

St. Mark's SnapShot

What's Happening at St. Mark's Fairland?

The Bishop is Coming! The Bishop is Coming!

The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde, Bishop of the Diocese of Washington, will make her annual visit to St. Mark's on Sunday, March 6, 2022, and will preach and celebrate at both morning services. We are excited to welcome her back and hope that you will join us for worship that day, both to hear from our bishop and to share your thoughts with her. For anyone seeking either to confirm or reaffirm their baptismal vows when the bishop visits, there is still time to prepare, but don't delay! Please contact Rev. Wilkins as soon as possible if you would like to do either of those, at rector@stmarks-silverspring.org, or 301-622-5860.



Welcoming Another Christian Congregation

St. Mark's newest tenant, **The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (EOTC)**, held their annual Feast of St. Ureal Celebration on Saturday, February 5th in the Parish Hall and Rev. Wilkins and Parish Administrator Janis Smith attended. St. Ureal, or Archangel Uriel, is referred to as the Light of God and is also known as **the angel of wisdom and truth**. In the midst of chaos, he is believed to shed light on God's truth. Our Parish is blessed to have facilities that are expansive enough to accommodate the needs of some of our Christian neighbors. EOTC holds weekly services on Saturdays, from 3am to 12:30pm (really) and all are welcome. Members of EOTC's leadership will attend the 10:30am service at St. Mark's, when Bishop Mariann visits. Please join St. Mark's leadership in welcoming them!



Friday, February 25, 2022

Movie Night in the Parish Hall

Sunday, March 6, 2022

Bishop's Visitation

Reception following the 10:30 Service

Friday, April 8, 2022

Fish Fry Fundraiser

Sunday, April 17, 2022

Easter Sunday Breakfast

Saturday, July 30, 2022

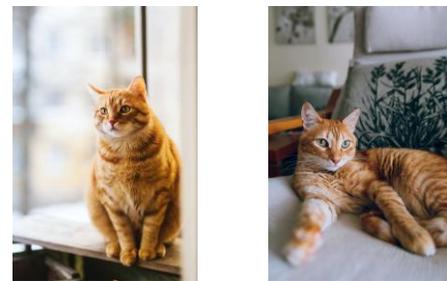
Annual Parish Picnic

Saturday, October 1, 2022

Fall Dinner Dance – Jazz Night

Saturday, December 4, 2022

Advent Dinner



Cat's Corner

The bishop is coming? The bishop is coming! Oh, my heavens, we have to get ready. At least we still have a month. I mean, we have almost a month. To do what? Well, it's our job to make sure that all the church mice stay outside during her visit. That's hard to do in the winter because it's cold in the graveyard, and creepy. We've seen actual ghosts, no lie. So if we can't get the mice to stay outside, we at least have to make sure they know their catechism in case the bishop questions them on it. You never want to come up short when someone with a big hat asks you to explain the difference between the peripatetic and intra-peritoneal inebriations of the Holy Trinity! Martyrs died over this sort of things -- so church mice, get your prayer books out and your reading caps on. We have less than a month!

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2022 Diocesan Convention Report

The 127th Convention of the Diocese of Washington took place on Saturday, January 29, 2022, via Zoom webinar. Diocesan Convention is the yearly legislative meeting - presided over by the bishop – to consider the diocesan budget and other matters regarding the mission and ministry of the diocese. Attending from St. Mark's were Rev. Wilkins, Senior Warden Lee Mericle, and Delegate Janis Smith. These are some of the highlights:

- Clergy in new ministries were recognized, including St. Mark's new rector!
- The Diocese had a "clean" audit for 2020 and balanced books in 2021.
- Giving from parishes to the Diocese was over the amount budgeted in 2021 (St. Mark's contributed \$6,000 to the Diocese in 2021).
- Parochial Reports are due on March 1, 2022.
- Parish Audits are due on September 1, 2022.
- St. John's Parish – commonly known as Christ Church, Accokeek, previously withdrew and was eliminated from the list of parishes in the diocese.
- The Diocese recommended a 3% cost of living salary increase for staff members, and St. Mark's has implemented it.
- The Convention passed a resolution calling for the late **Bishop Barbara C. Harris** to be included in the *Lesser Feasts and Fast Calendar of the Episcopal Church*. Bishop Harris was the first Black woman to be ordained a bishop of the Episcopal Church.
- A resolution establishing a **Task Force on Black Ministries** was adopted.
- The **Reparations Task Force** continues its work of information gathering and the raising of awareness of the issues assigned to it.
- Lay and clergy members of the Diocesan Standing Committee were elected.

Bishop Mariann Budde, now in her tenth year as our bishop, implored us all to work (as she does) for the spiritual renewal and structural transformation of the Episcopal Church. She said, "it is a church that is responsive both to mystery and science, is willing to go first in making significant progressive change and is often now on the cutting edge of honest accountability. In it, **and as it, we respond to our call to be ardent followers of Jesus**, and his Way of Love."

She also reminded us of our strength and resiliency, noting "the past two years have taught us to expect and live into the constancy of transitions, and to face their difficulties head-on. ... While we may all be weary, we trust that God will carry us when we are too tired to carry ourselves." She further recommended that we **Rest**, and be realistic in our expectations of one another; **Simplify**, and focus on fewer, and essential things, and share one another's burdens; and, **Stay the Course**, focusing on a few strategic goals and use the key practices and tools on EDOW's **Parish Vitality Wheel**. Look for more information on parish vitality in the next SnapShot newsletter.

The Bishop called on who are over 50 to focus on being elders of the church and being **mentors** in church ministries, raising up younger leaders and making room for those who will come after us. She encouraged, "*letting go of some of the things we hold onto to make way for things that are near and dear to younger people whom we love and care about.*"

We are also called on to promote **Creation Care**. This includes reducing waste, recycling, preserving natural resources, lowering our carbon footprints, and sharing best practices among parishes. If you are interested in joining a St. Mark's Creation Care Team to look at ways that we can adopt **Creation Care** practices in our buildings and on our land, please contact Janis Smith at administrator@stmarks-silverspring.org.

For more information on the Diocesan Convention, go to <https://edow.org/diocesan-resources/governance/diocesan-convention/>.

Welcome to St. Mark's Fairland!

Worshipping Safely in Person

8:00 AM – Rite I with Eucharist



10:30 AM – Rite II with Music and Eucharist

Safety Precautions

Masks are required for everyone over the age of 2, except when reading or preaching from the sanctuary, lectern or pulpit, and masks are optional when singing in the choir loft. Every other pew will be left empty. Physical distancing of 6ft between unrelated people or groups is encouraged. Offering plates are not passed, but envelopes, cash and checks may be placed in the collection plate on the altar railing.

Communion will be conducted as follows: worshipers will come forward one at a time and retrieve consecrated hosts from a cloth-lined table at the crossing in front of the altar. No wine will be shared.

Worshipping Virtually

For those not attending in-person, the 10:30 service is live-streamed and recorded. Service resources are available online at:

<https://stmarks-silverspring.org/wordpress/worship-services>.



Winter Weather?

If the forecast for a Sunday morning's weather doesn't look bright, if it has been snowing, or if freezing and sleet suggest that more than God's grace may be needed to get us all safely to church, please check the WTOP closings website at <https://wtop.com/closings-and-delays/> or listen to WTOP 103.5 on FM radio. We will try to make any closing decisions by 6:30am and send the news to WTOP. Any closing or delay notice will also be posted on St. Mark's website and sign board.