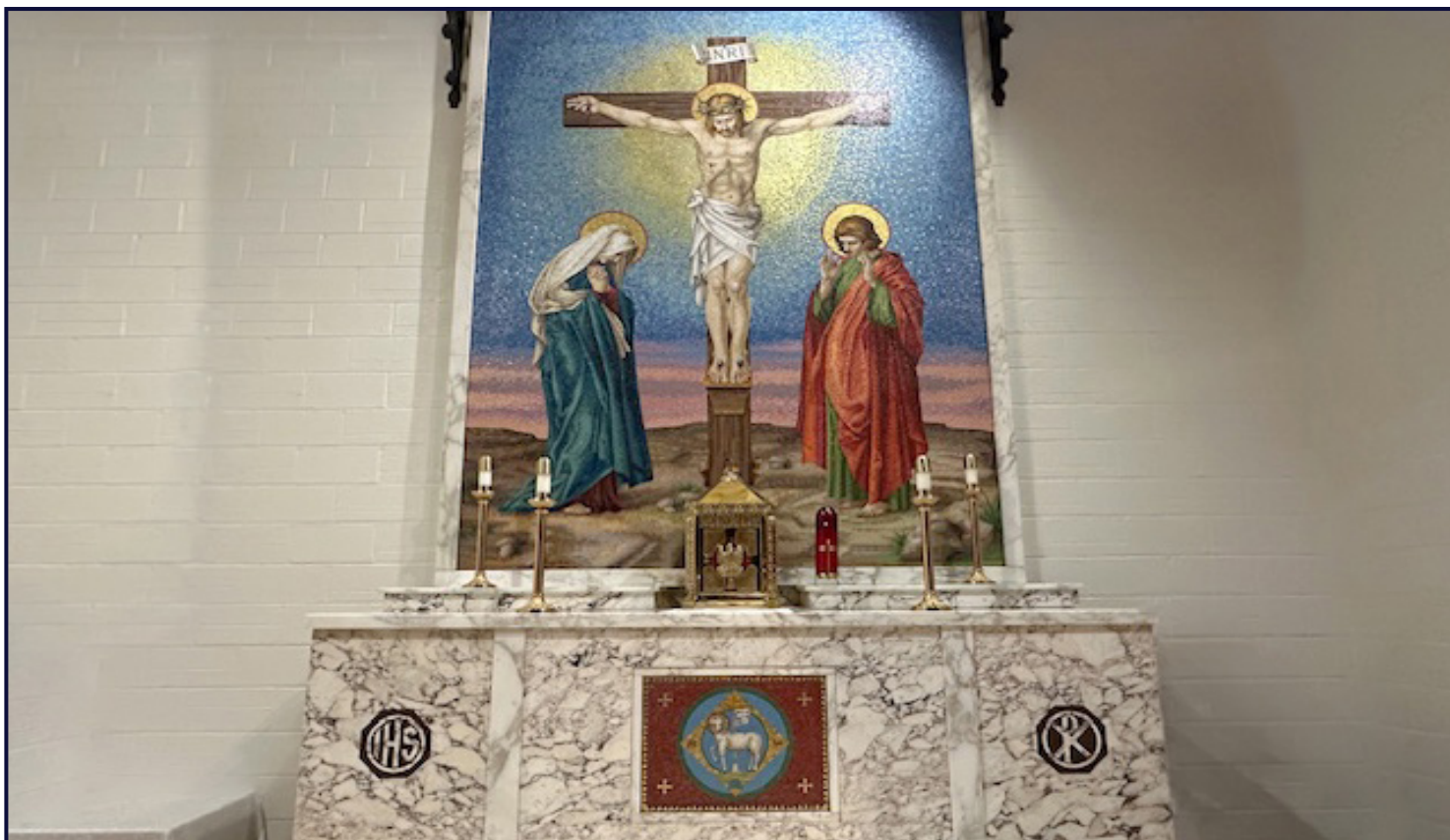




St. Mary of the Presentation Catholic Church

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, 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.

MASS INTENTIONS:**Saturday, August 29**

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

Sunday, August 308:00 a.m. In Memory of Rosemarie Thompson,
requested by Chris Miller10:00 a.m. In Memory of Martha Carmel Jacobson,
requested by Sheila and Michael Amos

Please note: Weekend Masses will stay the same 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, David Erwin, Kathy Hansinger, Donald Hartman, 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 September or 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.

COFFEE AND DONUTS FELLOWSHIP:

Coffee and Donut Fellowship will be held next Sunday, September 6, sponsored by Kerry, Kim, and Kaitlyn Holmes, and on September 20, sponsored by Andrew and Kara Graf and their family.

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION:

Registration for Kindergarten through Grade 12, and for the Sacraments of First Communion, First Penance and Confirmation began on August 1st. Sign up online or in the Parish Office with our new Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE) Whitney Lothamer. If you have any questions, email cre@stmarysuffolk.org, or call 757-539-5732.

CATECHISTS NEEDED:

Help our children encounter Jesus! St. Mary's is seeking Catechists for the upcoming year – September 2026 through May 2027. Classes for Grades PK-5 will be on Sundays from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Middle School classes will meet on Saturdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., immediately after the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

For more information, contact Whitney Lothamer at 757-539-5732 or cre@stmarysuffolk.org.

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.

SALVATION ARMY OUTREACH MINISTRY:

On Thursday, July 23rd, volunteers from St. Mary's prepared and served meals to 60 people at the Salvation Army Food Kitchen. St. Mary's parishioners also donated 247.9 lbs. to the Salvation Army Food Bank.

Please continue to donate pantry items and place them in the bin in the vestibule as often as possible. Continuing help is needed. Contact Paul Fletcher for questions at fletcherdpaul@gmail.com.

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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

The **Tuesday morning** class has begun a 20-week study on "Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom." Classes meet at 11:15 a.m. (after Mass and the Rosary) in the Social Hall. 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)! 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.

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 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 8:00 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.

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 Mondays 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 (September through May) at 6:30 p.m.

PROTECT VIRGINIA 2026



Virginia Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment

SEPT. 18 THRU NOV. 3



Catholic Diocese
OF Richmond

ProtectVirginia2026.org

FATHER'S CORNER

*Every ending is quietly making space for a new beginning.
Let go of what no longer serves you,
Embrace what is meant for you,
And trust that life is leading you exactly
Where you need to be.*

MEDITATION:

God forbid, Lord! (Matthew 16:22)

It's ironic that Peter would use these words to try to dissuade Jesus from the cross. God forbid? It was God's plan in the first place! Not to mention, Jesus is God and is completely aligned with the will of His Father. So asking God to "forbid" something that was God's eternal will? It doesn't make sense.

Of course, Peter didn't yet realize that Jesus is the eternal Son of God, one in being with the Father. How could it possibly be God's wisdom that a man who was so righteous and holy should meet an early, violent end? God forbid! There was no way Peter would let Jesus go through with this.

You can also hear the love in Peter's voice. He loved Jesus so much that he couldn't imagine being separated from Him. Neither could he bear the thought of Jesus allowing Himself to "suffer greatly" and to "be killed" (Matthew 16:21). Especially not after Jesus had already revealed how powerful He was. No matter how many foes He faced, He could stop them with a single word. So *God forbid* that He would just surrender Himself to death like this!

But what Peter didn't yet understand was that Jesus would reveal His love to the fullest through His death. It was by submitting to His Father's will—even if it meant surrendering to His opponents' plan to kill Him—that He would overturn sin and open the way to God for all who believe. This is love in action, and *God forbid* anyone should try to stop Him!

This is the measure of Jesus' love for us. It's a love that scandalized Peter at first but that he would later embrace when he opened his arms and allowed himself to be crucified upside down. It's a love available to each of us as we gaze upon our crucified Lord. *God forbid* that we ever lose sight of that love!

"Jesus, I am in awe of the depth of Your sacrifice for me!" (Reprinted with permission from *Word Among Us*.)



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Doors open at 6:30
for refreshments

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