

August 31, 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



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." - Lk 14:13-14

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

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MASS SCHEDULE:

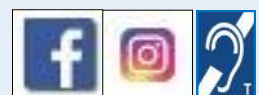
**Saturday: 5:30pm/ Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am/
Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30am/
Wednesday at 7:00pm**

⚓ 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:
8/26/25



“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark September 1st - September 7th, 2025

MONDAY	Labor Day Parish Offices Closed No OCIA Formation/
TUESDAY	
8:30am	Liturgy of the Word/Daily Chapel
9:00am	Mother's Group/ Sanctuary/ Nursery
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
9-6:00pm	Adoration/ Sanctuary
6:15pm	Evening Prayer/Sanctuary
6:30pm	Benediction/ Sanctuary
7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary
FRIDAY	
7:00pm	First Friday Rosary/ Sanctuary
3:00pm	Women's Retreat/ Founders Inn
SATURDAY	
9-4:00pm	Women's Retreat/ Founders Inn
4:00pm	Reconciliation/Daily Chapel
5:30pm	Mass/ Sanctuary
6:45 pm	Migrant Ministry Talk/ Great Hall (reception Following)
SUNDAY	
8:30am	Mass / Sanctuary
10:30am	Mass/ Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream
3:30-5pm	Religious Formation Kick-off/Great Hall

Daily Readings

MONDAY	
9/1	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Luke 4:16-30
TUESDAY	
9/2	1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11; Luke 4:31-37
WEDNESDAY	Mem. of St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
9/3	Colossians 1:1-8; Luke 4:38-44
THURSDAY	Colossians 1:9-14; Luke 5:1-11
9/4	
FRIDAY	
9/5	Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 5:33-39
SATURDAY	
9/6	Colossians 1:21-23 Luke 6:1-5
SUNDAY	Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
9/7	Wisdom 9:13-18b ; Philemon 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14:25-33

While Fr. Eric is away, a Liturgy of the Word will be available during the week at St. Mark. Daily Masses will be offered during the week at the following area churches:

St. Mathew (Mon., Wed.)	Church of Ascension (Tues.- Fri.)
St. Luke (Tues.- Fri.)	St. Gregory the Great (Tues.- Fri.)
Prince of Peace (Tues.- Fri.)	St. Stephen ,Martyr (Mon., Wed.)

* Visit church **websites above** for Daily Mass times.



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

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 Bellingier, 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

Sacraments at St. Mark

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

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)

To learn more about our parish, visit our website at: stmark.parish.org or visit: <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicChurchOfStMark>

Nourished by the Sacraments

A Reflection on the Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 14:1, 7-14

By Jerome J. Sabatowich

When there is a large dinner banquet, the seating arrangement usually reflects the status of the invited guests. The place of honor is always at the main table with the most important guests sitting next to the host. It was no different in Jesus' day.

In today's Gospel, Jesus warns his audience not to assume they deserve the coveted places of honor because if someone more important arrives late, the host may ask them to make room for this person. The resulting embarrassment will be great indeed if the only space left is in the lowliest spot.

The Jews often used a banquet as an image of the kingdom of God. Many of the Pharisees with whom Jesus sat at table believed they deserved the places of honor in God's kingdom not only because they were good Jews but also because of their strict observance of the Jewish laws. Jesus warned them against making this assumption.

In the story Jesus used to illustrate his point, the dignitary who came late and displaced the other man symbolized the sinner. Since many Jews believed sickness resulted from sin, people such as the lame, the blind, and lepers would have been in this category. The displaced guest symbolized the Pharisees who thought they were holier than others.

Jesus' audience would not have missed the point of his message. Jesus was telling the Pharisees they better not be too smug because the people whom they considered sinners might actually be holier and deserving of more honor in God's kingdom. Pride can not only blind us to our own shortcomings, but can also make us overlook the good in others.

For Reflection

A woman dreamt that when she died and went to heaven, she was surprised to see some people there whom she considered spiritually inferior. She then noticed that each of these people also looked surprised because, it seems, none of them expected to see her there either. Pray this week that God will teach you how to be humble.



All teens are invited to join the **MARKed Generation** for faith, fun, and fellowship! We've moved to a new night – the 4th Saturday of each month, right after the 530p Mass. Come and bring a friend as we grow together in Christ and discover how God has marked each of us with His love and purpose.

St. Mark's Youth Group is for 6th-12th Graders.

Our next event is our Video Game Tournament on September 27th, celebrating the canonization of St. Carlo Acutis.

Parish Choir Rehearsals Begin



Thursday
September 4th
7:00pm in the
Sanctuary

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.

Please welcome Reverend Fr. Brian Rafferty who will preside at the St. Mark masses this weekend in Fr. Eric's absence.

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 an individual who has not yet been baptized, or if you have been baptized but have not received Eucharist or Confirmation, and you are looking to deepen your faith, we're so glad you're here!

We invite you to learn more about the process through which we welcome or reconnect you with the Catholic Church. The journey is guided by members of our parish community, but is ultimately a personal journey in which you will grow in your identity as a Catholic. OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) meets Monday nights.

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

FAITH FORMATION KICKOFF

DRAW NEAR:
CALLED TO BE A SAINT

**MEET YOUR CATECHIST
PARENT INFO SESSION**

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 7TH
3:30 PM - 5 PM**

INSPIRED BY SAINT CARLO ACUTIS &
PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI
SAINT TRAIL ACTIVITIES
PRAYER WALL & PHOTO BOOTH
POPCORN & TRAIL MIX BAR

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

"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



Thank you to all who donated school supplies. Through your generosity we were able to send much needed supplies to Parkway, Indian Lakes, and Tallwood Elementary, Brandon and Salem Middle, Green Run High, as well as parishioners and our Food Pantry guests in need. A special thank you to our VBS group for their wonderful donations.



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 Life

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

Upcoming Parish Life Events and Announcements



Food: Hamburgers, hot dogs, and beverages provided. Bring a side-dish or dessert to share.

Fun: Music, bouncy-house and face-painting for kids of all ages! All are welcome!

*In case of rain, the picnic will move to the Great Hall. For more details, contact Linda Major at 757-615-0763.

• Marriage is a reason and a season to celebrate! Parish Life is keeping a compiled record of anniversaries in our parish. If you have not yet recorded your anniversary, please stop by the Parish Life table in the Great Hall and add your special day to the Anniversary Booklet. Anniversaries are posted on the Parish Life Bulletin Board each month.

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

John and Ann Marie Cochran - Sept. 2, 1989 (36 years)

Kevin and Peggy Tallon - Sept. 3, 1988 (37 years)

Tim and Stella Collinsworth - Sept. 7, 2013 (12 years)

Ben and Mely Garcia - Sept. 7, 1969 (56 years)

***Modesto and Joelita Darcy - Aug. 9, 1978 (47 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.



Columbarium Protection and Safety

The St. Mark Columbarium offers a beautiful and peaceful place to visit departed loved ones inurned there.

To keep it safe and clean for all who come, visitors need to observe a few basic considerations in this sacred place:

• Fresh flowers are permitted, but once the flowers are spent, vases will be removed and deposited at the back door for pick up.

• Food and drink are discouraged as it attracts pests.

• Open flame candles are a fire hazard and cannot be left there.

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



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Fiscal Year July-June	August 17	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$20,531	\$133,500	\$129,551	(\$3,949)

Family Count: 795

Families using envelopes: 183

Families using online donation: 199



The Catholic Diocese of Richmond has been asked to support **Catholic Relief Services** in their efforts to provide humanitarian and pastoral support to the people of Gaza. On the weekends of August 30-31 and September 5-6, all donations to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) will be directed to their relief efforts in Gaza. If you wish to contribute, please go to Online Giving on our website and select Catholic Relief Services for a one-time donation during this period, or write CRS on your check memo **payable to St. Mark Church** and place it in the collection. Thank you for all you do!

Parish Office Hours Adjustment

St. Mark Parish Office hours will resume the regularly scheduled time from 9:00am to 3:00pm on Tuesday, September 2nd. Hours are posted on the front doors.



Lots of Volunteers Needed!!
St. Mark's "Pumpkin Patch" pumpkins arrive October 4th! Look for on-line SHIFT sign-ups to help unload a tractor trailer FULL of St. Mark Pumpkin Patch Pumpkins going on sale October 5th!! Contact Mike King at 646-851-8334 for details or to volunteer.

Kid's Corner



Who Was?

St. Monica and St. Augustine...a mother and son Saint duo! Last week we celebrated St. Monica and her son, St. Augustine. Monica never gave up praying for Augustine, even when he made wrong choices. God hear her prayers, and Augustine's heart was changes, he became one of the greatest saints and teachers in the Church! They remind us that prayer is so powerful, and God is always working, even when we can't see it. This week pray every day for one person you love, and trust God to bless them in His perfect way.



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