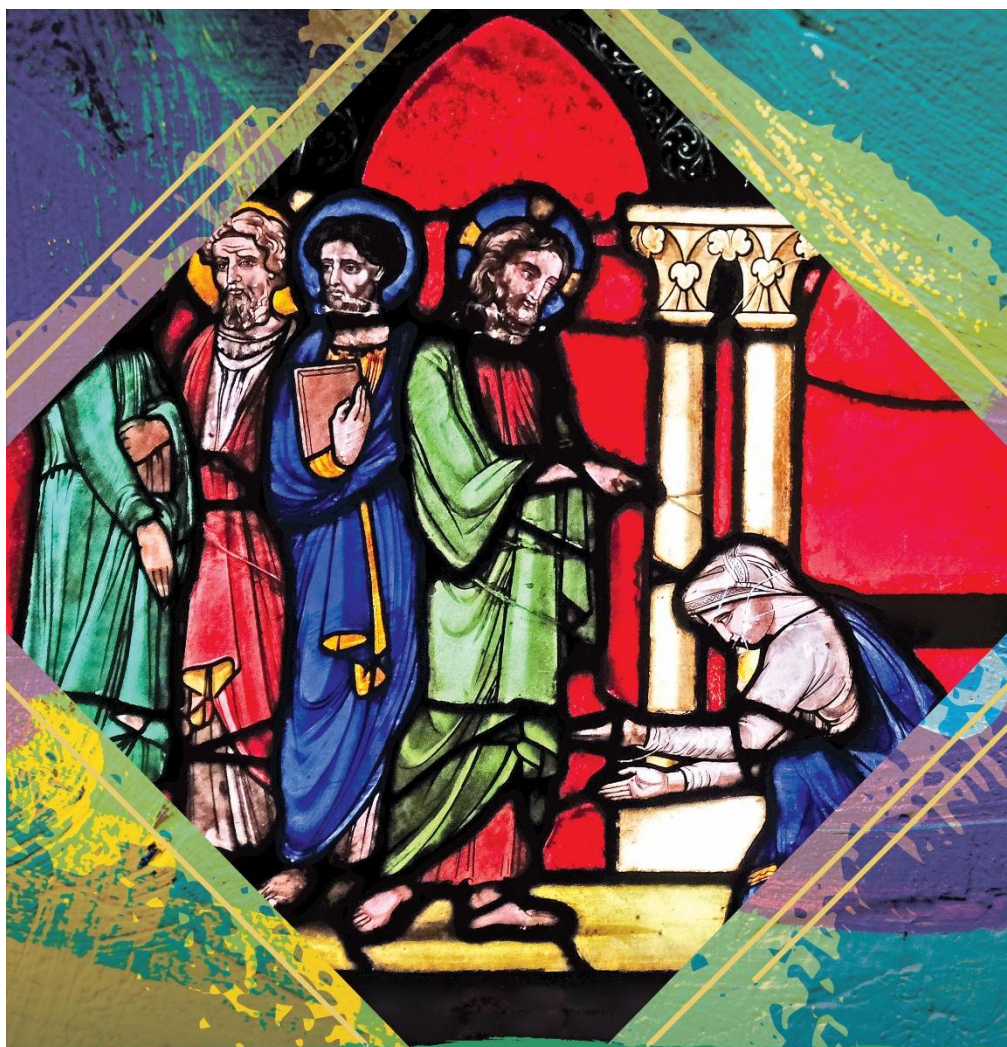




THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

Aug 16, 2026 • Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The woman came and did Jesus homage, saying,
"Lord, help me." - Mt 15:25

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©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.** Sign up in the Commons!
2. **St. Mark Pilgrimage: Rome and Assisi Nov. 9th-18th, 2026!** Pray for those attending this pilgrimage to commemorate the Franciscan Jubilee Year Proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV.



Bulletin Published 8/10/2026

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Email: secretary@stmark-parish.org



“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark

August 17th – August 23rd, 2026

MONDAY

7:15pm OCIA Christian Formation/CR

TUESDAY

8:30am **Liturgy of the Word/** Daily Chapel

2:00pm Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/ DC

WEDNESDAY

10-1:00pm Food Pantry/ Great Hall

11:00am Divine Mercy Chaplet/ Sanctuary

6:00pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena/ S.

6:30pm Rosary/ Sanctuary

7:00pm **Liturgy of the Word/** Sanctuary

7:30-8:30pm Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon Devotion/S.

THURSDAY

6:00am Men of St. Joseph/ Great Hall

8:30am **Liturgy of the Word/** Daily Chapel

9-11:00am PLARN/ Great Hall

FRIDAY

7:30pm KofC Monthly Meeting/ Great Hall

SATURDAY

5:30pm **Mass /** Sanctuary

SUNDAY

8:30am **Mass/** Sanctuary

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

Daily Readings

Aug. 17: Mon. of the 20th Week in Ord. Time
Ezekiel 24:15-23; Matthew 19:16-22

Aug. 18: Tues. of the 20th Week in Ord. Time
Ezekiel 28:1-10; Matthew 19:23-30

Aug. 19: Wed. of the 20th Week in Ord. Time
Ezekiel 34:1-11; Matthew 20:1-16

Aug. 20: Mem. of St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Ezekiel 36:23-28; Matthew 22:1-14

Aug. 21: Mem. of St. Pius X, Pope
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Matthew 22:34-40

Aug. 22: Mem. of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ezekiel 43:1-7ab; Matthew 23:1-12
Maria Still †, Hera Hermosilla †

Aug. 23: Twenty-first Sunday in Ord. Time
Isaiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36;
Matthew 16:13-20
Marilyn Briggs †, Miguel Melendez †,
Helena Kuhnley †, Patricia McMican †
Lynn Mullin †

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.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK OR HOMEBOUND:

If you know someone who cannot attend Mass or desires a visit or the Sacrament of Anointing, call the Office at 757-479-1010.



Jerry Major, Elsie Watkins, Gloria Fernando, Antonio Fernando, Rebecca Probst, 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, 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 the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 15:21-28

From Steven Schlossberg

This weekend's Gospel is easily one of the most surprising—and honestly, uncomfortable—moments in Scripture. Jesus travels into Tyre and Sidon, and a Canaanite woman approaches him, begging for help for her suffering daughter. At first, Jesus gives her total silence. Then come words that still make me cringe a little when I read them out loud: "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." If I'm being frank, I don't like hearing Jesus speak like that. I prefer the gentle, instantly accessible version of the Gospel. But Scripture doesn't give us a sanitized Savior—instead, it gives us a real, unfiltered encounter.

What strikes me most is what she does next. She doesn't storm off or get defensive. She leans right into it with sharp, loving grit: "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." She refuses to let a boundary or a hard response keep her from the one person who can help her child. Jesus isn't offended; he's clearly impressed. "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."

Coming right off the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary on August 15th, it's hard not to see a striking connection between these two women. In the Assumption, we celebrate Mary being taken body and soul into heaven—the ultimate sign that God's grace completely lifts up human lowliness. Mary's whole life began with a bold, trusting "yes" to God's invitation, opening the door for salvation to enter the world. The

Canaanite woman, operating from the margins rather than the center of the story, mirrors that same relentless surrender and confidence. Both women demonstrate what happens when humanity boldly meets divine grace where earthly boundaries dissolve, and God elevates faith, no matter how small it may seem.

Our lives tend to feel deeply fractured by invisible borders, ideological tribes, and unspoken rules about who belongs inside and who stays outside. It's easy to build quiet little borders around ourselves, keeping people out or deciding who belongs. And when our own prayers seem to hit a brick wall of silence, it's just as easy to give up and stop asking.

To anyone feeling unheard, exhausted, or on the margins, the Canaanite woman shows us that persistent, bold prayer is never a nuisance to God. Even when God seems silent, she teaches us to stay, to speak up, and to trust that even a single scrap of divine grace is more than enough to transform our lives. At the same time, Jesus steps out of his comfort zone to encounter someone society told him to ignore. If we're serious about following him, we have to stop hoarding grace inside our own safe circles and actually make room at the table for people we'd normally step around.



Please join us for the Sacred Heart Icon Holy Hour in the sanctuary on Wed. August 19th following the Liturgy of the Word a short personal reflection after the weekend Masses on August 22nd and 23rd.

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



Congratulations to the Erhabor family who celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism for their children at St. Mark on Sunday, Aug. 2nd. Please pray for them as they begin their faith journey.

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 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: Our School Supply collection is winding down. Please place donations in marked bin in Great Hall next to Justice & Peace table this week. If you are a parishioner or know of a parishioner who is in need contact justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org



Migrant Ministry: We will continue to collect clothing/hygiene items for the migrant workers through September. You can drop them off in the marked bin in Great Hall. Please no XL sizes.



Red Cross Blood Drive: Justice & Peace Ministry and the Knights of Columbus are hosting our semi-annual American Red Cross Blood Drive on **Tuesday, September 15th** from **11am-5pm**. We will be working together to give back to the community in a truly life changing way. Every donation we collect can save up to three lives. Please visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter: CCSM to schedule an appointment or at our sign-up table in the Great Hall.

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 an August wedding anniversary this week!**

Roger and Mary Esteban - Aug. 16, 2003 (23yrs)

Dave and Deb Moyer -Aug. 19, 1972 (54 yrs)

Toby and Kim Robillard -Aug. 19, 1978 (48 yrs)

Anthony and Stephanie Lucena-Aug. 21, 2011 (15)



Share Your Faith. Shape the Future.

Do you love Jesus and the Catholic faith? Have you ever considered sharing that love with the next generation?

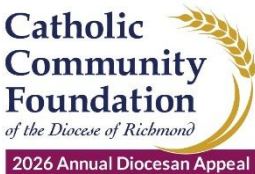
Our Faith Formation program is looking for joyful, faith-filled catechists to help guide the children and teens of our parish as they grow in their relationship with Christ. You don't need to be a teacher; you simply need a willing heart and a desire to share the beauty of our faith.

As a catechist, you'll plant seeds that can bear fruit for a lifetime. Lesson plans, resources, and support are provided, and you'll serve alongside a wonderful team dedicated to helping our young people know, love, and follow Jesus.

If God may be calling you to this important ministry, we'd love to talk with you. Contact the Parish Office or our Coordinator of Religious Formation (nicole@stmark-parish.org) to learn more. Your "yes" could make an eternal difference.

Announcements/ Contact Information

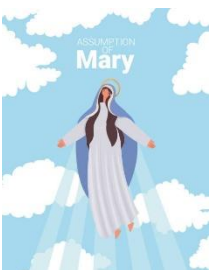
Bookkeeper's Updates ...



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

Our St. Mark Annual Appeal Goal for is \$65,040. To date, St. Mark surpassed that goal, raising \$74,600 which is 115% of our goal! Thank you for your tremendous generosity! It's not too late to contribute! Your continued contributions are very appreciated!!

Catholic Church of St. Mark
Religious Formation Program



Have you ever wondered what happened to Mary at the end of her earthly life?

On the Solemnity of the Assumption (Aug. 15), we celebrate that Mary was taken body and soul into Heaven. Because Mary said “yes” to God throughout her life, she was given a special place with her Son, Jesus, in Heaven.

The Assumption reminds us that Heaven is our home too! When we follow Jesus, love others, and say “yes” to God, we are on a journey toward Heaven.

Family Challenge:

Look up at the sky together this week and remember that Heaven is our ultimate destination. Say a Hail Mary together and ask Mary to help you follow Jesus every day.

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	Aug 2	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/(Short)
Offertory	\$17,034	\$98,100	\$88,010	(\$10,090)

Family Count: 887

Families using envelopes: 223

Families using online donation: 191



New St. Mark Budget and Annual Report

 The St. Mark 2026-2027 Annual Budget and 2025-2026 Financial Report are now available for review through the month of August at the Information Kiosk in the Commons.

For questions, please contact Bookkeeper Mary Rachelle Paguiligan at 757-479-1010 or email bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Fr. Eric Asamoahfreric@stmark-parish.org

Rev. Mr. John Kren.....Acting Pastoral Associate
deacon john@stmark-parish.org

Sherry Smeland.....Parish Secretary
secretary@stmarkparish.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

Michael King.....Parish Council Chairman

Thomas 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