



*ST. MARK*  
Catholic Church  
2023  
*Stewardship Special Issue*

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# Letter to *ST. MARK* Parishioners

**W**e want to give thanks to Jesus for what He has accomplished throughout our Parish. The past three years have been a challenge as we faced a global pandemic that disrupted Parish life. We are heartened to see many Parish activities returning to pre-pandemic levels. But we have more work to do.

We continue to pray for a return to full participation in Mass. We are only at about 60 percent of the attendance we had in 2019. In 2019, average weekend Mass attendance was 1,250 people versus 750 in 2022. We celebrate all those who are attending Mass and ask you to consider others whom you can invite to come with you. We are all called to evangelize in this way.

As we continue on our faith journey together, **ST. MARK** flourishes through the Parish Staff and many Volunteers who share their talents every day. We depend on the generosity of **ST. MARK** Parishioners to also share their treasure to fund the mission of the parish. At the start of Fiscal Year (FY23) on July 1, 2022, we faced an approximately \$300,000 deficit in our overall budget that totaled about \$2.9 million in expenses. Throughout the year, and in a special way through the 2022 Stewardship Campaign, we shared the financial situation of the Parish; through the blessings of the Holy Spirit, Parishioners responded generously. We finished FY23 on June 30, 2023, with a surplus! THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

As we look at FY24 that started July 1, 2023, we face a similar challenge, with projected expenses exceeding projected contributions by approximately \$200,000 unless Parishioners maintain, or increase, their contributions in FY24 and more parishioners contribute. Figures 1 and 2 provide more information on the projected FY24 budget income and expense in pie charts for the Church.

But why should you give to **ST. MARK**? Beyond the Catholic precept that “You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church”, your donations allow **ST. MARK** to fulfill its mission— “called by Christ to Worship God, to Invite all with love, to Nurture our faith, and to Serve others”. We are using this brochure as one way to highlight the many aspects of parish life realized through our Five Commissions plus **ST. MARK** Catholic School as we seek to live out the Parish Mission. Our ability to accomplish this can only happen with your support.

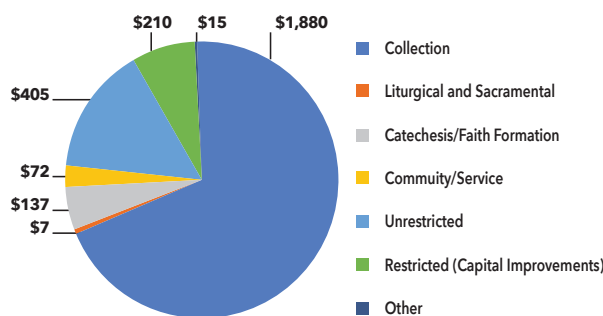
Please prayerfully consider how you can give generously of your Time, Talent, and Treasure to support **ST. MARK**. Be assured of our continued prayers for you. And may you rejoice always in the Lord’s blessings to you—.

Father Patrick Holroyd, Pastor, **ST. MARK**

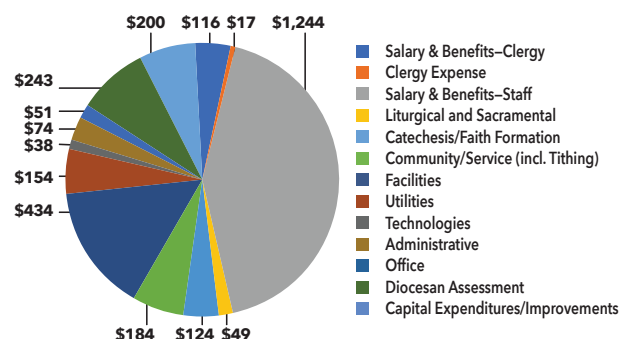
John Zolper, Chair **ST. MARK** Finance Council

Thomas Brownell, Chair **ST. MARK** Pastoral Council

**Figure 1. FY24 Church Budget Income (\$k) Total Projected = \$2,726,180**



**Figure 2. FY24 Church Budget Expenses (\$k) Total Projected = \$2,926,233**



# Sharing Our Treasures: *ST. MARK* Tithing

**ST. MARK** is a tithing parish, donating 5 percent of the Offertory Collection to worthy cases. Applications are reviewed by the Tithing Committee and approved by the Pastor. Donations have included causes both near and far; from FamilyPASS in Vienna to a Parish School in Tanzania and many more in between. Table 1 shows the full list.

**ST. MARK** Parishioners also donate non-cash items. We donated food, diapers, shoes, and more to the House of Mercy. Also, we donate tons of canned food and house-

hold items annually to the Lamb Center, FamilyPASS, St. Lucy Warehouse, and Food for Others. We are called to share our gifts with others, and **ST. MARK** Tithing is one way the Parish does so. As one recipient of assistance wrote, *“I just wanted to send a note to say ‘thank you’ for helping with the Emergency Assistance case for me and my family. Your generous donation helped prevent an eviction and placement of our family into a Shelter/homelessness situation. Thank you, and God bless each one of you!”*

**Table 1 *ST. MARK* Tithing Donations  
Total = \$116,750**

Family PASS	\$18,000
HOPE in Northern Virginia	\$11,000
Just Neighbors	\$9,000
Haiti College Fund	\$9,000
Centreville Immigration Forum	\$7,500
CHO	\$5,000
Culmore Clinic	\$5,000
Second Story	\$5,000
Shelter House	\$5,000
Stroke Comeback Center	\$5,000
Good360	\$5,000
Tanzania Education Fund	\$5,000
Knights of Columbus	\$4,400
Associates of St. John Bosco	\$3,500
Ignatian Volunteer Corps	\$2,000
Farifax County Police Association	\$1,250
Medical Missionaries	\$500
Catholic Charities	\$400
Student Peace Awards of Fairfax	\$200
Poor Box Recipients—Misc	\$15,000

We the people of **ST. MARK**

Catholic Church

are called by Christ

to **Worship** God,  
to **Invite** all with love,  
to **Nurture** our faith, and  
to **Serve** others

**The Parish is organized  
into five Commissions:**

- Worship
- Community Growth
- Service
- Youth
- Religious Education

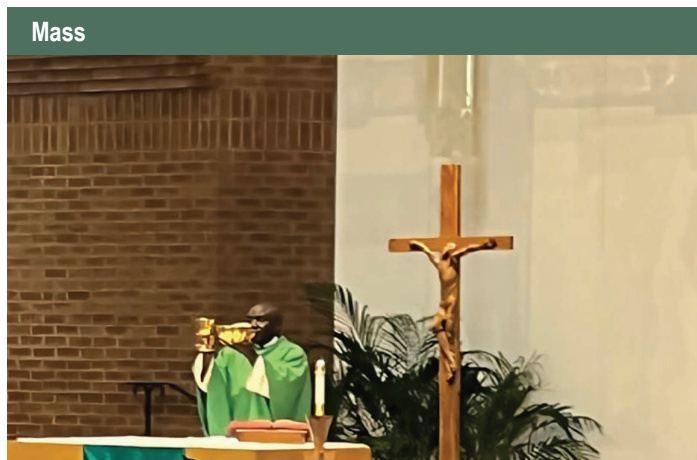
The Parish offers support to its 2,800 registered families through the celebration of the sacraments, through the work of its ministries, as well as through the Small Groups, which meet weekly or monthly in neighborhood gatherings to share Scripture, Prayer and Faith.

# Worship Commission

The **ST. MARK** Worship Commission is a dedicated group of volunteers who do God's work by assisting the Pastor and the Director of Liturgy and Music to plan and carry out all the Parish liturgies that form the life-blood of our Faith Community. Our worship ministries are vibrant and active, and collectively they create a beautiful and sacred house of prayer for Parishioners and visitors alike. The Commission's volunteers prayerfully provide the hands that are needed to decorate the sanctuary and care for the vestments, linens, candles, and sacred vessels used at Mass. We also have skilled and dedicated volunteers helping as Altar Servers, Liturgy Coordinators, Lectors, Ushers, and Eucharistic Ministers. Other volunteers work with families to coordinate Baptisms, Marriages, and funerals, as well as assist with the special Children's Liturgy every weekend during the school year.



**ST. MARK** has also been known for its active and varied Music Ministry, which has included Music Directors who composed some of the music our Parish still sings.



**Baptism**

The varied nine Parish Choirs—including a Handbell Group—support the congregational singing and enhance the worship each weekend at all Masses. There are several additional specific choirs that sing for particular events throughout the year, such as the Resurrection Choir, which sings for parish funerals; the Youth and Family Choir; and the Festival Choir, which sings for Holy Week liturgies and special celebrations and events. The Worship Commission needs volunteers and offers those volunteers very special opportunities to participate in the central rites of our Catholic faith. Whatever your gift and talent may be, please consider helping the Worship Commission do its holy work by volunteering.

**Staff member for Worship:** Laura Cooman 703-938-3293, or at [lcooman@stmark.org](mailto:lcooman@stmark.org)



**Confirmation**

## Witness from Parishioners

We are blessed to be active in the **ST. MARK** Music Ministry. We were both educated Pre-School through 8th grade at **ST. MARK** Catholic School. We studied the piano and organ with former **ST. MARK** Music Director, Nancy Novelly. Father Pat and Nancy gave us the opportunity to play the piano and organ first at weekly school Masses and later at weekend Liturgies. We both went on to Bishop O'Connell High School and continued to play for the Choirs and for School Masses. We have both continued musical studies in college: (Mark with a music minor at George Mason University and Matthew studying music composition at the Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio).



Mark and Matthew Brown

**ST. MARK** has given us so much over the years, and it is our honor to continue in the Music Ministry, now under the outstanding leadership of Laura Cooman. Mark has accompanied the 5:30 p.m. and 11:00 a.m. choirs since his high school days, and he continues to serve in those capacities, helping out at other functions when needed. Matthew has accompanied the Children's Choirs and various Cantors at Sunday Liturgies and continues to do so when home from college. He also applies his Music Composition to his Church Ministry, where he has written a Mass setting and other liturgical music. We enjoy coming together for Triduum and Christmas, when we can both play with the Festival Choir. **ST. MARK** will always be a second home for us.

—Mark and Matthew Brown

“We have been proud members of the **ST. MARK** 5:30 p.m. Choir since shortly after we joined the Parish in 1978. (Ann plays the flute; Tom sings and plays the trumpet.) We have always felt that, under the direction of very talented Music Directors over the years, including our current director, Laura Cooman, the Music Ministry is the best there is! Not only has participation in the Choir been a blessing on its own terms (“he who sings prays twice”), but it has had a deep and direct impact on our faith. The many excellent singers and other musicians in the Choir have always been our extended family, sharing in our joys and our sorrows, and forming a constant in our lives and in the lives of our children, and now, grandchildren. Preparing new music for Mass each week helps us focus on the words and meaning of the Sacred Scriptures, as the readings and the themes change from week to week and from season to season. Finally, since music is such an integral part of liturgical life at **ST. MARK**, we as Choir members feel that we participate as directly and intimately as we possibly can in the celebration of the Eucharist. We thank God for the opportunity to serve the Music Ministry at **ST. MARK** and hope that our efforts will in some small way bring those who hear our music to a deeper relationship with Christ. Join us in the Music Ministry!”—Tom and Ann Brownell



Tom and Ann Brownell

# Religious Education Commission

The *ST. MARK* Religious Education Commission supports the Parish in shaping and offering a comprehensive program of Faith Formation throughout the lives of Parishioners. Religious Education activities are directed to forming Christian disciples who will develop and regularly nourish their relationship with God. As Parishioners are formed in their Faith, they will come to know God's love for them and learn to share that love with others in the unique settings of their daily lives. The Religious Education Commission works with the Director of Religious Education (DRE) to provide classes and activities, including:

- Workshops for new parents to prepare them to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for their children and to raise their children in the Faith
- Weekly classes for children pre-K through 8th grade during the school year to teach our Youth the basics of their Catholic faith and prepare them to celebrate the sacraments
- Family workshops for children and parents to deepen their understanding of the Sacraments of Reconciliation

and Eucharist as Youth celebrate these for the first time

- A week-long Vacation Bible School in the summer for youth campers to explore, and teen assistants to share, their faith through music, dance, stories, and crafts
- A Sunday morning speakers' series for adults to focus on their learning and spiritual growth
- Bible studies and book groups for adults held via Zoom so they can delve deeper into spiritual questions with others
- Weekly group meetings for teens and adults discerning Christian discipleship through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and/or completing preparation to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Religious Education Commission enlists, trains, and supports Parishioners in serving as the Catechists, Aides, Presenters, and Group Leaders for this programming. In doing so, all may live their Christian vocation to share the Good News and bring others to discipleship.

**Staff member for Religious Education:** Joe Flaherty  
703-938-1948, [jflaherty@stmark.org](mailto:jflaherty@stmark.org)

## Witness from Parishioners

“Participation in the RCIA program enriched my relationship with Jesus and His Church. I feel a sense of completeness. I feel more directly connected to Jesus both in my everyday life and in my worship, I understand my purpose within the body of the church. RCIA was a critical milestone along my continuous journey to grow in faith, and ultimately in the call to Sainthood. It was what I didn't know I was missing my whole life.” —*April Alexandrow*

“I was a High School helper this year. Being part of this really affected my life and deepened my relationship with Jesus. I loved helping because it gave me a chance to go over all I had learned in past years and understand it on a deeper level. Volunteering also helped me with my high school career because I can use these hours to contribute to my necessary service hours. Overall helping made me feel so much better about myself and my connection with my faith. —*Carlo Bonacci*

“It has been a joy to spend a year working at this vibrant Parish as the Director of Religious Education. I have been inspired by the wonderful Catechists and other Volunteers who sacrifice so much (especially their time) to teach others about Christ and to help them live in the pattern of His life. I greatly enjoy learning about the faith lives of Parishioners, especially the Volunteers and those preparing for sacraments. —*Joe Flaherty*

“I started by helping with RCIA and then went from there to my favorite Ministry, Catholic Life Community (CLC), working with High School girls. When I started working with the 8th Grade CONFIRMATION class, it helped me to become more informed in my own faith. I am challenged each time we meet by the students, and I can sometimes learn along with them.” —*Kathy Sullivan*



# Capital Improvements

Our wonderful Parish Community of **ST. MARK** was founded in 1965; and our first worship space (now the Cassidy Activities Center) was completed in 1968. Our current Church was completed in 1984; the newest building, the Christian Formation Center, was first occupied in 2003.

This vibrant Community needs care and attention, as well as constant maintenance and upkeep of the buildings to continue to meet our 21<sup>st</sup> Century needs. We are all stewards of the faith community of **ST. MARK**. This vibrant Community needs care and attention, and repairing, and tweaking/building to continue meeting our 21st century needs. We have developed a capital needs spreadsheet to plan and anticipate needs—and then (like at home) we discover that something did not last as long as planned.

Analysis shows that we need to spend \$180,000 to \$250,000 a year to keep everything going well. Where does the money go? Recently, we needed to replace the 51-year-old sewage pump, and the HVAC system needed new chillers and a new control system. The Chapel has new chairs and kneelers. We installed energy efficient lighting throughout our buildings and the parking lots. Our Church pews (half of which date to 1968) were

repaired and refinished; we installed new kneelers, and we now have a new and improved sound system. The Church flooring was also replaced; and the Choir now sits in new chairs. The roof on the CFC gym was replaced. We still have many projects on our list. These include expanding our restrooms, paving and restriping the parking lots, and purchasing a new organ (we cannot get parts for the current one) and a new piano. Yes, we have a few “silver hairs”, but we are vibrant, strong, and preparing for the future.



“I noticed all of the wonderful renovations, especially the choir benches, as soon as I got home from my first year of college. The beauty of the space goes hand in hand with the beauty of sound we strive for in music ministry. Both arts are very special traditions in our Church that help us understand the beauty of God.”—*Matthew Brown*

“What a delight to walk on the new floor in the church. Its brighter color of white and pearl gives balance to the dark brick walls. Also, there is a cushion to the floor, and it gives a little grip so there is less chance to slip.”—*Peggy Kelly*



# Community Growth Commission

The feeling of belonging brings joy and peace. The **ST. MARK** Community Growth Commission ministries and small groups bring like-minded people together to serve and form long lasting bonds. **ST. MARK** Movie Night, Monthly Book Club, Prayer Shawl Ministry, M&M's (our over-50 social group) Coffee and Community, and Donut Sunday host fun events for people to get to know one another. Praying College Mom's gather to support our college-age students and young adults as they navigate the years between high school and post-college. Several of our ministries accompany grieving families and assist with funeral receptions, offer bereavement groups, and reach out with kind words and cards. Our ministries welcome Newcomers, and Always Our Children gathers families with LGBTQ members.

Many people form strong relationships in Small Groups where Parishioners meet once or twice a month to study upcoming Scripture for weekend Masses and discuss its applications to modern life. Alpha, our evangelization ministry, invites people to an 11-week series focusing on questions like Who are you? and Who is Jesus? Care for our Common Home focuses on Pope Francis' call to be stewards of creation as we worship, care for creation, and hear the cry of the poor.

Emily's Coffee, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Christians in Commerce, and the Knights of Columbus round out this active Commission.

**Staff member for Community Growth:** Bill Grossman  
703-938-1936, [bgrossman@stmark.org](mailto:bgrossman@stmark.org)



Emily's Coffee



Prayers Shawl Ministry Members

M&Ms Group





# Witness from Parishioners

## Care for Our Common Home: The Mary Garden

“Mary is the true companion of my heart. She took me by the hand and introduced me to her Son when I was 6 years old. Honoring Mary through the Garden has taught me about pollinators, native plants, and how to care for this lovely place that God has created for all of us. A little knowledge about caring for a small garden can open avenues to learn about Creation and our Creator. Every time I pass the statue of Our Lady and see the flowers surrounding her, I am glad I contributed, so that others have a place to come and be at peace in our busy world.”—*Iris Gil*



Mary Garden with stepping stones from *ST. MARK* School children

## Care for Our Common Home: The Joy of Belonging

“In 2017, I was excited to join the *ST. MARK* Care for Our Common Home group. I had read *Laudato Si'* and heard Pope Francis' call to care for Creation. Now I more fully understand that Creation is one of God's awesome gifts, and I show my gratitude and love for God by caring for His gift. Planting a native plant or reducing my use of plastic is an act of thanks that strengthens my personal relationship with God. This is what keeps me going—doing little things with great love.”—*Faith Roberts*

“We arrived at *ST. MARK* as newlyweds 37 years ago. We were welcomed on our first day and stayed to raise our four children in the Faith. We love the Parish family, whom we found in the many Ministries, from Alpha, Cursillo, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, SMAC team, Lector, Pastoral Counsel, SMCS, and many others. Alpha opened new friendships and long standing relationships with faith-filled men and women who were striving to build a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and receive the many gifts of the Holy Spirit. We encourage everyone to Come and See what Alpha can do for YOU.”—*Karen and Mario Asta*

“Alpha was a repeat of my basic Catholic faith yet with new understandings that came not only from its fresh presentations but also from the dynamic of sharing at the discussion table, meals together, polished audio-video clips, and heart-felt exchanges both live and virtual via Zoom. It was both joyful and profound. Alpha left me with a desire to go out and share all. I found Alpha greater than any other Christian ministry that I have attended. I say, come see; come try a new way of living. I now see the simple prayer of Come Holy Spirit to be deeply transformative.”—*Bern Diederich*



Bern Diederich

“Small Groups have made a tremendous difference in my faith journey. I have found a great sense of community, support, and friendship with the couples we meet with each week. Small groups have strengthened my Faith prayer life and become a highlight of our week.”—*Julie Scott*



Alpha



# Service Commission

The **ST. MARK** Service Commission seeks to create an awareness of and commitment to Christ's social message, as reflected in the actions of our Faith Community and in our response to the needs of others. Service Commission committees reach out to those in need beyond our boundaries. The programs of the Commission provide opportunities for parishioners to act on their faith by caring for others directly by working with organizations and agencies who serve the poor and the vulnerable, and through advocacy at the local, state and national levels. The work of the Service Commission includes:

- Semi-annual blood drives, with INOVA Blood Donor Services
- Support for Children in Need of Smiles (CHINS) at INOVA Fairfax Children's Hospital
- Support for the Christ House shelter for homeless men, Washington, DC
- The annual **ST. MARK** Thanksgiving Clothing Drive
- The annual Christmas Giving Tree
- English as a Second Language (ESL) classes
- Facets Hot Meals, delivering meals to the homeless in Fairfax
- Support for the Lamb Center, an ecumenical ministry to the poor and homeless
- Social Action Linking Together (SALT), advocating for legislation to aid low-income families, the incarcerated, the homeless, and the working poor and their children.

As people of faith, we know that it is not enough to love and do good works ourselves; it is our responsibility and part of our calling as Disciples of Christ to encourage those around us to live lives of charity and unconditional love as well. By our words and, more importantly, by our actions, we challenge others to lives of service as an essential way of drawing nearer to God.

**Staff member for Service:**  
Bill Grossman 703-938-1936,  
[bgrossman@stmark.org](mailto:bgrossman@stmark.org)



FACETS volunteers prepare packages of food for the homeless

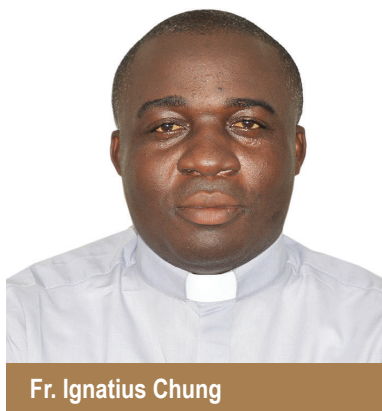


FACETS volunteers prepare food for the homeless



## From the ST. MARK Parochial Vicar

**ST. MARK: A Home Away from Home** Human justice demands that one enjoy the fruit of one's labor alone, but Divine justice demands that one should always share with others. This I find apt at **ST. MARK** Community, a place that is nice to serve and very welcoming. I have been in this Community for the last seven months, serving as the Parochial Vicar, and I must acknowledge that the lay volunteer and active participation in the life of the Church is quite encouraging. Living in the Rectory near the Church, I observe that each time I step out, either going to the office or to the Chapel to pray, there is always someone doing something good for the Community. The Liturgy is good, singing at Mass is wonderful, and the Eucharistic Ministers offer the best for the Community. I find an inclusive image of the Church at **ST. MARK**, a Community that is always turning toward the fold. Given that gratitude is something that none can give too much, and that none can receive too much, but rather some-



Fr. Ignatius Chung

thing that stands as a memory of the heart, I sincerely thank this Community, especially the Pastor, the Staff, Members of the Parish Council, Members of various groups, and especially the regular Members whom we meet daily for morning Mass. It has been wonderful. I say bravo, because when I left Cameroon coming to the United States, I so worried whether I would be able to fit in, but **ST. MARK** is gradually helping me realize my dreams. Borrowing the words of a certain Greek Philosopher, Epicurus, one would say that the generosity, kindness, welcoming spirit, and enthusiasm for the faith at **ST. MARK** teach me that nothing is enough for the man for whom enough is too little and that if we stop to think more, we would stop to thank more. With St. Paul I say, I will not cease to give thanks for this Community, and I remember each and every Member in my prayer (Cfr. Ephesians 1:16). Come to **ST. MARK** and savor the sweetness of the Lord.  
—Rev. Ignatius Chung, Parochial Vicar

## Holiday Giving

The Christmas holiday season in 2022 was once again a time of generosity from **ST. MARK** Parishioners, who gave, in many ways, to help those in need in our neighborhood and beyond.

■ **Thanksgiving Clothing Drive:** 7.5 tons of clothing came to the Cassidy Activities Center during the week of Thanksgiving and went right back out to 21 organizations, which, in turn, helped those in need. Many individual shoppers came to receive items in person. Over 160 volunteers helped sort and package the donations throughout the week.

■ **Blood Drive:** 56 pints of blood were donated during our annual ADVENT Blood Drive (a new record for us!)

■ **The Giving Tree and Adoptions program** collected more than 1,500 gifts and more than \$15,000

in gift cards and cash that went to local organizations who directly help those in need, in addition to 60 Foster children and 3 families living in shelters, who had a very blessed CHRISTMAS morning.

■ **Thanksgiving Day Mass contributions** of \$1,920 went to FamilyPASS, an organization that helps prevent family homelessness, and 600 pounds of food went to the St. Lucy Warehouse.

■ **Prayer Shawl Group:** Multiple handmade hats and scarves from our Prayer Shawl group were delivered to the Reston Homeless Shelter.

■ **FACETS:** More than 120 people enjoyed a hot meal on a cold November night in Fairfax, thanks to our FACETS Hot Meal Volunteer Team.



# Youth Ministry

The **ST. MARK** Youth Ministry strives to help the Parish become a “Church for young people, which will know how to speak their heart, enkindle, comfort and inspire enthusiasm in it with the joy of the Gospel and the strength of the Eucharist”. This Commission encompasses many events for youth in 6th grade through young adults, including:

■ Middle School (6th-8th grade): Bi-weekly Friday Faith-fun Nights, Annual Ski Trip, monthly Youth and Family Sunday Night Mass, Living Stations, Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Sports, Scouting, Kings Dominion Day, and other various summer activities including Middle School WorkCamp.

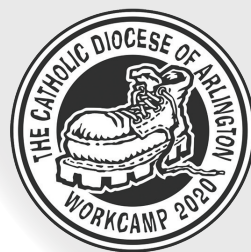
■ High School (9th-12th grade): Weekly Wednesday (Catholic Youth Community) nights, Living Stations, Scouting, Social, and Spiritual activities with other Parishes, such as bowling and Eucharistic Adoration and monthly Youth and Family Sunday Night Masses. The annual summer Steubenville Conference has been a highlight for many years.

■ College/Young Adult (18-35 years): This group participates in various activities and events hosted by the Diocese or nearby Parishes.

Some Youth Ministry events and activities—such as High School WorkCamp, Middle School BASH, High School

RALLY and World Youth Day—are hosted by the Diocesan Youth Office, where Youth from around our Diocese gather to witness to our Catholic faith and love for our Lord. **ST. MARK** Youth also participate enthusiastically in the dynamic CYO Sports program that engages them to compete with teams from around the Diocese in many popular sports, such as basketball, tennis, and cross-country.

**Staff member for Youth Ministry:** Kevin Flores  
703-938-5656, [kflores@stmark.org](mailto:kflores@stmark.org)



Middle School WorkCamp



# Witness from Parishioners

“Volunteering with **ST. MARK** Youth is a joy. Working with them stretches me to toss a football, to do a Bible study by video, to walk from Leesburg to Arlington, to explore the whys of life, to question everything, and share my faith deeply. I am humbled by their honesty, courage, love of family, and their searching hearts. They reach out, invite and bring friends—brave in today’s high schools. Our future is bright in their “yes” to Jesus.”  
—Sarah Kirk



Youth reenact the Living Stations of the Cross each Good Friday



ST. MARK joined other Parishes walking the Arlington Camino supporting vocations



ST. MARK at World Youth Day 2023 in Portugal

Franciscan University of Steubenville Summer Conference





A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, **ST. MARK** Catholic School has a current enrollment of nearly 400 students. Our challenging curriculum employs critical thinking and exceeds local, state, and national standards. Our graduates are well-prepared for our area's most challenging high schools. **ST. MARK** Catholic School recognizes each student as a Child of God with unique gifts: all students are welcome, all students are valued, and all students benefit. We strive to meet each child's individual needs through differentiation, advanced academics, and support.

Each student enjoys a friendly and welcoming school, small class sizes, and the ability to develop to his or her unique potential through strong relationships, a rigorous curriculum, and a school which exemplifies the love of Christ. The ability to discuss and explore our Faith allows for the education of the whole child: spiritually, intellectually, socially, physically, and emotionally. Recognizing the dignity and the uniqueness of each child, we promote academic excellence through a faith-based education. By developing a Catholic foundation rooted in faith, knowledge, and service, we send forth our students on their journey through life to share the light of Christ.

**School Principal:** Kimberly Parker 703-281-9103

## About **ST. MARK** Catholic School

- 20 years of service to the **ST. MARK** Community (2003-23)
- 385 students enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten— 8th Grade
- 33 teachers with state certification or VCEA certification, most holding advanced degrees
- National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence 2015

## Students Awards in 2022

- American Legion Award
- Catholic Math League Awards
- Math 5 National Champion
- Math 5 Divisional Awards: 1st and 3rd places
- Geometry Divisional Awards: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places

## High School Scholarships in 2022:

- 5 Academic Scholarships
- 3 Merit Scholarships (Leadership, Service, and Personal Growth)
- 2 Freshmen Year Scholarships (Privately scholarship)
- 1 Art Scholarship
- Knights of Columbus Citizenship Essay Contest: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places
- Viva Vienna Essay Contest: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places

## 8th Grade Students at **ST. MARK** Catholic School Share Their Experience (previously published in the *Lion News*)

■ When I think of what makes **ST. MARK** special, I think about the one thing that has stayed consistent ever since I came to **ST. MARK** when I was nine years old. That is the love of the **ST. MARK** community.—*Stella M.*

■ **ST. MARK** School is awesome. It has done so much to prepare me for high school and beyond, and my faith has grown to levels I didn't know possible. The Catholic Faith has been such a big part of my life at **ST. MARK** and improved my time here greatly. I encourage all of you to do all you can to grow your faith, so your time here will be that much better. Even after I leave here in June, I will still never forget the school that helped me grow in faith, knowledge, and service.—*John W.*

■ The defining characteristic for **ST. MARK** School or any Catholic school is Faith. This is what we as a Church are called to ever since Pentecost. If we claim to be educating in the name of Christ, then we must educate about the faith. This act is something that this school does masterfully; they not only teach us about our LORD—they also allow us to question Him as he allowed us. In the Garden, there was free will, and because of that free will we are allowed to reject God. However, this school doesn't give up on you when your grades drop or your mood swings, just as God won't give up on you if you turn away from Him. The teachers and students are there for you as one community and one Church. After nine years at this school, I can confidently say that this community is the Children of God.—*Dominic B.*

■ Above all, the best part of **ST. MARK** is its loving community, where all students smile when they come in every day. When I first came to **ST. MARK**, everyone was kind and welcoming. This is one of the things about this truly special place that I will always remember.—*Kanyima N.*



Students helping with  
Toys for Tots

## Witness from Parishioners

As a life-long **ST. MARK** Parishioner who grew up attending Catholic schools in the Diocese of Arlington, it was always my dream to teach at **ST. MARK** one day. The 2023–2024 school year will mark my 20th year celebrating that accomplishment. I joined the School faculty for its second year of operation, immediately following my college graduation. Over the years, I have taught many different subjects to just about every grade. My own daughters, rising 5th graders, continue to be molded and shaped by the amazing Faculty and Staff.



Catherine Wykoff

They are excited to go to school each day and have to be coaxed out of the building each afternoon. Both as a teacher and a parent, the benefits of a Catholic education are obvious in my children and in my students. **ST. MARK** exudes love as students are guided to grow in faith, knowledge, and service. On both the personal and a professional levels, I will always be grateful for **ST. MARK** Catholic School, our forever “home.”  
—Catherine Wykoff

## Ways to Give

- **Loose Change:** You can always make a cash donation by putting cash directly into the collection baskets at Mass.
- **Weekly Envelopes:** Please contact the Parish Office to have envelopes sent to you and to have an ID number assigned.
- **Faith Direct Automatic Funds Transfer:** Automatic Funds Transfer (AFT) through Faith Direct is a safe, secure process for automatic withdrawals from your bank account (preferred) or through a credit card. You can set up regular Offertory donations, as well as donate to the Capital Improvement fund and special collections. The consistency of Faith Direct is incredibly helpful to the Parish for budgeting. You can sign up for Faith Direct by going to: <https://www.stmark.org/donate/> or calling 1-866-507-8757 or by using the QR code.
- **Direct Grant:** You can always send direct donations to the Parish Office as a grant.
- **Individual Retirement Account (IRA), Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD):** A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity, in this case, **ST. MARK**. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year, as long as certain rules are met.
- **Donor-Advised:** A donor-advised fund, or DAF, is like a charitable investment account for the sole purpose of

**ST. MARK**  
Faith Direct  
QR Code



supporting charitable organizations. When you contribute cash, securities, or other assets to a DAF at a public charity, you are generally eligible to take an immediate tax deduction. For more information about Donor-Advised funds, ask your financial advisor. If this is the way you would like to donate, check with the Parish Office on how to make a donor advised donation to **ST. MARK**.

- **Stock or Non-Cash Giving:** You can donate marketable securities such as stocks, bonds, or mutual funds. You can also give other non-cash gifts or include **ST. MARK** Parish in your estate planning. You receive a tax deduction for the full market value of the securities you transfer. In addition, you pay no capital gains tax.
- **Employer Matching:** Companies usually make a donation on a 1:1 ratio, but some will double, triple, or even quadruple your donation. For more information, this website is helpful: <https://www.charitynavigator.org/donor-basics/giving-101/employee-match-programs/>.

**ST. MARK** is registered on several Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) platforms. If you do not find **ST. MARK** on your company's platform, you can call the Parish Office to get help, get us registered, or any other necessary information to designate **ST. MARK** for your corporate matching. For more information, please contact the **ST. MARK** bookkeeper, MaryAnn Dmochowski, at 703-281-9100, [mdmochowski@stmark.org](mailto:mdmochowski@stmark.org)

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Non-profit  
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