

August 17, 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



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three." - Lk 12:50-52

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

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MASS SCHEDULE:

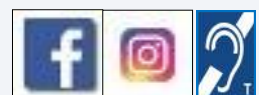
**Saturday: 5:30pm/ Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am/
Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30am/
Wednesday at 7:00pm**

✠ 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**
Bus Sign-up available In the Commons.
4. The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Williamsburg

Bulletin Publication date: 8/12/25



“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark August 18th - 24th, 2025

MONDAY TUESDAY

8:30am **Daily Mass**/Daily Chapel
9:00am Mother's Group/ Sanctuary/ Nursery
10:00am Seasons of Hope/ Library
2:00pm Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/DC

WEDNESDAY

10-1:00pm Food Pantry/ Great Hall
11:00am Divine Mercy Chaplet/ Sanctuary
6:00pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena/ DC
6:30pm Rosary/ Daily Chapel
7:00pm **Daily Mass**/Sanctuary

THURSDAY

6:00am Men of St. Joseph/ Conference Room
8:30am **Daily Mass**/ Daily Chapel
9-11:00am PLARN/Great Hall

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

5:30pm **Mass**/ Sanctuary
6:45pm KofC Exemplification/Great Hall

SUNDAY

8:30am **Mass** / Sanctuary
10:30am **Mass**/ Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream

Save these Dates:

- **Oct. 11th** - Catholic Fest, a diocesan event at the Diamond Baseball Stadium, Richmond. Sign up in the Commons for Car-Pooling Opportunities
- **Dec. 13th** - St. Andrew Parish Pilgrimage, Roanoke, VA; Sign up in the Commons for St. Mark Bus Transportation.

Sacraments at St. Mark

Contact Parish Secretary in the Parish Office to begin the processes of BAPTISM or MARRIAGE.

BAPTISM: Celebrated the 1st weekend of the month except during Holy Week.

MATRIMONY: A date may only be set following a meeting with the Priest. Couples are required to give a six- month notice before planning a wedding at the Parish.

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.

Samaritan Ministry

Would you like to be part of St. Mark's Samaritan Ministry? Volunteers visit the sick and those unable to get to mass on a regular, short-term or long-term basis. Training will be provided. If you would like to be a Samaritan Ministry volunteer, or to receive a visit from a Samaritan Ministry volunteer, contact Ann-Marie Cochran at 757-621-0699 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)

Daily Readings

MONDAY 8/18

Mem. of St. Clare, Virgin
Judges 2:11-19 ; Matthew 19:16-22

TUESDAY 8/19

Judges 6:11-24a ; Matthew 19:23-30

WEDNESDAY 8/20

Mem. of St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Judges 9:6-15 ; Matthew 20:1-16

THURSDAY 8/21

Mem. of St. Pius X, Pope
Judges 11:29-39a; Matthew 22:1-14

FRIDAY 8/22

Mem. of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22 ;
Matthew 22:34-40

SATURDAY 8/23

Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17 ;
Matthew 23:1-12

SUNDAY 8/24

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 66:18-21 ;
Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 ; Luke 13:22-30

Mass Intentions this Week

Hera Hermosilla †
Theresa and Robert Meltsch †
Maria Still †
Margaret and Robert Duffy †
Norma Harbin †
Helen Robb †
Pelagio DeGuzman, Sr. †
Elizabeth and Vivienne DeGuzman †



Louisa Morrison, Maribeth Baumgartner, Dare O'Ravitz, Joy Lepere, Teresita Gustafson, Angie Hudson, Brian Lazo, Caroline Padilla, Carol Brown Gigliola Kamp-Casto, Erlinda Mariado, Lorraine Stambaugh, 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

Nourished by the Sacraments



A Reflection on the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time From Fr. Eric Asamoah

Jeremiah was thrown into a cistern to die for proclaiming that Jerusalem would fall to the Babylonians in the first reading. His message had displeased the princes and officials who wanted to maintain the city's defenses. Ebed-Melech, a foreigner and a man of low status, courageously intervened on Jeremiah's behalf, appealing to King Zedekiah to rescue the prophet from the cistern.

Jeremiah's plight and Ebed-Melech's intervention teach us about prophetic witness and mercy today. We're called to speak truth, even when unpopular, by advocating for justice or choosing integrity. Like Ebed-Melech, we must actively practice the Corporal Works of Mercy. This means more than grand gestures; it's simple acts like volunteering, helping a neighbor, or supporting those in need, recognizing Christ in others.

We are challenged to embody selfless love in a world often driven by self-interest. Our faith calls us to be agents of change, bringing God's compassion into concrete situations. The passage encourages listeners to trust in God's faithfulness and to be willing to stand for truth, even in the face of opposition.

St Luke in today's Gospel talks about "fire" and "division". This fire refers to the Holy Spirit's presence and the transformative power of faith, urging believers not to be lukewarm but to let their hearts be set ablaze with God's love. Jesus knew that the road of faith was not easy. He knew that choosing faith would sometimes cause division and conflict within our families and our communities. In the midst of the conflicts and obstacles we face on our road of faith, may we ask for the Lord's blessing to be able to be steadfast and persevere. Let us attune our hearts to the fire of the Holy Spirit for discernment and strength to navigate the tensions between worldly allure and divine call.

During this Jubilee year of hope, the Lord calls us to find hope on our own journey and to bring that hope to others. The Jubilee is a time for renewal and spiritual growth, where we can experience the mercy and love of God and become tangible signs of hope for others facing hardships. May God bless us all.



Thanks to all who participated in the Transfiguration of the Lord Mass and Memorial Service for St. Mark founding pastor Fr. Joe Clark and parishioners on Wednesday, August 6th. It is with warm and grateful hearts that we remember those who felt a calling to begin the St. Mark parish.



One Bread, One Cup: An Experience That Changed My Life by Reina R., 12th Grader

Even though I'm a rising senior in high school, this was my first time attending One Bread, One Cup, and I am eternally grateful for the

experience.

Throughout the week, I participated in the formation track for server, sacristan, and master of ceremonies. Although I've been an altar server at my parish since I was nine years old, I was amazed by how much more I learned about the Mass, the sacred preparation behind it, and the deeper meaning of every element that makes the liturgy so powerful.

Beyond the learning, I had the chance to meet incredible people, make lasting memories, and grow closer to God in a way I never expected. The environment at St. Meinrad, surrounded by faith, tradition, and community, was truly inspiring.

This experience even helped me realize a new calling: I now hope to return as a college intern, someone who helps lead the conferences and even takes a theology course while living at St. Meinrad. That's how impactful this retreat was for me.

Through it all, One Bread, One Cup gave me an unforgettable experience, one that has shaped my faith, my future, and my heart. "When you give God your 'yes,' He will take you further than you ever imagined." To anyone considering attending: say yes. Whether it's your first time or your last chance, this retreat has the power to open your heart, deepen your faith, and remind you that you are an essential part of the Church, not just tomorrow, but today.



Join Our Children's Liturgy of the Word!

We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help bring our Children's Liturgy to life! No experience? No problem! We'll provide all the training you need. If you love working with kids and want to make a difference, come join the fun! Contact Nicole Brimer for details at (nicole@stmark-parish.org).

Is OCIA for You?

Becoming a catholic is a joyous experience! Some receive this gift while they are infants, while others come into the catholic community later in life.

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

"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



Red Cross Blood Drive: At St. Mark on **Tuesday, September 16th** from **11am-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 at the sign-up table in the Commons.



Through the month of **September** our Justice & Peace Ministry is collecting **Men's and Women's: Gloves/ Mittens, Winter Hats (knit caps), Scarves and Socks** for P.I.N. Ministry, Catholic Worker Breakfast Line, and our Food Pantry guests. ***Please only new or clean/gently used items*** Place donated items in the collection bin in the Great Hall next to Justice & Peace Bulletin Board.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES: Our school supplies collection is winding down. If you still have supplies to donate please place them in the marked bin in the Great Hall next to Justice & Peace Table. If you are a parishioner or know of a parishioner who is in need contact justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org



Save the dates:

- Take a stand for life: 40Days for Life September 24th-November 2nd
- Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Healing after Abortion: September 26-28

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.

• 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 an August wedding anniversary this week!

Dave and Deb Moyer - August 19, 1972 (53 years)

Toby and Kim Robillard - August 19, 1978 (47 years)

Anthony and Stephanie Lucena - August 21, 2011 (14 years)

• **The Wisdom Seekers** group monthly luncheons are back (2nd Friday of the month September thru June) for parishioners and friends 50+ years of age. **First potluck luncheon is September 12th, 12 pm, in Great Hall.** Please bring a dish to share (Last name begins A-M protein or salad dish, N-Z fruit or desert dish). Please contact Mary Shaw (757) 348-4460 for general group questions.

ANSWER THE CALL BE A CATECHIST

2025-2026 FAITH FORMATION YEAR

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



Do you feel a tug on your heart to serve?

Do you love your faith and want to help the next generation grow closer to Christ? Then you may be called to serve as a **catechist**!

No teaching experience needed – just a willing heart.

We provide all training, support, and materials.
You bring your YES. God does the rest.

Interested? Questions?

Scan the QR Code to sign up!
Or
Contact: Nicole Brimer
nicole@stmark-parish.org

SCAN ME





A one-day festival full of music, food, family fun, fellowship and worship together as the Diocese of Richmond!



October 11, 2025
The Diamond, RVA
evangelizerichmond.org



Catholic Fest, a one-day festival full of music, food, family-fun, fellowship, and worship together as part of the diocesan celebration of the Jubilee of Hope. Musical acts will include Scythian, The Young Escape, Marie Miller, and local performers from our diocese. Complete with a Kid's Zone, vendors, food trucks, and more, you won't want to miss this opportunity for the whole family. **Scan the QR code above for more details.**

Sign up in the Commons if you plan to attend. Carpooling is encouraged! Watch for more exciting details in the bulletin and Flocknotes.

Announcements/ Giving/ Contact Information

St. Mark Budget Update

A copy of the St. Mark Budget for the year 2025-2026 is now available for review in a binder at the Information desk.

Contact St. Mark Business Manager, Mary Ellen Cussen, for questions.

Could \$5 change everything?



If every parish family gave just \$5 more per week, imagine what we could do together.

Inflation touches everyone, even churches. At St. Mark, only \$5.00 per family added to your weekly donation would correct this inflationary trend in a positive way for our parish. Yes, imagine that... just \$5.00 weekly... no more than the cost of one your favorite beverages. Start now! For more details or to donate, contact Parish Bookkeeper, MaryEllen Cussen, at bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org or call the parish office at 757-479-1010.



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	August 3	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$24,177	\$98,500	\$91,519	(\$6,981)

Family Count: 798

Families using envelopes: 216

Families using online donation: 227

Catholic Church of St. Mark RELIGIOUS FORMATION PROGRAM 2025 2026

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



Registration is now open for the 2025-2026 Formation Year!

1 child - \$50
2 children - \$100
3+ children - \$150

Questions or concerns?
Contact Nicole Brimer at
nicole@stmark-parish.org
757.479.9897

• 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 IgnacioAssistant Music Director
Brian Gridley.....Facility/IT Coordinator
Renee McCroskey.....Nursery Supervisor
Hank Harzold.....Parish Council Chairman
Tom SmithCustodian
William McMican.....Finance Council Chairman

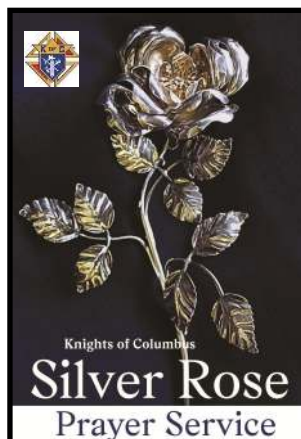
RELIGIOUS FORMATION STAFF

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

Join us for the Silver Rose Prayer Service August 28th and 29th at 6:00pm in the Daily Chapel. As we think in terms of 'One Life, One Rose,' it is most appropriate that we turn to Our Lady of Guadalupe who made known her will through Juan Diego and the miracle of the roses." This tradition spreads devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and embodies international brotherhood as jointly nurtured across the continent.



Ask Fr. Eric

Why did God make bugs?

Virginia Beach is home to a variety of bugs that can pose challenges for both residents and visitors.

Bugs are a specific group of insects with special mouthparts, which form a piercing and sucking "straw" or "stylet." With their **piercing mouth**, like straw they can bite you with ease.

Anytime you step outside this summer you have to be careful. Their bite might make one get sick. They alert us to be clean and neat all the time or they could infest our environment with disease. Perhaps they serve as reminders. You know cleanliness is next to holiness. That is why God may have created them, but it is only God who can give a perfect response to your question.

But on the scientific side, bugs have their proper significance in the environment and they are also part of the **food chain**. Do you understand the food chain? You might want to ask more about the food chain from your science teacher at school. God be with you all.

Kid's Corner

