

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, October 17
5:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 18
8:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. For the Parishioners of St. Mary's
Tuesday, October 20
6:30 a.m. For the Reparation of Sins against Life, Charity, and Chastity
10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, October 21
10:00 a.m. For the Souls in Purgatory
Thursday, October 22
6:30 a.m. For the Clergy
Friday, October 23
10:00 a.m. For the Conversion of Sinners

Papal Intention for October:
For the mental health ministry, that it may be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

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.

PLEASE PRAY:

For our ill or shut-in parish family members:

Jay Annas, Mary Barnes, Erwin David, Kathy Hansinger, 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, Joshua Graf, Joyce Jankielsztajn, Jesse Morgan, Devin Pisani, Chris Rosado, and Rafael Soriano.

Current Notices

Please note: Because of a Priests' Convocation, there will be no Adoration in November and no weekday Masses from November 2 through 6.

SECOND COLLECTION:

There will be a Second Collection this weekend as we celebrate World Mission Sunday in support of missions and missionaries around the world for the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, the Home Mission Collection, and the Black and Indian Mission that supports African American and Native American communities. Pope Leo reminds us that Mission belongs to the entire Church. Please consider donating. For more information, please go to: pontificalmissions.org/wms-2026.



COFFEE AND DONUTS FELLOWSHIP:

Coffee and Donuts Fellowship will be held on October 18th, sponsored by the Bambet and Rayna Odango family.

EXCITING NEWS FOR PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES:



Mike Bibbo and Rob Quinn spent a recent weekend constructing our new "Quiet Room" and Confessional, which you will see at the back of church. It is a job very well done, and we give enthusiastic and sincere thanks to both Mike and Rob. And now let's celebrate that parents finally have a place to take their little ones in addition to the Social Hall.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

All are invited to the *All Hallowtide Celebration* at St. Mary's on Saturday, October 31st from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.! Learn about the Saints and Catholic traditions. There will be music, food, games, prizes, contests, and a fire pit for roasting S'mores. Bring a dish to share. The sign-up sheet is in the vestibule. For more information, see the flyers in the Social Hall.

Please note: At the beginning of the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass, all children ages 3 through 1st Grade are invited follow the catechist to the Social Hall for their own special reading of the Gospel. They will rejoin their families in church during the Offertory.

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Middle School students, Grades 6-8, will be meeting on the same night as Youth Group – that is, on alternate Saturdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. For questions about Middle School classes, contact Whitney Lothamer at cre@suffolkva.us.

YOUTH MINISTRY:

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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

The **Tuesday morning** class continues a 20-week study of "Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom." ***Please note:*** This class has returned to the 11:15 a.m. start time.

The **Tuesday evening** class continues a study of St. Paul's Letters to the Romans. 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 either study at any time (even if you didn't sign up beforehand)!*** *Materials for all the studies will be provided.*

EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION:

Join Star of the Sea Catholic Church (1404 Pacific Avenue in Virgina Beach) on October 18th for Holy Mass at noon, followed by a Eucharistic Procession on the Boardwalk at 1:30 p.m. The procession will go to 24th Street and return to the Church for Benediction. For more information, call Star of the Sea at 757-428-8547.



NEARBY SPECIAL EVENTS:

October 21st at 7:00 p.m. at Church of the Ascension (Virginia Beach): Steve Hemler, President of the Catholic Apologetics Institute of North America, will present, "Why Would a Loving God Allow Evil, Pain, and Suffering?"

October 22 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Gregory the Great Church (Virginia Beach): Another presentation from Steve Hemler on "The Science and Significance of Eucharistic Miracles."

October 30-November 1 at St. Gregory's: A first-class relic of St. Carlo Acutis will be on display. A great opportunity to make some 3rd-class relics, so bring your medals, Rosaries, and holy cards!

HAITIAN DINNER FUNDRAISER:

Join the Haiti Committee for delicious Haitian cuisine and fellowship on October 24th at 6:15 p.m. in the Social Hall. Tickets are for Dine-in Only and are $15.00 for adults and $8.00 for children 12 and under. Purchase tickets from any Haiti Committee member and help to support our twinning parish.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE:

In honor of the 250th anniversary of our nation, Bishop Knestout invites the faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond to join a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on October 24, 2026, to entrust our country to the maternal care of Our Lady, Patroness of the Americas. For more information on this historic event and to register, please visit the Diocesan Office for Evangelization at https://evangelizerichmond.org/events/diocesan-pilgrimage-2/.

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. Adults in good standing are required to be Virtus-trained before attending training. For more information, please contact Johanna Arocho at 757-287-6852 or j8arocho@gmail.com.

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

EUCHARISTIC 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.

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 the 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 the 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

Do not wait for major occasions to create special moments.
Sometimes the most meaningful memories
Come from ordinary days spent together
With the people you love.

MEDITATION:

I am the Lord and there is no other. (Isaiah 45:5)

In today's first reading, the Lord—speaking through His prophet—tells the Gentile King Cyrus of Persia that he has been chosen to help the people of Israel. He calls Cyrus his "anointed" and says that He has called him "by name" to free the Jewish people from their exile in Babylon (Isaiah 45:1, 4). Finally, He announces, "I am the Lord and there is no other, there is no God besides me" (45:5).

"I am the Lord." God makes this proclamation throughout the Bible because He knows how easy it can be for us to forget this foundational truth. When He gave the Ten Commandments to Moses, He started by saying, "I am the Lord your God. . . . You shall not have other gods beside me" (Exodus 20:2, 3). Later, Jesus will quote this again when He says, "The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart" (Mark 12:29-30). There is no other god; there is no other "Lord." All the other gods are false and unable to save.

We may not worship idols as Cyrus did, but we can still turn many of the good things our Father has given us into our own false gods and forget the One who gave them to us. We can also forget that only God can save us. Our job or our studies, our money, our leisure time, social media, and even our service in our community or parish—all these can become idols for us. If we focus only on making more money or if we invest all our time searching for "likes," if we focus on serving day and night for the sake of recognition but never turn to the Lord for H is wisdom—if we do anything like this, we can forget where our true good comes from. We can end up giving these things the first place in our hearts and remove God from the throne of our lives. And we cut ourselves off from the grace He wants to give us.

God wants us to remember that He alone is our Savior, He alone is our comfort, He alone is our Lord, the sovereign of our lives. So let's surrender ourselves to Him and let Him reign in our hearts.

"Lord, you are my God and my Savior!" (Reprinted with permission from *Word Among Us*.)

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Celebrating Life's Treasured Memories

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
New members welcome

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