



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

April 26, 2026 • 4th Sunday of Easter



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



"Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." - Jn 10:2-3

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Welcome!

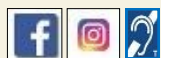
Save these 2026

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:
4/20/2026



“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark April 27th - May 3rd, 2026

MONDAY

7:15pm OCIA Christian Formation/CR

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
6:00pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena/ Sanct.
6:30pm Rosary/ Sanctuary
7:00pm **Daily Mass/** Sanctuary

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

7:00pm First Friday Rosary/ Daily Chapel

SATURDAY

4:00pm Reconciliation/ Daily Chapel
5:30pm **Mass /** Sanctuary
6:45pm J&P Volunteer Reception/ Great Hall
6:45pm Youth Plant Sale/ Location TBA

SUNDAY

8:30am **Mass/** Sanctuary
10:30am **Mass/** Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream
11:45pm Youth Plant Sale/ Location TBA
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.

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)

Daily Readings

MONDAY

4/27

Monday of the Fourth Week of Easter

Acts 11:1-18; John 10:11-18

TUESDAY

4/28

Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Easter

Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30

Justice Lopez †

WEDNESDAY

4/29

Mem. of St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Acts 12:24 -13:5a; John 12:44-50

Teodoro Calimlim, Jr. †

Jonathan Calimlim †

THURSDAY

4/30

Thursday of the Fourth Week of Easter

Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20

Emmanuel Mane` †

FRIDAY

5/1

Friday of the Fourth Week of Easter

Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6

SATURDAY

5/2

Mem. of St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14

Christine Manga †, Stewart McKinnon †,

James McLean †

SUNDAY

5/3

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

Cledor Mane` †, Corazon Pablo †,

Fidel Mendoza †



Charles Sweeney, 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.

Is OCIA for You?

We invite you to learn more about the process through which we welcome or reconnect you with the Catholic Church. If you are interested in learning more and/or beginning OCIA, please contact the Formation Office(nicole@stmark-parish.org) and a member of the OCIA Team will contact you

To learn more about our parish, visit our website at: stmark-parish.org or visit: <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicChurchOfStMark>

“Nourished by the Sacraments”

A Reflection on Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday From Fr. Eric Asamoah

Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday and also marks World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The Church teaches that God calls each of us to a unique vocation—a way of life ordered to His will—whether through marriage, the single life, religious life, or ordained ministry. Today Good Shepherd Sunday, we will hear once more the words of that great psalm: ‘The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want’.

The portion of the Fourth Gospel that is read today (John 10:1-10) states that Jesus is the “Gate of the sheepfold.” He is the only way and the one access we have to the Household of God and to our heavenly Father, the only path that leads to our heavenly Homeland. He also knows the best way to sustain us on our journey back to God from where we came. Without Him, we lose entirely the necessary orientation that keeps us safe and secure. That is why we need to constantly cling unto Him through prayer. Prayer is the means by which we “hear His voice” and respond to His call. Prayer can bring us to be reflective, to contemplate, to see and hear the actions and whisperings of the Holy Spirit in our lives. When we are reflective, we gain insights – we see things and we see people as God wants us to see them.

Today we are asked to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, but we should not forget that all Christians have a fundamental vocation to be loving and caring people. The Church needs shepherds who lead not with power, but with love and service. In our homes we need parents who really care about their children, who spend time with them, and who still care for them even when they disappoint them. In our schools we need teachers who know their pupils and who take a personal interest in their well-being. In our hospitals we need doctors and nurses who care about their patients and who do not treat them as objects. In public life we need people who care about the welfare of others rather than their own selfish interests.

Whereas there are several types of vocations that we pray about, we want to join the Church in praying that many more people will accept the Lord’s call to become priests and religious; for the harvest is rich but the laborers are still few. Blessings.



World Day of Prayer for Vocations

“There is no salvation through anyone else.” Let us pray for those who are called to follow the Lord as a priest or religious brother or sister that they may generously say YES. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.




What a humbling blessing it was to host the Annual Asian Retreat, sponsored by the Office of Ethnic Ministry, last Saturday, April 18. We gathered as one community, rich in diverse cultures, backgrounds, and stories, yet united in one faith. This retreat reminded us that God is continually at work in our lives, calling us to trust more deeply, to witness more boldly, and to grow together as one body in Christ. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the St. Mark volunteers for their generous support and hospitality in welcoming nearly 150 participants from across the diocese.


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


“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 May:** 9-15oz. boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes/ **Individual meals: Tuna Snack Kits, Pop-Top soup/pasta**

 **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 3rd!**

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

JOIN US May 2nd 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.

 **Blood Drive:** Justice & Peace Ministry and Knights of Columbus are partnering to host a blood drive **Tuesday, May 26th from 11am-5pm.** Sign up to donate at www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter: CCSM to schedule an appointment sign up at our table in the Commons/Great Hall.

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!**
Ernie and Sharon Forni - May 8, 1982 (44 years)
Mr. and Mrs. Ernesto Soriano - May 10, 1970 (56 years)



If you will be between the ages of 16 and 35 by August 2027, you are invited to be part of this once-every-few-years global gathering—an experience like no other. Join thousands of young Catholics from around the world for a week of prayer, catechesis, and liturgy that reveals the beauty and universality of our faith. Registration is open through August 30, 2026.



Catholic Church of St. Mark 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



In honor of the 250th anniversary of our Nation, Bishop Knestout invites the faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond to spend the day at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. On Saturday, October 24, 2026, we will entrust the care of our country to the maternal care of Our Lady, Patroness of the Americas. St. Mark will have a bus reserved for parishioners for a fee.

St. MARK July 20-24 9a-12p

RAINFOREST FALLS

VBS is for rising Kindergartners through rising 5th Grade.

\$40 / 1 Child
\$70 / 2 Children
\$100 / 3+ Children

Save the Date:
Youth Group Plant Sale Begins
May 2nd-3rd
(after all Masses)



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 July-June	April 12	Needed Year to Date	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$17,547	\$838,500	\$833,598	(\$4,902)

Family Count: 804

Families using envelopes: 154

Families using online donation: 195

Update: As of now, St. Mark has raised \$66,700 of our \$65,040 goal! We have reached 103%! Much thanks for the speedy response and very generous giving to the 2026 Diocesan Appeal.



St. Mark's kitchen renovation has begun! Work will continue Monday through Friday, from 6:45 AM to 3:45 PM. We are especially grateful to our dedicated volunteers who are helping monitor the progress and keep things running smoothly. Contact the Parish Office with questions about Great Hall use during the renovation.



Regional Outreach Meeting on Catholic Funeral Rites and Planning

Outreach Staff from the Office of Cemeteries and Funeral Services (OCFS), a Ministry of the Diocese of Richmond will be holding a Regional Outreach at Saint Mark Catholic Church in Virginia Beach on May 7th at Noon and 6:30pm to inform you about the spiritual and practical reasons for learning about Catholic funeral planning and the Order of Christian Funeral Rites, practices and traditions.

There will be a short presentation along with a question-and-answer session in the parish hall. Please take advantage of this opportunity to better understand the importance of a Catholic funeral rites and the benefits to pre-planning your funeral arrangements.

Lunch at noon and Dinner at 6:30 will be served during the presentation.

Please RSVP to rwash@richmonddiocese.org

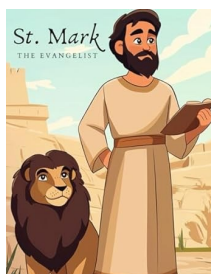
Safe Restroom Use by Children

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!

Did You Know?

This week we celebrate St. Mark the Evangelist, one of the writers of the Gospels! His Gospel is the shortest, but it's full of action and shows Jesus doing amazing things right from the start. St. Mark is often shown with a lion, a symbol of courage, because he boldly shared the Good News about Jesus.

Kid's Corner



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