

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 the Parish Office 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:

Julie Francis, 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: Jorge & Johanna, 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 Coordinator: 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.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th
Ash Wednesday Mass Times: 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Mass Intentions:*Saturday, January 24*

5:00 p.m. *In Memory of Henry Franczak,*
requested by Mark Franczak

Sunday, January 25

8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of Connor Cornett,
 requested by Ann Sweet

10:00 a.m. In Memory of Helen and Archie Dowd,
 requested by Aggie Dowd

In Memory of Margaret Elizabeth Bailor,
 requested by Karen McLelland

In Memory of Robert Schneider,
 requested by Shirley Schneider

Tuesday, January 27

6:30 a.m. *For the Conversion of Sinners*

10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 28

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

Thursday, January 29

6:30 a.m. *For the Clergy*

10:00 a.m.

Friday, January 30

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS: In honor of the Parishioners of St. Mary's

PLEASE PRAY:

For our ill or shut-in parish family members: Jay Annas, Mary Barnes, Peg Cicirelli, Kathy Hansinger, Donald Hartman, Margie Hayden, Kathy Mallet, Ron Pyle, Mary Stevens, Josephine Walters

For those serving in the military: Flora Dontsap, Rafael Soriano, Joshua Graf, Chris Rosado, Devin Pisani, and Joyce Jankielsztajn

Current Notices

Eucharistic Adoration will be on February 6th and 7th.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND IS FOR THE DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE CAMPAIGN:

The Diocese of Richmond supports initiatives that are based on the foundational Catholic moral principle that all human life is sacred, from conception until natural death. Donations to this collection provide grants to support these efforts. Please consider supporting this worthy campaign that is helping to change the culture of our society that far too often devalues and destroys human life.

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (ALSO KNOWN AS CANDLEMAS):

Fr. Ongen will celebrate this special Feast Day on Monday, February 2nd, at 10:00 a.m. The traditional Blessing of the Candles will take place at this Mass. **All are invited to bring beeswax candles to be blessed and used in their homes.**

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE:

St. Blaise's Feast Day is Tuesday, February 3rd. He is venerated as the saint who healed throats. Fr. Ongen will bless throats at the 10:00 a.m. Mass on February 3rd.

WOMEN'S CLUB BROWN BAG BINGO:

The Women's Club invites you to their Annual Adult Brown Bag Bingo evening of fun on Friday, January 30th at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Open to all adults, it is an evening of fellowship, prizes, and laughs! Play for a chance to win! Bring an item worth \$10 in a brown bag to play three BINGO cards. Refreshments will be provided by the Women's Club.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**FINANCIAL BENEFITS SEMINAR:**

The Knights of Columbus will host a seminar about essential financial planning topics that will help to secure your and your family's financial well-being. The seminar will be held on Wednesday, February 4th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Speaker Todd Curtis will cover topics such as life insurance, longterm care options, and annuities that can provide a lifetime income during retirement. The event is open to all adult parishioners who are encouraged to attend to gain valuable insights on how to make informed financial decisions. To reserve your place, please RSVP by February 3rd to Patrick Kahoe at pkahoe@outlook.com.

HAITI MINISTRY SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER FUNDRAISER:

The Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner will take place on February 17th from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Social Hall. Tickets are available now from members of the Haiti Committee following weekend Masses. Cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under the age of 10.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

K-8 Formation Classes are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:00 p.m. Social Hall classrooms. **The next class will be on Monday, January 26th.** For more information on Religious Education, contact Julie Francis at cre@stmarysuffolk.org

CONFIRMATION CLASS:

The next Confirmation Class will be held on Sunday, February 1st, from 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (following the 10:00 a.m. Mass). Classes will be held in the classrooms above the Social Hall. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jordan Graf at youth@stmarysuffolk.org.

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.

COFFEE AND DONUTS FELLOWSHIP:

Coffee and Donuts, sponsored by Kim and Kevin Katula, will take place on January 25th. In February, this fellowship will be on February 8th, sponsored by Aggie Dowd, and February 22nd, sponsored by Tillie Rivenbark.



Fraternal Benefit Event

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

Catholic Financial Seminar

Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 **Time:** 7:00 pm

Location: St. Mary of the Presentation Social Hall

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

RSVP: pkahoe@outlook.com **RSVP by:** Tuesday, February 3,



Open to members & non-members.



**Knights of
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Monday, February 2nd, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Also known as Candlemas, it takes place 40 days after Christmas and is traditionally the end of the Christmas season .



Candlemas

Blessing of Candles

All are invited to bring candles with them to be blessed and used in their homes throughout the year.

Blessings will be take place at mass

Monday, February 2nd at 10am.

A Feast of Light: Simeon's declaration of Jesus as a "light that will shine for the Gentiles," inspired the tradition of the blessing of candles on this day, symbolizing Christ as the Light of the World.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

Join the Tuesday morning A.F.F. class for "Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John," presented by Ascension Press on Tuesday mornings. Classes meet at 11:15 a.m. in the Social Hall. The Tuesday evening class is continuing with *The Acts of the Apostles* Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. They will be starting a Bible Study on *The Angels* on Tuesday February 24. 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.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE HAITI MINISTRY!

The Haiti Ministry continues to offer Singing Rooster Coffee, Haitian Tin Art, and Peace Cycle plastic products for sale. These are available on Fellowship Sundays, or on Saturdays after Mass on request. Our coffee costs have increased, and therefore all coffee products are now \$12.00. Please don't forget our Haiti sisters and brothers in Christ who continue to be in dire need. We thank you for your continued support.

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 a.m. and 9:20 a.m.

HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM:

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, fletcherpaul@gmail.com.

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, fletcherpaul@gmail.com.

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.

Meetings

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Bible Studies take place on Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday mornings at 11:15 am, 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:

Meets 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.

MUSIC MINISTRY:

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

FATHER'S CORNER:

The biggest communication problem is that we do not listen in order to understand. We listen to reply.

WHY DO CATHOLICS DO THIS?

The more you understand why Catholics do certain things, the more you can appreciate the beauty of our faith, just as the more you study Scripture, the more you will understand God's merciful plan of Salvation.

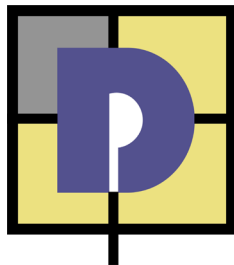
The Sign of the Cross: Catholics' Sign of the Cross signifies two things at once: Our redemption through the death of Jesus on the cross and the Trinity as the central truth of Christianity. When we make the sign, we trace the cross on ourselves, and we recite the holy invocation: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*. We affirm what Christ came down to do for us: To redeem us by His voluntary death; and we affirm His chief revelation to us: That God is simultaneously one and three.

Genuflecting: When they pass the Blessed Sacrament, Catholics go down on one knee to honor the Real Presence. This posture of subservience makes perfect sense, since Christ is really present in the tabernacle.... Once you accept the actual presence of Christ in the tabernacle, genuflection makes perfect sense. Leaving out the genuflection would be a bit of an effrontery, like refusing to curtsy to the Queen.

Standing, Sitting, Kneeling: At Mass, we stand when the Gospel is read, out of respect for the very words of Jesus, and we sit to listen attentively to the other Scriptural readings. At the Consecration, we kneel [because] kneeling [is] the posture of adoration. What we are doing is praying with our bodies, not just with our minds, and praying that way makes perfect sense for a creature composed of both body and soul. The postures of Mass can reflect your state of mind, or it can help put you in the right one. By focusing on the attitude that the various postures reflect, your body becomes a tool to help move your heart, mind, and soul closer in relationship with Jesus.

Incense: Incense symbolizes the pleasant odor of Christian virtue and our prayers rising to God....The ancients, both Jews and Gentiles, used it, and incense accompanied prayers in the Temple. (Luke 1:10) It was also one of the gifts given to The Christ Child by The Magi. (Matt. 2:11) The Book of Revelation [reveals that in heaven]: "the smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God from the hands of an angel." (Rev. 8:4) If there's incense in heaven, why not in churches here below?

Bells: Our church towers commonly have bells, often consisting of large sets, known as carillons, that can be rung from a keyboard. Small handbells are rung during Mass. Bells have been used for centuries to call people to Mass and to sanctify certain times of the day—for instance, it once was the custom, in Catholic countries, to ring church bells at Noon, so workers in the fields could pause and recite the Angelus. During Mass, bells are rung at the Consecration, partly to focus our attention, partly to echo the Hosannahs of the heavenly choirs.



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