

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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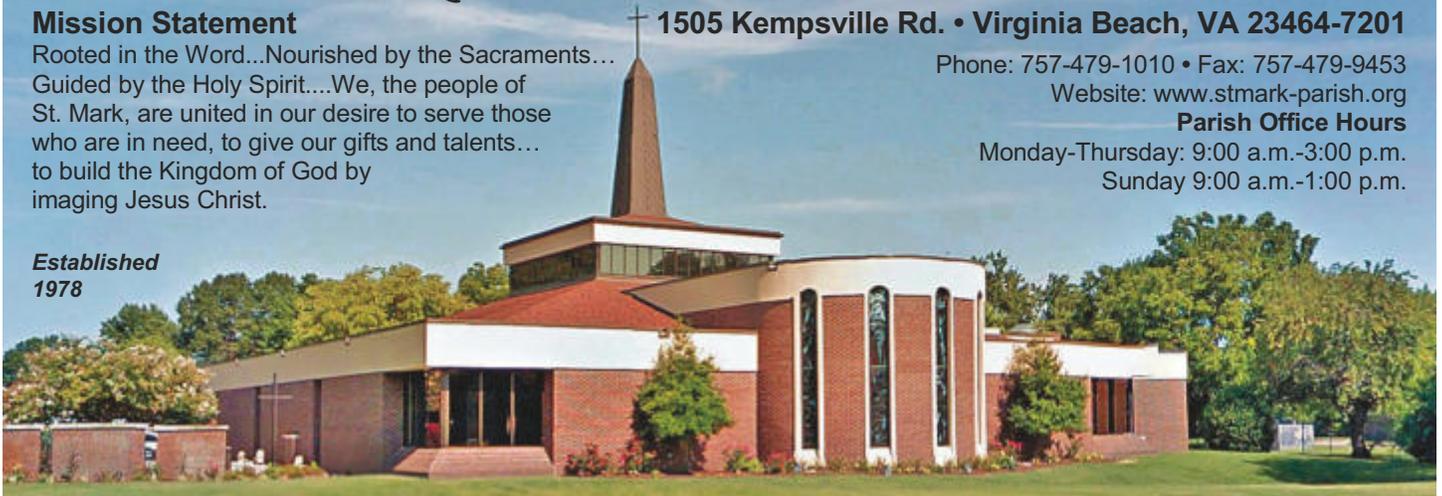
Website: www.stmark-parish.org

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

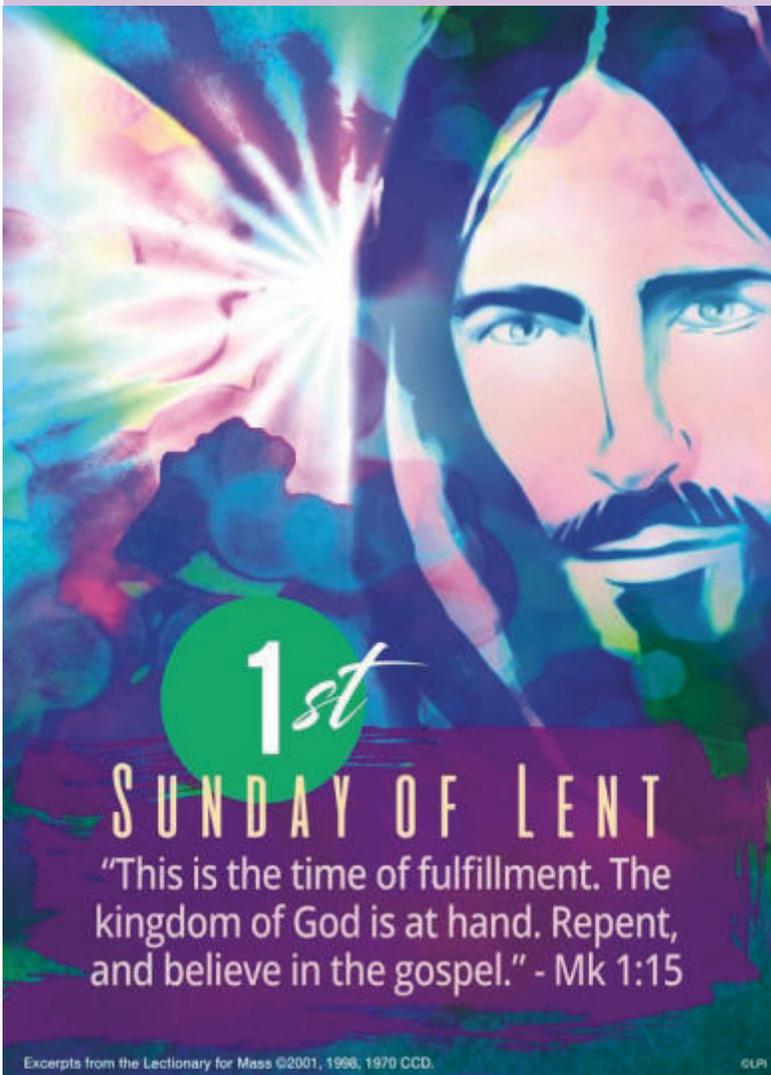
BAPTISM: Celebrated the 1st weekend of the month except during Lent. Contact Religious Formation Office for Baptism classes prior to the Sacrament.

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.



Fr. Anthony's Reflection

I welcome you to this First Sunday of Lent! We have begun the Holy Season of Lent which leads us to the greatest mystery of Easter. It is a time of true repentance when we are led by the Spirit of God.

Jesus was led into the desert and he remained there for forty days. It was in the desert that he was tempted by Satan in so many ways. He was in a deserted place, surrounded only with wild beasts; but how did he manage to get through those temptations? He was ministered to by the angels that were sent by His Father. This is the message we can also take for ourselves that even when life can be so challenging like it is these days, God will always send his angels to be with us.

Having been able to overcome the temptations, Jesus began to proclaim the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." The time of fulfillment comes, even after our lives have been distorted with broken relationships, loss of trust in God, sins of hate and injustices. This is the time to realize that God comes in our midst to enable us to return to the original goodness and pure love.

Repentance is the best response to the love of God and embracing the Gospel. We also have to know that when we are led by the Spirit, we can do no wrong. We are always empowered to pray even when the times are so hard.

May this season of Lent awaken our faith and trust in God that we can continue to proclaim the good news. Amen.



Mass Intentions and Daily Readings

MONDAY 02/22 The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle
1 Pt 5:1-4 ; Mt 16:13-19

TUESDAY 02/23 Saint Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr
Is 55:10-11 ; Mt 6:7-15
RUDI PETERSEN+

WEDNESDAY 02/24 Jon 3:1-10 ; Lk 11:29-32
FLORDELIZA LAGPAO+

THURSDAY 02/25 Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 ; Mt 7:7-12
FRED SUNDERLAND+

FRIDAY 02/26 Ez 18:21-28 ; Mt 5:20-26

2nd Sunday of Lent
Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 ; Rom 8:31b-34 ; Mk 9:2-10

SATURDAY 02/27 LAUREANA CORONEL+

SUNDAY 02/28 MRS. BEVERLEY BOEHLING+
DANTE ACEDO+

(+) Indicates Deceased



Steven Barkow, Hadley Hewlett, Emma & Jeff Madrigal, Alice & George Volz, Don DeGroot, Bryan Mendoza, Rose Kmetz, Dawn Boroden, Leonardo V. Corpez, Jim Thomas, Jean Morgan, Emy Balmaceda, Chandler Jacob, Diane Esposito, Connie Collins, Christian & Dana Brewer, 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, 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, Jodi Lee, Angel Rindfleisch, Joel Cossette, Joy Solmerano, Teresita Mendez-Ozabal, Jan & Roger Kilb, Helen Robb, Julie Allen, Tim Helmstetter, Marlene Games, Jim Behan, Rose Sunderland, Pat Byrne, Perry Francisco, Joel Rivera, Frank Moore, Harry & Nancy Tennin, Bobbi Drewiske, Carlos Gonzalez, the Whitesell Family, Peiro DelValle, Mary Tibbetts, Helen Newby, Sandy Barczak, Tim Fitzgerald, Renee Britton, Ryan Kmetz, Alma Deguzman, Lourdes Mendez, Robert Ozabal, Brian Ozabal, Medy Mendez, Rosalie Oller-Red, Josepha Oller-Chapa, Mark Oller Red

Thank you for all your love, prayers, and support during this difficult time. Our beloved **Danilo Chapa** is now with our Lord.

May he rest in peace!

God Bless - Chapa and Fradillada Families

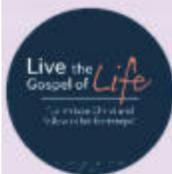
Justice and Peace

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: FEBRUARY
\$10 Gift Cards (Food Lion, Aldi, Wal-Mart)
Individual Fruit Cups



Hunger In The World: Jesus told us that whatever we did for one of these least brothers of his we did for him. Reflect on the challenge of global hunger— it is a reality for millions of our sisters and brothers. What will you do to support the hungry in our community and around the world? Visit csrricebowl.org to learn more. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the table in the Commons. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on how hunger and malnutrition affect our human family, and on the need to take action to end this global injustice. Visit csrricebowl.org to learn more.



Respect Life News: On February 5, 2021, our Virginia Bishops Barry C. Knestout and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge issued a statement on passage of death penalty abolition legislation in Virginia: "We welcome today's vote by the Virginia House of Delegates to abolish the death penalty, as well as the vote by the Virginia Senate to do so earlier this week. "We offer – and affirm the utmost need for – prayerful support for the families of victims of horrific crimes. We also affirm, with clarity and conviction, the words of the 'Catechism of the Catholic Church': 'The death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person' (no. 2267). To read the full statement visit <https://richmonddiocese.org/office/office-of-communications/?tab=3>



Take a Stand for Life: From **February 17th-March 28th**, our community will take part in 40 Days for Life ... a groundbreaking, coordinated international mobilization. We pray that, with God's help, this will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in our city — and beyond.

Where:

Public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood 515 Newtown Rd

When:

Tuesday evenings 5-6pm

Please watch the bulletin for more information on possible additional dates and times. For more information, please contact Joyce Gridley at 675-6486 or justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org



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 4250 Snack Bags to the P.I.N. Ministry guests. PIN Ministry is desperately in need of new or gently used men's jeans sizes 30-34- if you are able to help please drop off to the Food Pantry bin in the Commons and mark PIN Ministry.

This Week at Saint Mark

February 22nd—February 28th

MONDAY

6:30pm Justice & Peace Virtual Meeting
7:00pm RCIA Team Formation (Virtual)

TUESDAY

8:30am **Weekday Mass In Sanctuary**
9:30am Adult Formation—The SEARCH (GH)
7:00pm Adult Formation—The SEARCH (Virtual)

WEDNESDAY

10am-1pm Food Pantry (GH)
6pm-8pm Formation 11 & 12 Grade in CR
6:30pm Rosary in Sanctuary
7:00pm **Weekday Mass in Sanctuary**

THURSDAY

8:30am **Weekday Mass In Sanctuary**
9:30am-11am PLARN Ministry in GH
6:00pm Parish Council Virtual Meeting
7:00pm Choir Practice in Sanctuary
7:00pm Adult Formation—The SEARCH (GH)

FRIDAY

9:30am Adult Formation—The SEARCH (Virtual)
7:00pm Stations of the Cross 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**



©LPI

Announcements

Lenten Activity Baskets

Sign up for the Lenten Family Activity Baskets!! These baskets are designed to help your family get the most of your Lenten journey with elements of each of the 3 pillars of Lent prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

If you would like a basket for your family please sign up using the link below.

The baskets will be distributed on

Sunday February 21, between 12:30 and 1:45 pm.

If you need to pick up your basket at a different time contact Samantha Krieg at samantha@stmark-parish.org to set up a different pick up time.

www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0548a8a823aaf94-lenten

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent at 7pm in the Sanctuary

Sign up online or call to reserve your spot

February 19, 26

March 5, 12, 19, 26

Good Friday Stations April 2 at 12pm

Need a Home Study for and Adoptive Placement? Call Catholic Charities!

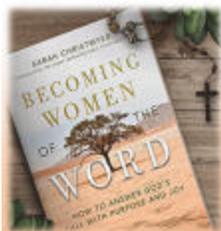
Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia offers home study services for a variety of adoptions including, but not limited to, private adoptions, interstate adoptions, infant adoptions, adoption through foster care, international adoption, kinship adoption, etc. To learn more about home study services visit our website

at www.adoptionandpregnancycenter.org
or e-mail us at rhall@cceva.org for more information.

Wisdom Seeker Mass Schedule 2021

As a way to keep the Wisdom Seekers united, we will celebrate mass together on a monthly basis.

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



Saint Mark Book Club
Becoming Women of the Word
by Sarah Christmyer
Tuesday, March 9
6:30 P.M. In person

SPCA Ministry

We kindly ask that if you have any items to donate to SPCA please bring directly to any SPCA location in VA Beach area. Thank you!

Liturgy Corner

This Sunday at 11am Mass - The Rite Of Election In the RCIA Process

It is now the first Sunday of Lent. "The Alleluia has been buried. Shades of purple veil each Church. A mass of bramble is carefully bent to resemble the crown of thorns, which Jesus wore without complaint. A solemn reminder of the kingship of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The passion of Jesus must ultimately bring us to our knees, at the foot of the cross."

During their RCIA Lenten journey the catechumens are called to a more intense time of retreat with the other elect of the entire Catholic Church. This period is called "purification and enlightenment." "This time is intended to purify the minds and hearts of the elect as they search their own consciences and do penance. This period is intended as well to enlighten the minds and hearts of the elect with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior." The celebration of the scrutinies and the presentations will enrich this experience for our elect. As the community of the faithful, we participate in these special Rites, as we remember our call with our Baptism.

"The Rite" - "These Catechumens whom I now present to you (Fr Anthony on behalf of the Bishop) have completed their period of preparation. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayer and example. They would now like to enter their final period of Scrutiny and participate in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist." (Adapted from the RCIA Rite book)

Our Catechumens will be received by Fr Anthony on behalf of Bishop Knestout. They will come forward into a new life with Christ. They will sign the Book of the Elect, a presentation of their intent to continue their journey of faith. At this moment in their lives they are affirming their earlier promises to know, love and follow Christ. It is also the time which their sponsor, godparents, team, and the community of St Mark will say, "Yes these Catechumens are ready to move into their final preparation period. They have experienced a true conversion of heart, mind and soul." It has been a conversion experience not only for them, but also for each person who has traveled this road with them. Each of us (the community) has been truly blessed and touched by the Spirit of God this past year. We have grown in our personal faith experience with them, and we have each encountered Jesus within this group assembled in His name. He has moved us to a new level of perception in His Spirit. During this part of the Rite, Deacon Mike will come forward and call the names of the Catechumens for enrollment to the Easter Vigil Rite. Fr Anthony, on behalf of the Bishop, will ask a few questions of them, and shortly after this their sponsors will be asked to stand with them as they are recognized. Their testimony is the final affirmation to the Bishop. They are now the 'Elect of God'. Now a part of this parish community as a disciple, ready to say "yes" to all Jesus, asks of them. Soon they will be joining us at the Eucharistic table and proclaiming your "Amen". This is the Body of Christ with whom I am in communion!

Please continue to keep them in prayer!

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 was 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

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

Requests will be fulfilled within 1-5 business days.

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

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

Fiscal Year	February	Offertory	Needed	Excess/
July20 June21	14	Year to Date	Year to Date	Short
Offertory	\$21,185	\$555,590	\$540,000	\$15,590

Family Count: 936: envelopes: 122/Using online donation: 166

A Saint Story

St. Polycarp (Loyolapress.com)

The story of Polycarp's martyrdom is the earliest recorded account of a Christian martyr.

Polycarp was a disciple of St. John the apostle. While still quite young, he became the bishop of Smyrna and was one of the most respected leaders in the first half of the second century. St. Ignatius of Antioch and St. Irenaeus spoke highly of him, and people loved him very much.

Polycarp was a Christian leader in a pagan world. He spoke clearly and simply, fearless in love and defense of Christ, even though persecutions raged around him. He sought only to hand on the message he had been given by John. Even as Polycarp prepared for martyrdom, his joy and confident trust were evident to all.

Polycarp was seized for being a Christian. Persecution and death would not tear him away from Jesus now. Polycarp was led into the stadium of Smyrna. The crowd demanded that he be left to the lions, but instead he was sentenced to death by fire. An eyewitness account claims that the flames didn't harm him. He was finally killed by the sword, and his body was burned.

The community of believers celebrated the anniversary of Polycarp's death with great joy, for in him they had seen an outstanding example of love and patience. He had held strong and had won the treasure of eternal life. Polycarp is remembered as an Apostolic Father, one who was a disciple of the apostles.

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

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

The 2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal has begun with a parish goal of \$51,120 for St Mark!

This number is slightly less than last year. There will be a lot less paper coming your way this year as the diocese is going virtual with the appeal. To donate online, go to the appeal website: richmondcatholicfoundation.org/appeal. If you wish to mail in your donation just drop a check payable to "Catholic Diocese of Richmond" and note "Annual Appeal/St Mark Church" in the memo section. The mailing address is:

Catholic Diocese of Richmond
Annual Diocesan Appeal
PO Box 79212
Baltimore, MD 21279-0212

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