



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, fletchedpaul@gmail.com

Haiti: Paul Fletcher, fletchedpaul@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, September 5**

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

Sunday, September 6

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. In Memory of Mitchell Andrew Culp,
requested by Moira Devlin Culp**Papal Intention for September:** For the care of water; for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.**Please note: Weekend Masses will be offered as usual 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.***ALTAR FLOWERS:**

In memory of Sue Von Rump, requested by Dave Von Rump

PLEASE PRAY:*For our ill or shut-in parish family members:*

Jay Annas, Mary Barnes, Erwin David, 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.

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.**MIDDLE SCHOOL:**Middle School students, Grades 6-8, will be meeting on the same night as Youth Group – alternate Saturdays – and are encouraged to attend the Youth Ministry's Kickoff event on Saturday, September 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. For questions about Middle School classes, contact Whitney Lothamer at cre@suffolkva.us.**YOUTH MINISTRY:**All High School teens, Grades 9 through 12, are encouraged to join Youth Ministry. Join us for our Kickoff event on Saturday, September 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. There will be games, food, and fun! Classes for Youth Group typically meet every other Saturday. The full schedule can be found at stmarysuffolk.org. For questions regarding the youth group, contact Jordan Graf at youth@stmarysuffolk.org.**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.**ADULT FAITH FORMATION:**The **Tuesday morning group** is continuing the study of *Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom*. **Please note that during September, this class will meet at 10:00 a.m. and will return to the regular 11:15 a.m. time on October 6th.**The **Tuesday evening group** will begin a study of St. Paul's Letters to the Romans on September 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.Sign-ups are available online at stmarysuffolk.org or in the vestibule. **You are welcome to join either study at any time (even if you didn't sign up beforehand)!** Materials for all the studies will be provided.**CATHOLIC DAY AT BUSCH GARDENS:**Join others from the Richmond Diocese on Saturday, October 3rd, for Catholic Day at Busch Gardens. The day will consist of fun, fellowship, an optional catered dinner, and a Sunday Vigil Mass. For more information or to register, go to: evangelizerichmond.org/events/virginia-catholic-day-at-busch-gardens-5/.**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.**COFFEE AND DONUTS FELLOWSHIP:**

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

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.

MUSIC MINISTRY:

St. Mary's Music Ministry is open to all parishioners ages 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 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. The **Traditional Choir** sings at the Saturday 5:00 p.m. (Vigil) Mass and at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday 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 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 (September through May) at 6:30 p.m.

FATHER'S CORNER

*Life is too short.
Grudges are a waste of happiness.
Laugh when you can.
Apologize when you should.
And let go of what you can't change.
Love deeply and forgive quickly.
Life is too short to be unhappy.*

MEDITATION:

*Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts."
(Psalm 95:7-8)*

Have you ever tried to mold a pot out of clay? Once it dries, clay is nearly impossible to work with. If you let it harden, you can't reshape it. Just as a potter needs soft clay, so our Lord needs soft hearts that He can shape into vessels of His grace and power.

Today the psalmist calls God's people to "kneel before the Lord who made us" (Psalm 95:6). Through His word, He wants to form His people into a beautiful dwelling for His Spirit. That's why He speaks through His prophets like Moses and Ezekiel, the "watchman" in our first reading (Ezekiel 33:7). He forms us through the Church and through our brothers and sisters in Christ. And He molds us through the voice of His Spirit in our hearts. That's why it's important to heed the psalmist and "harden not your hearts" (95:8)!

The problem is that sin tends to harden our hearts. It makes us less pliable and less responsive to God and limits His ability to mold and shape us. So He gave us His Holy Spirit to convict us of sin, so that we would turn back to Him (John 16:8). The Holy Spirit softens our hearts and fills us with hope that we can change.

What does a pliable heart, open to the Spirit, look like? Above all, it is humble before God and wants to please Him by becoming His instrument in the world. A pliable heart recognizes the destructive power of sin and longs to repent and be set free. A pliable heart is peaceful because it receives God's love and trusts that God will never hurt or abandon it.

Let's cooperate with the Holy Spirit today. Imagine that you are a piece of clay being shaped by God's loving hands. Picture Him molding you; let Him show you any rough spots that need extra attention. Yield to Him, and let Him smooth them out. You—and everyone around you—will be amazed at what God can do in you.

"Lord Jesus, give me a soft, pliable heart. Mold me into who You created me to be." (Reprinted with permission from *Word Among Us*.)

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Meets 3rd Wed. (Sept.-May)

7:00pm – Social Hall

*Doors open at 6:30
for refreshments*

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1st & 3rd Monday at 7:00 P.M.

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