

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 at 8:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

PARISH STAFF

- Rev. Anthony Mpungu.....Pastor
franthony@stmark-parish.org
Revs. Mr. Mike Johnson & John Kren..... Deacons
Rev. Mr. 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
Mark Smeland.....Music Coordinator
Vikki Ignacio.....Liturgical Musician
Marlene Games.....Nursery Supervisor
Brian Gridley.....Maintenance/IT Coordinator
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.-2:00p.m.

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

Email: sharon@stmark-parish.org

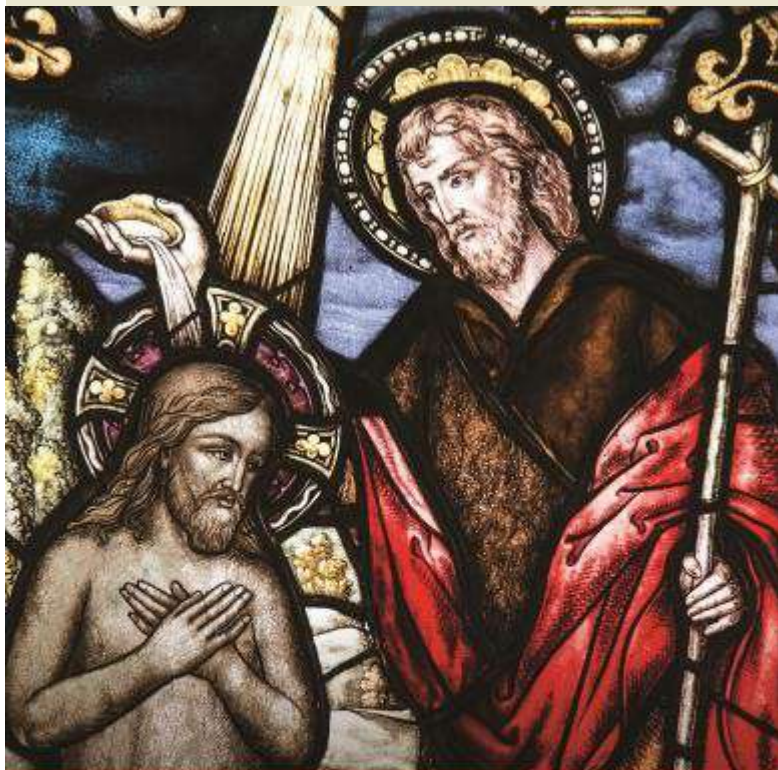
BAPTISM: Celebrated the 1st weekend of the month except during Lent. Contact Religious Formation Office for Baptism classes prior to the Sacrament.

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.



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mk 1:7-8

Fr. Anthony's Reflection

Happy New Year 2021! I welcome you to this new year and my prayer that God will continue to bless us through it.

This Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of His public ministry. All along, John the Baptist was proclaiming, "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The role of John the Baptist was to prepare the way for Jesus Christ by preaching repentance and baptizing people in the river Jordan as they acknowledged their sins. When Jesus finally came, John showed him to the people and baptized him. At that moment, John saw the heavens open and the Spirit like a dove, descending upon him. A voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." This was a true revelation to the people who Jesus was. They knew from that moment that he was the true Son of God!

A question comes to our minds, "Why did Jesus have to be baptized?" Jesus was certainly not baptized for forgiveness of sins as he was sinless. But through this act, he showed humility and solidarity with sinful humanity and gave an indication that he had come among us as a Savior. This moment also revealed his identity as the Son of God, through the voice coming from Heaven and brings to light the connection of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, thus the Holy Trinity. Baptism therefore begins our covenant relationship with God that we all have as Christians.

May we always feel blessed to be baptized in Christ, thus becoming the beloved of God the Father. Amen.



Mass Intentions and Daily Readings

MONDAY

01/11 Heb 1:1-6 ; Mk 1:14-20

TUESDAY

01/12 Heb 2:5-12 ; Mk 1:21-28
DOROTHY SIGNS+

WEDNESDAY

01/13 Saint Hilary, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
Heb 2:14-18 ; Mk 1:29-39
ARMANDO SANTOS SALINAS+

THURSDAY

01/14 Heb 3:7-14 ; Mk 1:40-45
LORAINNE KRAFCHIK+

FRIDAY

01/15 Heb 4:1-5, 11 ; Mk 2:1-12

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19 ; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 ; Jn 1:35-42

SATURDAY

01/16 MEREDITH LINDRUD+

SUNDAY

01/17 CAROLINE KNESTOUT+
NANCY BROWN+

(+) Indicates Deceased



Pray For...

Steven Barkow, Hadley Hewlett, Emma & Jeff Madrigal, Alice & George Volz, Don DeGroot, Bryan Mendoza, Dawn Boroden, Leonardo V. Corpez, Rose Kmetz, Emy Balmaceda, Jim Thomas, Jean Morgan, Chandler Jacob, Christian & Dana Brewer, Diane Esposito, Connie Collins, Suzie Neely, Chantal Rose Denman, Yolanda Santiaguel, Abelino Santiaguel, Beth Park, Susan Parr, Paula Turgeon, Sarah Harrington, Mike Turner, Norma Comia, Margarita Qualle, Olive Stanley, Marlene Slate, Osbaldo Toledo, Alex Cooke, Jun Cruz, Fay Harrington, Ralph Knappa, Erlinda Mariado, Marge Kube, John King, Judy Kiplinger, Mary Kramer, Lantz Claudill, Mary Szalach, Suzi North Sheehan, Aurora Young, Val Kandis, Angelita V. Cruz, Nikole Zabataite, Robby Comia, Helen Allen, Michael Kmetz, Roger Guerrero, Marianna Gable, Faye Vassiliou, Dick Guevin, Thomas DeNio, Vanessa Miner, Angel Rindfleisch, Joel Cossette, Teresita Mendez-Ozabal, Joy Solmerano, Jan & Roger Kilb, Jodi Lee, Helen Robb, Tim Helmstetter, Marlene Games, Jim Behan, Rose Sunderland, Pat Byrne, Julie Allen, Perry Francisco, Jean Burke, Joel Rivera, Harry & Nancy Tennin, Bobbi Drewiske, Candice Gordon, Frank Moore, Carlos Gonzalez, the Whitesell Family, Peiro DelValle, Mary Tibbetts

Please pray for the repose of the soul of
Chuck McCoy

Let perpetual light shine upon him; may he rest in peace!
Keep the McCoy Family in your prayers.

Justice and Peace

Visit the Justice & Peace page on our St. Mark parish web site for more information on our current ministries and other J & P focus. www.stmark-parish.org/ministries/justice-and-peace or contact: justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org

Food of the Month:

JANUARY

9-15oz. boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes

Individual meals: tuna snack kits, pop-top soup/pasta



"God's work - Our hands"
2020 Year end Summary

Wow! St. Mark Family YOU are amazing! Thank You!

Food Pantry: August- December 2020 Totals:

684 Adults, 426 Children, 297 Families, 415 Food Bags, 102 Gift Cards. In addition, over 1800 food items were donated to Judeo-Christian Outreach Center Food Pantry and the Food Bank

Snack Bags: March- December 2020

3700 Snack Bags to P.I.N. Ministry guests
320 Snack Bags and approximately 195 prepared meals to Judeo-Christian Outreach Center via Feed Our Neighbor

Holiday Gift Card Giving

We assisted Catholic Charities, Samaritan House, Refugee Resettlement, and Department of Human Services along with our own parishioners who are in need.

Thanksgiving: \$6,250 in gift cards for holiday meals

Christmas: \$11,100 in gift cards

162 \$5.00 McDonalds gift cards

3802 hand warmers to P.I.N. guests

176 Stocking Stuffers to the residents at Kempsville Rehab Center

This Week at Saint Mark January 11th—January 17th

MONDAY

7:15pm RCIA Formation (GH & Virtual)

TUESDAY

8:30am **Daily Mass In Sanctuary**

WEDNESDAY

10am-1pm Food Pantry (GH)
6:30pm Rosary in Sanctuary
7:00pm **Weekday Mass In Sanctuary**

THURSDAY

8:30am **Weekday Mass In Sanctuary**

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

4:00pm Reconciliation
5:30pm **Weekend Mass In Sanctuary**

SUNDAY

8:00am **Weekend Mass In Sanctuary**
10:00am Virtual Mass
11:00am **Weekend Mass in Sanctuary**



2021 Fuel and Hunger Fund: We are thankful and blessed to have received \$1500 from our 2021 Diocesan Fuel & Hunger fund.



Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena, 9 Days for Life, Thursday, January 21 – Friday, January 29. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. For more information contact Joyce Gridley at 675-6486 or justiceandpeace@cox.net. You can also sign up at 9daysforlife.com



Together Strong: Life Unites!
MARCH FOR LIFE Washington, D.C.
January 29, 2021

We march because we envision a future world where the beauty and dignity of every human life are valued and protected. We promote the beauty and dignity of every human life by working to end abortion—uniting, educating, and mobilizing pro-life people in the public square. We are working to gather a group to attend the 2021 March for Life! If you would like more information or are interested in attending, please contact Joyce Gridley at justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org



Justice and Peace... Continued

Tidewater Sowers of Justice: As this New Year dawns, do you carry deep concern for people impacted by racism, lack of affordable housing and healthcare, immigration laws, high rates of incarceration, climate, and many other injustices? You are not alone! The Tidewater Sowers of Justice is a faith-based group that addresses social justice causes of our world. We invite you to come journey with us. We meet on the Second Friday of each month via ZOOM to learn about, accept and respond to the challenges of the Gospel.

For more information, please contact Helen White at 757-270-8074 or email dolfingal8@gmail.com.

Announcements

Wisdom Seeker Mass Schedule 2021

As a way to keep the Wisdom Seekers united, we will celebrate mass together on a monthly basis.

Mark your calendars for the following dates:

February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14th ... AT 10 AM

Knights of Columbus-Persons of the Year

Every year the Knights of Columbus recognize a Young Man and a Young Woman of the Year. If you are between the ages of 12 and 18 as of April 1, 2021 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 will be available from

Sunday January 3, 2020 – February 12, 2020

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: kofc10515.org, or by email request to Jim Waltz at

JWaltzFAM@outlook.com.

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 Friday, February 12, 2020.

Lent 2021, The Search

FORMED gives us a beautiful new video program which explores life's big questions:

What Do You Seek? Who Are You?

Why a God?

What's Our Story?

Who is Jesus?

Am I Saved? Why a Church?

Sign-ups begin January 3rd and Small groups begin February 1st

Go to stmark-parish.org to begin The Search

Here's what people from around the US are saying about The Search:

- "This was amazing. I had goose bumps. The visuals, the music, and most of all, the message was on point. God has truly put together an exceptional team to bring us this show. I can't wait to watch more!" - Cathy
- "Wow! Just mind-blowing." - Andrew

"...it will help so many people take God from their head to the heart." - Colleen

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

Liturgy Corner

This weekend we conclude the short, yet, meaningful season of Christmas! We have witnessed Jesus humble birth, his presentation in the temple and dedication to the Father, and manifestation to the Magi - the Lord is in our midst. Now we witness the manifestation of the beginning of his ministerial life on earth - one we are called to emulate! We heard John the Baptist, earlier in Advent, that he was preparing the way for the Lord; now that Lord arrives at the waters of the Jordan for his own Baptism - showing us at the beginning of that ministerial life, the way to begin our true lives as sons and daughters of God.

"Rising from the Jordan River, Jesus heard: "You are my beloved," and God had proclaimed these words over everyone baptized since that day. Coming to understand the meaning of Baptism, accepting the grace and responsibility given to us by that encounter with God's love, is the fundamental task of Christian life."

"We thirst for eternal life and for the love of God. Through Jesus Christ our thirst is quenched. Let us call to mind the grace of our own Baptism, by which we were cleansed of sin and made adopted daughters and sons of God. In answer to the thundering voice of the Father, let us raise our voices today in praise and thanksgiving." As the priest says, just at the beginning of the Penitential Rite, let us be prepared to remember the word: "My brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, so as to prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries."
(LTP - Sourcebook)



Decorations and Christmas Flowers Were Given

In memory of...

Gonzalo & Julia Reyes
Earl George & Barbara Reid
Christina Galeas
Gustavo Reyes
Gladiz & Thelmo Ruiz
Gustavo Guitierrez
Magdalena Valencia
Beatriz Alas

Welcome!

As we gather again for the celebration of Mass, we are all asked to do our part to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Out of an abundance of caution for others gathered, please be aware, prior to entering the church, an usher will ask you a series of questions. Please be patient and wait for their instructions regarding seating, as we must comply with social distancing guidelines. We ask that everyone takes the following precautions:

- Stay home if you are ill, elderly, anxious, or immunocompromised. Bishop Knestout has dispensed all Catholics in the Diocese from their Sunday Mass obligation. **Our virtual Mass is at 10am!**
- Maintain six feet of social distance from others who are not from the same household at all times while in the church or on church property.
- All those ages 5 and up and those to receive Communion must wear a face mask or face covering. Be sure the mask covers your nose and mouth.
- Refrain from physical contact, such as holding hands during the Our Father and shaking hands during the Sign of Peace.
- Sanitize hand when entering and leaving church. Bring personal supply of hand sanitizer to use before receiving Communion, if possible.
- Consider receiving Holy Communion in the hand.

If you have a fever or symptoms of COVID-19 or not wearing a facemask, you will not be permitted to enter the building.

FROM THE BOOKKEEPER—St Mark 2020 Tax Statements

Your 2020 Tax Statement will be electronically released for viewing and printing on January 15, 2021 in the *My Own Church* account. If you have a *My Own Church* account, go to our website: www.stmark-parish.org

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Scroll down to the bright blue box marked 'ParishSoft My Own Church Parishioner Portal' and click on it. Once inside you can scroll down and click 'log-in' if you recall your password from last year or click on 'lost password' if you have forgotten it. If you are new to *My Own Church*, follow the instructions to create an account.

Password problems? Call the office at 479-1010.

If unable or unwilling to access My Own Church, it is still possible to drop a stamped, self-addressed business size envelope at the church office or request via email to: bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org

Requests will be fulfilled within 1-5 a few business days.

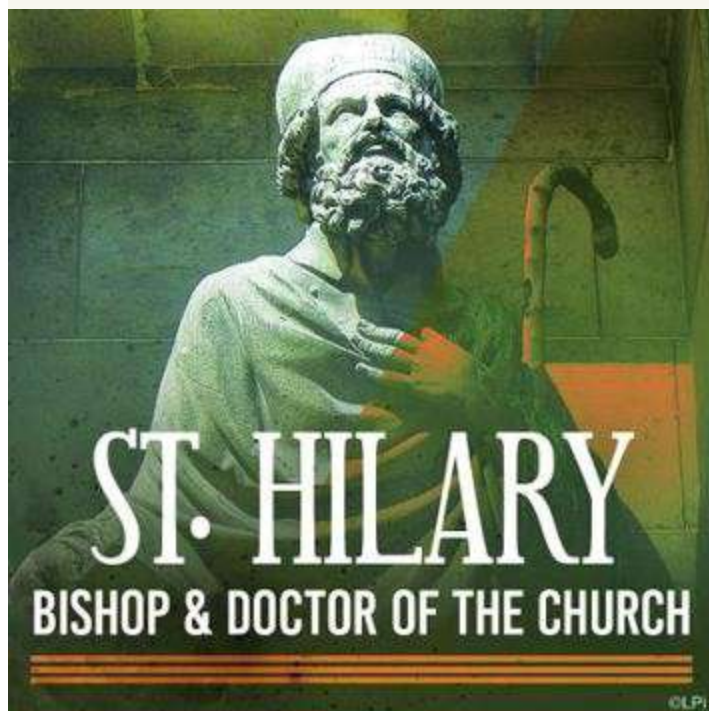
If you currently do not give online, but would like to, please sign up at:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stmarkvb>

| Fiscal Year | | Offertory | Needed | Excess/ |
|------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| July20 June21 | January 3 | Year to Date | Year to Date | Short |
| Offertory | \$29,601 | \$441,016 | \$448,000 | (\$6984) |

Family Count: 950: envelopes: 85/Using online donation: 187

A Saint Story



This staunch defender of the divinity of Christ was a gentle and courteous man, devoted to writing some of the greatest theology on the Trinity, and was like his Master in being labeled a "disturber of the peace." In a very troubled period in the Church, his holiness was lived out in both scholarship and controversy. He was bishop of Poitiers in France.

Raised a pagan, he was converted to Christianity when he met his God of nature in the Scriptures. His wife was still living when he was chosen, against his will, to be the bishop of Poitiers in France. He was soon taken up with battling what became the scourge of the fourth century, Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ.

The heresy spread rapidly. Saint Jerome said "The world groaned and marveled to find that it was Arian." When Emperor Constantius ordered all the bishops of the West to sign a condemnation of Athanasius, the great defender of the faith in the East, Hilary refused and was banished from France to far off Phrygia. Eventually he was called the "Athanasius of the West."

While writing in exile, he was invited by some semi-Arians (hoping for reconciliation) to a council the emperor called to counteract the Council of Nicea. But Hilary predictably defended the Church, and when he sought public debate with the heretical bishop who had exiled him, the Arians, dreading the meeting and its outcome, pleaded with the emperor to send this troublemaker back home.

Hilary was welcomed by his people. (franciscanmedia.org)



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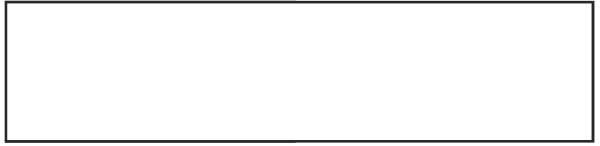
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