

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.

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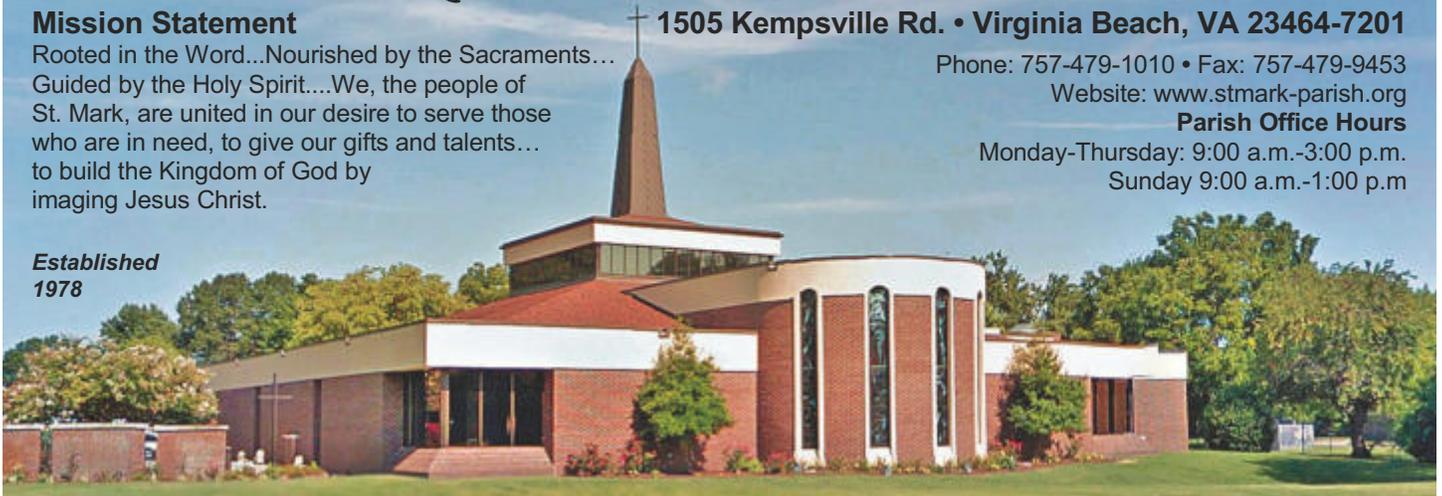
Website: www.stmark-parish.org

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.

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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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- Mt 2:10-11

# Fr. Anthony's Reflection

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord! The celebration of this day is a firm belief and proclamation of Jesus being the Lord and Savior of the whole world.

The joy of the birth of Jesus is still with us and the news has spread far and wide. When the news reached the three Magi from the East, they came to pay him homage, being guided by the star. Because this was an unusual star, they knew that it was pointing to something great. The King and Savior had been born! But, because Herod knew that he was the only King of the Jews, he was not happy with this news and the entire city of Jerusalem with him! The power and politics of domination seems to have been shaken at the news of the birth of the baby Jesus, who is going to reign in the heart of the universe in love and communion.

He is the true Savior preparing to save humanity from the darkness, in which it finds itself, and lead them into the light of Gods glory. He is the true liberator that the world was waiting for. How would people have known who he was ?

The three Magi were wise seekers representing humanity, seeking the meaning in life. In our world today, we may not be any different from the people of the time! Every day we seek meaning in life and true peace and liberation and we can only receive this when we seek the Lord. Let us also pray for the wisdom to identify the star and the road that leads us to the newborn King.

When we pay homage to the new born King, it is not only for his good but for our own good. The gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense that we present, help us to identify him with ourselves. These gifts acquire new meaning in the different areas of humanity that are wealth, power and bodily pleasure. These three gifts offered to the child Jesus with the intention of surrendering the three areas of humanity that may not necessarily bring fulfillment.

Like the Magi, may we also seek the new born King Jesus and pay homage to him. Amen.

# Mass Intentions and Daily Readings

<b>MONDAY</b> <b>01/04</b>	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious 1 Jn 3:22—4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>01/05</b>	Saint John Neumann, Bishop 1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44 JOHN STUEDEMANN+
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>01/06</b>	Saint Andre Bessette, Religious 1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52 ELIZABETH SANTIAGO GINES+
<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>01/07</b>	Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest 1 Jn 4:19—5:4; Lk 4:14-22a STANLEY WINNER+
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>01/08</b>	1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16  The Baptism of the Lord Is 42:1-4, 6-7 ; Acts 10:34-38 ; Mk 1:7-11
<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>01/09</b>	NANCY BROWN+
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>01/10</b>	GEORGE SPELMAN+ PHILLIP CALABRESE+

(+) 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 Santiaguell, Abelino Santiaguell, 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, Frank Moore, Carlos Gonzalez, the Whitesell Family, Mary Tibbetts

# 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](http://www.stmark-parish.org/ministries/justice-and-peace) or contact: [justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org](mailto: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 was an unpredictable, unusual and at many times scary year. With the pandemic, we went into the holiday season apprehensive of our efforts to reach out and help those in our local community.

However, our Justice & Peace committee was soon overwhelmed by the generosity and giving hearts of our St. Mark parish family. Through it all your faith grew stronger; you prayed, called, supported, cared, and have given of yourselves to reach out and help others. We are so incredibly grateful for all you have done.

For Thanksgiving and Christmas, over 100 families received the means to provide a wonderful holiday feast for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. For Christmas, your generosity also provided the means for these same families to purchase gifts for their children and their family members. In addition, we were blessed to be able to provide 176 stocking stuffers for the residents at Kempsville Rehab Center. That is what disciples do: reach out to help others in need. That is how we connect to God’s heart.

From our Justice & Peace Committee we THANK- YOU from bottom of our hearts for using “your hands” (and hearts) to do “God’s Work”. Our prayer is that each of you experience the joy, love, and peace of our newborn savior, Jesus, the Christ throughout this new year.



**Snack Bag Ministry Update:** To date 3600 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.



**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 [justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org).

# This Week at Saint Mark January 4th—January 10th

## MONDAY

7:15pm RCIA Formation (GH & Virtual)

## TUESDAY

8:30am Daily Mass In Sanctuary

## WEDNESDAY

6:30pm Rosary in Sanctuary  
7:00pm **Weekday Mass In Sanctuary**

## THURSDAY

8:30am **Weekday Mass In Sanctuary**  
9am-6:30pm Adoration in Sanctuary  
7:00pm Benediction in Sanctuary

## FRIDAY

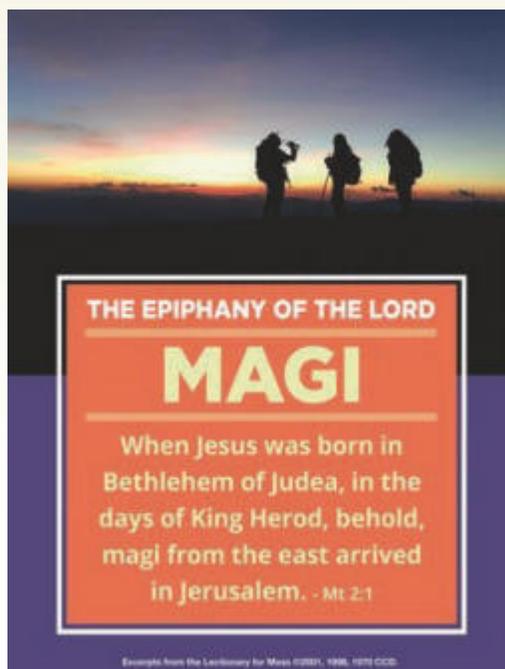
10:00am Wisdom Seekers Mass in Sanctuary

## SATURDAY

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

## SUNDAY

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



# Announcements

## Lectors and Lector Schedule:

The current Lector schedule runs through January 9-10, 2021.

If you have been a Lector or would like to participate in the Ministry, the schedule for Lector through March 20-21, 2021 is being assembled. There is no expected change in the Mass times. Current Lectors should submit non-availability dates.

Those who want to become Lectors should see Deacon John after Mass or contact him at [deacon\\_john@stmark-parish.org](mailto:deacon_john@stmark-parish.org)

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## 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](mailto:deacon_mike@stmark-parish.org)

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## 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:

**January 8**

**February 12**

**March 12**

**April 9**

**May 14th**

**AT 10 AM**

This schedule replaces our monthly potluck/luncheon in the Great Hall. No reservations are necessary. Just come to church, wear your mask, and enjoy seeing each other again. In the meantime, be healthy and safe. Warm blessings and peace to all. -Sandy Barczak and Annette Welch

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## MASS INTENTIONS 2021

The 2020 Mass Intention calendar is full and the 2021 calendar is available to reserve a mass intention. Only February 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.

# Liturgy Corner

There are visitors in our midst with this celebration! The magi join our Nativity scene in the church. "Today's solemnity of the Epiphany continues the celebration of the astonishing mystery of God's manifestation to the very ends of the earth. The visitors from the east symbolize the extent of God's salvation as it unfolds for people of every land. As they offer gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, gifts fitting for a king, they announce to the world that an astonishing event has taken place; all peoples will know the glory of God."

"As the foreigners from the East are led to the infant Christ, by a star in today's Gospel, we see the mysterious ways in which God arranges for an "epiphany" (a manifestation or showing) of Christ to the world. The love of God's glory shines forth in Christ our Light, through whom we are renewed and remade in God's image and likeness. How can you be a light of love for all nations and all peoples?" (LTP Sourcebook)

May we all be most blessed this New Year as we welcome 2021 and pray that this year will be filled with healing, an end to the pandemic, as well as abundant peace and joy. It is interesting that foreigners, non believers were some of the first to see and pay homage to the newborn King - the Prince of Peace. They bestow upon him the gifts of gold - honoring his role as King, frankincense - honoring his role as Priest, and myrrh - honoring his ultimate destiny in Jerusalem - his death of a cross and burial.

Matthew illustrates that this special child is the fulfillment of the prophets, meant to accomplish marvelous things as the prophet Micah describes "the shepherd of Israel". The example of the Magi share with us that God is not found without leaving the routine and going beyond the normal. We must be persistent as the Magi in our pursuit of the presence of God in our lives.

May this New Year and this celebration of the Epiphany bring us to a greater presence of God in our lives and may we share our God given gifts with others to bring that presence alive in their lives.



# 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.

## Saint John Neumann's Story

Perhaps because the United States got a later start in the history of the world, it has relatively few canonized saints, but their number is increasing.

John Neumann was born in what is now the Czech Republic. After studying in Prague, he came to New York at 25 and was ordained a priest. He did missionary work in New York until he was 29, when he joined the Redemptorists and became its first member to profess vows in the United States. He continued missionary work in Maryland, Virginia and Ohio, where he became popular with the Germans.

At 41, as bishop of Philadelphia, he organized the parochial school system into a diocesan one, increasing the number of pupils almost twentyfold within a short time. Gifted with outstanding organizing ability, he drew into the city many teaching communities of sisters and the Christian Brothers. During his brief assignment as vice provincial for the Redemptorists, he placed them in the forefront of the parochial movement.

Well-known for his holiness and learning, spiritual writing and preaching, on October 13, 1963, John Neumann became the first American bishop to be beatified. Canonized in 1977, he is buried in St. Peter the Apostle Church in Philadelphia.

## FROM THE BOOKKEEPER

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	Dec 20	Year to	Year to	Short
June21		Date	Date	
Offertory	\$17,794	\$388,063	\$398,000	(\$9,937)

Family Count: 950: envelopes: 136/Using online donation: 143

# A Saint Story

Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born in New York City on August 28, 1774 to a prominent Episcopal family, and lost her mother at the age of three. In 1794, at the age of 19, Elizabeth married William Magee Seton, a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. William died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving Elizabeth a young widow. After discovering Catholicism in Italy, where her husband had died, Elizabeth returned to the United States and entered the Catholic Church in 1805 in New York.

After a number of difficult years, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, planting the seeds of Catholic education in the United States. Her legacy now includes religious congregations in the United States and Canada, whose members work on the unmet needs of people living in poverty in North America and beyond.

Mother Seton, as she is often called, was canonized on Sunday, September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI. She was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "Saint." Her remains are entombed in Emmitsburg in the Basilica at the National Shrine that bears her name. (setonshrine.org)



## 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

Small groups begin February 1st

Go to [stmark-parish.org](http://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

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