



What's Happening at St. Mark's Announcements - September 6, 2026

From Parish Leadership & Staff

1. Join the Parish Cookout

[8/30]

On September 13th, we will have one **10 AM** morning service followed by the parish cookout at 11:30. See below for what to bring. Assignments are based on the first letter of your first name. If you don't like your assignment, please trade with a friend!

A-C: Coleslaw

D-J: 2 dozen cookies/bars/brownies (label with nuts)

K-M: Potato salad

M-P: Pasta salad

R-Z: Sliced tomatoes or onions

There will be lots of activities for kids and youth at the morning picnic. Our youngest children are invited to bring a stuffed animal. Older children will have the chance to embark on a scavenger hunt. The youth group will have its first activity of the school year! There will also be a cookout after the 5 PM service. Sign up for what you're bringing to that at bit.ly/4gn8X3X

2. Nave Door Restoration Update

[8/30]

We are excited to share progress on our Nave door restoration project!

- Exterior Doors: Installation of the restored exterior Nave doors and new hardware begins this week.
- Interior Doors: The interior Nave doors will be temporarily removed this week or next for refinishing, with expected reinstallation by mid-to-late September.
- A Street Entrance: Restoration of the iron railings is still underway. Please exercise caution when entering and exiting through the A Street doors.

Thank you for your patience and care as we preserve and beautify our church home!

Contact: Martha Huizenga Junior Warden [juniorwarden\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:juniorwarden[at]stmarks.net)

Parish Life & Diocesan Events

3. Saints & Sinners Dance! Volunteers Needed

[9/6]

Help make our Saints and Sinners Dance on **Saturday, October 24, 2026** a great night! We're looking for volunteers to assist with:

Advance Planning: Coordinate decor, music/AV, or food & drinks.

Day-of Support: Help with hall setup, table arrangements, or evening activities.

Any amount of time helps! To get involved or learn more, email Aaryn at [aarynkopp\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:aarynkopp[at]gmail.com)

4. Newcomer Gatherings [8/23*]

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>. Email [terripoxonpearson\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:terripoxonpearson[at]gmail.com) with any questions.

Worship

5. 9 AM Service Acolytes Meeting [9/6]

ALL 9 am (only) acolytes will meet on **Sunday, Sept 20 at 10 am**. Room will be announced and the meeting will last only about 20 minutes.. New Schedule to be announced. Contact: Doris Burton [dmburton21\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dmburton21[at]gmail.com)

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

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

6. HS Pilgrimage Meeting [9/6]

There is just one month left until the HS Pilgrims pick their summer travel destination! Their next meeting is in the **Adams Room from 12:30 to 2:30PM on Sunday, Sept 13** - after the Parish Picnic. Email [marysmiller\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:marysmiller[at]gmail.com) with questions. If you want to learn more about the HS Pilgrimage, go to <https://bit.ly/hspilgrims>.

7. Youth Confirmation Ice Cream Social [9/6]

The youth in this year's confirmation class are invited to an ice cream social in the **Elders Room from 1pm to 2:30pm on Sunday, Sept 13th** - after the Parish Picnic. During this time, youth will have a chance to meet their confirmation mentors (and each other) for the kickoff of our 26-27 class. Email [annierorem\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:annierorem[at]gmail.com) with questions. If you want to learn more about St. Mark's Youth Confirmation, go to <https://bit.ly/stmarksconfirmation>.

8. Support Group for Parents of Neurodiverse Children [8/23]

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 via Zoom on **September 15 at 8:30 pm**. We hope that this will be a non-judgmental space where parents can share experiences and find support and strength. For questions or receive this month's calendar invitation and meeting link, email Julie at [juliaabbottmurphy\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:juliaabbottmurphy[at]gmail.com).

9. Youth Group Retreat in WV [9/6]

The Youth Group will go on a retreat to Berkeley Springs, WV from **Sat, Sept 26 to Sun, Sept 27**. They will stay at a lodge with a hot tub and go white water rafting on Sunday. The youth confirmation class will meet at 3PM when they get back. Please RSVP at <https://bit.ly/youthinWV>. Email our new youth groups leaders, Jeb and Jilian, if you have any questions or would like to chaperone: [jebory\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:jebory[at]gmail.com) and [jmcg1213\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:jmcg1213[at]gmail.com).

10. 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 11:45am**. 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.

11. First Day of Sunday School [9/6]

Our regular Sunday Schools starts on **Sunday, Sept 20th!** It will go from **10 to 10:50AM** every Sunday, except holidays. Because our Sunday School is growing, your child might not have the teachers or be in the room that you would expect. Please talk to your children in advance if this will feel like a big adjustment for them. Also, in order to greet kids as they enter their classrooms each Sunday, we will not be letting kids in before 10AM.

Catechesis I (PreK3 & PreK4), Location: Undercroft, Room 4

Teachers: Rachel Blessing, Jeremy Sierra, Grace Aspinall

Catechesis II (Kindergarten & 1st Grade), Location: Undercroft, Adams Room

Teachers: Danielle Collins, Kelly Dickinson, Terri Poxon-Pearson

Catechesis III (2nd & 3rd Grade), Location: Undercroft, Room 1

Teachers: Travis Beaty, Jim Brooks, Malissa Zimmerman

Catechesis IV (4th & 5th Grade), Location: Upstairs, Dance Studio

Teachers: Karen Woodall, Katherine Rogers, Jorja Siemons

Middle School (Grades 6–8), Location: Undercroft, Lions' Den

Teachers: Mary Miller Flowers, Jeb Ory

High School (Grades 9–12), Location: Undercroft, Dozier Library

Teachers: Ben Flowers, Britt Pereira

Music and the Arts

12. Capitol Hill Art Walk - Sept 12 & 13

I'm looking for volunteers to help out:

Before the 12th - Shop for refreshments (to be reimbursed),

Sat & Sun - Lug stuff for set up **10:00 - Noon**

Take shifts at the refreshment table, and watch art while artists take a potty break.

Sat - Lug stuff at **4PM** till stuff is back in Baxter Hall

Sun - Lug stuff at **4PM** to cars

If you are up for any of this let me know Elin Whitney-Smith [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin[at]WatercolorDC.com)

13. St Mark's Fabric Arts Show

[9/6]

It's September!! Summer's almost over. Time to think about sweaters, hats, warm socks, cozy quilts and other fabric art. St Mark's Fabric Arts show will showcase the talents of St Marks' crafts people during the month of October. Please send me photos of your crafts (even if they aren't finished) by the **27th of September**. Elin Whitney-Smith [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin[at]WatercolorDC.com)

14. 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

15. Understanding the Crisis in Palestine & Israel: Four Free Webinars

[8/23]

Next month St. John's Episcopal Church, Chevy Chase, will present four Zoom calls featuring Dr. Mark Braverman. As an American raised in the Jewish tradition and a psychologist specializing in trauma, he was deeply troubled by witnessing the systematic oppression of Palestinians in the Holy Land. Meeting Muslim, Jewish, and Christians working together for justice and peace inspired him to devote his life to that work. The webinars will be on **September 3, 9, 16, and 21, from 7 to 8:30 pm**. They will examine the historical context for the conflict, the dangers presented by Christian Zionism and the weaponization of anti-Semitism, and how "in the age of Gaza" people can make a faithful response. To see specific topics and register for the programs, go to bit.ly/4xxhBTd. For information on the speaker, see www.markbraverman.org. Questions? Contact Lindsey at [LJonesRenaud\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:LJonesRenaud[at]gmail.com)

**16. Join St. Mark's Incarceration Justice Ministry & A Panel of Returning Citizens [9/6*]
Tuesday, September 8th, at 7:00 PM in Baxter Hall**

Join St. Mark's Incarceration Justice Ministry and a panel of returning citizens to discuss the legal system and consequences for those with severe criminal charges.

Our panelists will cover 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. Light refreshments will be available. RSVPs appreciated. Please use the QR code or this link bit.ly/stmarks_jusice_panel. A flyer for the event is available at



<https://tinyurl.com/Sep8poster>. Contact for information: [incarcerationjustice\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:incarcerationjustice[at]stmarks.net)

16. Spend 90 Minutes This Month to Help Keep Local Synagogue Congregants Safe for the High Holy Days? [9/6]

Synagogues have to be concerned for the safety of their congregants in a way that we, mercifully, have not had to be. Since 2024, parishioners have supported Hill Havurah (212 East Capitol) for the High Holy Days by staffing one hour outdoor greeter shifts on a few mornings and afternoons. This year, services will take place on **Sep 11 (eve), Sep 12 (morning), Sep 20 (eve), Sep 21 (morning), Sep 25, and Sep 26**. They require a short security training - watching a video and reading a couple of documents

If you're interested in helping our Jewish siblings or would like more information, please contact [christoph.berendes\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:christoph.berendes[at]gmail.com)

17. Seeking Parishioners for Court Support [9/6]

We are in search of parishioners to appear at court for a 30-year-old man who is all alone. The criminal defendant entered a plea to attempted assault; his sentencing is scheduled for **September 18, 2026, at 10am** in Courtroom 213. He has a chance to be released, so a show of support from the faith community could have an impact on the judge's decision.

His circumstances are in equal measure heartbreaking and inspiring. He escaped a traumatic childhood, required special education, yet persevered to make his way to Stanford, serve as editor of a law review, and then held clerkships in district court and the Ninth Circuit. Everything collapsed when he experienced a mental health crisis, during which he made threats to a law firm partner. He is literally and figuratively a pariah without family or friend support. Please contact Jan Lipscomb [incarcerationjustice\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:incarcerationjustice[at]stmarks.net) for further information and to RSVP. This request arrived to us via Attorney Robert Horstein from The Public Defender Service; he offered to come talk to us about the particulars ahead of the court date.

18. Interfaith Action's Pen Pal Project

[9/6]

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. Contact us for more info on upcoming orientations [incarcerationjustice\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:incarcerationjustice[at]stmarks.net)

19. Responsive Grant Proposals Due 9/28

[8/30]

SSJ is offering grants of up to \$1500 toward a new project you believe will benefit the larger community outside St. Mark's. All ages are encouraged to apply! **Proposals due by 9/28 with decisions by 10/9.** The recipient must send receipts for expenses incurred on the project to SSJ by mid-December. Judging considerations include: whether the beneficiaries are involved and want the project; whether others from St. Mark's can participate; and is it realistic for implementation? Your proposal for the project should include a description, implementation plan and budget/justification for the amount requested. Send your proposal/questions to Leslie Allen, [lacaphill\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:lacaphill[at]gmail.com).

(* 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.