

*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 18

5:00 p.m. In Honor of the Chris Dowd Family,  
requested by Aggie Dowd

Sunday, April 19

8:00 a.m. For the Parishioners of St. Mary's  
10:00 a.m. In Memory of Daniel Joseph Gemmell, Jr.,  
requested by the Visser Family

Tuesday, April 21

6:30 a.m.  
10:00 a.m. In Reparation for Sins against Life, Charity,  
and Chastity

Wednesday, April 22

10:00 a.m. For the Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, April 23

6:30 a.m. For the Clergy

10:00 a.m.

Friday, April 24

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 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.

**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.

**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.

**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

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

**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 also wish to thank Lauren Kahoe, Elaine Reyes, the members of the Parish Life Committee and the Knights of Columbus for the wonderful Easter celebrations.

**COFFEE AND DONUTS FELLOWSHIP:**

Coffee and Donuts Fellowship will be held on April 19th, sponsored by Arnold, Elaine, Find and Arielle Reyes. For your information, in addition to the bi-weekly fellowship in May, the Parish Life Committee will host a Mother's Day Fellowship.

**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 j8arocho@gmail.com.

**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 close! Please help us by going through your old clothes, jewelry, etc., and drop off your donations on April 29th and 30th in the Social Hall where they will be accepted anytime from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The actual sale is on May 1st and 2nd. Stay tuned for more information, but gather together your donations!!

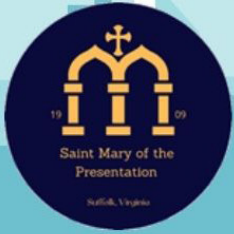
**RESPECT LIFE:**

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

**VIRGINIA STATE 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. See enclosed flyer.

# LET'S KEEP MARCHING!



## Join our Bishop in the State March for Life



# Virginia MARCHforLIFE

## April 22, 2026

RALLY 10 AM | MARCH 11 AM  
VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS  
1000 Bank St, Richmond, VA 23218

[MarchforLife.org/Virginia](https://MarchforLife.org/Virginia)

For more information or to sign up to  
join a carpool to the march,  
please contact  
[respectlife.stmarys@gmail.com](mailto:respectlife.stmarys@gmail.com)

**APRIL 2026 - APRIL 2027**

**ST. MARY'S & ST. JUDE HAITI SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**



Our student population at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School in Dosele is 200 students or more this year. The children in this school cannot afford to go to school, so they are counting on your help. Your sponsorship of a Haitian student will go a long way in creating a brighter future for a very needy and deserving child. Still for only \$100 for a whole year you can cover tuition, teacher's salaries, books, some supplies, and other related expenses to keep the schools operating.

We are beginning the 24th year of the Haitian School Sponsorship program. The program year goes from **April 2026 to April 2027** – with suggested payment dates of April, July, October, and January – or the total \$100 at any time. Payments should be marked as **"Haitian Student Sponsorship"**; **placed in an envelope; and dropped in the weekend collection or mailed to St. Mary's Church Office at 202 South Broad St. Suffolk VA 23434.**

**Your sponsorship is tax deductible, but the blessings you give and receive are immeasurable!!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: **Paul Fletcher**, Chairman (757) 816-4826, [email-FLETCHEDPAUL@gmail.com](mailto:FLETCHEDPAUL@gmail.com); **Tamara Simons** (757) 618-1642; **Faye Taylor** (757) 539-0116, **Ann Harris** (757) 372-6884, **Lavonne Fletcher** (757) 672-4794, **Tom Salp** (757) 539-4293, **Lauren Kahoe** (757) 537-4292, **Virginia Davis** (757) 270-9312 or **St. Jude** (757) 569-9600

**04/26-27**



**SPONSOR A STUDENT Form**



By sponsoring a student, I am making a 1-year commitment. I agree to pay a total of \$100 (only 0.27 cents a day) in 4 quarterly, 2 semi-annual, or 1 lump sum payment beginning in April 2026.

Please Print:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 **began 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.

*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.*

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SEMINAR:

St. Mary's Knight of Columbus Council 7363 is sponsoring a seminar on May 6th at 7:00 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.

## 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.

### FATHER'S CORNER:

*Life is not a race against others.*

*Don't waste your time and energy comparing,*

*Or worrying about who is ahead of you,*

*Or who is behind you.*

*Focus on yourself.*

### 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.

### MEDITATION:

*He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.*  
(Luke 24:35)

Have you ever noticed how the story of the two disciples meeting Jesus on the road to Emmaus looks a lot like the way we meet Jesus at every Mass?

At the start, Cleopas and his friend were devastated. Jesus had been crucified, and their hopes were dashed. So when Jesus approached them, "their eyes were prevented from recognizing him" (Luke 24:16). How often do we come to Mass preoccupied? Maybe we had an argument on the way to church, or we're worried about a family problem. These things can keep us from seeing Jesus clearly.

Jesus didn't keep His distance. He drew near and engaged with these two disheartened disciples. Similarly, He welcomes us to Mass as we are and draws near to us. In the Penitential Rite, He offers us His mercy so that we can turn from our sins and refocus our minds on Him.

Once Jesus started the conversation with His disciples, He walked them through "what referred to him in all the Scriptures" (Luke 24:27). In the Liturgy of the Word, Jesus teaches us. The readings can open our hearts and minds to God's perfect plan, fulfilled in Him.

Although the disciples' hearts were burning as they began to understand the Scriptures, they didn't recognize Jesus until He took, blessed, broke, and gave bread to them. In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, our eyes are opened and our faith deepened as Jesus offers Himself to us in Holy Communion!

Next, the two disciples immediately and joyfully returned to Jerusalem to tell their friends. At the end of Mass, we are sent out to "go and announce the Gospel of the Lord." Meeting Jesus changes our hearts, and we can't help but proclaim it.

The next time you're at Mass, imagine that Cleopas and his companion are with you. Share their excitement as, throughout the liturgy, your heart begins to burn with love as you come to recognize Jesus, present in the breaking of the bread. "*Jesus, thank you for making yourself known to me!*" (Reprinted with permission from *Word Among Us*)



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**St. Mary's**  
**Women's Club**

Meets 3rd Wed. (Sept.-May)

7:00pm – Social Hall

Doors open at 6:30

for refreshments

<https://smwcsuffolk.weebly.com>

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[www.kofc7363.org](http://www.kofc7363.org)

Meetings:

1st & 3rd Monday at 7:00 P.M.  
Fr. Tommy Nee Social Hall  
Contact a Brother Knight for More  
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**HEATHER ZAK-RAMSAY**  
D.M.D. PC

**1429 Holland Rd Suffolk, VA 23434**

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