

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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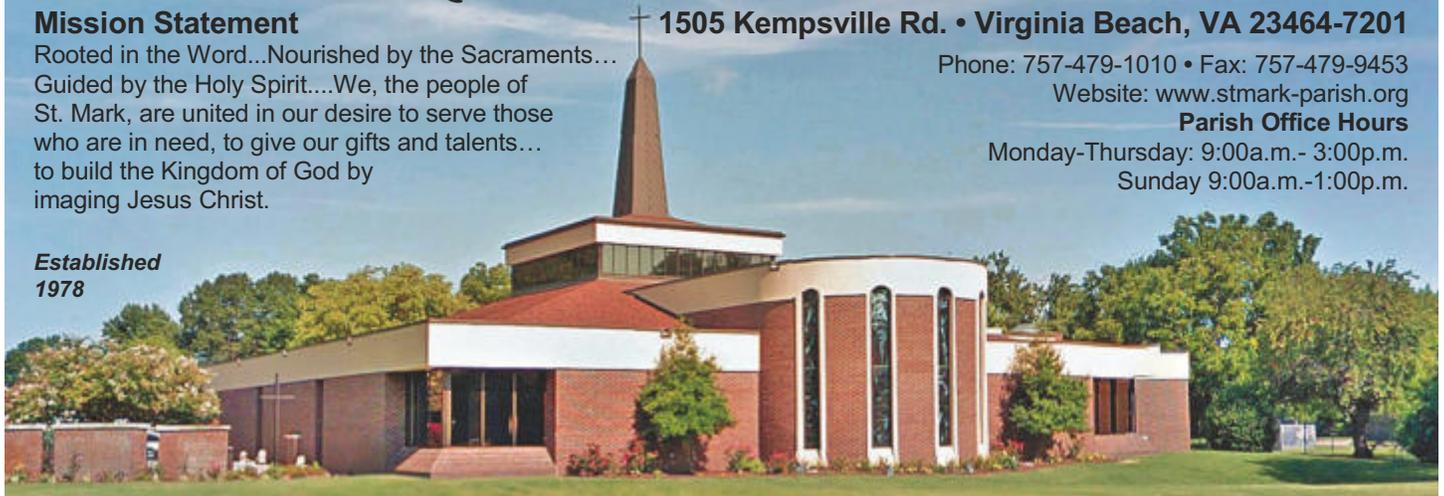
Website: www.stmark-parish.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00a.m.- 3:00p.m.

Sunday 9:00a.m.-1:00p.m.

Established 1978



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:30 p.m. • Sunday at 8:30 & 10:30 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
Brian Gridley.....Maintenance/IT Coordinator
Debbie Farrell.....Janitor
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

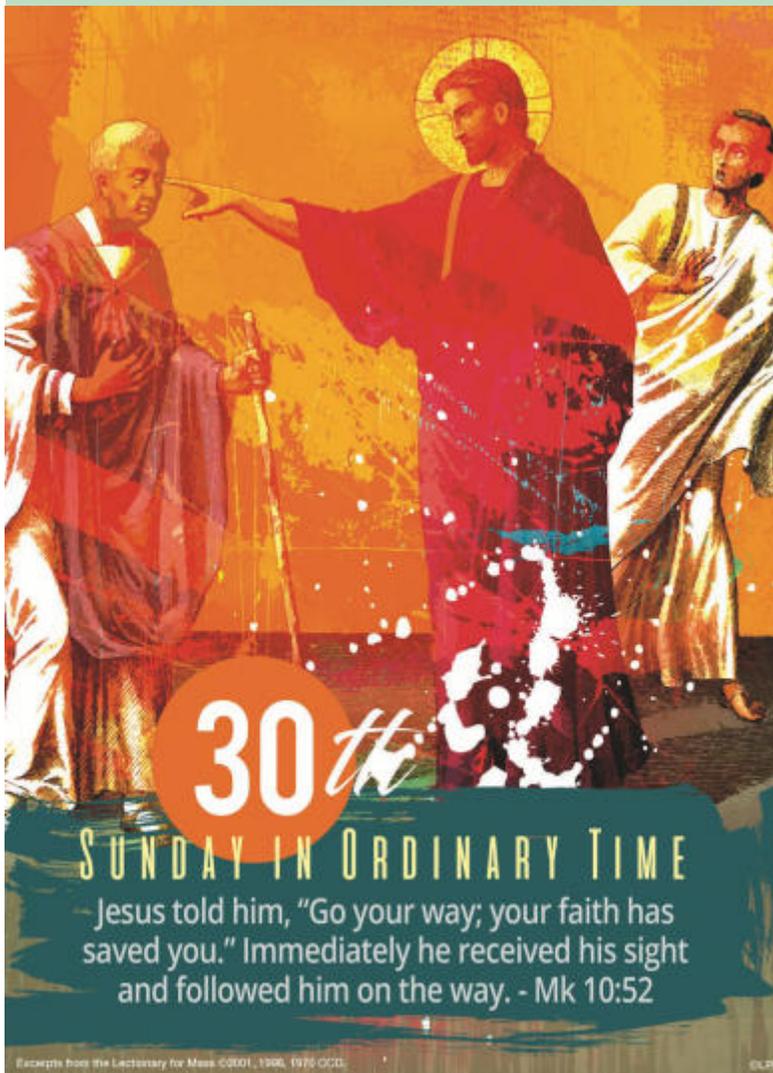
BAPTISM: Celebrated the 1st weekend of the month except during Lent. Contact Religious Formation Office for Baptism classes prior to the Sacrament.

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.



30th

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way. - Mk 10:52

## Fr. Anthony's Reflection

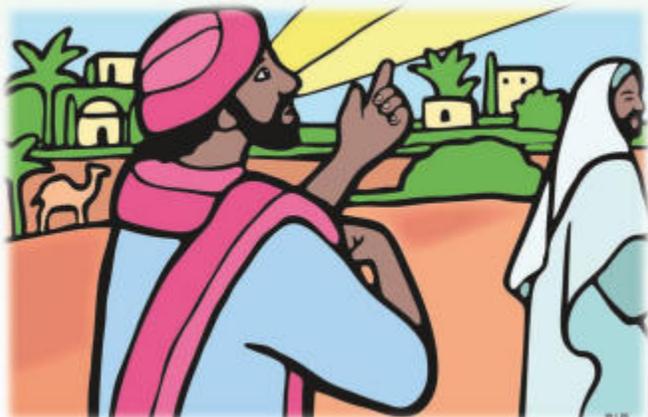
"Master that I may see." This was the prayer and wish of the blind man Bartimaeus.

His ears were always alert to know what was going on around him and when the opportunity arose for him to encounter Jesus, he didn't hesitate to express his wish.

Every time we gather to celebrate the Lord's day, we have share our needs in the form of prayer. Our faith in God moves us to ask something of God. This blind man understands that if he let this opportunity pass by, another may not come soon.

He cries out loud, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." Unfortunately, those around him tried to stop him but he cried out even the more. This was a proof of his faith and consistency that his prayer was real and important and he didn't care about what others would say. He knew to whom he was directing his prayer. Understanding who Jesus was and begging for mercy from Him was a profession of faith by this blind man. He realized his need for not only new sight but new life.

This weekend we begin a journey of a renewed faith having gone through the past months. When there have been so many moments of blindness in the past, we choose to see what God has done for us . It has been our faith that has held us together and now is the time where we need to persist and cry out even the more. We must ignore anything that might hold us back, especially those voices of negativity. Jesus is calling us to come closer to him, for *with Faith renewed, we grow!* Amen.



## Mass Intentions and Daily Readings

**MONDAY**  
10/25

Rom 8:12-17; Lk 13:10-17

**TUESDAY**  
10/26

Rom 8:18:25; Lk 13:18-21  
GWENDOLYNN MULHOLLAND +

**WEDNESDAY**  
10/27

Rom 8:26-30; Lk 13:22-30  
APOLANIA & EPIFANIO REYNOSO +

**THURSDAY**  
10/28

Saints Simon & Jude, Apostles  
Eph 2: 19-22; Lk 6:12-16  
TROY OGO +

**FRIDAY**  
10/29

Rom 9:1-5; Lk 14:1-6

**SATURDAY**  
10/30

FRED SUNDERLAND +

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Dt 6:2-6; Heb 7:23-28; Mk 12:28b-34

**SUNDAY**  
10/31

MILAGROS FABON +  
JOSEPHINE AGUILAR +

(+) Indicates Deceased

The 2021 calendar is fully booked. The 2022 calendar is now open for January, February, and March. Please keep in mind that you may request up to 4 intentions per year per household. We kindly ask that this request be followed by all parishioners. Thank you.



Pat Byrne, Dawn Boroden, Patricia MacCartney, Jack Mackenzie, McBride Family, LaDonya Bradley, Trish Simpson, Dick Guevin, Bobbi Drewiske, David McElheney, Evelyn Harzold, Antonio & Gloria Fernando, Timothy Gudmundson

.....  
Please pray for the repose of the soul of  
**Priscilla Mackes**

Let perpetual light shine upon her, may she rest in peace!  
Please keep the Mackes 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](http://www.stmark-parish.org/ministries/justice-and-peace) or contact: [justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org)

**Food of the Month: October**

**\$10 Food Lion/Wal-Mart Gift Cards, Individual Fruit Cups**



**Spiritual Adoption, Month Two:** Your baby is making progress developing all their external features and internal organs. Their brain is functioning at 40 days. Mom can hear their

heartbeat now on an ultrasonic stethoscope. Baby-teeth buds are present at 6 ½ weeks. From this moment, your spiritually adopted baby grows and refines their body. But everything they need to survive after birth is already present by the end of the eighth week. There is still time to share the love for life that God has given you. We provide monthly updates and resources to assist you with your prayer pledge. If you would like more information, please contact [justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org)



**What is the connection between human trafficking and foster care?** According to the National Foster Youth Institute, it's estimated

that 60 percent of child sex trafficking victims have a history in the child welfare system. Human traffickers will prey on individuals who are most vulnerable, which is why foster children have a greater risk of becoming victims than those who are not in the system. Things that make people more susceptible to human trafficking include feelings of hopelessness and depression, Children who have experienced trauma, Runaways from group or foster homes, those who are sent out of foster care at 18yrs old, Homeless youth. Many times, foster children have a history of being used by biological parents as a "paycheck," meaning they may be more attracted to the type of increased attention and lavish advances human traffickers are well versed in conducting.



**Winter Hats/Scarves/ Gloves:** Our Religious

Formation Classes and Justice & Peace Ministry are teaming up to help the homeless and those in need this winter. For the month of October, we will be collecting Men's and Women's: Gloves/Mittens, Winter Hats (knit caps), and Scarves to distribute to the P.I.N. Ministry, Catholic Worker Breakfast Line, and Migrant Worker Ministry. **\*Please only new or clean/gently used items\*\*** Please place donated items in the collection bin in the Great Hall next to Justice & Peace Bulletin Board. For more info, contact [justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org)



**Thanksgiving Food Baskets:** This year we will be giving gift cards to 90-100 families that include our in-need St. Mark Parishioners, Catholic Charities, Samaritan House, Department of Human Services and Refugee

Resettlement. Each family will receive two cards totaling \$45-50 so they may purchase a Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings for their family. We are collecting gift cards to FOOD LION, WALMART, and ALDI for \$20 AND \$25 beginning October 31st. Please place gift cards in marked box in the Commons or to the church office. Gift cards need to be received no later than 11am on Sunday, November 21st. Thank you in advance for your support of this important outreach ministry!

# This Week at Saint Mark

## October 25th- October 31st

**Parish Office Hours**  
Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm  
Sunday 9am-1pm

### MONDAY

7:15pm

RCIA Formation in Great Hall/Conf Rm

### TUESDAY

8:30am

9:30am

**Weekday Mass in Daily Chapel**  
Adult Formation - Large Classroom

### WEDNESDAY

10am-1pm

6:30pm

7:00pm

Food Pantry  
Rosary in Sanctuary  
**Weekday Mass in Daily Chapel**

### THURSDAY

8:30am

9:30am-11am

6:00pm

7:00pm

**Weekday Mass in Daily Chapel**  
PLARN in Great Hall  
Parish Council in Conference Room  
Adult Formation in Large Classroom

### FRIDAY

9:30-1130am

9:30-1130am

Mom's Group in large classroom  
Adult Formation in Library & Zoom

### SATURDAY

5:30pm

**WEEKEND MASS In Sanctuary**

### SUNDAY

8:30am

10:30am

1:00pm

**WEEKEND MASS In Sanctuary**  
**WEEKEND MASS in Sanctuary**  
**(Also Live-Streamed)**  
Sainly Celebration Mass –Dress Up as your favorite Saint! Pick up your treat bag after Mass. Sign up online to attend!

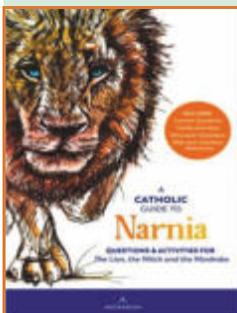


# Announcements



## **Knight of Columbus Christmas Cards for Sale in Commons**

Religious Christmas cards will be available after all masses in October and for the 1st weekend in November. Please support our Knights of Columbus' efforts to "Keep Christ In Christmas" by sending religious cards to your friends and family. A beautiful evangelization message from all of us will help remind others that Christ's birth brought us the greatest gift of all. The Knights of Columbus are selling these religious cards to raise money for the many charities they support. Thank You for helping us with our charitable activities and with Keeping Christ in Christmas



## **Saint Mark Women's Book Club November 9, 2021**

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe  
*by C.S. Lewis*

For more information, contact  
**kdimichele76@gmail.com**

*We will be incorporating  
"A Catholic Guide to Narnia"  
from Ascension Pres*

## **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)

## **Saint Mark—Weekend Nursery Attendants**

St Mark is seeking qualified Nursery Attendants to work 2-4 hours a weekend working in the nursery during our 2 Sunday Masses. Two attendants per Mass are required. Must be at least 18 years of age, with some child care experience, along with first aid knowledge. Background check and VIRTUS training will be required upon hiring. Please email your resume to Deacon Mike Johnson. [deacon\\_mike@stmark-parish.org](mailto:deacon_mike@stmark-parish.org)

# Liturgy Corner

## A Sign of Our Belonging

As we begin any prayer and as we enter the church, we make the Sign of the Cross. It is what marked us at our Baptism and it illustrates who we are - believers in our God - "in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Here at St Mark starting this weekend, we are focusing on a theme of "With Faith Renewed We Grow." This is a good time to reflect on the Sign of our Belonging to this Faith.

"When we think of praying, we often think we need many words. But God knows our intentions and the longings of our heart. A simple Sign of the Cross at the beginning and the end of the day affirms that we know to whom we belong, and the power given to live our lives in the sacraments.

We make the Sign of the Cross, and as we do so, we say silently or aloud, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." This gesture dedicates us and everything we do in our lives to the glory of God. We embrace with confidence our Father's love, invite into our hearts the grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and invoke the power of the Spirit, which was sent upon us in our Baptism and Confirmation.

Baptism is the place from which this powerful gesture emanates. At the mountain in Galilee, Jesus said to his disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). In the baptismal rite, the priest traces the Sign of the Cross on the infant's (or child's or adult's) forehead, and invites the parents and the godparents to do the same. This powerful gesture of welcome will be repeated after the immersion in water when Chrism is used to anoint the newly baptized. The prayer affirms that "you may remain for ever a member of Christ, who is Priest, Prophet, and King."

Incorporating the Sign of the Cross, which both affirms our Baptism and recalls it, into daily life can be a powerful source of blessing. Consider signing your children's foreheads with the Sign of the Cross as they complete their bedtime prayers. Sign them as they head out to the school bus, or on days that seem hard or challenging, such as when they are facing a test or a tryout for a sport or extracurricular activity. Model confidence with the Sign of the Cross by beginning your prayers with it, even if you are saying grace in a public setting. Invite your children to sign you if they are with you in a period of difficulty or sadness. All are blessed, and all can impart blessing!

Just as our liturgical prayer is bookended by the Sign of the Cross, so are our lives. When we receive the Anointing of the Sick, we are again signed with holy oil (the oil of the sick). Although not formally part of a ritual, many family members make the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of their beloved dead before a casket is closed for the last time. As we had put on Christ in Baptism for our earthly life, now we have put on Christ for our eternal life with him.

The sign of his Cross, scribed on our bodies in this simple gesture, reminds us of who we are and to whom we belong."

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# Parish Life

**Our next Parish Life Family Fun Night will be a Crafternoon on November 28 from 3-6 pm!**

This is a great opportunity for parishioners to bring craft projects that they are working on in a fellowship setting.

There will be a Parish Life sponsored tie dye project. Attendees are asked to bring a pre washed cotton t-shirt to dye. Dye will be supplied. Bring snacks; drinks will be provided. And as always, please sign up head of time if you plan to attend.

**December Family Fun Night will be on December 10, 6-9**  
This is a Parent's Night Out and Gift wrapping event

**Thank you Volunteers**

A special thank you to all who have volunteered for Heavenly Chefs and Samaritan Meals. To date, we have not had any funeral receptions nor requests for meals after child birth or surgeries. We will contact you to cook when needed.

Please contact Susan Deml at (757)705-7196 or Pat Sprague at (703)470-4210 for Heavenly Chefs, and Linda Major at (757) 615-0763 for Samaritan Meals.

**Sunday Hospitality**- Volunteers needed to make coffee and serve donuts! Please contact Tony Montemurno at: montemurnot@gmail.com

**Mom's Group** - Expecting and current moms are welcome to join us for friendship and fellowship in the large classroom on Fridays from 930am-1130am. Please contact Kerri Drake at (914) 850-2765 for more information.

**The Wisdom Seekers are hosting their annual Thanksgiving Feast luncheon on Friday, November 12, at 12:00 pm in the Great Hall.**

As in previous years, the meat, mashed potatoes, gravy, and stuffing are provided. Please bring YOUR favorite traditional side dish or dessert to complete this yearly event. After we eat, we will relax and play a few games of "fun Bingo." All are welcome to partake in this spread and entertaining afternoon.

Questions? Please call Sandy Barczak, 963-8598



**FROM THE BOOKKEEPER**

Would You Like to Make a Gift That...

May reduce your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)? May satisfy all/part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year? Will help the work of our parish? If you answered "YES" (and you are 72 or older), consider making a gift from your IRA to St Mark Church. Giving through your IRA is EASY! To learn how you can make an impact through your IRA right now, contact your financial advisor or our bookkeeper Mary Ellen Cussen at: bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org, or 479-1010.

IMPORTANT: Please make your gift as soon as possible, as it must be received by December 31st, 2021.

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

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

Fiscal Year	Oct 17	Offertory Year to Date	Needed Year to Date	Excess/ Short
July21 June22				
Offertory	\$16,145	\$258,768	\$272,000	(\$13,232)

Family Count: 901/ envelopes: 168/ Using online donation: 171

## "With Faith Renewed, We Grow."

### A Four Week reflection of Faith, Commitment, and Ministry

Very soon we will be coming towards the end of this liturgical year with the celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King on November 21st. Since this current liturgical year began abnormally with all that the Pandemic has caused, we have had to adjust in so many ways as a parish community.

We are grateful to everyone that has been fully part of this journey. And now that we are about to end this year, I would like us to focus on how we as a parish can tell our story through our faith. We are dedicating four weekends that is the 30th Sunday in Ordinary time, 31st Sunday in Ordinary time, 32nd Sunday in Ordinary time and 33rd Sunday towards the theme: With faith renewed, we grow!

The above theme comes from the background of how our faith has been challenged with sickness, fear, anxiety, despair, Isolation, death and so many other factors. I want us to look at these four weekends as a moment to reflect on our faith as well as reconnect as a community of St. Mark and grow.

We will be focusing on who we are as a parish through our different ministries at the same time makes invitations to others who want to be part of these ministries. This is in line with the mandate from Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go, therefore, and make disciples from all nations. Baptize them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to fulfill all that I have commanded you. I am with you always until the end of this world." This statement gives us the reason why we exist as a Church and what we must do. It is our primary Vision at the same time our mission!

Every baptized person has a duty and purpose, call it a mission. It comes from Jesus' commissioning in Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

Baptism is birth into the new life in Christ and it is necessary for salvation. And during the celebration of this Sacrament we are anointed the Chrism oil as Christ was anointed Prophet, Priest, and King. As members of Christ's body, The Church we participate in these three offices. Right from the Bishop who is the head of the Diocese together with the Priests his co-workers, we participate in the Teaching office, The Sanctifying Office, and the Governing Office.

My hope is that this year's celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King will bring something new and will be the climax of our renewal of faith in every aspect of our parish. Yet it will ignite us to a preferred future of increasingly being renewed in Christ- Advent begins!



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