

August 24, 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

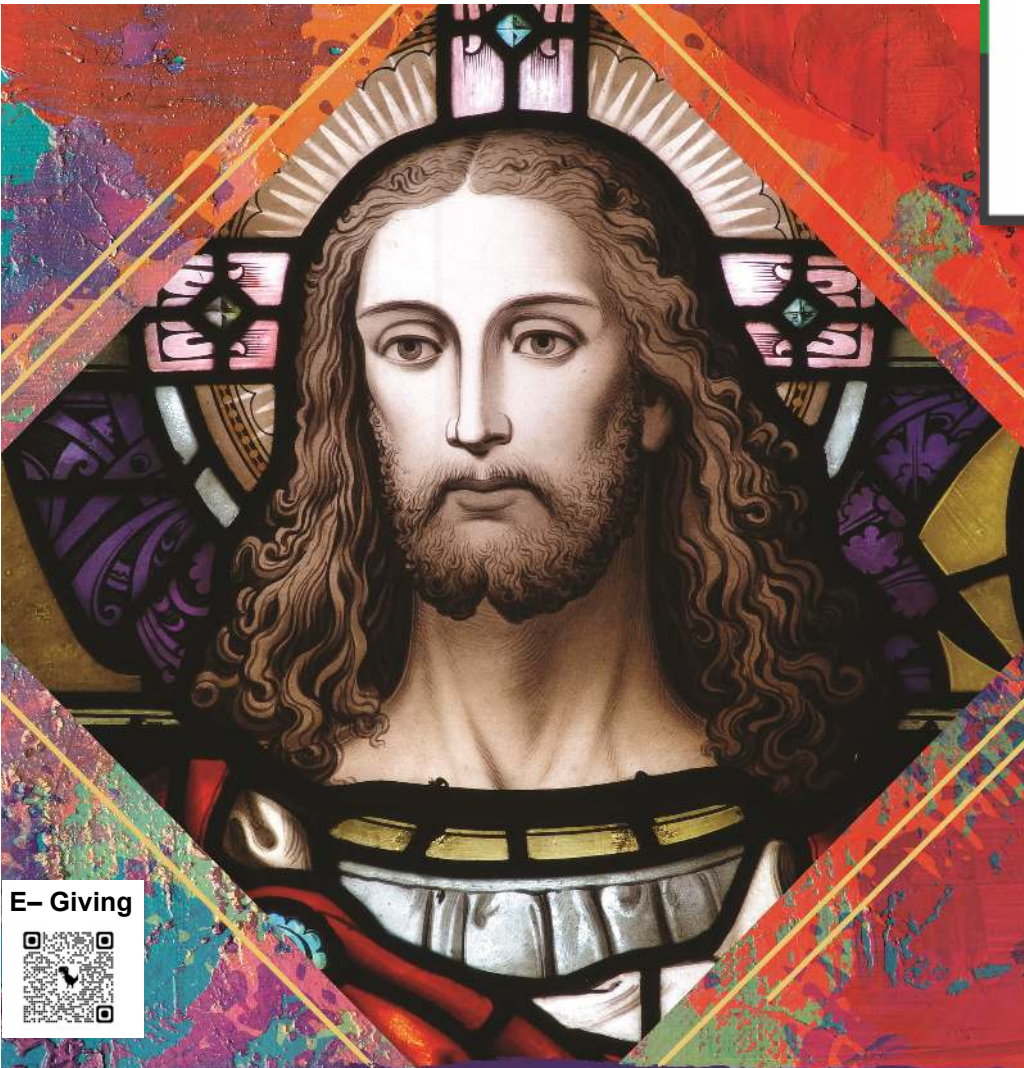
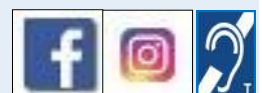


🚶 Catholics are encouraged to make pilgrimages to their local cathedral during the 2025 Jubilee year.

🚶 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: 8/19/25



E- Giving



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Some are last who will be first,
and some are first who will be last.” - Lk 13:30

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**

This Week at Saint Mark August 25th - 31st, 2025

MONDAY

7:15pm OCIA Christian Formation/ CR

TUESDAY

8:30am **Liturgy of the Word/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
6:00pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena/ DC
6:30pm Rosary/ Daily Chapel
7:00pm **Liturgy of the Word/Sanctuary**

THURSDAY

6:00am Men of St. Joseph/ Conference Room
8:30am **Liturgy of the Word/Daily Chapel**
9-11:00am PLARN/Great Hall
6:00pm KofC Silver Rose Prayer Service/DC

FRIDAY

6:00pm KofC Silver Rose Prayer Service/DC

SATURDAY

12:00pm Catechist Training/ Great Hall
5:30pm **Mass/ Sanctuary**

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.

Dear Friends and Family,

From the depths of my heart, I want to say thank you. During one of the most challenging moments of my life - my kidney transplant - your prayers, your thoughts, and your unwavering love wrapped around me like a shield of strength. Every whispered prayer, every kind word, every message of hope reached me when I needed it most, and I felt carried by all of you.

This journey has reminded me of the incredible power of faith, love, and community. I am here, healing, because God has been good to me and because each of you stood with me in spirit and in prayer. There are no words big enough to express my gratitude.

As I continue on this path of recovery, I humbly ask that you keep me in your prayers and in your hearts. Recovery is a journey, and with your continued love, I believe I will find my strength each day.

Thank you for thinking of me, for loving me, and for being a part of this miracle. I will never forget this kindness, You've given me the most precious gift - hope and life renewed.

With all my love and gratitude,
Jayme Alencar de Oliveira Filho

"Rooted in the Word..."

Daily Readings

MONDAY

8/25 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10;
Matthew 23:13-22

TUESDAY

8/26 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 23:23-26

WEDNESDAY Mem. of St. Monica

8/27 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:27-32

THURSDAY Mem. of St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8/28 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Matthew 24:42-51

FRIDAY

8/29 **Mem. Of the Passion of St. John the Baptist**
1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Mark 6:17-29

SATURDAY

8/30 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Matthew 25:14-30

SUNDAY

8/31 **Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29;
Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a; Luke 14:1, 7-14

Mass Intentions this Week

Thomas Poe †
Helen Robb †



Jayme Oliveira Filho, 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

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

Antoinette Franceschi

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

Nourished by the Sacraments



A Reflection on the Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time From Deacon John Kren Lk 13: 22-30

**"Strive to enter through the narrow gate,
for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter
but will not be strong enough."**

My first thought is about an electronics store on Black Friday. Everyone waiting patiently but as the time gets closer, the hour nears, the minutes tick down the pushing and the shoving. It is the usual door.

The gate appears to become narrower and narrower as more people try to squeeze through it, without cooperation, without the help of others. Strive to enter through the narrow gate. And sometimes it is "striving" because we can't get through without the work, the help, the participation of others.

Is the gate narrow or is the mob, the traffic too tangled? Our gate to salvation is open to us, and to all. St. Luke and his community struggle with the reality of who is in and who is out. Who is first or last, last or first, the message of Jesus is simple: get in.

And who is going through with us? Who will help us? Who must we help? Jesus invites everyone to enter --- the poor, hungry, homeless, immigrant, foreigner, perplexed, wealthy, ragged, elderly, unborn, children, parents, teachers, students, grasping, wandering, begging, everything, everyone. That is who is here today, to our right and left, trying to cram through the gate.

What a crowd, indeed. Come in ...everyone. No need to push or shove. Cooperate, help each other out like being catechist, sponsors, giving blood. Everyone with fear of God and faith approach---have strength. Once through the gate, breathe a sigh of relief for there is plenty of space, grace for all, the beatific vision of God forever.

It's a beautiful vision, but of course, we like to put conditions on who goes in front of us. We like to pick and choose, among one another, and even within ourselves who or what is capable, is justified, is worthy of being in front of us in this tunnel.

They are just like us except for God's grace and yet God is calling them just as he is calling us, perhaps calling them as much or even more than he is calling us.

Calling us over the noise of our own pride, our feeling of self-importance, masking our weaknesses, harboring the death of our sins. Calling us out of our weakness, God is calling us. Through our weakness, because of our weakness, calling us through the stumbles and fender-benders of life, of tormented days through which grace still rushes through. God is calling us. He is calling us.

No matter who we are, no matter how far we have come or need to come, we know from reading the epistle to the Hebrews we are being treated as sons, children of God. For what "son" is there whom his father does not discipline? All discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later this chastisement brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.

Are we willing to be trained, are we willing to pass through the narrow gates of this world, are we willing to enter the door with others. Are we willing to face ourselves? Are we willing to gain heaven? -- Are we willing to be saved?

Fr. Mike Imperial
Pastor, St. Peter the Apostle, Onley, VA
Director, Eastern Shore Migrant Ministry

A Heart for Migrants: MINISTRY IN ACTION

Come and be inspired by the work of our
Migrant Ministry in the Eastern Shore of Virginia!

Join us for a heartfelt talk about Migrant Ministry in Eastern Shore on Saturday, September 6th at 7:00pm in the Great Hall. Hear stories from the field, the mission behind the ministry, and ways YOU can be a part of this compassionate outreach.

For more information, contact Fe Guzman at fe@stmark-parish.org or email justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org.

**TUESDAYS
9:30AM
THURSDAYS
7PM**

**9 SESSIONS
STARTS WEEK
OF SEPT 23
ENDS WEEK
OF NOV 17**

\$20 BOOK COST DONATION
✉ FE@STMARK-PARISH.ORG

Join us for the upcoming Adult Bible Study, *God, the Mystery of the Trinity in the Bible*. Check for convenient times and days on sign-up sheets in the Commons.



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.

"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



September: 9-15oz. boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes/
Individual meals: tuna snack kits, pop-top soup/pasta



Red Cross Blood Drive: At St. Mark on **Tuesday, September 16th** from **11am-5pm**. 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.



Take a stand for life: September 24th- November 2nd our community will take part in 40 Days for Life. Where: Public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood 515 Newtown Road. Our St Mark group will stand vigil and pray on Mondays from 1-2pm. Please join us as we pray for an end to abortion. For more information justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org



Another Happy PiN Delivery

"The folks at PiN Ministries are always so happy to get our mats and totes", says St. Mark parishioner, Christine McGrath. She and Janet Vater recently delivered 27 PLARN mats and 2 totes blessed by Fr. Eric before each quarterly donation. These mats are a real blessing for homeless members of the Virginia Beach community. Thanks so much to all who participate in St. Mark's PLARN ministry! For more information about PLARN, to donate or to volunteer, contact Christine McGrath at m McGrathcm24@gmail.com. All are welcome!

Is OCIA for You?

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

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!

Cecille and Frank Johnson - August 28, 2009 (16 years)

Heath and Sarah Bachman- August 31, 2018 (7 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.



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.

Parish Office Hours: Sunday-Thursdays: 9:00am – 1:00pm

Announcements/ Giving/ Contact Information

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



Bookkeeper, MaryEllen Cussen, at bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org or call the parish office

Fiscal Year July-June	August 10	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$17,501	\$116,000	\$109,020	(\$6,980)

Family Count: 796

Families using envelopes: 185

Families using online donation: 198

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

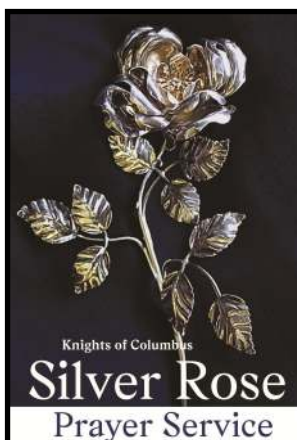
RELIGIOUS FORMATION STAFF

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.



Kid's Corner



Fun Fact(s)!

Did you know today is the feast of one of Jesus' friends, the apostle, St. Bartholomew. Do you know the names of ALL twelve apostles? Here's a list for you to memorize: Peter, Andrew, James the Greater, James the Less, John, Philip, Thomas, Jude, Matthew, Simon, Bartholomew, and Judas! (Remember that Judas betrayed Jesus and St. Matthias was chosen to take his place - so you'll want to remember the name of Matthias too!)



Scan this QR Code to learn a fun song to help you remember all 12!

