THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF

Saint Mark

November 8, 2026 • Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time



32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'" - Mt 25:11-12

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

Welcome!

Pray for St. Mark Pilgrims as they prepare for their Journey !

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 11/2/2026

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"Rooted in the Word…"

This Week at Saint Mark
November 9th – November 15th, 2026

MONDAY
7:15pm OCIA Christian Formation/ CR
TUESDAY
8:30am **No Liturgy of the Word**
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 VETERAN'S DAY
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 **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
6-8:00pm Confirmation Prep/ GH
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary
FRIDAY
12:00pm Wisdom Seekers Potluck Lunch/ GH
6-7:00pm Simbang Gabi Children's Rehearsal/GH
SATURDAY
1:00pm Simbang Gabi Children's Rehearsal/GH
5:30pm **Mass** / Sanctuary
SUNDAY **MISSION CO-OP SUNDAY**
8:30am **Mass/** Sanctuary
10:30am **Mass**/ Sanctuary with Face Book
11:45am In- person Baptism Class/ Sanctuary
12:30pm Children's Formation/Classrooms
6:00pm Teen Formation/ Great Hall

Daily Readings

Nov. 9: Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome
Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12;
1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; John 2:13-22

Nov. 10: Mem. of St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
Titus 2:1-8, 11-14; Luke 17:7-10

Nov. 11: Mem. of St. Martin of Tours, Bishop
Titus 3:1-7; Luke 17:11-19

Nov. 12: Mem. of St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr
Philemon 7-20; Luke 17:20-25

Nov. 13: Mem. of Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin
2 John 4-9; Luke 17:26-37

Nov. 14: Sat. of the 32nd Week in Ord. Time
3 John 5-8; Luke 18:1-8
Covella Family †, Lolita Chandumal †

Nov. 15: Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30
Rose and Michael Kmetz †
Mark Zogby †, Stephen Vareo †

PRAYER REQUESTS: Antonio Fabon, George Koons, Doug Morin, 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, Fr. Dan Klem, Joseph Wargo, Kathy Seddon, Don Coons, Dana Reid, Henrietta Mayr, Creed Clawson, 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 Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 25:1-13
By Jerome J. Sabatowich

In first-century Palestine, Jewish wedding celebrations were very special involving the entire town. The festivities began after dark with the bridegroom and his friends making their way to the house of the bride. As they walked through the dark streets, members of the wedding party carried torches of oily rags wrapped atop brass poles. They often needed an extra supply of oil to keep their torches lit.

The groom usually tried to catch everyone by surprise by keeping the day and the time he chose to claim the bride secret. However, someone usually went ahead of the wedding party to announce that the groom was on his way.

The bride joined the procession when the groom arrived at her house and – accompanied by much singing, dancing and merry making – they returned to his home for both the wedding ceremony and the seven-day celebration that followed. During this return procession, people came out of their homes and into the street to join in the festivities and to offer their congratulations to the happy couple.

Once the wedding party arrived at the home of the groom, only the invited guests went inside. Because the door was barred shut with a heavy beam, making it difficult to open and close the door, latecomers were not allowed in. Ths explains why the bridesmaids in today's Gospel were not admitted to the celebration when they arrived at the groom's house. The ceremony had already begun and removing the beam not only would have been a chore, but the resulting noise would have disrupted the proceeding. Thus, the foolish bridesmaids missed the long-awaited wedding ceremony because they were unprepared.

The Bible often uses a wedding as an image for the reign of God. In the parable in today's Gospel, just as no one knows the time of the bridegroom's arrival, so no one knows the day or the hour Jesus will return to the earth to establish the reign of God. It could be today, tomorrow, next year, or ten years from now. Since no one knows when Jesus will return, everyone should always be prepared and should not be caught sleeping like the bridesmaids in today's Gospel parable.

For Reflection:
What does it mean to be prepared for Jesus' coming? If Jesus returned to the earth right now, would he find you ready and waiting?







Solemnity of All Saints and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed Masses leads us into the November Month of Remembrance. Continue to light candles of prayer and remembrance for loved ones or friends who have died. We also invite you to display a photo of your loved ones who have departed on our Table of Remembrance for the entire month of November.

Religious Formation

An Act of Love and Remembrance



During November, as we remember and pray for our deceased loved ones, we invite you to light a candle in the Commons. The Catechism reminds us that love "endures beyond death" (CCC 955). Lighting candles show that our love for our deceased brothers and sisters continues in prayer and remembrance, entrusting them to God's mercy.

World Youth Day 2027 | South Korea

Registration for the Diocese of Richmond's World Youth Day 2027 pilgrimage has officially closed. We are fortunate to have seven St. Mark pilgrims participating in this remarkable faith journey!

Please support our young pilgrims through your prayers and financial contributions as they prepare for this transformative experience with young Catholics worldwide. Additionally, keep an eye out for an EXCITING way to support our 2027 WYD pilgrims!

Saintly Trunk Or Treat 2026

A **HUGE** thank-you to the 90+ children and their families, 21 amazing trunks, and 20 dedicated volunteers who made our 2026 Saintly Trunk or Treat such a wonderful success!

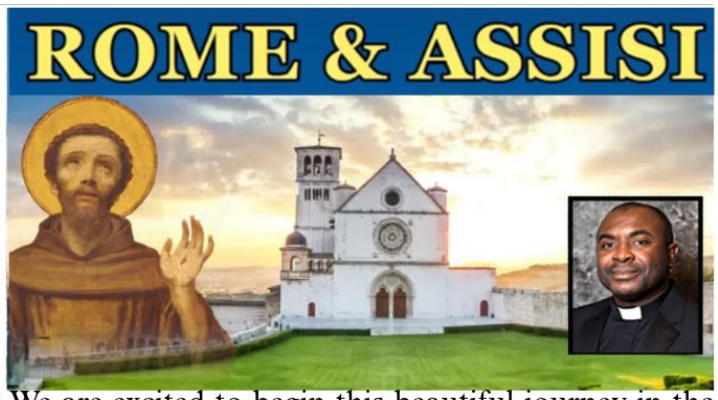
Thank you for filling our parish with so much joy, creativity, and a little bit of saintly fun. We can't wait to do it again next year!

Father Eric also wants to give a special shout-out to all our youngest parishioners who participated.

Remember, **you're all Saints in the making!**



ROME & ASSISI



We are excited to begin this beautiful journey in the footsteps of the saints **TOMORROW**, November 9th through November 18th.

Please keep our 22 pilgrims in your prayers as they prepare to travel. They, in turn, will be carrying the prayers and intentions of our entire St. Mark family with them.

Have a special prayer intention? It's not too late to submit your prayer intention into the intention box available in the Commons. You are welcome to drop off your prayer requests, and we will keep them in our prayers.

*Congratulations to the **Ignacio Family** for taking home Best Trunk with their creative St. Andrew, Patron Saint of Fishermen (Bass Pro Shops!)*



*Congratulations to **Austin**, who won Best Dressed Saint as Pope St. John Paul II!*



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.

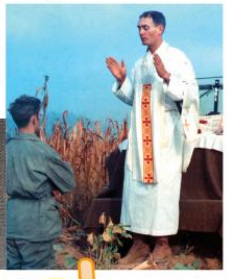


contact Nicole for more information
NICOLE@STMARK-PARISH.ORG

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Emil Kapaun—priest, soldier, and Korean War hero—was a rare man. He was awarded posthumously the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award, and is also being considered by the Vatican for canonization as a saint.

Just as remarkable are the many non-Catholic witnesses who attest to Father Kapaun's heroism: the Protestants, Jews, and Muslims who either served with the military chaplain in the thick of battle or endured with him the incredibly brutal conditions of a prisoner of war camp. These Korean War veterans, no matter their religion, agree that Father Kapaun did more to save lives and maintain morale than any other man they know.



Saintly Trunk Or Treat 2026











See you next year future saints!

FUN SAINT FACT!

DID YOU KNOW ST. MARTIN DE PORRES CARED FOR MICE?

St. Martin lived in Peru and spent his life caring for the sick, helping the poor, and showing kindness to everyone. He even cared for animals that others might overlook! One story tells how he helped solve a problem with mice in his monastery by finding a way to keep them fed and out of trouble.

St. Martin reminds us that no act of kindness is too small and that God's love is meant for everyone.

SAINT CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

Show kindness to someone, or even an animal, that might usually be overlooked. Every little act of love matters!



KIDS CORNER

"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

SAVE THE DATES:

- **Day for All People Advocacy Day Richmond**: January 20, 2027
- **9 Days for Life Novena**: January 16-24,2027
- **National March for Life**: January 22, 2027
- **Va March for Life**: April 22,2027

For more information please contact justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org

Thanksgiving Food Baskets: It is that time of 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!

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 November wedding anniversary this week!

James and Angelica Beltram– Nov. 12, 2005 (21)
Herb and Lori Stephan– Nov. 13, 1965 (61 yrs)



Christ the King Weekend Breakfasts!

Parish Life will host breakfast after each mass the weekend of November 21-21. There will be a "breakfast for dinner" after the 5:30 mass on Saturday and regular breakfast after the Sunday masses. **Join us** to celebrate the final week of ordinary time before Advent begins!



Pumpkin Patch 2026 Highlights

By Michael King

As the nights get colder and the month is ready to close, it will be time to take a look back and share some highlights from this year's St. Mark Pumpkin Patch:

- Our sales help to support 600 Navajo farmers who grow these pumpkins each year.
- Community members said that the Pumpkin Patch and Christmas Tree lot are becoming a fixture for their family each year.
- Parish members provided tremendous support from volunteering and in many cases purchasing pumpkins. The lifeblood of the entire operation is the support of volunteers.
- Applebee's offered kids-eat-free cards for anyone who purchased a pumpkin from us.
- One our parishioners who is a Navy deep sea diver loaned us a diving helmet that weighed 37 lbs for our youngsters to try on.
- The church was gracious in providing hot dogs, popcorn, a delicious pumpkin bunt cake cupcake as well as Duncan Donuts on weekends.
- We even had a parishioner bring his guitar and mic and we listened and sang songs for 4 hours on a weekend.
- We capped the season off with the St. Mark Jack O Lantern Contest. We asked those who were carving their pumpkins to take a picture of their carved or painted Jack O Lantern and deliver it to the church office by October 31. The winner will receive a $25 gift certificate.

The laughter, smiles and good times were abundant! Much thanks to all!

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 th parish office at 757-749-1010.



Fiscal Year July-June 2027	Oct 18	Needed Year to Date	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	**$16,384**	**$312,100**	**$288,418**	**($23,682)**

Family Count: 932
Families using envelopes: 173
Families using online donation: 174

Mission Co-op Second Collection

Welcome Fr. Francis Boateng, pastor of the cluster churches of St. Mary the Mother of God, Wytheville and St. Edward Mission, Pulaski, who 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



Have you been considering being a Eucharistic Minister? We would love to have you join us! To see what the requirements are, Contact Diane McBride at diane.m.mcbride@verizon.net

The Wisdom Seekers group for parishioners and friends 50+ years, next monthly potluck luncheon is **Friday, November 13th,** 12 pm, 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). Contact Mary Shaw (757) 348-4460 for details.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Fr. Eric Asamoah ……. ....freric@stmark-parish.org
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deacon_john@stmark-parish.org
Sherry Smeland……..…Parish Secretary
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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