

**Two Services begin  
Sept. 11**  
Worship:  
9:30 & 11:00  
Church School: 9:30

**World Communion  
Sunday**  
Celebrate the cultures  
of our church!  
October 2, 2016

# SAINT MARK



## Saying Grace from Pastor Roy

As our country enters the last weeks of the elections, many of us are weary. We are particularly weary of the rancor and the deterioration of political discourse. It seems all over there is incapacity to disagree reasonably. Truth be told, this is not new; it's just terribly intense right now. I have three things that have helped me greatly to navigate this season. The first is history. History is a great teacher although we don't often learn the lessons they teach. I particularly appreciate the great drama of the civil war and believe its lessons are never ending. The same is true with Christian history. Choose your historical period and learn. The second thing that helps me is to know the recurring values of the Christian tradition, and apply them to my political choices. There are certain values that

Christians are obligated to uphold. They include love for the neighbor, concern for the poor, hungry and lame (disabled). Jesus spoke often about the use (or misuse) of money and warned his followers of the dangers of serving it. In Paul's letters there is advice about living in such a way that the common good is always upheld, with special attention to the lowly. These are the recurring values that go with our tradition. We should consider them when we choose candidates. The third thing is prayer. Paul calls Christians to pray for political leaders. It's an obligation not an option. Hold them before God who is the great sovereign over all of us. Praying changes my own spirit, especially when praying for those with whom I strongly disagree. To pray for them keeps me from becoming what I despise and centers my own life of God's path. Finally, we can pray that our country gets through this cycle without more violence.

## World Communion Sunday- Oct. 2

Celebrate Saint Mark's Diversity! October 2 is World Communion Sunday, come dressed to represent your native culture and stay for coffee hour.

## *What's Happening in worship:*

### *October & November*

#### **Oct. 2-** World Communion Sunday!

One service @ 9:30, ministry teams meet

Bring your donations for Manna Food Center

**Oct 9, 16, 23, 30-** Two services, 9:30 & 11:00. Christian Education at 9:30.

**Nov 6-** One Service @ 9:30, ministry teams meet

Bring your donations for Manna Food Center

**Nov 13, 20, 27-** Two services, 9:30 & 11:00. Christian Education at 9:30.

**Nov 20-** Advent Festival

### **Adult Education, 9:30 on Sundays, Room 105**

We will continue our focus on prayer and listening to God with a series on the Lord's Prayer. This series will be led by Rev. Dr. William May, Saint Mark Parish Associate. Classes will focus on the text of the Lord's Prayer from scripture and how we read it today.

"Every Sunday, the Lord's Prayer echoes in churches around the world. It is in an indisputable principle of the Christian faith. It is the way Jesus taught his followers to pray and distills the most essential beliefs of required of every one of the world's 2.5 billion

## *Saint Mark Sabbath Retreat*

Meadowkirk, VA



## Saint Mark Sabbath Retreat

Meadowkirk, VA



Christians.” -*John Dominic Crossan, The Greatest Prayer*  
Come and explore what this prayer might mean for you.

## Youth Group Schedule

Oct. 2- Volunteer @ A Wider Circle, Silver Spring, 12:00-3:00

Oct. 11-12- Camping Trip

Oct. 16- Youth Group Family Sabbath

Oct. 23- Serve with Interfaith Works

Oct. 30- Butler's Orchard Pumpkin Festival (corn maze, hay ride and much more)

Nov. 6- Stump the Pastor Night, 5:00-7:00

Nov. 13- Youth Group Family Sabbath

Nov. 20- Game night, bring a friend, 5:00-7:00

Nov. 27- Movie Night, 5:00-8:00

If you are in 6th-12th grade and want more information about the Saint Mark youth group, contact Tamra Hutton at [huttonfamily@verizon.net](mailto:huttonfamily@verizon.net).

## Stewardship

October is Stewardship month! Keep an eye out for your pledge form to arrive in the mail at your home the week of October 23. Receiving your pledge is critical to the running of Saint Mark. Without it, we cannot wisely budget for the next year or determine how we can implement the church's mission to be a compassionate and generous congregation.

On October 30, Consecration Sunday, we ask you to submit a pledge form with your intended giving for the year. We hope to see you on that day, and further hope you will have a completed pledge form in-hand. If you are unable to attend church on October 30, please mail the pledge form, drop it off at church, or email the Pledge Secretary at [4kmandersen@verizon.net](mailto:4kmandersen@verizon.net).

We also look forward to gathering together for a luncheon on Sunday, November 6. On that day we will celebrate together our financial support of our church in the new fiscal year, as well as our thankfulness for the opportunity of becoming once again a congregation of generous people.

## Shelter Week- Thank you!

The Local Mission Ministry organized one week of meals for the women at the Wilkins Avenue Women's Assessment Center operated by Interfaith Works. Over 70 Saint Markers provided food, service, and financial support for the effort. Starting Sunday, September 18 and continuing through Saturday, September 24, food for dinner, breakfast, and lunch were provided and dinner was served.

The 36 women residing at the center work, with the aid of councilors, on their issues related to homelessness with the goal of moving to long term supportive housing. Helping these neighbors in need realize their goals is an example of the "Spirit and Service" which Saint Mark seeks to achieve.

## Want to help with worship? Join the A/V team!

The Audio-Visual team is looking for one or two people to join them. Following an agreed schedule, the main responsibility is to operate the AV desk during Sunday services, controlling the microphones and projector and recording the sermon. Previous experience with AV equipment is a bonus but definitely not required and training will be given. Adults or responsible students 16 years and over are invited to apply. Please speak to Joe Piff, Erik Laurila or Guy Roberts if you can help us. Thanks!

**Faith in Pub(lic)**, a bible study in which we discuss scripture over cocktails, has moved to the 1st Thursday of every month. We meet a 6:30 pm at Brio Tuscan Grill in North Bethesda Market where there will be a reservation under the name Amie Gribbins.

## Parish Life

If anyone is interested in learning more about Parish Life's mission to develop and provide fellowship opportunities such as shared meals and the formation of small groups and our focus of strengthening the community of Saint Mark they should stop Amie Gribbins after service, email [gribbinsaoo@gmail.com](mailto:gribbinsaoo@gmail.com), or call her at [404-219-8893](tel:404-219-8893). Our next event will be a celebration of Roy's new book, "Walking in Love" in which we will enjoy light refreshments after worship on October 2nd.

## Global Mission

### Values, transformation and servant leadership focus

Three LCC graduates from 2002-2012 reflect on value and meaning of their University experience in Dr. Eric Hinderliter's September newsletter. Saint Mark supports Eric and Becky Hinderliter as PCUSA co-mission workers as well as student scholarships at LCC International University in Klaipeda, Lithuania. See [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/letter/three-students](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/letter/three-students)

## Booklovers- The Saint Mark book club

We've long had a Saint Mark Book Club which meets in the evening. Some of us have expressed interest in a Daytime Book Club. So we are going to give it a try,—**same day, same book, two choices of time.**

The next meetings will be Monday, October 12, 12:30 to 2:00 and 7:00 to 8:30. The chosen book is Ordinary Grace, by William Kent Krueger. The 12:30 meeting will be held in Room 109. The evening group meets in The Parlor. This is a great way to meet and catch up with other Saint Markers. Hope to see you on the 12th.

If you need transportation or have questions call: for the evening meeting, Phyllis Norrie ([phylnorrie@gmail.com](mailto:phylnorrie@gmail.com)), 240-994-3070; for the afternoon meeting, Jean Muir ([djmuirrn@aol.com](mailto:djmuirrn@aol.com)), 301-598-3649; or Betty Lowrie ([elizlowrie@icloud.com](mailto:elizlowrie@icloud.com)) 301-469-7557.

## Job available

The National Capital Presbytery seeks an Administrator for the Committee on Ministry to work with a staff of nine others and various committees providing oversight to congregations seeking pastors, encouraging congregations and pastors, and increasing their capacity for ministry. The position is full-time. Salary \$52-\$56K (with benefits) depending on experience. Offices are in Rockville, MD. We hope to fill the position by November 7. The Administrator will track details of processes, communicate policy, take minutes of meetings and communicate decisions to appropriate parties, keep confidential information secure. Email resume to Todd McCreight at [tmccreight@thepresbytery.org](mailto:tmccreight@thepresbytery.org).

## Saint Mark Prayers

- ~ Harvey & Connie Long
- ~ Pat Simmons
- ~ The people of Syria, Lebanon and all refugees who are displaced and in duress.
- ~ Our President and all public servants that they may have wisdom from God to lead wisely with courage, humility, and mercy.
- ~ The candidates running for President and all other public offices, that our country may be served wisely in accordance with God's good pleasure