



*The Grapevine*  
**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**



**July 2026**

From the Wardens – July 2026

It is hard to believe we are already in July - summer seems to be going quickly!

We have been blessed to be able to celebrate Holy Eucharist at least twice per month, thanks to the Rev. Kim Karashin and her scheduling of supply priests! Thank you for helping to make these priests feel welcome at St. Mark's!

There is some good news related to our search for a permanent priest. The Diocese has hired The Rev. Canon Wes Smedley as the Canon to the Ordinary for Clergy and Congregational Care and Transitions. He starts on July 1 and will be celebrating Holy Eucharist at St. Mark's on July 12. We are hopeful that the filling of this important Diocesan position will mean more active movement on our discernment process. We are looking forward to hosting Canon Wes+ and introducing him to St. Mark's wonderful parish family. Please continue to keep the Vestries and Discernment Committees of St. Mark's and St. Francis in the Fields in your prayers.

Our Buildings and Grounds Committee has been working diligently addressing issues related to the municipal requirement that all sewer lines pass a pressure test. The project is now complete!! Many thanks to Richard Burkert, our Junior Warden and members of the committee: Sam Buchan, Mike Teore Penn Whitlow and Doug Zawiskie.

Many thanks also to all who helped clean the courtyard and front of the church. Sam and Heidi cleared who the weeds from between the pavers in the labyrinth; René, Trish, Julia, Kitty, Valarie, Amy, Joanne and Nikki who beautified the courtyard and flower beds. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Please check out the news and events in the pages that follow. We have many things happening! Hope you will join us!

God's Blessings,

Lisa, Colleen and Richard

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

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
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Johnstown, PA 15901  
814-535-6797

Email: [stmarks@breezelinebiz.net](mailto:stmarks@breezelinebiz.net)

Web site  
[www.saintmarksjohnstown.com](http://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.*

## 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.*

## From the Calendar & Hospitality Committee

The Calendar & Hospitality Committee met Thursday, May 22 to plan for the coming months. Some exciting events are planned, but many hands are needed for them to be successful. We're hoping to have several pot-luck dinners following the service throughout the fall. Thank you to all the Coffee Hour hosts. The Fellowship has been wonderful!! For our take-out dinners and bake the sale, we need one or two people to coordinate each and then helpers and donations. When planning we tried to schedule only one event each month so we won't wear ourselves out. Here is a tentative list:

- August Pulled Pork Picnic — August 8 (tentative)
  - Heidi and Sam Buchan have agreed to coordinate
- Pot luck with the Annual Parish Meeting , September 27
- Fall Cleanup (9/26, rain date 10/10)
- October Bake Sale— October 3
  - We need a coordinator
- Special Coffee hour for the Bishop's visit—October 11
- November Halupki Harvest Dinner— November 21
  - Sam and Heidi Buchan and Doug Zawiskie
- Pot Luck and Greening of the Church the 4th Sunday of Advent—December 20



## What's Happening July through December

### July

- 4th of July
- Saturday's Kitchen (7/11)
- Sips, Savories & Sweets at St. Francis (7/31, rain date 8/1)

### August

- Pulled Pork Picnic Lunch (8/15)

### September:

- Saturday's Kitchen (9/19)
- Annual Parish Meeting (9/27)
- Fall Cleanup (9/26, rain date 10/10)

### October:

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

### November

- Diocesan Convention (11/15)
- Calendar Committee Meeting (11/18)
- Halupki Harvest Dinner (11/22)
- Thanksgiving (11/27)

### December

- Advent Quiet Day (12/6)
- Greening of the Church (12/21)
- Blue Christmas (12/21)
- Christmas Eve Services (12/24, 6PM)
- Lessons & Carols (1/4)

## Readers and Greeters — July, August & September 2026

| Sunday       |    | Readers                              | Greeters & Ushers                |
|--------------|----|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| July 5       | HE | Tina Grata & Doug Zawiskie           | Amy & Penn Whitlow               |
| July 12      | HE | Lisa Bell-Loncella & Donna Carosi    | Tina Grata & Joann Lacko         |
| July 19      | MP | Colleen Curry & Richard Burkert      | Colleen Curry & Richard Burkert  |
| July 26      | HE | Pam Hysong & Joann Lacko             | Sam & Heidi Buchan               |
| August 2     | MP | Tina Grata & Doug Zawiskie           | Tina Grata & Joann Lacko         |
| August 9     | HE | Donna Carosi & Donovan Pendell       | Melissa Babalonis & Aiden Barlow |
| August 16    | MP | Lisa Bell-Loncella & Richard Burkert | Amy & Penn Whitlow               |
| August 23    | HE | Colleen Curry & Joann Lacko          | Sam & Heid Buchan                |
| August 30    | HE | Tina Grata & Doug Zawiskie           | Amy & Penn Whitlow               |
| September 6  | MP | Donna Carosi & Donnovan Pendell      | Tina Grata & Richard Burkert     |
| September 13 | MP | Pam Hysong & Joann Lacko             | Joann Lacko & Colleen Curry      |
| September 20 | MP | Colleen Curry & Richard Burkert      | Melissa Babalonis & Aiden Barlow |
| September 27 | MP | Tina Grata & Doug Zawiskie           | Sam & Heid Buchan                |

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

For a listing of the readings see <https://www.lectionarypage.net/#july> We are using Track 1 for the Old Testament lesson & the Psalm.

### Worship Schedule Juli 2026

Sunday, July 5, Holy Eucharist with Fr. Norm Erb-White  
 Sunday, July 12, Holy Eucharist with Canon Wes Smedley  
 Sunday, July 19, Morning Prayer  
 Sunday, Jume 28, Holy Eucharist with Fr. Norm Erb-White

### Saturday's Kitchen

St. Mark's will be serving at Saturday's Kitchen July 19th from 10:30 to 12:30.

We are in need of at least 6 volunteers to help assemble dinners and serve.

Please call Kitty Batrus at 814-288-1848  
 or email [kittyb2666@gmail.com](mailto:kittyb2666@gmail.com)



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 2026 is:

The hiking schedule for 2025 is:

**Saturday, July 18, 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, August 15, 2025 - 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 web-site](#) and on its [Facebook page](#), as well as on [St. Michael's Holy Hikes website](#) and its [Facebook page](#).



## Happenings at St. Francis in the Fields

Our brothers and sisters at St. Francis in the Fields in Somerset several events in the coming months.

### Sips, Savories & Sweets

Join in the fun on Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> (6pm) as we enjoy our annual Sips, Savories Sweets on the garden patio. Please bring a savory and/or sweet to share...and your own beverage. The rain date is August 1<sup>rst</sup>.

For more information about either of these events email:

[stfrancis.somerset@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancis.somerset@gmail.com)



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.episcopalpgh.org/resources/grace-happens/> and you will be redirected to the sign up 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 number of 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 fortunate to have so many wonderful donors: James & Carol Bezek, Carol Harp, Bill & Cathy Sampson, Barbara Yerger, Valerie Kasper, Diana Mock, Pamela Vescovi, 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. Many Thanks for your generous support of our Animal Welfare Ministry!

During the month of June we were able to assist 122 Families. (10 new families).

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

### Totals for the month of June were:

|       |          |         |         |                     |
|-------|----------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| Dogs: | Dry food | 623 lbs | 0 Cans  | Puppy Dry: 102 lbs  |
| Cats: | Dry food | 726 lbs | 60 Cans | Kitten Dry: 254 lbs |

### Total for January thru June:

|      |          |           |
|------|----------|-----------|
| Dogs | Dry Food | 4,802 lbs |
| Cats | Dry Food | 9,254 lbs |

A special "thank you" to our volunteers!!

Pet Food Dates for July: July 10th (10:00 am to 1:30 pm)

*Cynthia Greig, Joanne McKinley*

## *Animal Welfare Ministry*

The First Collection of the Month will be for our Animal Welfare Ministry.



### ***Missions***

All families of the church are encouraged to donate one dollar on the Third Sunday of each month (July 20) for Missions.

Please mark your donation separately for Missions.

### ***Pastoral Care***

All families of the church are encouraged to donate one dollar on the fourth Sunday (July 27) of each month for Pastoral Care.

Please mark your donation separately for Pastoral Care.

## **BUILDING FUND CAMPAIGN**

Please support our "Building Fund" which is the 2nd Collection of the Month. We are taking care of several projects at this time. Your support is gratefully appreciated.



### ***2026 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 request.

*August:* 8/2 (1), 8/30 (1)

*September:* 9/7 (1), 9/21

*October:* 10/4 (1), 10/19 (1), 10/26 (2)

*November:* 11/2 (1), 11/9 (1), 11/16 (2), 11/23 (1), 11/30 (1)

*December:* 12/27 (1)



### ***Vestry Meeting***

July 23th  
6:30 PM  
In Person (or Zoom)

### **No Regular Finance Meeting**

For July  
Unless Needed

## **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                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>JULY</b>                                          |        |         | 1         | 2<br>Office Closed                         | 3<br>Office Closed                         | 4<br><br>INDEPENDENCE DAY |
| 5<br>10:00 AM<br>Holy Eucharist I<br>Church & Zoom   | 6      | 7       | 8         | 9                                          | 10                                         | 11<br>SATURDAY'S KITCHEN<br>10:00 - 12:00                                                                    |
| 12<br>10:00 AM<br>Holy Eucharist II<br>Church & Zoom | 13     | 14      | 15        | 16<br>Pet Food Pantry<br>10:00 to 1:00     | 17                                         | 18                                                                                                           |
| 19<br>10:00 AM<br>Morning Prayer<br>Church & Zoom    | 20     | 21      | 22        | 23<br>Vestry Meeting 6:30<br>Church & Zoom | 24<br>St. Francis<br>Sips & Savories, 6 PM | 25                                                                                                           |
| 26<br>10:00 AM<br>Holy Eucharist I<br>Church & Zoom  | 27     | 28      | 29        | 30                                         | 31                                         |                                                                                                              |
|                                                      |        |         |           |                                            |                                            |                                                                                                              |