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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:	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:  
**January 2026**  
Worship Service:  
**61**  
  
Online Service:  
**11**  
  
Bible Studies:  
**21**

### COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING

Month:  
**January 2026**  
**Total = \$173.00**  
  
**\$86.50 for Human  
Relations Ministries  
&  
\$86.50 for Manos  
Juntas, Mexico (border)**

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Month:  
**Dec. 2025**  
Income:  
**\$27,220.77**  
Expenses:  
**\$44,657.99**  
  
Months:  
**Jan. - Dec. 2025**  
Income:  
**\$278,978.77**  
Expenses:  
**\$270,003.61**

# St. Mark Events

February 2026

*For where your  
treasure is, there your  
heart will be also.*

~Matthew 6:21 (NRSV)



## Happy Valentine's Day!



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](http://www.stmarkumcmcallen.org)

Email  
[stmark.umc.mcallen@gmail.com](mailto:stmark.umc.mcallen@gmail.com)

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# Events this Month!



**A GIFT FAIR FOR ALL SEASONS**

**30+ Vendors = Food Truck = Silent Auction = \$3.00 Admission**

**Saturday, February 7, 2026 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**St. Mark United Methodist Church**  
301 Pecan Blvd. (just west of 2<sup>nd</sup> St.) in McAllen

For More Information, Call 682-1481 or on Facebook @ Affair of the Heart



## Door Prize Drawings

*Please Support our Sponsors:*

RGV Appraisal Services, LLC Dale & Klein, LLP

Triple B Mobile Park

Dr. William & Carolin Bieker Wayne & Nancy Gapsiewicz

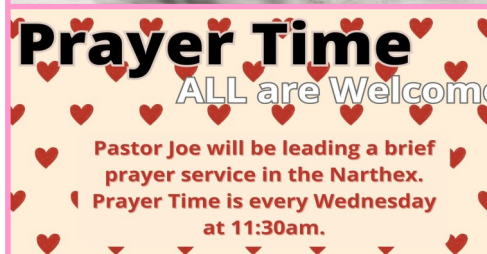
Marilyn Hardison-Star Properties Real Estate

*A Special THANK YOU to our Sponsors*



**ASH  
WEDNESDAY  
SERVICE**

February 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm



**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.



## Lent Study

During this Lent Season, Pastor Joe will be leading a 6 week Lent Study on Tuesdays at 12pm starting February 24<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## 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. Sign up sheet can be found in the Narthex on the information table. Member classes will be February 17<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, & 31<sup>st</sup> at 6pm here at St. Mark UMC. For more info contact Pastor Joe or the church office.

**Saturday  
February 21st  
11 a.m.**

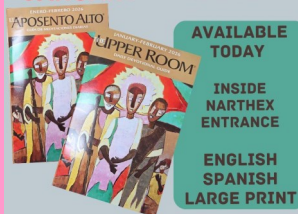
**St. Mark  
FOOD  
PANTRY  
MINISTRY**

**ITEMS NEEDED:**

**RICE, BEANS  
CANS OF: VEGGIES,  
FRUIT AND SOUP  
TOMATO SAUCE  
CEREAL**



**UPPER ROOM  
JANUARY - FEBRUARY**



AVAILABLE  
TODAY

INSIDE  
NARTHEX  
ENTRANCE

ENGLISH  
SPANISH  
LARGE PRINT



Holy  
Communion  
Every Sunday



St. Mark UMC  
Preschool  
CHAPEL

Every Wednesday at 9:30am in the  
Sanctuary



Happy  
Groundhog  
Day  
February 2nd

## 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.



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 5:30pm.



## One Board Meeting

Tuesday,  
February 10<sup>th</sup>  
at 7pm

## FOUNDATION MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>  
AT 6PM IN THE DUPLEX ROOM

## Staff Meeting

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



Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>  
HAPPY  
Valentine's  
DAY



President's Day  
Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>



Ash  
Wednesday  
February, 18<sup>th</sup> 2026



ST. MARK  
KIDS

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



YOUTH  
GROUP

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

## Faith Sharing Group

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

## Young Adult Bible Study

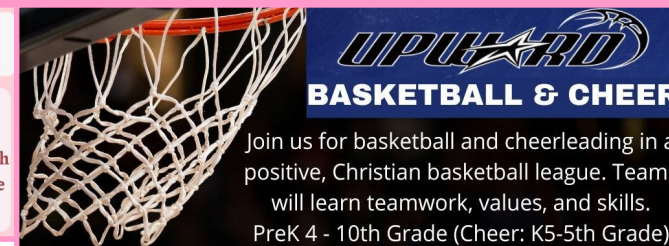
Every Wednesday at 6:30pm  
in the Duplex Room  
(East Side of building)

## POTLUCK



You are invited to join us  
after service on Sunday,  
**February 22nd** in the gym  
for a luncheon. Please see  
side list on what to bring if  
you like!

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



**UPWARD  
BASKETBALL & CHEER**

Join us for basketball and cheerleading in a positive, Christian basketball league. Teams will learn teamwork, values, and skills. PreK 4 - 10th Grade (Cheer: K5-5th Grade)



**Registration Is  
Open Now**

Cost is \$100.00 registration. Practices every  
Monday Evenings 5:30pm-8:30pm and  
Games every Saturday Morning 9am-12pm.  
Register at <https://registration.upward.org/UPW89790>  
For more information contact Jessica @ (956) 534-7880



# Meet the St. Mark UMC Preschool Staff

Hello! My name is Mrs. Vazquez. I am the Assistant Director and the PreK-2 Teacher. I have eleven amazing kids in my classroom.

About Me: When I am not working I enjoy spending time with my family. I love spending time with my granddaughter. She is a blessing to be around. I love working on projects at home, and shopping. Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:15am I get special time talking to my son on FaceTime while he is stationed on the other side of the world! I just enjoy one day at a time to the fullest!

Some of my favorite things are: Color-Purple, Flower-Carnations, Drink-Green Tea & Sweet Tea, Food-NOT Picky, Movie-Con Air, Place to Visit-Japan or Hawaii, Number-4, Hobby-FaceTime with my son from Japan (when we can)!, Candy-Almond Joy, and Shape-Heart.

One of my favorite memories at St. Mark UMC Preschool is getting to watch the children of St. Mark UMC Preschool grow. Seeing them start their journey in our Infant Room to ending their journey at Graduation in PreK-3/4 as they head off to go to the BIG school. Then they do come back in summer to our schooler classroom and we get to hear all the cool things they did in BIG school. But at the end of summer, it is the saddest part, they will leave us again until the next summer or holidays.

What I love about being at St. Mark UMC Preschool is the memories and the laughs I have with the children. Knowing that I can have my granddaughter, Namine Vasquez, here at St. Mark UMC Preschool is a true blessing! Also knowing that she and all the children at St. Mark UMC Preschool are kept safe at all times!



# Pastor Musings

Thoughts and Advice from Pastor Joe, St. Mark UMC, February 2026

## Who was St. Valentine?

*"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."—John 15:13, NRSV*  
[This is an edited version of Burton Edwards' Why (& why not!) Valentine's Day, dated February 13, 2025. Full article: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-why-and-why-not-valentines-day>].

Valentine's Day has been primarily a day to celebrate human romantic love, right? Well, not quite. The Feast of Saint Valentine was created to honor someone believed to have been a martyr-priest in Rome in the third century. Multiple stories circulated about Fr. Valentine's life, ministry and martyrdom. Some claim his execution happened because he would marry Christian couples secretly to help the husbands evade service in the Roman army. In a related story, Fr. Valentine was said to give a heart-shaped parchment to the new husbands to remind them to be faithful to their new wives. There are also various stories involving the daughter of a jailer. In

one, Fr. Valentine cures her of blindness, leading the jailer to convert to Christianity and release all of his Christian prisoners. In others, he sent her a note signifying his affection for her (not necessarily amorous), signing it, "From your Valentine."

United Methodists tend not to commemorate saints on any regular basis. And do we need all the candy, cards, and pressure our culture may promote on this day? Probably not. But human romantic love is certainly worthy of celebration. United Methodists "affirm human sexuality as a sacred gift" (2020/2024 Book of Discipline, Paragraph 162.III.C). Perhaps, since United Methodists acknowledge human romantic love as a sacred gift, prayers of gratitude to God and other enacted signs of thankfulness and care for our romantic partner, if we have one, may be a better choice. February 14 can provide the backdrop and the opportunity. But it's up to each couple to supply the most meaningful content.



# 34th Affair of the Heart

The Affair of the Heart (AOH) committee is so excited for our 34th annual Affair of the Heart event on Saturday, February 7th 2026! We have an amazing committee that has been working really hard for months to make this year's event a success. Doors open to the community at 9am and close at 4pm. Admission tickets can be purchased ahead of time at the church office or at the door the day of the event. Admission fee is \$3.00 per person. Don't forget to enter your ticket sub for a chance to win one of the hourly door prizes that will be offered.

We are looking forward to welcoming back many vendors who have been here for many years and some new vendors that have just joined our event this year. We have about 33+ vendors excited to show their products to the community. This years event will look a little different. There will not be a Tea Room but we will have a concession stand selling goodies and drinks. There will also be a Food Truck (Rod Squad Foodies) selling some delicious food at our event.

Thank you to all the wonderful people here at St. Mark UMC who have signed up to volunteer and help with this years AOH. This event could not happen without the whole church family coming together and helping. If you are still interested in helping, there is still time. Be sure to reach out to any of our committee members and let them know what you would like to do or fill out the "pink" (purple) volunteer form and place it in the basket on the AOH table in the Narthex.

This event is a great ministry to our community and church. We open our doors to about 500+ people to spend a day shopping and seeing what St. Mark UMC has to offer. The money raised during this event helps with the many ministries our church supports like: Upward Sports, Bible studies for all ages, food pantry that helps 40+ families each month, Project Transformation, Vacation Bible School, Pumpkin Patch, Preschool and so many more. It is a blessing to be apart of this event and getting to know people from our community and sharing God's love.

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# Family Ministries

Hello St. Mark Family,

We have truly been blessed throughout this Advent and winter season! Our family ministries have enjoyed many meaningful opportunities for fellowship, and we are grateful for the participation of both longtime members and newer returning visitors. Thank you for trusting us with your families and for supporting our ministry--this is not a responsibility we take lightly. We are thankful for the time we have shared together as a church family and for the many wonderful memories made during this season.

As Scripture reminds us, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" - Psalm 133:1. This season has been a beautiful example of that unity as we have gathered, served, and celebrated together.

During Advent, our children and youth shared their gifts through a beautiful Children's Christmas Pageant. We also gathered on a cold and rainy evening to enjoy the annual Night of Lights in Hidalgo, where fellowship and Christmas joy warmed the night.

Our youth had the opportunity to grow in faith and community at Midwinter 2026 in New Braunfels, Texas. There, they learned about navigating the waves of life and formed new friendships with youth from Seguin. More recently, our church family also came together to celebrate the upcoming arrival of a sweet new baby--a joyful reminder of God's blessings among us.

Upward Basketball and Cheer is now in full swing, with approximately 70 children registered and more joining each week. This ministry continues to be a wonderful way to connect with and serve children and families in our wider community.

As we look ahead to the spring, we are excited for new opportunities to fellowship and serve together. Please keep our ministries in prayer as we prepare for upcoming events, including Lenten activities, Easter weekend, Youth Summer Camp, and various ministry projects.

With gratitude,  
Jessica Sargent Flores  
Director of Family Ministries

