

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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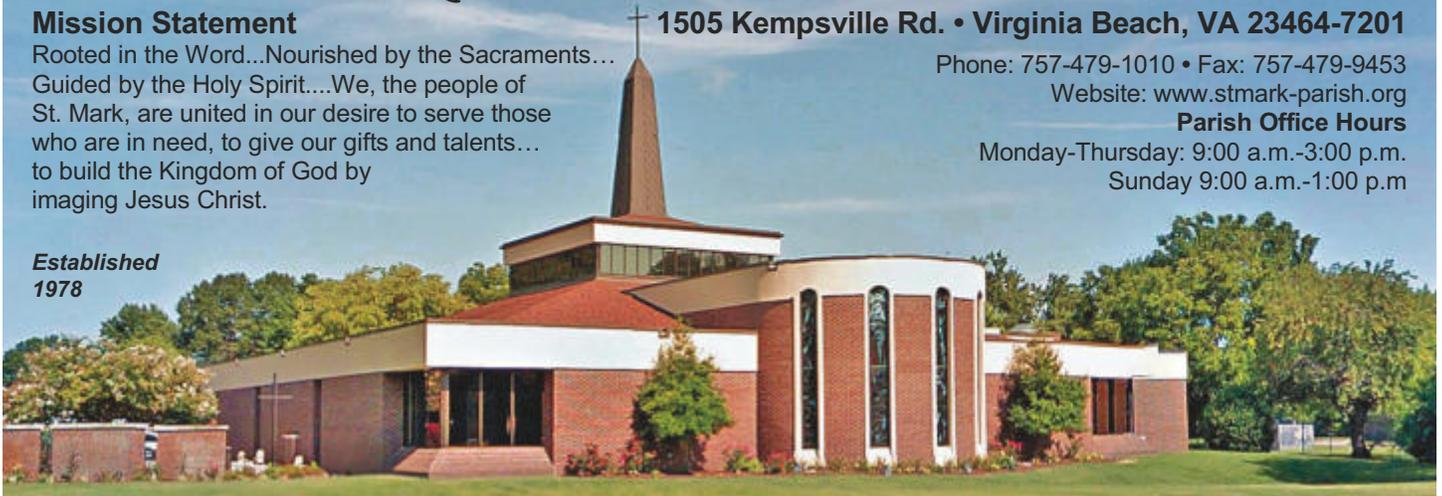
Website: www.stmark-parish.org

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.

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.

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him. - Mk 1:19-20

## Fr. Anthony's Reflection

I welcome you to this 3rd Sunday in the Ordinary Time. From our Gospel this weekend, we hear that John the Baptist has been arrested and Jesus is ready to carry on the mission from where John ended.

Jesus began by proclaiming the Gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel." This was the key message that Jesus wanted to reach everyone, but he needed those who would help him take this message around. This why he embarked on the duty of recruiting those to assist him.

His first catch was Simon and his brother Andrew, later he called the two sons of Zebedee; James and John. These were fishermen and this is what they did for a living. Through Jesus' invitation, they left everything and followed him. As soon as they heard the words "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men", they not only left their livelihood but also had to leave their relatives.

Jesus promised to turn their lives into a new trade all together, which was not about fish but people. Jesus wanted to share his life with the people when he said, "Follow me..." They followed immediately. There was no time to waste because the time fixed by God had come and work had already started. Jesus invited those who he believed were ready for the task, because they had been together with John. They were probably young enough to adjust to a new career right away.

Jesus is calling us every day and he knows what we can do! The question is how ready are we to follow when he calls? But the good about Jesus calling us is that he wants to change our lives for the better.

May we therefore be ready to follow him when he calls. Amen.



## Mass Intentions and Daily Readings

<b>MONDAY</b> <b>01/25</b>	The Conversion of Saint Paul, the Apostle Acts 22:3-16 ; Mk 16:15-18
<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>01/26</b>	Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops 2 Tm 1:1-8 ; Mk 3:31-35 CAROLINE KNESTOUT+
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>01/27</b>	Saint Angela Merici, Virgin Heb 10:11-18 ; Mk 4:1-20 LILIAN PRESIDENT+
<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>01/28</b>	Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of the Church Heb 10:19-25 ; Mk 4:21-25 DAVID BALDWIN+
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>01/29</b>	Heb 10:32-39 ; Mk 4:26-34  Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Dt 18:15-20 ; 1 Cor 7:32-35 ; Mk 1:21-28
<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>01/30</b>	STANLEY WINNER+
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>01/31</b>	DEACON CHARLIE MAY+ RICHARD BURTON+



*Pray For...*

(+) 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 Santiaguél, Abelino Santiaguél, 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, Joel Cossette, Teresita Mendez-Ozabal, Joy Solmerano, Jan & Roger Kilb, Jodi Lee, Helen Robb, Tim Helmstetter, Marlene Games, Jim Behan, Rose Sunderland, Pat Byrne, Julie Allen, Perry Francisco, Jean Burke, Joel Rivera, Harry & Nancy Tennin, Bobbi Drewiske, Frank Moore, Carlos Gonzalez, the Whitesell Family, Peiro DelValle, Mary Tibbetts, Sandy Barczak, Helen Newby, Helen Robb

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Oscar Miranda, Alex Cooke, and Ricky Andrade Sr.

Let perpetual light shine upon them; may they rest in peace! Keep the Miranda, Ramos, Cooke, and Andrade Families in your prayers.

# 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” Please watch the bulletin as we plan a date for a virtual Justice & Peace meeting in late February. We will gather to support each other, discuss our current outreach efforts, and work to form ways during this trying time to both continue and expand our efforts to help those in need.



**Snack Bags:** To those who donate items, those who prepare bags at home with their family and those who come each week and fill bags we Thank you for your continued support. Since March 2020 through your donations and efforts we have been able to provide 3900 Snack Bags to the P.I.N. Ministry guests.



Join us as we continue to pray for life! From January 21st through January 29th, the Justice and Peace Committee and the Knights of Columbus are hosting the “9 Days for Life” Novena in the Sanctuary at 6:30pm each evening. If you are unable to attend, please pray with us from home -daily novena prayers are available at [9daysforlife.com](http://9daysforlife.com) For more information contact Joyce Gridley at [justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org) (757)675-6486.

*\*\*Attendees must adhere to all current COVID-19 Restrictions.*



**Together Strong: Life Unites! MARCH FOR LIFE | January 29, 2021**

UPDATE: The protection of all of those who participate in the annual March, as well as the many law enforcement personnel and others who work tire-

lessly each year to ensure a safe and peaceful event, is a top priority of the March for Life. The annual rally will take place virtually and we are asking all participants to stay home and to join the March virtually. We are profoundly grateful for the countless women, men, and families who sacrifice to come out in such great numbers each year as a witness for life – and we look forward to being together in person next year. As for this year’s march, we look forward to being with you virtually. For more information on how to participate virtually visit: <https://marchforlife.org/faqs-2021-march-for-life/>



**40 Days For Life:** Watch the bulletin for more details on how you can be part of the 40 Days for Life 2021 spring campaign February 17 - March 28.

# This Week at Saint Mark

January 25th—January 31st

## MONDAY

6:30pm

Novena for Life in Sanctuary

7pm

RCIA Team Formation (Virtual)

## TUESDAY

8:30am

**Weekday Mass In Sanctuary**

6:30pm

Novena for Life in Sanctuary

## WEDNESDAY

10am-1pm

Food Pantry (GH)

11am

Funeral for Alex Cooke

6pm-8pm

Grade 11 & 12 Formation in GH

6:30pm

Novena for Life in Sanctuary

7:00pm

**Weekday Mass In Sanctuary**

## THURSDAY

8:30am

**Weekday Mass In Sanctuary**

6:30pm

Novena for Life in Sanctuary

## FRIDAY

5:00pm

Virtual Rosary

6:30pm

Novena for Life in Sanctuary

7:00pm

Eastern Vicariate Deacon Mtg in GH

## SATURDAY

5:30pm

**Weekend Mass In Sanctuary**

## SUNDAY

8:00am

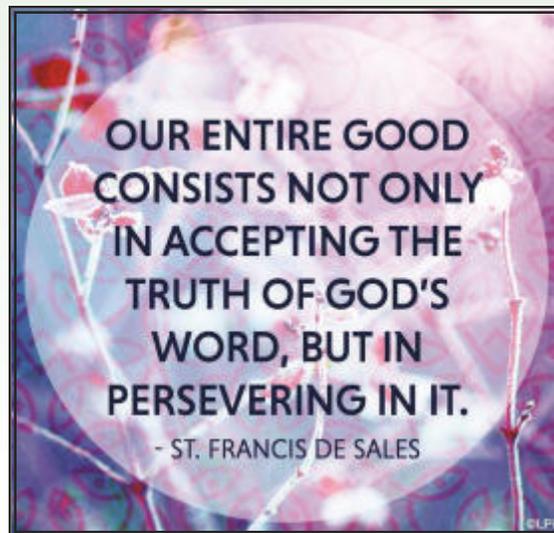
**Weekend Mass In Sanctuary**

10:00am

Virtual Mass

11:00am

**Weekend Mass in Sanctuary**



# Announcements

## 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:

February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14th ... AT 10 AM

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## Knights of Columbus-Persons of the Year

Every year the Knights of Columbus recognize a Young Man and a Young Woman of the Year. If you are between the ages of 12 and 18 as of April 1, 2021 you are eligible to complete an application.

The application will ask you to provide information about achievements in academics, school, community church and family. Application forms will be available from Sunday January 3, 2020 to February 12, 2020 in an envelope attached to the Knight's Bulletin Board in the Great Hall at St Marks Catholic Church, at the Knights of Columbus website: [kofc10515.org](http://kofc10515.org), or by email request to Jim Waltz at [JWaltzFAM@outlook.com](mailto:JWaltzFAM@outlook.com). The council winners (one young man and one young woman) will receive \$500.00 and a certificate of recognition from the council. Entry deadline is Friday, February 12, 2020



# THE SEARCH

FINDING THE MEANING OF LIFE

Parish Formation Lent 2021 : The Search

Sign-up on-line NOW

Sessions begin the week of February 1<sup>st</sup>  
(Zoom & in-person)

In Episode 1, we open with a look at the question "what do you seek?" What is that deep longing in our hearts all about?

We're all living for something, and we all strive for that something out there that is ultimately going to make us happy. But what is it? For some, this question is on their minds every day. For others, life goes by in a flash without even asking the question.

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## St Matthew Open House (Virtual)

St. Matthew's School in Virginia Beach will be hosting 2 virtual Meet and Greets in lieu of our in person Open House.

The first one will be Sunday, January 31st at 1:00pm.

The second one will be Thursday, February 4th at 7:00pm.

Hope to see you there!

Here is the information you will need:

Meeting ID: [meet.google.com/ikd-pwmq-ngh](https://meet.google.com/ikd-pwmq-ngh)

Phone Numbers: (US)+1 405-283-4954

PIN: 279 075 797#

# Liturgy Corner

"There is nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time!" Then why call it ordinary? When we hear the word "ordinary," we tend to think, "common," everyday, or mundane. In other words, if something is ordinary it isn't special. Ordinary from its Latin root means "order". When we order something, we arrange in a sequence. That is, it is numbered. It is ordinal. It is counted time. We now know why it is called Ordinary Time, but how is it differentiated from other liturgical seasons and feasts?

The liturgical year is the calendar the Church uses for seasons, feasts, and solemnities. Various calendars are used for various reasons: civil, school year, lunar (for example, for calculating Chinese New Year or Jewish holy days), etc. The liturgical year basically celebrates one thing: The Paschal Mystery. The Paschal Mystery is Jesus Christ's birth, life, Passion, death, Resurrection, Ascension, and subsequent sending of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus to the apostles, is the One who brings us into relationship — into communion — with Christ's death and Resurrection. This death and Resurrection is the saving event that frees us from sin and death. The Father's raising of Jesus from the dead transcends all time, because the Spirit — whom Jesus said the Father would send — invites us into this saving Paschal Mystery. That means, we are always invited by our Triune God to enter into the depths of the Paschal Mystery. What does the Paschal Mystery have to do with Ordinary Time?

The Paschal Mystery is so big, so deep, so vast, that we journey through this mystery for a whole year: the liturgical year. Sundays in Ordinary Time, as the official document on the liturgical year the General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar states, "are devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its aspects" (43). Other liturgical seasons focus on one aspect. For instance, during Lent we focus on turning away from sin in order for our Triune God to transform us into more faithful disciples. Feasts for saints celebrate the exemplary life of a saint who witnessed to Christ's Paschal Mystery in his or her very life, sometimes unto death. The 33 or 34 weeks in Ordinary Time then celebrate the whole Paschal Mystery on each Sunday. According to the General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, "Ordinary Time begins on the Monday after the Sunday following 6 January and continues until Tuesday before Ash Wednesday inclusive. It begins again on Monday after Pentecost and ends before evening prayer I of the First Sunday of Advent" (44). Therefore, Ordinary Time is segmented into two parts, with Lent-Holy Week-Easter-Pentecost being in the middle.

So there is nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time. Rather, we count the Sundays and the weeks as we celebrate the mystery of Jesus Christ who calls us into communion with himself as he leads us through the power of the Holy Spirit to the Father."

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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 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.**

## FROM THE BOOKKEEPER—St Mark 2020 Tax Statements

Your 2020 Tax Statement will be electronically released for viewing and printing on January 15, 2021 in the *My Own Church* account. If you have a *My Own Church* account, go to our website:  
[www.stmark-parish.org](http://www.stmark-parish.org)



Scroll down to the bright blue box marked 'ParishSoft My Own Church Parishioner Portal' and click on it. Once inside you can scroll down and click 'log-in' if you recall your password from last year or click on 'lost password' if you have forgotten it. If you are new to *My Own Church*, follow the instructions to create an account.

Password problems? Call the office at 479-1010.

If unable or unwilling to access *My Own Church*, it is still possible to drop a stamped, self-addressed business size envelope at the church office or request via email to:

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

Requests will be fulfilled within 1-5 a few business days.

# A Saint Story



## Saint Thomas Aquinas' Story ([franciscanmedia.org](http://franciscanmedia.org))

By universal consent, Thomas Aquinas is the preeminent spokesman of the Catholic tradition of reason and of divine revelation. He is one of the great teachers of the medieval Catholic Church, honored with the titles Doctor of the Church and Angelic Doctor.

At five he was given to the Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino in his parents' hopes that he would choose that way of life and eventually became abbot. In 1239, he was sent to Naples to complete his studies. It was here that he was first attracted to Aristotle's philosophy.

By 1243, Thomas abandoned his family's plans for him and joined the Dominicans, much to his mother's dismay. On her order, Thomas was captured by his brother and kept at home for over a year.

Once free, he went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the Great. He held two professorships at Paris, lived at the court of Pope Urban IV, directed the Dominican schools at Rome and Viterbo, combated adversaries of the mendicants, as well as the Averroists, and argued with some Franciscans about Aristotelianism.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, pervades his writings. One might expect Thomas, as a man of the gospel, to be an ardent defender of revealed truth. But he was broad enough, deep enough, to see the whole natural order as coming from God the Creator, and to see reason as a divine gift to be highly cherished.

The *Summa Theologiae*, his last and, unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology. He stopped work on it after celebrating Mass on December 6, 1273. When asked why he stopped writing, he replied, "I cannot go on.... All that I have written seems to me like so much straw compared to what I have seen and what has been revealed to me." He died March 7, 1274.



## 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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