

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.

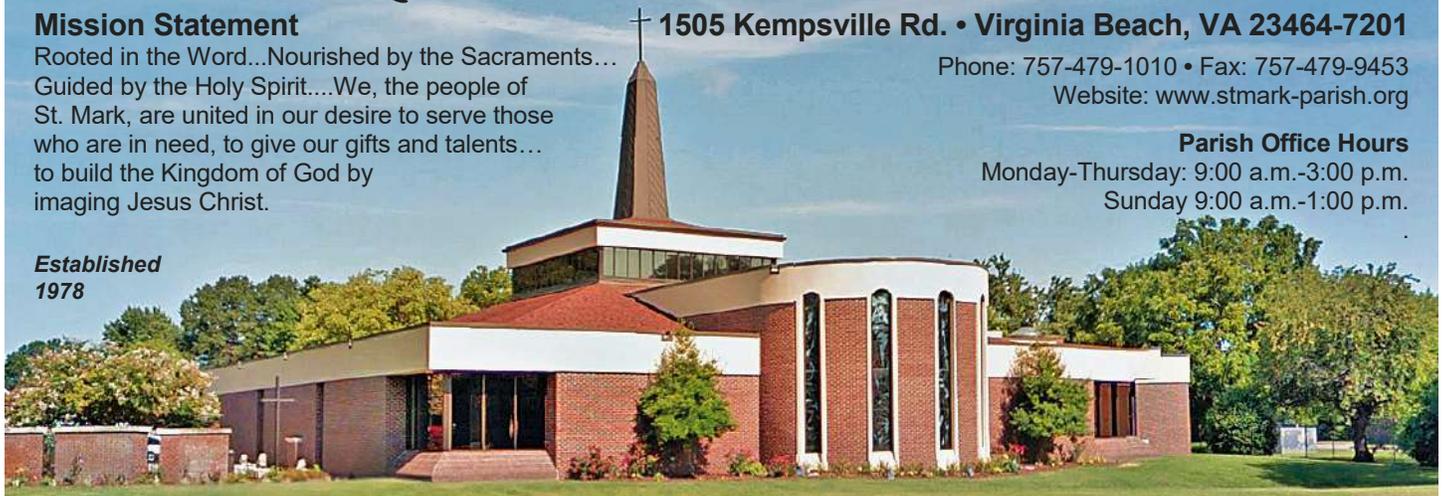
1505 Kempsville Rd. • Virginia Beach, VA 23464-7201

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.

Established 1978



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:30 p.m. • Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. • Wednesday: 7:00 p.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 Kren.....Deacons
Mike Johnson ..... Pastoral Associate deacon\_mike@stmark-parish.org
Mary Ellen Cussen ..... Parish Bookkeeper bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org
MJ Sargent ..... 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
George Dillon III..... Parish Council Chairman
William McMican..... Finance Council Chairman

RELIGIOUS FORMATION STAFF

- Sharon Katzman..... Director of Religious Formation
Rachel Rudman.. Coordinator of Religious Formation
Fe Guzman..... Youth Minister

RELIGIOUS FORMATION OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Sunday 9:30a.m.-2:00 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.

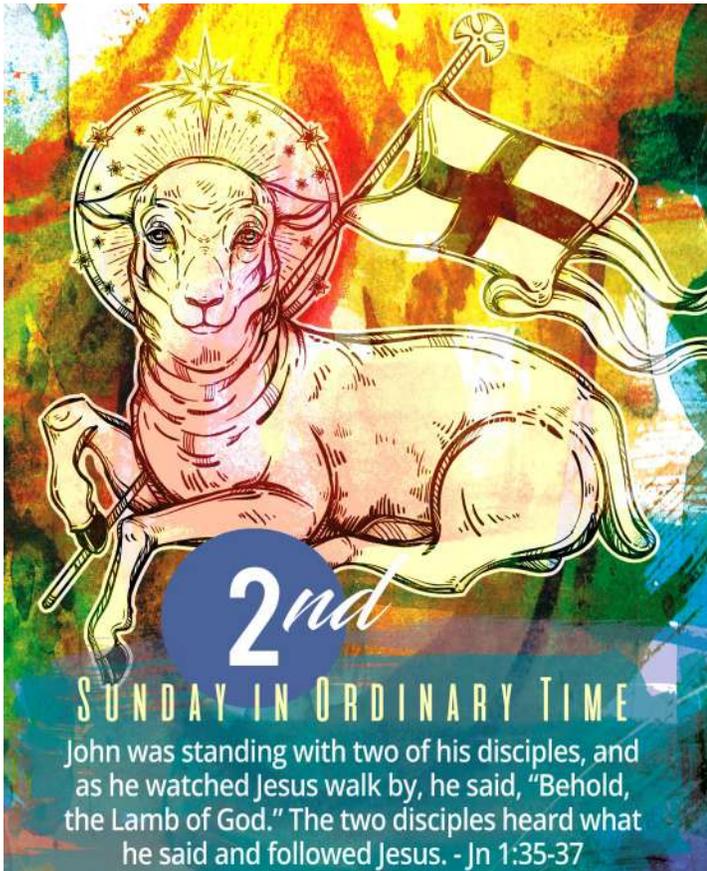
COLUMBARIUM: Parishioners interested in procuring a Columbarium niche, call the Parish Office.

Order forms for St. Mark 40th Anniversary golf shirts are available in the office!

St. Mark 40th Anniversary stickers and static cling window decals are available in the commons after all masses and Parish office.



- April 29th – Anniversary Mass
May 19th – Mass & Celebration
September 8th – Anniversary Parish Picnic



## Sunday Reflection

*from Deacon Michael Johnson*

Welcome back to Ordinary Time! Christmas is clearly behind us, all the decorations are packed up and we once again go about our normal, ordinary lives. Liturgically, we are now back into the routine of post holiday work and worship. As we once again enter Ordinary time, we are reminded and challenged by words that speak to us about discipleship and its implications. From the Old Testament story of young Samuel's call to service, to Paul's letter challenging us to treat our bodies as "temples" of God. We are then, encouraged by the example of the first disciples who follow Jesus after his baptism. In the Word proclaimed today, we are asked if we too, hear God's call to each of us, to follow the Lamb of God to where he is going and live lives focused on his Good News. Andrew and John, disciples of John the Baptist, hear his prophetic words about Jesus. They are curious to encounter the one, John had been preparing them for, and follow him. Hopefully, we are more than curious about this Christ in our lives. Jesus invites them "to come and see" and after spending the day with him, Andrew can't contain his experience and needs to share it with his brother, Simon. God's call, as we see throughout scripture, is normally extended to ordinary people – in ordinary times. From Abraham to Moses to Samuel to David to Mary to Simon Peter and to even to Paul, people no more special than you or I and yet they responded to that call and became great people of faith. They responded to God's will and became people of love – love of God, self and others. We should take encouragement from these examples and apply it to our own lives. It is a little frightening, at times, to place such faith in the unknown to completely turn our lives over to God and be in His service. Yet, that is exactly what he asks of us from the moment we are born again in Baptism into this life of discipleship. May we be so filled by our experience of Jesus, we need to share it as well.

*Please note the Daily Mass changes through the end of January:*

Communion Services on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.  
 Daily Mass on Wednesdays at 7 p.m.  
 No service on Thursdays

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:** Parish & Religious Offices and Food Pantry will be closed on Monday, January 15th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



## and Daily Readings

<b>MON</b>	<b>1/15</b>		1 SM 15:16-23; MK 2:18-22
<b>TUES</b>	<b>1/16</b>	8:30am	1 SM 16:1-13; MK 2:23-28
<b>WED</b>	<b>1/17</b>	7:00pm	ASTERIO MADELO + ELIZABETH SKINNER + SUSAN REMIAS (HEALING INT.)  1 SM 17:32-33,37,40-51; MK 3:1-6
<b>THU</b>	<b>1/18</b>		1 SM 18:6-9; 19:1-7; MK 3:7-12
<b>FRI</b>	<b>1/19</b>		1 SM 24:3-21; MK 3:13-19
<b>SAT</b>	<b>1/20</b>	5:30pm	ROY SIX + MARY TUCKER +  2 SM 1:1-4,11-12,19,23-27; MK 3:20-21
<b>SUN</b>	<b>1/21</b>	8:30am	WALTER VALLEY + JANICE WALTZ +
		10:30am	NELSON ROMAN + JANICE WALTZ +  JON 3:1-5,10 PS 25:4-5,6-7,8-9 1 COR 7:29-31 MK 1:14-20

## Please Keep In Your Prayers...

Evelyn Malana, Katie Sluder, Micah Pulvermacher, Kayla Soccio, Paula Silvia, Florabel Larson, Shawn Perine, Brian Sunderland, Patty & Alton Russell, Aurora Balino, Anna Wilson, Helen Wilkerson, Catherine Cannon, Thomas Trail, Rosalie Stock, Lorenzo Fuller, Jim Thomas, Joan Borden, Scott Henry, Richard Miller

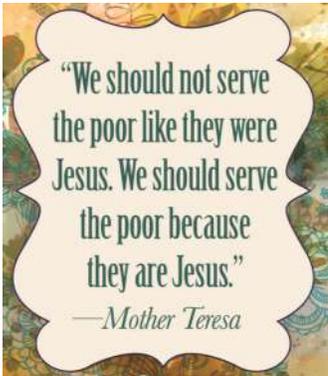
*Names will remain on the Prayer List for one month, after which they will be entered into the Parish Book of Intercessions, the intentions of which are prayed for each week-end during all the Masses.*

# Justice & Peace

**FOOD PANTRY:** This week the Food Pantry is in need of **CANNED SPAGHETTI SAUCE.**

*If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

- James 2:15-17



More than 43 million Americans live in poverty. Our faith demands of us a loving response to poverty, hunger, homelessness, unemployment, and other community issues that affect the poor. According to Pope Benedict XVI, a fundamental principle of the life of our Church is that "within the community of believers, there can never be room for a poverty that denies anyone what is needed

for a dignified life." We must reach out and alleviate the suffering that we encounter directly in the face of poverty, homelessness, hunger, unemployment and all the other injustices that we see in our community. We must also work to shape laws and institutions that allow all people to flourish and to achieve their potential. This can all be accomplished by engaging in direct services and advocacy efforts of Catholics in the Commonwealth and beyond. During this month, please be generous to those who are in need and ask the Lord to show you how you can love your neighbor, especially the poor, in a more authentic way.

**OUR NEXT JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING** will be Monday, January 15th at 7pm. Please join us and bring a friend as we work together to live out our Justice & Peace Mission Statement: "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."

**THANK YOU** for all your hard work Pat Bernier and Nancy Hewlett; our coordinators for the Giving Tree and Holiday Food Bags. A HUGE THANK YOU to all who donated gifts, Food for Food Bags and their time to help sort, prepare and distribute for our Christmas Giving Tree and Thanksgiving/Christmas Food baskets this year. Through your generosity we were able to help those in need with 305 bags of food along with gift cards for turkeys and over 475 gifts for Christmas to 110 families. A special Thank you to the individuals and organizations that reached out to help us provide food and gifts this year: Rose & Womble, Lauren Pulvermacher/BB&T, Cox Communications, and MaryAnne Blaum (stuffed bears)- THANK YOU!



**Dear Sr. Manners,**  
**Would you comment on the etiquette of snacking in the sanctuary space?**

Gentle Christian, Sr. Manners is very unhappy! In recent months, more and more food eating in pews has been observed. Not only is this practice inappropriate church behavior, it is also dreadful to look at. Chomping, crackling, and noisy chewing is distracting to others. Moreover, at what point during the Mass are the remnants discarded? And where do they go? (Hopefully, not under one's pew or on the carpet!)

Sr. Manners is aware that sometimes small children need sustenance but a church pew is not the proper place for this. Isn't that the purpose of the automobile?

An adult inability to forego eating for two hours a week shows a marked disrespect for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. In addition to the hour at Mass, there is the 1-hour required fasting period before taking Communion. When coming to church for any type of liturgy or service, take some good advice: leave the food in the car and offer up your sacrifice to the Lord.

## This Week at St. Mark January 15-21

<b>MON</b>	<b>PARISH &amp; RF OFFICE/FOOD PANTRY CLOSED</b> 7:00pm 7:15pm	Justice & Peace Meeting RCIA Formation (I & C)
<b>TUE</b>	8:30am 9:30am 7:30pm	Communion Service Bible Study Bible Study
<b>WED</b>	10:00am 6:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm 7:30pm	Food Pantry Teen Formation Rosary <b>DAILY MASS</b> St. Mark Chorale Rehearsal
<b>THUR</b>	7:00pm	Finance Council Meeting
<b>FRI</b>	9:30am 10:00am	Mom's Group Food Pantry
<b>SAT</b>	8am-12pm 9-11am 4:00pm 5:30pm	Building & Grounds Baptism Preparation Class Reconciliation <b>WEEKEND MASS</b>
<b>SUN</b>	8:30am 9:30am 10:30am 12:30pm	<b>WEEKEND MASS</b> RF 1 <b>WEEKEND MASS</b> RF 2

# St. Mark Parish News



Due to a recent software change, **2017 tax statements CANNOT BE EMAILED.** All 2017 tax statements will be **mailed** out in the next few weeks. If you have donated over \$50, you will receive one. If your address has changed in the past year and you have not already, please let us know to insure accurate delivery of your statement.

**FOOD PANTRY GRANT** The Diocese of Richmond has received and approved our food pantry application for the fuel and hunger grant for \$1,500.

**THE WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB** cordially invite any and all women to join us for lively discussions about books with relevant Christian topics. We meet every other month for a time to pray, socialize, and nourish our souls and minds. Conversations and insights from our designated authors are geared toward making us stronger Catholic women in a modern society. We would love to have you part of the group. The next meeting will be held at St. Mark on March 13, 2018 from 6:30 PM-8:00 PM. Please contact Genevieve Eirich at [geirich1@verion.net](mailto:geirich1@verion.net) with any questions. You can get more information on our web site at [www.stmark-parish.org](http://www.stmark-parish.org)

**CAST 2018** St. Mark will be hosing CAST (Chesapeake Area Shelter Team), an overnight shelter for the homeless, for one week this winter: (February 21st -28th 2018) We will serve the needs of approximately 50 guests on average each night, transporting them to our church, providing meals and fellowship, and caring for them overnight by providing a warm place to sleep. How can you help? We will need your help with both your time and food donations, in order to provide the 1000+ meals over the course of the week. On line sign ups have started and this year, we will have two links, (one for food donations and the other for volunteer time slots for our various needs.) Please go to the St. Mark's website to access the ivolunteer database to complete your on line sign ups. We are so grateful for all the volunteers and donations last season and are requesting you help again as we prepare to welcome and care for our guests. If you have any questions, please email us at [stmarkcast@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkcast@gmail.com)

**HOW DO WE LIVE OUT THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS IN THE NEW YEAR, RATHER THAN PACK IT AWAY WITH THE ORNAMENTS?** Each year the Octave Day of Christmas falls on the first day of the New Year, on which we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Her open heart and courageous "yes" to God show us how to live year-round—with hearts open to the Lord, following where He leads. We are called to place our trust in Him, to enter compassionately into the suffering of others, and to love one another as Christ loves us. Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance. One way to live out the message of Christmas and follow Our Lady's example is to join 9 Days for Life, a digital pilgrimage of prayer and charitable action. The U.S. Catholic bishops invite you to join thousands of Catholics nationwide from Thursday, January 18 – Friday, January 26. Join today at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)!

## **COME CELEBRATE MASS WITH OUR NEW SHEPHERD THE MOST REV. BISHOP BARRY KNESTOUT**

— at St. Gregory the Great in Virginia Beach on Thursday, February 1st at 7pm —

Bishop Knestout will be celebrating Mass across the Diocese, and welcomes everyone to come and celebrate with him at one of these regional Masses. No RSVP is necessary. The full schedule of masses can be found at <http://richmonddiocese.org/regional-mass-schedule/>

**JOIN US FOR OUR 5th ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT** This year's theme is Seaside Escape and the retreat will be held at the Virginia Conference Center. You'll experience a time of renewal, fellowship, fun, and delicious food! The retreat starts on January 26th at 5:30pm and ends on January 27th at 4pm. The price, \$150, includes the retreat, lodging and meals for a double room. If you would like a single room there is a supplement cost of \$60. This retreat is open to all women who are 18 years old or older. **REGISTRATION IS OPEN UNTIL JANUARY 19<sup>th</sup>**. Register at <https://registrations.planningcenteronline.com/events/98208>. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Katzman at [Sharon@stmark-parish.org](mailto:Sharon@stmark-parish.org) or call 757-479-9897.

**ST. MATTHEWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL** Early childhood education makes a direct impact on the future academic success of children. Whether it is Full Day Kindergarten or Kindergarten Prep (ages 3 & 4), St. Matthew's Catholic School can help your child start with a great foundation! Join us for a tour at our Open House on Sunday, January 28, 2018 from 9am-noon. Rigorous academic curriculum centered on our Catholic faith teachings. Manners, character and leadership skills are taught every day in all grades through. catholic school students score in the Top 10% in the nation on Standardized Tests and 12% above the national average on SAT scores. A third of our graduates go to Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School in addition to being accepted into the public school academy programs. **Catholic education is open to all and financial aid is available.** If you are unable to join us for the Open House, please call Barbara Hawthorne for a private tour at (757) 420-2455. **Bus transportation along with before and after school care is available.** 3316 Sandra Lane, Virginia Beach, VA 23464 - [www.smsvb.net](http://www.smsvb.net)

**SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL K OF C MONTE CARLO NIGHT FUNDRAISER** The Knights of Columbus Monte Carlo Night is Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Come out and enjoy an evening of great food, fun 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. Additionally, the council is donating \$5/ticket to the St. Mark Youth Program's 2018 Summer Work Camp Ministry. The Knights will be selling tickets in the Great Hall after all weekend masses starting January 13<sup>th</sup> through February 4<sup>th</sup>. Questions can be emailed to Dan Wood at [dan9663@gmail.com](mailto:dan9663@gmail.com) or 757-647-2135.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST** The Knights of Columbus, Council 10515 would like to invite boys and girls from age 8 through 14 to participate in "Substance Abuse Awareness" Poster Contest. We look to encourage their creativity and imaginations in developing a deeper awareness of Substance Abuse in our society. Poster can be dropped off at the St Mark's RE Office before the **16th of February 2018**. Winners in each age group (ages 8-11, 12-14) will receive an award of \$50 from Council 10515 and have their posters forwarded to District and State Competitions. For any questions about the contest please contact **Lyndon Remias** at [Lremias@yahoo.com](mailto:Lremias@yahoo.com), via cell at 757.630.6102 or visit the council website at <https://www.kofcknights.org/CouncilSite/?CNO=10515>.

**YOUNG MAN & WOMAN OF THE YEAR** Every year the Knights of Columbus recognize a Young Man and a Young Woman of the Year for their outstanding achievements. If you are between the ages of 12 and 18 as of April 1, 2018 you are eligible to complete an application. The application will ask you to provide information about achievements in academics, school, community church and family. Application forms are available in an envelope attached to the Knight's Bulletin Board in the Great Hall at St Marks Catholic Church, at the Knights of Columbus website: <https://www.kofcknights.org/CouncilSite/?CNO=10515>, or by email request to Lyndon Remias at [Lremias@yahoo.com](mailto:Lremias@yahoo.com) or by cell at 630-6102. The council winners (one young man and one young woman) will receive \$500.00 and a certificate of recognition from the council. Entry deadline is February 16, 2018.

**FINANCIAL BOX SCORE**

Family Count: 1235  
 Families Using Envelopes: 365  
 Families Using Online Donation: 18

FISCAL YEAR JULY-JUNE	DEC. 25-31	OFFERTORY YEAR TO DATE	NEEDED YEAR TO DATE	EXCESS/ SHORT
Offertory	\$31,231	\$429,157	\$430,800	(-1,643)