



# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

Sept 6, 2026 • Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time



## 23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother." - Mt 18:15

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 this pilgrimage to commemorate the Franciscan Jubilee Year Proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV.



Bulletin Published 8/31/2026

**1505 KEMPSVILLE RD., VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23464**

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## “Rooted in the Word...”

### This Week at Saint Mark

**September 7th – September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

|                  |                                            |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>MONDAY</b>    | <b>Labor Day</b><br>*Parish Offices Closed |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   |                                            |
| 8:30am           | <b>No Liturgy of the Word</b>              |
| 2:00pm           | Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/DC        |
| 6:00pm           | Parish Life Mtg./ CR                       |
| 6:30pm           | Seasons of Hope Grief Group/ Lib           |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> |                                            |
| 10-1:00pm        | Food Pantry/ Great Hall                    |
| 10:00am          | Seasons of Hope/ Library                   |
| 6:00pm           | Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena/S        |
| 6:30pm           | Rosary/ Sanctuary                          |
| 7:00pm           | <b>Liturgy of the Word</b>                 |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  |                                            |
| 6:00am           | Men of St. Joseph/ Great Hall              |
| 8:30am           | <b>Liturgy of the Word</b>                 |
| 9-11:00am        | <b>PLARN/</b> Great Hall                   |
| 7:00pm           | Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary                  |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    |                                            |
| 12:00pm          | Wisdom Seekers Potluck/ Great Hall         |
| 2:00pm           | Women’s Retreat/ Founders Inn              |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>  |                                            |
| 9-3:00pm         | Women’s Retreat/ Founders Inn              |
| 5:30pm           | <b>Mass /</b> Sanctuary                    |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    |                                            |
| 8:30am           | <b>Mass/</b> Sanctuary                     |
| 10:30am          | <b>Mass/</b> Sanctuary with Face Book      |
| 11:45am          | In-person Baptism Class/ Sanctuary         |
| 2-6pm            | Children’s Formation Kick-off/GH           |
| 6-8pm            | Teen Formation/ 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.

### Daily Readings

- Sept. 7:** Mon. of the 23rd Week in Ord. Time  
1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Luke 6:6-11
- Sept. 8:** Feast of Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary  
Micah 5:1-4a; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23
- Sept. 9:** Mem. of St. Peter Claver, Priest  
1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Luke 6:20-26
- Sept. 10:** Thurs. of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Week in Ord. Time  
1 Corinthians 8:1b-7, 11-13; Luke 6:27-38
- Sept. 11:** Fri. of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Week in Ord. Time  
1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22b-27;  
Luke 6:39-42
- Sept. 12:** Sat. of the 23rd Week in Ord. Time  
1 Corinthians 10:14-22; Luke 6:43-49  
James Fulling †, Danley Jones Corrales †,  
Benjamin Valmeo †
- Sept. 13:** Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ord. Time  
Sirach 27:30—28:7; Romans 14:7-9;  
Matthew 18:21-35  
Stanley Winner †, Danley J. Corrales †,  
Zeny and Leo Manglicmot †, Benjamin  
Valmeo †, Ryan Major †,



Christopher Samaniego, 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-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 18: 15-20 By Jerome Sabatowich

We have never found the original manuscripts of the four Gospels, but some very old copies do exist. In our oldest copies of the Gospel according to Matthew, today's reading is a little different from what we heard proclaimed in the church. In the sentence that talks about what to do if your brother commits some wrong against you, the words “against you” are not there. This indicates that someone other than the original author added these words. How and why did this happen?

Since printing presses and copiers were not available in the first century, a scribe copied an important document by hand. He would sit down with a quill pen and a scroll of papyrus and copy the document letter by letter. Occasionally, the scribe would make a mistake and leave out a letter or phrase, but sometimes he tried to make a passage clearer by adding his own words. That's what may have happened with today's reading: a Christian scribe added the words “against you” to clarify what Jesus said.

In today's Gospel, Jesus outlines a three-point plan we should follow to lovingly correct a fellow Christian we observe doing something wrong. If, however, the guilty party still refuses to repent, Jesus

tells us to treat that person like a Gentile or a tax collector.

A Gentile is anyone who is not Jewish. Many of the Jews did not associate with Gentiles, and some of the rabbis even taught that a Jew traveling through Gentile territory should shake the dirt from his sandals before stepping on Jewish soil so as not to contaminate Jewish land.

Tax collectors were even worse than Gentiles. Because the Jews considered God their king, they thought their tax money should be used for the upkeep of God's house (the Temple). Because the tax collector gave the tax money to the emperor, the Jews believed he was stealing from God. Therefore, the Jews had nothing to do with tax collectors. A Jew who touched a tax collector was ritually unclean and could not offer sacrifices in the Temple.

Treating an errant person like a Gentile or a tax collector as a last resort. The reading clearly stresses that we should give the sinner every opportunity to repent.

**For Reflection:** Reread today's Gospel and write down the three steps in how to lovingly correct another person. Strive to follow these steps whenever you are upset with someone. Notice that Gossip is not one of those steps.



St. Mark is very grateful for the three priests substituting for Fr. Eric who is on vacation. Who are they? **Very Rev. Johnny Mintah Mensah, V.F.**, pastor of Pastor of Saint Francis De Sales, Mathews, Pastor of Church of the Visitation, (Topping, VA) celebrates all Saturday 5:30pm masses. **Fr. Pete Creed**, seen left, has presided over two Sunday morning masses this month, and will be followed by **Rev. Msgr. Raymond Francis Muench J.C.L.**, celebrant in September morning masses.

## Religious Formation

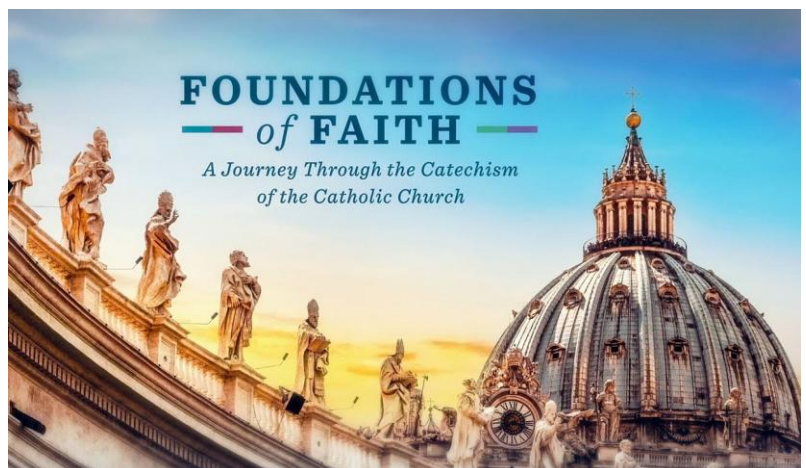
### Adult Bible Study is Back!

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!**



## Religious Formation Continued

### Confirmation Orientation & Discernment

For those in **10th, 11th, or 12th grade** who have been baptized and have received the Sacrament of Eucharist but have not yet received the **Sacrament of Confirmation**, our **Orientation and Discernment Session** will be held on **September 24**.

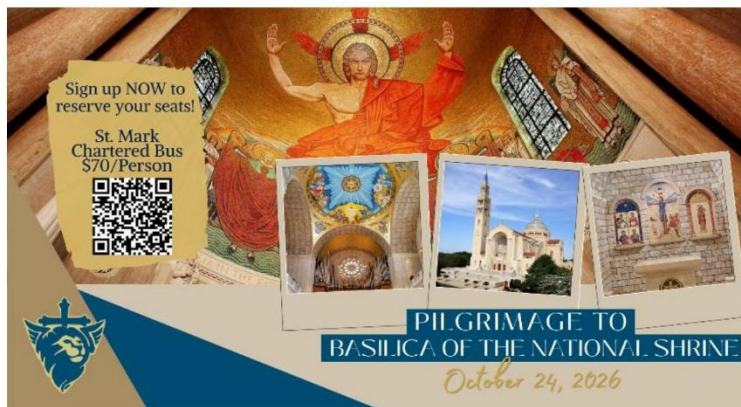
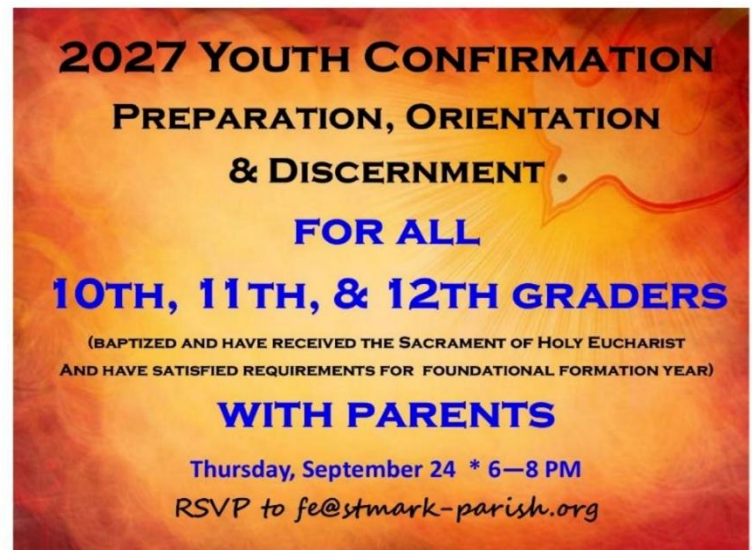
Please **RSVP** so we can plan accordingly and ensure a meaningful experience for both candidates and their parents.

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

We look forward to accompanying our young people as they continue their journey of faith!

“Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit – his actions, his gifts, and his biddings – in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community.” (CCC 1309)

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### Diocesan Pilgrimage – October 24, 2026

Join Bishop Knestout and the faithful of the Diocese of Richmond for a special Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on October 24, 2026, in honor of our nation's 250th anniversary. Together, we will entrust our country to the maternal care of Our Lady, Patroness of the Americas.

St. Mark Bus: Our parish bus will depart from the St. Mark parking lot at \$70 per person. Thank you to all who have already registered! Payment is due by September 13 to secure your seat. A few seats remain—please sign up soon!

Diocesan Buses: Transportation is also available through the Diocese for \$10 per person, with buses departing from Catholic High School in Virginia Beach or the Holy Trinity Knights of Columbus Club in Norfolk. Registration is required through the Diocese.

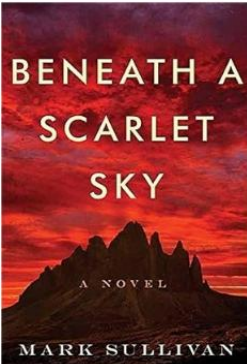
For details and registration: <https://evangelizerichmond.org/events/diocesan-pilgrimage-2/>

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## Religious Formation Continued

### ST. MARK WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

October 13th @ 6:30pm ~ Library



Based on a true story, follows Pino Lella, an Italian teen whose life is transformed during WWII. After his home is bombed, he aids Jews in escaping and falls for Anna, a widow. To protect him, his parents make him enlist as a German soldier, but he becomes the personal driver for General Hans Leyers. This role enables him to spy for the Allies while facing the war's horrors, fueled by his love for Anna and hope for a future together.

Contact Kendra at [kdimichele76@gmail.com](mailto:kdimichele76@gmail.com)

2026-2027

# FORMATION

## LAUNCH & LEMONADE

**SUNDAY SEPT. 13** | **12-1P**

**CHILDRENS & TEEN FORMATION**

- MEET AND GREET WITH YOUR CATECHIST(S)
- A "NOT SOUR" WELCOME PARENT MEETING
- LIGHT SNACKS
- LEMONADE FOR ALL!

2026 - 2027

*Catholic Church of St. Mark*  
**Religious Formation Program**

Lord,  
Teach us  
to pray...



**REGISTRATION  
NOW OPEN**



**REGISTRATION CLOSSES  
TODAY!**

**QUESTIONS?**

**CONTACT NICOLE 757.479.9897**

THIS WEEK ON

# FORMED



September 5<sup>th</sup>  
we celebrate the  
feast day of one  
of the greatest  
humanitarians  
of our time,  
St. Teresa of  
Calcutta.

25 years after Mother Teresa's death, interest in her life has renewed. A film shot on five continents provides unique access to archives and the Missionaries of Charity, showcasing her vision of serving Christ through helping the poor. This documentary serves as a tribute to her legacy, exemplifies authentic Christian charity, and offers hope in challenging times. You can watch *Mother Teresa No Greater Love* FREE on FORMED.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAMA MARY!

Did you know we celebrate Mary's birthday every year?

The Church celebrates the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary every year. We don't know the exact day Mary was born, but September 8 has been celebrated as her birthday for many centuries! God chose Mary for a very special mission: to be the mother of Jesus. She trusted God and said "yes" to Him, showing us what it means to love and follow God.

### Birthday Challenge:

Help celebrate Mary's birthday by praying a Hail Mary and doing one kind thing for someone else. What better birthday gift could we give Mama Mary?



# "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)



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 15<sup>th</sup> ~ 11:00am till 5:00pm**

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



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



## Respect Life



### SPIRITUAL ADOPTION BIRTH-DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, October 18th  
After 10:30 Mass in the Great Hall

**Join us as we share food, community and celebrate life**

Donation of baby items are gratefully accepted

For more information contact [justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org)

**Winter Items:** 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. Required training on coffee station use is provided by Kitchen Coordinator Ann Marie Diana seen above. To sign-up, contact Deborah Lawrence-Keene at 757-318-8237 or email her at [dlawrence01@gmail.com](mailto: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 a September wedding anniversary this week!**

Tim and Stella Collinsworth - Sept. 7, 2013 (13 yrs)

Ben and Mely Garcia - Sept. 2, 1969 (57 yrs)

Arnold and Bhee Paat- Sept. 8, 1979 (47 yrs)

- **The Wisdom Seekers** group monthly luncheons are back (2nd Friday of the month September through June) for parishioner seniors. First potluck luncheon is September 11th, at 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.

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

## Announcements/ Contact Information

### ***Bookkeeper's Updates ...***

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](mailto:bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org) or call the parish office at 757-749-1010.



|                          |          |                                        |                        |                 |
|--------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Fiscal Year<br>July-June | Aug 23   | Needed Year to Date<br>New Fiscal Year | Offortory Year to Date | Excess/ (Short) |
| Offortory                | \$16,771 | \$152,100                              | \$142,803              | (\$9,297)       |

Family Count: 894

Families using envelopes: 154

Families using online donation: 190

## ST. MARK'S ANNUAL PUMPKIN PATCH RETURNS

From **October 3 through October 31**, St. Mark's will once again host its beloved **Pumpkin Patch**, featuring **over 1,400 pumpkins** in a wide array of shapes, sizes, and varieties. Whether you're decorating your home, planning a festive gathering, or simply enjoying the season, you're sure to find the perfect pumpkin. All net proceeds directly support St. Mark Ministries, helping us continue our mission of community service and outreach.

The Pumpkin Patch hours of operation will be **Monday thru Friday: 1 pm to 7pm, and Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 am to 7 pm in 3-hour shifts increments.**

**Starting Sept 1<sup>st</sup> sign up to volunteer through our St. Mark iVolunteer site:**

<http://stmarkhelps.ivolunteer.com/pumpkin> 2026

**Please include a valid email address and good contact phone number** so we can keep you informed of any updates due to weather or other changes.

**Questions?? Contact either Mike King @ 646-851-8334 (M) or Dan Wood @ 757-647-2135.**



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.

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<br>deacon_john@stmark-parish.org |
| Sherry Smeland.....           | Parish Secretary<br>secretary@stmarkparish.org             |
| Mary-Rachelle Paguiligan..... | Bookkeeper<br>bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org                 |
| Mark Smeland.....             | Music Director<br>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](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**