

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.

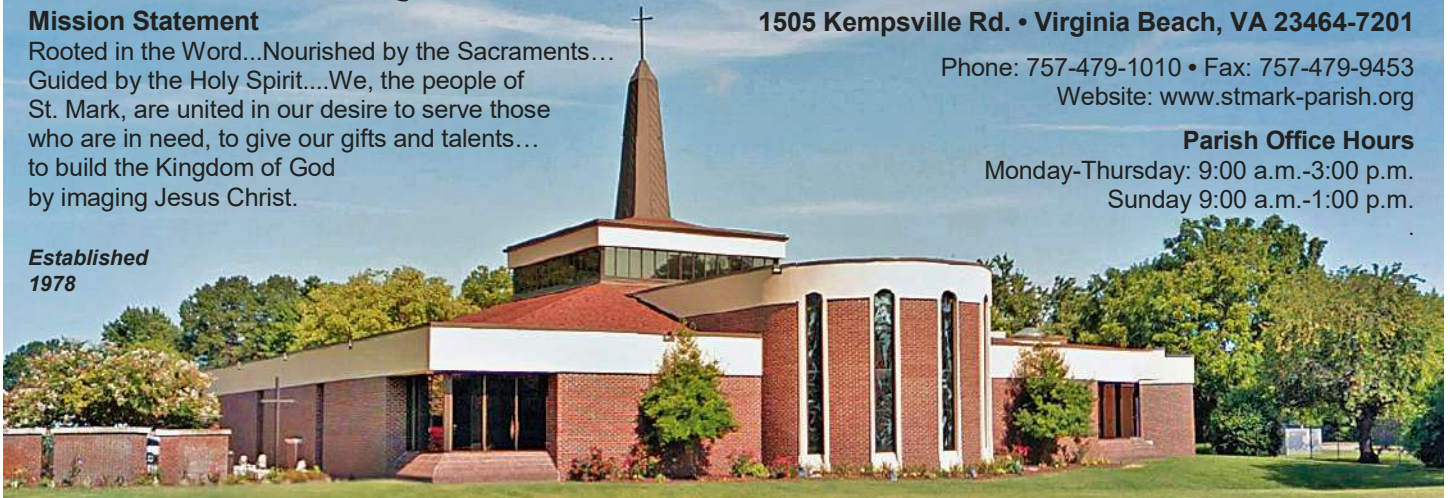
Established 1978

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.



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 JohnsonPastoral 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. WilliamsDirector of Music musicdirector.stmark@gmail.com Laura Ishmael..... Pianist Marlene GamesNursery Supervisor Brian Gridley..... Maintenance/IT Coordinator Alberto Rosado.....Custodian George Dillon III.....Parish Council Chairman William McMican.....Finance Council Chairman

RELIGIOUS FORMATION STAFF

- Sharon Katzman.....Director of R.F. Rachel Rudman.....Coordinator of R.F. 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.

Show your Parish Pride!

40th Anniversary stickers, static cling window decals and order forms for golf shirts are available in the commons after all masses and Parish Office during the week.



April 29th – Anniversary Mass

May 19th – Celebration

September 8th – Anniversary Parish Picnic



Mom's Group

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 baby-sitting is provided. For more information please contact Holly Krukowski 585-749-6941.

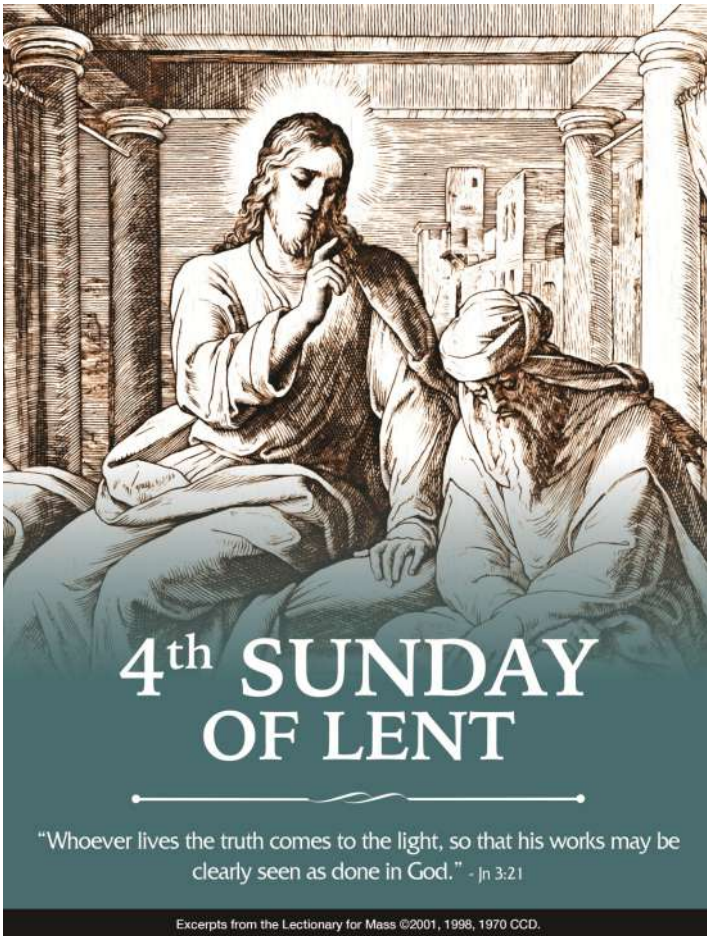
MASST INTENTIONS and Daily Readings

MON	3/12		IS 65:17-21; JN 4:43-54
TUES	3/13	8:30am	REYNALDO COMIA + JOE O'LEARY + EZ 47:1-9,12; JN 5:1-16
WED	3/14	7:00pm	SUSAN DIAZ + PEGGY RYBARCZYK + IS 49:8-15; JN 5:17-30
THU	3/15	8:30am	FEELY CABILLAN + SIMPLICIO MENDOZA + EX 32:7-14; JN 5:31-47
FRI	3/16		WIS 2:1A; 12-22; JN 7:1-2,10,25-30
SAT	3/17	5:30pm	JOHN GIBSON + CECIL BYRAM + MORTON MEIER + JER 11:18-20; JN 7:40-53
SUN	3/18	8:30am	ARLENE LINNETT-BABB + KATHLEEN CUSSEN + JER 31:31-34 PS 51:3-4,12-13,14-15 HEB 5:7-9 JN 12:20-33
		10:30am	JANICE & DAVID WALTZ + HAROLD & CECILIA MOOREHEAD + EZ 37:12-14 PS 130:1-2,3-4,5-6,7-8 ROM 8:8-11 JN 11:1-45

Prayer REQUESTS

Catherine Cannon, Rosalie Stock, Lorenzo Fuller, Jim Thomas, Joan Borden, Scott Henry, Martin "Woody" Wood, Gerald Lavandosky, Joan P. Dolor, Bobby MacDonald, Efred Salinas, Evelyn Harzold, Mary Petrucci, Kathy Rivet

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 weekend during all the Masses.



Sunday Reflection from Father Anthony

I welcome you to this Laetare Sunday, which means Rejoice Sunday! This Sunday we rejoice in anticipation of the Easter mysteries which we shall be celebrating soon. Today we can say that our Lenten journey is mid way and this is so exciting! From today's Gospel reading, Jesus had an encounter with Nicodemus to whom he said: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." These words of Jesus were foretelling what was going to happen to him, that he would be crucified on the cross for the love of us all. Jesus would be exalted and glorified through the cross. Indeed with Jesus dying on the cross, it reflects how much God loved the world so much that he gave us his only begotten Son. So today the Church rejoices for our salvation is near. And this salvation comes to us through the life and the death of Jesus for it was the love its best. So as we continue our journey of Lent, may our longing for the light of Christ continue and like Nicodemus let us feel the closeness to Jesus who is the source of new life. Amen Happy Sunday!

Justice & Peace

FOOD OF THE WEEK: This week the Food Pantry is in need of **TUNA FISH.**

"The Good News is no mere matter of words: it is about leaving ourselves behind and encountering others."
 – Pope Francis

SAVE THE DATE! You are invited to join the members of our Justice & Peace committee on Monday, March 19th @ 7pm as we come together to pray the Stations of the Cross through the eyes of Social Justice. Please join us!

LENT IS A TIME OF ENCOUNTER...

Through prayer, We encounter Christ, present in the face of every member of our human family.

Through fasting, We encounter the obstacles that prevent us from loving God and neighbor.

Through almsgiving, We encounter our brothers and sisters around the world, sharing God's gifts with others.

There are many opportunities to participate in the power of almsgiving this lent through Operation Rice Bowl as well as other special collections and programs. Please look in our bulletin, visit the St. Mark and the Diocesan website, come to a Justice & Peace meeting (third Monday each month) and see the various ministries and ways in which you can offer your time, talent and treasure to the needy individuals during this Lent and throughout the year. "This Lent, through our sacrifices, we can empower and transform the lives of our brothers and sisters in need." For more information on ways you can reach out to those in need please contact; justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org or Joyce Gridley (757) 675-6486

40 DAYS FOR LIFE February 14th — March 25th Our community will take part in 40 Days for Life... a groundbreaking, coordinated international mobilization. We pray that, with God's help, this will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in our city and beyond. Public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood 515 Newtown Road Virginia Beach, Virginia. FMI please visit <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/virginia-beach/> or contact Catalina Ramos (757)334-6149, (787)667-6724 catalina-ramos13@gmail.com

TIDEWATER SOWERS OF JUSTICE INVITE YOU ON OUR GOOD FRIDAY PILGRIMAGE - LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS- Join us as we walk through the streets of Norfolk, stopping at different sites to prophetically reflect, and pray over our Catholic Social Teachings. Following Jesus' example, we embrace love on the cross as a way to challenge the powers of injustice, oppression and exploitation. **Good Friday, March 30, 2018** -11:00 a.m. Beginning at St. Mary's Basilica until 1:00 p.m. as we return to St. Mary's Parking Lot. A light lunch of Black Beans & Rice will be served. Contact: Giselle Weinstein 757-620-5466 or M. Collins - maryann_collins@verizon.net

DID YOU KNOW? Deaths from drug addiction in the United States hit their highest levels ever and continue to rise- the opioid epidemic in the United States has reached crisis proportions. Preliminary numbers indicate that over 66,000 people died from drug overdoses in 2017.

"Drug addiction knows no boundaries. It afflicts regardless of wealth, education, social position or race. We must find new ways to reach these souls. This is among the great pastoral needs of our time and place in history, for from it flows a cascade of scourges such as murder, suicide, child abuse, sexual and domestic violence, joblessness, poverty and the destruction of civilization's most basic building block: the family."
 -John Barnes Our Sunday Visitor May 2017

This Week at St. Mark March 12- 18

MON	10:00am 7:15pm	Food Pantry RCIA Formation
TUE	8:30am 6:30pm	DAILY MASS Women's Book Club
WED	8:30am 10:00am 7:30pm	DAILY MASS Food Pantry St. Mark Chorale Rehearsal
THUR	8:30am 6:30pm 7:00pm	DAILY MASS CPR Training Finance Council Meeting
FRI	9:30am 10:00am 6:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm	Mom's Group Food Pantry Lenten Supper Y3S/Teen Formation 2 K of C Station of the Cross
SAT	8:00am 9:00am 10:00am 4:00pm 5:30pm	<i>Diocesan Men's Retreat- Away</i> Building & Grounds Work Day Baptism Preparation Class First Reconciliation Reconciliation WEEKEND MASS
SUN	8:30am 9:30am 10:30am 12:30pm 6:00pm	WEEKEND MASS Religious Formation 1 RCIC WEEKEND MASS Religious Formation 2 Teen Formation 1



LENTEN SUPPERS Our next Lenten Supper is Friday, March 16th in the Great Hall. It is a Mac & Cheese pot luck. Be sure to sign up in the commons, and be mindful that it is a Lenten supper, not a feast.

PARISH EASTER EGG HUNT Will be Saturday, March 24th from 10:30am - 11:30am for ages 2-10. Sign ups in the commons for candy and plastic fillable egg donations.

EASTER VIGIL MASS is on Saturday, March 31 at 8pm. There will be a reception following the mass in the Great Hall. Please sign up in the commons if you plan to attend and check what you will bring. Finger foods are encouraged. Volunteers to help are needed!

Financial Box Score

Fiscal Year	Feb. 25	Offertory Year to Date	Needed Year to Date	Excess/ Short
July-June				
Offertory	\$13,232	\$553,353	\$557,200	(\$3,847)

FEBRUARY TOTALS
 Food Pantry: 2,054
 Poor Box: 145
 Debt Relief: 455
 Future Capital: 1,543
 Haiti: 10
 Family Count: 1210
 Families Using Envelopes: 335
 Families Using Online Donation: 73

St. Mark Parish News

Living Our Mission Update from the Bookkeeper


At the start of our fiscal year (July 1) we had \$40,803 in the Living Our Mission account. We received another \$18,710 in September and another \$17,925 last week. Our account now stands at \$77,508. We used funds amounting to \$47,956.19 last fiscal year to pay for our sound system upgrade. MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

PLEASE NOTE MASS CHANGE TIME! Daily Mass on Wednesday, March 14 will be at 8:30am

BUILDING & GROUNDS This coming Saturday, March 17th, 8am-12pm. "Looking for the St. Mark Leprechaun" See the picture of the Deacon kissing the Blarney Stone. Next set of ceiling tiles and ceiling lights in the hall outside the music room. Ceiling tiles in the back classroom. Prep and seal windows. Weather permitting, replace the drain to clear water from the downspouts to the curb in the front of the church. Clearing Mediation Walk. Gardens – plants and shrubs. Come with a friend and find your **leprechaun**. Autographs available.

THE WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB cordially invites any and all women to join us for lively discussions about books with relevant Christian topics. The next meeting will be held at St. Mark on March 13, 2018 from 6:30-8pm. Contact Genevieve Eirich at geirich1@verizon.net with any questions. You can get more information on our web site at www.stmark-parish.org

PRAYER SERVICE There will be an ecumenical Prayer Vigil for the victims of violence on March 14th, 2018 from 10am to 10:15am at Kings Grant Presbyterian Church. We will gather as a response to the gun violence at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL and on the street in our local area. For more information, please call Lorie Stephan at 757-343-7785.

 **PLEASE PRAY FOR...** This is to share that we loss one of the regulars at 5:30pm Mass. For the past several years, Helen Wilkerson was always here with her healthcare worker, and always loved being here at Mass. Helen and her husband Tom have been at St Mark for 34 years. Helen lost her husband, Tom, in 2003. Helen enjoyed the parish community and the Wisdom Seekers. Please keep Helen, along with her son and daughter in your prayers! Let perpetual light shine upon Helen, may she rest in peace!

CAST 2018 For the fourth year now, our church community has reached out to our homeless sisters and brothers through CAST (Chesapeake Area Shelter Team). For seven nights we welcomed our guests into our parish, shared our many blessings, and were blessed even more in return by their presence. During the course of our host week, we had the opportunity to serve an average of 30 guests, including children, each night. Hot, home-cooked dinners and breakfasts were served in the Great Hall and lunches-to-go were provided. Evening activities included health screenings, facial and neck massages, foot scrubs, haircuts, corn hole, live music, and bingo.

This week was made possible with the help of over 250 parishioners who collectively volunteered over 1,600 hours, as well as all of your donations of food and needed items. Heartfelt thanks go out to each and every one of you. A special thank you to our key coordinators who worked so hard to make this week possible: Mike & Ellen Coleman, Joe & Joyce Burns, Lita & Pert Razon, Lacy Favila, Mary Amabile, Justin Michener, and Nelson Mones. Thank you to Bill Sauer for driving the bus every morning and evening during our week.

We are grateful to the following businesses for their generous donations: Central Meats, Irwin's Pharmacy, Dr. Dina Pearl, Konikoff Dentistry, Mama Dee's Massage, Stiletto Hair Studio and Coppermine Bakery.

We would also like to thank Father Anthony for taking the time to join our guests during the week.

We feel blessed to have had this opportunity to work with all of you to care for our guests; our parish community was touched in so many ways by their kindness, honesty, humor, gratitude and life-stories. We ask you to pray for their health, safety, and success in overcoming difficult life circumstances.

Thank you again everyone.

Karina Turkiewicz, Judy Wood, and Karel Wetzel

What is Laetare Sunday?

What does it mean?

- Laetare is the Latin word for Rejoice.
- It comes from the book of Isaiah 66:10-11, "Laetare, Jerusalem." translated "Rejoice, Jerusalem."
- This verse from Isaiah is the entrance antiphon for the Sunday Mass this week
- Just as Lent mirrors Advent, Laetare Sunday mirrors Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday in Advent, which means "Rejoice in the Lord always"

Why do we celebrate it?

- We are rejoicing that Easter is rapidly approaching
- This Sunday offers encouragement to continue on with our Lenten journey and sacrifices
- It is important to remember the joy in our suffering and that the Lord never abandons us, but is always by our side

What is different in the church?

- Fr. Anthony's vestments and the altar cloth are rose colored
- Flowers may be seen decorating the altar
- If a church has an organ, the organ may be played.

What Are the Scrutinies?

Kristopher W. Seaman

Not long before the start of Lent one year, a new minister of Christian initiation approached me. I could see he was agitated, yet hesitant to talk.

Finally, he told me he saw that scrutinies were scheduled to take place on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent for those preparing to become Christians at the Easter Vigil. He feared that during the rite, these individuals, whom we call the *elect*, or chosen, would be questioned before all assembled for Mass. I praised him for his concern and told him that the three scrutinies of the Christian initiation process do not parallel a courtroom cross-examination.

The scrutinies are formed in the language of liturgical prayer. During the scrutiny, those preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil typically kneel down, and the presider and assembly pray over them, asking God to strengthen and assist them to more clearly live out God's love. At this time, these individuals are also invited, with God's help, to turn away from sin and evil. The rite states:

The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. For the scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and give them strength in Christ. These rites, therefore, should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all. (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, 141)

This turning from sin and evil to God's love does not happen in an instant. Rather, the elect need to pray and receive support as they attempt to turn toward God's love and resist sin and evil. The scrutinies are meant to heal.

The benefits of the scrutinies are significant. First, the context is the liturgical assembly. The elect have been part of the already established prayer life of the Church, learning (or as Pope Benedict XVI aptly called it "being schooled") in the way the Church prays, lives, and breathes.

Secondly, the local church prays for and over these elect. Hands are laid on them in prayer, suggesting that the Church is not only asking God's strength and assistance—the Church itself is there to be a sign and presence of strength, especially in the face of trial. It is a healing touch.

Thirdly, the entire Church has the opportunity to consider its need for God's help to be healed and strengthened. The



The scrutinies are to heal what is weak and strengthen what is upright.

elect are not the only ones in need of God's assistance. Each person in the assembly needs to continuously look to God as they try to resist sin and evil. As we participate in the scrutinies as part of the assembly, we should examine our "schooling" in the love of God. All Christian disciples need to continually examine how they are open to participating in God's love. This rite is a witness to the "skills" (prayers) needed to live daily what Christian discipleship is about—God's love in the midst of sin and evil.

40 DAYS OF AWESOME

What are alms and why do we give them?

What are alms? Alms are historically charitable in nature.

Alms are most often associated with “treasure”, that is money. And, although we are called to “contribute to the material support of the Church”(CCC 2043), that is not what we are here to lay down at your feet. The giving of alms is about charity. Charity is another word for love. Love is about sacrificial giving of self for the benefit of the other.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW AREAS WHICH WOULD BENEFIT FROM YOUR CHARITY:

ALTAR SERVERS - BAPTISM PREP - BUILDING AND GROUNDS
- CATECHISTS - CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - CHOIR -
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - FOOD PANTRY -
LECTORS - PARISH INFORMATION - RCIA SPONSORS -
ROSARY FACILITATORS - USHERS

Whether it is your time, talent or treasure, almsgiving, is ultimately about the freely giving of oneself. It is to be Christ.



God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called