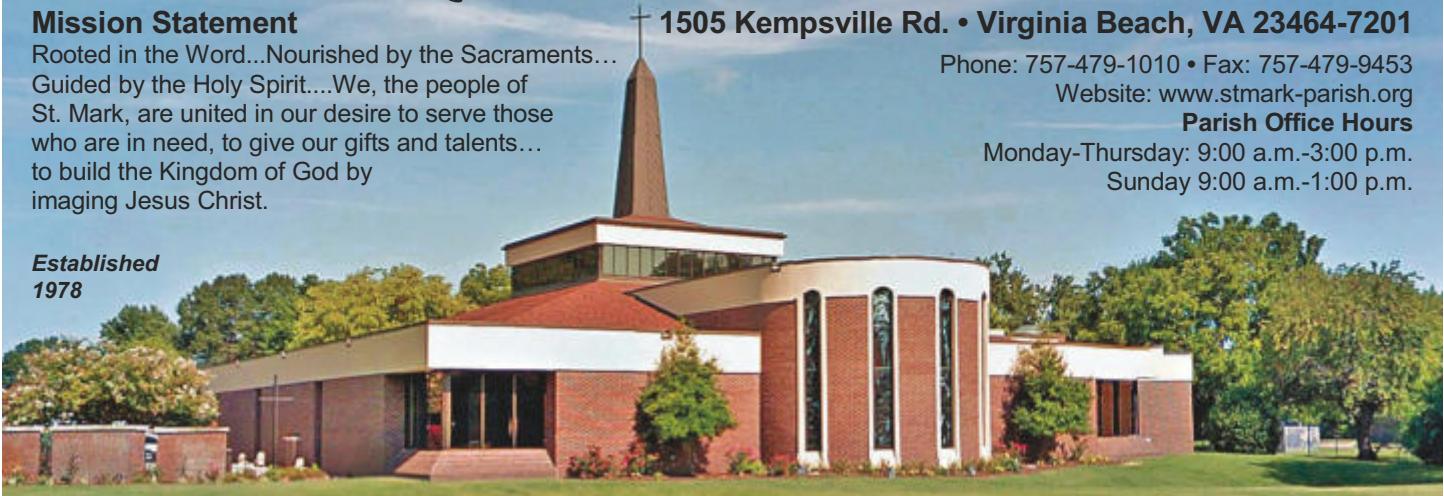


THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF

Mission Statement

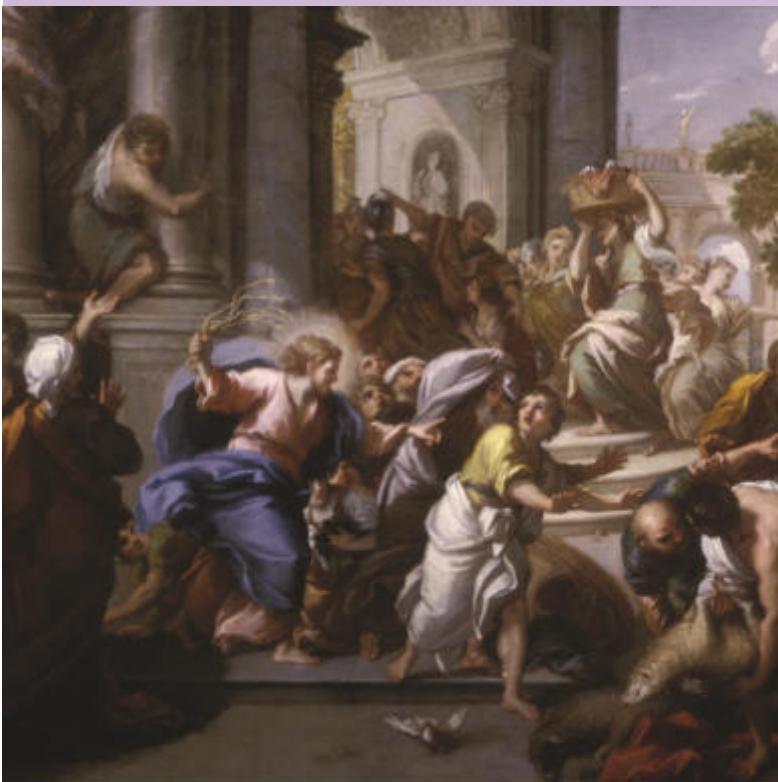
Rooted in the Word...Nourished by the Sacraments...
Guided by the Holy Spirit....We, the people of
St. Mark, are united in our desire to serve those
who are in need, to give our gifts and talents...
to build the Kingdom of God by
imaging Jesus Christ.

*Established
1978*



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.**



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

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.

PARISH STAFF

- | | |
|--|---|
| Rev. Anthony Mpungu..... | Pastor
franthonry@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

It is the 3rd Sunday of Lent already! I hope that the Season of Lent is going well with you. I welcome you to this Sunday as we reflect on the Gospel from John 2:13-25.

We hear about what happened when Jesus went up to Jerusalem in the temple, and found those selling oxen, sheep and doves along with money changers. It was too much for him so he made a whip out of cords and drove them out!

"Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a market place." Jesus went on further and told them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

These words made the Jews very angry because it had taken forty-six years to construct the temple. They had no idea that Jesus was talking about the temple of his own body that after his death he would rise from the dead! It is very difficult to imagine that this was Jesus acting in such a manner, but he had to do it because he came to cleanse the temple and make it new!

As Christians, we are the people of God and Christ himself lives within us. He invites us to witness him, just like we do in the Church when we gather as Christ's body. Therefore, by Jesus mentioning, "Destroy this Temple..!", he very well knew that he had come to raise and redeem his body, the Church from sin, by nailing sin on the cross.

Lent gives us an opportunity to destroy within us what is not Godly. Let us continue this journey with hope! Amen.



Mass Intentions and Daily Readings

MONDAY 03/08	Saint John of God, Religious 2 Kgs 5:1-15b ; Lk 4:24-30
TUESDAY 03/09	Saint Frances of Rome, Religious Dn 3:25, 34-43 ; Mt 18:21-35 CAMILLA WHITEMAN+
WEDNESDAY 03/10	Dt 4:1, 5-9 ; Mt 5:17-19 DANIEL REMAR+
THURSDAY 03/11	Jer 7:23-28 ; Lk 11:14-23 BEVERLY MELE+
FRIDAY 03/12	Hos 14:2-10 ; Mk 12:28-34 Fourth Sunday of Lent Chr 36:14-16, 19-23 ; Eph 2:4-10 ; Jn 3:14-21
SATURDAY 03/13	EPIFANIO REYNOSO+
SUNDAY 03/14	DIOSDADO PARAS+ FRED SUNDERLAND+

(+) 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, Tim Fitzgerald, Renee Britton, Ryan Kmetz, Alma Deguzman, Lourdes Mendez, Robert Ozabal, Brian Ozabal, Medy Mendez, Paula Dellulo, Josepha Oller-Chapa, Mark Oller Red, Corazon Placides, David Ryan, Marilyn Briggs, Randy Beals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of
Rosalie Oller-Red, sister of Mila Fradillada

Let perpetual light shine upon her; may she rest in peace!
Please Keep the Red and Fradillada 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 or contact: justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org

Food of the Month:

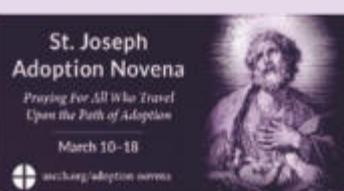
March

**12-15 oz. Cheerios (or store brand)
Granola Bars**



Join Us as We Take a Stand For Life: Now through **March 28th**, Where: Public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood 515 Newtown Road. When: **Tuesday evenings 5-6pm**

For more information, email Joyce Gridley at: justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org



Leading up to the Solemnity of St. Joseph on **March 19**, join us at home in praying the St. Joseph Adoption Novena. Invoking the intercession of St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, we will pray the Lord blesses all who travel upon the path of adoption. Visit usccb.org/adoption-novena or <https://www.usccb.org/prolife/novena-st-joseph-those-path-adoption> for the novena, which begins **March 10-18**.



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 **4400** Snack Bags to the P.I.N. Ministry guests



Food Pantry February Update: Thank you to all who donated to our Food Pantry and to our volunteers who give of their time to help our Food Pantry serve those in need. For the month of February our Food Pantry served 125 adults, and 77 children, for a total of 202 individuals. We also were able to give \$10 gift Cards to all our guests this month. We are so very thankful for your generous donations both food and monetary. We ask you please donate only items on our Food Pantry list and check expiration dates.



Sustainability in El Salvador: Drought has become a big problem across El Salvador, making it difficult for farmers to produce enough crops to support their families. But new farming techniques—and a new generation of young farmers—are making a difference. What would you do if your livelihood was threatened? How can you support young people in your community and around the world? 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 crsricebowl.org to learn more.

This Week at Saint Mark

March 8th –March 14th

MONDAY

4:15-6pm RCIA CAST Service, Great Hall

TUESDAY

8:30am Weekday Mass In Sanctuary
9:30am Adult Formation—The SEARCH (GH)
6:30pm Book Club in Person
7:00pm Adult Formation—The SEARCH (Virtual)

WEDNESDAY

8:30am Weekday Mass in Sanctuary
10am-1pm Food Pantry (GH)
4:30pm-6pm Reconciliation Rehearsal in Sanctuary

THURSDAY

8:30am Weekday Mass In Sanctuary
9:30am-11am PLARN Ministry in GH
6pm-8pm Confirmation Prep in Great Hall
7:00pm Adult Formation—The SEARCH (GH)

FRIDAY

9:30am Adult Formation—The SEARCH (Virtual)
10:00am Wisdom Seekers Mass
7:00pm Stations of the Cross in Sanctuary

SATURDAY

10:00am Sacrament of First Reconciliation
5:30pm Weekend Mass In Sanctuary

SUNDAY

8:00am Weekend Mass In Sanctuary
10:00am Virtual Mass
11:00am Weekend Mass in Sanctuary
6pm-8pm Grade 8 & 9 Formation in GH

For Next Weekend!



Announcements

Wednesday March 10th:

Daily Mass will be at 8:30am instead of 7pm

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent at 7pm in the Sanctuary

Sign up online or call to reserve your spot

March 12, 19, 26; Good Friday Stations April 2 at 12pm

Chesapeake Area Shelter Team (CAST) 2021:

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, churches have been unable to host CAST since March 2020. Instead, CAST has been delivering prepared dinners to guests that have qualified for temporary accommodation in local hotels. St. Mark's will be preparing and delivering approximately 60 meals daily during the week of March 3-9. To comply with COVID-19 safety guidelines, we have to limit the number of volunteers this year. We do ask for your continued prayers for those experiencing homelessness in these difficult times.

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:

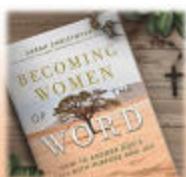
**Catholic Diocese of Richmond
Annual Diocesan Appeal
PO Box 79212
Baltimore, MD 21279-0212**

Thank you for your support!

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

Interested In Learning More About The Catholic Faith?

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

The Scrutinies For RCIA Elect

Did you know that starting this Sunday (3rd Sunday in Lent) we begin the Scrutinies for our RCIA Elect at the 11am Liturgy? This will continue through the 5th Sunday in Lent. For these Scrutinies, there are special readings that always come from Year A, so those going to the other Masses, including our virtual Mass, will be hearing from Year B as expected. Below is a note from the Pastoral Liturgy Magazine regarding "What are the Scrutinies" by Kristopher W. Seaman, DMin. *Liturgy Training Publications, 3949 South Racine Avenue, Chicago, IL 60609; www.LTP.org. Pastoral Liturgy® magazine, January/February 2017, www.PastoralLiturgy.org.*

"Not long before the start of Lent one year, a new RCIA minister approached me. I could see he was agitated, yet hesitant to talk. Finally, he told me he saw that scrutinies were scheduled to take place on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent for those preparing to become Christians at the Easter Vigil. He feared that during the rite, these individuals, whom we call the elect, or chosen, would be questioned before all assembled for Mass. I praised him for his concern and told him that the three scrutinies of the Christian initiation process do not parallel a courtroom cross-examination.

The scrutinies are formed in the language of liturgical prayer. During the scrutiny, those preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil typically kneel down, and the presider and assembly pray over them, asking God to strengthen and assist them to more clearly live out God's love. At this time, these individuals are also invited, with God's help, to turn away from sin and evil. The rite states:

"The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. For the scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and give them strength in Christ. These rites, therefore, should complete the con-version of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all." (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, 141)

This turning from sin and evil to God's love does not happen in an instant. Rather, the elect need to pray and receive support as they attempt to turn toward God's love and resist sin and evil. The scrutinies are meant to heal.

The benefits of the scrutinies are significant. First, the context is the liturgical assembly. The elect have been part of the already established prayer life of the Church, learning (or as Pope Benedict XVI aptly called it "being schooled") in the way the Church prays, lives, and breathes.

Secondly, the local church prays for and over these elect. Hands are laid on them in prayer, suggesting that the Church is not only asking God's strength and assistance—the Church itself is there to be a sign and presence of strength, especially in the face of trial. It is a healing touch.

Thirdly, the entire Church has the opportunity to consider its need for God's help to be healed and strengthened. The elect are not the only ones in need of God's assistance. Each person in the assembly needs to continuously look to God as they try to resist sin and evil. As we participate in the scrutinies as part of the assembly, we should examine our "schooling" in the love of God. All Christian disciples need to continually examine how they are open to participating in God's love. This rite is a witness to the "skills" (prayers) needed to live daily what Christian discipleship is about—God's love in the midst of sin and evil."

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 July20 June21	February 28	Offertory Year to Date	Needed Year to Date	Excess/ Short
Offertory	\$10,424	\$582,195	\$568,000	\$14,195

Family Count: 934: envelopes: 133 / Using online donation: 190

Saint of the Week

Saint Frances of Rome's Story

Frances' life combines aspects of secular and religious life. A devoted and loving wife, she longed for a lifestyle of prayer and service, so she organized a group of women to minister to the needs of Rome's poor.

Born of wealthy parents, Frances found herself attracted to the religious life during her youth. But her parents objected and a young nobleman was selected to be her husband.

As she became acquainted with her new relatives, Frances soon discovered that the wife of her husband's brother also wished to live a life of service and prayer. So the two, Frances and Vannozza, set out together—with their husbands' blessings—to help the poor.

Frances fell ill for a time, but this apparently only deepened her commitment to the suffering people she met. The years passed, and Frances gave birth to two sons and a daughter. With the new responsibilities of family life, the young mother turned her attention more to the needs of her own household.

The family flourished under Frances' care, but within a few years a great plague began to sweep across Italy. It struck Rome with devastating cruelty and left Frances' second son dead. In an effort to help alleviate some of the suffering, Frances used all her money and sold her possessions to buy whatever the sick might possibly need. When all the resources had been exhausted, Frances and Vannozza went door to door begging. Later, Frances' daughter died, and the saint opened a section of her house as a hospital.

Frances became more and more convinced that this way of life was so necessary for the world, and it was not long before she requested and was given permission to found a society of women bound by no vows. They simply offered themselves to God and to the service of the poor. Once the society was established, Frances chose not to live at the community residence, but rather at home with her husband. She did this for seven years, until her husband passed away, and then came to live the remainder of her life with the society—serving the poorest of the poor.

(franciscanmedia.org)

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Have questions? Contact Fe at fe@stmark-parish.org
or Mary Ellen at bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org



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