What's Happening at St. Mark's
Announcements - November 8, 2026

2027 Stewardship Campaign: All In, Together

So far, we have received 63 pledges, or 19% of our goal , for a total of $344,880.37

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

Music and the Arts

1. 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

2. Tracy Councill's Final Show is Up Today [11/8]

Tread Softly – Icons and Portraits. **After the 11:15 service we'll do an Art Walk** to talk about the paintings and Icons. Then have a **reception in Baxter Hall**. Pre-order Tracy's art book. Proceeds to support students who want to become Art Therapists. URL: https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/tracys-kids-incs-shop or use the QR code. Contact: elin[at]WatercolorDC.com.

3. 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

4. Building the Circle of Compassion with the Most Vulnerable in the Americas [11/8*]

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 the Rector's Room** 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

5. Help Staff a "Respite" Stop for Historic Preservation Rally [11/8]

On **Monday, Nov. 9**, St. Mark's will open the Parish Hall as a rest stop for people attending the "106 Strong" rally on Capitol Hill. Rally participants will be protesting a fast-track effort to push through 400+ page licensing/permitting legislation (S. 5753) dealing with multiple issues through Congress during the lame-duck session rather than wait until 2027 to negotiate compromise terms. **The bill's current provisions would eliminate or reduce the ability of** state, local and private historic preservationists and **Native Tribes to participate in the planning process for changes to historic preservation sites**. St. Mark's is not a sponsor of the rally but will give attendees a place to store bags, rest, recharge phones and grab a coffee between 9-5. For more information or to sign up to help, contact Michael Knipe (haroldknipe[at]gmail.com or (two zero two-487-3990).

6. 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 info.

7. 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.

8. Indigenous Justice Initiative (New Name!) [11/18]

Lending Library in November & EDOW Resolution

1) Please stop by and borrow a book from the CYFM and Indigenous Justice Initiative co-hosted **Lending Library** (3rd year!) of mostly children & youth, and some adult, Indigenous themed historical and cultural story books. **Find us in Baxter Hall from 11:00am-12:30pm during Sundays in November**. 2) To reflect the broad work that we are doing on Indigenous Issues extending beyond our ongoing relationship with Navajoland - we've changed our name from the **Navajoland Initiative to the Indigenous Justice Initiative**. 3) Due December 1st: St. Mark's is the primary sponsor seeking to have a Resolution introduced for vote at the Episcopal Diocese of Washington convention in January to locally Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery and commit to listening, learning, repentance and repair alongside our Indigenous neighbors. For questions, contact kit[at]tulsablue.com.

9. 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

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. The Gaza Children's Shroud in DC [11/8]

From November 12-22, The Gaza Children's Shroud will be in DC and there will be events throughout the metro area. The shroud bears the handwritten names of more than 20,000 Palestinian children killed in Gaza, inscribed by over 70 Christian, Muslim, and Jewish congregations and community organizations across the country. We encourage folks to attend **events throughout DC, including November 14 at 6pm** when the Shroud will be unveiled in its entirety at an **Interfaith Vigil at Capitol Hill United Methodist**. All events are listed here: gazachildrenshroud.com/dc-events. Questions? Please reach out to Giulia at giulialdeluca[at]gmail.com.

12. Chili Lunch for Shirley's Place Was a Great Success [11/8]

St Mark's served a chili lunch for over 50 drop-in "guests" at Shirley's Place, Everyone Home DC's day hospitality center, on Monday, November 2. This annual event is a testament to "many hands make work light."

Many thanks to those who donated ingredients and cash towards ingredients: Gabby Abruzzi, Elizabeth Becker, Cheryl Bolen, Karen Brown, Lucy Brown, Karen Getman, Barbara Harrelson, Emily Johannsen, Cecile Jones, Michael Knipe, Carol Loomis, Kathryn McDonald, Maureen Shea, Suzanne Wells and Karen Wiedemann. St Mark's youth also deserve a shout out for packing the lunch bags we gave each guest!

Here's to the cooks who stirred the pot with me on Sunday, November 1: Caleb Gustafson, Li Gustafson, Grace Flowers, and Karen Weidemann. Doug Ammon deserves a hand for schlepping the pots of chili from St Mark's. Kudos go to Nancy Broers, Maureen Shea, and Kate McFadden for joining me, Susan Sedgewick, in serving the lunch to guests. It was gratifying watching our offerings being so-well received. The guests were most appreciative.

ALERT: Shirley's Place needs hot lunches throughout the year. If your St Mark's small group would like to "do" a lunch for Shirley's Place, contact Susan Sedgewick jssedgewick@gmail.com. She can tell you about what is involved and can arrange for serving the lunch, which happens during "working hours."

13. 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

14. 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.

15. Only 12 More Days to Order your Palestinian Olive Oil [11/8]

Please place your orders now. Remember the purchase of the Olive Oil not only supports the farmers of the cooperatives and their families, but a significant percentage supports critical humanitarian work in Gaza and the W. Bank. It is also a purchase which signifies our solidarity with Palestinians who are struggling to maintain their culture and identity.

Remember you can order two types most popular varieties , Al-Ard EVOO (Extra Virgin Organic, Oil is mild, smooth) & Canaan Rumi ("zesty", with more of a peppery finish) 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.

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. 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.

17. 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

18. Sunday Lunch TODAY Following 11:15 Service and Art Walk [11/8]
Please stay after the 11:15 am service to view Tracy Council's last art show and then join us in the **Baxter Parish Hall** for a light lunch hosted by Elin Whitney-Smith. The Pub Window will be open. Contact Elin Whitney Smith Elin[at]netalyst.com.

19. 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.

20. 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).

21. Poppies for Veterans' Day/Remembrance Day [11/8]
Veterans' Day/Remembrance Day (in the UK) is This Wednesday. In the UK it is customary to buy and wear a poppy to honor the memory of those who died in WWI (when it started..."In Flanders field..") and WWII.. In 2019, we made/sold paper poppies to benefit a military community and have a bunch left.. Please take one (If you feel moved to contribute...you can do that, too!) from the welcome table. dmburton21[@]gmail.com

22. Seeking Host or Helpers for Sunday Lunch December 13 - It's Easy, Really! [11/8]
Please volunteer to host Sunday Lunch on Dec. 13 (12:30 pm - 1:15 pm). Pam Lacey can pick up the sandwiches and salad from Costco and bring them to the church kitchen on Sunday morning. All you need to do is get one friend or spouse to help set them out on the buffet tables at about 12:15 pm, collect donations in a basket, enjoy lunch and conversations, and then drop off the donations in the office slot afterwards. We have a helper for cleanup. Contact Pam Lacey, placey914[at]gmail.com.

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

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

23. 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.

Christian Education

24. Book Study: Borg and Crossan's "First Christmas" [11/8*]

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 consider 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 & 12, 9:30 am-2:30 pm in the Elders' Room.** Sign up in the foyer or use the QR code.

25. 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.

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.