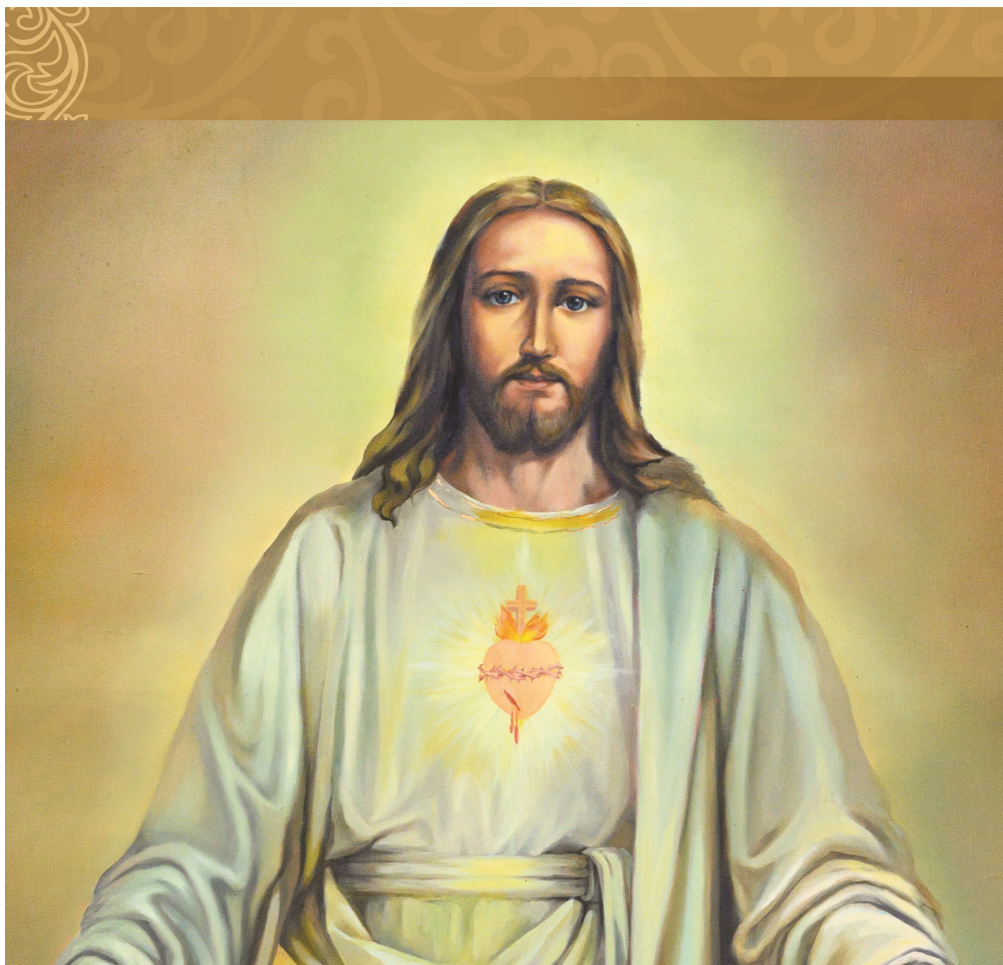




# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

May 3, 2026 • 5th Sunday of Easter



## 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me." John 14:1

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

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Email: [secretary@stmark-parish.org](mailto:secretary@stmark-parish.org)

*Welcome!*

*Save these 2026*

*St. Mark*

*Pilgrimage Dates!*

The "One Nation Under God" 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage passes through Diocese of Richmond June 2-5, 2026.

2. Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine, Washington, DC on October 24, 2026

**3. St. Mark Pilgrimage: Rome and Assisi Nov. 9th-18th, 2026!**

Join us to commemorate the Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi.



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



Bulletin Publication date:  
4/27/2026



## “Rooted in the Word...”

### This Week at Saint Mark May 4th - May 10th, 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  
12:00pm Funeral Services Presentation/ Great Hall  
9-6:00pm Adoration/ Sanctuary  
6:15pm Evening Prayer/ Sanctuary  
6:30pm Benediction/ Sanctuary  
6:30pm Funeral Services Presentation/ Great Hall  
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary  
7:00pm Adult Bible Study/ Library

#### FRIDAY

12:00pm Wisdom Seekers Potluck/ Great Hall

#### SATURDAY

5:30pm **Mass /** Sanctuary  
6:45pm Youth Plant Sale/ Location TBA

#### SUNDAY

8:30am **Mass/** Sanctuary  
10:30am **Mass/** Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream  
11:45am In-person Baptism Class/ Sanctuary  
11:45pm Youth Plant Sale/ Location TBA  
\*No Formation Classes

### Daily Readings

**MONDAY** **Monday of the Fifth Week of Easter**  
5/4 Acts 14:5-18; John 14:21-26

**TUESDAY** **Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter**  
5/5 Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a  
Corazon Pablo †, Leilani Remias †

**WEDNESDAY** **Wed. of the Fifth Week of Easter**  
5/6 Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8  
Maria C. Ortiz †

**THURSDAY** **Thursday of the Fifth Week of Easter**  
5/7 Acts 15:7-21; John 15:9-11  
Maria Socorro Peterson †

**FRIDAY** **Friday of the Fifth Week of Easter**  
5/8 Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17

**SATURDAY** **Saturday of the Fifth Week of Easter**  
5/9 Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21  
Maria Still †, Jim Drewiske and Kate Gregor (Special Intention of Wedding Day Blessing)

**SUNDAY** **Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
5/10 Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18;  
John 14:15-21  
Margaret Mary Donovan †,  
Carlos Tabaco †

**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.



Chandler Brewer, 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, 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. for more details.

## “Nourished by the Sacraments”

### A Reflection on Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

From Deacon John Kren

After Christ’s resurrection, the infant church began to grow and the Apostles, the early bishops, could no longer meet the needs of the converted Greek gentiles and the Hebrews widows. “For it is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table.” The Greek word for serve is “diaconia”. The Deacon even today is ordained to the service of the Bishop. This early Diaconate existed for about 300 years before being suppressed about the time of the Council of Nicaea and some of the functions were added to the formation of priests.

In the concentration camps of World War II, the priests, ministering to their fellow captives, could not minister to everyone. As they made their visits they saw men ministering to their camp members. After the war, the Second Vatican Council discussed the reinstatement of the ministry of service, and it was recognized in 1967.

Today’s Deacon is one of the three orders of ordained ministers: Bishop, Priest and Deacon. Deacons are ministers of Word, Sacrament and Charity. He is ordained by the Bishop for life with an indelible mark on his soul. He promises obedience and respect to the Bishop and his successors. The Bishop assigns Deacons most often to a parish where they offer their service. Deacon is the married clergy of the Church but cannot remarry. Because Deacons generally have families, they rely on jobs. It is said that the role Deacon is to bring the people to the church and the priest’s role is to bring the church to the people. As clergy, the Deacon can officiate at Baptisms of Children, Marriages, Wakes and Funerals. The service role of the Deacon is seen at mass as they stand close to the Bishop or priest but behind always ready to assist. The words and actions of the Deacon at mass are those that instruct such as “Let us offer one another the sign of Peace” or “Go forth the mass is ended” and preparing the altar.

Information about the Diaconate in the Diocese of Richmond is available in the Directory section the Diocesan website or talk with Deacon John.



As described above, Deacon John’s service role as Deacon was seen at our recent Easter Vigil as he stood close to Fr. Eric, but behind ready to assist in the baptisms of the Elect. He also assisted at the altar, and instructed the congregation to “Go forth, the mass has ended”.

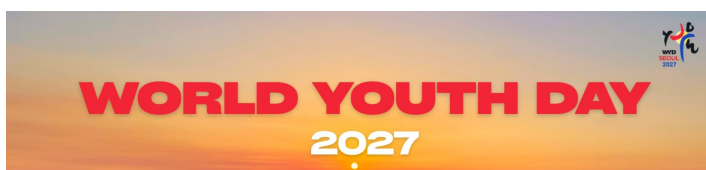
If you are interested learning more about the Diaconate, contact Deacon John or Fr. Eric at the Parish Office after Mass or during regular business hours.

### 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 Parish Office and a member of the OCIA Team will contact you.



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 in **Seoul, Korea** for a week of prayer, catechesis, and liturgy that reveals the beauty and universality of our faith. Registration is open through August 30, 2026. Contact Fe Guzman in the RF office for details.



**In honor of the 250<sup>th</sup> 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.



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](mailto:fe@stmark-parish.org)


**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](http://www.stmark-parish.org/ministries/justice-and-peace), or email: [justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org)

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

 Thank you to all who participated, we raised **\$1326.00** for the 2026 CRS Rice Bowl. A special thank you to our Religious Formation classes for their efforts and raised \$900 of this total.

 **Migrant Ministry:** Do you still have donations for the migrant workers? Please drop them off to the marked bin in Great Hall this week.

 **Baby Layettes:** As we honor our blessed mother and all mothers this May, we are collecting baby layette items: onesies, sleepers, blankets, and baby booties to help us in putting together layettes for Moms in need. We also are asking for handmade (knitted or crocheted) baby blankets. Please place items in wooden bins in the Great Hall next to the Justice & Peace table by June 7<sup>th</sup>.

 **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.

### 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!



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

**RAINFOREST FALLS**

VBS is for rising Kindergarteners through rising 5th Grade.

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

## Parish Life

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

• **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)



Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who brought and served food for potluck Saturday night and **two** breakfasts at Feast of St. Mark celebrations April 25-26! What a blessing!



**Plant Sale!** And a lot more!

**MARKED GENERATION**

STARTS  
MAY 2/3  
AFTER ALL MASSES

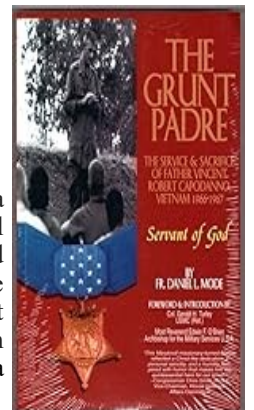
**Support our youth!**  
Proceeds go towards summer youth events!

**Independent seller?**  
Reserve a table to promote and sell your product!

Contact [fe@stmark-parish.org](mailto:fe@stmark-parish.org) for more details

**Women’s Book Club**  
*THE GRUNT PADRE - The Service & Sacrifice of Fr. Vincent Robert Capodanno, Vietnam 1966-1967,*  
by Fr. Daniel Mode  
**June 9th at 6:30pm / Library**

Join us for the story of Fr. Capodanno, a Maryknoll missionary who left his small Taiwanese parish to support the men and women of the U.S. Marine Corps. where they faced the threat of death on the most forward edge of the firing lines in South Vietnam. For more details, contact Kendra DiMichele at [kdimichele76@gmail.com](mailto:kdimichele76@gmail.com).



# Announcements/ Giving/ Contact Information

## Ministers Meeting 30 May 2026

St. Mark Liturgy Committee will hold a general ministers meeting on Saturday, May 30, 2026 from 9 AM – 12 PM. This meeting is for current liturgical ministers. The purpose of the ministers' meeting is to provide an opportunity for the ministry coordinators to reinforce current expectations to include a walk-through, and to address those little items needing attention. Breakout sessions for those serving in multiple ministries can attend more than one session, followed by "question-and-answer" opportunities. Refreshments will be available in the Great Hall. Sign-up sheets are in the Commons.



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

Scan here to donate to the Annual Diocesan Appeal



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

### 2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal

**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**

Fiscal Year July-June	April 19	Needed Year to Date	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$17,041	\$856,000	\$850,000	(\$5,361)

Family Count: 808

Families using envelopes: 173

Families using online donation: 172

### Kitchen Renovation:

#### Update (April 26, 2026)

The contractor began work on April 13. You can see the sheets of plastic trying to contain the dust and the dirt. All the equipment has been removed to the walls. Some items will be reused and others recycled. New items have been ordered. The wall between the kitchen and the nursery has been taken down, and will be repositioned to give more space to the kitchen. The floor has been cut open to reposition drainpipes and brought in compliance with current building code. As with any remodel of a nearly fifty-year-old building, a few items have been uncovered that need repair and are being updated.



## 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rwash@richmonddiocese.org)**

### 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  
 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](mailto:fe@stmark-parish.org)

### Fun Fact!

## Kid's Corner

We celebrate **Saint Philip the Apostle** and **Saint James the Less** on the same day, TODAY, May 3! **Phillip** was one of the first disciples Jesus called. He was excited to follow Jesus and couldn't wait to tell his friend Nathanael, "We have found the Messiah!" Philip reminds us to share the good news with others. **James** was a leader in the early Church in Jerusalem. He was known for being faithful and wise. James reminds us to **live what we believe** every day.

This week be like Philip and James, tell someone about Jesus or show His love through a kind act this week!

