

2023 Parish Annual Report

Faithfully submitted this January 21, 2024
by the Wardens, Vestry and Treasurer
of

St. Mark's Episcopal Church



A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

754 Montauk Hwy
Islip, New York 11751
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stmarksislip.org

Clergy and Staff

The Rev'd M. Edwin Beckham, Priest-in-Charge
James 'Jim' Tartaglia, Choir Director & Organist
Vicky Bartolomeo, Office Administrator
Raymond 'Pedro' Torres, Custodian
Robert 'Bob' Mac Fadden, Assistant Organist

2023 Vestry

Jacqui Boucher (2023)*
Marjorie Cooper (2023)*
Jackie Wilson-Ruan (2023)*
Stuart Chamberlain (2024)
Barbara Weir (2024)
Nancy Gilbert (2024)
Kenneth Knutsen (2025)
Paul Severino (2025)
Carl Lamanno (2025)
Helen DiMartino (2025)
Laurel Questel (2025)
Breanna Questel - Youth Representative

**outgoing Vestry members*

2023 Officers

Ken Knutsen- Warden
Marjorie Cooper- Warden
Marie Conboy- Clerk of the Vestry
Paul Severino – Treasurer

2023 Diocesan Annual Council Delegates

Fr. M. Edwin Beckham
Jacqui Boucher
Marjorie Cooper
Breanna Questel—Youth

Parish Mission Statement

Making Christ known with love since 1847.

178th Annual Meeting

January 21, 2024

Annual Meeting Agenda

Call to order and prayer
Appointment of secretary of the meeting
Minutes Approval
Treasurer's Report
Recognitions
Nominating Committee Report and Election
Rector –Elect Report
Celebrations/Thanksgivings/Questions
Adjournment

2024 Vestry Nominations

Dave Cannon
Lynda Moran (Warden)
Korto Scott

MINUTES OF THE 177TH ANNUAL MEETING
OF SAINT MARK'S CHURCH
ISLIP, NEW YORK
JANUARY 22, 2023

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Father Edwin Beckham, Priest-in-Charge, at 10:37am with prayer. Tom Guthlein appointed Nancy Gilbert as Secretary for the Annual Meeting.

A motion to accept the minutes with two minor amendments was made by Stuart Chamberlain and seconded by David Cannon. Changes made were the spelling of bazaar under the ECW report and the rewording under the Treasurers Report of "2021 pledge income exceeded the budget as well as the Thrift Shop income". Therefore, we dispensed with the reading of last year's minutes and all in attendance approved the amended minutes.

TREASURERS REPORT: Paul Severino, Treasurer, presented the final 2022 financial standings and the 2023 budget, see 2022 Parish Annual Report. Questions from the floor: (1) Pinkerton income usage - Paul explained that we utilize interest income as long as we do not go under the \$1.675M threshold; (2) Diocesan Pledge, 10% of budgeted income at \$49,200, slightly less than the Diocese request; (3) Music expense to determine what expenses hit that account will be reviewed; (4) Payroll expense was explained that it was the program used to issue payroll checks through the Diocese; (5) special purpose line item included a \$100K donation to the endowment fund which is not really an expense. The balance of the expense items charged to that "Special Purpose Expense" account were pass throughs for donations of food gift cards, etc. Stuart Chamberlain stated that for 2023 there are 20 more pledges than at this time in 2022. David Cannon moved to accept the Treasurers Report with Ken Knutsen seconding and with all in favor, it was accepted.

Father Edwin asked all who oversaw one of our ministries to stand up and thanked them for the efforts. He thanked Irene Ross for all her work in submitting Saint Mark for the Community Award in which Saint Mark was awarded. Father Edwin thanked our out-going vestry members, David Cannon and Thomas Guthlein, for their service. David shared that serving Saint Mark was his passion and was privileged to serve as we found a new shepherd for our flock. Tom mentioned that he enjoyed getting to know everyone and for the Vestry members being dedicated to finding our new rector. He thanked the vestry members for staying on another year and working tirelessly during the search process.

Tom Guthlein thanked Ken Knutsen for stepping up to become Warden. Nominations for the 2023 Vestry was motioned by Tom Guthlein, seconded by David Cannon, and approved by all in attendance. Therefore, Helen DiMartino, Carl Lamanno and Laurel Questel were voted in as new Vestry Members. Father Edwin acknowledged Breanna Questel as the youth representative for the Vestry along with the Diocese.

Father Edwin shared his Priest-in-Charge Report, see 2022 Parish Annual Report. During celebrations/thanksgiving/questions, Jean had two things to present for Vestry consideration: (1) creation of a grief support group; and (2) create demographic groups caucuses to create a more equitable society.

Stuart Chamberlain motioned to adjourn the Annual Meeting and it was seconded by Connie Cannon, therefore at 11:26am the 177th Annual Meeting for Saint Mark, Islip, was officially adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Gilbert, Vestry Member

2023 Parish Statistical Report

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptisms	5
Marriages	3
Burials/Memorials	15

MEMBERSHIP

Year-end, 2022	487
Joined by baptism, reception, confirmation, transfer	5
Transfers out/inactive	
Deaths	7
Year-end, 2023	485

AVG. SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
131	130	131*	40	71	85

NUMBER OF WORSHIP SERVICES

Eucharistic Saturday/Sunday worship	99
Morning Prayer for Sunday worship	2
Eucharistic Weekday Worship	47
Private (Eucharistic Visitations)	181
Morning /Evening Prayer Weekdays	5

* Per Parochial Report instructions for 2020, includes only Jan.1-Mar.1.

Transitions

BAPTISMS

Gavin Michael Sheehy
Madison Elaine Rahner
Angelina Elizabeth Eilers
Isla Louise Morrow
Ryleigh Marie Lynster

CONFIRMATIONS, RECEPTIONS, TRANSFERS IN

None

WEDDINGS

Stephanie Leigh Schmitt & Kyle August Bollhofer
Amanda Gissi & Rudi Ramirez
Lisa Marie Galasso & Todd Barrett Werner

DEATHS & BURIALS

Martha Raman
Dennis James Collins
Thomas Eugene Garrett
Madeline Emily Weickart
Sadie R. Lasot
Dulcie Mancuso
Cecelia Marino
Michael J. DiGregorio
Joan Chase
Arthur R. Murray Jr.
Katherine Sophie Malcolm Brooks
Joan Elliott
Adriana Baldwin
William H. Cook Sr.
Anita Doris Brennan

2023 Treasurer's Report

January 21, 2024

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Opening Remarks

We continue to remain on solid financial ground.
Thrift Shop revenue exceeded the budget by over \$20K.
Income from Pledges/Tithes/Offerings also slightly exceeded the budget.
We have over \$2M in total assets.

Account Balances as of December 31, 2023

General Fund	\$ 12,825
Building Fund	\$ 22,000
Raymond James Endowment	\$ 29,765
Raymond James Pinkerton	\$ 1,908,606
McGowan Savings	\$ 125,491
McGowan Fund (Diocese)	\$ 289,585
Altar Fund	\$ 18,452
Total	\$ 2,406,724

Pinkerton Fund Summary 2023

Starting Balance:	\$ 1,944,650
Withdrawal :	\$ (100,000)
Change in Value:	\$ 63,956
Final Balance.....	\$ 1,908,606

2023 Financial Summary

Total Income: \$ 624,240

Thrift Shop:	\$ 238,231	
Pledges/Offerings:	\$ 193,100	
From Endowment	\$ 100,000	
Other:	\$ 92,909	Broken down further later in this presentation

Total Expense: \$ 615,402 (\$693,252 including parish wall project)

People:	\$ 281,901	Edwin, Vicky, Jim, Pedro. Salary, pension, health ins.
Maintenance (general):	\$ 62,603	
Insurance:	\$ 67,802	Commercial package only
Utilities:	\$ 52,481	
Diocesan Pledge:	\$ 49,200	
Maintenance (capital)	\$ 88,770	Parish wall project, church sound syst., Roe Ct. stoop
Other:	\$ 90,495	Broken down further later in this presentation

2024 Budget Assumptions

- Most aggressive thrift shop revenue budget projection for 2024 (\$216K), but still less than 2023 actual.
- Slight increase in pledge/offering budget projection based on early pledge card returns.
- Salary increases for two direct employees in line with diocesan recommendations.
- Assumed “typical” increases for insurance, utilities etc.
- Meeting the diocesan request for their pledge.

2024 Budget Highlights (Expenses)

	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	
Altar	\$ 12,669	\$ 5,400	
Almoner’s Fund		\$ 3,000	2023 Almoner’s account previously funded.
Building Fund Golf Outing	\$ 20,766	\$ 21,500	
Computer and Internet	\$ 4,433	\$ 4,500	
Conference and Meetings	\$ 2,081	\$ 3,000	
Diocesan Pledge	\$ 49,200	\$ 50,200	
Insurance	\$ 111,684	\$ 117,000	
Maintenance	\$ 151,373	\$ 60,000	2023 # includes capital expenses.
Ministry	\$ 2,502	\$ 2,500	
Music	\$ 8,701	\$ 10,200	
Office	\$ 4,165	\$ 4,500	
Payroll	\$ 7,590	\$ 7,750	
Pension	\$ 31,977	\$ 33,600	
Salary	\$ 203,595	\$ 206,460	Following Diocese Recommendations
Sales Tax	\$ 10,615	\$ 9,000	
Utilities	\$ 52,481	\$ 58,000	
Other	\$ 19,420	\$ 5,500	
Total Expenses:	\$ 693,252	\$ 602,110	

2024 Budget Highlights (Income)

	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
Altar	\$ 12,669	\$ 3,500 2023 had one time advent wreath exp.
Building Fund Golf Outing	\$ 28,610	\$ 30,000
Donations	\$ 5,544	\$ 15,000 Many 2023 donations coded as "other."
Investment (Monthly)	\$ 15,642	\$ 15,600
Legacy	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Thrift Shop	\$ 238,231	\$ 216,000
Tithes/Offerings	\$ 193,100	\$ 198,000
Other	\$ 14,293	\$ 4,000
Subtotal	\$ 524,240	\$ 507,100
Investment (Other)	\$ 100,000	\$ 95,010 From Endowment to cover budget gap.
Total Income:	\$ 624,240	\$ 602,110

Wardens Annual Report 2023

During this year St Mark's has had a number of interior and exterior concerns addressed:

- Gas leaks in the boiler room
- Gutter repairs
- Pest control for squirrel damages at the rectory and Yellow Jacket extermination in Fenton Hall
- Upgrades on lighting at the rectory as well as in the Thrift Shop and hallway landings in Fenton Hall
- Railings to the side door entrance to Fenton Hall were repaired and set in place
- New directional arrows were painted on the driveway to better manage traffic and the front steps at Roe Court were replaced with new railings installed.

The exterior repairs to the Parish Hall with new windows installed were completed with painting of the walls and window surrounds.

Landscapers have stepped up their weed control on the grounds of the parking lot gardens keeping a tidy look all around.

Evaluations were done on the church roof and it is in good repair except for a few missing shingles that will be replaced.

The north side roof of the education/office wing was also examined and will need replacing in the coming year. Estimates will be forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted,
Marjorie Cooper

Wardens Annual Report 2023

Happy New Year to all of our St. Mark's family! 2023 was my first year as one of your Wardens, and it was a pleasure for me to work with our Vestry and Clergy for our church and its ministries. We are proud of our accomplishments for 2023. But first, I would like to recognize and thank our Vestry people whose tenure has ended, Jackie Wilson-Ruan and Jacqui Boucher, and Warden Marge Cooper, for their service to St. Mark's. Marge has tirelessly watched over St. Mark's for many years, and we are all in her debt for this work. Thank You Jackie, Jacqui, and Marge.

St. Mark's serves as an oasis from our turbulent and secular lives for prayer, peace, and community. St. Mark's will first always be our haven to thank and praise our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for his blessings and gifts to us. Our services and weekly spiritual encounters are offered to all; our monthly calendar can easily be found on our website. St. Mark's also provides our facilities to community groups and ministries in their service to the Islip community. We are certainly most blessed with our own St. Mark's ministries and outreach programs, the accomplishments of each to be found in this report. Together the talents, resources and commitment of St. Mark's has been a major positive impact on our Islip community.

2022 was a transitional year for Pastoral leadership at St. Mark's. The calling for a new Rector for any church is an important and challenging process, especially for a parish that had just 2 rectors in the past 40 years. Your Vestry was focused on our calling the proper match of Rector for our Parish. The process could not be done in haste, and we were fortunate to have Mother Christina Lew as Interim Priest during our deliberations and interviews. We knew at the conclusion of this process that Father Edwin Beckham was the right fit and choice for St. Mark's, and were pleased by his acceptance of this calling. Edwin and Laura have been wonderful additions to our St. Mark's family and have provided us with new spirit and inspiration. After one year as Priest-in-Charge, and with approval of Bishop Provenzano, Father Edwin Beckham was officially elected as Rector of St. Mark's at the November Vestry meeting. We are nearing the completion of our Mission/Action/Plan required by the Diocese whenever a new priest is called. This process has allowed us to better determine the needs of our community and how St. Mark's can help with these needs.

I would like to briefly comment on a few of our church ministries and activities with which I have been closely involved. The first is to recognize the role our Thrift Shop means to so many. Under the leadership of Marge, Robyn, Louise, and Ed, with supporting work of so many, the Thrift Shop is truly inspiring and remarkable. We are known by the community as a location for repurposing and reusing their donations, which then supports our ministries of supplying other churches and organizations with clothing, and providing for our customers on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. We see hundreds of folks each day, whose modest needs are met with cheerful and helpful interaction.

Second, I help with keeping our buildings, systems, and grounds safe, functional and attractive (Thanks again Marge!). This is a constant pursuit especially with both our church and parish house built pre-1900. We have seen much needed work done over the past years, but capital projects requiring significant funding will continue this year and in years to come.

Third, I'm involved with our annual Golf Outing, which, for many years, has been a great day of fun and fellowship and has raised money for our building fund. Unfortunately, we were rained out in 2023 which did dampen the experience for all involved. Not to be discouraged, we have booked our 2024 outing again at Bellport for August 5, 2024. This outing is a great opportunity to get non-St. Mark's folks involved to help us raise money, but also to share the St. Mark's experience first hand.

The Vestry and Clergy are committed to work to continue and further the mission and ministries of St. Mark's Church in 2024, following our charge of "Making Christ Known with Love."

Ken Knutsen

2023 St. Mark's Choir Annual Report

Always a big thank you to our steadfast choir members that sing each week: Laura Beckham, Jacqui Boucher, Stu Chamberlain, John Eyre, Shirley Muller, Rick O'Neill, Scott Schneider, and Barbara Weir. We would also like to thank the Remmer family for joining us when able. To the choir members, without your dedication, there would be no choir. Lately, I have been saying to the choir, we truly have something special! Thank-you from the bottom of my heart!

Our audio improvement/installation of monitors is complete! Prior to the installation, due to the distance, it was difficult to for me to hear the choir and choir to hear the piano. Now, we both have a small monitor to hear where we are in the music.

Our guitar mass is going well! The guitar mass is usually the third Sunday of the month. Angel Pabon, our bass player, brought his longtime friend Angel Paniagua to play guitar. It is a pleasure to have Paul Severino and John Eyre play trumpet and clarinet on Guitar Sunday. We are still looking for a new drummer/percussionist.

If you know of any adult, high school or college student who would like to sing or play with the choir, please see me after any Sunday mass or have them leave their contact information with Vicky and I will contact them.

Respectfully submitted,
James Tartaglia

2023 LEV Annual Report

Our Eucharist Visitors made 213 visits in 2023

Outreach Annual Report

No matter what was going on in the lives of our parish family members, everyone continued to support our outreach ministry in the following ways:

College care packages were sent out to students in the spring and fall.

Donations of money and supermarket gift cards have been received throughout the year.

Some of our largest donations have been given by people that are not even members of St. Mark's. All donations have been used to support our parish families in need and for God's Provisions food pantries.

School supplies and backpacks were purchased for underprivileged children in our community.

Our "Cozy Outreach" brought in warm winter items for the East end farm workers.

A donation of toys was made to the annual appeal from St. John's Episcopal Hospital.

The voucher from the Town of Islip's annual Thanksgiving baskets provided turkeys and food baskets for the families of Joan Fusco's Girl Scouts.

Boy Scout Troop #151 held a food drive to benefit God's Provisions.

A donation of cleaning products was received and given to God's Provisions to be distributed through their food pantries.

Christmas toys were collected and distributed through God's Provisions food pantries.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Weickart

2023 Altar Guild Annual Report

Our ladies have adjusted beautifully to the new procedures and schedules in setting up and caring for both the Church and Chapel services. We have eight dedicated members and, as always, hoping to recruit more so as to alleviate the burden on so few.

We have just received a new Altar Guild Manual which spells out all of the particulars for our job and will be a great help to us all.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Weir

2023 Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Annual Report

Below is the ECW breakdown of funds spent for 2023

Girls Scouts - \$840.00

Episcopal Relief and Development - \$1,000.00 Earthquake - Turkey/Syria

Gods Provision - \$250.00

LoCricchio Strong - \$250.00

St. John's Episcopal Hospital - \$100.00 - donation to pharmacy fund

Mother's Day Flowers St. Marks - \$300;00

St. Mark's Church Air Conditioning - \$5,000.00 -Gathering Place

School Supply Outreach - \$100.00

Outreach St. Mark's - \$100.00 hats and gloves

Episcopal and Development - \$1,000.00 Cup of Cold Water Fund

United Thank Offering - \$50.00

Toy donation - St. Marks Church - \$443.00 to St. John's Hospital

Holiday gifts - St. Mark's employees - \$350.00

Adopt a family - \$300.0 (Thru God's Provision)

\$10,083.00 was distributed to many worthwhile causes for the 2023 year.

Respectfully submitted

Robyn LoCricchio

President ECW

2023 Golf Outing

Our 2023 Golf Outing was unfortunately canceled due to rain that morning. Our golfers had assembled at Bellport ready to play, but the course superintendent deemed the flooded fairways and greens were not playable. We did have lunch, and did have our raffle drawing with the faithful who remained for that. Our raffle prizes were again this year wonderfully prepared by the raffle team. We enjoy support from many Islip merchants in providing gifts to include in our raffle gifts. Golfers were given a voucher to play at Bellport later in 2023. This proved easier for some than others, but we wanted the golfers to have the opportunity to play at Bellport which is a private golf course. The portion of the golf fee relating to the expense of the dinner was refunded to each golfer, or accepted as a donation at the golfer's choice. We have had our golf outing at Bellport for many years now, and non-rain dates have always been a great day of fun, golf, meals and fellowship for all involved, and also raised money for our Building Fund. We have signed up with Bellport for our 2024 golf outing; this year on Monday, 8/5. We need for our St. Mark's golfers and non-golfers to reach out to others to enjoy the day with us or support our fundraising and prize gathering efforts. I hope to see many old and new faces on the sunny Monday 8/5. I am available to discuss our golf outing details with anyone interested; my e-mail address is kbknutsen43@gmail.com.

Thank You.

Ken Knutsen.

2023 Thrift Shop Annual Report.

St. Mark's thrift shop had an amazing year. We exceeded our quota for this year. Our volunteers have increased along with the amount of donations that are constantly being donated. We have also increased the different organizations that we give items to. Our thrift shop helps many, many people, places and other thrift shops. We brought in over \$200,000.00 which is quite amazing for an organization that is only open for 12hrs a week. That's not to say that hundreds of hours are put in by the many volunteers that help keep the Thrift Shop up and running.

Respectfully submitted
Robyn LoCricchio, Marge Cooper and Louise Tedesco

The Rector-Elect's Highlights of 2023

- Good Book Club Bible study of Esther & Ruth
- Getting started on our "Uncovering Parish Histories" project
- February, May, and November weddings
- First visit to (a beautiful, rural, snow-covered) upstate New York, for a clergy conference
- Deanery-wide Lenten supper series in Lent
- St. Patrick's Day parades: so many pipes & drums!
- The beautiful music of our choir, the Babylon Chorale, and Long Island Symphony
- Chrism Mass & Clergy Conf. with Diocese of LI clergy & our bishop
- Maundy Thursday Eucharist in the chapel, with Agape Meal for 44 ppl – who loved it
- Great Vigil of Easter at dusk Saturday night, with 32 ppl – who loved it
- MAP process "Neighborhood Prayer Walks" in May
- Celebrating the Feast of St. Mark on a Sunday
- Pentecost Eucharist, with baptism, in the sunshine on the rectory lawn
- Invitations from St. Markers to dinner in their homes, visits to Fire Island, walks in the state parks, and more
- Learning about the Eastern Farm Workers' Association
- Summer visits to the beach, including some with our kids, Simon & Ivy!
- Witnessing and occasional helping the bustling Thrift Shop in high gear
- Fishing on the Great South Bay with the Brotherhood & friends
- Parish summer picnic on the rectory lawn
- 'Walking in Celtic Footsteps' in Scotland/England & a wonderful fellowship of pilgrims with whom to share such a blessed journey

- Welcoming newcomers / new families to the parish and helping them find their way into its life
- A full calendar of 'Growing Faith' lessons and events, beginning in the fall, for our great group of families with young children
- Beginning to get to know our local Rabbi, Shimon Stillerman
- Hosting a friend from out of town and showing here around our beautiful parish and area
- The Blessing of the Animals
- Advent!
- Christmas!
- Twelfth-Night drop-in and Burning of the Greens at the rectory
- Completion of the beautiful work on east wall of the Parish House
- Growing in the knowledge and love of God alongside the people of St. Mark's and this community; enjoying with you the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread, the prayers; and more and more looking out and beyond ourselves to serve God's people, wherever they may be!

God bless us and keep us in 2024!

NOTES
