	HE Pam Hysong & Joann Lacko	Sam & Heidi Buchan
July 5	HE Tina Grata & Doug Zawiskie	
July 12	MP Donna Carosi & Colleen Curry	Amy & Penn Whitlow
July 19	HE Lisa Bell-Loncella & Richard Burkert	Tina Grata & Joann Lacko
July 26	HE Pam Hysong & Joann Lacko	Melissa Babalonis & Aiden Barlow
Aug 2	MP Tina Grata & Doug Zawiskie	Sam & Heidi Buchan
Aug 9	NP Donna Carosi & Donovan Pendell	
Aug 16	MP Lisa Bell-Loncella & Richard Burkert	Amy & Penn Whitlow
Aug 23	MP Pam Hysong & Joann Lacko	Melissa Babalonis & Aiden Barlow
Aug 30	MP Tina Grata & Doug Zawiskie	Tina Grata & Joann Lacko

Worship Schedule June 2026

Sunday, June 7, Morning Prayer Colleen Curry

Sunday, June 14, Holy Eucharist with Fr. Norm Erb-White

Sunday, June 21, Morning Prayer

Sunday, June 28, The Rev. Regis Smolko

Calendar and Hospitality Committee Tentative Plans for the Coming Months

June:

- Father's Day (6/21)
- Juneteenth (6/19)
- Strawberries for Coffee Hour (6/21)

July:

- Independence Day (7/4)
- Saturday's Kitchen (7/11)
- Christmas in July (7/19 or 7/26)

August

- Pulled Pork Picnic Take-out (8/16 ?)

September:

- Saturday's Kitchen (9/19)
- Fall Clean-up (9/26 or 10/10)
- Annual Parish Meeting (9/27)

October:

- Blessing of the Animals & Bake Sale (10/3)
- Bishop's Visitation (10/11)

November:

- Veteran's Day (11/11)
- Calendar Committee Meeting (11/17)
- Halupki Harvest (11/21 ?)



St. Michael's of the Valley, Ligonier and St. Francis in the Fields, Somerset are partnering again to host Holy Hikes of Southwestern Pennsylvania, an official chapter of [Holy Hikes](#). Last year representatives of other congregations in the Diocese joined them for a number of hikes. St. Thomas Memorial, Oakmont is organizing some hikes near that end of the Diocese this year.

The hiking season runs from May to October on the third Saturday of each month starting at 10 AM. This gives folks from farther away in the Diocese time to get to the trailheads. Look for announcement with details about each hike on the [Diocese](#) Facebook page a week or two before each hike. The hiking schedule for 2025 is:

- Saturday, June 20, 2026 - 10:00 am - [Bushy Run Battlefield Park](#) (Jeannette)
 - Edge Hill Trail.(1 mile loop), YOUNG FAMILY FRIENDLY easy
 - After the hike, spend time at the Visitor Center, stay for site tour, or walk the other trails on the property
- Saturday, July 18, 2026 - 10:00 am - [Indian Creek Valley Trail](#) (Mill Run trail head near Camp Christian)
 - Indian Creek Gorge section (3 miles out and back) ; easy
- Saturday, August 15, 2026 - 10:00 am - [Mount Davis Natural Area](#) (Meyersdale)
 - High Point Trail - 2 miles (out and back) ; easy
 - optional climb up the observation tower
- Saturday, September 19, 2026 - 10:00 am - [Kimberly Run Natural Area](#) (Somerset)
 - South East trails off South parking lot - 2.5 miles ; easy
- Saturday, October 17, 2026 - 10:00 am - [Laurel Hill State Park](#) (near Somerset; Pump House Trailhead)
 - to Jones Mill Dam - Pumphouse Trail to Martz Trail to Water Line Trail - about 3 miles
 - easy (except Water Line trail which is more difficult but downhill)

During the hike, we hold a service of Holy Communion, stopping along the trail to read the scripture and say the prayers, while sharing the Eucharist at the end of the hike or at another appropriate setting along the trail. It's a lovely way to have a worship service!

In addition, we believe this is an important opportunity for members of the Diocese to invite friends, family, and neighbors—especially those who might not want to attend a Sunday morning service—to something a bit different. We have found it's a wonderful way to build community beyond our four walls.

If you are interested in participating this year, please contact our ministry team member [Katie Ong](#). You can also look for information about upcoming hikes in the "Events" section of the [St. Francis website](#) and on its [Facebook page](#), as well as on [St. Michael's Holy Hikes webpage](#) and its [Facebook page](#).





St. Mark's Episcopal Church
 335 Locust Street
 Johnstown, Pa. 15901



ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Well, these months are just flying by and we are starting to see an increase in the Families coming to us for help. The Cost of Food is High, Utilities are High, and Families are Struggling to Keep their Pets!

We are blessed to have many generous donors: Barbara Brown, James & Carol Bezek, Carol Harp, Bill & Cathy Sampson, Valerie Kasper, Diana Mock, John & Betty Gritzer, Dennis & Carol Loushe, Tim Cicotello, Theresa Kosaber, Lou & Carol Schaffer, Heidi Lanzendorfer (Cinnamon's Closet), Donna Rzasz, John & Sharon Flick, Marion Gaydos, Annett Kristofco, Chris & Delbert Hess, Wendy Arcurio, Elizabeth Shearman, Helen Petruska, Pam Vescovi, and Helen Petruska. We give thanks for their continued generosity.

During the month of May we were able to assist 122 Families - including 10 new families!

We were able to help feed: 150 Dogs and 28 Puppies
 504 Cats and 111 Kittens

Totals for the month of May were:

Dogs: Dry food 654 lbs 0 Cans Puppy Dry 102 lbs

Cats: Dry food 796 lbs 60 Cans Kitten Dry: 254 lbs

Total for January thru May:

Dogs: Dry food 4,822 lbs

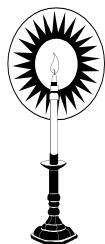
Cats: Dry food 9,302 lbs

A special "thank you" to our volunteers. If you would like to help and can spare a few hours once a month, please call Joanne at the office.

Pet Food Date June 4th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Cynthia Greig, Joanne McKinley

2024 Weekly Altar Flowers & Monthly Altar Candles



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

6/7 (1), 6/14 (1), 6/21 (2), 6/28 (2)
8/2 (1), 8/30 (1), 9/20 (1), 9/27 (1)
10/4 (1), 10/18 (1), 10/25 (2)
11/1 (1), 11/8 (1), 11/15 (2), 11/22 (1), 11/29 (1)
12/27 (1)



Animal Welfare Ministry

The First Collection of the Month will be for our Animal Welfare Ministry. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.



BUILDING FUND CAMPAIGN

The second collection of the month is for our Building Fund Campaign. There are major repairs needed at the Narthex of the Church due to water damage from the roof. Your continued generosity towards the Building Fund Campaign is making it happen!

Missions

All families of the church are encouraged to donate one dollar on the Third Sunday of each month for Missions. Please be sure to mark your donation separately for Missions.

Pastoral Care

All families of the church are encouraged to donate one dollar on the fourth Sunday of each month for our Pastoral Care. Please be sure to mark your donation separately for Pastoral Care.

VESTRY MEETING

Thursday, June 18th

6:30 PM

Also on Zoom

DONATE ONLINE

Pay your pledge or donate to our special collections online using PayPal or a Credit Card. Go to the Donate page of our website to make your donation:

<https://saintmarksjohnstown.com/give-to-support-st-marks-and-its-ministries/>

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

JUNE

May 31
10:00 AM
Holy Eucharist Rt II
Church & Zoom
Trinity Sunday

1

2

3

4
PET FOOD PANTRY
10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

5

6

7
10:00 AM
Morning Prayer I
Church & Zoom

8

9

10

11

12

13

14
10:00 AM
Holy Eucharist Rt I
Church & Zoom

15

16

17

18
Vestry Meeting 6:30
Church & Zoom

19

20

21
10:00 AM
Morning Prayer II
Church & Zoom
Father's Day

22

23

24

25

26

27

28
11:30 AM
Holy Eucharist
Church & Zoom

29

30

6-21 Happy Father's Day
Strawberrie & Ice Crea for Coffee Hour 6/21

