

May 11th 2025

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF Saint Mark

1505 Kempsville Rd. • Virginia Beach, VA 23464-7201
Phone: 757-479-1010 • Fax: 757-479-9453 • Website: www.stmark-parish.org



E- Giving



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish." - Jn 10:27-28a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

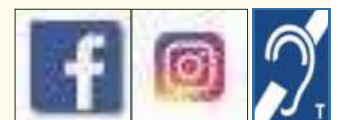
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 Catholics are encouraged to make pilgrimages to their local cathedral during the 2025 Jubilee year.

 Bishop Barry C. Knestout has named four churches in the diocese as pilgrimage sites for the Jubilee Year 2025:

1. The Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Norfolk
2. The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
3. The Basilica of St. Andrew, Roanoke
4. The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Williamsburg

MASS SCHEDULE:
Saturday: 5:30pm/ Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am/
Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30am/
Wednesday at 7:00pm



“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark May 12th - May 18th

MONDAY

7:15pm

Christian Formation OCIA Meeting/ CR

TUESDAY

8:30am

Daily Mass/ Sanctuary

9-11:00am

Mothers' Group/ Sanctuary/ Nursery

9:30am

Adult Bible Study/GH

6:00pm

Liturgy Meeting/Conference Room

6:00pm

Parish Life Meeting/ Great Hall

6:30-8:30pm

Seasons of Hope/ Library

WEDNESDAY

10-1:00am

Food Pantry/ Great Hall

6:30pm

Rosary/ Sanctuary

7:00pm

Daily Mass/ Sanctuary

THURSDAY

6:00am

Men of St. Joseph/ Conference Room

8:30am

Daily Mass/ Sanctuary

9-11am

PLARN/Great Hall

7:00pm

Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary

7:00pm

Adult Bible Study/Classroom

FRIDAY

7:00pm

KofC Rosary/ Great Hall

7:30pm

Kof C Membership Meeting/Great Hall

SATURDAY

8:00am

Kof C Kempsville Clean-up/ Sanctuary

8:00am

Building and Grounds Meeting/ Sanctuary

10:00am

Altar Server Training/ Sanctuary

1:00pm

1st Holy Communion Mass/ Sanctuary

4:00pm

Reconciliation/ Daily Chapel

5:30pm

Mass/ Sanctuary

6:45pm

Presentation from Office of Cemetery Services/ Classroom 5

*Plant Sale after all Masses/ Great Hall

*KofC Church Drive after Mass

*Justice and Peace Baby Bottle Drive /GH

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Mass / Sanctuary

Mass/ Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream

Presentation from Office of Cemetery Services/ Classroom 5

Children's Formation/ Classrooms

Teen Formation/Great Hall

*Plant Sale after all Masses/ Great Hall

*KofC Church Drive after all Masses

*Justice and Peace Baby Bottle Drive /GH

SUNDAY

8:30am

Mass / Sanctuary

10:30am

Mass/ Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream

11:45am

Presentation from Office of Cemetery Services/ Classroom 5

12:30pm

Children's Formation/ Classrooms

6:00pm

Teen Formation/Great Hall

*Plant Sale after all Masses/ Great Hall

*KofC Church Drive after all Masses

*Justice and Peace Baby Bottle Drive /GH



World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Join the Universal Church today in observing the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, as we ask the Lord to send laborers into His harvest! This day is a reminder to pray for and support those discerning

the priesthood, religious life and other vocations in the Church.

Please pray for Deacon Andrew Clark, former St. Mark seminarian, who, along with Deacons Matthew Kelly and Samuel Hill, will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, June 7th.

Mass Intentions and Daily Readings

MONDAY

5/12

Acts 11:1-18; John 10:1-10

TUESDAY

5/13

Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30

Izuegbunam Family (Intention of Thanksgiving)

WEDNESDAY Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle

5/14

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; John 15:9-17

Deacon Michael Johnson †

THURSDAY

5/15

Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20

Genoveva Arriola †

FRIDAY

5/16

Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6

SATURDAY

5/17

Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14

Santiago and Genarosa Fernando †

Ernesto and Maria Paolo †

Elaine Perez †

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 14:21-27; Revelation 21:1-5a;

John 13:31-33a, 34-35

Elaine Perez †

Rose and Michael Kmetz †

Deacon Michael Johnson †

SUNDAY

5/18



Elinore De Bobes, Angie Hudson, Brian Lazo, Caroline Padilla, Carol Brown, Gigliola Kamp-Casto, Erlinda Mariado, Lorraine Stambaugh, Christine Gordon, Helen Robb, Herminio Lazo, Su Byles, Susan Colonna, Lexie Murray, Adriane Pennington, Rosendo Ibanez, Reynaldo Francisco, Annora Steiner, Julie Bellinger, Chandler Brewer, Val Kandis, Jay Davis, Olivia Wiggins, Armida Valmeo, Nikolas Pakkidis, Jeremiah Macaraeg, Sarada Kapuwatte, Connie Blanco, Ida Payne, Ryan Steele, Paul Caddies, Molly Kibble, Patricia MacCartney, Trish Simpson, Billie Dudley, Antonio and Gloria Fernando, Kenneth Delorenzo, Marilyn Briggs, Henry Wolkling, Mary Wolkling, Dana Reid, Joe Bennett, Reynaldo and Virginia Corsino, Margaret Schmidt, Virginia Creencia, John and Patty Allen, Maniya Riddick, Montana Riddick, Dale Polfleit

Seasons of Hope

“Life After Loss, A spiritual approach to dealing with grief. God as our comforter.” Sessions: Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm in the St. Mark Library. If interested, please contact Pat Winner at 757-615-2259 or Dale Mullin at 757-647-6994.



Nourished by the Sacraments



A Reflection on the Fourth Sunday of Easter By Fr. Eric Asamoah

Today, the 4th Sunday of Easter is called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel is taken from the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John. This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal.

Jesus responds to the authenticity of his authority by calling himself the Good Shepherd. This metaphor is deeply rooted in the pastoral culture of the ancient Near East, where shepherds were responsible for the well-being of their flocks.

Throughout Scripture, God's desire to shepherd His people is a testament to His unwavering love and commitment. By referring to Himself as the Good Shepherd Jesus reveals himself as God to the Pharisees, but they fail to understand Him. Hence this declaration not only affirms Jesus' divine role as the Shepherd of Israel but also expands the metaphor to include His sacrificial love and redemptive mission.

God's desire to shepherd His people reflects His intimate involvement in their lives, His commitment to their welfare, and His leadership in guiding them toward righteousness.

One of the most direct references is found in Psalm 80:2; *"O Shepherd of Israel, lend an ear, you who guide Joseph like a flock! Seated upon the cherubim, shine forth"*.

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, gave His life for us on the cross. He knows each one of us intimately and by name. And when we learn the voice of our Shepherd by spending time with Him and through listening to His voice in Scripture, He leads us. Listening to Jesus is portrayed as a defining characteristic of His true disciples.

It is Jesus' voice which calls us to greater concern for each other and for building a community of trusting relationships so all can benefit. To listen well is to suspend judgement of others, to resist the temptation to demonize those we disagree with, and to try to discern and understand with an open heart. As Jesus knows and cares for us, so should we know and care for each other.. When we actively listen, we not only learn but we form community, and we become families to each other with the Good Shepherd as our head. Bless your hearts.



May Crowning is a cherished tradition in the Catholic Church that honors the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus. Thanks to all those who participated in this special ceremony at St. Mark on May 2nd and 3rd where a crown of flowers was placed on the statue of Mary as a symbol of love and devotion. St. Mark's statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary will remain in the sanctuary throughout the month of May.



Easter blessings to these newly baptized in the Catholic faith and to all St. Mark parishioners. Continue to pray for them all Easter season until Pentecost on June 8th.

Sacraments at St. Mark

BAPTISM: Celebrated the 1st weekend of the month except during Holy Week. Requirement: Families must be registered. Contact Religious Formation Office for Baptism classes prior to the Sacrament.

MATRIMONY: Couples required to give 6 months notice before planning a wedding in the Parish. Please do not set date before contacting the Priest.

RECONCILIATION: Celebrated 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at 4:00 p.m.



"Building the Kingdom of God by Imaging Christ"

Justice Peace

For information on our Justice & Peace Ministries visit: www.stmark-parish.org/ministries/justice-and-peace, or email: justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org



Foods of Month May: 9-15oz. boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes /Individual meals: Tuna Snack Kits, Pop-Top soup/pasta



FORGOT to turn in your filled rice bowl? Please drop it off at the Parish office this week.



Baby Layettes: For the months of April and May we are collecting the following baby items: onesies, sleepers, blankets, and baby booties to help us in putting together layettes for Moms in need. We also are asking for handmade (knitted or crocheted) baby blankets. Please place items in wooden bins in the Great Hall next to the Justice & Peace table by **June 8th**.



HOPE 4 LIFE Baby Bottle Drive: May 10th -25th Our parish has the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of women facing unprepared pregnancies by participating in the Hope 4 Life baby bottle campaign. Please grab a bottle and fill it with your change, checks, and dollars or scan our QR Code and be a part of changing the circumstances for a mom in crisis.



Celebration of Life for Jean Louis LeFort, founder and Director of Maison Fortune Orphanage will be held at **St. Stephen Martyr on May 17th at 11am**. All are welcome to come pray and celebrate the life of the Haitian Founder of the Orphanage. In lieu of flowers, please support the orphanage he founded 25 years ago. Visit <https://mfofoundation.org/how-to-help/donate-today>. Any questions about the service may be sent to Amy Chesney achesney@mfofoundation.org



Calling all parishioners who are independent sellers! Showcase your products! Rent a table... or two! Contact fe@stmark-parish.org for more details.

Parish Life

"I am the vine, you are the branches."

Parish Life Events and Announcements

- Volunteers are always welcome to support Parish Life events! **For more information or to volunteer, contact Linda Major at majormail@verizon.net. or call 757-615-0763.**



Much thanks to all who participated in our very successful Egg Hunt sponsored by Parish Life and the Easter Bunny! Easter blessings continue in celebration of our risen Lord.



Altar Server Training

We welcome all our registered parish youth whom have had their First Holy Communion Sacrament to join our St. Mark Altar Server community! Altar Server Training sessions will be held on **Saturday May 17th and Saturday May 31st** both at 10:00am to Noon at St. Mark (Pizza lunch included!). **Current Altar Servers are required to just attend one of the two training dates, however if your youth is new it would be beneficial to attend both sessions if possible.** If you have questions about this special, service ministry opportunity for your youth please reach out to Michael Archibeque, our St. Mark Altar Server Coordinator for more details at marchibeque@me.com

Announcements/ Giving/ Contact Information



Annual K of C Monte Carlo Night Fund Raiser

SAVE THE DATE: The Knights of Columbus MONTE CARLO NIGHT is Saturday June 14th, 2025.

Join us for an unforgettable evening filled with delicious food, exciting games, and a thrilling 50/50 raffle. Doors open at 6:45 pm. Tickets are \$20 for a single ticket; and \$17.50 each for two or more tickets, with payment by cash, check or credit card. This is Kempsville Council's premier fundraising event, with 100% of proceeds directly supporting our charitable programs. Your participation makes a difference. We hope to see you there!

The Knights will be selling tickets in the Great Hall after all weekend masses starting Saturday May 17th through Sunday June 8th. Tickets will be sold at the door on June 14th immediately following the 5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass. Questions can be emailed to GK Dan Wood (dan.wood.va@gmail.com) or DGK Dave Fritsch (deputydave10515@gmail.com).

Please check the Lost and Found table in the Great Hall for any recently lost items. The basket is overflowing, and will be emptied after Sunday, June 1st. Thank you for your assistance.



UPCOMING MISSION CO-OP

On the weekend of May 31-June 1 St Mark will host Fr Francis Boateng from the missionary parishes of St. Mary, Wytheville, and St. Edward, Pulaski. Please help us welcome him to St Mark and offer our support for our brothers and sisters in the western part of the state.

There will be a second collection at all masses on that weekend which will go directly to those parishes. if you wish to donate online, there will be an online donation category opened on May 15th through June 8th entitled **Missionary Priest Second Collection**.



Have You Heard?

Kid's Corner

May isn't only the month of Mary, but it's also the month we celebrate all moms on Mother's Day! Mother's Day is a time to say thanks to Moms by giving them a card or a little gift like candy or a bouquet of flowers. But did you ever hear of a "spiritual bouquet"? It doesn't cost any money, and you can make one like this:

- Spiritual Bouquet
- 5 Prayers
- 5 Good Deeds
- 5 Smiles instead of Frowns

Make a card and decorate it with drawings or stickers and maybe even a poem. Explain to your mom that the "spiritual bouquet" means that you will say five prayers asking God to bless her; do five good deeds to help her; give her five smiles of cooperation instead of frowns and complaints.



If you currently do not give online, but would like to be an online contributor, please sign up at:

giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stmarkvb or donate on the Parish Giving QR code.

For more details or to donate, contact Parish Bookkeeper, MaryEllen

Cussen, at bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org or call the parish office at 757-749-1010.



Fiscal Year July-June	April 27th	Needed Year to Date	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$17,101	\$874,000	\$850,971	(\$23,029)

Family Count: 855

Families using envelopes: 173

Families using online donation: 186

Annual Appeal Goal Amount Raised: \$67,092 of \$61,900 goal.. 108% of the goal achieved!! We passed our goal!!!!



Office of Cemeteries and Funeral Services Presentation at St. Mark

Community Outreach Staff from the Office of Cemeteries and Funeral Services (OCFS), a Ministry of the Diocese of Richmond will be here on **May 17th & 18th** after mass to inform and discuss the spiritual and practical reasons for learning about Catholic funeral planning and the Order of Christian Funeral Rites, practices and traditions.

There will be a short presentation along with a question-and-answer session in Classroom 5. Please take advantage of this opportunity to better understand the importance of a Catholic funeral rites and the benefits to pre-planning your funeral arrangements.

*Food and Refreshments will be served during the presentations after all masses

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Fr. Eric Asamoah.....	freric@stmark-parish.org
Rev. Mr. John Kren.....	Acting Pastoral Associate
	deacon_john@stmark-parish.org
Sherry Smeland.....	Parish Secretary
	secretary@stmark-parish.org
Mary Ellen Cussen.....	Business Manager
	bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org
Mark Smeland.....	Music Director
	music.director@stmark-parish.org
Vikki Ignacio	Assistant Music Director
Brian Gridley.....	Facility/IT Coordinator
Renee McCroskey.....	Nursery Supervisor
Hank Harzold.....	Parish Council Chairman
Tom Smith	Custodian
William McMican.....	Finance Council Chairman

RELIGIOUS FORMATION STAFF

Fe Guzman.....	Director of Religious Formation/Youth Minister
Nicole Brimer.....	Coordinator of Religious Formation

RELIGIOUS FORMATION OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9:00a.m. - 3:00p.m. Sunday 9:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

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