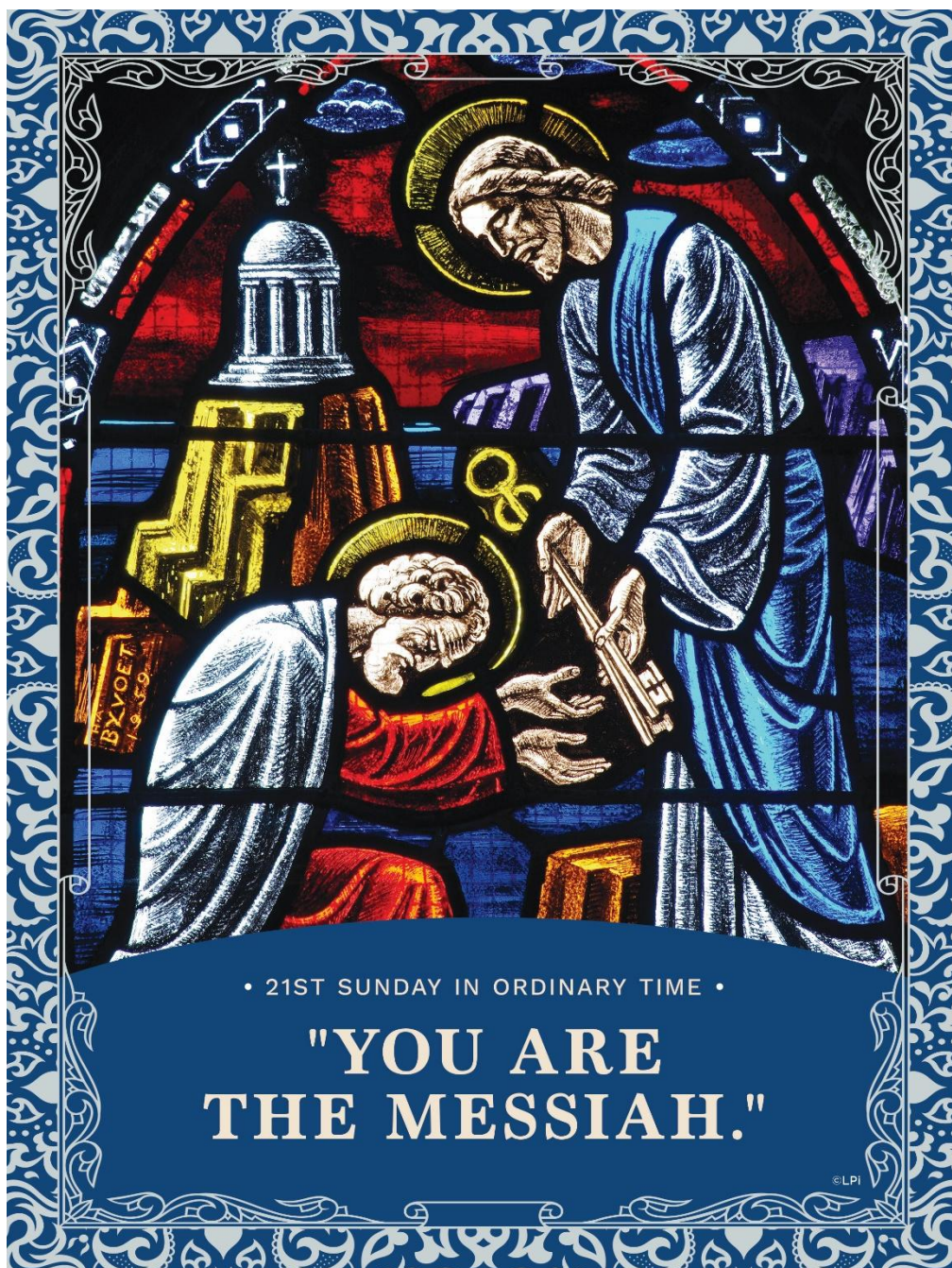




THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

Aug 23, 2026 • Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time



• 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

**"YOU ARE
THE MESSIAH."**

©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 8/17/2026

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Email: secretary@stmark-parish.org



“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark

August 24th – August 30th, 2026

MONDAY

7:15pm OCIA Christian Formation/CR

TUESDAY

8:30am **No Liturgy of the Word**

2:00pm Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/DC

WEDNESDAY

10-1:00pm Food Pantry/ Great Hall

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

6:30pm Rosary/ Sanctuary

7:00pm **No Liturgy of the Word**

THURSDAY

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

8:30am **No Liturgy of the Word**

9-11:00am PLARN/ Great Hall

FRIDAY

6-9:00pm MARKed Gen Movie Night/ GH

SATURDAY

10-12:30pm Catechist Workshop/Great Hall

5:30pm **Mass** / Sanctuary

SUNDAY

8:30am **Mass**/ Sanctuary

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

8-11:45am *Nursery Open-House

Daily Readings

Aug. 24: **Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle**
Revelation 21:9b-14; John 1:45-51

Aug. 25: **Tues. of the 21st Week in Ord. Time**
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a, 14-17;
Matthew 23:23-26

Aug. 26: **Wed. of the 21st Week in Ord. Time**
2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18;
Matthew 23:27-32

Aug. 27: **Mem. of St. Monica**
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Matthew 24:42-51

Aug. 28: **Mem. of St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**
1 Corinthians 1:17-25; Matthew 25:1-13

Aug. 29: **Mem. of the Passion of St. John the Baptist**
1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Mark 6:17-29
Carrie Groff †, Earl Groff †,
Romeo Medina †

Aug. 30: **Twenty-second Sunday in Ord. Time**
Jeremiah 20:7-9; Romans 12:1-2;
Matthew 16:21-27
Bonifacio Malpaya †,

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.



Ryan Steele, 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 Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 16:13-20

By Jerome Sabatowich

In today's Gospel Reading, Jesus first asks his disciples what others are saying about him and then he asks them for their own opinion. The various answers to this question tell us there must have been some debate about the meaning of Jesus' ministry.

Some people believed Jesus was John the Baptist. Although King Herod killed John, many people who saw the signs and miracles Jesus performed wondered if he might really be John resurrected. Other people thought Jesus was Jeremiah or Elijah.

Jeremiah was a great Old Testament prophet who took the Ark of the Covenant (the box in the Temple containing the Ten Commandments) and hid it in a cave on Mt. Nebo just before the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem in 586 B.C. (2 Maccabees 2:4-8). Since no one ever found the Ark of the Covenant, some Jews believed Elijah would one day return to the world to prepare the way for the Messiah. When Elijah appears, the messiah will not be far behind.

The people showed great respect for Jesus when they compared him to these great men but they did not recognize him as the long-awaited messiah. Only Simon Peter understood that Jesus was even more important than the greatest of the Old Testament figures and his belief in Jesus as the messiah earned him a place of honor in the early church. Simon Peter's faith is the sturdy rock on which the church is built.

For Reflection: Close your eyes and imagine Jesus is asking you who *you* think he is. What is your answer? Be honest!

Feast of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary



Much thanks to the 200 St. Mark parishioners who celebrated the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Saturday, Aug. 15th with procession, Mass, blessing of religious items and a potluck brunch. What a blessing to all!



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 September: 9-15oz. Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes 15-18oz. / Individual meals: tuna snack kits, pop-top soup/pasta

Spiritual Adoption/ MONTH EIGHT: Your spiritually adopted baby is finished developing and is concentrating on gaining weight; they might be making her mother uncomfortable with their size. In a brief time, this baby will be born. Your baby's mother appreciated the prayers you have said for her and her baby throughout the pregnancy. It has not been easy, but your prayers have given her the grace she needed to bring her baby to term, and the life God has planned for her. **Watch for more information on our "Birth Day" Brunch celebration Sunday, October 11th!**

School Supplies: Thank you to all who donated school supplies. Through your generosity we were able to send much needed supplies to Parkway, Indian Lakes, and Tallwood Elementary, Brandon and Salem Middle, Green Run High, as well as parishioners and our Food Pantry guests in need. A special thank you to our VBS group for their wonderful donations.



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.

PiN Ministry: Now throughout the month of **September** our Justice & Peace Ministry is collecting Men's and Women's: Gloves/Mittens, Winter Hats (knit caps), Scarves and Socks for P.I.N. Ministry, Catholic Worker Breakfast Line, and our Food Pantry guests. ***Please only new or clean/gently used items****

Parish  Life

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

•**Sunday Hospitality** - Our parish is growing and we need more volunteers!!!

Please consider volunteering to help with coffee and donuts after the 8:30 and 10:30 masses. POC is Deborah Lawrence-Keene at 757-318-8237 or email her at dlawrence01@gmail.com.

•We look forward to Father Eric's safe return next month and celebrating his birthday (September 30th) at the **St. Mark Picnic**.

•**St. Mark's Annual Picnic** - Saturday, October 3, 12-2. There will be a face painter, Bounce House and Music! Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and drinks will be provided. Bring a side dish to share.

• **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!**

Susan and Robert Kielbowicz - Aug. 27, 1994 (32yr)

Frank and Cecille Johnson -Aug. 28, 2009 (17 yrs)

Tony and Ellen Montemurno -Aug. 30, 2003 (23 yrs)

Heath and Sarah Bachman - Aug. 31, 2018 (8 yrs)

The Wisdom Seekers group monthly luncheons are back (2nd Friday of the month September thru June) for parishioner seniors. **First potluck luncheon is September 11th, 12 pm, in Great Hall**, Please bring a dish to share (Last name begins A-M protein or salad dish, N-Z fruit or dessert dish). Please contact Mary Shaw (757) 348-4460 for general group questions.



Justice & Peace Ministry along with Knights of Columbus are partnering with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive here at Saint Mark in the Great Hall.

Tuesday, September 15th ~ 11:00am till 5:00pm

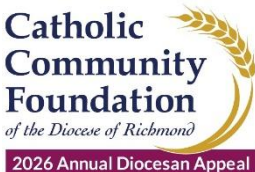
Please visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter: **CCSM** to schedule your appointment or you may signup at our table in the Commons.

Each donation we collect can save up to three lives.

Parish Office Hours: Sunday-Thursday: 9:00am – 3:00pm

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!!



Do you have questions about the permanent diaconate? Learn about the history, the ministry, and the beauty of this vocation presented by the Office of the Permanent Diaconate. Information Sessions will be at St. Mark-Virginia Beach on September 22, the Pastoral Center-Richmond on September 23 and Holy Cross-Lynchburg on September 24. All are at 7 pm. Scan the QR code to register.



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.

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)

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 9	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/(Short)
Offertory	\$19,022	\$116,100	\$107,032	(\$9,068)

Family Count: 888

Families using envelopes: 162

Families using online donation: 191

With heartfelt appreciation, we want to thank all advertisers who purchased ads on the back page of our weekly bulletin. We now have an expanded 8-page bulletin because of the wonderful support of our advertisers. If you want to advertise with us, contact the Parish Office.

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@stmarkparish.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
Michael King.....	Parish Council Chairman
Thomas 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

Religious Formation

EXPLORING CATHOLICISM



THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

What if this is the invitation someone has been waiting for?

Do you have a friend, family member, coworker, or neighbor who is curious about the Catholic faith? Or someone who was baptized Catholic but has been away from the Church for a while?

Invite them to join us for **OCIA** —for adults and children beyond 2nd grade.

Whether they are exploring Christianity, interested in becoming Catholic, returning to the Church, or simply have questions, everyone is welcome!

Contact the RF Office, and we will connect you with the right person to accompany you throughout the process.

Sometimes, all it takes is a simple invitation to begin a beautiful journey of faith.

2027 YOUTH CONFIRMATION
PREPARATION, ORIENTATION
& DISCERNMENT .
FOR ALL
10TH, 11TH, & 12TH GRADERS
(BAPTIZED AND HAVE RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST
AND HAVE SATISFIED REQUIREMENTS FOR FOUNDATIONAL FORMATION YEAR)
WITH PARENTS
Thursday, September 24 * 6—8 PM
RSVP to fe@stmark-parish.org

If your candidate did not participate in our **9th-grade formation program last year**, please contact the **RF Office** for additional details and requirements.



JOIN US for PARISH MOVIE NIGHT!

Friday, August 28

6:00 PM – Rosary

6:30 PM – Movie Begins (118 minutes)

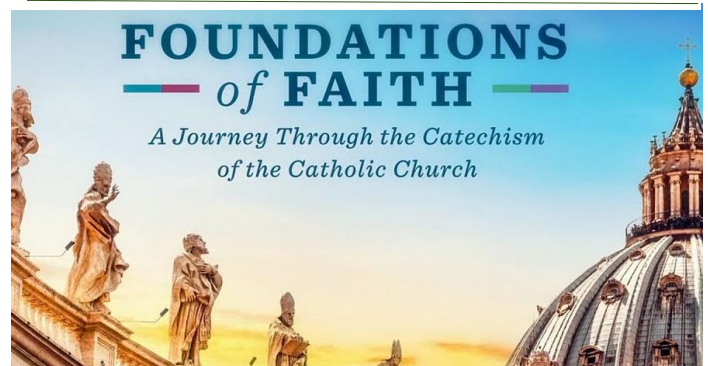
St. Mark Great Hall

Admission: Free! [Optional: Free-will offerings accepted / Snacks provided]

Triumph of the Heart

- an independent biographical drama film about St. Maximilian Kolbe. It depicts the Catholic priest volunteering to take the place of a condemned man in an Auschwitz starvation bunker during World War II.

****Viewer discretion is advised as there are intense themes surrounding death and the events of World War II in this film.**



Adult Bible Study is Back!

After a refreshing summer break, **Adult Bible Study is back!** We're excited to gather again as we continue our journey through **Foundations of Faith** and explore the **final chapters** of the series.

Join us as we reflect on Scripture, deepen our understanding of the Catholic faith, and grow together in our relationship with God.

- **Tuesday, September 15 at 9:30 AM**
- **Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 PM**

We hope to see you there—and **bring a friend!**

Children's Formation



Last year Nicole approached me about becoming a catechist for Faith Formation here at St. Mark. I helped out with Children's Liturgy already so it wasn't a stretch to say 'yes', but I wasn't sure I was qualified to teach- especially not a sacrament prep class! However, if you have an open heart, a willingness to learn about your own faith, and an hour to teach formation, you can do it!

The reward of watching faith grow in the children of our parish will be worth it! This commitment took between 2-3 hours a week on average and I was paired with a catechist and youth assistants that helped share the load. Everything from lesson plans to supplemental books and videos are provided for you. Last year's formation ended with 20 of my students receiving their First Holy Communion. It was beautiful to watch them grow in their love for Jesus and participation in the mass. I did not think I was ready, but God provided and I learned right along with the kids! The future of our faith rests in the children we are raising, and they need your YES to continue their journey.

-Annette Qiao

If you're interested in being a catechist, please reach out to the Formation Office, nicole@stmark-parish.org or 757.479.9897



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Have you ever wondered why everyone stands when the Gospel is about to be read?

At Mass, we stand for the Gospel because we are getting ready to hear the words and teachings of Jesus! The Gospel tells us about Jesus' life, His miracles, His teachings, and His great love for us.

Standing is a way of showing respect and honor. Think about how you might stand when someone important enters a room. At Mass, we stand because something very important is happening, we are listening to the Good News of Jesus!

The priest or deacon begins by saying, "*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to...*" and we respond, "*Glory to You, O Lord.*" We even make a small cross on our forehead, lips, and heart. This reminds us that we want to think about Jesus' words, speak about His Good News, and keep His teachings in our hearts.