

October 5, 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



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." - Lk 17:5-6

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

MASS SCHEDULE:

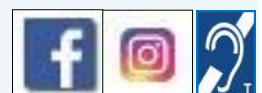
**Saturday: 5:30pm/ Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am/
Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30am/
Wednesday at 7:00pm**

⚓ 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: 9/30/25



“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark October 6th - October 12, 2025

MONDAY

7:15pm OCIA Christian Formation/Conf. Room

TUESDAY

8:30am **Daily Mass/Daily Chapel**
9:00am Mother's Group/ Sanctuary/ Nursery
9:30am Seasons of Hope Grief Group/ Library
9:30am Adult Bible Study/ Great Hall
10:00am In-person Virtus Training/Classroom
2:00pm Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/DC
7:00pm Liturgy Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY

10-1:00pm Food Pantry/ Great Hall
5:30pm 3 American Saints Novena/Sanctuary
6:00pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena/ Sanct
6:30pm Rosary/ Sanctuary
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
6-8:00pm Confirmation Prep/Great Hall
6:30pm Knights of Columbus Officers Meeting/CR
7:00pm Adult Bible Study/Library
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary

FRIDAY

12:00pm Wisdom Seekers Memorial Mass/ Potluck/GH

SATURDAY

12:00pm America Needs Fatima Rosary/Pumpkin Patch
4:00pm Reconciliation/ Daily Chapel
5:30pm **Mass/ Sanctuary**

SUNDAY

8:30am **Mass/ Sanctuary**
10:30am **Mass/ Sanctuary** with Face Book Livestream
11:45am In-Person Baptism Class/Sanctuary
12:30-1:30pm Children's Formation/ Classrooms
5-6:30pm OCIA (Children and Teens) / Classroom
6-8:00pm Teen Formation/ Great Hall

Daily Readings

MONDAY

10/6 Jonah 1:1-2:1-2, 11; Luke 10:25-37

TUESDAY

10/7 **Mem. of Our Lady of the Rosary**

10/7

WEDNESDAY

10/8

Jonah 4:1-11 ; Luke 11:1-4

THURSDAY

10/9

Malachi 3:13-20b ; Luke 11:5-13

FRIDAY

10/10

SATURDAY

10/11

SUNDAY

10/12

Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2 ; Luke 11:15-26
Joel 4:12-21 ; Luke 11:27-28
Deacon Stanley Stephanowitz, Jr.†
Twenty-eighth Sunday-Ordinary Time
2 Kings 5:14-17; 2Timothy 2:8-13;
Luke 17:11-19
Emerito Arriola †

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

America Needs Fatima Rosary

Please join us for a public rosary rally at the Pumpkin Patch on Saturday, October 11th to pray for repentance and conversion of our great nation at 12:00pm.

For more details contact Rick Vasconcellos at ricavas@mail.regent.edu or visit AmericaNeedsFatimaRosary.org.



Merla Marcelo, Henrietta Mayr, Creed Clawson, Melita Griggs, Jayme Oliveira Filho, Louisa Morrison, Maribeth Baumgartner, Dare O'Ravitz, Joy Lepere, Teresita Gustafson, Angie Hudson, Caroline Padilla, Gigliola Kamp-Casto, Erlinda Mariado, Lorraine Stambaugh, 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, Patricia McCartney, Trish Simpson, Billie Dudley

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>



Catholic Fest: A one-day festival full of music, food, family fun, fellowship, and worship together at the Diocese of Richmond as part of the celebration of the Jubilee of Hope. Find out more information at catholicfest.richmonddiocese.org or scan the QR code above.

Join us from 10:00am-9:00pm Sign up in the Commons if you plan to attend. Carpooling is encouraged!

Nourished by the Sacraments

A Reflection on Twenty - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 17:5-10 By Jerome J. Sabatowich

Today's Gospel gives us a good example of how Near Eastern teachers like Jesus sometimes used exaggeration to emphasize a point. The apostles ask Jesus to increase their faith and he responds by saying that someone with faith the size of a mustard seed could command a sycamore tree be uprooted and thrown into the sea, and it would happen.

Black mustard bushes grew wild along the shores of the Sea of Galilee not far from Capernaum where Jesus lived during his public ministry and where he did much preaching. Ancient people used the mustard plant for oil, as a condiment, and as an herb, so it was a common ingredient in the foods Jesus and his apostles ate.

Sycamore trees produced small yellow, sweet fig-like fruit. Growing along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea made the sycamore the logical choice for the tree cast into the sea in today's Gospel.

In many of the Gospel stories, about Jesus' miracles, faith is the reason he is able to make the lame walk, the blind see, and the sick whole. On the other hand, a lack of faith explains the only time in the Gospels when Jesus is not able to heal (Mark 6:1-6).

Recognizing the power of faith, the apostles ask Jesus to give them more of it. Jesus' response is that this is not necessary because even with only a small amount of faith nothing is impossible.

In the second part of today's Gospel, Jesus tells a story about a servant who spends the entire day plowing the field or herding sheep. When the servant returns home in the evening, his work is still not complete because he has to put on his apron, prepare supper, and wait on his master's table. Being a good servant means the master's wishes are more important than his own comfort.

Just as the servant's work is never done, we should never consider our service to God to be complete. There is always more we can do to spread the word about God's love and forgiveness. We can never say we have done our share to build God's kingdom and now it's someone else's turn. We can never take a break from being a follower of Jesus.

For Reflection

Pray today for those who passed on to you their faith in Jesus. Pray for your parents, priests or ministers, religion teachers, and anyone else who helped you develop a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus.

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. Requirement: **Families must be registered.** Contact Religious Formation Office for Baptism classes prior to the Sacrament. Confirm Baptism date and time with Parish Secretary after all requirements have been turned in.

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.



Discipleship Week Reflection, by Riccardo Girardi

"Discipleship Week gave us many chances to serve. We practiced leadership and teamwork, then put it into action by setting up an entire EPIC event space— 450 chairs in under 20 minutes!

I served as small group leader, welcoming middle schoolers and guiding faith conversations. It reminded me that service isn't just about tasks, but about being present, making others feel valued, and helping them grow closer to God."

St. Mark's Mothers Group

Join our community of young Catholic mothers as we encourage each other in our vocations as the first catechists in the home.

Mothers and children meet on Tuesdays at 9:00am in the sanctuary for prayer and then head to the nursery for community and play until 11:00am.

Text Megan O'Shea at (509)930-1226 with questions
Our Lady Undoer of Knots
~Pray for Us~

"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

 **October:** \$10 Gift Cards/ Any item from our Food Pantry List/ Individual Fruit Cups

Please check dates on donations as we are unable to accept expired products.

 **Migrant Ministry:** Join our efforts as we work to expand and revitalize our Migrant Ministry on Eastern Shore. Interested contact justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org

October Respect Life Month Events:

- **"Novena to Three American Saints for Life"**- Saints Elizabeth Seton, Frances Cabrini and John Neumann through **October-9th** (live Daily Chapel and Zoom) If you wish to participate via zoom email us for Zoom link *Note Saturday Novena will be said at home
 - **Take a Stand For Life: September 24th- November 2nd** our community will take part in 40 Days for Life. Our St. Mark group will stand vigil and pray on Mondays from 1-2pm. Where: Public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood 515 Newtown Road. Please join us as we pray for an end to abortion.
 - **Official USCCB 2025 Respect Life Novena** October 22nd-30th (live Daily Chapel and Zoom) If you wish to participate via zoom email us for Zoom link *Note Saturday Novena will be said at home
 - **Baby Layette Item Collection:** Throughout month Sizes: Newborn- 3 months, Receiving Blankets, Onesies, Baby Booties, Infant Sleepers, outfits
- For more information, visit justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org
For more information, visit justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org



Respect Life Baby Shower

POTLUCK RECEPTION

Saturday, October 18th
After 5:30 Mass in the Great Hall

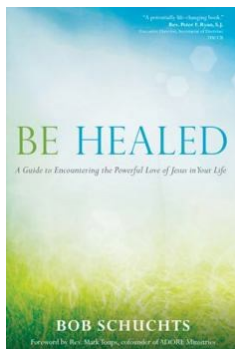
Join us as we share food, community, and celebrate life with guests invited from Hope4Life, Crisis Pregnancy Center, and Birthright.

Please bring a dish to share
Donation of baby items are also welcome

For more information contact Joyce Gridley ~ justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org

Women's Book Club October 14th at 6:30 pm St. Mark's Library

Be Healed by Bob Schucht is based on retired Catholic therapist Bob Schucht's popular program for spiritual, emotional, and physical healing, offering hope in the healing power of God through the Holy Spirit and the sacraments to be the person God created us to be. For more info, contact Kendra DiMichele at: kdimichel-e76@gmail.com.



Parish Life

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

Upcoming Parish Life Events and Announcements

- 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 October wedding anniversary this week!

George and Diane Rogic - October 8, 1992 (33 years)

- **The Wisdom Seekers** group, for parishioners and friends 50+ years, next monthly potluck luncheon is **Friday, October 10th**. This luncheon will begin with a **memorial mass at 12 pm** for deceased members followed by the luncheon in the Great Hall. Please bring a dish to share (Last name begins A-M fruit or desert dish, N-Z protein or salad dish). Please contact Mary Shaw (757)348-4460 for general group questions.



EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION

On the Boardwalk

October 12th

Star of the Sea Catholic Church
1404 Pacific Avenue

Come join us for Holy Mass at noon followed by a *Boardwalk Eucharistic Procession* at 1:30pm. The procession will go to 23rd Street and return to the church for Benediction.



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 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

St. Mark's Pumpkin Patch

OPENS

**Oct. 5th through Oct. 31st
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**Sign up on iVolunteer
for Set-up and Sales Shifts at:**

https://stmarkhelps.ivolunteer.com/pumpkins_2025

Contact Mike King at 646-851-8334 for more details.



**DONATE
TITHE**



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	September 21	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$19,741	\$228,000	\$226,218	(\$1,782)

Family Count: 800

Families using envelopes: 187

Families using online donation: 314

SAINTLY TRUNK OR TREAT

**11/02/2025
4:30-6:30 pm**

Games!

**Prizes for Best Saint
& Best Trunk!**



**Youth Group
Dinner Fundraiser!**

**Sign up to host a
saint-themed trunk!**



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.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Fr. Eric Asamoah.....	freric@stmark-parish.org
Rev. Mr. John Kren.....	Acting Pastoral Associate
Sherry Smeland.....	deacon_john@stmark-parish.org
	Parish Secretary
Mary Ellen Cussen.....	secretary@stmark-parish.org
	Business Manager
Mark Smeland.....	bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org
	Music Director
Vikki Ignacio.....	music.director@stmark-parish.org
Brian Gridley.....	Assistant Music Director
Renee McCroskey.....	Facility/IT Coordinator
Hank Harzold.....	Nursery Supervisor
Tom Smith.....	Parish Council Chairman
William McMican.....	Custodian
	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

WHO WAS?

St. Faustina...was a Polish nun who lived 100 years ago! Jesus appeared to her and asked her to spread His message of Divine Mercy - that His love and forgiveness are endless! Because of St. Faustina, we have a beautiful image of Jesus with rays of red and white light coming from His heart, showing His mercy. St. Faustina put all her trust in Jesus and would pray, "Jesus, I trust in you". Today on her feast day, can you put your trust in Jesus and say, "Jesus, I trust in you!"

