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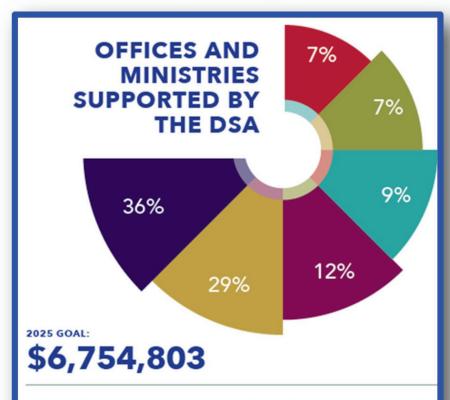
SAINT MARK

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 24, 2025 † Español pagina 15



Reflecting God's Light





EDUCATION - 36%

Campus Ministry Catholic Schools Offices Faith Formation Office

- · Catechetical Certification
- Diocesan Catechetical Conference
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- · RCIA
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OTHER - 9%

Eucharistic Congress Office of Family Life

- Marriage Preparation
- Natural Family Planning
- Respect Life

We need your help!

Please donate to the Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) today!

Only 392 people have donated so far this year and we are \$101,410.78 from our goal. If we do not get the donations, the assessment will be taken from our offertory at the end of the year.

It doesn't matter how much you give, we just ask that every parish family donate something. No gift is too small.

St. Mark Goal: \$403,139.00

Pledged/Paid: \$301,728.22

Balance: \$101,410.78

When you Support the DSA...
You support Vocations, Youth
Ministry, Young Adult Ministry,
Campus Ministry, Catholic
Schools, African American
Ministries, Hispanic Ministries,
Catholic Charities, Office of
Family Life, and more.

Scan code to donate:



Make a one-time donation or pledge: www.charlottediocese.org/DSA

FROM THE PASTOR.



Today's readings show us that it is not enough to be Christ's disciples in name only. To be a real disciple, we must live for Christ every day and in every aspect of life. This kind of life takes strength and discipline.

Intentionally and consistently offering the Lord the best of our Time, Talent, and Treasure through a stewardship way of life is

a form of spiritual discipline. These spiritual disciplines teach us to become ever more aware of God's constant provision for us and they keep us on the narrow path towards the Kingdom of Heaven. The more we embrace this way of life, the more we can be "trained" by the Lord in the ways of true discipleship. Though difficult, these disciplines become a source of spiritual strength.

Our Lord Himself speaks of the difficult path to the Kingdom of Heaven in today's Gospel passage from Luke. He is asked, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" Jesus responds, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough." Showing up for Mass on Sunday while living as if Christ is an afterthought the rest of the week does not make us disciples. What's more, this approach to our faith is an unjust and unloving response to our good God who has given us all that we have and are.

Jesus does not want us to merely go through the motions of faith. He wants much more from us and for us. He wants to know us deeply and for us to get to know Him so that we become His holy disciples. This is not a burden; it is a privilege. But it does take discipline, the discipline of a stewardship way of life. © Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2025

Pastoral Pondering – As the school year ramps up again, I wanted to let you know that another young man from the parish has begun his propaedeutic year at St. Joseph College Seminary. John Yellico, the son of Glen and Lissette Yellico, was accepted to the program earlier this summer. He is also the brother of Father Joseph Yellico, recently ordained and Sister Mary Agnes Yellico of the Daughters of the Virgin Mother. Please keep him and all of our seminarians in your prayers.

Recently, the Diocese has been working on developing policies to govern the use of artificial intelligence for our employees and ministry sites. Al is almost constantly in the news and most everyone is familiar with Chat GPT, Truthly (the Catholic option) and any number of other efforts to harness this new technology. Earlier this year, the Holy See's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a document dealing with this topic. I thought it might be useful, therefore, to offer some thoughts that might be helpful to some of you.

Here's a **pastoral reflection** based on *Antiqua et Nova*, tailored for inclusion in a pastoral letter:

In our time, we are witnessing extraordinary advances in technology, especially in the realm of Artificial Intelligence (AI). These developments bring both promise and challenge, and as your pastor, I feel called to reflect with you on what this means for our faith, our humanity, and our shared journey toward holiness.

The Vatican's recent document, *Antiqua et Nova*, reminds us that while AI may imitate certain aspects of human intelligence, it cannot replicate the fullness of what it means to be human. Our intelligence is not merely computational—it is relational, moral, and spiritual. It is a gift from God, rooted in our capacity to love, to discern, and to seek truth.

Al can assist us in many ways, from medicine to education to communication. But we must never forget that machines do not possess souls. They do not pray, suffer, or hope. They do not know mercy or grace. Only we, created in the image and likeness of God, bear the responsibility to use these tools wisely, ensuring they serve the dignity of every person.

Let us not be seduced by the illusion that technology can replace human wisdom or divine guidance. Instead, let us cultivate a "wisdom of heart," as the document urges—a wisdom that listens to the Spirit, that seeks justice, and that places love above efficiency.

In our homes, schools, and parishes, may we teach our children not only how to use technology, but how to remain human in a digital age. May we accompany one another with compassion, and may our choices reflect the Gospel values of truth, humility, and care for the vulnerable.

Let us pray for discernment, for courage, and for a renewed commitment to the common good. And may we always remember: the most powerful intelligence is not artificial—it is the wisdom that comes from walking humbly with our God. The full document is worth the read and may be found on the Vatican website at Antiqua et nova. Note on the Relationship Between Artificial Intelligence and Human Intelligence (28 January 2025)



In the photo are Jeremy Smith and John Yellico, along with yours truly.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please Pray For

Julie Andrews Sarah Armstrong **Donald Arrup** John & Casey Ball Daisy Bayona Deidre Beck Richard Biddy Beatrice Bilodeau Brian Blatchford & Family Virginia "Gini" Bond Kathy Brandt Dave Breen Helen Sally Buff Elaine Burkinshaw Carmen Cabranes Anne Caestecker Michelle Chichone Murphy Clark Beth Collins William Conklin Janice D'Angelo Sheila DeArmon Judy and Rich Deboer John Deluca Henry Diener Jane & William Dragoon James Dupree Barbara Dutty James P. Durcan Jack Evans Frances & Kai Ferell & Family Charles Fillipo Joseph Fiore Tom Fox Alan Friedl & Family

Maureen K. Frost

Denny & Monica Golden

Carmine Gallo

Josette Grace

Robert Graham

Teri Gay

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

Hank Griffin John Grivizas Helen Haddad Kevin Herman Sr. Hannah Hopkins Jerry Jackson Jr. Cathi Kalberier Karen Kastle Gary Katz Carol & Frank Kenny Dennis Koenig Jackie Kopicki Peggie Lauricella Joan Lesch Marie Ligon Peter R. Loew Kitty Long Mary Jo Lucey Dr. Sivaramalingam Manickavasagar Patrick & Annette Mann Rosina Marcucci Vernon McCord Cathy Milligan Terry Milstead Lucille Modica Vincent Montoya Haleigh Moss Elizabeth Mulligan Jamie Mulvihill Angeles Murphy Maria Magdalena Murphy Carl Muti Paul Nealon Jr. Margaret Nelson The Ober Family Blanca Yolanda Oieda Margaret Paquette Hazel Palmer The Patterson Family Fernando Paverpai

Doug Peterson Angela Piraino Gianni Piraino Ella Postlewait Nicole & Bruce Preiss Thomas Ranney Gretchen Rasheed Joette Reid Lindsay Remington **Butch Remesch** Lola Rodriguez Madge Root Maria Rubinos Thomas Rynne Phyllis Searles Daniel Sheffield Deacon Ronald Sherwood & Family

Mark Shields Sue Sia Todd Singh Robert Somerville Betsv Spartz Jeff Stark

Dr. Edward Staudinge John Williams Stoker & Family Terri Summers The Tate Family Kenneth Terry & Family

Cheryl Thompson Mike Tolbert Alston Torres Zaida Torres Lucia Solis Vallarino Robert Virgint Caroline Vogel Jonathan Wark Welcome Retreat Staff

Carol Woodard Mary Jane Zimmerman

Paul Widman

Saint Mark Purgatorial Society

Saint Mark offers the opportunity for you to have your loved ones remembered at a monthly Wednesday 6:30 pm Mass for a calendar year. Names enrolled for the year will also be placed on the altar during our Masses in November. To enroll a family member, please contact the Office at 704-948-0231 or complete the form on our website at www.stmarknc.org/ purgatorial-society.

John Pecoraro

The following member was remembered on July 30:

Alcides Zamudio

The following members will be remembered on August 27:

Kenneth Joseph Andrews Mary Jane & Lawerence Thorpe Joy Zerby Denise Miera Kate & Merle Brewer Ken Coolidge

Irene St. Pierre Donald St. Pierre Jason D. Herkey Jack Huber **Edward Lostoski**

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, August 24

7:30 am Colin Heidtman 9 am St. Mark Parishioners 11 am Eric Kennedy 1 pm Cristina Ramirez 4:30 pm Fr Kevin Martinez † Linda Ribkoski 5 pm

Monday, August 25

7 am † Stephen Roth 9 am Javleah Gomez

Tuesday, August 26

7 am † Everette Ellerbee 9 am † John Hughes Wednesday, August 27

7 am † David Vetare Hon. Ronald Cox

6:30 pm **Purgatorial Society Mass**

Thursday, August 28

7 am Christina Rilev 9 am † Ronald Rula

Friday, August 29

Denise Goncalves 7 am 9 am Frank Dixon 7 pm † James Cadmus

Saturday, August 30

9 am Nancy Stone 5 pm † Monica Williamson

Sunday, August 31

7:30 am † Sharon Antoszyk

9 am Ann Bixler

11 am † Dennis Smorada St. Mark Parishioners 1 pm 4:30 pm Fr Chinonso

5 pm † Veronica Early

†Deceased

May God's grace be with the families of our recently deceased

Timothy William Cunnane, husband of Judy Cunnane

Orlando Laise, father of Theresa Bunbury Ernesto Marrero, son of Mary Ann Marrero

Scottie Mickey, husband of Kasia Korneszczuk

Pray for Our Military

Air Force: Airman Gregory Burke; Airman Antoinio Diaz; Lt. Col. Michael Dragoon; Capt. Stephen Hack; Lt. Col. Douglas Lincoln; Capt. Ryan Loyd; Alejandro Martinez; Sgt. James McCormick; 2nd Lt Connor Milligan; SrA. Benjamin Salber; Airman Chloe Scott

Army: 2nd Lt. Amelia Andretti; 1st Lt. Patrick Camatcho; 1st Lt. Sarah Camatcho; Major Robert Caraccilo; SSgt. Darcy Fisher; Kyle Hawk; PFC. J. Parker Hogan; Capt. John Hughes; Pvt. Chaz Margo; Maj. Daniel McCormick; 2nd Lt .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

Marines: LCPL. Richard Breier; Sgt. Andrew Sales; Maj. Matthew Santoli; Cpl. Ben Holden; 1st Lt. Nathanael Rusciolelli

Navy: LCDR. Matthew Giannone; Lt. Albert Remmey, Jr.; LCDR. Jordan Mayo; ENS. Rory Moran, OSSN. Daniel Pressley; LCDR. Jenna Hehn Quist; ENS. Tyler Spear; LCDR. William Vey; CTT2. Zachary Wortham and all service members not listed.



Today is the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings can be found on page 1180. 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 longtime parishioner. We are thankful that you are here and welcome you back anytime for Mass, prayer in our Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel or any of our programs.

At St. Mark, we believe 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 are 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 stmarkno.org/registration or use the QR code. You may submit the form online or bring a paper copy to the Welcome Desk during business hours, including Sunday 8:30 am-12:15 pm. Forms can be found in the narthex. Please know, you do not need to be Catholic to join and come to our parish.



At the close of Mass, join us in the Prayer to St. Michael. Please do not leave the church until after the priests, deacons, and servers have exited the church. Thank you

aint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Power of God, cast into hell, Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

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.
- 5. Please consume the Holy Eucharist in front of the minister of Holy Communion, before walking away.

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY



When: Sundays, Aug. 24, Sept .7, 14, and 21;

6-8 pm, Where: Parish Hall Dinner Included!

We have group meetings on Sunday Nights during the school year, Bible Study during the week, and conference, pilgrimage, and retreat offerings throughout the year.

Get plugged into the communication methods listed below and use the QR code to sign up!

Want to receive text message notifications about High School Ministry events?

We use REMIND messaging to text parents and teens weekly activities, reminders, or schedule changes. Sign up by texting "@smhsym2025 to the phone number "81010."

Get Connected! Instagram: @stmarkncyouth

Email: augustine.free@stmarknc.org



LIFE NIGHT SERIES: BACK TO THE





August 24th: Garden of Life September 7th: Garden of Death September 14th: Garden of Agony September 21st: Garden of Joy

6-8pm in the St. Mark Parish Hall. Dinner Provided.

All High Schoolers Welcome!



GARDEN





Welcome Back St. Mark School!

St. Mark Catholic School resumed classes last week so you may notice changes to the parking lot patterns. Please remember that there is a carpool line from 7-8 am and 2:25-3:25 pm that wraps around the big parking lot. Thank you for your patience, understanding and safe driving as we welcome our families and staff back for a new year!

The end of August also ushers in the beginning of the school year for our area public, charter, and home schools. Please keep all in your prayers.

Prayer for a New School Year:

"God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body, and spirit. Be with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give them the strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Prayer for Students:

"Lord, Our God, in your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. Send your spirit upon these students and fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies and draw ever closer to You, the source of all knowledge. We ask this

through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Prayer for Teachers:

"Lord God, your spirit of wisdom fills the earth and teaches us in your ways. Look upon these teachers. Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience and endeavor always to bring the truth to eager minds. Grant that we may follow Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, forever and ever."



EVANGELIZATION

OCIA is a Journey

In celebrating this month of Our Lady's final journey to God in her glorious Assumption, let us ask her motherly intersession to draw souls to the Sacred Heart of her Son. The Order of



Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is a journey too - of conversation to God and what he intends for us. OCIA is the process by which persons who were never baptized, or were baptized in another Christian tradition, become members of the Church, a people on a pilgrimage to our Heavenly Father.

For more information <u>www.stmarknc.org/ocia</u> Contact: Paul Laskowski,704-948-0231 X 121, paul.laskowski@stmarknc.org



You're looking for the tools, friendships, and resources to live

your vocation with your spouse, together as a couple.

Domestic Church can help you find these things and much more.

Experience the power of intentional marriage formation

within a Catholic small-group community.

Questions?

Contact Patrick & Jessica Kelty region14@domesticchurchfamilies.com

Nursing infants are welcome. No childcare available.

A limited number of scholarships are available for this retreat.

For a scholarship application, please email finances@domesticchurchfamilies.com

domesticchurchfamilies.com

retreat materials.

No overnight lodging options
at Belmont Abbey College. Hotel and VRBO/B&B
options are available in the Belmont/Gastonia
area if needed.

Location

Belmont Abbey College 100 Belmont Mt Holly Rd Belmont NC 28012

Register

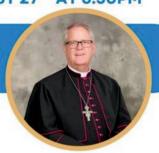


https://domesticchurch.regfox.co

SAVE THE DATE! WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27TH AT 6:30PM

A Special Mass of Hope and Faithful Persistence, followed by a reception with Rev. Bishop Michael Martin

All are welcome... Come be inspired as we celebrate the Feasts of St. Monica and St. Augustine



We will gather in the spirit of St. Monica as we find encouragement in her example of persistent prayer, especially when waiting for our loved ones to return to, or join in, the Faith.



WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27[™] 2025 AT 6:30PM

St. Paul The Apostle Catholic Church 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd Greensboro, NC 27410



MILLIONS MONICAS

Men's Bible Study – What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith

When: Most Wednesday evenings 7:15-8:45 pm,

beginning Sept. 10

Where: Room 200 Parish Center

In this study, you will uncover the amazing riches of the Catholic faith. You will also discover:

- What the Catholic Church is all about
- What it means to be Catholic
- What Catholics actually believe
- Who Catholics truly are and how we are called to live
- The profound gift of the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist, the source and summit of our Faith
- How to imitate Christ through prayer, through personal conversion, and through love for others

Founded by Christ himself, the Catholic Church is where we encounter God in his Word, his sacraments, and his saints. Maybe you've been Catholic your entire life, recently returned to the faith or converted into the faith. Wherever you may be in your journey, you will be profoundly moved by the beauty and the richness of the Catholic Church.

For Registration & information: Ray FitzGerald (<u>Rfitzg@aol.com</u> or 704-992-1702)

There is a fee for purchase of workbook or online access to video and course materials.

STEWAR DSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Stewardship Spotlight on the Men's Welcome Retreat

From the road to Emmaus- where the disciples walked with Christ after His crucifixion- to Paul's encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus, and the path where the Good Samaritan answered the need of the wounded traveler, Scripture shows us that God speaks to those who are open to hearing Him. Whether your daily life is rooted in a strong relationship with God, you're seeking to deepen that connection, or you are just exploring what that might look like, He longs to meet you where you are. The men's Welcome retreat is an opportunity to hear where other men met Christ and hear how He wants to speak with you.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) This retreat includes great food, great music, inspiring talks, and the opportunity to grow in Christ. Take time to step away from daily life for a weekend and join a team of ordinary parishioners who answered the call to share

what they found.

Friendships form and flourish in this community of Christian brothers. The next St. Mark Men's Welcome retreat is the weekend of November 8th and 9th, 2025. Look for upcoming bulletin announcements to register and join them. May we share our treasures rather than store them; and be rich in what truly matters to God.







Save the Date!

SeptemberFest 2025

September 27, 6-9 pm

Annual Parish Family Social





Mass Schedule Changes:

Monday, September 1, Labor Day

The Parish Offices and Kerin Family Center will be closed. We will have a 9 am Mass only.

Saturday, September 6

There will be no morning 9 am Mass. confessions, or 5 pm Vigil Mass Saturday, September 6 so that the priests and clergy can attend the Diocese of Charlotte Eucharistic Congress.

Coming Up at Saint Mark:

Tuesday, September 9

Coffee and Conversation Resumes

Thursday, September 11

Annual Blue Mass, 6:30 pm

Friday, September 12

Healed and Restored Gala

Saturday, September 13

Put on the Armor of God Conference

September 13-21

Walking with Moms in Need Diaper Drive

Wednesday, September 24

Young at Heart Luncheon

Saturday, September 27

SeptemberFest Annual Parish Social

Saturday, October 4

Wings and Trivia

Sunday, October 5

Prayer Chain for Life

October 11 and 12

Coat and Blanket Drive

Sunday, October 12

Pro-Life Ministry Fair

October 18

Thanksgiving Food Drive Begins

October 25

Called and Gifted Workshop

Saturday, November 1 First Saturday Dinner

November 2

Christmas Giving Tree Gift Campaign

November 8 and 9

Men's Welcome Retreat

Events Scheduled to Change. Details in the bulletin and newsletter in the weeks before event.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 66:18-21; Ps 117:1, 2;

Heb 12: 5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

Monday 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4,

5-6a and 9b; Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday 1 Thes 2:1-8; Ps 139:1-3, 4-6;

Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Monica

1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-8, 9-10,

11-12ab; Mt 23:27-32

Thursday 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13,

14 and 17; Mt 24:42-51

Friday Memorial of the Passion of John the

Baptist

1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10,

11-12; Mk 6:17-29

Saturday 1 Thes 4:9-11, Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9;

Mt 25:14-30

Sunday Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary

Time

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Ps 68:4-5, 6-7,

10-11; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a;

Lk 14:1, 7-14

PARISH LIFE

Altar Server Training

When: Sun., Aug. 24; 6:30 - 8 pm

Where: Church

We would like to invite any rising 4th grader or older who would like to serve the Lord to come and

learn how to be an Altar Server.

We will be holding one more training session in the Church this Sunday after Mass, on August 24 from

6:30 - 8 pm.

Contact: Matt Mixa, stmarkacolytes@gmail.com

Women's Newcomers: After the Boxes Fall 2025

When: Wednesdays, Sept. 10 - Nov. 12;

10-11:30 am

Where: Family Center, Room 200

Are you 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. Here you will laugh, cry, and make new friends!

and make new mends:

Space is limited; reserve your spot today!

To register or for further information, please call Catherine at 704-340-6234 or

Maxine at 704-274-5453.

We look forward to meeting you!



St. Mark will offer a special Blue Mass September 11 to give thanks to those who protect and serve in law enforcement, emergency management, and fire safety.

All area police officers, firefighters, law enforcement officials, military personnel, first responders, and their families – Catholic and non-Catholic – are invited to be a part of this special Mass. Uniforms may be worn.

The Blue Mass is being held this year on the Anniversary of September 11, 2001. A reception will follow in the St. Mark School Cafeteria after the Mass.

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus and the Ladies' Auxiliary for organizing this special Mass and reception.



Collection for the Archdiocese of the Military

Next week our parish will have a collection to benefit the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS). This collection, approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is taken every three years. The AMS is the Archdiocese for the Military Services, not of the Military Services. This is an important distinction, because the AMS receives no funding from the U.S. Government or U.S. Military and has no parishes from which to receive a weekly assessment. Instead, it must rely on the generosity of those whose values and priorities align with its mission, programs and services, to meet its costs. Please prayerfully consider a contribution to this special collection to support active-duty military men and women, and their families – including those from our own parish. Please give generously. Donation envelopes can be found in your packet, or you can give online at www.osvhub.com/stmarknc/giving/funds.

Singles 45+ Fellowship Event

When: Sunday, Sept. 7, 4 pm

Where: 760 Craft Works, 100 Gilead Rd., Huntersville

Come join us for a fun, relaxed afternoon of fellowship. Enjoy great conversation, a lively atmosphere, and delicious eats from the on-site food truck (Butcher Grill). This is a great chance to connect, make new friends, and build community.

Bring a friend—we'd love to see you there!

Please RSVP here so we can plan for you: <u>signupgenius.com/</u>go/10C0548A5A82DA6FDCF8-57949268-760craft.

ADORATION



Beneath your gaze I've blossomed forth as a rose in the sunshine.

With joyful heart I've given all to the mystery of love.

By: Donna Fodale/Adoration Coordinator

Many years ago I came across this beautiful song called St. Therese's Canticle of Love. I am sure that many of you are familiar with this beloved Carmelite Saint.

Many describe her as the "Little Flower." She is renowned for her little ways of spiritual practice. These practices encourage us to perform small acts of love with kindness and devotion. St. Therese had a great love for the Eucharist. After listening to the Canticle of Love, composed by Sister Claire Sokol, a Carmelite nun, I couldn't help but imagine St. Therese sitting before the Blessed Sacrament praying the words from this Canticle.

Adoration is a place where each of us is invited to lift our hearts up to the Lord. It is a place where we become vulnerable and share with Jesus all our joys and sorrows. It is also good to share the love that we have for our Lord. That is exactly what this Canticle of Love is. If you had to write your own Canticle of Love for the Lord, what would you say?

St. Therese's Canticle of Love

How great and tender is our God, who has smiled on the lowly. Eternally my heart will sing a new canticle of love.

Come, all who hunger, all who thirst, all who long for fulfillment.

The God of mercy waits for you as a mother her child. O come to the living water, fear not your weakness. Forever trusting in God's merciful love.

Through the shadows of this night, love will be my guiding light.

Presence hidden from my sight, 'til the clouds are put to flight. Beneath your gaze I've blossomed forth as a rose in the sunshine.

With joyful heart I've given all to the mystery of love. In peace I will come before you with empty hands, relying solely on your merciful love.

Through the veil your face appears, beauty shrouded, bathed in tears.

Bread of sinners I will share, rose unpetalled everywhere. Ah! My God, I will sing of your love for this one eternal day. For this one eternal today, eternal today.

Transformed in Love's consuming fire, lifted up in glory. Her fragrance filling all the earth, drawing us after her.

Until, in eternity we join in one chorus. Forever singing of God's merciful love. Canticle of love, song of love.

This eternal day I will sing, sing of your love.

Please prayerfully consider signing up for a Holy Hour. Choose an hour that works with your schedule register at:

www.stmarknc.org/adoration

To sign up as a substitute, please contact donna.fodale@stmarknc.org

PARISH LIFE

Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry is made up of St. Mark parishioners who have received extensive training to give emotional and spiritual care/ support to fellow St. Mark parishioners as well as to those in our community. This ministry is a confidential, one to one opportunity to receive Christian care in a comfortable meeting place, whether in your home, parish hall, or even in a park setting. We all go through times of:

Grief Medical crisis Terminal Illness
Children leaving home Job stress Natural disaster

Divorce Spiritual crisis
parenting Unemployment
Job Loss Stress to being a car

Stress to being a caregiver Relocation

Cancer diagnosis Hospitalization
Adjustment to retirement Changes in living situations

Chronic health conditions

Adjustment to disability
Rehabilitation from illness or injury

Renabilitation from liness of injur

Marital separation

Pregnancy

Stephen Ministry is here to serve you, so you don't have to suffer alone.

For more information, please contact either Leanne Vaccaro at <u>leanne.vaccaro@stmarknc.org</u> or Rich Kull at <u>rkull@optonline.net</u> or visit our website at <u>stmarknc.org</u>/Stephen-ministry.

Issues related to aging



G	Ρ	D	Υ	I	М	Α	X	Н	Α	Q	М
Т	Н	Ε	N	I	T	S	U	G	U	Α	T
٧	Н	C	R	D	J	0	0	N	X	Q	X
U	Н	Ε	0	S	М	0	N	1	C	A	М
F	М	0	0	N	1	J	Z	X	٧	Ε	Ε
D	Α	P	L	L	F	S	Α	D	L	1	I
R	М	I	V	I	0	Ε	T	М	Z	T	Α
Ε	V	K	T	Y	Ν	G	S	Ε	E	0	S
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0	0	G	Н	J	Q	U	W	S	N	0	Ε
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St. Monica & St. Augustine

Saint Monica was the faithful and prayerful mother of Saint Augustine. She spent years praying for her son's conversion as he lived a life far from God. Her persistence, love, and tears eventually led to Augustine's powerful transformation. Saint Augustine went on to become one of the greatest theologians and Doctors of the Church, known for his writings like Confessions and The City of God. Their story is a beautiful example of how a mother's prayers can lead to great holiness. Monica's feast day is August 27, and Augustine's is celebrated the next day, on August 28.

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8-9 AM: Confession in the Church, followed by 9 AM Mass. (Optional)

9:40 AM: Registration opens.

10-12 PM: Talks on Spiritual Warfare Tactics and Spiritual Protection for Families.

12-1 PM: Lunch from Viva Chicken.

1-3 PM: Talks on Home Enthronement and the Importance of Marian Devotion, and Q&A Session.

3 PM: Conference ends and confessions available in the Church.

GUEST SPEAKER DR. DAN SCHNEIDER

Dr. Dan Schneider is a theologian, former amateur boxer, U.S. Army helicopter pilot and Gulf War veteran, who has worked for many years in the Catholic apostolate of deliverance and exorcism. Hosted by the St. Mark Family Ministry

St. Mark Catholic Church

14740 Stumptown Rd. Huntersville, NC 28078









SEMINARIANS

Seminarian's Summer Assignment Teaches True Nature of Healing

Seminarian James Tweed's summer assignment was serving as an interfaith chaplain at Atrium Health's Trauma Center at Carolinas Medical Center. As the region's only Level I trauma center, it is equipped to respond to the most severe cases of traumatic injuries 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He recently took the time to speak with the Catholic News Herald about his experience:

CNH: What did you think when you received your summer assignment?

Tweed: When I first learned I'd be spending the summer doing Clinical Pastoral Education, I was both intrigued and a bit skeptical... I studied science in undergrad, and it felt natural and rewarding to be among nurses, doctors and a multidisciplinary care team.

CNH: Do you have any prior experience in the medical field?

Tweed: I majored in molecular biology and biotechnology in college, worked in a microbiology lab for a semester, and then at the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience. Before seminary, I also served as a hospital chaplain for a year in Cincinnati.

CNH: Can you describe a day in detail at your assignment?

Tweed: After a two-week orientation and intensive education phase, my typical day was spent serving the 11th floor, Trauma, at the hospital.

Our team started with a morning huddle to coordinate care, and from there, I prioritized my day based on new consults, follow-ups and insights from nurses about who might benefit from spiritual or emotional support. Every visit was unique. I would introduce myself, ask how they were doing, and try to simply be present, offering space for the patient to open up if they felt ready. Some shared profound grief or fear, others longed for prayer or quiet companionship. I tried to walk into each room not with a plan, but with a heart open to them. Sometimes that meant five minutes of presence. Sometimes it meant an hour or more of sharing silence, tears, or prayer. After difficult visits, I often stepped away to walk and pray, just to breathe and let God recenter me.

CNH: What did you learn?

Tweed: I learned to lead with my heart. I've spent much of my life forming my intellect through theology, philosophy and science, but this summer invited me to be more human. I realized that the most powerful form of care isn't always in what we say or do, but in how we are with someone. To stand with a patient in their suffering required vulnerability. I had to let myself feel with them, deeply and honestly, without judgment or solutions. It is in that shared space, that mutual holding, where healing begins. I learned to listen without trying to fix, to follow instead of lead, to love without needing control. I also became more aware of my own inner landscape, my strengths, my blind spots, and my emotional triggers and how all of that impacts how I show up for others. I grew in emotional presence, cultural sensitivity and spiritual availability. Above all. I learned what it means to be a safe person for someone in crisis.



CNH: What did you like or not like about the assignment?

Tweed: I loved the learning environment. It felt like a safe and sacred space, fertile soil, where we were invited to grow through real experience, honest feedback and deep reflection. I was seen, heard, challenged and supported. I also loved being in the hospital, standing with people on some of their hardest days and offering a presence that was gentle, nonjudgmental and rooted in love.

CNH: How do you feel closer to God after serving at a hospital?

Tweed: While Christ is uniquely and substantially present in the Holy Eucharist, He is also truly present in the suffering, the tears and the silent prayers of those I encountered.

My time in the hospital as a multifaith chaplain helped to center me in a way that I could come into contact with the mystery personhood and God's presence in that mystery.

Whether someone was baptized or not, I learned to listen with the kind of reverence I would have in a chapel, because I was often standing before a heart that was vulnerable, searching and open to grace. It was not the same presence as in the Eucharist, but it was still a place where God was moving, still a place where I could meet Him. That awareness deepened my love for the Eucharist, not lessened it, and helped me recognize how Christ reaches out to people in different ways. In a word, the hospital became a kind of sanctuary for me.

CNH: How did patients respond to your care?

Tweed: They received me with appreciation and trust, often opening up in ways that showed they felt safe, heard and supported. I think a big part of that was learning to bring my whole self to each visit – compassion, attentiveness, humility and strength. But I was also shaped by the tools and formation given to me by the education team: how to listen actively, how to be present without needing to control, how to honor each person's story without inserting myself into it. That combination, natural empathy and trained awareness, allowed me to form genuine and meaningful connections.

Continued on Page 13



SEMINARIAN

Continued from Page 12

CNH: Why is it important for seminarians and priests to serve in hospitals?

Tweed: Because human suffering is not abstract. It is real, gritty and sacred. Serving in a hospital teaches you how to be truly human with others, and if we believe Christ is fully human and fully divine, then that humanity matters in our priesthood. Ministry in hospitals helps us grow in emotional awareness, in sensitivity to cultural and spiritual complexity and in the ability to meet people where they are. It teaches us to find God in places beyond the sanctuary, without ever losing our love for the altar. It forms priests who are approachable, relatable and above all, present, like Christ.

CNH: Anything else you'd like to add?

Tweed: It takes courage to feel, to stay open, to not retreat into intellectual answers or safe routines. But if we want to serve like Christ, we have to learn to love like Him, and love always flows from the heart. That is what this summer taught me.

Reprinted with permission from the Catholic News Herald — Lisa M. Geraci



25th and 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

If you were married during 1975 or 2000, you are invited to the annual Diocesan Anniversary Mass on Sunday, October 26, 2025 at The Cathedral of Saint Patrick. Mass begins at 3 p.m. and will be followed by a reception. Limit of 2 guests per couple. Please register by scanning the QR code or visiting this link https://charlottediocese.org/form-wedding-anniversary-mass/.

EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS



Friday, Sept. 5, 2025

5 p.m. Doors open

5-11 p.m. Food / Cash Bar / Exhibitors

6:45 p.m. Welcome

7-9 p.m. Matt Maher in Concert 8:30-9 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

9-11 p.m. Screening: "Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality"



Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025

9 a.m. Eucharistic Procession from St. Peter Catholic Church

to the Charlotte Convention Center

10:45-11:30 a.m. Holy Hour, led by Bishop Michael Martin, OFM Conv.

11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Chapel open, Confessions

11:30 am.-5 p.m. Food / Exhibitors

5:15 p.m. Pre-Mass music by The Vigil Project

5:30 p.m. Holy Mass, led by Bishop Michael Martin, OFM Conv.

Spanish Programming

Saturday, Sept. 6 / Hall A-B Main Stage

12:30-1:30 p.m. Paula Umaña 1:30-2:30 p.m. Fr. Roberto Serrano,

OFM

English Programming Saturday, Sept. 6 / Hall A-B Main Stage

3-4 p.m. Chris Stefanick 4-5 p.m. Fr. John Riccardo

<u>Vietnamese Programming</u> Level 3: East Wing Room 216

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Confessions and a talk led by Father Tri Truong, pastor St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Church in

Charlotte

Middle/High School Programming Level 3: East Wing Room 220

12:30-3:30 p.m. Chris Stefanick Note: High School dismissal at 3:30 p.m.; Middle School dismissal at 3:45 p.m.

Family Programming Level 3: East Wing Room 219

1-2:30 p.m. Screening: "Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality" (English) 3-4:30 p.m. Screening: "Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality" (Spanish)



More information:

Saint Mark Parish Directory

stmarknc.org | 14740 Stumptown Rd, Huntersville NC 28078 Parish Office | Mon-Thur 9 am-7:30 pm, Fri 9 am-4:30 pm

Sun 8:15 am-12:15 pm | Phone: 704-948-0231

Pastor

Very Rev. John T. Putnam, JV

Parochial Vicars

Rev. Kevin Martinez

Rev. Christopher Angermeyer

Rev. Aaron Huber (in residence)

Rev. Mr. Thomas Martin

Rev. Mr. Richard McCarron

Rev. Mr. Thomas McGahey

Rev. Mr. Tom McMahon

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/Office Manager

Emily Bixler

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

Annulments, OCIA

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

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Director of Sacred Music

Manuel Mora

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Director of Finance

Richard Cataldo

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Director of Faith Formation

Sarah Rider

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Elementary Faith Formation

Coordinator

Maddie Torres

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Confirmation Coordinator

Mariana Vazquez

middleschool@stmarknc.org 704-948-1306, Ext. 105

High School Youth Ministry Coordinator

Augustine Free

augustine.free@stmarknc.org 704-948-0231, Ext. 122

Director of Preschool

Amanda Rametta

amanda.rametta@stmarknc.org

704-948-8015

Office of Faith Formation

Faith Formation Main Office Line: 704-948-0231, Ext. 103

Tribunal Advocate

Rod Brostrom

rnbrostrom@rcdoc.org

Bulletin Team

bulletin@stmarknc.org

Mass Schedule

Mon/Tue/Thu: 7, 9 am Wed: 7 am, 6:30 pm

Fri: 7.9 am

7 pm (Spanish)

9 am, 5 pm Vigil 7:30, 9, 11 am, 1 pm (Español), 5 pm

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

Confessions

Sat:

Sun:

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 pm 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 & Book Store

Open daily in the Family Center

Coffee & Conversation Social Gathering

Tuesdays, 9:30 am, Parish Hall.

Cursillo

Visit www.CharlotteCursillo.com for information on upcoming retreat weekends, ultrevas and group reunions.

Natural Family Planning

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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: 704-975-8572; Post Abortion: 1-800-5-WE CARE Poor prenatal diagnosis? You're not alone. There is help.

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Life Crisis: Stephen Ministry stmarknc.org/stephen-ministry Paul G. | 704-641-0654

Food Insecurity:

Parish Office

stmarknc.org/assistance or Emily.Bixler@stmarknc.org or

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704-948-0231, Ext. 102

Al-Anon

Ellen | 704-907-8555

Alcoholics Anonymous Tom | 704-604-7739

Alateen program

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

Contact: divorce.support@stmarknc.org

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ANUNCIOS EN ESPAÑOL



Del Párroco – 21º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Las lecturas de hoy nos muestran que no es suficiente ser discípulos de Cristo solo de nombre. Para ser un verdadero discípulo, debemos vivir para Cristo todos los días y en todos los aspectos de la vida. Este tipo de vida requiere fuerza y

disciplina.

Ofrecer intencional y consistentemente al Señor lo mejor de nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro a través de una forma de vida de mayordomía es una forma de disciplina espiritual. Estas disciplinas espirituales nos enseñan a ser cada vez más conscientes de la provisión constante de Dios para nosotros y nos mantienen en el camino estrecho hacia el Reino de los Cielos. Cuanto más abracemos esta forma de vida, más podremos ser "enmtrenados" por el Señor en los caminos del verdadero discipulado. Aunque difíciles, estas disciplinas se convierten en una fuente de fortaleza espiritual.

Nuestro Señor mismo habla del difícil camino hacia el Reino de los Cielos en el pasaje del Evangelio de hoy de Lucas. Se le pregunta: "Señor, ¿solo unos pocos se salvarán?" Jesús responde: "Esfuérzate por entrar por la puerta estrecha, porque te digo que muchos intentarán entrar, pero no serán lo suficientemente fuertes". Presentarse a misa el domingo mientras vivimos como si Cristo fuera una ocurrencia tardía el resto de la semana no nos convierte en discípulos. Es más, este enfoque de nuestra fe es una respuesta injusta y sin amor a nuestro buen Dios que nos ha dado todo lo que tenemos y somos.

Jesús no quiere que simplemente sigamos los movimientos de la fe. Él quiere mucho más de nosotros y para nosotros. Él quiere conocernos profundamente y que nosotros lo conozcamos para que nos convirtamos en sus santos discípulos. Esto no es una carga; es un privilegio. Pero sí se necesita disciplina, la disciplina de una forma de vida de mayordomía. © Consultores de mayordomía católica, 2025

Reflexión pastoral: a medida que el año escolar se acelera nuevamente, quería informarles que otro joven de la parroquia ha comenzado su año propedéutico en el Seminario St. Joseph College. John Yellico, hijo de Glen y Lissette Yellico, fue aceptado en el programa a principios de este verano. También es hermano del Padre Joseph Yellico, recientemente ordenado y de la Hermana Mary Agnes Yellico de las Hijas de la Virgen Madre. Por favor, manténgalo a él y a todos nuestros seminaristas en sus oraciones.

Recientemente, la Diócesis ha estado trabajando en el desarrollo de políticas para gobernar el uso de la inteligencia artificial para nuestros empleados y sitios ministeriales. La IA está casi constantemente en las noticias y casi todo el mundo está familiarizado con Chat GPT, Truthly (la opción católica) y muchos otros esfuerzos para aprovechar esta nueva tecnología. A principios de este año, el Dicasterio para la Doctrina de la Fe de la Santa Sede emitió un documento que trata este tema. Por lo tanto, pensé que podría ser útil ofrecer algunas ideas que podrían ser útiles para algunos de ustedes.

Aquí hay una **reflexión pastoral** basada en *Antiqua* et *Nova*, adaptada para su inclusión en una carta pastoral:

En nuestro tiempo, estamos presenciando avances extraordinarios en tecnología, especialmente en el ámbito de la Inteligencia Artificial (IA). Estos desarrollos traen tanto promesas como desafíos, y como su pastor, me siento llamado a reflexionar con ustedes sobre lo que esto significa para nuestra fe, nuestra humanidad y nuestro viaje compartido hacia la santidad.

El reciente documento del Vaticano, *Antiqua et Nova*, nos recuerda que, si bien la IA puede imitar ciertos aspectos de la inteligencia humana, no puede replicar la plenitud de lo que significa ser humano. Nuestra inteligencia no es meramente computacional, es relacional, moral y espiritual. Es un don de Dios, arraigado en nuestra capacidad de amar, discernir y buscar la verdad.

La IA puede ayudarnos de muchas maneras, desde la medicina hasta la educación y la comunicación. Pero nunca debemos olvidar que las máquinas no poseen almas. No rezan, sufren ni esperan. No conocen la misericordia ni la gracia. Solo nosotros, creados a imagen y semejanza de Dios, tenemos la responsabilidad de usar estas herramientas sabiamente, asegurándonos de que sirvan a la dignidad de cada persona.

No nos dejemos seducir por la ilusión de que la tecnología puede reemplazar la sabiduría humana o la guía divina. En cambio, cultivemos una "sabiduría del corazón", como insta el documento, una sabiduría que escuche al Espíritu, que busque la justicia y que coloque el amor por encima de la eficiencia. En nuestros hogares, escuelas y parroquias, enseñemos a nuestros hijos no solo cómo usar la tecnología, sino también cómo seguir siendo humanos en una era digital. Que nos acompañemos unos a otros con compasión y que nuestras elecciones reflejen los valores del Evangelio de la verdad, la humildad y el cuidado de los vulnerables.

Oremos por discernimiento, por coraje y por un compromiso renovado con el bien común. Y recordemos siempre: la inteligencia más poderosa no es artificial, es la sabiduría que proviene de caminar humildemente con nuestro Dios.

Vale la pena leer el documento completo y se puede encontrar en el sitio web del Vaticano en Antiqua et nova. Note on the Relationship Between Artificial Intelligence and Human Intelligence (28 January 2025)









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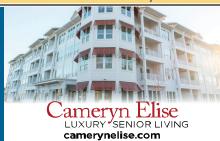


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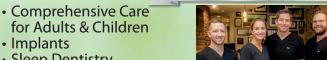
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