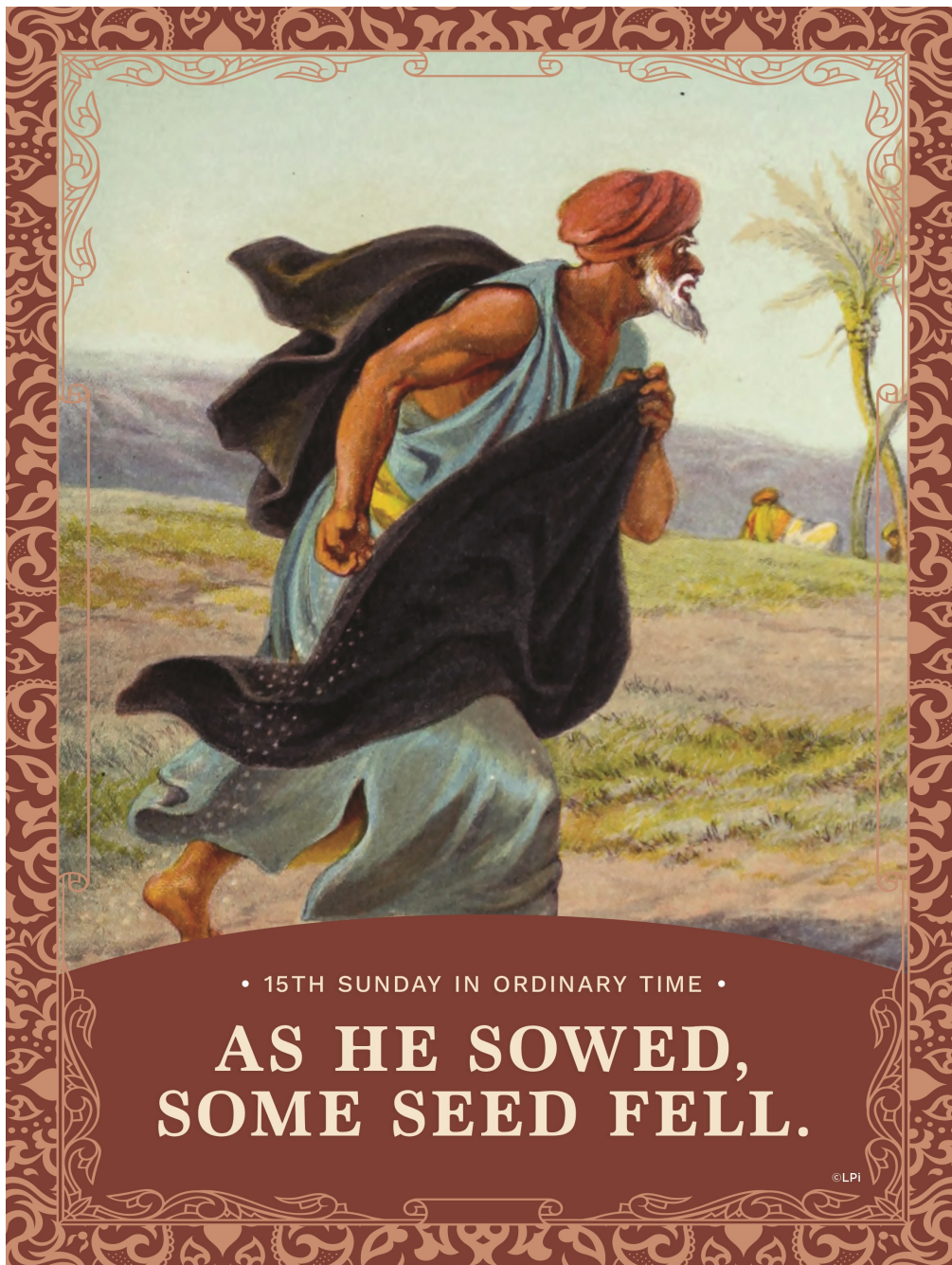




THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

July 12, 2026 • Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



• 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

**AS HE SOWED,
SOME SEED FELL.**

©LPI

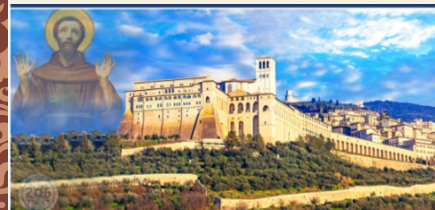
Welcome!

Save these 2026

St. Mark

Pilgrimage Dates!

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



Bulletin Publication date:
7/6/2026

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“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark June 13th - July 19th, 2026

MONDAY

7:15pm OCIA Christian Formation/CR

TUESDAY

8:30am **Daily Mass/** Daily Chapel
10:00am Seasons of Hope Grief Group/ Library
2:00pm Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/ DC
6:00pm In-person Virtus Training/ Great Hall

WEDNESDAY

10-1:00pm Food Pantry/ Great Hall
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/ Great Hall
8:30am **Daily Mass/** Daily Chapel

FRIDAY

6-8:00pm Youth Group/ Great Hall/Sanctuary
6-7:00pm Crew Leader Training/ (VBS)/Great Hall

SATURDAY

8:00am Building and Grounds Meeting/ Great Hall
4:00pm Reconciliation/Daily Chapel
5:30pm **Mass /** Sanctuary

SUNDAY

8:30am **Mass/** Sanctuary
10:30am **Mass/** Sanctuary with Face Book Livestream

Daily Readings

MONDAY
7/13

Mon. of the 15th Sunday in Ord. Time
Isaiah 1:10-17; Matthew 10:34-11:1

TUESDAY
7/14

Mem. of St. Kateri Tekawitha, Virgin
Isaiah 7:1-9; Matthew 11:20-24

WEDNESDAY
7/15

Mem. of Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Isaiah 10:5-7, 13b-16; Matthew 11:25-27
Janet McCormack †

THURSDAY
7/16

Thurs. of the 15th Week in Ord. Time
Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Matthew 11:28-30

FRIDAY
7/17

Fri. of the 15th Week in Ord. Time
Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Matthew 12:1-8

SATURDAY
7/18

Sat. of the 15th Week in Ord. Time
Micah 2:1-5; Matthew 12:14-21
Robert Samuel †

SUNDAY
7/19

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Romans 8:26-27;
Matthew 13:24-43
Martha Murphy †, Gregory Calabrese †,
Cleofe Laxa †

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.



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.



Debra Gordon, Hu Jung Dalton, Chandler Brewer, Charles Sweeney, 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, Jay Davis, Val Kandis

* Prayer Requests may remain in the bulletin for one year.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of the following beloved St. Mark parishioner:

Helena Elizabeth Kuhnley

Let perpetual light shine upon her; may she rest in peace! Keep the Kuhnley family in your prayers.

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.

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)

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 Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time From Fr. Eric Asamoah

The Word of God is viable, effective and fruitful and It has the full potency to rejuvenate and nourish our lives. This is why we are urged to accept it and put it into practice.

Isaiah compares it to the rain that fertilizes the earth and makes the seed germinate.

In light of Isaiah's prophecy and Christ's parable of the Sower, the Church enjoins us to evaluate our relationship with the Word of God. In explaining the parable of the Sower, Jesus teaches that the seed is the Word of God that, if it falls on rich soil, produces its crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. This is what Jesus means by the good soil. The good soil **"hears the Word and understands it."** In the biblical sense, understanding does not mean intellectual comprehension; it means **letting the Word take root and change you.**

Notice how patient and even reckless the Sower is. He throws seed everywhere, on paths and rocks and thorn patches and good ground alike. God is not stingy with His Word; God's love is extravagant. He never stops sowing seeds of truth, hope, and mercy into our lives. He scatters it abundantly, on all kinds of ground, to all kinds of people. He does not wait for us to be "perfect soil" before He speaks to us. He does not limit His grace to the "worthy." He offers His Word to saints and sinners alike.

Saint John Chrysostom, preaching on this very passage, marveled at this. He said the Sower knows perfectly well that some seeds will not grow, but he scatters anyway, because he loves the harvest, and he loves the field, and he refuses to write off any patch of ground. That is our God. He never gives up on any human heart.

If we are called to receive the seed well, we are also called to imitate the Sower.

This Sunday points to action. Jesus challenges us to scatter seeds of encouragement, of joy, and of reconciliation, even on soil that looks unpromising. We are chosen and sent to share the Gospel, just like the apostles. God calls each of us in different ways. We must love God, follow His commandments, and care for others. When we do this, we help grow His Kingdom. God is sowing seeds in our lives right now—through Scripture, through people, through moments of grace. The question is not whether God is speaking, but whether we are listening.



Thanks so much to all who participated in the Independence Day 250th Anniversary "photo opp". The spectacular backdrop, created by members and supporters of "MARKED Gen" Youth Group, has remained in the Commons from July 6th through July 12th for all to take a photo with St. Mark ministries, family and friends commemorating our nation's 250th Anniversary. Please share photos with the parish office at secretary@stmark-parish.org for use in St. Mark's 50th Anniversary in 2028!



Join thousands of young Catholics from around the world in **Seoul, South 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.



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

WOMEN of Hope

Praying at all times
in the Spirit

– EPHESIANS 6:18

HOPE
Anchored in
God's Promises

PRAYER
Our Strength,
Our Connection

PURPOSE
Empowered by
the Holy Spirit

St. Mark Catholic Church
Women's Retreat

SEPT 11-12, 2026
AT FOUNDERS INN
CONTACT FORMATION OFFICE FOR MORE
DETAILS 757.479.9897



Congratulations to the Dumais family who celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism for their children at St. Mark on Sunday, July 5th. Please pray God's blessings for this child that he will live a new life in Christ and be nurtured by the example of his parents, godparents, and this faith community.

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, or email:
justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org



Foods of Month July: 19-30 oz. Plastic Jar Grape Jelly/
Individual Tuna/Chicken Salad Snack Kits



Spiritual Adoption/ MONTH SIX: Your spiritually adopted baby is developing quite beautifully now. Her weight is approaching 2 pounds. Babies born prematurely at this time have an incredibly good chance of surviving. The medical advances in caring for extremely small newborn infants are extraordinary indeed. Do not forget to pray for your baby.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES: For the months of July/August we will be collecting school supplies. Please place donations in the marked bin in Great Hall. Supplies will be distributed to children in need within our parish, our Food Pantry guests, Parkland, Indian Lakes, and Tallwood Elementary, Brandon and Salem Middle Schools, and Green Run High School. Our Vacation Bible School (VBS) participants will also be collecting school supplies.

SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST: Pens, Pencils, Spiral Notebooks, Composition Books, Rulers, Glue Sticks, Loose Leaf Paper, 3 Ring Binders (all sizes), Tabbed Dividers, Safety Scissors, Colored Pencils, Highlighters, Pocket Folders, Erasers, Crayons, Tissues, Back Packs. *This list is not inclusive please feel free to include other items you know that may be needed. Lists are also available on the Justice & Peace table and website.

If you are a parishioner or know of a parishioner who is in need of school supplies, contact justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org



Respecting Life: Did you Know? Some incredibly influential people in our world were almost aborted!

Civil Rights activist **Jesse Jackson** was conceived out of statutory rape. The civil rights activist was born in South Carolina to Helen Burns, then a 16-year-old student; pressured to abort him, but she decided to keep the baby. **Vote no November 3rd** stop the extreme abortion amendment, for additional information and resources visit vacatholic.org/Amendment.

Parish Life

"I am the vine, you are the branches."

• **Sunday, July 26th is Catholic Grandparents' Day.** Parish Life is having a fun competition for all Grandparents. Grandparents can record their Number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren On the sign up sheet at the Parish Life table. Top five grandparents with the most grandchildren and great-grandchildren will be published in the bulletin.

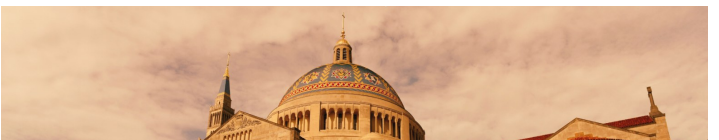


• **Multicultural Night**, Saturday, August 1, after the 5:30 mass - a warm tribute to Seminarian William and the official opening of the new kitchen!!! This is your opportunity to bring your favorite food from the country of your heritage. **Please sign up** at the Parish Life table so we can plan specific country tables. We encourage all attendees to bring items from your country to display, and we hope to have at least 12 different countries represented! POC is Linda Major at 757-615-0763 or major@mail@verizon.net.

• The Anniversary Booklet on the Parish Life table has been updated. Couples may enter their anniversaries if they have not yet done so.

• **Happy Anniversary to the following St. Mark parishioners celebrating a wedding anniversary so far this month!**

Rodel and Jennifer Rivera - July 2, 1998 (28 years)
Larry and Marilyn Torgenson - July 4, 1970 (56 years)
Bob and Karen Joyner - July 5, 1986 (40 years)
Dale and Natalie Mullin - July 5, 2025 (1 year)
Gigi and Joe Schuler - July 6, 1985 (41 years)
Pete and Jacquee Stuhldreher - July 8, 2006 (20 years)
David and Dani Feret - July 9, 2011 (15 years)
Caber and Chenayla Welch - July 12, 2024 (12years)
Nena and Mike Nerino - July 13, 1985 (41 years)
John and Loretta Ray - July 13, 1968 (58 years)
James and Vanessa Bruhn - July 15, 2006 (20 years)



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.

ANSWER THE CALL BE A CATECHIST

2026 - 2027
*Lord,
Teach us
to pray...*



Do you feel a tug on your heart to serve?

Do you love your faith and want to help the next generation grow closer to Christ? Then you may be called to serve as a catechist!

No teaching experience needed - just a willing heart.

We provide all training, support, and materials.
You bring your YES. God does the rest.

Interested? Questions?

Contact: Nicole Brimer
nicole@stmark-parish.org / 757.479.9897



Announcements/ Giving/ Contact Information



Kitchen Renovation Update:

More kitchen appliances and shelving were installed this week. Only a few items are left on the "punch list" of additional minor adjustments and clean-up before inspection of this much needed kitchen renovation project is complete! Thanks so much to St. Mark parishioners for your wonderful generosity to this project!



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, Rachelle

Paguiligan, at bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org or call the parish office at 757-749-1010.



Fiscal Year July-June	June 14	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/(Short)
Offertory	\$19,826	\$1,010,000	\$1,004,169	(\$5,831)

Family Count: 872

Families using envelopes: 200

Families using online donation: 193

Catholic Church of St. Mark Religious Formation Program

2026 - 2027
Lord,
Teach us
to pray...



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN >>>
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR EARLY BIRD SPECIAL, JUNE 1-JUNE 30

SCAN HERE

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

RAINFOREST FALLS

VBS is for rising Kindergarten through rising 5th Grade.

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



Kid's Corner
Ask Seminarian William!

"What's your favorite liturgical season?" - Betty Mroz

Dear Betty,

Thank you so much, what a wonderful question. My favorite is Advent. I love watching the Advent Wreath get brighter and brighter as Christmas gets closer. Advent is also a special time because, like Lent, we can give something up or take the time to make a good Confession before celebrating the great Feast of Christmas! Did you know that Advent isn't all about Christmas, though? Advent is about Christ's coming, which we actually remember in three different ways: Christ came at Christmas to save us, Christ comes in the Blessed Sacrament to sustain us, and Christ will come again to be with us forever. Some of my favorite hymns are Advent Carols like "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People", "O Come Divine Messiah", "People Look East", and "Lo He Comes With Clouds Descending". If you ask me after Mass I might sing one of them for you!

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-Rachelle Paguiligan.....Bookkeeper
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