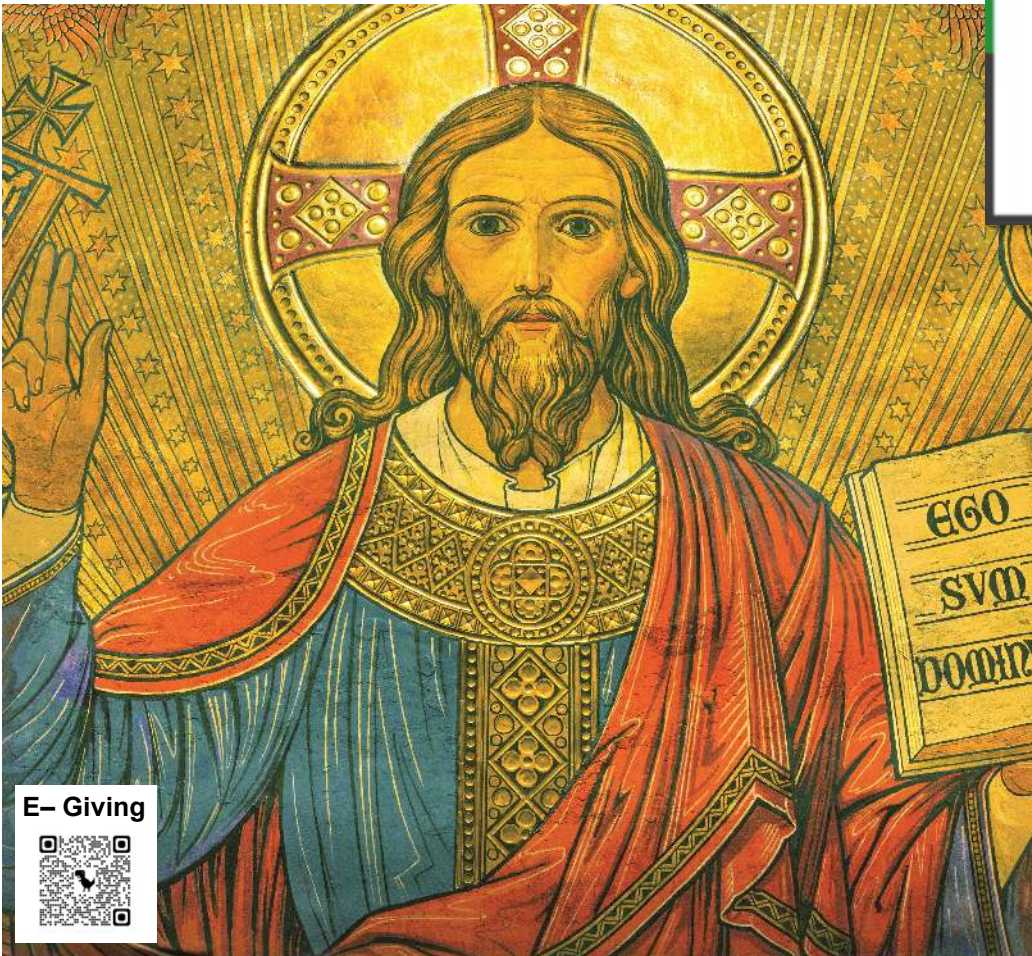


November 23, 2025

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



OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

He said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." - Lk 23:42-43

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**
4. The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Williamsburg

* Contact Parish Office for transportation options.

Bulletin Publication date:
11/14/25



“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark November 24 - November 30, 2025

MONDAY	
7:15pm	OCIA Christian Formation/Conference Room
TUESDAY	
8:30am	Daily Mass/Daily Chapel
9:00am	Mother's Group/ Sanctuary/ Nursery
9:30am	Seasons of Hope/Library
2:00pm	Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/DC
6:00pm	PPC Meeting/ CR
WEDNESDAY	
10-1:00pm	Food Pantry/ Great Hall
11:00am	Divine Mercy Chaplet/ Sanctuary
6:00pm	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena/ Sanct
6:30pm	Rosary/ Sanctuary
7:00pm	Thanksgiving Vigil Mass/Sanctuary
THURSDAY	THANKSGIVING DAY
8:30am	Thanksgiving Day Mass/Daily Chapel
FRIDAY	Building Closed
SATURDAY	
5:30pm	Mass/ Sanctuary
SUNDAY	First Sunday of Advent
8:30am	Mass/ Sanctuary
10:30am	Mass/ Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream

Save the Date:

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

Photos of departed loved ones may be placed on display tables in the Commons 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.

A votive candle can also be lit to commemorate your departed loved ones or to offer a prayer of petition. Candles serve as an outward sign of the light of faith burning in our hearts. They help us to draw into communion with the Living Christ.



Upcoming Area Advent Penance Services:

December 3rd	7:00pm	Church of Resurrection
December 4th	7:00pm	St. Mark
December 11th	10:00am	St. Therese
December 18th	7:00pm	St. Stephen, Martyr



SACRAMENTS AT ST. MARK

Contact Parish Secretary in the Parish Office to begin the processes of baptism, marriage, or other sacraments.

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.

Daily Readings

MONDAY 11/24	Mem. of St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20 ; Luke 21:1-4
TUESDAY 11/25	Daniel 2:31-45 ; Luke 21:5-11
WEDNESDAY 11/26	Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28 ; Luke 21:12-19
THURSDAY 11/27	Thanksgiving Day Sirach 50:22-24; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Luke 17:11-19 Elisa Manalo Florendo †
FRIDAY 11/28	Daniel 7:2-14; Luke 21:29-33
SATURDAY 11/29	Daniel 7:15-27; Luke 21:34-36 Rowena Peterson †
SUNDAY 11/30	First Sunday in Advent Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44 Tomas Ramos, Jr. †, Christina Perez † Dory Sneeringer †, Edward Jerdonek † Diane Cacciola †



Don Coons, Dana Reid, Merla Marcelo, Henrietta Mayr, Creed Clawson, Jayme Oliveira Filho, Louisa Morrison, Maribeth Baumgartner, Dare O'Ravitz, Joy Lepere, 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 MacCartney

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: Volunteers visit the sick and those unable to get to mass. 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.

Seasons of Hope 4 offers six sessions exploring our personal journeys of mourning through scripture, prayer, reflection, and faith sharing. A new session begins November 11th at 9:30am in the St. Mark library. If interested, please call Pat Winner at 757-578-4084 or Dale Mullin at 757-615-2759. Please leave a message; your call will be returned.

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

Nourished by the Sacraments



A Reflection on The Feast of Christ the King

From Fr. Eric Asamoah

This Sunday, the Feast of Christ the King, marks the closing of Year C of the Liturgical Calendar. We celebrate a great fundamental truth of our Catholic faith in today's celebration, that Christ is the King of the Universe, the Lord of all, the Judge of the living and the dead.

In the context of Church history, this feast was declared by Pope Pius XI during the Jubilee year of 1925 as requested by many Bishops and many of the Catholic faithful around the world. The Holy Pontiff gave an impetus to missionary activity around the world, which earned him the title 'Pope of the Missions'.

The institution of the feast within that year was a direct response to the rise of secularism, atheism, etc., following World War I. It aimed at reasserting the universal authority of Jesus Christ over individuals, societies, and nations. Jesus Christ "is very truth, and it is from him that truth must be obediently received by all mankind" (Pope Pius XI, *Quas primas*, 7). This solemnity encourages us to celebrate and live out our faith in public. The King of Kings' divine reign stretches out from the alpha of time to the omega.

As Jesus was crucified, people mocked him as "the king of the Jews." He was hammered to a cross, not seated on a throne. He was crowned with thorns, not with gold and jewels. Jesus's kingship defied expectations by being a spiritual and eternal kingdom rather than a political one, achieved through humility and self-sacrifice rather than conquest.

The best way to honor Christ our King is to work to develop his project of mercy among us. Whatever we do to help the deprived and underprivileged is also a service to Christ, who identifies himself personally with people in need.

In Luke's Gospel, the good thief turned to Jesus and said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom". Jesus promised him that he would join Him in paradise. Let us be thankful to Christ the King for having called up to partake in His eternal Kingdom. Next week, we start a new liturgical year in our Advent journey as we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. May the reality of Christ the King permeate our hearts today as we continue our journey of faith.

Is OCIA for You?

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)



iGiveCatholic Fundraiser

Advanced giving for #iGiveCatholic begins in just a few weeks on **Monday, Nov 17th!**

Prayerfully consider how you can contribute and make an impact in our parish supporting our youth group. #iGiveCatholic fundraiser officially takes place on **Tuesday, December 2nd.**

St. Mark is proud to participate in this **Diocese-approved, nationwide campaign**, which supports Catholic parishes, schools, charities, and ministries across the country.

Your generous contributions will help us continue our mission and expand our outreach. Stay tuned for more details on how you can be part of this powerful movement of faith and giving!

BRUNCH
With St. Nicholas

Celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas with a joyful brunch. Together we'll enjoy a delicious meal, hear the story of St. Nicholas, and discover the true spirit of generosity and love that he shared with the world.

Saturday, December 6
9:30-11:00 a.m.
St. Mark Great Hall

RSVP by November 30

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. MARK
JOIN US FOR

Let Heaven and Nature Sing

ADVENT FAMILY GATHERING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5
5:30 - 7:30 PM


BRING YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY!
RSVP by November 25

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

 **November:** 12-15 oz. Cheerios (or store brand)/ Individual Fruit Cups

Thanksgiving Food Baskets: Today November 23rd is the deadline to donate gift cards for our Thanksgiving Baskets. You may donate online at our Parish Website under "Thanksgiving Bags". Thank you in advance for your support of this important outreach ministry.



We will be handing out **Christmas Dinner reminder bags** after all Masses next weekend- November 29th/30th. Please return the bag to the marked Christmas mailbox in the Commons with your \$20-\$25 gift card from a local grocery store **by 11am Sunday, December 14th**. Thank you!



The **St. Mark Giving Tree** is our annual ministry that helps bring hope and support to families who are in need. There are many families that need this year, more so than ever. We will be giving gift cards for both a holiday meal and cards to purchase gifts for 100-125 families to include our St. Mark Parishioners In-Need, and those we sponsor via Catholic Charities, Samaritan House, Department of Human Services, Refugee Resettlement, and Jewish Family Services. You may choose to purchase \$20-\$25 GIFT CARDS, donate funds ONLINE, use our QR code and/or choose ANGEL TAGS for **requested items, gift cards or children's toys** from our trees in the Commons. Suggested retailers are Walmart, Target, Best Buy, Kohls, or another appropriate store. Monetary donations of any amount are appreciated and will be used to purchase gift cards that will be distributed to the families. Please place gift cards in the marked Christmas mail box in the Commons, you may also donate funds on our website via Online Giving by selecting "GIVING TREE" fund or via the QR code below. **Please drop off your Angel Tree gift and gift cards by 11am Sunday, December 14th**. Thank you in advance for your support for this ministry. Please keep these families and all who are in need in your prayers.

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.

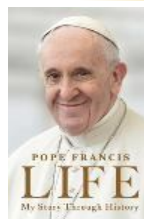
Happy Anniversary to the following St. Mark parishioners celebrating a November wedding anniversary this week!

Roger and Bellie Guerrero - November 23, 1963 (62 years)

George and Lois Conery - November 26, 1966 (59 years)

Ed and Mila Fradillada - November 28, 1970 (55 years)

Pat and Cal Kahara - November 28, 1965 (60 years)



Women's Book Club
December 9th at 6:30pm
St. Mark Library

Life: My Story Through History

An extraordinary personal and historical journey, Pope Francis' *Life* is the story of a man and a world in dramatic change. With eloquence, passion, and humility, Pope Francis recalls the most significant occurrences of the past eight decades. For more details, contact: Kdimichele76@gmail.com.



FORMED.org is full of great Catholic resources, including daily reflections, audio and video content, and more.

It's free to use through our parish subscription. Follow the steps below to get

started using Formed today.

How to Access Formed

1. Go to "**Formed.org**"
2. Click on "**Formed for Parishes.**"
3. Click "**Find your parish subscription**" and search our parish using its zip code (23464).
4. Create an account (or sign in if you already have one).

St. Mark Food Pantry is truly honored and thankful to receive a very generous contribution from Providence Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach. They wish to "help supply the St. Mark food pantry and to support this most important mission of helping those in need, especially during these most trying times". It is truly a blessing to unite with other Christian communities to "serve those in need."



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)

PARENTS *Night Out*

Parents, take a night off! Drop the kids with our Youth Group for dinner, a movie, and crafts, while you enjoy a well-deserved break or knock out those last-minute holiday tasks. Fun for everyone!

SIGN UP NOW!



**05.00-8.00 PM
FRIDAY, 12 DECEMBER
\$10/FIRST CHILD
\$5 EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD**



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

Announcements/ Giving/ Contact Information

Christmas Fund Raiser

Tree Sales

LOT MGRS & SALES ASSISTANTS

Friday Nov 28th – Saturday Dec 20th

1 Shift - Monday thru Friday: 5 pm – 9 pm

3 Shifts - Saturday & Sunday

• 9 am – 1 pm | 1 pm – 5 pm | 5 pm – 9 pm

We Need Lot Managers & Assistants to Signup for the 1st two weeks

Sign Up Online @ http://stmarkhelps.ivolunteer.com/treelot_2025

Volunteers 17 & Under Must Be Accompanied By a Parent



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	November 2	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$23,437	\$345,000	\$339,686	(\$5,314)

Family Count: 789

Families using envelopes: 260

Families using online donation: 228



Christmas Flowers



The envelope marked “Church Art and Environment” which will arrive very soon with the December envelope pack is for our trees, garlands and flowers at Christmas time.

If you would like to have deceased family members listed in the Christmas bulletin, please print their names **CLEARLY** on the envelope back and they will be listed.

If you donate to flowers online and would like your family members listed, please send a separate email with names of the deceased to: bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org by **December 14, 2025 in order to make bulletin deadline**. Please do not put a memo in the online donation program...they do not always make it to the office. Thank you!

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!

PARISH STAFF

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



“Keep Christ in Christmas” Card Sales

Religious Christmas Cards will be available after all weekend masses through Sunday, December 7th. Please support our Knights of Columbus’ efforts to “**Keep Christ in Christmas**” by sending religious cards to your friends and family. A beautiful message of evangelization from all of us will help remind others that Christ’s birth brought us the greatest gift of all. Proceeds from the sales of these religious cards are

used by the Knights of Columbus to provide for their many charities. We appreciate your support!

Kitchen Renovation on Display

In the Great Hall, there are drawings and pictorial renderings of the kitchen renovation and coffee station! This renovation project reflects our ongoing commitment to quality and innovation whether St. Mark is preparing for Sunday donuts, receptions or our 50th Anniversary. Thanks to everyone who contributed their time, creativity, and hard work to make these plans possible. To contribute to this project, see Fr. Eric.

Sanctuary Etiquette

No food, drink or gum are permitted during Mass in the sanctuary. Exceptions are milk for infants and water for the priest, choir or for those who are ill.



Have You Ever Heard of...The Singing Saint?

Did you know there's a saint who's the patron of music and musicians? Her name is St. Cecilia, and her feast day is November 22!

St. Cecilia lived in Rome a long time ago. She loved God so much that she would sing in her heart to Him, even when things were hard. Even though she faced many challenges for her faith, she never stopped praising God. Her courage and joyful songs inspired others to believe and trust in Him.

This week play or sing your favorite hymn together as a family. Before you start, say, St. Cecilia, help us use our voices to praise God with joy!



SAINT CECILIA