

JOY

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit



SAINT MARK

Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2023, Español pagina 15



Welcome to St. Mark Third Sunday in Advent!

Rejoice! The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday. Listen to the entrance antiphon and you will hear "Rejoice in the Lord always." We are in year B and the readings for today can be found on page 956 in the St. Augustine Hymnal. Music handouts are at the entrances; see an usher if you did not receive one.



Thank you for being a part of our parish, either as a visitor or a long-time parishioner.

Our Mission: We are all called as one by Christ to embrace the spirit of stewardship and engagement to Grow in Christ, Serve One Another, Share Our Gifts and Connect in Faith. This mission is our quest for holiness. It is by our intentional discipleship that each of us become stewards of the gifts God has given us and to share them with others. Our time, our talent and our treasure is given to us by God to share with others by spreading the Gospel and building His kingdom.



If you are interested in registering as a member of St. Mark, please go to stmarknc.org/registration or use the QR code. You may submit the form online or bring a paper copy to the Welcome Desk during normal business hours. Forms can be found in the narthex. Please know, you do not need to be Catholic to join and come to our parish.

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus, the Ladies' Auxiliary, Pastoral Council President John Ferrannini, Music Director Manual Mora, and the Children's Choir for a beautiful Christmas Tree lighting last Saturday.



*With this tree, decorated and adorned,
may we welcome Christ among us;
may its lights guide us to the perfect light.*



Bless your own Christmas Tree this year! Find the blessing by scanning the code.



FROM THE PASTOR



Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday.

“Gaudete” is a Latin word, meaning “rejoice.” The Christian steward should be characterized by a spirit of rejoicing.

Our First Reading, from Isaiah, expresses a fitting motto for us. “I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul.” It is God Who is the source of our joy and

contentment – not things or achievements or comfort, but our relationship with God.

This is why stewards can share so freely of their time, talents, and material possessions – because ultimately, we are not attached to these things. We recognize them as good gifts from our loving Father, but we are attached to the Giver of the gifts, not the gifts themselves. This allows for great freedom in life and the capacity for great joy in the Lord.

In fact, we can become like John the Baptist, in today's Gospel passage from the Book of John. We read this description of the prophet: “He came for testimony, to testify to the light... He was not the light but came to testify to the light.” This is our calling too – to testify to the Light, our wonderful Savior – by the way we make use of the time, talent, and treasure He has entrusted to our care.

When God Himself is the source of our joy, it cannot be taken away from us. There is still time, this Advent season, to clear away any “clutter” in our lives that may take our focus away from Him. Let us strive to detach from any of these things so that we can be free to truly rejoice in God on Christmas Day. © Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2023

Pastoral Pondering - Continuing with the discussion of *Offenses Against the Dignity of Marriage*, the Catechism next addresses the issue of divorce. Paragraph 2382 and 2384 state:

The Lord Jesus insisted on the original intention of the Creator who willed that marriage be indissoluble. He abrogates the accommodations that had slipped into the old Law. Between the baptized, “a ratified and consummated marriage cannot be dissolved by any human power or for any reason other than death.”

Divorce is a grave offense against the natural law. It claims to break the contract, to which the spouses freely consented, to live with each other till death. Divorce does injury to the covenant of salvation, of which sacramental marriage is the sign. Contracting a new union, even if it is recognized by civil law, adds to the gravity of the rupture: the remarried spouse is then in a situation of public and permanent adultery:

If a husband, separated from his wife,

approaches another woman, he is an adulterer because he makes that woman commit adultery, and the woman who lives with him is an adulteress, because she has drawn another's husband to herself.

There has been a lot of ink spilled in the last ten years on the topic of the Church and divorce, especially in terms of the impact that divorce has on sacramental communion. This has led to confusion at times. We live at a time when the divorce rate among those who identify as Catholic is not significantly different from the general population. At the same time, a higher percentage of young people are simply choosing not to marry, which, as noted a couple of weeks ago, is problematic on many levels.

It's important to remember that despite the best of intentions, human relationships fail at times. There are a whole host of factors that contribute to this, but all of them are rooted in the *original fall of man*. We are all sinners and without the help of God's grace, marriage is almost impossible. The Church recognizes this as well and, historically, has allowed in some situations spouses to separate while the bond of marriage remains. She also recognizes that at times, one party wanted divorce while the other spouse wanted to preserve the union. A misconception that I have encountered over the years are those who, even though they had not attempted a second marriage after divorce, believed themselves to be *excommunicated* or, at least, separated from the sacraments. This is not the case. As long as the person is single, they are free to receive the sacraments, assuming they are properly disposed otherwise.

If you are struggling in your marriage, there is help available. *Retrouvaille* is a wonderful option for those who want to work on their marriage and address problems and difficulties. We are also fortunate to have some wonderful counselors in our community dedicated to helping couples in crisis. Don't wait to reach out if you need help.



**Save the Date:
Date Night!**

February 10, 2024

In the Family Center Parish Hall

Come and share a special evening with your spouse! Enjoy a delicious meal, mingle with other married couples, and listen to a dynamic presentation.

In our content-saturated, calendar-packed world, it is easy to take our spouse for granted and lose sight of the gift of marriage. Through this presentation you will learn five keys to safeguarding your marriage from stagnation and keeping love alive.

\$50 per couple / \$60 after January 10

For info and to register:

stmarknc.org/marriage-ministry

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Janice Anderton	Steve Kaminski
Sharon Antoszyk	The Kantra Family
Des Arrup	Carol & Frank Kenny
Katherine Arvesu	The Kube Family
Laura Ashley	Kelly Scherer Lang
Daisy Bayona	Jeanne LoPriore
Ofelia Beltran	Jane Mayhew
Michelle Bissinger & Family	Kay McAfee
Brian Blatchford & Family	Jim McLaughlin
Don & Cathy Blackwell	Laura Mulvihill
Len & Michele Boos	Deacon Robert Murphy
Viola Cleo Bradshaw	Michael Newton
John Brannon	Keith Noble
Gretchen Burke	Scott O'Halloran
Anne Caestecker	Evelyn Pachana
Donna Castoria	Josie Pais
Janelle Cataldo	Mary Anne Pape
William Conklin	Shannon Peake
Dwight Corley	Mary Lynn Polly
Shawn Davis	Joette Reid
Mary Deininger	Lindsey Remington
Emma Drummond	Jose Raymond Rios
James P. Durcan	Ronald Robinson
Jack Evans	Crys Roeder
David Fogarty	Marilyn Sacek
Richard Foy	Mickey Shannon
James Freer	Deacon Ronald Sherwood & Family
Elyse Pancheri-Freer	Ben Smith
Maureen K. Frost	Reese Tenga
Helen Haddad	Tom Thompson
Ron Haley	Lucia Solis Vallarino
Dave Heaton	Julio Velez
Madeline Louise Henwood	Lewis Vellia
Pat Herkey	Maria Vilchez
Kevin Herman Sr.	Vilchez Hernandez Family
Zohra Hunter-Rezgui	Virginia (Ginny) White
Julie Jones	
The Juster Family	

To submit a prayer request visit:
stmarknc.org/prayerchain.

Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 17, 2023

Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Friday	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Saturday	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66
Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Advent 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Mass Intentions

Sunday December 17

7:30 am Mabel and Tom Griffith
 9 am † Christopher L McCormack
 11 am † Todd Joseph Becker
 1 pm St. Mark Parishioners
 5 pm † Charles Kern

Monday December 18

7 am Don & Diana King
 9 am The Campoverde Family

Tuesday December 19

7 am † Marty Flyke
 9 am Concetta Cotugno

Wednesday December 20

7 am Ronnie & Nancy Kennedy
 † John Wingert
 6:30 pm † Jack Huber
 † Ronald Prazmark

Thursday December 21

7 am † James Herriman
 9 am † Camille & Robert Schwarz

Friday December 22

7 am † Catherine & Clint Butler
 9 am † Sister Mary Monica Pere
 7 pm † William Foley

Saturday December 23

9 am Marina Zitnik
 4 pm † Ricardo Lora
 6 pm Fr. John Putnam

Sunday December 24

7:30 am † Frances Addamo
 9 am Olga Roman
 11 am † Lisa Tober
 3 pm CTK Ethan Volk
 4 pm St. Mark Parishioners
 5 pm CTK Meira Volk
 6 pm † Anne & Daniel J Cleary
 8 pm St. Mark Parishioners
 11:55 pm All Souls In Purgatory & Conversion of Sinners

Prayers For Our Military

Air Force: SrA Brennen Brown;

Airman Gregory Burke; Airman

Antoinio Diaz; Capt Stephen

Hack; Lt Col Douglas Lincoln;

Capt Ryan Loyd; Alejandro

Martinez; Sgt James

McCormick; SrA Benjamin

Salber; Airman Chloe Scott

Army: 1st Lt. Patrick Camatcho; Major Robert Caraccilo; Lt Col Michael Dragoon; SSgt Darcy Fisher; Kyle Hawk; PFC J. Parker Hogan; Pvt Chaz Margo; Maj Daniel McCormick; Maria Morell; PV2 Matthew Pressley; Maj Stephen J. Romeo; Andrew Santos; Capt Ramon Ricardo Tapia; Spl Forces Nolan Tillotson; Josh Wagner; 1st Lt Nick Worth; Sgt Matthew Quillinan

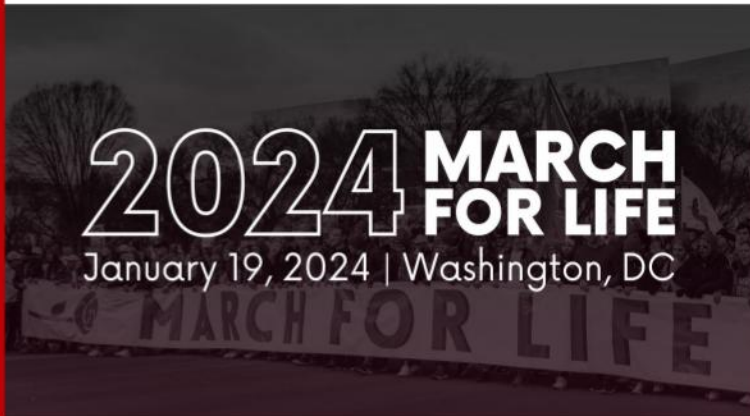
Marines: LCPL Richard Breier; Sgt Andrew Sales; Maj. Matthew Santoli; Cpl Ben Holden

Navy: Lt. Albert Remmey, Jr.; LCDR Jordan Mayo; STG E-4 Colton McLaughlin; OSSN Daniel Pressley; LCDR Jenna Hehn Quist; ENS Tyler Spear; LCDR William Vey; CTT2 Zachary Wortham...

and all service members not listed.



March for Life PILGRIMAGE



JANUARY 18

- Bus from Charlotte to DC
- Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
- Dinner in DC on your own

JANUARY 19

- Life Fest + Mass
- **Rally and March for Life**
- Time to Explore DC on your own

JANUARY 20

- Saint John Paul II National Shrine
- Mass at the Shrine
- Return to Charlotte by bus

- We invite adults and families to come participate in a **March for Life Pilgrimage**, January 18-20, 2024. **Join the Pro-Life Generation!**
- **Cost:** **\$200/**person (2/room); **\$350/**person (single room); **\$50/**college student (4/room) *Includes lodging, bus transportation, breakfast on Friday and Saturday. Plan to bring additional funds for 5 other meals and **cash** for the metro. Each room contains two queen beds.*



NEED MORE INFORMATION?
FAMILYLIFE@RCDOC.ORG

March for Life Pilgrimage Details

Join the Office of Family Life to advocate for LIFE!

Register now using QR code or visit:

charlottediocese.org/event/national-march-for-life

18th Annual March for Life Charlotte - Friday, January 12

The following Masses will be offered for The Unborn on Jan. 12: St. Ann Catholic Church at 7 am Traditional Latin Mass and at the Cathedral of St. Patrick at 10 am Novus Ordo Mass.

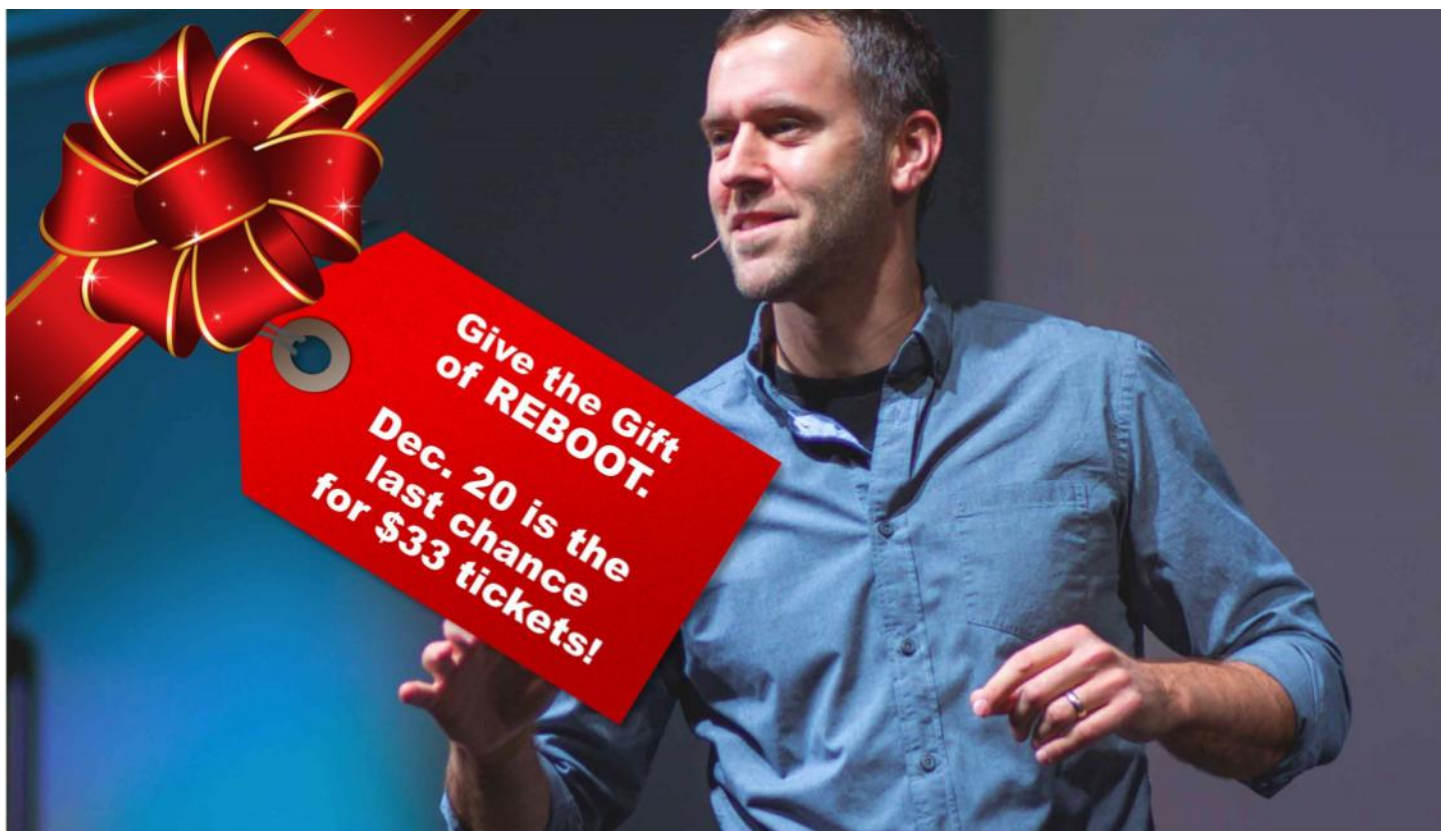
At 11 am we will start to gather at the parking lot across the street from the Catholic Diocese at 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte. There may be some parking available at the parking lot but please expect to find parking on your own uptown if necessary.

At 12 pm we will march to Trade and Tryon to be a witness for The Unborn. Fr. Raymond Ekosse will be the guest preacher and Deanna Tyler Glenn "Miss Huntersville 2023" will be the pro-life speaker followed by the recitation of the Most Holy Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Please join us to march and pray for an end to abortion and save babies' lives!

See schedule details at www.marchforlifecharlotte.com

www.stmarknc.org ☎ 704-948-0231



REBOOT

FEATURING

CHRIS STEFANICK

This will be a fun, inspiring and practical experience for all ages (12+) of applying the beauty and genius of the Gospel to every aspect of your life.

Chris Stefanick is an internationally acclaimed author, speaker, and TV host. Hear the Good News that the Lord has for ALL of us, and learn how to live out this JOY in your everyday life.

Whether you're a lifelong Church goer, just rediscovering your faith, or have never heard of Jesus before, this is THE event for you!

Make the commitment to have more JOY in your life today.

Jan 10, 2024 | 6:30pm

Tickets: \$33 - \$39

www.reallifecatholic.com

Grab a ticket for yourself then get one to give to your friends and family!



Scan here to purchase your tickets to Reboot!

Healed and Restored Bilingual Women's Retreat

When: Sat., Jan. 20, 8 am-3 pm

Where: St. Mark Catholic Church
Kerin Family Center

Come and encounter God's healing love through inspiring talks from Elza Spaedy, Christine Wisdom and Carolyn Franks.

What to expect from this powerful day:

- Breakfast and lunch included with the \$20 registration fee
- Inspiring talks
- Confession
- Worship music led by Aubrey Quintero and Bella Spaedy
- Community building with women from all over the Charlotte and Lake Norman area

Cost is \$20 per person.

Registration and information:

www.HealedAndRestored.org

or email

Info@HealedAndRestored.org



COME AND BE HEALED

Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry is made up of St. Mark parishioners who have received extensive training to give emotional and spiritual care/support to fellow St. Mark parishioners as well as to those in our community. This ministry is a confidential, one to one opportunity to receive Christian care in a comfortable meeting place, whether in your home, parish hall, or even in a park setting. We all go through times of hardship. Stephen Ministry is here to serve you, so you don't have to suffer alone.

For more information, contact either Leanne Vaccaro, leanne.vaccaro@stmarknc.org or Rich Kull, rkull@optonline.net. Visit our website at stmarknc.org/Stephen_ministry.

Coffee & Conversation

We Need Your Input: Parish Survey



The St. Mark Pastoral Planning Committee is in the process of completing a new Pastoral Plan (the last one was created in 2017).

So far, only 534* people have completed the survey — our goal is 1000. Your input is important to shape the growing needs of St. Mark.



The Diocese requires each parish to update their plan every several years. *Part of this process includes collecting your feedback. Please go to stmarknc.org or scan the code to complete the survey and tell us what you think.*

Thank you for assisting Fr. John by giving your feedback and completing a 15 minute survey.

* as of 12/10/23

Every Tuesday
after the 9 am Mass in
the Kerin Family Center.

THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of December 17, 2023

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje and Croatia Information Session

When: Jan. 12; 5:30 pm doors open, 6 pm meeting

Where: Huntersville Prof. Building, 11330 Vanstory Drive

This meeting provides information on an exciting pilgrimage to Medjugorje and Croatia, answer questions and meet your fellow Pilgrims! RSVP at this link: signupgenius.com/go/30E0D44A5AE22ABFC1-46433550-medjugorje

Join Woodard Luxury Travel for a special time of prayer and reflection on this wonderful pilgrimage on June 3, 2024!

You will see Medjugorje and climb Križevac Mountain where in 1933, villagers built a 30-foot cross on the anniversary of Jesus' Crucifixion. Lining the path up the hill are wooden crosses and bronze images representing Stations of the Cross.

You can climb The Apparition Hill, and touch and pray before the Cross commemorating the spot where Mary first appeared in 1981.

Meet with one of the visionaries while there. In Dubrovnik, you will visit the Basilica of St. Blaise, the Dominican and Franciscan Monasteries, and much more. Our final stop is Split.

More Information: Contact: Donny Woodard, 980-483-3620,

www.WoodardLuxuryTravel.com/events-trips

dwoodard@WoodardLuxuryTravel.com



Agape/Love | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project

The word "love" is one of the sloppiest words in our language, as it primarily refers to a feeling that happens to a person. In the New Testament, "love" refers to a way of treating people that was defined by Jesus himself: seeking the well-being of others regardless of their response.



Mary of Nazareth

What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.



O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About | Brother Francis

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and GRACIANA PRESS

2023 Ireland of Your Dreams Raffle

The St. Brendan the Navigator Division of Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), an American Irish Catholic fraternal organization, wishes to sincerely thank the parishioners of St. Mark for their continued and growing support for our annual Ireland of Your Dreams Raffle.

We are pleased to announce that this year's winner for the trip to Ireland is Earle Markey, a former parishioner at St. Mark. Earle was very much involved in the St. Mark community as a member of the Knights of Columbus and Hibernian before relocating his family to South Carolina.

Each year the net proceeds from the raffle are used to help fund our core charities, among which are: Catholic Education, Mira Via, Parish and Seminarian Support, Pro-Life organizations, Laura Lynn Children's Hospice in Dublin, Ireland, as well as various local charities and humanitarian projects.

For more information on the Ancient Order of Hibernians or to join, please visit our website www.aohmeck2.org/ or contact Ray FitzGerald rfitzg@aol.com. Membership is open to Catholic men over the age of 16 who are Irish by birth or descent - all you need is a spoonful of Irish blood in you.

Save the date: On Saturday evening March 9, 2024, the AOH will be holding its annual St. Patrick's dinner in the Parish Hall at St. Mark. Additional information to be published in future weekly bulletins starting in January 2024.

YOUTH MINISTRY

LIFE TEEN



Guys: Bring a salty snack to share
Gals: Bring a sweet snack to share

WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

DECEMBER 17, 2023 • 6 PM
PARISH HALL • HIGH SCHOOL TEENS

Bring a WRAPPED GIFT under \$15
Wear an ugly sweater!

Discovering God's Plan for your Life: 2024 Women's Welcome Retreat

When: Feb. 17-18, 8 am Sat. - 3 pm Sun.

Where: Kerin Family Center

Are you searching for more meaning in your life? Do you need some time to reconnect with God?

Come join us at the Women's Welcome Retreat. You'll meet and be inspired by a community of women who are at various stages of their faith journey.

At the Welcome Women's Retreat you'll hear God's voice through prayer, inspiring testimonials, table conversations, Mass, and more!

Hurry! Space is limited.

Register at stmarknc.org/welcome-retreat.

Questions? Email Charlene at cjoese01@gmail.com

Welcome.
There is **More** to Life

In my God is the
joy of my soul

Isaiah 61:10

St. Mark Fidelis presents January Jumpstart Jan 27, 2024

(High School Sisters Friday night 1/26 too)

You don't need to be a
Fidelis Sister to attend. All
middle and high school girls
are welcome!
(Bring a friend)



Sat, 1/27 9:00 AM Mass to 6:00 PM
Fri, 1/26 7 PM to 8:30 PM (high school)

\$40 per participant
(\$100 family max)

Breakfast and Lunch provided.
T-shirt if you register by Jan 17th.

This year - featuring
the Heart and Talent
of

Dana Catherine

You won't want to
miss her.



Here is a link and QR Code to the sign-up for
Jumpstart2024:

<https://tinyurl.com/StMarkJumpstart2024>



Payment link: <https://osvhub.com/stmarknc/forms/fidelis-payment>

We are planning the best Jumpstart yet!



4th Sunday of Advent &

Christmas Mass Schedule

Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent cannot count for Christmas Day Mass. Therefore, all Catholics must attend Mass the weekend of December 23/24 for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and again for Christmas on December 24 or 25.

Due to limited parking and seating, we had to use a SignUp Genius for the 3, 4 and 5 pm Christmas Eve Masses, which are now full.**

PICK ONE MASS:

Saturday • December 23
4 pm or 6 pm (Español)

Sunday • December 24
7:30 am, 9 am, or 11 am

PICK ONE MASS:

Sunday • December 24
3 pm ** CTK High School-Full
4 pm ** Church-Full
5 pm ** CTK High School-Full
6 pm (Español), 8 pm
Midnight Mass

Monday • December 25
9 am

REJOICE!

Third Sunday in Advent

What is Gaudete Sunday?

This third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, meaning "Rejoice!"

The first two weeks of advent were about the second coming of Christ. But this week the focus shifts to preparing for the joyful birth of Christ.

The priests and deacons wear rose-colored vestments, flowers return to the altar and it's time to light the pink candle on our Advent wreath.

If you come to the 9 am Mass, you will hear the choir sing the 16th century Christmas carol "Gaudete."

*Gaudete, gaudete!
Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine,
gaudete!*

*Tempus adest gratiae
Hoc quod optabamus,
Carmina lætitiæ
Devote reddamus.*

*Deus homo factus est
Natura mirante,
Mundus renovatus est
A Christo regnante.*

*Ezechielis porta
Clausula pertransitur,
Unde lux est orta
Salus invenitur.*

*Ergo nostra contio
Psallat iam in lustro;
Benedicat Domino:
Salus Regi nostro.*

*Rejoice, rejoice!
Christ is born
Of the Virgin Mary –
Rejoice!*

*The time of grace has come—
What we have wished for;
Songs of joy
Let us give back faithfully.*

*God has become man,
With nature marveling,
The world has been renewed
By the reigning Christ.*

*The closed gate of Ezekiel
Is passed through,
Whence the light is risen;
Salvation has been found.*

*Therefore, let our assembly
Now sing in brightness
Let it bless the Lord:
Salvation to our King.*



ERO CRAS: *Tomorrow, I Will Come*

The O Antiphons: December 17-23

The Roman Catholic Church has something special for us this final week of Advent.

While we are all familiar with the final O Antiphon, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," there is actually a verse for each of the days leading up to Christmas. They are a part of the sacred prayers known as the Liturgy of the Hours and have been prayed since the 4th century. Each antiphon is a reference to Jesus and contains one of His attributes noted in Scripture.

If you take the first letter of each antiphon name and write them backwards, you get "ERO CRAS." This means "Tomorrow, I will come" in Latin.

How to Pray the O Antiphons:

These short prayers are recited prior to praying the Magnificat (Canticle of Mary) during evening prayer (vespers) December 17-23. Each antiphon is addressed to God using a noble title for the Messiah, each antiphon petitions Him to come save His people, and each is tied to Mary because she is the vessel through which the Savior will be born.

Dec 17: O Sapientia (Wisdom)

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

Dec 18: O Adonai (Lord)

O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

Dec 19: O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse)

O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

Dec 20: O Clavis David (Key of David)

O Key of David, opening the gates of God's
eternal Kingdom: come and free the
prisoners of darkness!

Dec 21: O Oriens (Radiant Dawn)

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light,
sun of justice: come and shine on those who
dwell in darkness and in the shadow of
death.

Dec 22: O Rex Gentium (King of all Nations)

O King of all nations and keystone of the
Church: come and save man, whom you
formed from the dust!

Dec 23: O Emmanuel (God With Us)

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!

Magnificat

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the
Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my
salvation.*

*For he has shown me such favour –
me, his lowly handmaiden.*

*Now all generations will call me blessed,
because the mighty one has done great
things for me.*

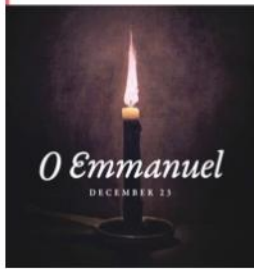
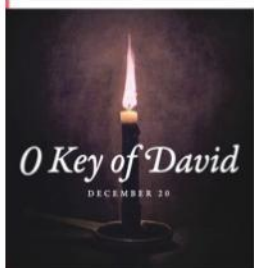
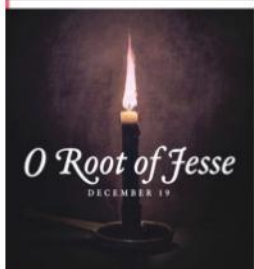
*His name is holy, his mercy lasts for
generation after generation for those who
revere him.*

*He has put forth his strength: he has
scattered the proud and conceited, torn
princes from their thrones;
but lifted up the lowly.*

*He has filled the hungry with good things;
the rich he has sent away empty.*

*He has come to the help of his servant
Israel, he has remembered his mercy as
he promised to our fathers, to Abraham
and his children for ever.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*





Free Throw Championship



Sponsored by St. Mark Knights of Columbus Council #12654



Sat., January 13

Anytime between 9 am and Noon

St. Mark Catholic Church, Kerin Family Center Parish Hall

Boys & Girls, Ages 9-14

as of Jan. 1, 2024

Proof of age required

Register on-site or use the QR Code to get registration form. You can send the completed form via email to Frank Salvato or bring the completed form to event.

Questions? Frank Salvato at GK6831@msn.com or 703-585-0534



Boys and girls Council Winners from each age category will receive a medal and earn the right to compete at the District Level in February!

All entrants will receive a certificate of participation.

Ages 9 thru 11 (Boys and Girls) Competition will shoot from 12-foot foul line. All other age groups will shoot from the normal foul line which is 15 feet from the basket.

NO ENTRY FEE – Hot dogs, snacks and drinks available!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Knight Life:

A Weekly Knights of Columbus Update

John F. Kennedy, Ted Kennedy, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Senator Joe Manchin, Justice Samuel Alito, Babe Ruth, Vince Lombardi, Mike Ditka, Connie Mac, are just a very small sample of American Knights that you have probably heard of. But, while the KOC was founded and started in Connecticut, we now span the globe with over 16,000 Knights of Columbus councils around the world, including more than 300 on college campuses!

In today's world, where it seems people are losing their way, it is even more important for men to be role models and mentors to their children and their church. The founding principles of the Knights of Columbus stand as a reminder of what we can do to achieve this amazing responsibility that was passed on to us! Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

'So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith'. Galatians 6:10

Did you know that members of St. Mark Knights of Columbus regularly check in with the widows of our deceased brothers? Sometimes it's just to say hello, other times it could be a welfare check. If we find they are in need, and there is something we can do about it, we notify the council and do whatever we can to help. In addition, every year, around the Christmas holiday, members visit widows with a Poinsettia in hand, as a way

to let them know we are always there for them, and to simply wish them a blessed Christmas.

Are you being called to be a Knight? Want to find out more about what we do? We aren't hard to find! Contact Ray at rfitzg@aol.com or stop by one of our meetings at 7 pm on the first Monday of each month in room 200 of the Kerin Family Center. You can also enroll online at KOFC.org.



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Parish Office | Mon-Fri, 9 am-4:30 pm Sun. 8:15 am-12:15 pm
Phone: 704-948-0231; Fax: 704-948-8018

Pastor

Very Rev. John T. Putnam, JV

Parochial Vicars

Rev. Michael Carlson
Rev. Chinonso Nnebe-Agumadu

Fr. Aaron Huber (in residence)

Deacons

Rev. Mr. Thomas Martin
Rev. Mr. Richard McCarron
Rev. Mr. Thomas McGahey
Rev. Mr. Tom McMahon
Rev. Mr. Robert Murphy
Rev. Mr. Louis Pais
Rev. Dr. Ronald Sherwood
Rev. Mr. Ramon Tapia

Director of Parish Operations

Scott Bruno
scott.bruno@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 118

Sacristan

Sr. Mary Agnes
sacristan@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 211

Liturgy Coordinator

Emily Bixler
emily.bixler@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 102

Annulments, RCIA

Rev. Mr. Rich McCarron
deacon.rich@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 113

Director of Sacred Music

Manuel Mora
manuel.mora@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 130

Director of Human Resources

Leanne Vaccaro
leanne.vaccaro@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 107

Director of Finance

Richard Cataldo
richard.cataldo@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 116

Hispanic Ministry

Coordinator
Emilio Gómez
emilio.gomez@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 117

Stewardship Coordinator

Rose George
rose.george@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 136

Calendar Management

Sue Bruce
sue.bruce@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 123

Director of Evangelization and Catechesis

Paul Laskowski
paul.laskowski@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 121

Pastoral Associate of Catechesis

Sr. Charis Gavan
charis.gavan@stmarknc.org
(704) 948-0231, Ext. 103

Elementary Faith Formation Coordinator

Maddie Torres
maddie.torres@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 124

Middle School Youth Ministry/ Confirmation Coordinator

Mariana Vazquez
mariana.vazquez@stmarknc.org
704-948-1306, Ext. 105

High School Youth Ministry Coordinator

Sarah Rider
sarah.rider@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 122

Director of Preschool

Amanda Rametta
amanda.rametta@stmarknc.org
704-948-8015
bulletin@stmarknc.org

Mass Schedule

Mon/Tue/Thu: 7, 9 am
Wed: 7 am, 6:30 pm
Fri: 7, 9 am
7 pm (Spanish)
Sat: 9 am, 5 pm Vigil
Sun: 7:30, 9, 11 am,
1 pm (Español), 5 pm

All Masses may be watched live:

stmarknc.org/livestream

The Nursery remains CLOSED at this time.

Please use Online Giving or mail in your offertory

stmarknc.org/Online-Giving

Please do not attend Mass if you are sick, have a fever or are in a high-risk group.

Confessions

Confessions are held 45 minutes prior to the start of Mass for a 30 minute duration.
In addition, Wednesday: 6 pm–7:15 pm and Saturday: 3 pm–5 pm

Rosary in the Church

Tue: 7–7:30 pm
Wed: Immediately preceding 6:30 Mass
Sat: Immediately preceding 5 pm Mass
Sun: Immediately preceding 7:30 am Mass

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

Available in the Monsignor Bellow Adoration Chapel in the Family Center.

See stmarknc.org/adoration for complete details.

Hospitalization

If you or your loved one are in an area hospital, call the Parish Office to reach one of the Priests. The Priests offer Confession, bring the Holy Eucharist to you or administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

Baptisms & Weddings

The use of the Church for Baptisms, Weddings and other Sacramental events is available to active parishioners. Contact the Parish Office. (Please note that weddings and baptisms cannot be celebrated during Lent.)

Financial Counseling

Complimentary and confidential services are available to provide financial literacy training, personal financial coaching, and/or advocacy support for you and your family. Contact the Parish Office.

Carolina Catholic Corner Gift and Book Store

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Coffee & Conversation Social Gathering

Tuesdays, 9:30 am, Parish Hall.

Cursillo

Are you looking for a Cursillo group to join at St. Mark? Contact Holly Kennedy at 704-875-8328 or ehjazzkenedy@gmail.com for information on our local group, or visit stmarknc.org/Cursillo.

Natural Family Planning

Joe and Kathy Hack; Sympto-Thermal Method; 704-548-1834; hackhouse@bellsouth.net; ccli.org
Elisabeth Laskowski; Creighton Model; creightonmodel@gmail.com; 484-332-9084

Crisis Pregnancy Help

Community Pregnancy Center of Lake Norman: 704-727-0535

Catholic Charities: 704-370-3262; Birthright: 1-800-550-4900; Post Abortion: 1-800-5-WE CARE

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Parishioner Assistance:

Financial:

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Leanne.Vaccaro@stmarknc.org

Life Crisis:

Stephen Ministry
stmarknc.org/stephen-ministry

Food Insecurity:

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stmarknc.org/assistance or
Leanne.Vaccaro@stmarknc.org or
704-948-0231, Ext. 107.

Al-Anon

Ellen | 704-907-8555

Alcoholics Anonymous

Tom | 704-604-7739

Alateen program

Paul G. | 704-641-0654

Divorce Support Group

For anyone going through separation and/or divorce. Meetings are held Monday evenings at 7 pm in Room 204. When parish offices are closed, meetings are held at Lowe's Foods at exit 23.

Contact: divorce.support@stmarknc.org





Hoy celebramos el Tercer Domingo de Adviento, el Domingo de Gaudete. "Gaudete" es una palabra latina que significa "regocijarse". El mayordomo cristiano debe caracterizarse por un espíritu de regocijo.

Nuestra primera lectura, de Isaías, expresa un tema apropiado para nosotros. "Me regocijo de corazón en el Señor, en mi Dios está el gozo de mi alma". Es Dios quien es la fuente de nuestro gozo y contentamiento, no cosas,

logros o consuelo, sino nuestra relación con Dios.

Esta es la razón por la que los mayordomos pueden compartir tan libremente su tiempo, talentos y posesiones materiales, porque en última instancia, no estamos apegados a estas cosas. Los reconocemos como buenos regalos de nuestro amoroso Padre, pero estamos apegados al Dador de los dones, no a los dones mismos. Esto permite una gran libertad en la vida y la capacidad de un gran gozo en el Señor.

De hecho, podemos llegar a ser como Juan el Bautista, en el pasaje evangélico de hoy del libro de Juan. Leemos esta descripción del profeta: "Vino para dar testimonio, para dar testimonio de la luz... Él no era la luz, sino que vino a dar testimonio de la luz". Este es también nuestro llamado: dar testimonio de la Luz, nuestro maravilloso Salvador, por la forma en que hacemos uso del tiempo, el talento y el tesoro que El ha confiado a nuestro cuidado.

Cuando Dios mismo es la fuente de nuestro gozo, no nos lo pueden quitar. Todavía hay tiempo, en esta temporada de Adviento, para despejar cualquier "desorden" en nuestras vidas que pueda desviar nuestro enfoque de El. Esforcémonos por desprendernos de cualquiera de estas cosas para que podamos ser libres para regocijarnos verdaderamente en Dios el día de Navidad. © Consultores de Mayordomía Católica, 2023

Reflexiones pastorales - Continuando con la discusión de *las ofensas contra la dignidad del matrimonio*, el Catecismo aborda a continuación el tema del divorcio. Los párrafos 2382 y 2384 establecen:

El Señor Jesús insistió en la intención original del Creador, que quiso que el matrimonio fuera indisoluble. Abroga las acomodaciones que se habían deslizado en la antigua Ley. Entre los bautizados, "un matrimonio ratificado y consumado no puede ser disuelto por ningún poder humano ni por ninguna otra razón que no sea la muerte".

El divorcio es una grave ofensa contra la ley natural. Pretende romper el contrato, al que los cónyuges consintieron libremente, de vivir juntos hasta la muerte. El divorcio daña el pacto de salvación, del cual el matrimonio sacramental es la señal. La contratación de una nueva unión, aunque esté reconocida por el derecho civil, aumenta la gravedad de la ruptura: el cónyuge

que se ha vuelto a casar se encuentra entonces en una situación de adulterio público y permanente:

Si un marido, separado de su mujer, se acerca a otra mujer, es adúltero porque hace que esa mujer cometa adulterio, y la mujer que vive con él es adúltera, porque ha atraído hacia sí al marido de otro.

En los últimos diez años se ha derramado mucha tinta sobre el tema de la Iglesia y el divorcio, especialmente en términos del impacto que el divorcio tiene en la comunión sacramental. Esto ha llevado a la confusión en ocasiones. Vivimos en una época en la que la tasa de divorcio entre los que se identifican como católicos no es significativamente diferente de la de la población general. Al mismo tiempo, un mayor porcentaje de jóvenes simplemente opta por no casarse, lo que, como se señaló hace un par de semanas, es problemático en muchos niveles.

Es importante recordar que, a pesar de las mejores intenciones, las relaciones humanas a veces fracasan. Hay toda una serie de factores que contribuyen a esto, pero todos ellos tienen sus raíces en la *caída original del hombre*. Todos somos pecadores y sin la ayuda de la gracia de Dios, el matrimonio es casi imposible. La Iglesia también lo reconoce y, históricamente, ha permitido en algunas situaciones que los cónyuges se separen mientras se mantiene el vínculo del matrimonio. También reconoce que, a veces, una de las partes quería divorciarse mientras que el otro cónyuge quería preservar la unión. Un concepto erróneo que he encontrado a lo largo de los años son aquellos que, a pesar de que no habían intentado un segundo matrimonio después del divorcio, se creían *excomulgados* o, al menos, separados de los sacramentos. Este no es el caso. Mientras la persona sea soltera, es libre de recibir los sacramentos, siempre que esté debidamente dispuesta de otra manera.

Si está luchando en su matrimonio, hay ayuda disponible. *Retrouvaille* es una opción maravillosa para aquellos que quieren trabajar en su matrimonio y abordar problemas y dificultades. También tenemos la suerte de contar con algunos consejeros maravillosos en nuestra comunidad dedicados a ayudar a las parejas en crisis. No esperes más para comunicarte con nosotros si necesitas ayuda.



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Reflexión de apertura de nuestro párroco, el P. Juan Putnam

Música de alabanza y adoración de Aubrey Quintero y Bella Spaedy

Confesión

Charlas inspiradoras de Christine Wisdom y Carolyn Franks.

Charla destacada de Elza Spaedy: "Renovar el corazón: reemplazar las mentiras del diablo con la verdad y la misericordia de Dios".

Lecturas de las Escrituras

Para la Semana del 17 de Diciembre de 2023

Domingo	Tercer Domingo de Adviento Is 61, 1-2. 10-11; Lc 1, 46-48. 49-50. 53-54; 1 Ts 5, 16-24; Jn 1, 6-8. 19-28
Lunes	Jr 23, 5-8; Sal 71, 2. 7-8. 12-13. 17; Mt 1, 18-24
Martes	Jc 13, 2-7. 24-25; Sal 70, 3-4a. 5-6ab. 16-17; Lc 1, 5-25
Miércoles	Is 7, 10-14; Sal 23, 1-2. 3-4ab. 5-6; Lc 1, 26-38
Jueves	Can 2, 8-14 o Sof 3, 14-18; Sal 32, 2-3. 11-12. 20-21; Lc 1, 39-45
Viernes	1 Sam 1, 24-28; 1 Sam 2, 1. 4-5. 6-7. 8; Lc 1, 46-56
Sábado	Ml 3, 1-4. 23-24; Sal 24, 4bc-5ab. 8-9. 10 y 14; Lc 1, 57-66
Domingo	Cuarto Domingo de Adviento 2 Sam 7, 1-5. 8b-12. 14a. 16; Sal 88, 2-3. 4-5. 27 y 29; Rom 16, 25-27; Lc 1, 26-38

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Comparte tus pensamientos: Encuesta del Plan Pastoral 2023

El Comité de Planificación Pastoral de San Marcos está en proceso de completar un nuevo Plan Pastoral, ya que el último se creó en 2017. La Diócesis requiere que cada parroquia actualice su plan cada varios años. Parte de este proceso incluye recopilar sus comentarios. Por favor, visita stmarknc.org/survey para completar la encuesta y decirnos qué piensas.

Es importante que formes parte del proceso. Por favor, ayuda al Comité y al Padre Juan dándonos tus comentarios al completar una encuesta de 15 minutos. Agradecemos tu colaboración en este esfuerzo. Gracias.



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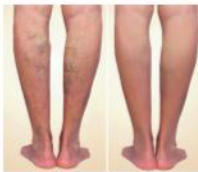
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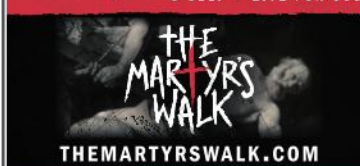
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