Announcements - December 24, 2020

Submit announcements, not to exceed 150 words, to bulletin@stmarks.net by 5pm Tuesday to be included the following Friday. Announcements will run for three weeks unless we hear from you.
To have your event included on the parish calendar, send it to parishadmin@stmarks.net.
To have your event posted on the parish website, send it to website@stmarks.net.

New Announcements

From Parish Leadership & Staff

1. Use of the Courtyard and Nave [12/13]

If any members of the parish wish to hold an event or schedule an activity in the Courtyard or Nave, it is important to check with James to be sure the space is available and that it gets on the calendar. Many events do not appear on the website calendar, since they are not open to the public. The Courtyard is becoming more popular with the building being mostly closed, and outside groups are reserving and paying to use that space. By pure luck, we just avoided a significant conflict on December 12. The Nave has also been a bit busy lately, with parish Christmas preparations and several small musical ensembles rehearsing for, recording, and/or live streaming holiday concerts (Folger Consort, 21st Century Consort, Chiarina Chamber Players, and the National Chamber Ensemble). Groups have been limited in size to twenty or fewer participants, and they have committed to following all COVID-related protocols.

2. Electrostatic Disinfectant Spray Treatments [12/13]

Recently, we began weekly treatment of all spaces in our building with an electrostatic disinfectant spray. You may have seen examples of this in airplanes, hospitals, schools, etc. in news stories. The regular schedule is that treatments begin at **6 PM on Fridays**. They take several hours to complete, and **it is unsafe for anyone to be in the building during, and for several hours after, the treatments.** It is safe to enter the building any time the following morning. Note that the treatments are on pause for the holidays and will resume on January 8.

3. Pledge Campaign is still ongoing [12/13]

The money that we all pledge is what keeps the live stream up and running; it pays Jeff Kempskie for all the virtual choir music that he makes week after week; it keeps us taking pastoral care of our folks; it maintains the building for when we can return; it supports outreach to folks who need financial support; and lots more. So if you have not made a pledge, please do so if you are able. We are at 93% of our goal. If you have any questions please reach out to Michele. You can make your pledge right now online.

Outreach

4. Incarceration Justice Ministry [12/20]

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, 12-29-2020, at 6:30 p.m.** via ZOOM. We will be welcoming a guest speaker, **Theo Brown**, who has **more than 35 years of experience** as an organizer, facilitator, and trainer for organizations that work to engage citizens on important issues that impact their lives. He is an expert at recruiting demographically representative samples of citizens for community meetings and has a particularly impressive record of involving low-income citizens and others who have historically been left out of the political process. He also is a skilled facilitator who has designed and conducted highly productive meetings in more than 30 states. Among his current activities, Mr. Brown serves as the Director of the McClendon Scholar in Residence Program at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.

To join the ZOOM meeting, please send an email to Suzanne Wells: m.godec@att.net**.** For additional questions, please contact Jan Lipscomb: juanita.lipscomb@gmail.com or Jason Horrell: jrhorrell86@gmail.com

5. Get Involved with WIN - Free Courses [12/20]

This winter, get going with the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN). WIN organizes neighborhood leaders to address community issues and hold elected and corporate officials accountable in Washington.
If you're interested in deepening your involvement and support for WIN, we urge you to take one of these free courses:

1– Building Your Dream Team: Learn how to create people power by connecting one-to-one with others in the parish and in the community (relational organizing). Four sessions (five hours total) plus community work, **beginning January 12.**

2– Get Into the Driver's Seat of Organizing: Learn the issues and the organizing nuts and bolts of specific WIN campaign, in:

A– Public Lands & Housing Affordability,
B– Good Jobs Legislation and
C– Green / Healthy & Affordable Buildings. The details for these courses will be forthcoming. **Tracks starting January 7, January 28, and TBD later in the winter or early spring.**

Contact Kit Arlington, kit@tulsablue.com to sign up. Learn more at https://www.stmarks.net/win/

6. Tell us about service opportunities! [12/24]

Do you have a specific opportunity to which someone can contribute time, talent, or treasure? Please fill out a brief form at this link to let us know about it. **The Outreach Board will compile the opportunities** and make them easy to find through a page on the St. Mark's website.

Opportunities can be internal to St. Mark's, or related to external organizations, ongoing or one-time events / needs. Each opportunity must have a designated member of St. Mark's who people could contact for additional information.

The idea grew out of the desire to communicate unique and immediate needs organizations were experiencing at the start of the COVID-19 epidemic. It will also be a platform to help newer, less connected community members learn about the wealth of opportunities in which they could participate.

Please submit opportunities by January 10, 2021. New submissions will be accepted as they arise, thereafter, but we will launch the database in mid-late Jan 2021. Questions? Email: outreach@stmarks.org. Thank you!

Parish Life & Diocesan Events

7. New St. Mark's Egroup [12/20]

Join the new St. Mark's Egroup (online discussion). Yahoo ended its Yahoo Groups service on Tuesday, December 15. 80 members of the St. Mark's group there have made the move to our new "home" at http://stmarks.discoursehosting.net. Much like before, you can read and post via the web and email. Better than before, you have more control over which threads and messages show up in your inbox. Contact Raiford Gaffney <rgaffneydc@gmail.com> to join.

8. 20s/30s Faith Fellowship - Community Service [12/24]

We are not holding our 20s/30s Faith Fellowship this month because of the holiday, but in lieu we are donating to Everyone Home DC and holding a letter writing and phone call **outreach service event through January 31, 2021**. If you are interested in participating in our holiday service event, you can reach out to Emily.a.mcduff@gmail.com or jaroyals@gmail.com.

9. Come See the Christmas Tree!! [12/24]

Thanks to a whole raft of people, we now have a beautiful, 12-foot Christmas tree standing proudly in the courtyard, lit daily from around 4 PM to 8 AM. The brainchild of Doris B. and the Worship Committee, the tree was procured by Susan R. (with consultation from Maureen S.) from Dunham Farms of Shanghai, WV, a regular weekend vendor at Eastern Market. Russell and Jack brought it and, with help from Chris D., Chris A., and Kenn A., got it

standing. Lights and the star atop were installed by David T. and Mike T. When, two days later, tragedy struck and the tree came down, we rallied with help from Alex B., handyman extraordinaire, who donated his time in honor of Cher S., and Mike and his crew from Consigli Construction, recruited by Maureen S. from their restoration work on the Adams Building garage, and the tree stood once again (along with help from 8 40-lb. bags of rock salt and really strong ropes). When the lights began to fail, neighbors Jeff C. and Gene B., assisted by Xena Lynn C., stepped up the ladder to trace down and solve the problems and restore the star, a bit battered but still shining brightly. Long-distance consultation from Jim P. was an immense help. Truly a community effort to bring light to our community! The tree will remain up until Epiphany. Come and see!

10. It Takes a Village, Part II [12/24]

Doris Burton would like to acknowledge Laura Gladstone and Jessica Royals from the 20s/30s group who helped with the two Nave trees and hung lights along the 3rd St. Garden fence (which are lit all the time). She would also like to acknowledge Maureen Shea, Josie Jordan, and Tracy Councill who helped her with the church greening: Maureen and Josie are responsible for the creche, Josie and Tracy handled the lights for "Silent Night," and Maureen and Kenn Allen helped with the high altar.

Christian Education

11. Sunday Morning Bible Class [12/20]

The Sunday Morning Bible Class is beginning a journey through the complex **Book of Genesis**, from the creation of the world to the death of Joseph the Patriarch.
The class consists of discussion of the assigned reading for that day. Regular attendance is encouraged. Additional outside readings are not expected.

Date & Time: **Sundays, 9a.m.-10a.m., through May 16, 2021** (except holidays)
Leaders: Bob Ewald (Leader); Andrew Stafford (Zoom Administrator)
If you are interested in taking this class, please send an email to Bob Ewald at llerbe@yahoo.com with "Subscribe to Sunday Morning Bible Class" in the subject line.

Ongoing Announcements

Parish Life & Diocesan Events

12. 20s/30s Faith Fellowship Monthly Gatherings

Calling all young in age or at heart who are looking for fellowship and discussion. Join us virtually on the **last Sunday of each month at 6:00 pm**. For more information and the meeting link, email Emily McDuff at emily.a.mcduff@gmail.com or Jessica Royals at jaroyals@gmail.com.

13. Zoom Yoga Classes from St. Mark's Yoga Center

Our experienced teachers are guiding classes via Zoom in service to our congregation and community. Schedule is at stmarks.net/yoga. Accessible Yoga class for chair or mat on Thursdays. Yoga Nidra (Deep Relaxation) meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Music & Arts

14. Do You or Your Child Love to Sing?

The Chancel Choir is seeking new adult singers! Previous experience is helpful. Contact Jeff Kempskie (jeff@stmarks.net). For the Boys & Girls Choir, please email Kerry Court (bgcdirector@stmarks.net) if you are interested or have questions.

15. Virtual Music Lessons...

...are available through the St. Mark's Music Studio: Diane Atherton (dianesvoicestudio@gmail.com) offers voice lessons, and Stephanie Ng (stephanien217@gmail.com) teaches piano lessons. Students of all ages and experience are welcome. Learn more about our teachers at stmarks.net/music.

Youth and Family Ministries

16. Program Growth

Youth and Family Ministries at St. Mark's has spent the last several months in partnership with Ministry Architects working on ways to grow our program. Here's an update on our progress.

17. Check out this week's Youth E-News for activities to do this week.

18. Bible Storytime Podcast

Join Caleb and the St. Mark's Sunday School team for a 5 minute daily podcast! We'll have some music, read a bible story, and say a prayer. Sign up to receive the next episode!

19. Growing with God...
...is taking a break and will be back in 2021.

Christian Education

20. Calling All Parents of a 3 to 6 Year Old!

Ever wondered what your child *does* in Sunday School? Peek in this year on our Virtual Level I Sunday School Class (No, it's not another Zoom class)! Your registration this year provides access to a video library of our lessons and songs to be watched together as a family or independently by your child. Along with our video lessons, we have also provided printable reinforcement materials that can be used with the videos or as part of independent exploration by your child. Our goal is that your home can become an extension of our atrium and you can enjoy the magic and mystery of your child's religious potential on your own time. Registering is easy! You can register online for Sunday School at https://forms.gle/4g8VvrmUPibnvVcH6. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at cecatl1@stmarks.net or contact Christy Rumpf at christy.rumpf@gmail.com.

21. Wednesday Bible Class

Date & Time: Wednesdays from noon to 1:15 pm, September 2, 2020-May 29, 2021
Leaders: Peter Mosley (Leader); Raiford Gaffney (Administrator)
Location: Zoom http://stmarks.net/bibleclass/
Note that the class WILL meet on Wed. Dec. 23 (previously, it had been cancelled).

Please send an email to Raiford at rgaffneydc@gmail.com if you would like to participate in this class. We will continue to study Paul's Letter to the Romans and try to get this juicy Pauline perspective on Jesus more clearly understood.

We aim to do our Bible study collaboratively and lovingly. As we grow our understanding, we return again and again to ask: How has our study affected what is meaningful to us about our tradition? In this class we hope to deepen our beliefs and grow ever more trusting of our connection with God. New members are welcome and appreciated.

22. Centering Prayer. Every day on Zoom at 8:00am.

Centering Prayer is an early Christian contemplative practice that places a strong emphasis on interior silence. For more information or to join the group, contact The Rev. Patricia Catalano at adjunct@stmarks.net

23. St. Mark's Meditation Center: Meditation, Mondays 7:30-9:00pm

Contact: Michele Rivard Mmrivard@hotmail.com.
Sign up for the weekly program email to receive info on weekly online meetings.