



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF *Saint Mark*

October 25, 2026 • Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." - Mt 22:37

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Welcome!

Save these 2026

St. Mark

Pilgrimage Dates!

1. Pray for those attending the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine, Washington, DC October 24, 2026.
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 10/19/2026

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“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark

October 26th – November 1st, 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
6:30pm Seasons of Hope Grief Group/ Library

WEDNESDAY

10-1:00pm Food Pantry/ Great Hall
10:00am Seasons of Hope Grief Group/ Library
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 Parish Pastoral Council Mtg/ CR
7:00pm Adult Bible Study/ Library
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

5:30pm **Mass** / Sanctuary

SUNDAY **Solemnity of All Saints**

8:30am **Mass**/ Sanctuary
10:30am **Mass**/ Sanctuary with Face Book
4:30pm Saintry Trunk-or-Treat/ Parking Lot

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. 26: Mon. of the 30th Week in Ord. Time
Ephesians 4:32–5:8; Luke 13:10-17

Oct. 27: Tues. of the 30th Week in Ord. Time
Ephesians 5:21-33; Luke 13:18-21
Dolores Sneeringer †

Oct. 28: Feast of Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles
Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16
Rachel Lothyan †, Christina Perez †

Oct. 29: Thurs. of the 30th Week in Ord. Time
Ephesians 6:10-20; Luke 13:31-35
Troy Ogo †

Oct. 30: Fri. of the 30th Week in Ord. Time
Philippians 1:1-11; Luke 14:1-6

Oct. 31: Sat. of the 30th Week in Ord. Time
Philippians 1:18b-26; Luke 14:1, 7-11
Elroy Anderson †,
Ellen and Henry Quernemont †

Nov. 1: Solemnity of All Saints
Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12a
Crispina Rosales †, Dante Acedo †,
Nenita Temelo †, Gillian Morse Bauer †,
Onofre and Maria Aquino †

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, Erlinda Mariado, Lorraine Stambaugh, Susan Colonna, Val Kandis

* Prayer Requests may remain in the bulletin for one year.

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 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

From: Deacon John Kren

These last few weeks, the stories have been about the Pharisees and the Sadducees trying to maintain their power in society. This apparent newcomer, Jesus, has been looking at the law in new ways and their position as interpreters and enforcers has been questioned. They have been more present in the parables. Their traps are more numerous, more subtle and nuanced. Today they lay out the question which of God's commandments are the greatest. A direct assault if answered, “Who made you God”. Jesus' response is focused on the purpose of the whole law. A law that begins in Genesis at Creation – a law of love. In His response, is Jesus asking them how they were fulfilling the Law? Maybe even how are we fulfilling the Law. Do we examine our love relationship with God and with our neighbor?

St. Paul tells the Thessalonians and us what sort of people we should be, imitators of the Apostles. We should not only live the faith and turn to God to be examples of servants that reflect the joy of the Holy Spirit and openly declare the gifts, graces, forgiveness, mercy, and compassion that each of us receives and gives, especially in the bread and wine of this altar.

“Birthday” Brunch”, A Huge Success!

Much thanks and gratitude to all who participated in the Birthday Brunch celebrating our “Spiritual Adopted” babies' birthday October 18th after 10:30pm Mass.

Generously donated baby items pictured below were presented to representatives from **Hope4Life, Crisis Pregnancy Center, and Birthright** to help support babies in need in our community.



Join us for choir rehearsals, Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. If you can't make it on a weekday, join us 30 minutes before each mass in the choir room. We look forward to making a joyful noise together. ~ *“He who sings, prays twice.” - St. Augustine.*

*Dir. of Music, Mark Smeland. Assistant Dir. of Music, Vikki Ignacio.

Religious Formation

Month of Remembrance

TABLE OF REMEMBRANCE

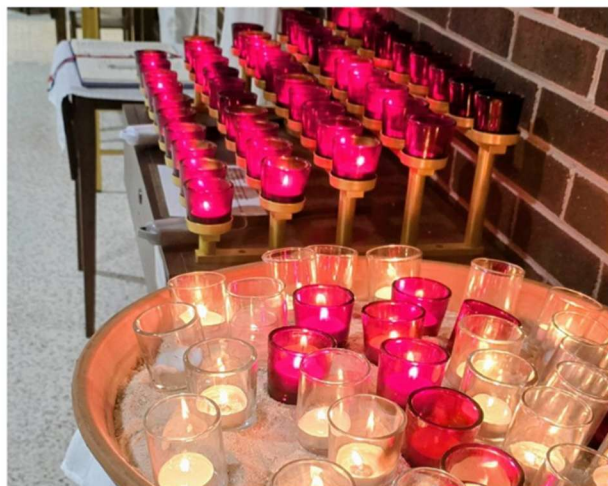


During November, as we remember and pray for our beloved deceased, we invite you to share a framed photo of your departed family members and friends for our Table of Remembrance. Please drop off your photo by October 28 and label the back of the frame with your name and contact information so we can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

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

LIGHT A CANDLE A Moment of Prayer and Remembrance

Please stop by the Commons to light a candle for your departed loved ones. In this space of quiet reflection, we invite you to pray for their eternal rest and ask that God's perpetual light shine upon them forever.



FIRST THURSDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Join us every first Thursday of the month for Eucharistic Adoration and spend quiet time in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Schedule: Immediately following the 8:30 AM Daily Mass until 6:15 PM, concluding with Vespers (Evening Prayer) and Benediction.

Never attended Adoration before? You are welcome! No special prayers or prior experience are needed. Simply come, find a place to sit or kneel, and spend time with the Lord. Pray with your Bible or rosary, offer your joys and worries, give thanks, seek guidance, or rest in His presence. Even a few minutes of prayer can be a meaningful encounter with Jesus.

You do not need to stay the whole day. Come as you are, even for a few quiet moments, and let the Lord renew your heart. **All are welcome!**

COME & SPEND TIME WITH THE
RISEN LORD!

**First Thursday
Eucharistic
Adoration**

immediately follows
8:30 AM Daily Mass
through 6PM

*Come as you are!
Jesus is waiting for you.*

+ 6:15PM Vespers
(Evening Prayer)
+ Benediction follows
afterward

*Come. Be still.
Behold. Adore.*

Religious Formation Continued



We are excited to welcome our youngest parishioners and their families back to the nursery beginning **November 1!** With an improved faith-based curriculum, we look forward to providing a welcoming space where children can grow in faith while parents participate in Mass.

As we reopen, we ask for the support and understanding of our parish community as we work to serve the needs of young families and help them remain connected to the Mass and parish life.

A New Nursery Ticket System

To help sustain this ministry, we are introducing a new ticket system for nursery use. Families visiting the nursery for the first time after reopening will receive four tickets. Once those tickets have been used, families will be asked to volunteer for one weekend Mass in the nursery to receive additional tickets.

We also invite all parishioners to consider volunteering to support this important ministry! Whether you are a parent looking to replenish your tickets or a parishioner who wants to help young families, your time makes a difference. *All nursery volunteers must be VIRTUS compliant.*

Ready to help? Scan the QR code to sign up to volunteer today!

Thank you for supporting our young families and helping make St. Mark a welcoming home for children of all ages!



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

FUN FACT!

DID YOU KNOW THE POPE HAS HIS OWN ARMY?

Well, sort of! The Swiss Guard protects the Pope and helps keep him safe. They have served the popes for more than 500 years! Their colorful uniforms make them easy to recognize, and they are known for their blue, red, orange, and yellow stripes.

The Swiss Guard was officially established in 1506 and is still on duty at the Vatican today!

Fun Challenge: Can you find a picture of the Swiss Guard? Look closely at their colorful uniforms, you might think they look like something out of a storybook!



"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

- **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:** Thru 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.

- **HOPE 4 LIFE Baby Bottle Drive:** Forget to turn in your baby bottle? There is still time just drop off to box by Welcome Table by November 1st. Every bottle helps support a baby in need!

PROTECT VIRGINIA 2026



**Virginia Right to Reproductive
Freedom Amendment**



"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 an October wedding anniversary this week!

Ed and Mary Ann Collins – Oct. 26, 1985(41 yrs)

Felix and Tola Korode – Oct. 27, 2007 (19 yrs)

Consider Becoming an Altar Server!

We welcome all our registered parish youth who have had 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.



Thanksgiving Food Baskets: It is that time of year!! This year our goal is to help 110-125 families (St. Mark Parishioners In-Need, Catholic Charities, Samaritan House, Department of Human Services, Refugee Resettlement, Jewish Family Services, and others). We hope to provide each family with \$45-50 in gift cards so they may purchase a Thanksgiving meal. We are handing out "reminder bags" after all Masses on November 7th and 8th. Please place gift cards in marked box in the Commons, or you may also donate funds on our website via our **Online Giving** by selecting the **"Thanksgiving Bags."** Fund. Gift Cards for our Thanksgiving Baskets need to be received no later than Sunday **11am November 22nd**. Thank you in advance for your support!



WOW!! 2026 has been and continues to be a busy year for our Justice & Peace ministry. Do you feel called to help those in need? We have many opportunities ranging from a once-a-year opportunity, a monthly commitment, an hour here or there, from helping from home with projects to hands on at church or off site and everything in between. If you would like more information, contact justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org

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 11	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$16,434	\$294,100	\$272,034	(\$22,066)

Family Count: 931

Families using envelopes: 150

Families using online donation: 215

Mission Co-op Second Collection

Fr. Francis Boateng, pastor of the cluster churches of St. Mary the Mother of God, Wytheville and St. Edward Mission, Pulaski, will celebrate all masses at St. Mark on November 14th and 15th as part of the **Mission Co-op Second Collection Program** which helps 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 churches and their ministries. There will be a second collection at all masses on November 14th and 15th which will go directly to those parishes. There is an online donation category open now entitled "Missionary Priest Second Collection" if you wish to donate online.

Make checks payable to St. Mark with “Mission Co-op Donation” written in the memo line.

**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 hot dogs, 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, Applebee's will provide a free kid's meal through October 31st! Get yours today!

**St. Mark's
Pumpkin Patch**

OPENS

Oct. 3rd through Oct. 31st

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Sign up on iVolunteer

for Set-up and Sales Shifts at:

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

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.....Dir. 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