



What's Happening at St. Mark's Announcements - May 31, 2026

Parish Life & Diocesan Events

1. Newcomer Gatherings

[5/31]

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. If you are interested in attending one of these events this summer, please sign up here:

<https://stmarkssignups.netlify.app/> Reach out to Terri Poxon-Pearson with any questions ([terripoxonpearson\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:terripoxonpearson[at]gmail.com)).

2. Welcome to Navajoland Youth visiting DC July 6-13

[5/31*]

Six youth ages 13-15 from the Episcopal Church of Navajoland are excited to be visiting DC **July 6th-13th**. For some this will be their first big trip away from home. Trip planning with youth from St. Mark's includes visiting the Capitol, the Cathedral, museums and the beach. Can you help in one of two ways? **Support our "Activities Fundraiser"** - AND - **we're seeking 2 hosts to each host 2 youth and a chaperone during their visit!** (Hosts: you won't need to provide meals - and they will be at the beach for 2 days.)



This visit offers a wonderful opportunity of relationship building. Please join us at morning services Sunday, July 12th to meet our guests! To donate, scan the QR code or visit

<https://onrealm.org/StMarksDC/-/form/give/NavajolandVisitors> - and Thank You! Contact Kit Arrington with questions: [kit\[at\]tulsablue.com](mailto:kit[at]tulsablue.com).

3. St Marks Women to Women Garden Tea

[5/24]

Women of ALL ages please put on your best dress and hat and **join us in the garden on Sunday, June 7th. 12:30-2pm** for tea. (Baxter Hall if rain or extreme heat.) Signup: <https://tinyurl.com/STMgardentea> Contact Rita Ossolinski [rossolinski\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:rossolinski[at]yahoo.com) or Edna Boone [ednaboone\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:ednaboone[at]gmail.com)



4. Dozier Library Book Giveaway – June 7

[5/24]

Come to **Baxter Hall after both morning services on June 7** and find a free book (or two or more!) to read over the summer. The annual giveaway features donated books that we already have in the collection or cannot use due to space constraints or other considerations. The range of topics is as wide as the ages and interests of our diverse congregation. Bags will be available for bibliophiles. Questions? Contact Peter Hawley at [phawleydc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:phawleydc[at]gmail.com)

5. 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.

6. Lost & Found [5/24]

Missing your favorite Pyrex baking dish? Wondering where your beloved sweater went to? Come to the great St. Mark's lost and found and see if it's there. **May 31 and June 7 we'll be displaying in Baxter Hall** the many items left in the kitchen and around the church over recent months. Please have a happy reunion with anything that's yours and take it home. Items remaining after June 7th will go to Good Neighbors Capitol Hill or Goodwill. Questions? Contact Samantha White - [parishadmin\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:parishadmin@stmarks.net) or Maureen Shea - [mtshea\[at\]aol.com](mailto:mtshea@aol.com)

7. 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

8. Choral Evensong Service [5/24]

Please plan to join us for a Choral Evensong service today, **May 31st at 5:00 pm**. This beautiful, music-focused, and meditative service is deeply rooted in the Anglican musical tradition and will feature special music prepared by the Chancel Choir. A reception will take place in the nave following the service.

9. Friends of Music [5/24]
The music program is in need of volunteers to help put together receptions after special services and concerts a few times each year. Please contact Jeff if you are willing and able to help:
[jeff\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:jeff[at]stmarks.net)

10. 18th Street Singers Concerts [5/24]
A nation is not a single voice or a single story, but instead layered with contradiction, shaped by struggle, and sustained by hope. In the US, we carry both shadow and light: a history marked by injustice and a continuing promise of democracy. This spring's 18th Street Singers concert—Out of Many, One—we lean into that tension and ask what it means to belong to one another in a country still becoming itself. **Friday, June 12 at 7:30pm and Saturday, June 13 at 4:30pm.** Tickets and more info at www.18thstreetsingers.com

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

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

11. Neurodiversity Working Group Update [5/31]
The Neurodiversity Working Group had its first meeting on May 3rd. We got to know one another, discussed possible ways to organize our work and named areas we would like to start researching. Our next meeting will be at **11AM on Sunday, May 31st in the upstairs conference room.** Contact Alexis at [ErwinWangFamily\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:ErwinWangFamily[at]gmail.com) with questions or to get involved.

12. Last Youth Group Meeting of the School Year! [5/31]
The Youth Group will meet for **pizza at 12:30PM on Sunday, June 7th in the Lions' Den** before embarking on a Capitol Hill and National Mall Wide **Scavenger Hunt.** Send questions or RSVP to [JebOry\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:JebOry[at]gmail.com)

13. Liturgy of the Light [5/24]
On **Sunday, June 7 at 10 am in the Adams Room,** the three Catechesis classes will celebrate the Liturgy of the Light. This is a lovely service where each child receives a candle, “the light of Christ,” to hold and be part of. Parents are invited to come and be part of it. Email Stephanie at [scd\[at\]his.com](mailto:scd[at]his.com) with questions.

14. You Are 4 – 7 Years Old, Love Music But Don't Know If Choir Is for You?

[5/24]

Our Treble Singers of St. Mark's Episcopal Church are 4 – 7 years old and already a successful choir with performances and retreats. On the coming Sundays **May 31st, June 7th and June 14th**, we would like to invite you to join us for two open rehearsals and a performance. Come and find out if choir singing is your way of making music. Let's start singing together!



For more information scan the QR code or visit <https://tinyurl.com/STMtreblesingers>
Contact [judith\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:judith@stmarks.net).

15. 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.

16. 26-27 Confirmation Class

[5/31]

The next confirmation service at the National Cathedral is scheduled for May 9, 2027, and all St. Mark's youth rising to grade 8 and up are invited to join the 2026-2027 Confirmation Class co-taught by Lisa Ramish and Annie Rorem. Confirmation class at St. Mark's is not a commitment to confirmation! Instead, it is an opportunity for young adults in the congregation to reflect on the vows their families and sponsors made for them at their baptism, discuss what faith means to them, and imagine their future relationship with the church.

Classes will be held **once or twice a month, typically from 11-12:30 on Sundays**. Contact [Annie.Rorem\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:Annie.Rorem@gmail.com) to sign up or ask questions. We would like to have a class list by **June 30** so that we have time to arrange mentors, which is a component of the class.

17. 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[at]StMarks.net) with questions.

Service and Social Justice

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

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/May31everyonehome>. Want more information? Email Susan Sedgewick [May31event\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:May31event[at]gmail.com)

19. Join St. Mark's Incarceration Justice Ministry and Attorney Meghan Shapiro

[5/31]

Tuesday, June 9th, at 7:00 PM in Baxter Hall

We will continue discussing the legal system, and consequences for those with severe criminal charges, most often life sentences. Meghan Shapiro has been a trial, appellate, and habeas litigator for 17 years. She has had the honor of serving as Deputy Capital Defender for No. Virginia, staff attorney at the Louisiana Capital Assistance Center, Senior Appellate Attorney for the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission, resource counsel with the Texas Habeas Assistance and Training Project (current), and sole practitioner of the Law Office of Meghan Shapiro (current) pursuing appellate and habeas litigation almost exclusively in court-appointed and pro bono cases. In these roles she has represented men and women facing the most-serious of criminal charges and penalties at trial, on appeal, and on death row.

Contact for information: [incarcerationjustice\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:incarcerationjustice[at]stmarks.net)

20. Washington School for Girls Graduation June 13, 9:30-12:30 [5/24*]

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. Email Naomi Slusser ([naomimreynolds\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:naomimreynolds@gmail.com)) if interested.

21. Sustainable Villages Honduras Trip [5/31]

Our relationship with mountain villages in Honduras began decades ago. SVH is planning an adult **trip to Honduras in mid-October** to provide St. Mark's members a first-hand witness to the amazing work that is being done to improve the life of residents in villages where SVH works. The trip will also include sight-seeing and will take an estimated 10-days (with an optional week-long Spanish school pre-trip) . There are **2-3 remaining spaces** on the trip. If you are interested to learn more, please contact Peter Hawley ([phawleydc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:phawleydc@gmail.com)) or Leslie Allen ([lacaphill\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:lacaphill@gmail.com)), ideally **by the end of June**.

22. Public Witness at Immigration Court [5/31]

While news surrounding immigration has slowed down, immigrants continue to be deported at a rapid rate in the DMV and beyond. In solidarity, faith communities are now leading public witness within and outside the Hyattsville Immigration Court in Prince Georges County. Observers meet, converse, and pray for our friends as they endure hardship, danger and injustice. Observers circulate written reports to immigrant advocacy groups including AMICA Center for Immigrant Rights, CASA, International Rescue Committee and the Maryland Immigrant Legal Assistance Program. These reports help advocates prepare to represent their immigrant clients and alert them to ongoing developments within the immigration court system.

If you are interested in joining this effort, there is an **orientation Zoom call on Wednesday, June 24, 2026 from 7-8pm**. Please contact Holly Kreutter at hkreutts@hotmail.com or Julie Murphy at [juliaabbotmurphy\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:juliaabbotmurphy@gmail.com) to find out more and learn how to sign up for the call."

23. 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.

(* 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.