

**St. Mark's Christian Education Program**  
**Fall 2018- Winter/Spring 2019**



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# **Welcome to St. Mark's Christian Education Program 2018-2019**

## **Message From the Christian Education Co-Directors**

What makes St. Mark's different? A visitor to one of our services might be struck by our embrace of the Open Communion. We like to think of our devotion to the Open Communion as a parallel for our approach to Christian Education. In a typical year, you might find classes devoted to Bible Study, Buddhist Meditation, Choral Singing, or Baseball. As your Christian Education Co-Directors, we are delighted to embrace and support your ideas of alternative pathways to spiritual growth. At the same time, we are devoted to our core programs and our historic functional approach, by which we mean not taught but led through an experiential rather than a didactic process - we want to connect to your own experiences of the world, not to tell you what you should experience, or to pretend to provide answers to life's deepest questions. Our Sunday School program starts in the nursery, then offers classes taught with both Montessori and Functional methodologies, working together to provide a complete arc of Christian development for our youth. We firmly believe that the more we all practice sharing our stories, listening to others and looking for connections between our stories and the Christian story, the more our parish will continue to develop into an open, accepting, caring community.

## **Invitation to Newcomers**

If you are new to St. Marks and curious about what it has to offer, consider taking one or more classes developed and offered especially for newcomers and new members. Are you wondering about what it would be like to become part of this strong faith community, but not sure how to explore belongings? Are you interested in meeting others while looking together at what really matters in our lives? Are you interested in finding a smaller community within the larger? If any of this sounds intriguing, we urge you to sign up for one or more of the following: The "Newcomer Welcome Dinners," "The Belongings Class", the "Baptism Course for Parents". Through sharing experiences and listening thoughtful to one other's stories we often find our way to belonging.

## **Course Offerings**

Wherever you are on your faith journey, St. Mark's welcomes you! These familiar words from our worship service apply equally to our Christian Education Program, with courses for parishioners offered by other parishioners and clergy. In addition to Sunday School, parishioners will lead ongoing Bible study and discussion groups three days a week. We hope you will find something in this catalog that draws your interest, calls you toward further spiritual growth, and brings you into closer relationship with a community that supports us in leading more thoughtful, meaningful lives.

Jane Sherman and Don Ellison  
*Christian Education Co-Directors*

# Christian Education Mission

Christian Education at St. Marks Episcopal Church provides classes and other programs that enable people to be sustained in their search for meaning, encounter God in their deepest concerns, and be strengthened by the symbols of the Christian faith.

# St. Mark’s Mission

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church is an open community, welcoming people wherever they are in the faith journey. We celebrate the gifts of God that empower us to engage boldly in the struggles of life and care for others with love, justice and compassion.

# Sunday School Mission Statement

St. Mark’s Sunday School seeks to nurture the spirituality of each child, to teach the lore of the church, to encourage questions and thoughtfulness, to provide a safe place to share concerns, and to promote growth in compassion toward others.

# Program Support Liaisons

Vestry Liaison	Elizabeth Mahood
Treasurer	Joe Calizo
Supervisors	Betsy Aethy-Lloyd
Youth Minister	Caroline McReynolds-Adams
Catechesis Coordinator	Nora Howell
Safeguarding God’s Children	Caroline McReynolds-Adams
Nursery Manager	Deborah Cunningham

# Belonging at St. Mark's

## Belonging at St. Mark's

St. Mark's Church Capitol Hill offers classes every year for newcomers and new members of St. Mark's. These classes are designed especially for you, to help you learn about this congregation and to help you find a place to belong here. Classes offer newcomers as well as old timers an opportunity to meet others and begin building a community here, to learn about life at St. Mark's, to explore issues relating to faith communities and to find resources for their spiritual journeys. These classes are offered regularly to encourage community– building, spiritual growth and greater involvement in parish life.

## Newcomer Welcome Dinners

We invite all newcomers to attend a dinner where we will share food, stories and information about life at St. Marks. Since members at St. Marks can come from any part of the Metro region, we will host 3 dinners, each in one of the major areas – DC, Virginia and Maryland. Choose the one closest to you and come prepared to meet, mingle and enjoy a meal.

### Fall

<i>Date</i>	<i>October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>5:00 p.m. – 8 p.m.</i>
<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Bruce and Jane Sherman (DC), Beth Mahood and Stewart Andrews (Virginia), and Tracy Council and Don Ellison (Maryland)</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>Homes of the leaders</i>
<i>Fee</i>	<i>Bring drinks, appetizers and deserts</i>

### Spring

<i>Date</i>	<i>March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>5:00 p.m. – 8 p.m.</i>
<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Bruce and Jane Sherman (DC), Beth Mahood and Stewart Andrews (Virginia), and Tracy Council and Don Ellison (Maryland)</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>Homes of the leaders – see announcements</i>
<i>Fee</i>	<i>Bring drinks, appetizers and deserts</i>

## 20's/30's Faith Fellowship

Calling all young in age or at heart who are looking for an opportunity for fellowship and reflection! Come join us immediately following the 5:00 pm service on the last Sunday of each month for a faith tea time. We will get to know each other; dwell on selected passages from Scripture, poetry, and other texts; offer time for meditation; and share community insight. We will gather in the Verna Dozier Library, to your left in the basement all the way down the hall from the stairs. For more information, email Emily McDuff at [emily.a.mcduff@gmail.com](mailto:emily.a.mcduff@gmail.com).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Last Sunday of each month</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>5:45 p.m. following 5:00 pm Service</i>
<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Emily McDuff</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>St. Marks, Verna Dozier Library</i>
<i>Fee</i>	<i>Free</i>

## The Belonging Class

Religion can be understood as making sense out of our existence, or sense out of what appears to be inexplicable. The Belonging Class is a facilitated discussion about our experiences rather than a lecture. We start with our own experience of how we function in our daily lives and examine our responses to key life issues with others in our class. With an emphasis on authenticity and curiosity, we share our spiritual journeys and consider how our stories are reflected in the Christian story. We explore the ways in which we seek and sometimes fail to connect to ourselves, others, and God. Newcomers are encouraged to attend. The class is open to all.

The weekend retreats are required as an integral part of the class experience. The class fee covers just half the cost of the weekends, which are subsidized through a private donation. Retreat space is reserved for each participant, so your class fee is due on the second class session to secure your reservation. You may ask to pay the fee in installments during the class. Partial scholarships based on need are available by written request to the Christian Education co-directors

## Spring

<i>Date</i>	<i>January 29<sup>st</sup> 2019 – April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019 with retreats (9 Sessions with 2 integral retreats February 8 – 10 (Friday evening – Sunday mid-day) and March 22 – 24)</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>7:30 – 9:30 pm</i>
<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Michele Morgan and teaching staff</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>St. Marks, Adams Room</i>
<i>Fee</i>	<i>\$250</i>

## Baptism Course for Parents

This course is designed for parents who wish to present their child for baptism. The course is led as a facilitated discussion for parents to explore the parenting issues that are posed by the Liturgy of Baptism. (Adult candidates for baptism should contact the church office to meet with clergy.)

The Baptism course is offered in the fall and in the spring. While taking the course, parents may choose a baptism date and select the 9:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m., or 5:00 p.m. service at which they wish their child to be baptized. They complete a form with this information for the church office who then inserts the name of the child in the service bulletin for that date

## Fall Baptism

<i>Date</i>	<i>October 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and November 3<sup>rd</sup></i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Steve and Jennifer Dalzell</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>St. Marks, Dozier Library</i>
<i>Fee</i>	<i>Free</i>

## Spring Baptism

<i>Date</i>	<i>March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Steve and Jennifer Dalzell</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>St. Marks, Dozier Library</i>
<i>Fee</i>	<i>Free</i>

# Sunday School Program

All levels of Sunday School will begin on Sept 16, 2018 and end on May 19, 2019. There will be no Sunday School on the following dates: November 25<sup>th</sup>, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, December 30<sup>th</sup>, January 6<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Banner Sunday will be on June 2, 2019. On this Sunday children, youth and teachers celebrate the learning and growth that has taken place in the Sunday School year with a procession of banners at the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

## Catechesis

*Catechesis Coordinators: Nora Howell*

### Catechesis I (Age 3 to Kindergarten)

In the preschool class, children hear stories of Jesus' life, explore the parables, and learn about some elements of the Eucharist. We offer children many opportunities to understand God's unconditional love through Jesus, and help them deepen that relationship in many ways.

<i>Day</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>9:45 – 10:45 a.m.</i>
<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Christy Rumpf</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>St. Marks Undercroft, Rooms 4 &amp; 5</i>

### Catechesis II (Grades 1–3)

In the primary grades, children are given opportunities to explore the loving relationship with God begun during Pre-K to Kindergarten. Children are introduced to parables and more complicated issues, learn about how the apostles spread the word of Jesus, and deepen their understanding of the Eucharist. The children plan their own services, including prayers, readings, and song.

<i>Day</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>9:45 – 10:45 a.m.</i>
<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Suzanne Wells, Matt Dodge, Lynn Frederiksson</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>St. Marks Undercroft, Room 3</i>

### Catechesis III (Grades 4–5)

At this level, lessons are focused on stories from the Hebrew Scriptures and more challenging parables and maxims from the New Testament that are appropriate for this age group. More independent and individualized work with the materials is encouraged, as the children begin to see that they have a role to play in moving themselves and their community closer to God.

<i>Day</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>9:45 – 10:45 a.m.</i>
<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Stephanie Deutsch, Paul Albergo, David Trissell</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>St. Marks Undercroft, Gregory Room</i>

### Middle School (Grades 6–8)

Under the guiding question, “We are loved, so how will we act in the world as part of God’s community,” classes this year will focus on the theme “Complex Individuals”. Issues of self and identity will be explored in the context of the adolescent experience using new materials and resources. Students are encouraged to explore questions of faith, justice, compassion and the world at large.

<i>Day</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>9:45 – 10:45 a.m.</i>
<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Kathryn Powers, Mary Thuell, and Jane Sherman</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>St. Marks Undercroft, Rector's Room</i>

## **High School (Grades 9–12)**

Classes this year will focus on the theme ‘Self and Others’ while exploring issues of identity in relationships. Using bible study, service learning and broader theological discussions, this class aims to provide a safe space for senior teens to explore issues arising from their emerging maturity.

<i>Day</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>9:45 – 10:45 a.m.</i>
<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Caroline McReynolds-Adams, Caleb Amaker, and Todd McClain</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>St. Marks Undercroft, Lion's Den</i>

## **Summer Sunday School (for children ages 4 through 12)**

Summer Sunday School is offered for children ages 4 through the 8th grade, using parishioner volunteers. Adams Room and breakout rooms, 9:45–10:45 a.m.

# **Youth and Family Ministries 2018-2019 Calendar**

September 16: First Day of Sunday School  
 September 22-23: Fall Middle School Lock In  
 September 29-30: Fall High School Retreat  
 October 21: Family Coffee Hour- Pumpkin Decorating  
 October 26: Halloween Dance  
 November 25: No Sunday School (Thanksgiving Break)  
 December 9: CHGM Family Night Gift Wrapping Party  
 December 2: Family Coffee Hour- Advent Wreaths  
 December 17: CHGM Family Night  
 December 23: Christmas Cookie Party  
 December 24: Christmas Pageant  
 December 30: No Sunday School (Christmas Break)  
 January 6: No Sunday School (Christian Education Retreat)  
 February 10: Family Coffee Hour- Parish Valentines  
 February 15-18: Family Ski Trip  
 March 24: No Sunday School (Annual Meeting- single 10am morning service)  
 April 14: Family Coffee Hour- Easter Greening  
 April 21: Easter Sunday (No Sunday School)  
 April 27-28: Spring Middle School Lock Out  
 May 4-5: Spring High School Retreat  
 May 19: Final Day of Sunday School  
 June 2: Banner Sunday (single 10am morning service)  
 June 8-9: All Parish Retreat  
 June 16-23: High School Service Trip  
 July 11-14: Middle School Service Trip

Youth at Sunday Suppers: Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 9, Jan 20, Feb. 17, Mar. 17, Apr. 21, May 19  
 9am Family Eucharists (Non-Children's Chapel days): Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, Mar. 10, Apr. 14, May 12  
 5pm Children's Chapel Days: Sep. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2, Jan. 6, Feb. 3, Mar. 3, Apr. 7, May 5, June 2, Jul. 7, Aug. 4



## **Safeguarding God's Children Training**

This training is provided by the Diocese and is required for any volunteers working with children and youth (including Christian education leaders) who have not completed a child abuse and sexual misconduct prevention program in the last three years and is strongly encouraged for anyone who wishes to learn more about how their parish can protect children and youth. The trainings are held on Saturdays and involve a half day workshop. The Diocese has not yet scheduled sessions for Fall 2018 and Spring 2019. We will provide announcements in the bulletin as soon as the classes are scheduled.

# Adult Classes

## Manning Up/Falling Down: The Balance of Men

In an age of weak leadership, what does it mean to stand up and man up? When all existing lines in the sand are obliterated, where do we begin to redefine those lines? Where is my place in a frightening and unpredictable world?

<i>Date</i>	<i>October 8, 15, 22, 29 with retreat at Rehobeth Beach October 19-21</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>7 pm – 9 pm</i>
<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Stewart Andrews, Rob Hall, Don Lipscomb</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>St. Marks, Elders Room</i>
<i>Fee</i>	<i>\$250</i>

## Friendship in the Present Moment

Friendship in the Present Moment introduces the tools of authentic relating to the St. Mark's community! Find yourself and a connection to others in the present moment using engaging, brief, structured exercises that help us show up and accept our present experience. All are welcome, and while advance registration is requested, there is no cost for the session and you can register for a single evening or for the entire class! For more information please see the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Hv3W8A62LvSbXicYNGr-SHA8jgFg7l7VCEYGjq49izA/edit?usp=sharing>

<i>Date</i>	<i>September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 [No Class November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018]</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>7:30 – 9:30</i>
<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Mary Thuell</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>St. Marks, Baxter Hall</i>
<i>Fee</i>	<i>Free</i>

## Buddhist Meditation & Classes

Buddhist Meditation presents a progression of classes that introduce members to meditation methods that provides the basis for subsequent classes that introduce basic Buddhist concepts and techniques for exploring them in our lives. Dates and classes to be provided in subsequent editions of the catalog.

## Classes under Consideration for the Spring

**The Hokey Pokey** – *An exploration of life issues. Like the hokey pokey, is that what it's all about?*

**Women's Class** – *We are in a time that shakes the very foundations of daily life. What does it mean to be a woman in these times?*

# Bible and Religious Studies

## Sunday Morning Bible Study

This year's Bible study will examine First Samuel, the story of Israel's rocky transition from priest (Samuel) to King (Saul and David). The class will consist of discussions based on the assigned reading for that day.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Sept 16, 2018 – May 19, 2019</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>10 a.m. – 11 a.m.</i>
<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Bob Ewald</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>St. Marks, Penniman Room</i>
<i>Fee</i>	<i>Free</i>

## Reclaiming Jesus

When politics undermines our theology, we must examine that politics. The church's role is to change the world through the life and love of Jesus Christ. The government's role is to serve the common good by protecting justice and peace, rewarding good behavior while restraining bad behavior (Romans 13). When that role is undermined by political leadership, faith leaders must stand up and speak out. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state."

Michele and Scott will be leading a study of Scripture through the lens of the *Reclaiming Jesus* mission as outlined above. Each session will be held twice, once on Wednesday night and then the same content will be repeated again on Thursday morning for those who find it more convenient to meet in the daytime.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Wednesday Evening and Thursday Morning</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Wed.) and 10:00 a.m. (Thurs.)</i>
<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Michele Morgan and Scott Lipscomb</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>St. Marks, Verna Dozier Library</i>
<i>Fee</i>	<i>Free</i>

## Wrestling with the Angel

Want to explore spirituality, faith, philosophy, and ethics a little more deeply? Join Scott for a critical and constructive discussion of central themes of human life as witnessed in Scripture. We will read selected passages together and then discuss how to apply what we've read to deepen our spiritual practices, hone our ethics, and address the mystery at the center of our lives. We will meet every 2nd Sunday, after the 11:15am service in the Verna Dozier Library downstairs, starting Oct. 14.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Second Sundays</i>
<i>Time</i>	<i>Approximately 1:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Scott Lipscomb</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>St. Marks, Verna Dozier Library</i>
<i>Fee</i>	<i>Free</i>

## Wednesday Bible Study

This year we will focus on the Hebrew prophets. These pesky individuals insisted on speaking God's truth to those in power and wound up included in the Bible. We quote them still today (e.g, Amos — "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."). Who were they, what impact did they have, and what do they offer us today? As a resource & guide we will use the classic work "The Prophets" by Rabbi Abraham Heschel.

*Date* Sept 9, 2018 – May 22, 2019  
*Time* 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
*Leaders* Raiford Gaffney  
*Location* St. Marks – Elders Room  
*Fee* Free

## **Tuesday Night Bible Study**

Tuesday night religious study will be exploring the Christian mystic tradition, starting with four medieval English mystics: Richard Rolle and The Fire of Love; the anonymous author of The Cloud of Unknowing; Walter Hinton and The Ladder of Perfection; and ending with Dame Julian of Norwich and Revelations of Divine Love. This Fall's text will be Karen Armstrong's "The Battle For God: A History of Fundamentalism." We hope this may become an ongoing inquiry into religious mysticism, as it is experienced in Christianity and other faith traditions.

*Date* Starting Sept 11, 2018  
*Time* 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
*Leaders* Bill Jones, Kathleen Grant  
*Location* St. Marks, Dozier Library  
*Fee* None

## **The Bible, the Birth of Christianity and Gender (Jesus Seminar on the Road)**

Every year, the Jesus Seminar (JSOR) brings together two scholars of early Christianity with parishioners and visitors from Philadelphia to Charlotte and everywhere in between, to explore writings from around 100 A.D. Together, we make sense of what it was like to be an early follower of Jesus. We want to open up the choice of topic to get your input. The JSOR catalogue includes:

- Sex, Death & Evolution
- How a Massive Immigration Crisis Birthed Early Jesus Literature
- Changing Perceptions: Earth, Self, God
- Rethinking Christianity – Ancient Searches for Belonging and the Encounter with Violence

Please read and comment on the course descriptions at [facebook.com/jesusseminardc](https://facebook.com/jesusseminardc) or [jesusseminardc.org/2018](https://jesusseminardc.org/2018) or contact Chris Berendes at [jesusseminardc@gmail.com](mailto:jesusseminardc@gmail.com).

*Date* April Weekend – Stay Tuned for Dates  
*Time* 7:30–9:00 p.m.  
*Leaders* Chris Berendes  
*Location* St. Marks, Baxter Hall  
*Fee* \$60 for all sessions pre-registered before March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019; \$75 for all sessions after March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019; \$20/\$30 for one lecture/workshop

## **Catechesis Training**

Have you ever thought about how lovely it would be to sit in peace with small children, praying and singing and working with materials to deepen their – and your – relationship with God? The fundamental Catechesis training is a great opportunity to delve into the basics of our faith, learn a language to speak about God with children, and learn how to “be” with children in Sunday School’s Montessori-based Catechesis program.

*Date* Monthly on Saturdays starting September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Dates will be announced  
*Time* 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
*Leaders* Nora Howell and staff  
*Location* St. Marks  
*Fee* Free

## **The Guild for Transformational Studies**

For over fifty years, the Guild has conducted seminars that bring together the depth psychology of Carl Jung, the Records of the Life and Teachings of Jesus (Synoptic Gospels), the Hebrew Scriptures, and material drawn from myth, poetry, art, world religions, and the evolving images of modern culture and science. Using a process based on a Socratic inquiry and dialogue, as well as expressive arts, seminar participants attend to images and feelings, discover new connections, and often find a deeper commitment to their own, unfolding truth.

### **A Short Interactive Class on Synchronicity**

Synchronicity, a term coined by Carl Jung, is the connection of two or more psycho-physical phenomena connected by meaning and significance within a short space of time. Synchronicities point to the lack of randomness in our world, can often stir a sense of deep spirituality, and can provide healing and guidance.

Robin Blair will discuss the nature of synchronicity and guide an interactive session on various types of synchronicity. Participants are encouraged to share their own experiences with synchronicity but, as always, are not required to speak or share.

*Date* Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup> 2018  
*Time* 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  
*Leaders* Robin Blair  
*Location* St. Marks, Dozier Library  
*Fee* Free

## **Guild for Transformational Studies Retreat in Spain The Spiritual Journey and Its Symbols**

This Guild retreat will focus on the spiritual journey and some symbols commonly used to depict spiritual seeking. The retreat will be held at Flores del Camino in Castrillo de los Polvazares on the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Participants will explore the meaning of a spiritual journey and a few common symbols associated with spiritual journeying, study and use various types of art expression in depicting these archetypal forms, and travel to historical sites where these symbols have been used. Scholarships are available. If, after the retreat, participants want to spend a few days walking on the Camino de Santiago, contact Susan Thompson who will provide further information on the Camino and what to pack, as well as serve as an informal guide for this journey.

*Date* June 2019  
*Leaders* Basia Goodwin and Bertrand Gamrowski  
*Location* Flores del Camino, Castrillo de los Polvazares, Spain  
*Fee* TBD

# **Program Fees for Christian Education Programs, Classes and Events**

The Christian Education program at St. Mark's has been largely self-supporting for many years. Clergy and laity both volunteer their time, talent, energy and creativity with our children, youth, and adults. Fees for adult classes cover adult course supplies, utilities, printing, and retreat center costs for room and board. A private donation has generously underwritten a portion of the cost of the Life, Community, and Faith class to make this Gateway Class with two weekend retreats more affordable to newcomers and parishioners who are looking to explore issues around life, community and faith and to build a closer community within the larger parish. Partial need-based scholarships for classes are available upon written or email request to one of the Co-Directors.

When you sign up for a class with a weekend retreat, we make a reservation for your room and board for the weekend. To confirm your reservation, you must pay the class fee at the second class session or two weeks before the weekend, whichever comes earlier. You may ask to pay the Belonging class fee on installments, paying half the fee before the first weekend and the remainder before the second weekend.

If your plans change, please inform the class leaders that you wish to withdraw from the class by the second class or more than two weeks before the weekend, so your reservation at the retreat center can be cancelled. Otherwise you must pay the class fee charged. In an emergency, please let the class leaders know right away if a last minute situation prevents your attendance. Weekend retreats are an integral part of the class experience and are not optional. If you cannot come to the retreat, please do not sign up for classes with weekend retreats.

Adult program fees also partially subsidize Sunday School classes and other youth programs, where our policy is to not impose fees but rather to encourage families to participate in the program. Fees from adult classes also help to pay for Sunday School classes' books, curriculum, supplies, leader manuals, training and miscellaneous expenses.

Fees for courses booked with outside speakers or groups are negotiated either on a revenue-sharing basis or with a request for individual goodwill donations to the St. Mark's Christian Education Program

## **2018–2019 Fee Policy:**

- \$25-\$35 contribution requested for classes with no retreat
- \$250-\$260 fee per class with retreat, depending upon cost of retreat center. This fee is based on double occupancy rooms on the retreat. There is a surcharge for a single room, depending on the retreat center charge.

# Special Youth Events & Teen Programs

## **Special Youth & Teen Programs:**

The Youth & Family Ministries program uses volunteers to provide a variety of events outside of Sunday School. We strive to build an open and trusting environment for our children and youth to grow spiritually and to form relationships within the St. Mark's community. Much of our programming will be announced as events are planned. Check our calendar of youth events available at [www.stmarks.net/youth](http://www.stmarks.net/youth).

## **Special Events for Ages 4–12:**

Activities will be provided for children during Parish Life events, such as the Annual Meeting. On Easter parents and others organize an Egg Hunt. These activities depend on adult volunteer support, so please volunteer when help is requested and take Safeguarding training to be ready!

## **Special Events for Middle & High School:**

Lock-ins, day retreats and outreach/service projects for 2018–19 are TBD.

## **Children's Chapel:**

Sundays 9:00–9:20 a.m. (except on Family Service days)

## **Christmas Pageant:**

Held on December 24, 2018 during family service, costumes distributed earlier in December.