



What's Happening at St. Mark's - March 3, 2024

Announcements

From Parish Leadership & Staff

1. From the Junior Warden: We've purchased a new stove and refrigerator! [3/3]

These were installed Friday March 1. Both are residential rather than "commercial" appliances: they will not need special and more expensive repairs and will be MUCH easier to use! Second Chance, a non-profit in Baltimore took the stove: the salvaged building materials are sold and profits used for job training. Thanks to Doris Burton and Maureen Shea for their help in researching and diligent questions at the appliance store!

Service and Social Justice

2. Washington Interfaith Network University [2/18]

Political Education Series! The Winter/Spring Political Education series aims to analyze WIN's issue campaigns through the lens of racial and economic equity: How did we get here? What are the powers at play in each campaign? How do we move forward? An opportunity to look at WIN's power, its gaps, and how we need to build. **All sessions 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 222 M St SW, Washington, DC 20024.**

To register use <https://bit.ly/politicaleduseries> or this QR code.



March 7 - Public Safety and Gun Violence Prevention

April 4 - Affordable Housing and Home Ownership

May 2 - Climate and Healthy Housing

3. Volunteer - Meal for Migrants [3/3]

St. Mark's will be providing a meal for migrants at Capitol Hill United Methodist Church on Seward Square **on the fourth Thursday of the month - March 28th**. We need your help! Volunteers would arrive about 6 pm and things wrap up around 8 pm. You would either bring food, serve food, play with children or help with the free store. Typically, we serve about 30 individuals. Spanish is helpful but not essential. If you are able to help monthly or even sporadically, email Michael McCabe at [mmccabe963\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:mmccabe963[at]gmail.com).

4. Take Action to Support Migrant Ministry under Threat [3/3]

The Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is suing Annunciation House in El Paso, a network of migrant shelters that has been in operation for almost 50 years, and aims to shut it down.

Paxton's legal action appears to be part of a broader Republican push to target Catholic nonprofits serving migrants at the border amid an effort to make immigration a key 2024 election campaign issue.

Maryknoll's Office for Global Concerns provides a way to show solidarity to Annunciation House <https://maryknollogc.org/action/join-us-solidarity-annunciation-house> and to send a message to the attorney general. Interested in more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/AHouse1> and <https://tinyurl.com/AHouseNPR>

5. Save the Date: Saturday morning, April 6!

[2/11]

This year, Samaritan Ministry's *Next Step Breakfast* will take place on **Saturday, April 6, at the National Press Club** at the corner of F and 14th Streets, NW, near Metro Center. **Come at 9:00 am to enjoy a plentiful continental breakfast** at one of our St. Mark's tables. **From 9:30 to 10:30**, learn how the Ministry is helping returning citizens and other residents of the metro area transform their lives. Our emcee will be Laura Barrón-López, White House Correspondent for PBS NewsHour. You'll hear testimonials from Next Step Program participant Sam Tanner, formerly unhoused and jobless, and long-time volunteer Isaiah Poole, a member of St. Stephen and the Incarnation, one of the Ministry's founding Episcopal Churches (along with St. Mark's). The event is free but registration is required. To reserve a place, please contact Mary Neznec ([maryneznec\[at\]verizon.net](mailto:maryneznec[at]verizon.net)) or Peter Hawley ([phawleydc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:phawleydc[at]gmail.com)).

6. Thanks from Good Neighbors Capitol Hill for Twin Bedding and Toiletries

[3/3]

A huge embrace and thanks to all who have been dropping items into the "Afghan Collection Bags" in the Entry Hall. The generosity of many anonymous donations for the St. Mark's Bed, Bath and Beyond warehouse has been a great boost and much appreciated by GNCH as we prepare apartments for refugee families. Unfortunately, we neglected to encourage donors to identify themselves by communicating with us or attaching a name to their contribution. Going forward, we would certainly like to convey a personal thanks and provide a tax donation letter if you let us know who you are. In the future, we hope to communicate our appreciation to many, though some may still prefer anonymity. Contact: Karen [karen.getman\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:karen.getman[at]gmail.com) or [Kimbaylissdc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:Kimbaylissdc[at]gmail.com)

Parish Life & Diocesan Events

7. Gun Violence Strikes One of Our Own.

[2/25]

As you all know, St. Mark's has hosted the Newtown Vigil for All Survivors of Gun Violence for the last nine years, extending supporting and hospitality for all who gather. Now, one of our own needs that support. The brother of Victor Aldana, who is the key member of our custodial team, was shot by a 16 year old and is in critical condition at MedStar Washington Hospital Center. The outlook is uncertain. Victor told us that when he was helping during the vigil, he never thought this would happen to his family. Rep. Jamie Raskin's office is helping make arrangements for his mother to travel from El Salvador. Victor's brother is the primary support of his family. **There is a GoFundMe campaign to help his brother and family.** Even if he makes a full recovery, there will be many expenses associated with this tragedy so we are urging St. Mark's to give generously. Thank you to those who already have. Donation link: rb.gy/wdx6ud

8. Request for Medical equipment (walkers, wheelchairs, etc.) [2/18]

Parishioners who have durable medical equipment available to lend to others, please email a list (and pictures- if it is feasible) to aa@stmarks.net. We do not have space available to store these items, so only include if you are able to keep at home and agree to be contacted if the item(s) are needed. Jan Lipscomb will compile the list.

9. Film Screening 'Philadelphia 11' [2/4]

March 3rd at 12:30pm (time updated) we will host a screening of the new documentary Philadelphia 11 www.philadelphiaelevenfilm.com. The film is the story of a group of women who organized to become Episcopal priests in 1974. A conversation and light refreshments will follow. \$10 suggested donation to cover costs. Contact Edna Boone ednaboone@gmail.com

10. Sunday, March 10 12:30pm - St Mark's Arts Council Lenten Art Exhibit Reception [2/25]

Please join St Mark's Arts Council and artists in a reception immediately following the 11:15 service to share stories behind "art to change the world." Learn about the inspiration for this lenten social justice art and commemorative poster exhibit by children and members of St . Mark's. Contact: JR Randall or maryneznec@verizon.net 202.997.5640.

Christian Education

11. Letting Go: Toys in the Attic Class [2/18]

What are you giving up for Lent? How about stuff you're hanging onto - that you just don't need, that someone else can use, or that it's long past time for the dustbin? Join us to explore literal and figurative aspects of Letting Go – of possessions and circumstances that make us feel content or identify ourselves in certain ways. Discussion and short readings draw from Swedish death cleaning (döstädning) and Buddhist non-attachment and impermanence. The end goal is to explore how we can let go -- of things, people, and ideas of self -- and be more open to living with curiosity and generosity (and less clutter). **Wednesdays, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., March 6 and 13, at Church.** Questions and sign up, email Michele Rivard at mmrivard@hotmail.com with "Letting Go" as the subject. Max. 12 people.

12. Called to Act Book Group [3/3]

Called to Act: The Origins of Christian Responsibility, by Rev. Michael W. Hopkins, strives to examine the Baptismal Covenant in the Book of Common Prayer in relationship to political responsibility in the U.S. As we approach another Presidential election, you are invited to join us in conversation, **Monday evenings, March 11, 18, 25, and April 8, in the Conference Room or on Zoom from 6:00-7:00 pm.** The book may be purchased for \$24.95 at: <https://www.churchpublishing.org/calledtoact> or is also available on Amazon. (If cost is prohibitive, we do have options available). Please contact seminarian Lydia Arnts, seminarian@stmarks.net, with interest, questions, or concerns.

13. Losses and New Beginnings [2/18]

Inevitably, each of us will experience loss during our lives, perhaps a loved one's death, an unexpected shift in careers, disappointments or even calamities that come unexpectedly. And yet

each loss has the potential to leave us open to a resurrection, a renewal that can launch us into a new chapter of life, new relationships, new careers, new applications, or new interests.

Come join class leaders Don Lipscomb - (dlipscomb@delstudioarchitects.com) and Louise Walsh (ldwalsh@earthlink.net) **Wednesday evenings April 3 and 10th and our April 5-7 weekend retreat** as we seek to make sense of the past, recent losses, and explore how new directions are able to spring from the ashes of doubt and despair. For some, this journey may break open opportunities to chart a whole new direction for the next stage of our lives. Questions? Please contact us. A sign-up sheet in the foyer.

14. Spring Baptism Class

[2/18]

Families considering having their children baptized this spring or summer are invited to sign up for this two-session, online class. Facilitators John Edwards, Kate McFadden, and Steve Dalzell will walk parents through the Liturgy of Baptism and explore its connections to the larger experience of parenting. The class is also a great way to meet other families with (or expecting) young children and learn about other St. Mark's programs for youth and families. Classes are planned for the **evenings of April 4 and 11, with dates and times to be confirmed** with interested families. For more information or to sign up, email Steve at dalzellsr@gmail.com.

Music and the Arts

15. Upcoming Music-Related Events

The Washington Bach Consort performs its Noontime Cantata Series on **Monday, March 4th at 12:10 pm**. Fully-professional choir and orchestra. Free. | The March 10th Eclipse Chamber Orchestra performance is canceled. | Sasha Beresovsky will perform a solo piano recital on Friday, March 15th at 7:30 pm. | Visit stmarks.net/music for a list of all upcoming events.

16. Homestays Needed for Berlin Girl's Choir

[2/25]

The Berlin Girl's Choir will be visiting D.C., performing two concerts (including one at St. Mark's), and will sing at the morning services the Sunday after Easter Sunday. We are in need of families who would be willing to provide a room for one or more of these 14-24 year-old students to sleep in during their visit. The commitment is from the evening of Tuesday, April 2nd through the morning of Sunday, April 7th. **Help us reach our goal: only 9 more beds are needed!** Please email Judith judith@stmarks.net if you have questions or would consider helping us out.

17. Friends of Music

[2/18]

We're looking to expand our small but faithful team of volunteers who help organize 3-4 receptions each season. Volunteer opportunities include setup, purchasing/providing food and drinks, decorations, helping serve the food and drinks, and/or clean up. The next event is in the evening of April 6th. Contact Jeff Kempeskie [jeff\(at\)stmarks.net](mailto:jeff(at)stmarks.net) with questions or if you're willing to help.

Ongoing Announcements

18. Weekly Service Projects

[2/4]

Rather than giving something up for Lent this year, the Service and Social Justice Board invites you to deepen your engagement or explore something new. To facilitate this, we invite all ages to join in a

service project for each Sunday of Lent to take place in Baxter Hall after Sermon Seminar. While there, children are also invited to borrow a book from the library we will have set up to learn more about service and social justice.

Feb 18 - Help sort clothing that has been donated for migrants passing through DC.

Feb 25 - Help Grate Patrol make lunches for those living on the grates in our city.

March 3 - Decorate a cookie for Everyone Home DC's day center for people experiencing homelessness.

March 10 - Write or illustrate letters of hope for individuals in prison or jail.

March 17 - Decorate a "Welcome Home" banner for the new apartment of a recently arrived refugee.

March 24 - Help Grate Patrol make lunches for those living on the grates in our city.

19. St. Mark's Players Production: *Rapture, Blister, Burn* [2/11]

After grad school, Catherine and Gwen chose polar opposite paths. Decades later, each woman covets the other's life, commencing a dangerous game. With searing insight and trademark wit, this comedy was a finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. **Runs February 23 through March 9.** Tickets: \$22 students/seniors, \$25 general admission. Visit stmarksplayers.org for details.

20. Before I Go: Guidance for Planning your Memorial Service [1/28]

Leaving our affairs in order when we die is an enormous gift for our loved ones. One way St. Mark's can help you do some of this important work "before you go" is to offer time and guidance on planning your own memorial service. This four session workshop will lead you through the process of choosing readings, prayers, and music, as well as whom you might ask to give a tribute and what sort of bio would suit you. Resources and examples will be available and shared with the class. Along with the nuts and bolts of putting together a memorial service, our time will include exploration, in community, of spiritual issues that arise as we face our mortality. Consider doing this work as a gift for your loved ones...before you go. Sign up in foyer or email [josiejordan52\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:josiejordan52@gmail.com).

Teachers: Josie and Bill Jordan. Limited to 12 people

Dates: Saturdays, March 9, 16, 23, 31 Location: Elder's Room Time: 1pm - 2:30 pm

21. 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. **Location: Zoom**

22. 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:ElinWhitney-Smith@elinwhitneysmith.com) [elinwhitneysmith\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:elinwhitneysmith[at]gmail.com) for more information.

23. 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).

24. 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.

25. Participate in the Music Program!

The Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursdays from 7:30-9:30 pm. The Children's Choir (ages 5+) rehearses on Sundays from 11-11:30 or 11:30-12:10 pm. The Handbell Choir meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 6:45 to 8 pm. Contact [jeff\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:jeff[at]stmarks.net) for more info. The Music Studio offers private piano and voice lessons to people of all ages and abilities. Schedules and rates are set by each teacher. Visit stmarks.net/music for more information.

26. 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\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:judith[at]stmarks.net) to sign up.

27. 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](mailto:juliaabbottmurphy[at]gmail.com) to join our monthly Caregivers Support Group. **We meet by Zoom on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.** Over the course of the hour, 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.

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

Do you have an announcement for St. Mark's?

You can submit announcements of 150 words or less 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.

If you would like 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).