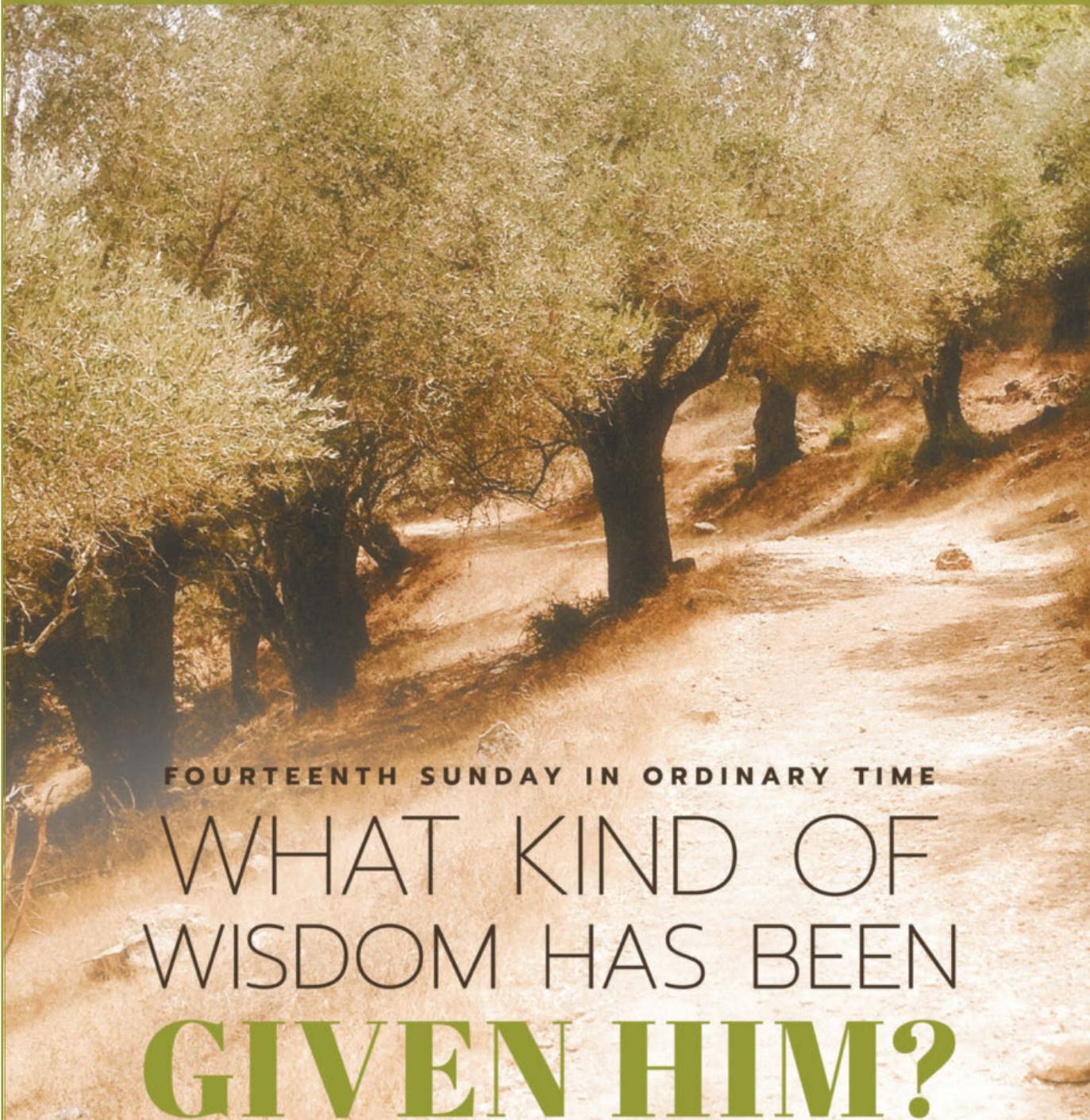




ST. STEPHEN, MARTYR

CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WHAT KIND OF
WISDOM HAS BEEN
GIVEN HIM?

MARK 6:2

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



All Are Welcome!

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday Vigil, 5:00pm

Sunday, 7:00am, 8:30am & 11:30am

Daily Mass

Tuesday-Saturday, 8:30am
Wednesday, 6:30am
Thursday, 6:30pm

*See our calendar on the website for latest updates.
ssmrcc.org

Reconciliation

Thursday, 5:00-6:00pm
Friday, 5:00-7:00pm
(Adoration & Reconciliation)

Saturday, 2:30-4:30pm and by appointment.

Parish Mission Statement

Baptized into the Body of Christ,
Nourished by word and sacrament,
Celebrating our faith in the Catholic Tradition, We are the people of St. Stephen, Martyr.

We are called to create a community in the image of Jesus:
Led by the Holy Spirit,
Rich in forgiveness,
Committed to service,
Working for justice,
A place of peace!
For this, we give thanks.

Parish Registration on line. Visit <http://ssmrcc.org/home/my-own-church/> for the five easy steps.

My Own Church allows you to update all of your own family information, register for classes, access your tax statement, view your financial giving history and more online.

E-Giving and Text Giving options are available.

Visit our website www.ssmrcc.org for more information.

Text 'GIVE' to (757)300-1796 and set up your Text Giving account.



Baptism: Families who would like to have a child baptized, please call the church office.

First Eucharist, Reconciliation & Confirmation: Sacramental Preparation is offered in second grade for First Eucharist/Reconciliation and tenth grade for Confirmation.

Marriage: One year notice is required to the priest before a date can be set. During the six months, the couple will be required to complete the Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program.

Mass Intentions



Tuesday, July 9
8:30am Mass **[Raf Collado]**

Wednesday, July 10
6:30am Mass
8:30am Mass **[Richard Kirk]** +

Thursday, July 11
8:30am Mass **[Matt Starr]** +
6:30pm Mass

Friday, July 12
8:30am Mass

Saturday, July 13
8:30am Mass **[Holy Souls in Purgatory]**
5:00pm Mass **[Earl Lienemann]** +

Sunday, July 14
7:00am Mass **[Parish SSM]**
8:30am Mass **[Dennis Spirek]** +
11:30am Mass **[Romeo San Antonio]** +
+ Deceased

NEW PARISH WEBSITE & LOGO



ST. STEPHEN, MARTYR CATHOLIC CHURCH

Love God. Love others. Be disciples. Make disciples.

Our new logo identifies St. Stephen, Martyr as:



a Catholic community in Chesapeake (indicated by our unique Bell Tower Cross);



nourished by the Eucharist (represented by the white circle); and



focused on getting us and others to heaven (symbolized by the gold halo).

Launch July 13th!

We are excited to announce that a new parish website is approaching!

Ann Emsley, our faithful parishioner, has been working around the clock for many months to deliver an excellent website.

Parish website calendar is transitioning to the new website calendar. Current events and upcoming events requested will be entered on the new website.

New Website Information

Meeting: Sunday, **July 7**, 9:45am. If you want a sneak peek of the exciting updates, a new logo and mission, please stop by Room 3!

Musical Salute to America **July 7**

A Patriotic Extravaganza

SSM Choir & James Gardner
SSM Music Director

A Special Hour of Adoration
Sunday, July 7
5:30 - 6:30pm

Special performance of the national anthem, marches, patriotic sing-along, and uniquely American musical styles like blues, jazz, and ragtime.

A reception follows. Admission is free and all are welcome. Donations will be accepted to benefit the music ministry.

Please use QR code for **RSVP**.

2024 Summer Concert Series

Gospel Meditation

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Faith and Miracles

Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.” So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith. Mark 6:4-6

Why was Jesus “not able to perform any mighty deed” in His hometown of Nazareth? Because the people who had known Him since He was a youth lacked faith in Him. But why wouldn’t Jesus simply perform awe-inspiring miracles with the hope of winning them over? Why not try to convince them by raising someone from the dead or by revealing His transfigured glory to His kinfolk, as He did on the Mount of Transfiguration to three of His disciples? The answer goes to the heart of the workings of faith in each soul.

Jesus’ goal in His hometown was not to convince the people that He was the Son of God, the Messiah. He could have easily convinced them of this by the most incredible of miracles and proved Who He was. But doing so would have undermined the reason He came. He came to ignite authentic faith in people’s hearts, not to convince them through clever reasoning or by the proof of miracles. Miracles were offered to those who already had faith, so as to increase their faith and to show them mercy. But when one lacked faith, a miracle could not increase that which was absent. It might have convinced them on a rational level, or at least impressed them greatly, but that is not true faith.

By analogy, say your spouse said to you, “I love you,” and your response was “Prove it.” How would they do so? What could they do to prove that they truly love you? Perhaps they could show charity, kindness, compassion and the like. These qualities certainly are manifestations of authentic love. But deep down, no one can prove they love another. Instead, love must be offered and received in a spiritual way. When that happens, each person

somehow simply knows they love and are loved. This is the mystery of spiritual and authentic love.

The same is true with faith. Faith can’t be proved. It can’t be analyzed rationally. It must be embraced and lived. If the people in Jesus’ hometown were to have faith in Him, this gift of faith would start within their own souls. They would look at Him and listen to Him. By their openness and a special personal revelation from God, they would come to know and to believe Who He was. Faith comes first from within, when God communicates to the heart.

Reflect, today, upon your own level of faith in Jesus. When you look into your own soul, what do you see? Do you see a heart that knows Christ Jesus as its Lord? Have you discovered the presence of God within you, speaking to you, revealing Himself to you? Or do you primarily look for external signs and proofs of God’s presence and love? Look into your soul today and ponder the depth of faith that you discover there. When you discover this gift, gaze at it with love, for you are seeing God’s revelation of Himself to you..

-Source of content: mycatholic.life



Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

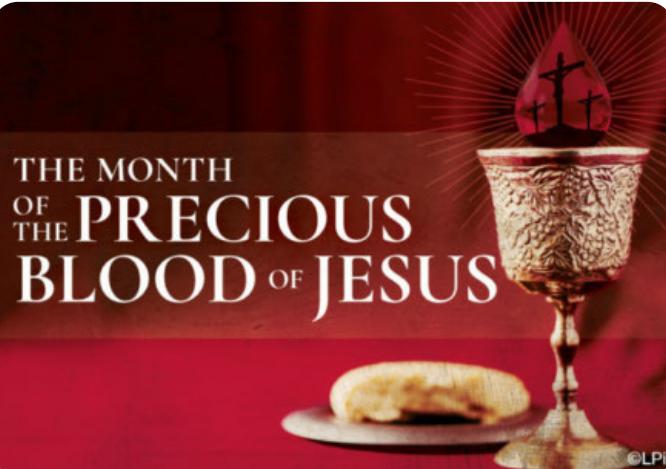
In Year B, we hear primarily from the Gospel of Mark. Since each Evangelist has a unique perspective, what are the key issues that Mark addresses in his Gospel?

Answer:

Gospels are a particular faith community's reflection on Jesus. Each Gospel's author reflected that community's faith in Jesus. Jesus' message is made relevant to the community's situation and context. Mark was the first Gospel to be written. When Matthew and Luke wrote theirs, they imitated and adapted Mark for their communities.

Mark's Gospel seems to be addressed to a faith community undergoing turmoil, rejection, and persecution—forces that threaten to overwhelm them. This provides the context around which Mark fashions the story of Jesus. He presents Jesus as the One sent by God to confront the forces of evil. That is the good news of Jesus.

Jesus' struggle with the demonic forces leads to confrontation, rejection, outright opposition, and a conspiracy to do away with him. Realizing this, Jesus is not deterred. Rather Jesus calls for total faith in God who helps us to overcome the forces of evil. Suffering and even death seem to be the consequences of this struggle. Yet, that is not the end. The one who suffers for the sake of others, the suffering servant, will be the one through whom redemption and salvation will come to all. For Mark, this is what discipleship demands and what true faith in God can and will accomplish. See if you can detect these themes as you read Mark's Gospel.



Readings for the week of July 7, 2024

Sunday:

Ez 2:2-5/Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4 (2cd)/
2 Cor 12:7-10/Mk 6:1-6a

Monday:

Hos 2:16, 17c-18, 21-22/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5,
6-7, 8-9/Mt 9:18-26

Tuesday:

Hos 8:4-7, 11-13/Ps 115:3-4, 5-6, 7ab-8,
9-10/Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday:

Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Mt 10:1-7

Thursday:

Hos 11:1-4, 8e-9/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16/
Mt 10:7-15

Friday:

Hos 14:2-10/Ps 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-13, 14
and 17/Mt 10:16-23

Saturday:

Is 6:1-8/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Mt 10:24-33

Next Sunday:

Am 7:12-15/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/
Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10/Mk 6:7-13

MINISTRY EVENTS

The Church of St. Stephen, invites you to

SUMMER with the SAINTLY SIX

Their stories are our stories.

This summer, journey with us over six weeks as we reflect on the lives of these timeless exemplars of holiness who inspire us to live out our faith.

We will be viewing the documentary, *A Place at the Table: African Americans on the Path to Sainthood*. Each session will focus on one candidate's story followed by a facilitated discussion.

The informational presentations are being offered from **July 22nd to August 26th**.

- 6 Sessions
- 7:00-8:30PM
- In-person (Room 3 & 4)
- No registration required
- No cost to participate
- Questions? Contact christina@ssmrcc.org

Sponsored by



SSM Family Fun Tides Game Night!

Knights of Columbus Council #11984 is hosting a night at Harbor Park in Norfolk on Tuesday, **August 20**. The game starts at 6:00pm. Your Norfolk Tides will be playing the Worcester Red Sox (AAA Affiliate of the Boston Red Sox).

Special Treat:

St. Stephen, Martyr Choir will be singing the National Anthem!

Please use the QR code to reserve your seats at the Tides game with your all family members. (\$40 person: includes reserved seating and food)



Thank You



Thank you for your generous support in last week's Peter's Pence Collection! Our contributions will join those from our brothers and sisters worldwide to help Pope Francis in his ministry to the Universal Church, including relief to people in need and support for the Holy See. If you missed the collection, it is not too late to give. For more information, visit www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html.



Looking for fun, Catholic families to hang out with and build relationships? Check out our weekly playgroup! There are many opportunities for play dates, Family Adoration, Mommy Brunches and Night's out! Contact Rosemary Ferrera for more information on this amazing family fun!

Ferrera.rosemary@gmail.com

Night Managers Needed

We need night managers to be present in the Church building when meetings are in session. They are responsible for unlocking the building prior to the start of meetings. They will set and/or monitor logistical services within the building (lighting, heating, cooling, water, security, unlock rooms, etc.) and lock up the building after the events.

Preferably no more than 1 or 2 nights a month, from 6:00-9:00pm each night. Each volunteer must be 18 or older and have completed VIRTUS training. Sign up: visit ssmrcc.org, Calendar and click Night Managers tab or use QR code.

Please contact **Carol Ehrbar**
ssmnightmanager@gmail.com
for any questions.



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IMPORTANT!

New VIRTUS Protocols (Part I)

As of July 1st, the Catholic Diocese of Richmond Office of Save Environment has instituted new protocols for VIRTUS. Upcoming bulletins will address additional frequently asked questions.

- For all parish volunteers, ANNUAL BACKGROUND Screenings will be required as of July 1, 2024. The diocesan-approved national search, *ScreeningOne* will process these.
- If an individual already has a current valid background check, then 30 days prior to the expiration of that check, a new screening must be completed. If an individual does not have a background check, then they must complete *ScreeningOne* upon first day of your volunteer assignment. A 30-day grace period will be allowed to complete the screening.
- Volunteers will be prompted to complete background screening via email and your VIRTUS account annually.
- Monthly bulletins will no longer be required reading.

If you have any questions, please contact **Susan Rose** susan@ssmrcc.org in the parish office.

Candle Ministry

St. Stephen's is looking to recruit a few persons for candle ministry. This involves maintaining the votive lights and altar candles for an hour or so a couple mornings a week. If you are interested in helping, please contact **Barbara Harrington** in the Liturgy Office at barbara@ssmrcc.org.

Giving Envelopes

Do you use E-Giving and no longer need the giving envelopes? If for any reason you are not using the mailed envelopes, please contact the Parish Office at (757) 421-7416 or email ssm@ssmrcc.org with your name and envelope number and request we stop the mailing. Thank you for your help with this.



Please join us to learn the time-honored Catholic craft of rosary making and to be part of a ministry that honors the Blessed Mother.

New members are welcome! All materials will be supplied for beginners. Let's spread the Lord's peace and love as well as devotion to Our Lady one rosary at a time! We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, **July 11** at 9:30 in Room 8.

For more information, contact **Kathy Hanna** at 757-546-9226 or hannakat1@icloud.com.

Nursery Help



We are looking for a part time employee to work Sundays in the Nursery. The hours are 8:15am -1:00pm. Volunteers must be 18 years old and Virtus trained. Please contact **Traci Baker** traci@ssmrcc.org for more information.

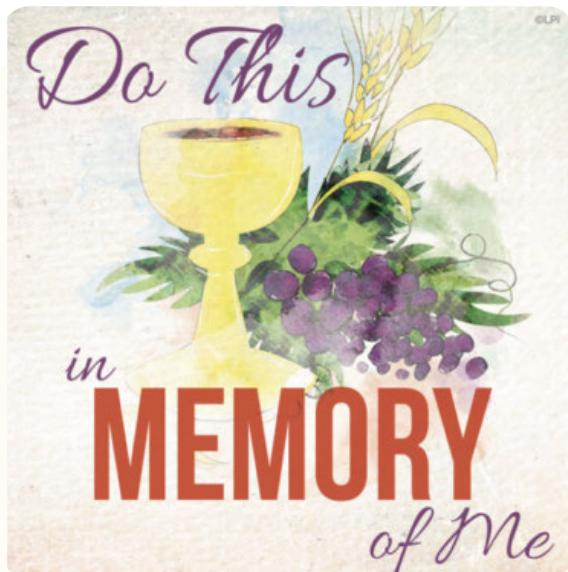
My Own Church (MOC)

Did you move? Did your address change? How about your phone number? Do you have new family members living in your household? Did you know you can update your family's records on the web?

UPDATE your family information on **My Own Church!** It's simple, log in to your MOC account by visiting <https://richmond.parishsoftfamilysuite.com>. If you do not have a MOC, please click **New User** and fill out **Registration Form**. You will receive an email inviting you to log on and see your MOC account within 1-3 business days. You'll be creating a new password and update all of your family information, including names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses.

With your updated information, you will receive all important messages, a giving history and tax statement. If you have any questions, please contact **Fina Lania** fina@ssmrcc.org or call parish office.

DAILY PRAYER



Almighty and eternal God, Thou hast appointed Thine only-begotten Son the Redeemer of the world and willed to be appeased by his blood. Grant, we beg of Thee, that we may worthily adore this price of our salvation and through its power be safeguarded from the evils of the present life so that we may rejoice in its fruits forever in Heaven. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parish Eucharistic Adoration

July 12
9:00am - 6:45pm

"Christ has no body now but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours, Yours are the eyes with which He looks Compassion on this world, Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good, Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world."

- Scott Hahn

Please sign up in Ministry Scheduler Pro(MSP) or call the office.

Litany of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Blood of Christ, only-begotten Son of the eternal Father, save us.

Blood of Christ, Incarnate Word of God, save us.

Blood of Christ, of the New and Eternal Testament, save us.

Blood of Christ, falling upon the earth in Agony, save us.

Blood of Christ, shed profusely in the Scourging, save us.

Blood of Christ, flowing forth in the Crowning with Thorns, save us.

Blood of Christ, poured out on the Cross, save us.

Blood of Christ, price of our salvation, save us.

Blood of Christ, without which there is no forgiveness, save us.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Your Prayers are Cherished
for Loved Ones Inside Our Parish

Kathy Bockleman
Daniel Urig

Your Prayers are Cherished
for Loved Ones Outside Our Parish

Marilyn Probst	Cathy Miller
Cindy Pribonic	Pat Norfleet
Mitch Meier	Vernon King
Carole Stein	Emily A. Altizer

Prayer Request Online

Please visit home page and click green
Prayer Request button.



Youth Ministry Car Wash Fundraiser Next Saturday!

July 13
12:00 - 3:00pm

The car wash is right around the corner! Make sure you keep your car nice and dirty for the teens to put all their appreciation and love into for you! We are so incredibly thankful for your support and if you do not want to have your car washed, keep an eye out in the bulletin for a way to donate to these amazing teens and their journey with Jesus to California!

Any questions: Maria Mossman
Maria@ssmrcc.org

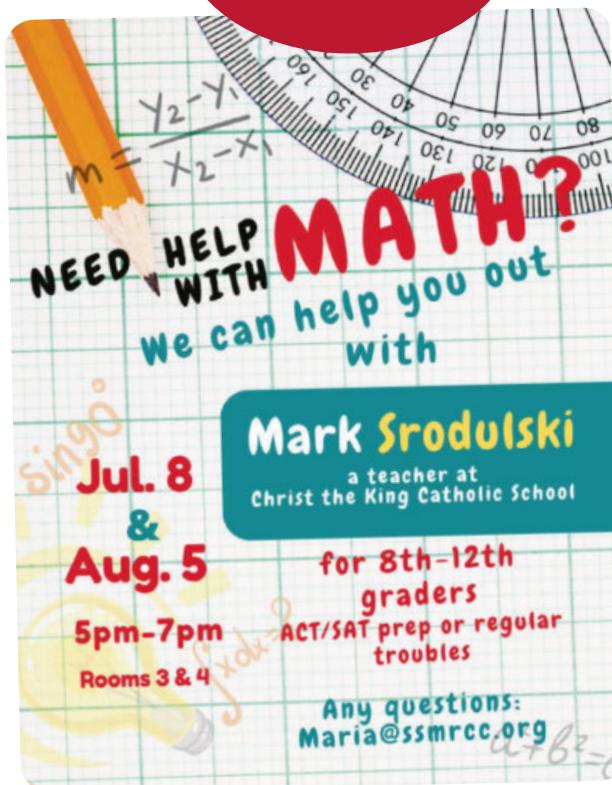


EPIC- Middle School Rally

EPIC is a one-day diocesan event for middle school youth (rising grades 6-8). This event is intended to be a high-energy day that is focused on two things: (1) building community & friendships with other Catholic middle school youth, and (2) encouraging zeal for our Catholic faith. Cost: \$85. RSVP: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B49A5AB2FABF9C25-49957010-epic>

Youth
Ministry Events

Free
Math Tutor
at our parish



SAVE THE DATE

Adventure Park Day!

**Aug.
13**

All the parishes are getting together for a regional day of community building and fellowship but from the treetops! All middle and high school students are welcome to join for the day. Bring a water bottle and gloves if you have them since the ropes course can be tough on your hands! Can't wait to see you there and represent SSM youth ministry. More information to follow.

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: **Fr. Charles Ssebalamu**
frcharles@ssmrcc.org (ext.317)

Deacons:
Kevin Trail deaconkevin@ssmrcc.org (ext.323)
Adrian Marchi deaconadrian@ssmrcc.org

Business Manager:
Crystal Anderson crystal@ssmrcc.org (ext.303)

Facility Manager:
Alex Shuflat alex@ssmrcc.org (ext.314)

Liturgy Director: **Barbara Harrington**
barbara@ssmrcc.org (ext.304)

Music Director: **James Gardner**
james@ssmrcc.org (ext.310)

Parish Support Coordinator:
Fina Lania fina@ssmrcc.org (ext.315)

Director of Adult Faith & Social Ministry:
Christina Kieser christina@ssmrcc.org (ext.305)

Director of Religious Education [K-5 grade]:
Traci Baker traci@ssmrcc.org (ext.308)

Director of Religious Education & Youth [6-12 grade]:
Maria Mossman maria@ssmrcc.org (ext.309)

Communication Director:
HyeJa Billie hyeja@ssmrcc.org (ext.325)

Receptionist:
Susan Rose susan@ssmrcc.org (ext.302)

Receptionist, Funerals & Cemetery:
Linda Hollingsworth linda@ssmrcc.org (ext.301)

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Parish Council Chair: **Mary Kate Adduce**
(parishcouncil@ssmrcc.org)

Finance Council Chair: **John Hamann**
(jhamann201@gmail.com)

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OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Offertory 6/21/2024	\$21,752
Capital Improvements	\$862
Samaritan Fund	\$630

14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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FATHER—YOUR
SERMON REALLY
MOVED ME!



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Monday – Thursday

9:00am – 4:00pm

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Friday 9:00am – 12:30pm

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Fax: (757) 421-7488

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Jon Rix @ 757-613-9000 or jonerix@aol.com

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