



What's Happening at St. Mark's Announcements - August 16, 2026

From the Rector

1. New Building Security System

[8/2]

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 [michele\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:michele[at]stmarks.net)

Music and the Arts

2. Take a Look at Our New Show: "CLASS ACT"

[8/9]

"Class Act" showcases art from the Sunday School, Adult Classes, and the Claggett Art Workshop. I think it's wonderful and want to thank the teachers and students for their hard work and the hanging team that put it up. We will have an Art Walk in the Nave; the date is still to be determined. Questions: [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin[at]WatercolorDC.com)

Christian Education

3. Information Sessions about Education for Ministry

[8/9]

The Adult Christian Education program is holding three information sessions to familiarize St. Mark's parishioners with the EfM program. Over 36 weekly meetings a year, EfM participants deepen their spiritual lives through study of the Hebrew Scriptures, New Testament, church history, and Judeo-Christian philosophy. EfM participants also use a practice of Theological Reflection to examine their beliefs and experiences in relation to their culture and faith traditions. The information sessions will be on **August 16, after the 11:15 AM and 5:00 PM services, and on August 23, after Sermon Seminar**. The sessions will describe the EfM program, answer questions, and identify chances to enroll. For more information, contact Bill Jordan at: [jordans4\[at\]verizon.net](mailto:jordans4[at]verizon.net)

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

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

4. Support Group for Parents of Neurodiverse Kids - August 16 [8/2]

St. Mark's has a new 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).

5. 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!

Parish Life & Diocesan Events

6. Seeking Confirmation Meal Coordinator [8/16]

Annie and Lisa, St. Mark's 2026-2027 youth confirmation instructors, are seeking a confirmation meal coordinator. The meal coordinator is not necessarily on the hook for providing meals but, instead, will take responsibility for **seeking volunteers from the congregation for ~8 lunches between October and May**; keeping track of plates, napkins, utensils, cups, and drinks; and ordering pizza in a pinch. We would welcome your attendance in these meals, as well! If you are willing to step into this important back-of-the-house role, please contact Annie Rorem at [annie.rorem\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:annie.rorem[at]gmail.com).

7. 20s/30s Summer Outing [8/9]

St. Mark's 30s/30s group will be going to a **Nats game on Tuesday, August 25!** Join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and baseball. Game starts at **6:45 PM**.

Tickets are \$25, with discounted concessions available at the park that night. RSVP at the link <https://tinyurl.com/Aug25Nats>, or email Amelia and Joyce at [StMarks20s30s\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:StMarks20s30s[at]gmail.com).

8. Lambda Lions Kickoff Planning Meeting

[8/16]

The Lambda Lions, St. Mark's LGBTQIA+ affinity group, will be holding our August kick off planning meeting on **Sunday August 30 in the Rector's room, immediately following the 11:15am service.** Any and all LGBTQIA+ parishioners are invited to join to discuss ideas and plans for the parish year ahead, including the upcoming Parish Fair and a September picnic. For more information, contact Kelly Dickinson ([kellymarie1848\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:kellymarie1848@gmail.com)) and/or Mitch Wood ([mitchw7959\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:mitchw7959[at]gmail.com)).

9. Nursery Coverage During Medical Leave

[8/16]

Greetings everyone, just a note to let everyone know that I'll be out after September 6th for my knee replacement surgery and the nursery will still be up and running by Ms. Katrina and Ms. Kenisha, I'll return as soon as possible ❤️ - Deborah Cunningham
[dcwaterlover\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:dcwaterlover[at]yahoo.com)

10. 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 sign-ups 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

11. The Gaza Children's Shroud

[8/16]

St. Marks Justice in Palestine group is participating in a global interfaith effort organized by Priests Against Genocide USA and Doctors Against Genocide to handwrite the 21,000 names of the children killed in Gaza on a commemorative shroud. Our parish will be one of several communities each inscribing about 300 names on a shroud that will later be assembled into the Gaza Children's Shroud, which will be on display at events in New York City and Washington, DC.

Join us on August 16 after the 11:15 service in the Dozier Library and August 23 after the 9 am and 11:15 services in Baxter Hall to inscribe their names. To learn more about the project, visit <https://www.gazachildrenshroud.com>. For questions, please email Giulia at [giulialdeluca\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:giulialdeluca[at]gmail.com)

12. Join St. Mark's Incarceration Justice Ministry & A Panel of Returning Citizens [8/16] Tuesday, September 8th, at 7:00 PM in Baxter Hall

We will continue discussing the legal system, and consequences for those with severe criminal charges. Our panelists will discuss an array of topics including, but not limited to the challenges of returning home after incarceration, the impact incarceration has had on how they navigate the world, and how we as a community can better support returning citizens. Contact for information: [incarcerationjustice\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:incarcerationjustice[at]stmarks.net)

13. Samaritan Spotlight on Michael Knipe! [8/9]

In this month's issue of its "In Step" newsletter, the Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington is shining a light on our own Michael Knipe. Since spring, Michael has been volunteering as an Associate Caseworker in the Ministry's Congress Heights office. He brings the same compassion, calm demeanor, and generosity of spirit that we've known at church to his interactions with the people who turn to the Ministry for help with basic education, employment, housing, and other needs. In the profile, he shares insights about this work and the impact it is having on him. Use this url to access the profile: bit.ly/3TIYRBu Questions? Contact Peter Hawley, St. Mark's Partner Representative to SMGW at [phawleydc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:phawleydc[at]gmail.com).

14. 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[at]gmail.com).

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.