



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 19**

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

Sunday, September 20

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. In Memory of Rainy Abalos-Manalo,
requested by the Manalo Family
For the Intention of Eva Glennon,
requested by Ann Sweet

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

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 from Tuesday, September 1st through Friday, October 2nd. Weekday Mass will resume the regular schedule on 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 kickoff 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 reunite 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 began a study of St. Paul's Letters to the Romans on September 15th. 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 Donut Fellowship will be held on September 20, sponsored by Andrew and Kara Graf and their family.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Do not let worries steal the joy of today.

Slow down and breathe and appreciate the blessings around you.

Spend time with the people you love.

Forgive yourself for past mistakes

and keep moving forward with hope.

Life becomes lighter when you stop carrying what God already asked you to surrender.

MEDITATION:

To me life is Christ, and death is gain. (Philippians 1:21)

When he wrote these words, Paul wasn't just creating a catchy slogan for the Christian life. He was sharing his deepest conviction—how he was torn between the prospect of being united with Jesus in heaven and continuing to fulfill the mission God had called him to during his earthly lifetime. His heart and mind were so united to Jesus that he was consumed by these two seemingly conflicting desires: “to depart this life and be with Christ” or to “remain in the flesh” (Philippians 1:23, 24).

Most of us would probably rather not think of death. Perhaps it makes us recall the loved ones whom we miss. Or maybe thinking about our own death makes us consider how we will be separated from our friends and children, or from the purpose and satisfaction we feel in serving the Lord in our parish or in our community. In either case, death certainly doesn't seem like a real “gain.”

So, what can we learn from St. Paul's perspective? First, heaven is something that we can wholeheartedly look forward to. While we may initially think of all that we might lose when we pass away, the truth is that we can expect to experience far more joy and satisfaction in eternity than we ever could in our earthly lives.

Second, we can experience a foretaste of the joy that awaits us in heaven right here and now. We can be so consumed with Christ that we say, with Paul, “To me life is Christ” (Philippians 1:21). How can we be consumed with Christ? Like Paul, we can spend our lives in “fruitful labor,” serving others and pointing to Jesus in all we do (1:22). As Paul delighted in seeing people grow in their faith, so, too, can we find joy in seeing our lives draw others closer to Jesus, even as we await the fullness of life in heaven.

“Lord, open my eyes to the beauty of this life, today and in eternity.”
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7:00pm – Social Hall

**Doors open at 6:30
for refreshments**

<https://smwcsuffolk.weebly.com>

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