For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, especially Thomas Hicks Jr. for in in whose memory today's bulletins have been sponsored, those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, St. Mark, St. John, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God. ***To you, O Lord our God.***

Celebrant: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. ***Amen***

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says:
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People
Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

the Priest, stands and says
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace
All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

Celebrant: The peace of the *Lord* be always with you.
***People*: And also with you**

-Announcements-

Offertory Hymn: SUNG BY THE CHOIR "LIGHT AN ADVENT CANDLE"
Doxology: Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! AMEN

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: ***And also with you.***
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: ***We lift them to the Lord.***
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing..

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People (S130)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to by your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days, you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

Then the Celebrant continues

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son, in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Mark, St. John and all your Saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Officiant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Officiant and People Together:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Breaking of the Bread
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: HAVE MERCY ON US.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: HAVE MERCY ON US.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: GRANT US PEACE.

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:
All: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with Thanksgiving.

ALL BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS ARE INVITED TO PARTAKE IN HOLY EUCHARIST AT GOD'S TABLE

Communion Hymn: 64 O HEAVENLY WORD, ETERNAL LIGHT

After Communion-Blessing and Dismissal

Celebrant: **Let us pray;**

Celebrant and People: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen

CELEBRANT: GO IN PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD;

PEOPLE: **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

Recessional Hymn: 73 THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People -Form VI From the Book of Common Prayer

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, Audrey, Bishop of the Diocese of The Susquehanna, Kevin- assisting Bishop, and Fr. Tim, our priest in charge for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, especially: St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre and St. Andrew's, Tioga, from the Diocese of the Susquehanna, and St. Mark Rodo Parish-Kajo Keji -we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; especially- Cheryl, Monica, Don, Gloria, Carol, Nancy, Jim, Heather, Ilona, Alida, John U., Harry, Livy, Samantha, Joyce, Jimmy, Logan, Irene, David, Ray, Randy, Ron, Ed, Adam, Kali, John M., Ivan, Patrick, Greg, George, Don H., Alice, Dee-Dee, Diane, and Barbara R., we pray to you , O Lord, **Lord, have mercy.**

For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

St. Mark and St. John Episcopal Church
November 29, 2026
The First Sunday of Advent
The Rev. Timothy Griffin

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn: 61 SLEEPERS AWAKE! A VOICE ASTOUNDS US

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
People: **And blessed be His Kingdom, now and for ever, AMEN.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, And worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Canticle 16- The Song of Zechariah (SUNG)
1 Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free and raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree. So have the prophets long declared that with his mighty arm God would turn back our enemies and all that wish us harm.
2 With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall, the oath once sworn to Abraham; from foes to save us all; that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise, in holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.
3 My child, as prophet of the Lord you will prepare the way, to tell God's people they are saved from sin's eternal sway. Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease, to drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let *us pray:*

The Celebrant says the Collect: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons (see insert)
HYMN: 68 REJOICE! REJOICE BELIEVERS (VS 1-2) (VS 3)
The Gospel
The Sermon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2027 Calendar is now open to take reservations for Bulletin and Flower Sponsorship. There are still openings remaining for 2026. If you would like to reserve a specific date, see calendar located on the wooden table outside the Main Sanctuary, or please contact the office. The Bulletin Sponsorship fee is $10 for Sunday Services, Ash Wednesday, and Holy Week Services and $20 for Holidays (Christmas & Easter). Altar Flower Sponsorship is $28.00.

SPONSORSHIP
Bulletins: In loving memory of Thomas Hicks, Jr., in remembrance of his passing on December 3RD, by Nancy Hicks

LAY READER SCHEDULE

Date	Readings	READERS	
December 6	2 Advent	Sue Ellen Andreas	Zachary Baker
December 13	3 Advent	Bill Diehm	Tom Lager
December 20	4 Advent	Deb Fry	Diane Lager
December 24	Christmas Eve	Sue Urban	Jill Perry
December 27	Christmas 1	Rose Douglas	Jim Pompa

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

Date:	Set Up	Clean Up
December 6	Karen Horvath	Jill Perry
December 13	Laura Ferko	Sue Urban
December 20	Karen Gasker	Rose Douglas
December 27	Tom & Diane Lager	Shelly Pompa

Pastoral Needs: Fr. Tim Griffin is available for all pastoral needs. If you should need assistance, please contact him at 215-796-4602 or email: frtimgriffin@gmail.com

LAYING OF HANDS- HEALING- Will Take Place Every 2nd Sunday of the Month following the 9am Service

Email Updates: For parish updates and news, please fill out form located on the wooden table outside the main sanctuary.

Choir: Choir practices are held on **Wednesdays at 6:15pm at Tolman House.** New members are welcome—bring a friend!

Fall and Winter Faith Formation: **The Mystics: Exploring Contemplative Prayer-** First Mondays of the Month beginning at 6:30pm at Tolman House; **and Paul's Letters, A Journey through the Epistles:** Second and Fourth Mondays of the Month, beginning at 6:30pm at Tolman House.

Vestry Meeting: The next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for December 10th at 6pm. Please keep in mind that a Vestry Position will be open in 2027. Prospective candidates should contact the parish office or see any Vestry Member. Elections will be held during the Parish Annual Meeting.

Angel Tree: Beginning Sunday December 6th – All gifts must be returned by December 20th. Please attach the tag to the gift.

Christmas Flowers and Christmas Trees: Extra order forms found in the entrance to the sanctuary. All forms with money are due on December 6th.

Parish Christmas Dinner: Sunday, December 20th beginning at 4:30pm

Christmas Decorating: Decorating for Christmas will take place immediately following the 9am service on December 20th.

Blessing Box- **Items most needed:** trial size toiletries, toothpaste, deodorant, toothbrushes and women's feminine products, Peanut butter, jelly, soup, canned pasta.

SICK AND HOMEBOUND– Please remember in your prayers: Cheryl, Monica, Don, Gloria, Carol, Nancy, Jim, Heather, Ilona, Alida, John U., Harry, Livy, Samantha, Joyce, Jimmy, Logan, Irene, David, Ray, Randy, Ron, Ed, Adam, Kali, John M., Ivan, Patrick, Greg, George, Don H., Alice, Dee-Dee, Diane, and Barbara R.

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, please contact the parish office

St. Mark and St. John Episcopal Church

21 Race Street, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229-2003
E-mail: markjhn1@ptd.net (Parish)
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View our website! **https://www.stmarkandjohn.org**

Scan to donate now:

Parish office hours: PLEASE CALL TO SET UP APPOINTMENT

SERVICES
Sunday 9:00am- Main Sanctuary
Other services TBA

9:00am	September – May	Church School

CHRISTMAS, EASTER, AND HOLY DAYS AS ANNOUNCED

STAFF

Parish Office (Karen Horvath, Parish Secretary)	570-325-2241
Michele Bubar, Bookkeeper, email: michele@fasttaxnepa.com	570-325-3438

Pastoral Needs
Fr. Tim Griffin: 215-796-4602 or email: frtimgriffin@gmail.com

CHURCH SCHOOL
Zachary and Melissa Baker

VESTRY
Senior Warden: Deborah Fry (’29)
Junior Warden: Karen Gasker (’28)
Sue Ellen Andreas (’27)
Jonna Li Catrini (’28)
Michael Leonetti (’28)
Sam Strohl (’28)
Robert Muscovitch (’28)

Clerk of the Vestry
Sue Urban

Treasurer
Bill Diehm

St. Mark and St. John Episcopal Church
Sunday, November 29, 2026
The First Sunday of Advent

Parish Mission Statement
Our parish will be energetic, effective, and loving as we seek to be inclusive and diverse in accomplishing God’s work in the Church and Community.



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The EPISCOPAL CHURCH Welcomes You