

Announcements - December 24, 2023

Submit announcements, not to exceed 150 words, to bulletin[at]stmarks.net by 5 pm Tuesday to be included the following Friday. Announcements run for three weeks unless we hear from you. All announcements must include a parishioner's name and email address as a contact.

To have your event included on the parish calendar, send it to the parishadmin[at]stmark.net. To have your event posted on the parish website, send it to website[at]stmarksnet.

Youth and Family Ministries

1. St. Mark's Ski Trip 2024

[12/10]

Join us for Presidents Day Weekend in Davis, WV for a weekend of skiing and fellowship. A block of rooms has been reserved for us at Canaan Valley Resort from **February 16, 2024 - February 18, 2024**. Rooms in our block have a group rate of \$159.00 per night and a 3 night minimum stay is required. They are available on a first-come first-served basis, and must be **reserved by January 10th**. Note: There may be other are suites and cabins available outside of our reserved block, call the number below for more information.

To Reserve Your Room Online:

Use the qr code to book. Click the "Add Special Code" link and use the group code 1043JI



To Reserve Your Room By Phone:

Call 304 866 4121 select option 1 and use group code 1043JI

Once You Reserve Your Room:

Email youthdirector[[@](mailto:youthdirector[at]stmarks.net)]stmarks.net to be added to our trip list and to receive information about ski passes and gear rentals.

Parish Life & Diocesan Events

2. St. Mark's Meditation Group Dates

[12/24]

We will be convening on **Christmas Evening, 12/25, over Zoom ONLY**. Usual time, **7:30 to 9:00 p.m.**, and everyone is welcome to join us for silence and discussion. On **New Year's Day**, we will be **hybrid: join us in Baxter Hall, or connect from home**. On **January 8th**, we are pleased to welcome our special guest, Born I, local hip-hop artist and meditator, who will lead us in meditation, share his singing bowls, and provide a special and unique evening in community with us. More info: Email [mmrivard\[at\]hotmail.com](mailto:mmrivard[at]hotmail.com).

3. Please join the Diocese of Washington for a service of ordination to the diaconate for St. Mark's own Caitlin Frazier. [12/17]

The service will take place at **10am on January 13, 2024 at the Washington National Cathedral**. Caitlin is a member of St. Mark's who is pursuing a call to the priesthood. This ordination marks a major milestone in that process. Please contact Josie Jordan [josiejordan52\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:josiejordan52[at]gmail.com) or Marika Klein with any questions.

4. New Year's Eve dinner after the 5pm [12/17]

Join the **5pm service for a simple hearty meal** and the opportunity to share conversation and stories **just after our service on December 31st**. Sign up to bring food or if the spots fill up quickly, no worries, just bring yourself—significant others of course are welcome. Come partake of a quiet spiritual beginning to whatever you plan later in the evening as you move into a new year.

Please RSVP, so we know how many to expect. New Years Eve Sign Up Genius:

<http://tinyurl.com/5DinnerNYE>

5. The Meaning & Making of Community: What is it, where is it & why do we need it?[12/17]

In October 2022, we led a Workshop “Return, Reexamine, Reconnect, Renew: An Experiential Dialogue.” We invite those of you who attended last year to continue our dialogue AND extend the invitation to all Parishioners. In building on our place here and the world, it is quite natural to discuss our ideas and beliefs, affirming the importance of continuity and connection with one another. Please join us as we continue our journey together with open hearts.

Date: Saturday, February 3, 2024 Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Baxter Hall Leaders: Rita Ossolinski, Don Lipscomb, & Bill Jordan

Babysitting available upon request.

If you are interested in joining or have questions send an email with “Community” in the subject line. [rossolinski\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:rossolinski[at]yahoo.com), [DLipscomb\[at\]delstudioarchitects.com](mailto:DLipscomb[at]delstudioarchitects.com) or [jordans4\[at\]verizon.net](mailto:jordans4[at]verizon.net)

6. Film Screening - Philadelphia 11 - Save the Date [12/10]

On **March 3rd at 1pm** we will host a screening of the new documentary the Philadelphia 11 www.philadelphiaelevenfilm.com. The film is the story of a group of women who organized to become Episcopal priests in 1974. Contact Edna Boone [ednaboone\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:ednaboone[at]gmail.com)

Service and Social Justice

7. Food Baskets Collection [12/3]

Share your abundance! Donate packaged food in the baskets under the altar for distribution from the Lutheran Church of the Reformation Food Bank. Any Questions contact Michael Knipe

8. Grate Patrol - Join us on **Christmas Eve in Baxter Hall**, following the pageant for the making of 80 lunches (160 sandwiches) for those living on the grates in our city. “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.” Contact: Edna Boone [ednaboone\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:ednaboone@gmail.com) [12/3]

9. Incarceration Justice - Save the Date

[11/26]

On Tuesday, January 9th, 2024, the Incarceration Justice group will welcome Rudy Logan, Missioner of Equity and Justice at the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, DC. Please mark your calendar, and plan to hear his message. **The meeting is planned for 7 p.m. in person, in the Baxter Parish Hall.**

10. Thank You from Hands Along the Nile

[12/24]

Alf shokr (“a thousand thanks”) to the St. Mark’s congregation for so enthusiastically supporting the Crafts of Cairo sale on December 10th. Because of you, over 600 female artisans in Egypt’s garbage recycling neighborhood will be able to hone their skills, generate an income, and gain a voice in their homes and communities. While the garbage collectors of Egypt recycle at least 80% of the trash they collect, this accomplishment comes at a high personal cost: they often take their children out of school at a young age to support their families’ collecting and recycling businesses. This continues the cycle of poverty generation after generation. We are proud to support efforts to train women in marketable skills and support them in continuing their education. With the extra income they generate as artisans, they can afford to keep their children in school, providing greater career opportunities for the next generation. Thank you for contributing to this transformative change through your Christmas shopping this year! www.handsalongthenile.org.

Christian Education

11. Economic Inequality Reading Group 4th meeting, Dec 19, 7:00 pm, Elders Room)

[12/3]

You are invited to a monthly reading group focused on economic inequality in the current United States. The group offers an opportunity for thoughtful conversation centered on nine books by diverse authors. The authors approach education, healthcare, housing, gender and racial inequalities, sexuality, location, incarceration and immigration with a common theme of economic inequality. Selected from a variety of genres, each book will guide a discussion of understanding with compassion and responding boldly to the suffering and structural injustices of economic inequality. A list of the texts and dates is posted on the foyer bulletin board and available in the Christian Education catalog. All are welcome to join monthly or drop in as time and interest allows. The fourth meeting will focus on *Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward. The group facilitator is Angie Cecil. Please be in touch with questions: [angie.e.cecil\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:angie.e.cecil[at]gmail.com)

12. “Wrestling with The Angel” (Wednesdays once a month on Zoom)

[12/3]

Want to explore spirituality, faith, philosophy, and ethics more deeply? Join clergy for a critical and constructive discussion of central themes of human life as witnessed in Scripture. We will read selected passages together and then discuss how to apply what we’ve read to deepen our spiritual practices, hone our ethics, and address the mystery at the center of our lives.

Classes will be held **over Zoom on Wednesdays this winter and into the spring**. Topics: January

13, **Who has the final word?** February 7th, TBA; March 13, **God's Kingdom/ God's Kin-dom;** April 10, **Freedom from Fear.** Email Michele ([michele\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:michele[at]stmarks.net)) to sign up and Michael Gravlee ([parishadmin\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:parishadmin[at]stmarks.net)) for the Zoom link.

14. "Me and My Kids: Growing Together - Growing Apart" (Sunday mornings in late January and early February)
[12/3]

For children, "growing up" can mean periods of building deep bonds. Yet, childhood and adolescence must also necessarily include periods of separation and experiences of loss. As parents, we also experience these seasons of togetherness and disconnection as we raise our children. Especially as they cross that threshold into adulthood, we can find ourselves grappling with the changes in our relationships with them.

How do we approach each of these periods? What about our own upbringing, our values and our faith guides us and kindles our own growth? What causes us to stumble?

Over the course of four consecutive Sunday mornings, join Julie Murphy and Aaryn Kopp to explore how we build strong connections in our families and how we embrace the pain inherent in letting go. **Babysitting will be available upon request for this in person class, January 21 & 8 and February 4 & 11 from 10am to noon!** Sign up in the foyer or email Julie at [juliaabbottmurphy\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:juliaabbottmurphy[at]gmail.com). Sign up in the foyer or email Julie at [juliaabbottmurphy\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:juliaabbottmurphy[at]gmail.com).

15. "Episcopalian 101" (January Foundational Course) [12/3]
Why do some people make the sign of the cross? Who chooses the music? What is the Book of Common Prayer? Who the heck is the Bishop someone mentions? Do all Episcopal churches have an altar in the center? If you want to know what it means to be an Episcopalian, consider joining us! We convene this class several times a year in two Sunday sessions. Please note we require three people to sign up for the class to be taught. The winter classes are right around the corner on **Sunday, Jan. 21 & 28, 1:30–3:00 pm in Dozier Library!** Email [michele\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:michele[at]stmarks.net) to reserve your spot.

Music

16. Early Childhood Music Classes For children ages 3-4 year old, with or without caregivers present, this class is all about the huge variety of music that exists. We will learn our first Echo Songs, finger plays, circle dances, songs and chants. There will also be time for percussion instruments, rhythms and plenty of music to listen to. **Dates: (Thursdays) January 04, 11, 18, 25, February 01, 08, 15, 22 from 4-4:35 pm or 5-5:35 pm. 8 weeks. Price per class per child: \$160.** Contact Judith Rautenberg [judith\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:judith[at]stmarks.net) to sign up.

17. Upcoming Music-Related Events: Armonia Nova offers its annual Twelfth Night Celebration (early music performance) on **Saturday, January 6th at 7:30 pm**. Free-will donation. www.armonianova.org | Early music group Magdalena Ensemble makes its St. Mark's debut on **Sunday, January 7th at 2:30 pm** with songs from Ireland and Scotland. Learn more at www.magdalena-ensemble.com. \$20 suggested donation. | We are happy to announce that our successful Sandbox Concerts for young listeners ages 0-5 will continue this season. We will have singers, accordion, cello, and piano. **January 27th 2024, 10:00 AM and 11:30 am**. Attendance is free but advance sign-up is required. Contact Judith Rautenberg [judith\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:judith[at]stmarks.net)

Ongoing Announcements

18. Wednesday Bible Class This year's study explores historical "context" as the key to understanding the writings in The New Testament (NT). We use commentary, reading, and discussion. Ultimately we ask ourselves: "What does our learning mean for our lives now?" There is no assigned homework. New members are welcome and appreciated. To join the class, click on the Bible Class icon at <http://stmarks.net/bibleclass/>. For more info, email Raiford Gaffney at [rgaffneydc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:rgaffneydc[at]gmail.com).

Dates & Time: Wednesdays, September 6, 2023 – May 22, 2024, 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Leader: Peter Mosley leading **Location:** Zoom

19. Morning Prayer on Zoom continues: MWF 11:00 - 11:40 am stmarks.net/morningprayer. Readings from the Bible and the life of a notable holy person, prayers (as for Thursday Eucharist), and wide-ranging discussion (similar to Sermon Seminar). Join us on your screen or phone for reflection and fellowship. Latest Zoom info at the link above, or contact [Elin Whitney-Smith](mailto:elinwhitneysmith[at]gmail.com) [elinwhitneysmith\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:elinwhitneysmith[at]gmail.com) for more information.

20. Centering Prayer. Every day on Zoom at 8:00 a.m. Centering Prayer is an early Christian contemplative practice that emphasizes interior silence. For more information or to join the group, contact [The Rev. Patricia Catalano adjunct\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:adjunct[at]stmarks.net).

21. Bible Storytime Podcast. Join Caleb and the St. Mark's Sunday School team for a 5-minute daily podcast! We'll have some music, read a bible story, and say a prayer. [Email Caleb](mailto:youthdirector[at]stmarks.net) [youthdirector\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:youthdirector[at]stmarks.net) to sign up.

22. Participate in the Music Program! The Chancel Choir rehearses in the nave on **Thursdays from 7:30-9:30 p.m.** Contact [jeff\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:jeff[at]stmarks.net) for more info. The **Children's Choir** seeks more participants (ages 5+; church membership not required) and rehearses on **Sundays from 11-11:30 am** (ages 5-8) and **11:30-12:10 pm** (ages 9+) downstairs in the Elders Room. Contact [Judith Rautenberg](mailto:judith[at]stmarks.net) [judith\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:judith[at]stmarks.net) if you have an interested child. The **Handbell Choir** is looking for more ringers! Super fun, and no previous experience is required. Rehearsals generally take place the **2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 6:45 to 8 p.m.** downstairs in the Elders Room. Email [Katherine](mailto:kep5[at]cornell.edu) [kep5\[at\]cornell.edu](mailto:kep5[at]cornell.edu) if interested. The Music Studio offers **private piano & voice lessons** to people of all ages and abilities. Schedules and rates are set by each teacher. [Sasha Beresovsky](mailto:sacha.youn[at]gmail.com) [avberesovsky\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:avberesovsky[at]gmail.com), [Sacha Youn](mailto:sacha.youn[at]gmail.com) [sacha.youn\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:sacha.youn[at]gmail.com), and [Anh Nguyen](mailto:anhpng[at]aol.com) [anhpng\[at\]aol.com](mailto:anhpng[at]aol.com) teach piano. Both [Diane Atherton](mailto:dianesvoicestudio[at]gmail.com) [dianesvoicestudio\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dianesvoicestudio[at]gmail.com) and [Judith](mailto:judith[at]stmarks.net) [judith\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:judith[at]stmarks.net) teach voice. See stmarks.net/music for more information.

23. Music Classes for Children We will soon be offering music classes for children ages 3-4 years old. Kids will be exposed to a variety of music including echo songs, finger plays, circle dances, songs, and chants. Percussion instruments, rhythm, and listening to music will also be included. Fridays 4-4:35 pm or 4:50-5:25 pm for 10 weeks beginning soon. Fee: \$180. Contact Judith Rautenberg judith[at]stmarks.net for more info.

23. Youth Orchestra Program: This fall, we are hosting a new program on Wednesday evenings intended for intermediate-level musicians aged 9-14. Led by experienced conductor Emil Chudnovsky, the program will cover a wide range of repertoires and include workshops, masterclasses, and concerts. Visit <https://neo-academy.us/p/orchestra-studies> for more information.

24. Caregivers Support Group If you care for a loved one and would like to share your experiences with similarly engaged others, email Julie Murphy at juliaabbottmurphy[at]gmail.com to join our support group. **We meet by Zoom on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.** Together, we share the challenges of caregiving -- the stuff that breaks our hearts and challenges our minds but also the quiet moments of profound grace and deep love for the one who needs us.

25. St Marks Yoga Classes. Classes accommodate all levels and are in-person and on Zoom. There is a **new in-person class on Wednesday nights at 6 p.m.** Join us! <https://www.stmarksyogadc.org/>

26. St. Mark's Meditation Center: Meditation, Mondays 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Join us **in person at Baxter Hall or via Zoom.** Our peer-led sangha gathers for silent or lightly guided meditation, a dharma talk, and discussion each week. All are welcome to join. Contact Michele Rivard at [mmrivard\[at\]hotmail.com](mailto:mmrivard@hotmail.com) to learn more. Sign up for the weekly program email to receive info on the week's topic and facilitator.