

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
msmeland@gmail.com
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.



6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

"If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love." - Jn 15:10

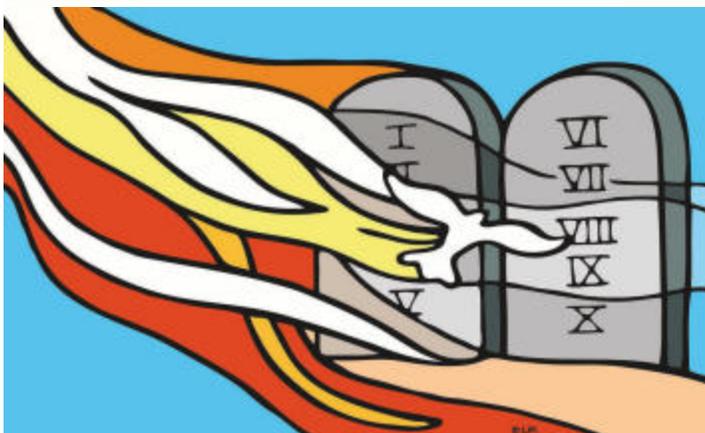
Fr. Anthony's Reflection

Welcome to this 6th Sunday of Easter which also happens to be Mother's Day! The Gospel reading this Sunday is a continuation of last Sunday! It is about Jesus' last words to his disciples, "Remain in my love."

The success of Jesus' ministry was possible because of his close relationship with his Father. He therefore wishes that his disciples can indeed succeed after his departure, and is the very reason why he emphasizes to them the importance of remaining in his love in their discipleship!

The work of discipleship is not just about doing or saying this, rather what comes after. It delves into the interior lives of the disciples and what Jesus meant to them. There is some high level of intimacy that they needed to have between themselves and Jesus. When Jesus says, "Remain in my love.", he had showed them the true meaning of love which they should never escape from. This form of love was kept through the commandments that he gave them just as he had kept his Father's commandments!

The disciple must imitate the master just as the branch is drawn from the stem. This commitment to God's commandments has its rewards as Jesus said, "...whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you." We need to know that keeping God's commandments is a commitment to love. If we have been loved and fully understood what love means, we can easily love others and we will be joyful. Amen.



Mass Intentions and Daily Readings

MONDAY 05/10 Saint Damien de Veuster, Priest
Acts 16:11-15 ; Jn 15:26—16:4a

TUESDAY 05/11 Acts 16: 22:34 ; Jn 16:5-11
ISAAC QUINTOS+

WEDNESDAY 05/12 Saints Nereus & Achilleus, Martyrs ; Saint Pancras, Martyr
Acts 17:15, 22—18:1 ; Jn 16:12-15
RICKY ANDRADE SR.+

THURSDAY 05/13 Our Lady of Fatima
Acts 18:1-8 ; Jn 16:16-20
JEAN BURKE+

FRIDAY 05/14 Saint Mathias, Apostle
Acts 15:22-31 ; Jn 15:12-17

SATURDAY 05/15 Saint Isidore
GENOVEVA ARRIOLA+

The Ascension of The Lord
Acts 18:23-28 ; Eph 1:17-23 ; Mk 16:15-20

SUNDAY 05/16 KEVIN V. MOONEY+
ROSALIE OLLER-RED+

(+) 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, Marianna Gable, Dick Guevin, Thomas DeNio, Vanessa Miner, Joy Solmerano, Jodi Lee, Angel Rindfleisch, Joel Cossette, Jan & Roger Kilb, Pat Byrne, Teresita Mendez-Ozabal, Julie Allen, Tim Helmstetter, Joel Rivera, Marlene Games, Rose Sunderland, Perry Francisco, Frank Moore, Carlos Gonzalez, Mary Tibbetts, Bobbi Drewiske, Helen Newby, Roger & Bellie Guerrero, Harry & Nancy Tennin, Peiro DelValle, The Whitesell Family, Tim Fitzgerald, Ryan Kmetz, Renee Britton, Alma Deguzman, Robert Ozabal, Brian Ozabal, Medy Mendez, Paula Dellulo, Josepha Oller-Chapa, Randy Beals, David Ryan, Mark Oller-Red, Roberta Bernardini, Marilyn Briggs, Darrell Satturfield, Fr. Charles Breindel, Teresa Delostrinos

Please pray for the repose of the soul of
Shirley Burnette

Let perpetual light shine upon her; may she rest in peace!
Please keep the Burnette Family in your prayers.

Justice and Peace

Visit the Justice & Peace page on our St. Mark parish website 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: May

9-15oz. boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes, Individual meals: tuna snack kits, small pop-top soup/pasta



Hope4Life Baby Bottle Drive:

Happening now through May 16th!

We are collecting monetary donations for the Hope4Life mobile pregnancy Center in the large baby bottles located in the Commons. Every donation counts no matter how large or small. Your donation assists women and families with free ultrasounds, counseling services, educational programs, maternity/baby/child items and financial help provided by Hope4Life. To learn more visit: www.hope4lifeva.com



Children are more vulnerable to

trafficking than adults. They are easier to control, cheaper, and less likely to demand working conditions, researchers

explain. Between 244,000 to 325,000 young people in the US are considered "at-risk" of sexual exploitation, and an estimated 199,000 incidents of sexual exploitation of minors occur each year in the United States. Together WE can help the fight against Human Trafficking. We are working to implement the USCCB "Become a SHEPHERD" (Stop Human trafficking and Exploitation Protect Help Empower and Restore Dignity) program. Are you interested in learning more and on helping to make a difference please email: justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org



Food Pantry April 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 April our Food Pantry served 137 adults, and 67 children, for a total of 204 individuals. We also were able to give \$10 gift Cards, beans, and fresh ground beef to all our guests this month. We are so very thankful for your generous donations both food and monetary.



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 5075 Snack Bags to the P.I.N. Ministry guests.



Feed Our Neighbor: In case you are wondering YES, we are still "Feeding Our Neighbor" Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions we have been unable to prepare and serve a meal as we have done in the past.

This past Sunday, May 2nd, thanks to your generosity, we delivered an individually packed hot meal of chicken, rice, and vegetables to 60 of our homeless brothers and sisters at Judeo-Christian Outreach Center. Thank you!

This Week at Saint Mark

May 10th–May 16th

MONDAY

7:15pm

RCIA Formation (GH, Conf Rm, Chapel & Virtual)

TUESDAY

8:30am

Weekday Mass In Sanctuary

6:30pm

Book Club in Great Hall

WEDNESDAY

10am-1pm

Food Pantry (GH)

6:30pm

Rosary in Sanctuary

7:00pm

Weekday Mass in Sanctuary

THURSDAY

8:30am

Weekday Mass In Sanctuary

9am-11am

PLARN in Great Hall

6pm-8pm

Mystagogy of Confirmation in GH

FRIDAY

10:00am

Wisdom Seekers Mass

SATURDAY

8am-12pm

Building & Grounds

4:00pm

Reconciliation

5:30pm

Weekend Mass In Sanctuary

SUNDAY

8:30am

Weekend Mass In Sanctuary

10:30am

Weekend Mass in Sanctuary

(Also Live-Streamed)

6pm-8pm

Grade 8 & 9 Formation in GH

May 15, 2021

The History of Armed Forces Day



On Aug. 31, 1949, Defense Secretary Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the armed forces under one agency -- the Department of Defense. In a speech announcing the creation of the day, President Truman "praised the

work of the military services at home and across the seas." He said, "It is vital to the security of the nation and to the establishment of a desirable peace." In an excerpt from the Presidential Proclamation of Feb. 27, 1950, Truman stated: "Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 20, 1950, marks the first combined demonstration by America's defense team of its progress, under the National Security Act, toward the goal of readiness for any eventuality. It is the first parade of preparedness by the unified forces of our land, sea, and air defense." (military.com)

Announcements

**SUNDAY MASS TIMES WILL GO BACK TO
8:30am and 10:30am starting May 16th
(the 10:30am Mass will also be live streamed)**

Wisdom Seeker Mass Schedule 2021

As a way to keep the Wisdom Seekers united, we will celebrate mass together on a monthly basis. Our next Masses are
May 14th @ 10am

Greetings and Happy Spring Everyone from Parish Life!

It has been over a year since Parish Life has met due to the nature of our ministry. COVID has not allowed us to have socials, funerals, receptions, Samaritan meals, donuts, Wisdom Seeker get-togethers or the nursery.

But, COVID has given us great opportunity to reflect on what is important, not only in our personal lives but in the life of the parish. Let's take this opportunity to reevaluate, renew and reconstruct our ministry and make it blossom into a ministry that can meet everyone's needs in new and exciting ways. Please come to our first post-COVID meeting of the year on

Tuesday, May 18th at 6:30 in the Great Hall.

We will now meet on the third Tuesday of the month until further notice. Invite parishioners you know! We look forward to seeing all of you. If you have any questions, please call Linda Major at 757-615-0763 by text or email at majormail@verizon.net.

Lector Schedule

June to September 4/5 (Labor Day) schedule is being put together in the next couple of weeks. Let Deacon John know your availability, Mass time, and update your contact information. REMEMBER that starting May 16, St. Mark returns to the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses. ++ REMINDER ++ The 10:30 Mass will be live-streamed so preparation is important to your proclamation.

Building and Grounds (B&G)

The numbers of returning and new parishioners continue to grow!! The Great Hall is now being used for Mass overflow when the Church is filled to COVID capacity and with changing guidelines, more in-person meetings are being held. All our spaces need attention to stay clean and sanitized. The exterior also needs attention. B&G will meet **Saturday May 15, 8am to 12pm** Everyone is invited. See Deacon John or check the volunteer website for more info- <http://stmarkhelps.ivolunteer.com/>

Saint Mark Mom's Group-Now Meeting Virtually

Mom's Group meets Tuesdays at 7pm via Zoom. Please reach out to Kerri Drake for details,
[914-850-2765](tel:914-850-2765) or kerridrake@gmail.com

Support Our Youth Group

Support our Youth Group while you shop. Use gift cards to buy gas, groceries, and everything else you're already buying—while raising money. It's easy, it's rewarding, and it fits right into your busy schedule. Create an account on the **RaiseRight app** or at **ShopWithScrip.com** using our enrollment code: **18978AE979L67** Seamlessly check out by securely paying online with a linked bank account or credit card. Have questions? Contact Fe at fe@stmark-parish.org

Liturgy Corner

Living Our Faith - Examples of Faith Form Youth

In light of just celebrating the 3 Sacrament of Initiation (Confirmation, Baptisms and First Eucharist) this last Tuesday and weekend here at St Mark, thought this article would be most appropriate to share:

"Catholic parents and grandparents everywhere wonder how to hand on the faith they have received. When a child is baptized, the parents promise to bring them up in the practice of the faith. But how?

Interestingly, the social sciences tell us what parents have known for generations: actions speak louder than words. Researchers at the National Study of Youth and Religion (directed by Professor Christian Smith at the University of Notre Dame) tell us that the strongest determining factor in the faith practice of teens and young adults is the faith practice of their parents.

As we think about why this is the case, it may be helpful to consider the word practice. When we hear it in a religious context we think "Joe is a practicing Catholic" or "My cousin Ed was raised Catholic, but he no longer practices." In this context, we might think about the word practice in the way that someone practices the cello.

Being Catholic is much more than a skill. It is a gift and an identity as a child of God. Even so, what if, as we think about forming children in the faith, we think about them as practicing being Catholic, that they might acquire the skills they need to live in the freedom of the children of God? How can they acquire those skills? They look to their first teachers (as per the Baptism Rite, they are the parents) as models of how they are to live.

This is one reason it is important to bring young children to Mass. The child under six is in a period of development that is marked by imitation. By watching parents, grandparents, and other significant adults, they learn when to sit, kneel, and stand. They learn to make the Sign of the Cross. They learn the responses even before they know the meanings of the words. At home they learn to say grace, to pray at bedtime, to say the Rosary. When children grow older, they hunger for role models. It is good for them to see lots of examples of what mature faith looks like while they are in this stage because eventually they will need to discern what mature faith looks like for them. We only have to look at the variety of the saints to see that the path of discipleship is not monolithic. In offering them relationships with other adults who live out their faith on the soup line, in parish ministry, and by bringing the values of the Gospel into the world, we show them what is possible in their lives.

Ultimately, our example as parents will have the greatest impact. If you want to raise children in the practice of the faith, show them what it looks like. Take them to Mass. Pray in front of them, pray with them, pray for them. Feed the hungry. Forgive and then forgive again. Pope Francis says the family is a school of mercy. Go to Reconciliation. Read the Bible. When you see God at work in your life, tell your children. You may find that your example is more powerful than you expect."

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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. **This is the last Sunday 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

Diocesan Annual Appeal Update:

As of April 29 St Mark parishioners have donated \$50,046 towards the 2021 Annual Appeal goal of \$51,120...this is 97.9% of our goal! If you are still considering this worthy cause, please donate now and thank you to all who have already helped us reach this milestone!

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	May 2	Offertory Year to Date	Needed Year to Date	Excess/ Short
Offertory	\$14,439	\$743,438	\$726,000	\$17,438

Family Count: 940: envelopes: 138/Using online donation: 170

Saint Mark Woman's Book Club
Start Reading today!
&
Join us on May 11th
 In-person/6:30 p.m.
 Great Hall
 Questions? Contact Sharon Katzman
sharon@stmark-parish.org



CARNATIONS for MOMS
The Knights of Columbus, Kempsville Council 10515,
will host a drive thru with carnations for moms
following the 11:00 Mass on Mother's Day, May 9th.

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

Vacation Bible School 2021

Vacation Bible School July 12-16, 2021!!
 In person and virtual options will be available.



We will need a lot of help to make this event as safe and fun as possible. To volunteer and for more information contact

Samantha at Samantha@stmarkparish.org

Registration will be available soon!



Congratulations to the following candidates who received the Sacrament of 1st Holy Communion on May 2, 2021 at Saint Mark

Julian Bautista
 James Beltran
 Zoie Casteel
 Kara Craig
 Anabelle Egan
 Alex Gangler
 Matteo Gonzales
 Alex Guyon
 Nathan Guyon
 Hailee Hastings
 Olivia Holscher
 Micah Ignacio
 Braden Jewell

Liam Jimenez
 Olivia Lindberg
 Hunter Long
 Hannah Mercier
 Anabelle Myers
 Anna O'Mara
 Alayna Ortiz
 Mia Palmieri
 Dylan Quintal
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