

Sunday, August 9, 2026 Announcements

Registration is NOW OPEN for St. Mark's Parish Retreat

St. Mark's Parish Retreat at beautiful Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg is October 9 - 11, and **REGISTRATION is open now**, with Early Bird Price through Aug. 30 (and regular Registration deadline Sept. 14). Our theme this year is *Our Spiritual Wisdom, Our Holy Questions*. **Rooms are first-come, first-served.** Details and registration tiny.cc/fxy7101



Sign-Ups Needed for Fall Agape Coffee Hours

Agape Hosts (our Sunday Coffee Hour after the 10:00 service) are needed for Sundays in September - November. You can sign up for a date at tinyurl.com/autumn-agape or email Rev. Nancy [nancy@saint-marks.com] to check in about it. Agape is a wonderful ministry of hospitality, and simple fare is lovely and welcome (and you don't have to know how to make the coffee!). It's also a great way to meet and greet and get to know more people.

Today Blessing of Backpacks - and New Academic Year

Anyone beginning a new academic year – at any level or position! – is invited to receive a blessing and gift at our Sunday services. Bring backpacks or bags to be blessed – or just come forward for your blessing!

Today Sunday Forum - Documentary and Conversation: *Underdogs*, 11:30 a.m.

Come to a forum showing of parishioner Ashia Solei's moving documentary film. Prisoners, dogs, positive reinforcement - because everyone deserves a second chance. Q&A with the filmmaker.

Today St. Mark's Hikers - Wunderlich Park, 12:30 p.m.

We'll gather at St. Mark's parking lot and carpool to Wunderlich in Woodside. See Rev. Kirsten or Jonathan Luk if you have questions after the service.

Multifaith Voices for Peace "Peaceful Presence"

Tuesday, August 11 - 7:00 p.m. in the Kennedy Room

Come gather as St. Mark's hosts August's "Peaceful Presence" gathering, a monthly prayer service on the evening of the 11th of each month, offering a time of quiet multifaith prayers for peace and justice and strength for the journey.

Sunday Forum - Language Partners with the Rosalie Rendu Center, August 16

Our forum features Maria Lozano, Executive Director, and Sister Trinitas Hernandez (Sister T), Founder of the Rosalie Rendu Center in East Palo Alto—to speak to us about their successful language partner program. Learn more about them at www.rosalie-rendu-center.org.

Young Adult Brunch, August 16, 11:30 a.m.

Everyone 18-39 is invited to join for a meet-up after the 10:00 a.m. service. We'll go to a local restaurant. Gather on the labyrinth. St. Mark's will pick up the tab for all students.

St. Mark's Book Group, Tuesday, August 18, 2:00 p.m.

The August book for the St. Mark's Book Group is [Forgotten Ally, China's World War II](#) - by Rana Mitter. Lena Chow will lead the discussion. We'll meet in the Kennedy Room. Everyone is welcome!

Outreach Forum, Sunday August 23, 11:30

For all parish members interested in St. Mark's outreach and advocacy ministries, we will have a forum to highlight some of our activities with handouts about upcoming service opportunities and an invitation to share the work that you are doing with partners in our community. If you have a ministry you would like to highlight, email Rev. Kirsten: kirsten@saint-marks.com.

Community Faire Is Coming! Volunteers Needed

Sunday, August 30 is our grand event of music, games, food and fellowship, and an opportunity for inviting all to participate in the year's events and ministries! Volunteers are needed for set up, information table hosts, servers, game captains, and clean up. Can you volunteer? Contact Virginia Rock [ginidrock@gmail.com] or Sigrid Pinsky [sigridkp2@gmail.com].

October 25 - Community Response to Overcoming Poverty (CROP) Walk

Join the St. Mark's CROP team, register to walk with us and raise money to support hunger programs locally and internationally. Contact Linda Gerra for more information, linda.gerra@gmail.com.

(events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/st-marks-episcopal-palo-alto)

Scripture Discussion

In early September, the Scripture Discussion group will read and discuss *The Letter to the Romans*. No prior Scripture background needed. Meet every-other week in the Kennedy Room (or Library) on Tuesday Evenings 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. We will use the study guide of *Romans for Normal People - A Guide to the Most Misused, Problematic, and Prooftexted Letter in the Bible*. Contact Ken Bencala, kenbnc@hotmail.com.