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St. Mark UMC McAllen, TX



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St. Mark UMC
(McAllen, TX)

Regular Church Schedule

Sunday:	Worship Service	10:45 am
	Live Stream (via Facebook)	10:45 am
Tuesday:	Advent Bible Study	12:00 pm
Wednesday:	Prayer Time	11:30 am
	St. Mark Kids	06:30 pm
	Youth & Young Adult Bible Study	06:30 pm
	Faith Sharing Group	06:30 pm

We have 21 pledgers who have made a faith commitment to give \$131,836 to the church next year. Last years pledge drive we had 19 pledgers committing to give \$121,220. And the year before that we had 27 pledgers committing to give \$114,630. If you did not turn in your pledge card yet, there is still time to turn them in. Extra pledge cards can be found in the Narthex.

ATTENDANCE AVERAGE	COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING	FINANCIAL REPORT
Month: November 2025 Worship Service: 66 Online Service: 11 Bible Studies: 25	Month: November 2025 Total = \$125.00* \$62.50* for United Methodist Student Ministries & \$62.50* for St. Mark Foundation	Month: Oct. 2025 Income: \$16,279.46 Expenses: \$17,994.06
		Months: Jan. - Oct. 2025 Income: \$234,291.86 Expenses: \$206,210.45

*does NOT include Sunday, November 30th



St. Mark Events

December 2025

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 (NRSV)



Pastor
Rev. Joe Tognetti
210.380.4821

301 W Pecan Blvd
McAllen, TX 78501

Church Office (956) 682-1481
Office Hours
Monday to Friday
8am to 12pm & 1pm to 3pm

Website
www.stmarkumcmcallen.org

Email
stmark.umc.mcallen@gmail.com

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St. Mark UMC (McAllen, TX)

Events this Month!

POTLUCK

Luncheon

There will **NOT** be a December Potluck. May God bless you and your families this Christmas Season!



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS now available



You can pick up an Application this Sunday. They will be available in the narthex

Deadline is **December 31st**, but please submit your application ASAP to avoid any delays

December 2025

Merry Christmas

Church Office Closed
Thursday, December 25th
and
Friday, December 26th!

Christmas Eve Service

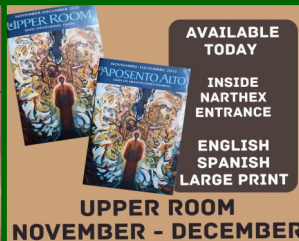
Wednesday, December 24
6:00 P.M.



Holy Communion

Every Sunday

If you are interested in helping with communion (set-up, serve, or clean-up) please contact church office.



St. Mark UMC UPWARD BASKETBALL & CHEER

Registration Is Open Now

First Practice 1/5/2026

First Game 1/17/2026

Register at

<https://registration.upward.org/UPW87041>

For more information contact Jessica @ (956) 534-7880

Staff Meeting

Staff meeting with Pastor Joe
1st & 3rd Wednesday each
month following Prayer Time
in Narthex.

One Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 9th at
7pm

Faith Sharing Group

Join us in the Narthex at
6:30pm Wednesday night
for a light meal followed by
faith sharing time at 7pm.

Advent Bible Study

During this Advent Season, St. Mark UMC will be offering an advent study on Tuesdays, December 2nd, 9th, 16th, & 23rd at noon in the Narthex. Please bring your own lunch. The study book is called *The Christmas Letters* by Magrey R. DeVega.

Christmas Poinsettias

ALL orders are due
Sunday, December 14th
2025

Order forms can be found in the bulletins or on the information table in the Narthex

YOUTH GROUP

Wednesdays @ 6:30pm
St. Mark UMC
Youth Room



ST. MARK KIDS

Wednesdays @ 6:30pm
St. Mark UMC Children's Room



Young Adult Bible Study

Every Wednesday at 6:30pm
in the Duplex Room
(East Side of building)

Prayer Time

ALL are Welcome!

Pastor Joe will be leading a brief prayer service in the Narthex. Prayer Time is every Wednesday at 11:30am.



Children & Youth Christmas Pageant

During Worship Service
Sunday, December 14th @ 10:45am



St. Mark UMC
Preschool
CHAPEL
Every Wednesday at 9:30am in the Sanctuary

Items needed

Rice
Beans
Canned Meat
Canned Fruit
Tomato Sauce
Canned Veggies
Candy Treats

St. Mark FOOD PANTRY

Saturday
Dec. 20th
11:00 am

Meet the St. Mark UMC Preschool Teacher

Hello! My name is Ms. Ivy. I am the new PreK-3/4 Morning Teacher. I have nine amazing kids in my classroom.

About Me: When I am not working I enjoy spending time hanging out with my friends. I enjoy shopping at Ross for cute outfits to wear. When I'm not busy with friends or shopping I like to be crafty and decorate my room. I also enjoy listening to music and singing.

Some of my favorite things are: Color-Pink, Flower-Pink Roses, Drink-Cherry Cola, Food-Chick-fil-A Nuggets, Movie-The Grinch, Book-This Little Piggy, Place to Visit-Greece, Number-13, Hobby-Crafts, Candy-M&M's, and Shape-Octagon.

One of my favorite memories at St. Mark UMC Preschool is celebrating the holidays with the kids in my classroom. I enjoy doing the holiday crafts with the kids to decorate our classroom and then we get to celebrate each holiday with fun activities and delicious lunch parties.

What I love about being at St. Mark UMC Preschool is teaching the kids! I have been at St. Mark UMC Preschool for about a month now and I enjoy coming to work and seeing the kids each day. I love seeing their faces light up when I get to teach them their shapes, colors, numbers, letters, and so much more during circle time.



Pastor Musings

Thoughts and Advice from Pastor Joe, St. Mark UMC, December 2025 Giving Thanks

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." --1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NRSV)

Life and ministry move pretty quickly, and I often forget to pause and give thanks for all the blessings I have in my life, my family, my ministry, and the larger world. So, that's what I will do here:

I give thanks for a loving, supportive, and strong wife, Leigh Ann, and our two "goober" daughters we get to raise, Elizabeth and Emily. Ladies, I love you all so, so much.

I give thanks for my mother, Ann, who prefers to, in her words, "live like a hermit," which is why most of y'all have never met her. Yet she is full of energy and persistence, and has been an enormous help to Leigh Ann, Elizabeth, Emily, and I, as she has lived with us these last ten years in the Rio Grande Valley.

I give thanks for my father, stepmother, three older brothers, one older sister, one twin sister, along with the three siblings-in-law, 4 nephews, and 2 nieces on that side of my family. We are spread out from northern CA to south Texas and places in between, but all of us have been blessed with similar values, habits, and perseverance that binds us together and keeps us going.

I give thanks for Leigh Ann's family, my father-in-law, mother-in-law, her two sisters, and our brother-in-law on that side. Their creativity, grit, intellectual drive, and expansive scientific and environmental knowledge have grounded and challenged me for the better.

I give thanks for my wild vocational journey, from insisting I wanted to be a lawyer and politician from elementary school through college, only to recognize that the Lord had other plans for me. I have been blessed to be on this journey for 17 years: two years as a youth minister, a year focused on seminary studies, then 14.5 years of pastoral ministry, which included two years of seminary. These ministry settings have included a huge range of experiences: urban, rural, and suburban; majority white to majority Hispanic (both in the community and congregation); wealthy, middle class, and poor; and even more differences in experiences. Yet I am grateful for it all, even when it was challenging.

I give thanks for St. Mark UMC: for the staff, Preschool, Board members, ministry leaders, volunteers, & the plethora of worship, discipleship, mercy, justice, and growth ministries we offer on our campus. Based on an inside joke between Ms. Jessica and I, I will sometimes joke that when it comes to my ministry at St. Mark, "I've had worse." But the sincere truth is, of course I've had worse, because I've never had it better. Thank you. Y'all have been a joy and blessing to my family and me. I hope we are together in life and ministry for many years ahead.

I give thanks for this blessed McAllen, Hidalgo County, and Rio Grande Valley community. I have felt so blessed, learned so much, have been challenged and changed so much, and feel at home here in the RGV, and in McAllen in particular. I can't claim I'm "Puro 956," but I am deeply proud of this region where I have lived longer as an adult than anywhere else.

I could give thanks for so much more, but Hollie needs to print the newsletter, and I need to prepare myself to eat some turkey and stuffing. May you, in this season, find ways to be grateful for the many blessings of life. Gobble gobble.

Food Pantry Thanksgiving Meal

Every November, St. Mark UMC will prepare a large Thanksgiving meal for the families that come and receive food from our food pantry each month. This year we were blessed to serve thirty-seven families with a bag of food to take home. Twenty of those families who used our food pantry for at least six months (or more) out of the year also received a frozen turkey. Once they got their bag of food items, they were invited to the gym to enjoy fellowship with church members and a hot Thanksgiving meal. We served over one hundred and twenty Thanksgiving plates.

This event and our food pantry could not happen without all the amazing people from St. Mark UMC who helped by donating items or volunteering their time each month/year. We also had a St. Mark UMC Preschool family and Girl Scout Troop 561 families donate food items for the food pantry in November. Some of the girls from Girl Scout Troop 561 also helped serve and greet families at the Thanksgiving meal. This year we had over twenty volunteers who help prepare and serve the hot meal to people in our community. Thank you!

St. Mark UMC Food Pantry is available to our community on the third Saturday of each month from 11:00am to 12:00pm. For the 2025 year, St. Mark UMC Food Pantry has helped over 45 families with a bag filled with food. If you are interested, here are a few ways you can help the St. Mark UMC Food Pantry:

- ♦ Money donations. Please make sure to note the amount is for Food Pantry!
- ♦ Shop and drop off food items (list can be found each month in the newsletters or every week in the bulletins) Sunday during worship time or during the week during Office Hours.
- ♦ Volunteer to help bag and/or hand out food each month or the months Aleida is not available to do it.

