



What's Happening at St. Mark's Announcements - April 12, 2026

From Parish Leadership & Staff

1. March Update on Strategic Planning

[4/5]

Last fall, the Vestry launched a strategic planning process to chart our church's future for the next five years. The January survey generated an amazing 191 responses! In April, the Vestry will focus on getting feedback on the survey results:

- We will hold a Rector's Forum **this Sunday, April 12 at 10 am**. At the Forum, Planning Group members will share the presentation that the Vestry heard and ask for feedback.
- Vestry Liaisons will set up discussions with the leaders of key committees to discuss the results in their area of responsibility and get feedback.
- The Planning Group will be getting input from Parish youth.

At the April Vestry meeting, Planning Group will present a summary of the feedback.

Please contact me at [rmarksftc\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:rmarksftc[at]yahoo.com) with any questions. Randy Marks for the Planning Group (Ben Flowers, Martha Huizenga, Randy Marks, Doug Padgett, Bo Ranney)

2. Meeting to Discuss the Future of Worship

[4/12]

Come discuss the Strategic Planning Survey results regarding worship on **Monday, April 20, at 7:00-8:30 PM, in the Rector's Room Room and on zoom**. Email Randy Marks ([rmarksftc\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:rmarksftc[at]yahoo.com)) to get the zoom link and results, which we ask you review before the meeting. For more information, contact Worship Chair Nick Rogers ([doctornick5\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:doctornick5[at]gmail.com)) or Randy.

3. Liturgy of Commitment

[4/12]

We are celebrating our annual liturgy of commitment on **Sunday, April 26th at the 9am, 11:15am, and 5pm service**. This liturgy gives parishioners old and new a chance to make a public commitment to their St. Mark's community. We hope you will join us. The liturgy is available for review on the St. Mark's website: <https://www.stmarks.net/litcommitment/>

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Learn more about all our different programs at <https://bit.ly/CYFMHandbook>

4. Pilgrimage Fundraiser Lunch at Pupatella Pizzeria [4/12]

Pupatella Pizzeria (301 Massachusetts Ave NE) will be giving 20% of both dine in and take out sales on Sunday, May 3rd to the HS Pilgrimage. You can participate at any time that day using the code: GIVEBACK. Or you can join the group walking over at **12:30pm on Sunday, May 3** for a fun community lunch. Contact [marysmiller\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:marysmiller@gmail.com) with questions.

5. Grownups' Intro to Sunday School (Take 2) [4/12]

St. Mark's takes a unique approach to children's spiritual formation that centers wonder and play as a path to relationship with the divine. We want to support all parishioners in feeling knowledgeable and engaged in our program. If you missed last month's Grownups' Intro to Sunday School, we are offering another chance to attend on **Sunday, April 26th from 11:15am to 12pm in the Adams Room**. Please join us to learn about the vision and structure of this special ministry. Contact our [youthdirector\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:youthdirector@stmarks.net) with questions.

6. 4th/5th Service and Social Justice Club [4/12]

Thank you to those who filled eggs for the homeless shelter across from the cathedral! This club for 4th and 5th graders will have its next meeting in the **Adams room right after Sunday School on Sunday, April 26** with donuts and a special guest speaker. The club will wrap up in time for the start of choir. Contact [deniseroliveira\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:deniseroliveira@gmail.com) with questions.

Service and Social Justice

Step into SSJ. View our volunteer opportunities page at www.stmarks.net/socialjustice

7. Washington Interfaith Action Network Meeting (WIN) [3/22]

The Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) brings together congregations and community organizations from across DC to advocate on issues such as affordable housing, public safety, youth opportunities and economic justice.

Our April Action Team Meeting date is **Thursday, April 16 Time: 6:30–8:00 p.m.**

Location: **St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church | 320 21st St NE, Washington, DC**

RSVP now for WIN's Mayoral Candidates Forum. Sunday, May 17 3:00–5:00 p.m.

Location: East of the River (TBD). The number of registered attendees will help determine which WIN member institution will host. <https://tinyurl.com/WINCandidateForum>

8. St. Mark's Justice in Palestine (SMJP) Meeting - Sunday, April 19 [4/12]

The St. Mark's Justice in Palestine group meets **the 3rd Sunday of every month at 12:30pm (after the 11:15 service)**. Join us Sunday April 19 in the Dozier Library. We are planning for upcoming workshops and discussing how to join the apartheid-free movement. We will also pray for and provide updates about Marwan Ibrahim Maadi and all political prisoners and their families. Contact Giulia DeLuca at [giulialdeluca\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:giulialdeluca[at]gmail.com) or Lindsey Jones-Renaud at [ljonesrenaud\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:ljonesrenaud[at]gmail.com) with questions.

9. What's Next After No Kings? (Sunday April 19, after both morning services).

No Kings 3 was great. 54 parishioners (and friends) represented the parish together in Anacostia on March 28 (and a dozen more on their own in DC and all over - from Chicago to Paris). Photos: stmarks.net/nk3

Up next: **May Day (5/1), a nationwide general strike (maydaydc.org/schedule).** **What then? Sunday, April 19, after both morning services, let's figure it out. Location TBD.**

As we focus on the November election (205 days away), do we channel energy into training (e.g. bit.ly/fdc26train), linking with FreeDC or Indivisible, supporting marchers from behind the scenes (childcare, transportation), partnering with other churches? Join the conversation on the morning of Sunday April 19, or contact Chris Berendes ([sharetheburden\[at\]proton.me](mailto:sharetheburden[at]proton.me)).

10. Connecting the Dots:

Sustainable Agriculture in Honduras, Clean Water, and Migration [3/29]

For 20 years, St. Mark's and other DC churches have been supporting reforestation and sustainable agriculture projects in the highlands of Honduras, helping farmers adapt to a drying climate. The results have been impressive: crop diversity, better yields, improved housing, health, and income, and a reduced need to emigrate. **At 12:30 pm on Sunday, April 19, come to the Adams Room** to learn about these successes, how the program has expanded to additional villages, and how you can help. **Tim Jenkins from Sustainable Villages Honduras (SVH)** will be our presenter. A former Peace Corps volunteer, he holds a degree in international agriculture from Cornell and has also worked with ECO-City Farms in Prince George's County. Light refreshments will be available. Sponsored by SVH and St. Mark's Green Lions and Migrant Support programs. Questions: Contact Christina Herman ([christina.herman55\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:christina.herman55[at]gmail.com)) and Leslie Allen ([la.caphill\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:la.caphill[at]gmail.com)).

11. Anacostia Earth Day Cleanup! Saturday, April 25th, 11 - 1, Kingman Park [3/22]

Join St. Marks' Green Lions and lots of others in Anacostia Watershed Society's annual Earth Day cleanup. It's fun, rewarding, and easy. (Hardly any plastic bags or styrofoam now that they're banned!) All ages welcome. But you must register, and slots will fill up at this great location. <https://mobilize.us/s/3ixRY2/d> Questions, contact Leslie Allen, [lacaphill\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:lacaphill[at]gmail.com)

12. Ranked Choice Voting Education – May 3rd [4/12]

The 2026 Elections in DC are the most consequential in decades. For the first time, voters will use ranked choice voting to elect candidates to an unusually high number of open positions: mayor, 2 representatives in Congress, and 7 City Councilmembers. This election is an opportunity to shape the future of DC. We won't tell you who to vote for, but we will teach you how! Join members of St. Mark's Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) core-team for a **30-minute training and Q&A on Sunday, May 3rd.**

After Sermon Seminar 11-11:30am

After 11:15am 12:30-1pm

Before 5:00pm 4:30-5pm Contact: Edna Boone [ednaboone\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:ednaboone[at]gmail.com)

13. Hot Lunches for Everyone Home DC's Day Center, Shirley's Place [3/29]

Here is a service opportunity for you or your St Mark's "small group": **Prepare a hot lunch for 50 drop-in clients** to be served at Shirley's Place. Currently St Mark's is providing approximately 3 such lunches a year. (Our high school youth will be serving baked ziti in April.) Everyone Home DC has asked if we can do more during the May through September time period. In the past, a lunch has been prepared on Sunday for serving on the following Monday. Food costs can be reimbursed by the Service and Social Justice Board. Want to know more about this and the specifics? Email Susan Sedgewick at [jssedgewick\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:jssedgewick[at]gmail.com).

14. Responsive Grant Proposals Due 5/17 [3/22]

SSJ is offering grants of up to \$1000 to jumpstart a new project you believe will benefit the larger community outside St. Mark's. All ages are encouraged to apply! **Proposals due by May 17th with decisions by early June.** Judging considerations include: whether the beneficiaries want the proposed project; whether others from St. Mark's can participate; and is it realistic for implementation? Your proposal should describe the project and include an implementation plan and budget/justification for the amount requested. Send your proposal or questions to Leslie Allen, [lacaphill\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:lacaphill[at]gmail.com).

Parish Life & Diocesan Events

15. Please Join the 20s/30s Group for Our Upcoming Meetings! [3/29]

After the 5 PM, we meet **downstairs in the Dozier Library** to discuss a new podcast episode every month. Listen ahead, or just show up to hear and discuss excerpts. We also have **brunch** (walking somewhere nearby or packing ahead to eat at St. Mark's) **once a month after the 11:15 service**. Contact Jilian McGreen ([jmcg1213\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:jmcg1213@gmail.com)) or Annabelle Swift ([annabelleswift31\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:annabelleswift31[at]gmail.com)) with questions or to join our Google group and WhatsApp.

April 12 12:15 - Brunch April 26 - For People with Bishop Rob Wright Episode 278: Spiritual. Leadership with Dr. Chip Roper

16. Becoming the Church of Tomorrow [4/12]

With Bishop Mariann Budde and Canon Stephanie Spellers

Join Bishop Mariann Budde and Canon Stephanie Spellers for an evening of worship, food, and great conversation. Spellers's latest book, *Church Tomorrow?*, wrestles with the decline of traditional religion, the wisdom of nonreligious Millennials and Gen Zs, and our call to be courageous witnesses for the God of love. **On May 3rd at St. Mark's, Canon Spellers will preach at the 5 PM service. At 6 PM**, she will engage in **conversation with Bishop Budde** on the themes of her book, followed by a reception and book signing. Books will be available for purchase. Contact Reverend Caitlin at [caitlin\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:caitlin@stmarks.net) with any questions.

17. St. Mark's All Parish Retreat This Summer, June 26th - June 28th [3/8]

You're invited to St. Mark's annual parish retreat, from **Friday, June 26th to Sunday, the 28th**. At Claggett Episcopal Center, about an hour outside of DC, we'll gather to enjoy the best of summer and the best of St. Mark's: shared meals and music; deep discussions about faith and community; and connecting and reconnecting with the people who make our church so great.



We'll also enjoy the many activities Claggett has to offer: swimming in the community pool, taking a meditative walk through the labyrinth, roasting marshmallows over a campfire, worshipping at the wooded outdoor altar, and admiring the beautiful views on a hike through Sugarloaf Mountain.

There are about 100 spots available, so save yours today at this link. Reach out to Amber Macdonald ([amacdojo\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:amacdojo[at]gmail.com)) with any questions. Short URL:

<https://forms.gle/koQoWgSXUvTFfYMV8>

Christian Education

18. Belonging Class in April

[3/8]

Are you new to St. Mark's, rejoining, or seeking a deeper connection? Wherever you are on your journey, we invite you to explore what "belonging" means in 2026. Newcomers considering making St. Mark's their church home are especially welcome. The classes will be held at St. Mark's on **Wednesdays, from 7-9 PM, April 22 and 29; May 6, 13, 20, and 27, with a retreat offsite (but on the Hill) on a TBD Saturday in June.** Childcare can be scheduled upon request. Class fills quickly so email Jennifer ([jenniferacate\[at\]hotmail.com](mailto:jenniferacate@hotmail.com)) and Seth ([seth.a.ismail\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:seth.a.ismail@gmail.com)) (or sign up at this link: <https://bit.ly/3MBQwMX>).

19. Waitlist: Me and My Siblings: The Ties That Bind and Bedevil

[4/12]

"Our relationships with siblings are the only ones with us for the entire ride, profoundly shaping who we become across decades." (Jeffrey Kluger). Sibling relationships can be fraught. They can be enriching. They can be both and much more, emanating from childhood jealousies, birth order tensions and intimate family histories. The questions we will ponder in this class include exploring our own experience as a brother or a sister, examining what Biblical sibling relationships from Cain and Abel to Martha and Mary can teach us, and identifying what spiritual realities we want to carry forward from the experiences of our original families. Join Lea Crusey, Rob Hall and Julie Murphy for three consecutive **Sunday mornings (April 19 and 26 and May 3) from 10 am to 12 noon for this discussion.** Email Julie at [juliaabbotmurphy\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:juliaabbotmurphy@gmail.com). to be added to the waitlist.

Music and the Arts

20. Upcoming Concerts

[4/5*]

The Washington Bach Consort performs Cantata 150 with choir, soloists, and orchestra. Jeff Kempskie will provide the organ prelude. **Monday, April 13th 12:10 pm.** Free. | **The Capitol City Symphony** offers a unique concert featuring new music written by local composers who are part of its Composer's League. **Saturday, April 18th 4 pm.** Adults: \$25, Students: \$10. capitalcitysymphony.org | **Beauty in Chaos: A Voice and Marimba Recital.** St. Mark's parishioners Mike Dillman and Jilian McGreen join Director of Music Jeff Kempskie and bassist Michael Hankins in a recital that contrasts sacred beauty with 20th-century grit, exploring hope and resilience amid challenging times. Free-will offering. **Sunday April 19th 7:00 pm.**

21. Benefit Concert for Good Neighbors Capitol Hill & Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid

Don't miss Lynn Veronneau, guitarist Ken Avis and longtime collaborator Dave Kline on violin perform a multilingual feast of bossa nova, blues, soul and swing.

[4/5]



April 25 at 7:30 pm, St Mark's Episcopal Church, 301 A St SE.

Suggested donation \$25 or more if you can afford it. Tickets available online <https://tinyurl.com/April25benefit> (preferably) or at the door.

Worship

22. Help Wanted - Acolyte Coordinator Assistants

[4/12]

The Acolyte Coordinator is looking for a 9 am assistant--or even two. You would ensure the acolytes are ready and know their jobs. While 3 have been part of the team (several are on hiatus) we do have 6 new members who could use your help. Please contact Doris Burton ([dmburton21\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dmburton21[at]gmail.com)) if interested. Training is available!

23. Seeking New 11:15 AM Greeters

[3/29]

Help us provide a warm welcome to St. Mark's by serving as a greeter for the 11:15 AM service! It's also a great way for you to meet more members of our congregation! Greeters are scheduled to serve roughly once/month. Duties include: greeting people at the door; handing out bulletins and encouraging the use of name tags; assisting with the offering plates; and helping orient newcomers in the building and introducing them to the Assistant Rector. Email Mary Tarnowka if you are interested ([M.Tarnowka\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:M.Tarnowka[at]gmail.com))

(* next to the date denotes that this announcement has been updated)

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

Submit announcements of 150 words or less to [bulletin\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:bulletin[at]stmarks.net) by 5 pm Tuesday for inclusion that Friday. They run for three weeks unless we hear from you. Each must include a parishioner's name and email. If using a QR code, also provide the underlying link.

To include your event: email [parishadmin\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:parishadmin[at]stmarks.net) for the calendar, [website\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:website[at]stmarks.net) for the website, or complete the form (shorturl.at/vaXgZ) by Tuesday night for a spoken announcement.