

Alleluia!
HE IS RISEN



Easter
2026

St. Mary of the Presentation Catholic Church

202 South Broad Street, Suffolk, VA 23434
757-539-5732 · www.stmarysuffolk.org

MASS INTENTIONS:**Saturday, April 11**

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

Sunday, April 12

8:00 a.m. For the Conversion of Sinners
10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 14

6:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m. In Memory of Leaquina Moronta,
requested by Lucia Ulloa

Wednesday, April 15

10:00 a.m. In Memory of Stanley and
Barbara Nowicki, requested by
Mike and Colleen McCarrier
In Memory of Robert and Mary McCarrier,
requested by Mike and
Colleen McCarrier

Thursday, April 16

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

Friday, April 17

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.*



Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Mary Abu Bonsrah**, who passed into eternal life during Holy Week. She is the mother of our former pastor, Fr. Emmanuel of St. Jude Parish. Please keep Fr. Emmanuel and his family in your prayers.

ALTAR FLOWERS:

In Honor of the Loved Ones of St. Mary's Parishioners

PLEASE PRAY:

For our ill or shut-in parish family members:

Jay Annas, Mary Barnes, Peg Cicirelli, Kathy Hansinger, Donald Hartman, Margie Hayden, Kim Katula, Kathy Mallet, Ron Pyle, Mary Stevens.

For those serving in the military:

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

Current Notices

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday

"... tell the whole world of My great mercy; that whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete remission of sins and punishment. Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy.
(*Diary of St. Faustina*, 300).

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be on
May 1st and 2nd**

COFFEE AND DONUTS FELLOWSHIP:

Coffee and Donuts Fellowship will be held on April 19th, sponsored by Arnold, Elaine, Find and Arielle Reyes.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

K-8 Formation Classes are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall classrooms.

MANDATORY FIRST HOLY COMMUNION RETREAT AND REHEARSAL:

A Retreat for those receiving their First Holy Communion will be on **Sunday, April 19th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** It will include a Rehearsal for this special day. **Attendance is mandatory** for **all** those who will receive the Eucharist for the first time, and one parent is required to attend with their child. Snacks will be provided.

YOUTH GROUP:

The next Youth Group class will be held on Saturday, April 18th, 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.

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. Good standing adults are required to be Virtus-trained before attending training. For more information, please contact Johanna Arocho at 757-287-6852 or j8archo@gmail.com.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR DEATH:

The Diocesan Office of Cemetery and Funeral Services is holding a regional outreach session at St. Therese Church in Chesapeake on Tuesday, April 28. There will be two sessions, one at 12:00 Noon, which includes lunch, and the second beginning at 6:30 p.m., which includes dinner. Bishop Knestout urges all Catholics to better understand the "importance of preparations you need to make in advance, to save your families from an unprepared future." Please RSVP to rwash@richmonddiocese.org for the session of preference.

HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM:

The annual renewal of your scholarship donations for Haiti students begins this weekend. 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.

RESPECT LIFE:

Please don't forget to return your **Baby Bottles** as soon as possible. **Please be generous!**

VIRGINIA STATE MARCH FOR LIFE:

**VIRGINIA
MARCH FOR LIFE**

If you are interested in attending the Virginia State March for Life in

Richmond on **April 22nd**, please reach out to Whitney Lothamer at 937-654-8398.

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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

The **Tuesday morning class will begin a new study, "Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life," on April 14th.** This 10-week study is a personal and fresh look at Jesus – who He is and what He is really like. It is an encounter with Christ that will inspire you. Classes meet in the Social Hall at 11:15 a.m. (after Mass and the Rosary).

The **Tuesday evening** class is continuing their study of "What Do We Really Know about Angels?" This class meets in the Social Hall at 6:30 p.m.

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.

Signups 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.

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.

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.

FATHER'S CORNER:

Life is so precious.

One day, one hour, and one minute will not come again.

*Avoid fights if you can, forgive quickly,
and speak kind words to everyone.*

MUSIC MINISTRY:

St. Mary's Music Ministry is open to all parishioners age 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.

MEDITATION:

"Mankind so needs to understand and accept Divine Mercy"

(Pope St. John Paul II, posthumous
Divine Mercy Sunday message, April 3, 2005)

"Jesus, there is one more secret in my life, the deepest and dearest to my heart: it is You Yourself when You come to my heart under the appearance of bread. Herein lies the whole secret of my sanctity. Here, my heart is so united with Yours as to be but one. There are no more secrets, because all that is Yours is mine, and all that is mine is Yours. Such is the omnipotence and the miracle of Your mercy."

– SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska († 1938) was a Polish Sister of Our Lady of Mercy whose mystical visions of Jesus inspired the Divine Mercy devotion. She was canonized in 2000. From Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul. © 1987, Marian Press, Stockbridge, MA. Used with permission of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. www.marian.org.

1 PETER 1:3-9

... in his great mercy. (1 Peter 1:3)

As he opens his letter, St. Peter blesses God, whose "great mercy" has given us "a new birth." On this Divine Mercy Sunday, let's look at some of the blessings that God's mercy has won for us.

A living hope (1 Peter 1:3). Jesus, risen in glory, has opened heaven! We aren't doomed to a life of hopelessness marked by sin and death. Now, freed from these forces, we can live every day in the sure knowledge that the God of heaven is walking with us. We can know a living hope that assures us that we can be "transformed . . . from glory to glory" as we stay connected to him. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

An inheritance that is imperishable (1 Peter 1:4). Just as parents leave their children an inheritance, Jesus has left one for us—an imperishable one. Silver and gold, valuable though they may be, can give us only earthly security. But Jesus has left us with the gifts of faith, hope, and love, and these last forever. (1 Corinthians 13:13) They sustain us and lift us up in good times and in bad, in plenty and in need. They bind us to the God who loves us without end.

A salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time (1 Peter 1:5). We often look at divine mercy as a gift for today, but God takes a longer view as well. He promises that in "the final time," at the very end, He has a great salvation waiting for us. As we enter into eternity, "we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:2) All pain, suffering, temptation, sadness, and sin will be wiped away, and we will enter the new creation to live forever in the presence of the Lord.

A living hope. An imperishable inheritance. A final salvation. Our God is merciful beyond compare. May we never cease to praise Him! **"Jesus, my Savior, I am in awe of your overflowing mercy!"** (Reprinted with permission from *Word Among Us*)



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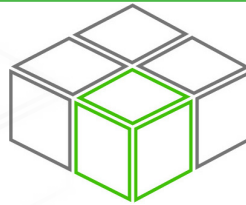
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