



What's Happening at St. Mark's Announcements - September 27, 2026

From Parish Leadership & Staff

1. Oct 4 - Blessing of the Animals

[9/27]

Sunday, October 4, is St. Francis Day which means that everyone is invited to bring their animal (real animal, stuffed animal or a photograph) to the service to receive a blessing.

Contact: Reverend Michele Morgan [michele\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:michele[at]stmarks.net)

2. New Building Security System

[9/13]

To look after St. Mark's and help ensure our church provides a safe, friendly environment for all users, we are installing a new building security system. Over the coming weeks, you may see camera mounts and other equipment in public areas and around the outside of the building. The cameras will become active and be officially incorporated into the system soon.

The new system will also include updated door locks, enabling staff to unlock and monitor the building remotely when the site is unoccupied. When we switch to the new system, we will change the card readers and keypad locks, and staff and other people who access the building will need to replace their fobs for convenient entry. These improvements are part of our ongoing effort to care for our historic church and are meant to help us continue providing a safe, open, and welcoming 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)

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

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

3. Note from CYFM Director: Godly Play

[9/27]

The Sunday School Working Group has been meeting over the last year to address the growing number of registrations. We have also had several teachers retire. In January, we decided to use the Godly Play curriculum to supplement Catechesis of the Good Shepherd so that we would have prewritten lesson plans and more accessible training. The response from our new Sunday School teachers has been wonderful. As a result, I have consulted clergy and the board, and I have decided that Godly Play will be our main curriculum. This does not mean that we are totally getting rid of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Many of the lessons are the same.

We will still base our approach on the Montessori method. We will use many of the same beautiful, handmade materials. But it does mean you will be hearing the words "Godly Play" more often. Contact [YouthDirector\[at\]StMarks.net](mailto:YouthDirector[at]StMarks.net) with questions.

4. PreK3 & 4 Catechesis I Meetup [9/6]

Catechesis I parents and kids and siblings are invited to build friendships and get to know their Catechesis I teachers at Garfield Park playground on **Sunday, Sept 27th at 11:30ish**. (Maybe after Grate Patrol?) We will provide pizza and drinks. RSVP at <https://bit.ly/4xBrJKT> so we can be sure to have enough goodies! Contact [YouthDirector\[at\]StMarks.net](mailto:YouthDirector[at]StMarks.net) for more information.

5. Youth Confirmation Class after WV trip [9/20]

The Youth Confirmation Class will meet for 90 minutes after the youth come back from their WV trip, likely around **3PM on Sunday, Sept 27**. We will be in the Elders room (left in the undercroft) for movement, fun, snacks and conversations about moving into adulthood. Contact [Annie.Rorem\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:Annie.Rorem[at]gmail.com) with questions.

6. Kindergarten & 1st Grade Catechesis II Meetup [9/20]

Catechesis II parents and kids and siblings are invited to build friendships and get to know their Catechesis II teachers at Garfield Park playground on **Sunday, October 4th at 11:30ish**. Basically, if your child is not in choir, then you should head over after Sunday School. If your child is in choir, then you should head over after that. We will provide pizza and drinks. RSVP at <https://bit.ly/4xpZX3b> so we can be sure to have enough goodies! For more information, contact [YouthDirector\[at\]StMarks.net](mailto:YouthDirector[at]StMarks.net).

7. Neurodiversity Working Group Meeting [9/20]

The Children, Youth and Families Ministry (CYFM) Neurodiversity Working Group (NWG) has launched 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, is convening the monthly meeting. Our next meeting is **Sunday, October 18 at 11 am in the library** (across from the nursery) . We hope that this will be a non-judgmental space where parents can share experiences and find support and strength. For questions or to receive this month's calendar invitation, email Julie at [juliaabbottmurphy\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:juliaabbottmurphy[at]gmail.com).

Music and the Arts

8. Fabric Arts Show

[9/27*]

This week send a snapshot and the dimensions of your entry to the Fabric Art show. Deadline: **Sept 30th** – Knitting, crocheting, counted cross stitch, embroidery, quilting, or pasting fabric on cardboard to make a "painting". It's all welcome here. We will be **hanging the show on the 10th of October** so I'm also looking for volunteers. Questions: Elin Whitney-Smith [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin[at]WatercolorDC.com)

9. The Art Walk Was Great!

[9/27]

We had 14 artists. One artist counted 80 people who stopped to talk. Many people sold pieces. Thanks to everyone who came out and to St Marks and the cookout folks. The St Mark's arts program is grateful for the donations from artists who sold work, and the time and work from our wonderful volunteers. [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin[at]WatercolorDC.com)

10. Get Involved in the Music Program!

[9/6]

Do you know a child who may be interested in singing with the Treble Singers (ages 4-7) or Youth Choir (8 and up)? Email [judith\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:judith[at]stmarks.net). Adults of all voice parts on welcome to join the Chancel Choir (rehearses Thursdays 7:30-9:30 pm). [jeff\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:jeff[at]stmarks.net). The Handbell Choir rehearses two Tuesdays per month from 6:00-7:15 pm. [kep5\[at\]cornell.edu](mailto:kep5[at]cornell.edu).

Service and Social Justice

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

11. Understanding and Responding to the Crisis in Palestine: The Call to Churches

[9/27*]

At 7 pm on September 29, Dr. Mark Braverman will be speaking at the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington** at 4444 Arlington Blvd./Route 50 (\$20 suggested donation). The talk is entitled "Palestine-Israel: To What Are We Called in This Moment?" For more information, see the flyers on the windowsill in the foyer. If you need a ride on the 29th or are willing to offer one, please contact Peter Hawley at [phawleydc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:phawleydc[at]gmail.com) no later than September 27.

12. Jesus Was a Migrant Film Showing

[9/20]

Join us on **Sunday, October 18 here at St. Mark's at 12:30 pm** to view and discuss the film, "Jesus Was a Migrant," a documentary about borders, belief, and what we owe each other. Lunch will be served. Author and historian, Dr. Jemar Tisby travels to the U.S.-Mexico border to examine the theological crisis at the heart of American Christianity - and what it means when a nation built on faith turns its back on the most vulnerable. This event is sponsored by Capitol Hill UMC, Christ City Church



DC, Church at the Well, St. Mark's Episcopal Church and Washington Community Fellowship. Contact: Holly [hkreutts\[at\]hotmail.com](mailto:hkreutts[at]hotmail.com) or Julie [juliaabbotmurphy\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:juliaabbotmurphy[at]gmail.com). Visit <https://tinyurl.com/STMjesusmigrant> to register or use the QR code.

13. Contribute Towards a Chili Lunch at Shirley's Place

[9/27]

Help St Mark's provide a hot lunch of chili, coleslaw and cornbread for 50 clients/guests at Shirley's Place, Everyone Home DC's day center located at 1338 G St SE. Sign up to bring ingredients or donate towards other expenses via <https://tinyurl.com/chili-lunch-Nov-1> or use the QR code. **Bring ingredients to Baxter Hall on Sunday morning, November 1. The chili lunch will be served on Monday, November 2.** Need more information? Contact Susan Sedgewick [jssedgewick\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:jssedgewick[at]gmail.com).



14. Nave Art Show: We are St. Mark's Service and Social Justice

[9/13]

Our mission is to engage boldly in the struggles of life and care for others with love, justice, and compassion. That mission comes alive in hands-on activities and partnerships, a sampling of which are displayed in the Nave. We invite you to join us in caring for others in need in DC and around the world. <https://www.stmarks.net/service-and-justice/>
Contact: Edna Boone [ednaboone\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:ednaboone[at]gmail.com)

15. Wear an Orange Shirt on Wednesday, September 30th; Panel Discussion

[9/20*]

Orange Shirt Day is a call to increase understanding of the impact of sending Indigenous children to residential boarding schools and the cultural genocide it embodied. Any orange shirt that reminds you of this cause will suffice, but the following suppliers sell branded items and support Indigenous communities: empowernativevoice.com orangeshirtstore.ca
<https://shop.indigenousmarketing.ca/collections/orange-collection> redrebelarmour.ca
<https://inac.ca/collections/orange-shirt-day-collection-national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation>
(Orders from Canada may involve tariffs and delays.)

The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery is hosting a panel discussion, including the co-chair of the Episcopal Church's commission on native boarding schools, **September 30 at 7:30pm**. See <https://tinyurl.com/Sep30Remembrance>

Contact Kit Arrington Katherine Arrington [kit\[at\]tulsablue.com](mailto:kit[at]tulsablue.com), Steve Dalzell [dalzellsr\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dalzellsr[at]gmail.com) or Jan Lipscomb [juanita.lipscomb\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:juanita.lipscomb[at]gmail.com) for more information.

16. Green Lions Tour of Eco City Farms

[9/27]

On **Saturday October 10th at 11 am**, join the Green Lions for a one-hour private tour of ECO City Farms (ECF) in Bladensburg, MD. The tour is for adults and children ages 9 and up.

ECF is a nonprofit that operates three “urban farms” in PG County. ECF produces healthy food for low-income families while also teaching children, teens, and adults about sustainable agriculture methods, nutrition, and cooking. It also works with governments, schools and other nonprofits to advocate for a local and just food system. After the tour, consider picnicking at nearby Bladensburg Waterfront Park where you can enjoy the gardens, trails, biking, kayaking, canoeing, or taking a pontoon boat ride. **Please let Leslie Allen la.caphill@gmail.com know by Friday, October 3rd if you’re interested.**

17. Washington School for Girls - 8th Grade Essay Writing Workshops [9/27]

Volunteer to help WSG 8th graders brainstorm, develop, and finalize their high school application essays. These workshops are a crucial way WSG prepares students for success in the high school application process. Volunteers can participate on any of the following dates:

- **Wednesday, October 28, 4:00-5:00 PM**

<https://washingtonschoolforgirls.org/event/essay102826/>

- **Wednesday, November 18, 4:00-5:30 PM**

<https://washingtonschoolforgirls.org/event/essay111826/>

- **Wednesday, December 2, 4:00-5:30 PM**

<https://washingtonschoolforgirls.org/event/essay120226/>

All workshops will take place at **Washington School for Girls, 1865 Mississippi Avenue SE**. Please register through the links provided and reach out directly to [naomimreynolds\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:naomimreynolds[at]gmail.com) with any questions or concerns (including but not limited to coordinating group transportation logistics)!

18. Green Lions: Recycling Errata [9/27]

We noticed a mistake in last week's recycling instructions. Our paper cups are recyclable! Please put them in the blue recycling bins (empty, but not clean, is ok). So, the blue bins are for recyclables: glass, aluminum, plastic (but not plastic bags), cardboard, clean and mostly clean paper (including our paper cups, but not including paper towels or napkins). Garbage and the rest go in the garbage can! Contact: Leslie Allen la.caphill@gmail.com

19. Sustainable Villages Honduras [9/20]

St. Mark's parishioners have been involved in environmental and sustainability work in villages in Honduras since 1989. Since 2018, that work has been under the auspices of Sustainable Villages Honduras. The Green Lions are working to share about the incredible strides these villages have made toward installing toilets, providing clean water, practicing sustainable agriculture, diversifying crops, making lives better in their communities, and making it less

likely that people will need to leave their villages to try to come to the United States for work. **St. Mark's is hoping to send a group of about 7 parishioners to these villages in February** (a cooler, dryer time!). Come learn more or reach out to Leslie Allen for more information ([lacaphill\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:lacaphill[at]gmail.com).)

20. Interfaith Action's Pen Pal Project

[9/27*]

Men and women convicted of a federal crime serve their sentences in a federal prison. They are incarcerated in 122 prisons around the US. As of June 2026, over 300 people have volunteered to be pen pals with a person incarcerated in a federal prison or a Virginia State Prison. Over 150 additional people in prison have requested a pen pal, with new requests every week. We need more pen pals on the outside to meet this need. Both Gretchen Willson and Jan Lipscomb are resources at St. Mark's if you have additional questions. To become a Pen Pal, you must attend an hour-long Zoom Orientation. The next orientation will be on **Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 7:30 pm EDT**. Register at https://www.interfaithactionhr.org/iahr_calendar. Contact: [incarcerationjustice\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:incarcerationjustice[at]stmarks.net)

Parish Life & Diocesan Events

21. Lambda Lions - Meeting 9/27 & Picnic 10/4

[9/27]

The Lambda Lions, St. Mark's LGBTQIA+ affinity group will have our next planning meeting this **Sunday September 27 in the Rector's room**, immediately following the **11:15am service**. On **Sunday October 4**, we are meeting for a casual **potluck picnic in Garfield Park at 1pm**. Any and all LGBTQIA+ parishioners are invited to both events! For more information, contact Kelly Dickinson ([kellymarie1848\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:kellymarie1848[at]gmail.com)) and/or Mitch Wood ([mitchw7959\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:mitchw7959[at]gmail.com)).

22. Into the Woods - Performances

[9/27]

The St. Mark's Players will perform the enchanting and touching Tony award-winning musical **Into the Woods** on **October 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, and 17**. All performances start at **8 pm (doors open at 7:30 pm)**. There will be a **2 pm matinee on October 10**. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stmarksplayers/2338684>. Contact: Suzanne Wells [m.godec\[at\]att.net](mailto:m.godec[at]att.net)

23. Seeking a Volunteer to Help Produce the Daily

[9/13]

We are looking for a computer-savvy volunteer to help produce "The Daily" which is sent to member subscribers on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. While in the midst of the shut-down, our rector and church leaders committed to sending Daily messages. During my time as a Vestry Member, I volunteered to help in the church office, and was given this gift

assignment. It is something I enjoy - gathering artwork and nature photos, matching these to a prayer or inspiring reflection, and creating a listing of the St. Mark's events. The Daily no longer comes out every day, so the time required is about 1 and 1/2 hour, or so, depending on the search process. The work is possible to complete remotely. Let me know if you are interested. Contact: Jan Lipscomb [aa\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:aa[at]stmarks.net)

24. Update from Deborah Cunningham

[9/20]

I'm thrilled to report that my recent surgery went incredibly smoothly! It's a relief to have that big hurdle behind me. Now, I'm embarking on the next phase of this adventure: physical therapy. It's going to be a bit of a marathon, but I'm feeling motivated and ready to put in the work to get back to my usual self.

On a more heartfelt note, I've been absolutely touched by the outpouring of love and support from all of you. Seriously, every email, message, and especially the thoughtful gifts have truly brightened my spirits and made this initial recovery period so much easier. Your kindness means the world to me and I can't thank you enough.

I'll be focusing on my recovery over the next little while, but please know I'm really looking forward to reconnecting with everyone and being back in the thick of things as soon as I'm cleared and feeling up to it. Warmly, Deborah [dcwaterlover\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:dcwaterlover[at]yahoo.com)

25. Supporting Deborah's Recovery

[9/20]

St. Mark's beloved Nursery lead, Deborah, is recovering from recent knee surgery. To support her during her recovery, you can contribute in a few easy ways: **Direct Gift Cards:** Send e-gift cards for food or groceries directly to her email at [dcwaterlover\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:dcwaterlover[at]yahoo.com). **Group Gift Pool:** Venmo any amount to @lc6751, and funds will be pooled into gift cards to send to her. **Get Well Notes:** Send direct email notes or scanned handwritten cards from kids to [dcwaterlover\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:dcwaterlover[at]yahoo.com). Please keep Deborah in your thoughts as she heals!

26. Newcomer Gatherings

[9/16*]

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, please sign up here:

<https://shorturl.at/dZYKr>. The next one is October 25th. Email [terripoxonpearson\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:terripoxonpearson[at]gmail.com) with any questions.

Worship

27. Acolytes

[9/27]

If your child is interested in becoming an acolyte, the age requirement is 10. Future training will be announced. Contact Doris Burton at [dmburton21\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dmburton21[at]gmail.com) for more info.

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) by Tuesday night for a spoken announcement.