

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

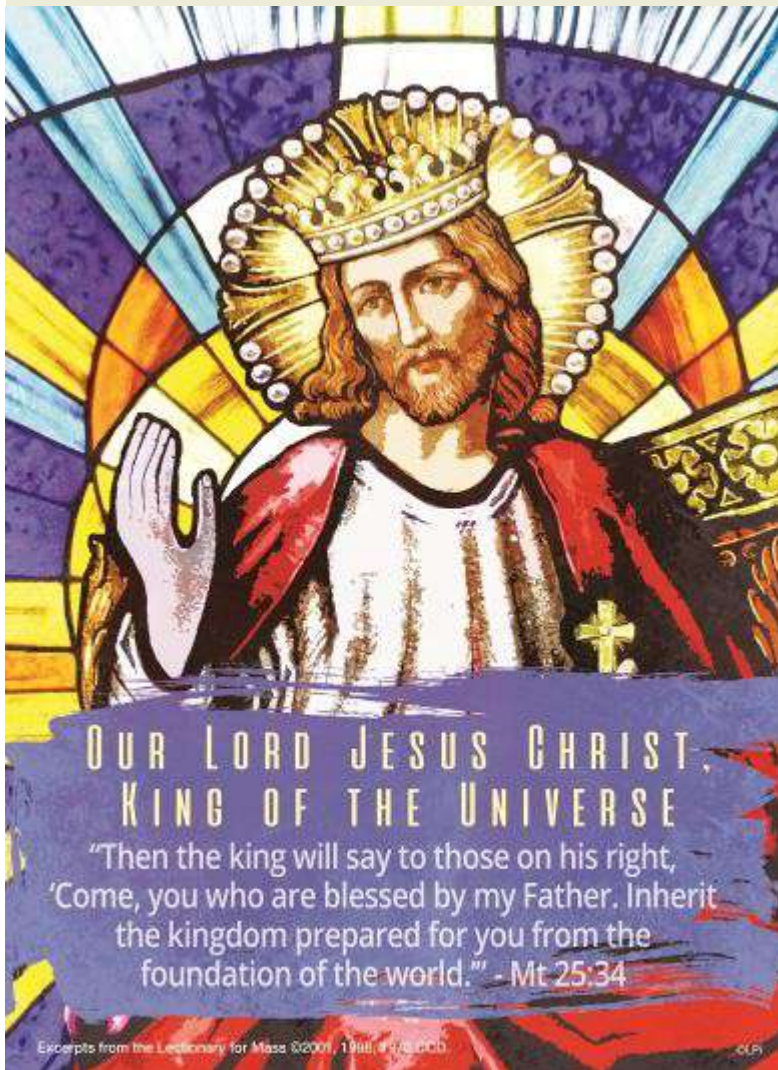
BAPTISM: Celebrated the 1st weekend of the month except during Lent. Contact Religious Formation Office for Baptism classes prior to the Sacrament.

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.



OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

“Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’” - Mt 25:34

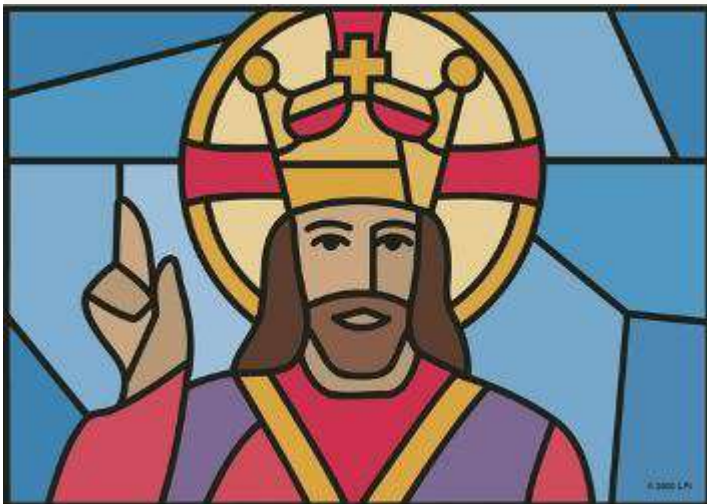
Fr. Anthony's Reflection

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This celebration concludes the liturgical year and there is no better celebration for the end of it more than this day.

Jesus has all along been teaching and preaching about the Kingdom of God. Today's celebration gives us an idea about what kind of day it will be as explained by Jesus. There will be a reward for those who have lived well during their lifetime. There will be separation of the goats from the sheep. I believe all Christians look forward to the day when these words will be said to our ears, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

To be able to sit on the right or the left of the glorious throne of God, starts here on earth. As we make this journey of faith guided by the Scriptures and teachings of the Church, we must be drawn to doing God's will. And doing God's will entails carrying out works of mercy as shown by Christ. This includes feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, quenching those that thirst, taking care of the sick and visiting those in prisons. These are the kind of things that those who want belong to God's Kingdom need to do. Such acts not only count before people but also count before God. Failure to do these will eventually lead to ending up on the side of the goats and the left-hand side of rejection and thus no more room in the Kingdom of God!

In a way this parable illustrates the last judgment. So may we continue to profess Jesus Christ our King by doing what the Kingdom of God requires us to do. Amen.



Mass Intentions and Daily Readings

MONDAY 11/23 Saint Clement I, Pope, Martyr; Saint Columban, Abbot, Blessed Miguel Agustiin Pro, Priest, Martyr
Rv 14: 1-3, 4b-5; Lk 21:1-4

TUESDAY 11/24 Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, Martyr, and Companions and Martyrs
MARIE STEPHENS+
Rv 14:14-19; Lk 21:5-11

WEDNESDAY 11/25 Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin, Martyr
MARCELINA AMIO+
Rv 15:1-4; Lk 21:12-19

THURSDAY 11/26 Mass of Thanksgiving Day
ERNESTO & MARIA PAULO+
Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Lk 21:20-28

FRIDAY 11/27 Rv 20: 1-4, 11—21:2; Lk 21:29-33

First Sunday of Advent

SATURDAY 11/28 EXEQUIEL & CLARA DEGUZMAN+

SUNDAY 11/29 DANIELA WHITESELL (int)
WILLIAM L. HOFFERT+

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

(+) Indicates Deceased



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, Chuck McCoy, Joel Cossette, Teresita Mendez-Ozabal, Joy Solmerano, Jan & Roger Kilb, Jodi Lee, Norbert 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

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: NOVEMBER
12-15oz Cheerios (or store brand) & Granola Bars



Thanksgiving Food Baskets Update for 2020: Thank you to all who donated gift cards to help provide Thanksgiving meals for those in need. Through your generosity we are able to provide for our in-need St. Mark Parishioners; as well as families from Catholic Charities, Samaritan House, Department of Human Services and Refugee Resettlement for a total of 90 families. Each family is receiving gift cards so that they may purchase a Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings for their family. Thank you in advance for your support of this important outreach ministry!



Snack Bag Ministry Update: To date 3100 bagged meals have been delivered to our homeless brothers and sisters at P.I.N. Ministry. We are so very thankful for the continued generosity of our St. Mark family.



The St. Mark Giving Tree is an annual project that brings hope and support to those families in need. Due to the Covid pandemic, our Giving Tree will have a different look this year. There are still many families in need, more so than ever. In order to keep everyone safe, we will be having a VIRTUAL Giving Tree.

Who we help:

We first help our own parishioners who are in need. We then reach out through four area organizations: Catholic Charities, Samaritan House, Department of Human Services and Refugee Resettlement to help a set number of families from each organization.

How it works and how you can help:

To support this project, we are asking for monetary and gift card donations. Our suggested amount for gift cards is \$25 and from an area retailer such as Walmart, JC Penny, Target, Best Buy, or other appropriate store. The monetary donations will be used to purchase gift cards that will be distributed to the families.

Donate in any of these ways:

Online: follow the "GIVING TREE" link on the St Mark website <https://www.stmark-parish.org/>

In Person: drop off at the Parish Office in an envelope marked "GIVING TREE" OR drop in the collection basket at Mass in an envelope marked "GIVING TREE"

By Mail: Mail to: 1505 Kempsville Road Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Deadline to donate is Sunday, **December 13th.**

If you have any questions, or know of a parish family in need, please email: justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org Thank you for your support for this project. Please keep these families and all who are in need in your prayers.

This Week at Saint Mark

November 23 - November 29

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday 9am-3pm

Parish Office Closed On 11/26 and 11/29

MONDAY

11am-3pm Sanctuary Open for Individual Prayer and Reflection
7:15pm RCIA Formation (GH & Virtual)

TUESDAY

8:30am **Daily Mass In Sanctuary**
9am-3pm Sanctuary Open for Individual Prayer and Reflection

WEDNESDAY

9am-3pm Sanctuary Open for Individual Prayer and Reflection
6:30pm Rosary in Sanctuary
7:00pm **Thanksgiving Eve Mass In Sanctuary**

THURSDAY

8:30am **Thanksgiving Day Mass In Sanctuary**
Parish Office Closed

FRIDAY

9am-9pm Giving Tree Sales begin
5:00pm Virtual Rosary

SATURDAY

5:30pm **Weekend Mass In Sanctuary**

SUNDAY

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



Announcements

Annual Christmas Tree Sale Fund Raiser

It's time for St. Mark's Annual Christmas Tree Fund Raiser. This year more than ever before, we need your active support in order to make this annual fund raiser a success! Our ministries are not only affected by the meeting restrictions but are experiencing financial shortfalls too. This is our only parish wide fund raiser, and its success is important to whomever comes to St Mark seeking help through our ministries, such as our Food Pantry and the CAST Outreach program. Questions can be emailed to Dan Wood at dan9663@gmail.com or call: 757-647-2135

Visit our volunteer signup web page at:

http://stmarkhelps.ivolunteer.com/treelot_2020

Lot Set Up: Saturday Nov 21st 8am – 10:30am

Tree Delivery: Wednesday Nov 25th 8am – 10:00am

Lot Take Down: Sunday Dec 20th 1pm – 2:30pm

Lots Sales Starts Fri Nov 27th through Sat Dec 19th

3 Shifts	Friday 27 Nov	9am-1pm/1pm – 5pm / 5pm – 9pm
1 Shift	Mon thru Fri	5pm – 9pm
3 Shifts	Saturday	9am - 1pm / 1pm – 5pm / 5pm – 9pm
	Sunday	11am - 1pm / 1pm – 5pm / 5pm – 9pm

Wisdom Seekers Mass December 11th

Once again 2020 has curtailed our annual December catered luncheon and gift exchange. Instead we have one more chance to worship together with Father Anthony in the main church on Friday, Dec. 11, at 12:30 pm. For those of us who want to contribute to those in need, the Food Pantry list is:

12 oz Cheerios, 15 oz can green beans, plastic jar grape jelly, 7.15 oz mac & cheese, 9 oz instant mashed potatoes, 1lb spaghetti noodles, 24 oz can spaghetti sauce, 16 oz smooth peanut butter, 15 oz can peas, 12pk chicken ramen noodles, 5 oz can tuna in water, 1 lb bag white rice or a \$10 gift card.

You can drop them off that day or when it is convenient for you. As we approach the new year, hopefully 2021 will allow us to meet and greet soon. In the meantime, may you have a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

MASS INTENTIONS 2021

The 2020 Mass Intention calendar is full and the 2021 calendar is available to reserve a mass intention. Only January through April are open for reservations, and ONLY 4 INTENTIONS PER YEAR PER HOUSEHOLD may be reserved. Our intention is to give a chance to as many parishioners to pray for their dear ones.

Thank you for your understanding.

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

As we end the Liturgical Year today, we look ahead to the new year that begins next weekend with the Season of Advent: "Advent has two purposes. The first, and most obvious, is that it helps us prepare for Christmas when Christ became human. The readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, in particular, relate to Mary's conception. Mary responded to God's invitation to bear Jesus. The time from her conception until Jesus' birth nine months later was one of expectancy and hope. Advent has this same aspect for us: a time of joyful expectation for Christ's coming into our lives. Christ is the Redeemer and Savior whom we, like Mary, bear in our very beings. In the waters of Baptism, we began to be called "Christian" but it was the Father's gift of the Spirit who was bestowed on us that we, too, might bear Christ. Like Mary, Christ lives within us. Christ is "Emmanuel" — "God-with-us." God continues to be with us, even after Baptism, especially through the Eucharist when Christ enters us to transform us more and more into his image.

From December 17 through the 24th, Advent begins to focus intensely on Christmas. These days are often referred to as the "O" Antiphons. Each day between these dates is geared toward one of the titles for Christ: "O Wisdom," "O Lord," "O Root of Jesse," "O Key of David," "O Dayspring," "O King of All Nations," "O Emmanuel." Thus, the chant "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is particularly appropriate during these days of Advent. The Book of Isaiah, prophesied about the Messiah whom Israel expected to arrive to liberate them. The O Antiphons come from Isaiah's prophecies of the Messiah and these are used prior to Christmas as a way to recall that Christ is the Messiah, the long-awaited one who is the bringer of hope.

Secondly, during Advent "minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time (Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and Calendar, 39). This second focus is most noticeable in the first few weeks of Advent. For those of us in the northern hemisphere, winter days grow shorter and nights become longer as we progress through Advent. The natural rhythm of life evokes the mystery of Christ. One of the titles for Christ is the Morning Star. The morning star generally refers to the rising sun at dawn. This ancient title is an analogy. Christ as the Son (like the sun) of God rises to dispel the darkness of sin and death. While we look to Christ's final coming at the end times, we are not necessarily waiting for a day of doom; rather, we are awaiting a day of hope. This future is the future God intends for the world. We continue to journey toward that future, but we cannot do it on our own. It is in the present where both themes of Advent are connected: past (Christ's birth) and future (Christ's final coming).

In liturgy, Christ comes into the present through the power of the Spirit. In the proclaimed Scriptures, Christ speaks to us; and in the Eucharist, Christ enters us so that we might be transformed into his body. The power of Christ is that he is not confined to either the past or the future, but he comes into the present to nourish us in Word (Scriptures) and Eucharist so that we will continue to wait joyfully for the consummation of Christ's final coming.

Advent is a season when the Church prepares for Christ's coming (1) at Christmas, (2) in the final coming, and (3) through the sacraments. Past and future are mediated in the present. It is God's transforming invitation to accept his promises and to journey in hope toward Christ's final coming."

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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 aged 10 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.



Advent Season

Advent, a Time for Something New: Prayer Altars for our Formation Families

Sunday, November 29, is the beginning of our Liturgical Year. The New Year is, well, a time to begin our faith anew. One way to do so is to place an emphasis on a Catholic Tradition. The Religious Formation Office, along with Father Anthony, will be providing our families (one per household) a Basic Prayer Altar kit* in hopes that the presence of the altar will make Christ more fully present in each family's home and daily life.

Please come by between 12:30 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. on the 29th to pick up your prayer altar gift. Father Anthony and the RF staff look forward to seeing you!

*The Basic Prayer Altar Kit includes: crucifix, holy water, candle & handkerchief. Your family may add special items to make the altar yours.



What is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception?
The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, celebrated on December 8th each year, is where we celebrate Mary's being conceived without sin, without the stain of Original Sin through God's grace. This Feast is an essential part of God's plan for the mother of his Son; that she be conceived free from Original Sin – a pure, immaculate "new ark of the new covenant". This belief was made a dogma of the Church by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

Novena for the Immaculate Conception
A Novena is a nine day prayer of intercession. Novena means *nine*. This year, we will pray a Novena for the nine days leading up to the Immaculate Conception which we celebrate on December 8. Please fill out a Novena card, found in the Commons, drop in the basket prior to November 29, the first day of the Novena.

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