



THE HOLY FAMILY OF *Jesus, Mary & Joseph*

*The child
grew and
became strong,
filled with
wisdom; and
the favor
of God
was upon him.*

Luke 2:40

December 31, 2023

SAINT MARK

January 1, 2024

SOLEMNITY OF

Mary

*She is exalted,
yet still one of us.*

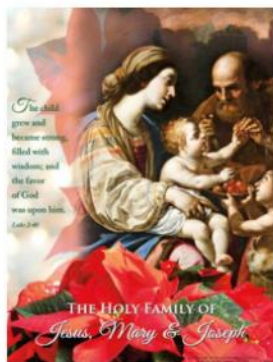


Welcome to St. Mark Catholic Church

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.

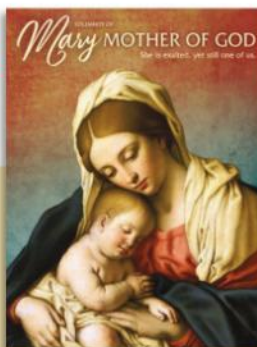


Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. On Monday, January 1, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Since it falls on a Monday this year, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. All are invited to attend Mass on Monday at 7 am or 9 am.

Today's readings can be found in the black St. Augustine Hymnal in the pews on the pages listed below. A separate music handout is available at the entrances. Please see an usher if you did not receive one.

The Feast of the Holy Family
Hymnal page 960

Solemnity of Mary
Hymnal page 825



Wishing You a Happy & Holy New Year!

As we begin a new calendar year, we have an opportunity to make resolutions. As things go, these are often made and forgotten rather quickly. In the spiritual realm though, our commitment and resolve needs to be steadfast.

St. Bonaventure says, "the Holy Spirit comes where He is loved, invited and expected."

In this year of the Lord 2024, let us love, invite and expect Him to come into our hearts and into our lives.

Resources for the New Year:

Epiphany House Blessing: Kits available next weekend.

Chris Stefanick REBOOT: January 10, see page 5

Family Marian Consecration: February 11, see page 10

FORMED.ORG: Great Catholic content, see page 12

Family Fellowship Ministry: Go to stmarkFFM.com

Eucharistic Adoration: Jesus is here for you 24/7 — commit to a Holy Hour at stmarknc.org/adoration.

Guidelines for Communion For Catholics

1. To be in a state of grace, that is to say, to be free from any unconfessed mortal sin.
2. To abstain for at least one hour before Holy Communion from any food and drink, with the exception of water and medicine.
3. To know what you are receiving and to approach the altar with devotion.
4. **St. Mark uses altar rails. Please go to the far end of the rail and either kneel to receive Holy Communion on the tongue or remain standing to receive in your hand. The distribution of the Precious Blood remains suspended.**

For Non-Catholics: We welcome you to Holy Mass and are glad you are here. Please feel free to participate by singing, standing, kneeling, etc. However, the reception of Holy Communion is reserved for Catholics in a state of grace. At the time of Communion, please feel free to come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing or to remain in your pew. See page 1302 in the hymnal for more information.



We invite you to make St. Mark your parish home! If you are interested in registering as a member of St. Mark, please go to stmarknc.org/registration or scan the 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.

Stay up-to-date on all happenings at the parish by following us on social media or signing up to receive our e-newsletter at stmarknc.org/emailnewsletter.

FROM THE PASTOR



Today, we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Just as the Holy Family is holy, we are also called to be holy. This holiness is achievable by living as disciples of Christ.

St. Paul calls us to put on "heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience... as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do." Let us "give thanks to God the Father" by being good stewards of His love and

mercy to all our family members.

Today's Gospel says a lot about trust and surrender to our Lord. When Simeon and Anna prophesized about what was to come, Jesus' parents were "amazed at what was said about him." We can imagine that two parents would be taken aback by these words! Yet, the Holy Family surrendered their lives to God and had unwavering faith and trust in His plan.

God's plan will fulfill our hearts more than we could have ever imagined. Like the Holy Family, we just need to trust, surrender and be attentive to God's voice. © Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2023

Pastoral Pondering - We have been discussing those things that damage, attack, or weaken marriage. The Church defines marriage as a covenant relationship that is to be a *partnership of the whole of life* (see CCC, 1601). My academic work in canon law focused on the introduction of this one phrase in canon 1057, §2 of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*. And while that might seem to be a rather small thing in the overall scheme of things, it actually gives rise to the overall Catholic understanding of marriage. The institution of marriage has particular properties and ends that make up the substance of marriage itself. These properties are unity, indissolubility and fecundity. These three support the ends of marriage, the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children. Hence, permanence, fidelity and openness to life are the three legs of the tripod that support marriage and place it on a firm foundation.

Since we've already addressed infidelity (adultery) and permanence (divorce), our liturgical feast provides a good opportunity to discuss the openness to children and its importance to marriage.

Paragraph 2366 of the Catechism says this:

Fecundity is a gift, an end of marriage, for conjugal love naturally tends to be fruitful. A child does not come from outside as something added on to the mutual love of the spouses, but springs from the very heart of that mutual giving, as its fruit and fulfillment. So the Church, which "is on the side of life" teaches that "each and every marriage act must remain open 'per se' to the transmission of life." This particular doctrine, expounded on numerous occasions by the Magisterium, is based on the inseparable connection, established by God, which man on his own initiative may not break, between the unitive significance and the procreative significance which are both inherent to the marriage act."

Concerning the regulation of births, Paragraph 2370 says this: Periodic continence, that is, the methods of birth regulation based on self-observation and the use of infertile periods, is in conformity with the objective criteria of morality. These methods respect the bodies of the spouses, encourage tenderness between them, and favor the education of an authentic freedom. In contrast, "every action which, whether in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible" is intrinsically evil:

Thus, the innate language that expresses the total reciprocal self-giving of husband and wife is overlaid, through contraception, by an objectively contradictory language, namely, that of not giving oneself totally to the other. This leads not only to a positive refusal to be open to life but also to a falsification of the inner truth of conjugal love, which is called upon to give itself in personal totality... the difference, both anthropological and moral, between contraception and recourse to the rhythm of the cycle . . . involves in the final analysis two irreconcilable concepts of the human person and of human sexuality.

Hence, contraception violates the very essence of marriage because it says, "I give you myself, BUT not this part."

It is also helpful to remember how prophetic Pope St. Paul VI was when he warned in *Humanae Vitae*:

Responsible men can become more deeply convinced of the truth of the doctrine laid down by the Church on this issue if they reflect on the consequences of methods and plans for artificial birth control. Let them first consider how easily this course of action could open wide the way for marital infidelity and a general lowering of moral standards. Not much experience is needed to be fully aware of human weakness and to understand that human beings—and especially the young, who are so exposed to temptation—need incentives to keep the moral law, and it is an evil thing to make it easy for them to break that law. Another effect that gives cause for alarm is that a man who grows accustomed to the use of contraceptive methods may forget the reverence due to a woman, and, disregarding her physical and emotional equilibrium, reduce her to being a mere instrument for the satisfaction of his own desires, no longer considering her as his partner whom he should surround with care and affection.

Finally, careful consideration should be given to the danger of this power passing into the hands of those public authorities who care little for the precepts of the moral law. Who will blame a government which in its attempt to resolve the problems affecting an entire country resort to the same measures as are regarded as lawful by married people in the solution of a particular family difficulty? Who will prevent public authorities from favoring those contraceptive methods which they consider more effective? Should they regard this as necessary, they may even impose their use on everyone. It could well happen, therefore, that when people, either individually or in family or social life, experience the inherent difficulties of the divine law and are determined to avoid them, they may give into the hands of public authorities the power to intervene in the most personal and intimate responsibility of husband and wife.

A careful study of the historical record shows clearly how the widespread acceptance of contraception has led to marital infidelity, the bad fruit of the sexual revolution (seeing sexual intimacy as more of a recreational activity than its intended use) including abortion, infidelity, promiscuity, and the like. By extension, we can also see that once the marital act is separated from marriage, marriage loses a sense of what it is, opening the doorway to redefining marriage in any way one wants.

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith's recent decision to allow for the blessing of same sex couples who have attempted marriage, while perhaps being well-intentioned, adds to a greater level of confusion about the inherent nature of marriage and its importance to the life of the Church. The document is clear that any blessing must be outside of an official liturgical action or ritual, but, human nature being what it is, and priests being fallible as we are, this will be abused and confused leading to even a greater diminishment of the understanding of marriage in our secularized culture.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please Pray For...

Janice Anderton	Julie Jones
Sharon Antoszyk	The Juster Family
Des Arrup	Steve Kaminski
Katherine Arvesu	The Kantra Family
Laura Ashley	Carol & Frank Kenny
Daisy Bayona	The Kube Family
Ofelia Beltran	Kelly Scherer Lang
Michelle Bissinger & Family	Jeanne LoPriore
Brian Blatchford & Family	Jane Mayhew
Don & Cathy Blackwell	Kay McAfee
Len & Michele Boos	Jim McLaughlin
Viola Cleo Bradshaw	Laura Mulvihill
John Brannon	Deacon Robert Murphy
Gretchen Burke	Michael Newton
Anne Caestecker	Keith Noble
Mark Carolla	Scott O'Halloran
Donna Castoria	Evelyn Pachana
Janelle Cataldo	Josie Pais
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
Matthew Giannone	Tom Thompson
(Navy LCDR)	Lucia Solis Vallarino
Helen Haddad	Julio Velez
Ron Haley	Lewis Vellia
Dave Heaton	Maria Vilchez
Madeline Louise Henwood	Vilchez Hernandez Family
Pat Herkey	Virginia (Ginny) White
Kevin Herman Sr.	MaryJane Zimmerman
Zohra Hunter-Rezgui	

Mass Intentions

Sunday December 31

7:30 am † Bob Keating
 9 am Family of Ly Nguyen
 11 am Frank & Carol Dixon
 1 pm † Don Bombay
 5 pm St. Mark Parishioners

Monday January 1

9 am St. Mark Parishioners

Tuesday January

7 am † Alexander Fredrick Biel
 9 am † Robert Keating

Wednesday January 3

7 am Mr. Ferdenzi
 Ayala Family
 6:30 pm The St Mark Homeschool Ministry
 † Sue McCarron

Thursday January 4

7 am † Fred and Martha Wesson
 9 am † Mary Elaine Hart

Friday January 5

7 am † Diane & Nick Gaffney, Fran & Pete
 Ferdenzi
 9 am † Collin Porter
 7 pm Gladis Campoverde y Johan Pimentel

Saturday January 6

9 am The Living & Deceased members of the
 Reiley Family
 5 pm Scott & Mary Deininger

Sunday January 7

7:30 am Cona Family
 9 am † Robert Keating
 11 am Virginia White
 1 pm Carolina & Adam Jordon
 5 pm † Jose Mendoza

† Deceased

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

Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 31, 2023

Sunday	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2: 22-40
Monday	Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday	Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday	Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34
Thursday	Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42
Friday	Memorial of Saint John Neumann, Bishop 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100; 1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 1:43-51
Saturday	Memorial of Saint André Bessette, Religious 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or Lk 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
Sunday	The Epiphany of the Lord Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Prayers For Our Military

Air Force: SrA Brennen Brown; Airman Gregory Burke; Airman Antonio 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.





REBOOT

FEATURING

CHRIS STEFANICK

Sometimes we are active in our faith and other times not. Now is the perfect time to make a New Year's resolution to get back into your faith.

Come and hear Chris Stefanick give a presentation that will motivate you and make you want to go beyond where you are. Invite your friends and family and maybe even the co-worker with whom you have been discussing your faith.

Chris Stefanick is an internationally acclaimed author, speaker, and television host who has devoted his life to sharing the love of Jesus, and helping others do the same.

His live seminars, TV, radio, and video ministry have reached millions, and his educational initiatives are turning the tide in the Church. He authored a confirmation prep program that's been used by over a million people, the popular SEARCH program and most recently released another bestseller, Living Joy.

Jan 10, 2024 | 6:30pm

Tickets \$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!

RESPECT LIFE

Vigil of the Two Hearts: Fr. Carlson

When: Jan. 5 and 6 (See schedule below)

*Where: Cathedral of St. Patrick,
1621 Dilworth Road E., Charlotte*

Join us each first Friday through first Saturday in an overnight vigil to honor the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, to pray for our families, offer penance for our sins (especially abortion) and pray for our nation's conversion. This is to honor Our Lady of Fatima's request for prayer and penance.

Devotion begins with 8 pm First Friday Mass, January 5 (offered by Fr. Carlson) followed by nocturnal Adoration and a holy hour of reparation at 9 pm and concluding with 8 am First Saturday Mass on January 6. All families and parishes are invited to adopt an hour!

Sign up for Eucharistic Adoration times and stay updated on future vigils by joining our email list at ProLifeCharlotte.org/two-hearts or contact us at info@prolifecharlotte.org.



2024 March for Life Information

Friday, January 12: March for Life Charlotte.

- 7 am Respect Life Mass (Latin) at St. Ann Parish;
- 10 am Respect Life Mass (English) at the Cathedral of St. Patrick.
- 12 noon - March begins in front of the Pastoral Center.

For more details visit:

<https://www.marchforlifecharlotte.com/>

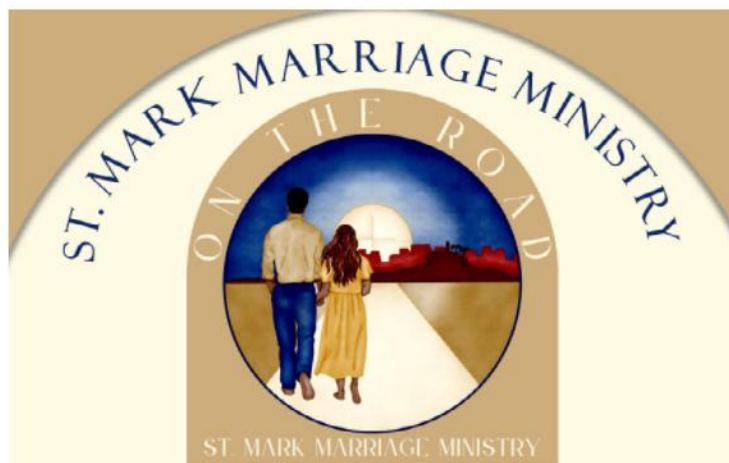
Friday, January 19: March for Life DC.

<https://marchforlife.org/>

Monday, January 22: [National Day of Prayer for the Protection of the Unborn.](#)

Saturday, May 18: North Carolina March for Life (new date):

<https://www.ncrtl.org/rallyandmarch>



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
Register at stmarknc.org/marriage-ministry
or scan the code.**



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

MEAL PACKAGING



EVENT





GOAL: 600 people \$12.5K funds

February 2 & 3

Volunteers, donors and people like you are needed to provide food for people in need throughout the world. Our goal is to package 150,000 meals!

Please consider:
\$35 donation per family
or \$10 per person

Three Shifts:
Fri., Feb. 2, 4-6 pm
Sat., Feb 3, 9:45 am-12 pm
Sat., Feb 3, 12:30-2:45 pm

Let's Begin!



sign-up/donate: stmarknc.org/swh

PARISH LIFE

Welcome.
There is **More to Life**

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.

St. Mark Preschool 2024-25

St. Mark Preschool registration will begin on January 8 for current and alumni families.

Registration will be open to parishioners on January 22. See our website for more information www.stmarknc.org/preschool.



Divorce Support Group Holiday Schedule

The Saint Mark Divorce Support Group will not meet on Monday, January 1. Holidays can be an exceptionally stressful time, so we can meet another night during the week if needed. However, if you need support during that time, please email divorce.support@stmarknc.org. Our weekly Monday meetings will resume on Monday, January 8 at 7 pm in room 204.

Happy New Year from Coffee and Conversation!

Due to the holidays, there will be no Coffee and Conversation on Tuesday, January 2. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year when we resume on January 9 at 9:30 am.



FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY
PRESENTS

Family Movie

Night

Bring the family, blankets, pillows, and pajamas for the fun evening movie-watching event.

Popcorn and hot cocoa will be provided.

Saturday

01.06.2024

7:00PM

Kerin Center

Please RSVP on Sign-up Genius (QR code)



Featured Movie title:

COOL RUNNINGS

Rated Parental Guide (PG)

We Need your Help!! 2023 Pastoral Plan Survey

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

Our goal is to have more than 1000 people complete the survey. Please take few minutes to assist Fr. John by giving your feedback.

Go to stmarknc.org or scan the code to complete the survey and tell us what you think.

Thank you!



Fidelis Invites ALL Middle and High School Girls to January Jumpstart

When: Fri, Jan. 26, 7 - 8:30 pm (High School),
Sat., Jan 27, 9 am - 6 pm

Where: Msgr. Kerin Center / Parish Hall

Fidelis has planned two days for young women (middle and high school) to retreat, regroup and "Jumpstart" their new year. The day is filled with Mass, game time, meals, crafts, talks, small group sessions, Adoration, and more - let's call it Faith, Food and Fun! We have an amazing keynote speaker this year, Dana Catherine, who will inspire us with her faith and music. You will not want to miss this opportunity to jumpstart 2024. Register at the link below and invite a friend. Space is limited so register early.

Things to know:

- Registration is \$40 (\$100 family cap)
- Registration link (or use QR Code): <https://tinyurl.com/StMarkJumpstart2024>
- Payment link: <https://osvhub.com/stmarknc/forms/fidelis-payment>
- T-shirt for all who register prior to Jan. 17
- There are opportunities for moms to help. Reach out with questions to: Alaina Duncan: ljld3@live.com

Information: januaryjumpstartretreat@gmail.com

Contact: Marleena Young, fidelis@stmarknc.org

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



PARISH LIFE

Charitable Service Committee (CSC)

Proverbs 19:17 teaches us that *whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord*. To that end, St. Mark has formed a Charitable Service Committee (CSC) and a new way of communicating service opportunities and requesting signups of volunteers. The CSC is actively working with our parish partners and the wider diocesan community to serve the needs of local communities and to help facilitate linking volunteers to the needs. Frequently charitable service organizations are in greater need of volunteers even instead of money! St. Mark has created a new Volunteers web page on our official parish website and we now have a "Sign-up Genius" to make it simple to find service opportunities and sign-up. Please scan the QR code to see how you can help our Parish help the community.

For more information, please go to stmarknc.org/charitable-service-committee.



OF INTEREST

Retreat for a Hurting Marriage

Do you know of a marriage that is struggling? The Retrouvaille Program is for any married couple facing difficult challenges. They have helped tens of thousands of couples at ALL stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. In short, they save marriages!

Next Retreat: Jan. 19-21, 2024

Location: Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

More information: 800-470-2230, 3062ac@helpourmarriage.org, or HelpOurMarriage.org

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje and Croatia - Information Session

When: January 19, 2024

Where: Huntersville Professional Building, 11330 Vanstory Drive

There will be an informational meeting to provide information on our exciting pilgrimage to Medjugorje and Croatia, answer questions and meet your fellow Pilgrims! Doors open at 5:30 pm and the meeting will begin at 6 pm. RSVP at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D44A5AE22ABFC1-46433550-medjugorje>

Join Woodard Luxury Travel for a special time of prayer and reflection on this **Medjugorje and Croatia Pilgrimage on June 3, 2024!** You will see Medjugorje and climb Križevac Mountain where in 1933, the 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 the Stations of the Cross. You can also climb The Apparition Hill, where the visionaries first encountered our Lady in 1981. You may touch and pray before the Cross commemorating the spot where Mary first appeared to the visionaries. You will also 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 where we will visit the Cathedral of St. Domnius, among other sites.

More Information:

www.WoodardLuxuryTravel.com/events-trips

Contact: Donny Woodard, 980-483-3620, dwoodard@WoodardLuxuryTravel.com



Are you new to Saint Mark?
(Or not "new" but still feel "new"?)

Women Newcomers

Please come join us to laugh, cry, and make new friends!

**Wednesdays, January 10-March 20
10-11:30 am**

New to our parish or still feel "new"? The class is based on Susan Miller's book **"After the Boxes Are Unpacked"** dealing with the spiritual, emotional and practical needs when making a move. It is a great way to meet fellow parishioners and make new friends.



To register or for further information, please call Catherine, 704-340-6234 or Maxine, 704-274-5453.



We look forward to meeting you!

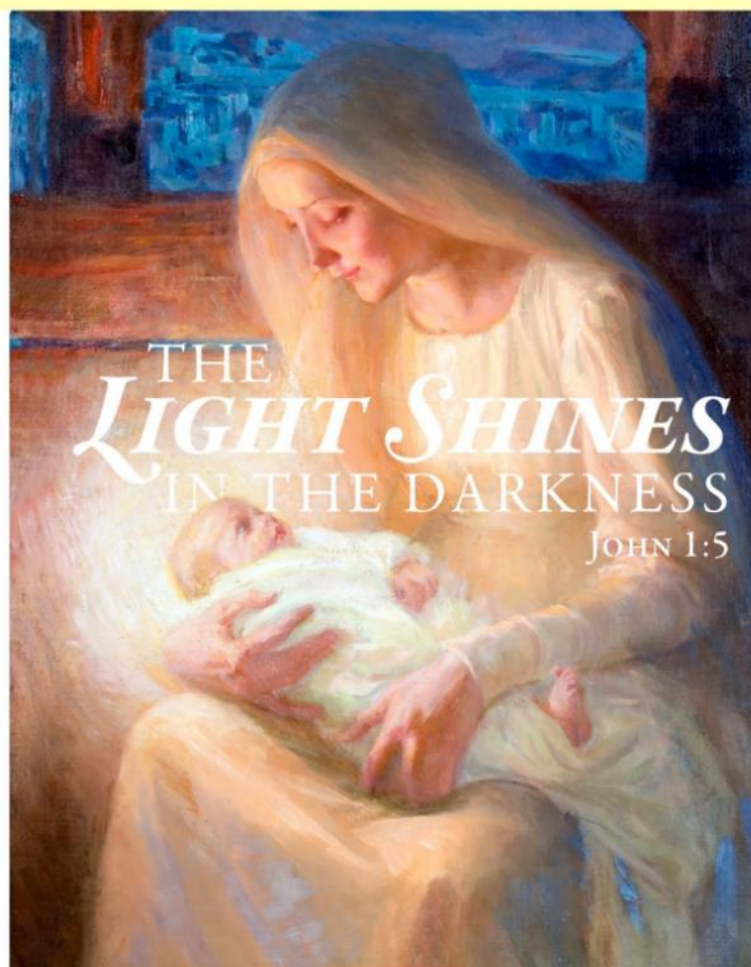
Fall 2023 Women Newcomers Group

To Jesus through Mary

**Make a Family
New Year's
Resolution Today!**

**Preparation begins
January 9.**

**Consecration is Sunday,
February 11, following the
9 am Mass in the Parish Hall.**



We invite families to join the Family Fellowship Ministry on a special journey of Consecration to Jesus through Mary.

A Family Consecration is a commitment to live your baptismal promises with the help of the Holy Family and set your family apart for God. You will spend 33 days on a personal family journey then come together with us for special consecration ceremony in February.

There are many resources that you may use as a guide but we recommend these two books by Tan: "Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary" or "Marian Consecration for Children." Both are easy to follow, especially for families.

**For complete details and to sign up for the Family Consecration,
go to stmarkffm.com or scan the QR code.**



Entrust you and your family to Jesus and Mary in 2024.

Family Fellowship Ministry

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Knight Life: Happy New Year!

The Knights of Columbus closed out the year by installing a new outdoor nativity purchased by the parish and by organizing and attending a CPR and AED class for members of the Knights of St. Joseph and the Knights of Columbus.

The class was given by our parish volunteer nurse Katherine Shinnars. Katherine will offer this class for free, for our entire parish throughout 2024! If you're like the rest of us, you keep telling yourself you should learn CPR. This is an opportunity to give yourself the perfect Christmas gift and possibly save someone's life. We will announce upcoming classes in the bulletin so you can take advantage of this opportunity. Thank you for the great class you gave us KC!

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank our wonderful parish for the support you continue to show us year after year! We look forward to serving God, our church, our parish, and our community in 2024!

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 past 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



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship

*When: Sat., Jan. 13, drop-in 9 am and Noon
Where: Kerin Family Center Parish Hall*

It's time for our annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Basketball Championship. This is a fun, drop-in event to show your hoop skills. Girls and boys ages 9-14 (as of January 1, 2024) are invited to come out, see how many baskets they can make, eat a hot dog and snacks, and have fun with friends. Winners from each age category will receive a medal and earn the right to compete at the district level in February.

Children 9-11 will shoot from the 12-foot foul line; all other age groups will shoot from the normal foul line which is 15 feet from the basket. Certificate of age is required. All entrants will receive a certificate of participation.

There is no entry fee. Register on-site or use the QR Code to get a 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



HAPPY NEW YEAR



THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of December 31, 2023



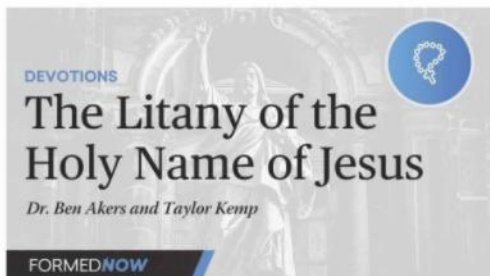
New Year's Resolutions | The Augustine Institute Show

What's your resolution this year? Dr. Tim Gray welcomes Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Assistant Professor of Theology in the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, to celebrate one year of the Augustine Institute Show!



The Holy Family

We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season!



Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as we celebrate the feast of The Most Holy Name of Jesus with this litany prayer of the Holy Name.

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

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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

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Rev. Chinonso Nnebe-Agumadu

Fr. Aaron Huber (in residence)

Deacons

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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

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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

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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

Open daily in the Family Center

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.

Parishioner Assistance:

Financial:

St. Vincent De Paul Society:
Leanne.Vaccaro@stmarknc.org

Life Crisis:

Stephen Ministry
stmarknc.org/stephen-ministry

Food Insecurity:

Parish Office
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

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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Del Párroco - Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia 31 de diciembre (2023)

Hoy celebramos a la Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José. Así como la Sagrada Familia es santa, nosotros también estamos llamados a ser santos. Esta santidad se puede lograr viviendo como discípulos de Cristo.

San Pablo nos llama a revestimos de "compasión de corazón, bondad, humildad, mansedumbre y paciencia... como el Señor

os ha perdonado, así también debéis hacer vosotros". "Demos gracias a Dios Padre" siendo buenos mayordomos de Su amor y misericordia para con todos los miembros de nuestra familia.

El Evangelio de hoy dice mucho sobre la confianza y la entrega a nuestro Señor. Cuando Simeón y Ana profetizaron acerca de lo que había de venir, los padres de Jesús estaban "asombrados de lo que se dijo de él". ¡Podemos imaginar que dos padres se sentirían sorprendidos por estas palabras! Sin embargo, la Sagrada Familia entregó sus vidas a Dios y tuvo una fe y confianza inquebrantables en Su plan.

El plan de Dios llenará nuestros corazones más de lo que podríamos haber imaginado. Al igual que la Sagrada Familia, solo necesitamos confiar, rendirnos y estar atentos a la voz de Dios. © Consultores de Mayordomía Católica, 2023

Reflexión pastoral - Hemos estado discutiendo aquellas cosas que dañan, atacan o debilitan el matrimonio. Uno de los más generalizados

La Iglesia define el matrimonio como una relación de pacto que debe ser una asociación *de toda la vida* (véase CIC, 1601). Mi trabajo académico en derecho canónico se centró en la introducción de esta frase en el canon 1057, § 2 del *Código de Derecho Canónico de 1983*. Y aunque eso puede parecer algo bastante pequeño en el esquema general de las cosas, en realidad da lugar a la comprensión católica general del matrimonio. La institución del matrimonio tiene propiedades y fines particulares que constituyen la sustancia misma del matrimonio. Estas propiedades son la unidad, la indisolubilidad y la fecundidad. Estos tres apoyan los fines del matrimonio, el bien de los cónyuges y la procreación y educación de los hijos. Por lo tanto, la permanencia, la fidelidad y la apertura a la vida son las tres patas del tripode que sostienen el matrimonio y lo colocan sobre una base firme.

Dado que ya hemos abordado la infidelidad (adulterio) y la permanencia (divorcio), nuestra fiesta litúrgica ofrece una buena oportunidad para discutir la apertura a los hijos y su importancia para el matrimonio.

El párrafo 2366 del Catecismo dice lo siguiente:

La fecundidad es un don, un fin del matrimonio, porque el amor conyugal tiende naturalmente a ser fecundo. Un hijo no viene de fuera como algo añadido al amor mutuo de los esposos, sino que brota del corazón mismo de esa entrega mutua, como su fruto y satisfacción. Por lo tanto, la Iglesia, que "está del lado de la vida", enseña que "todos y cada uno de los actos matrimoniales deben permanecer abiertos 'per se' a la transmisión de la vida". Esta doctrina particular, expuesta en numerosas ocasiones por el Magisterio, se basa en la conexión inseparable, establecida por Dios, que el hombre por su propia iniciativa no puede romper, entre el significado unitivo y el significado procreativo, que son ambos inherentes al acto matrimonial".

En cuanto a la regulación de los nacimientos, el párrafo 2370 dice lo siguiente:

La continencia periódica, es decir, los métodos de regulación de la natalidad basados en la autoobservación y el uso de períodos infértiles, está en conformidad con los criterios objetivos de la moralidad. Estos métodos respetan el cuerpo de los esposos, fomentan la ternura entre ellos y favorecen la educación de una auténtica libertad. Por el contrario, "toda acción que, ya sea en anticipación del acto conyugal, o en su realización, o en el

desarrollo de sus consecuencias naturales, se propone, ya sea como fin o como medio, hacer imposible la procreación" es intrínsecamente mala:

Así, el lenguaje innato que expresa la entrega recíproca total de los esposos se superpone, a través de la anticoncepción, a un lenguaje objetivamente contradictorio, a saber, el de no entregarse totalmente al otro. Esto lleva no sólo a un rechazo positivo a la apertura a la vida, sino también a una falsificación de la verdad interior del amor conyugal, que está llamado a entregarse en su totalidad personal. La diferencia, tanto antropológica como moral, entre la anticoncepción y el recurso al ritmo del ciclo... implica, en última instancia, dos conceptos irreconciliables de la persona humana y de la sexualidad humana.

Por lo tanto, la anticoncepción viola la esencia misma del matrimonio porque dice: "Yo mismo te doy, PERO no esta parte".

También es útil recordar cuán profético fue el Papa San Pablo VI cuando advirtió en *Humanae vitae*:

Los hombres responsables pueden convencerse más profundamente de la verdad de la doctrina establecida por la Iglesia sobre este tema si reflexionan sobre las consecuencias de los métodos y planes de control artificial de la natalidad. Consideren primero con qué facilidad este proceder podría abrir de par en par el camino para la infidelidad conyugal y una rebaja general de las normas morales. No se necesita mucha experiencia para ser plenamente consciente de la debilidad humana y comprender que los seres humanos, y especialmente los jóvenes, que están tan expuestos a la tentación, necesitan incentivos para guardar la ley moral, y es algo malo facilitarles quebrantar esa ley. Otro efecto que causa alarma es que un hombre que se acostumbra al uso de métodos anticonceptivos puede olvidar la reverencia debida a una mujer y, sin tener en cuenta su equilibrio físico y emocional, reducirla a ser un mero instrumento para la satisfacción de sus propios deseos, ya no considerándola como su compañera a la que debe rodear de cuidado y afecto.

Por último, hay que considerar cuidadosamente el peligro de que este poder pase a manos de aquellas autoridades públicas que se preocupan poco por los preceptos de la ley moral. ¿Quién culpará a un gobierno que, en su intento de resolver los problemas que afectan a todo un país, recurre a las mismas medidas que son consideradas legales por las personas casadas en la solución de una determinada dificultad familiar? ¿Quién impedirá que los poderes públicos favorezcan los métodos anticonceptivos que consideren más eficaces? Si lo consideran necesario, pueden incluso imponer su uso a todo el mundo. Bien podría suceder, por tanto, que cuando las personas, ya sea individualmente o en la vida familiar o social, experimentan las dificultades inherentes a la ley divina y están decididas a evitarlas, puedan poner en manos de las autoridades públicas la potestad de intervenir en la responsabilidad más personal e íntima de los esposos.

Un estudio cuidadoso de los registros históricos muestra claramente cómo la aceptación generalizada de la anticoncepción ha llevado a la infidelidad conyugal, el mal fruto de la revolución sexual (ver la intimidad sexual más como una actividad recreativa que como su uso previsto) incluyendo el aborto, la infidelidad, la promiscuidad y similares. Por extensión, también podemos ver que una vez que el acto conyugal se separa del matrimonio, el matrimonio pierde el sentido de lo que es, abriendo la puerta a redefinir el matrimonio de la manera que uno quiera.

La reciente decisión del Dicasterio para la Doctrina de la Fe de permitir la bendición de las parejas del mismo sexo que han intentado casarse, aunque tal vez sea bien intencionada, se suma a un mayor nivel de confusión sobre la naturaleza inherente del matrimonio y su importancia para la vida de la Iglesia. El documento deja claro que cualquier bendición debe estar fuera de una acción litúrgica o ritual oficial, pero, siendo la naturaleza humana lo que es, y siendo los sacerdotes falibles como lo somos, esto será abusado y confundido, lo que conducirá a una disminución aún mayor de la comprensión del matrimonio en nuestra cultura secularizada.

A Jesús a través de María

Haga una resolución
de año nuevo
familiar hoy!

Comienza la preparación
9 de enero.

La consagración es el domingo
11 de febrero, después de la
Misa a las 9 am en el Salón
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Invitamos a las familias a unirse al Ministerio de Compañerismo Familiar en un viaje especial de Consagración a Jesús a través de María.

Una Consagración Familiar es un compromiso de vivir sus promesas bautismales con la ayuda de la Sagrada Familia y apartar a su familia para Dios. Pasarás 33 días en un viaje familiar personal y luego te reunirás con nosotros para una ceremonia especial de consagración en febrero.

Hay muchos recursos que puedes usar como guía, pero te recomendamos estos dos libros de Tan: "Consagración total a Jesús a través de María" o "Consagración mariana para niños". Ambos son fáciles de seguir, especialmente para las familias.

Para obtener todos los detalles e inscribirse en la Consagración Familiar, vaya a stmarkffm.com o escanee el código QR.



Encomiéndate a ti y a tu familia a Jesús y María en el 2024.

Ministerio de Compañerismo Familiar

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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8 a.m.-3 pm

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www.healedandrestored.org

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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".



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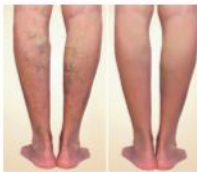
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