



WE HAVE COME TO DO
HIM HOMAGE

MATTHEW 2:2

SAINT MARK

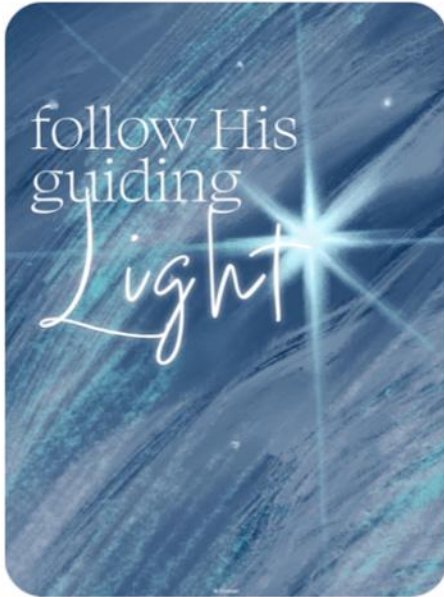
The Epiphany of the Lord, January 7, 2024, Español pagina 15



Welcome to St. Mark

January 7, 2024, Epiphany of Our Lord

The readings for today can be found in the St. Augustine Hymnal on **page 828**.
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.

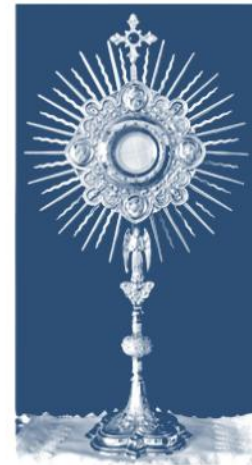


If you are interested in registering as a member of St. Mark, please go to stmarknc.org/registration or use the QR code. You may submit the form online or bring a paper copy to the Welcome Desk during normal business hours. Forms can be found in the narthex. Please know, you do not need to be Catholic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

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 remain in your pew. (See page 1302 in the hymnal.)



The Powerhouse of Parish Life.

~Fr. John Putnam

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is located in the Family Center.
Info: stmarknc.org/adoration

NOTICE: MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE JANUARY 10

Due to REBOOT with Chris Stefanick at 6:30 pm,
the Wednesday night Mass will be at 5:30 pm;
confession will be from 5-6:15 pm.

FROM THE PASTOR



Today, we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. The Gospel account of the three magi traveling to meet Baby Jesus is one that we know well. Yet, when we pause to reflect on this moment when these men met Christ for the first time, we recognize that there is much to be said for us still today.

When the magi entered the house, it says, “they saw the child with

Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage.” Clearly these men knew that they were in the presence of their King. They also came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, which symbolize Christ’s kingship, divinity, and humanity.

Christ is still manifesting Himself to us today. We enter God’s house weekly, and we are in His presence. When we meet Him, do we offer Him our gifts — our time, talent, and treasure? As Christian stewards, we are called to respond with love, reverence, and gratitude.

Let us prepare our hearts to receive Christ’s many manifestations in our lives. We just need a grateful disposition to receive them. ©Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2023

Pastoral Pondering

I want to wish everyone a very happy New Year. As we continue to celebrate our Lord’s nativity, the Epiphany reminds us that Emmanuel came to save the world. He offers His gift of salvation to all who willingly hear His voice and open their hearts to His message of love. In this New Year, let us all seek to be ambassadors of that message so that the world may come to know Him more intensely by the way we live our Christian lives.

Today, I also wanted to say a bit more about *Fiducia supplicans*, the recent document from the Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith concerning blessings and those in irregular situations in terms of sacramental Communion. The document specifically addressed those with same sex attraction (SSA) living in a stable relationship as well as those who because of divorce or some other issue cannot participate in sacramental Communion.

Needless to say, the document has garnered lots of press coverage, thousands upon thousands of words of printed commentary, as well as any number of responses on social media. Our vicar general, Monsignor Patrick Winslow, wrote a concise response that was published on the Diocesan website and the *Catholic News Herald* which summarized the main points of the document. I won’t repeat all of that here. The US bishops also have a statement on their website from Bishop Robert Barron that you might also find helpful.

The problem with the document, and to be honest, much of the magisterial utterances during this pontificate, is it leaves a great deal unsaid that should be said. Confusion and wonderment arise from such statements which is the exact opposite of what the Holy See is supposed to be promoting, unity. The faith is not something to be toyed with. It is a treasure that is to be handed down and preserved. When we see divergent responses from bodies

of bishops around the world, it again only raises questions of, “How is this Catholic? How is this promoting unity?” The only answer is that it is not.

Let me say clearly, there is no doubt that Jesus Christ came to save all. It is also true, however, that He never failed to unite that love with the revealed truth as He revealed it. I personally over the years have worked with countless people who have sincerely struggled with SSA as well as those who, sometimes through no fault of their own or simple ignorance, have ended up living in objectively sinful situations. Nonetheless, when presented with the truth, they have heroically tried to correct course and overcome whatever obstacles might be present. Jesus loved, and Jesus forgave. But He also, after telling the woman caught in adultery, “neither do I condemn you,” reminded to go “and from now on avoid this sin.”

Only Christ’s truthful love can heal us. We cannot simply affirm people’s sin in the name of being loving. Rather we are called to preach the truthfulness of the Gospel as the medicine for our sin. When we truthfully love someone in the name of Jesus then we are healed. When we try to separate the truth from love we only hurt those we try to love and ourselves. Christ loves the woman caught in adultery. That being said, He also calls her to a life with him and not the sin she is suffering.

Both the Diocese of Charlotte and our parish offer various supports for folks struggling with SSA, those dealing with the pain of divorce and those who are in need of help to regularize an irregular marriage situation. We are all sinners in need of God’s love and mercy, but receiving that mercy requires true contrition and a desire to change. The difficulty with FS is that lip service is given to this while at the same time undermining this foundational truth. FS mentions blessing the couple but makes no mention of ongoing support. If we study the sad path taken by some of our Protestant brothers and sisters in this particular area, changes were made for the sake of *pastoral concern and solicitude* which eventually turned into a wholesale abandonment of Traditional Faith and a fracturing of the Anglican communion around the world. We already see that in the disparate responses to FS from Africa on the one hand and Western Europe on the other. Let us pray that God who is faithful will guard and protect us from following that same path of fracture and dissolution.



Courage is a Catholic apostolate for men and women who experience same-sex attractions and for the family members

and loved ones of those who identify as LGBTQ+. It offers confidential support for living chastity, growing in holiness, and keeping family bonds intact. To learn more and find a local chapter, visit Courage International at Couragerc.org.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please Pray For...

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

Mass Intentions

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

Monday January 8

7 am	† Guy Gaffney
9 am	† Dennis M. Gilbride

Tuesday January 9

7 am	† Mary Y Tran
9 am	† Martin White

Wednesday January 10

7 am	† Steven Henning
	† Aidan Murphy
5:30 pm	† Ofelia Beltran

Thursday January 11

7 am	Sharon Pecka
9 am	† Diane Stone

Friday January 12

7 am	Thomas Lang
9 am	Julie Cassidy
7 pm	† Virginia Lopez

Saturday January 13

9 am	† Antoinette Sirianni
5 pm	† Sue McCarron

Sunday January 14

7:30 am	† Frances and Salvatore Addamo Sr.
9 am	† Anthony Edward D'Andrea
11 am	† Alicia Dyanne Dacey
1 pm	Gladis Campoverde
5 pm	† Vincenzo & Michelina Carapellotti

† Deceased

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

Scripture Readings

For the Week of January 7, 2023

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
Monday	Baptism of the Lord Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 Mk 1:7-11
Tuesday	1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; PS 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday	1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
Friday	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-17, 18-19; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday	Memorial of Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

Prayers For Our Military

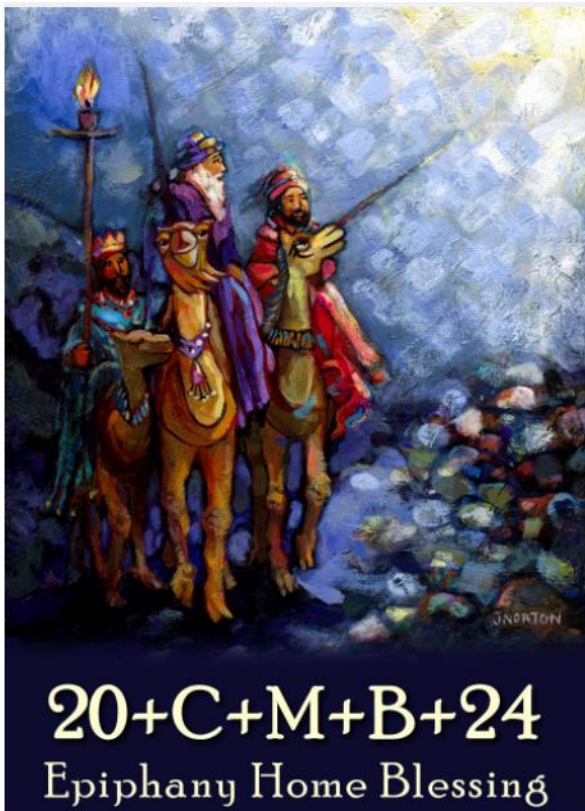
Air Force: SrA Brennen Brown;
Airman Gregory Burke; Airman
Antoinio Diaz; Capt Stephen
Hack; Lt Col Douglas Lincoln;
Capt Ryan Loyd; Alejandro
Martinez; Sgt James
McCormick; SrA Benjamin
Salber; Airman Chloe Scott

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; Sgt Matthew
Quillinan; Maj Stephen J. Romeo; Andrew Santos;
Capt Ramon Ricardo Tapia; Spl Forces Nolan
Tillotson; Josh Wagner; 1st Lt Nick Worth

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

Navy: LCDR Matthew Giannone; 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.





Epiphany: Bless Your Home for 2024

Place God at the entrance of your home and put your family under His protection.

There is a special blessing for water on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord because of its connection to the baptism of Jesus, which we celebrate on Monday. This ancient rite of the blessing of waters by a priest, with its powerful prayers of exorcism, renders Epiphany water more spiritually potent than the holy water which is available in the Narthex.

There is also a long-standing tradition of marking churches, homes, schools or other buildings with a special marking using blessed chalk. You will see these markings above the doors of our parish buildings and schools.

Epiphany is the traditional time of the year to bless your home using Epiphany water and blessed chalk. Kits with blessing instructions, Epiphany water and blessed chalk are available after all Masses this weekend – there is enough in the kit to bless several homes or buildings.

The holy water container in the back of the church will also contain Epiphany water this week.

This is a reminder that the spiritual battle is always going on around us. Inviting the Lord to bless and protect our homes and our families, is an important defense as we strive to follow the Lord and fight the enemy. — Fr. John Putnam

January 8 Feast Day: The Baptism of the Lord

When: Mon., Jan. 8, 7 & 9 am

Where: Mass in the church

The Feast of the Baptism marks the end of the Christmas season. We will leave Bethlehem — the place of Christmas — to return to Ordinary Time.

"Besides the times of year that have their own distinctive character, there remain in the yearly cycle thirty-three or thirty-four weeks in which no particular

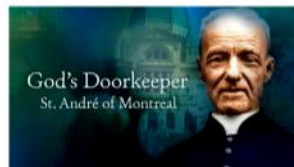


aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as Ordinary Time."

— Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the New General Roman Calendar.

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of January 7, 2024



God's Doorkeeper: St. André of Montreal

This week, we celebrate the memorial of a humble doorkeeper, St. André of Montreal. Learn how this man became a great saint through his small acts of love!



The Bible Collection - Genesis

Experience the epic tale of creation in this Christian anthology that details the stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and Noah and the Ark.



Padre Pio: Between Heaven and Earth

Based on the historical records and the personal testimony of his fellow friars, this is the amazing true story of the life of the famous stigmatic monk, St. Padre Pio, a contemporary saint who died in 1968. Blessed with incredible spiritual gifts, including healing, bi-location, reading of souls, and the stigmatic wounds, Padre Pio was a powerful witness for Christ, and a great spiritual guide to countless souls for over fifty years.

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

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and PRACTICAL PIETY

**Rediscover
the Joy
of Christ
in YOUR
life**

REBOOT

a life-changing event

DO NOT MISS the
opportunity to see and hear
CHRIS STEFANICK
at St. Mark!

**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.**



**THIS WEDNESDAY
6:30 PM!**

**It's not too late to
get your tickets!**

Jan 10, 2024 | 6:30pm

Tickets \$39

www.reallifecatholic.com



**NOTE:
Wednesday
Mass will be
at 5:30 pm.**

**Confession
will be from
5-6:15 pm**



**Scan here to
purchase your
tickets to Reboot!**

RESPECT LIFE

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. The Diocese of Charlotte Office of Family life is hosting a pilgrimage to the national March for Life. Join Fr. Peter Ascik to defend the unborn. Details and Register: charlottediocese.org/event/national-march-for-life/

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>

Birthright of Charlotte is Now Open!

Birthright of Charlotte, a new area Catholic pregnancy center, opened its doors this month. Located just east of the Latrobe Drive abortion center, it's ready to meet with expectant mothers in need and provide counseling and support.

Thank you to all of the St. Mark parishioners who helped to make this a reality.

Please save Birthright of Charlotte's contact information in case you want to refer someone for help: birthrightofcharlotte.org/ or call 803.543.8144.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Hope House: Craft Items Collection!

When: Jan. 7-14

Where: Leave items in Narthex Bin

Our neighbors at Hope House provide transitional housing to women and children experiencing homelessness. St. Mark parishioners have always been generous in responding to the needs of these families.

At this time Hope House is in need of craft items for the children and office supplies including: printer paper, pens, scotch tape, masking tape, journals, notebooks, post-it notes, construction paper, glue sticks, Elmer's glue bottles, scissors (all sizes), crayons, colored pencils, #2 pencils, dry erase markers, standard rulers, paint brushes both craft and full size, plastic paint trays and liners.

Gift cards are also very helpful: gas cards, Target, Walmart, Amazon, and Harris Teeter can be left at the welcome desk in the Kerin Family Center.

Most of all please pray for the women of Hope House as they work hard to achieve stability and self-sufficiency for themselves and their children.

If you would like more information about Hope House: hopehousefoundation.org.

Roof Above - Monthly Meal Ministry

When: Second Wednesday of Every Month, 4-7 pm

Where: 1210 North Tryon St., Charlotte NC

Please join us as we serve dinner to the gentlemen of the Roof Above North Tryon Campus. On the second Wednesday of every month we prepare, cook and serve dinner to around 150 gentlemen at the Roof Above Men's Shelter. This is a wonderful ministry great for middle schoolers and up with a parent. We arrive at 4 pm and prepare and cook the meal and then leave promptly at 7 pm as the residents clean up. Sign up at SignUpGenius using the email below.

Please contact Carol Palillo for more information.

Information: cpalillo1@gmail.com

Contact: Carol Palillo 704-363-4128

To my 2023 Amazing Volunteers,

Thank you to Kyle and Lisa Richie, Rita Healy, Mike and Barb Campeggio, Neil Eibeler, Wendy and Arly Andrews, Jim and Lisa Martel, Richard Painter, Robert and Bobby Matsey, and most recently Mark Imhoff.

Forgive me if I left anyone out.

Looking forward to brightening more gentlemen's lives in 2024!

— Carol Palillo

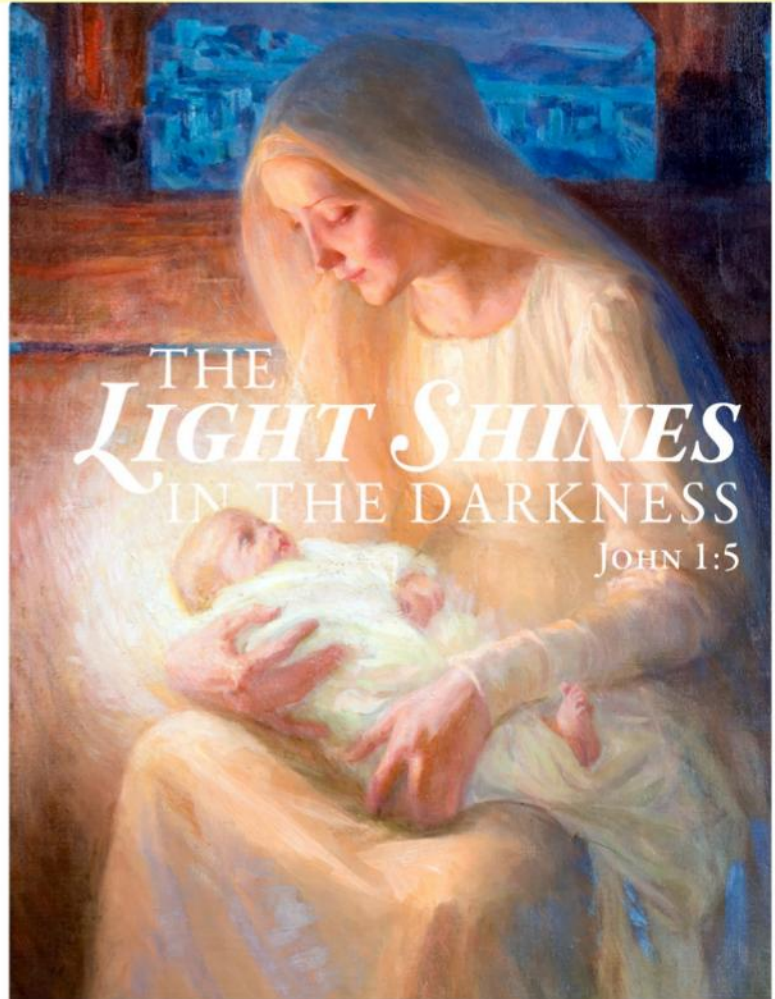


To Jesus through Mary

**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

PARISH LIFE

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

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, Jan. 8 at 7 pm in room 204.

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 cjose01@gmail.com.

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.

North Charlotte Ultreya and Information Night

Calling all Cursillistas, please join us for Ultreya on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 7 to 8 pm.

Interested in making a Cursillo? Please join us for our information night in November.

Upcoming dates and locations are:

- Jan. 11 - Ultreya at St. Therese, 7 pm, Rms. 15 and 17
- Feb. 8 - Cursillo FYI Information Night for those interested in learning more about making a Cursillo. Please RSVP to ehkennedy@bellsouth.net.

Contact: Holly Kennedy, ehkennedy@bellsouth.net, 704-491-6850, www.CharlotteCursillo.com

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

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: lljd3@live.com



Information:

januaryjumpstartretreat@gmail.com

Contact: Marleena Young, fidelis@stmarknc.org

Payment link:

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



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

Coffee & Conversation

Every Tuesday after
9am Mass in the
Kerin Family Center

Meet new people.
Enjoy old friends.
Connect to the community.



Registration Now Open!
Mary's Women of Joy
Spring 2024 Study

**Graced: The Mind and
Heart of Our Lady at
Prayer by Liz Kelly**

When: Thurs., Feb. 1-May 9
Where: Kerin Family Center

Many of the greatest works of art that capture the Annunciation show Our Lady with a book, presumably the Scriptures.

The implication is clear: when the angel came to visit, Mary was already preparing her mind and heart for the calling the Lord had on her life.

We want to do the same, to prepare ourselves to respond to the Lord when He calls through study and prayer with God's word.

With the Blessed Mother as our guide, in the twelve-week study, *Graced*, we will be praying with Scripture, asking for specific graces, and strengthening our "listening" muscle to better discern the voice of the Lord at work in our lives.

Space is limited, so register early.
Online Registration Jan. 6-17 at
stmarknc.org/mwoj.

Cost: \$45 (includes study packet);
registration is open until sessions are full.

**Please note, 30 minutes of prayer
and study per day is required for
this study.**

Thursday Morning Session:
Parish Hall
10 am-12:30 pm
Morning session contact:
Jean Whelan,
jeanwhelan6@gmail.com

Thursday Evening Session
7-9 pm (Room TBD)
Evening session contact:
Margie Vermilion, vptinc@yahoo.com





A man who governs his passions is master of the world.

We must either rule them or be ruled by them.

ST. DOMINIC

 Exodus



Exodus 90 helps you rule your passions.

What is Exodus 90?

It's a 90-day journey through the Book of Exodus, diving deeper into understanding the similarities we share with the ancient Israelites and finding our path to freedom from our own 'modern Pharaohs' holding us back from true unity with God.

How does it work?

For 90 days, we focus on three core pillars: prayer, asceticism, and fraternity — a model witnessed to us centuries ago by the desert fathers in the early Church.

Why should you join?

If we're ruled by our 'modern Pharaohs,' how can we truly be free to become the men God made us to be? Exodus 90 gives you the tools to take control of your life and find deeper unity with God — and a brotherhood of men on the same path.

Paul Foret - pbforet@hotmail.com

 Exodus

MenOfExodus.com

Attention Men: Exodus 90 2024

Men of St. Mark are invited to a 90-day journey to find a path to freedom. This is a roadmap to a better life. In fact, 99% of Exodus Men experience greater freedom from unwanted habits.

Are you ready to life different?

Use the QR below to get the Exodus 90 APP and join the St. Mark fraternity or email Paul Foret at pbforet@hotmail.com.

We will meet Saturday mornings at 7 am in the Kerin Family Center for brotherhood.

**Join us for
Exodus90 2024!**



Marriage Ministry: Date Night!

When: Sat., Feb. 10, 6:30 pm

Where: 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.



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

 HelpOurMarriage.org
RETROUVAILLE
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES



STEWARDSHIP

Prayer Shawl Ministry January 2024

When: Thurs., Jan. 9 & 23, 10 am

Where: Kerin Family Center Parish Hall

If you like to knit or crochet, consider making prayer items. The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 10 am in the Parish Hall. Please join us on January 9 and 23 when we will get together to pray, connect, and crochet/knit. All materials are provided through the parish ministry budget including yarn, needles, hooks, etc. Don't worry if you don't know how to crochet/knit, we will teach you.

If you prefer to make items at home, that's okay, too.

For information, please contact Maria Forfa,
maria.t.forfa@gmail.com.

"You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!"

— Psalm 139:13-14

Would you like a Prayer Shawl? Did you know you can request a Prayer Shawl for yourself or a loved one?

The Prayer Shawl Ministry makes shawls, blankets and other items for people in need of prayers. While most items go out into the community, they also go to people in the parish.

Prayer Shawls are knitted by parishioners for those who need to be wrapped in the love and prayer of our community. As the items are being made, people pray for God's love and healing for the person who would receive it. Once items are completed, they are blessed by a priest or deacon.

If you or you know someone who is ill or in need of healing in mind, body, or spirit, please take them a prayer shawl. Let them know that they are held in prayer by the community of St. Mark Catholic Church.

Contact Maria Forfa, maria.t.forfa@gmail.com to make a request.

PACKAGING MEAL

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



sign-up/donate: stmarknc.org/swh

serve one another



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Knight Life: Free Throw Competition Next Weekend!

Don't forget. Next weekend is the annual Knights of Columbus free throw competition! If your children have never participated, you should consider having them out this year.

The free throw contest is a nationwide event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus for boys and girls from the ages of 9-14.

Children compete within their own gender and age group and progress from local level to district, then regional and finally NC state competitions.

Last year St. Mark actually was well represented, with 3 of our parish members winning top prizes at the state competition!

Congratulations to Hanna Boyce, who won first place and was state champion in the 10 year old girls competition!



Erin Clark took home the silver for St. Mark in the 13 year old girls division and Ty Hefner was state champion for the boys 13 year old group.



KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS®

Free Throw Championship

Sponsored by St. Mark Knights of Columbus Council #12654



**Saturday
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 is 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!

The Knights of Columbus provide food and drinks for this event, but far more important are the volunteers from our local council that plan, coordinate and participate in this event.

We are always looking for men to join our council. 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 in for 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

Saint Mark Parish Directory

stmarknc.org ☎14740 Stumptown Rd, Huntersville NC 28078
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

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.

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

Poor prenatal diagnosis? You're not alone. There is help. benotafraid.net

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





Hoy celebramos la Epifanía de nuestro Señor. El relato evangélico de los tres reyes magos que viajan para encontrarse con el Niño Jesús es uno que conocemos bien. Sin embargo, cuando nos detenemos a reflexionar sobre este momento en que estos hombres se encontraron con Cristo por primera vez, reconocemos que todavía hoy hay mucho que decir por nosotros.

Cuando los magos entraron en la casa, dice, "vieron al niño con María, su madre. Se postraron y le rindieron homenaje". Claramente, estos hombres sabían que estaban en presencia de su Rey. También vinieron con regalos de oro, incienso y mirra, que simbolizan la realeza, la divinidad y la humanidad de Cristo.

Cristo todavía se nos está manifestando hoy. Entramos en la casa de Dios semanalmente y estamos en Su presencia. Cuando nos encontramos con Él, ¿le ofrecemos nuestros dones: nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro? Como mayordomos cristianos, estamos llamados a responder con amor, reverencia y gratitud.

Preparemos nuestros corazones para recibir las muchas manifestaciones de Cristo en nuestras vidas. Solo necesitamos una disposición agradecida para recibirlos. ©Consultores de Mayordomía Católica, 2023

Reflexión pastoral

Quiero desearles a todos un muy feliz Año Nuevo. Mientras continuamos celebrando la natividad de nuestro Señor, la Epifanía nos recuerda que Emmanuel vino a salvar al mundo. Él ofrece Su regalo de salvación a todos los que voluntariamente escuchan Su voz y abren sus corazones a Su mensaje de amor. En este Año Nuevo, busquemos todos ser embajadores de ese mensaje para que el mundo pueda llegar a conocerlo más intensamente por la forma en que vivimos nuestras vidas cristianas.

Hoy también he querido decir un poco más sobre *Fiducia supplicans*, el reciente documento del Dicasterio para la Doctrina de la Fe sobre las bendiciones y las personas en situación irregular en cuanto a la comunión sacramental. El documento se dirigía específicamente a aquellos con atracción hacia el mismo sexo (AMS) que viven en una relación estable, así como a aquellos que debido a un divorcio o algún otro problema no pueden participar en la comunión sacramental.

No hace falta decir que el documento ha obtenido mucha cobertura de prensa, miles y miles de palabras de comentarios impresos, así como un gran número de respuestas en las redes sociales. Nuestro vicario general, Monseñor Patrick Winslow, escribió una respuesta concisa que fue publicada en el sitio web diocesano y en el *Catholic News Herald* que resumía los puntos principales del documento. No voy a repetir todo eso aquí. Los obispos de los Estados Unidos también tienen una declaración en su sitio web del obispo Robert Barron que también puede resultarles útil.

El problema con el documento, y para ser honesto, con gran parte de las declaraciones magistrales durante este pontificado, es que deja mucho sin decir que debería decirse. La confusión y el asombro surgen de tales declaraciones, que es exactamente lo contrario de lo que se supone que la Santa Sede está promoviendo, la unidad. La fe no es algo con lo que se pueda jugar. Es un tesoro que debe ser transmitido y preservado. Cuando vemos respuestas divergentes de los cuerpos de obispos de todo

el mundo, de nuevo solo surgen preguntas de: "¿Cómo es esto católico? ¿Cómo promueve esto la unidad? La única respuesta es que no lo es.

Permítanme decirlo claramente, no hay duda de que Jesucristo vino a salvar a todos. Sin embargo, también es cierto que nunca dejó de unir ese amor con la verdad revelada tal como la reveló. Personalmente, a lo largo de los años, he trabajado con innumerables personas que han luchado sinceramente con la AMS, así como con aquellos que, a veces sin culpa suya o por simple ignorancia, han terminado viviendo en situaciones objetivamente pecaminosas. Sin embargo, cuando se les ha presentado la verdad, han tratado heroicamente de corregir el rumbo y superar cualquier obstáculo que pudiera estar presente. Jesús amó y Jesús perdonó. Pero también, después de decirle a la mujer sorprendida en adulterio, "ni yo te condeno", le recordó que se fuera "y de ahora en adelante evite este pecado".

Solo el amor verdadero de Cristo puede sanarnos. No podemos simplemente afirmar el pecado de las personas en nombre de ser amorosos. Más bien, estamos llamados a predicar la veracidad del Evangelio como la medicina para nuestro pecado. Cuando amamos sinceramente a alguien en el nombre de Jesús, entonces somos sanados. Cuando tratamos de separar la verdad del amor, solo lastimamos a aquellos a quienes tratamos de amar y a nosotros mismos. Cristo ama a la mujer sorprendida en adulterio. Dicho esto, Él también la llama a una vida con él y no al pecado que ella está sufriendo.

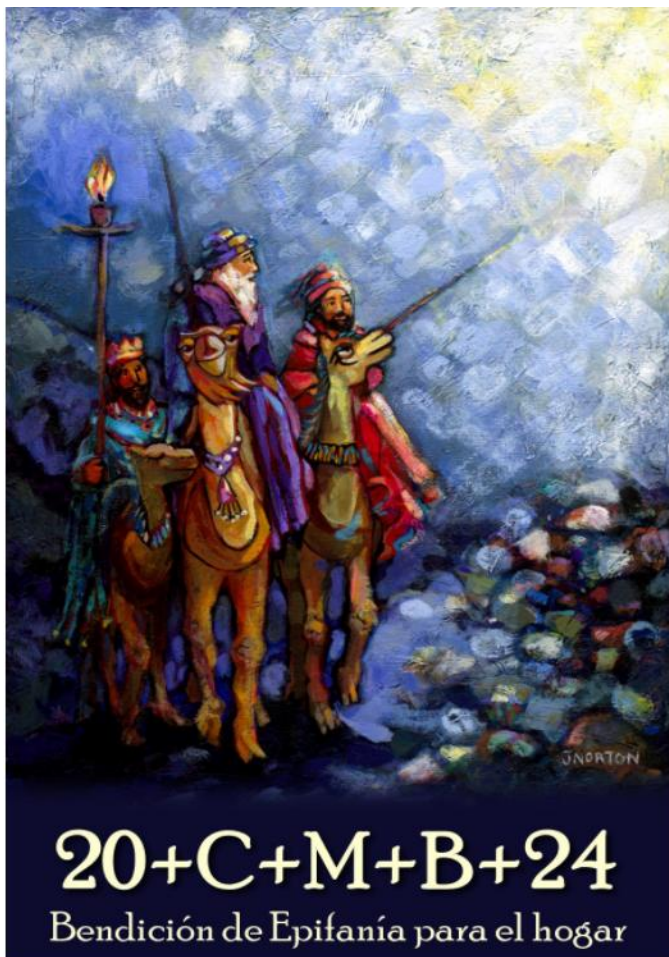
Tanto la Diócesis de Charlotte como nuestra parroquia ofrecen varios apoyos para las personas que luchan con la atracción al mismo sexo, aquellos que lidian con el dolor del divorcio y aquellos que necesitan ayuda para regularizar una situación de matrimonio irregular. Todos somos pecadores que necesitan el amor y la misericordia de Dios, pero recibir esa misericordia requiere verdadera contrición y un deseo de cambiar. La dificultad con la FS es que se habla de esto de boquilla y, al mismo tiempo, se socava esta verdad fundamental. FS menciona la bendición de la pareja, pero no menciona el apoyo continuo. Si estudiamos el triste camino emprendido por algunos de nuestros hermanos y hermanas protestantes en esta área en particular, se hicieron cambios en aras de la *preocupación y la solicitud pastoral*, que finalmente se convirtieron en un abandono total de la Fe Tradicional y una fractura de la Comunión Anglicana en todo el mundo. Ya lo vemos en las respuestas dispares a los servicios financieros de África, por un lado, y de Europa occidental, por el otro. Oremos para que Dios, que es fiel, nos guarde y nos proteja de seguir ese mismo camino de fractura y disolución.

Comparte tus pensamientos: Encuesta del Plan Pastoral

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.





Epifanía: Bendice tu hogar para el 2024

Coloca a Dios en la entrada de tu hogar y pon a tu familia bajo Su protección.

Hay una bendición especial para el agua en la Solemnidad de la Epifanía del Señor debido a su conexión con el bautismo de Jesús, que celebramos el lunes. Este antiguo rito de la bendición de las aguas por un sacerdote, con sus poderosas oraciones de exorcismo, hace que el agua de la Epifanía sea más espiritualmente potente que el agua bendita disponible en el nártex.

También existe una tradición de marcar iglesias, hogares, escuelas u otros edificios con una marca especial usando tiza bendecida. Verás estas marcas sobre las puertas de nuestros edificios parroquiales y escuelas.

La Epifanía es el momento tradicional del año para bendecir tu hogar con agua de la Epifanía y tiza bendecida. Los kits con instrucciones de bendición, agua de la Epifanía y tiza bendecida estarán disponibles después de todas las misas este fin de semana; hay suficiente en el kit para bendecir varios hogares o edificios.

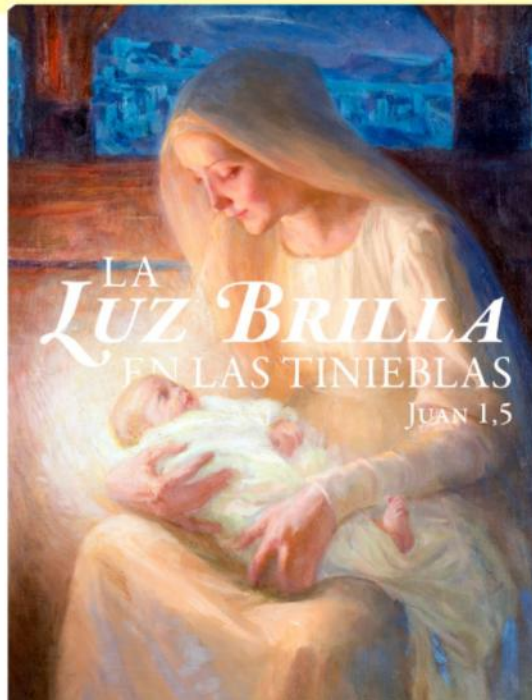
El recipiente de agua bendita en la parte posterior de la iglesia también contendrá agua de la Epifanía esta semana.

Este es un recordatorio de que la batalla espiritual siempre está sucediendo a nuestro alrededor. Invitar al Señor a bendecir y proteger nuestros hogares y nuestras familias es una defensa importante mientras nos esforzamos por seguir al Señor y luchar contra el enemigo.
— Fr. John Putnam

*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
Parroquial.**



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.

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

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



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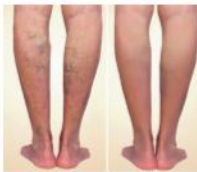
Martin J. Carignan, MD

704.659.4499

info@carolinasvein.com

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