



What's Happening at St. Mark's Announcements - May 10, 2026

From Parish Leadership & Staff

1. Strategic Planning Update from Vestry Member Randy Marks [5/10]

The Vestry moved the planning process forward with discussions at the end of April. As a reminder, we are seeking to create a plan to which all us can connect (not a pretty paperweight). Our model is our Diocese's plan <https://tinyurl.com/edowplan>, which has broad goals and objectives for its seven years and annual priorities, the discernment of which will connect us with the plan each year.

We now have a first draft of the goals (centered around faith, community, and service) and some tentative objectives to support our progress towards each one. We will update you all at our next gathering.

Worship

2. Help Wanted - Acolyte Coordinator Assistants & Altar Guild Members [4/26]

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.

The 11:15 Altar Guild is looking for new members. If you can set a table and wash dishes, we'd love to have you join us. We serve about once a month but less frequently if we have more members!

Please contact Doris Burton ([dmburton21\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dmburton21@gmail.com)) if interested in either role. Will train!

3. Missing Banner: Lost and Wish It Were Found? [4/26]

The Altar Guild is looking for a banner that never reappeared after V2020 construction. It was a white background, beige border with 6 panels in the shape of a cross; each could be eastern orthodox icons in beige, red, white, brown. If you know where it is, please notify an Altar Guild member. Doris Burton ([dmburton21\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dmburton21[at]gmail.com))

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

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

4. May 17 - Join the "St. Mark's Lions" at the Capitol Hill Classic [4/26]

There is **no 9:00 AM service or Sunday School on Sunday, May 17th** because the Capitol Hill Classic will close off streets around St. Mark's. Instead, you can join St. Mark's Children, Youth and Family Ministry for a fun morning of races and fellowship. There's something for everyone—Fun Run, 3K, and 10K. Sign up under "St. Mark's Lions" and **meet up at Stanton Park!** Bib pickup is available Friday, May 16 (preferred for locals), or race morning at the park. Questions? Reach out to [Leacrusey\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:Leacrusey[at]gmail.com) or check the race website for details at <https://runsignup.com/Race/DC/Washington/CHC> There is an 11:15 service that day.

5. May 17 - Youth Group Service Project [5/3]

The youth group will meet at **12:30pm in Baxter Hall on May 17** to eat lunch together. Then they will head out to do yard work for elderly neighbors that are part of Capitol Hill Village. They'll be back by 3:30pm. To RSVP or chaperone, email [Marysmiller\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:Marysmiller[at]gmail.com) please.

6. Seeking Youth Group Co-Leader for 2026-2027 School Year [5/3]

This role can be as simple as collecting RSVPs using the plans that we already have, or it can be as involved as generating new ideas for outings and service projects. It is up to you! The youth group meets one Sunday per month from 12:30pm to 3:30pm. We need someone who will **alternate with another adult to take the lead on 4 of the 8 meetings** of the school year - with robust support from both Lisa and Mary, of course. Please email [youthdirector\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:youthdirector[at]stmarks.net) if you are interested in discussing this further.

7. Please Help Us Update the CYFM Info on the Church Website! [5/3]

You can support CYFM from the *comfort of your own home at any time that works for you!* We just need someone with enough familiarity with our basic programs to go through the current website and advise the St. Mark's website team on edits that need to be made. If you want to get creative or innovative, that's up to you! We would like to have this done by the end of July. Please email [youthdirector\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:youthdirector[at]stmarks.net) if you can help with this.

8. High Need for Sunday School Teachers and Assistants [5/3]

St. Mark's is adding Sunday School classrooms so we need many more people to either tell stories or assist the storyteller from 10 to 10:50am on 32 Sunday mornings during the traditional school year. (These do not include long weekends adjacent to federal holidays.) Our program focuses on asking questions and supporting children in their natural wonder so you *need not be a theology expert to do this job*. Lisa will work hard to make the commitment manageable, and she can also find you substitutes when necessary. Please email [youthdirector\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:youthdirector[at]stmarks.net) to explore the possibilities of supporting this vital program.

9. Spread the Word: Sunday School Teaching Fellowship

[5/3]

Connecting with children in their spiritual exploration is an incredible blessing. So ideally, people within our community would fill all of our Sunday School teacher positions. But because our program has grown so rapidly, CYFM is establishing a Sunday School Teaching Fellow program to bring in people from outside our community to teach. Perhaps you know someone who would be perfect for such an opportunity. Please help us spread the word by sharing our teaching fellow job listing at <https://bit.ly/teachatstmarks>. Email [youthdirector\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:youthdirector[at]stmarks.net) with questions, or comments, or ideas to promote this special new opportunity.

10. Sunday School Working Group

[4/26]

The Sunday School Working Group has been discerning how to support the increased number of students. They have made a plan to add two classrooms. So, in the Fall, we will have:

- Catechesis I: PreK-3 and PreK-4 students in its usual space.
- Catechesis II: Kindergarten and 1st graders in the Adams Room
- Catechesis III: 2nd and 3rd graders in what was previously Catechesis II
- Catechesis IV: 4th and 5th graders in the Dance Studio
- Middle School: 6th, 7th and 8th graders in the Lions' Den
- High School: 9th through 12th graders in the Library

From here, the board will work to recruit and train teachers, purchase furniture, and collect materials for the new classrooms. We are so grateful to Cordelia Chansler, Britt Pereira and Mary Miller Flowers for their work as part of this group. Questions? Email [youthdirector\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:youthdirector[at]stmarks.net).

11. Sunrise on Neurodiversity Working Group

[4/26]

St. Mark's is a place for families to worship, play, and grow together. And we want that to be true for every child, whatever their neurotype. Research indicates that children with ADHD, autism, dyslexia, and other forms of neurodivergence are less likely — and less able — to participate in faith formation if programs aren't designed with them in mind. A small group of parishioners is forming to assess our programming and recommend steps to make it more welcoming, accessible, and inclusive for neurodiverse children and youth. We trust this group's planning and action will be helpful as our Sunday School navigates a period of transition and growth. If you would like to join or simply offer ideas/issues for our consideration, please reach out to the CYFM Vice Chair, Alexis Erwin, at [erwinwangfamily\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:erwinwangfamily[at]gmail.com). You need not have children in our program to participate.

12. New Policy on Transition from the Nursery into Sunday School [4/26]

Our Sunday School classrooms are based on grade level not age level. In order to bring the nursery in alignment with Sunday School, our Nursery Director, Deborah Cunningham, and our Children, Youth and Family Ministry Director, Lisa Ramish, have decided to have kids transition out of the nursery when they start preK-3 in September rather than transitioning simply because they turn three years old. This will give us one time when new children join the Catechesis I, and it will keep the class to two grade levels (preK-3 and preK-4). Please email Lisa at [youthdirector\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:youthdirector[at]stmarks.net) with questions or concerns.

Service and Social Justice

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

13. Washington Interfaith Network's Mayoral & Candidates Forum [4/26]

Sunday, May 17, 3-5pm, Union Temple Baptist Church, 1225 W Street SE - Ward 8

The 2026 Elections in DC are the most consequential in decades. Come hear what key candidates care about. This is a 'butts in seats' event!

RSVP now <https://actionnetwork.org/events/wins-mayoral-candidates-forum>

Contact: Edna Boone [ednaboone\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:ednaboone[at]gmail.com)

14. The Deserving Book Talk - with Liz Vartkessian [4/26]

May 12, 2026, 7pm | St. Mark's Capitol Hill Baxter Hall

Join Elizabeth Vartkessian to discuss her new book, The Deserving, and the role we all play in creating a more humane and just world. Founder and director of nonprofit mitigation team Advancing Real Change, Inc., Dr. Vartkessian works with criminal defense teams as a mitigation specialist. She isn't part of the Innocence Project; her clients are often legally guilty of terrible crimes. Rather, her job is to spend many hours per case talking to parents, siblings, teachers, and neighbors of a defendant, situating their crimes in context. Vartkessian weaves powerful, gripping stories from her extraordinary career into an inspiring argument for dignity in American justice. Use the QR code - on posted flyer ~~ RSVPs appreciated but not required. Sponsored by St. Mark's and the Capitol Hill Incarceration Group. Email [incarcerationjustice\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:incarcerationjustice[at]stmarks.net)

15. 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).

16. St. Mark's Justice in Palestine (SMJP) Meeting & Book Discussion - Sun May 17 [5/3*]

The St. Mark's Justice in Palestine group meets the **3rd Sunday of every month at 12:30pm** (after the 11:15 service). We welcome all to join us Sunday, **May 17th in the Dozier Library**, where we will be holding a discussion of Peter Beinart's *Being Jewish After the Destruction of Gaza: A Reckoning*. Reading in advance is encouraged, but not required. If you would like to obtain a copy, we ask that you purchase through Libro.fm for the audiobook, East City Books or another local indie bookstore for print, or locate one through the library. We will also be discussing upcoming workshops and events, as well as how to join the apartheid-free movement. For any difficulties in accessing a copy of the book or audiobook, or any other questions about St. Mark's Justice in Palestine, please 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).

17. Washington School for Girls Field Day - May 22, All Day Pure Joy in Motion! [4/26]

This end-of-year celebration showcases the WSG scholars' teamwork, resilience, and school spirit through outdoor games, relay races, and community building activities. Parishioners are welcome to cheer from the sidelines, **volunteer** at activity stations, **or simply experience** the vibrant culture that makes WSG special. It's a beautiful reminder of why childhood and play matter in education. Please consider joining us! Email Naomi Slusser ([naomimreynolds\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:naomimreynolds[at]gmail.com)) if interested.

18. Community Gathering: Supporting Our Unhoused Neighbors

[5/3]

May 31 from 1-3, Baxter Hall

Come learn from Everyone Home DC about the history and causes of homelessness in DC and hear from the pros from various Hill-based programs about how to support our unhoused neighbors. Register using the QR code or at



<https://tinyurl.com/May31unhoused>. Want more information? Email Susan Sedgewick [May31event\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:May31event[at]gmail.com)

Parish Life & Diocesan Events

19. 20s/30s Group - Last Official Brunch of the Year [5/10*]

May 17 12:30 PM - Join us after the 11:15 service for our last "official" brunch of the programming year. We'll gather in the lobby after the service and walk somewhere in the neighborhood for brunch. 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.

20. Host a Newcomer Gathering [5/3]

Newcomer Gatherings are an opportunity for new and established members to share a meal, meet people whose paths don't often cross, and discuss what makes this community unique. With rave reviews, the Membership Committee is **seeking more hosts for the Summer and Fall**. These events are flexible: they can be lunches, dinner, potlucks, or provide a full menu. Hosts can define the appropriate number of guests for their space. If you are interested, **please contact Terri Poxon-Pearson by May 10** at [terripoxonpearson\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:terripoxonpearson[at]gmail.com).

21. Connecting: for Newcomers and Those Who Want to Reconnect or Make a Deeper Connection - on June 17 [5/10*]

Are you a relative newcomer and interested in learning more about St. Mark's? Or perhaps you have been a member for awhile and are looking for a way to reconnect or make a deeper connection with the St. Mark's community? St. Mark's has a wide variety of ministries and community groups, but it can be a bit overwhelming to figure out where you fit in. Join Assistant Rector Caitlin Frazier and a representative of the Membership Committee on **Wednesday, June 17, from 4:30-5:30 PM in the Abernathy Conference Room** for a small-group discussion to help you figure out the best way to get more connected with the St. Mark's community. Light snacks will be provided. So we have an approximate headcount, please email Mary Tarnowka ([m.tarnowka\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:m.tarnowka[at]gmail.com)) if you plan to join.

22. St. Mark's Women's Weekend at Rehoboth May 15-17 [4/26]

This weekend's class is a journey toward grace and peace in turbulent times. As women, we are called to help heal the world's wounds while also sustaining our own physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Facilitators Rita Ossolinski and Katherine Loevinger will guide reflections and discussions to help us move beyond confusion, anger, and despair toward clarity, calm, and hope. Together, we will draw on our individual strength and the power of our collective bond.

Join us for a weekend of grace at the beautiful DuPont House at Rehoboth, May 15-17. Come to reflect, refuel, and renew. All are welcome! Contact: Rita Ossolinski - [rossolinski\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:rossolinski[at]yahoo.com) Register: <https://tinyurl.com/STMWomensWeekend>

23. St. Mark's at the Capitol Hill Yard Sale Extravaganza [4/26]

On Saturday, May 16, 2026, join over 70 Capitol Hill neighbors for a *humongous* yard sale! The Capitol Hill Yard Sale Extravaganza, organized by [The Hill is Home](#), is becoming a Capitol Hill tradition. For \$5, you can join the map and host your own yard or sidewalk sale using an easy-to-update Padlet listing. Shoppers can browse the map once it goes live and explore sales across the neighborhood. St. Mark's Episcopal Church will also host sellers in its courtyard. To participate, fill out the form at [Capitol Hill Yard Sale signup](#).

Stay tuned for the map URL, coming soon, or just **drop by the St. Mark's courtyard from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Contact: Maria [thehillishome\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:thehillishome[at]gmail.com)

24. St. Mark's Dance Studio Summer Dance Program [5/10]

St. Mark's Dance Studio is hosting three sessions this summer.

Session One - June 22nd - June 26 (One week) 9:45 am - 3:15 pm. Ages 7-9 yrs

Session Two - June 29th - July 10th (Two weeks) 9:45 am - 3:15 pm. Ages 9 1/2 - 13 yrs

Session Three - July 13th - July 17th (One week) 9:45 am - 3:15 pm. Ages 14 yrs & older

Visit <https://www.stmarksdance.org/summer-dance-program> to learn more and register

25. The St. Mark's Players' Current Musical: Spring Awakening IS SOLD OUT! [4/26]

For a detailed description of the subject matter explored in Spring Awakening, please refer to the following link <https://www.stmarksplayers.org/content-advisory> Thank you! Questions?

Contact: Gerardo Mijares-Shafai [g.mijaresshafai\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:g.mijaresshafai[at]gmail.com)

26. St. Mark's All Parish Retreat This Summer, June 26th - June 28th [4/26*]

You're invited to St. Mark's annual parish retreat, June 26–28 at Claggett Episcopal Center, just outside DC. Join us for shared meals, music, and meaningful conversations, plus time to connect with the St. Mark's community. Enjoy Claggett's offerings, including swimming, labyrinth walks, campfires, outdoor worship, and hikes with scenic views.

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>



Music and the Arts

27. The Next Art Show Pentecost May 24th – Theme: "The Road to Emmaus" [5/10]

When you consider the changes people go through in life, is there a symbol, photo or other visual thing that represents that change? If so, I want it in the Pentecost Art Show – "Change or The Road to Emmaus." Though it is an Easter reading, it is a Pentecost story. The disciples are fleeing Jerusalem in terror for their lives yet after the stranger breaks the bread, they recognize Jesus and hurry back, their fear is gone. Send photos and a brief paragraph of how the work fits the theme **by May 16th**. Email: [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin[at]WatercolorDC.com)

28. Pick Up Christmas Epiphany Art [5/10]

Please pick up your art from the Christmas Epiphany show in **Baxter Hall**. If it is still here on Pentecost I will give it away. Arrangements: [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin[at]WatercolorDC.com)

29. Three Upcoming Music-Related Events

The Chiarina Chamber Players' final performance of the season will be a **2:30 pm Family Concert on Sunday, May 17th** featuring selections from Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Receive a 30% ticket discount using promo code STMARKS30. | Sandbox Concerts, with specially-designed classical music for children ages 0-5 years old, will be offered on **Saturday, May 30th at 10:00 and 11:30 am**. Advance registration required. singoncapitolhill.com | Choral Evensong is a beautiful, music-focused, and meditative service deeply rooted in the Anglican musical tradition. Please plan to join us on **May 31th at 5:00 pm** for this special service featuring music prepared by the Chancel Choir. A reception will take place in Baxter Hall following the service.

(* 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/vaXg7) by Tuesday night for a spoken announcement.