What's Happening at St. Mark's
Announcements - November 1, 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 [10/18]
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Michele at michele[at]stmarks.net.

Christian Education

2. Book Study: Borg and Crossan's "First Christmas" [11/1]
Matthew and Luke's stories of Jesus' birth are among the best known parts of the Gospels, but what do they mean to us in 2026? Which parts do we read as historical fact, as parable, or as fable? Join Louise Walsh and Steve Dalzell for two Saturday sessions using Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan's "The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach about Jesus' Birth" to think about how we can read the Nativity stories and the rest of the New Testament as individuals of both faith and intellect. Classes meet **December 5 and 15, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm, in the Elders' Room.** Sign up in the foyer or using the QR code.

3. Faithful Work in an Imperfect World [11/1]

This class will discuss what it means to live and work faithfully in a far-from-perfect world. Drawing on Scripture, contemplative Christian writers, and wisdom from working inside large institutions, this three-session course offers a space to discuss tensions of working in government, nonprofits, and the private sector — compromise, complicity, burnout, and hope — and to explore practices that keep integrity and faith alive for the long haul. Open to anyone navigating faith and work, regardless of sector or vocation. **When: Wednesday, November 18; Wednesday, December 2; and Tuesday, December 8 from 6:30-8:00 pm. Where: Baxter Hall, St. Mark's.** Facilitators: Mary Ellison and Susan Kyle. Sign up: mary.c.ellison[at]gmail.com or sfkyle[at]gmail.com.

Music and the Arts

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. Sandbox Concerts, Saturday, November 14th at 10:00 and 11:30 AM [11/1]

An interactive music experience for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Performed by live musicians. $5 per participant. singoncapitolhill.com. For questions contact Judith: sandbox[at]stmarks.net. Please register using the QR code or at https://tinyurl.com/sandboxconcerts

6. 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.

7. Arts Schedule [10/25]

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

- 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

8. Don't Miss the Action this Week! [11/1]

Samaritan Ministry's online auction begins November 4 at 7 pm and continues through the **Gala on Saturday, November 7, from 3-6 pm.** Don't miss out on an array of great items to enjoy yourself or use as gifts. Register to bid at https://smgw2026.auctria.events, then use that link to access the auction when it goes live. At the Gala, join Bishop Mariann and members of partner churches to celebrate the Ministry's 40th Anniversary and ensure that it will continue to serve men and women in need across the metro area. The Gala will take place at **St. Paul's Center on the campus of St. Paul's Rock Creek Church, 201 Allison Street NW**. Come early and take a stroll through beautiful Rock Creek Cemetery. Then enjoy food, drink, music, and your winning bids! Purchase your Gala tickets at bit.ly/4BzZNcY. Questions? Contact Peter at phawleydc[at]gmail.com.

9. Building the Circle of Compassion with the Most Vulnerable in the Americas [11/1*]

November 9, 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: (11am at the Upper Conference Room; 12:15pm at the Rectors room; 5:45pm 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 brownies will be provided! www.nph.org
Contact: Mike McCabe mmccabe963[at]gmail.com

10. 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 people's 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.

11. 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.

12. WIN RFK for All Coalition [11/1]

It's been one year since the DC Council signed the deal with the Commanders to bring a new stadium and neighborhood to the RFK campus. As the team races towards a 2030 opening day, recent hearings have revealed some alarming developments. Join the RFK for All Coalition (including the Washington Interfaith Network) for a community assembly to understand key issues and explore what we can do together to ensure the redevelopment serves all DC residents. **Tuesday, Nov 10th 6:30-8pm St Coletta of Greater Washington – 1901 Independence Ave SE.** RSVP https://actionnetwork.org/events/rfk-for-all-fall-assembly.
Contact Edna Boone with questions, ednaboon[at]gmail.com

13. 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).

14. Signing Up as a Prison Pen Pal [11/1]

Serving a long prison sentence, whatever you did to get there, is a lonely and dehumanizing experience in an arbitrary system among violent people. You can support these prisoners by becoming a "pen pal." Interfaith Action for Human Rights has more prisoners wanting pen pals than they have pen pal volunteers.

To sign up, you need only contact the IAHR pen pal coordinator, Rabbi Charles Feinberg, at penpal.iahr[at]gmail.com for a link to an introductory briefing via Zoom. You will then get a list of prisoners with brief descriptions from which to choose a correspondent.

Ellen Frost and Bill Pedersen have been pen pals since 2021 and would be happy to discuss this. Contact them at bill.pedersen65[at]gmail.com or ellen.frost1945[at]gmail.com

15. 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.

16. 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, November 18, 4:00-5:30 PM** https://tinyurl.com/393c2ye6
- **Wednesday, December 2, 4:00-5:30 PM** https://tinyurl.com/bdfk72t6

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)!

17. 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

18. 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.

19. Decolonizing Palestine Book Discussion Jan 15th [11/1]

We invite all to join St. Mark's Justice in Palestine for our next book discussion meeting on **January 15th, at 12:30pm in the Dozier Library**. We will be reading Decolonizing Palestine: The Land, the People, the Bible (213 pages, published in 2023) by Palestinian theologian, Reverend Mitri Raheb. The book sheds light on the politics of Christian Zionism and how Western Christians must decolonize the way we read, study, and talk about the Bible and its teachings. Learn more about the author at www.mitriraheb.org.

The audiobook is available for free on Spotify for Premium users. If you intend to purchase the book, we kindly recommend you buy the book in person from a local retailer or online from https://bookshop.org

Note: Due to the upcoming holiday season and the length of the book, we have rescheduled from the date announced last week.

Contact: St Mark's Justice in Palestine Group smjp[at]stmarks.net

Parish Life & Diocesan Events

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

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.

21. Common Table (Newcomer Gatherings) [11/1*]

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 November 14.** Reach out to Terri Poxon-Pearson with any questions (terripoxonpearson[at]gmail.com).

22. 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.

23. 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.

Worship

24. 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

25. 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

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

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

26. 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.

(* 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 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.