



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

October 4, 2026 • Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.” - Mt 21:43

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 9/28/2026

1505 KEMPSVILLE RD., VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23464

Phone: 757-479-1010 • www.stmark-parish.org

Email: secretary@stmark-parish.org



“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark

October 5th – October 11th, 2026

MONDAY

6:30pm Respect Life Novena/DC
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
6:30pm Respect Life Novena/DC
7:00pm Liturgy Meeting/ CR

WEDNESDAY

10-1:00pm Food Pantry/ Great Hall
10:00am Seasons of Hope/ Library
6:00pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena/S
6:30pm Respect Life Novena/DC
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 Confirmation Prep Mtg. / Great Hall
6:00pm KofC Officers Mtg. / CR
6:30pm Respect Life Novena/DC
7:00pm Adult Bible Study/ Library
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary

FRIDAY

12:00pm Wisdom Seekers Mem. Mass/Sanct.
6:30pm Respect Life Novena/DC

SATURDAY

5:30pm **Mass /** Sanctuary
6:30pm Filipino Night/ Great Hall
6:30pm Respect Life Novena/ Zoom

SUNDAY

8:30am **Mass/** Sanctuary
10:30am **Mass/** Sanctuary with Face Book
11:45am In-person Baptism Class/ Sanctuary
12:30-1:30pm Children's Formation/ Great Hall
6-8:00pm Teen Formation/ GH
6:30pm Respect Life Novena/ Daily Chapel
*KofC BBO sales after each mass

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)

Daily Readings

Oct. 5: Mon. of the 27th Week in Ord. Time
Galatians 1:6-12; Luke 10:25-37

Oct. 6: Tues. of the 27th Week in Ord. Time
Galatians 1:13-24; Luke 10:38-42

Oct. 7: Mem. of Our Lady of the Rosary
Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14; Luke 11:1-4

Oct. 8: Thurs. of the 27th Week in Ord. Time
Galatians 3:1-5; Luke 11:5-13
Odilon Flores †, Carlos Coronan †

Oct. 9: Fri. of the 27th Week in Ord. Time
Galatians 3:7-14; Luke 11:15-26

Oct. 10: Sat. of the 27th Week in Ord. Time
Galatians 3:22-29; Luke 11:27-28
Dionisio Calaguyan, Sr. †,
Jackie Bowman †, Karen Martino †

Oct. 11: Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ord. Time
Isaiah 25:6-10a; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20;
Matthew 22:1-14
Nicanor Navarro †, Emerito Arriola †

PRAYER REQUESTS: Bette Thomas, 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.

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.

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-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Protect Life Sunday From: Fr. Eric Asamoah

October is Respect Life Month, and today (October 4) is Respect Life Sunday. Each year at this time, the bishops of the United States call us to pause and reflect more deeply on the sacred gift of human life and our role in welcoming, cherishing, and protecting the lives of our brothers and sisters. This month's theme is Mary, Mother of Life, which is wonderful since October is also a month dedicated to Mary and dedicated to praying the rosary.

Mary conceives and gives birth to Christ, the Author of Life. Mary is both Mother and Protector of Life

The prophet Isaiah describes God's relationship with Israel using the beautiful image of a vineyard. The owner carefully prepares the vineyard, plants the best vines, protects them, and provides everything they need. Isaiah identifies the vineyard as Israel, God's people, and the "fruit" God seeks is justice and righteousness, not bloodshed and the cries of the oppressed. This reveals God's loving and tender care for human life.

In our world today, we see countless examples of complete disregard for human life. From the child hidden in its mother's womb, to the terminally ill patient

nearing the end of life. Every person is created in the image and likeness of God and deserves respect and protection.

The Psalmist of today recalls God's tender love and care: *A vine from Egypt you transplanted; you drove away the nations and planted it.* The Psalmist seeks God's protection: *Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted.*

Today, on Respect life Sunday, we can also see the message in the Gospel of Matthew as a reflection of human life that is given to us as a sacred gift from God. The landowner lovingly cared for this land by planting a vineyard, putting a hedge around it, digging a wine press in it, and building a tower. This is a symbol of how God is the creator of our world and our lives, how we should see ourselves as the caretakers of this sacred gift he gives us.

In the vineyard of the Church and family, are we producing the fruit of the Holy Spirit? Is there justice? Is there compassion? Is there forgiveness? Is there generosity? Is there humility? Is there love?

As we recognize Respect Life Sunday, may we think of ways we are honoring God and His creation and the most vulnerable in society. Stay Blessed.



PLARN's recent quarterly donation to PiN (People in Need) ministry blessed by Deacon John, included 31 much needed mats and 14 totes. This ministry has created 106 mats and 25 totes to date this year. The "Lifetime" Donation Total is 832 mats and 156 totes. These mats are used by marginalized Virginia Beach citizens as insulation to sleep on dry ground if they must sleep outdoors. What a blessing these mats are to our homeless population! Much thanks to our PLARNers! This group meets every Thursday from 9:00am to 11:00pm in the Great Hall. For more information about this group, contact Chris McGrath or the Parish Office at 757-479-1010.

Religious Formation

Prayer Groups and Devotions

Come together in prayer, reflection, & fellowship

Daughters of Fatima • Read and reflect on next Sunday's Gospel • Share intentions • Pray the Rosary • For all adult women Tuesdays + 2PM Daily Chapel	Our Lady of Perpetual Help • Pray the Novena • Pray the Rosary • Attend daily Mass • ALL are welcome Wednesdays + 6PM Main Sanctuary	Divine Mercy Chaplet • Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy • Fellowship follows • ALL are welcome 3rd Wednesday of the month 11AM Main Sanctuary
Men of St. Joseph • Read and reflect the coming Sunday's readings • Learn about the Saint of the day • For all adult men Thursdays + 6AM Great Hall	First Thursday Adoration • 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	First Friday Rosary • Share intentions • Pray the Rosary together • ALL are welcome First Friday of the month 7PM Chapel

PRAY WITH US!

Our parish prayer groups offer a welcoming space to bring our intentions, support one another, and grow closer to God through prayer, reflection, and fellowship. You don't have to walk your faith journey alone. Come as you are—everyone is welcome!

Correction: The Divine Mercy Chaplet is at 11:00 AM, NOT 6:00 PM.

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

What if your invitation is the one someone has been waiting for?

Do you know someone curious about the Catholic faith, interested in becoming Catholic, or hoping to return to the Church?

Invite them to OCIA!

For Adults: OCIA is for adults who are exploring the Catholic faith, seeking to become Catholic, or returning to the Church.

For Children: Our Children's OCIA Process is for children in 3rd grade and older who are not yet Catholic, were baptized in another Christian tradition, or are Catholic but have not yet received all their Sacraments of Initiation.

Contact the RF Office to learn more. Everyone is welcome!

Sometimes, all it takes is a simple invitation.

EXPLORING CATHOLICISM



THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



17 St. Mark teens and their parents gathered for Confirmation Orientation!

Please keep our young people in your prayers as they discern, grow in faith, and journey through their Confirmation preparation. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen them every step of the way!

COME CELEBRATE

FILIPINO NIGHT

OCTOBER 10, 2026 | SATURDAY
AFTER 5:30PM MASS



Get your tickets after each weekend Mass!
\$30 adults * \$15 10-17yo * \$5 below 10

Religious Formation Continued

Saintly **Trunk Or Treat**
A Saints-Inspired Halloween Bash

Games!
Prizes!
Best Trunk!
Best Costume!

**Admission: One sweet bag of candy!
\$5 Hot Dog Dinner!**

Sign up to host a saint-themed trunk!

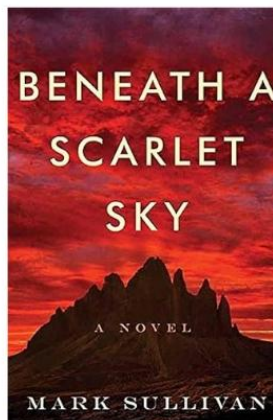
November 1st
4:30-6:30p





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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WHY DO CATHOLICS DO THAT?

WHY ARE THERE CANDLES IN CHURCH IF WE HAVE ELECTRIC LIGHTS?

Candles have a special meaning in our Catholic faith. The light reminds us of Jesus, who called Himself the "Light of the World." When we light a candle, we can also think of it as a little reminder of our prayers and intentions. Even after we leave the church, the candle keeps burning, just like we can continue to trust that God hears our prayers.

Next time you see a candle at church: Take a moment to think of someone you want to pray for and say a quick prayer for them.



“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. Baby item donations are appreciated.
- **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.
- **Blood Drive:** Thank you to all who volunteered, brought treats and especially to those who donated at our Red Cross Blood Drive. Through your efforts we collected 44 pints; this has an impact on 132 lives. Thank you! Save the date our next Blood Drive is Tuesday, March 2nd 11am-5pm.

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



- **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!

Patrick and Maria Nolan -Oct. 5, 2013 (13 years)

George and Diane Rogic -Oct. 8, 1992 (34 years)

Ernie and Linda Marsh – Oct. 11, 1969 (57 years)

- **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.

A colorful poster for the "Respect Life Spiritual Adoption Birth-Day Brunch". It features a central circular graphic with a baby's face and the word "Welcome". The text on the poster includes: "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", and "Donation of baby items are gratefully accepted". It also provides the contact email: justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org. The poster is decorated with colorful balloons and streamers.

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.

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

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 or call the parish office at 757-749-1010.



Fiscal Year July-June 2027	Sept 20	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$16,693	\$223,100	\$218,187	(\$14,913)

Family Count: 921

Families using envelopes: 156

Families using online donation: 169

JOBS!

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

The Building and Grounds Ministry is asking for your help Saturday October 17th. We will be working from 8:00AM to 12:00 PM. Please give us what time you can that day. We will be renting a large wood-chipper to chip mulch for the Stations of the Cross Trail and along the fencelines. We will also mow and trim weeds at the woods and fencelines. Please bring a good pair of gloves, your personal hearing protection (if not we have some), and/or weed trimmer or large pruner. For questions contact Jim Waltz, 757-754-9235 or JWaltzFAM@outlook.com.

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.

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
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