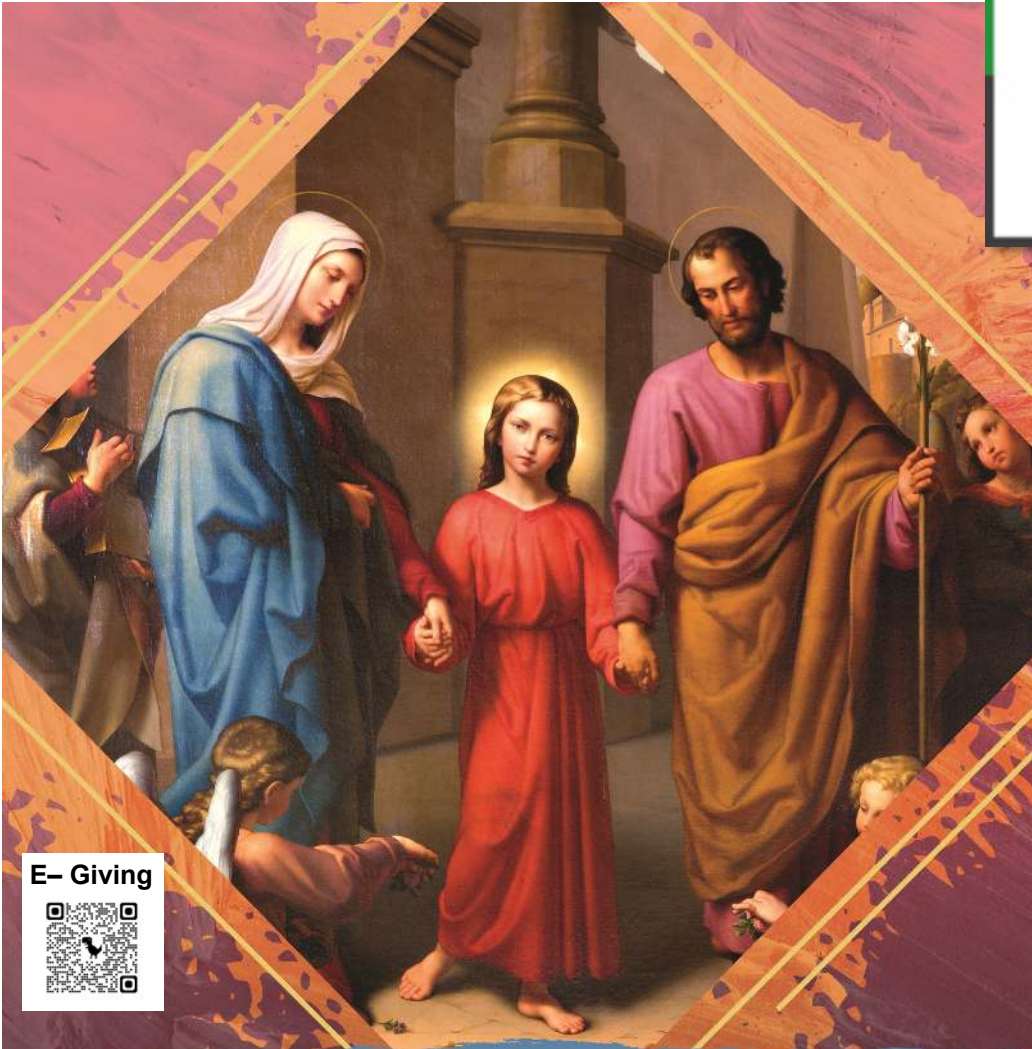


December 28, 2025

# 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](http://www.stmark-parish.org)



E- Giving



## THE HOLY FAMILY

He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth,  
so that what had been spoken through the  
prophets might be fulfilled. - Mt 2:23

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

⚓ 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

Bulletin Publication date:  
12/16/25

**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 December 29, 2025 - January 4, 2026

<b>MONDAY</b>	*No OCIA Formation
<b>TUESDAY</b>	
8:30am	<b>Liturgy of the Word/Daily Chapel</b>
2:00pm	Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/DC
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
	*No Food Pantry
7:00pm	<b>Liturgy of the Word/ Sanctuary</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>
10:00am	<b>Sol. of Mary, Mother of God Mass/ Sanct.</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	First Friday Rosary/DC
<b>SATURDAY</b>	
4:00pm	Reconciliation/Daily Chapel
5:30pm	<b>Mass/ Sanctuary</b>
6:45pm	Parish Life Wine and Cheese Social/ GH
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>
8:30am	<b>Mass/ Sanctuary</b>
10:30am	<b>Mass/ Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream</b>
12:30pm	Children's Formation/Classroom
5:00pm	OCIA(C-T)/ Classrooms
6:00pm	Teen Formation/ Great Hall

### Justice Peace

For information on our Justice & Peace Ministries visit:  
[www.stmark-parish.org/ministries/justice-and-peace](http://www.stmark-parish.org/ministries/justice-and-peace), or email:  
[justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org)

 January: 9-15oz. boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes/**Individual meals: tuna snack kits, pop-top soup/pasta**

#### SAVE THE DATES:

- **Day for All People Advocacy Day** Richmond: January 15<sup>th</sup>
- **9 Days for Life Novena:** January 16<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>
- **National March for Life:** January 23<sup>rd</sup>
- **Red Cross blood Drive:** Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>
- **CAST:** February 18<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>
- **Va March for Life:** April 22<sup>nd</sup>



To all who volunteered, donated, participated, and prayed with and for our St. Mark Justice & Peace Committee ministry this past year we **THANK YOU!**

#### Our Justice & Peace ministry wishes all a peace-filled and blessed New Year

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
 When the star in the sky is gone,  
 When the kings and princes are home,  
 When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of  
 Christmas begins:  
 To find the lost,  
 To heal the broken,  
 To feed the hungry,  
 To release the prisoner,  
 To rebuild the nations,  
 To bring peace among others,  
 To make music in the heart.

Poem by Howard Thurman from *The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations*

### Daily Readings

<b>MONDAY</b>	
<b>12/29</b>	1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35
<b>TUESDAY</b>	
<b>12/30</b>	1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
<b>12/31</b>	1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</b>
<b>1/1</b>	Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21
	<b>Tino Galang †</b>
	<b>Odilon Flores †</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>Mem. of Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church</b>
	1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
<b>1/2</b>	
<b>SATURDAY</b>	
<b>1/3</b>	1 John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34
	<b>Edna Gerardo †</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>
<b>1/4</b>	Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12
	<b>Chrstina Perez †, Policarpio Baylon †,</b>
	<b>Robert Tabaco †, Augusto Ramirez †,</b>
	<b>Elvira Rosario †</b>



Kathy Seddon, 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

**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.

**Wisdom Seekers** group monthly luncheons (2nd Friday of the month) for parishioners and friends 50+ years of age. The next luncheon on Friday, **January 9th, 12 pm** will be offsite at **Rib City-BBQ and Ribs Restaurant** (self-pay), 4688 Princess Anne Rd. VA Beach. **Please RSVP** Mary Shaw (757) 348-4460 by January 5th if you plan to attend.



# “Nourished by the Sacraments”

## A Reflection on Feast of Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph From Fr. Eric Asamoah

The **Feast of the Holy Family** is a movable feast, assigned to the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas. This Feast reminds us that God Himself chose to enter the human condition not in isolation, but within the embrace of a family. We celebrate then, the wondrous mystery that God's Son not only assumed our humanity but also became part of a family, the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

The first witnesses of Christ's birth, the shepherds, found themselves not only before the Infant Jesus but also a small family: mother, father and newborn son. God had chosen to reveal himself by being born into a human family and the human family thus became an icon of God.

In Nazareth, holiness of the Holy Family was lived not through grand gestures but through the quiet fidelity of daily love. The Holy Family stands as the model and mirror for all Christian families, calling us to live the Catholic life not in abstraction, but in the ordinary rhythms of home. This is what St. Paul is referring to in the second reading when he tells the Colossians and us to "put on love", as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility,

gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another.

The compassion that we have for the weakest member of the family, whether that be physically weak, psychologically weak, or morally weak, becomes our means to grow in union with God. The efforts that we make to accept each other's quirks are themselves acts of virtue.

This Jubilee Year of Hope calls to believe that God is still in our homes, our communities, and our world. Hope is not a wishful thinking; it is the confident trust that the same God who guided Mary and Joseph will guide us too.

If ever there were parents who hoped and trusted in God, it was surely Mary and Joseph. As pilgrims of hope, we also need to remember that hope is nurtured in the domestic Church, the Church in the home, the family.

As we honor the Holy Family, let us ask for Grace to make our homes places of faith, hope and love.

Let us, then make our families, places where Christ is welcomed, where forgiveness is offered freely, and where hope is nurtured daily. God be with you all.



Much thanks to the Arts and Environment Ministry for arranging the beautiful display of poinsettias at the altar and Commons highlighting the Christmas season with red and white “flowers of the Holy Night”.

### 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.

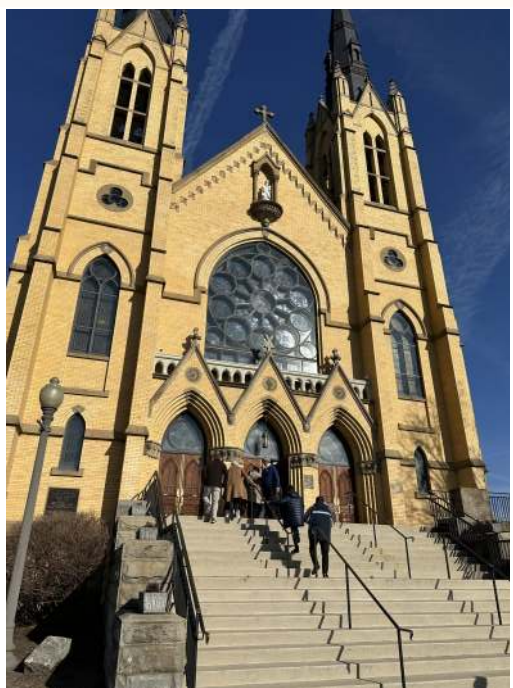
**MATRIMONY:** A date may only be set following a meeting with the Priest. Couples are required to give a six-months notice before planning a wedding.

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND 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.

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



## Closing the 2025 Jubilee Year With a “Pilgrimage of Hope” to Basilica of St. Andrew , Roanoke, VA



We are overjoyed to share the tremendous success of our recent Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Basilica of St. Andrew in Roanoke! We extend a heartfelt thank you to all 84 attendees—including 74 parishioners from St. Mark and 10 from Star of the Sea—who joined us as one faith family. It was truly a time of deep grace, renewal, and beautiful fellowship for all who participated. What a blessing to have walked this sacred journey together!

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



# Announcements/ Giving/ Contact Information



55 Parishioners provided Over 500 hours  
setting up, staffing, taking down and storing the lot,  
Together they sold all 400 trees!

*We look forward to seeing you again next year to take part in this  
unique opportunity to not only help the Food Pantry & other  
Ministries but also strengthen the fellowship among parishioners*



## Knights of Columbus - Persons of the Year

Every year, the Knights of Columbus recognize one Outstanding Young Man and one Outstanding Young Woman of the Year. Any young man or woman in high school grades 9 through 12, is eligible to submit an application. The application will ask you to provide information about achievements in academics, school, community church and family.

Application forms will be available on Sunday, January 11, 2026. Electronic version can be download from the Kempsville Council website: <https://kofc10515.org>, or by email request to Jim Waltz at [JWaltzFAM@outlook.com](mailto:JWaltzFAM@outlook.com) or Mike Kassel at [mka55e1@verizon.net](mailto:mka55e1@verizon.net) email or in an envelope attached to the Knight's TV wall in the Great Hall. Please copy Ms. Nicole Brimmer, Coordinator of Children's Formation, and your parents on all electronic emails related to Outstanding Young Man/ Young Woman applications.

Return applications should be submitted to Jim Waltz, Mike Kassel, or the St. Mark Religious Formation Office. When submitting finished applications, electronic files are preferred, but applications will be accepted in hard copy. The council winners (one young man and one young woman) will receive \$500.00 and a certificate of recognition from the council. Entry deadline is February 20, 2026.

## 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](mailto:nicole@stmark-parish.org)) or the parish secretary, and a member of the OCIA Team will contact you.



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](http://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](mailto:bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org) or call the parish office



Fiscal Year July-June	December 7	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$20,200</b>	<b>\$440,000</b>	<b>\$435,100</b>	<b>(\$4,900)</b>

Family Count: 790

Families using envelopes: 283

Families using online donation: 217



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

## Upcoming Parish Life Events and Announcements

- Parish Life will host a Christmas Season Wine & Cheese Social on Saturday, January 3rd after the 5:30 mass. If you plan to attend, please sign up at the Parish Life table by January 1st. All are welcome! POC is Linda Major 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 recently celebrating a December wedding anniversary!**

**Charles and Nina Dark - Dec. 29, 2018 (7 years)**

**Raphael and Jennifer Silinski - Dec. 29, 2012 (13 years)**

**Thomas Wenthe and Jane Ibeawuchi - Dec. 31, 2011 (14 yrs)**

## PARISH STAFF

Rev. Fr. Eric Asamoah.....	<a href="mailto:freric@stmark-parish.org">freric@stmark-parish.org</a>
Rev. Mr. John Kren.....	Acting Pastoral Associate
	<a href="mailto:deacon_john@stmark-parish.org">deacon_john@stmark-parish.org</a>
Sherry Smeland.....	Parish Secretary
	<a href="mailto:secretary@stmark-parish.org">secretary@stmark-parish.org</a>
Mary Ellen Cussen.....	Business Manager
	<a href="mailto:bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org">bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org</a>
Mark Smeland.....	Music Director
	<a href="mailto:music.director@stmark-parish.org">music.director@stmark-parish.org</a>
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.

## Fun Fact!



Did you know that Christmas doesn't end on December 25? The Church celebrates Christmas for many days after, reminding us that Jesus being born is that important! This week, try to keep the joy of Christmas going by doing one kind thing each day: helping a sibling, saying a prayer for someone else, or thanking God for a gift you received. Every act of love helps us share the joy of Jesus with the world.

