



THE LION'S MARK

NEWSLETTER FOR SAINT MARK'S CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA

A COMMUNITY THAT GATHERS IN FAITH, SERVES IN LOVE, AND PROCLAIMS HOPE, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

AT THE CRUX OF IT ALL

— MOTHER ERIKA TAKACS —



One of our regular practices in Schola is practicing liturgical processions. Each child, no matter how small, takes a turn at being the crucifer, leading a procession of children, teachers, and parents as we sing, "Come into God's presence singing 'Alleluia!'" The crucifer carries a small, wooden processional cross and can lead the group wherever she or he wants to, sometimes in a long line that leads us around the choir room and sometimes (when the crucifer is feeling particularly whimsical) in a series of tight spins and curves that would leave our adult altar servers feeling a bit queasy.

Each time we bring out the processional cross, I ask the children about the terms we use to name the parts of our procession. Who is this hanging on the cross? Jesus! What do we call a cross that has the body of Jesus on it? A crucifix! And what do we call the person who carries the processional cross? The crucifer! To the children at Saint Mark's, these terms are an easy part of their vocabulary now, along with "Pentecost" and "Sanctus bells" and "chalice."

When recently we brought out the processional cross for the first time in a few weeks, I asked the children whether there were more crucifixes or crosses inside Saint Mark's. They thought about my

question for a good long while, some of them even closing their eyes and pointing as if picturing the nave while counting. But eventually, they decided upon an answer. Crucifixes, they said, solemnly nodding their heads in agreement. Definitely crucifixes. This, of course, led to a lengthy and enthusiastic discussion as to where all of the crucifixes were and what they looked like. I see a Schola field trip to the nave in our future!

Saint Mark's is a church that is filled with crucifixes. Close your eyes and try to remember all of them – I'm sure that even those of us with the best memories might miss one or two. Think of it – where can you go in Saint Mark's where you are not presented with an image of the crucified Christ? You enter the door from Locust Street, and Christ reigns in glory from the cross above the Fiske Doors. There is a crucifix beside the Saint John's altar, the crucifix of the rood screen, a crucifix behind the altar. Everywhere you look, Christ hangs upon the cross, reigning in glory and proclaiming the Good News of God's love for you and for all, every moment of every day, a gift for every pair of eyes.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE

Mon 6

Ballots for parish elections due to the parish office by 5p.m.

11

Andrew Kellner's Ordination to the Priesthood

10a.m., Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral

Thu 16

Center City Young Episcopalians Garden Party, 6:30p.m.

JULY

Mon 4

Independence Day
Parish office closed
Low Mass, 10a.m.

Wed 13 through Fri 15

Parish office closes at noon
Evening Prayer will be said privately

Sat 16

Consecration of the 16th Bishop of Pennsylvania, 11a.m.
New Covenant Church, Germantown

A GREAT (AND JOYFUL) NOISE

SIMON THOMAS JACOBS

This time last year I could never have imagined that in just a few months I would be leading the music at the Saint Mark's, Locust Street. It has been an honor to have been a part of the life of this wonderful parish and to have had a hand in planning for the continued growth and development of the music program.

One of the aspects of my work at Saint Mark's that I have enjoyed the most is the planning, preparation, and performance of the considerable volume of music the liturgy requires. I have always tried to combine a healthy mix of standard "war horses" of the Anglican choral tradition with less-familiar, even new works.

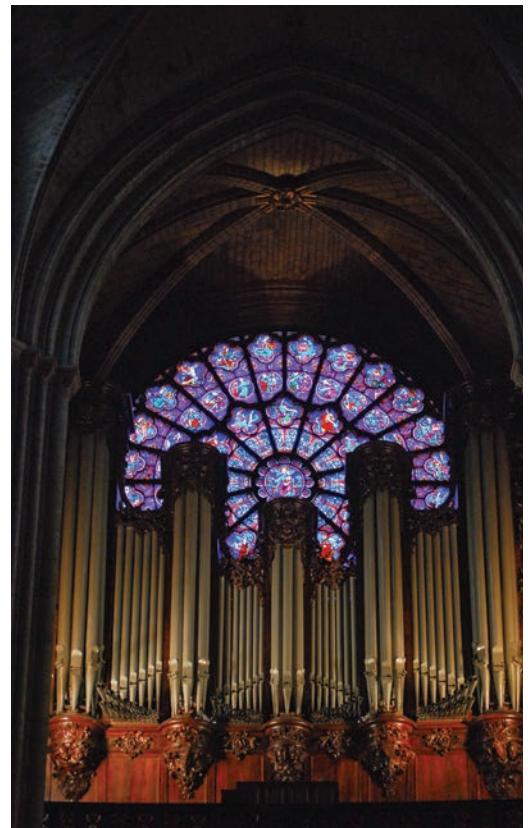
For the final full-choir Sunday of the year when we observe the Feast of Corpus Christi, the mass setting is perhaps one of the greatest "war horses" of them all...quite literally speaking! Louis Vierne's (1870-1937) *Messe Solennelle*, Op. 16 is one of my personal favorites and, I'm sure, known to many of you in the congregation. Vierne was organist of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris where, like many French churches and cathedrals, there are two organs. The Grand Orgue sits high in a gallery at the west end and is utilized primarily for liturgical improvisation and the performance of repertoire. The Orgue de Choeur, as the name suggests, is situated at the opposite end of the building and is used for accompanying the choir. Vierne's *Messe Solennelle* was conceived with this set up in mind and composed for choir and two organs: one supporting the choir and the other adding another dimension as it crashes away at the other end of the building (quite literally)!

Sadly, there are few venues outside of France where an "accurate" performance of this work is possible, one organist having to condense and re-arrange the score so that it can be played by one person on one instrument. I recall a service when I was Organ Scholar at Clare College, Cambridge when my Junior Organ Scholar played the Orgue de

Choeur part on the piano while I played the Grand Orgue part on the organ (which happened to be in a gallery at the west of the intimate chapel). While this was somewhat successful, and tuning between the two instruments was particularly "French," it was not ideal.

Philip Moore, the English composer and former organist and choirmaster of York Minster, has devised another solution, arranging the Orgue de Choeur part for small string orchestra, leaving the organ to play the Grand Orgue part as written. It is this version that we shall be using on May 29th. The choir will also sing a recently composed anthem by Philip Moore, his setting of the well-known Eucharistic text *Ave verum corpus*—an exquisite addition to the repertoire.

Thank you for enabling me to make beautiful music every week at Saint Mark's. It would not have been possible without the support and love of the congregation, not to mention those who devote their time each week participating in the music ministry. While I may not be able to worship with you as regularly in the future, please know that Saint Mark's will always occupy a special place in my heart and I will be back to visit as often as I am able.



Crux

Saint Mark's is a church that preaches Christ crucified, a stumbling block and folly to so many in the world, but to us who are being saved, the very power of God. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul reminds that church – and our church – that we who are called to be saints by the merits of our baptisms have but one gift to offer: not signs or wisdom that satisfy the cravings of the world, but the very cross of Christ, which points beyond this world to the wondrous Kingdom of God. We at Saint Mark's preach this word of the cross in each corner of our building, a word that speaks mercy and love into the heart of a world that is aching to hear good news.

And we, as witnesses of these things, carry this word with us. Our hearts are richly ornamented with image upon image of Christ upon the cross. Look within your heart and see how many times Christ hangs there. How many times you have felt Christ's presence with you in the depths of your sorrow? How many times you have known Christ's standing beside you in your pain or your betrayal? How many times you seen Christ's glory in the bread and the wine, in the holy word of scripture, in the love and compassion of a neighbor? Our lives are filled with images of Christ crucified, images that speak the powerful word of God's redeeming love for us and for the world.

Over the past several months, I have pondered how we at Saint Mark's can share in a part of Father Mullen's sabbatical. If a group field trip to Seville is out of the question, which (sadly) it is, how might we enjoy a time of learning and growth here in Philadelphia? One of Father Mullen's first experiences in Spain is an intensive Spanish language immersion course, when he will spend hours each day swimming in the deep end of the Spanish pool – studying

and speaking and living this language in such a way that it will begin to soak deeply into his very being. This experience of deep language immersion is one that we can share this summer. You and I can study and speak and live the language of the cross so deeply that we will soon find it flowing more freely from our lips. We can point to the crucifixes that hang in our own lives and preach the good news of Christ crucified to all who will listen – our families, friends, and coworkers; newcomers to the neighborhood, new people in the pew; the poor and the lost, the lonely and the heavy-laden, the stranger and the seeker. We can point to the crucifixes in our church and in our lives and practice the language of that Good News so that it becomes an easy part of our vocabulary, a word that is familiar and freely spoken to the world.

Of course, there may be times in our speaking this language aloud when we will sound foolish to the world or to ourselves. But what person speaking a new language does not, at times, sound foolish, ordering the fish ice cream instead of the peach, or responding "yes" to a question that does not require a yes or no answer? Consider our call, sisters and brothers – we are not particularly wise or powerful...or necessarily fluent. The point is not to never make a mistake, or to never sound foolish. The point is to proclaim Christ crucified, not only in our church building and in our hearts but also in the words that come out of our mouths. Who is hanging on the cross? Jesus. Why does he do so? To redeem and save you and me. How does he do this? With infinite love. The word of the cross is the very power of God, the language of love that speaks grace into the world. May we immerse ourselves in that language and preach Christ crucified, now and forever.



2016 SUMMER CHOIR CAMP

Mark your calendars now for the return of our wonderful Saint Mark's Summer Choir Camp, August 1-5. The camp includes two different camp opportunities. Schola, a half-day program run by David Stoverschlegel and Mother Takacs, is for campers aged 3-7. Choir, a full day program led by our incoming Organist/Choirmaster Robert McCormick, is for campers aged 8 and up. A healthy and delicious lunch is included in both programs. Before-camp and after-camp options are also available, as are scholarships for campers. Registration is now open on the Saint Mark's website!

MINISTRY RESIDENTS' YEAR-END REFLECTIONS

As this year's Ministry Resident program draws towards its close, Patrick Keough and Mary Strand reflect on what they're taking with them. Join us in church on Sunday, July 24, as we send them on the next part of their journeys. We look forward to welcoming new residents in August.

PATRICK KEOUGH

Before coming to Saint Mark's, I thought of "community" as one of those concepts frequently spoken of but rarely experienced. My resident assistant in college spoke of our dormitory as a community. The collection of persnickety neighbors opposed to new construction on my childhood block called themselves a community organization. If Christian community is a manifestation of the Body of Christ where each member plays a vital role building up the Kingdom of God, then the labelling of a collection of inept college students and NIMBY-minded neighbors as "community" gives me pause. Because of this, the community that I heard about from the pulpit and read about in scripture seemed, to me, a nebulous immateriality.

Saint Mark's taught me two things about community by picking me up and throwing me into it head-on. Community is a special type of relationship, not a particular type of structure. Simply showing up on Sunday morning and exchanging pleasantries at coffee hour does not make us a community. This is a community because beyond the walls of this space, we uphold the values professed within it with one another. Even if our beautiful building were to crumble, I know that the relationships formed here would last and endure. It's not the space that defines us, it's our love that defines us.

Beyond that, community is focused outward. When Phil Schultz died on his bench in the square, this place redefined our commitment to him as our equal brother, welcoming him home one last time and walking with him on his way to his childhood family. I know this place would repeat that walk for every member of this community and constantly encourages others to come join us on the journey.

At the end of the summer, I will leave this place changed. Now that I've been marked by this community, I can never return to exactly how I was before. I will never be able to fully leave this place. I will find new communities and, God willing, be welcomed there. Yet I can never forget Saint Mark's because this taught me what it means to be part of the material, very real Body of Christ.



MARY STRAND

I have a confession to make: As my time as a Ministry Resident is nearing its end, I find myself increasingly thinking about what it will feel like to go to a church service elsewhere. My Sunday mornings predictably being spent at Saint Mark's, sometimes I imagine what it would physically feel like to walk into a different space of worship. And to be honest, I imagine that I would feel quite awkward.

When I started working here, my body often felt awkward. Participating in the liturgy here to the extent that I was asked to requires a different kind of body awareness in worship than I had previously experienced. Genuflecting, kneeling, bowing my head to acknowledge the processional cross, bowing at the name of Jesus—the many and various ways that bodies are invited to engage in worship at Saint Mark's felt totally unnatural to me. I quite literally had to practice crossing myself, had to practice genuflecting, and had to practice how I carried myself in a space of worship—constantly reorienting myself towards the cross, the Gospel, and the altar; constantly reorienting myself towards the Eucharist. This body consciousness made me feel self-conscious—I was always worried that I was doing something wrong.

Now, nine months after my first day at Saint Mark's, I often catch myself being carried by the liturgy. It feels right to engage in worship with my whole being, including my body. Though, I continue to make "mistakes," bowing for "too long" or at the "wrong place," there remains something deeply moving for me about using my body to worship God. It resonates profoundly; this place has become a part of me. As impossible as it may have felt at the beginning of my time here, no matter where or in what place of worship I find myself in the future, my experience here is something that I will carry for the rest of my life.



Know someone who may be interested in volunteering?
Visit www.servantyearphila.org

10:00 FORUM

JUNE: INTERPRETING CHRISTIAN ART

The human impulse to create art has existed in every age. Art can delight and at the same time challenge us: what was the artist's intention? What is the art saying to me? How do we interpret a particular work of art? Join Father David Beresford who will guide us through three meditations on works of religious art.

JUNE 12: BOTTICELLI'S AGONY IN THE GARDEN.

The renaissance painter's masterly depiction of Christ at prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane.

JUNE 19: ANDREI RUBLEV'S THE HOSPITALITY OF ABRAHAM.

Perhaps the greatest icon ever produced, it is rich in symbolism and powerfully conveys the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

JUNE 26: NORMAN ADAMS' GOLDEN CRUCIFIXION.

Painted in 1993, this presents the familiar image of the crucifixion in a new way and challenges us to re-interpret its meaning.

JULY: MONASTIC LIFE AND HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Father David Cobb will lead the Forum during the weeks of July, focusing on a variety of topics. There will be sessions on the various sorts of intentional communities that are part of The Episcopal Church's history and current mission, looking at both a history of Anglican monastic orders and the present experience of the Episcopal Service Corps. Part of this will include a panel discussion of the experience and work of our own Ministry Residents. In response to interest from the parish, there will be Forum sessions as well on Sewanee, both the University of the South and the School of Theology, and on the work of the Society for the Increase of the Ministry, a seminarian scholarship program for which Father Cobb has served as a board member and more.

ABOUT FATHER BERESFORD Before moving from the United Kingdom to the United States in late 2015, the Rev. David Beresford was Priest-in-Charge of the Church of the Holy Cross, Luton, in the Diocese of St. Albans (Church of England). Ordained in 2009, he has also served in the Diocese of Chichester and was for a time assistant chaplain at Ford Prison in West Sussex, England. Father Beresford trained for the ministry between 2007 and 2009 at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, West Yorkshire, where he studied theology and gained a first class honors degree from the University of Leeds in 2009. He received a post-graduate diploma in Ministry and Mission from the University of Chichester (2012) and a diploma in Spiritual Direction (2013). Since ordination he has been involved in adult education, both in writing and leading courses on faith, art, and film. Married to the Rev. Ruth Beresford in 2016, Father Beresford now lives in Wilmington, Del. and serves as a supply priest in Dioceses of Pennsylvania and Delaware, while seeking a church where he may serve permanently. Father Beresford has two adult children who live in the UK.



THE LION'S MARK

PARISH HALL RENOVATIONS

NOAH STANSBURY

The Parish Hall plays a highly visible role in the life of our parish. More than just Sunday coffee hour, this large room is probably the most-used space on the church grounds, hosting the Food Cupboard, the Soup Bowl, AA meetings, parish socials and committee meetings, and other special events. Through the generosity of a small group of donors, the Parish Hall will get a much-needed renovation over the summer months, including new flooring, paint, light fixtures, and room partitions. Some extraneous closets will be removed, increasing the square footage of the room. Upgrades and repairs will also be made to the kitchen and the restrooms in the Parish Hall and on the office level. Work is scheduled to begin in early June and finish in time for Summer Choir Camp in August.

While all this is going on, of course all the previously mentioned groups will need a temporary home! The Soup Bowl is moving to the Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion (see page #), the Food Cupboard will work out of the back of the church, and weather permitting we'll have our Sunday coffee hours in our beautiful gardens. Other groups and meetings will make use of the large rooms on the third floor of the parish house.

As we prepare for this project, I've been especially grateful to Isabelle Benton's leadership in working with our architect and the Buildings and Property Committee to make sure our new Parish Hall is an attractive space that not only preserves but enhances our ability to use it and will last for years to come. I look forward to sharing this new space with you when it is complete in late July.





GREETINGS FROM BISHOP-ELECT GUTIERREZ

My dear brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Pennsylvania,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I give thanks to Christ, through Him, all things are made new.

We begin a new and hopeful journey in this beloved place. I am humbled and grateful that you have allowed me into your lives. I will never take for granted this sacred trust you have placed in me. I offer myself to you as a loving shepherd, caring servant, and faithful sojourner.

My excitement is in you and the possibilities to come. We have numerous gifts in this Diocese and together we will build the Kingdom of God, hand in hand, hand by hand.

Let us work together so the Diocese of Pennsylvania is known as the “Come and See” diocese. A place we encounter God through prayer, community, liturgy and service. Where we lift the dignity of humanity and show how we love one another. A place where Christ is reflected in one another. “Come and See” and you may want to join in our sacred story.

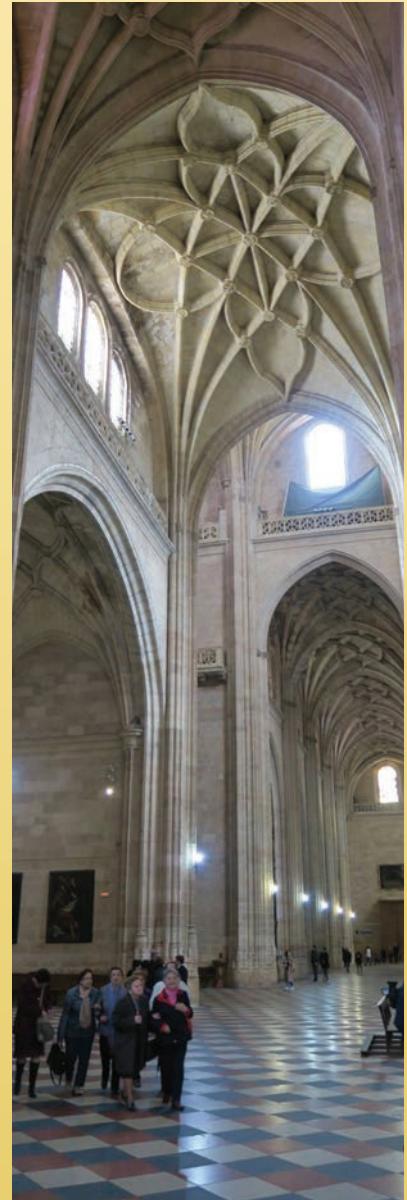
I ask for your blessings and prayers for Suzanne, Jude, and I. May you continue to be settled in God’s tender care.

Your brother,

The Rev. Canon Daniel G. P. Gutierrez



Father Mullen spent the month of May in Madrid and Salamanca, Spain, participating in a Spanish language program and working with the Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain. His travels have included visits to the walled city of Avila (above) as well as (clockwise below) a bullfight in Madrid, the Segovia Cathedral, and celebrating Mass on Pentecost at the Atilano Coco Student Center in Salamanca.



LUTHERAN PARTNERS TO HOST SOUP BOWL THIS SUMMER

KENNETH PEARLSTEIN

Saint Mark's Saturday Soup Bowl is a 52 week per year mission. In 2015, we served over 8000 guests a total of 1700 gallons of soup made from the kitchens of our own parishioners and delivered to the tables of harried, homeless travelers. Every Saturday morning for fourteen years, we've been there for our guests. This summer, though, we've been presented with a tall challenge: staying open in the midst of a two month renovation of the Parish Hall. Who would invite some 150 homeless people into their facility for nine Saturdays? Who might be so outrageously generous?

On Saturdays beginning June 4 through July 30, the Soup Bowl will continue on the campus of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion, just a few blocks from Saint Mark's. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the good people of Holy Communion for their generosity. Special thanks to the Rev. Violet Little, herald for the homeless, for helping us make this connection!

We're making a special plea to the people of Saint Mark's: during the interim, we'll need extra help—your help. Devote a Saturday or two to an outreach mission that is dear to your church. Help us to take vigilant care of our host's facilities. Help us to be humble, courteous guests while on Holy Communion's campus. Help us to forge a lovely friendship with these excellent, kind people as we continue the Anglican tradition of fiercely determined outreach toward the poor of this city.

To learn more about participating in this vital ministry this summer, contact Patrick Keough, Ministry Resident for Outreach, at pkeough@saintmarksphiladelphia.org.



SAINT MARK'S HOSTS CENTER CITY YOUNG EPISCOPALIANS

On Thursday, June 16, at 6:30 pm, Saint Mark's is hosting a garden party for the Center City Young Episcopalians. CCYE is a group for 20s/30s in all of the Episcopal churches in Center City and South Philadelphia that hosts regular opportunities for fellowship, prayer, and conversations. Our very own Matthew Fischetti now heads the CCYE for the deanery, so look for many more interesting 20s/30s events to come. If you are interested in helping to prepare for the garden party, please be in touch with Matt. All 20s/30s are welcome to join us on the 16th. Bring a friend (or seven) and come enjoy the gorgeous Saint Mark's Gardens on a beautiful late spring evening!



HANDS, GRACE, AND THANKS

JOSHUA CASTAÑO

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift you have received." 1 Peter 4:10

Let's share our thanks with one another for the hearts and hands that make Saint Mark's so vibrant and ever growing. There are faithful hands that wash and iron the linens, which lay on Saint Mark's altars for one of the over 700 masses celebrated each year. Loving hands come together to prepare delicious soup served by kind hands every Saturday morning in our Parish Hall to individuals whose hands are so often as empty as their bellies. Skilled hands at home are knitting together wonderfully colored yarn to make kneelers for the high altar rail, where we come in worship to share in the grace God offers to us. Grateful hands bring back to God the gifts and treasures he entrusted to them as stewards and place them joyfully in the plates that serving hands extend.

Working hands around Saint Mark's are carrying candles and crosses; digging into earth and tending to the plants and trees of garden; harvesting the rich, golden honey of the bees that like us are a hive of work and singularity of purpose. Our hands are serving one another in God's household, and ministering to all those whose faces and needs bear the image and likeness of the One who called us to serve.

We have been given many kinds of treasures, but the greatest of these is God's grace. Here at Saint Mark's, our hands are good stewards of that grace—putting to work whatever we have been given, in our treasure, our many skills and expertise, and always with our time; in order to come and labor together in the great work that God's grace is accomplishing in the world. For all of this abundance that continues to grow at Saint Mark's, and for all the busy, faithful hands that make it possible...let's say thanks!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BISHOP CONSECRATION

God willing and the people consenting, the Rev. Canon Daniel Gutierrez will be ordained and consecrated as our diocese's 16th bishop on July 16 at 11 a.m. at New Covenant Church, 7500 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be celebrant and chief consecrator.

Many people will work together to make the ordination and consecration a successful and wonderful celebration in the life of our diocese. The Transition Committee especially seeks volunteers to serve as greeters, ushers, choir members, and to help host the reception. If you can volunteer in any of these capacities, please simply send an email to the contacts listed below, including your email address and phone number so that the committee can be in touch with you.

Greeters Sherrie Tatman
sctatman@rcn.com

Ushers Geoff Middleton
geoffmiddleton@
comcast.net

Choir George Vosburgh
georgevosburgh@
gmail.com

Reception George
Whitfield
gcwjrl@outlook.com



The Diocese has also established a fund for the bishop-elect's new Episcopal vestments. Donations may be sent to the Diocesan Center at 3717 Chestnut Street, Suite 300, Philadelphia PA 19104. Checks should be made payable to "The Diocese of Pennsylvania" with a memo line of "Gutierrez Vestment Fund."



SAINT MARK'S CHURCH
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