

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

EASTER MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday, April 4,
8:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 5,
8:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. In Memory of Mitchell Andrew Culp,
requested by Moira Devlin Culp

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 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

**EASTER SERVICES**

Holy Saturday: 8:00 p.m. – *Easter Vigil Mass*

Easter Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. –
Easter Sunday Masses

PLEASE NOTE:

- There will be **no** weekday Masses from Tuesday, April 7th through Friday, April 10th.
- The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, April 6th.

COFFEE AND DONUTS FELLOWSHIP:

Coffee and Donuts Fellowship will be held on April 5th (along with the Easter brunch), sponsored by Mike and Margie Natividad and family, and on April 19th, sponsored by Arnold, Elaine, Find and Arielle Reyes.

PARISH LIFE:

Easter Sunday Brunch will take place after the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Easter Sunday.

The Easter Egg Hunt will take place at the back of the Social Hall after the Sunday Easter brunch.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

K-8 Formation Classes are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall classrooms.

YOUTH GROUP:

The next Youth Group class will be held on Saturday, April 18th, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. **All** High School Students are welcome to join! Dinner will be provided. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jordan Graf at youth@stmarysuffolk.org.

HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM:

The annual renewal of your scholarship donations for Haiti students begins the weekend of April 11th-12th. 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, fetchedpaul@gmail.com.

THE DIOCESAN HAITI GATHERING

“Tapestry of Two Cultures: Celebrating Haiti Twinning Relationships,” will be held on Saturday, April 18th, at Saint Michael’s Church in Glen Allen. Save the Date!

HAITI EXHIBITION:

The Chrysler Museum of Art is currently running an exhibition of Danny Lyon’s Photography in Haiti. Entitled “Beyond the Mountains,” it takes viewers through 40 photographs of Haitian history at the end of the Duvalier dictatorship from the perspective of an outsider to the Haitian community. Lyon’s images, taken over three years, explore themes of power, post colonialism, and Haitian culture, prompting reflection on who tells history, whose voices are heard, and how past struggles shape the present. The Exhibition closes on May 17th.

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.

**RESPECT LIFE:**

Please don’t forget to return your Baby Bottles as soon as possible. Place your filled bottles in the bin in the vestibule. All proceeds will go the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater. **Please be generous!**

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

The **Tuesday morning** class will **begin 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.

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.

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 at 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 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 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 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:**

Every sunrise reminds us of God's faithful love.

*No matter what we faced yesterday,
today is a fresh start filled with His mercy and grace.*

*We step into a new day with hope,
knowing that God's love covers us,
and His faithfulness will never fail.*

DAILY MEDITATION:

John 20:1-9

He saw and believed. (John 20:8)

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Today we celebrate the culmination of the longing of God's people through the ages. In today's Gospel, we hear that when John looked into the empty tomb, he "saw and believed" (John 20:8). His eyes were opened, and he was able to respond to what he saw with faith. As we consider the empty tomb today, let's ask the Lord to open our eyes and give us the grace to respond with faith as well! Throughout Lent, our Sunday Gospel readings have been preparing the way for us:

- We saw Jesus defeat the devil, clinging to Scripture to overcome His temptations (Matthew 4:1-11). We now know that Jesus has freed us from Satan's power.
- We saw Jesus manifest His glory and give the disciples a glimpse of what was in store for them (Matthew 17:1-9). And we now believe that Jesus is inviting us into heavenly glory.
- We saw Jesus give living water to the Samaritan woman, showing us that as Messiah, He came for all people (John 4:5-42). So now we recognize that Jesus brought God's promises to fulfillment for every person.
- We saw Jesus heal a man born blind, opening the man's eyes to recognize Him as the Son of Man (John 9:1-41). We believe now that our spiritual blindness can be healed and that we can see Jesus for who He is.
- And we saw Jesus raise His friend Lazarus from the dead, showing that He has power over death itself (John 11:1-45). We now know that we are freed from the fear of death and that death is not the end for us.

Today as you rejoice in the Resurrection of Jesus, rejoice in all its effects—both in your own life and for everyone. He has conquered sin and death and the devil! All our hopes have been fulfilled in Him!

“Jesus, I rejoice in Your Resurrection! Open my eyes to see and believe all that You have accomplished.”

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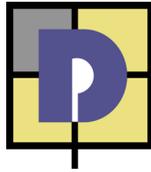
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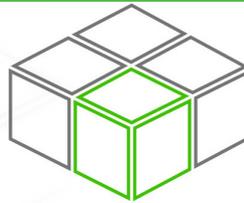
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