



## What's Happening at St. Mark's Announcements - May 17, 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.

### *Children, Youth and Family Ministry*

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

#### **2. TODAY - 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@gmail.com) please.

#### **3. Save the date: Banner Sunday is June 14th** [5/17]

Banner Sunday is a celebration of the end of the Sunday School year that takes place during a 10AM worship service. Each Sunday School class participates in a procession with a banner that they made to represent what they learned. High school seniors are given the chance to speak to the congregation. And we take a moment to thank our Sunday School teachers.

Following the service, children are provided lunch and fun activities (Bingo!) in the undercroft while adults (with and without children) are invited to lunch and a Rector's Forum for the annual update from the CYFM board. So please mark your calendars for 10am to 12:30pm on Sunday, June 14th. Reach out to [Youthdirector\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:Youthdirector@stmarks.net) with questions.

#### 4. Summer Sunday School is Coming!

[5/17]

The last day of regular Sunday School will be June 7th. Then St. Mark's will have Summer Sunday School on the following dates: June 21 and 28, July 12, 19 and 26, and Aug 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. There will be no Sunday School on July 5 (Independence Day weekend) or Sept 6 (Labor Day weekend).

The theme of Summer Sunday School will be Care for Creation. We have an amazing curriculum with super engaging activities and games. Summer Sunday School will be divided into three groups:

- Rising PreK-3, PreK-4, K and 1st graders (in Catechesis I classroom)
- Rising 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders (in the Adams room)
- Rising 6th graders and up (in the Lions' Den)



We need YOU to support this program by signing up to be a classroom assistant for one Sunday this summer. Not only does this allow our Summer Sunday School program to run, it is also a wonderful way to get to know the children of our congregation. This role requires Safe Church training, which we strongly encourage all parishioners to complete regardless. Please sign up with the QR code or at <https://bit.ly/summeratstmarks> and we will get in touch about Safe Church if necessary. Email [YouthDirector\[at\]StMarks.net](mailto:YouthDirector@StMarks.net) with questions.

#### 5. 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@stmarks.net) to explore the possibilities of supporting this vital program.

#### 6. 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@stmarks.net) with questions, or comments, or ideas to promote this special new opportunity.

## *Service and Social Justice*

*Step into SSJ. View our volunteer opportunities page at [www.stmarks.net/socialjustice](http://www.stmarks.net/socialjustice)*

### **7. 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 [ednaboona@gmail.com](mailto:ednaboona@gmail.com)

### **8. St. Mark's Justice in Palestine (SMJP) - Thank you!** [5/17]

Thanks again to everyone who helped us raise money during our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday offertory collection. We have an update to share from We Feed Gaza!

A few days ago, our beloved team led by 'Mama' Ahlam successfully distributed fresh chicken for hungry people in Basma Amal Camp, South Gaza. Among the served were 98 children missing one parent, 21 orphans, 30 elderly, and 15 special needs people.

Beneficiaries also included people with chronic diseases and hepatitis. All of them had not tasted any chicken in 4 months.

WFG volunteers delivered 60 kg (or 132 lbs) of top-quality, healthy meat for these precious souls. May God reward those who helped us bring joy, hope, relief, and goodness "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

If you would like to learn more and follow We Feed Gaza, please visit their page here (<https://www.facebook.com/wefeedgaza>) or scan the QR code.



### **9. 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 Beinhart'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@gmail.com](mailto:giulialdeluca@gmail.com) or Lindsey Jones-Renaud at [ljonesrenaud@gmail.com](mailto:ljonesrenaud@gmail.com).

## 10. Washington School for Girls Events

[5/17]

### Field Day - May 22, All Day Pure Joy in Motion!

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.

### Graduation - June 13, 9:30-12:30

The Washington School for Girls' most powerful testament to impact. Watching their 8th graders cross the stage is an emotional celebration of perseverance, academic excellence, and community support. This ceremony honors not just individual achievement but the village that surrounds each scholar. Guest seating is available for supporters who want to witness the culmination of our middle school journey.

Please consider joining us for these events! Email Naomi Slusser (naomimreynolds[at]gmail.com) if interested.

## 11. 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*

## 12. 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.

**13. 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 a while 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 Associate 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@gmail.com)) if you plan to join.

**14. 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

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

***Music and the Arts***

**16. 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)

### 17. 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](http://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.

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(\* 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](http://shorturl.at/vaXg7)) by Tuesday night for a spoken announcement.*