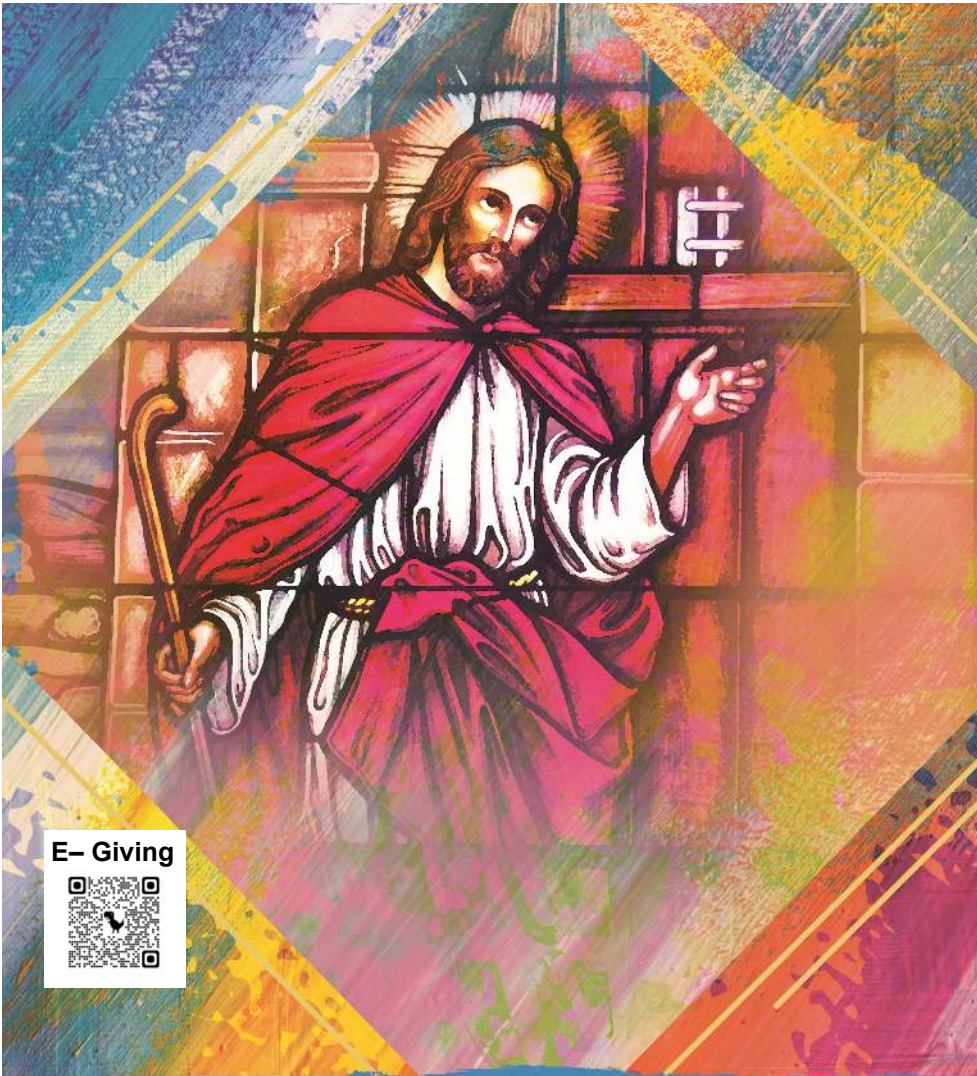


July 27th, 2025

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



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“He will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence.” - Lk 11:8

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**

⚓ 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 Parish Pilgrimage: Dec. 13, 2025**
4. The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Williamsburg

Bulletin Publication date:
7/15/25



“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark July 28th– August 3rd, 2025

MONDAY 7:15pm	OCIA Christian Formation / CR
TUESDAY 8:30am 9:00am 10:00am 2:00pm	Daily Mass/Daily Chapel Mother's Group/ Sanctuary/ Nursery Seasons of Hope/ Library Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/DC
WEDNESDAY 10-1:00pm 6:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm	Food Pantry/ Great Hall Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena/ DC Rosary/ Daily Chapel Daily Mass/ Daily Chapel
THURSDAY 6:00am 8:30am 9-11:00am 7:00pm	Men of St. Joseph/ Conference Room Daily Mass/ Daily Chapel PLARN Liturgical Ministers Meeting/CR
FRIDAY 7:00pm	First Friday Rosary/ Daily Chapel
SATURDAY 4:00pm 5:30pm	Reconciliation/Daily Chapel Mass/ Sanctuary
SUNDAY 8:30am 10:30am	Mass / Sanctuary Mass/ Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream

Save these Dates:

- **Oct. 11th** - Catholic Fest, a diocesan event at the Diamond Baseball Stadium, Richmond
- **Dec. 13th** - St. Andrew Parish Pilgrimage, Roanoke, VA

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. Confirm Baptism date and time with Parish Secretary.

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.



**Fr. Joseph L. Clark,
St. Mark Founding Pastor**

St. Mark will hold a Memorial Mass with candle offering for founding pastor, Very Rev. Fr. Joseph L. Clark,. We will also remember all founding members and those who have gone before us on Wednesday, August 6th at 7:00 pm.

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

Daily Readings

MONDAY 7/28	Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34; Matthew 13:31-35
TUESDAY 7/29	Memorial of Saints. Martha, Mary and Lazarus Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; John 11:19-27
WEDNESDAY 7/30	Exodus 34:29-35; Matthew 13:44-46
THURSDAY 7/31	Mem. of St. Ignatious of Loyola Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Matthew 13:47-53
FRIDAY 8/1	Memorial of St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Matthew 13:54-58
SATURDAY 8/2	Leviticus 25:1, 8-17; Matthew 14:1-12
SUNDAY 8/3	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23; Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11; Luke 12:13-21

Mass Intentions this Week

Fr. Joseph L. Clark †
Roger Romero †
August Ramirez †
Raymond Raquipiso †
Guillermo Pablo †
Izuegbunam Family - Intention of Thanksgiving and Petition



Joy Lepere, Tere Gustafson, Justin Harzold, Angie Hudson, Brian Lazo, Caroline Padilla, Carol Brown Gigliola Kamp-Casto, Erlinda Mariado, Lorraine Stambaugh, 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, Ryan Steele, Paul Caddies, Molly Kibble, Patricia MacCartney, Trish Simpson, Billie Dudley, Antonio and Gloria Fernando, Kenneth Delorenzo, Dana Reid, Joe Bennett, Reynaldo and Virginia Corsino, Margaret Schmidt, Virginia Creencia, John and Patty Allen

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

Cleofe Laxa

Let perpetual light shine upon her; may she rest in peace! Keep the Laxa family in your prayers.

Nourished by the Sacraments

A Reflection on the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

From Deacon John Kren

Master rabbis (rabbis who trained other men to be rabbis) often taught their student a short prayer they prayed every day as a sign of the solidarity. Like a special theme song or a uniform, this prayer was a sign this person was part of the group. Because John the Baptist taught such a prayer to his disciples, Jesus' apostles wanted a prayer of their own. Jesus responds in today's Gospel by teaching them the Our Father.

In this prayer, we ask God to give us our daily bread. This verse recalls how God fed the Jewish people with manna in the desert after they escaped from Egypt. Each morning, the Jews went outside the camp and gathered only enough manna for that day, showing faith that tomorrow God would once again provide them with their daily bread from heaven. Thus, when we ask God to give us our daily bread we are expressing a trust that he will take care of our everyday needs.

The parable in today's Gospel is about a man who had no food for his unexpected visitors, a most embarrassing situation because Near Eastern hospitality required a host to provide a meal for his guests. So, even though it was the middle of the night, he hurried to his neighbor's house and knocked on the door, hoping to borrow at least a loaf of bread (a food that was part of every meal).

Peasant houses in those days had only one room in which entire families slept together on the mats on the floor, surrounded by the family's chickens and livestock. A heavy wooden beam bolted shut the door of the house. Removing this beam would have made much noise and woken the family and all the animals. The havoc that would result might make him pretend not to hear the knocking, hoping the person would go away. Eventually, though, he answered the door because his neighbor refused to give up.

The meaning of the parable should be clear. Just as the man was persistent until his neighbor responded to his needs, we must be persistent when presenting our needs to our heavenly Father. We cannot give up when God does not respond to our prayers as quickly as we had hoped.

For Reflection

Is God interested enough in you to be concerned about your everyday existence or does God only care about the big events or catastrophes in your life? Take time today to tell God about some of the little things that are important to you.

Liturgical Ministers Meeting

A Liturgical Ministers meeting will be held on Thursday, July 31, 2025 at St Mark at 7pm. We expect this get-together to go no longer than 90 minutes. All Liturgical ministers are invited. We will have breakout sessions that will give the coordinators/leads time to review key items with their ministers. We encourage all ministers to bring a friend, either current or prospective ministers. There will be time for questions and answers, and for prospective ministers to be trained. Our get together will be followed by with wine, cheese, crackers and fruit as refreshments. We need a good count for refreshments, so please sign up in the Commons. Contact Earl Reid with questions at egreid3@cox.net.



One Bread, One Cup: A Journey of Prayer and Purpose

~by Evana S. (10th Grade)

What's the most important sign in the Church?

Some say the Cross. Others say the Eucharist, the Bible, or even the Priest. But at this year's *One Bread, One Cup* liturgical conference at St. Meinrad, Indiana, one speaker offered a surprising answer: **the exit sign**.

Why? Because it reminds us that our mission begins when we leave the church building.

This summer, I had the incredible opportunity to attend this five-day conference, where I chose to participate in the "Prayer" liturgical formation session. I was drawn to explore a question that many of us ask: **Why do we pray?**

We pray for five powerful reasons:

To seek God's grace

To know God

To align with God's will

To participate in Christ's mission

To remain in communion with God and one another

Throughout the week, we lived out these reasons in every moment—leading mealtime prayers, walking the Stations of the Cross, praying the Rosary, writing and proclaiming the Prayers of the Faithful, and guiding morning and night prayer. Each experience brought us closer to God and to each other.

Just a week before the conference, I felt uncertain. I didn't know where to begin my mission with God. I didn't feel ready—or worthy—to be someone who shares the Lord with others. But one message from the conference changed everything:

"If you wait until you're ready, you'll be waiting forever."

I may not have all the answers, but I now know this: I am called to start. To lead prayer in every way I can. To help others begin their journey with God, just as I was helped to begin mine.

So, why is the **exit sign** the most important sign in the Church? Because it's a sign of our **mission**—our call to go out, to serve, to encounter Christ in the world. It reminds us that **God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called**. And we are all called. To live our mission is to live our purpose.

Closing Reflection

As I return home, I carry more than just memories - I carry a mission. The Church doesn't end at the altar; it begins at the door. Every prayer we offer, every act of kindness, every moment of courage to speak God's name is part of that mission. We are not alone in this journey. We are a community, a body of believers, each uniquely gifted and called. Whether your mission begins in your school, your family, your parish, or your neighborhood—**begin it**. Don't wait for the perfect moment. Let your faith be the spark that lights someone else's path.

So, how will you start your mission? And who might be waiting for you to begin?

"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



August: 15-18oz. Creamy Peanut Butter /Snack Pack Cookies/Crackers



School Supplies: For the months of July/August we will be collecting school supplies. Please place donations in the marked bin in Great Hall next to the Justice and Peace Table. Supplies will be distributed to children in need within our parish, our Food Pantry guests and at Parkland, Indian Lakes, and Tallwood Elementary, Brandon and Salem Middle Schools, and Green Run High School. Our Vacation Bible School (VBS) participants will also be collecting school supplies.

School Supply List: Pens, Pencils, Spiral Notebooks, Composition Books, Rulers, Glue Sticks, Loose Leaf Paper, 3 Ring Binders (all sizes), Tabbed Dividers, Safety Scissors, Colored Pencils, Highlighters, Pocket Folders, Erasers, Crayons, Tissues, Back Packs. *This list is not inclusive; please feel free to include other items you know that may be needed. Lists are also available on the Justice and Peace table and website. If you are a parishioner or know of a parishioner who is in need of help with school supplies, please contact justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org or Joyce Gridley 675-6486.



Save the Date: Justice & Peace Ministry and the Knights of Columbus are hosting our semi-annual American Red Cross Blood Drive here at St. Mark on **Tuesday, September 16th from Noon-5pm.** We will be working together to give back to the community in a truly life changing way. Every donation we collect can save up to three lives. Please visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter: CCSM to schedule an appointment or watch for sign up table in August the Commons.



Proclaim the Word: Become a Lector!

Are you interested in sharing your unique gifts to enrich our liturgies? Please consider becoming a **Lector**, a vital ministry that brings the "Word of the Lord" to life for our St Mark community. As a dedicated member of our liturgy ministry, you can expect to be scheduled once a month to prepare for and proclaim the Word.

Interested in finding out more? We are conducting a **Lector Information & Training Session** in the Sanctuary on Thursday **August 7th at 7:00 PM.** Current lectors are encouraged join us and share their experiences and insights with our new members. For more information or if you have any questions about the lector ministry, please contact **Dan Wood** at dan.wood.va@gmail.com.

Parish Life

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

Upcoming Parish Life Events and Announcements:

- For many, summer is a vacation from the busy school year routines and jam-packed schedules. Take time this summer to relax, refresh and ponder spiritual renewal. Stay spiritually hydrated by reading scripture, praying and meditating, and getting involved in St. Mark's Parish Life! We need you! Many hands make light work. Join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, August 12th or call Linda Major at 757-615-0763 for more information.
- Celebrate Marriage! Congratulations to all who have anniversaries in July! We certainly have many, many marriages of longevity! Please continue to verify and add your anniversary dates in the booklet on the Parish Life table. If you have not yet recorded your anniversary, please add your special day in the **Anniversary Booklet** on the Parish Life table!

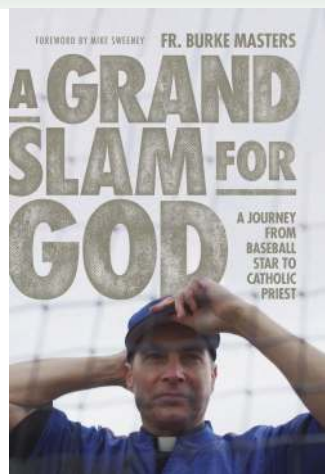
Happy Anniversary to the following St. Mark parishioners celebrating a July wedding anniversary this week!

Travis and Kati Coakley - July 28, 2012 (13 years)
Pamela and Paolo Girardi - July 29, 2006 (19 years)
Frank and Diane Hruska - July 30, 1988 (37 years)
Mary and Rick Steele - August 1, 1992 (33 Years)
Mitchell and Annette Welch - August 1, 1981 (44 years)
Ryan and Janice Bautista- August 2, 2008 (17 years)



VBS was a HUGE success! Thanks to all volunteers who contributed in so many ways to welcome attendees, guiding them on a week-long adventure to "True North", learning more about Jesus through fun Christ-centered activities. What a blessing for the 75 attendees and for St. Mark volunteers who made it happen!

Announcements/ Giving/ Contact Information



Women's Book Club
August 12th at 6:30 pm
St. Mark's Library

A Grand Slam for God: A Journey from Baseball Star to Catholic Priest, by Burk Masters. Fr. Burke's story is a powerful reminder that God's plan for us is so much greater than our own, a grand slam for God. For more info, contact Kendra DiMichele at: **kdimichele76@gmail.com**.



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



Fiscal Year July-June	July 13	Needed Year to Date	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$13,519	\$39,000	\$37,623	(\$1,377)

Family Count: 813

Families using envelopes: 156

Families using online donation: 168

Catholic Church of St. Mark
RELIGIOUS FORMATION PROGRAM
2025 2026

Draw near to *GOD*
& he will draw near to you.
James 4:8



"We're excited to begin another year of faith formation! Register now to secure your spot. Volunteers are always welcome - and as a thank you, they receive a special discount. Join us in helping our young people grow in faith!"

Scan QR
Code to
register



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

Catholic Church of St. Mark
Women's Retreat

TO BE LIKE MARY:
BLESSED, BEAUTIFUL, HOPEFUL!

Guest speaker: Fr. Mike Imperial

September 5-6, 2025

Founder's Inn, Virginia Beach

Check-in starts at 4pm on Friday, September 5th

Retreat begins 5:30pm 9/5, ends 4pm 9/6

Sign-up and/or for more details:
RI' Office (757)479-9897



Ask Fr. Eric

Ever wonder why the priest kisses the altar? Or what Father Eric gets up to when he's not at St. Mark?

This bulletin series is your golden ticket to ask Father Eric all things priest life.

Submit questions to the Ask Fr. Eric box in the Formation Office or have an adult email your question to nicole@stmark-parish.org.

