



What's Happening at St. Mark's Announcements - August 2, 2026

From the Rector

To improve safety and security at St. Mark's, we are installing a new building security system. In the coming weeks, you may see camera mounts and other equipment in public areas and around the exterior. The cameras are not yet active and we will notify the congregation before the system becomes operational. The new system will also include updated door locks, enabling staff to unlock and monitor the building remotely when the site is unoccupied. These upgrades support the care of our historic church and help maintain a safe, open environment for worship, ministry, and community events.

We will continue to keep you informed as the installation progresses. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with [Michele](#).

Parish Life & Diocesan Events

1. The Crab Feast is This Sunday August 2nd!

[8/2*] St. Mark's has long been a church that goes against the tide — not afraid to question assumptions, speak up and speak out, or poke and prod each other into living up to our own potential. In other words, we're a little crabby. And since 1976, we've celebrated that crustaceous spirit with a feast honoring the hard-shelled parishioners who relentlessly show up when they're needed, adamantly volunteer their time, and stubbornly insist on making our church a better place.

Join us at 12:15ish in Baxter Hall for a shared meal and celebration. A crab plate will cost \$20 and pizza \$10, payable in cash, check, or credit card!

Contacts: Amber Macdonald [amacdojo\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:amacdojo@gmail.com), Charlie Crupp [crupp\[at\]ix.netcom.com](mailto:crupp[at]ix.netcom.com) and Doris Burton [dmburton\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dmburton[at]gmail.com)

2. Newcomer Gatherings

[7/26*]

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://shorturl.at/dZYKr>. Please note that this is an updated sign-up link. Any signups using the previous link have been transferred to the new sign-up. Reach out to Terri Poxon-Pearson with any questions ([terripoxonpearson\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:terripoxonpearson[at]gmail.com)).

Service and Social Justice

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

3. Washington School for Girls Gold Carpet Welcome August 3, 7:30 Start [7/26]
Join us to welcome our students and staff to the new building on our first academic day, August 3, 2026. We will be rolling out the Gold Carpet beginning at **7:45 AM** and need your help to make sure our students start off the school year with joy.
Please consider joining us! Email Naomi Slusser ([naomimreynolds\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:naomimreynolds@gmail.com)) if interested.

12. Support Everyone Home DC's Back-to-School Initiative [7/19]
Everyone Home DC's annual back-to-school initiative will **provide gift cards** for their client parents and caregivers to make their own choices for their children's back to school needs whether it's school supplies, a new backpack, a pair of shoes, or a first-day outfit that helps a young scholar walk into school with confidence. Your monetary support gives something more than financial assistance, it gives them the dignity and flexibility to choose what is right for their children. Cards will be distributed in mid-to-late August.

Help meet the goal of 200 cards, valued at \$50 each. You can donate online at <https://web.charityengine.net/stmarksgiving> or mail checks directly to Everyone Home DC, Attn: Back-to-School, 415 2nd St NE, 3rd Floor. Washington DC, 20002.

Need more information? Contact Susan Sedgewick at [jssedgewick\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:jssedgewick@gmail.com).

4. Bring Those Wrapped Utensils to Church [8/2]
Take out and delivery sometimes involves getting plastic utensils and condiments that, being at home, I don't need. The apps are getting better at allowing me to omit them, and you can tell them to do so or take them out of the bag if you pick up. It helps often small restaurants' bottom line as well as the earth. When I get them, I take them to Shepherd's Table in Silver Spring (8106 Georgia Avenue), which takes *wrapped plastic utensils, wrapped straws, and sealed condiments (salt and pepper packets, ketchup, sugar packets, etc). **I'm happy to deliver them if you bring them to church;** please email me at [rmarksftc\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:rmarksftc@yahoo.com) to arrange for me to get them. Thanks, Randy Marks

Music and the Arts

5. Register for the Capitol Hill Arts Walk [8/2*]
It's almost August. The Capitol Hill Art Walk is September 12th, and 13th. The **registration deadline is August 10th**. Artists, crafts people, please register to participate with St Mark's.

Right now, we have 8 people registered, most of them not from our congregation. Questions: [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin[at]WatercolorDC.com). Get out there and register! Now! It's Free! Register at: <https://www.hillrag.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/ArtWalk2026registrationForm.pdf>

6. Arts Schedule (More or Less) or the Rest of the Church Year

[7/12]

July – As you look around you is Beauty Behind Bars – Art by incarcerated people

August – St Mark's art including, kids' art, Banners, and Claggett workshop art

September – SSJ showcasing all the things St Mark's does in the community

October – Fabric Art – And an intergenerational workshop theme TBD

November – Tracy Councill solo show.

Advent starts the next church year.

Please contact me with any questions or suggestions: [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin[at]WatercolorDC.com)

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

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

7. 1st Lesson Learned from Teacher Hiring Process

[7/26]

Last Spring, the CYFM Sunday School Working Group designed a teaching fellowship to draw new Sunday School teachers to St. Mark's. Unfortunately, we have not had any strong applicants. We have worked to make our listing more competitive in the hopes that we can still find someone. Though it is up on Indeed.com (<https://indeedhi.re/4pxPH6I>) and other websites, we have learned that we will really need you, St. Mark's parishioners, to help us **spread the word about this job** to friends, classroom teachers or anyone else who might be interested. Email [Youthdirector\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:Youthdirector[at]stmarks.net) with questions.

6. 2nd Lesson Learned from Teacher Hiring Process

[7/26]

As we approach the Fall, Sunday School teacher vacancies are becoming a real concern. We still need three full-time volunteers to run our program. The CYFM Sunday School Working Group has also determined that we would prefer to have St. Mark's parishioners fill the Sunday School teacher roles because they are familiar with St. Mark's culture and ethos. We hope you will please **consider volunteering to be a Sunday School teacher**. If you step up, you will receive support and backup. We will provide manageable and inspiring training to help you nurture children and have a meaningful experience yourself. Please reach out to [Youthdirector\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:Youthdirector[at]stmarks.net) if you would like to learn more.

8. Neurodiversity Working Group Meeting August 16

[8/2]

The Children, Youth and Families Ministry (CYFM) Neurodiversity Working Group (NWG) is launching a support group for parents of young people who are neurodiverse or have special needs (no formal diagnosis necessary). Julie Murphy, a 40-year St. Mark's member and certified parent coach, will convene the monthly meeting. Our next meeting will be **August 16 from 11 am to 12 noon** (room TBD). We hope that this will be a non-judgmental space where parents can share experiences and find support and strength. For questions, email Julie at [juliaabbottmurphy\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:juliaabbottmurphy[at]gmail.com).

9. Save the Date: Classroom Reset Day is August 30th!

[7/26]

Our last day of Summer Sunday School is August 30th, and we will need to get classrooms ready for the Fall. This requires returning shelves that have been moved for the summer. It also means putting together shelves for the new classrooms. We have bulletin boards that need to be re-papered and art materials that need to be unboxed. Please join us from **11 to 12:30pm in the undercroft on August 30th** to help out! Email [youthdirector\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:youthdirector[at]stmarks.net) to let her know you're coming!

(* 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.