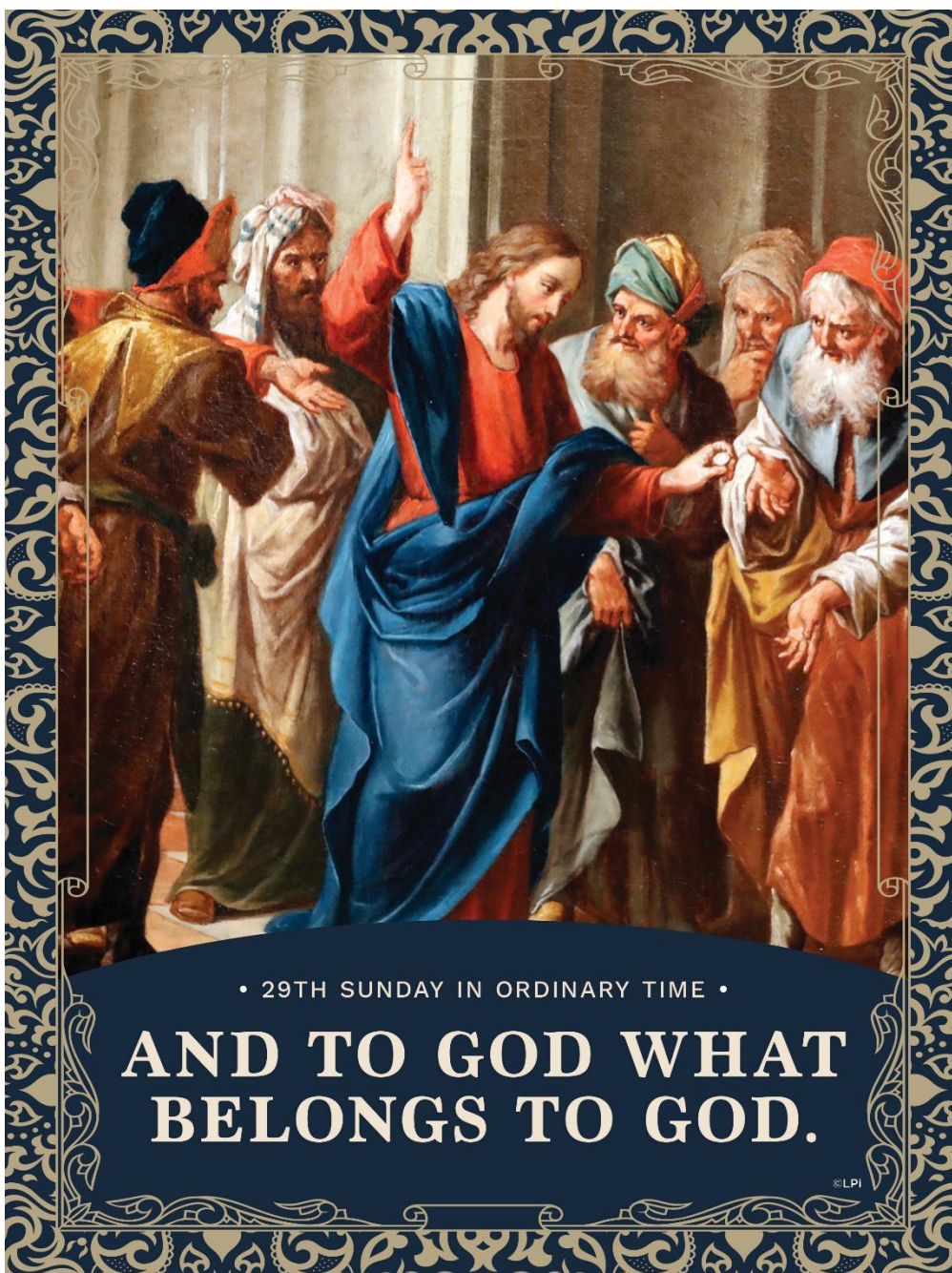




THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

October 18, 2026 • Twenty- ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time



• 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

**AND TO GOD WHAT
BELONGS TO GOD.**

©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 10/12/2026

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“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark October 19th – October 25th, 2026

MONDAY

7:15pm OCIA Christian Formation /CR

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

10-1:00pm Food Pantry/ Great Hall
11:00am Divine Mercy Chaplet
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
7:00pm Adult Bible Study/ Library
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

6:00am Pilgrimage Bus departure/ parking lot
5:30pm **Mass** / Sanctuary
6:30-8pm MARKed Gen Youth Group/ GH

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/
*KofC BBQ Order Pick-up/ Kitchen

Communion PYX. Please return communion pyx. If you have a pyx from taking communion home at home, in a desk drawer, or in your car, please return them.

Daily Readings

Oct. 19: **Mem. of Sts. John de Brebeuf and Isaac Joques, Priests, Companions, Martyrs**
Ephesians 2:1-10; Luke 12:13-21

Oct. 20: **Tues. of the 29th Week in Ord. Time**
Ephesians 2:12-22; Luke 12:35-38

Oct. 21: **Wed. of the 29th Week in Ord. Time**
Ephesians 3:2-12; Luke 12:39-48

Oct. 22: **Thurs. of the 29th Week in Ord. Time**
Ephesians 3:14-21; Luke 12:49-53

Oct. 23: **Fri. of the 29th Week in Ord. Time**
Ephesians 4:1-6; Luke 12:54-59

Oct. 24: **Sat. of the 29th Week in Ord. Time**
Ephesians 4:7-16; Luke 13:1-9
Josefa Alba †, Norris Wellington Brown†

Oct. 25: **Thirtieth Sunday in Ord. Time**
Exodus 22:20-26; 1 Thes. 1:5c-10:
Matthew 22:34-40
Chantele McGurn †, Christina Perez †,
Christina Perez †, Rachel Lothyan †,
Maria Celeste Mendoza †,
Donald DeGroot †

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 are required to give six months' notice before planning a wedding at the Parish. Please do not set date before contacting the Priest. To begin the process, contact the Parish Secretary.

RECONCILIATION: Celebrated first and third 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 Parish Office at 757-479-1010.

“Nourished by the Sacraments”



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

In the first reading, God uses Cyrus, a foreign king, to help Israel. God sovereignty means that He is in control of all aspects of our lives, from the beginning to the end. Nothing is beyond His reach. He is the Lord of all nations, all history, all hearts, even those that do not yet know Him. This understanding should bring us comfort, knowing that we are not alone as His people. However, this does not diminish our responsibility to make wise choices and decisions, nor does it absolve us from the consequences of our actions.

Jesus challenges in us the choice we must make in the Gospel of today. The Pharisees and Herodians who were political enemies come together and attempt to trap Jesus with a political question about paying taxes to Caesar.

Beginning with false flattery on their lips; “Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.” How long did it take them to come up with this dilemma? How much time do people waste planning how to undo someone of whom they are jealous?

They ask a question to which, they believe — there is no safe answer: “Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?”

Rather than attempt an answer to the puzzle, Jesus looks beyond their words to the intentions of their hearts, and seeing the evil therein, he says to them, “Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”

Jesus exposes their malice and reframes the issue: the coin bears Caesar’s image, but our lives bear God’s image. Jesus’ reply shows, the choice is not about avoiding responsibility to Caesar, but about ensuring that God’s claim on us is primary.

Therefore, civic responsibilities have their place, but our ultimate allegiance belongs to God. The central truth is that our ultimate allegiance is to the God whose image we bear.

This Sunday invites the congregation to reflect on how they balance civic duties with the call to discipleship. Jesus’ teaching does not divide life into sacred and secular but reminds us that God’s claim on us is total. We fulfill earthly responsibilities without letting them overshadow our identity as God’s people.

Give the Lord glory and honor. Tell His glory among nations, among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.



Congratulations to the Dunn, Evans, Dolor, Bell and Vanzuela families who celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism for their children at St. Mark on Saturday and Sunday masses, October 3rd and 4th. Please pray for all of them as they begin their faith journeys. What a blessing!

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!



TABLE OF REMEMBRANCE **A Special Invitation for the Month of November**

During November, as we remember and pray for our beloved deceased, we invite you to share a framed photo of your departed family members and friends for our Table of Remembrance. Please drop off your photo by December 28 and label the back of the frame with your name and contact information so we can safely return it to you at the end of the month.

Together, let us honor their memory and keep them close in our prayers.



Filipino Night was a wonderful success! Our children joyfully participated in the Mass and delighted everyone with a special dance performance. Their presence reminds us of the importance of involving our young people in our cultural and faith traditions, nurturing their sense of belonging, and passing on our rich Filipino heritage and Catholic faith to the next generation.



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

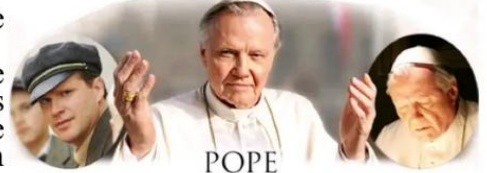
4:30-6:30p

THIS WEEK ON FORMED



This epic film follows Karol Wojtyla's journey from his youth in Poland through his late days on the Chair of St. Peter. It explores his life behind the scenes: how he touched millions of people, changed the face of the Church and the world, and how he defended the dignity of mankind. Jon Voight's powerful, Emmy-nominated performance as John Paul II was widely praised, as was Cary Elwes as the young Karol. Shot on location in Rome and

Poland in close connection with the Vatican, this is the definitive epic film on the life of Pope John Paul II.



POPE
JOHN PAUL II
BASED ON THE POWERFUL TRUE STORY

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



DID YOU KNOW?

'ALLELUIA' MEANS 'PRAISE THE LORD'

You say it at Mass all the time, but do you know what "Alleluia" means?

It comes from Hebrew Hallelu Yah, meaning "Praise the Lord!" We sing it before the Gospel as a joyful way of praising God and welcoming the words of Jesus.

Fun Catholic connection: we don't say or sing the Alleluia during Lent because Lent is a quieter, more penitential season. When Easter arrives, the Alleluia comes back with extra joy!



"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: Ends Today** Support Hope4Life outreach. **DON'T FORGET** to return your filled baby bottle this week. Every bottle helps support a baby in need!
- **"Birthday" Brunch:** in Great Hall **Today 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
- **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.
- **Baby Layette Item Collection:** Throughout month Sizes: Newborn- 3 months, Receiving Blankets, Onesies, Baby Booties, Infant Sleepers, outfits.



HOPE 4 LIFE Baby Bottle Drive:
Ends Today! Support Hope4Life outreach. **DON'T FORGET** to return your filled baby bottle this week. Every bottle helps support a baby in need.

STOP THE EXTREME ABORTION AMENDMENT

**VOTE NO ON BALLOT QUESTION 1
STARTING SEPT. 18 THRU NOV. 3**



The amendment is dangerously vague and creates risky loopholes for unregulated abortions even up until birth, by unlicensed abortion providers, threatening the health of mothers and healthy babies.

Abortion is a fundamental tragedy, not a "fundamental right"

Learn more at
vacatholic.org/Amendment



Parish  Life

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

- **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 Jo Titus – Oct. 19, 1985 (41 years)

The Wisdom Seekers Group

Join parishioners and friends 50+ years for our next monthly potluck luncheon on **Friday, November 13th at 12 pm in the Great Hall.**

Thanksgiving theme: turkey, gravy, mash potatoes, and dressing will be provided. Please bring a complementary 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](tel:757348-4460) for general group questions.

Consider Becoming an Altar Server!

We welcome all our registered parish youth who have had their First Communion Sacrament to join our St. Mark altar server community! If you have questions about this special service ministry opportunity for your youth, please reach out to Michael Archibeque, our St. Mark Altar Server Coordinator for more details at: Marchibeque@me.com.



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	Oct 04	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offtortory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offtortory	\$21,979	\$276,100	\$255,600	(\$20,500)

Family Count: 930

Families using envelopes: 209

Families using online donation: 215

Missionary Co-op Second Collection

Fr. Francis Boateng, the pastor of St. Mary the Mother of God, Wytheville and St. Edward Mission, Pulaski will be here for the Saturday, November 14th, 5:30 mass and Sunday, November 15th for 8:30am and 10:30am masses. These small parishes keep the faith alive and offer the mass and sacraments to those in the western part of the Diocese.

Mission Co-op allows larger parishes to assist in maintaining the church and its ministries. There will be a second collection at all masses. Watch the bulletin for upcoming details.

World Mission Sunday is October 18th. Envelopes are available at the Information Kiosk in the Commons if you want to contribute to Pontifical Missions. To find out more about their work, use the QR code on the envelope.

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

Pumpkin Patch Updates:

- The Pumpkin Patch will be serving hotdogs, chips and drinks from 4:00 to 7:00pm every weekend in the month of October, weather permitting! All are welcome! Don't miss out!
- For every bulk pumpkin purchased at the Pumpkin Patch, Applebees will provide a free kid's meal through October 31st! Get yours today!
- October 17th – 18th is EMS Appreciation Weekend. You are invited to check out an actual VB fire engine at the Pumpkin Patch October 17th at 2:00pm.

**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 young child with dark hair, wearing a blue jacket, is smiling and holding a large orange pumpkin. The child is standing in a field with many other pumpkins of various colors (orange, green, white) in the background.

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