

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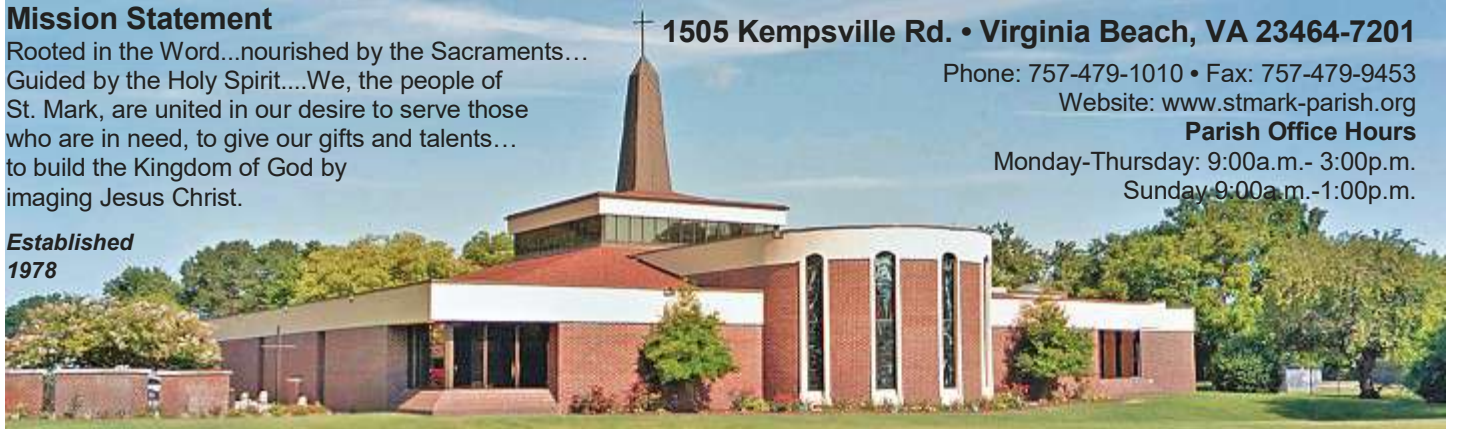
Phone: 757-479-1010 • Fax: 757-479-9453

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 Ignacio .....Liturgical Musician
Brian Gridley.....Maintenance/IT Coordinator
Faith Daxton.....Custodian
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 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

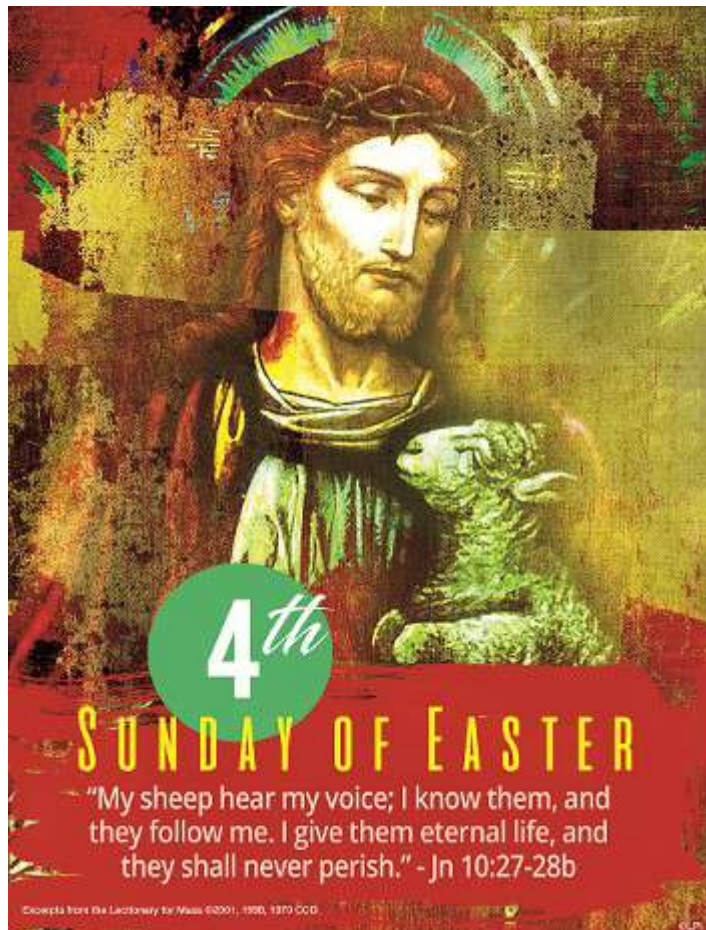
BAPTISM: Celebrated the 1st weekend of the month except during Lent. Contact Religious Formation Office for Baptism classes prior to the Sacrament.

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.



## FR. ANTHONY'S REFLECTION

I welcome you to this, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter! This Sunday is also known as Good Shepherd Sunday and World Day of Prayer for Vocations. It is so rich and an opportune moment when we can reflect on Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who leads his flock and takes care of it. Shepherds of the time had to have a close connection with their flocks. And these connections were built for quite some time, so much so, that the sheep were able to identify the voice of the shepherd. Sheep are known to be dumb but, even then, these animals know who they can trust. Jesus noticed this relationship that exists between the shepherds and their flocks. So, this Sunday, Jesus is leading us, as a community, as a shepherd cares for his flock. In his eyes we see love, mercy, care and protection. This is what every sheep needs and this can only come from a good shepherd who goes all the way for his flock. We must understand that we are not alone on this journey. Jesus comes along side us to carry us when we get weary and exhausted because he doesn't want to lose any of us. On this Sunday for world day for prayer for vocations, we look to the good shepherd who cherishes the increase of his flock. We pray for an increase in vocations to priesthood and religious life and those who already hold responsibilities in the Church that they may follow the example of Jesus the good shepherd. God bless us always that shepherds and may we, his flock, be one. Amen!

## Prayer Requests

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

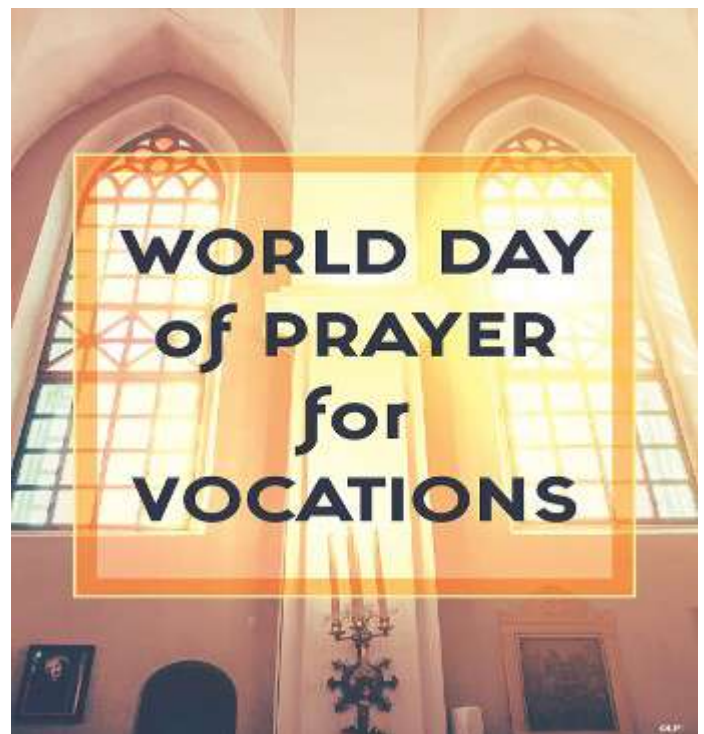
Please pray for the repose of the soul of Roberta Bernardini. Eternal rest, grant to her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul, and all souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Please, also pray for the Bernardini & Bartolacci families.

## Daily Readings, Mass Offerings & Intentions

<b>MONDAY</b> 5/9	<b>EASTER WEEKDAY</b> Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:1-10
<b>TUESDAY</b> 5/10	<b>SAINT JOHN OF AVILA, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH; SAINT DAMIEN DE VEUSTER, PRIEST</b> Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30 Caroline McEnroe †
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 5/11	<b>EASTER WEEKDAY</b> Acts 12:24-13:5a; Jn 12:44-50 Avelina Fortuno †
<b>THURSDAY</b> 5/12	<b>SAINTS NEREUS AND ACHILLEUS, MARTYRS; SAINT PANCRAS, MARTYR</b> Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20 Nenita D. Isidro †
<b>FRIDAY</b> 5/13	<b>OUR LADY OF FATIMA</b> Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6
<b>SATURDAY</b> 5/14	<b>SAINT MATTHIAS, APOSTLE</b> Acts 1:15-17,20-26; Jn 15:9-17  Kathleen Teeling †
<b>SUNDAY</b> 5/15	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Acts 14:21-27; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35 Genoveva Arriola † Marilou Cabatingan †

† Offerings for the Deceased



## JUSTICE AND PEACE

Visit the Justice & Peace page on our St. Mark web site for more information on our ministries and current focus [www.stmark-parish.org/ministries/justice-and-peace](http://www.stmark-parish.org/ministries/justice-and-peace) or email [justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org)

### Food of the Month - May

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



## This Week at Saint Mark May 9th - 15th

### Parish Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 9am - 3pm  
Sunday 9am - 1pm



### Spiritual Adoption/ HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Your spiritually adopted baby was born this month! They are truly a miracle.

They began as a 46-chromosome cell

and has grown over the past nine months into this unique human baby we now can see. Never in history, nor ever again, will anyone exist who is exactly like your spiritually adopted baby. Your prayers saved Their life. Thank you on behalf of all the little babies and their mothers for your loving prayers that helped to bring them to birth "so that they might have life and have it to the full!" **Join us after all Masses, May 21st/22nd as we celebrate our baby's "Birth Day."**

### 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](http://www.hope4lifeva.com).



### What is Grooming?

**Isolation:** As the relationship grows, the trafficker slowly cuts the victim off from friends and loved ones, strengthening the sense of dependence.

**Exploitation:** This could start slowly, with the victim asked to have sex for money "just this once" or "to help me out." Over time, it becomes normalized, so that the victim thinks they are making the decision on their own.

Source: <https://polarisproject.org>.

### Food Pantry April Update

Though we were closed for parking lot paving the first week of April; for the remaining 3 weeks, we served 192 adults and 125 children. It is only through the generosity of your continued donations of volunteering, financial and food that we can help each guest who comes to us for help. THANK YOU!



**JustHaiti Coffee:** We have now in stock both dark and medium roast coffee, \$13 per bag. Investing in the work of the coffee growers is one sure way to support employment for the Haitian

people. If you are interested in purchasing any coffee, please contact Mary Ann at [maryann\\_collins@verizon.net](mailto:maryann_collins@verizon.net). And remember that delivery is free.

### MONDAY

630pm

Knights of Columbus District Meeting in the Library

715pm

RCIA Formation in the Conference Room/Great Hall/Daily Chapel

### TUESDAY

830am

**WEEKDAY MASS** in the Daily Chapel

930am

Adult Faith Formation in the Conference Room

630pm

Women's Book Club in the Library

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

**WEEKDAY MASS** in the Daily Chapel

11am

Roberta Bernardini Memorial Mass in the Sanctuary

1230-1pm

Funeral Reception in the Great Hall

630-930pm

Knights of Columbus Officers Virtual Meeting

### FRIDAY

12pm

Wisdom Seekers Luncheon @ Rib City

### SATURDAY

8am - 12pm

Building and Grounds

530pm

**WEEKEND MASS** in the Sanctuary

### SUNDAY

830am

**WEEKEND MASS** in the Sanctuary

1030am

**WEEKEND MASS** in the Sanctuary

1pm

with Facebook Live Stream

First Holy Communion Mass in Sanctuary

## LITURGY CORNER

### How Does Baptism Change Us?

This weekend we not only celebrate the 4th Sunday of Easter, along with Mother's Day, it is also Baptism weekend. So this is a reflection on what Baptism's effects on us as "children of God."

"During the Litany of the Saints at the Easter Vigil, the bishop invited Jenifer and her family to come to the font. This mother and her children had been awaiting Baptism for nearly two years. Jennifer decided she would go first, to show the children (ages eight to fifteen) how she would enter the waters into which they would follow. After the Blessing of the Water, the bishop helped her into the large, deep baptismal font. He then stepped in himself. All of a sudden, the smallest child ran to the bishop, waving his finger and exclaiming, "Do not drown my mom!" The bishop was quite surprised. He reassured this child that he would not drown the mother. Then, turning to the assembly, the bishop said, "Did everyone hear that? He gets what Baptism is about—death, but also, we need to add, new life." Then, the mother was baptized, followed by her children, and, of course, the most eager to be baptized, the young boy.

This story illustrates the power of sacramental symbols to evoke meaning at a deeply human or cosmic level. The child's experience of water meant that he knew the destructive quality of water—it can unleash floods or quench one's breath in rowing. But there is another side to water—it sustains life. The human body needs water to stay alive, specifically for the continual activity of the cells within the human body. The production of food requires water. Life at its fundamental is dependent on water. Baptism changes us to see the human and the cosmic as imbued with life-giving and death-wielding power.

**DYING AND RISING** - But there is also a theological significance to water. The theological meaning is tied to death and life, but particularly to the life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ Jesus. His life, Death, and Resurrection give meaning to Baptism. The baptized enter cosmically and bodily into the very life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ. The blessed water ritually cleanses the person, provides access to Christ's renewed life, and gives entrance into the Body of Christ, the Church. From the waters of Baptism, one receives the Holy Spirit, is washed clean from sin, and is renewed in the life and mission of Christ, a life and mission the Church promises to serve. Baptism changes us in such a way we are given a new mission, a new calling, and a new body because of the work of Christ's Spirit in the font.

The anointing that may go along with the Baptism is also tied to Christ's life, which is given in Baptism. St. Augustine remarked that the anointing with the Cross, a symbol of Christ's Death and life, is tied to the person and mission of Christ. (The word Christ is Greek for anointed one.) To be anointed, therefore, is to be marked a Christian, a person dedicated and joined to the person and mission of Christ. These baptismal waters are sometimes referred to as waters of regeneration. The waters not only drown our old selves but regenerate,

or recreate, us into disciples of Christ. If Baptism immerses us into Christ's person and mission, the rest of life is potentially a response to that baptismal call. Each day we are to discern how we might live as Christ. Baptism changes not only how we see the world but how we live according to Christ's mission."

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### Summertime Suggested Activities

As Spring is unfolding, summer is not too far away! We plan to have the special section of the bulletin dedicated with ideas for your summertime. We kick it off with this article about summer recommendations.

"While our children, not to mention our teachers, need a significant break from their academic endeavors, there is no reason to think that somehow because our formal religious formation programs are complete for the school year that our children's catechesis is on hold. Catholicism is a profoundly embodied and ritually symbolic expression of Christianity. This season, a time where we are outside and enjoying creation even more fully, offers countless experiences that can tie our sacred stories with the sacramental. A star-filled sky overhead becomes a moment to talk about the covenant with Abraham, and to reflect on the countless descendants predicted. A roaring Campfire reminds us of the pillar of fire and the burning bush, and provides us a time to talk about the new fire of the Easter Vigil and the lighting of the baptismal candle. Water fun can include time to talk about why water is so refreshing and so essential in life, tying in the meaning of the waters of Baptism. Time in the car on a trip ("Are we there yet?!") offers an opening to talk about a people who wandered forty years, a God who sojourned forty days in a desert, followers who walked a road dejected and without hope until he visited them and they remembered him. May you find many moments that bridge today with the faith that went before us as you enjoy your summer. And remember that Jesus loved eating with people: be sure s'mores are included!"

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Saturday May 14 – 8:00 to 12:00. Always something to do. Always people to meet. Inside and outside. Light and heavy. Young and more mature. Contact Deacon John or check: <https://stmarkhelps.ivolunteer.com>.

## 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.

## FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE



Collections for the week of  
5/1/2022: \$23,289

Fiscal Year July-June	Budgeted Year to Date	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ Short
Offertory	\$771,500	\$822,619	\$51,119

Family Count: 886      Envelopes: 196      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/>

### Annual Diocesan Appeal

We have raised **\$57,323** towards our goal of **\$54,300** for the 2022 Diocesan Annual Appeal. That means we have reached **106%** of our goal!

## PRAY FOR PEACE

For those who would like to donate to CRS Ukraine Relief, please visit the following link:  
<https://support.crs.org/donate/donate-ukraine>.

## RELIGIOUS FORMATION

### Our Catholic Faith

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is also known as *Good Shepherd Sunday*. Each year the Gospel tells us about the *Good Shepherd*. This means the story told in all four gospels!

Today we hear that Jesus is the shepherd and that his sheep – that's you and me – know his voice. At our baptism, we become a part of God's family; we become a part of the "sheep". Could the sheep also include people you don't know – people at St. Mark or your school? Maybe the sheep are people in other towns and other countries? Every human being is part of the family of God. God is good!



### Into His Likeness

To follow Jesus as a true disciple requires us to "mind the gap" – those areas where we fall short:

prayer, pride, relationships – especially our relationship with God. **There is still time to sign-up on our website at <https://stmark-parish.org>.**

## PARISH LIFE

### Family Fun Night



The Knights of Columbus and Parish Life present: Spaghetti Dinner and a Movie Night! Family Fun begins on Friday, May 20th, from 6 – 9pm. Tickets go on sale April 30th - \$15 for adults, \$10 for children five and over, and children under five eat for free! Dinner includes spaghetti and meatballs, salad and bread. Bring your own beverage. All proceeds benefit the Knights of Columbus.

### Samaritan Meals

We provide meals to those who have had surgery, babies or are homebound due to illness. If you like to cook and serve your community, please contact Linda Major at (757) 615-0763 or [majormail@verizon.net](mailto:majormail@verizon.net).

## MEN'S RETREAT



### "Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead"

Catholic Men's Retreat (Free)  
Sat, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 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>

## A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Mary, Mother of Jesus, we ask you on this Mother's Day to pray for our own dear mothers.

May your Son, Jesus, reward them for all the care they have so lovingly given us over the years.



May He give them peace of heart for all the times they have soothed us in times of trouble or failure.

May Jesus give them joy of spirit for all the times they have healed our wounds and wiped away our tears.

We ask you, Mary, on this day when we honor and praise our mothers for their unconditional love and care, that Jesus might bestow upon them His choicest blessings and His deepest love.

Amen.

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**John Garcia 757-718-0884**




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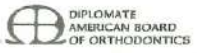
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