



What's Happening at St. Mark's Announcements - May 3, 2026

TODAY - All Church Pizza Party!

[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 today, May 3, and it happens to help their 2027 pilgrimage. **All day May 3**, Papatella 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 **Papatella at 1 pm**. 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.

From Parish Leadership & Staff

1. Strategic Planning Update from Vestry Member Randy Marks

[4/26*]

More than 70 people gathered at the Rector's Forum to discuss the planning survey, with a clear theme: a desire for deeper community and connection—through greater involvement, shared events like potlucks, more small groups, and engagement with youth (including a need for Sunday School teachers). If you couldn't attend, please share your thoughts on the three questions at the end of the presentation: <https://tinyurl.com/STMstrategicplan>.

This strategic planning process is itself about strengthening connections. The Vestry is discerning our path through conversations with leaders and members, and the forum's small-group discussions and shared energy reflected that goal. Upcoming Rector's Forums will be held on **May 17 and June 21**, with the near-final plan hopefully discussed at the Parish Retreat. Meetings with program leaders will continue through May, June, and July. We are seeking to create a plan to which all of 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-year plan and annual priorities, the discernment of which will connect us with the plan. - Randy [rmarksftc\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:rmarksftc[at]yahoo.com)

Music and the Arts

2. Come and Join Our Community Choir

[5/3]

We rehearse every **first Monday of the month 07:30 – 09:00 PM** (snack time and get-to-know-each-other starts at **7:00 PM**) here at **St. Mark's**. Next rehearsal on **May 4th**. The choir is open to all who are interested, no prior experience necessary. There is no cost to join.

For more information reach out to Judith: [comchoir\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:comchoir@stmarks.net) or just come and sing with us this Monday.

3. Icon Show Closes Today [5/3]

Please pick up your Icon after whichever service you attend. They were greatly appreciated. If you can't make the third or if you have any questions, email me: [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin@WatercolorDC.com)

4. The Next Art Show Pentecost May 24th – Theme: "The Road to Emmaus" [4/26]

Though it is an Easter reading, it is a Pentecost story. The disciples are fleeing in terror for their lives but when the stranger they have met on the road breaks bread, they hurry back.

Their fear is gone. The art should reflect a change, a reversal, a new way of seeing, thinking, or working. Send photos and a brief paragraph of how the work fits the theme **by May 16th**.

Email: [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin@WatercolorDC.com)

Worship

5. 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!

6. 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@gmail.com))

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

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

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

There is **no 9AM service or Sunday School on Sunday, May 17** 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

8. Sunset on 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).

9. 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.

10. 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

11. 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)

12. Native American Justice - Webinar and Prayer Service May 5th 5pm [5/3]

Native American women are experiencing a crisis of violence and sexual abuse. They go missing by the thousands at rates considerably higher than those of any other race. This history can be traced back to the Doctrine of Discovery, colonization of Indigenous lands, and the perpetuation of policies that continue to support the perpetrators rather than protect Native women. At this event, we will look at factors that increase vulnerability, including:

- The Legacy of Colonization: forced assimilation leading to systemic inequalities
- Institutional Racism: erosion of Indigenous sovereignty and social structures
- Barriers to Justice
- Socioeconomic Vulnerabilities

Finally, we will join together for "Say Their Names," a prayer service to honor our stolen relatives and seek strength for the work of dismantling these colonial structures. Join us to learn and pray for those who were stolen, and those impacted, as we seek to end the violence.

Register: <https://eds.edu/programs/631/mmiw>

13. 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)

14. 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).

15. Washington Interfaith Network's Mayoral & Candidates Forum

[4/26]

Sun 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)

16. 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@gmail.com)) if interested.

17. Didn't Make It to Honduras last Sunday?

[4/26]

St. Mark's Green Lions and Migrant Support group wish to thank the 20+ parishioners who came to the presentation about Sustainable Villages Honduras last Sunday. All attendees were impressed by what the farmers, their families, and the small mountain villages are achieving with the support of St. Mark's and other churches. Several expressed interest in the possibility of visiting the villages either this fall or next spring. Want to learn more? Pick up one of the handouts which you'll find in a stand on the windowsill in the foyer. Questions? Contact Peter at [phawleydc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:phawleydc@gmail.com)

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://web.charityengine.net/ehdcsupportingunhousedneighbors>. Want more information? Email Susan Sedgewick [event31\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:event31@gmail.com)



19. 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@gmail.com).

20. St. Mark's Justice in Palestine (SMJP) - Thank you!

[4/26]

We would like to thank all who donated to We Feed Gaza during our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday offertory collection. With your help, we raised \$4,348! Since April 14, 2024, We Feed Gaza has served more than 133,000 people with meals and fresh water, and your contribution helps them to provide even more. Gaza is still in Stage 4, or "emergency acute food insecurity," according to the IPC. If you would like to learn more and follow We Feed Gaza, please visit their page here (<https://www.facebook.com/wefeedgaza>) or scan this QR code.



Parish Life & Diocesan Events

21. 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[at]stmarks.net) with any questions.

22. 20s/30s Group Gatherings

[4/26]

Please Join the 20s/30s Group in Our Last Few Meetings of the Program Year. 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.

May 3rd 6 PM - Instead of our previously scheduled podcast discussion, we'll support the event with Bishop Budde and Rev Stephanie Spellers happening after the 5 PM service.

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.

23. Check Out the St. Mark's Players' Upcoming Musical: Spring Awakening

[4/26]

Spring Awakening is a bold and emotionally charged musical set in Germany during the late 1800s exploring the challenges of adolescence, identity, and self-discovery with a contemporary edge. With a powerful rock score and deeply moving story, Spring Awakening remains as relevant today as ever. Multiple performance dates from **May 1 - May 16** Location: **St. Mark's Episcopal Church** Tickets: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stmarksplayers/2135818>

Seating is open, so it is recommended that you arrive early to secure the best spots.

Feel free to share with friends, family, and anyone who appreciates compelling live performance!

Note: This production is intended for mature audiences. No patrons under the age of 17 admitted without parent or adult guardian.

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

24. 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).

25. Connecting: for Newcomers and Those Who Want to Reconnect or Make a Deeper Connection

[5/3]

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 Assistant Rector Caitlin Frazier and a representative of the Membership Committee on **Wednesday, May 13, 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.

26. St. Mark's Women's Weekend at Rehoboth May 15-17

[4/26]

This weekend class will be a journey in search of grace and peace in a time of turmoil. The world may appear broken and we, as women, are compelled to heal the wounds where we can. But we must also protect our own stamina to move forward. Our physical, mental, and spiritual health require sustenance. Your facilitators, Rita Ossolinski and Katherine Loevinger, will frame the sessions with reflections and discussions that help us face into the challenges before us and around us. We will seek to move beyond confusion, anger, and despair and into clarity, calm, and hope. There is strength to be tapped in each of us individually and limitless possibility in 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>

27. 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 local blog The Hill is Home (thehillishome.com), is becoming a Capitol Hill tradition. For just \$5, join the map and set up your own yard or sidewalk sale. You will be given access to an easy-to-use Padlet map that you can update telling everyone what you will be selling and how early or late you will be open. More of a shopper? Then be on the lookout for when the map goes live and shop, shop shop! Our very own St. Mark's courtyard will be part of the fun, supporting neighbors who don't have a front yard. If you want to be part of the fun, visit <https://tinyurl.com/caphillyardsale> and fill out the Google form. Just in it for the shopping? 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)

28. 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>

(* 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.