

*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](http://www.stmarysuffolk.org)

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

Saturday, April 25  
 5:00 p.m. In Memory of Amanda Legrand,  
 requested by Frank and Kathy Legrand

Sunday, April 26  
 8:00 a.m. For the Parishioners of St. Mary's  
 10:00 a.m. In Honor of Johnny Dowd Family  
 requested by Aggie Dowd

Tuesday, April 28  
 6:30 a.m. For the Conversion of Sinners  
 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, April 29  
 10:00 a.m. In Reparation for Sins against Life, Charity  
 and Chastity

Thursday, April 30  
 6:30 a.m. For the Clergy  
 10:00 a.m.

Friday, May 1  
 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 975-539-5732 to request a Mass for your special intention.*

**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



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.

*Current Notices*

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

**COFFEE AND DONUTS FELLOWSHIP:**

Coffee and Donuts Fellowship will be held on May 3rd, sponsored by Wilfredo, Marisela Medina and Family. For your information, in addition to the bi-weekly fellowship in May, the Parish Life Committee will host a Mother's Day Fellowship.

**GRATEFUL THANKS:**

We wish to acknowledge and thank all those who worked so hard to make the Triduum services and the Easter Liturgies so very reverent and beautiful. We deeply appreciate our pastor, Father Ongen, Andrew Graf and the members of the Liturgy Committee as well as the Sacristans, Dave von Rump and the Extraordinary Ministers, Jorge and Johanna Arocho and the Altar Servers, Julie Francis and the Choir members, Colleen McCarrier, Sandy Nance, and those who helped with the beautiful flowers. We wish also to thank Lauren Kahoe, Elaine Reyes, and the members of the Parish Life Committee and the Knights of Columbus for the wonderful Easter celebrations.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

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

**CELEBRATION OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:**

Eight children will be receiving their First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 3rd at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. They are as follows: Denver Augustin, Christian Brown, Samuel Diaz, Liam Rojo, Mia Rosado, Francesco Smith, Kasen Viar, and Atticus Whitley. Our parish is praying for all of you.

**YOUTH GROUP:**

The final Youth Group class will be held on Saturday, May 2, from 5:00 to 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](mailto:youth@stmarysuffolk.org).

**ANNUAL YOUTH DINNER:**

The Annual Youth Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 2 at 6:00 p.m. following Mass in the Social Hall. Join our youth for a game of *The Price is Right* and enjoy Tacos for dinner. Tickets can be purchased from any Youth Group member following weekend Masses.

**HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM:**

The current school year is ending 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. A \$100.00 donation funds one Haitian student for one year. *Your generosity is greatly needed because last year we helped only 95 students, whereas the year before we helped 167 students.* Currently, there are 200 students, so *please* be generous. Make out your check to St. Mary's with the notation "Haiti Student Sponsorship." See the enclosed flyer.

**WOMEN'S CLUB RUMMAGE SALE:**

Hurrah, the yearly and much-anticipated Rummage Sale is here! Please help us by going through your old clothes, jewelry, etc., and drop off your donations in the Social Hall where they will be accepted anytime from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29 and Thursday, April 30. The actual sale is next weekend, on May 1st and 2nd. Please see the attached flyer.

Please return your Baby Bottles as soon as possible.  
**Please be generous!**

**RESPECT LIFE:**

The Respect Life Committee will host **Hope for Life**, a sidewalk counseling group, on Sunday, May 17 after Mass and Sunday Fellowship. The group will describe their work and how to get involved. The event is open to all parishioners. If you have any questions, please reach out to Respect Life Chair Whitney Lothamer at: [RespectLife.StMarys@gmail.com](mailto:RespectLife.StMarys@gmail.com).

# **St. Mary of the Presentation**

## **202 S. Broad St., Suffolk**



Sponsored by the Women's Club

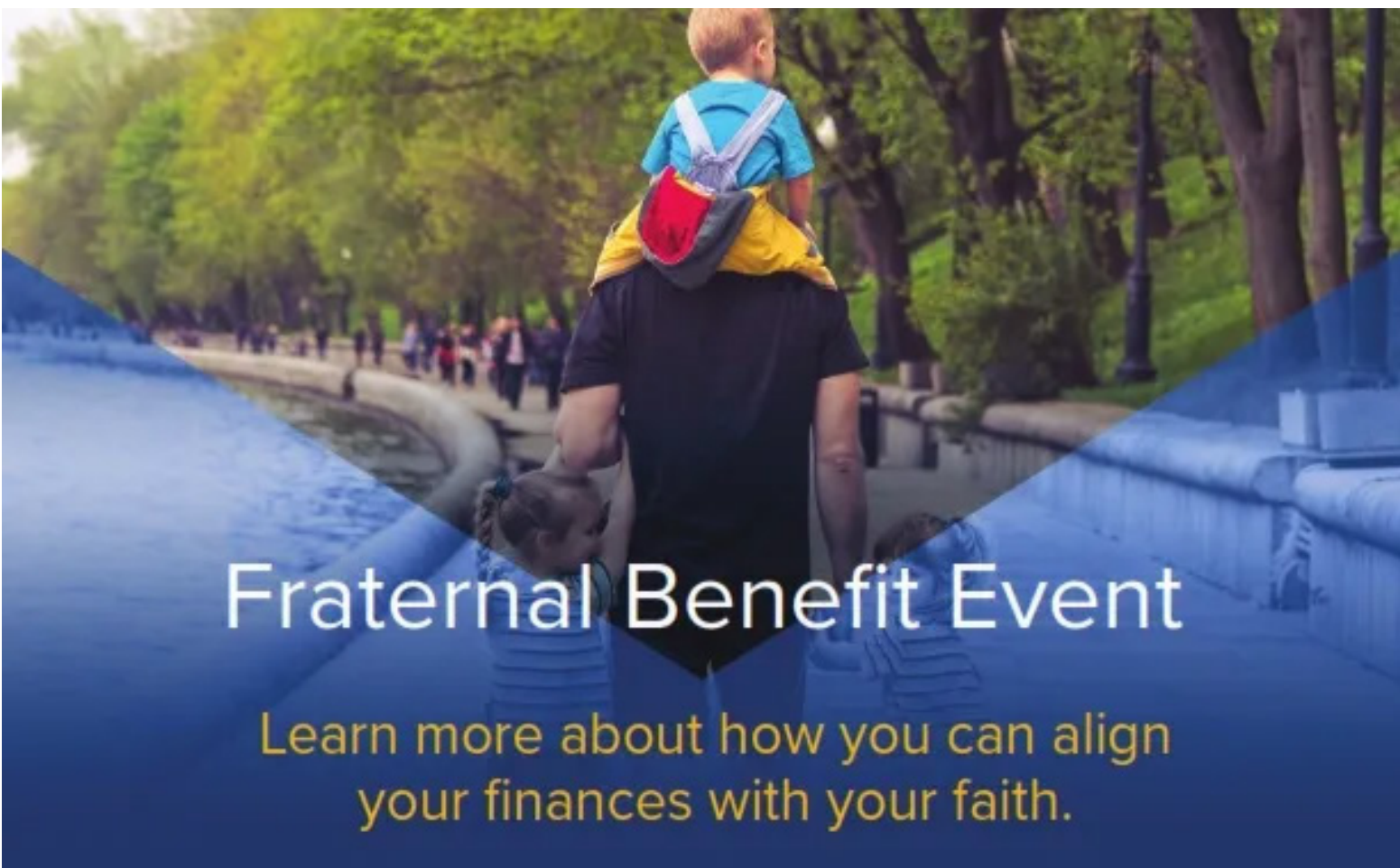
**Friday, May 1, from 8 am - 1 pm**

**Saturday, May 2, from 8 am - 12 noon**

(Special \$5 Bag Sale on Sat. 11-12. All you can fit in a bag)

## **Located in Parish Hall**

Clothing, housewares, sporting goods, toys,  
craft goods, furniture, quilts, jewelry, electronics  
and so much more.



# Fraternal Benefit Event

Learn more about how you can align  
your finances with your faith.

## Financial Advice, Founded in Faith

**Date:** Wednesday, May 6th **Time:** doors open @ 630pm start @ 7pm

**Location:** St. Mary of the Presentation Social Hall

**Sponsor:** St. Mary's - Council 7363 **Contact:** Pat Kahoe - Grand Knight

**RSVP:** pkahoe@outlook.com **RSVP by:** Tuesday, May 5th



Open to members & non-members.



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**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SEMINAR:**

St. Mary's Knight of Columbus Council 7363 is sponsoring a seminar on May 6th at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall. The seminar is entitled, "How You Can Align Your Finances With Your Faith." This instructive event on personal finances is open to the parish, and everyone is warmly invited to attend. There will be wine tasting and appetizers, so come, learn, and socialize! Please RSVP to Patrick Kahoe at [pkahoe@outlook.com](mailto:pkahoe@outlook.com) by May 5th.

**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.

**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, [fletcherdpaul@gmail.com](mailto:fletcherdpaul@gmail.com).

## 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.

**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](http://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 aged 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 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](mailto:cre@stmarysuffolk.org).

**FATHER'S CORNER:**

*Never regret being a good person to the wrong people.  
Your kindness says everything about you.  
Their behavior says everything about them.*

**MEDITATION: ACTS 2:14, 36-41**

*They were cut to the heart.* (Acts 2:37)

Peter's preaching about Jesus on Pentecost powerfully affected the people who heard his message. They were "cut to the heart," and three thousands of them turned to the Lord that day (Acts 2:37).

The Greek word used here for "cut" is *katanussó*, which literally means "to pierce" or "to prick." Peter's words acted as a sword, piercing the hearts of the people with the truth that they had sinned in rejecting Jesus and calling for Him to be crucified. Imagine their pain and sorrow when they realized this—and the joy they must have felt when they repented and were baptized in His name! Washed clean and filled with His love, they began to live in an entirely new way.

You might say that the people in Jerusalem that day were like the sheep Jesus spoke about in the Gospel. He is the Good Shepherd who called them "by name" and beckoned them to follow Him (John 10:3). "Cut to the heart," they decided to give their hearts to Him. What an appropriate story for Good Shepherd Sunday!

However we first came to follow Jesus, we have all been cut to the heart at one time or another by the truths of the Gospel—especially when we've been convicted of our sins. But we aren't the only ones who have experienced the pain and sorrow that sin causes. Jesus, our Shepherd, laid down His life for us to save us from our sin (John 10:11). Even now, His heart is pierced because so many of His sheep are missing out on the mercy He has to offer them. That's why He will leave the ninety-nine to go after the one (Matthew 18:12). He longs for everyone to know Him and follow Him.

Today, thank Jesus for piercing your heart and filling you with His love. Rejoice that the good news of His salvation has the power to change hearts even now. Then pray for all the people you know who have yet to follow Jesus. Pray that they will be "cut to the heart" and find in that sorrow the greatest joy they could ever know. "*Good Shepherd, I want to follow you all the days of my life!*" (Printed with permission from *Word Among Us*)



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for refreshments

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