



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

July 26, 2026 • Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field,
which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and
sells all that he has and buys that field." - Mt 13:44

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

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Welcome!

Save these 2026

St. Mark

Pilgrimage Dates!

1. **Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine, Washington, DC on October 24, 2026.** Sign up in the Commons!
2. **St. Mark Pilgrimage: Rome and Assisi Nov. 9th-18th, 2026!** Pray for those attending the this pilgrimage to commemorate the Franciscan Jubilee Year Proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV.



Bulletin Publication date:
7/20/2026

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“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark July 27th - August 2, 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

WEDNESDAY

10-1:00pm Food Pantry/ Great Hall
6:00pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Nov/ S.
6:30pm Rosary/ Sanctuary
7:00pm **Daily Mass/** Sanctuary

THURSDAY

6:00am Men of St. Joseph/ Great Hall
8:30am **Daily Mass/** Daily Chapel
9-11:00am PLARN/ Great Hall

FRIDAY

6-8:00pm Youth Group/Great Hall

SATURDAY

4:00pm Reconciliation/ Daily Chapel
5:30pm **Mass/** Sanctuary
6:45pm Multi-Cultural Night, Farewell
Reception for Sem. William /GH

SUNDAY

8:30am **Mass/** Sanctuary
10:30am **Mass/** Sanctuary with Face Book
Livestream
*Farewell Breakfast for Sem. William
following both masses/ GH

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.

Daily Readings

July 27: Monday of the 17th Week in Ord. Time
Jeremiah 13:1-11; Matthew 13:31-35

July 28: Tuesday of the 17th Week in Ord. Time
Jeremiah 14:17-22; Matthew 13:36-43
Emerson Fulling †

July 29: Mem. of Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus
Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21; John 11:19-27

July 30: Thurs. of the 17th Week in Ord. Time
Jeremiah 18:1-6; Matthew 13:47-53

July 31: Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola
Jeremiah 26:1-9; Matthew 13:54-58

Aug. 1: Mem. of S. Alfonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24; Matthew 14:1-12
Lucy and Maria Scheerbaum (Special
Intention of Birthday Thanksgiving)

Aug. 2: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 55:1-3; Romans 8:35, 37-39;
Matthew 14:13-21
Helena Kuhnley †, Gus Ramirez †,
Guillermo Pablo †,
Elizabeth, Vivian, Pelagio DeGuzman, Jr.†



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, 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:

Theresa Dulatre

Let perpetual light shine upon her; may she rest in peace! Keep the **Dulatre 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 for more details.

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

“Nourished by the Sacraments”

A Reflection on Sixteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time From Seminarian William Yearout

As we continue in this season of Ordinary Time we hear a number of the Lord’s parables. In fact, they make up the sizeable majority of the Sunday Gospels until we approach Advent. Many of the Lord’s parables can strike us as odd or unrelated to our way of life. In truth, this is because so many of them are related to the land. Just as Ordinary Time is a season speaking on the growth of the Church, especially in the stretch of Ordinary Time after Pentecost, it also comes at a moment when the earth itself is growing, fruiting, and coming to life.

We are long past our winter slumber, as it were, and in the full throes of summer. For the people of Jesus’ time, this transition would have been just as notable. They were a people whose lives were intimately connected with the world around them. The Hebrew calendar was lunar, their feasts and fasts were connected in many ways with the changing of the seasons, and their lives built around the agricultural realities around them.

The Church, in many ways, retains this way of life. But for those of us in contemporary, affluent society it can seem distant and difficult to connect with. One of today’s parables, however, takes on the character of personal treasure – something which, no matter what technology or progress we experience, will remain very much the same.

The Lord explains that the kingdom of heaven is like finding something of great value. Perhaps none of us have found a pearl, but maybe we have a collecting hobby or a keen eye for valuables. I imagine we all know the feeling, at least, of getting a great deal on something at the store.

Imagine the kingdom of heaven, then, as the ideal object of your collection, the hobby item which you would give anything to come upon in the wild, or the greatest sale in the history of sales at your favorite store. All these examples, parables though they are, fall so short. If you are able to understand the feeling from these small things, the Lord implies, then how much greater is the kingdom of heaven – eternal, imperishable, and inviting all of us in.

Grace transforms us over time, making us more and more Christlike. Indeed, the Eucharist is our medicine for this journey and does such a work of bringing us closer to Him whom we receive. Perhaps we, as the Lord notes, may do the will of God begrudgingly at first – because of the persistence of the one asking. However, by following His will more and more we will instead do so out of the theological virtue of love – love of God and love of our neighbor.

May God richly bless you in this celebration of the Eucharist.



Much thanks to each of the many volunteers who spent a week creating St. Mark’s “Rainforest Falls”, a jungle backdrop in the Great Hall, classrooms and hallways where many youngsters attending VBS July 20th-24th learned more about Jesus, and God’s love for all creatures. Seen above, Rainforest Falls was taking shape as a breathtaking place where God’s beauty surrounded them. Also, thanks so much to the volunteers who provided lunch each day for these hard-working volunteers of all ages. What a blessing!

"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 August:** 15-18oz. Creamy Peanut Butter/ Snack Pack Cookies/Crackers



Spiritual Adoption/ MONTH SEVEN:

We are in the home stretch with our spiritually adopted baby. At the beginning of this month, the baby uses all four senses. They can see, hear, taste, touch, cough, yawn, and hiccup. They now recognize their mother's voice. During this time, they will also receive antibodies from their mother protecting them from a wide variety of diseases.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES: We continue to collect school supplies through August. Please place donations in the marked bin in Great Hall. **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 contact justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org



Respecting Life: Help Stop the Extreme Abortion Amendment

The amendment is dangerously vague and creates risky loopholes for unregulated abortions even up until Birth, by unlicensed abortion providers, threatening the health of mothers and healthy babies. It would establish a radical so-called "fundamental right" to abortion in the Virginia Constitution.



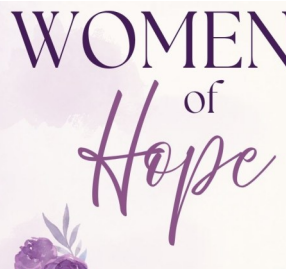
Parish Life

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

• **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 July or August wedding anniversary this week!**

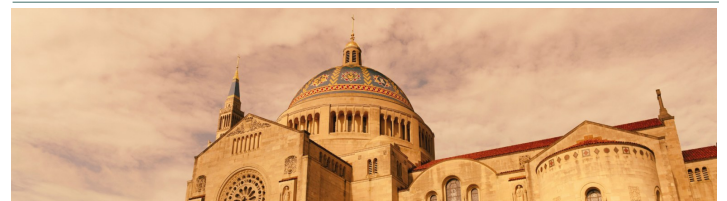
Ben and Dediosa Dimalanta - July 26, 1975 (51yrs)
Travis and Kati Coakley - July 28, 2012 (14 years)
Pamela and Paolo Girardi - July 29, 2006 (20 yrs)
Frank and Diane Hruska - July 30, 1988 (38 yrs)
Rick and Mary Steele - Aug. 1, 1992 (34 years)
Mitchell and Annette Welch - Aug. 1, 1981 (45 yrs)



Please pray for those attending the St. Mark Women of Hope Women's Retreat September 11-12 at Founders Inn. May they be blessed as they learn more about "Praying at all times in the Spirit".



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.



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.

Announcements/ Giving/ Contact Information



2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal: *Sharing His Love with Others*

A Message from Fr. Eric Asamoah

Did you know that when you support the Annual Diocesan Appeal, it strengthens Catholic communities by...

- Developing lay catechetical leaders by building theological understanding, shaping pastoral skills, and strengthening Catholic identity.
- Providing intercultural opportunities for our ethnic communities such as Masses, retreats, and pilgrimages.
- Defraying the cost of providing ongoing professional, spiritual, and theological formation for our priests.

To learn more about the 21 different ways the Appeal supports our parishes and larger Catholic Church, please visit richmondcatholicfoundation.org/giving/annual-diocesan-appeal/.



Kitchen Renovation Update:

We are almost there! Only a few items are left on the "punch list" of additional minor adjustments and clean-up as inspections of this much needed kitchen renovation project are completed! A little reorganization is next. An official St. Mark "Kitchen Opening" event will be announced soon. Thanks so much to St. Mark parishioners for your wonderful generosity to this project!

Did You Know?

Jesus had grandparents? Saints Joachim and Anne were the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, making them the grandparents of Jesus! They loved God and taught Mary to trust Him, helping prepare her for the very special mission of becoming the Mother of Jesus. Today, Saints Joachim and Anne remind us how important grandparents are. They share wisdom, tell stories, pray for us, and help us grow in faith and love.

This week, thank your grandparents, or someone who is like a grandparent to you. Give them a hug, make them a card, call them, or say a prayer for them. Let them know how much they are loved!



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 21	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/(Short)
Offertory	\$13,438	\$1,027,500	\$1,017,607	(\$9,893)

Family Count: 880

Families using envelopes: 156

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



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 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