



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF Saint Mark

January 18, 2026 • 2nd Sunday In Ordinary Time

Welcome!

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Mass

Saturday: 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:30am and
10:30am

Weekday Mass

Tuesday and Thursday:
8:30am

Wednesday: 7:00pm

RECONCILIATION

1st and 3rd

Saturdays of the Month

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday:

9:00am - 3:00pm

Sunday: 9:00am - 1:00pm

OUR MISSION

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)



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.” - Jn 1:34

1505 KEMPSVILLE RD., VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23464

Phone: 757-479-1010 • www.stmark-parish.org

Email: secretary@stmark-parish.org

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“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark January 19th - 25th, 2026

MONDAY

6:30pm Justice and Peace Meeting/ Library
7:15pm OCIA Christian Formation/ CR

TUESDAY

8:30am Daily Mass/ Daily Chapel
9:30am Seasons of Hope/ Library
2:00pm Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/DC

WEDNESDAY

10:15pm Food Pantry/ Great Hall
6:00pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help/ Sanctuary
6:30pm Rosary/ Sanctuary
7:00pm Daily Mass/ Sanctuary

THURSDAY

6:00am Men of St. Joseph/Conference Room
8:30am Daily Mass/ Daily Chapel
9:00am “Day of Prayer for Legal Protection for
Unborn Children” Rosary/ Daily Chapel
9:15am PLARN/ Great Hall
11:00am Divine Mercy Chaplet/ Sanctuary
6:00pm Parish Pastoral Council Meeting/Conf. Room
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

9:00AM Junior Usher Training/Sanctuary
10:00am Lector Training/Sanctuary
5:30pm Mass/ Sanctuary
6:45pm MARKed Generation Youth Group/ GH
6:45pm KofC Exemplification /Daily Chapel

8:30am Mass/ Sanctuary
10:30am Mass/ Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream
12:15pm CAST Meeting/Library
12:30pm Children’s Formation/Classroom
5:00pm OCIC-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.

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.

Daily Readings

MONDAY

1/19 1 Samuel 15:16-23 ; Mark 2:18-22

TUESDAY

1/20 1 Samuel 16:1-13 ; Mark 2:23-28

WEDNESDAY Mem. of St. Agnes, Virgin, and Martyr

1/21 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mark 3:1-6
Frank Ndaya †

THURSDAY Day of Prayer for Legal Protection of Unborn Children

1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7 ; Mark 3:7-12

FRIDAY

1/23 1 Samuel 24:3-21 ; Mark 3:13-19

SATURDAY Mem. of St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27 ;
Mark 3:20-21
Brian Hruska †
Stanley Brannan

SUNDAY

1/25 **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Isaiah 8:23 -9:3; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17;
Matthew 4:12-23
Elvira Rosario †, Richard Burton†,
Janet Wright †



Fr. Dan Klem, Theresa Muller, Ron Still, 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

Please pray for the repose of the soul of the following St. Mark parishioners, mother and daughter:

Elaine Mateus and Lois Donovan

Let perpetual light shine upon them; may they rest in peace!

With sympathy, we extend our heartfelt condolences to St. Mark parishioner, Cathy Yarberry and family, on the passing of her mother, Loretta Nagle. Please continue to pray for the Yarberry-Nagle family.

"Nourished by the Sacraments"

A Reflection on Second Sunday In Ordinary Time By Fr. Eric Asamoah John 1:29-34

Welcome to Ordinary Time 2026. This is a split liturgical season so designated not because it is dull or boring in comparison with the Advent-Christmas seasons just completed or the Lent-Easter seasons to come. Ordinary Time allow us the space and time for the mystery of Christ, to unfold before us.

The first reading, Isaiah chapter 49 is attributed to Deutero-Isaiah (Second Isaiah), who wrote to comfort God's people during their Babylonian captivity assuring them that God will meet all their needs.

Although the people of Israel have been released from captivity and are returning home, they are discouraged and uncertain about the future. Deutero-Isaiah presents himself as the **Servant of God**, called from the womb to speak God's word and restore hope. Today's Responsorial Psalm echoes that call perfectly: "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."

John the Baptist also points the way to Christ saying, "**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.**" John draws the attention of his followers to Jesus as the true Messiah by identifying him as 'the Lamb of God', more like the **Servant of God** mentioned in the first reading, who has come to do God's will.

A logical sequence is unfolding here. Even though we are reading from Year A, with the Gospel of Matthew being the focus, today's Gospel is taken from John. This allows for the placing of Ordinary Time in continuity with the mysteries of the manifestations of Christ, celebrated at Christmas and Epiphany, (the Adoration of the Magi and the Baptism of the Lord).

John the Baptist's declaration of Jesus as the "Lamb of God" may not shock us today because Christ as the Lamb of God is a title very familiar to us. At Mass right before we receive Holy Communion, when the priest genuflects, takes the Blessed Host and, holding it slightly raised above the paten or above the chalice, he says "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world (cf. John 1:29). Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb (cf. Revelations 19:9)."

St Paul in the second reading writes to the Corinthians as one who has also been **called**, called to be an apostle, called to holiness, called by the will of God. The message is clear from the readings of today: It is we who are called – called to speak God's word, to strengthen one another, and to point the way to Jesus Christ. "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."



Thanks to all who participated to make the St. Mark Ministry Fair a success! Over 15 ministries and "sub-ministries" were represented. If you were not able to attend, and would like to know more, visit the Information Kiosk in the Commons for an updated Ministries List.

JUNIOR USHER MINISTRY

NEXT TRAINING JANUARY 24TH 9AM

serve in God's house
greet & assist parishioners
grow in faith

Join our Altar Serving Team!



This ministry welcomes all parish children from Grade 4 and up who have received First Holy Communion.

Contact Mike Archibeque to get started
marchibeque@me.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.

All teens are invited to join the MARKed Generation for faith, fun, and fellowship!

We've moved to a new night – the 4th Saturday of each month, right after the 530pm Mass. Come and bring a friend as we grow together in Christ and discover how God has marked each of us with His love and purpose.

St. Mark's Youth Group is for 6th -12th Graders.

“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

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

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

 St. Mark will be hosting **CAST February 18-25, 2026**. We are planning to serve the basic needs of up to 65 men, women, and children during this week.

Providing meals, fellowship, and a safe, caring environment. We will once again be hosting at the Chesapeake Cares Resource center located at 2255 Steppingstone Square, Chesapeake. **How can you help?** Watch for online sign-ups beginning **January 19th** for item donation and volunteer opportunities.

 **January Monthly Collection:** We are collecting dental floss, deodorant, body lotion and Chapstick. *Travel size only. These items will help support our upcoming CAST guests. Please place items in wooden bins in the Great Hall next to the Justice & Peace table.

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on Thursday Jan. 22. We will be hosting a rosary for life directly following the 8:30 morning Mass. Please join us as we pray for life.



The key aim of this ministry is to proclaim the gospel of the day to the young in a way that is best understood by them.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) manifests the church's hospitality toward children as Christian believers who are called, like everyone else, to grow in their faith through liturgical celebrations. CLOW derives ultimately from an insight of Vatican II: Liturgy must allow "legitimate variations and adaptations to different groups, regions, and peoples."

St. Mark is happy to provide CLOW to the children of St. Mark ages 4-6, or those who have not yet started their sacramental preparation year. Children's Liturgy is provided during the 8:30 and 10:30am Sunday Masses.



“I am the vine, you are the branches.”

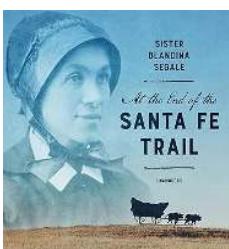
•Happy New Year and what a wonderful way to start the year by serving. A special thanks to all parishioners who participated in the Ministry Fair! Parish Life has several new volunteers added to our sub-ministries.

If you did not have a chance to attend the Ministry Fair, you can still join our amazing ministry in several ways. Go to our Parish Life website and read about us, or contact Linda Major at 757-615-0763 or email majormail@verizon.net.

•Lent is fast approaching! Stay tuned for our schedule of Meatless Suppers prior to Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent!

•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.

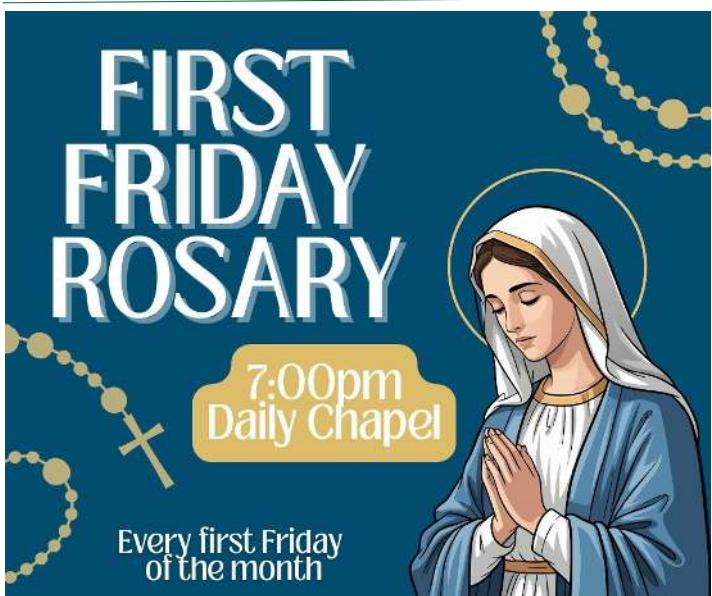
Wisdom Seekers Senior Group monthly luncheons (2nd Friday of the month September thru June) for parishioners 50+ years of age. Potluck luncheon, Valentine theme, February 13th, 12 pm, Great Hall. Dish to share: last name begins (A-M fruit or dessert, N-Z protein dish or salad). Please contact Mary Shaw at (757) 348-4460 for any general group questions.



Women's Book Club
February 10th at 6:30pm
St. Mark Library

At the End of the Santa Fe Trail, by Sr. Blandina Segale is about her fascinating experiences as a young Catholic nun in the southwestern United States from 1872 to 1892 at a time when lawlessness and brutality were the norm.

For more details, contact: Kdimichele76@gmail.com.



Announcements/ Giving/ Contact Information



We invite all married couples from throughout the Diocese of Richmond to participate in our Married Couples Retreat at The Blackburn Inn on April 17-18, 2026. The retreat is open to all couples. We'll have keynote presentations, prayer, Mass, Reconciliation, and plenty of time for couples to spend with each other in conversation and reflection. For details, visit evangelizerichmond.org/events/married-couples-retreat-3/



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	December 28	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$22,485	\$522,500	\$514,552	(\$7,948)

Family Count: 786

Families using envelopes: 204

Families using online donation: 89



Over this past year, innumerable people have come together to drive us forward as we share God's mission. Your generous gifts to parishes, ministries, schools, and the McMahon Parater Scholarship Foundation bring God's word to life. It is with deep and abiding gratitude that we at Catholic Community Foundation thank you for your support and contributions that make the following ministries possible:

Seminarian Education, Campus Ministries, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Segura Educational Initiative for Children, Marriage Support, Frank Parater, Fuel and Hunger Fund, Retired Priests, Pastoral Support, Saint Francis - Manchester, Home Mission Grants, Mother Teresa Fund, Migrant Ministry Parish Sharing, International Priests, Lay Leadership, Hispanic Ministry, Clergy Formation, Patrimony Restoration, Asian Ministry, Liturgy Workshops, Museum of VA Catholic History



Young Adult Spring Retreat 2026

March 20-22, 2026

Ramada Plaza Nags Head Oceanfront
Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina

* For details, visit <https://evangelizerichmond.org/events/diocesan-young-adult-retreat/>

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!



Fun Fact!

St. Sebastian, who's feast day we celebrate on Tuesday, is the **patron saint of athletes!** Athletes look up to him because he showed strength, endurance, and perseverance. That's because St. Sebastian stayed faithful to God even when life was very difficult, showing courage and trust in God no matter what challenges he faced. How can you be brave for God this week? Maybe by being kind, telling the truth, or standing up for someone who needs help.



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: 757-479-9453; Email: fe@stmark-parish.org