

SUBSCRIBE TO EMAIL UPDATES
stmark.umc.mcallen@gmail.com



SEE POSTS ON FACEBOOK
 St. Mark UMC McAllen, TX



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.stmarkumcmcallen.org



YouTube

St. Mark UMC
 (McAllen, TX)

Regular Church Schedule

Sunday:	Worship Service	10:45 am
	Live Stream (via Facebook)	10:45 am
Tuesday:	Lent Study (Feb. 24 - Mar. 31)	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

ATTENDANCE AVERAGE

Month:
February 2026
 Worship Service:
65
 Online Service:
22
 Bible Studies:
25

COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING

Month:
February 2026
Total = \$191.00
Project Transformation Rio Texas

FINANCIAL REPORT

Month:
Jan. 2026
 Income:
\$30,613.67
 Expenses:
\$18,105.92



St. Mark Events

March 2026



The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

~Numbers 6:24-26 (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

Follow St. Mark UMC:

Facebook -
 St. Mark UMC McAllen, TX
 YouTube -
 St. Mark UMC (McAllen, TX)

Website
www.stmarkumcmcallen.org

Email
stmark.umc.mcallen@gmail.com

Events this Month!



March 2026



Lent Study

During this Lent Season, Pastor Joe will be leading a 6 week Lent Study on Tuesdays at 12pm starting February 24th. We will meet in the Narthex and you are welcome to bring your own lunch. The Lent study we will be using is Adam Hamilton's "Why Did Jesus Have to Die?", the meaning of the crucifixion.

Items Needed

- Rice
- Crackers
- Tomato Sauce
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Veggies
- Peanut Butter
- Beans
- Jelly



**Saturday
March 21st
11:00 a.m.**



Daylight Savings Begins
Don't forget to spring forward an hour Saturday Night, March 7th



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



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.

A Vigil of Lament & Hope



Each month, all are welcome to join together at Jackson Ranch Church (904 W. Doffin Rd., San Juan, TX 78589) for a vigil of lament & hope at the border. We meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30pm.



Staff Meeting

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



Holy communion
Every Sunday

EASTER LILIES

ORDERS START SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST



In honor of or in memory of \$10.00 each

Gather up your Coins

Noisy Offering

Sunday, March 29th



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

Faith Sharing Group



Cultos Unidos Ministerio Hispano

United Worship - Hispanic Ministry
All are invited to join the united services that are held the last Sunday of each month from 6pm to 7:30pm. Location changes each month so be sure to check the bulletin or call the church office for this month's location.



Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29th
@ 10:45am

One Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 10th at 7pm

Young Adult Bible Study

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

Project Transformation Team Meeting

Monday, March 2nd, at 6:30pm



Happy St. Patrick's Day!
March 17th

First Day of Spring

Monday, March 20th



Emily's Meals

Join us on Saturday, March 28th, to prepare meals for 45 homeless people in our community. For more information or if you are interested in helping, please reach out to Katie Klein-Garza or the church office.



New Member Classes

- Have you ever professed your faith in Christ?
- Have you or your child been baptized?
- If so, have you formally joined St. Mark UMC as a member?

Pastor Joe will be offering new member classes to anyone who is interested in joining the St. Mark UMC Family. Membership classes will be March 17th & 31st, April 14th & 28th at 6pm here at St. Mark UMC. New members will join St. Mark UMC during the Pentecost Sunday Worship service on May 24th. Baptisms will be on Easter Sunday. For more info contact Pastor Joe or the church office.



UPWARD BASKETBALL & CHEER

Last Practice 3/9/2026
Last Game 3/14/2026
Upward Awards Ceremony
Saturday, March 14th

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



WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30PM
ST. MARK UMC YOUTH ROOM

ST. MARK KIDS

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

AVAILABLE TODAY

INSIDE NARTHEX ENTRANCE

ENGLISH SPANISH LARGE PRINT

UPPER ROOM MARCH - APRIL

POTLUCK Luncheon

You are invited to join us after service on Sunday, **March 29th** in the gym for a luncheon. Please see side list on what to bring if you like!

- A-E ----- Dessert
- F-J ----- Clean Up
- K-O ----- Main Dish
- P-R ----- Side Dish
- S-Z ----- Salad

Emily's Meals

Join us on Saturday, March 28th, to prepare meals for 45 homeless people in our community. We will meet here at St. Mark UMC kitchen to prepare the meals. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Katie Klein or the church office.

What is Emily's Meals? It all started with a little girl named Emily who was just 6 years old running an errand with her dad in 2015. They came across a homeless man and bought him some coffee and a meal. So many questions came about homelessness from this interaction that when Lent started that year the idea of *doing something* instead of *giving up something* spread through the Our Lady of Sorrows community. They wanted to feed 40 homeless people for 40 days. After Lent ended this ministry continued to grow (and was named after the little girl) and it now feeds 40-50 homeless people every day! They just don't feed them they get to know these people on a personal level. The volunteers talk to them and learn their names and stories. They also pray with them and help them with their needs like housing, dental care, eye and health care. Emily's Meals provide picnics a couple times a year so the homeless can have access to medical care, mental health care, receive haircuts, "shop" for clothing, and take a shower.

For more information about Emily's Meals you can contact Rick Aguirre at meals@oladyofsorrows.org or follow them on Facebook at Emily's Meals.



Holy Week Services & Events

Sunday, March 29th

10:45am Palm Sunday Worship Service

Thursday, April 2nd

6:30pm Maundy (Holy) Thursday Service

Friday, April 3rd

6:30pm Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 5th

7:00am Easter Sunrise Service

8:00am Easter Breakfast Potluck

9:00am Children & Youth Easter Egg Hunt

10:45am Easter Worship Service



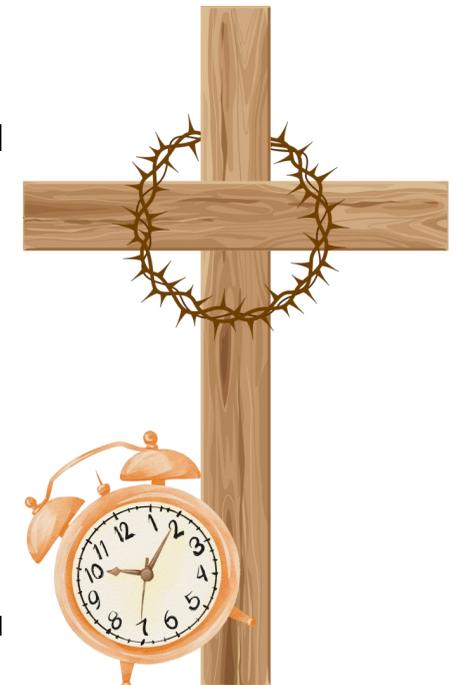
Pastor Musings

Thoughts and Advice from Pastor Joe, St. Mark UMC, March 2026 "THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME!"

"Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to the skillful; but time & chance happen to them all."—Ecclesiastes 9:11, NRSV

I took Introduction to Hebrew during the second semester of my first year of seminary, and let me tell you, learning Hebrew is hard! The amount of time required to truly learn Hebrew proficiently is, well...there's not enough time. I came to that realization one Friday afternoon during that semester, while doing dishes, and it resulted in what young people today call a "crash out." I just started saying, "There's not enough time," repeating that phrase until I started yelling, and yes, I even included some inappropriate adjectives during some of the repetitions! Poor Leigh Ann, we had been married less than a year, she was enduring law school, and she had to try to calm me down over the one seminary course that was as difficult as her law classes.

Fifteen years, two children, and five moves later, and I feel that existential threat more and more: there's just not enough time. The truth is, there is never enough time to do all of the things we want to do or think we should do. But as Jesus followers, we don't have to do it all. God is infinite, but we are finite and limited, dependent upon God's mercy in Christ merely to stay alive and connected with our Creator. This season of Lent, a season of dying to our selfish and sinful selves and rising with Christ to new life, presents a great opportunity to acknowledge that no, there's not enough time to do all of the things. But in Christ, we have enough, and no matter what we achieve or don't achieve, we are enough. God bless you all.



St. Mark UMC Preschool

by: Evelyn Callaway, Preschool Director

Springtime is here! We kick-off the first week of March with Read Across America/Dr. Seuss week. Every day the children and staff will get to dress up and enjoy fun activities all week long (March 2nd to 6th). Be sure to check out our Facebook page, [St. Mark Preschool-McAllen](#), to see pictures of each days events. There will be a Wacky Wednesday, Wockets in Pockets, Mustache Day, and a Green Eggs and Ham breakfast to name a few things happening during the week.

Next, it will be time for us to make plans for Easter week. We will learn about the meaning of Easter through reading and chapel and we will have our annual Easter egg hunt and family picnic. We have already booked our special guests and can't wait to see our families and those happy little faces at the family Easter event. Then before you know it, the end of the school year is here and we will prepare to say goodbye to our little ones who will be heading off to big kid school in the fall.



Affair of the Heart: A Beautiful Day of Fellowship and Grace

by: Jennifer Rodriguez

Pink bows filled the rooms, adding beauty and joy to this year's Affair of the Heart. As my first year chairing the event, I'll admit I was nervous--but I was quickly reminded that I am surrounded by an incredible team. Seeing new faces step in to serve alongside familiar ones truly made our hearts happy.

This year, we added a food truck, not knowing how it would be received. The response was mixed. Our faithful volunteers and vendors who were with us all day missed the tradition of the tea room, while many of our visitors loved the convenience and fun of the food truck. As with any change, we will prayerfully consider feedback and look at our comment cards as we plan for the future.

There were so many meaningful moments throughout the weekend. At one point, I looked up and saw Guillli G., and Alyssa R. confidently leading--"little bosses" in the very best way. I teared up (despite being told, "We are not crying at Affair of the Heart!"). In that same spirit, I learned that a vendor quietly asked Pastor for prayer, and he stopped everything to pray with her. In that moment, I thought, *there it is*. God places us exactly where we need to be.

I also received a humbling reminder. After a tense interaction with a vendor on Friday evening--when exhaustion got the better of me--we were able to speak again the next day and offer one another grace. I learned she lives with chronic pain after a serious accident. It was a powerful reminder that we rarely know the full story someone is carrying. As Scripture tells us, "Be kind and compassionate to one another" (Ephesians 4:32). That lesson is one I will continue to carry with me.

Our King and Queen winners were Ed K. and Alyssa R., raising \$291.74. The children have asked that their funds be used to bless the playground with something new. If you would like to contribute, please see Jessica.

One thing I noticed this year was that no one was rushing frantically in the kitchen or wearing themselves out trying to keep up. That felt healthy and good. Was everything perfect? No. But it was faithful, joyful, and full of heart. More importantly, we learned just how much so many people do that we may have taken for granted.

As John Wesley said, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can.." I saw that lived out in each of you. To those who had already served countless times and still showed up again--thank you. To those who were new and stepped in bravely--thank you. To our committee who endured my reminders and last-minute details (and accepted Reese's Peanut Butter Cups in place of homemade cookies)--thank you. Also, thank you to Mrs. Doris, who made us cookies for most meetings. Also, a big THANK YOU for her many, many years of service. With everyone's help, it was a special day for our church family and the community.

Because of your generosity and hard work, this year's Affair of the Heart raised \$7,413.00.

We are grateful for every dollar, every volunteer hour, and every prayer that made this event possible.

From the bottom of my heart--thank you.

