



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

Additional Ministries:

Altar Flowers: Sandy Nance, 757-373-9928

Buildings and Grounds: Mike Bibbo, fs7363@vakofc.org

Communications:

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

Website: Mike Bibbo, fs7363@vakofc.org

Community Liaison: Paul Fletcher, fletcherpaul@gmail.com

Haiti: Paul Fletcher, fletcherpaul@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.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th
Ash Wednesday Mass Times: 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday, February 14

5:00 p.m. In Memory of John Dowd,
requested by Aggie Dowd

Sunday, February 15,

8:00 a.m. For the Parishioners of St. Mary's
10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, February 17,

6:30 a.m. For the Conversion of Sinners
10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 18

10:00 a.m. In Reparation for Sins against Life, Charity,
and Chastity
7:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 19

6:30 a.m. For the Clergy
10:00 a.m.

Friday, February 20

10:00 a.m. For the Souls in Purgatory

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.

Altar Flowers:

In Honor of Parishioners of St. Mary's (anonymous)

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR ILL OR SHUT-IN PARISH FAMILY MEMBERS:

Jay Annas, Mary Barnes, Peg Cicirelli, Kathy Hansinger, Donald Hartman, Margie Hayden, Kathy Mallet, Ron Pyle, Mary Stevens, Josephine Walters

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Flora Dontsap, Rafael Soriano, Joshua Graf, Chris Rosado, Devin Pisani, and Joyce Jankielsztajn

Current Notices

Eucharistic Adoration will be on March 6th and 7th

HAITI MINISTRY SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER FUNDRAISER:



The Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner will take place on February 17th from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Social Hall. Tickets are available from members of the Haiti Committee following weekend Masses. Cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under the age of 10.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

K-8 Formation Classes are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall classrooms. For more information on Religious Education, contact Julie Francis at cre@stmarysuffolk.org.

LENTEN SIMPLE SUPPER AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Stations of the Cross will begin on Friday, February 20th at 7:00 p.m. and will be preceded by a Lenten Simple Supper at 6 p.m. These two events will continue through Friday, March 27th. On Good Friday, April 3rd, Stations of the Cross will be held at 3:00 p.m. and there will be no Simple Supper.



FORMER PARISHIONER HONORED BY POPE LEO XIV:

Catherine Miles-Flynn, a former parishioner of St. Mary's, was honored by Pope Leo XIV in September during the Vatican's Jubilee of Catechists. Please see the bulletin insert.

YOUTH GROUP:

As a reminder, due to the Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC), there will be **NO Youth Group on Saturday, February 21st**. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jordan Graf at youth@stmarysuffolk.org.

WIDOWS/WIDOWERS VALENTINE LUNCH:

Widows and widowers are invited to celebrate a St. Valentine's Day lunch on Monday, February 16th from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. For more information, contact Pam Garcia at 757-642-0775.

CONFIRMATION:

The final Confirmation Class will be held on Sunday, February 15 from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (following the 10:00 a.m. Mass). Class will be held in the classrooms above the Social Hall. 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 BYRNE through the Parish Office.

COFFEE AND DONUTS FELLOWSHIP:



Because of the inclement weather, our sponsors during February and March are Kim and Kevin Katula, Aggie Dowd, and Tillie Rivenbark. The next fellowship will be on February 22nd.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE HAITI MINISTRY!

The Haiti Ministry continues to offer Singing Rooster coffee, Haitian Tin Art, and Peace Cycle plastic products for sale. These 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 Haitian sisters and brothers in Christ who continue to be in dire need. We thank you for your continued support.

NEWS / LOCAL

Arabian catechist honored by pope 'prepared in the Diocese of Richmond'

By D. Hunter Reardon, The Catholic Virginian / October 27, 2025



Pope Leo XIV gives his homily as he celebrates Mass for the Jubilee of Catechists in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Sept. 28, 2025. (CNS

photo/Lola Gomez)

Catherine Miles-Flynn has lived in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, since 1995. But the director of Christian formation for the Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia, who recently received the Ministry of Catechist from Pope Leo XIV, still remembers where her catechetical life began: at St. Mary of the Presentation, Suffolk.

"In a small community like Suffolk, all hands are needed in the Church," said Miles-Flynn. "My husband and I were a new couple with a tiny baby at St. Mary of the Presentation, and people

would tell us, 'We need your help with this.' We started children's Liturgy of the Word, children's catechism ... we did that for 12-13 years."

Now, she helps Bishop Paolo Martinelli, apostolic vicar of Southern Arabia, serve nearly 1 million Catholics in the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Yemen.

"I travel often. The Church here is massive and sometimes chaotic, and it's always full," she said. "It's kind of a surprise; in Rome, I was interviewed by an Italian newspaper, and the question was, 'What's it like to be in a place with no Christians?' And I said, 'I don't know.' Because this place is chockablock with Catholics. The challenge is that we have so many people."

Part of her territory includes the world's largest parish, St. Mary's Catholic Church in Dubai, which has nearly 400,000 parishioners. But the lessons she learned in the small town of Suffolk still resonate.

"One thing that was important in Southwest Virginia was that we know we are not the majority," said Miles-Flynn. "I always felt a responsibility to be bold in my faith. I couldn't be mealy-mouthed. We're a small community, but we're incredibly faithful."

After leaving St. Mary of the Presentation, Miles-Flynn was chair of the religion department at Peninsula Catholic High School, Newport News, for four years. She married her husband Joseph, who also works for Bishop Martinelli in Southern Arabia, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond.

"I was prepared in the Diocese of Richmond. I was always proud to be from the Diocese of Richmond. Richmond is a very special place," she said.

Miles-Flynn was one of 39 catechists from around the world to receive the special honor from the pope at Mass Sept. 28 in St. Peter's Square.



Catherine Miles-Flynn receives the Jubilee of Catechist from Pope Leo XIV during Mass in St. Peter's Square on Sept. 28, 2025. (Photo submitted)

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

Join the **Tuesday morning** A.F.F. class for "Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John" presented by Ascension Press. Beginning March 3rd, the group will begin "No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion" for five weeks. Classes meet at 11:15 a.m. in the Social Hall.

The **Tuesday evening** class is continuing The Acts of the Apostles Bible study at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. On Tuesday, February 24, the class will begin "What Do We Really Know About Angels?"

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)! Materials for all the studies will be provided.

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI RETREAT CENTER IN HAMPTON:

Upcoming retreats are *Worldwide Marriage Encounter*, March 6-8, and the *Annual Women's Retreat*, March 20-22. For more information, please go to: www.philippians2foundation.org.

*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, fletcherpaul@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, fletcherpaul@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.

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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: Meet 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 age 16 and older. Biweekly 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.

MEDITATION:

*"What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard ...
God has revealed to us" (1 Corinthians 2:9, 10).*

That's quite a bold statement! St. Paul is saying that, through Jesus' death and Resurrection, the Holy Spirit has revealed something that no one had ever seen or heard of before. Paul calls that something *"God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory"* (1 Corinthians 2:7).

For our glory. That's not just a throwaway phrase. It's the actual revelation that God has made manifest: the promise that everyone who believes in Christ can be glorified, just as Jesus, "the Lord of glory," is now glorified (1 Corinthians 2:8)! Sit with that truth for a moment. Prophets and kings from the past, great saints like Abraham, Isaiah, and Moses, all had amazing revelations about the Lord and His plans. But only now, after Jesus' Resurrection, has *our own* resurrection become so clearly revealed!

It's easy to reduce the Gospel to a message about right living and adherence to a moral code that we have to try hard to follow. It's easy to reduce it to a set of self-help principles that we can adopt. It's easy to reduce it to any number of things. But once you start hearing about God's plan "for our glory," you know that Jesus has done something for us that we could never do ourselves. His death defeated our death. And His Resurrection has opened heaven – for all of us.

This is part of the "mysterious, hidden" plan that God has now revealed in Christ. Jesus, the risen and glorified Lord, is our true destiny. He has made us for heaven!

Today is the perfect day to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal this glorious plan to you a little more. Read today's second reading slowly and prayerfully. Let the words sink into your heart and fill you with hope. You were created for glory!

"Jesus, thank you for revealing Your awesome hidden wisdom to me!"



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**St. Mary's
Women's Club**

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7:00pm – Social Hall

*Doors open at 6:30
for refreshments*

<https://smwcsuffolk.weebly.com>

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