

## 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](mailto:office@stmarysuffolk.org) • Website: [www.stmarysuffolk.org](http://www.stmarysuffolk.org)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday: Closed



Father Rogelio Lagoza, *Pastor* / Emergency: (757) 925-0583 / Email: [pastor@stmarysuffolk.org](mailto:pastor@stmarysuffolk.org)  
 Kim Holmes, *Administrative Assistant* / Office: Email: [office@stmarysuffolk.org](mailto: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](mailto:cre@stmarysuffolk.org)

### Youth Ministry:

Jordan Graf, [youth@stmarysuffolk.org](mailto:youth@stmarysuffolk.org)

### OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults):

Geralyn Bryne, Contact Parish Office.

### Adult Faith Formation:

Jordan Graf, [youth@stmarysuffolk.org](mailto:youth@stmarysuffolk.org)

### Church Ministries

#### (Contact the Parish Office if not otherwise noted):

**Altar Servers:** Jorge & Johanna Arocho, [j8arocho@gmail.com](mailto:j8arocho@gmail.com)

**Extraordinary Ministers:** Dave Von Rump, [dvonrump@aol.com](mailto:dvonrump@aol.com)

**Lectors:** Dave Von Rump, [dvonrump@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:fs7363@vakofc.org)

### Communications:

**Bulletin Coordinator:** Shirley Schneider, [smofp.bulletin@gmail.com](mailto:smofp.bulletin@gmail.com)

**Website:** Mike Bibbo, [fs7363@vakofc.org](mailto:fs7363@vakofc.org)

**Community Liaison:** Paul Fletcher, [fletchedpaul@gmail.com](mailto:fletchedpaul@gmail.com)

**Haiti:** Paul Fletcher, [fletchedpaul@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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

### MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday, January 31

5:00 p.m. In Memory of Pat Groeninger,  
 requested by Aggie Dowd

Sunday, February 1

8:00 a.m. For Parishioners of St. Mary's  
 10:00 a.m. For Cancer Patients, requested by Annette Rian  
 In Memory of Mitchell Andrew Culp,  
 requested by Moira Dervlin Culp

Monday, February 2

10:00 a.m. **Feast of the Presentation of Jesus –**  
**Bring Candles to be Blessed**

Tuesday, February 3

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

10:00 a.m. **Feast of St. Blaise, Blessing of Throats**

Wednesday, February 4

10:00 a.m. For Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, February 5

6:30 a.m. For the Clergy

10:00 a.m.

Friday, February 6

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.

### 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, 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.

### 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.**

**Father Ongen's Birthday is also on February 2nd, The Feast of the Presentation. Happy Birthday, Father!**

### 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 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](mailto: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 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 at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall classrooms. For more information on Religious Education, contact Julie Francis at [cre@stmarysuffolk.org](mailto:cre@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:

During February, this fellowship will take place on February 8th, sponsored by Aggie Dowd, and February 22nd, sponsored by Tillie Rivenbark.

### SALVATION ARMY FOOD DONATIONS:

Congratulations to St. Mary's parishioners for donating 548.2 pounds of food to the Salvation Army in 2025, and thanks to Paul Fletcher for transporting them! Please keep donating because there is much need.

### CHRISTMAN DECORATIONS:

Many thanks to the Liturgy Committee for the beautiful decorations around our church during the Advent and Christmas seasons. St. Mary's is blessed to have such devoted, hard-working volunteers. Thanks again to Colleen McCarrier for the beautiful flower arrangements.

### SIDEWALK FUNDRAISING:

The online #iGiveCatholic Giving campaign is over, but if you forgot to make a donation, please go to <https://stmarysuffolk.org/>, or place a check in the collection basket, marking it for the new pavement. So far, we have raised \$14,940.00 of the \$15,000.00 needed. **We are so close, but we still need your help to pay the bill for these new sidewalks!**

**St. Clare of Assisi Retreat Center** (620 Buckroe Avenue, Hampton, VA 23664) has scheduled several inspiring retreats during 2026, including:

*Divine Mercy: A Love Story* – February 13-14, 2026

Learn about and meditate on the message of Divine Mercy as recounted by Saint Faustina in her Diary of Divine Mercy.

*Marriage Encounter* – March 6-8

A daytime retreat for spouses to reconnect and renew their marriage.

*5th Annual Women's Retreat* – March 20-21, 2026.

For more information on the retreat schedule, please visit [www.philippians2foundation.org/find-a-retreat](http://philippians2foundation.org/find-a-retreat), or St. Mary's website, [stmarysuffolk.org](http://stmarysuffolk.org). The retreats often fill up quickly, so early registration is urged. The Retreat Center offers low-cost fees.

## **ST. MARY OF THE PRESENTATION IS SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:**

### **PART-TIME LITURGICAL MUSICIAN**

Work Hours: 3-4 hours/weekly, dependent upon liturgical season and other special liturgies

#### **Duties:**

- \* Assist the Director of Music with planning/providing liturgical music for Masses, Holy Days, special liturgical celebrations, weddings and funerals, and other Special Liturgies
- \* Attend and assist at rehearsals for the choirs and Schola (a small vocal ensemble familiar with Latin Chant).
- \* Demonstrate integrity through a moral, upright lifestyle consistent with Catholic church teachings and customs.

#### **Qualifications and Personal Attributes:**

- \* Minimum 3-5 years' experience in Catholic church music ministry
- \* Proficiency on keyboard, either piano or organ
- \* The ability to read music and lead a choir and congregation, while providing keyboard accompaniment
- \* Knowledge of and comfort with Catholic Church music literature in all forms and styles (traditional, contemporary, Latin chant) for congregation and choirs
- \* Knowledge of Latin chant preferred, but if no prior experience, then a willingness to learn
- \* Strong organizational, managerial, and interpersonal skills
- \* Demonstrated ability to collaborate with clergy, staff, parish committees, and volunteers
- \* Understanding of, and willingness to support, Catholic Church teaching, mission, and values

### **CANTOR/DIGITAL PIANO RECORDING OPERATOR**

Work Hours: 2 to 5 hours per month as needed to substitute when Director of Music/Liturgical Musician is unavailable.

#### **Duties:**

- \* Operate digital piano recorded music setting, providing prerecorded music for Mass to include music for Processional, Presentation of Gifts, Communion, Recessional, and Ordinary of the Mass
- \* Attend brief training with Director of Music/Liturgical Musician on operating the digital piano recording settings and procedure during Mass
- \* Lead the congregation in singing prerecorded hymns, songs, and Ordinary of the Mass

#### **Qualifications and Personal Attributes:**

- \* Minimum one-year experience in Catholic Church music ministry
- \* Basic knowledge of the Liturgy and how music supports this
- \* Knowledge of when music should begin and end during the celebration of the Liturgy; ability to sense the nuances and improvise if necessary, always watching the priest
- \* Understanding of, and willingness to support, Catholic Church teaching, mission, and values

***If you have a gift for music and a calling to serve the Lord, please contact the Parish Office at:  
office@stmarysuffolk.org with your contact information including  
name, phone number, and e-mail address.***



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## Statement by Bishop Burbidge and Bishop Knestout on General Assembly Passage of Extreme Abortion Amendment

For the second straight year, the General Assembly has passed a proposed constitutional amendment that would add an extreme and deadly “fundamental right” to abortion to Virginia’s constitution. The legislature prioritized the passage of this radical amendment in a way that is truly shocking to the conscience – moving it all the way through both chambers during the opening three days of its 60-day session.

The extreme abortion amendment, which will proceed to a referendum for voters to decide later this year, would go far beyond even what *Roe v. Wade* previously allowed. It would enshrine virtually unlimited abortion at any stage of pregnancy, with no age restriction. Among numerous other problems, it would severely jeopardize Virginia’s parental consent law, health and safety standards for women, conscience protections for healthcare providers, and restrictions on taxpayer-funded abortions. Most tragically of all, the extreme abortion amendment provides no protections whatsoever for preborn children.

Parental rights and the health and well-being of minors must be defended. So too must religious liberty. No one should ever be forced to pay for or participate in an abortion. Health and safety should be enhanced, not diminished. Most importantly, human life is sacred. The lives of vulnerable mothers and their preborn children must always be welcomed, cared for, and protected.

The proposed abortion amendment will appear on a ballot later this year. So too will a measure we oppose that would repeal the one-man/one-woman marriage provision approved by Virginia voters in 2006, as well as an initiative we support to restore voting rights to all who have completed their prison sentences.

We will be deeply engaged in the work of helping to educate voters on these proposed amendments, and will fight the extreme abortion amendment with maximum determination.

**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.

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.

**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 Haitian sisters and brothers in Christ who continue to be in dire need. We thank you for your continued support.

*Ongoing Events***EUCARISTIC 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.

**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, [fletchedpaul@gmail.com](mailto:fletchedpaul@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, [fletchedpaul@gmail.com](mailto:fletchedpaul@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](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.

*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.

**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](mailto:cre@stmarysuffolk.org).

**FATHER'S CORNER:**

One hand that helps you when you're in trouble  
Is far more valuable than a thousand hands clapping  
When you succeed.

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD:**

*Mary and Joseph took Jesus ... to present Him to the Lord. (Luke 2:22)* As devoted and faithful Jews, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple, in fulfillment of the Jewish law. They came to give to the Lord what they could – "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." (Luke 2:24) But God gave them more than they could have imagined: The confirmation that their child was the One who would bring salvation to the world: "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for ... Israel." (Lk 2:32) Through the words of Simeon and Anna, God confirmed that the time of redemption for all people had come.

As we celebrate The Feast of the Presentation on Monday, let's consider how simple moments of faithfulness – like Mary and Joseph's trip to the Temple that day – can become gateways to the extraordinary, where heaven touches earth. One way that we see this clearly is through the sacraments, the "signs of grace ... by which divine life is dispensed to us." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1131) Outwardly, it's easy to miss the spiritual reality of what is happening when we celebrate a sacrament. But we know, for instance, that in the waters of Baptism, sin is washed away and we are adopted into God's family! We know that in Reconciliation, we are restored "to God's grace" and joined "with Him in an intimate friendship." (CCC 1468) And we believe that the Eucharist, "the source and summit of the Christian life," unites us to Christ and enables us to "anticipate" heaven. (1324, 1326)

Just as Mary and Joseph were blessed to witness God's plan unfold through their simple act of obedience, ask the Lord to help you see how He is at work in your life through the sacraments. The next time you receive the Eucharist, thank Him for His presence in what seems like ordinary bread and wine, and for uniting Himself to you in such a personal way. As you prepare for Confession, keep in mind the joy you will experience of being reconciled to the Lord. And praise God for all the ways heaven touches earth every single day.

*"Lord, open my eyes with wonder to see  
all that you are doing in my life today."*



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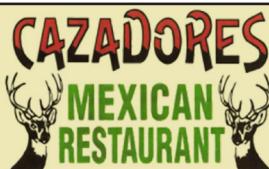
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**St. Mary's  
Women's Club**

Meets 3rd Wed. (Sept.-May)  
7:00pm – Social Hall  
Doors open at 6:30  
for refreshments

[https://smwcsuffolk.weebly.com](http://smwcsuffolk.weebly.com)  
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