

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas Scharf

Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida

*Celebrant & Preacher at the
Conference Eucharist on Thursday,
4 May*



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas Frederick Scharf was elected bishop coadjutor of the Diocese of Southwest Florida on April 2, 2022. He was ordained and consecrated as a bishop on September 24, 2022, in Sarasota, Fla. He was seated as the sixth bishop of the diocese on December 10, 2022, at the Cathedral Church of St. Peter in St. Petersburg.

Earlier, beginning in 2017, Bishop Scharf was rector of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School in Tequesta, FL. A thriving congregation, Good Shepherd includes more than 500 active members and a vibrant, fully accredited early childhood program and elementary school of 140 students. He served as rector of Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church (2007-16) in Valrico, FL. He also served as associate rector of Church of the Holy Spirit (2004-07) in Osprey, FL.

Scharf earned a B.A. in English from Florida Gulf Coast University (2002); an M. Div. from Virginia Theological Seminary (2004); and a D.Min. from Emory University, Candler School of Theology (2018) with a concentration in Biblical Interpretation and Proclamation.

In addition to parish ministry, Scharf has served in various leadership roles within his diocesan communities and the wider Episcopal Church, including Standing Committee President, Convocation Dean, and two-time Deputy to General Convention.

Born in 1979, Douglas Scharf was raised in the Diocese of Southwest Florida, the son of the Rev. Frederick Scharf and Carol Scharf. He and his wife Shannon are the parents of three children: Clayton, Parker, and Grady. His hobbies include music (he plays piano), reading, hiking, kayaking, and spending time in the beauty of God's creation.



The Diocese of Southwest Florida

Honor our tradition ~ Build for the Future ~ Mercy in Mission

Host Diocese of the 2023 Global Mission Conference

About

Our 79 parishes and missions total some 28,000 members with 260 baptisms celebrated each year sharing in an exciting pilgrimage of ministry. On any given Sunday, about 11,000 people worship in Episcopal congregations in Southwest Florida.

We extend along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, with our northernmost congregation in Brooksville and our most southern on Marco Island. We include the cities of Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota and Fort Myers. Our easternmost congregations are in Plant City, Arcadia and LaBelle.

As a diocesan community, we seek to live out Jesus' Great Commission that we should be in the world to make disciples of all people ministering God's redemptive gifts of love and grace. "Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded." Matthew 28:19-20a.

The Diocese in Global Mission

Since 1997 the relationship with the Dominican Episcopal Church has flourished and the Diocese of Southwest Florida has sent more than 100 exploratory and mission teams, and several hundred persons on a short-term mission to participate in ministry with their Dominican brothers and sisters.

In addition to several churches sending their own teams, Southwest Florida has pioneered "deanery projects" which work within the priorities of the Dominican Republic in support of the development and self-sufficiency of the Dominican Episcopal Church.

The **Dominican Development Group** (DDG), a non-profit organization within The Episcopal Church, assists the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic with mission support including project planning, program development, and construction expertise; raises funds for Episcopal school scholarships and the diocesan endowment, and coordinates the schedules and the work projects of Dominican Republic mission teams from the United States working in the Diocese of the Dominican Republic. It is headquartered at St. Mark's, Tampa. DDG is a GEMN member, and its executive director, Ms. Christy Wallace, is serving on a panel at the Global Mission Conference.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Alive in Christ, Serving Together, Growing in Love

Host of the 2023 Global Mission Conference

About

Begun in September 1983 in a local YMCA with an ironing board serving as an altar, St. Mark's has grown to a thriving parish able to seat 500 in its main sanctuary. Active in the city of Tampa as well as in global mission, St. Mark's sustains three weekly services, online as well as in person, since the outbreak of Covid-19. St. Francis' Episcopal Church, a Spanish-speaking congregation in the Diocese of SW Florida, also holds services in the church. In addition to worship and mission, St. Mark's runs *The Oaks*, a facility-only event venue for receptions, parties, meetings, & more.

Mission

St. Mark's provides help to needy people in the community in many different ways. In several instances throughout the year we contribute to the efforts of Metropolitan Ministries and Tampa Jewish Family Services. These include the Peanut Butter and Tuna Food Drive, Backpacks and School Supply Drive, Christmas Angel Tree, which provide gifts and toys to needy children in the community, Thanksgiving Meals for the Needy, and **Rahab's Daughters**, a ministry helping victims of human trafficking.

St. Mark's is a major participant in the justice ministry of **HOPE** (Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality). Joining with 24 other congregations, HOPE has agreed to focus their efforts on affordable housing, services to the elderly to enable them to age in place, and expanding civil citation in lieu of arrest for minors with low level infractions.

St Mark's supports an annual medical mission trip to **Our Little Roses** school for girls in Honduras. We also sponsor a 7-year-old child, Evelyn, providing her with an educational scholarship, school clothes and school supplies.

A small group of parishioners through **Kairos Prison Ministries** from St. Mark's brings the word of God to the Hernando Correctional Institute, a women's prison.

Thrift Store

Our mission is to support our local community via the sale of very affordable lightly used clothes, knickknacks, small appliances, homemade crafts and the like.

Fifty percent of all proceeds are used to support local missional efforts to bless our neighbors and local community.

About the Rector

The Rev. Robert C. Douglas, Rector, is a native of Massachusetts. He and



his family moved to Florida in 1997. Prior to discerning a call to ordained ministry he had a successful business career in the electronic manufacturing industry serving in executive level operations management positions. He earned a Bachelor of Business Management (magna cum laude) from Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, New Hampshire, and a Master of Divinity degree (cum laude) from Nashotah House Theological Seminary in Nashotah, Wisconsin.

After being ordained in 2016, his first call was as priest associate of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Bonita Springs, Florida. In June 2018, he was called to be the third rector of St. Mark's, Tampa.

Fr. Bob and his wife Elaine have two adult children, Brittney and Shawn, who also live in the Tampa area.