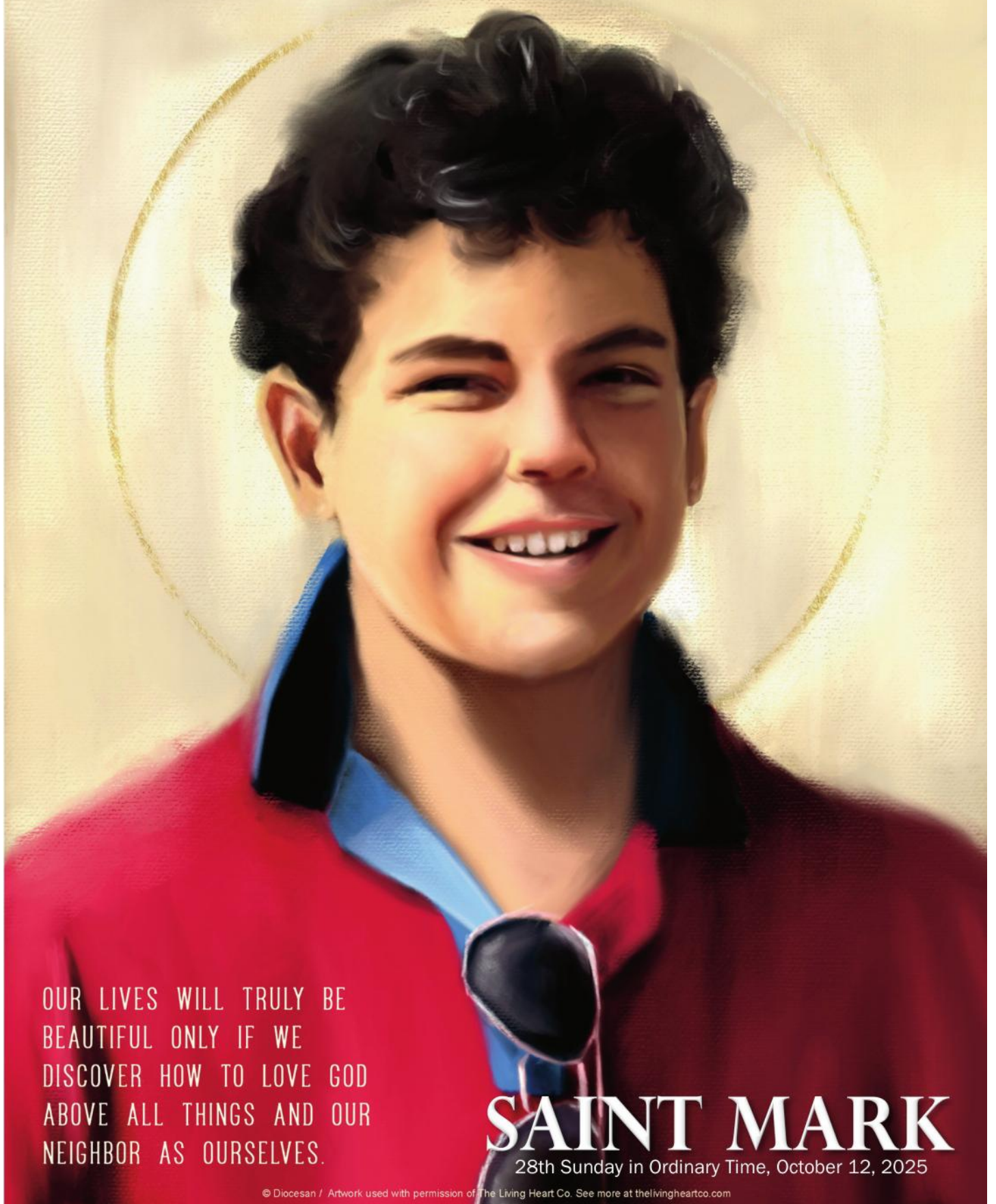


SAINT CARLO ACUTIS



OUR LIVES WILL TRULY BE
BEAUTIFUL ONLY IF WE
DISCOVER HOW TO LOVE GOD
ABOVE ALL THINGS AND OUR
NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES.

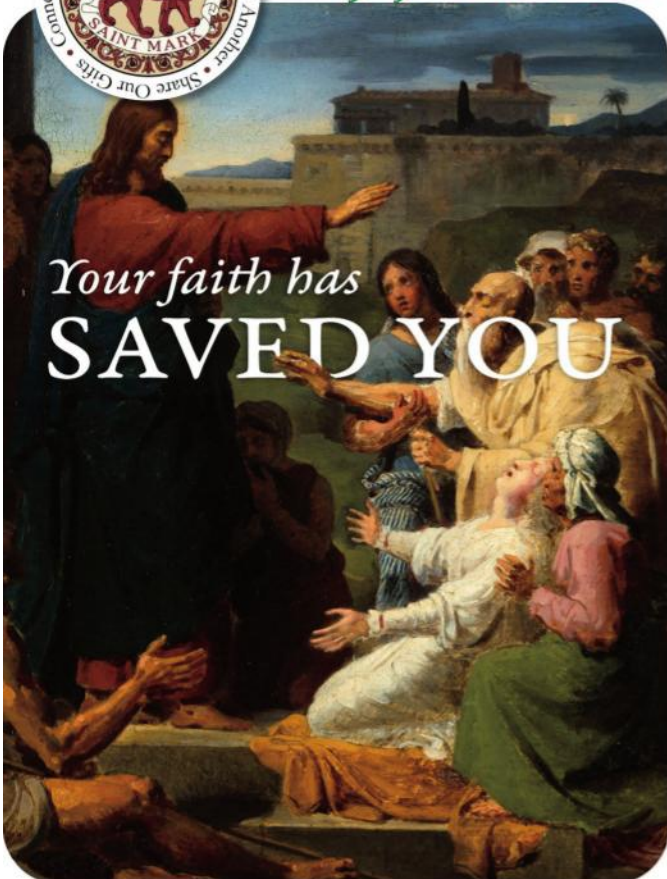
SAINT MARK

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 12, 2025

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Welcome to St. Mark



Today we celebrate 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings can be found on page 1194. 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.



ONLINE GIVING

Planned
Proportionate
Consistent



Thank you for
sharing your gifts.
You may give
online at:
[stmarknc.org/
online-giving](http://stmarknc.org/online-giving)

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: 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Gratitude is the key to a stewardship way of life. Today's readings demonstrate the power and vital importance of gratitude in the life of the Christian disciple, for gratitude leads us to worship God who offers us salvation.

We see the power of gratitude on display in the Gospel passage from Luke after Jesus heals ten lepers. "And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned." Only one of the ten

recognized the tremendous blessing he had received from Jesus and returned to thank him. While it's easy to feel indignant at the failure of the nine others to return and thank Jesus, how often do we fail to recognize the blessings, answered prayers, and healings (both physical and spiritual) that the Lord showers upon us, day and night?

The truth is that our very lives and every breath we take are His gift to us. But we can get so caught up in the stresses and distractions of daily life that we lose touch with this truth.

The Samaritan reacts to his gift of healing with the proper response to our loving God. Recognizing what he had just received from the Lord, he "returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked Him." He was grateful for what God had done for him, and this gratitude led to worship.

And because of this response, Jesus offered him a far more precious gift than physical healing: He offered him the gift of salvation. "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

Too often, we hear the phrase, "Count your blessings," and write it off as nothing more than a trite saying. Today's Gospel shows us otherwise. Gratitude is powerful. It deepens our faith in God and leads us to fitting worship of Him. ©Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2025

Pastoral Pondering – Over the past few weeks, St. Mark has had funeral after funeral. As we approach November, I thought it might be helpful to discuss the Catholic approach to death and dying. Rather than seeing the end of the earthly journey as something to be dreaded and avoided, Catholics approach death and dying with a blend of spiritual practices, rituals, and theological beliefs rooted in their faith, emphasizing hope in eternal life, God's mercy, and the communal support of the Church. Here's a concise overview:

1. Theological Perspective on Death

Eternal Life and Resurrection: Catholics believe death is not the end but a transition to eternal life. Based on Christ's resurrection, they hold that the soul separates from the body at death, awaiting the final resurrection when body and soul are reunited (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 989–1001).

Judgment and Afterlife: After death, each person faces a particular judgment, determining their eternal destiny: heaven (often via purification in purgatory), or hell if unrepentant of serious sin (CCC 1021–1022). This belief shapes their approach to preparing for death.

2. Preparation for Death

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: This sacrament is administered to those seriously ill or near death, offering spiritual healing, forgiveness of sins, and strength. It's often paired with Confession and Holy Communion (called Viaticum, meaning "food for the journey") to prepare the soul for eternity (CCC 1499–1532).

Prayer and Repentance: Catholics are encouraged to reflect on their lives, seek forgiveness through Confession, and entrust themselves to God's mercy. Prayers like the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet are common for the dying and their families.

Spiritual Support: Priests, family, or Catholic communities often pray with the dying, offering comfort through Scripture, hymns, or the Commendation of the Dying, a ritual to entrust the soul to God.

3. Rituals and Practices After Death

Funeral Rites: The Catholic funeral consists of three parts:

Vigil (Wake): A time for family and friends to gather, pray (often the Rosary), and share memories.

Funeral Mass/Mass of Christian Burial: A liturgy celebrating Christ's resurrection and praying for the deceased's soul, often emphasizing hope over despair.

Committal: The burial or cremation (permitted since 1963, though the Church prefers burial) with prayers entrusting the deceased to God.

Masses for the Dead: Catholics offer Masses for the deceased, especially for souls in purgatory, believing these prayers aid their purification (CCC 1032).

4. Grieving and Community Support

Hope in Resurrection: Grief is acknowledged, but Catholics are encouraged to focus on the hope of eternal life, which tempers sorrow (1 Thessalonians 4:13–14).

Community Role: The Church community supports the bereaved through prayers, Masses, and practical help, reinforcing that death is a shared journey within the "communion of saints."

Memento Mori: The tradition of "remembering death" encourages Catholics to live virtuously, keeping eternity in mind, often through practices like praying for the dead on All Souls' Day (November 2).

5. Cultural Variations

While core beliefs and rituals are universal, cultural practices vary. For example:

In Hispanic Catholic communities, *Día de los Muertos* blends indigenous traditions with Catholic prayers, honoring the dead with altars and Masses.

In some European traditions, month's mind Masses (a Mass one month after death) are common to continue praying for the deceased.

6. Practical Aspects

End-of-Life Decisions: The Church teaches that life must be respected, but extraordinary medical measures aren't required if they're burdensome or futile (CCC 2278). Palliative care is supported to alleviate suffering while respecting natural death.

Advance Directives: Catholics are encouraged to prepare advance directives aligned with Church teaching, ensuring their care respects their faith.

7. Comfort in Faith

Catholics draw comfort from Scriptures like John 11:25 ("I am the resurrection and the life") and prayers like *Eternal Rest* ("Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord"). The belief in purgatory offers hope that loved ones can be aided through prayer, even after death, and reminds us that death never has the last word.



FREE ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

Thursday, October 23, 6:30 pm

Love, Legacy and Peace of Mind:

Estate Planning for Families

Join us for a practical and informative seminar designed for busy adults who want to protect what matters most. Whether you're raising children, caring for aging parents, managing a home, or building your career, now is the right time to start or update your estate plan.

A legal expert will walk you through the essentials — like creating a will, naming guardians for your children, setting up health care and durable powers of attorney, and choosing beneficiaries. Don't miss out on this invaluable opportunity to take control of your future, protect your family and ensure your legacy for generations to come.

Please RSVP to stmarknc.org/planned-giving.

Light refreshments will be served.

Info: Karen Donahue, 704-948-0231 ext. 136 or
karen.donahue@stmarknc.org.



Holiday Schedule Changes

Monday, October 13, Columbus Day:
The Office and Kerin Family Center will be closed for the holiday.

Sister Rose Marie Tulacz, SND, Fine Art Photography and Spirituality

When: Oct. 11-12, after Masses

Where: St. Mark Piazza

Sister Rose Marie Tulacz, SND, will visit St. Mark this weekend. Stop by to view and purchase her award-winning liturgical, nature, and landscape photography. Sister Rose Marie Tulacz is known as the "Nun with a Nikon," and has spent a lifetime working to spearhead projects around the globe and helping vulnerable, underserved women and children.

Cards, prints, and framed artwork will be available for sale. All proceeds support the spiritual and humanitarian outreach of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

Please check out her website to learn more and see her fine work:

www.sisterrosemarietulacz.com.

Lunch and Learn: Crime Prevention in Our Communities

When: Mon., Oct. 20; 11 am-1 pm

Where: Parish Hall

Officer Matthew Choice, Huntersville PD, along with his crime investigators will raise awareness on crime in the Lake Norman area. They will provide safety tips to avoid becoming a victim as well as the influx of illegal drugs infiltrating our community.

A complimentary lunch is included.

Registration required.

RSVP: Kevin & Janet Urban,

urbkevin@yahoo.com, 704-689-3847



PARISH LIFE

Discover God's Call for Your Life

When: Saturday, Oct 25; 9 am-3:30 pm

Where: Parish Hall

God is calling you to a unique purpose in life, a work of love that only you can do. Discern your charisms (spiritual gifts) and begin to discern God's call. You have received gifts in Baptism and Confirmation through which God intends His love to reach others. Come and discover these charisms in you!

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- Saturday 9 am to 3:30 pm
- The Call of the Laity Catholic
- Spiritual Gifts Inventory Explained
- Role of the Holy Spirit
- Charisms Discernment Process
- Role of Charisms in Parish, Community and World



\$20 registration fee. Lunch will be provided.

Register at stmarknc.org/small-group-registration or scan the QR code above.

*When you register for the workshop, you will be emailed instructions on how to go online and take the Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory. To get the most benefit from the workshop, please complete the online inventory before you come.

Prayer Shawl Ministry October

When: Tues., Oct., 14 & 28; 10 am

Where: Kerin Family Center Parish Hall

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

If you prefer to make items at home, that's okay, too. For information about joining this ministry or receiving, a prayer shawl for yourself or someone you love, please contact Liz Hoegler at jlhoegler@gmail.com.

Prayer & Praise Night

When: October 14, The Rosary starts at 7 pm and the Prayer and Praise is from 7:30-8:30 pm

Where: In the church

We would like to invite you to come and spend an hour praising God and opening ourselves to His healing touch. Come for physical healing, or just to experience God in a profound way as we worship our Lord in prayer and song. If you have never been to these evenings, please pray to see if God wants you to come. If you have been in one of these evenings, consider coming back to support what God is doing during these times of prayer and praise.

.Contact information: Fernando at (252) 412-9978 (call or text)



Spotlight on Stewardship of Gratitude

When we feel overwhelmed by problems, we often cry out to Jesus for help, even when we stand spiritually or physically distant from him. Today's readings all highlight our hope when we trust God to assist us and the call to give gratitude to God. "In all circumstances, give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Regardless of our current difficulties, reverence and fear of disappointing the Lord can help us recognize our need for the gifts of healing and redemption. Practicing the virtue of gratitude becomes easier when we humble ourselves to admit we are sinners in need of a savior. "He has not dealt with us as our sins merit, nor required us as our wrongs deserve." (Psalm 103:10) In His merciful and compassionate love, He continually offers cleansing we do not deserve. If we allow pride to blind us to our need for his forgiveness, we easily go the way of the nine; instead, may our love for God move us to perfect contrition and gratitude. "So, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in him, rooted in him and built upon him and established in the faith as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." (Colossians 2:6-7)

Upcoming EMHC Training

Training will be offered on Sunday, October 19 after the 5 pm Mass for anyone interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC). The sessions will take 1 1/2 hours to complete. Safe Environment requirements must be met, and other information is also required.

If interested, please contact Ralph Wearsch at rwearsch.em@gmail.com.



Pope Leo XIII Institute

Don't Miss This Powerful Documentary Film

Triumph Over Evils: The Battle of the Exorcists

Presented in collaboration with the

AIE – International Association of Exorcists, Rome

Join us for an extraordinary **one-night-only** event on **Thursday, October 30, 2025**, in 800 theaters across the United States.

This compelling documentary offers an enlightening and accurate perspective on the ministry of exorcism – a delicate and pastorally essential work of God's mercy.

Triumph Over Evils helps viewers gain a deeper and more correct understanding of this vital mission, demystifying a subject often misunderstood.

Featuring real exorcists including:

- Don Gabriele Amorth (+RIP)
- Fra Benigno
- Padre Francesco Bamonte ...and others.

Reserve Your Seat Visit: fathomentertainment.com/releases/triumph-over-evil/ to purchase tickets and secure your spot.



SeptemberFest 2025: Thank You to All

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us for **SeptemberFest 2025** and celebrated with our parish family. Your joyful presence and flexibility, especially as we adjusted plans due to the weather, are so appreciated.

Thankfully, the rain didn't dampen the fun or the turnout!

A special thank you goes to Debbie Fishbaugh, our SeptemberFest Coordinator, for her tireless work and dedication in making the evening a wonderful success. We are also grateful to all the volunteers who helped organize, run, and support this cherished annual event. It truly could not have happened without you.

We also wish to recognize the following groups and organizations for their generous contributions and volunteer efforts:

- Primal Brewing
- Sunbelt Rentals
- Fishbaugh Dogs
- Christ the King High School Service Committee
- Fidelis
- Food, Faith, and Fellowship Committee
- Fraternus
- Hispanic Ministry
- Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary
- Parish Clergy and Staff
- Pastoral Council
- Parish Greeters
- Stewardship Committee

We are so appreciative of each and every one of you. Thank you for helping make SeptemberFest 2025 a joyful celebration for our parish family!

ASTRALIS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

OCTOBER 20, 2025

ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH

7:00 PM 14740 Stumptown Rd
Huntersville, NC 28078

Angela Massey FLUTE



Christine Wu VIOLA



Jane Yoo HARP



MEDITATIONS

The award-winning musicians of the Astralis Chamber Ensemble have been described as "scary good" and "truly riveting." Angela Massey (flute), Christine Wu (viola), and Jane Yoo (harp) present "Meditations." The concert will begin with the Dubois Terzettino that inspired this unique and beautiful combination of instruments. Other works will include the Ballade by Debussy, an exquisite German trio by Genzmer, JS Bach Suite, and Fantaisie by Saint-Saëns. Join us for an enchanting evening of music with the Astralis Chamber Ensemble.

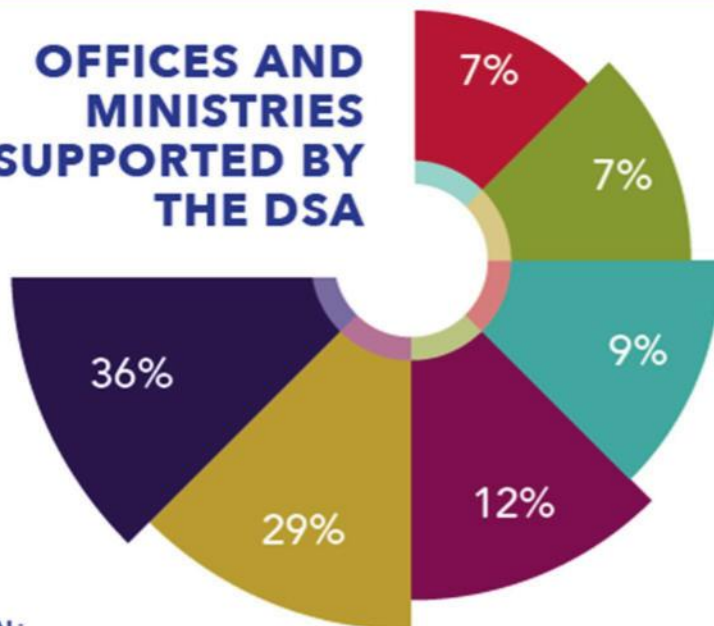




Reflecting God's Light



OFFICES AND MINISTRIES SUPPORTED BY THE DSA



2025 GOAL:

\$6,754,803

EDUCATION – 36%

Campus Ministry
Catholic Schools Offices
Faith Formation Office

- Catechetical Certification
- Diocesan Catechetical Conference
- In-Services
- RCIA
- Special Needs Resource Group
- Totus Tuus

Young Adult Ministry
Youth Ministry

MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES – 12%

African American Affairs Ministry
Hispanic Ministries

VOCATIONS – 7%

Permanent Diaconate
Seminar Education

DSA CAMPAIGN COSTS – 7%

CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE – 29%

Burial Assistance
Case Management
Disaster Relief
Elder Ministry
Food Pantries
Housing Permanency Services
Legal Immigration Services
Mental Health Counseling
Pregnancy Support & Adoption
Refugee Services
Social Concerns & Advocacy
Stay the Course
Supportive Services for Veteran Families
Transition Out of Poverty
Wee Care Shoppes
Youth Empowerment Opportunity Program

OTHER – 9%

Eucharistic Congress
Office of Family Life

- Marriage Preparation
- Natural Family Planning
- Respect Life

Almost there...but we need your help!

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

Only 464 people have donated so far this year and we are **\$48,550 from our goal.**

If we do not get the donations, the assessment will be taken from our offertory at the end of the year.

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

St. Mark Goal: \$403,139.00

Pledged/Paid: \$354,588.22

Balance: \$48,550.78

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

**Scan code
to donate:**



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

RESPECT LIFE MONTH



Respect Life Month 2025

Each October the Church celebrates Respect Life Month. As Catholics, we are called to defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between.

Field of Crosses

Did you know that a team of volunteers from the Respect Life Ministry puts up crosses every year during Respect Life Month?

The crosses have moved around through the years — sometimes they are at the Memorial for Life and sometimes they are at the bell tower. Either way, the crosses symbolize the countless lives lost to abortion each hour. There are approximately 118 abortions per hour in the United States. That equates to 1 abortion per cross per hour.

As you see the crosses, pause to remember the little ones who never had the chance to be born, and lift them to the mercy of God. Pray, too, for mothers and fathers who carry the pain of abortion, that they may find healing and hope in Christ.

Heavenly Father, Creator of all life, we grieve the loss of so many innocent children. We ask You to stir our hearts with compassion and courage, that we may defend life from conception to natural death. Give wisdom and strength to leaders who work for the protection of the unborn, and shower Your mercy upon all who seek forgiveness and healing. Help us build a culture of life in our parish, our community, and our world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Walking With Moms In Need: Infant and Toddler Clothing Drive

When: Sun., Oct. 12

Where: Pro-Life Ministry Fair — Please Do Not Leave in Narthex

Walking with Moms in Need are collecting new and gently used infant and toddler clothes up to 4T. Please bring your donations to the Pro-Life Ministry Fair in the Parish Hall on Sunday, October 12. We will have a table at the Fair to collect these items. (Note: This is separate from the Coat, Blanket, and Toy Drive.)



Thank you from Walking With Moms in Need!

A huge thank you to those who donated to our Diaper, Wipe and Formula Collection! We are happy to report the collection of 11,931 diapers, 537 wipe packs and 74 containers of formula! The collection was a tremendous success. These will all be distributed by the end of October.

A special shout out to all of the WWMIN committee members who came to our Diaper Wrapping Party and Kick Off Meeting on September 29. It was a fun evening as we got to meet each other and wrap a few thousand diapers for our parishioners and community!

Lastly, we are thrilled to report that we raised \$5,980 for the Community Pregnancy Center of Lake Norman. We are grateful to all those who walked and donated. Our It takes \$1,600 to serve one woman with ultrasound, classes, material goods, so together we are helping them to serve almost 4 women.



Monthly Respect Life Mass & Rosary Vigil

When: Fri., Oct. 17, 9 am

Where: St. Mark Catholic Church

The Respect Life Committee invites you to come pray for the end of abortion and for abortion-minded women to choose life. Please join us for St. Mark's quarterly Respect Life Mass at 9 am on Friday, Oct. 17 followed by peaceful prayer outside of Planned Parenthood (700 S. Torrence Street, Charlotte). Contact: Mike FitzGerald at respect.life@stmarknc.org.



Pro-Life Ministry Fair

THIS Sunday, Oct. 12

After 9 am, 11 am & 1 pm Mass, Parish Hall

Have you felt called to do more to promote the dignity of human life, to end abortion, or to support pregnant mothers in need?

Are you wondering what groups are active in our community that help mothers choose life for their babies, support them in crisis situations, find healing, or are active in praying to end abortion in our community?

Would you like to learn the various ways you can help support these organizations?

Join us Sunday, October 12 to learn about local pro-life and pro-motherhood organizations and how you can support them.

As we mark the three-year anniversary of the overturning of Roe vs. Wade, the third-annual St. Mark Pro-Life Ministry Fair is a place to learn about the pro-life initiatives in our community and how to get involved and support mothers in need.

Come enjoy a cup of coffee and donuts.

FEATURED ORGANIZATIONS:

Birthright of Charlotte: birthrightofcharlotte.org

Carolina Family Coalition: defendthefamily.org

Community Pregnancy Center of Lake Norman: lakenormancpc.org

Harvest Hope (Infertility Support): harvest.hope.stmark@gmail.com

Healed and Restored: healedandrestored.org

MiraVia: miravia.org

North Carolina Right to Life: ncrtl.org

St. Mark Respect Life: stmarknc.org/respect-life

Shiloh IVF Ministry (Post-IVF Healing Ministry): shilohivf.com

Students for Life: studentsforlife.org

Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America: sbaprolife.org

St. Mark Walking With Moms in Need: walkingwithmoms.com



Abortions are on the rise in North Carolina and Charlotte.

This is an important opportunity to help build a culture of life in our community.

Year	Charlotte Abortions	North Carolina Abortions
2017	9,912	27,183
2018	10,411	27,581
2019	10,854	28,450
2020	11,098	30,004
2021	11,864	32,454
2022	16,606	40,037
2023	19,251	42,954

Source: NC Dept. of Health & Human Services - State Center for Health Statistics

For questions contact Mike FitzGerald, St. Mark Respect Life, respect.life@stmarknc.org

SAINTS

Today is the New Feast of Saint Carlo Acutis

This year the Church celebrates for the first time the Feast of **St. Carlo Acutis** on **October 12**. Carlo, who died of leukemia in 2006 at the age of 15, is the first millennial saint—someone who shows us what holiness looks like in our own time.

Carlo had a deep love for the Eucharist, calling it his “highway to heaven.” From an early age, he made daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration part of his life. He also had a gift for computers and used his talents to share the faith, creating a website that catalogued Eucharistic miracles from around the world. His life reminds us that sanctity is not reserved for priests or religious—it is possible for young people, for students, and for ordinary Catholics living in the digital age.

In his own words: *“To always be close to Jesus, that’s my life plan.”*

As we celebrate his feast day, may St. Carlo inspire us to grow in love for the Eucharist, to use our gifts for God’s glory, and to seek holiness in everyday life.

Prayer to St. Carlo Acutis

O God, who gave St. Carlo Acutis the grace to unite his love for the Eucharist with his joy in sharing the Gospel, grant that, through his intercession, we may also grow in love for Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament and bear witness to Him in the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Did You Know?

Saint Carlo Acutis (1991–2006)

- **Born:** May 3, 1991, in London; raised in Milan, Italy.
- **Died:** October 12, 2006, from leukemia at age 15.
- **Canonized:** By Pope Francis in 2025 — the first millennial saint.

Patronage: Youth, computer programmers, and the internet.

Carlo was an ordinary teenager with extraordinary faith. He loved soccer, video games, and spending time with friends, but above all he loved the Eucharist. He said: *“The Eucharist is my highway to heaven.”*

Carlo’s computer skills allowed him to build an online exhibit of Eucharistic miracles from around the world—still viewed today in many languages. His example shows how technology can be used to spread the Gospel and to draw people closer to Christ.

Carlo lived simply, prayed daily, and made it his mission to put God first in everything. He reminds us that holiness is possible at every age, even in the middle of a busy, modern life.

Feast Day: October 12

St. Carlo Acutis, pray for us!

contact: Maddie Torres
maddie.torres@stmarknc.org

ALL SAINTS DAY

Art Showcase

Sign Up HERE: 

when?
Submissions are due by 10/31 - but not BEFORE 10/25
Displayed on 11/01/25 - All Saints Day

who?
All parishioners are invited to participate - kids, teens, adults, families

what?
Your project can be anything that helps others learn about and be inspired by your saint's life:

- Poster or display board
- Painting, drawing, or collage
- Sculpture or 3D model
- Poem, song, or original story
- Video or slideshow (must provide device to view on)
- Quilt square, embroidery, or craft
- Any creative expression you love!

Include in your project:

- Saint's name and feast day
- When/where they lived
- Key moments in their life
- Their virtues and good works
- Why they inspire you

YOUTH MINISTRY

High School Life Teen

When: Sundays; 6-8 pm

Where: Family Center Parish Hall

Basketball, foursquare, and board games will run from 5:30-6:10 pm

New Life Night Series!

Life in Color: Life Night Series on Hope

When: Sun., Oct. 12, 6-8 pm

Where: Parish Hall

Dress messy for color games!

Wear a white shirt and prepare to get messy! Please try to arrive between 5:50 and 6:20pm and bring a towel to sit on for your ride home!

Life Teen is open to all current high school students. 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.

We use the REMIND app to message parents and teens weekly about activities, reminders, or schedule changes.

Stay Connected!

REMIND App:

Class code **smhsym2025**

Instagram: @stmarkncyouth

Sunday Bulletin - Updated Weekly

Email List:

augustine.free@stmarknc.org



High School Youth Ministry Bible Study is Returning!

When: Tuesdays; 6-7 pm

Where: Room 203, Kerin Family Center

Tuesday, October 7, marked the return of Bible Study for High School Ministry! This Bible Study is open to all high school students and consists of 30 mins of hanging out, snacking, chatting, and/or a game, and then 30 mins of Bible Study. It's a very simple event, and a good opportunity to set aside some time during the week for Catholic friendship and for time with God in prayer.



formed™
Forming Catholics for Life.

John XXIII: The Pope of Peace

This movie tells the life story of John XXIII from his youth through his young priesthood, episcopacy, life as cardinal, and eventually his life as pope. Elected supposedly as an "interim Pope" who would just keep the status quo and listen to the advisers around him, John XXIII proved to be his own man when he surprised the Church and world by calling for the Second Vatican Council.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

St. Mark Catholic School
PROSPECTIVE FAMILY
OPEN HOUSE
Tuesday, October 21st
9:30am - 11am

Scan to RSVP

ST. MARK HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY
LIFE IN COLOR: A LIFE
NIGHT SERIES ON HOPE.

Come join us for our next Life Night Series as we dive into the topic of hope!

October 12 - COLOR GAMES!
November 2 - Hope Proclaimed
November 9 - Hope Arrives

Listed Sundays, 6-8pm.

All High Schoolers are welcome!
Dress Messy For Color Games!

"I plead with you — never, ever give up on hope; never doubt, never tire and never become discouraged. Be not afraid."
- St. John Paul II

ADORATION



Take courage, I am with you.

By Donna Fodale, Adoration Coordinator
I don't know about you but lately I often feel like the world is upside down. It can feel overwhelming at times. When I find myself feeling this way, I like to sit down in Adoration and read the Scripture passage Matthew 14: 23-32. Jesus walking on water.

As we continue to look at the different encounters that people had with Jesus, I think that this Scripture is one that we all can relate to in one way or another. It reminds us of how important it is to keep our eyes on the Lord when we are right in the middle of the storm of life.

Many of us, like Peter in this passage, let fear overcome us. Instead, the Lord reminds us that He is with us in the difficult moments, to take courage and stay close to him. Even when Peter seemed to lose his focus and started to be consumed by the raging storm, Jesus reached out to him and drew him to himself. How comforting it is to know that in those moments when we feel all is lost, we can call out to our Savior and know that He will help us.

Have you ever considered that the Chapel is like a boat that is situated right in the center of a storm. When you enter the Chapel, Jesus is there keeping you safe from many different storms that everyday life throws at us. He is in the boat with you. He is inviting you to keep your eyes focused on Him. He tells you, take courage, I am with you.

The more time we spend in Adoration the more we come to understand this truth. What Scripture brings you comfort in difficult times? I invite you to read that Scripture before the Lord in Adoration. How does the Scripture help you stay focused on the Lord?

Matthew 14:23-32

Then he made the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening, he was there alone.

Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it.

During the fourth watch of the night, He came toward them, walking on the sea.

When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear.

At once [Jesus] spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.

But when he saw how [strong] the wind was, he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

After they got into the boat, the wind died down.

Have you considered signing up for a Holy Hour?

I promise it will be one of the best things that you ever do! Not sure, stop in and let's talk about it. This invitation comes right from the Lord. I am just the one delivering the invitation.

Register at stmarknc.org/adoration.

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

1st Annual David Calabrese Memorial Golf Tournament

When: Mon., Nov. 10; 11 am

Where: Northstone Country Club



Join us for the inaugural **David Calabrese Memorial Golf Tournament** in support of the Knights of Columbus. Proceeds benefit Operation LAMB, Room in the Inn, St. Mark Youth Ministry, St. Joseph College Seminarians, Davidson College Campus Ministry, Coats for Kids, Special Olympics, and more.

- **Format:** 11 am Shotgun Start, Captain's Choice
- **Cost:** \$160 per golfer (green fees); \$20 Mulligan Package
- **Extras:** 50/50 Raffle, Putting Contest, Closest-to-Pin



Coming Up at Saint Mark

Saturday and Sunday, October 11 and 12

Coat and Blanket Drive

Sunday, October 12

Pro-Life Ministry Fair

Tuesday, October 14

Prayer and Praise

Saturday, October 18

Thanksgiving Food Drive Begins

Monday, October 20

Lunch and Learn

Astralis Concert Series, 7 pm

Thursday, October 23

Estate Planning Seminar

Saturday, October 25

Called and Gifted Workshop

Saturday, November 1

All Saints Day

Catholic Charities Furniture Collection

Sunday, November 2

Christmas Giving Tree Gift Campaign

Thursday, November 6

Special Suicide Talk: Emily Hogan

Saturday and Sunday, 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

Tuesday, December 9

Prayer and Praise

Saturday, December 13

Parish-Wide Holiday Celebration

Thursday, December 25

Christmas, Holy Day, Offices closed

Thursday, January 1

Holy Day, Offices Closed

Saturday, January 3

First Saturday Dinner

Saturday, January 17

Meal Packaging Event

Events scheduled may change. Exact times and details will be in the bulletin and newsletter in the weeks before event.

Lunch: Chicken and BBQ Buffet

Sponsored by Primal Brewery and Christian Brothers.

For questions or to sponsor a hole, please contact: Bill Pugh, bill.pugh@cmc.com, 704-309-7466 or John Knight, john.knight1@verizon.net, 704-618-3779



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
Paige Grieshop

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

Rachel Grieshop
Hank Griffin
John Grivizas
Helen Haddad
Madeline Louise Henwood
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
Mary Morgan
Haleigh Moss
Elizabeth Mulligan
Jamie Mulvihill
Angeles Murphy
Maria Magdalena Murphy
Carl Muti
Paul Nealon Jr.
Paul Sr. and Sally Nealon
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
Joette Reid
Lindsay Remington
Butch Remesch
Lola Rodriguez
Maria Rubinos
Thomas Rynne
Phyllis Searles
Daniel Sheffield
Deacon Ronald Sherwood & Family
Mark Shields
Sue Sia
Todd Singh
Robert Somerville
Betsy Spartz
Jeff Stark
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, October 12

7:30 am † Raul Echevarria & Norma Suclupe
9 am Michael & Maria LaCour
11 am † Betty Weiss
1 pm † Marco Antonio Aguilera
4:30 pm † Deacon Robert Murphy
5 pm St. Mark Parishioners

Monday, October 13

9 am The Montana Family

Tuesday, October 14

7 am † Carroll Hitch
9 am † John Markovics

Wednesday, October 15

7 am † Sara Wasson
† John Patrick Connelly
6:30 pm † Pat Nestor
Joshua Davey

Thursday, October 16

7 am Rosa Risco Caballero
9 am † Richard Amatuzzo

Friday, October 17

7 am Mouniratou Traore
9 am Respect Life Ministry
7 pm † Luz Maria Torres

Saturday, October 18

9 am John Fodale
5 pm David & Debbie Hains

Sunday, October 19

7:30 am † John Glenn McKeon jr.
9 am St. Mark Parishioners
11 am Emily Fodale
1 pm Omar, Yahir, & Matthew Almanza
4:30 pm † Kenneth Andrews
5 pm † James F. Donaghy

† Deceased

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday **Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
2 Kgs 5:14-17; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4; 2 Tm 2:8-13;
Lk 17:11-19

Monday Rom 1:1-7; Ps 98:1bcde, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday Rom 1:16-25; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday **Memorial of Saint Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church**
Rom 2:1-11; Ps 62:2, 6-7, 9; Lk 11:42-46

Thursday Rom 3:21-30; Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, Lk 11:47-54

Friday **Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr**
Rom 4:1-8 Ps 32:1b-2, 5, 11; Lk 12:1-7

Saturday **Feast of Saint Luke, Evangelist**
2 Tm 4:10-17b; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18; Lk 10:1-9

Sunday **Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Ex 17:8-13; Ps 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; 2 Tm 3:14-4:2; Lk 18:1-8

Pray for Our Military

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

Army: 2nd Lt. **Amelia Andretti**; 1st Lt. **Patrick Camatcho**; 1st Lt. **Sarah Camatcho**; Major **Robert Caraccilo**; SSgt. **Darcy Fisher**; **Kyle Hawk**; PFC. **J. Parker Hogan**; Capt. **John Hughes**; Pvt. **Chaz Margo**; Maj. **Daniel McCormick**; 2nd Lt. **Maria Morell**; PV2 **Matthew Pressley**; Maj. **Stephen J. Romeo**; **Andrew Santos**; Capt. **Ramon Ricardo Tapia**; Spl. Forces **Nolan Tillotson**; **Josh Wagner**; 1st Lt. **Nick Worth**

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

Navy: 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.

PARISH LIFE

Catholic Charities Household Collection

When: Sat., Nov. 1; 9:30-11 am

Where: St. Mark Parking Lot

St. Mark partners with Catholic Charities to support its program which provides furniture and household items for families in need. We thank the many parishioners and volunteers who have helped with the donation and collection of furniture and household items. We are incredibly grateful to all of you for doing corporal works of mercy and providing much needed support to those in greater need. Through your generosity and spirit of community outreach St. Mark parishioners have delivered numerous essential items to families in need and extended a helping hand to our neighbors.

Housewares Collection Details, New or Gently Used Items Only:

Please bring items from THIS LIST ONLY to the St. Mark parking lot between 9:30-11 am. The list is very specific based upon the needs. Volunteers will receive the donations and load them into cars for delivery:

What We Can Collect:

- Baking Pans 9x13 or larger
- Bath Towel Sets, hand towels/washcloths
- Casserole Dishes
- Coffee Pots/Makers
- Microwave Ovens (small)
- Pots and Pans sets
- Shower Curtains/Liners/Rings
- Toasters

Please do not bring furniture donations to the parking lot.

Furniture Collection Details:

All furniture donations must be made at least one week in advance by emailing CatholicCharitiesOALeas@stmarknc.org.

What We Can Arrange to Pick Up:

- Kitchen Tables/Chairs (tables 6ft max size; no bar stools)
- Dressers (max 5 ft long)
- Sofas (no sleeper or recliner sofas or futons or irregular-shaped sectionals)
- End/Coffee/Bedside Tables
- Upholstered Chairs

We Cannot Accept: TV cabinets/large armoires/entertainment centers/tall bookcases; TVs (non-flat screen, or bigger than 43 inches, or heavier than 25 lbs.; mattresses; headboards/footboards/bed frames; office equipment, desks, or chairs; nor file cabinets.

If you would like to help with this collection, please contact our Catholic Charities leader Bob Langbo.

CatholicCharitiesOALeas@stmarknc.org

Thank you for helping to do Corporal Works of Mercy!

LAST CHANCE!!!

Coat, Blanket & Toy Drive This Weekend

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

Where: Family Center Parish Hall

Remember to bring your gently used or new items for the annual Coat, Blanket and Toy Drive by Sunday 6 pm! They will be given away on Monday so we cannot use items after that. We will take bikes but NO CLOTHING, please.

Thank you!

Questions: Katherine Ducey duceyfive@yahoo.com



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Drexel High School Parent Information Night

When: Thurs, Oct.30; 6 pm

Where: St. Mark Parish House

Come and learn about Drexel High School, a Classical high school in the Catholic tradition!

Parents and students: please join us as Drexel High's faculty and headmaster discuss the school's approach to a Classical education in the Catholic tradition. Learn about our mission, scheduling a visit, how to enroll, and scholarship opportunities. Light refreshments and snacks will be provided.

Please scan the QR code to RSVP!

Visit us at drexelhigh.org or email admissions@drexelhigh.org for more information!



Singles 45+ Fellowship Event

When: Sun., Oct. 19; 4-8 pm

Where: Torrence and Knox,
20936 Torrence Chapel Rd, Cornelius

Please join us for a relaxed, fun afternoon of fellowship. Enjoy wonderful conversation, a lively atmosphere and delicious food. Take this opportunity to connect, make new friends and build community. Feel free to bring a friend! We'd love to see everyone again!

There's a perfect outdoor space for us to meet. Please RSVP so we can plan for you:

Sign-Up Genius, signupgenius.com, or scan the QR code.

Questions? 45plussingles@gmail.com



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

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donna.fodale@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 104

Director of Sacred Music

Manuel Mora

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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

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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

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

DEL PÁRROCO – 28 DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO



La gratitud es la clave para una forma de vida de mayordomía. Las lecturas de hoy demuestran el poder y la importancia vital de la gratitud en la vida del discípulo cristiano, porque la gratitud nos lleva a adorar a Dios que nos ofrece la salvación.

Vemos el poder de la gratitud en el pasaje del Evangelio de Lucas después de que Jesús sana a diez leprosos. "Y uno de ellos, al darse cuenta de que había sido sanado, regresó". Solo uno de los diez reconoció la tremenda bendición que había recibido de Jesús y regresó para agradecerle. Si bien es fácil sentirse indignado por el fracaso de los otros nueve para regresar y agradecer a Jesús, ¿con qué frecuencia no reconocemos las bendiciones, las oraciones respondidas y las sanidades (tanto físicas como espirituales) que el Señor derrama sobre nosotros, día y noche?

La verdad es que nuestras propias vidas y cada aliento que tomamos son Su regalo para nosotros. Pero podemos quedar tan atrapados en el estrés y las distracciones de la vida diaria que perdemos el contacto con esta verdad.

El samaritano reacciona a su don de curación con la respuesta adecuada a nuestro Dios amoroso. Reconociendo lo que acababa de recibir del Señor, "volvió, glorificando a Dios en voz alta; y se postró a los pies de Jesús y le dio gracias". Estaba agradecido por lo que Dios había hecho por él, y esta gratitud lo llevó a la adoración.

Y debido a esta respuesta, Jesús le ofreció un regalo mucho más precioso que la curación física; Le ofreció el don de la salvación. "Levántate y vete; tu fe te ha salvado".

Con demasiada frecuencia, escuchamos la frase "Cuenta tus bendiciones" y la descartamos como nada más que un dicho trillado. El Evangelio de hoy nos muestra lo contrario. La gratitud es poderosa. Profundiza nuestra fe en Dios y nos lleva a una adoración adecuada de Él. ©Consultores de mayordomía católica, 2025

Reflexión pastoral: en las últimas semanas, San Marcos ha tenido un funeral tras otro. A medida que nos acercamos a noviembre, pensé que podría ser útil discutir el enfoque católico de la muerte y el morir. En lugar de ver el final del viaje terrenal como algo que debe temerse y evitarse, los católicos abordan la muerte y el morir con una mezcla de prácticas espirituales, rituales y creencias teológicas arraigadas en su fe, enfatizando la esperanza en la vida eterna, la misericordia de Dios y el apoyo comunitario de la Iglesia. Aquí hay una descripción general concisa:

1. Perspectiva teológica sobre la muerte

Vida eterna y resurrección: Los católicos creen que la muerte no es el final, sino una transición a la vida eterna. Basándose en la resurrección de Cristo, sostienen que el alma se separa del cuerpo al morir, esperando la resurrección final cuando el cuerpo y el alma se reúnen (*Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica*, 989-1001).

Juicio y vida después de la muerte: Después de la muerte, cada persona se enfrenta a un juicio particular, que determina su destino eterno: el cielo (a menudo a través de la purificación en el purgatorio) o el infierno si no se arrepiente de un pecado grave (CIC 1021-1022). Esta creencia da forma a su enfoque para prepararse para la muerte.

2. Preparación para la muerte

Sacramento de la Unción de los Enfermos:

Este sacramento se administra a los enfermos graves o cercanos a la muerte, ofreciendo curación espiritual, perdón de pecados y fortaleza. A menudo se combina con la Confesión y la Sagrada Comunión (llamada Viático, que significa "alimento para el viaje") para preparar el alma para la eternidad (CIC 1499-1532).

Oración y arrepentimiento: Se anima a los católicos a reflexionar sobre sus vidas, buscar el perdón a través de la confesión y confiarse a la misericordia de Dios. Las oraciones como el Rosario o la Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia son comunes para los moribundos y sus familias.

Apoyo espiritual: Los sacerdotes, la familia o las comunidades católicas a menudo oran con los moribundos, ofreciendo consuelo a través de las escrituras, los himnos o el Elogio de los moribundos, un ritual para confiar el alma a Dios.

3. Rituales y prácticas después de la muerte

Ritos funerarios: El funeral católico consta de tres partes:

Vigilia (velatorio): Un momento para que familiares y amigos se reúnan, recen (a menudo el Rosario) y compartan recuerdos.

Misa fúnebre / Misa de entierro cristiano: Una liturgia que celebra la resurrección de Cristo y ora por el alma del difunto, a menudo enfatizando la esperanza sobre la desesperación.

Entierro: El entierro o cremación (permitido desde 1963, aunque la Iglesia prefiere el entierro) con oraciones que encomiendan al difunto a Dios.

Misas por los difuntos: Los católicos ofrecen misas por los difuntos, especialmente por las almas del purgatorio, creyendo que estas oraciones ayudan a su purificación (CIC 1032).

4. Duelo y apoyo comunitario

Esperanza en la resurrección: Se reconoce el dolor, pero se anima a los católicos a centrarse en la esperanza de la vida eterna, que atempera el dolor (1 Tesalonicenses 4:13-14).

Papel de la comunidad: La comunidad de la Iglesia apoya a los afligidos a través de oraciones, misas y ayuda práctica, reforzando que la muerte es un viaje compartido dentro de la "comunidad de los santos".

Memento Mori: La tradición de "recordar la muerte" alienta a los católicos a vivir virtuosamente, teniendo en cuenta la eternidad, a menudo a través de prácticas como orar por los muertos en el Día de los Fieles Difuntos (2 de noviembre).

5. Variaciones culturales

Si bien las creencias y rituales fundamentales son universales, las prácticas culturales varían. Por ejemplo:

En las comunidades católicas hispanas, el Día de los Muertos combina las tradiciones indígenas con las oraciones católicas, honrando a los muertos con altares y misas.

En algunas tradiciones europeas, las Misas de un mes de mente (una Misa un mes después de la muerte) son comunes para continuar orando por los difuntos.

6. Aspectos prácticos

Decisiones al final de la vida: La Iglesia enseña que la vida debe ser respetada, pero no se requieren medidas médicas extraordinarias si son onerosas o inútiles (CIC 2278). Los cuidados paliativos se apoyan para aliviar el sufrimiento respetando la muerte natural.

Directivas anticipadas: Se alienta a los católicos a preparar directivas anticipadas alineadas con la enseñanza de la Iglesia, asegurando que su cuidado respete su fe.

7. Consuelo en la fe

Los católicos obtienen consuelo de escrituras como Juan 11:25 ("Yo soy la resurrección y la vida") y oraciones como "Descanso eterno" ("Concédeles el descanso eterno, oh Señor"). La creencia en el purgatorio ofrece la esperanza de que los seres queridos pueden ser ayudados a través de la oración, incluso después de la muerte, y nos recuerda que la muerte nunca tiene la última palabra.

Fr. John

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