

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF

Saint Mark

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

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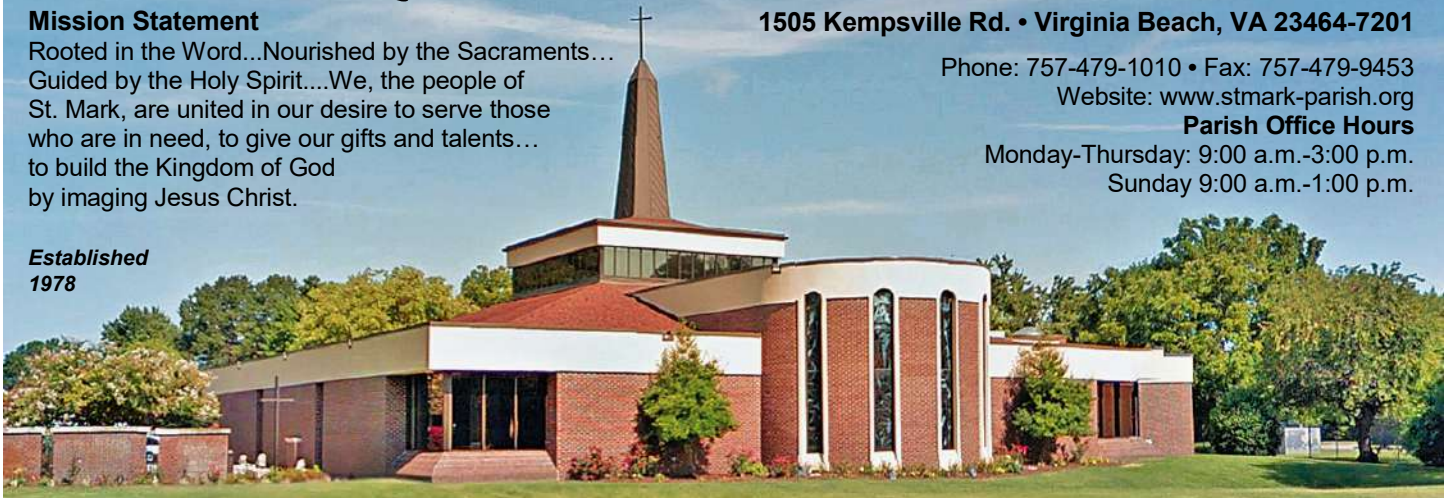
Phone: 757-479-1010 • Fax: 757-479-9453

Website: www.stmark-parish.org

Parish Office Hours

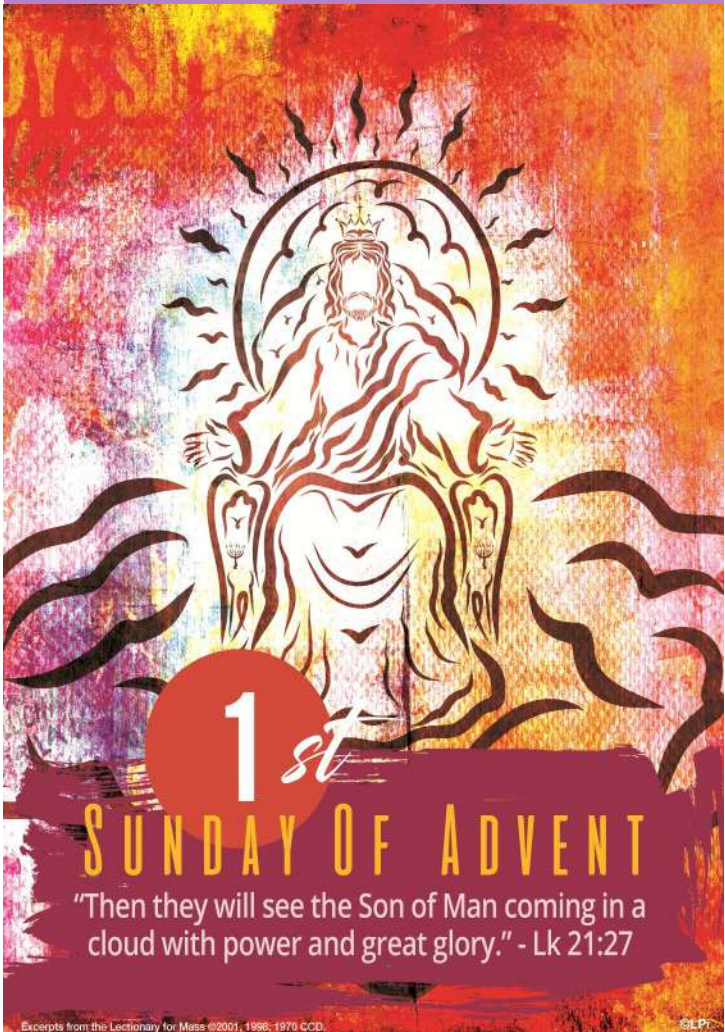
Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:30 p.m. • Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Tuesday & Thursday: 8:30a.m. • Wednesday: 7:00p.m. Check inside bulletin for possible changes. Nursery available for 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Masses.



PARISH STAFF

- Rev. Anthony Mpungu.....Pastor franthony@stmark-parish.org Michael Johnson & John KrenDeacons Mike JohnsonPastoral Associate deacon_mike@stmark-parish.org Mary Ellen Cussen Parish Bookkeeper bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org Denise Boyce Parish Secretary secretary@stmark-parish.org Michael K. WilliamsDirector of Music musicdirector.stmark@gmail.com Laura Ishmael..... Pianist Marlene Games.....Nursery Supervisor Brian Gridley..... Maintenance/IT Coordinator Alberto Rosado.....Custodian Hank Harzold.....Parish Council Chairman William McMican.....Finance Council Chairman

RELIGIOUS FORMATION STAFF

- Sharon Katzman.....Director of R.F. Fe Guzman..... Youth Minister Samantha KriegCoordinator of R.F.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Wednesday 9:00a.m.-1:00p.m.

Sunday 9:30a.m.-2:00p.m.

Phone: 757-479-9897 • Fax: 757-479-9453

Email: sharon@stmark-parish.org

BAPTISM: Celebrated the 1st weekend of the month except during Lent. Contact Religious Formation Office for Baptism classes prior to the Sacrament.

MATRIMONY: Couples required to give 6 months notice before planning a wedding in the Parish. Please do not set date before contacting the Priest.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND: If you know someone who cannot attend Mass or desires a visit or the Sacrament of Anointing, call the Office.

RECONCILIATION: Celebrated 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month at 4:00 p.m.

COLUMBARIUM: Parishioners interested in procuring a Columbarium niche, call the Parish Office.

MASST INTENTIONS

THE SEASON OF ADVENT
MEANS THERE IS SOMETHING
ON THE HORIZON
THE LIKES OF WHICH WE HAVE
NEVER SEEN BEFORE.
— JAN RICHARDSON

and Daily Readings

MON	12/3		<i>Saint Francis Xavier, Priest</i> Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
TUES	12/4	8:30am	<i>Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> ROGER ROMERO + ANGIE LONGFRITZ + Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
WED	12/5	7:00pm	SHERRI SCIULLI + DR. EVA MARIE GAMALLO (int.) DR. LYSAMARIE ERNESTINE BABIERA (int.) DR. ERNESTO JOSE BABIERA II (int.) Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37
THU	12/6	8:30am	<i>Saint Nicholas, Bishop</i> JOE WARRENT + ANGIE LONGFRITZ + Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
FRI	12/7		<i>Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31
SAT	12/8	8:30am	<i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Gn 3:9-15,20; Lk 1:26-38
			<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>
		5:30pm	LILLIAN SELESTOW + MYRNA SCHLOSSBERG +
SUN	12/9	8:30am	JOHN AND CATHERINE TEELING + JOSE SANTOS +
		10:30am	FILOMENA CALABRESE + JULIA COMIA +
			Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

Sunday Reflection from Father Anthony

Welcome to this first Sunday of Advent which marks the beginning of the new liturgical year. From the gospel reading this Sunday, the message from Jesus is an invitation to stay awake, to watch and pray while others sleep! Staying awake and praying, in order that we don't miss out on the moment when the Lord comes. We have to be watchful so that the darkness of the night may not take advantage of us and this requires prayer and hard work that is busy doing good. Though Jesus speaks about the coming tribulations and suffering that are to befall his followers, he encourages them at the same time to live in hope! The season that we have begun is a season of preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord. It is a very short time and before we know it will be gone. So, how can we make good use of it? Each one of us has the obligation to fully participate in liturgies and reflecting on the word of God. Let us also find time for personal prayer because in so doing, we prevent ourselves from falling into the tendencies of the world. May we also find opportunities to be charitable to others! Amen

Welcome New Parishioners: The O'Neil and Camba families.



The Mass Intentions book is open!
Intentions for 1 July– 30 September 2019 can be requested at this time. Please stop by the office to request mass intentions.



Please pray for the following: Nancy Tennin, Steven Barkow, Holden and Hadley Hewlett, Emma and Jeff Madrigal, Alice Volz, Don DeGroot, Ruby Steele, Bryan Mendoza, Deacon Robert Esposito, Delores Valley, Dawn Boroden, Sherry Savage, Barbara Amella Leonardo V. Corpez, Jan Kilb, Trinika Skiptunas, Rose Kmetz, Emy Balmaceda, Jim Thomas, Jean Morgan, Grace Hopkins, Chandler Jacob, Christian and Dana Brewer.

Financial Box Scores

Fiscal Year July-June	November 18	Offertory Year to Date	Needed Year to Date	Excess/Short
Offertory	\$15,551	\$326,930	\$333,800	(\$6,870)

Family Count: 1174

Families using envelopes: 379

Families using online donation: 87



Cherub Singers Invite. The St. Mark Music Ministry is inviting all young singers ages four and five years old, interested in singing one or two songs at our 4 pm Christmas Eve Mass as an addition to our Youth Choir Music Ministry Program. Young singers are invited to rehearsals, held at 11:45 pm on Sundays, November 18, December 2, 9 and 16. Singers will need to arrive in the choir room on December 24th by 3:15pm to prepare for our musical offering. Please contact Michael Williams at 757-214-4649 or musicdirector.stmark@gmail.com or Holly Krukowski at 585-749-6941/ HAC97@aol.com.



It 's that time of year again for our annual **Christmas tree sale fund raiser!** Proceeds from the Christmas tree sales help fund St. Mark's ministries such as our Food Pantry and CAST Outreach programs. For more information, please visit our Saint Mark Church website or contact Dan Wood at dan9663@gmail.com or call 757-647-2135. Parishioners can help by volunteering, purchasing a tree or both! The lot is set up and sales beginning Saturday, November 24th. **We hope to see you there!**



The Parish Reconciliation Service will be Thursday, December 13th at 7Pm. **All parishioners are welcome.**

If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. Matthew 6:14



Lessons and Carols, December 9th at 6:30pm. Come together for an evening of music and prayer this Advent Season to prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas through song and scripture. Our community celebrates Advent with an evening of Lessons and Carols. The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 18th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, The Incarnation and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or song that reflects on the lesson's message and brief prayer. Join St. Mark Music Ministry, all choirs and our Religious Formation Team in this beautiful evening focused on hope and peace!



The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a "Keep Christ In Christmas " poster contest. All entries are due by Sunday, December 9th . Any questions, please contact Lyndon Remias at Lremias@yahoo.com or 757.630.6102. All students, ages 5-14, are welcome.

*This Week at St. Mark
December 3rd-December 7th*

MON	10:00am 7:15pm	Food Pantry in the Great Hall RCIA/IC in the Great Hall and the Library
TUES	8:30am 9:30am 7:00pm 7:30pm	DAILY MASS Bible Study in the Conference Room Liturgy Meeting in the Conference Room Bible Study in the Great Hall
WED	10:00am 10:00am 7:00pm 7:30pm 7:30pm	Food Pantry in the Great Hall Memorial Mass for Elizabeth "Ely" Gines DAILY MASS Full Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary Parish Life Meeting in the Conference Room
THUR	8:30am 9:30-11am 9am-6pm 6:30pm 7:00pm 6-8pm	DAILY MASS Plann Ministry in the Great Hall ADORATION ROSARY BENEDICTION Confirmation Meeting in the Great Hall
FRI	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 6:30pm 5-9pm	Moms Group in the Conference Room Food Pantry in the Great Hall Wisdom Seekers Christmas Luncheon in the Great Hall First Friday Rosary Youth Group Parents' Night Out
SAT	The Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary Food Bag Handout Weekend 8:30am 5:30pm 6:30pm	
SUN	8:30am 10:30am 11:45am 12:30-2pm 6-8pm 6:30pm	MASS WEEKEND MASS Knights Of Columbus Christmas Party in the Great Hall WEEKEND MASS WEEKEND MASS Youth Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary Religious Formation Classes Teen Formation (1) Lessons and Carols Music Program



The News @ St. Mark's Parish

Justice & Peace Food Pantry Item this Week is Pork and Beans.

We are no longer in need of empty egg cartons. Thank you!

"When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others."- USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "How to Build a Culture of Life," www.goo.gl/yAt6Gk



The **Christmas Giving Trees** are up in the Commons brimming with Angels and Stars to help our community in sharing their blessings during this season of giving. Please take the time to select that perfect Angel or Star. Each should have a tag explaining who the gift is going to and any special instructions. Please, all gifts with an Angel/Star attached **MUST** be returned by noon on Sunday, December 18th. For more information or to volunteer to help please contact Pat Bernier at 757-575-5211.



For our Christmas food baskets members of the Justice and Peace Committee will be passing out brown grocery bags after all masses next weekend, December 8th and 9th. It is our hope that most parishioners will be able to take a bag or two, fill it with requested items and return it the next weekend, December 15th/16th, before your regular Mass. We will distribute them on Sunday, December 16TH Thank you in advance for supporting this ministry!

Thank you to all who filled a holiday food bag with gift cards, stuffing and fixings for our Thanksgiving Baskets. Through your kindness and generosity we were able to provide a 180 Thanksgiving meals to our own parishioners and others in who are in need throughout the Hampton Roads community. **THANK YOU!!**



Fair Trade! Calling all shoppers interested in helping change a life for the better. Do you shop Fair Trade for Christmas gifts for yourself and others? Would you like to? Now through the end of the year, when you buy handmade gifts and home decor online using our special web link, and 20% of your purchase will be donated back to St. Mark! You'll do a world of good by supporting both Ethical Trade and our own parish St. Mark through your purchases. **Our custom Serrv & Earn web link is:**

serrv.org?a=StMarkFairTrade . Please use this link when you visit and buy to ensure that St. Mark is credited with the sale. Feel free to share our web link with your family and friends. Thank you and Happy shopping!



"Unique from Day One: Pro-Life is Pro-Science." The 46th annual March for Life, the world's largest annual human rights demonstration, will be held on January 18, 2019 in Washington D.C.. Our Justice & Peace Committee and Knights of Columbus are working together to gather a group of St. Mark

parishioners interested in attending the 2019 March for Life. If you are interested in attending or would like more information please contact Joyce

Gridley at justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org or 675-6486



SAVE THE DATE for CAST at St. Mark's: Our church will host CAST (Chesapeake Area Shelter Team), an overnight shelter for the homeless, for one week in the

winter: **February 20-27th, 2019**. Volunteer sign-ups will begin in January. Please check the bulletin and website for more information as we get closer to the date.

Thank you to all of you that have supported this ministry in the past. We need your help again! We welcome new volunteers. If you would like more information on any aspect of this Ministry, please email us at stmarkcast@gmail.com or call Karel Wetzel at 479-0003.

DECEMBER

Mom

Expectant to experienced moms are welcome to join us for fellowship, support, adult conversation, and prayer. We meet in the conference room every Friday morning from 9:30-11:30 am. Come for all or part of the time.

The Nursery is open, and babysitting is provided. For more information, please contact Holly Krukowski at 585-749-6941.



Bible Study classes are each Tuesday at 9:30am and 7:30pm. All are welcome. Our studies cover overviews of the Bible. There is no fee to join, although there is an optional book fee. This group is led by Florence Gaffrey. Contact her at 467-5683, fgaffrey@outlook.com or just show up if interested in joining.

We hope to see you there!



WISDOM SEEKERS Christmas Luncheon with Gift Exchange will be held Friday, **December 7th (date change)** at 12:30 pm in the Great Hall. Our meal is catered with the money we collect during the calendar year. **Deadline** to sign-up for this luncheon is **Sunday, November 25th**. We can always use **appetizers/desserts** to add to our holiday meal. Our swapping gift exchange is making a comeback. If you want to

participate, please bring a wrapped gift to swap. Come share a laugh or two during our holiday event. Questions, please call Annette Welch at 757-495-1445.



The St. Mark's Women's Book Club is currently reading The Ninth Hour by Alice McDermott. We will meet again on Tuesday evening, January 8, 2019, from 6:30 -8:00 PM in the Great Hall to share our thoughts about this book.

Please consider joining us for a lively and informative discussion. New members are always welcome! Feel free to contact Bernadette Michalak

at thehobbygirl@aol.com for more information.



Even though the Knights of Columbus Council 10515's official Keeping Christ in Christmas Card Sales ended you can still get boxes of cards while supplies last. If you are interested in purchasing **Christmas Cards** and supporting the Knight's worthy charities including many of the ministries of St Mark, please contact Joe Lessick at 757-404-5405 or Jim Waltz, at 757-754-9235.



INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH OR BECOMING

CATHOLIC? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or RCIA is a process to learn and grow in the Catholic Christian faith. It begins with Inquiry where you come to ask questions and determine if this is right for you. It is open to those who have never been Baptized or are coming from a different Christian faith experience or not fully formed in the Catholic faith. Formation sessions are conducted on Monday evenings, starting

at 7:15pm. If you are interested please contact Deacon Mike Johnson at 479-1010 or deacon_mike@stmark-parish.org.



Our next Baptism Preparation class will be Saturday, January 19th 2019 from 9am-12pm. Sign-up at the Welcome Kiosk in the Commons or email Sharon at sharon@stmark-praish.org.

ALERT FOR THE PRESENCE OF GOD



HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY
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