



What's Happening at St. Mark's Announcements - April 19, 2026

From Parish Leadership & Staff

1. 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@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.

2. Strategic Planning Update from Vestry Member Randy Marks [4/19]

The turn-out, passion, and wisdom inspires me. Over 70 of us gathered to hear the results of the survey and discuss what they mean. The main theme was a yearning for community and connection. Representatives of different tables spoke of increasing involvement in our work, more connecting events (such as potlucks), more small groups, more involvement with our youth (we need Sunday School teachers!), etc.

Indeed, our strategic planning process itself is about increasing connection so is a head-start on living into that yearning. The Vestry is seeking to discern our path through conversation with our program leaders and with our members. I think today's talk at small tables, the echoing of ideas among tables, and the laughter connected us. We will be consulting with our program leaders and having Rector's Forums in May and June and likely finish it at our Parish Retreat at Claggett. Especially if you weren't at the meeting, please send me your thoughts about the three questions at the end of the presentation

<https://tinyurl.com/STMstrategicplan>. And please contact me to get the worship survey results and/or attend our in-person and zoom **7PM on Monday night (4/20)**, another connection opportunity.

In keeping with the theme of connection, we are seeking to create a plan to which all us can connect (not one that will end up as a pretty paperweight). Our model is our Diocese's plan, which has broad goals and objectives for its seven years and annual priorities. Discerning those priorities will keep us connected to each other and the plan. I look forward to connecting with you and your ideas. - Randy [rmarksftc\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:rmarksftc@yahoo.com)

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/>

4. Intergenerational Pizza Party for All Services

[4/19*]

The HS Pilgrims have heard your request for more intergenerational fellowship opportunities! They are giving all services and all generations the chance to share a meal on May 3 and it just so happens to help their 2027 pilgrimage. All day May 3, Pupatella Pizza (301 Mass Ave NE) will give 20% of both dine in and take out sales to the HS Pilgrimage with the code GIVEBACK. The HS Pilgrims will be leading a walk from **Baxter Hall at 12:30pm** for lunch at **Pupatella at 1pm.** You can also meet us there. If you can't make it, please support the pilgrims by going early or late, or ordering pickup or delivery. Email [youthdirector\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:youthdirector[at]stmarks.net) with questions.

Service and Social Justice

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

5. Please Bring Back Your Mite Boxes!

[4/19]

St. Mark's Service and Social Justice Board sends heartfelt thanks to all the families and individuals who reflected on the issues of hunger and food insecurity during Lent and contributed to the Mite Box project. Please bring your mite boxes (or the contents) to services on **Sunday, April 19 or 26.** You can place them in the labeled collection basket at the table with programs. Following the collection, the Board will announce the total amount raised and how it is being distributed to area organizations that are feeding those in need. If you would like to donate digitally instead of physically, you can make an online donation at <https://onrealm.org/StMarksDC/give/mitebox>. Questions? Contact [socialjusticeboard\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:socialjusticeboard[at]stmarks.net)

6. What's Next After No Kings?

[4/19*]

(This Morning, 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. Join me in Baxter Hall.**

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)).

7. Today at 12:30: Sustainable Villages Honduras! [4/19]

Come to the **Adams Room at 12:30 today Sunday April 19** for light refreshments and a slide presentation about the success that farmers and their families have had in adapting to a drying climate with help from St. Mark's and other churches. "Connect the dots" between crop diversity, better yields, new businesses, more household income, and a reduced need to emigrate. See how the program is also engaging young people and women, improving homes, providing clean water, and building stronger communities. Our speaker will be Tim Jenkins, an SVH Board member with a degree in international agriculture and hands-on experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in Central America. Learn about opportunities to visit the villages. Sponsored by SVH and St. Mark's Green Lions and Migrant Support. Email 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)).

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. Ranked Choice Voting Education – May 3rd [4/19*]

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 in the Adams Room: after Sermon Seminar 11:15-11:45am, after 11:15am service at 12:30-1pm, or before 5:00pm service 4:30-5pm**. Contact: Edna Boone [ednaboone\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:ednaboone[at]gmail.com)

10. 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).

11. 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

12. The Lambda Lions LGBTQIA+ Affinity Group Meeting [4/19]

The Lambda Lions, St. Mark's LGBTQIA+ affinity group, will be holding our next planning meeting on **Sunday April 26 in the Dozier Library**, immediately following the **11:15am** service. Any and all LGBTQIA+ parishioners are invited to join. For more information, contact Kelly Dickinson ([kellymarie1848\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:kellymarie1848[at]gmail.com)) or Mitch Wood ([mitchw7959\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:mitchw7959[at]gmail.com))

13. 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[at]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

14. 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.**

15. 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@gmail.com)) with any questions. Short URL: <https://forms.gle/koQoWgSXUvTFfYMV8>

Christian Education

16. 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>).

Music and the Arts

17. Upcoming Concerts

[4/5*]

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.**

18. The Sound of Veronneau Benefit Concert

[4/19*]

Benefit Concert for Good Neighbors Capitol Hill and Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid
- **April 25 at 7:30 pm, St. Mark's Episcopal Church**



Suggested donation \$25 or more if you can afford. Tickets available online

<https://tinyurl.com/April25benefit> or at the door. Fronted by multilingual vocalist

Lynn Veronneau and superb guitarist Ken Avis, with special guest, violinist Dave Kline, the VERONNEAU trio weave a tapestry of sound that transcends borders and genres seamlessly blending acoustic bossa nova, swing, folk, and French chanson rooted in melody, groove, and emotional resonance. Contact: Karen Getman [karen.getman\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:karen.getman[at]gmail.com)

19. Capitol Hill Art Walk Sign-Up

[4/19]

Artists, craftspeople, the Capitol Hill Art Walk is coming **September 12th & 13th**. Those people who participated in 2025 should be sure to **sign up NOW!** Early sign ups get their names and web sites on the poster. Those who would like to participate in 2026 should contact me immediately! [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin[at]WatercolorDC.com)

20. Christmas/Epiphany Figurines

[4/19]

I promised kids and grownups that they could have the figurines they made for the Christmas/Epiphany art show after it was done. The box of figurines is **in Baxter Hall after services**. Please claim yours or make arrangements with me [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin[at]WatercolorDC.com)

Worship

21. 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!

22. 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@gmail.com))

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

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

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. Youth Group Archery Outing [4/19]

Our youth will have fun trying archery together on **Sunday, April 26th**. We'll meet at **12:30pm in Baxter Hall for pizza** and then head out for a 1-3pm session. We will carpool to the Southern Maryland Archers Club (in Upper Marlboro about 30 minutes from church), where their coaches will instruct us in safety and let the kids try out a number of archery techniques and targets. We will be back by 3:30pm. Contact [marysmiller\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:marysmiller@gmail.com) with questions.

(* 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 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 for the calendar, website[at]stmarks.net for the website, or complete the form (shorturl.at/vaXg7) by Tuesday night for a spoken announcement.