



# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

April 19, 2026 • 3rd Sunday of Easter



## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER



They set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" - Lk 24:33-34

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. The "One Nation Under God" 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage passes through Diocese of Richmond June 2-5, 2026.
4. St. Mark Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi Nov. 9th-18th, 2026 to commemorate the Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi.

Bulletin Publication date:  
4/13/2026



## “Rooted in the Word...”

### This Week at Saint Mark April 20th - April 26th, 2026

<b>MONDAY</b>	
7:00pm	Team Meeting/ CR
<b>TUESDAY</b>	
8:30am	<b>Daily Mass/ Sanctuary</b>
9:30am	Adult Bible Study/ Great Hall
2:00pm	Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/ DC
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
11:00am	Divine Mercy Chaplet / Sanctuary
6:00pm	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena/ Sanct.
6:30pm	Rosary/ Sanctuary
7:00pm	<b>Daily Mass/ Sanctuary</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	
6:00am	Men of St. Joseph/ Conference Room
8:30am	<b>Daily Mass/ Sanctuary</b>
9-11:00am	PLARN/ Great Hall
10-1:00pm	Food Pantry/ Great Hall
6:00pm	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting/ CR
7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary
7:00pm	Adult Bible Study/ Library
<b>FRIDAY</b>	
<b>SATURDAY</b>	
5:30pm	<b>Mass / Sanctuary</b>
6:45pm	MARKed Generation Meeting/ Great Hall
6:45pm	Parish Life Reception/ Great Hall
<b>SUNDAY</b>	
8:30am	<b>Mass/ Sanctuary</b>
10:30am	<b>Mass/ Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream</b>
12:30pm	Children’s Formation/ Classrooms
5-6:00pm	Adapted OCIA (C-T) Formation/CL
6-8:00pm	Teen Formation/ Great Hall

**Wisdom Seekers Senior Group monthly luncheons** (2nd Friday of the month September thru June) for parishioners 50+ years of age. Potluck luncheon, Spring theme, **Friday, May 8th, 12 pm**, Great Hall. Dish to share: last name begins (A-M protein dish or salad, N-Z fruit or dessert). Please **contact** Mary Shaw at (757) 348-4460 for any general group questions.

#### 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.

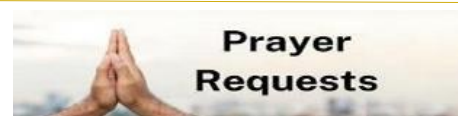
**RECONCILIATION:** Celebrated 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at 4:00 p.m.

#### 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

<b>MONDAY</b> 4/20	<b>Monday of the Third Week of Easter</b> Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29
<b>TUESDAY</b> 4/21	<b>Tuesday of the Third Week of Easter</b> Acts 7:51-8:1a; John 6:30-35 Lori Thompson †
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 4/22	<b>Wed. of the Third Week of Easter</b> Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40 Michelle and Paul Mucci (Special Intention)
<b>THURSDAY</b> 4/23	<b>Thursday of the Third Week of Easter</b> Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51 Henri Bassene †, Marie Louise Bassene †
<b>FRIDAY</b> 4/24	<b>Friday of the Third Week of Easter</b> Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59
<b>SATURDAY</b> 4/25	<b>Feast of St. Mark, evangelist</b> 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Mark 16:15-20 Crescencio Miranda †, Daniel Walker †, Margaret Leake †
<b>SUNDAY</b> 4/26	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 2:20b-25; John 10:1-10 Saturnino Dolor †, Dante Acedo †



Helena Kuhnley, William Ruiz, Leonardo Remias, Ron Ferrero, Ruth Ferrero, 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.

With deep sadness, we share the passing of a beloved former parishioner, **Jean A. (Ireland) Morgan**, who entered eternal rest peacefully on February 18, 2026. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 11:00 AM here at St. Mark, followed by an inurnment in the Columbarium. Please keep Jean’s family and loved ones in your prayers. May Christ grant her eternal rest and peace.

With heavy hearts, we share the passing of our beloved parishioner, **Martha Murphy**, who entered eternal rest on February 18, 2026. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Mark Parish on June 27 at 11:00 AM, followed by a reception in the Great Hall. Please keep Martha and her family in your prayers. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

# “Nourished by the Sacraments”

## A Reflection on Third Sunday of Easter From Fr. Eric Asamoah

*"Two disciples were making their way to a village named Emmaus...In the midst of their lively exchange, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them." (Luke 24:13-15)*

We know that during most of this seven-mile walk with Jesus, the two disciples failed to recognize the true identity of their travel companion. When all three have arrived at their destination and are having supper, Jesus takes bread, blesses it, breaks it and gives it to them. All at once the two recognize him, but instantly He vanishes from their sight.

The two were empowered enough to go in haste to share the Good News with the disciples. They said to each other so beautifully and memorably, *"Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32)*

Jesus is Risen and walks with us. He is always with us in all moments of life, even when we do not recognize Him. Peter, empowered by the events of the resurrection, stood up with the eleven apostles, to proclaim Jesus as the Risen Lord and Messiah in the first reading.

Peter testified about Jesus and how His death and resurrection were also foretold by the prophets. He affirmed that Jesus had been raised from the dead, a fact to which he and the other apostles were witnesses, affirming the resurrection as a central aspect of the Christian faith. The disciples urge us to live with hope and trust in our Savior's promise of everlasting life.

Beloved, Jesus encourages us to look for him in our daily lives. He is with us in prayer, in the Eucharist, and in the people we meet. In our celebration - and reception - of community, gathered around the table of the Lord, we are challenged to see both how Christ is present in the Eucharist, and also how Christ is present in us. (St Frances de Sales).

Jesus is present when we gather around the table and share bread, yes; but this table is embodied whenever we, too, take hold of our lives, give thanks, then give our lives away.

Jesus is seen whenever people focus more on what brings them together and less upon those things that would drive them apart. When we open our hearts to Him, our faith grows stronger. Amen.



Throughout the Season of Easter, let us continue to look for Jesus in our daily lives as we gather around the table of the Lord and share bread, celebrating how Christ is present in the Eucharist, and present in us as we did on Easter Sunday.

Easter blessings continue throughout the Easter Season for the newly baptized at St. Mark. We pray they have found the Easter Vigil a time of prayer, joy and renewal as they are now part of the Body of Christ. Keep them in your prayers!

## 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.

# “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](http://www.stmark-parish.org/ministries/justice-and-peace), or email: [justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org](mailto: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:** 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. Place items in the bin in Great Hall next to the Justice & Peace table. **Deadline is Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>!**



**Do you volunteer at St Mark and/or outside our parish community?**

**JOIN US May 2<sup>nd</sup>** after 5:30 Mass in the Great Hall as we host a **Volunteer Reception** offering light hors d'oeuvres and token gifts for all. We wish to recognize, celebrate, and thank anyone who gives of their time anywhere here at St Mark as well as outside our walls in the community (EMTS, Teacher aides, hospitals, etc.). We will also have a table throughout the weekend with small token items of our appreciation for all who give of your time, talent, and treasure.



**Spiritual Adoption/ MONTH FOUR:** Welcome to the second trimester, your baby now weighs six ounces. They have fingernails and eyelashes.

They have their own unique fingerprints. Their taste buds are working, and sense of hearing is developing and present at 14 weeks. Your spiritually adopted baby is already well-formed, internally, and externally. Rapid eye movements have been observed – a sign of dreaming.

**CRS RICE BOWL** Thank you to all who participated in our CRS Rice Bowl this year. Please watch the bulletin for an update on our collection. **FORGET** to turn in your filled rice bowl? Please drop it off at the Parish office this week.

## Parish Life

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

- The Feast of St. Mark will be celebrated on Saturday, April 25th. There will be a potluck dinner after the 5:30 mass. Bring a dish to share! POC is Linda Major at 757-615-0763.
- **Happy Anniversary to the following St. Mark parishioners will celebrate an April wedding anniversary this week!**  
**Matt and Katie Lessard - April 23, 2022 (4 years)**  
**Scott and Nancy Weigel and - April 25, 1987 (39 years)**  
**Kyle and Mariangela Williams - April 25, 2015 (11 years)**

### Parish Life 2026 Easter Egg Hunt—A HUGE Success!

What a blessing! Much thanks to so many who came out Sunday after Mass, sharing time and energy for our littlest parishioners. Below is one of the special Golden Eggs found by one of our “Young Kids”. Special thanks to this year's wonderful Easter Bunny from St. Mark's MARKed Generation Youth Group!



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](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



## Catholic Community Foundation

of the Diocese of Richmond

### 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 July-June	April 5	Needed Year to Date	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$27,005	\$821,000	\$816,051	(\$4,949)

Family Count: 804

Families using envelopes: 431

Families using online donation: 201

### 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.....[freric@stmark-parish.org](mailto:freric@stmark-parish.org)  
 Rev. Mr. John Kren.....Acting Pastoral Associate  
[deacon\\_john@stmark-parish.org](mailto:deacon_john@stmark-parish.org)  
 Sherry Smeland..... Parish Secretary  
[secretary@stmark-parish.org](mailto:secretary@stmark-parish.org)  
 Mary Ellen Cussen.....Business Manager  
[bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org)  
 Mark Smeland.....Music Director  
[music.director@stmark-parish.org](mailto: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](mailto:fe@stmark-parish.org)



### Easter Flowers

In memory or honor of:

Gary Colvin  
 Jeanne Carlock  
 Henry Thornburg  
 Pete Grizzard  
 Father Eric B. Asamoah  
 Nancy Garritson



## FRANCISCAN JUBILEE YEAR

as proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV for the 800th anniversary of the passage of St. Francis of Assisi

### PILGRIMAGE

NOVEMBER 9 – 18, 2026

Spiritual Director: Fr. Eric Baffour Asamoah

For more details, contact [fe@stmark-parish.org](mailto:fe@stmark-parish.org)

### Fun Fact!

When we make the Sign of the Cross, we are calling on God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and remembering that we belong to Him. The cross we trace on our bodies reminds us of how much Jesus loves us and how He died to save us. It's also a simple prayer we can say anytime, before we pray, before meals, or when we need God's help, to surround ourselves with His love.



### Kid's Corner