

Geographic/Demographic Overview

Saint Mark's Church is located in Westhampton Beach ("WHB"), New York on the south shore of eastern Long Island, about 75 miles east of New York City.



Main Street WHB (looking east)



Rogers Beach

The church, founded in 1924, moved to the current building in 1949 at the western end of the downtown shopping district in the Village of Westhampton Beach. A major addition, consisting of offices, the Parish Hall, and downstairs classrooms was constructed in 2002. To read more about our history visit <https://stmarkswhb.org/about-us/#history>.



SMC (looking north on Main St.)



Parish Hall

Saint Mark's Bright Beginnings Pre-School was founded in 2004 and occupies the downstairs classrooms as well as a portion of the Beineke Building, a separate building on our grounds, where the remainder of the space is rented to an independent counseling service. The Pre-

School enjoys an excellent reputation and its Director, Dawn Orban, has managed the school since 2005. For more information, please visit the Bright Beginnings website at <https://www.saintmarksbrightbeginningspreschool.com>.

The Parish family draws from Westhampton Beach, as well as from many of the nearby small communities. Most members live locally, but there are a number who are weekend residents from NYC, as well as snowbirds.

This picturesque area attracts many visitors in the summer season because of the wide variety of recreational activities afforded by proximity to water, both the Atlantic Ocean and the Bays. This part of Long Island is home to some very beautiful beaches, as well as offering fishing, boating and water sports. The influx of visitors combined with the return of snowbirds is estimated to double the area's population in the summer. We would welcome fresh ideas in how to increase engagement with "summer people", who come in droves to enjoy the East End. We have tried holding an informal Saturday 5 p.m. evening service under a previous Rector that had a small following and are open to trying other ideas to connect with part-time residents. By contrast, the area is quite quiet in the winter, with the main source of activity centered around the schools.

The schools in Westhampton Beach rate highly in school rankings in Long Island and the high school draws students from the surrounding communities of East Quogue, Quogue, Westhampton, and East Moriches. There is a sizable Hispanic population in the area. Prior to the pandemic, St. Mark's had begun to partner with the Episcopal Church North Fork Hispanic Ministry in Riverhead, spearheaded by Fr. Gerardo Romo, and we would like to find ways to deepen this outreach.

For more detail about the communities that are home to our Parish family, please click [< here >](#) to read the report about our Prayer Walks.