St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
Parish Profile
Dayton, Ohio
God’s Vision
In the fullness of time, all people will find joyful union with God and with one another, being fully known and fully loved.

Our Mission
We gather for worship, education, and mutual support; welcome all people; and serve the community in God’s name.

Our Values
Worship, Outreach, Community, and Inclusion
Our Demographics

While statistics hardly capture the life and depth of St. Mark’s parish, the demographic breakdown of St. Mark’s does yield some important information.

**Age**
- 66+ > 50%

**Gender**
- 66% Female
- 34% Male

**Marital Status**
- 66% Married

**Education**
- 60% hold college or advanced degrees

**Employment**
- 45% Retired
- 41% Employed

**Longevity of Membership**
- 47% more than 26 years

**Member Participation**
- 88% attend services weekly

**Faith Tradition**
- ~30% identified as Episcopalian their entire lives
How We Worship

St. Mark’s has an active worship life centered around 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. Our average weekly attendance is 53. We have a great group of parishioners supporting our worship. We also have a Choir Director / Organist to help us make a joyful noise to the Lord.

St. Mark’s has some unique worship traditions. At the beginning of each program year, we have our annual Praise and Picnic in the Park. We also have a Mother’s Day tradition of “flowering the cross”. Each family brings flowers that are inserted into a wooden cross.

St. Mark’s is looking to grow in our worship, exploring new styles of music and prayers from varied sources and styles. We want our worship to connect us to the worship of people around the world.
How We Learn

Christian education at St. Mark’s consists of adult education and a Sunday School program.

Our adult education classes have been taught by our priest and focused on the lessons relevant for today. When the priest was on vacation, parishioners taught classes focused on ethics. No matter the person leading, we have very lively conversation and thought-provoking discussion.

Sunday school classes are based on age ranges of the parish youth. Classes are led by a group of very dedicated Sunday school teachers. As part of the Sunday school program our choir director teaches the kids songs that they get to perform on special occasions.
Like any family, we like to gather for a variety of enjoyable activities! In addition to traditional annual events such as the Pancake Supper, Easter Egg Hunt, and our Praise in the Park, we have parish outings to Young's Dairy and Valley Vineyards, and quarterly Family Game Night with tabletop games for all ages. Our long-running participation in the Fairborn church softball league always yields a good time, if not always winning seasons, and we cap our educational program year with an outdoor ice cream social in the church courtyard.
Love Thy Neighbor

Hunger Sunday
We provide contributions of volunteers, food, and money to St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in support of its mission to feed our hungry neighbors. St. Mark’s donates more than any other organization in the area, including the Methodist churches.

Canterbury Court
Canterbury Court offers a rent-subsidized, affordable senior living community for seniors with limited incomes. St. Mark’s provides financial and volunteer support to enrich the residents in body, mind and spirit. The youth of St. Mark’s provide decorations for special occasions throughout the year.

CARE House
CARE House is a child-focused, facility-based program that provides a centralized, coordinated response to victims of abuse. St. Mark’s provides monthly contributions of snacks, stuffed animals, and other items to support the work done on behalf of children and families. The youth of St. Mark’s make and donate pillows to CARE House.
Love Thy Neighbor

Yard Sale

All proceeds from our annual yard sale go to our Outreach Programs. Last year we sent $6,750 to Bridget’s Path, CARE House, Canterbury Court, Parishioner Assistance Fund, Procter Center, Christmas Project, Hunger Sunday, The Foodbank Inc, and the House of Bread.

Christmas Project

St. Mark’s helps needy families at Christmas with gifts and food. Each child receives a toy and gift and the family receives a generous food basket. Last year we served 19 families, including 46 children.

Building Use

We provide the use of our Community Building to numerous organizations, including Adult Children of Alcoholics, Alcoholics Anonymous, Bill Johnson Guitar Lessons, Miami Valley Coin Club, Narcotics Anonymous, Sex Addicts Anonymous, and Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (meeting here over 50 years).
How We Communicate

Traditionally, St. Mark’s has depended on spoken & written forms of communications, whether this be during Worship service announcements, the service bulletin, or via our quarterly newsletter-The Lion’s Tale. We are also big fans of our Parish Bulletin Board!

Recently, we have expanded our communication efforts to incorporate Constant Contact emails, Facebook and Instagram. Add these efforts to a “work in progress” on a complete overhaul of our website, and our family has moved into the Digital Age!

We are always looking for new ways to expand our communications, mission and message of God’s love to our neighborhood and the wider Dayton community. We look forward to our new priest being an active participant in this effort.
St. Mark's primarily relies on annual pledges to fund daily operations. The annual pledge campaign is conducted in the fall by the Stewardship Committee, and pledges account for approximately 80% of operating expenses. The 2019 pledge profile reflects 30 financial pledges and an average pledge of $4,915. For 2020, we received 32 pledges averaging $4,620. In addition to pledge income, we are blessed with other categories of annual giving, including unpledged annual gifts, plate offerings, investment income, proceeds from the yard sale, and facility use support.

### St. Mark’s Operating Statements 2017-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>2020 (Budget)</th>
<th>2019 (Actual)</th>
<th>2018 (Actual)</th>
<th>2017 (Actual)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledge Contributions</td>
<td>139,931</td>
<td>152,616</td>
<td>146,631</td>
<td>149,160</td>
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<td>Plate Offerings</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>14,473</td>
<td>10,383</td>
<td>9,350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Organizational</td>
<td>2,990</td>
<td>3,456</td>
<td>2,458</td>
<td>2,855</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
<td>2,450</td>
<td>2,497</td>
<td>2,978</td>
<td>3,943</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>12,600</td>
<td>19,660</td>
<td>13,481</td>
<td>13,324</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>172,371</td>
<td>192,702</td>
<td>175,931</td>
<td>178,632</td>
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</table>

### Expenses

| Diocesan Mission Share       | 16,544        | 20,321        | 17,618        | 18,174        |
| Outreach                     | 3,200         | 3,965         | 2,749         | 4,371         |
| Salaries                     | 124,279       | 119,938       | 120,093       | 120,665       |
| Utilities                    | 15,300        | 15,159        | 12,626        | 10,515        |
| Property                     | 13,543        | 15,083        | 14,333        | 14,364        |
| Office                       | 4,510         | 5,310         | 4,640         | 3,481         |
| Congregational Life          | 4,555         | 5,458         | 6,605         | 5,767         |
| Other                        | 1,070         | 1,000         | 1,066         | 1,036         |
| Total Expenses               | 183,001       | 186,900       | 178,521       | 178,373       |

### Revenue - Expenses

| Budget                      | 130,630       | 5,802         | (2,640)       | 259           |

### Investments 2016 - 2019

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount ($)</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>142,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>148,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>144,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>157,098</td>
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Financial data reflects the income and expenses for the years 2017 to 2020, with a focus on pledge contributions and other annual giving sources. The revenue and expenses are itemized to show the financial health and contributions to the operations of St. Mark's.

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*Investments data reflects the value of investments from 2016 to 2019, showing the growth and fluctuation in their market values.*
When it comes to the future of St. Mark’s and what challenges lie in our path, we listen to our parishioners. As we navigate this period of transition amidst the pandemic, we are constantly looking for new ways to keep everyone connected. We especially want to remain enthusiastic about returning to in-person worship together, with restrictions.

Many parishioners have mentioned they would like to see our worship service revitalized so that it is diverse and inclusive, while engaging all people. All the parish agrees that we would love to see more young families join the congregation as well and join in all aspects of parish life. A more diverse congregation is also sought, with specific interest in building ties with non-Caucasian groups, the LGBTQ community, and strengthening our long-held ties with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. We want everyone to understand that they all have a place at St. Mark’s, regardless of who they are as individuals or how long they have been or will be members here.

Given the current number of active families, the parish also seeks new revenue streams to complement the annual giving of these faithful, generous pledging parishioners.

No matter the pandemic, St. Mark’s is still a parish dedicated to outreach. Remaining faithful to our baptismal promise to strive for justice and peace for all people is a priority for the parish, and we continue to find ways to engage the whole parish family so our outreach efforts remain strong.
St. Mark’s is a small, lively parish that works well together. We improvise when needed and can solve any issue, and no person turns away when they are asked to help. Although small, we are diverse in our opinions, our jobs, and our histories. Because of this, we truly mean the words “all are welcome” and are looking to call a priest who shares our love of inclusion and open-mindedness. Our parishioners want a priest who is a guide or shepherd to the flock; someone who can listen when needed and guide when desired and can offer spiritual and moral guidance using the scriptures as a base. When it comes to a parishioner’s individual crisis or a church-wide emergency, we want somebody who is a comforting presence, who communicates all the information accurately and in a timely manner, and who will work with the Vestry to ensure a positive outcome. Above all else, we want a priest who is friendly, approachable, and who will take the time to talk with us and learn from us, as we learn from them.
Where We Gather

St. Mark’s Church is made up of two buildings: the Sanctuary and the Community Building.

Sanctuary - We gather for worship in our Sanctuary: which consists of three main areas.
- The Narthex: where people are greeted. Including a small lounge area and restroom.
- The Nave: where wooden pews greet you with a seating capacity of over 200.
- The Altar Area: including seating for lay people, the priest, the choir, and our prized organ.

Community Building - All other events are hosted in the Community Building.
- The first floor primarily for Office work, Coffee Hour and Parish meetings, with the second floor dedicated to Sunday School classrooms.
- The building basement offers a full kitchen and is rented out to a variety of groups. On most Sundays, after Coffee Hour, you will find the youth of our parish enjoying a newly updated playground on the West side of the Community Building.

Courtyard
- Between the two buildings is our beloved courtyard; you will find Parishioners gathered here on sunny days. Our two buildings are interconnected by a covered walkway making both buildings handicapped accessible.
Where We Live

Located in Southwest Ohio, Dayton is a prime location. With 5 rivers running through the city, multiple metro-parks, and miles of dedicated Bike Paths and Frisbee Golf courses, Dayton offers something for everyone, especially outdoor enthusiasts.

Wright Patterson Air Force Base and multiple college campuses creates a constant stream of diverse people coming through the Dayton area. The city is highly immigrant-friendly and has a wide variety of cultural influences. This, coupled with a long and respected history of innovation and invention, leads many national organizations to choose Dayton as a test-bed for new products and services.

Dayton boasts a large selection of independent microbreweries and a broad spectrum of dining. Broadway shows at the Schuster Performing Arts Center and the Dayton Dragons minor league baseball team provide high quality, family-centric entertainment. The National Air Force Museum and Carillon Park are not to be missed for any with interest in the history of flight.
Parish History

The original St. Mark’s was located on Springfield Street, about a mile north of our present facilities. The church was built in 1934 as a community chapel by Joseph H. Harries. The church was consecrated as St. Mark’s Episcopal Mission on September 25, 1938 and admitted as a parish in union with the Diocese of Southern Ohio in May 1954. The Rev Carlton K. Gamble, then the vicar, became its first priest and served the parish until June 1963.

The congregation flourished in its early years, and its membership filled the building. In 1958, the decision was announced to split the congregation. About 40 percent of the members left to start a new mission in Fairborn, the present St. Christopher’s parish. The remaining 60 percent of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church attracted new members, and the small church thrived. Early in 1960, a $25,000 diocesan grant enabled St. Mark’s to purchase a five-acre site at its present location. In the spring of 1961, ground was broken for the Community Building. For the next 11 years, the basement of this building served as our worship center. In February 1972, the ground was broken for the Sanctuary and the dedication service was conducted in November 1972.

In August 1963, St. Mark’s called its second priest, the Rev. John P Cobb. He continued to serve the parish for 32 years until his retirement in May 1995. In August 1996, St. Mark’s called its third priest, the Rev. Michael A. Kreutzer, who served the parish for 24 years until his retirement in January 2020.
What We Value
“Our welcoming and open attitude towards people from all different spiritual backgrounds, lifestyles, and social strata”
“The camaraderie and kindness from everyone”
“The sense of family and familiarity as well as our many traditions and outreach projects”

How We Are Strong
“We are a warm, caring congregation that takes care of the broader community.”
“United as a Parish family, always welcoming to strangers and supportive to our members in one way or the other”

How We Would Like to Improve
“More focus on involving all members or less active members in a deeper way”
“More focus in engaging Music and sermons that more relate biblical teachings to today’s issues and events”
“GROWTH”

Our Final Thoughts
“We are small but mighty.”
“There are generations of folks that enjoy this parish and want to keep it moving forward while holding strong to what we find meaningful”
The Diocese of Southern Ohio

The Diocese of Southern Ohio is made up of 72 congregations in 40 counties located in Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, and in farm towns and county seats all across the southern half of Ohio. Our vision statement is as follows: “A church turned inside out, to love and serve Jesus Christ in our communities in relevant ways, both new and traditional.”

We are led by The Rt. Rev. Thomas E. Breidenthal. He was elected ninth bishop of Southern Ohio in November 2006, and consecrated on April 28, 2007.

Breidenthal is the author of two books (Christian Households: The Sanctification of Nearness and Sacred Unions) and numerous articles. He serves on the boards of Kenyon College, Bexley-Seabury Seminary, and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, and has been involved throughout his ministry in civic engagement and ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. Bishop Breidenthal lives in Cincinnati with his spouse, Margaret Garner Breidenthal.

Application for this position should be made using the diocesan application found at this link: https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/dsn-transitions-clergy-application-form/.

If you would like additional information regarding the position, please contact the following:

The Rev. Canon Jason Leo
Canon for Transitions and Congregational Vitality for the Diocese of Southern Ohio
jleo@diosohio.org
(513) 431-0311 (Ext. 125)

Sherri Martin
Assistant Transition Officer for the Diocese of Southern Ohio
smartin@diosohio.org
(513) 421-0311 (Ext. 105)