

October 19, 2025

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF Saint Mark

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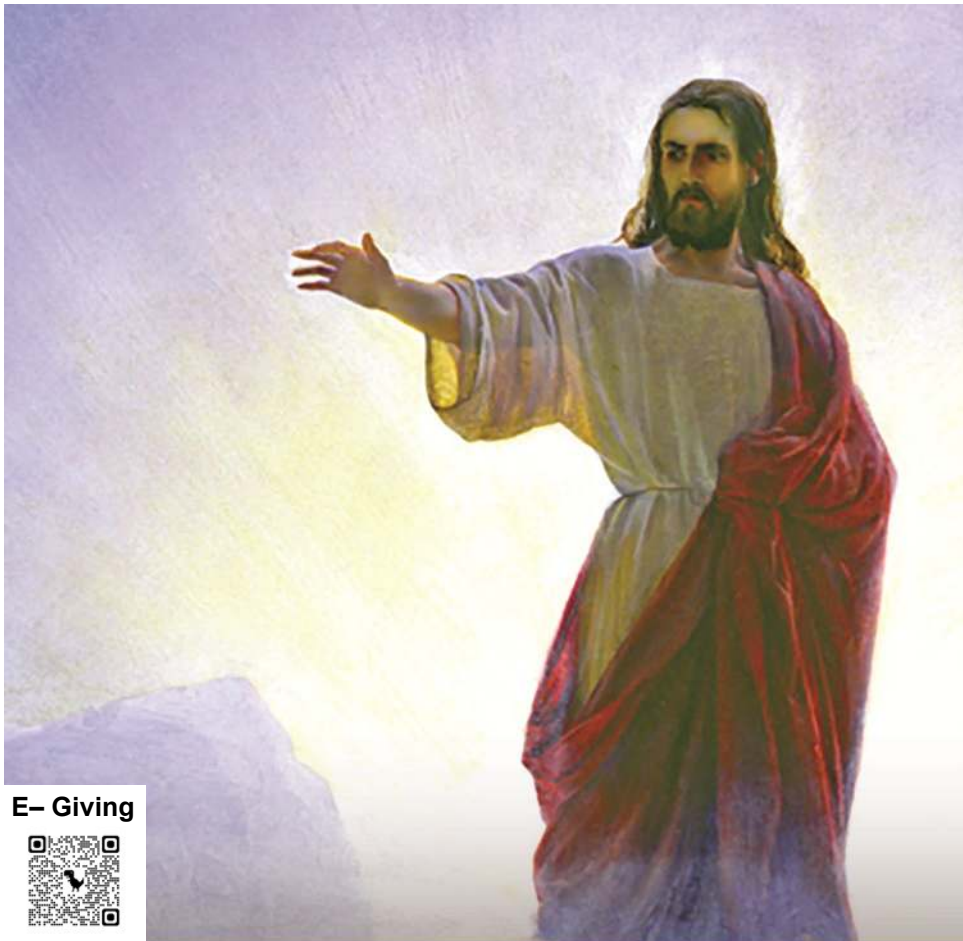
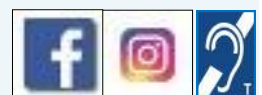


 Catholics are encouraged to make pilgrimages to their local cathedral during the 2025 Jubilee year.

 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**
* Contact Parish Office for transportation options.
4. The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Williamsburg

Bulletin Publication date: 10/14/25



E- Giving



29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

— — — — —
“Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” - Lk 18:7-8

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**

“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark October 20th - October 26th, 2025

MONDAY

7:15pm OCIA Christian Formation

TUESDAY

8:30am **Daily Mass**/Daily Chapel
9:00am Mother's Group/ Sanctuary/ Nursery
9:30am Adult Bible Study/ Great Hall
2:00pm Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/DC

WEDNESDAY

10-1:00pm Food Pantry/ Great Hall
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
7:00pm Adult Bible Study/Library
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

5:30pm **Mass**/ Sanctuary
6:45pm Youth Group Service Night/Pumpkin Patch

SUNDAY

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

Save the Date:

- **Dec. 13th** - St. Andrew Parish Pilgrimage, Roanoke, VA;
Call parish office for St. Mark bus/carpool transportation.

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Soul's Day) will be celebrated Saturday, November 1st at the 5:30pm Mass and Sunday, November 2nd at 8:30 and 10:30am Masses. Photos of departed loved ones may be placed on display tables in the Commons for these masses and will remain for the month of November.

Your name and phone number should be listed on the back of your framed loved one's photo for return.

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.

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

10/20 Romans 4:20-25; Luke 12:13-21

TUESDAY

10/21 Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21;
Luke 12:35-38
Corazon Cruz †

WEDNESDAY

10/22 Romans 6:12-18; Luke 12:39-48

THURSDAY

10/23 Romans 6:19-23; Luke 12:49-53
Maria Celeste Mendoza †

FRIDAY

10/24 Romans 7:18-25a; Luke 12:54-59

SATURDAY

10/25 Romans 8:1-11; Luke 13:1-9
Crispin Guzman, Sr. †
Bob and Edna Dusek †
Rudy Bojo †
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 17:8-13; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2;
Luke 18:1-8
Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18;
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14
Chantele McGurn †
Crispina Rosales †
Virginia and Ildefonso Reyes †



Dana Reid, Merla Marcelo, Henrietta Mayr, Creed Clawson, 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 Bellingier, Chandler Brewer, Val Kandis, Jay Davis, Olivia Wiggins, Armida Valmeo, Nikolas Pakkidis, Jeremiah Macaraeg, Sarada Kapuwatte, Connie Blanco, Ryan Steele, Paul Caddies, Patricia MacCartney, Trish Simpson, Billie Dudley

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

Melita Griggs

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

Safe Restroom Use by Children

In compliance with Office of Safe Environment requirements, children under the age of 12 should be accompanied by an adult when using restroom facilities. At St. Mark, parents are encouraged to provide this supervision as needed. Thank you for your cooperation!

Nourished by the Sacraments



A Reflection on Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 18:1-8 From Fr. Eric Asamoah

"I urge every Catholic parish in the world to take part in World Mission Sunday," Pope Leo said, underscoring, "Your prayers, your support will help spread the Gospel, provide for pastoral and catechetical programs, help to build new churches, and care for the health and educational needs of our brothers and sisters in mission territories." (Pope Leo XIV, World Mission Sunday, 2025)

Our missionary zeal should be that of the poor widow in today's Gospel, a call to persistent evangelization. She was filled with determination and courage. Her persistence wears down the judge's resistance. If an unjust judge is persuaded by the widow's persistence, think of how our merciful God will be open to hearing our own cries for help.

St Paul's second letter to Timothy puts it so nicely, telling us to *"remain faithful to what you have learned and believed,"* and hence the need to be persistent in our ministry of the Word whether it is convenient or inconvenient. In the first reading, Moses' hands remain raised, a nice image of prayer, then all is well with the Israelites, but when they drop, the result is the opposite.

The presence of Aaron and Hur supporting Moses' hands teaches us communal prayerful perseverance. Our personal prayer life is vital, but I believe that it is important that we never forget that we are part of a community of faith as the Church. Our communal prayer is vital as well. We build up and support each other, particularly in our more difficult moments in life. Even when we are not aware of others' prayers for us, they matter and help us in our need.

Let us then continue to burn with holy zeal, for a new era of evangelization, bringing hope to a world overshadowed by dark shadows, and to be a community of hope by letting the Spirit guide our actions. God bless you for supporting the missionary activities of the Church all over the world.



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) and a member of the OCIA Team will contact you.



Praying together during Mass at Catholic Fest with Bishop Knestout reminded us of the power of prayer, and how important it is to pray always. Evanna, seen above, said, "Being able to guide others in prayer and reflection reminded me of how powerful it is when we come together as a community before God". How special to experience our Catholic community praying together at Catholic Fest! What a blessing for all!



Thanks to all St. Mark parishioners who joined Fr. Eric, Bishop Barry Knestout and many other fellow Catholics of all ages for Catholic Fest on Saturday October 11th, at the Richmond Diamond. Music, food, fun and Mass, celebrated by Bishop Knestout, were highlights of this celebration of hope commemorating the 2025 Jubilee of Hope. What a joyous occasion!

"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



Thank you to all who donated winter items. Through your kindness we helped our brothers and sisters at PIN Ministry, Catholic Worker Breakfast line and Migrant Ministry.

October Respect Life Month Events:

• **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



Building and Grounds Special Projects

With much gratitude and appreciation, we wish to thank the Building and Grounds committee members who recently worked together with parishioners Mark Iraola and his son Luca (seen above to left) to help with wood splitting and cutting. Lucien Waltz (seen above to right) with father, Jim Waltz, built and installed much needed replacement doors on the St. Mark shed. The team includes Mike Kassel, Jim Drewiske, Hank Harzold, Jerry Major, and Jim Waltz. Feel free to join this team to improve St. Mark grounds. For more information, contact Deacon John Kren at 757-479-1010.

Parish Office Hours: Sunday-Thursdays: 9:00am – 3:00pm

Parish Life

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

Upcoming Parish Life Events and Announcements

• **Good Morning!**

And what a beautiful morning it is!!! It was so wonderful to have our Father Eric home again for the Parish Picnic on Saturday, October 4th - yay! Thank you, Lord, for a most perfect picnic, pumpkin celebration and Blessing of Animals. You truly graced us with a day to remember.

This Parish Picnic was one of the best yet. About 150 people attended. There was plenty of amazing food and clean up was a breeze. The face painter was exceptional, and I know the Bounce House was a hit. Thanks to our incredible Parish Life Committee for all their dedicated service to our parish. Special thanks to Knights of Columbus who never fail to step up to help make the day a huge success!. Thanks to them for grilling, supplying ice cream, and trash removal. Thanks to all for your participation, making the day memorable and fun!

Many Blessings,

Linda Major

• **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!

Ernie and Linda Marsh - October 11, 1969 (56 years)

Tim and Jo Titus- October 19, 1985 (40 years)

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	October 5	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$17,170	\$268,000	\$263,678	(\$4,322)

Family Count: 797

Families using envelopes: 221

Families using online donation: 173

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!**



Fun Fact!

Did you know St. Ursula was a princess who went on one of the most amazing road trips ever... for Jesus? Her father wanted her to marry a prince who didn't believe in God. Ursula said she would only marry him if he became Christian AND let her go on a huge pilgrimage first! She set off with her friends to share God's love and pray along the way. Ursula was brave and never gave up her faith. That's why she's the patron saint of students and young people! This week be brave, kind, and share your love for Jesus wherever you go!



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
	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