

You Belong Here



March with us at the 2025 Diocese of Charlotte Eucharistic Congress!

Starts Friday, Sept. 5 ✦ Eucharistic Procession Saturday, Sept. 6

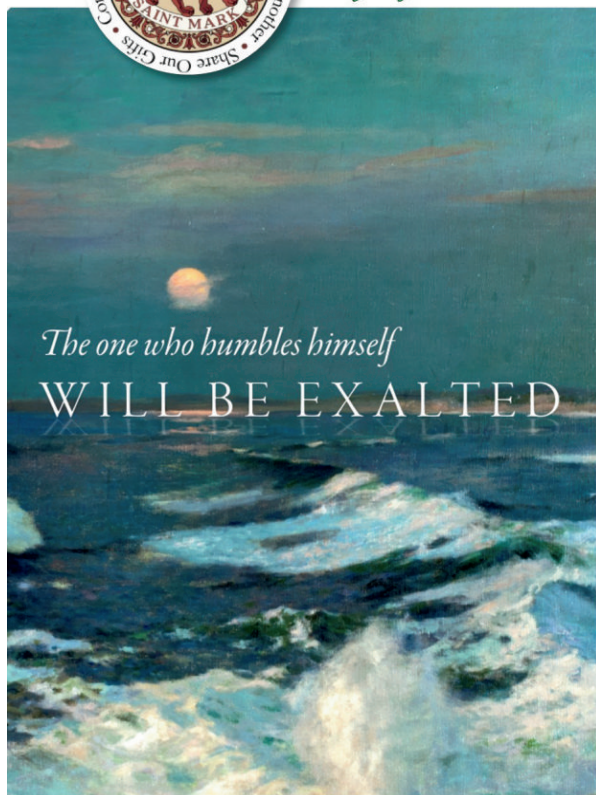
Details page 5.

SAINT MARK

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 31, 2025, Spanish Page 15



Welcome to St. Mark



Today is the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings can be found on page 1182. 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. 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 stmarknc.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



Saint 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.

FROM THE PASTOR



Today's readings remind us of a chief virtue that characterizes the Christian steward: humility. This is a virtue that is widely thought of as a form of self-abasement. That understanding, however, is off the mark. Humility is simply the awareness of who (and Whose) we truly are.

On one hand, we are children of the Most High God who loved us into existence and who, by virtue of our Baptism, have the Holy Trinity

dwelling within us. On the other hand, we are children who are completely dependent on God for our existence and for every breath we take.

Our Lord speaks of true humility in our Gospel passage from Luke, telling the parable of the guests invited to a wedding banquet and instructing us not to seek a place of honor at the banquet table, lest a more distinguished guest arrives and we are asked to move to a lower place.

Jesus has much more in mind here than an etiquette lesson. He is reminding us that all glory belongs to God. The visual image He offers in having to slink down to a lower seat at the table points out how silly we are when we forget to give God the credit for our blessings and talents.

On the other hand, when we live in humility — recognizing that all we have is a gift from God and using those gifts to serve Him and others — then God “exalts” us by filling us with even more of Himself and His grace.

Jesus goes on to encourage us to serve and share our blessings with people facing circumstances that would make it impossible for them to offer us any worldly advantage or prestige — “the poor, the crippled, the lame.”

Our attitude and how we serve and share should be centered on true humility — recognizing that we are all “little” ones in the eyes of God. We are all His children; brothers and sisters invited to our Father's heavenly banquet. © Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2025

Pastoral Pondering – In the last couple of weeks, I have heard various news stories regarding a push to legalize marijuana nationally. I thought, in light of that, it might be helpful to review Catholic teaching. In Catholic thought, the morality of marijuana use is evaluated through the lens of natural law, Church teaching, and principles of human dignity, reason, and stewardship of the body. While the Catholic Church does not have an explicit, definitive teaching on recreational marijuana use, its moral framework provides guidance based on related principles, particularly from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) and papal statements.

Key Principles:

1. **Respect for Human Dignity and the Body:** The Church teaches that the human body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) and must be cared for responsibly. Actions that impair the body or mind without sufficient reason are considered morally problematic (CCC 2288-2291).
2. **Use of Substances and Reason:** The *Catechism* addresses the use of drugs, stating: “The use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life. Their use, except on strictly therapeutic grounds, is a grave offense” (CCC 2291). This suggests that recreational use of substances like marijuana, which can impair reason, judgment, and health, is generally viewed as morally wrong unless justified by medical necessity.
3. **Moderation and Prudence:** Catholic moral theology emphasizes the virtue of temperance, which governs the use of pleasurable things. Any substance use that leads to loss of self-control or addiction is contrary to this virtue.

4. **Intention and Context:** The morality of an act depends on its object, intention, and circumstances (CCC 1750-1756). Using marijuana for medical purposes, under professional guidance and with legal approval, may be permissible if it alleviates serious suffering and does not lead to abuse. Recreational use, however, is often seen as problematic because it typically seeks intoxication or escape, which can undermine human flourishing.

Obedience to Just Laws: Catholics are called to respect legitimate civil authority (CCC 2238-2243). If marijuana use is illegal in a given jurisdiction, using it recreationally would generally be considered sinful, as it violates just laws meant to protect the common good. Where marijuana is legal, the moral question shifts to its effects on health, reason, and responsibility.

Application to Marijuana:

- **Medical Use:** If marijuana is prescribed by a competent medical authority for a serious condition (e.g., chronic pain, epilepsy), its use could be morally permissible, provided it is used responsibly and does not lead to dependency or impairment that harms one's duties to God, self, or others.
- **Recreational Use:** Recreational marijuana use is generally viewed as morally problematic in Catholic thought, especially if it impairs reason, leads to addiction, or harms physical or mental health. The Church's emphasis on sobriety and the proper use of human faculties suggests that using marijuana to achieve intoxication or euphoria is contrary to human dignity.

Cultural and Social Considerations: Some Catholic theologians note that moderate use in a legal, controlled context (e.g., akin to moderate alcohol consumption) might not always constitute a grave sin, depending on the circumstances. However, the potential for abuse, addiction, and harm to self or others makes recreational use a serious moral concern.

Papal and Magisterial Guidance:

- Pope Francis has spoken against the legalization of recreational drugs, including marijuana, stating in 2014: “Drug addiction is an evil, and with evil there can be no yielding or compromise.” He emphasized the harm of drugs to individuals and society, particularly youth.
- The *Catechism's* broad condemnation of non-therapeutic drug use (CCC 2291) is often interpreted to include recreational marijuana, though it does not explicitly name it.

Practical Considerations:

- **Discernment:** Catholics are encouraged to discern their intentions and the effects of marijuana use. If it leads to escapism, neglect of responsibilities, or harm to relationships, it would be considered sinful.
- **Addiction Risk:** Marijuana's potential for dependency raises concerns, as addiction undermines freedom and responsibility.

Social Justice: The Church also considers the societal impact, such as the exploitation in the drug trade or the normalization of substance use in ways that harm vulnerable populations.

Conclusion:

In Catholic moral theology, marijuana use is permissible only for legitimate medical purposes under strict conditions. Recreational use is generally considered immoral due to its potential to impair reason, harm health, and violate the virtue of temperance. Catholics are called to exercise prudence, respect civil laws, and prioritize their responsibilities to God and others. For specific guidance, consultation with a priest or moral theologian is recommended, as individual circumstances can influence moral judgments.

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 Ferrell & Family
Charles Fillipo
Joseph Fiore
Tom Fox
Alan Friedl & Family
Maureen K. Frost
Carmine Gallo
Teri Gay
Denny & Monica Golden
Josette Grace
Robert Graham

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 Ojeda
Margaret Paquette
Hazel Palmer
The Patterson Family
Fernando Paverpai
John Pecoraro
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
Betsy Spart
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
Paul Widman
Carol Woodard
Mary Jane Zimmerman

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, August 31

7:30 am † Sharon Antoszyk
9 am Ann Bixler
11 am † Dennis Smorada
1 pm St. Mark Parishioners
4:30 pm Fr. Chinonso
5 pm † Veronica Early

Monday, September 1

9 am † Juan Deigo Gonzalez

Tuesday, September 2

7 am † Patricia Golina
9 am † Thomas J. McClintock

Wednesday, September 3

7 am † Pauline Kielbasa
† Joseph Bongiorno
6:30 pm † Mary Ann Burrus
John & Lucy Torres

Thursday, September 4

7 am Stephanie Panizza
9 am † Eileen Murphy

Friday, September 5

7 am † Melissa, Delphine & Charles Lynch
9 am † Ruth Donovan
7 pm No Mass due to Eucharistic Congress

Saturday, September 6

No Masses due to Eucharistic Congress

Sunday, September 7

7:30 am St. Mark Parishioners
9 am Liam & Kyla Heidtman
11 am † Michael Warner
1 pm † Manuel Serafin Velazquez
4:30 pm † Rita Schenosky
Mrs. Campbell & Mrs. Blain
5 pm Todd & Mark Singh
† Deceased

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

James Woodworth, father of Jim Woodworth

READINGS

Sun. 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

Mon. 1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13; Lk 4:16-30

Tue. 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37

Wed. Memorial of Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

Col 1: 1-8; Ps 52: 10, 11; Lk 4:38-44

Thu. Memorial of Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Lk 5:1-11

Fri. Col 1:15-20; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 5:33-39

Sat. Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8; Lk 6:1-5

Sun. Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 9:13-18b; Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17;
Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33

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 Morelli; 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 Rusciollelli

Navy: LCDR. Matthew Giannone; SR Chase T. Golden; 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.

CHARLOTTE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Friday-Saturday, Sept. 5-6, 2025

You Belong Here

YouBelong2025.com

Charlotte Convention Center | FREE

**Will you join us for one of the largest
Eucharistic Processions in the country?**

Schedule of Events

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025

5 pm	Doors open
5-11 pm	Food / Cash Bar / Exhibitors
6:45 pm	Welcome
7-9 pm	Matt Maher in Concert
8:30-9 pm	Eucharistic Adoration
9-11 pm	Screening: "Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality"

Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025

9 am	Eucharistic Procession from St. Peter Catholic Church to the Charlotte Convention Center
10:45-11:30 am	Holy Hour, led by Bishop Michael Martin, OFM Conv.
11:30 am-5 pm	Chapel open, Confessions
11:30 am-5 pm	Food / Exhibitors/Talks
5:15 pm	Pre-Mass music by The Vigil Project
5:30 pm	Holy Mass, led by Bishop Michael Martin, OFM Conv.

Friday-Saturday, Sept. 5 & 6, at the Charlotte Convention Center.
Drop in for a while or stay for both days. It's totally free and flexible. Get a sneak peak of the 2025 exhibitors and ministries and plan your shopping ahead of time. For complete schedule, FAQs, and details, go to www.YouBelong2025.com or scan code.



Rediscover hope. Renew your spirit.

Walk with Christ.

Be inspired by dynamic Catholic speakers and uplifting music, experience one of the largest Eucharistic processions in the U.S., and find renewed hope in Christ through the Eucharist.

Opening Concert: Matt Maher

Friday, Sept. 5

An unforgettable night of praise and worship – culminating with Eucharistic Adoration – led by singer/songwriter Matt Maher, one of the most influential voices in Christian music today. Concert is free, but seating is limited and first-come, first-served. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the concert starts at 7 p.m. Come early to secure your spot! Food and drinks available for purchase, including cash bar.

Chris Stefanick

Saturday, Sept. 6

Middle/ High School 12:30-3:30 pm

Main Stage 3-4 pm

Real Life Catholic, Chris Stefanick has reached millions with his dynamic seminars, bestselling books, and impactful video series – all designed to help people discover and embrace the lives they were made for in Jesus Christ and His Church.

Father John Riccardo

Saturday, Sept. 6, 4-5 pm

Most people have never been overwhelmed by the power of the Gospel, let alone surrendered their lives to Jesus. Yet there is no hope apart from Him, because no one else has done or can do what He has done.

Shopping!

Catholic artwork, Bibles and books, rosaries, statues and gifts – exceptional items you won't find anywhere else!

Coming Up at Saint Mark



Monday, Sept. 1, Labor Day

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

Fri. & Sat., September 5 & 6

Due to the Eucharistic Congress, there will be no Friday 7 pm Mass, Saturday 9 am Mass, Saturday Confession, or Saturday 5 pm Mass.

All are encouraged and invited to go to the Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte. Mass will be offered in the Charlotte Convention Center on Saturday at 5:30 pm.

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.

PARISH LIFE

Come and See...

Carlos Acutis' Compilation of Eucharistic Miracles

When: Available now through Sept. 7

*Where: Parish Hall, **EXCEPT WHEN PARISH HALL IS IN USE***

On Sunday, September 7 the Catholic Church will rejoice as **Blessed Carlo Acutis** and **Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati** are officially declared saints! Both young men lived with extraordinary love for Christ and a deep passion for bringing others closer to Him.

To mark this historic canonization, St. Mark will host a special display of the **Eucharistic Miracles of the World**, a collection lovingly researched and compiled by Carlo Acutis before his death at the age of 15. This exhibit highlights the many miraculous ways Christ has revealed His true presence in the Eucharist throughout history.

We invite you to come and spend time with this inspiring display in the **Kerin Center**, available **all week long**. However, PLEASE **DO NOT ENTER IF THE PARISH HALL IS IN USE**. Take this opportunity to reflect on the gift of the Eucharist, deepen your devotion, and be inspired by the witness of two new saints who show us that holiness is possible for everyone.

Come and see how God continues to work wonders in His Church!

Questions? Contact Paul Laskowski paul.laskowski@stmarknc.org



Interested in the Nursery?

We are considering restarting the Nursery and would like to get feedback from those families who are interested in participating.

Please take a moment to complete information form on our website at www.stmarknc.org/Nursery, so that we can plan for a reopening.

If you are interested in working in the Nursery, please contact Karen Donahue at karen.donahue@stmarknc.org. You must be 18 years or older and complete our Safe Environment requirements.

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

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

Pokeno Luncheon

Wednesday,
September 24
11:00 a.m.
Parish Hall

\$15.00 donation

Cutoff September 15

Please deposit in the
black box at the
Reception Desk.

Singles 45+ Fellowship Event

When: Sun., 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! Scan code or RSVP here so we can plan for you:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0548A5A82DA6FDCF8-57949268-760craft>.



Welcome.
There is **More** to Life

CRHP 2.0

A Special Opportunity for Men

- **What?** An incredible experience that will help you discover what's missing in your life and what to do about it
- **When:** Sat./Sun. November 8th & 9th
- **Where:** St. Mark's Kerin Center
- **Why?** You deserve a break! Join fellow parishioners for a weekend of respite, renewal, fellowship, & good food!
- **How to Sign up:** Scan the QR code below or register at <https://stmarkretreat.com/>
- **Questions:** Call Joe Smith (610) 883-7753



Thursday, September 11, 6:30 pm

BLUE MASS

TO HONOR ALL PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL

police • fire • emergency • military • first responders



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.



**Knights of
Columbus**



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 intercession 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

www.stmarknc.org/ocia

Contact: Paul Laskowski,
704-948-0231 X 121,
paul.laskowski@stmarknc.org



2024-25 ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT: FISCAL YEAR ENDING

The Finance Council is pleased to present the St. Mark parish annual financial report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025. As part of our financial stewardship, we maintain three months' worth of operating expenses in cash reserves to safeguard against any unexpected declines in offertory income.

Capital Improvements: This period, we've made significant progress in enhancing our facilities, including upgrades to the Kerin Family Center's audio visual and security systems. Additionally, we've moved to the construction design and project management phases for the new Mnsgr. Bellow Parish Life Center, Adoration Chapel, and the construction phase for the Rectory.

Ministries and Outreach: We continue to support more than 82 ministries and apostolates and are proud to report that we have met our goal of allocating 8% of our budget to outreach and charity.

Online Giving: Online giving now represents 53% of our total contributions. Additionally, many parishioners have taken advantage of tax-free distributions to the church from their retirement accounts. Parishioners have shown tremendous generosity in supporting not only regular offertory collections but also special collections, such as:

- \$52,189 for Mission Huancané, Peru
- \$150,582 for Hurricane Disaster Relief in Western North Carolina
- \$84,466 for St. Vincent DePaul Fund

For more information or to contribute online, please visit www.stmarknc.org/online-giving.

Thank you for your continued commitment and generosity as we strive to grow, serve, share, and connect within our community.

Growing Home Capital Campaign: In October 2024, we launched the *Growing Home* Capital Campaign to fund the construction of a new Monsignor Bellow Parish Life Center, Adoration Chapel, and Rectory. We are grateful to report that, we have exceeded our goal of \$9,700,000, with pledges totaling more than \$10,500,000. Thank you to the support of 1807 parish families.

Notes on Revenue and Expenses:

- **Operating Revenue:** For the period, operating revenue exceeded budget projections by 4%, while expenses came in 1% under budget, resulting in a positive overall financial performance.
- **Offertory Budget:** The 2025-2026 offertory budget reflects a 5% projected increase over the 2024-2025 budget. The 2025-2026 offertory budget is equal to the actual offertory collected during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Continued next page...

St. Mark Catholic Church Report to Parishioners June 30, 2025				
PARISH STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		Fiscal YE 06/30/2025 Actual	2024-2025 Budget	2025-2026 Budget
Operating Revenue				
Offertory	\$	4,214,938	\$ 4,034,684	\$ 4,219,000
Unrestricted Donations & Other Support	\$	110,183	\$ 98,200	\$ 101,000
Fundraising Income	\$	4,086	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,500
Religious Formation Fees	\$	86,591	\$ 89,220	\$ 77,050
Preschool Tuition and Fees	\$	287,040	\$ 310,000	\$ 305,000
Other Fees and Misc. Income	\$	148,631	\$ 152,220	\$ 161,525
Total Operating Revenue	\$	4,851,468	\$ 4,686,724	\$ 4,866,075
Operating Expenses				
Ministry & Liturgy	\$	963,489	\$ 932,975	\$ 1,004,136
Religious Formation	\$	611,797	\$ 711,160	\$ 643,718
Charity/Outreach	\$	251,443	\$ 271,578	\$ 278,250
School Subsidy	\$	718,272	\$ 728,664	\$ 783,646
Preschool Program Expenses	\$	314,954	\$ 301,132	\$ 339,020
Other Parish Program Expenses	\$	11,653	\$ 8,300	\$ 10,300
Facilities Expenses	\$	613,388	\$ 577,929	\$ 603,297
Diocesan Assessments	\$	440,600	\$ 466,535	\$ 480,559
General & Administrative Expenses	\$	706,034	\$ 687,755	\$ 722,874
Total Operating Expenses	\$	4,631,630	\$ 4,686,028	\$ 4,865,800
Total Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$	219,838	\$ 696	\$ 275
PARISH STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		Fiscal YE 6/30/2025		
Assets				
Checking Account Balances - Operating	\$	433,556		
Checking Account Balances - Other	\$	2,314,953		
Savings Accounts - Operating Reserves	\$	899,941		
Endowment Accounts	\$	16,627		
Receivables and other Current Assets	\$	34,548		
Property, Plant and Equipment	\$	17,549,040		
Total Assets	\$	21,248,665		
Liabilities and Net Assets				
Liabilities				
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$	4,318		
Custodial Obligations	\$	144,799		
Other Liabilities	\$	96,256		
Total Liabilities	\$	245,373		
Net Assets	\$	21,003,292		
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	21,248,665		

JUNE 30, 2025

DSA 2025

Religious Formation Expenses: These expenses encompass Faith Formation programs, Youth Ministry, Adult Education, and OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults).

THANK YOU TO OUR FINANCE COUNCIL

Pastor	Father John Putnam
Finance Director	Richard Cataldo
Director of Parish Operations	Scott Bruno
Finance Council Chair	Mario Martinez
Council Member	Deacon Tom McGahey
Council Member	Amy Permenter
Council Member	Rick Szafran
Council Member	John Gentile
Council Member	John Moore
Pastoral Council Representative	Chris Fernandez

DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL 2025



Thank to everyone who contributed to the DSA as a result of our appeal last weekend. The DSA provides vital support for ministries that foster vocations, serve those in need, and strengthen our Catholic faith through education and outreach. If you have not yet made a gift to the DSA, please prayerfully consider doing so today. No gift is too small. To donate, go to charlottediocese.org/dsa or scan the code above. Thank you for your continued generosity. Please make sure to select "parish name" so your gift applies to St. Mark's goal.

Your Legacy Matters

A gift to St. Mark Catholic Church through your will or estate plan is a powerful expression of faith, ensuring our parish continues to flourish for future generations.

We're deeply grateful to those who have already included us in their plans.

If you've done so and haven't yet informed us, please contact Karen Donahue at karen.donahue@stmarknc.org / 704-948-0231, so we can honor your generosity and welcome you into the St. Mark Legacy Society.



We are called...

as one by Christ to embrace
a spirit of stewardship and engagement
to Grow in Christ, Serve One Another,

Share Our Gifts

and Connect in Faith.



To contribute online, go to www.stmarknc.org/online-giving.

"Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

— 2 Corinthians 9:7



Collection for the Archdiocese of the Military

Sunday, August 31

We 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, scan code or give online at www.osvhub.com/stmarknc/giving/funds.



ADORATION



"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." Matthew 11:28-30

By: Donna Fodale/Adoration Coordinator

Sitting in the chapel I have often had an image come to my mind that each person that walks through the chapel door is carrying, sometimes dragging crosses that lie heavy upon their shoulders. As they kneel before the Lord, I imagine Him, if only for a moment lifting these crosses off their shoulders, placing them next to them on the floor, embracing them with such love and whispering the above scripture to them, to you! Can you hear Him? "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."

Each of us has different crosses to bear. The Adoration Chapel is a place where the Lord is inviting you to come and bring the things that you are struggling with. It is there before the Blessed Sacrament where love meets mercy. Jesus knows all the things that we carry in our hearts. He longs to give us peace that can only come from Him. Especially when our crosses seem too much to carry.

Next time you are in the chapel, pray for everyone that is there with you. Though we cannot see the heaviness of their crosses, we know that each one of us does have them. Let each of us become like St. Simon the Cyrene, who if even for a moment helped Jesus in carrying the weight of His cross. Our prayers for each other united with Christ in love can help make each other's burden a little lighter.

Please prayerfully consider helping us fill the hours that need an additional adorer. Especially those hours that are in the early mornings or very late at night. When we give our yes Jesus will give us the graces to be able to fulfill our commitment. The hours that need an additional adorer are:

- Sun. 5 am to 6 am
- Mon. 2 am to 3 am
- Wed. 3 am to 4 am
- Thu. Midnight to 1 am
- Thu. 10 pm to 11 pm
- Sat. 3 pm to 4 pm
- Sat. 6 pm to 7 pm

Can't commit to a weekly hour? Sign up to be part of our sub team! Register at: stmarknc.org/adoration.

To be a sub, please contact donna.fodale@stmarknc.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY



LIFE TEEN

Leading Teens Closer to Christ

When: Sundays, Sept .7, 14, and 21; 6-8 pm | Dinner Included!

Where: Parish Hall

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 GARDEN

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!



FAMILY MINISTRY

Pope Gregory the Great

Pope Gregory I, better known as *Gregory the Great*, was one of the most influential leaders in the history of the Catholic Church. Born around 540 AD in Rome into a wealthy and noble family, he initially pursued a career in politics, serving as prefect of the city of Rome by his early 30s. Despite his success, Gregory longed for a life of prayer and service to God. He resigned from public office, converted his family estate into a monastery dedicated to St. Andrew and became a Benedictine monk.

His holiness, intelligence and administrative skill quickly drew attention, and he was ordained as a deacon and sent as a papal ambassador to Constantinople. In 590 AD, during a time of plague, famine and political turmoil, Gregory was elected pope, reluctantly, as he preferred the quiet life of a monk.

Feast Day: September 3

Fun Fact: He is traditionally associated with organizing and promoting the form of liturgical music that became known as Gregorian Chant.

Patron of: Musicians and singers, teachers (for his Pastoral Rule), students learning scripture, stone masons.



Artwork by Anna Morelli



SAINT MARK
FAMILY MINISTRY

PUTTING ON THE ARMOR OF GOD

Conference

SEPT | 13 | 2025



\$20 Single--\$35 Couple

Join Us for a Day of Spiritual Strengthening!

- 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



STEWARDSHIP

Pilgrimage of Hope Ministry Fair Thank you!

Thank you to all the ministries who participated in our Pilgrimage of Hope Ministry Fair on August 16-17.

We especially want to extend our gratitude to the Stewardship Committee for their incredible efforts in planning the event, setting up, decorating, and handling the tear-down afterward. Your dedication truly made the day special. The social committee was also hard at work, preparing and serving donut holes, coffee, hot dogs and lemonade to all who attended.

This event would not have been a success without the enthusiastic support and participation of all of our ministries. You helped welcome new parishioners, re-engaged active members, and beautifully showcased the many ways our St. Mark community can grow in Christ, serve one another and the broader community, share their talents and gifts, and connect more deeply in faith.

A special thank you also to those who donated items for our passport prizes: The prayer shawl group, Rosary Makers Ministry, Gardening and Grounds Ministry, Family Ministry, Knights of St. Joseph, Debbie Hains and Liz Hoegler. It was wonderful to see your ministries and talents highlighted in that way, and the prizes provided a fun and meaningful incentive for attendees to engage with the ministries. If you missed the ministry fair or want to learn more about the over 80 ministries at St. Mark, be sure to review the new edition of our Stewardship Directory, which can be found in the narthex, parish office, or on our website.



Spotlight on...

Faith Formation Catechists

As Christians, we are entrusted with keeping our faith and passing it on to our children. "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." (Luke 12:48) Love for Jesus is the most precious gift with which we have been entrusted. Jesus also tells us, "Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Luke 18:16) Our spotlight this week focuses on Faith Formation Catechists who work to fulfill this call.

Whether you are a parent of a student currently enrolled in faith formation or just love Jesus enough to want to share what you have found, we have opportunities to mentor and guide students in kindergarten through 8th grade. Our elementary Faith Formation Coordinator, Maddie Torres, would like you to know that "The influence a catechist has on a student may not be visible right away or bring instant gratification, but it is *lasting*. You don't need to be an expert in theology or teaching to be a catechist. All that's required is a love for Jesus and the Catholic faith. We provide all the materials and curriculum you'll need. Your role is simply to show up, share your faith, and care for the kids. Your presence and love can plant seeds that grow for a lifetime."



Maddie also told us, "Catechists often have gifts like teaching, encouragement, wisdom, and a love for sharing the faith. Patience, reliability, prayerfulness, and joy are also valuable. You don't need all these qualities, just a love for Jesus and a willingness to care for and guide others, and God will equip you along the way."

If this describes you and you are available for one of the following class schedules, we would love for you to join us!

Elementary (K-5) - Sundays 9:30-10:45 am, Mondays 4:30-5:45 pm and 6:15-7:30 pm

Middle School (EDGE and Confirmation) - Sundays 9:30-10:45 am and Mondays 6:30-7:45 pm

To learn more about becoming a Faith Formation Catechist, please visit our website, stmarknc.org/ff. This site explains more about each program. Then fill out the Catechist Commitment form linked on that site to respond "yes" to this important ministry.

If you would like to speak one-on-one with our faith formation department, their contacts are: Director, Sarah Rider, sarah.rider@stmarknc.org; Elementary, Maddie Torres, Maddie.torres@stmarknc.org; or Middle School, Olivia DiGiovanni olivia.digiovanni@stmarknc.org



MARRIAGE RETREATS



Retrouvaille Charlotte Marriage Help

When: Oct. 3-5

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage.

Retrouvaille Marriage Help offers a welcoming and loving space to couples who have been living with the misery of a failing marriage. Retrouvaille offers hope: hope that it is not too late, hope of a different and better marriage. Retrouvaille helps couples to show each other mercy through the opportunities it provides to listen, to forgive, to be reconciled and to move into their futures believing that God loves them and with His help and their efforts, their marriages can be healed and restored. Retrouvaille provides help for marriage problems/difficulties/crises.

For more information about an upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend program in Charlotte area on Oct. 3-5, 2025 for couples, Email: 3062ac@helpourmarriage.org or Call: 727-343-6701

Website: HelpOurMarriage.com



domesticchurch
UNITED STATES



*Stir up God's graces
in your marriage!*

Evangelization Retreat

October 24-26

Fri 6-8pm | Sat 8a-7p | Sun 8a-4p

Cost
\$125

Includes lunch & dinner
Saturday & Sunday, plus all
retreat materials.

No overnight lodging options
at Belmont Abbey College. Hotel and VRBO/BBB
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.org/evangelization-retreat-nc-1025>

You desire to grow in faith with your spouse, put in the hard work to improve your marriage, and form deep relationships with other married couples in your faith community.

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





TOGETHER IN HOLINESS™
CONFERENCE SERIES

A CATHOLIC MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 22, 2025 | 8:00 AM - 3:15 PM
ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH | CHARLOTTE, NC

PRESENTED BY

St JOHN PAUL II
FOUNDATION

DIocese of CHARLOTTE
FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

Early Bird discount before Monday, Oct. 13!

Married and engaged couples are invited to the 7th annual Together in Holiness conference. Hear from national speakers Mallory Smyth, Greg Schutte, and more as we discuss Courageous Hope in Marriage and Family!

REGISTRATION:

togetherinholiness.org/charlotte

Early Bird Price: Couple \$54/
Individual \$35

Scholarships are available; on-site
Childcare (pre-registration
required) \$5/child

Complete info:

togetherinholiness.org or email
th@forlifeandfamily.org.

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)

Deacons

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

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emily.bixler@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 102

Annulments, OCIA

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deacon.rich@stmarknc.org

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Manuel Mora

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704-948-0231, Ext. 116

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paul.laskowski@stmarknc.org

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Director of Faith Formation

Sarah Rider

sarah.rider@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 137

Elementary Faith Formation

Coordinator

Maddie Torres

elementary@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 124

Middle School Youth Ministry/

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)

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

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 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, ultreyas and group reunions.

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:

704-975-8572; Post Abortion: 1-800-5-WE CARE

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

benotafraid.net

Taken Abortion Pill? It may not be too late: Abortion Pill

Reversal 877-558-0333 or abortionpillreversal.com

Parishioner Assistance

Financial:

St. Vincent De Paul Society:

Emily.Bixler@stmarknc.org

Life Crisis: Stephen Ministry

stmarknc.org/stephen-ministry

Food Insecurity:

Parish Office

stmarknc.org/assistance or

Emily.Bixler@stmarknc.org or

704-948-0231, Ext. 102

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. If parish offices are closed, meetings are held at Lowe's Foods, exit 23.

Contact: divorce.support@stmarknc.org



ANUNCIOS EN ESPAÑOL | DEL PASTOR

Las lecturas de hoy nos recuerdan una virtud principal que caracteriza al mayordomo cristiano: la humildad. Esta es una virtud que se considera ampliamente como una forma de autohumillación. Ese entendimiento, sin embargo, está fuera de lugar. La humildad es simplemente la conciencia de quiénes (y de quién) somos realmente. Por un lado, somos hijos del Dios Altísimo que nos amó y que, en virtud de nuestro Bautismo, tenemos la Santísima Trinidad habitando dentro de nosotros. Por otro lado, somos niños que dependemos completamente de Dios para nuestra existencia y para cada respiración que tomamos.

Nuestro Señor habla de la verdadera humildad en nuestro pasaje del Evangelio de San Lucas, contando la parábola de los invitados a un banquete de bodas e instruyéndonos a no buscar un lugar de honor en la mesa del banquete, no sea que llegue un invitado más distinguido y se nos pida que nos traslademos a un lugar más bajo. Jesús tiene mucho más en mente aquí que una lección de etiqueta. Nos está recordando que toda la gloria pertenece a Dios. La imagen visual que ofrece al tener que escabullirse a un asiento más bajo en la mesa señala lo tontos que somos cuando nos olvidamos de darle a Dios el crédito por nuestras bendiciones y talentos.

Por otro lado, cuando vivimos en humildad, reconociendo que todo lo que tenemos es un regalo de Dios y usando esos dones para servirle a Él y a los demás, entonces Dios nos "exalta" llenándonos aún más de sí mismo y de su gracia.

Jesús continúa animándonos a servir y compartir nuestras bendiciones con personas que enfrentan circunstancias que les harían imposible ofrecernos cualquier ventaja o prestigio mundano: "los pobres, los lisiados, los cojos".

Nuestra actitud y la forma en que servimos y compartimos deben centrarse en la verdadera humildad, reconociendo que todos somos "pequeños" a los ojos de Dios. Todos somos Sus hijos; hermanos y hermanas invitados al banquete celestial de nuestro Padre. © Consultores de mayordomía católica, 2025

Reflexión pastoral : en las últimas semanas, he escuchado varias noticias sobre un impulso para legalizar la marihuana a nivel nacional. Pensé que, a la luz de eso, podría ser útil revisar la enseñanza católica. En el pensamiento católico, la moralidad del consumo de marihuana se evalúa a través de la lente de la ley natural, la enseñanza de la Iglesia y los principios de la dignidad humana, la razón y la mayordomía del cuerpo. Si bien la Iglesia Católica no tiene una enseñanza explícita y definitiva sobre el uso recreativo de la marihuana, su marco moral proporciona orientación basada en principios relacionados, particularmente del *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica* (CIC) y las declaraciones papales.

Principios clave:

1. **Respeto por la dignidad humana y el cuerpo:** La Iglesia enseña que el cuerpo humano es un templo del Espíritu Santo (1 Corintios 6:19-20) y debe cuidarse responsablemente. Las acciones que deterioran el cuerpo o la mente sin razón suficiente se consideran moralmente problemáticas (CIC 2288-2291).
2. **Uso de sustancias y razón:** El *Catecismo* aborda el uso de drogas, afirmando: "El uso de drogas inflige daños muy graves a la salud y la vida humanas. Su uso, excepto por motivos estrictamente terapéuticos, es una ofensa grave" (CIC 2291). Esto sugiere que el uso recreativo de sustancias como la marihuana, que puede afectar la razón, el juicio y la salud, generalmente se considera moralmente incorrecto a menos que esté justificado por la necesidad médica.
3. **Moderación y prudencia:** La teología moral católica enfatiza la virtud de la templanza, que gobierna el uso de las cosas placenteras. Cualquier uso de sustancias que conduzca a la pérdida del autocontrol o la adicción es contrario a esta virtud.
4. **Intención y contexto:** La moralidad de un acto depende de su objeto, intención y circunstancias (CIC 1750-1756). El uso de

marihuana con fines médicos, bajo orientación profesional y con aprobación legal, puede ser permisible si alivia el sufrimiento grave y no conduce al abuso. Sin embargo, el uso recreativo a menudo se considera problemático porque generalmente busca la intoxicación o el escape, lo que puede socavar el florecimiento humano.

Obediencia a las leyes justas: Los católicos están llamados a respetar la autoridad civil legítima (CIC 2238-2243). Si el uso de marihuana es ilegal en una jurisdicción determinada, su uso recreativo generalmente se consideraría pecaminoso, ya que viola las leyes justas destinadas a proteger el bien común. Donde la marihuana es legal, la cuestión moral cambia a sus efectos sobre la salud, la razón y la responsabilidad.

Aplicación a la marihuana:

- **Uso médico:** Si la marihuana es recetada por una autoridad médica competente para una afección grave (por ejemplo, dolor crónico, epilepsia), su uso podría ser moralmente permisible, siempre que se use de manera responsable y no conduzca a una dependencia o deterioro que perjudique los deberes de uno hacia Dios, uno mismo o los demás.
- **Uso recreativo:** El uso recreativo de la marihuana generalmente se considera moralmente problemático en el pensamiento católico, especialmente si afecta la razón, conduce a la adicción o daña la salud física o mental. El énfasis de la Iglesia en la sobriedad y el uso adecuado de las facultades humanas sugiere que el uso de la marihuana para lograr la intoxicación o la euforia es contrario a la dignidad humana.

Consideraciones culturales y sociales: Algunos teólogos católicos señalan que el uso moderado en un contexto legal y controlado (por ejemplo, similar al consumo moderado de alcohol) no siempre puede constituir un pecado grave, dependiendo de las circunstancias. Sin embargo, el potencial de abuso, adicción y daño a uno mismo o a otros hace que el uso recreativo sea una preocupación moral seria.

Guía papal y magisterial:

- El Papa Francisco se ha pronunciado en contra de la legalización de las drogas recreativas, incluida la marihuana, declarando en 2014: "La adicción a las drogas es un mal, y con el mal no puede haber ceder ni comprometerse". Hizo hincapié en el daño de las drogas a las personas y a la sociedad, en particular a los jóvenes.
- La amplia condena del *Catecismo* al uso de drogas no terapéuticas (CIC 2291) a menudo se interpreta para incluir la marihuana recreativa, aunque no la nombra explícitamente.

Consideraciones prácticas:

- **Discernimiento:** Se anima a los católicos a discernir sus intenciones y los efectos del consumo de marihuana. Si conduce al escapismo, al descuido de las responsabilidades o al daño a las relaciones, se consideraría pecaminoso.
- **Riesgo de adicción:** El potencial de dependencia de la marihuana genera preocupaciones, ya que la adicción socava la libertad y la responsabilidad.
- **Justicia social:** La Iglesia también considera el impacto social, como la explotación en el tráfico de drogas o la normalización del uso de sustancias de manera que dañan a las poblaciones vulnerables.

Conclusión: En la teología moral católica, el uso de marihuana está permitido solo para fines médicos legítimos bajo condiciones estrictas. El uso recreativo generalmente se considera inmoral debido a su potencial para perjudicar la razón, dañar la salud y violar la virtud de la templanza. Los católicos están llamados a ejercer prudencia, respetar las leyes civiles y priorizar sus responsabilidades ante Dios y los demás. Para obtener orientación específica, se recomienda consultar con un sacerdote o teólogo moral, ya que las circunstancias individuales pueden influir en los juicios morales.

CONGRESO EUCARÍSTICO DE CHARLOTTE

Charlotte Convention Center | GRATIS

Encuentren la Esperanza

Únete a miles de fieles en una experiencia espiritual inolvidable que renovará tu fe, llenará tu corazón y fortalecerá tu esperanza.



INVITADOS ESPECIALES

El Proyecto Vigilia con Andrea Thomas y Andrew Ferguson

Obispo Michael Martin

Matt Maher

Paula Umaña
"Peregrinos de Esperanza"
12:30-2:30 P.M.
Sábado, 6 de septiembre

Chris Stefanick

P. Roberto Serrano, OFM

P. John Riccardo
ACTS XXIX

VIERNES Y SÁBADO, 5 Y 6 DE SEPTIEMBRE

Y ADEMÁS

PROCESIÓN EUCARÍSTICA
Y ADORACIÓN

SANTA MISA

CONFESIONES

ARTÍCULOS CATÓLICOS ÚNICOS

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CARLO ACUTIS
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