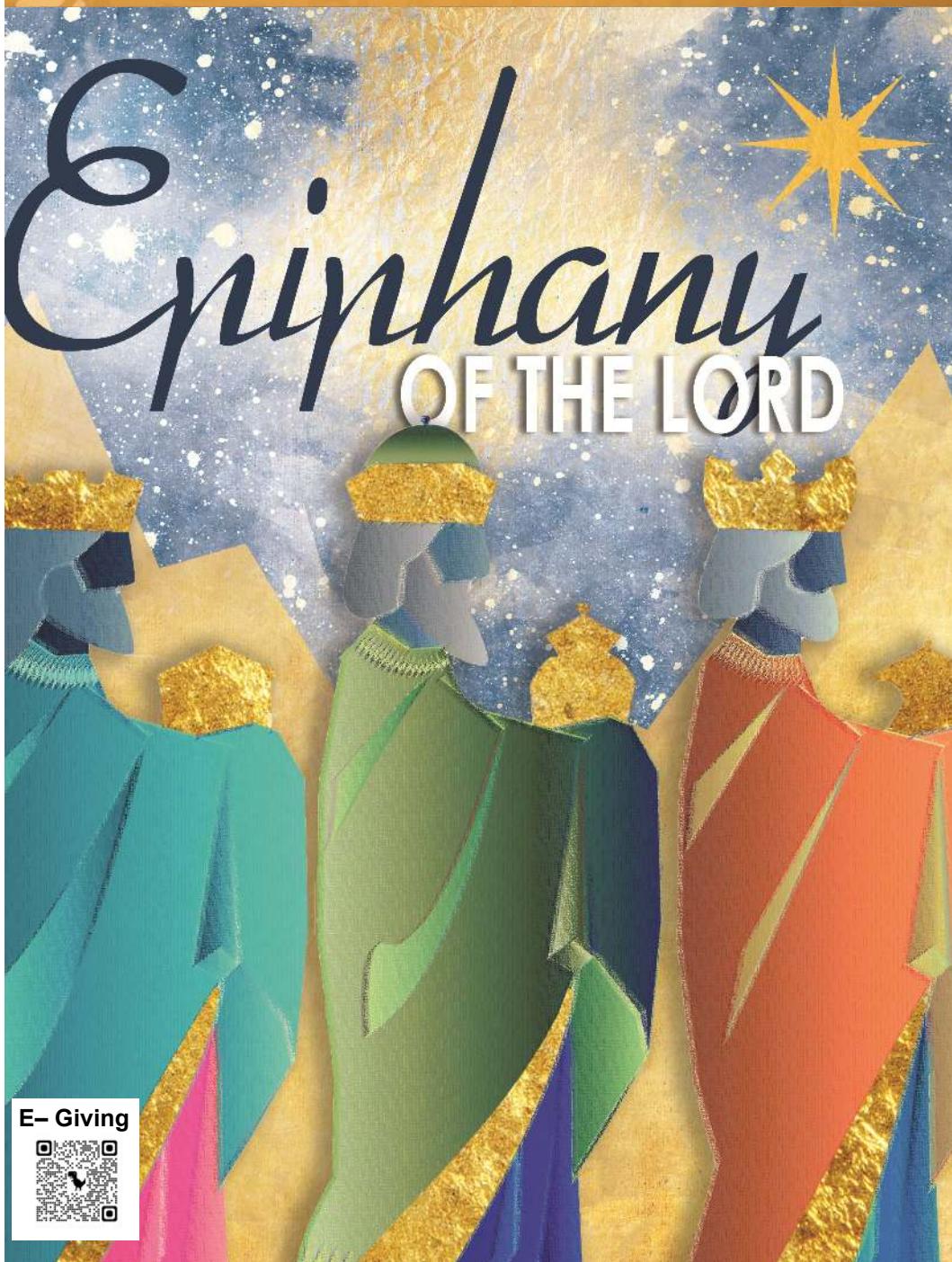


January 4, 2026

THE CATHOLIC  
CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*



**MASS SCHEDULE:**

Saturday: 5:30pm/  
Sunday at 8:30am and  
10:30am

**Daily Masses:**  
Tuesday/ Thursday at  
8:30am,  
Wednesday at 7:00pm

**Parish Office Hours:**

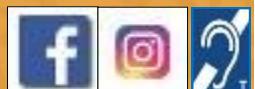
Monday-Thursday:  
9:00am - 3:00pm  
Sunday: 9:00am - 1:00pm

To learn more about our parish, visit our website:  
at [stmark.parish.org](http://stmark.parish.org)  
or visit:  
[www.facebook.com/  
CatholicChurchOfStMark](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicChurchOfStMark)

1505 Kempsville Rd.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464  
Phone: 757-479-1010  
Fax: 757-479-9453

"And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Mt 2:6

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



# "Rooted in the Word..."

## This Week at Saint Mark January 5 - January 11, 2026

<b>MONDAY</b>	*No OCIA Formation
<b>TUESDAY</b>	
8:30am	<b>Daily Mass</b> /Daily Chapel
9:00am	Mothers' Group/ Sanctuary and Nursery
9:30am	Seasons of Hope/ Library
2:00pm	Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/DC
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
10-1:00pm	Food Pantry/ Great Hall
6:00pm	Our Lady of Perpetual Help/ Sanctuary
6:30pm	Rosary/ Sanctuary
7:00pm	<b>Daily Mass</b> / Sanctuary
<b>THURSDAY</b>	
6:00am	Men of St. Joseph/Conference Room
9-11:00am	PLARN/ Great Hall
9-6:00pm	Adoration/Sanctuary
6:15pm	Evening Prayer/ Sanctuary
6:30pm	Benediction/ Sanctuary
7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary
<b>FRIDAY</b>	
12:00pm	Wisdom Seekers Luncheon/ Offsite
<b>SATURDAY</b>	
5:30pm	<b>Mass</b> / Sanctuary *Ministry Fair after all masses/ Great Hall
<b>SUNDAY</b>	
8:30am	<b>Mass</b> / Sanctuary
10:30am	<b>Mass</b> / Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream *Ministry Fair after all masses/ Great Hall
12:30pm	Children's Formation/Classroom
5:00pm	OCIA(C-T)/ Classrooms
6:00pm	Teen Formation/ Great Hall

## 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 or 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.

## 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

<b>MONDAY</b> 1/5	<b>Mem. of John Neumann, Bishop</b> 1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25
<b>TUESDAY</b> 1/6	1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 1/7	1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52
<b>THURSDAY</b> 1/8	1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22
<b>FRIDAY</b> 1/9	1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16
<b>SATURDAY</b> 1/10	1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30
<b>SUNDAY</b> 1/11	<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b> Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17 <b>Ricky Andrade, Sr. †</b> <b>Elvira Rosario †</b> <b>Matthew Shea †</b>



## Prayer Requests

Joseph Wargo, 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, call Ann Marie Cochran at 757-621-0699 for more details.

With sympathy, we extend our heartfelt condolences to St. Mark parishioner, Irma Caronan and family, on the passing of her mother, Yolanda Calling Rosacia on December 10, 2025. Ms. Rosacia's funeral was held December 19th at St. Mark. Please continue to pray for the Rosacia family.

# "Nourished by the Sacraments"

## A Reflection on Epiphany By Deacon John Kren

Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, those three kings of orient are. They came from far away, from the east by the guidance of a star based on a prophesy of an unnamed prophet. It is the basis of countless Christmas stories, nativity scenes and pageants.

This Solemnity of Epiphany is much more complicated though than gold, frankincense and myrrh. We romanticize it with beautiful songs and statues and paintings and images, but the journey for those astrologers must have been brutal.

So often the star must have faded from sight so that they could not see it. And yet, on they pressed. That star promised something they could not know, except their need to see whatever, whoever it was, driven to encounter the king. "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." This might also be our world.

How like them we are? We struggle in the world straining from darkness to see the shining light. We engage the deserts that surround us. Deserts of addiction, loneliness, hunger, families, fighting to keep things together. We are blinded by the storms of self-doubt, we may not believe that we are following the right path, even when we are. We are waylaid by the clouds of indifference, of pain, of sickness, or political turmoil and yet onward we must press; we must go forth; we must follow a star that we can sometimes lose sight of.

We saw his star and have come to do him homage. We must follow that star, and we must do it without compromise because this Epiphany is the journey of life and we are called to travel it bearing gifts for the newborn king, the light coming into the world.

The gold of our wealth, our talent, our persons, our energy, whatever that gold may be. The frankincense of our prayer, rising like incense above the fires and ruin of the world. The myrrh of our weakness and disappointments, poured out like soothing balm upon the Body of Christ. Dying to sin, to experience forgiveness and mercy. We are called to be the Magi of our time.



Many heartfelt thanks to the young members of Religious Formation for their wonderful "Children's Program of Lessons and Carols" presented on Christmas Eve. Special thanks to all involved in rehearsing with readers and singers, and especially the support of so many parishioners, family members and friends in the congregation. What a Christmas Eve blessing for all!



You are invited to join us for our 2026 St. Mark Ministry Fair on January 10th and 11th immediately following each Mass. This is an opportunity to learn about the many ways members of our parish live out their call to be the hands and feet of Christ, in our church, our community, and beyond. It's also a chance for you to discover where your own gifts might fit.

Where to begin? Make your way to the Great Hall after mass to attend the Ministry Fair where tables will be loaded with information about each ministry, and hosted by ministry coordinators and ministry members ready to share more even details about how you can lend your gifts and talents in each ministry and where to begin.

Ministries include Parish Life (includes coffee and donuts), Justice and Peace (includes Food Pantry and Heavenly Chefs), Liturgical Ministers (Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Lectors, Altar Servers, Rosary and Information Kiosk), Music Ministry, Religious Formation, PLARN, Samaritan Ministry (includes taking communion to residents in Chesapeake Place), Photography and more.

We hope you'll join us for the Ministry Fair. Together, we can grow in faith, strengthen our parish community, and work to bring Christ's love into the world—one gift, one ministry, one "yes" at a time.

## 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>



**Red Cross blood Drive:** Justice & Peace Ministry and Knights of Columbus are partnering to host a blood drive **Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 11am-5pm**. Sign up to donate at [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: CCSM to schedule an appointment or beginning January 11<sup>th</sup> sign up at our table in the Commons.



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.



Much thanks to the St. Mark music ministry singers, cantors and musicians pictured above at the 4:00pm and 7:00pm Christmas Eve Masses. If you would like to share your musical talents with St. Mark Music Ministry at the mass you attend, please contact Music Director, Mark Smeland at 757-479-1010 or stop by after any mass.

## Parish Life

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

• 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.

**Happy Anniversary to the following St. Mark parishioners recently celebrating a January wedding anniversary!**

**Ronald and Ruth Fererro - January 2, 1960 (66 years)**

**Bob and Susan Deml - January 5, 1974 (52 years)**

**Yvener and Wendy Plaisimond - January 5, 2015 (11 yrs)**

**Cris and Fe Guzman - January 6, 1990 (36 years)**



 Congratulations to the Belke family as Knights of Columbus recipients of the "Family of the Month" award. Ben and Aimee are active in multiple St. Mark ministries to include children's ministries, religious formation, and music ministry. Ben also participates in Knights of Columbus.



# Announcements/ Giving/ Contact Information



## 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.



Season of Hope begins the next session Tuesday, January 6th at 9:30am in the St. Mark library. For more details, call Dale Mullin at 757-647-6994 or Pat Winner at 757-615-2759.

## 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!



## Did you know?

Last week, we celebrated a special feast honoring **Mary, the Mother of God**. Even though the feast day has passed, Mary continues to teach us how to follow Jesus every day. She listened to God, trusted Him, and loved Jesus with her whole heart.

As we begin a new year, we can ask Mary to help us grow closer to Jesus in the months ahead. This week, choose one way to follow Mary's example, pray each day, be kind to someone who needs it, or help at home without being asked. Your small "yes" can make a big difference!



If you currently do not give online, but would like to be an online contributor, please sign up at: [giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stmarkv](https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stmarkv) 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 14	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$17,649	\$457,500	\$452,749	(\$4,741)

Family Count: 789

Families using envelopes: 192

Families using online donation: 197

## Additional Christmas Flowers

In Honor or Remembrance of the following loved ones:

Santiago and Genarosa  
Fernando  
Modesto Fernando  
Fernando Family  
Ernesto and Maria Paulo  
Gina Cruz  
Gloria and Italo Villella

Robert, Julia and Dennis  
Dwyer  
Brian Dutcher  
Marie and Jim Hurley  
Saturnino Dolor  
Victoria dela Cruz  
Criselda Fernandez  
Romeo dela Cruz

## Keeping Christ in Christmas Poster Contest Winners 2025



## 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.  
Phone: 757-479-9897 • Fax: 757-479-9453; Email: [fe@stmark-parish.org](mailto:fe@stmark-parish.org)