



# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

March 22, 2026 • 5th Sunday of Lent



## 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" - Jn 11:43

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

*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.

1505 KEMPSVILLE RD., VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23464

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## “Rooted in the Word...”

### This Week at Saint Mark March 23rd - March 29th, 2026

#### MONDAY

7:15pm OCIA Christian Formation/ Conference Room

#### TUESDAY

8:30am **Daily Mass/ Sanctuary**  
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  
6:00pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena/ Sanct.  
6:30pm Rosary/ Sanctuary  
7:00pm **Sol. of the Annunciation of the Lord Mass/ Sanctuary**

#### THURSDAY

6:00am Men of St. Joseph/ Conference Room  
8:30am **Daily Mass/ Sanctuary**  
9-11:00am PLARN/ Great Hall  
6:00pm Parish Pastoral Council Meeting/ CR  
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary  
7:00pm Adult Bible Study/ Library

#### FRIDAY

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

#### SATURDAY

5:30pm **Mass/ Sanctuary**

#### SUNDAY

8:30am **Palm Sunday**  
10:30am **Palm Sunday Mass/ Sanctuary**  
**Palm Sunday 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 3/23

**Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent**  
Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62;  
John 8:1-11

#### TUESDAY 3/24

**Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent**  
Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30  
**Dante Ignacio †**

#### WEDNESDAY 3/25

**Sol. of the Annunciation of the Lord**  
Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10;  
Luke 1:26-38

#### THURSDAY 3/26

**Felipe and Elvira Rosario †**  
**Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent**  
Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59

#### FRIDAY 3/27

**Juanita Flores †, Deng Maingot †**  
**Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent**  
Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42

#### SATURDAY 3/28

**Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent**  
Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56  
**Cynthia Mendoza †**

#### SUNDAY 3/29

**Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**  
Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-7;  
Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66  
**Ernest Soriano †, Gregory Calabrese †**



William Ruiz, Leilani Remias, Leonardo Remias, Ron Ferrero, Ruth Ferrero, Luis San Ciaguel, Joseph Perine, Marie Amella, Fr. Dan Klem, Theresa Muller, Joseph Wargo, Kathy Seddon, Don Coons, Dana Reid, Merla Marcelo, Henrietta Mayr, Creed Clawson, Jayme Oliveira Filho, Louisa Morrison, Dare O'Ravitz, Angie Hudson, Caroline Padilla, Gigliola Kamp-Casto, Erlinda Mariado, Lorraine Stambaugh, Susan Colonna, Lexie Murray, Adriane Pennington, Rosendo Ibanez, Reynaldo Francisco, Annora Steiner, Jay Davis, Chandler Brewer, Val Kandis

\* Prayer Requests may remain in the bulletin for one year.

### 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.

### 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.



**HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2: 7:00 p.m.**

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3: 12:00, 7:00 p.m.**

**HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4 (VIGIL): 8:00 p.m.**

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5: 8:00, 10:30 a.m.**

### 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)

# “Nourished by the Sacraments”

## A Reflection on Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A From Deacon John Kren

In Lent we hear and we sing of Lenten journey. We hear and pray about conversion, growing from one stage to another, to live in between the old and the not yet. We have left behind four weeks of our Lent. We are on the edge of the last weeks, almost days, of Lent. Movement, change, conversion. Over the last weeks the tension has been mounting between Jesus and everyone around him. Some have come to believe through His word, some have come to see through His signs, His miracles. This is Jesus’ last miracle in John’s gospel, a resurrection that leads to death. This gospel brings together all levels of belief and reflecting their hopes and prayers for meaning in their lives.

In the Gospel each of the characters tell of their faith journey. The Disciples, do not question why Jesus waits two days before he decides to respond to the ‘prayer’. They advise against getting involved.

Mary and Martha, a faith filled family calls out to God for help. We have experienced these prayers, the family dynamics especially in stress filled situation as illness or death. Each family member has different needs and different expectations. Martha’s expectation of Jesus is that he is a miracle worker. Martha needed a miracle to believe. Mary waited for the Lord’s call and when it came, answered immediately.

There are the Jews, the mourners who have nothing to do at all with Jesus because he does not fit their idea of what God’s plan is for them. For them Jesus is a curiosity that entertains and sparks some good discussions.

For Jesus, this is the end of His ministry. Now approaching His darkest hour in Jerusalem, this death of His dear friend Lazarus, will become a sign of the Glory of God – a resurrection, life from death that foretells the death for life.

**Jubilee of St. Francis Assisi**




**St. Mark Church**  
A Pilgrimage to

# ROME & ASSISI

November 9 – 18, 2026


**\$6600 per person**  
from Norfolk (ORF)

\*All Pricing Based on Double Occupancy  
Pricing available from any airport:  
[www.206tours.com/tours](http://www.206tours.com/tours)

Spiritual Director:  
**Fr. Eric Baffour Asamoah**

Group Leader:  
**Fe Guzman**



For more details, contact the parish office 757-479-1010 or [fe@stmark-parish.org](mailto:fe@stmark-parish.org)



### PLARN Ministry Quarterly Update

Fr. Eric blessed this quarter’s donation of 42 mats and 3 tote bags on Thursday, March 13th. These were delivered to PiN Ministries, and warmly received. Thanks to all those who have given time and talent to help the Virginia Beach homeless population through this very important ministry.



**Our Lady of Fatima,  
pray for us!**

Daughters of Our Lady of  
Fatima Prayer Group meets on  
Tuesdays at 2PM in the chapel.

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>




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Forming Catholics for Life.


FORMED.ORG IS FULL OF GREAT CATHOLIC RESOURCES,  
INCLUDING DAILY REFLECTIONS, AUDIO AND VIDEO CONTENT,  
AND MORE.



# “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

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



**Spiritual Adoption Month Three:** Your baby is quite active in the womb now - although her mother will not feel her for another couple of months. If her mother's womb had a window, you could watch your spiritually adopted baby squint, swallow and move her tongue. She can make a tight fist if you touch her palm. She is breathing amniotic fluid which continues until birth, although she obtains the oxygen her body needs through the umbilical cord. The baby you are praying for weighs one ounce.

 **RICE BOWL** Don't forget to fill your Rice Bowl with change, bills or a check and return to the marked box by welcome desk by **April 1<sup>st</sup>**. Did you know that 25% of what is donated to Rice Bowl comes back to our diocese to help those in our community who are in need. Still need a Rice Bowl pick one up in Great Hall.

 **VB Women's Jail Ministry:** Thank you to all who donated items! Through your generosity we were able to donate over 150 individual items. Your kindness will touch the hearts of the women in VB jail who are currently going to trial or those being released. Thank you!



## Virginia MARCHforLIFE RICHMOND, VA

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

RALLY 10 AM | MARCH 11 AM

We are working to gather a group from Saint Mark in this decisive year to march together at our state capital in Richmond.

Watch for more information or contact jgridley@cox.net



K of C Kempsville Council 10515

## Congratulations



### Annual Outstanding Young Man/Young Woman of the Year Selection

Riccardo Girardi

Reina Jade Rivera



Each Awardee will receive an award of \$500 from Council 10515. Awardees will be entered into this year's Knights of Columbus State Council's statewide competition



### 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 Life

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

• Easter Vigil is fast approaching! We will have our **Easter Vigil Reception following the Vigil Mass on Saturday, April 4th**. Anyone who plans to attend the reception is encouraged to bring food to share. **Please bring food on disposable dishes only**. There is a sign up sheet on the Parish Life table with a list of food needed. Please sign up to ensure we have enough food for those who attend! POC is Linda Major at 757-615-0763.

• Parish Life will host an **Easter Egg Hunt** on Sunday, April 12th after the 10:30 mass. More details to follow! POC is Linda Major at 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.

**Happy Anniversary to the following St. Mark parishioners will celebrate a March wedding anniversary this week!**

**Mike and Sue Farley - March 26, 1982 (44 years)**

**Wisdom Seekers Senior Group monthly luncheons** (2nd Friday of the month September thru June) for parishioners 50+ years of age. Potluck luncheon, Easter theme, **Friday, April 10th, 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.



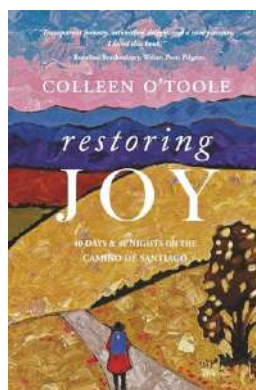
### Wine, Cheese & Chocolate Tasting Night

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, there will be a brief presentation 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](mailto:kdimichele76@gmail.com)

# Announcements/ Giving/ Contact Information



## Bookkeeper Position

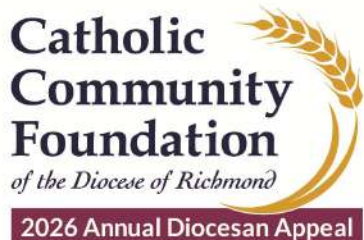
Bookkeeper sought for Catholic Church of St. Mark, Virginia Beach, VA. Responsibilities include maintaining accurate financial records and statements, payroll. Has strong accounting skills, sound judgment, and a commitment to advancing the mission of the parish and the Diocese. Supervisor is Fr. Eric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

Contact 757-567-1010 or [secretary@stmark-parish.org](mailto: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](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



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 8	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$28,676</b>	<b>\$730,500</b>	<b>\$733,613</b>	<b>\$3,113</b>

Family Count: 805

Families using envelopes: 204

Families using online donation: 188

**Update: As of now, St. Mark has raised \$49,795 of our \$65,000 goal! We have reached 77% of our goal in just a few weeks!!! Much thanks for the speedy response and generous giving to the 2026 Diocesan Appeal.**

## 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, we're so glad you're here!

We invite you to learn more about the process through which we welcome or reconnect you with the Catholic Church, The journey is guided by members of our parish community, but is ultimately a personal journey in which you will grow in your identity as a Catholic. OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) meets Monday nights.

If you are interested in learning more and/or beginning OCIA, please contact the Formation Office ([nicole@stmark-parish.org](mailto:nicole@stmark-parish.org)) and a member of the OCIA Team will contact you

## How to obtain your 2025 Tax Statement:

From our website ([stmark-parish.org](http://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.

## 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)

## Kid's Corner

What a Great Day!

This week the Church celebrates a special feast called the Annunciation. On this day we remember when the angel Gabriel visited Mary with an amazing message from God. The angel told Mary that she had been chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ, God's Son. Even though Mary was surprised, she trusted God and said "yes" to His plan. Because of Mary's yes, Jesus would come into the world to save us!

As we get ready to celebrate this feast this week, we can try to follow Mary's example by trusting God and saying "yes" when He calls us to love and serve others. What is one way you can say "yes" to God this week?

