What's Happening at St. Mark's
Announcements - October 25, 2026

2027 Stewardship Campaign: All In, Together

St. Mark's has launched its 2027 Annual Pledge Campaign! Our theme this year is "All In, Together," inspired by 1 Corinthians 12:12: For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Our annual pledges support everything from building maintenance to youth and family programs, Christian education, pastoral care, fair compensation and benefits for the church's dedicated staff, and the work of Service and Social Justice.

Inflation and rising energy and health insurance costs make this year's campaign especially important. To help us reach our goal of $1.1 million from 325 pledging households, please prayerfully consider your pledge. If you have the financial capacity to increase your pledge, this is the year to do it. Since not everyone can increase their giving, St. Mark's also welcomes a pledge of $20.27 as a meaningful sign of participation in the community. Every pledge helps sustain our work at St. Mark's: All In, Together. Pledge using the QR code or at https://tinyurl.com/STM27pledge.
Contact Todd Thorpe, Thorpedc[at]gmail.com

From Parish Leadership & Staff

1. New Building Security System Update [10/16]
The downstairs door requires a fob or the app, in which you need to select the specific door. These enhancements are part of our ongoing effort to care for our historic church while keeping a safe, open, and welcoming environment for worship, ministry, and community events. We'll keep you updated as the installation is completed, which is down to some fine-tuning. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Michele at michele[at]stmarks.net.

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

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

2. Calling All Youth for Two Youth Group Events on November 8th at 12:30! [10/25]

High schoolers will participate in a DC Justice Walk, learning about the living history of our city and the people who continue to fight for change. Middle schoolers will serve the community by raking leaves for Capitol Hill neighbors. Please use the QR code to RSVP, and reach Jilian McGreen (jmcg1213[at]gmail.com) and Jeb Ory (jebory[at]gmail.com) with questions.

Music and the Arts

3. Veronneau at the Hill Center, Oct. 30 [10/18]

Back in April, Lynn Veronneau, Ken Avis, and Dave Kline serenaded us with an amazing concert of jazz, blues, bossa nova and more. This benefit concert (the second Veronneau has done for us) raised about $4500 for Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid and Good Neighbors Capitol Hill, the organizations that spearhead our Service and Social Justice migrant and refugee work. Please show your appreciation and delight your listening ears by attending their next concert nearby at the **Hill Center on Capitol Hill on Friday, October 30th, 7 p.m.** Tickets are $25. This event is likely to sell out, so reserve your tickets soon. For more information, reach out to Leslie Allen, lacaphill[at]gmail.com, or the Hill Center, info[at]hillcenterdc.org.

4. Save the Date: November 6th Choral Concert [10/11]

Please join us for a special concert featuring the St. Mark's Youth Choir, Chancel Choir, Community Choir, and special guest ADAMS BEAT Youth Choir. The groups will sing a variety of music and will be accompanied by piano, percussion, and bass. The audience will even have a brief opportunity to join in the singing! Nov. 6th at 7:30 pm. Free. A reception will follow the event. Email judith[at]stmarks.net for more info or to volunteer to help.

5. Tread Softly Art Show [10/18]

Tracy Councill's Last Show Will be at St. Marks in November. It includes her recent art passions: icons and portraits; some of the portraits are what Tracy called "Imaginary People." The exhibition includes a book, and preorders are open now through Nov. 15. All proceeds will help establish a stipend program to support master's candidates in an Art Therapy program established through a Tracy's Kids grant. Here's the preorder link for the book: https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/tracys-kids-incs-shop. We will have a **reception and**

Art Walk on the 8th after the 11:15 service. Elin Whitney Smith is looking for volunteers to assist. Contact: elin[at]WatercolorDC.com.

6. Arts Schedule [10/25]

The arts schedule from now to the end of the year is:

- November – Tread Softly by Tracy Councill
- Advent Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve – Art from the Holy Land; Focus on Bethlehem
- Christmas and Epiphany – Jesus was an Immigrant or Where are Your People From? Traditions We Treasure. Submissions open now.

Contact Elin Whitney Smith: elin[at]WatercolorDC.com

Service and Social Justice

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

7. St. Marks Justice in Palestine Meeting [10/25]

Sunday, October 25 at 12:30 pm in the Dozier Library. Join us to plan upcoming events, including actions with the Gaza Children's Shroud, activities during the Advent season, and more. Contact Giulia DeLuca at giulialdeluca[at]gmail.com or Lindsey Jones-Renaud at ljonesrenaud[at]gmail.com with questions.

8. Contribute Towards a Chili Lunch at Shirley's Place [10/25]

This lunch will be in honor of Jack Richards who organized us to feed the hungry. 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

9. Building the Circle of Compassion with the Most Vulnerable in the Americas [10/25]

November 8, join St. Mark's parishioner Mike McCabe, CEO of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos International (NPH), for a Mission Moment at the 9, 11:15 and 5pm services and **a brief dialogue after each service** (in Baxter Hall) about supporting vulnerable children, youth, and families across nine countries in the Americas.

Mike will share how NPH provides schools, nurturing homes, hospitals, and family and community support, with a special focus on St. Damien's Pediatric Hospital in Haiti and its lifesaving pediatric and cancer care.

Learn how NPH's Child Sponsorship Program can connect you with children and families as part of the NPH family. All are welcome, and pizza will be provided! www.nph.org
Contact: Mike McCabe mmccabe963[at]gmail.com

10. WIN 30th Anniversary Celebration [10/25]

You're Invited! Celebrate WIN's 30 yrs building a Community of Engagement - **Thursday, November 12th, 2026 6:30pm - 8:30pm** at Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library **901 G St. NW 5th Fl, DC**. Free - RSVP requested. Since 1996, the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) has united congregations and communities across all 8 Wards to lead and win grassroots campaigns for affordable housing, education, public safety, climate justice, and living-wage jobs. Join us to honor 30 years of impact and build our collective power for the future! Please consider a $30 donation to the WIN at 30 Campaign. Register using the QR code or at https://tinyurl.com/WIN30th to attend the free Celebration (contact Edna Boone ednaboon[at]gmail.com or Kit Arrington kit[at]tulsablue.com with questions).

11. Green Lions: Anacostia River Boat Tour [10/25]

Join us on a beautiful, interesting and fun boat ride on the Anacostia River, with Trey Sherard, the Anacostia Riverkeeper, on **Sunday November 8 at 3:15 or 12:45** (depending on interested peoples' preference), **leaving from Kingman Island or Anacostia Park's boat launch** (again, based on our preference). Trey was named one of the country's most important "River Heroes" in 2022. We will learn about the challenges facing the Anacostia, the progress made so far, and what we can all do to reduce its pollutants and help it reach a swimmable future. All ages welcome. Please contact Leslie Allen, lacaphill[at]gmail.com, asap to sign up or for more information.

12. Thanksgiving Giving [10/18]

Support Everyone Home DC in providing its clients with gift cards this Thanksgiving season. This will empower them to shop for what their family needs to celebrate this very American holiday. You can donate here: https://web.charityengine.net/stmarksgiving/ For more information, contact Susan Sedgewick jssedgewick[at]gmail.com.

13. Green Lions [10/25]

A few of us are working hard to revitalize the St. Mark's Green Lions, the church's environmental stewardship group. We work toward increasing environmental stewardship in our church, communities, and even farther afield. Would you like to help minimize our environmental footprint, bring Creation Care into our worship from time to time, join environmental outings, or partner with other area churches to help make a difference? For more information, to join our listserve, and/or to attend upcoming meetings, please contact Leslie Allen, lacaphill[at]gmail.com, or Christina Herman, christina.herman55[at]gmail.com.

14. 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 with any questions or concerns (including but not limited to coordinating group transportation logistics)!

15. Now is the Time to Order Palestinian Olive Oil [10/4]

Palestinian Olive Oil is once again available, and NOW is the time to place your order. The two types most popular varieties , Al-Ard EVOO (Extra Virgin Organic, Oil is mild, smooth) & Canaan Rumi ("zesty", with more of a peppery finish) can be purchased in 1/2 liter bottles for $30. Order bottles individually or a case of 6 bottles for $180. Our price, the same as last season and still quite competitive with a percentage included to support critical humanitarian work in Gaza and the W. Bank. The two cooperatives we support, Canaan and Al -Ard, produce extremely high quality, extra virgin and organic. Under the Palestine Fair Trade program, the oil is required to be from indigenous trees using traditional, natural cultivation methods.

Orders can be placed online now until November 20. Ordering online allows you to pay for your order directly (with credit card or bank transfer) simplifying bookkeeping for you and St. Mark's. Order early to ensure availability. **Paid orders can be picked up Sunday, November 22 or December 13 from 10 am – 1pm**. Use the QR code, visit https://tinyurl.com/STMoliveoil26 or find the Olive Oil Poster on the Baxter Hall Bulletin Board. Questions contact karen.getman[at]gmail.com

16. Hands Along the Nile Soda Tab Collection [10/25]

On December 13th, St. Mark's will host the third annual sale of handicrafts made by the women in the garbage recycling community of Cairo, Egypt. These beautiful items are made by women in one of the poorest communities in Egypt. The SSJ Board recently awarded Hands Along the Nile a $1000 responsive grant to support their efforts. But these women need more help from us! They do not have enough **soda/seltzer can pull tabs** to meet the demand for the jewelry they make from them. The Green Lions are coordinating a collection of these tabs. Simply pull off the tabs (they snap off easily), and save them in a jar on your counter. When it's full, bring it in and **add it the container in the entryway**. Get your whole family involved! We will ensure that HATN gets these where they need to go. Questions, contact Jennifer Cate, jcate[at]handsalongthenile.org.

Parish Life & Diocesan Events

17. Upcoming 20s/30s Events at St. Marks [10/18]

Join us **October 25 after the 5pm service** for our monthly discussion group! Optional podcast listening: "What is Prayer and How to Begin" from On Being. Join us for **brunch on November 8 after the 11:15 service**! Let us know at stmarks20s30s[at]gmail.com if you'd like to be point-person on a future brunch. We typically gather after the service and walk to a local spot or eat at the church.

18. Common Table (Newcomer Gatherings) [10/18]

Common Table (previously known as 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 opportunity is October 25**. Reach out to Terri Poxon-Pearson with any questions (terripoxonpearson[at]gmail.com).

19. November 1 - All Saints Conversation [10/18]

Each year, St. Mark's offers a place to gather to remember those who have died and the losses sustained during the prior year. The service takes the form of a sacred circle of prayer and sharing in the **Nave from 6 pm to 7 pm**. All who seek a place to remember, mourn, and gain strength are invited. Contact Josie Jordan at josiejordan52[at]gmail.com.

20. Seeking 2 People to Help Host Sunday Lunch November 15 - It's Easy! [10/18]

Please volunteer to help host Sunday Lunch on Nov. 15. If you want to keep it easy, Pam Lacey can pick up the sandwiches and salad from Costco and bring them to the Parish Hall in coolers on Sunday morning. All you need to do is get one friend or your spouse to help set the food out on the buffet tables around 12:15 pm, take donations, drop off the donations in the office slot afterwards, and clear away the leftovers. Jane Byrne will help with loading the dishwasher and Pam will also help with cleanup. Contact Pam Lacey, placey914[at]gmail.com.

21. Share Your Events on St. Mark's Social Media! [10/11]

Have an event, ministry update, or something happening in the parish that deserves a wider audience? St. Mark's is looking to grow our presence on Instagram and Facebook, and we want to feature the great things happening across our community!

Karen Brown has generously volunteered to serve as our new Social Media Coordinator. If you have an upcoming event, program milestone, service opportunity, or photos you'd like considered for our Instagram or Facebook pages, please reach out to Karen directly at socialmedia[at]stmarks.net.

A few notes to keep in mind: submissions are welcome from any ministry or group, and Karen will follow our parish social media guidelines (including protecting the privacy of children) when deciding what and how to post. Reach out anytime, no request is too small!
Contact: Karen Brown socialmedia[at]stmarks.net

22. Help Include Far-Flung Parishioners + Friends in Worship via Livestream? [10/11]

Community members rely on Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook to participate in Sunday morning worship. Distant family count on livestreams to see a loved one's celebration of life.

If you'd like to help them, consider volunteering as a Tech Director. You don't need to know everything to start - we'll train you.

Responsibilities: Configure Facebook/YouTube/Zoom streams, set up the video laptop and peripherals, monitor the livestream in progress, Move/connect our Nave cameras, monitor the audio, and troubleshoot.

Streaming, video, or networking experience is helpful. Commitment: **one Sunday morning every three to four weeks, plus special events** (e.g., memorials, Holy Week) as available.

If you're interested, contact Christoph.Berendes[at]gmail.com to schedule a Sunday morning to sit with the tech team and see how it's done.

Worship

23. Same Bread Lady, New Name [10/18]

My marital status has changed, but the need for bread & wine donations for the 11:15 a.m. service at St. Mark's has not! As we move into the busy holiday season, consider signing up to bring bread for use in the Eucharist. Bread can be homemade or store bought (the braided challah loaf at the Whole Foods bakery is popular). And an inexpensive bottle of red table wine is most appreciated. Your name is listed in the back of the service bulletin, and you can dedicate your contribution to a birthday, anniversary or in honor of someone. There's usually a sign-up sheet in the foyer during the 11:15 service or email me *at my new address* to get on the schedule. Questions, contact Cheryl Bolen (formerly Cheryl Smelson) at cheryl2bolen[at]gmail.com

24. Laying on of Hands Ministry [10/18]

Would you want to learn more about the St Mark's prayer ministry called "Laying on of Hands"? This personal prayer service is conducted by lay members of the parish. We are scheduled for every 1st and 3rd Sunday.

Reverend Patricia Catalano has graciously offered to schedule a group training with interested parishioners, who would like to explore becoming part of the Laying on of Hands cadre. The training will be scheduled in January - (exact details to be determined once we have gauged interest). If you're pulled in this direction, please email Jan Lipscomb at juanita.lipscomb[at]gmail.com

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Do you have an announcement for St. Mark's?

Submit announcements of 150 words or less to 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 for the calendar, website[at]stmarks.net for the website, or complete the form (shorturl.at/vaXg7) by Tuesday night for a spoken announcement.