



What's Happening at St. Mark's Announcements - September 13, 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

1. 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)

1. 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

2. Honoring Verna Dozier

[9/13]

Virginia Theological Seminary will honor Verna Dozier at a **symposium September 24** featuring former Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and other Episcopal leaders discussing her life and ministry. Verna was a nationally recognized Episcopal theologian, author, and teacher, and, from 1955 until her death in 2006, a beloved member of St. Mark's. The symposium begins at 1:00 and will conclude with a Commemorative Eucharist at 5:15. The event is free but you can register here: www.vts.edu/walkercommemoration

3. 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)

4. 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)

5. 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

6. 9 AM Service Acolytes Meeting - New Time 11 am

[9/13*]

ALL 9 am (only) acolytes will meet on **Sunday, Sept 20 at 11 am (updated time)**. 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>

7. Today - HS Pilgrimage Meeting

[9/6]

Only one month remains 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>.

8. Today - 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>.

9. 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 [juliaabbotmurphy\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:juliaabbotmurphy[at]gmail.com).

10. 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

11. Note about entering Sunday School classrooms

[9/13]

One important way our teachers foster a sense of belonging in Sunday School is through the role of Doorkeeper, where one of the two co-teachers greets children individually by name so they feel seen, and then guides them across the threshold and directly to Circle Time. This intentional practice is difficult when children arrive early. Thus, we ask that throughout the coming year, all children stay upstairs until the end of worship. Though sometimes the service runs long and Michele dismisses kids early, **in general the end of worship coincides with the 10:00 AM start of Sunday School** so we will use the end of worship as our sign to go downstairs. We share this norm in advance because we know it is a change for some families. Please contact Lisa at YouthDirector[at]StMarks.net with any questions.

12. 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).

13. 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.

14. Kindergarten & 1st Grade Catechesis II Meetup

[9/13]

We are in the midst of planning a gathering for **after Sunday School or after choir on October 4th** (depending on individual schedules) for Catechesis II students and their families. Please save the date for now, and we will share more details soon!

15. Please sign up for a slot to support CYFM!

[9/13]

With over 100 children and youth registered for Sunday School (as well as 8 Confirmation students, 10 HS Pilgrims, etc.), we need many adults to make our programs run smoothly. We keep track of all the volunteers and open slots on different tabs of the spreadsheet at the QR code on the right. You can sign up there directly. Here are some ways to help:



Tab 1 - Children's Chapel Co-Leader: From 9-9:20 each Sunday, we need two people to lead Children's Chapel in Baxter Hall.

Tab 2 - Next Gen Reflection Co-Leader: From 9-9:20 each Sunday, we need two people to facilitate the hands-on Next Gen Reflection space in the undercroft.

Tab 3 - Worship Bag Organizer: We need someone to take 5 minutes before the 9am service to restock the worship bags that are in the nave.

Tab 4 - Unmet Volunteer Needs: Various opportunities arise throughout the year with different levels of responsibility. Some roles can be done from home; some are quite short term.

We do not ask that you know how to take on any of these roles already. We will reach out with instructions when the time gets closer and pair you with someone to orient you. As we start a new school year, please consider how you will give your time to our collective ministry to children, youth and their families.

Music and the Arts

16. September 13th Capitol Hill Art Walk

[9/13]

Today is September 13th the last day of the 2026 Capitol Hill Art Walk. St Marks has 15 people exhibiting. After the service!! Get your Parish Picnic food and look at the wonderful Arts and Crafts ! It's free! It's fun! Contact Elin Whitney-Smith [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin[at]WatercolorDC.com)

17. St Mark's Fabric Arts Show

[9/13*]

Have a look at the great photos of St Marks doing social justice and making a real difference in our city! Then, after viewing the Art Walk, go home and decide how you are going to participate in the October Fabric Arts Show. Knitting, crocheting, counted cross stitch, embroidery quilting, or pasting fabric on cardboard to make a "painting". It's all welcome here. Please send me photos of your crafts (even if they aren't finished) by the 27th of September. Questions? Contact Elin Whitney-Smith [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin[at]WatercolorDC.com)

18. 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

19. Understanding and Responding to the Crisis in Palestine: The Call to Churches [9/13]

Members of St. Mark's have three opportunities this month to explore the evolution of the crisis in Palestine and learn how churches can respond. **On the 16th and 21st** the final programs in Dr. Mark Braverman's free, 4-part webinar series will examine Christian-Jewish relations, the weaponization of anti-Semitism, and the Palestinian call to American Christians. Registrants for any program can obtain recordings of all four. Go to bit.ly/4xxhBTd to register. **At 7 pm on September 29**, he will be speaking at the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington** at 4444 Arlington Blvd./Route 50 (\$20 suggested donation). For more information about Braverman and both events, 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.

20. Spend 90 Min to Help Keep Local Synagogue 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@gmail.com)

21. Interfaith Action's Pen Pal Project [9/13*]

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 one is Sept 14th 7:30pm on Zoom. Contact us for more info on upcoming orientations [incarcerationjustice\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:incarcerationjustice[at]stmarks.net)

22. 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.

23. 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)

24. 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).

25. Wear an Orange Shirt on Wednesday, September 30th - Every Child Matters [9/13]

September 30th is a day of remembrance, truth and reconciliation. Wearing an Orange Shirt offers an opportunity to increase awareness and understanding of the multi-generational impact of sending Indigenous children to residential boarding schools where many were subjected to neglect and atrocities, and the intentional cultural genocide grievously harmed Indigenous communities. More information is available at the upcoming Parish Picnic on Sept. 13th, and the Parish Fair on Sept. 20th. If you wish to purchase an orange shirt, the following are several resources we found which support Indigenous communities:

<https://shop.indigenousmarketing.ca/collections/orange-collection> empowernativevoice.com
orangeshirtstore.ca redrebelarmour.ca .

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.

(* 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/vaXg7) by Tuesday night for a spoken announcement.