

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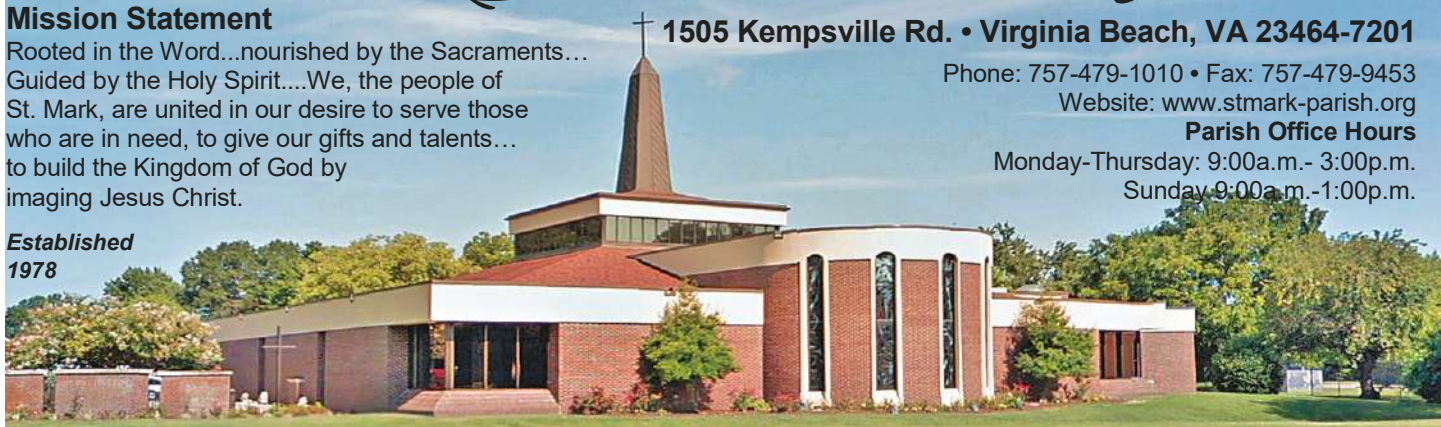
Phone: 757-479-1010 • Fax: 757-479-9453

Website: www.stmark-parish.org

Parish Office Hours

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

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



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LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:30 p.m. • Sunday at 8:30 & 10:30 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
Michelle Mocco.....Parish Secretary
secretary@stmark-parish.org
Mark Smeland.....Music Coordinator
msmeland@gmail.com
Vikki IgnacioLiturgical Musician
Brian Gridley.....Maintenance/IT Coordinator
Faith Daxton.....Housekeeping
Renee McCroskey.....Nursery Supervisor
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-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

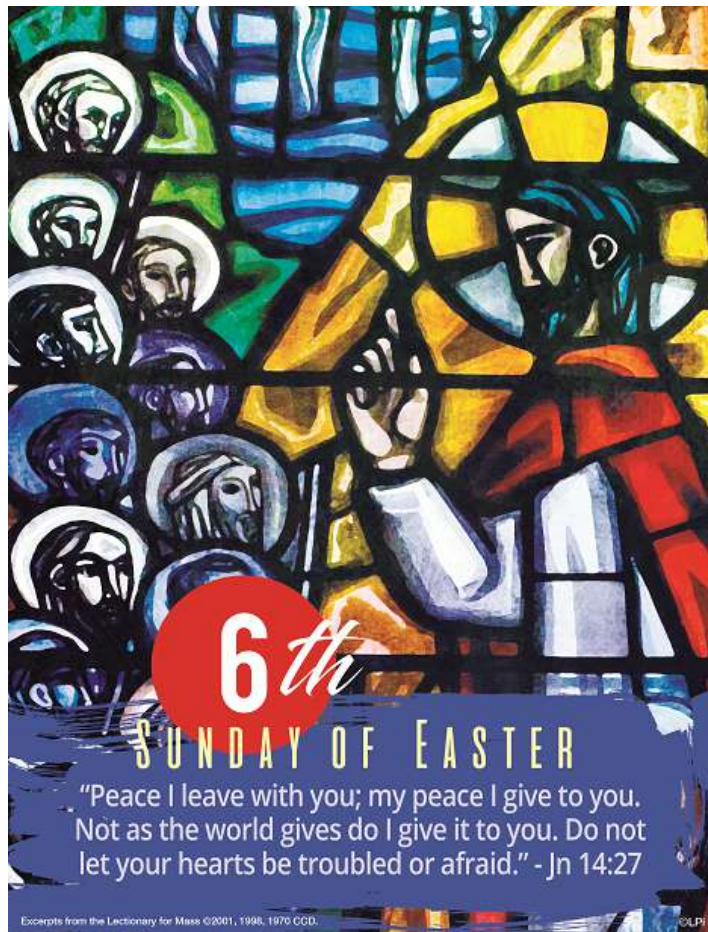
BAPTISM: Celebrated the 1st weekend of the month except during Lent. Contact Religious Formation Office for Baptism classes prior to the Sacrament.

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.



FATHER ANTHONY'S REFLECTION

Alleluia, Christ is risen! We are celebrating the 6th Sunday of Easter and this season is almost coming to a close and this is reflected in the message that Jesus is giving to his disciples. Having appeared to them and allowed them to feel his presence, he is finally preparing them for his departure from them. This news comes as a shock to them and they find this so hard to take. They fear and wonder what life will be without him! Jesus' words to them are words of encouragement when he says, "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him." Jesus' desire for his disciples is to remain faithful to the loving relationship with the Father as well as the Church. The gift of peace that Jesus has given them all along is the same gift that he continues to give them. "...Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled." Jesus is asking them to stay strong and connected. Unity is the very identity of the Church and a reflection of Christ's body and he is the head. He is leaving them, yet is remaining with them in some form. The survival and maturity of the Christian community after Jesus' departure will be reflected in how they remain united in Jesus' love and peace. Jesus promises them the Holy Spirit who will remind them of the words he spoke to them and the words that will lead them to the whole truth. So they must keep these words. May we embrace Jesus' gifts of love and peace! Amen.

RCIA



For more information, on how to start your journey, contact Dcn. Mike Johnson @757-479-1010 or Deacon_Mike@stmark-parish.org.

WORLDWIDE MARIAGE ENCOUNTER

Marriage is a Journey!!!!

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience can help you enrich your marriage and add some pizzazz to your journey. Whether you've been married 1 year or 50, a Marriage Encounter Experience may be just the thing you need to put a breath of fresh air into your relationship. Our next in-person experience is September 23-25, 2022, at the Crowne Plaza in Reston VA

Only 20 spots available so sign up early! To register, go to WWME.org, click "Apply" and search on Virginia. Feel free to contact Mark and Cathy Stangler at 703-378-4150 or mstang1987@aol.com with any questions.

DAILY READINGS AND MASS OFFERINGS/INTENTIONS

Catholic
Daily Bible Reading

MONDAY 5/23	EASTER WEEKDAY Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26-16:4a
TUESDAY 5/24	EASTER WEEKDAY Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11
WEDNESDAY 5/25	SAINT BEDE THE VENERABLE, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH; SAINT GREGORY VII, POPE; SAINT MARY MAGDALENE DE'PAZZI, VIRGIN Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; Jn 16:12-15 † Pablito Semano
THURSDAY 5/26	ST PHILIP NERI, PRIEST Acts 18:1-8; Jn 16:16-20
FRIDAY 5/27	SAINT AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23
SATURDAY 5/28	EASTER WEEKDAY Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23b-28
SUNDAY 5/29	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD Acts 1:1-11; Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-24; Lk 24:46-53 † Agapito Amio † Mary Rita Comber

† Offerings for the Deceased



Paul Caddies, Molly Kibble, Abelino Santiguel, Janet Wright, Brittany Cochran Yokley, Pat Byrne, Dawn Boroden, Patricia MacCartney, McBride Family, LaDonya Bradley, Trish Simpson, David McElheney, Evelyn Harzold, Antonio & Gloria Fernando, Billie Dudley, Rose Sunderland, Rose Fisher, Kenneth Delorenzo, Perry Francisco

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Kim Smith, and Richard Huling - father of Doug Huling . Eternal rest, grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May their souls, and all souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Please, also pray for the Smith and Huling families.

JUSTICE AND PEACE

Visit the Justice & Peace page on our St. Mark web site for more information on our ministries and current focus, please visit our website at www.stmark-parish.org/ministries/justice-and-peace or email us at justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org.

Food of the Month - May

9-15oz. boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes
Individual meals: tuna snack kits, pop-top soup/pasta

**PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATES
WE CANNOT ACCEPT EXPIRED FOOD ITEMS**



Spiritual Adoption/ HAPPY "BIRTH DAY"

This is it!! **Today** is the day we have waited 9 months for! Please join us after all Masses **this weekend May 21st/22nd** as we celebrate our Spiritually Adopted babies "Birth Day" with cupcakes and gifts for all. A special thank you to all who Spiritually Adopted and prayed for their baby these past nine months.

Hope4Life Baby Bottle Drive



May 21st – June 4th we will be collecting monetary donations for the "Hope4Life" mobile pregnancy Center in large baby bottles located in the

Commons next to the Food Pantry bin. Your donation assists women and families with free ultrasounds, counseling services, educational programs, maternity/ baby/child items and financial help provided by "Hope4Life". To learn more visit www.hope4lifeva.com.



Traffickers prey on people's vulnerabilities gaining control over their victim and manipulate them into cooperating in their own exploitation, making it difficult for them to choose

to leave. **You** can help by listening to survivors' experiences, learning about the grooming process, and having difficult conversations with your loved ones when necessary. No matter where a person is in the process of deciding to leave their situation, the [U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org) is here and ready to listen. 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP to 233733.



Hope 4 Life Eighth Annual Banquet

St. Mark is proud to be a sponsor of this event on June 4, 2022, at Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate

Conception, Norfolk, Mass 5:00 p.m., Reception 6:15 p.m., Banquet 6:45 p.m. Reverend Dean Nelson will be the keynote speaker. RSVP early to Louantha Kerr, louantha@gmail.com. The banquet will be live streamed for those unable to attend. Tune in to our website at hope4lifeva.com to view this event. We extend a heartfelt thank you for your support and prayers.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MARK



May 23rd - 29th

Parish Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 9am - 3pm
Sunday 9am - 1pm

MONDAY

715pm

RCIA in the Conference Room, Daily Chapel and Great Hall

TUESDAY

830am

COMMUNION SERVICE in the Daily Chapel

930am

Adult Faith Formation in the Conference Room

7pm

Adult Faith Formation in the Great Hall

WEDNESDAY

10am-1pm

Food Pantry in the Great Hall

630pm

Rosary in the Daily Chapel

7pm

WEEKDAY MASS in the Daily Chapel

THURSDAY

830am

COMMUNION SERVICE in the Daily Chapel

6pm

Parish Council Meeting in the Conference Room

7pm

Adult Formation in the Great Hall

FRIDAY

No Events Today

SATURDAY

5pm

Rosary in the Sanctuary

530pm

WEEKEND MASS in the Sanctuary

SUNDAY

8am

Rosary in the Sanctuary

830am

WEEKEND MASS in the Sanctuary

10am

Rosary in the Sanctuary

1030am

WEEKEND MASS in the Sanctuary with Facebook Live

MEN'S RETREAT



"Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead"

Catholic Men's Retreat (Free)
Sat, June 4th, 8:45am – 6:30pm
New Creation Community Center
1600 Elbow Rd., Chesapeake, VA 23320

Sign up is available on the parish website at <https://stmark-parish.org>

LITURGY CORNER

Passing on our Faith

This last Sunday we celebrated the wonderful Sacrament of First Holy Communion with 41 St Mark children. The church was filled with families and multiple generations of faith-filled people. As we look at these young people and the conclusion of our Formation year and as we approach the summer, it is worthwhile to remember our community's example and the family's responsibility to be the first teachers of the faith. One of the best ways to teach the children is our participation in the best prayer of all - the Mass; where we gather as the Body of Christ to hear God's Word and share in his Body at the table of the Lord. So we share this article as well.

"Greetings and Easter Joy!

In this season of resurrection, we are filled with the joy of our faith in the risen Christ. Who passed on this faith to you? Were you influenced by someone who had a special relationship with both the Lord and the Catholic tradition? In my case, I think of my grandmothers: faithful, prayerful women who— through joys and heartbreaks—were anchored by a deep faith in God's presence and God's promise.

Our bishops remind us that, as parents, we are the primary catechists of our children: "While the catechesis offered within the family is ordinarily informal, unstructured, and spontaneous it is no less crucial for the development of the child's faith." So true! And actually, not that imposing! What they are speaking of is a simple, gentle thing.

The Greek root of the word catechist means "to echo." We live our lives, and we connect them to what's gone before us—we echo. We draw connections between the Gospel and what's happening in life. We celebrate our holy feasts in our sanctuaries and our homes. We mark the chapters of our lives through the sacraments. We say the prayers. We support others through generosity and action. We work for justice in our families and our communities. In doing these things, we echo the faith that has gone before us.

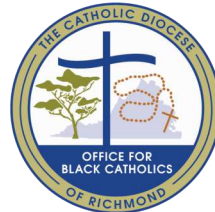
My grandmothers prayed visibly. They were hospitable. They were prodigies of service. They made the sacraments a priority in their lives and ours. They loved the Lord and were not afraid to show it. What a beautiful echo they resounded! I hope I can somehow do the same."

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The month of May, dedicated to *Mary*, is a fitting time to begin to recite the *rosary* daily. ~ Pope Francis

AFRICAN MASS—UNITY IN SOLIDARITY



Holy Rosary
Catholic Church
3300 R. Street
Richmond, VA 23223

Saturday, June 4, 2022

LITURGY MINISTRY

Lectors Needed

Ever thought about proclaiming the Scripture readings at Mass? You are invited to explore the **lector ministry** at our information and training session on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 7 pm in the daily chapel. Current lectors are welcome to attend. Questions? Contact Mike Kassel at mka55e1@verizon.net. We hope to see you there!

SUMMERTIME SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Go to the library.

If you want to get out of the house and are looking for fun, indoor activities, many libraries offer wonderful free programs for the whole family throughout the summer. Ask your kids which Christianity-themed books they would like to check out then read the books together before bed.

Thank You Notes.

Discuss the important people in your children's lives. Think grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, classmates, friends, teachers, coaches, neighbors, and pastors. Guide your children in writing good old-fashioned letters to each one (you remember, the kind with a real envelope, mailing address, and stamp!). Kids can share a favorite memory, retell a holiday or special event spent together, or simply express appreciation. How much would you appreciate receiving a note like this?!

Serve at a local shelter or charity.

Opportunities abound to help at local food banks, retirement homes, or donation centers. Have a discussion with your kids about the needs of others that are often taken for granted: food, clothing, shelter, blankets, toys, books. Serve with your kids as a reminder of our daily blessings. Make a monthly appointment, and let this remind each person to be thankful to God all year round!



FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE



**Collections for the week of 5/15/2022:
\$13,226**

Fiscal Year July-June	Budgeted Year to Date	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ Short
Offertory	\$786,500	\$857,585	\$56,585

Family Count: 890 Envelopes: 154 Online: 202

Online Donations

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

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

Annual Diocesan Appeal

We have raised **\$60,045** towards our goal of **\$54,300** for the 2022 Diocesan Annual Appeal. That means we have reached **111%** of our goal! A big thank you to all who have made it possible!!!

PARISH LIFE

Spring Theme - Celebrate and Serve!

June is typically the most popular month for weddings. Here at St. Mark we have an abundance of long marriages. Let us celebrate those who have honored their vows for so many years. Please sign up at the table under the Parish Life Bulletin Board in the Great Hall. There will be sheets for each decade of years - 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and beyond! We will post all those wonderful couples during June on our bulletin board.

A NOTE FROM OUR MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

When visiting the Columbarium, we ask that you please park in a marked parking space in the lot. **PARKING IN THE FIRE LANE IS NOT PERMITTED.** As a courtesy to others that have loved ones inurned in the columbarium, please do not place large plants that cover the lower rows of niches. Also, food items should not be left and for safety reasons open-flame candles are never to be placed in the columbarium area as they present a fire hazard. Any questions, please contact the parish office at 757-479-1010.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Any summer plans?
Make it MEANINGFUL, FRUITFUL AND FUN!
Youth Summer 2022 Events
Informational & Interest Meeting
Sunday, May 22 @ 12NN
Grade 6-12

Into His Likeness Session 3: The Encounter



The starting point for discipleship is not a desire or willingness to follow to particular way of life. The starting point for discipleship is an encounter with Jesus, who loves us unconditionally - for who we are and just as we are. St. Peter discovered that truth when Jesus approached him at what must have been the lowest point of his life, when he was filled with remorse and perhaps self-condemnation for denying his Lord. What Jesus did for Peter- the change he worked in his life - he wants to do for you as well.

Our Catholic Family

John 14:23-29

At Mass we offer each other the *Sign of Peace*. Sometimes people hold up the two peace fingers and that's okay. The peace which Jesus speaks, when he says, "Peace I leave you", is not the absence of war (which is the root of the two fingers). Rather, he is asking us to share in the life of God which grounds us, surrounds, comforts and us and allows us to be one with others. It is more fully understood as the Jewish word *shalom*. In the coming weeks, during the *Sign of Peace*, be intentional about sharing your peace. Look the other person in the eyes and say, "Peace be with you". Peace is about turning all things over to God. Jesus tells us, "Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." Work on turning your anxieties over to God.

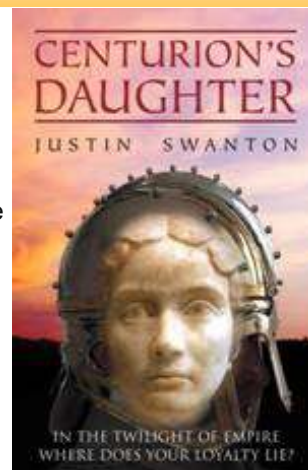
WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

When: July 12, 2022

Where: Library

Centurion's Daughter is a thoughtful and compelling journey to the tumultuous last gasp of the Roman Empire in the West.

Written and illustrated by master storyteller Justin Swanton, the book sheds light on a little known period of history when an empire fell and a powerful new Catholic kingdom emerged.



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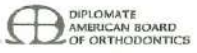
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