



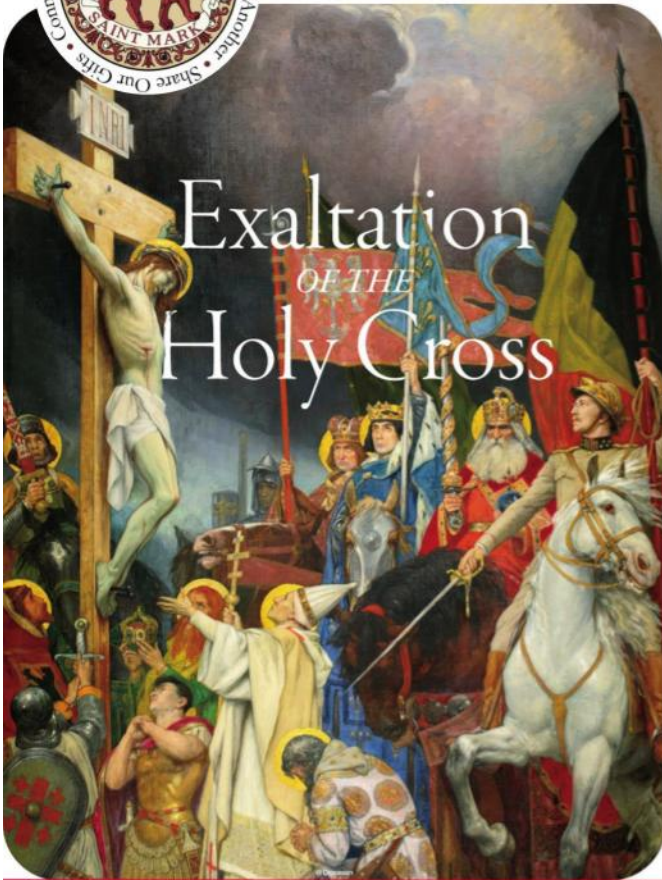
# EXALTATION OF THE *Holy Cross*







# Welcome to St. Mark



## Exaltation OF THE Holy Cross

Today we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross instead of the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings can be found on page 1277. 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](http://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*



**S**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.



# FROM THE PASTOR – EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Emperor Constantine on the site of Mt. Calvary where Christ was crucified; and the return of the Cross to Jerusalem by the Emperor Heraclius II.

As Catholics, we need to remember the Cross every time we make the Sign of the Cross. We make that sign often and almost always at the beginning and the end of our prayers. However, that sign in itself is a prayer. Sometimes we do it automatically without really considering its meaning and importance. Rather than a hurried sign, we should make the Sign of the Cross with reverence, respect, and the constant reflection of how vital the Cross is to our salvation. Stewardship invites us to practice our faith with this deference and appreciation to the Lord, truly in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. © Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2025

**Pastoral Pondering** – As is the case with most of you, the shooting in Minneapolis has been heavy on my mind and heart these last days. In the face of tragedies like a shooting, the Catholic Church responds with a focus on prayer, support, and action rooted in the teachings of Christ's love and mercy.

1. Prayer and Solidarity: The Church calls for prayers for the victims, their families, and all affected by the tragedy. Prayer is seen as a vital means of seeking comfort, strength, and healing from God. The community is encouraged to come

together in solidarity, expressing compassion and support for those suffering. There seems to be a misunderstanding by some that the purpose for prayer is to keep bad things from happening, obviously, bad things happen, including the crucifixion and the martyrs. We pray to entreat God's help and for strength and perseverance within the reality of a fallen and broken world.

2. Pastoral Care and Support: Priests, religious, and lay ministers offer pastoral care to those impacted, providing spiritual guidance, counseling, and support. Catholic Charities and other Church-affiliated organizations often offer practical assistance to meet immediate needs.

3. Promotion of Peace and Justice: The Church advocates for addressing the root causes of violence through the promotion of peace, justice, and reconciliation. This involves calling for societal changes to reduce violence, promoting dialogue, and working towards policies that respect human dignity and foster a culture of life.

4. Encouragement of Forgiveness and Reconciliation: While recognizing the deep pain and injustice caused by such acts, the Church also encourages forgiveness as a path to healing and reconciliation, consistent with Christ's teachings on loving one's neighbor and praying for one's enemies.

5. Commitment to Change: The Church often participates in or supports initiatives aimed at creating safer communities, advocating for measures that address issues like gun violence, mental health, and social inequalities that may contribute to such tragedies.

Through these responses, the Church seeks to be a beacon of hope and a force for positive change in a world marred by suffering and violence.

## Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, September 14

As you sit in Mass today, you'll notice the altar dressed in red liturgical fabric instead of green. That's because instead of the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. As a Feast of the Lord, it takes precedence over Sundays in Ordinary Time, reminding us that the Cross stands at the very heart of our faith. The Church has honored this feast since the 4th century, when the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem was dedicated on the site of Jesus' death and Resurrection. St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, discovered the True Cross around that time. From then until now, the Church has lifted high the Cross—not as a relic of sorrow, but as the glorious sign of Christ's triumph over sin and death.

The color red this Sunday symbolizes both Christ's sacrifice and His victory. What once was an instrument of suffering has become the sign of salvation. As we gather, may we look upon the Cross not only as history, but as the living reminder of God's love. Truly, when we "lift high the Cross," we proclaim the power of Christ, who draws all people to Himself (cf. John 12:32).

## St. Helena and the Discovery of the True Cross

In the year 326 AD, St. Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine, traveled to Jerusalem and discovered three crosses at the site believed to be where Jesus was crucified. Not knowing which one was the True Cross, she sought a way to identify it. According to tradition, a sick man was brought to touch each cross. When he came into contact with one of them, he was miraculously healed. This was recognized as the Cross on which Jesus was crucified, the instrument of our salvation.

St. Helena's discovery reminds us that the Cross, once a symbol of suffering, is now a sign of triumph and hope. It is this Cross that the Church lifts up in celebration each year on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. If you go to the left transept, you can find a relic of St. Helena and several of the True Cross.



## 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  
Al Fischlein  
Joseph Fiore  
Tom Fox  
Alan Friedl & Family  
Maureen K. Frost  
Carmine Gallo  
Teri Gay  
Denny & Monica Golden  
Josette Grace  
Robert Graham

Hank Griffin  
John Grivizas  
Helen Haddad  
Kevin Herman Sr.  
Hannah Hopkins  
Frank Hunnicutt III  
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

To submit a prayer request, visit: [stmarknc.org/prayerchain](http://stmarknc.org/prayerchain)

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 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  
Paul Widman  
Carol Woodard  
Mary Jane Zimmerman

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Sunday, September 14

7:30 am † Dominick Belardo Jr.  
9 am St. Mark Parishioners  
11 am Adam Kennedy  
1 pm † Francisco & Teresa Escajadillo  
4:25 pm † Carol Anne Moran  
5 pm Juancisman Nuno

### Monday, September 15

7 am † Arthur and Margaret Hoar  
9 am † Roland Luze

### Tuesday, September 16

7 am † Paul Fortin  
9 am † Ruth Donovan

### Wednesday, September 17

7 am Joseph Cruz  
† Elizabeth Romeo  
6:30 pm † Andrea Olynick  
† Kim & Tina Ems

### Thursday, September 18

7 am † Bonnie Farrell  
9 am † Ruby Flax

### Friday, September 19

7 am † Margaret Mary Peggy Brewer  
9 am † David Cross  
7 pm Alejandro Alvarado

### Saturday, September 20

9 am † John Donahue  
5 pm † Private First Class Matthew Perez

### Sunday, September 21

7:30 am † Anthony Joseph Russo  
9 am † John Hughes  
11 am St. Mark Parishioners  
1 pm † Jesus Martinez & Miguel Diaz  
4:30 pm Cher Ferrouillet  
5 pm † Emelia Figueroa Leon

† Deceased



### 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 Rusciollelli

**Navy:** DCFN Matthew J Bixler Jr.; 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.

## READINGS

**Sun.** Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38;  
Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

**Mon.** Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows  
1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9; Jn 19:25-27 or  
Lk 2:33-35

**Tue.** Memorial of Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop and Martyrs  
1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6;  
Lk 7:11-17

**Wed.** 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 7:31-35

**Thu.** 1 Tm 4:12-16; Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10; Lk 7:36-50

**Fri.** 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20;  
Lk 8:1-3

**Sat.** Memorial of Saint Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest, and Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs  
1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 8:4-15

**Sun.** Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8; 1 Tm 2:1-8;  
Lk 16:1-13

## RESPECT LIFE

### Walking With Moms in Need: Diaper, Formula, and Wipe Drive!

*When: Sept. 13-21*

*Where: Leave donations in Narthex Bin*

We are excited to announce the relaunch of our Walking with Moms in Need ministry here at St. Mark! This beautiful initiative is part of our parish's commitment to walk alongside mothers and families facing challenging circumstances, offering not only our prayers but also practical support.

As we begin anew, we invite you to participate in our Diaper, Formula, and Wipe Drive from September 13–21. These essential items will provide immediate help and hope to moms in our community who often feel alone or overwhelmed.

We especially need diaper sizes 3-5 and Similac Baby Formula, although all sizes and brands are welcome.

Your generosity can make a life-changing difference—reminding every mother that she is not alone and that her parish family is here to support her and her child with love. Your donations will go to parishioners, local moms in need, and local agencies serving this community.

Please bring donations to the collection bin in the Narthex during the drive week. Together, let's live out Christ's call to "love one another" and surround moms and babies with the care they deserve.



### Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign

*When: Wed., Sept. 24-Sun., Nov. 2*

*Where: Abortion Centers in Charlotte*

Join us for prayer, fasting and community outreach to stop abortion! The Fall 2025 40 Days for Life campaign, a peaceful, prayerful and law-abiding campaign, starts on Wednesday, September 24, and ends Sunday, November 2, There will be two campaign locations in Charlotte this fall:

- Planned Parenthood 700 Torrence St., Charlotte, from 7 am to 7 pm Monday through Saturday.
- A Woman's Choice facility 421 N. Wendover Rd., Charlotte from 8 am to 8 pm, Monday through Saturday.

For more information go to [40DaysforLife.com](https://40DaysforLife.com). If you need more information on the Planned Parenthood location, please contact Maureen Barrett at [mbarrett25@gmail.com](mailto:mbarrett25@gmail.com) or 571-236-9583.

If you need more information on the Woman's Choice location, please contact Savannah O'Brien at 516-302-7112 or email at [charlotte40dfl@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte40dfl@gmail.com).

Please come! When even one person prays outside, the no show rate for abortions can go as high as 75%.

Go to [40DaysforLife.com/charlotte](https://40DaysforLife.com/charlotte) for more information and to sign up or just show up.

There will be a closing rally on Sunday, November 2, at 3 pm in front of the Charlotte Planned Parenthood facility.

### Walking with Moms in Need: Community Pregnancy Center 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Life

*When: Sat., Oct. 4 check-in 8:30 am | Walk begins at 9:30 am*

*Where: Langtree, 150 Landings Drive, Mooresville (Don't need to be present to participate.)*

Join the St. Mark Walking with Moms in Need (WWMIN) team to help raise the most money for the Community Pregnancy Center of Lake Norman. Event begins with a short opening program, followed by a 1.5-mile family-friendly walking course, and finishes with an announcement of the total amount raised and prizes being awarded.

#### HOW TO WALK WITH AND RAISE MONEY FOR THE ST. MARK WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED TEAM:

Register by visiting: [stmarknc.org/wwmin](https://stmarknc.org/wwmin) or scan code

Click on the "Walk for Life" link (if you didn't use code)

Click the "Give" button

Fill out the online form completely

Share this link with your friends on social media to raise more money

Show up with our WWMIN team on Saturday, October 4, 2025 at 8:30 am and get ready to walk!

(If you're unable to make the walk-in person, you can walk wherever you are.)

Have questions or need help? Go to [stmarknc.org/wwmin](https://stmarknc.org/wwmin) or [Beth@Zuhosky.com](mailto:Beth@Zuhosky.com).





## PARISH LIFE

### Join the Knights of Columbus Ladies' Auxiliary!

When: Mon., Sept 15, 6-7 pm

Where: Family Center Room 200



The Knights of Columbus Ladies' Auxiliary is a fun and supportive community of like-minded women. Our organization offers women a chance to form friendships, do the work of the parish, and support the mission and activities of the Knights of Columbus.

We raise funds through flower sales at Christmas, Mother's Day, and Easter to provide funding for the St. Joseph College seminarians and Daughters of the Virgin Mother sisters. We provide and sell baked goods at the annual Lenten Fish Fry, help the parish with hospitality at receptions, and run the annual children's Cupcake Walk at SeptemberFest.

Our meetings always include a meal, hospitality, and time to socialize plus we have an annual Christmas party and end-of-year dinner. All women of the parish are invited to our first meeting for the 2025-26 year. We will have a potluck dinner. Meetings only last for one hour, however we generally stay and socialize for a while. Please consider joining this wonderful group of women whose mission is to help the community of St. Mark Parish.

Information: MaryJane Zimmerman, email  
[stmarkkocladiesauxiliary2011@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkkocladiesauxiliary2011@gmail.com)

### AWAKEN: A Parish Encounter with Theology of the Body

*Discover who you are and what you were created for.*

As part of the Made for More event we hosted last January, St. Mark has been granted six months of access (Aug-Feb) to the Theology of the Body Institute's Parish Platform.

This platform contains a rich library of beautiful resources for individuals and families, helping us better understand God's plan for our lives, our relationships, and our ultimate purpose. This Fall, our parish Small Group study will draw directly from these inspiring materials.

If you would like to gain access to this platform for personal or family use, please contact: Paul Laskowski at  
[paul.laskowski@stmarknc.org](mailto:paul.laskowski@stmarknc.org).

### Save the Date: Coat, Blanket and Toy Drive

When: Sat., & Sun., Oct. 11 and 12

Where: Family Center Parish Hall

Just a friendly reminder to set aside any gently used or new items for the annual St. Mark Coat/Blanket/Toy Drive! We will collect items in the Kerin Family Center on Saturday and Sunday, October 11 and 12. We are collecting coats for children (birth to 12), teens, women and men; blankets and comforters; and toys, games, puzzles, books for all ages (birth to teens). We will also take bikes. No clothes please!

Tax receipts available.

Thank you in advance for helping those in need in our community! Questions:

Katherine Ducey

[duceyfive@yahoo.com](mailto:duceyfive@yahoo.com)



Fill us at daybreak  
with your *kindness*

*Psalm 90:14*

Support the Eucharistic Congress

## Second Collection

September 13-14



To donate, give through your parish or  
online at [goeucharist.com](http://goeucharist.com)

# ADORATION

## Ten Reasons to Make a Holy Hour According to Fulton J. Sheen (Part Two)

By: Donna Fodale/ Adoration Coordinator

### 5. We'll Practice What We Preach

The Holy Hour will make us practice what we preach. "Here is an image," he said, "of the kingdom of heaven: there was once a king, who held a marriage feast for his son and sent out his servants with a summons to all those whom he had invited to the wedding; but they would not come" (Matt. 22:2-3).

It was written of Our Lord that He "began to do and to teach" (Acts 1:1). The person who practices the Holy Hour will find that when he teaches, the people will say of him as of the Lord: "All . . . were astonished at the gracious words which came from his mouth" (Luke 4:22).

### 6. Helps Us Make Reparations

The Holy Hour helps us make reparation for the sins of the world and for our own sins. When the Sacred Heart appeared to St. Margaret Mary, it was His Heart, and not His head, that was crowned with thorns. It was Love that was hurt. The sins of the world are our sins as if we had committed them. If they caused Our Lord a bloody sweat, to the point that He upbraided His disciples for failing to stay with Him an hour, shall we with Cain ask: "Is it for me to watch over my brother?" (Gen. 4:9).

### 7. Reduces Liability to Temptation

It reduces our liability to temptation and weakness. Presenting ourselves before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is like putting a tubercular patient in good air and sunlight. The virus of our sins cannot long exist in the face of the Light of the world. "Always I can keep the Lord within sight; always he is at my right hand, to make me stand firm" (Ps. 15:8).

Our sinful impulses are prevented from arising through the barrier erected each day by the Holy Hour. Our will becomes disposed to goodness with little conscious effort on our part. Satan, the roaring lion, was not permitted to put forth his hand to touch righteous Job until he received permission (Job 1:12). Certainly, then, will the Lord withhold serious fall from him who watches (1 Cor. 10:13). With full confidence in his Eucharistic Lord, the person will have a spiritual resiliency. He will bounce back

quickly after a falling: "Fall I, it is but to rise again, sit I in darkness, the Lord will be my light. The Lord's displeasure I must bear, I that have sinned against him, till at last, he admits my plea, and grants redress" (Micah 7:8-9).

The Lord will be favorable even to the weakest of us, if He finds us at His feet in adoration, disposing ourselves to receive divine favors. No sooner had Saul of Tarsus, the persecutor, humbled himself before his Maker than God sent a special messenger to his relief, telling him that "even now he is at his prayers" (Acts 9:11). Even the person who has fallen can expect reassurance if he watches and prays.

### 8. Our Holy Hour is Our Personal Prayer

The Holy Hour is a personal prayer. The person who limits himself strictly to his official obligation is like the union man who downs tools the moment the whistle blows. Love begins when duty finishes. It is a giving of the cloak when the coat is taken. It is walking the extra mile. Does the person who loves His Lord have time for other activities before he performs acts of love "above and beyond the call of duty"? Does the patient love the physician who charges for every call, or does he begin to love when the physician says: "I just dropped by to see how you were"?

### 9. Keeps Us from Seeking an Escape

Meditation keeps us from seeking an external escape from our worries and miseries.

No outward escape, neither pleasure, drink, friends, or keeping busy, is an answer. The soul cannot "fly upon a horse"; he must take "wings" to a place where his "life is hidden away . . . with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3).

### 10. The Holy Hour is Necessary

Finally, the Holy Hour is necessary for the Church. The history of the world since the Incarnation is the Way of the Cross. The rise of nations and their fall remain related to the

kingdom of God. We cannot understand the mystery of God's government, for it is the "sealed book" of Revelation. John wept when he saw it (Rev. 5:4). He could not understand why this moment of prosperity and that hour of

adversity. The sole requirement is the venture of faith, and the reward is the depths of intimacy for those who cultivate His friendship. To abide with Christ is spiritual fellowship, as He insisted on the solemn and sacred night of the Last Supper, the moment He chose to give us the Eucharist: "You have only to live on in me, and I will live on in you" (John 15:4). He wants us in His dwelling: "That you, too, may be where I am" (John 14:3).

Choose an hour that works with your schedule, register at: [www.stmarknc.org/adoration](http://www.stmarknc.org/adoration)

To be a sub please contact: [donna.fodale@stmarknc.org](mailto:donna.fodale@stmarknc.org)

A decorative border featuring playing cards (Jack of Hearts, Queen of Spades, King of Clubs, Ace of Diamonds) and a heart symbol.

**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.

**Young at Heart Ministry**





## Coming Up at Saint Mark

### 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

### Thursday, October 23

Estate Planning Seminar

### 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

### Saturday, November 15

Mass of Consolation

### Wednesday, November 19

Young at Heart Luncheon

### Sunday, November 30

Advent Begins, St. Nicholas Brunch

### Saturday, December 6

First Saturday Dinner

### Monday, December 8

Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation, Offices closed

### Saturday, December 13

Holiday Celebration

### Thursday, December 25

Christmas, Holy Day, Offices closed

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

## PARISH LIFE



### Meet the New Assisting Director for Children's Choir

We proudly announce the addition of a new Assisting Director for our sacred music program. The children's choir, called Pueri Cantores, is now under the direction of Lorie Gabriel. She has been a music teacher within the Diocese of Charlotte for 18 years and has been a music educator for 27 years.

A few years ago, she became a new Catholic and is now a member of St. Matthew Catholic Church with

her husband Chris. Lorie is a mom, and her only child, Nate, passed away unexpectedly at age seven, two years ago. She actively participates in a wonderful organization called Kindermourn.

In addition to her love of our Lord and of music, she loves animals, reading, making jewelry, indoor planting, Harry Potter, and Star Wars.

Lorie has made working with children her life's work and is passionate about sharing the joy and love of Jesus through music. She is very excited to share the gifts she has been given by God to help our children grow in their knowledge of music, and of the Lord.

If you are interested in having your child sing in the St. Mark Pueri Cantores, please email her at [LMGabriel@stmarkcatholic.net](mailto:LMGabriel@stmarkcatholic.net). Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, 4:30 pm-5:30 pm in the Parish Hall and the children will sing on Sundays, at the 11 am Masses.



### Meet the New Middle School Youth Ministry Coordinator

We are excited to welcome Olivia DiGiovanni as our new Middle School Youth Ministry Coordinator. Olivia grew up Catholic, and it was during her own middle school years that she truly fell in love with her faith and began building a personal relationship with Jesus.

Olivia graduated from Franciscan University in May 2024, where she had many opportunities to minister to people of all ages. She also spent two summers serving as a

camp counselor at a Catholic youth and family camp in Colorado, where she primarily ministered to middle schoolers. Serving others surrounded by the beauty of the Rocky Mountains was one of her greatest joys.

She has been a parishioner at St. Mark for over a year and has already been active in parish life, serving as a Lady in Fidelis and assisting our public relations coordinator with photography. Olivia also owns a small Catholic photography business specializing in weddings, engagements, family portraits, and more.

Olivia is eager to step into this new role and looks forward to walking alongside our middle school youth as they grow in their faith. Olivia shares, "I am so excited for classes to start! Know that I am praying for each one of you."

### Priest Retirement Collection – September 20-21

Next weekend, September 20-21, we will be collecting for our Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection. The amount of our assessment is \$120,953, so please give prayerful thought to your proportionate contribution and be as generous as possible. We will have a second collection, you may donate via Online Giving website at [www.osvhub.com/stmarknc/giving/funds/priest-s-retirement-benefits](http://www.osvhub.com/stmarknc/giving/funds/priest-s-retirement-benefits), or use the QR code. Your contribution to this important collection is a way to show your gratitude to the priests who serve you so faithfully.







## MONTHLY RESPECT LIFE MASS AND PRAYER VIGIL

Please join us for Mass followed by a peaceful prayer vigil at Planned Parenthood, 700 S. Torrence Street, Charlotte.

**Friday, October 17**  
**Saint Mark Mass, 9 am**  
**Peaceful Prayer Vigil**  
**10:15 -11:15**

We will caravan to Charlotte for the Rosary Vigil returning to Saint Mark by 11:45 am or earlier depending on the temps.

Info: [respect.life@stmarknc.org](mailto:respect.life@stmarknc.org)

## STEWARDSHIP



### Estate Planning 101: For parents, professionals, and everyone in between.

Do you want to:

- Provide security for your family and loved ones?
- Remember loved ones in a tangible way?
- Designate who will manage your estate?
- Reduce estate taxes and administrative expenses?
- Coordinate estate planning with your overall financial plan?

St. Mark will host an **Estate Planning Seminar on Thursday, October 23 at 6:30 pm** in the Parish Hall.

An estate attorney, along with members of the Diocesan Planned Giving Office, will discuss the basics of estate planning. The goal is to provide information and insights which will ensure your legacy while safeguarding your family and loved ones. Bring your questions and learn more about this important topic. Light refreshments will be served.



Use the QR code to register for the seminar.

Contact: Karen Donahue at [karen.donahue@stmarknc.org](mailto:karen.donahue@stmarknc.org) or 704-948-0231 for more information.

## ONLINE GIVING

Planned  
Proportionate  
Consistent



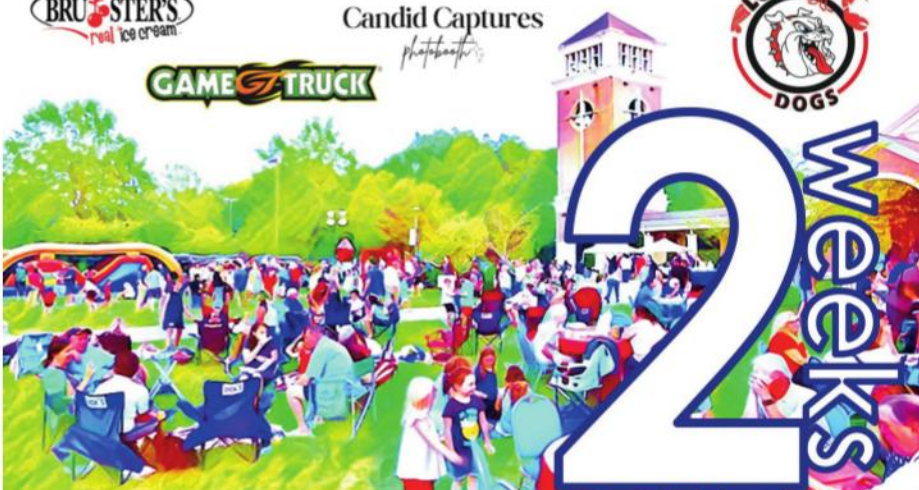
# Countdown to SeptemberFest 2025 September 27, 6-9 pm

## Parish-Wide Family Social!

DJ Dance Party•Game Truck•Food Trucks  
Beer and Wine Tent•Cupcake Walk•Inflatables•Bingo  
Photo Booth•Cornhole•Children Crafts•  
Face Painting•Ice Cream•Kona Ice



Candid Captures  
photography





## STEWARDSHIP

### Stewardship Spotlight on Young Adult Ministry

If you are 21 -39 and looking for ways to connect with other faithful, our Young Adult Ministry would love to have you join them. Activities include both group study and social events. This group may be especially helpful for those new to the parish or otherwise looking to build new friendships.

The best way to learn about upcoming events for this ministry is through their GroupMe address: [https://groupme.com/join\\_group/87871689/ffPiyWbp](https://groupme.com/join_group/87871689/ffPiyWbp) or by scanning the QR code.

Contact ministry leader Sean Meier at [seanmeier1@gmail.com](mailto:seanmeier1@gmail.com) if you have any questions about this group.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

### LIFE NIGHT SERIES: **BACK TO THE GARDEN**

The cup of the New Covenant, which Jesus anticipated when he offered himself at the Last Supper, is afterwards accepted by him from his Father's hands in his agony in the garden at Gethsemani, making himself "obedient unto death." CCC 612



### **PART III: GARDEN OF AGONY**



"Then the LORD God said to the snake... I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; They will strike at your head, while you strike at their heel." Genesis 3:14-15

**9/14. ST. MARK PARISH HALL. 6-8PM**

"Then going out he went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him... After withdrawing about a stone's throw from them and kneeling, he prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done"... He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground." Luke 22:39,41-42,44.

### *High School Youth Ministry: An Open Letter from Gus Free, High School Ministry*

**Coordinator** — Welcome to High School Ministry at St. Mark!

Our mission is to take everything that your teens have learned so far in Faith Formation, and to help them to turn that knowledge into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We also strive to promote and provide an environment where teens can be around other like-minded Catholic teens, and have a chance to just have fun, and escape the many cares and worries of their everyday lives. We meet (most) Sunday nights from 6-8 pm and always serve dinner. Our Sunday meetings are called Life Nights. High School Ministry at St. Mark is open to ALL high school teens. Please do not hesitate to email me with any questions!

Gus

### Want to receive message notifications?

We use the REMIND app to message parents and teens weekly about activities, reminders, or schedule changes. To sign up, download the Remind App, and type in the class code **smhsym2025**.

### Other Ways to Stay Connected!

**Instagram:** @stmarkncyouth

**Sunday Bulletin** - Updates Every Sunday

**Email List:** [augustine.free@stmarknc.org](mailto:augustine.free@stmarknc.org)



# SEPTEMBER EVENTS

## ST. MARK YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

### JOIN US AT THESE COMING EVENTS!

**SEP 14**

**MASS AND COFFEE**  
HARVEST ARTISAN CAFE | 9 AM

**SEP 20**

**GAME NIGHT**  
PARISH HOUSE | 4 PM - 8 PM

**SEP 23**

**HOLY HOUR**  
ST MARK CHAPEL | 7 PM

**SEP 26**

**SEPTEMBERFEST**  
ST MARK | 6PM - 9PM

INFO AND JOIN OUR GROUP MC:  
[STMARKNC.ORG/YOUNG-ADULT-GROUP](http://STMARKNC.ORG/YOUNG-ADULT-GROUP)



# FAMILY MINISTRY



## Word Bank

GREGORY  
MATTHEW  
VINCENT  
PADRE PIO

JEROME  
ARCHANGELS  
TERESA



View September newsletter to help solve the crossword puzzle.



## Down ↓

1. Gospel writer, a former tax collector. (7)
2. Saint who bore the wounds of Christ and was known for his gift of healing. (9)
3. Known as the "Apostle of Charity." (7)
6. Doctor of the Church who translated the Bible into Latin. (6)

Art Work by Anna Morelli

## Across →

4. Messengers of God, including Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. (10)
5. Known for her great love for the poor; founder of the Missionaries of Charity. (6)
7. Pope, Doctor of the Church, and founder of Gregorian chant. (7)



## SAINT MARK FAMILY MINISTRY

*Saint Feast Days in September*

JOIN THE FAMILY MINISTRY FOR

# WINGS & TRIVIA

**Saturday, October 4**  
6:15 - 9PM

Free Register Now!

Registration Closes 9/30!

Bring Your Fully-Charged Phone for Trivia with Kahoot!

Menu: Chicken wings, chicken nuggets, carrots & celery, pizza, dessert & drinks!

# PRAY & PLAY

**SELECT TUESDAYS**  
3-4:30 PM

Please join us in the Parish Hall for prayer and time for kids to play and families to grow in fellowship.



ALL AGES & STAGES WELCOME



Pray & Play  
Sept 23  
Oct 7, 21  
Nov 4, 18  
Dec 9

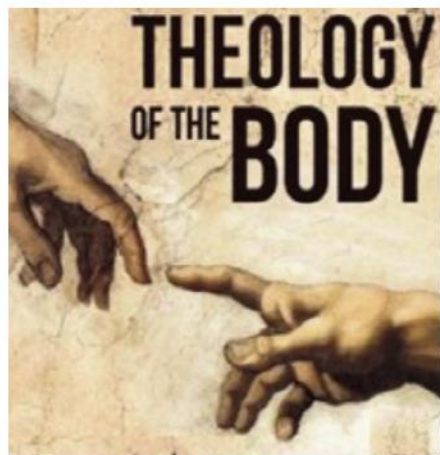


# Small Groups

growing disciples. connecting lives. building community

## Fall 2025 Small Groups: An Introduction to The Theology of the Body by Christopher West

Registration now Open! Study is 10 weeks long.



The Theology of the Body is a series of teachings by Pope John Paul II that explore what it means to be human—male and female—created in the image of God. Far from being abstract theology, it is deeply practical: it reveals how our bodies, our relationships, and even our daily struggles reflect God's plan of love.

At its heart, Theology of the Body answers questions we all ask: Who am I? Why am I here? What is love? How can I find lasting happiness?

The teaching begins with the simple truth that our bodies are not just biological machines but part of our spiritual identity. They speak a "language" of love, showing us that we are made for communion—both with God and with one another.

This is not just for the young or for those preparing for marriage. It speaks to every stage of life, because the call to love never ends. Whether single, married, widowed, or consecrated, every person's body and vocation tell the story of God's love. In later years, when life experience deepens our understanding, these teachings can bring new peace, healing, and joy.

John Paul II's vision is not about rules but about rediscovering the beauty of being human. It is an invitation—for all ages—to see our lives as a gift and to live love as God intended.

Cost is \$10 registration and \$5 for materials, follow the QR code or go to the website at [www.stmarknc.org/small-groups](http://www.stmarknc.org/small-groups).

The videos are from the "Awaken" platform from the Theology of the Body Institute. Contact Paul Laskowski with further questions: [paul.laskowski@stmarknc.org](mailto:paul.laskowski@stmarknc.org)



*See in every human  
face the face of Christ*  
POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

## What Is Small Groups?

### Definition & Purpose:

Small Groups at St. Mark are intimate faith-sharing communities, typically consisting of 6–12 members, where participants come together to discuss faith, reflect on the weekly message, and support each other in their spiritual journey.

### Structure & Activities:

Groups may participate in parish-offered studies or choose their own during key seasons such as Summer, Fall, and Lent. These gatherings are great ways to build community and grow in faith.

### Why Join a Small Group?

Small Groups offer more than study—they create belonging. In a parish as large as St. Mark, it's easy to feel anonymous, but small groups make the parish feel like family. They provide a place to grow in faith, form friendships, and be supported in life's joys and struggles.

As the National Catholic Register points out, small groups transform "large parishes into communities of communities." They give people a chance to be known by name, to share faith on a personal level, and to strengthen their relationship with Christ and His Church. Many parishioners have found that belonging to a small group makes coming to Mass even more meaningful—because they know the faces and the stories around them.

### Participation & Leadership:

You can browse existing groups and register, or if none fit your schedule or interests, you're encouraged to start your own, provided you meet the parish's Safe Environment requirements.

Prospective Small Group leaders can express interest through a Small-Group Leader Form, indicating preferences such as meeting time, group size, childcare availability, or demographic focus.

For more info, scan the QR code to the left or go to [www.stmarknc.org/small-groups](http://www.stmarknc.org/small-groups).





ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

# CONCERT OF SACRED CHORAL MUSIC

BENEFITING THE  
30TH ANNIVERSARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

A beautiful concert of sacred choral music  
presented by the St Thomas Aquinas  
Adult and Children's Choirs



**FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS**  
The St. Joseph College Seminary Quartet  
Fr. Matthew Kauth, *Violin*  
Fr. Brian Becker, *Cello*  
Matthew Sie, *Clarinet*  
Fr. Kolbe Murrey, *Violin*

Please join us after the concert for a wine, cheese, and dessert reception.  
We will also have a special presentation about the renovation project  
and a chance to pledge your financial support for the capital campaign!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH, 7:30 PM  
ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1400 SUTHER RD. CHARLOTTE



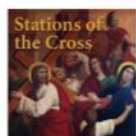
## This Week on Formed

Week of September 14, 2025



### The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Seven Sorrows of Mary is a traditional Catholic devotion featuring meditations on sorrowful episodes in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Join us in prayer as we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.



### Stations of the Cross by Saint Alphonsus Liguori

The Augustine Institute presents a beautiful meditation on the Stations of the Cross by Saint Alphonsus Liguori, narrated by Dr. Christopher Blum. This prayerful reflection is accompanied by the Schola Cantorum, chanting the traditional Catholic hymn Stabat Mater to aid your prayer.



### The Seven Sorrows of Mary | Brother Francis

Join Brother Francis as he prays and explores the Seven Sorrows of Mary Devotion!

Our parish has a Formed subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

## AROUND THE DIOCESE



## domesticchurch UNITED STATES

*Experience the power of  
intentional marriage formation  
within a Catholic small-group community.*

## Evangelization Retreat

*Grow in faith with your spouse, improve your marriage, and form deep relationships with other married couples in your faith community.*

*Domestic Church can help you find the tools, friendships, and resources to live your vocation with your spouse, together as a couple.*

**October 24 - 26 / Friday - Sunday**

Friday 6-8pm Saturday 8am-7pm Sunday 8am-4pm

**Belmont Abbey College / \$125 couple**

Includes Sunday Mass, meals Saturday & Sunday, and all retreat materials.

**Register**



<https://domesticchurch.regfox.com/evangelization-retreat-nc--1025>

Contact **Patrick & Jessica Kely**  
**region14@domesticchurchfamilies.com**

Nursing infants are welcome. No childcare available.

A limited number of scholarships are available. For an application, please email [finances@domesticchurchfamilies.com](mailto:finances@domesticchurchfamilies.com)

No overnight lodging options at Belmont Abbey College.

Hotel and VRBO/B&B options are available in the Belmont/Gastonia area if needed.

**domesticchurchfamilies.com**

## More Than Just A Weekend



*Retrouvaille*

*A Lifeline for Married Couples*

**[www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.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

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

## Sacrament Admin/Adoration

Donna Fodale

donna.fodale@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 104

## Director of Sacred Music

Manuel Mora

manuel.mora@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 130

## Director of Finance

Richard Cataldo

richard.cataldo@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 116

## Hispanic Ministry Coordinator

Emilio Gómez

emilio.gomez@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 117

## Stewardship Coordinator

Karen Donahue

karen.donahue@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 136

## Calendar Management

Sue Bruce

sue.bruce@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 123

## Director of Evangelization and

### Catechesis

Paul Laskowski

paul.laskowski@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 121

## 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

Olivia DiGiovanni

olivia.digiovanni@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](http://stmarknc.org/livestream)

Please use Online Giving or mail in your offertory

[stmarknc.org/Online-Giving](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:hackhouse@bellsouth.net); [ccli.org](http://ccli.org)

Elisabeth Laskowski; Creighton Model;

[creightonmodel@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://benotafraid.net)

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

Reversal 877-558-0333 or [abortionpillreversal.com](http://abortionpillreversal.com)

## Parishioner Assistance

### Financial:

St. Vincent De Paul Society:

[Emily.Bixler@stmarknc.org](mailto:Emily.Bixler@stmarknc.org)

### Life Crisis: Stephen Ministry

[stmarknc.org/stephen-ministry](http://stmarknc.org/stephen-ministry)

### Food Insecurity:

Parish Office

[stmarknc.org/assistance](http://stmarknc.org/assistance) or

[Emily.Bixler@stmarknc.org](mailto: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](mailto:divorce.support@stmarknc.org)





Apoya el Congreso Eucarístico

# Segunda Colecta

13-14 de Septiembre



Para donar, hazlo a través de tu  
parroquia o en línea en [goeucharist.com](http://goeucharist.com)



### Exaltación de la Santa Cruz

Uno de los aspectos de nuestra mayordomía debe ser el deseo de comprender y apreciar el significado de muchas de las celebraciones, fiestas y solemnidades que nosotros, como católicos, observamos y experimentamos. La fiesta de la

Exaltación de la Santa Cruz de hoy celebra tres eventos históricos: el hallazgo de la Vera Cruz por Santa Elena; la construcción y dedicación de iglesias por el hijo de Helena, el emperador Constantino, en el sitio del Monte Calvario, donde Cristo fue crucificado; y la devolución de la Cruz a Jerusalén por el emperador Heraclio II.

Como católicos, debemos recordar la cruz cada vez que hacemos la señal de la cruz. Hacemos esa señal a menudo y casi siempre al principio y al final de nuestras oraciones. Sin embargo, esa señal en sí misma es una oración. A veces lo hacemos automáticamente sin considerar realmente su significado e importancia. En lugar de una señal apresurada, debemos hacer la Señal de la Cruz con reverencia, respeto y la reflexión constante de cuán vital es la Cruz para nuestra salvación. La mayordomía nos invita a practicar nuestra fe con esta deferencia y aprecio al Señor, verdaderamente en el Nombre del Padre, del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo. © Consultores de mayordomía católica, 2025

**Reflexión pastoral:** como es el caso de la mayoría de ustedes, el tiroteo en Minneapolis ha sido pesado en mi mente y corazón estos últimos días. Frente a tragedias como un tiroteo, la Iglesia Católica responde con un enfoque en la oración, el apoyo y la acción arraigados en las enseñanzas del amor y la misericordia de Cristo.

1. Oración y solidaridad: La Iglesia llama a orar por las víctimas, sus familias y todos los afectados por la tragedia. La oración se ve como un medio vital para buscar consuelo, fortaleza y sanidad de Dios. Se anima a la comunidad a unirse en solidaridad, expresando compasión y apoyo a los que sufren. Parece haber un malentendido por parte de algunos de que el propósito de la oración es evitar que sucedan cosas malas, obviamente, suceden cosas malas, incluida la crucifixión y los mártires. Oramos para suplicar la ayuda de Dios y por fortaleza y perseverancia dentro de la realidad de un mundo caído y quebrantado.

2. Cuidado y apoyo pastoral: Los sacerdotes, religiosos y ministros laicos ofrecen atención pastoral a los afectados, brindando orientación espiritual, asesoramiento y apoyo. Caridades Católicas y otras organizaciones afiliadas a la Iglesia a menudo ofrecen asistencia práctica para satisfacer las necesidades inmediatas.

3. Promoción de la paz y la justicia: La Iglesia aboga por abordar las causas fundamentales de la violencia a través de la promoción de la paz, la justicia y la reconciliación. Esto implica pedir cambios sociales para reducir la violencia, promover el diálogo y trabajar hacia políticas que respeten la dignidad humana y fomenten una cultura de la vida.

4. Fomento del perdón y la reconciliación: Si bien reconoce el profundo dolor y la injusticia causados por tales actos, la Iglesia también fomenta el perdón como un camino hacia la curación y la reconciliación, de acuerdo con las enseñanzas de Cristo sobre amar al prójimo y orar por los enemigos.

5. Compromiso con el cambio: La Iglesia a menudo participa o apoya iniciativas destinadas a crear comunidades más seguras, abogando por medidas que aborden problemas como la violencia armada, la salud mental y las desigualdades sociales que pueden contribuir a tales tragedias.

A través de estas respuestas, la Iglesia busca ser un faro de esperanza y una fuerza para un cambio positivo en un mundo marcado por el sufrimiento y la violencia.



### Caminando con Madres

### Necesitadas: ¡Colecta de Pañales, Fórmula y Toallitas!

*Cuándo: 13 al 21 de septiembre*

*Dónde: Deja tus donaciones en el contenedor del Nártex*

¡Nos complace anunciar el relanzamiento de nuestro ministerio Caminando con Madres Necesitadas aquí en San Marcos! Esta hermosa iniciativa forma parte del compromiso de nuestra parroquia de acompañar a madres y familias que enfrentan circunstancias difíciles, ofreciendo no solo nuestras oraciones, sino también apoyo práctico.

Al comenzar de nuevo, te invitamos a participar en nuestra colecta de pañales, fórmula y toallitas del 13 al 21 de septiembre. Estos artículos esenciales proporcionarán ayuda y esperanza inmediatas a las mamás de nuestra comunidad que con frecuencia se sienten solas o abrumadas.

Necesitamos especialmente pañales talla 3-5 y fórmula Similac para bebés, aunque todas las tallas y marcas son bienvenidas.

Tu generosidad puede hacer una diferencia que cambia vidas, recordándole a cada madre que no está sola y que su familia parroquial está aquí para apoyarla a ella y a su hijo con amor. Tus donaciones se destinarán a feligreses, mamás locales necesitadas y agencias locales que sirven a nuestra comunidad.

Por favor, lleva tus donaciones al contenedor en el Nártex durante la semana de la colecta. Juntos, vivamos el llamado de Cristo a "amaros los unos a los otros" y rodeemos a madres y bebés con el cuidado que merecen.

### La Colecta de la Jubilación y los Beneficios de los Sacerdotes - 20-21 de septiembre

La contribución de nuestra parroquia para la Colecta de la Jubilación y los Beneficios de los Sacerdotes ha sido tasada en \$120,953. Por favor sea generoso en esta colecta que tendrá lugar el próximo fin de semana. Los sobres especiales para esta colecta están disponibles en su paquete de sobres para las colectas dominicales o en la entrada de la iglesia o en la oficina parroquial.








**THE SOCIETY FOR FINANCIAL AWARENESS**


**A4 WEALTH ADVISORS, LLC**  
 IKN FINANCIAL CENTER  
 16140 Northcross Drive | Huntersville, NC 28078  
 office: 704-509-1141

- Comprehensive Retirement Planning
- Wealth Management
- Income Planning
- Medicare Consulting
- Insurance Planning
- Long-Term Care Planning
- Social Security Maximization

**John Balcerzak**  
 Investment Advisor  
 Representative,  
 Certified Financial  
 Planner™



**Shauntae Funkhouser**  
 Investment Advisor  
 Representative,  
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