

St. Mary of the Presentation *Catholic Church*

202 South Broad Street, Suffolk, Virginia 23434

Office: (757) 539-5732 • Fax: (757) 538-0103

Email: office@stmarysuffolk.org

Website: www.stmarysuffolk.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.;

Saturday-Sunday: Closed

Father Rogelio Largoza, Pastor / Emergency: (757) 925-0583

Email: pastor@stmarysuffolk.org

Kim Holmes, Administrative Assistant /

Office: Email: office@stmarysuffolk.org

Mass Times:

Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

(The 10:00 a.m. Mass is livestreamed)

Monthly on third Thursday of month, 1:00 p.m.,
at Lake Prince Woods

Reconciliation:

Saturday, 3:30 p.m. or by appointment

Sacrament of the Sick:

Sacrament of the Sick is offered on the 4th weekend
of the month at all Masses.

Baptism:

Contact the Parish Office to register for the parent
Baptismal preparation class.

Marriage:

Contact the Parish Office six months prior to the wedding to
learn about Engaged Encounter or Pre-Marital classes.

Religious Education:

Julie Francis, cre@stmarysuffolk.org

Youth Ministry:

Jordan Graf, youth@stmarysuffolk.org

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults):

Geralyn Bryne, Contact Parish Office.

Adult Faith Formation:

Jordan Graf, youth@stmarysuffolk.org

Church Ministries

(Contact the Parish Office if not otherwise noted):

Altar Servers: Jorge & Johanna Arocho, j8arocho@gmail.com

Extraordinary Ministers: Dave Von Rump, dvonrump@aol.com

Lectors: Dave Von Rump, dvonrump@aol.com Liturgical

Music Director: Julie Francis

Liturgy Committee: Andrew Graf

Pastoral Care: Tillie Rivenbark, 757-934-1803

Sacristans: Andrew Graf

Communications:

Bulletin Coordinator: Shirley Schneider,
smofp.bulletin@gmail.com

Website: Mike Bibbo, fs7363@vakofc.org

Community Liaison: Paul Fletcher, fletcherdpaul@gmail.com

Haiti: Paul Fletcher, fletcherdpaul@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus: Patrick Kahoe, Contact Parish Office.

Parish Council Chair: JoAnn Farabaugh, Contact Parish Office

Parish Life: Lauren Kahoe, 540-408-8801

Elaine Reyes, Contact Parish Office

Respect Life: Whitney Lothamer, 937-654-8398

Women's Club: Cathy Van Wassen, Contact Parish Office.

You shall call his name

Jesus,

for he will save his people
from their sins.

— Matthew 1:21

MASS INTENTIONS:*Saturday, December 20*

6:00 p.m. In Memory of Domingo Roma, Sr.,
requested by Grace Torremora

Sunday, December 21

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. In Honor of Simon Dowd, requested by Aggie Dowd

Tuesday, December 23

6:30 a.m. For the Conversion of Sinners

10:00 a.m. In Memory of Donna Roncarti,
requested by Ed Collum

Wednesday, December 24

10:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 25

10:00 a.m. In Memory of Joseph Questore,
requested by Ann Questore

Friday, December 26

No Mass

Mass is the most powerful prayer on earth. Pray for your loved ones in a special way united to the Eucharist. Contact the Parish Office at 757-539-5732 to request a Mass for your special intentions.

PLEASE PRAY:

For our ill or shut-in parish family members: Mary Barnes, Peg Cicirelli, Kathy Hansinger, Donald Hartman, Margie Hayden, Kathy Mallet, Ron Pyle, Mary Stevens, and Josephine Walters

For those serving in the military: Flora Dontsap, Rafael Soriano, Joshua Graf, Chris Rosado, and Joyce Jankielsztajn

*Current Notices***RESPECT LIFE:**

March for Life 2026! Please join us for our second annual trip to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. on January 23rd, 2026. It's a fun-filled day, making new friends and being a voice for the unborn. Cost of the trip is only \$15.00. Transportation by Charter Bus is provided for the all-day event. For registration and more information, see the flyer in the pews or contact Whitney at respectlife.stmarys@gmail.com. Don't wait to sign up! Available seats will go fast!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**CHRISTMAS TREE SALE:**

There are still trees left, so the Knights of Columbus will continue selling Christmas trees at 2432 Pruden Boulevard until the trees sell out, hours will be Monday through Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m., Fridays from Noon-9:00 p.m., Saturdays 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., and Sundays from Noon-6:00 p.m.

COFFEE AND DONUTS FELLOWSHIP:

December fellowship will be on December 21st. Many thanks to Cathy Van Wassen and Andrea Garrett, and Cecilia Santiago and Family for their generosity in sponsoring our fellowship on these dates.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE:

While you are having your coffee and donuts, the Parish Life group will offer a Christmas Craft sale with many handmade items to help with your Christmas shopping.

Reconciliation on Saturday is now from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

**Eucharistic Adoration next month
will be on January 2nd and 3rd.**

GIVING TUESDAY:

The online #iGiveCatholic Giving campaign is over, but if you forgot to make a donation, please go to <https://stmarysuffolk.org/>, or place a check in the collection basket, marking it for the new pavement. So far, we have raised \$9,900.00 of the \$15,000.00 needed, **so we still need your help to pay the bill for the new sidewalks!**

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, December 24th: Christmas Eve
services at 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 25th: Christmas Day services at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, December 26th: No Weekday Mass

JANUARY 1ST IS THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD, A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:

The Masses are as follows:

Wednesday, December 31st: Vigil Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 1st: Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Religious Education:

- K-8 Formation Classes: 2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:00 p.m. Social Hall classrooms

- Next class is Monday, December 22nd, 6:00 p.m.

For more information on Religious Education, contact Julie Francis at cre@stmarysuffolk.org

CONFIRMATION CLASS:

As a reminder, Confirmation class is on break for Christmas. **There will be NO Confirmation class on Sunday, December 28th.** If you have any questions, please reach out to Jordan Graf at youth@stmarysuffolk.org.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA):

Interested in becoming a Catholic?

Curious about what the Church teaches?

OCIA is ideal for:

- + Anyone who has never been baptized.
- + Anyone moving from other Christian traditions into the Catholic Church.
- + Any baptized Catholic seeking full initiation into the Sacraments.
- + Catholics who have been away from the Church and would like to rediscover their Catholic faith.

It is not too late to join the OCIA classes. We welcome anyone to join at any time. Classes are held every other Thursday in the Social Hall, beginning at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Geralyn Bryne through the Parish Office.

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION:

One final time, we want to recognize and thank Tammy Simons, a longtime parishioner and dedicated volunteer at St. Mary's. Tammy's many years of service to our parish family and her faithful work in various ministries, especially leading the choir, is nothing short of inspiring. Her gift of time and talent to us over the last 25+ years was fostered by the steadfast example of her mother, Shirley Taylor, and Tammy will be greatly missed. Tammy's official leave date is the end of December. Please join us in celebrating Tammy and praying for her family as they move forward with the next chapter of their lives.

PLEASE NOTE**CHRISTMAS BULLETIN DEADLINES:**

The deadline for submitting events to the Bulletin during the last of the Christmas holidays are as follows: by noon on Monday, December 22nd for the bulletin dated January 3-4th. *Please be sure to submit to Shirley Schneider at smofp.bulletin@gmail.com by noon.*

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

The **Tuesday morning class** ended the study of Luke on December 16th and begins "Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John" on January 6th for eight weeks. Classes meet in the Social Hall at 11:15 a.m. Workbooks will be provided. The **Tuesday evening class** is continuing the Acts of the Apostles study at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. They are using the Ignatius Press Bible study. All materials will be provided. The **Sunday evening class** is continuing their study of *The Catechism in a Year* by Ascension Press. These classes meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Sign-ups are available online or in the vestibule. You are welcome to join any study at any time (even if you didn't sign up beforehand)!

PLEASE SUPPORT THE HAITI MINISTRY!

The Haiti Ministry is offering Singing Rooster coffee, Haitian Tin Art, and Peace Cycle plastic products for sale. These items make wonderful Christmas presents for others or a treat for yourself. They are available on Fellowship Sundays, or on Saturdays after Mass on request. Our coffee costs have increased, and therefore all coffee products are now \$12.00. Please don't forget our Haiti sisters and brothers in Christ this Christmas season! We thank you for your continued support.

Ongoing Events

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Adoration begins after Mass on the First Friday of each month and ends on the following Saturday after Benediction at 9:30 a.m.

PLEASE JOIN US TO PRAY THE HOLY ROSARY:

- Weekdays immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Mass.
- Weekends on:
 - Saturdays at 4:20 p.m.
 - Sundays at 7:20 and 9:20 a.m.

HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM:

Please continue to help our twinning parish, Our Lady of Lourdes in Belladere, Haiti. A \$100.00 donation will support one Haitian student for one year. Currently, there are 200 students, so please be generous. Contact Paul Fletcher to help at fletcherdpaul@gmail.com.

SALVATION ARMY PARISH OUTREACH:

Please donate pantry items and place them in the bin in the vestibule as often as possible. Much help is needed. Contact Paul Fletcher for questions at fletcherdpaul@gmail.com.

FORMED.ORG:

St. Mary's has gifted all parishioners with a free subscription to the many resources of the Augustine Institute's FORMED website. Simply go to www.stmarysuffolk.org and push the Formed link under St. Mary's name in the parish listings. You will then have access to hundreds of videos, Bible studies, movies, programs, children's content, books, etc.

Meetings

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

Bible Studies take place on Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday mornings at 11:15 a.m., and Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.

COFFEE AND DONUTS FELLOWSHIP:

Alternate Sundays

FINANCE COUNCIL:

Meets on 4th Sunday of the month at 11:15 a.m.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Meets on 1st and 3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.

PARISH COUNCIL:

Meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. All parishioners are invited to attend.

RESPECT LIFE:

Meets on 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S CLUB:

Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except June, July, and August) at 6:30 p.m.

MUSIC MINISTRY:

St. Mary's Music Ministry is open to all parishioners aged 16 and older. Bi-weekly practice is on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays beginning at 6:00 p.m. for *Schola*, 6:30 p.m. for *Traditional Choir*. *Schola* is a small vocal ensemble familiar with Latin Chant. This ensemble sings at the Sunday 8:00 a.m. Mass. The Traditional Choir sings at the Saturday 5:00 p.m. (Vigil) Mass and at the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass.

For more information about participating in the Music Ministry, contact: Julie Francis at 757-539-5732 or cre@stmarysuffolk.org.

FATHER'S CORNER:

*Helping one person might not change the whole world,
But it could change the world for that one person.*

MEDITATION:

*He was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame.
(Matthew 1:19)*

What an interesting thing to say about Joseph: he was "righteous" yet "unwilling to expose" Mary "to shame." It seemed as if there were two different impulses in Joseph as he struggled to decide how to respond to Mary's pregnancy.

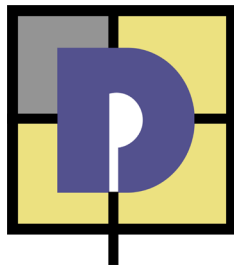
Today's Gospel tells us that Joseph was a righteous man and a devout observer of the Mosaic Law. He was *just* in his intention to break his union with Mary – she seemed to have violated their betrothal, after all. But still, he didn't want Mary to become an object of ridicule and shame. So he was *merciful* in his desire to find a quiet solution that avoided public scandal.

Justice and mercy: these two noble instincts revealed the depth of Joseph's holiness. And yet God had something better in mind. He wanted to bring Joseph even further along the path of righteousness.

When the angel appeared to him in a dream, he reassured Joseph that he didn't need to divorce Mary. The child she carried was part of God's plan to redeem the world. He was Emmanuel, God-with-us, who would fulfill both justice and mercy in Himself. Joseph accepted the angel's words. He came to see that God's plans were bigger and better than his own, righteous though they were. So Joseph let the Lord redirect his ideas and strategies.

This is a lesson for us. God is always calling us into a deeper relationship with him. He might ask us to set aside our plans or take a step in a direction we don't understand. But He leads the way for us. Joseph's yes to the Lord not only protected Mary and Jesus, but it also transformed his own life. Even though Joseph didn't understand, he was willing to obey it. It made all the difference for Joseph, and it can do the same for you!

"Lord, help me to trust in the goodness of your plan so that I can grow closer to you!"



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