



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

Sept 27, 2026 • Twenty- sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.” - Mt 21:31

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 9/21/2026

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“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark
September 28th – October 4th, 2026

Daily Readings

MONDAY

7:15pm OCIA Christian Formation /CR

TUESDAY

8:30am **Daily Mass**/ Daily Chapel
 9:30am Adult Bible Study/ Great Hall
 2:00pm Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/DC
 6:30pm Seasons of Hope Grief Group/ Lib

WEDNESDAY

10-1:00pm Food Pantry/ Great Hall
 10:00am Seasons of Hope/ Library
 6:00pm Children's Sacramental Prep Parent Meeting/ Great Hall
 6:00pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena/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
 6:00pm Adoration/ Sanctuary
 6:15pm Evening Prayer and Benediction/ S
 7:00pm Adult Bible Study/ Library
 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary

FRIDAY

7:00pm First Friday Rosary/ Daily Chapel

SATURDAY

12:00pm Parish Picnic/ Pavilion
 4:00pm Reconciliation/ Daily Chapel
 5:30pm **Mass** / Sanctuary
 6:30pm Respect Life Novena/ Daily Chapel

SUNDAY

8:30am **Mass**/ Sanctuary
 10:30am **Mass**/ Sanctuary with Face Book
 12:30-1:30pm Children's Formation/ Great Hall
 6-8:00pm Teen Formation/ GH
 6:30pm Respect Life Novena/ Daily Chapel
 *KofC BBQ sales after each mass

Sept. 28: Mon. of the 26th Week in Ord. Time

Job 1:6-22; Luke 9:46-50

Sept. 29: Feast of Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; John 1:47-51

Sept. 30: Mem. of St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Job 9:1-12, 14-16; Luke 9:57-62

Oct. 1: Mem. of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Job 19:21-27; Luke 10:1-12

Oct. 2: Mem. of the Holy Guardian Angels

Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5;

Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Oct. 3: Sat. of the 26th Week in Ord. Time

Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Luke 10:17-24

Candido Mayuga †, Courtney Rahl †,

Oct. 4: Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ord. Time

Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9;

Matthew 21:33-43

Matthew 21:28-32

George Olsen †, Andrew Jones †

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 six months notice before planning a wedding at the Parish. Please do not set date before contacting the Priest.

RECONCILIATION: Celebrated first and third Saturdays of the month at 4:00 p.m.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Jay Davis, Christopher Samaniego, Ryan Steele, Jerry Major, Elsie Watkins, Gloria Fernando, Antonio Fernando, Hu Jung Dalton, Chandler Brewer, Charles Sweeney, William Ruiz, Leonardo Remias, Ron and Ruth Ferrero, Joseph Perine, Marie Amella, Fr. Dan Klem, Joseph Wargo, Kathy Seddon, Don Coons, Dana Reid, Merla Marcelo, Henrietta Mayr, Creed Clawson, Louisa Morrison, 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.

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: stmarkparish.org or visit: <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicChurchOfStMark>

"Nourished by the Sacraments"

A Reflection on the Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 21: 28-32 By Jerome Sabatowich

In today's Gospel, Jesus says the tax collectors and prostitutes will enter God's kingdom before the chief priests and elders. As you can imagine, the chief priest and elders were probably not very happy when they heard this.

As the spiritual leader of the Jewish people, the chief priest officiated at worship services on Jewish holy days, was the main religious teacher, and had the responsibility of protecting the Jewish law. Because the chief priest represented the entire community, the Jews believed he should be holier than anyone else.

The elders were older Jewish men respected for their wisdom. They usually made up the town council, the city's main governing body. Also known as the Sanhedrin, the town council passed laws enforced these laws and even tried those who were accused of breaking the laws. The Jerusalem Sanhedrin is the group that arrested Jesus and determined he should die.

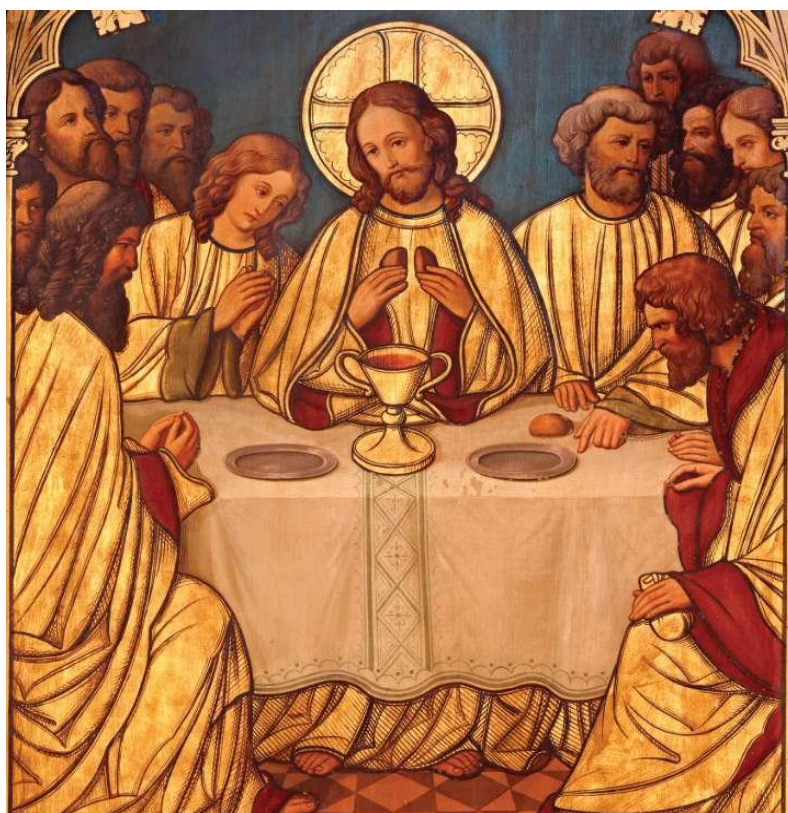
So, it happens Jesus was aiming his comments at the Jewish people's religious leaders, who were regarded as very holy men and were supposed to be an example to the ordinary Jew. Because of their holiness, most people believed the chief priest and elders would occupy the places of honor in God's Kingdom.

The tax collectors and the prostitutes were the exact opposite. As public sinners, despised by their fellow Jews, they were to occupy the lowliest spots if they ever made it to the kingdom of heaven. They certainly weren't in the same league as the chief priest and the elders.

We are now ready to understand the meaning of Jesus' comments. The chief priests and the elders said they were holy, but like the son in the first parable, they did not back up their words with action. They refused to repent when John the Baptist urged them to do so.

The tax collectors and prostitutes who accepted John's teaching and reformed their lives are like the second son who ended up doing his father's will. Because of this, Jesus says they (not the chief priest and the elders) will have a prominent place in the kingdom of heaven, implying that the tax collectors and prostitutes are holier than the chief priest and elders. As you can imagine, Jesus angered the Jewish leaders so much they began to look for a way to put him to death.

For Reflection: The saying "actions speak louder than words" can sum up today's Gospel reading. You say you believe in Jesus. What are some of the actions that back up these words? Be specific.



V O C A T I O N S

"Do this
in memory
of me."

- Luke 22:19

Join us in praying
the Novena for
Vocations to the
Priesthood

Sept. 19-27, 2026

See the prayer intentions for
each day of the novena.



Catholic Diocese
OF Richmond

www.richmondvocations.org

Religious Formation

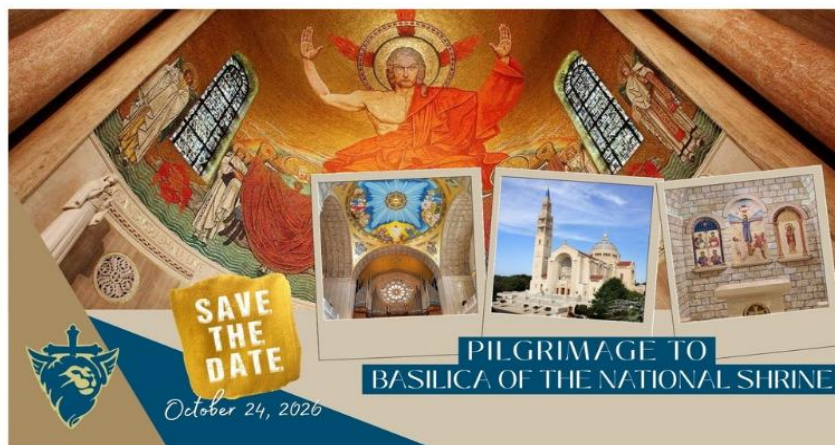
Prayer Groups and Devotions

Come together in prayer, reflection, & fellowship

<i>Daughters of Fatima</i> • Read and reflect on next Sunday's Gospel • Share intentions • Pray the Rosary • For all adult women Tuesdays + 2PM Daily Chapel	<i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i> • Pray the Novena • Pray the Rosary • Attend daily Mass • ALL are welcome Wednesdays + 6PM Main Sanctuary	<i>Divine Mercy Chaplet</i> • Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy • Fellowship follows • ALL are welcome 3rd Wednesday of the month 6PM Main Sanctuary
<i>Men of St. Joseph</i> • Read and reflect the coming Sunday's readings • Learn about the Saint of the day • For all adult men Thursdays + 6AM Great Hall	<i>First Thursday Adoration</i> • Adoration all day follows immediately after Daily Mass • Evening Prayer * 6:15PM • Benediction follows afterward • ALL are welcome First Thursday of the month Main Sanctuary	<i>First Friday Rosary</i> • Share intentions • Pray the Rosary together • ALL are welcome First Friday of the month 7PM Chapel

"When two or three are gathered in my name, there I AM among them." ~Matthew 18:20

Our parish prayer groups offer a welcoming space to lift up our needs, support one another, and deepen our relationship with God. Our faith is nourished not only by attending Sunday and Daily Mass, but also by coming together in prayer, reflection, and fellowship.. You don't have to walk the journey of faith alone. Come as you are, bring your intentions, and pray with us. All are welcome!



St. Mark Bus: \$70 per person. Thank you to all who have already registered! **SUBMIT YOUR PAYMENT SOON TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT!**

Diocesan Buses: \$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 scan the QR code.



Religious Formation Continued

Children's LITURGY

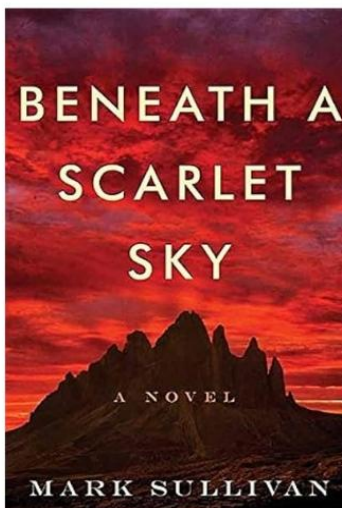
We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help bring our Children's Liturgy to life! No experience? No problem! We'll provide all the training you need.

contact Nicole for more information
nicole@stmark-parish.org



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

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2. Follow prompts
3. Find our Parish (23464)



From the small town of Lisieux in France, God called his little flower, St. Thérèse. Hidden behind the convent walls of Carmel, she lived the simple life of a cloistered nun, a life she filled with tremendous love and joy even in the midst of great suffering. Join us as we walk through some of the most pivotal moments of her life, and watch her live out her “little way of trust and love.”

In just 9 minutes, walk through some of the most pivotal moments of her life and discover how she lived out her “little way of trust and love.”



FUN SAINT FACT!

THERE A “LITTLE FLOWER” SAINT?

St. Therese of Lisieux was known as the Little Flower. St. Therese believed you didn't have to do something huge or famous to become a saint. She called her path to holiness her “little way”, doing small things with great love.

She tried to offer even ordinary things, like helping someone, being patient, or doing a small chore, as a gift to Jesus.

SAINT CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK!

Do one small thing with a BIG heart this week! Help someone, be patient when it's hard, or do something kind without being asked, and offer it to Jesus.



"Building the Kingdom of God by Imaging Christ"



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 October: \$10 Gift Cards/ Any item from our Food Pantry List/ Individual Fruit Cups

October Respect Life Month Events

- **"Novena to Three American Saints for Life"**- Saints Elizabeth Seton, Frances Cabrini and John Neumann **October 3rd-11th** (live Daily Chapel and Zoom) If you wish to participate via zoom email us for Zoom link *Note Saturday Novena will be said at home
- **Baby Bottle drive: October 3rd-18th** to support Hope4Life outreach
- **Take a stand for life: September 24th- November 2nd** our community will take part in 40 Days for Life. Our St Mark group will stand vigil and pray on Mondays from 1-2pm. Where: Public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood 515 Newtown Road. Please join us as we pray for an end to abortion.
- **"Birthday" Brunch:** in Great Hall October 18th after 10:30 Mass. Join us for a yummy brunch as we celebrate our Spiritual Adopted babies' birthdays with guests invited from Hope4Life, Crisis Pregnancy Center, and Birthright.
- **Official USCCB 2026 Respect Life Novena** October 22nd-30th (Zoom) If you wish to participate via zoom email us for Zoom link
- **Baby Layette Item Collection:** Throughout month Sizes: Newborn- 3 months, Receiving Blankets, Onesies, Baby Booties, Infant Sleepers, outfits
- **Winter Items:** Our winter item collection is winding down October 18th is the deadline for donations. Items needed: Men's and Women's Gloves/Mittens, Winter Hats (knit caps), Scarves and Socks. ***Please only new or clean/gently used items**** Place donated items in the collection bin in the Great Hall.

PROTECT VIRGINIA 2026  **OTE**
VIRGINIA RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM AMENDMENT **NO**

**LITURGY SCHEDULE: Saturday: 5:30pm/
Sunday at 8:30 & 10:30am/ Tuesday and
Thursday at 8:30am/ at 7:00pm**



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

- **St. Mark's Annual Picnic** - Saturday, October 3, 12-2. There will be a face painter, Bounce House and Music and more! Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and drinks will be provided. Bring a side dish to share.
 - We look forward to Father Eric's safe return and celebrating his birthday (September 30th) at the **St. Mark Picnic**.
 - **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!**

Ray and Fran Sherman - Sept. 29, 1973 (53 yrs)

- **The Wisdom Seekers** group, for parishioners and friends 50+ years, next monthly potluck luncheon is Friday, October 9th. This luncheon will begin with a chapel Memorial Mass at 12 pm for deceased members followed by the luncheon in the Great Hall. Please bring a dish to share (Last name begins A-M fruit or dessert dish, N-Z protein or salad dish). Please contact Mary Shaw [\(757\)348-4460](tel:7573484460) for general group questions.



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

Spiritual Adoption/ HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Your spiritually adopted baby will be born this October! They are truly a miracle. They have grown over the past nine months into this unique human baby we now can see. Your prayers saved Their life. Thank you on behalf of all the little babies and their mothers for your prayers that helped to bring them to birth "so that they might have life and have it to the full!" **Join us after 10:30 Mass October 18th as we celebrate with our first "Birth Day Brunch"** Donations of baby items are gratefully accepted.

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/stmarykyb or donate on the Parish Giving OR



giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stmark
kvb or donate on the Parish Giving QR
 code. For more details or to donate,
 contact Parish Bookkeeper, Rachelle
 Paguiligan, at [bookkeeper@stmark-](mailto:bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org)
[parish.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org) or call the parish office at
 757-749-1010.



Fiscal Year July-June	Sept 13	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$18,038	\$214,100	\$201,492	(\$12,608)

Family Count: 919

Families using envelopes: 162

Families using online donation: 193

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond Pastoral Center is seeking an **Executive Assistant to the Bishop**. For the full ad and how to apply, please click <https://bit.ly/4qNDMSR> For any questions, please contact Kelly Shumate, Recruiter at: jobs@richmonddiocese.org

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond, **Office of Ethnic Ministries is seeking a Director** to work at the Pastoral Center. For the full ad and how to apply, please click <https://bit.ly/4wMljr5> For any questions, please contact Kelly Shumate, Recruiter at jobs@richmonddiocese.org

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond, Office of Communications, is seeking a **Managing Editor** for The Catholic Virginian. For the full ad and how to apply, please click <https://bit.ly/4qCUjJq> For any questions, please contact Kelly Shumate, HR Generalist / Recruiter at jobs@richmonddiocese.org

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond is seeking a **Groundskeeper** in Norfolk VA to support the Office of Cemeteries. For the full ad and to apply please visit <https://bit.ly/4gnWQT4> For any questions, please contact Kelly Shumate, HR Generalist/Recruiter at jobs@richmonddiocese.org



PLARN's quarterly donation to PiN ministry, blessed by Deacon John, included 31 much needed mats and 14 totes. What a blessing thanks to our PLARNers!

AARP Smart Driver Course

sponsored by **Wisdom Seekers Senior Group**

What: One required 8-hour class on two 4-hour days

When: Tues. and Thurs., October 13 and 15, 10 am-2
Where: Great Hall (Drinks and snacks provided.)

Register at the sign-in log in the Great Hall.

Contacts: Mary Shaw [\(757\) 348-4460](tel:757-348-4460) or Pat Savarese [\(718\) 757-5521](tel:718-757-5521).

**St. Mark's
Pumpkin Patch**

OPENS

Oct. 3rd through Oct.31st

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Sign up on iVolunteer

for Set-up and Sales Shifts at:

https://stmarkhelps.ivolunteer.com/pumpkins_2026

Contact Mike King at 646-851-8334 for more details.

A photograph of a young child with dark hair, wearing a blue jacket, smiling and holding a large orange pumpkin. The child is surrounded by many other pumpkins of various sizes and colors (orange, green, white) in a field of dry grass.

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@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

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