Saint Mark’s is a community that gathers in faith, serves in love, and proclaims hope, through Jesus Christ. We are a community of people learning to grow in love for God and for one another as we seek to become the people God made us to be. We welcome visitors among us this morning, and if you are looking for a community of faith to call home please take some time to learn about the various ministries of Saint Mark’s. Please give us a chance to learn about you by filling out a blue information card found on the Usher’s Table and placing it in the basket.

Coffee with other refreshments are served following the 10 a.m. Mass.

**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday Mass Schedule**
Beginning on September 12, Homecoming Sunday, the Masses will return to their pre-pandemic schedule:
- **Low Mass at 8 a.m. in the Garden**
- **Family Mass at 9 a.m.**
- **Christian Formation for all ages at 10 a.m.**
- **High Mass at 11 a.m.**

**Modified Parish Office Schedule, Monday, September 6**
The parish office will be closed on Monday, September 6, in observance of Labor Day. There will be Low Mass at 10 a.m., but no other liturgies.

**Garden Day, Saturday, September 11, at 9:30 a.m.**
Join fellow gardeners of the parish to spruce up the garden in advance of Homecoming Sunday. To volunteer, please contact Addie Peyronnin at addie.peyronnin@gmail.com.

**Saint Mark’s Fall Parish Picnic, Saturday, September 18, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Grumblethorpe Mansion, 5267 Germantown Ave**
Join us on Saturday, September 18, at the historic Grumblethorpe Mansion and Urban Farm for a Saint Mark’s Parish Picnic. All are welcome for an afternoon of lunch, games, garden exploration, and other outdoor fun. Burgers, Hotdogs, water, and soft drinks will be provided for all. If your last name begins with A - M, please bring a side dish to share. If your last name begins with N - Z, please bring a dessert. Questions can be directed to Mother Frazier at bfrazier@saintmarksphiladelphia.org.

**Cello concert performed by Dominique de Williencourt, Wednesday, September 29, at 7 p.m.**
All are invited to attend a concert at Saint Mark’s on Wednesday, September 29, at 7 p.m., by famed French cellist and composer Dominique de Williencourt. He is a leading representative of the French school of cello-playing, and has continued the long tradition of musicians who stake a claim as both cellists and composers. He is widely travelled, including concerts in the Sahara, central Asia, the U.S., India, and the Caucasus. His work “In Tragically Optimistic Memory,” a cello concerto, appears on his second CD, a study of the Russian Influence. His program at Saint Mark’s includes works of J. S. Bach and an original piece; admission is free.

**20s/30s MINISTRY**
Those in their 20s and 30s are an integral part of the parish community at Saint Mark’s, and regularly gather for community, learning, and service. All 20s/30s ministry events are open to any young adult who is interested.

**September 20s/30s Simple Supper, Tuesday, September 14, at 6:30 p.m.**
The 20s/30s Simple Suppers will be returning this fall with the first one being held at the Saint Mark’s Parish Hall. We will begin to gather at 6:30 p.m., and Mass will be at 7 p.m. Those attending are invited to bring sides and beverages, a sign-up will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Please email 20s30s@saintmarksphiladelphia.org to be added to the mailing list, to RSVP, or for more information.
The Saint Mark’s Boy & Girl Choristers will resume in-person rehearsals this fall, with numerous precautions and safeguards in place. This after-school program provides professional training in music for children ages 7 and above, at no cost to parents. The Choristers sing most Sundays for the 9 a.m. Family Mass, and for Evensong and other special services approximately once monthly. Robert McCormick, Organist & Choirmaster, would be delighted to hear from any parents of potential choristers. Please share news of this amazing opportunity with friends and acquaintances!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES

Sundae Sunday, September 12, at 10 a.m.
Children’s Formation will begin the program year with an ice cream social! Families and children are invited to gather in the garden following the Family Mass for an opportunity to meet Mother Frazier and catch up with fellow parishioners over ice cream.

Our Soft Space, where children and their parents can spread out and be comfortable during worship, is located at the back of the church. Nursery care is unavailable at this time.

Formation for children and youth takes place from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Children and youth are encouraged to go directly from the Family Mass to their respective formation classes, where snacks will be provided.

Schola (children ages 0-7): Parish Library, second floor of the Parish House. Please note that Schola and Pre-Schola have been combined for the fall.

Young Discipleship (ages 8-10): Family Care Room, lower level of the Parish House.

Connect (ages 11+): meet at the bottom of the stairwell of the Parish House; class is held in the Rectory.

ADULT FORMATION

The Adult Forum at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall
During the first four weeks of the new program year, Father Mullen and Mother Johnson will explore themes that inform our work and ministry as we look ahead, and try to discern what new aspects of ministry God might be calling us to as the church emerges from the pandemic. The sessions are held at 10 a.m., in the Parish Hall, so those who attend either the 9 a.m. Family Mass or the 11 a.m. High Mass can attend. Also, each week, we will highlight an area of ministry that’s in need of revival, renewal, or expansion, tell you a little something about it, and encourage you to get involved!

September 12: What is a parish?
We’ll talk about several ideas of what a parish is, and look at why the parish remains the fundamental organizational structure of the church. We’ll consider a little of Saint Mark’s history, we’ll review our mission statement, and we’ll look at why the dynamics of size are so important to the vitality, health, and sustainability of a parish.

Highlighted Ministry: Sunday and Weekday Servers at Mass

September 19: Getting to 200
Soon we’ll celebrate our 175th anniversary (2023). What lies ahead of us in the next twenty-five years that will get us to our 200th year? We’ll do a short exercise of appreciative inquiry focusing on three questions to explore not only the things you have most appreciated about Saint Mark’s, but also what’s changed in your life and our common life over the years, and what you dream about for the future of the parish.

Highlighted Ministry: Altar Guild

Parish Bible Study, Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the Lower Level of Parish House
The Parish Bible Study will return to meeting in-person at Saint Mark’s beginning September 23. No prior experience or preparation is needed! The focus will be Jesus’ seven “I am” statement in the Gospel According to John. Contact parishioner Jay Blossom, the Bible Study leader, at 215.922.6892 or jsblossom@yahoo.com with questions about the Bible Study.

NEIGHBOR CARE

The way we support each other as a church family is visible and active every day via Neighbor Care. This loosely-organized, parish-wide, and neighborhood-focused structure of kindness promotes care across the spectrum of its expression. Neighbor Care functions in nine clusters with eleven cluster leaders across the parish, giving the means to mutually support one another.

Second Thursday Gatherings, September 9 at 10:30 a.m.
Please join us in the Food Court at Liberty Place for coffee and conversation with fellow parishioners. Look for us by the windows—we will be the group with a red Saint Mark’s coffee mug on our table. If you have any questions about the gathering, contact Susan McDonald at susanmcdonald8525@gmail.com.