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
imagining Jesus Christ.

Established
1978

PARISH STAFF
Rev. Anthony Mpungu……………………….Pastor
fanthony@stmark-parish.org
Revs. Mr. Mike Johnson & John Kren...............Deacons
Mike Johnson........................................Pastoral Associate
deacon_mike@stmark-parish.org
Mary Ellen Cussen.......................................................Parish Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org
Kathryn Flannigan........................................Parish Secretary
secretary@stmark-parish.org
Michael K. Williams.................................Director of Music
musicdirector.stmark@gmail.com
Laura Ishmael.........................................................Pianist
Marlene Games........................................Nursery Supervisor
Brian Gridley ........................................Maintenance/IT Coordinator
Cynthia Martinez.........................................................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 Krieg .......................................................Coordinator of R.F.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday: 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.
Sunday 9:00a.m.-1:00 p.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.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

A voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” - Mt 3:17

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Father Anthony’s Reflection

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized! This marked the beginning of his public ministry as he submitted to the baptism of John. Even when John protested that it should be Jesus to baptize him. Jesus’ baptism is a sign of his acceptance to follow God's plan for humanity. It was also a sign of his Father's love for us that he gave his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to be like us but sin! Jesus lived through the humility of accepting John to baptize him. By being plunged into the Jordan River, not because he had sinned, but simply because he identifies with sinful humanity. Through his baptism, he wanted to uplift each one of us from our sins. In Jesus, God became one with us and entered into solidarity with us assuming our human nature. This is the real meaning of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us! It was at this moment of Jesus’ baptism that God's love was expressed to him indeed for whom God is well pleased! When we are baptized, we too receive the Holy Spirit who fills us with the gifts of God in order to do the mission of Jesus. We also become God's children. May we on this day renew our baptismal promises and submit to the will of God!

Amen.

And Daily Readings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MON 01/13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Saint Hilary, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUES 01/14</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>TEODORO CALIMLIM JR.+</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED 01/15</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>LORRAINE H. KRAFCHIK+</td>
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<tr>
<td>THU 01/16</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>CRYSTAL MORRISON+</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI 01/17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Saint Anthony, Abbot</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT 01/18</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN 01/19</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>ANGEL YSLA+</td>
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Bicentennial Rdgs: Is 60:1-6 ; Ps 25 ; 2Acts 2:42-47 ; Mt 18:15-20

Mass Intentions

Mass Intentions are now available for 2020.
You may dedicate a mass to a loved one, living or deceased. Please note, only one intention may be requested per mass. One person may dedicate up to 4 masses a year, spread out once per quarter. If the date you request is not available, please be prepared to request a different date. We thank you for understanding and respecting these changes in our mass intention schedule.

The Guevin Family would like to thank people for their help received upon the death of Theresa, wife and mother. Thanks to all.
At Saint Mark
January 13th - January 19th

MON
10:00am Food Pantry
11:00am Biblical Walk Session in CR
7:15pm RCIA Formation in GH & Library

TUES
8:30am DAILY MASS
9:30am Biblical Walk Session in CR
6:00pm Book Club in the Library
7:00pm Bible Study in the Conf Room

WED
10:00am Food Pantry
5:00pm Religious Formation 2
6:30pm Choir Set Up in Sanctuary
6:30pm Rosary in Daily Chapel
7:00pm DAILY MASS
7:30pm Choir Practice in Sanctuary
9:00pm Cantor Practice in the Sanctuary

THURS
8:30am DAILY MASS
9:30am PLARN Ministry
7:00pm Finance Council Meeting in CR
7:00pm Safety Meeting in Library

FRI
9:30am Mom’s Group
10:00am Food Pantry

SAT
8:00am Building & Grounds Meeting
9:00am Baptism Preparation Class in CR
10:30am Bicentennial Mass at Sacred Heart Church: 520 Graydon Ave, Norfolk, VA 23507
5:30pm WEEKEND BICENTENNIAL MASS

SUN
8:30am WEEKEND BICENTENNIAL MASS
10:30am WEEKEND BICENTENNIAL MASS

Justice and Peace
Food Pantry item: Ramen Noodles
Please visit the Justice & Peace page on our St. Mark parish web site for more information and other current/upcoming Justice & Peace focus, events, and opportunities.

Our next Justice & Peace meeting will be Monday, January 20th at 6:30pm. Please join us as we work together to live out our Justice & Peace Mission Statement in this New Year: “As a faith-community within the Catholic Church of St. Mark, the Justice and Peace committee, using our gifts and talents, desire to image Jesus Christ by fostering the values of Jesus Christ and to promote the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church.”

9 Days for Life: Our Knights of Columbus and Justice & Peace Committee members together with thousands of Catholics nationwide will pray the annual Respect Life novena this January. Please join us in the Daily Chapel Tuesday, January 21 thru Wednesday, January 29 at 6pm to pray as a community for all life.

January is Poverty Awareness Month: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) call on one million Catholics in the United States to confront global poverty. Advocate with us to end hunger, disease, conflict, and other issues that affect the lives of our brothers and sisters worldwide. For more information visit, http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/poverty-education/poverty-awareness-month.cfm
Please consider volunteering for one or more of our outreach ministries, be generous to those in need and ask the Lord to show you how you can love your neighbor, especially the poor, in a more authentic way.

"Life Empowers: pro-life is pro-woman." We march to end abortion, with the vision of a world where the beauty, dignity, uniqueness, and rights of every human life are valued and protected. March with us on January 24th.
Contact: justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org

Second Annual Virginia March for Life in Richmond... February 13, 2020! Will you come to Richmond to take a stand? Please join us for a day of prayer, advocacy and witness for life. Save the date! Contact: justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org

Fair Trade! You can still buy Fair trade items online using our special web link and 20% of your purchase will be donated back to St. Mark! You will be supporting both Ethical Trade and our parish St. Mark through your purchases. Our custom Serrv & Earn web link is: www.serrv.org/?a=StMarkFairTrade

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LITURGY CORNER

"With the celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, we "really" close out the Christmas Season and are reminded of our own Baptism as we renew our Baptismal Promises at Mass and have the Sprinkling Rite with holy water. We sign ourselves one more time remembering what we believe - We are a Trinitarian people, wrapped in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are children of God and as such have a great responsibility. When we were Baptized we were anointed with the Sacred Chrism - we were anointed as Christ was - as "Priest, Prophet, and King; with that we are to live always as a member of his Body, sharing everlasting life." We were made a new creation and were clothed in Christ with the white garment. That white garment was an "outward sign of our Christian dignity." We were challenged to "bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." We received the Baptismal candle representing the "light of Christ" we were called to "keep burning brightly." We are to walk always as children of the light. To "keep that flame of faith alive in our hearts." So that when the "Lord comes, may we go out to meet him with all the saints in heaven." Each time we enter the church, we bless ourselves with the holy water from the stoop, this too is a reminder of our Baptism and not just something we do; may we always remember the wonderful things that happened at our Baptism with the ritual prayers and symbols and what we received. Our call and our challenge is to live up to our roles as children of God, that we too will hear the voice of the Father, "this is my beloved son or daughter in whom I am well pleased."

Bicentennial Announcement

St Mark will be celebrating a special weekend of Masses on January 18-19 (the 5:30pm, 8:30am and 10:30am) commemorating Bishop Patrick Kelly’s arrival in Virginia in 1820 and the opening of the Bicentennial year celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Diocese of Richmond.

Commemorative Book for Sale!

The Diocese of Richmond has created a beautiful commemorative book, which highlights and reflects upon our two-hundred-year history with text, pictures, and profiles of our nearly 150 parishes. The cost of the book is $40.00 cash/check/credit card. Get one before they’re gone!

Bible Study

Matthew: The King and His Kingdom starts on Tuesday morning January 28th, 2020 at 9:30 – 11:00 am. Participants will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship.

For more information or to register on-line visit www.ascensionpress.com, or message Florence Gaffrey at Cell (757) 773-0531 or fgaffrey@outlook.com

Justice and Peace Ministry: Chesapeake Area Shelter Team 2020

St. Mark’s will be hosting CAST (Chesapeake Area Shelter Team), an overnight shelter for the homeless this winter from February 12-19th, 2020. Online volunteer sign-ups have begun! Please go to the St. Mark’s website and click on the link to sign up. The CAST team will also be available in the Commons after all Masses on the weekends of January 26th and February 2nd to help with sign-ups. Please stop by and see how you can help, or send us an email at stmarkcast@gmail.com

Judy Wood, Karel Wetzel and Karina Turkiewicz
Annual K of C Monte Carlo Night Fund Raiser
The Knights of Columbus MONTE CARLO NIGHT is Saturday January 25th. Come out and enjoy an evening of great food, games, and a silent auction. Doors open at 6:45 pm. Tickets are $20 for a single ticket; and $17.50 each for two or more tickets. This event is the Kempsville council’s biggest fund raiser, with proceeds directly supporting all our charitable activities. The Knights will be selling tickets in the Great Hall after all weekend masses starting January 11th through January 19th. Questions can be emailed to gk10515@kofc10515.org.

Saint Mark and the office of Parish Formation invite you to journey with us to the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC on Saturday, February 29, 2020; the first Saturday of Lent! The Museum of the Bible exists to invite all people to engage with the Bible. The museum, located in Washington, D.C, showcases fascinating artifacts and offers an immersive experience with the Bible and its ongoing impact on the world around us. For a sneak peek, visit their website: https://www.museumofthebible.org/

A deluxe motor coach will depart St Mark parking lot at 4:45am. At 9:00am our group will be admitted into the museum - one hour before the general public. We are free to explore the six floors of the museum all day until our bus departs for home at 430pm! Lunch will be available at a restaurant onsite if desired, but will not be included in the trip price. We will make a short (1 hour) stop on the way home for anyone wishing to purchase dinner at Chick-fil-A or a similar venue approved by the bus driver.

The cost of the bus and ticket to the museum is $55+. However, purchase your tickets prior to December 1 and pay only $40. For tickets, please see Mary Ellen Cussen or Sharon Katzman during Parish office hours.

Interested In Learning More About The Catholic Faith or Becoming Catholic?
The Rite of Christian Initiation for 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