



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 Whitney Lothamer at cre@stmarysuffolk.org 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:

Whitney Lothamer, 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: 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: Shirley Schneider, smofp.bulletin@gmail.com

Website: Mike Bibbo, fs7363@vakofc.org

Community Liaison: Paul Fletcher, fletchedpaul@gmail.com

Haiti: Paul Fletcher, fletchedpaul@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.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday, September 26

5:00 p.m. For the Parishioners of St. Mary's

Sunday, September 27

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

Papal Intention for September: For the care of water; for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Please note: Weekend Masses will be offered as usual during Fr. Ongen's vacation, but there will be no weekday Masses from September 1 through October 2nd. Weekday Mass will resume on Tuesday, October 6.

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 intention.

PLEASE PRAY:

For our ill or shut-in parish family members:

Jay Annas, Mary Barnes, Erwin David, Kathy Hansinger, Margie Hayden, John Lee, Kathy Mallet, Helen Neal, Ron Pyle, Jim Ross, Mary Stevens, Romer Stone, Joe Wenzler

For those serving in the military:

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

Current Notices

Please note: There will be no Adoration in October.

WEEKDAY MASS CANCELLATIONS:

Because Fr. Ongen will be on vacation in the Philippines, there will be no weekday Mass until Tuesday, October 6th.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

We are thrilled to welcome back all of our students, catechists, and families for another wonderful year of growing together in faith, community, and friendship. If your family is already attending, thank you for your energy and dedication to making our weekly sessions so vibrant. For those who may have missed our kick-off weeks, it is not too late to join our community. For more information, please contact Whitney Lothamer at cre@stmarysuffolk.org.

PLEASE NOTE: At the beginning of the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass, all children ages 3 through 1st Grade are invited to follow the catechist to the Social Hall for their own special reading of the Gospel. They will rejoin their families in church during the Offertory.

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Middle School students, Grades 6-8, will be meeting on the same night as Youth Group – that is, on alternate Saturdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. For questions about Middle School classes, contact Whitney Lothamer at cre@suffolkva.us.

YOUTH MINISTRY:

Classes for Youth Group typically meet every other Saturday. The full schedule can be found at stmarysuffolk.org. For questions regarding the Youth Group, contact Jordan Graf at youth@stmarysuffolk.org.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

The **Tuesday morning** class continues a 20-week study of "Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom." **Please note:** During September, the Tuesday morning Bible Study will begin at 10:00 a.m. and on Tuesday, October 6th will return to the 11:15 a.m. start time.

The **Tuesday evening** class continues a study of St. Paul's Letters to the Romans. 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 either study at any time (even if you didn't sign up beforehand)**. Materials for the studies will be provided.*

**CATHOLIC DAY AT BUSCH GARDENS:**

Join others from the Richmond Diocese on Saturday, October 3rd, for Catholic Day at Busch Gardens. The day will consist of fun, fellowship, an optional catered dinner, and a Sunday Vigil Mass. For more information or to register, go to: evangelizerichmond.org/events/virginia-catholic-day-at-busch-gardens-5/.

**COFFEE AND DONUTS FELLOWSHIP:**

Coffee and Donuts Fellowship will be held on October 4th, sponsored by Aland, Edlyne Diaz and family, and on October 18th, sponsored by Pamela Garcia.

HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM:

The current school year has ended and the children of Mt. Carmel School in Dosele, Haiti, send their deep gratitude to those who supported our Haiti Student Sponsorship Program. As we begin the new sponsorship year of 2026-2027, the Haiti Committee once again seeks your support. **As of July 13th, 2026, we only have 58 sponsors for 114 students, so we need your help.** A \$100.00 donation funds one Haitian student for one year. Make out your check to St. Mary's with the notation "Haiti Student Sponsorship." Updated information and photos from Fr. Evenson are on the St. Mary's Haiti Page.

HAITIAN DINNER FUNDRAISER:

Join the Haiti Committee for delicious Haitian cuisine and fellowship on October 24th at 6:15 p.m. in the Social Hall. Tickets are for Dine-in Only and are \$15.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children 12 and under. Purchase tickets from any Haiti Committee member and help to support our twinning parish.

PROTECT VIRGINIA 2026

Catholic Diocese
OF Richmond

ProtectVirginia2026.org

NEW SOFTWARE FOR PARISH REGISTRATION:

The Diocese of Richmond has transitioned Parish Family Registration from ParishSoft to Camino Life. Please register at Camino Life to either become a member of St. Mary's parish or to access your family information. Go to the St. Mary of the Presentation website at stmarysuffolk.org to join Camino Life today.

SCAM ALERT!



No priest, parish staff member, or volunteer will **ever** contact you by email or text to ask you to purchase a gift card. Do **NOT** respond to these emails or texts; simply delete them and report them as scam. For more information on these scams, please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

ALTAR SERVERS:

St. Mary's is in need of altar servers. Training will be provided and the schedule is flexible. Interested youth must have received the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Adults in good standing are required to be Virtus trained before attending training. For more information, please contact Johanna Arocho at 757-287-6852 or j8arocho@gmail.com.

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.

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.

MUSIC MINISTRY:

St. Mary's Music Ministry is open to all parishioners ages 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 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. The Traditional Choir sings at the Saturday 5:00 p.m. (Vigil) Mass and at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. For more information about participating in the Music Ministry, contact: Julie Francis, at 757-539-5732 or cre@stmarysuffolk.org.

FATHER'S CORNER

*Some people will hurt you, some seasons will test you,
But don't let yesterday steal today's peace.
Take the lesson, leave the bitterness,
And keep becoming the person you're meant to be.*

Meetings

Adult Faith Formation: Bible Studies take place on 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 the 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 the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Women's Club: Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (September through May) at 6:30 p.m.

MEDITATION:

... united in heart. (Philippians 2:2)

Isn't it amazing to live in such a connected world? You can so easily search the internet to find answers to any question you have and to learn all about the latest events happening anywhere in the world. Yet we all know that there are challenges related to this quick access to information, and one of them is the quick access to opinions. And, as we often see, opinions lead to arguments, and arguments lead to divisions.

So when we hear St. Paul calling us to be "of the same mind" and "united in heart," it can seem almost impossible (Philippians 2:2). It's hard enough staying civil and polite, but to actually be united in heart and mind? Can we even do that? Paul seems to think we can. So let's consider how we can apply his words to our lives today.

Consider Paul's audience: the Christians in Philippi. Paul isn't writing to the entire city. Why does that matter? Because we are called to a special kind of unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our Church is diverse, and that's part of its beauty. But unity in the midst of diversity means that our opinions, as important as they may be, should not supersede our call to reveal the love of Christ through our unity: "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

So how can we embrace this calling? One way is to ask yourself if you should be spending less time taking in the news, political commentary, or celebrity gossip and more time serving God. The simple act of putting your energy toward listening to God and being among his people will bring down dividing walls and empower you to follow Jesus' command to love all of your brothers and sisters.

So enjoy the benefits of our connected world, but remember to guard the true, lasting unity of your family in Christ. "*Jesus, help me to hear your call to unity and respond with love.*" (Reprinted with permission from *Word Among Us*.)



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7:00pm – Social Hall

*Doors open at 6:30
for refreshments*

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