



# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

May 17, 2026 • Ascension Sunday



## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

"As they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight."  
Acts 1:9

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

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*Welcome!*

*Save these 2026*

*St. Mark*

*Pilgrimage Dates!*

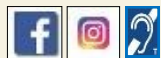
1. The "One Nation Under God" 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage passes through Diocese of Richmond June 2-5, 2026.
2. Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine, Washington, DC on October 24, 2026
3. **St. Mark Pilgrimage: Rome and Assisi Nov. 9th-18th, 2026!**  
Join us to commemorate 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:  
5/11/2026



# “Rooted in the Word...”

## This Week at Saint Mark May 18th - 24th, 2026

### MONDAY

6:30pm Justice and Peace Meeting/ Library  
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  
7:00pm Confirmation/ Prince of Peace Catholic Ch.

### WEDNESDAY

10-1:00pm Food Pantry/ Great Hall  
10:00am Seasons of Hope/ Library  
11:00am Divine Mercy Chaplet/ Sanctuary  
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  
10am -12pm Youth Ministers' Meeting/ Classroom  
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary  
7:00pm Adult Bible Study/ Library

### FRIDAY

### SATURDAY

8:00am Building and Grounds Meeting/ Great Hall  
5:30pm **Mass** / Sanctuary  
\*Baby Bottle Drive after all Masses

### SUNDAY

8:30am **Mass**/ Sanctuary  
10:30am **Mass**/ Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream  
\*Baby Bottle Drive after all Masses

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

### Daily Readings

**MONDAY**  
5/18

**Mon. of the Seventh Week of Easter**  
Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-33

**TUESDAY**  
5/19

**Tues. of the Seventh Week of Easter**  
Acts 20:17-27; John 17:1-11a

**WEDNESDAY**  
5/20

**Wed. of the Seventh Week of Easter**  
Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19  
**Janet Wright †, Eugene Hudnall, Jr. †**

**THURSDAY**  
5/21

**Thurs. of the Seventh Week of Easter**  
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; John 17:20-26

**FRIDAY**  
5/22

**Fri. of the Seventh Week of Easter**  
Acts 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19

**SATURDAY**  
5/23

**Sat. of the Seventh Week of Easter**  
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21:20-25  
**Fr. Charles †, Fr. Joseph Clark †,  
Deacon Mike Johnson †**

**SUNDAY**  
5/24

**Pentecost Sunday**  
Genesis 11:1-9; Romans 8:22-27;  
John 7:37-39  
**Agapito Amio †, Dennis Heinlein †  
Constancio Francisca Cochon †,  
Epifania and Peter Mariano †**



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.

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

# “Nourished by the Sacraments”

## A Reflection on Ascension of the Lord Sunday From Deacon John Kren

The Easter season is drawing to a close. In earlier times Ascension was celebrated on Thursday, exactly 40 days after the Resurrection of Easter morning. Easter events that realized what had been prophesied through the Old Testament and crucifixion. From the Resurrection over these forty days Jesus had still been bodily among the Apostles, been seen by them and even eaten with them, reassuring them that even though he was dead, he is with them -- alive.

The Ascension is an “in between”, a transition from earth to heaven, humanity to divinity, from prophesy to fulfillment. Ascension is also a visible sign of the new promises made by Jesus that tie together heaven and earth in a new way, a new Power, where all Power has been given to Jesus. There is a New Spirit, a new relationship, a new Covenant. With Jesus at His Father’s right hand, we have an advocate to petition for forgiveness, for mercy, for grace. We have an assurance that even if Jesus is not present in His humanity, He is here in the new Covenant of Bread and Wine.

Do we preach the excitement of how our lives have been changed? Faith develops a passion for a willingness to sacrifice comfort and self, for passion for service, for passion for the needy. Our Faith must reflect the Easter Season --- there must be resurrection, rising to challenges even when we cannot see the goal, rising to excellence, rising to the joy of an eternal Easter, risen in our flesh and in the body of this community of faith. Next week the promises are already starting to unfold with the coming of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. Pentecost -- fifty days after life emerged from the tomb. The seed planted on Good Friday emerged from the rocky soil. In agriculture it is time to harvest the first fruits. These first fruits ascending to God, bring the Spirit to give courage to the Church, to open the doors of the upper room and proclaim in every language, to every nation -- Jesus Christ is Lord.

Please take a moment to pray for the youth of our parish as they prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation in the upcoming weeks.



Confirmation Mass  
Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> ~ 7p  
Prince of Peace, Chesapeake

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion  
Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> ~ 1pm



### 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)



Walk with US! The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will soon visit our diocese. Five cities. Four days.  
**One Nation Under God!**



Learn more and register for events



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.



BASILICA of the NATIONAL SHRINE  
of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
OCTOBER 24, 2026

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)

LITURGY SCHEDULE: Saturday: 5:30pm/ Sunday at 8:30 & 10:30am/ Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30am/ Wednesday at 7:00pm

# “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



**Join Us for our Justice & Peace meeting** on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Cannot physically attend but want to join us via Zoom contact [justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org) for link.



**Spiritual Adoption/ Month 5:** “Mommy felt me kick today!” Your spiritually adopted baby weighs over one pound now, and Mom can feel movement. We are mid-way through the pregnancy now. Your prayers have helped your baby’s mother continue with her pregnancy and seek the help she needs. If you would like more information, contact [justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org)



**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>.



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

## 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.”

• **Happy Anniversary to the following St. Mark parishioners will celebrate an April wedding anniversary this week!**

**Paul and Janet Vater- May 19, 1984 (42 years)**

**John and Mary Ellen Cussen- May 22, 1983 (43 years)**

**Earl and Julia Reid - May 23, 1981 (45 years)**



**Married Couples:** If you enjoy the warmth of summer, why not sign up for the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and bring some more warmth and intimacy to your marriage. It’s a positive, simple, common sense, private experience between husband and wife that revitalizes your marriage. And, it is now Vatican Approved! Space is limited so make your reservation now! Upcoming experiences are:

- August 28-30, 2026 - Bristow, VA (lodging is on your own)
  - October 23-25, 2026 - Hampton, VA (lodging provided)
  - November 6-8, 2026 - Emerald Isle, NC (lodging provided)
  - February 12-14, 2027- Waynesboro, VA (lodging provided)
- For more information please call 757-690-1369 or to register, go to [WWME.org](http://WWME.org), click "Apply"/search for your desired location.



Congratulations to Reina Rivera and Riccardo Girardi, recipients of the KofC Outstanding Young Man/ Young Woman Awards, presented by KofC representative, Mike Kassel on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> for their many achievements and contributions to their schools, communities and St. Mark. Please continue to pray for them as they endeavor to help “...build the Kingdom of God by imaging Christ”.



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

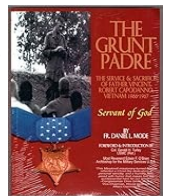
**RAINFOREST FALLS**

VBS is for rising Kindergarteners through rising 5th Grade.

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



**Women’s Book Club**  
**THE GRUNT PADRE , The Service & Sacrifice**  
of Fr. Vincent Robert Capodanno,  
Vietnam 1966-1967,  
by Fr. Daniel Mode  
**June 9<sup>th</sup> 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



## Kitchen Renovation Update:

The contractor is making great progress. This week, additional electrical repairs and plumbing expansion continue as the new floorplan begins to take shape. It is not too late to donate to this much needed kitchen renovation project. For more details or to donate, contact Parish Bookkeeper, Mary-Rachelle Paguiligan, at [bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org) or call the parish office at



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

Fiscal Year July-June	May 03	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$20,650</b>	<b>\$898,000</b>	<b>\$888,724</b>	<b>(\$9,276)</b>

Family Count: 806  
Families using envelopes: 197  
Families using online donation: 222

## Encounter Cursillo

*When we intentionally step away to live a weekend with Jesus, God works in remarkable ways.*

A transformative three-day Catholic retreat to encounter Christ, build lasting friendships, and gain practical tools for daily faith.

*De Colores!*

**Men's Retreat:**  
June 25-28, 2026

**Women's Retreat:**  
September 24-27, 2026

Cost: \$100



Begins Thursday at 5:30pm Ends Sunday at 5pm



*Saint Clare of Assisi*  
RETREAT CENTER

Scan here for an application



Learn more at:  
[www.philipians2foundation.org/cursillo](http://www.philipians2foundation.org/cursillo)

## Liturgy Ministers Meeting May 30, 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.

## Ever Thought About Becoming an Altar Server?

We welcome all our registered parish youth whom have had their First Holy Communion Sacrament to join our St. Mark Altar Server community! If you have questions about this special service ministry opportunity for your youth, please reach out to Michael Archibeque, our St. Mark Altar Server Coordinator for more details. [marchibeque@me.com](mailto:marchibeque@me.com)



## Kid's Corner

### Did You Know?

Jesus spent 40 days with His disciples after Easter before ascending into Heaven. Before He went, He promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide and help us.

When we look up at the clouds, we can remember that Jesus is always with us and calls us to share His love with others!

"I am with you always." - Matthew 28:20



## 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-Rachelle Paguiligan.....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)