

Announcements - January 7, 2024

Submit announcements, not to exceed 150 words, to [bulletin\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto: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](mailto:parishadmin[at]stmark.net). To have your event posted on the parish website, send it to [website\[at\]stmarksnet](mailto:website[at]stmarksnet).

From Parish Leadership & Staff

1. Parish Retreat - Save the Date

[1/7]

Our Parish Retreat is scheduled for **Saturday and Sunday, June 29 & 30, 2024 at the Claggett Center** just 60 miles northwest of Washington.

This intergenerational social and spiritual event returns this year. Join the team of volunteers to plan the content, activities, youth events, hospitality and overall organization of the retreat. Contact Jim Brooks using the address [srwarden\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:srwarden[at]stmarks.net). Further details on registration, cost and transportation options to follow.

2. Courageous Discipleship: Deepening Our Lives of Faith on Friday, January 26, from

6:30-8:30 p.m. [Register here](#) James Fawcett's personal biography includes the line, "I am passionate about enabling the local church to share faith as well as positively impact their communities in meaningful, inclusive, creative, and safe ways." Bishop Mariann comments, "I am so pleased that James has accepted our invitation to be a part of our Convention, helping us to explore the theme of Courageous Discipleship. From our first meeting, I was struck by James' warmth and easygoing depth. He inspires people by taking their discipleship perhaps even more seriously than they have taken it themselves." Read more about [Being With](#). Questions [Michele\[At\]stmarks.net](mailto:Michele[At]stmarks.net)

Service and Social Justice

3. 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.**

Christian Education

4. "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.

5. "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?

Throughout four consecutive Sunday mornings, join Matt Dodge, 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).

6. "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.

7. Economic Inequality Reading Group (5th meeting, January 23, 7:00 pm Elders Room) [1/7]

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. Each book is selected to guide a discussion of understanding and compassion as we look to boldly respond to the suffering and structural injustices of economic inequality.

The January meeting will focus on Abundance by Jakob Guanzon, a novel about a young father navigating housing insecurity, addiction, and incarceration while trying to build a stable life for himself and his son. The novel's chapters are structured around the amount of money in the father's pocket, acutely drawing the reader's attention to question abundance.

All are welcome to join monthly or drop in and out as time and interest allows. 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).

8. 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 in 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 is available upon request.

If you are interested in joining or have questions send an email with “Community” in the subject line. rossolinski@atyahoo.com, DLipscomb@delstudioarchitects.com or jordans4@verizon.net

Music

9. Early Childhood Music Classes For children ages 3-4 years 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@stmarks.net to sign up.

10. Upcoming Music-Related Events: 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@stmarks.net

Youth and Family Ministries

11. 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 15th**. Note: There may be other 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@stmarks.net to be added to our trip list and to receive information about ski passes and gear rentals.

Parish Life & Diocesan Events

12. St. Mark's Meditation Group Dates

[12/24]

On **January 8th**, we are pleased to welcome our special guest, Born I, a 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).

13. 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 occur at **10 am 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.

14. Beyond the Frame

[12/31]

SpiritMoving2024 – Exploring movement and spirituality in liturgy.

American Art Museum Exhibit: Musical Thinking: New Video Art and Sonic Strategies Specifically Mariam Ghani and Erin Ellen Kelly, When the Spirits Moved Them, They Moved, reimagining the nineteenth-century spiritual gatherings that took place in a preserved Shaker meetinghouse.

We will meet at the museum at the main desk by the F Street entrance, view the exhibit, then return to St Mark's for a brown bag lunch, discussion, and movement workshop. **Date and Time: January 20th, 2024, 10:45 AM at the American Art Museum**. Brown bag lunch, discussion, and workshop at St Mark's 12:30 PM Room: TBD

For information and a link to the exhibit: <https://StMarks.net/SpiritMoving2024>

OR Contact Elin Whitney-Smith [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin[at]WatercolorDC.com) or J.R. Randall [contactjr\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:contactjr[at]gmail.com)

15. Film Screening - Philadelphia 11 - Save the Date

[12/10]

On **March 3rd at 1 pm** 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)

Ongoing Announcements

16. 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 [haroldknipe\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:haroldknipe[at]gmail.com)

17. 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

18. 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 elinwhitneysmith\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:elinwhitneysmith[at]gmail.com) for more information.

19. 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).

20. 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 youthdirector\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:youthdirector[at]stmarks.net) to sign up.

21. 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 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 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 avberesovsky\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:avberesovsky[at]gmail.com), [Saeha Youn saeha.youn\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:saeha.youn[at]gmail.com), and [Anh Nguyen anhpng\[at\]aol.com](mailto:anhpng[at]aol.com) teach piano. Both [Diane Atherton dianesvoicestudio\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dianesvoicestudio[at]gmail.com) and [Judith judith\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:judith[at]stmarks.net) teach voice. See stmarks.net/music for more information.

22. 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](mailto: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 [juliaabbotmurphy\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:juliaabbotmurphy[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[at]hotmail.com) to learn more. Sign up for the weekly program email to receive info on the week's topic and facilitator.