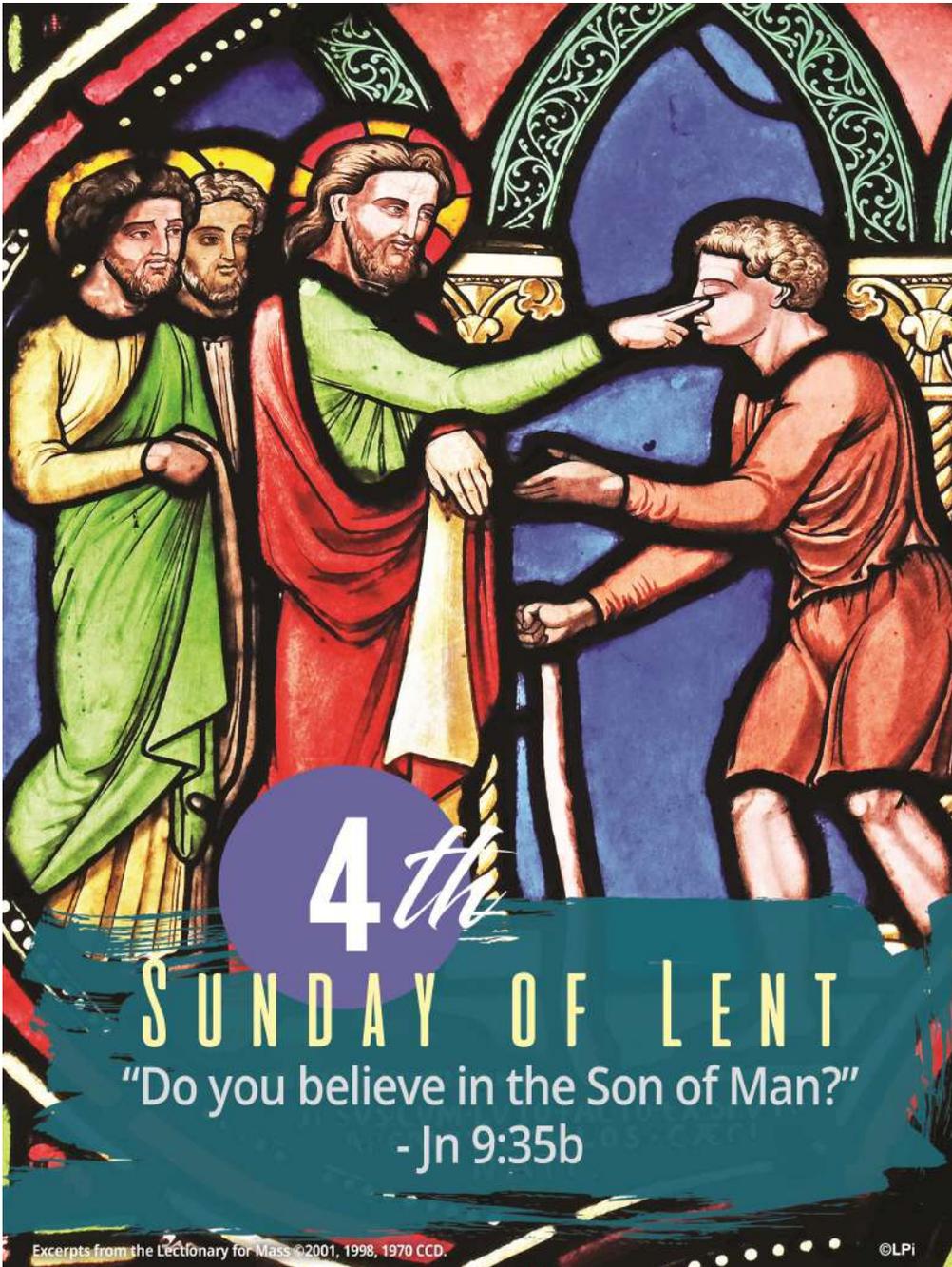




THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

March 15, 2026 • 4th Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday



4th
SUNDAY OF LENT
"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
- Jn 9:35b

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

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Welcome!

Save these 2026

St. Mark

Pilgrimage Dates!

1. Chrism Mass, Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond on March 30, 2026
2. Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine, Washington, DC on October 24, 2026
3. St. Mark Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi Nov. 9th-18th, 2026 to commemorate the Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi. (For more details about this pilgrimage, check out page 5 of this bulletin.)
4. The "One Nation Under God" 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage passes through Diocese of Richmond June 2-5, 2026.

Bulletin Publication
date: 3/9/26



“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark March 16th - March 22nd, 2026

MONDAY

6:30pm J&P Stations of the Cross/ Sanctuary
7:15pm OCIA Christian Formation/ Conference Room

TUESDAY

8:30am **Daily Mass**/ Daily Chapel
9:30am Adult Bible Study/ Great Hall
2:00pm Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/ DC

WEDNESDAY

10-1:00pm Food Pantry/ Great Hall
10-12:00pm Seasons of Hope/ Library
11:00am Divine Mercy Chaplet/ Sanctuary
6:00pm Family Formation Night/ Great Hall
6:00pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena/ Sanct.
6:30pm Rosary/ Sanctuary
7:00pm Daily Mass/ Sanctuary
7:00pm Adult Bible Study/ Library

THURSDAY

6:00am Men of St. Joseph/ Conference Room
8:30am **Sol. of St. Joseph Mass**/ Sanctuary
9-11:00am PLARN/ Great Hall
7:00pm **Sol. of St. Joseph Mass**/Sanctuary

FRIDAY

6:00pm Lenten Supper/ Great Hall
7:00pm Stations of the Cross/ Sanctuary

SATURDAY

8:00am Building and Grounds Mtg/ Great Hall
9-12noon OCIA (C-T) Retreat/ Classroom
4:00pm **Reconciliation/ Daily Chapel**
5:30pm **Mass**/ Sanctuary
6:45pm Chili Cook-off/Great Hall
7:45pm Teen Formation/ Great Hall

SUNDAY

8:30am **Laetare Sunday**
8:30am **Mass**/ Sanctuary
10:30am **Mass**/ Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream
12:30pm Children's Formation/ Classrooms
5-6:00pm OCIC-T/ Classrooms
6-8:00pm Teen Formation/ GH

Daily Readings

MONDAY 3/16

Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent
Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54

TUESDAY 3/17

Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent
Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16
Jimmy Creencia †

WEDNESDAY 3/18

Wed. of the Fourth Week of Lent
Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30

THURSDAY 3/19

Sol. of St. Joseph, Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary
2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

FRIDAY 3/20

Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent
Wisdom 2:1a,12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

SATURDAY 3/21

Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent
Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53
Carrie Groff †

SUNDAY 3/22

Fifth Sunday of Lent
Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11;
John 11:1-45
Anna Bryant †
Edwin and Ange San Miguel - Special Intention (Wedding Anniversary)



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.

Is OCIA for You?

If you are an individual who has not yet been baptized, 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.

“Nourished by the Sacraments”

A Reflection on Fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday Cycle A From Fr. Eric Asamoah

Today’s Gospel is a story of Jesus and the beggar born blind. In fact, the summary of today’s doctrine could be in one sentence: walk as Children of the Light. The story of the man who was a blind beggar mirrors the Christian journey from spiritual darkness to light. Born blind, symbolizing our state of original sin and lack of spiritual vision, the man encounters Jesus, the Light of the World.

Jesus heals him, not by assigning blame, but through a process involving spittle and clay, followed by washing in the Pool of Siloam; a clear prefigurement of Baptism, which enlightens us. Initially, the healed man has only partial perception, knowing Jesus merely as “the man called Jesus.” He progresses later to seeing Jesus as a prophet, then as someone “from God.” He then boldly defends Jesus before the Pharisees. His courage inspires us to stand up for our faith, even when challenged. This illustrates how baptism, faith, and enduring challenges lead us to fully see and embrace Christ.

The story is linked to the second scrutiny for it so exemplifies the progression of faith which we experience in the OCIA process leading to the reception of the Sacraments on Easter Vigil. A new life, a new creation, is born. Suddenly, out of the darkness of the blind beggar’s heart and his life, there comes a bright and shining light that takes him out of his sorrow and pain, or whatever it happens to be, and lifts him up so that he can walk freely and become a full person and love and care and reach out. No longer will he blind man stumble about in darkness.

The Son of Man has come into the world to rescue us from darkness, accompanies us in this life as our Light and Shepherd (Psalm 23, Resp. Psalm) and leads us to the splendor of the faith, as we pray in today’s Preface.

Hence there is the need to Rejoice. As we celebrate this Sunday called *Laetere (Rejoice)*, when the Lenten purple is lightened to rose, let us ask for the grace to see ourselves, our faults, our infirmities, but most of all to see and follow the Light of Christ, so that we may “live as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her: Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast, Is 66: 10-11. (Entrance Antiphon).



Congratulations to our newly Elect who participated in the Rite of Election February 28th at St. Bede Parish in Williamsburg. Please pray for our newly Elect as they continue to prepare for full initiation into the Church this Easter season!



Congratulations to the Janoka, Morla, and Botello families who celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism for their children at St. Mark on March 7th and 8th. Please pray God’s blessings for these children that they will live a new life in Christ and be nurtured by the example of their parents, godparents, and this faith community.

“Building the Kingdom of God by Imaging Christ”

Justice  Peace

Parish  Life

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

 **March:** 12-15 oz. Cheerios (or store brand), Granola Bars

 Join us **Monday, March 16th at 6 pm** in the Sanctuary as we walk and pray the Stations of the Cross through the lens of Justice & Peace.

 We are thankful and blessed to have received \$1000 from the “**2026 Richmond Diocese Rice Bowl Grant Fund**” to assist St Mark with our 2026 CAST program. We are also grateful and humbled to have received \$2500 from the “**2026 Diocese Respect Life Grant Fund**” that assists us in raising awareness on respect life issues and aids us in hands on helping Moms/Dads/ babies in need.

 **Spiritual Adoption/ Month Two:** Your baby is making progress developing all their external features and internal organs. Their brain is functioning at 40 days. Mom can hear their heartbeat now on an ultrasonic stethoscope. Baby-teeth buds are present at 6 ½ weeks. From this moment, your spiritually adopted baby grows and refines their body. But everything they need to survive after birth is already present by the end of the eighth week.

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

• **Come join us for Lenten Suppers** in the Great Hall at 6pm before Stations of the Cross (at 7pm) in the Sanctuary. Bring a meatless soup or dish to share. In accordance with the USCCB the norm for abstinence and fasting applies to those 18-59 years of age. Abstinence does NOT include meat juices and liquid foods made from meat. Therefore, meat broths are permitted when making meatless soups and dishes. Friday meatless suppers are on March 13, 20 and 27. A Lenten Supper schedule will be posted on the Parish Life bulletin board in the Great Hall.

• **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 will celebrate a March wedding anniversary this week!
Alfred and Fe Fenandez - March 22, 1986 (40 years)

Wine, Cheese & Chocolate Tasting Night



The Parish Life Ministry and the Knights of Columbus warmly invite all parishioners to a delightful evening of wine, cheese, and chocolate tasting on **April 17th at 8:00pm in the Great Hall.**

In addition to the tasting, Ben Salazar from the Knights, will briefly speak about Catholic Investing, offering insights into faith-based financial practices and values.

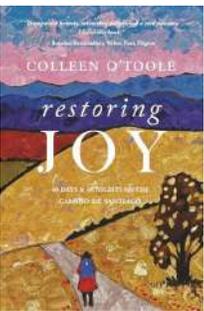
Join us for fellowship, fun, and the opportunity to sample a curated selection of delicious treats.

Whether you're a connoisseur or simply curious, this event promises a wonderful atmosphere to connect with friends old and new. We hope to see you there!

Women's Book Club

Restoring Joy: 40 Days and 40 Nights on the Camino de Santiago
 by Colleen O'Toole

April 14th at 6:30pm / Library



Join us for an amazingly transparent journey of a searching soul on “The Camino”, and the healing that happens along the way.

For more details, contact Kendra DiMichele at kdimichele76@gmail.com

Thank you for your prayers for our children who received their First Reconciliation last weekend. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they now prepare to come to the Lord's table for their First Holy Communion.



FAMILY FORMATION NIGHT

Faith • Fellowship • Fun



 **March 18th 6-7p**

 **Dinner provided. Please sign up using QR code**

LAKBAY NG PAG-ASA
 LANDAS PATUNGONG
 EMMAUS
 Fr. Ronnie Dolosa

ASIAN RETREAT

HÀNH TRÌNH HY VONG:
 ĐƯỜNG VỀ EMMAUS
 Fr. Hy Nguyen

After the Year of Jubilee of Hope, we seek to continue the journey of hope with Jesus. The Office of Asian Ministry will have its annual Asian Retreat.

APRIL 18, 2026
 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Catholic Church of St. Mark
 1505 Kempsville Rd. Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Register at: <https://cdrasianretreat2026.eventbrite.com>




Announcements/ Giving/ Contact Information



Bookkeeper Position

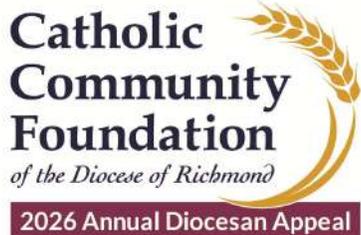
Bookkeeper sought for Catholic Church of St. Mark, Virginia Beach, VA. Responsibilities include maintaining accurate financial records and statements, payroll. Has strong accounting skills, sound judgment, and a commitment to advancing the mission of the parish and the Diocese. Supervisor is Fr. Eric Asamoah, pastor.

Contact 757-567-1010 or secretary@stmark-parish.org



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



Scan here to donate to the Annual Diocesan Appeal



For questions about your gift please call GiveCentral (833) 716-2612

Fiscal Year July-June	March 1	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$35,231	\$713,000	\$704,937	(\$8,063)

Family Count: 802

Families using envelopes: 233

Families using online donation: 231

Update: As of now, St. Mark has raised \$21,100 of our \$65,000 goal! We have reached 32% of our goal in just a few weeks!!! Much thanks for the speedy response and generous giving to the 2026 Diocesan Appeal.

How to obtain your 2025 Tax Statement:

From our website (stmark-parish.org), in the top Menu go to **Resources**.

From the drop-down menu, select **ParishSoft – Family Suite** and enter your username and password to login.

Note: If you do not already have a **ParishSoft** account you will need to create one.

- Once you have logged into ParishSoft, select **My Own Church**.
- Select **My Offering** from the menu on left.
- Select **Giving History** at the top of the page.
- On the giving History, page be sure **Funds is set to ALL**, and that **'Tax Deductible Only'** and **'Include Member Info'** are both selected and the **Year is set to 2025**.
- Next, click the 'Download' button and select "Statement" to save your Tax Statement to your device.

If you have any issues logging into ParishSoft, please contact the parish office at 757-479-1010.

Jubilee of St. Francis Assisi

St. Mark Church
A Pilgrimage to

ROME & ASSISI

NOVEMBER 9-18, 2026
\$6,743 PER PERSON FROM NORFOLK(ORF) BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

206 TOURS

For more details, contact the parish office at 757-479-1010 or fe@stmark-parish.org.

Kid's Corner

Meet St. Joseph!

This week (3/19) we celebrate St. Joseph, someone very special in Jesus' life. St. Joseph was the husband of Mary, Mother of Jesus and the earthly father who cared for Jesus when He was a child. The Bible doesn't record a single word spoken by St. Joseph...but his actions speak loudly! He listened to God, protected his family, and worked hard as a carpenter. Because of this, St. Joseph is known as the protector of families, patron saint of workers, and is known as the patron of the Universal Church. This week try to be like St. Joseph, help with a chore at home, be kind to your brother or sister and pray for your family.



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 IgnacioAssistant Music Director
 Brian Gridley.....Facility/IT Coordinator
 Renee McCroskey.....Nursery Supervisor
 Hank Harzold.....Parish Council Chairman
 Tom SmithCustodian
 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