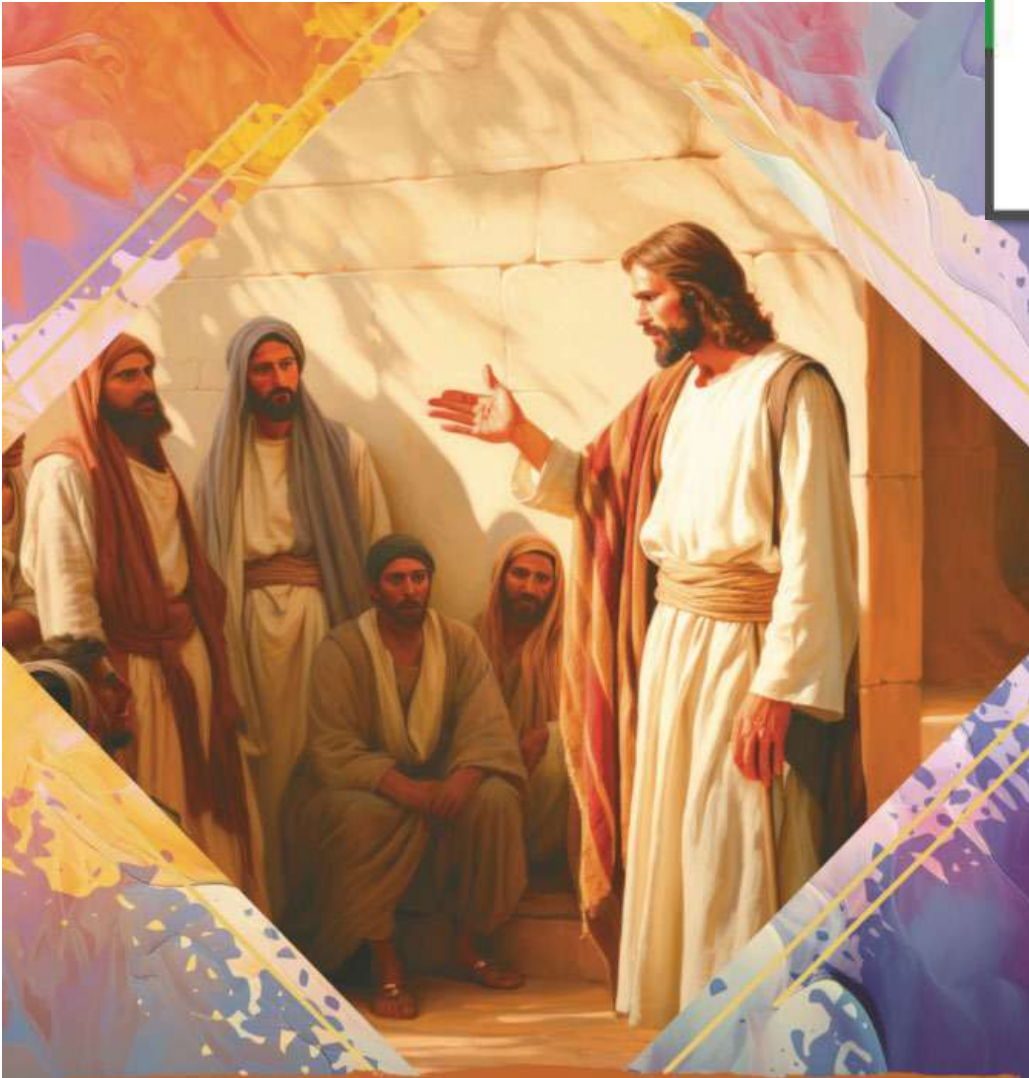


May 18th 2025

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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

Bulletin Publication date: 3/8/25

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

E- Giving

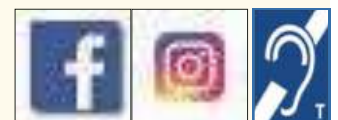


I give you a new commandment:
love one another.” - Jn 13:34a

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

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 19th - May 25th

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
6:00-8:00pm	Seasons of Hope/ Library
WEDNESDAY	
10-1:00am	Food Pantry/ Great Hall
11:00am	Divine Mercy Chaplet/ Sanctuary
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
6:00pm	Parish Council Meeting/Conference Room
7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary
7:00pm	Adult Bible Study/Classroom
FRIDAY	
SATURDAY	
5:30pm	Mass/ Sanctuary
6:45pm	Plant Sale/ Great Hall
SUNDAY	Sixth Sunday of Easter
8:30am	Mass / Sanctuary
10:30am	Mass/ Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream
11:45am	Plant Sale
	*No Children's Formation/ Classrooms
	*No Teen Formation/Great Hall

Mass Intentions and Daily Readings

MONDAY	
5/19	Acts 14:5-18; John 14:21-26
TUESDAY	
5/20	Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a
WEDNESDAY	
5/21	Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8 Fr. Eric and all priests (Intention of Thanksgiving)
THURSDAY	
5/22	Acts 15:7-21; John 15:9-11
FRIDAY	
5/23	Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17
SATURDAY	
5/24	Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21 Nonito Aragon†
SUNDAY	
5/25	Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23 John 14:23-29 Lori Thompson † Agapito Amio † Janet Wright † Francisca and Constancio Cochon†



Habemus Papem! We give thanks and praise for the announcement of Pope Leo IV. May he be a faithful witness to God's truth, a compassionate minister to all in need, and a unifying presence in our divided world. (USCCB)



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

Please pray for the repose of the soul of the following St. Mark parishioner:

John Gaffrey

Let perpetual light shine upon him; may he rest in peace! Keep the Gaffrey family in your prayers.

Nourished by the Sacraments

A Reflection on the Fifth Sunday of Easter

By Jerome J. Sabatowich

Some groups have secret handshakes to distinguish members from non-members and other groups have emblems or distinctive uniforms. The followers of Jesus also have something to set them apart from the crowd, their love for each other. Today's Gospel reading ends with Jesus telling the apostles that their love for one another will be the way other people know they are his disciples. Love is supposed to be what separates them from those who do not believe in Jesus.

A problem arises because the English language uses the one word, love, to describe a wide variety of experiences. We sometimes think of love as a feeling, but we can also use this word to describe many different types of relationships (i.e., the relationship between a parent and child, the relationship between two friends, or the relationship between a husband and a wife). This little four-letter word can have several different definitions depending on the context within which we use it. With so many possible meanings, how can we know for certain what Jesus had in mind when he spoke the words in today's Gospel?

Although Jesus did not speak English, he may have known three different languages: Hebrew (the official language of the Jewish people), Aramaic (the everyday language of the people of Palestine), and Greek (the language of the Roman empire). Of these three languages, Greek will be the most helpful in determining the type of love Jesus was talking about.

There are several different Greek words for our one word "love", including *philia*, a love that describes a love between two friends: *eros*, sexual love; and *agape*, a self-giving love. Of these three different words for love, *agape* is the one we most frequently find on the lips of Jesus. It is also the word of love in today's Gospel.

Agape is the love that focuses on the needs of the other person. It is freely given without counting the cost and without thinking of getting anything in return. *Agape* looks beyond physical beauty, color of skin, political beliefs and status. It means reaching out to all people even if they are repulsive or if society considers them worthless. It is the love that should be the hallmark of every Christian.

For Reflection

"See how they love each other!" was the way the non-Christians described the early followers of Jesus. Would non-Christians today say that about your parish community?

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.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND: If you know someone who cannot attend Mass or desires a visit or the Sacrament of Anointing, call the Office at 757-479-1010.

LITURGY SCHEDULE: Saturday: 5:30pm/ Sunday at 8:30 & 10:30am/

Month of Mary

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.



Altar Server Training

Thanks to those who attended the Altar Server Training session held on Saturday, May 17th. Another training session will be held on **Saturday, May 31st** at 10:00am to noon at St. Mark. (Pizza lunch included!). **Current Altar Servers are required to attend only 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, St. Mark Altar Server Coordinator for more details at marchibeque@me.com



Congratulations to our newest communicants who received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time this weekend! Please keep them in your prayers that the Eucharist continues to transform their hearts.

Sutton Ackerman
Nathaniel Ancero
Alexis Araos
Gabriella Carvalho
Alfredo Delostrino
Ethan Diano
Nina Garcia
Chelsea Geraghty
Connor Gladden
Bentley Gonzales

Iris Ignacio
Aubrey Lucena
John Nguyen
Nathan Noah
Christian Ortiz
Givenchy Plaisimond
Emmanuelle Secretaria
Sofia Sicinski
Nathaniel Stuhldreher
Kayden Voge

Safe Restroom Use by Children

In compliance with Office of Safe Environment requirements, children under the age of 12 should be accompanied by an adult when using restroom facilities. At St. Mark, parents are encouraged to provide this supervision as needed. Thank you for your cooperation!

"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



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. 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: Don't forget to RETURN your Hope 4 Life Baby Bottle next weekend May 25th. You still have time to make a difference in the lives of women and families in our area. If you have not quite filled your bottle, you can make a donation of cash, check, or go to www.hope4lifeva.com or scan the QR code to donate.

HOPE 4 LIFE 10th annual banquet: Saturday, June 7th @ 6:30 pm St. Matthew Catholic School, Keynote speaker Dr. John Bruchalski MD founder Tepeyac ob/gyn center. To reserve your spot or more information: justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org



Thank you to all who participated in our CRS Rice Bowl this year. Did you know 25% of our collected funds come back for our Diocese to use. Please watch the bulletin for an update on our collection. **FORGOT** to turn in your filled rice bowl? Please drop it off at the Parish office this week.



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

Mission Statement: Rooted in the Word...nourished by the Sacraments...Guided by the Holy Spirit...We, the people of St. Mark, are united in our desire to serve those who are in need, to give our gifts and talents...to build the Kingdom of God by imaging Jesus Christ...(Established 1978)

Parish Life

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

Upcoming Parish Life Events and Announcements

- **St. Mark will celebrate Father Eric's Silver Ordination Anniversary on Saturday, June 28th with a Parish Picnic!** The Knights will grill hamburgers and hot dogs and serve ice cream. Parishioners should bring a side dish or dessert to share. More information will be available as we move closer to the date! All are welcome!
- **Join us for a special Ordination Anniversary dinner for Father Eric after the 5:30 mass on June 28th.** Two lechon (grilled pigs) will be provided, and parishioners will bring side dishes and desserts. There will be a sign up sheet for attendees and dishes in the next few weeks. POC is Linda Major 757-615-0763 and Marylou Huling 757-553-7385.
- **We are in need of Samaritan Chefs!** Samaritan Chefs deliver meals they have prepared to those who have had surgery or babies. Most chefs are called only a few times in a calendar year. POC is Linda Major at 757-615-0763.
- If you have not yet registered your anniversary, please sign in the Anniversary Booklet on the Parish Life table in the Great Hall!

Happy Anniversary to the following St. Mark parishioners recently celebrating a May wedding anniversary!

Mr. and Mrs. Ernesto Soriano - May 10, 1970 (55 years)
Dan and Judy Wood - May 15, 1982 (43 years)
Paul and Janet Vater - May 19, 1984 (41 years)
John and Mary Ellen Cussen - May 22, 1983 (42 years)



If you are interested in learning more and/or beginning OCIA, please contact the Formation Office (nicole@stmark-parish.org) and a member of the OCIA Team will contact you.

Parish Office Hours: Sunday-Thursdays: 9:00am – 3:00pm

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).

Quilt Raffle for Charity

The Knights of Columbus are excited to announce a special raffle featuring a stunning handmade quilt, generously donated by Carol Donnelly, wife of Brother Knight James Donnelly and a St. Mark parishioner.

Only **100 tickets** will be sold at **\$10 each**, offering a limited and exciting opportunity to win this beautiful quilt. Tickets will be sold after all weekend Masses starting on May 11th. The drawing will take place at **9:00 PM on June 14th** during our lively **Monte Carlo Night** festivities. While we'd love ticket holders to join in the fun, attendance is not required to win. **100% of the raffle's proceeds** will go directly toward supporting the council's many charitable initiatives.

The quilt will be displayed in the Commons until **June 8th**, unless all tickets are sold sooner—so don't wait! Please see PGK Mike King for more information or to purchase raffle tickets.



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	May 4th	Needed Year to Date	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$18,788	\$898,000	\$869,759	(\$28,041)

Family Count: 855

Families using envelopes: 208

Families using online donation: 211

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



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**.

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.

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.
Phone: 757-479-9897 • Fax: 757-479-9897; Email: fe@stmark-parish.org

What's That?



During Mass, you might see two small glass pitchers called **CRUETS** on the altar. Before the Eucharistic Prayer, Father used the cruets to prepare the gifts: he pours a little wine into the chalice and then adds a small drop of water. This reminds us that Jesus is both God and human. The cruets are an important part of getting everything ready for the miracle of the Eucharist!

Kid's Corner



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