

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

Liturgy 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, 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.

You shall call his name

Jesus,

for he will save his people
from their sins.

– Matthew 1:21

**THIS WEEKEND WE CELEBRATE
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday, January 10

5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 11

8:00 a.m.

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

Tuesday, January 13

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

10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 14

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

Thursday, January 15

6:30 a.m. For the Clergy

10:00 a.m.

Friday, January 16

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

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

**The next Eucharistic Adoration
will be on February 7th and 8th.**

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!

NINE DAYS FOR LIFE NOVENA:

This is an annual Novena urged by the U.S. Bishops for the Protection of Human life. It includes daily intentions, reflections, and simple actions to build a culture of life. Please go to <https://www.respectlife.org/9days-signup> for more information.

SIDEWALK FUNDRAISING:

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 \$12,440.00 of the \$15,000.00 needed, so we still need your help to pay the bill for these new sidewalks!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

K-8 Formation Classes: 2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:00 p.m. Social Hall classrooms. ***The next class is Monday, January 12th, at 6:00 p.m.*** For more information on Religious Education, contact Julie Francis at cre@stmarysuffolk.org.

YOUTH GROUP:

The next Youth Group class will be held on Saturday, January 10th, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. All high school students are welcome to join! Dinner will be provided. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jordan Graf at youth@stmarysuffolk.org.

CONFIRMATION CLASS:

The next Confirmation class will be held on Sunday, January 18th from 11:15 a.m.-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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

The ***Tuesday morning class*** "Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John" began 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)!

NEW SUPPORT GROUP FOR THOSE

WHO HAVE LOST CHILDREN:

Those who have experienced the loss of a child are invited to a meeting at Cazadores Mexican Restaurant on Thursday, January 15th. This meeting will gauge interest in a monthly support group for those who might benefit. For questions, please contact Lisa Ridge at 757-538-7135 or erwinna66@ptd.net.

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.

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.

HAITIAN 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, fletchedpaul@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, fletchedpaul@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:

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 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 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:

When anger rises, hold your tongue.

Anger will pass, but cruel words can leave lifelong wounds.

Speak with kindness or remain silent.

MEDITATION:

Jesus came ... to be baptized (Matthew 3:13)

Why did Jesus submit to John's Baptism? This cleansing in the waters of the Jordan River was a Baptism of repentance (Matthew 3:11). But Jesus was the Son of God – He didn't need to repent! That's why John said to Jesus, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" (3:14).

John did not live long enough to witness Jesus' death and Resurrection. But if he had heard Jesus pray, "Father, forgive them," from the cross, John would have witnessed firsthand the full significance of Jesus' Baptism. Jesus was baptized, not for His own sins, but for ours and those of the whole world.

On the cross, Jesus, the sinless One, would take on the sin of all humanity. As Pope Benedict XVI wrote, when Jesus was baptized, He "loaded the burden of all mankind's guilt upon His shoulders: He bore it down into the depths of the Jordan. He inaugurated His public activity by stepping into the place of sinners The Baptism is an acceptance of death for the sins of humanity" (*Jesus of Nazareth*, p. 18).

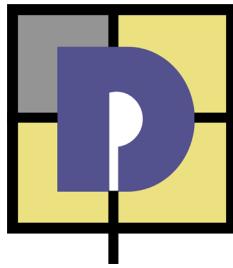
That's why Jesus told John that His Baptism would "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). Through Jesus' death and Resurrection, we sinners would be made righteous. Jesus stood with sinners like us along the banks of the Jordan and descended into the waters just as they had. Then, on the cross, He took on every one of our sins – and put them to death, once and for all.

Today, then, is a day to thank the Lord for your own Baptism. Through this great sacrament, you were joined to Jesus in His death and Resurrection. You were freed from the burden of guilt that Jesus loaded on His own shoulders. You were cleansed of sin and made righteous. And just as the Father said to Jesus, so He says to you: "You are my beloved child" (see Matthew 3:17).

May He forever be praised!

"Lord, thank you for the new life I received at my Baptism."

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