



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

March 29, 2026 • Palm Sunday



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." - Mt 21:9

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

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Welcome!

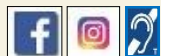
Save these 2026

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: 3/23/26



“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark March 30th - April 5th, 2026

MONDAY

7:15pm No OCIA Christian Formation/
2:30pm Chrism Mass Departure/ parking lot

TUESDAY

8:30am **Daily Mass/ Sanctuary**
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 **Daily Mass/ Sanctuary**

THURSDAY

6:00am **Holy Thursday**
9-11:00am Men of St. Joseph/ Conference Room
9-11:00am PLARN/ Great Hall
7:00pm Holy Thursday Evening Mass/Sanctuary

FRIDAY

Good Friday
11:00am Divine Mercy Novena / Daily Chapel
12:00pm Stations of the Cross/ Great Hall
7:00pm Good Friday Service/ Sanctuary

SATURDAY

11:00am **Holy Saturday**
8:00pm Divine Mercy Novena / Daily Chapel
Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter/ Sanctuary

10:30pm Easter Vigil Reception/ Great Hall

SUNDAY

8:00am **Resurrection of the Lord, Easter Sunday**
10:30am **Easter Sunday Mass/ Sanctuary**
Easter Sunday Mass/ Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream
11:00am Divine Mercy Novena/(at home)
*No Religious Formation

Daily Readings

MONDAY

3/30

Monday of Holy Week

Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11

TUESDAY

3/31

Tuesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38

Deacon John Sadowski †

WEDNESDAY

4/1

Wednesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25;

John 13:1-15

Deacon John Sadowski †

THURSDAY

4/2

Holy Thursday - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14;

1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

Peter Johnson †, James Johnson †

FRIDAY

4/3

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

Isaiah 52:13 -53:12;

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

SATURDAY

4/4

Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

Genesis 1:1-2:2; Exodus 14:15-15:1;

Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11,

Matthew 28:1-10

Deacon Mike Johnson †, Sol Aquinaldo †,

Marguerite MacDonald †

SUNDAY

4/5

The Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4;

John 20:1-9

Paul James Dean †, Bob Smith †,

Martha Murphy †, Dottie Unchester †

Ebele Izuegbunam (Special Intention-

Birthday Thanksgiving)

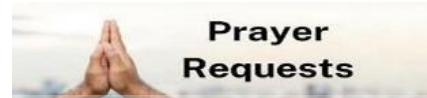


HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2: 7:00 p.m.

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.



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.

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)

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.

“Nourished by the Sacraments”

A Reflection on Palm Sunday From Fr. Eric Asamoah

Today we stand at the threshold of the holiest week of our faith, Holy Week. Jesus enters Jerusalem for the last time. This entry inaugurates the final phase of His earthly mission. Jesus is revealed definitively as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, fulfilling the ancient promise that the offspring of the woman would crush the serpent's head. He comes, not as an all-conquering warrior, but as a gentle, humble bearer of Good News.

The palm branches that were used to pave Jesus's way into Jerusalem, were a symbol that foreshadowed Christ's victory over sin and the grave (Revelation 7:9). **Our procession today with Palm branches is meant, then, to be an image of something deeper, to reflect the fact that, together with Jesus, we are setting out on pilgrimage along the high road that leads to the living God. For this pilgrimage in today's liturgy the Church proposes Psalm 24, as the “song of ascent”, urging us to journey to God with clean and pure hearts.**

Hopefully, for some of you at St Mark, this pilgrimage will take you also to Italy; St Francis's village and that of Padre Pio in this year of Franciscan Jubilee. Another way to extend the Kingdom of God, here at St. Mark to all parts of the world. May our efforts in this era of the Great Jubilee (2033) never be in vain. Let us all say, **Amen.**

Palm Sunday is a day of contrasts: we begin with joy, waving palms and proclaiming, “Hosanna to the Son of David!”, yet we soon enter into the solemn reading of the Passion, where the same voices cry out, “Crucify Him!” This dramatic shift invites us to look deeply into our own hearts and ask: Where do I stand when the cross appears?

The Servant of God suffers in carrying out his mission in the first reading. But he is sustained by the firm belief that God will not abandon him. Despite rejection, God's servant will not be defeated. This gives hope to all who face trials.

We see Jesus betrayed by a friend, abandoned by His disciples, falsely accused, mocked, scourged, and crucified. Yet through it all, He remains faithful to the Father's will.

“Though He was in the form of God, He did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant”, (Philippians, 2:6). This is the heart of today's Passion narrative, God's love is not about power over us, but service for us.

This week gives us an opportunity to look at our own commitment to truth and justice, and at our loyalty to Christ and His Gospel. But in doing this we must not lose sight of the central character in this sordid story, namely, **Christ Jesus Himself.** Our Lord Jesus shows us that the only way to overcome evil is by good, just as the only way to overcome darkness is by light. He, the sinless one in whom there was no trace of darkness, died a victim of the powers of darkness. But this time darkness did not have the final say.

To truly live Holy Week then, we must slow down and walk with Jesus.

On **Holy Thursday**, Jesus invites to Stay with Him in the Upper Room, where He gives us His Body and Blood, the Holy Eucharist, and keep watch with Him in Gethsemane.

On **Good Friday**, we stand with Mary His Mother, on mount Calvary where Jesus is crucified for our salvation. There we let the sacrifice of Christ our Savior speak to our hearts, where He shows the depth of His love.

We will wait in silence at the empty tomb of our Savior on **Holy Saturday**, where death is defeated forever. Trusting that God is at work even when all seems lost and to rejoice in the victory of life over death, light over darkness.

Let us not rush to Easter without passing through the Cross. The Resurrection has meaning only because of the Passion of our Lord.

May we walk with Jesus all the way to Calvary, so that we may also share in the joy of His Resurrection.



Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena

Join us to pray the Divine Mercy Novena during Holy Week, April 3rd through April 11th at 11:00am in the Daily Chapel. (On Easter Sunday, the Divine Mercy novena will be prayed independently.)

On Divine Mercy Sunday, April 12th, the Divine Mercy Chaplet prayers will be said in lieu of the Rosary before Mass. Divine Mercy Chaplet pamphlets will be available before we begin praying the prayers.

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/airports

206 TOURS
EST. 1988

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

SCAN

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

ASIAN RETREAT

HÀNH TRÌNH HY VỌNG:
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>


QR Code to Register

“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

 **Foods of Month April:** 19-30 oz. Plastic Jar Grape Jelly/\$5 McDonalds Gift card/Tuna Snack Kits/ Pop Top Individual Meals

 **Migrant Ministry:** Now through the month of April, we are collecting items for the Eastern Shore Migrant Ministry male workers. Items needed are new or gently used Men’s baseball or sun Hats, men’s socks, men’s sneakers, or work shoes sizes 6-10, men’s long sleeve shirts, men’s boxer briefs, gardening gloves. Please NO extra large items. Please place items in the marked bin in Great Hall next to the Justice & Peace table. Contact Justice & Peace via the links above for more information. **Deadline for donations is Sunday, May 3rd!**

Virginia March for Life: St Stephen, Martyr KofC are sponsoring a bus to Richmond for the state March for Life For more information or to sign up visit: <https://ssmatholic.org/march-for-life-bus>

Virginia March for Life

April 22, 2026

Stand for the Dignity of the Unborn! Registration Now Open.
KOC is sponsoring a bus to Richmond for the state-wide March for Life

8:00 AM - Bus Departs from St. Stephen, Martyr

Chick-fil-A Breakfast Biscuits and Coffee are generously provided



Catholic Church of St. Mark presents *family* MOVIE NIGHT



Saturday,
April 18

Doors open at 6:45PM
Movie Starts at 7p

Families are invited to bring a picnic dinner.
The MARKed Generation will have popcorn
and candy by donation.



SCAN the QR code to RSVP today!

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.

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.



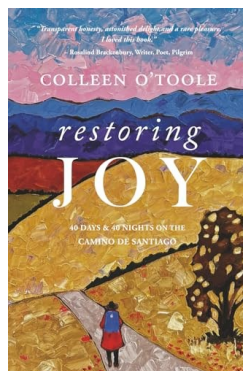
Wine, Cheese & Chocolate Tasting Night

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

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 Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 9:00am – 3:00pm; Sunday 9:00-1:00pm

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



2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Scan here to donate to the Annual Diocesan Appeal



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

Fiscal Year	March 15	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
July-June				
Offertory	\$17,221	\$754,500	\$750,834	(\$3,666)

Family Count: 809

Families using envelopes: 200

Families using online donation: 203

Update: As of now, St. Mark has raised \$53,920 of our \$65,040 goal! We have reached 83% 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.

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



Kid's Corner

Today we celebrate **Palm Sunday**, the day Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The crowds were so excited to see Him that they waved palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna! Hosanna!" (which means "save us!"). They welcomed Jesus like a king!

At Mass today you received a **palm branch** to remind us of the joy and praise the people showed when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem. Palm Sunday also marks the **beginning of Holy Week**, the most important week of the Church year, as we walk with Jesus on the road to Easter.

