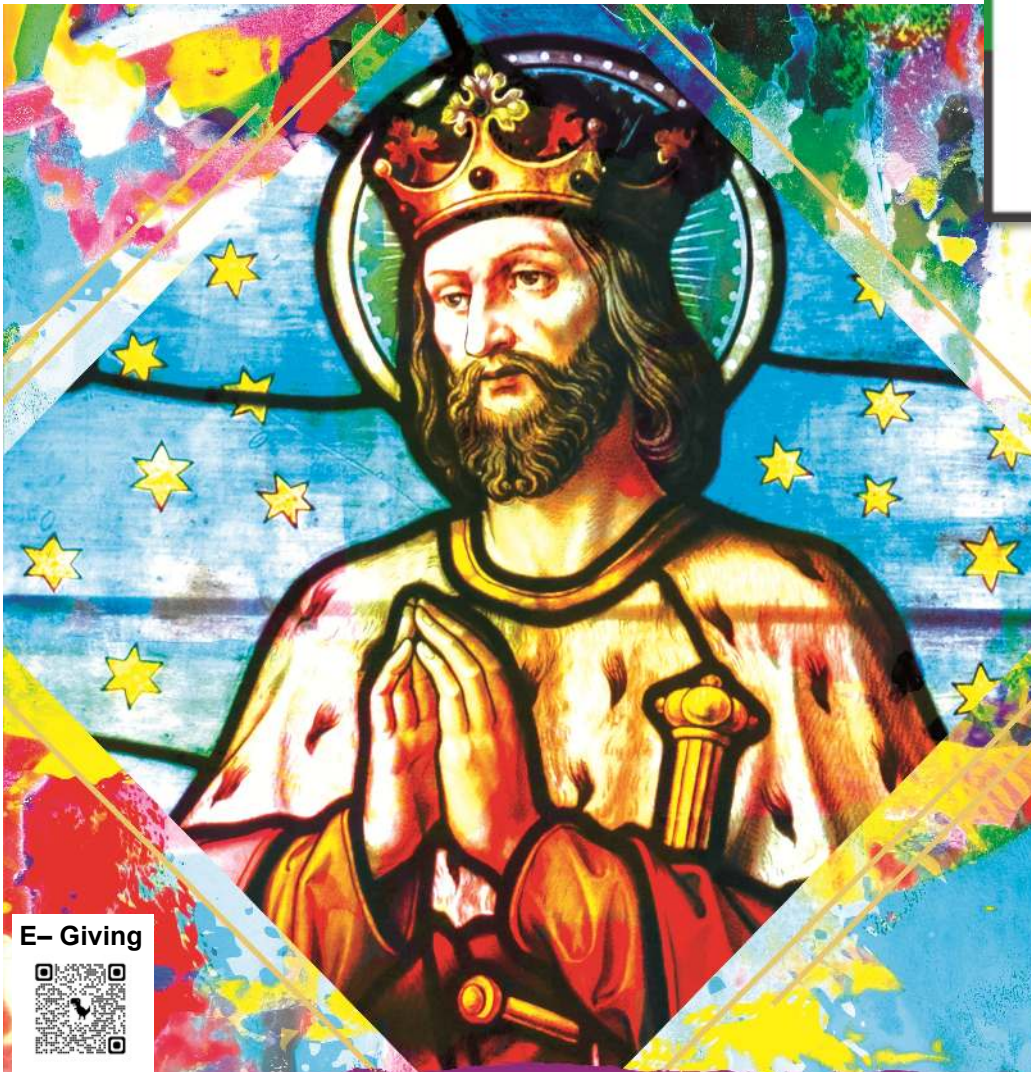


November 30, 2025

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



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." - Mt 24:42

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**

⚓ 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:
11/17/25



“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark December 1 - December 7, 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
10:00am Virtus In-person Training Session/ Great Hall
2:00pm Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/DC
7:00pm Liturgy Meeting/ Conference Room

WEDNESDAY

10-1:00pm Food Pantry/ Great Hall
6:00pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena/ Sanct.
6:30pm Rosary/ Sanctuary
7:00pm Liturgy of the Word Service/ Sanctuary

THURSDAY

Parish Offices Closed
6:00am Men of St. Joseph/Conference Room
8:30am **Daily Mass**/Daily Chapel
9-11:00am PLARN/ Great Hall
7:00pm Reconciliation Service/ Sanctuary

FRIDAY

7:00pm First Friday Rosary/Daily Chapel
5:30-7:00pm Family Formation/Great Hall

SATURDAY

9:30-11am Brunch with St. Nicholas/ Great Hall
4:00pm Reconciliation/ Daily Chapel
5:30pm **Mass**/ Sanctuary

SUNDAY

8:30am **Mass**/ Sanctuary
10:30am **Mass**/ Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream
12:30pm Children's Formation/Great Hall/ Sanctuary
5:00pm OCIA (children and teens)/ Classroom
6:00pm Teen Formation/ GH/Sanctuary

Upcoming Area Advent Reconciliation 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.

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.

Daily Readings

MONDAY

12/1 Isaiah 4:2-6 ; Matthew 8:5-11

TUESDAY

12/2 Isaiah 11:1-10 ; Luke 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY Mem. of St. Francis Xavier, Priest

12/3 Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37
Judith Lancaon †

THURSDAY

12/4 Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY

12/5 Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31

SATURDAY

12/6 Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26;
Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Delmacio Abila †

Rosemary Sunderland †

SUNDAY

12/7 **Second Sunday in Advent**
Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9;
Matthew 3:1-12

Christina Perez †, Dolores Sneeringer †

Sisenando and Teresa Cruz †

Benjamin Cruz †, Allen Cruz †



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

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.

With sympathy, we extend our heartfelt condolences to St. Mark family, Jon and Ashley Scobo, on the passing of Ashley's mother, Jill Charlton, of Virginia Beach, VA. Ms. Charlton's funeral will be held at St. Mark on Dec 2nd.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the following St. Mark parishioners:

Judith Lancaon and Josefa Alba

Let perpetual light shine upon them; may they rest in peace! Keep the Lancaon and the Alba-Siwa families in your prayers.

Nourished by the Sacraments



A Reflection on The First Sunday in Advent

From Fr. Eric Asamoah

Today we begin the season of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year (Year A) for the Church. We look forward with great expectation and hope as we realize we are celebrating the “coming” (*adventus*) of the Lord Jesus. Advent is a four-week preparation period leading up to Christmas.

On this first Sunday of Advent, the church enjoins us to rejoice because that night of long pilgrimage to God’s eternal city of peace will soon be fruitful. The reign of peace is close at hand. Therefore, we must wake up and be ready to receive Christ into our lives, families and nation. In the words of prophet Isaiah in the first reading, *‘the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be lifted high... all nations shall stream toward it.’* The prophet lifts up our spirits with his vision of the imminent reign of peace to be initiated by the coming of our Messiah. *‘They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.’*

To usher in this reign of peace successfully, both the second reading and gospel call us to be ready and awake. St Paul announces clearly to us of the closeness of our Savior, the Prince of Peace: *For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed... the night is advanced, the day is at hand.*

He announces that *“the time has come”*. The time he means here is not the earthly time (“chronos”), but God’s time (“kairos”). It is the God’s appointed time to save his own people, and to restore peace to all troubled hearts, families, businesses, and nations. The gospel message is clear. It admonishes us also to Stay awake. It is not for you to know when Jesus will return, you just need to continue to be faithful, looking at everything with the eyes of faith, not the eyes of the world.

Advent is a season that will culminate in an outburst of great joy. It is a season of prayer when all Christians must turn to God in prayer. Therefore, with the psalmist, I pray for you all my dear friends, companions, and people of God: *“Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, and in your palaces, peace!”* Amen.



Support

the MARKed Generation!

Invest in the future of our parish -
one young heart at a time!



Advanced Giving now through Dec 1!



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).

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

 **December:** 19-30 oz. Plastic Jar Grape Jelly/ \$5 McDonalds Gift card/ Snack Pk Cookies/Crackers

Thanksgiving Food Baskets Update: THANK YOU to all who donated gift cards to help provide a Thanksgiving meal to those in need. Through your generosity we were able to provide all requested families with a Thanksgiving meal. Those we helped included our own St. Mark Parishioners who are in need, as well as families via Catholic Charities, Samaritan House, Department of Human Services Refugee Resettlement, Jewish Family Services as well as sending goodie packages to Holidays for Heros. Thank you!



The angels are up- Our virtual Giving Tree is live and running!

The angels on the tree are for requested gift items, children's toys, and gift cards that allow families to choose their gifts for one another; help us to add to a family's Christmas joy by taking an angel. Please **DO NOT** wrap toys and gifts. However, **do keep the angel with the gift.** Our mailbox is ready and waiting for your gift card donations; suggested amount for gift cards is \$25+ from an area retailer such as Walmart, Target, Best Buy, or another appropriate store. Monetary donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and used to purchase gift cards/ requested items that will be distributed to the families. You may also donate funds on our St Mark website via Online Giving by selecting "Giving Tree" fund or via the QR code below. **All gifts and donations must be received by 11am on 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.



Congratulations to all OCIA catechumens who were welcomed into the Catechumenate on Sunday, November 16th by Fr. Eric. Pray for each of them as they prepare for initiation into the Christian faith. Special thanks to their St. Mark sponsors, family, friends, and OCIA catechists. Pictured above from left to right are Gregory Robinson, Aime Perez, Jamila Rodriguez, Addison Vazquez, Amber Robbins and Nancy Driskell as they continue in their spiritual journey.

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)

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.

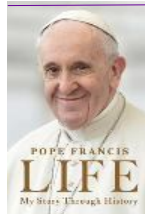
Happy Anniversary to the following St. Mark parishioners celebrating a December wedding anniversary this week!

Bill and Sally Sauer - December 2, 1978 (47 years)

Isaiah and Alicia Junkins - December 3, 2021 (4 years)

John and Kimberly Holscher - December 4, 2010 (14 years)

Wisdom Seekers Christmas Luncheon, December 12th, 12 pm, Great Hall. **Catered** (main dishes provided). Appetizers or deserts welcomed. Optional Gift Exchange (bring wrapped \$15-\$25). Sign up required by November 30th contact, Mary Shaw (757) 348-4460, or Annette Welch (757) 495-1445.



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.

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, please contact the Formation Office (nicole@stmark-parish.org) or the parish secretary, and a member of the OCIA Team will contact you.

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

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 9	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$18,041	\$362,500	\$357,757	(\$4,773)

Family Count: 789

Families using envelopes: 190

Families using online donation: 203



Christmas Flowers



The envelope marked “Church a 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
	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.



“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!



CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

4:00 p.m. Children’s Mass and 7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass and 10 p.m. Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Thursday, December 25, 2025

Mass at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.



The Advent candles guide us through each week of the season. The first candle, which is purple, stands for **HOPE**. It reminds us of the hope the people of Israel had as they waited for the promised Savior. It also represents our own hope for Christ’s return. As we light this candle, we think about God’s promises and how Jesus brings light into the darkness.