

December 1, 2019 Announcements

*Announcements, **not to exceed 150 words**, are to be submitted to bulletin@stmarks.net by **5:00 pm on the Tuesday** preceding the Sunday you wish the announcement to run.*

To view the parish calendar online, go to our homepage <stmarks.net> and click "Calendar" at the top of the page.

Music & Arts

1. Cantate Chamber Singers Concert Titled "How Can I Keep from Singing," this program explores joy, whimsy, and humor in music. In addition to two motets by J.S. Bach, the concert includes works by Gwyneth Walker, John Muehleisen, Jake Runestad, and Ralph Vaughan Williams' well-loved In Windsor Forest. Featuring guest artist David Jones, clarinet. Tickets at the door or through cantate.org.
When: **Saturday Dec 7 at 8 pm.**

2. Advent Lessons & Carols Service: Please join us for this beloved annual tradition - a service of readings, seasonal hymns, and special music sung by the Chancel Choir. A reception will follow the service. **Sunday, Dec. 8 at 5:00 pm.**

3. Chiarina Chamber Players present "Movement Reflected," a solo piano recital featuring works by J.S. Bach, Chopin, Bartok, and Ravel. 60% discount off advance tickets at chiarina.org using promo code STMARKS10. When: **Sunday, Dec 8 at 7:30 pm.**

4. Carols & Cheer: Come join us for a fun evening singing your favorite Christmas carols while enjoying some snacks and drinks. **Social time starts at 6:30 and singing goes from about 7:00 to 9:30 pm.** Drop in any time! Please bring a snack or beverage to share or \$5. **Wednesday, Dec. 11.**

Parish Life

5. Lambda Lions - December 7th Joint Thanksgiving/Christmas Celebration: "Gays-giving." The Lambda Lions is an affinity group of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) members of St. Mark's parish. St. Mark's has a history of inclusion of LGBTQ members, including being the first church in the Diocese of Washington to bless same sex unions in July 2001. The Lambda Lions hopes to provide a supportive space for LGBTQ members and visitors to socialize, discuss issues of identity and faith, engage in positive change, and support one another wherever we may find ourselves in the faith journey. Please contact Mary Ellison at Mary.c.ellison@gmail.com or Brandon Knight at BrandonLKnight@yahoo.com with any questions.

6. 20s/30s Ice Skating at the National Sculpture Garden Rink - Sunday, December 15th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm Join us for our winter social event. No previous ice skating experience required! \$13 (\$12 for students) for two 45-minute sessions of ice skating, broken up by a hot chocolate break in between. Email Emily McDuff at emily.a.mcduff@gmail.com if you are interested in attending.

7. Come to the Stable — A Diverse Crèche Collection. On December 15, young children with their parents and kids of all ages are invited to the **Dozier Library in the Undercroft to see Crèches and Nativity Sets from around the world.** Drawn from the collection of Linell Grundman, the crèches will be on display (together with some hands-on examples) from the **end of Sunday School until 1:30 pm.** Also on display (and available for check-out) will be children's books relating to Christmas and winter themes. The Library Committee is sponsoring this event to celebrate the season and honor the children of St. Mark's. Please join us!

8. Loaves and Fishes Community Art Project. Parishioner Peter Mosley had a “vision” about the community of St. Mark’s. Emphasizing hospitality and welcoming as core values of our community, Peter sought the advice of the Clergy and the Visual Arts group to design a sculptural representation of the story of the Loaves and Fishes to hang over the central altar.

Tracy Councill and Lynda Smith-Bugge worked with Peter and the Clergy to design and create a basic form, which will be finished during the two liturgical seasons of preparation: Advent and Lent. **Beginning December 1, parishioners will be invited to represent thoughts about what they bring to be blessed by God and offered to the world in the form of tiny (5/8”-1”) circles** with a picture, a color, a word or two. These circles will form the **scales of the two fish** in the sculpture. We will create circles for the first two weeks of Advent, begin laminating and cutting them out during the second and third weeks, and finish the season by stringing the scales on wire and wrapping them onto the fish.

Members of the Visual Arts group will help facilitate the activity in the parish hall between and after the services. At the end of Advent, the piece will be stored until we are ready to create the five loaves during Lent—so stay tuned! Contact: Tracy Councill tracy@tracyskids.org

20. Greening Report: We Have a Coordinator! Please say thank you to Pam Lacey as this year’s Greening chair. Linell Grundman will be our ‘watering’ volunteer & **we’re still looking for a clean up chair.** Volunteers: please contact Doris Burton dmburton21@gmail.com. Greening will be **Sunday, December 22 following the 11:15 service. Free lunch** (provided by Worship Com) for those who help.

Christian Education

9. Advent Half-Day Retreat: During this year’s advent season, we will be offering a half-day retreat where we shall **learn about and practice various forms of prayer and meditation** in order to deepen our spiritual lives. We will have at least two periods of centering prayer, as well as a discussion on different forms of contemplation. We will do some walking meditation and a little bit of chanting. The companion book to the retreat is *The Wisdom Jesus* by Cynthia Bourgeault, a modern-day mystic and Episcopal priest. Here is a quote to pique your interest, “When the field of vision has been unified, the inner being comes to rest, and that inner peaceableness flows into the outer world as harmony and compassion.” **When: December 14, from 9am to 1pm; where: In the Nave** Contact: Patricia Catalano, adjunct@stmarks.net

10. Christian Education Weekend -- January 10-12, 2020: Come one, come all to the 2020 Christian Education Weekend at the **Claggett Retreat Center**. You don't need to be a teacher to attend! Some call this our winter St. Mark's retreat. Schmooze with new and old members of St. Mark's in the rural countryside of Maryland, learn and make new connections while enjoying the rooms at the Christiane Inn (on site hotel-like rooms). Current Catechesis, Middle School and High School Teachers go free, thanks to the Penniman Fund! First come, first serve. Single rooms are \$274 for the weekend; double rooms are \$244 per person. Contact Susan Thompson susanlynnthompson@gmail.com for more information.

11. “The Stories We Tell.” St. Mark’s Christian Ed program is pleased to host this exciting **Spring retreat** in conjunction with The Guild for Transformational Studies, **April 4-9 at the Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond, Virginia.** The retreat will offer the opportunity to listen to each others’ stories. What has formed our sense of self? Who authors our history? We will invite Knowing to unfold itself through reflection, imaging, art, body awareness, and sharing. This retreat is open to all. A registration form is required. A deposit of \$500 is due no later than the end of December 2019, and the remainder is due no later than February 1, 2020. Additional scholarships – full or partial are available. *Space is limited.* Please contact Susan Thompson susanlynnthompson@gmail.com for further information and the **sign-up in Baxter Hall.**

12. Ongoing Christian Education. These groups are open to newcomers:

* **SMMC Meditation, Mondays 7:30-9:00pm, in the Adams Room.**

Contact: Collie Agle, (202) 255-2687 or charles.agle@gmail.com

* **The Wednesday Morning Bible Study, 11:30 am-12:45pm,** Brown bag lunch follows

Location: **Elders Room (in the undercroft).** Class Leader: Peter Mosley; Coordinator: Raiford Gaffney (rgaffneydc@gmail.com or 202-460-5415).

The so-called "Minor Prophets" were not diviners of the future but loud critics of the inequalities, corruption, and injustices in their society. Jesus knew them well. As a resource and guide we will continue to use the classic work *The Prophets* by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. We will read Bible text from different translations and Heschel's commentary of a particular passage.

* **Centering Prayer, Thursdays 7:30-8:30am, in the Nave.** Centering Prayer is an early Christian contemplative practice that places a strong emphasis on interior silence. Please contact Collie Agle if you are interested or curious, at (202) 255-2687 or charles.agle@gmail.com.

* **Sunday Morning Bible Class, 10-11 am until May 17, 2020, Penniman Room**

Second Samuel (Hebrew Scriptures) Convener: Bob Ewald (llerbe@yahoo.com; 301-541-5133)

Second Samuel focuses on the complicated life of David: claiming his kingship; centralizing the religious and political traditions of the Israelites; waging war against The Other; dealing with messy family relationships. The class consists of class discussion of the assigned reading for that day.

Regular attendance is encouraged. Additional outside readings are not expected.

Youth & Family Ministries

13. Ongoing- Pageant Sign Ups - Be sure to stop by the undercroft bulletin board (at the end of the Sunday School Hallway) to sign up for a part in our Christmas Pageant. Youth of all ages are encouraged to participate.

14. Dec. 22- Christmas Cookie Decorating Party + Pageant Costume Pick Up + Lead Rehearsal

15. Dec. 24- 4pm Christmas Pageant

16. Youth and Family Ministries will be returning to Sunday Suppers in December! Join us to help serve those in need on **December 15th from 5:30pm to 7:00pm.** We will **meet at St. Mark's at 5:30pm**, then head together to Franklin Square to feed and sit with area DC residents. Food is taken care of, but we need help with set up and clean up!

Contact: Caleb Nelson Amaker, Interim Director of Youth & Family Ministries youthdirector@stmarks.net

Outreach

17. St. Mark's will host the 7th Annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence, on Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 pm. Organized by the Newtown Foundation to mark the anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy, the event allows survivors from across the country to gather together in remembrance. To attend and to volunteer your time or donate food and drink, please follow links on the St. Mark's website. Questions? Please Contact Cecilia Monahan: cdcmonahan@gmail.com

18. Thanksgiving Baskets: St Mark's parishioners donated **54 baskets this year** for distribution by Everyone Home DC to families who might not have had Thanksgiving dinner otherwise. Thank you for sharing from your abundance. Contact: John and Susan Sedgewick jssedgewick@gmail.com

19. Creative Gift Ideas Through Sunday Suppers: This year, you can give someone the gift of a donation to Sunday Suppers and receive a cute token from the organization to let your recipient know. Donations cover paper products for meals and insurance and upkeep on the van. Please check out <https://bit.ly/2CJHbes> to support this important work. **Orders must be placed by Dec 16** to be received in time for Christmas. Questions? Contact: Lisa Ramish lisa.ramish@gmail.com

20. Be Santa to a Disadvantaged Family: Everyone Home DC (Capitol Hill Group Ministry's new name.) is looking for elves to provide Santa to their client families. Choose a family size: small (2-3 people, probably a mom with 2 children), medium (4-5 people) or large (6+). Then **contact Shelah Wilcox** (Wilcox@everyonehomedc.org) **to let her know you want to adopt a family.** She will send you a family's wish list. Team up with others and have fun sharing the experience and expense of providing Santa to those in need. **Wrapped gifts can be delivered to Shirley's Place (1338 G St SE) by December 20th.** Look for a flyer in the tract racks. Questions or If you need help with the delivery, email Susan Sedgewick jssedgewick@gmail.com or call her at 202-546-0160.

21. 20s/30s Sunday Suppers - Sunday, January 5th from 4:00-7:30 pm. Come help us cook a hot meal at St. Mark's and then serve dinner to our neighbors in Franklin Square, in partnership with Sunday Suppers, which provides weekly meals those experiencing homelessness in Northwest D.C. We will meet **at St. Mark's at 4:00 pm to prep the meal, and then drive together to Franklin Square** to serve the food. Contact Emily McDuff (emily.a.mcduff@gmail.com) to sign up to bring ingredients and/or drive.

8. Big Sunday Suppers Goal: In order to ensure the longevity of its work, Sunday Suppers is trying to fill all its volunteer slots for 2020 before the new year. St. Mark's youth group covers the 3rd Sunday of every month but there are many other areas of need. **Please consider looking at the Sunday Suppers calendar and making a commitment for just one Sunday in the new year.** Check out <http://sundaysuppers.org/sscalendar> and email Lisa.ramish@gmail.com.

22. Starts Today: Advent sale of Olive Oil, Crèches, and Ornaments – The Mid-East Working Group is again **selling olivewood and olive oil during Advent.** This year the proceeds will benefit St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus. Located in the West Bank, **it is the only charitable hospital in Nablus, serving a community of 350,000, including a large Palestinian refugee camp.** Travel restrictions and checkpoints make everyday life difficult for the people of Nablus and surrounding communities. Ready access to comprehensive, quality healthcare at a local hospital is crucial. St. Mark's is joining St. John's Episcopal Church Norwood to help pay salaries for nurses. Contact: Maureen Shea at mtshea@aol.com

23. Green Lions Solar Installation Deadline Information: Installation of solar panels in your home in DC comes with a 30% federal and state tax rebate for the cost of roof and panels until Dec 31, 2019. The percentage decreases in 2020. DC SUN can be helpful. This is a consumer-run coop organizing venue for solar panel installation. DC SUN sets up coops where pricing is based on bulk purchase to save money. DC SUN also vets and previews warranties and reliability of companies chosen by joining a coop of DC SUN to get discount. Email: info@solarunitedneighbors.org or DCteaminfo@solarunitedneighbors.org. 202.888-3601.