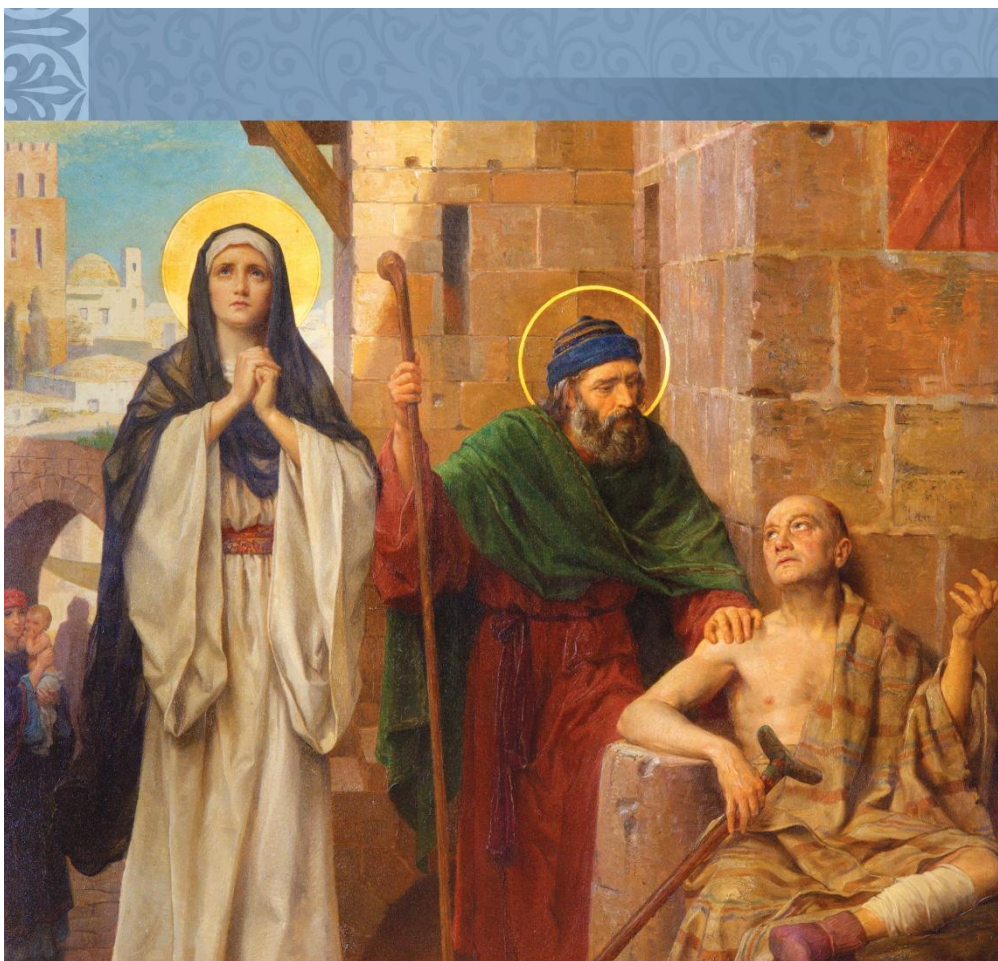




THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

October 11, 2026 • Twenty- eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



28th Sunday

I N O R D I N A R Y T I M E

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast." Matthew 22:2-3

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.



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“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark October 12th – October 18th, 2026

MONDAY

7:15pm OCIA Christian Formation /CR

TUESDAY

8:30am **No Liturgy of the Word**
 9:30am Adult Bible Study/ Great Hall/CL
 10-2:00pm AARP Smart Drive Class/ Library
 2:00pm Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/DC
 6:00pm Parish Life Meeting/ CR
 6:00pm In-person Virtus Training/ Great Hall
 6:30pm Women's Book Club/CL
 6:30pm Seasons of Hope Grief Group/ Lib

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

THURSDAY

6:00am Men of St. Joseph/ Great Hall
 8:30am **Liturgy of the Word/ Daily Chapel**
 9-11:00am **PLARN/ Great Hall**
 10-2:00pm AARP Smart Drive Class/ Library
 7:00pm Adult Bible Study/ Library
 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary

FRIDAY

7:30pm KofC Monthly Meeting/ GH

SATURDAY

8:00am Building and Grounds Mtg/ GH
 4:00pm Reconciliation/Daily Chapel
 5:30pm **Mass / Sanctuary**

SUNDAY

8:30am **Mass/ Sanctuary**
 10:30am **Mass/ Sanctuary with Face Book**
 11:45am Spiritual Adoption Birthday Brunch/G
 12:30-1:30pm Children's Formation/ Great Hall
 1:30pm Eucharistic Procession/ Star of the Sea
 6-8:00pm Teen Formation/ St. Nicholas CC
 *KofC BBQ 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. 12:** Mon. of the 28th Week in Ord. Time
Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1;
Luke 11:29-32
- Oct. 13:** Tues. of the 28th Week in Ord. Time
Galatians 5:1-6; Luke 11:37-41
- Oct. 14:** Mem. of Our Lady of the Rosary
Galatians 5:18-25; Luke 11:42-46
- Oct. 15:** Mem. of St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
Ephesians 1:1-10; Luke 11:47-54
- Oct. 16:** Fri. of the 28th Week in Ord. Time
Ephesians 1:11-14; Luke 12:1-7
- Oct. 17:** Mem. of St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr
Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 12:8-12
 Cynthia Gorman †, Jackie Bowman †
- Oct. 18:** Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ord. Time
Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; 1Thessalonians 1:1-5b;
Matthew 22:15-21

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.

“Nourished by the Sacraments”



A Reflection on the Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time From: Fr. Eric Asamoah

Isaiah in the first reading teaches that our life with God is like participating in a lavish banquet on Mount Zion where “all peoples” will feast on rich food and choice wine, where death is destroyed, tears wiped away, and God’s people rejoice in His salvation.

On this mountain God will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; He will destroy death forever. Nobody deserves an invitation any more than they deserved to be born. The banquet reveals a love that reaches beyond the expected guests and calls every person into communion.

In Parable of the Wedding Banquet (Gospel of Matthew), the servants went out into the byroads and rounded up everyone they met, the bad as well as the good. This filled the wedding hall with banqueters.

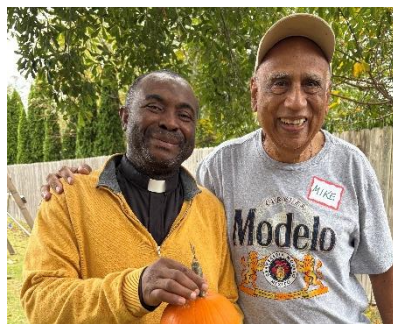
The prophet Isaiah and Matthew’s Gospel (v.9) echo the inclusive reach of God’s salvation and find their sacramental fulfillment in the celebration of the Mass, which makes present the mystery of Christ’s sacrifice and the kingdom of heaven. The “rich food” and “aged wine” of Isaiah are made present in the bread and Wine

at Mass, symbolizing the fulfillment of God’s promise to dwell with His people.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, (the Groom, the King’s Son), the Eucharist is the “wedding feast” where the Church, His bride, is invited to share in His victory over sin and death.

The “wedding garment” corresponds to the believer’s union with Christ, clothed in His righteousness, which is the true “attire” for the feast. The humble decision to receive gifts we could never deserve is the wedding garment God hopes we will wear every day.

Our gathering at our Eucharistic celebration is not merely a meeting but a *communion*—a sacred table where God’s people are drawn together as one body. Today’s readings invite us to meditate on the truth that the invitation to share divine life is a free gift. The king’s joy in welcoming the prepared reflects the psalmist’s hope of dwelling with God. Let us pray to live in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives. Our vocation then, is to continually expand our capacity to receive divine life and enjoy the banquet of God’s self-giving. Respect Life Month asks whether our communities mirror that generous welcome. Stay blessed.



Parish Picnic, Pumpkin Patch and Pumpkin Birthday Wishes! A special thanks and many blessings to our Parish Life volunteers who seamlessly moved our annual picnic indoors! Even though the pumpkins arrived two hours early, everyone was fed before moving to the Patch to unload 1200 pumpkins! It was a beautiful day!

Religious Formation



PRAY THE ROSARY FOR PEACE A Special Invitation for the Month of October

At Lourdes, Pope Leo XIV invited all the faithful and Christian communities to pray the Holy Rosary throughout the month of October, asking Our Blessed Mother's intercession for an end to war and for peace among peoples in conflict. Let us respond as a parish family.

We invite every St. Mark family to pray the Rosary each day during October—whether together at home, with your family, or wherever you are.

Our October intention:

For an end to wars and violence, and for lasting peace in our world.

Let us place our world, our families, and all those who suffer from conflict into the loving hands of Mary, Queen of Peace.

Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, pray for us!

Sign up NOW to reserve your seats!

St. Mark Chartered Bus
\$70/Person

**PILGRIMAGE TO
BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE**

October 24, 2026

Seasons of Hope A Catholic Grief Support Group

Have you lost a loved one—recently or long ago?
YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

Our parish grief support group is a gentle, prayerful space to share, listen, and find hope in Christ alongside others who understand.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” (Matthew 5:4)
All are welcome.

for more details, call Pat Winner at 757-615-2759 or Dale Mullin at 757-647-6994.

**MARKed
GENERATION**

GRADES 6-12

MARKed Generation is the youth group of St. Mark, created for teens to grow in faith, build meaningful friendships, and make a real impact through service.

**4th Saturday
of the Month**

**Follows
5:30 PM Mass**

Whether you're new or returning, there's a place for you here.



October 24 | Diocesan Pilgrimage

Join fellow St. Mark parishioners for a special pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

St. Mark Coach Bus - \$70 per person
* Departs from St. Mark parking lot.

Prefer the \$10 Diocesan Bus?

The Diocese is also offering transportation for \$10 per person, with buses departing from:

- Catholic High School – Virginia Beach
 - Holy Trinity Knights of Columbus Club – Norfolk
- Register directly through the Diocese to reserve your seat on a diocesan bus.

<https://evangelizerichmond.org/events/diocesan-pilgrimage-2/>

Religious Formation Continued

Ask Fr. Eric

Ever wonder why the priest kisses the altar?
Or what Father Eric gets up to when he's not at St. Mark?

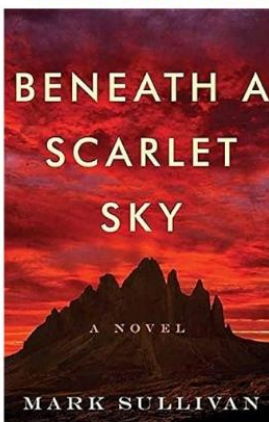
This bulletin series is your golden ticket to ask Father Eric all things priest life.

Submit questions to the Ask Fr. Eric box in the Formation Office or email your question to 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

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

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?

-GENEVIEVE G.

Good question, Genevieve.
Am able to eat almost all kinds of food starting from rice, potatoes, meat, fish, chicken, eggplant, nice vegetables as well, etc.

But I think in recent times French fries with chicken salad has been my favorite. I do like all kinds of desserts and milk shakes too.

Blessings on you and family.



ASK FR. ERIC!



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

October Respect Life Month Events

- **Baby Bottle drive: October 3rd-18th** to support Hope4Life outreach. Fill the bottle with change; return by October 18th.
- **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 Tuesdays from 10-11am. 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.



Migrant Ministry: What a honor and joy to celebrate the Sacraments with our Eastern Shore Migrant brothers. Our Migrant Ministry is winding down for the year; we pray for our migrant brothers and sisters as they leave us and we look forward to visiting and worshipping with them next year. May God bless each one of them.



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

HOPE 4 LIFE Baby Bottle Drive: October 3rd-18th
How can YOU support a Culture of Life? Participate in Hope 4 Life Baby Bottle Campaign! Pick up your baby bottle beginning the weekend of October 3rd; fill it with change, cash, or checks and return by October 25th. Your change will enable **Hope 4 Life** to assist women and families facing crisis-related pregnancies by providing medical and support services, baby and child supplies, and financial help through our pregnancy mobile units.

