

ALL SAINTS DAY
VENERATION
of **RELICS**

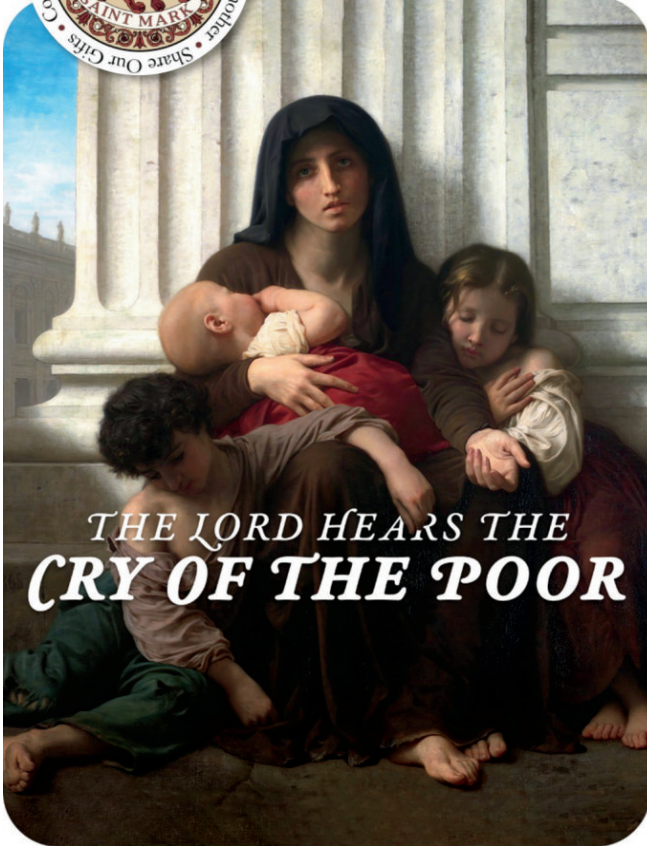
Prayers from Heaven:
A Remembrance of
the Saints and the
Faithful Departed
See page 5 for details.

SAINT MARK

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 26, 2025, Spanish Page 15



Welcome to St. Mark



Today we celebrate 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings can be found on page 1198. Music handouts are at the entrances; see an usher if you did not receive one.

Thank you for being a part of our parish, either as a visitor or a long-time parishioner. We are thankful that you are here and welcome you back anytime for Mass, prayer in our Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel or any of our programs.

At St. Mark, we believe we are all called as one by Christ to embrace the spirit of stewardship and engagement to Grow in Christ, Serve One Another, Share Our Gifts and Connect in Faith. This mission is our quest for holiness. It is by our intentional discipleship that each of us become stewards of the gifts God has given us and to share them with others. Our time, our talent and our treasure are given to us by God to share with others by spreading the Gospel and building His kingdom.

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



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

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



Guidelines for Communion For Catholics

1. To be in a state of grace, that is to say, to be free from any unconfessed mortal sin.
2. To abstain for at least one hour before Holy Communion from any food and drink, with the exception of water and medicine.
3. To know what you are receiving and to approach the altar with devotion.
4. **St. Mark uses altar rails. Please go to the far end of the rail and either kneel to receive Holy Communion on the tongue or remain standing to receive in your hand. The distribution of the Precious Blood remains suspended.**
5. **Please consume the Holy Eucharist in front of the minister of Holy Communion, before walking away.**

For Non-Catholics: We welcome you to Holy Mass and are glad you are here. Please feel free to participate by singing, standing, kneeling, etc. However, the reception of Holy Communion is reserved for Catholics in a state of grace. At the time of Communion, please feel free to come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing or to remain in your pew.

See page 1302 in the hymnal for more information.

ONLINE GIVING

Planned
Proportionate
Consistent



Thank you for sharing your gifts. You may give online at: stmarknc.org/online-giving

FROM THE PASTOR



In last week's readings, we were encouraged to remain persistent and constant in our prayer life. Today, we focus on the proper attitude of a steward at prayer.

In the Gospel passage from Luke, Jesus illustrates the humble attitude we must have as we approach God in prayer through a parable of two praying men. One is a Pharisee, a man with respected status, theological training, and all the right credentials. He marches right up to the front of the temple to speak a prayer "to himself," thanking God for making him just a little bit superior to everyone else!

The other man is a tax collector, known by those of his day to be a cheater and a sell-out to his fellow Jews. In contrast to the Pharisee, he stands near the back and cries out to God in a simple and honest way: "Be merciful to me a sinner."

Jesus tells us that it is the tax collector and not the Pharisee who leaves the temple justified. Why?

The Pharisee was full of self as he approached God. He felt no real need for God as he rattled off his resume of good works and spiritual practices. He was simply going through the motions of prayer. His lack of humility prevented him from entering into a real dialogue with the Father. He was not transformed by his time of prayer because he was so full of himself that He left God no space to enter in.

The tax collector, by contrast, emptied himself as he approached God. He recognized who he truly was (a sinner) and asked simply for mercy, leaving all the rest up to God. This is the kind of attitude that God can work with! This is how a good steward prays — with trust, with complete openness to God's will, with a listening mind and heart, ready to serve as God leads. © Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2025

Pastoral Pondering

November is the month which begins with All Saints and All Souls. It is a good time to reflect on the importance of our connection with those who have gone before us "marked with the sign of faith." We have a special obligation (spiritual work of mercy) to pray for the dead, especially remember the souls in purgatory. **Here is an outline of Catholic teaching to help us make better use of and have a better understanding of this important Catholic obligation.**

Importance of Praying for the Dead in Catholic Theology

In Catholic theology, praying for the dead holds profound significance as an act of **communion of saints**, **mercy**, and ****solidarity**** within the Church. It is rooted in Scripture, Tradition, and the Church's magisterium, affirming that the living can aid the deceased in their journey toward full union with God. Below, I'll outline the key theological foundations, biblical and historical support, and practical implications.

1. Theological Foundation: The Communion of Saints

- The Catholic Church teaches that the faithful—whether on earth (Church Militant), in Purgatory (Church Suffering), or in heaven (Church Triumphant)—form ****one mystical Body of Christ**** (Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC] 946–962).
- Death does not sever this bond. Prayers from the living can remit the ****temporal effects of sin**** for souls in Purgatory, a state of purification after death for those destined for heaven but not yet fully sanctified (CCC 1030–1032).
- **Why it matters:** This practice underscores human **interdependence** in salvation. Just as saints intercede for us, we intercede for the dead, fostering charity and hope in the resurrection.

2. Biblical Basis—Catholic theology draws directly from Scripture, emphasizing prayer for the dead as an ancient practice:

Scripture Reference	Key Passage	Theological Insight
2 Maccabees 12:38–46	Judas Maccabeus offers sacrifices and prayers "for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin."	Explicit endorsement of prayers and offerings for the deceased to atone for sins; foundational for Purgatory doctrine (accepted in Catholic canon).
1 Corinthians 15:29	"Otherwise, what will people accomplish by having themselves baptized for the dead?"	Implies a custom of rites benefiting the dead, supporting intercessory prayer.
2 Timothy 1:16–18	Paul prays for mercy on Onesiphorus, who has died.	Shows apostolic practice of praying for the deceased by name.

These texts affirm that such prayers are ****pleasing to God**** and effective, countering Protestant objections by highlighting pre-Christian Jewish roots (e.g., Maccabees) and New Testament continuity.

3. Historical and Doctrinal Development

- **Early Church:** Inscriptions in Roman catacombs (2nd–3rd centuries) request prayers for the dead. St. Augustine (Confessions, Book IX) recounts his mother Monica's prayers for his father. Tertullian (c. 200 AD) describes annual Masses for the deceased.
- **Councils:** The **Second Council of Lyons (1274)** and the **Council of Trent (1563)** dogmatically affirmed Purgatory and suffrages (prayers, Masses) for the dead as meritorious.
- **Modern Teaching:** Pope Benedict XVI's *Spe Salvi* (2007) explains Purgatory as "God's mercy transforming us," where our prayers "help complete what is lacking" (cf. Colossians 1:24). Pope Francis echoes this in *Misericordiae Vultus* (2015), calling it an act of **divine mercy**.

CONTINUED ON BOTTOM OF PAGE 16

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
Vic Crognale
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

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

Paige Grieshop
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 26

7:30 am † John Haley
9 am Carol & Frank Dixon
11 am St. Mark Parishioners
1 pm Joya Almanza & Family
Garcia Almaza
4:30 pm † Peter & Margie Stanton
5 pm † Christopher Gamble

Monday, October 27

7 am † David Calabrese
9 am † David Calabrese

Tuesday, October 28

7 am † Richard A. Lucey
9 am Molly Leiker

Wednesday, October 29

7 am † Joyce Davison
† Elaine Stewart
6:30 pm Purgatorial Society Mass

Thursday, October 30

7 am † Lindsay Alger
9 am † Scott Mickey

Friday, October 31

7 am Luz Maria Torres
9 am Heather Martin
7 pm Adriana Torres

Saturday, November 1

9 am † Thuc-Cuong-To-Van
5 pm † Jon Ross

Sunday, November 2

7:30 am † Orlando Laise
9 am St. Mark Parishioners
11 am † Monty & Emma Elliott
1 pm Manny Mora
4:30 pm † Deacon Robert Murphy
5 pm † Jose Mendoza

†Deceased

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Scripture Readings For the Week of October 26

Sun. Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 35:12-14; 16-18; Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18; Lk 18:9-14

Mon. Rom 8: 12-17; Ps 68:2 and 4, 6-7ab, 20-21; Lk 13: 10-17

Tue. Feast of Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles

Eph 2: 19-22; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Lk 6:12-16

Wed. Rom 8:26-30; Ps 13:4-5, 6; Lk 13:22-30

Thu. Rom 8:31b-39; Ps 109:21-22, 26-27, 30-31; Lk 13:31-35

Fri. Rom 9:1-5; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Lk 14:1-6

Sat. Solemnity of All Saints

Rv 7: 2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a

Sun. The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)

Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9; Jn 6:37-40

Saint Mark Purgatorial Society

Saint Mark offers the opportunity for you to have your loved ones remembered at a monthly Wednesday 6:30 pm Mass for a calendar year. Names enrolled for the year will also be placed on the altar during our Masses in November.

To enroll a family member, please contact the Office at 704-948-0231 or complete the form on our website at www.stmarknc.org/purgatorial-society.

The following members were remembered on Sept. 24:

Ellis Fanning
Hugh Fanning
Tess and Willie O'Riordan

The following members will be remembered on Oct. 29:

Patricia Ryan Anderson
Felix Zyra Sr.
Rita Zyra
Mary Ann Shutt
Walter Michalajko
Helen Michalajko.
Josefa Ruperto



The Church Triumphant:

All those in Heaven

The Church Suffering:

All those in Purgatory

The Church Militant:

All those on Earth



ALLHALLOWTIDE

The Solemnity of All Saints Surrounded by Saints

What Is a Relic?

A relic is a fragment of the body or material items of a canonized saint. Relics are kept in a locket called a theca, which are kept in cases called reliquaries. Relics are divided into three classifications:

- **1st class:** Body part of a saint, such as bone or hair
- **2nd class:** Possessions a saint owned, such as clothing
- **3rd class:** Objects touched to a 1st or 2nd class relic or touched by the saint

Veneration, an act of honor or respect (not worship), of relics dates back to the beginnings of the Church when miracles were connected to the remains of the apostles. Churches were often built on the remains of Christian martyrs or current saints. Graces from God flow through these objects to devout souls who venerate them.

Veneration of Relics

**The Prayers from Heaven:
A Remembrance of the Saints
and the Faithful Departed**

Friday, October 31, 7 am-8:30 pm

Saturday, November 1, 8:15 am-2 pm

St. Mark is blessed with a large collection of relics. In celebration of All Saints Day, we will once again have relics surrounding the altar for veneration.

Come visit these saints, learn about their prayers — with versions for adults and children — and venerate their relics.



O Lord, source of all holiness, we praise You for the saints and faithful departed who inspire us to live lives of love, courage, and devotion. May their prayers guide us and bring us closer to Your mercy and grace. Amen

Child's Prayer Version: *Jesus, thank You for the saints who loved You so much. Help me to be kind, brave, and joyful every day. May they pray for me and guide me closer to You. Amen.*

November 2: The Solemnity of All Souls will be celebrated next Sunday. This day we direct our prayers to the souls in Purgatory — The Church Suffering — and gain a **Plenary Indulgence** for those souls who are waiting to join the saints in heaven. We will have more information on this solemnity in next Sunday's bulletin. *Due to it being on a Sunday, we are unable to offer a cemetery Mass nor a Mass of Remembrance this year.*

All Saints Day Masses*

Friday, October 31

7 pm Spanish Vigil

(Homily English and Spanish)

Saturday, November 1

9 am

**Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year according to U.S. bishops' norms.*

All Souls Day Masses

Saturday, November 1

5 pm Vigil

Sunday, November 2

7, 9, 11 am, 1 pm, 5 pm



STEWARDSHIP

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:

Please do not bring furniture donations to the parking lot.

What We Can Collect:

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

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:

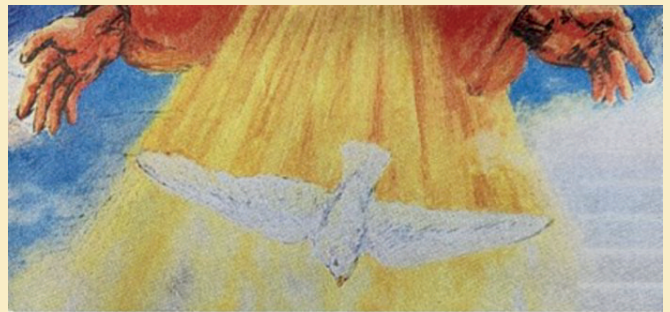
Kitchen Tables/Chairs (tables 6ft max size; no bar stools), Dressers (max 5 ft long), Sofas (no sleeper or recliner sofas or futons or irregular-shaped sectionals), End/Coffee/Bedside Tables, Upholstered Chairs

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 or file cabinets.

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

CatholicCharitiesOALeas@stmarknc.org



THE LORD IS GOOD TO THOSE WHO WAIT FOR HIM,
TO THE SOUL THAT SEEKS HIM.
LAMENTATIONS 3:25

All Souls Day Spiritual Remembrance

In celebration of All Souls Day, we will remember our deceased loved ones during our All Souls Day Masses on Sunday, November 2, and throughout November.

You can place your envelope in the Offertory baskets in the Narthex, bring to the office, or submit an online version at www.stmarknc.org/AllSouls.

Donut Sunday, Christmas Giving Tree Kick Off and Thanksgiving Food Drive Next Sunday!

When: Sun., Nov. 2, after 7:30, 9, and 11 am Masses

Where: Kerin Family Center Parish Hall

Join us next Sunday for an extra special Donut Sunday! It will be an extra festive morning when we kick-off the Christmas Giving Tree gift-giving outreach efforts and sort food for the Thanksgiving Food Drive. So stop in, have a donut and coffee with friends, sort some canned goods, and pick an ornament off our trees.

It will be a great time to grow, serve, share and connect at St. Mark!



Starts Next Weekend!

Christmas Giving Tree

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Acts 20:35



Through the Christmas Giving Tree, parishioners can help bring Christmas to children, families, and individuals in need within our community.

Beginning Saturday, November 1, our beautifully decorated trees will be set up in the Parish Hall, decorated with ornaments. Each ornament has a gift request. Just take one (or more!), purchase the item, and return it in a gift bag with the tag attached.

Your generosity helps share the love of Christ and the true spirit of Christmas with those who need it most!

Our parish's beloved gift-giving tradition continues with a new name — the Christmas Giving Tree!

In past years, this ministry was known as the Angel Tree. However, because Angel Tree is now a registered program name of The Salvation Army, we have adopted a new name that reflects the same mission and joy.

Coat, Blanket, and Toy Drive Thank you!

We are extremely grateful for your generous donations to the St. Mark Coat, Blanket, and Toy Drive. **Thanks to your kindness, we were able to provide coats to 749 men, women and children this year!** A heartfelt thank you to the amazing volunteers who helped collect, sort and distribute the items to those in need. We also extend our appreciation to the Walking with Moms In Need ministry for contributing diapers, wipes and children's clothing to the community during the drive. Finally, a special thank you to Kathy Ducey and her family for their dedication in organizing this successful event year after year.



Thanksgiving Food Drive

The annual Thanksgiving Food Drive continues this weekend!

Please donate Grocery Store GIFT CARDS in

the amount of \$25 and nonperishable, unopened FOOD items. **PLEASE NO GLASS!**

All donations will help families at St. Mark and the surrounding communities. Our goal is to give all adopted families a bag of groceries and a grocery store gift card so they can buy fresh meat and produce. Volunteers will be available to collect donations after all Masses on the weekends of **October 25/26 and November 1/2.**

FOOD ITEMS can be dropped off before Mass each weekend in the wooden box located in the church Narthex from now until **November 2.** Gift Cards may be turned in at the Welcome Desk in the Family Center during business hours.

REQUESTED DONATIONS:

Non-Perishable Thanksgiving Food:

Stuffing * Instant Potatoes * Rice * Macaroni & Cheese * Canned Yams / Sweet Potatoes Canned Vegetables (Corn, Peas, Green Beans, Carrots) * Beans (Dried or Canned) * Gravy (Canned or Dried Mix) * Fruit (Canned, Fruit Cups, Applesauce) * Dessert Mixes (Cornbread, Brownies, Cookies, Cake Mix)

Non-perishable: General Food Items

Peanut Butter and Jelly * Pasta and Pasta Sauce * Canned Meat / Fish * Breakfast Foods (Oatmeal, Cereal) * Canned Soup * Juice boxes * Baking (Flour, Sugar) * Snacks (Crackers, Granola Bars, Cookies)

PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATES ON ALL NON-PERISHABLES!

Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

NEED HELP?

If you are experiencing food insecurity and could use a little help this Thanksgiving to feed your family, please email stewardship@stmarknc.org.



PARISH LIFE

Attention Men of St. Mark

When: Sat., Nov. 8–Sun., Nov. 9

Where: St. Mark Church and Family Center

All men of the parish are invited to attend the 6th Annual Welcome Retreat on November 8–9 at St. Mark. This year, we are proud to continue offering the Welcome Retreat, a transformative experience developed by Matthew Kelly's Dynamic Catholic organization.

The Welcome Retreat is an overnight experience designed to help you discover what's missing in your life and what to do about it. It offers a unique, once-a-year opportunity to step away from the busyness of daily life and focus on your faith, your purpose, and your growth as a man of God. Through prayer, reflection, and fellowship with other men from the parish, you'll experience a weekend that is both challenging and deeply renewing.

Fr. Alfonso Gamez described the weekend as one of the most impactful events at the parish:

"The first day everyone comes in kind of shy, but by the last day, they are on fire. It is incredible to see the change. These men leave the retreat convicted in their faith, ready to become the leaders of the next year's retreat."

Past participants call it transformative. This is more than a weekend away:

- It's an encounter with God.
- It's a time to step back from the demands, noise, and distractions of daily life, and allow the Lord to speak to your heart.
- It's a time for prayer, reflection, and fraternity with other men striving, like you, to be faithful husbands, fathers, and disciples of Christ.

Every year, men describe the retreat as a turning point when their faith becomes more personal, real, and deeply rooted. It strengthens not only your faith, but also your family life and your commitment to living intentionally as a disciple of Christ.

The Welcome Retreat renews both the individual and the parish. Many men discover during this weekend a strength and clarity they've been missing, along with a brotherhood that lasts well beyond the retreat.

But it only happens once a year. If the Lord is prompting your heart, respond. Give Him this time. You will come away renewed in faith, re-anchored in purpose, and reminded of what truly matters.

The retreat is free, and the food is excellent. Don't miss this chance to be part of something that could change your life.

Sign up:

stmarknc.org/welcome-retreat

Originally launched in 1969 as **Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP)**, the program was reimagined and revitalized by Dynamic Catholic in 2015, evolving into the **Welcome Retreat** we know today. This change was driven by a desire to make the retreat more engaging and accessible, fostering deeper personal transformation and stronger parish communities Dynamic Catholic.



Coming Up at Saint Mark

Sunday, October 26

Thanksgiving Food Drive
New Member Meet and Greet
Family Movie Night

Tuesday, October 28

Lord of Miracles Mass (7 pm Spanish)

Friday, October 31

All Saints Day Relics in Church

Saturday, November 1

All Saints Day Relics and Art Show
Catholic Charities Furniture Collection

Sunday, November 2

Donut Sunday
Christmas Giving Tree Gift Campaign

Thursday, November 6

Special Suicide Talk: Emily Hogan

Saturday and Sunday, November 8 and 9

Men's Welcome Retreat

Monday, November 10

Charles Fraune Talk on Spiritual Warfare

Tuesday, November 11

Holiday, Offices Closed

Saturday, November 15

Mass of Consolation

Wednesday, November 19

Young at Heart Thanksgiving Luncheon

Sunday, November 30

Advent Begins

St. Nicholas Brunch

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

Welcome.
There is **More to Life**

A Special Opportunity for Men

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



Adoration Thank You!

By: Donna Fodale/Adoration Coordinator

I just came back from putting up an updated short list in the Chapel. My heart is overwhelmed with emotion. There were so many people praying, all different age groups. The love and presence of the Lord for each person in that room was palpable. My first thought was you see Jesus, how much you are loved!

This week I just wanted to say thank you. Thank you for making time to visit our Lord. Thank you for never leaving Him alone. Thank you for reminding me that we are truly a family. Truly the Body of Christ. May God bless each of you and all those who you bring before the Lord in prayer.



Young at Heart

Thanksgiving Luncheon

For ALL those 55+

Wednesday, November 19, 11 am

in the Parish Hall

Come for our annual
traditional Thanksgiving meal,
prepared by our own parishioner
Clint Schaney.

Cost: \$15 donation

To reserve your spot, please fill out an envelope
— found at the Welcome Desk in the Family Center —
and deposit it in the black box on the wall.



*Cutoff for reservation is
Monday, November 10!*



Did you know?

By Deacon Rich McCarron

I have done several videos on this topic on my Facebook page, but I think I need to reach a larger audience! **Did you know that if you are a baptized Catholic, certain things must be in order to have a valid marriage?**

First, it is necessary for you to get married in a Catholic church. You must also fulfill the prescribed requirements mandated by the Church. You and your fiancé must work with the priest or deacon who will officiate at the Marriage Ceremony to fulfill these requirements.

If you decide not to go through this process, your marriage is not considered valid by the Church. That decision also removes the possibility of you acting as a godparent at Baptism or a sponsor at

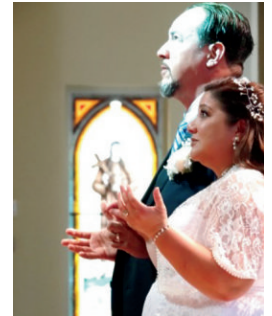
Confirmation. Additionally, you should not be receiving Holy Communion when you attend Mass. I have come across so many instances of this happening, usually because couples do not realize this is the case.

Just as receiving “Holy Communion” at a Protestant church is different from receiving in the Catholic church because of fundamental differences in our beliefs, the same holds true for all the other sacraments including Matrimony. Catholic marriage is a covenantal bond between one man and one woman until death parts them.

If you find that you are living in this situation and would like to rectify that, please contact us and we can begin the process of con-validation (having the marriage blessed and having it become a sacrament). It is never too late to have this done.

Jesus will become a part of your marriage, and you will receive the sacramental graces to help you live the covenant of Holy Matrimony. May the Holy Spirit guide all who need to consider this.

We look forward to hearing from you.



formed™
Forming Catholics for Life.

Brother Francis - All Saints Day

Join Brother Francis in this special episode as he explores the lives of the saints.

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

Stewardship Spotlight: Millions of Monicas

Today's readings center on the theme of humility, reminding us that the Lord hears those who come to Him in humble service and prayer. As Jesus says, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me." (John 7:37) Just as St. Monica humbly and persistently prayed for her son's conversion, we invite all mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and aunts to join the **Millions of Monicas** in prayer to intercede for their children.



Millions of Monicas is a movement of women seeking to encounter God through prayer for themselves and for their children. Many women have experienced the pain of watching their children or family members drift from the Church amid the chaos and challenges of modern life. Just as St. Monica prayed for her son, Augustine, the women of Millions of Monicas pray for their loved ones. They gather twice weekly in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, write down the names of the children they are praying for, and pray the Rosary and other guided prayers together. You don't need to be a mother to attend, and your children don't need to be fallen-away Catholics. All women are welcome to come, pray, and support one another in faith.

Join Millions of Monicas for this hour of prayer on **Wednesday evenings at 7:15 pm** or **Thursday mornings at 10:00 am** in the **right transept of the church**.

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:19–20)

For more information or questions, contact KC Shinnars at nccnms1@yahoo.com or Kathleen Rose-Bellot at kmr1Onc@gmail.com or go to: millionsofmonicas.com.

Bus Trip Interest: James Tweed's Diaconate Ordination

We are considering a group bus trip to Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, N.C. for the Diaconate Ordination of James Tweed on Saturday, December 6.

The bus would leave St. Mark around 7 am and return about 4 pm. Estimated cost: \$30–\$35 per person (meals to be determined).

Please go to our Sign Up Genius at

www.stmarknc.org/james-tweed or scan the code. You may also leave your information with Paige, Karen or Sharon at the Welcome Desk.

If interested, please provide your name and the number in your group.

This is an interest sign-up only and does not guarantee a seat.



RESPECT LIFE



Election 2025 Novena

When: Mon., Oct. 27-Tues., Nov. 5, 5:30-5:45 pm

Where: In the Church

The Respect Life Committee and the Holy Face Prayer Group are once again organizing our annual election novena in the nine days leading up to the election. Please join us in the church from October 27-November 5, 5:30-5:45 pm to pray a parish-wide novena. Note, you will need to pray the novena at home on Saturday, November 1 and Sunday, November 2 (you can also pray the novena each day at home.)

Novena Prayer:

Oh my Jesus! Cast upon us a look of mercy Turn Thy Face towards each one of us even as Thou didst turn to Veronica, not that we may see It with the eyes of our body, for we do not deserve to do so. But turn It towards our hearts, that being sustained by Thee, we may ever draw from that powerful source, the vigor necessary to enable us to wage the combats we have to undergo. Amen. Through the merits of Thy Precious Blood and Thy Holy Face, O Jesus, grant us our petition: May voters choose elected leaders who will uphold the dignity of every human life, sanctity of marriage, liberty of the Church and her members; and may the newly elected officials be guided by the Holy Spirit as they fulfill their positions. Mary, our Mother, and St Joseph, pray for us. Amen.~

Prayer for the Election: Consecration of the Election to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary Immaculate, living tabernacle of the Divinity, where the eternal Wisdom lies hidden to be adored and served by angels and men, Queen of heaven and of earth, beneath whose sway are subject all things that are lower than God, Patroness of the United States of America, sorrowful and mindful of our own sinfulness and the sins of our nation, we come to thee, our refuge and hope. Knowing that our country cannot be saved by our own works and mindful of how much our nation has departed from the ways of thy Son, we humbly ask that thou wouldst turn thine eyes upon our country to bring about its conversion.

We consecrate to thee the integrity of the upcoming election and its outcome, so that what is spiritually and morally best for the citizens of our country may be accomplished, and that all of those who are elected would govern according to the spiritual and moral principles which will bring our nation into conformity with the teachings of thy Son. Give grace to the citizens of this land so that they will choose leaders according to the Sacred Heart of thy Son, that His glory may be made manifest, lest we be given the leaders we deserve. Trusting in the providential care of God the Father and thy maternal care, we have perfect confidence that thou whilst take care of us and will not leave us forsaken. O Mary Immaculate, pray for us. Amen.

(Composed by exorcist Fr. Chad Ripperger)

ADULT PROGRAMS

Struggling with Questions About Separation or Divorce?

When: Mon., Oct. 27, 7 pm

Where: Parish Hall

If you or someone you know is facing the challenges of separation or divorce, you are not alone. St. Mark Catholic Church is offering a special opportunity to speak with a member of the **Charlotte Mecklenburg Bar Association**—completely free of charge.

If you have specific questions, please submit them by October 20 to divorce.support@stmarknc.org.

This is a confidential and supportive setting, open to all seeking clarity or guidance during a difficult time. This should not be considered a substitute for a consultation to obtain individual legal advice and is provided as a broad overview of the Family Law/divorce process in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, generally.

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 by scanning the QR code.



Contact: Sean Meier at seanmeier1@gmail.com

Help. Hope. Healing. Stephen Ministry at St. Mark

The Stephen Ministry is made up of St. Mark parishioners who have received extensive training to give emotional and spiritual care/ support to fellow parishioners as well as to those in our community. This ministry is a confidential, one to one opportunity to receive Christian care in a comfortable meeting place, whether in your home, parish hall, or even in a park setting. For more information, please contact Leanne Vaccaro leanne.vaccaro@stmarknc.org or Rich Kull rkull@optonline.net or visit our website at stmarknc.org/Stephen-ministry.

Special Talk with Emily Hogan...

Caring Conversations: Supporting Teens & Young Adults Through Mental Health Challenges

When: Thurs., Nov. 6, 6:30 pm

Where: Family Center Parish Hall

Who: Parents and Loved Ones of High School Students and Young Adults

About the Talk

Suicide and self-harm are deeply painful issues in our communities, but they're also preventable. Join us for a thoughtful and compassionate evening with **Emily Hogan, MS, MSW, LCSWA**, as she returns to the parish to lead a talk focused on the emotional well-being of young people. Geared toward parents, grandparents, teachers, youth ministers, and other caregivers, this session will explore current trends in adolescent and young adult mental health, with a special emphasis on how we can better support those we love.

During the session, Emily will:

- Review what the research tells us about adolescent and young adult mental health today
- Describe common signs and symptoms of depression and suicidal thinking
- Outline important risk and protective factors
- Offer practical strategies for approaching difficult conversations about mental health and suicide
- Provide an overview of local and national community resources and supports

While this talk is limited to caregivers, we may plan a future session specifically tailored for teens and young adults themselves.

There will be time for Q&A and resource handouts will be provided.

Emily Hogan, MS, MSW, LCSWA is a St. Mark parishioner and a clinical therapist at Clover Counseling, PLLC in Huntersville. Emily spent eight years working at colleges and universities, including Davidson College, helping young adults navigate mental health concerns within the college environment. Emily specializes in supporting adolescents and young adults with anxiety, depression, eating disorders/disordered eating, relationship conflicts, personality disorders, and many other mental health concerns. Over the past twelve years, Emily has taught numerous Mental Health First Aid USA courses to increase community awareness surrounding mental health concerns. She is passionate about improving mental health awareness and response within the Catholic community.



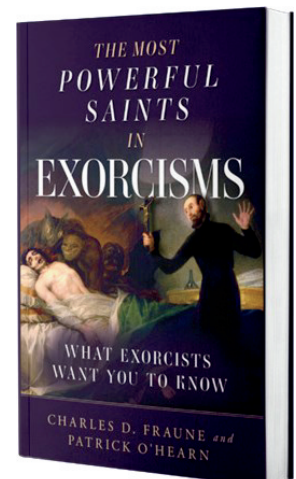
Charles Fraune, "The Most Powerful Saints in Exorcisms: What Exorcists Want You to Know"

When: Mon., Nov 10, 6:30 pm

Where: Kerin Family Center Parish Hall

In this talk, based on his recent book, *The Most Powerful Saints in Exorcisms: What Exorcists Want You to Know* Charles Fraune will present the inspiring teachings about the saints, their power to help us, and their wondrous presence in the life of the Church, including within the ministry of exorcists.

Charles Fraune's books have been endorsed by bishops, exorcists, and those working in deliverance ministry. This talk is recommended for high school students and older.



YOUTH MINISTRY



High School Life Teen

October 26 - Family Movie Night
November 2 - Hope Arrives
November 9 - Hope Lives On

HS Youth Ministry Bible Study

When: Tuesdays; 6-7 pm
Where: Room 203, Kerin Family Center

Stay Connected!

REMIND App:

Class code **smhsym2025**

Instagram: @stmarkncyouth

Sunday Bulletin - Updated Weekly

Email List: augustine.free@stmarknc.org



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.

QR code to RSVP; or go to drexelhigh.org or email admissions@drexelhigh.org for more information!



All Saints Day Art Showcase

Celebrate the Saints through Art!

All parishioners are invited to participate in our All Saints Day Art Showcase! Create a project that helps others learn about your favorite saint's life.

Bring your submissions between October 25-31 and then see them on November 1 (All Saints Day). Your artwork can take any form—poster, drawing, sculpture, poem, song, video, or any creative expression you love! Include in your project:

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

Sign up using the QR code.



3rd Annual ST. NICHOLAS BREAKFAST

Sunday, November 30, 2025

Following the 9 AM & 11 AM Masses

- Hot breakfast including eggs, pancakes, sausage, fruit, and juice.
- Visit with St. Nicholas
- FREE Advent Liturgical Living Resources
- FREE Family Photo Opportunity



Registration Required

Registration closes November 25, 2025, or once capacity is reached.



SAINT MARK
FAMILY MINISTRY



\$7/person
\$50 max per family





High School
Ministry
presents



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

UNDER THE STARS

Bring a lawn blanket or chairs, and
come join us for a family movie
night on the St. Mark lawn,
immediately after the 5pm Mass.

Everyone invited!
Bring Snacks or Picnic Dinner!

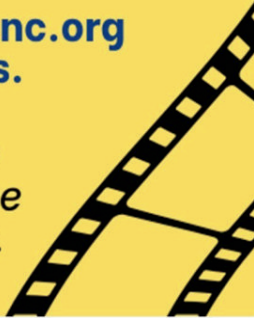
SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 26
6:00-8:00 PM

ST. MARK LAWN

Children must be accompanied by adult.

Email:
augustine.free@stmarknc.org
with any questions.

*In case of rain, the
event will take place
in the Kerin Center.*



KOC

Join us!

Knights of Columbus

When: Mon., Nov. 3, 6:30 pm

Where: Family Center Room 200

Are you a Catholic man looking to grow in your faith, serve your parish and community, and become part of a brotherhood rooted in charity and Catholic values?

The Knights of Columbus invite you to be part of something greater. As a member you will have opportunities to:

- Deepen your spiritual life and faith formation
- Support local charitable causes and parish initiatives
- Participate in family and community events
- Build strong bonds of brotherhood with fellow Catholic men

Whether you're looking to give back, grow spiritually, or simply connect with like-minded men,

There is a place for you in our Council.

Our next general meeting will be Monday, November 3 in Room 202 at 6:30 pm. Please come as our guest to see what we are all about.

To learn more or express interest contact: Ray Fitzgerald at RFITZG@AOL.COM OR 704-992-1702

Knights of Columbus Youth Soccer Challenge

When: Sat., Nov. 8, 11 am

Where: Rescue Squad Park,
7819 Galway Lane, Denver

The Soccer Challenge is open to boys and girls ages 9 to 14. The competition is a penalty-kick contest, designed to let youth demonstrate their basic soccer skills in a friendly, structured format.

This initiative is part of a national Knights of Columbus program intended to promote sportsmanship, healthy competition, and youth engagement.

Info: Danny Walker:
walk6400@gmail.com.







1ST ANNUAL

DAVID CALABRASE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Presented by the Monsignor Joseph A. Kerin Knights of Columbus Council #12654 Huntersville, NC

Monday, November 10, 2025

NORTHSTONE COUNTRY CLUB

11 AM SHOTGUN START, CAPTAIN'S CHOICE

\$160/Per Golfer for Green Fees; \$20 for Mulligan Package.

50/50 Raffle; Putting Contest; Closest-to-Pin

Chicken & BBQ Buffet



Questions or want to sponsor a hole?

Bill Pugh / bill.pugh@cmc.com / 704-309-7466

John Knight / john.knight1@verizon.net / 703-618-3779



Thank you for supporting the Knights of Columbus fundraising efforts to fund 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!

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Spain, Fatima and Lourdes Pilgrimage Information Session

When: Wed., Nov. 12; 7:00 pm

Where: Virtual via Zoom

Come here about our **inspiring Marian Pilgrimage with Father Kevin Martinez to Fatima, Spain, and Lourdes!** This meeting will be an opportunity to see the itinerary, ask questions, and meet your fellow pilgrims!

Feel free to share this invitation with your family and friends — all are welcome to join and learn more about this beautiful experience!

Please help us plan with your RSVP at this link or scan the QR code:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D44A5AE22ABFC1-59574151-fatima>

More Information: www.WoodardLuxuryTravel.com/events-trips

Contact: Donny Woodard, 980-483-3620, dwoodard@WoodardLuxuryTravel.com



DEL PÁRROCO



En las lecturas de la semana pasada, se nos animó a permanecer persistentes y constantes en nuestra vida de oración. Hoy, nos enfocamos en la actitud adecuada de un mayordomo en la oración.

En el pasaje del Evangelio de San Lucas, Jesús ilustra la actitud humilde que debemos tener al acercarnos a Dios en oración a través de una parábola de dos hombres que oran. Uno es un fariseo, un hombre con estatus respetado, formación teológica y todas las credenciales correctas. Marcha hasta el frente del templo para decir una oración "para sí mismo", agradeciendo a Dios por hacerlo un poco superior a todos los demás!

El otro hombre es un recaudador de impuestos, conocido por los de su época por ser un tramposo y un vendido a sus compañeros judíos. A diferencia del fariseo, se para cerca de la parte de atrás y clama a Dios de una manera sencilla y honesta: "Ten piedad de mí, pecador".

Jesús nos dice que es el publicano y no el fariseo quien sale justificado del templo. ¿Por qué?

El fariseo estaba lleno de sí mismo mientras se acercaba a Dios. No sintió ninguna necesidad real de Dios mientras recitaba su currículum de buenas obras y prácticas espirituales. Simplemente estaba haciendo los movimientos de la oración. Su falta de humildad le impidió entrar en un diálogo real con el Padre. No fue transformado por su tiempo de oración porque estaba tan lleno de sí mismo que no le dejó a Dios espacio para entrar.

El recaudador de impuestos, por el contrario, se vaciaba a sí mismo al acercarse a Dios. Reconoció quién era realmente (un pecador) y pidió simplemente misericordia, dejando todo lo demás en manos de Dios. ¡Este es el tipo de actitud con la que Dios puede trabajar! Así es como ora un buen mayordomo: con confianza, con total apertura a la voluntad de Dios, con una mente y un corazón que escuchan, listos para servir como Dios lo guíe. © Consultores de mayordomía católica, 2025

Reflexión pastoral: Noviembre es el mes que comienza con Todos los Santos y Todos los Almas. Es un buen momento para reflexionar sobre la importancia de nuestra conexión con aquellos que nos han precedido "marcados con el signo de la fe". Tenemos una obligación especial (obra espiritual de misericordia) de orar por los muertos, especialmente recordar a las almas del purgatorio. Aquí hay un resumen de la enseñanza católica para ayudarnos a hacer un mejor uso y tener una mejor comprensión de esta importante obligación católica.

Importancia de orar por los muertos en la teología católica

En la teología católica, orar por los muertos tiene un profundo significado como un acto de **comunidad de santos, misericordia y solidaridad** dentro de la Iglesia. Está arraigado en las Escrituras, la Tradición y el magisterio de la Iglesia, afirmando que los vivos pueden ayudar a los difuntos en su camino hacia la plena unión con Dios. A continuación, describiré los fundamentos teológicos clave, el apoyo bíblico e histórico y las implicaciones prácticas.

1. Fundamento teológico: La comunión de los santos

- La Iglesia Católica enseña que los fieles, ya sea en la tierra (Iglesia Militante), en el Purgatorio (Iglesia Sufriente) o en el cielo (Iglesia Triunfante), forman **un Cuerpo místico de Cristo** (Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica [CIC] 946-962).
- La muerte no rompe este vínculo. Las oraciones de los vivos pueden remitir los **efectos temporales del pecado** para las almas en el Purgatorio, un estado de purificación después de la muerte para aquellos destinados al cielo pero aún no completamente santificados (CIC 1030-1032).
- Por qué es importante:** Esta práctica subraya la **interdependencia humana** en la salvación. Así como los santos interceden por nosotros, nosotros intercedemos por los muertos, fomentando la caridad y la esperanza en la resurrección.

2. Base bíblica—La teología católica se basa directamente en las Escrituras, enfatizando la oración por los muertos como una práctica antigua:

Referencia de las Escrituras	Pasaje clave	Visión teológica
2 Macabeos 12:38-46	Judas Macabeo ofrece sacrificios y oraciones "por los muertos, para que sean liberados de su pecado".	Aprobación explícita de oraciones y ofrendas por el difunto para expiar los pecados; fundamental para la doctrina del Purgatorio (aceptada en el canon católico).
1 Corintios 15:29	"De lo contrario, ¿qué logrará la gente al bautizarse por los muertos?"	Implica una costumbre de ritos que benefician a los muertos, apoyando la oración de intercesión.
2 Timoteo 1:16-18	Pablo ora por misericordia para Onesíforo, que ha muerto.	Muestra la práctica apostólica de orar por el difunto por su nombre.

Estos textos afirman que tales oraciones son **agradables a Dios** y efectivas, contrarrestando las objeciones protestantes al resaltar las raíces judías precristianas (por ejemplo, los Macabeos) y la continuidad del Nuevo Testamento.

3. Desarrollo histórico y doctrinal

- Iglesia primitiva:** Las inscripciones en las catacumbas romanas (siglos II-III) solicitan oraciones por los muertos. San Agustín (Confesiones, Libro IX) relata las oraciones de su madre Mónica por su padre. Tertuliano (c. 200 d.C.) describe misas anuales por los difuntos.
- Concilios:** El **Segundo Concilio de Lyon (1274)** y el **Concilio de Trento (1563)** afirmaron dogmáticamente el Purgatorio y los sufragios (oraciones, misas) por los difuntos como meritorios.
- Enseñanza moderna:** Spe Salvi (2007) del Papa Benedicto XVI explica el Purgatorio como "la misericordia de Dios que nos transforma", donde nuestras oraciones "ayudan a completar lo que falta" (cf. Colosenses 1:24). El Papa Francisco se hace eco de esto en *Misericordiae Vultus* (2015), llamándolo un acto de **misericordia divina**.

CONTINUADO EN LA PARTE SUPERIOR DE LA PÁGINA 16

4. Beneficios y Prácticas Espirituales

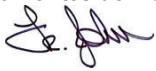
Aspecto	Importancia	Prácticas comunes
Por los muertos	Acelera la purificación; aplica los méritos de Cristo sacrifique through the Church's treasury (CCC 1477).	Ofrenda de misas, rosario por difuntos, indulgencias (por ejemplo, Día de los Difuntos).
Para los vivos	Purifica nuestros propios pecados a través de la caridad; gana indulgencias plenarias (p. ej., visitar cementerios del 1 al 8 de octubre).	Mes de las Santas Almas de noviembre; Oración del Descanso Eterno ("Que descansen en paz").
Impacto municipal	Fortalece la unidad parroquial; nos recuerda el juicio y la realidad del cielo.	Misas del Día de los Fieles Difuntos (2 de noviembre); Libro de los Muertos en las parroquias.

Ejemplo clave de oración: *Descanso eterno* – "Concédeles, oh Señor, el descanso eterno, y brille sobre ellos la luz perpetua. Que descansen en paz. Amén". Recitado después de misas o en privado.

5. Abordar las objeciones comunes

- **"El purgatorio no es bíblico":** Si bien el término "purgatorio" es postbíblico, su realidad se infiere de 2 Macabeos, 1 Corintios 3:13-15 ("el fuego probará... obras") y Mateo 12:32 (perdón "en el siglo venidero").
- **"¿Por qué orar si la salvación es solo por la fe?":** Los protestantes la rechazan, pero los católicos afirman que la fe **obra por amor** (Gálatas 5:6); las oraciones aplican los méritos de Cristo, no "ganan" la salvación.
- **Evidencia de eficacia:** Los milagros (por ejemplo, la Misa de San Gregorio Magno liberando un alma) y las experiencias cercanas a la muerte reportadas en la tradición católica refuerzan su realidad.

En resumen, orar por los muertos es **esencial para la soteriología católica** (teología de la salvación), que encarna la esperanza en la misericordia de Dios y la interconexión de la historia de la salvación. Transforma el dolor en **amor activo**, instando a los católicos a "recordar su misericordia" (Eclesiástico 7:33). Para un estudio más profundo, consulte el **Catecismo** (CIC 958, 1030-1032) o documentos del Vaticano como *Indulgentiarum Doctrina* (1967).



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3 | FROM THE PASTOR

4. Spiritual Benefits and Practices

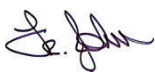
Aspect	Importance	Common Practices
For the Dead	Accelerates purification; applies merits of Christ's sacrifice through the Church's treasury (CCC 1477).	Offering Masses, Rosary for the deceased, indulgences (e.g., All Souls' Day).
For the Living	Purifies our own sins via charity; gains plenary indulgences (e.g., visiting cemeteries Oct. 1-8).	November's Month of the Holy Souls; Eternal Rest prayer ("May they rest in peace").
Communal Impact	Strengthens parish unity; reminds us of judgment and heaven's reality.	All Souls' Day (Nov. 2) Masses; Book of the Dead in parishes.

Key Prayer Example: *Eternal Rest* – "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen." Recited after Masses or privately.

5. Addressing Common Objections

- **"Purgatory isn't biblical":** While the term "Purgatory" is post-biblical, its reality is inferred from 2 Maccabees, 1 Corinthians 3:13-15 ("fire will test... works"), and Matthew 12:32 (forgiveness "in the age to come").
- **"Why pray if salvation is by faith alone?":** Protestants reject it, but Catholics affirm faith **works through love** (Galatians 5:6); prayers apply Christ's merits, not "earn" salvation.
- **Evidence of Efficacy:** Miracles (e.g., St. Gregory the Great's Mass freeing a soul) and near-death experiences reported in Catholic lore reinforce its reality.

In summary, praying for the dead is **essential to Catholic soteriology** (theology of salvation), embodying hope in God's mercy and the interconnectedness of salvation history. It transforms grief into **active love**, urging Catholics to "remember their mercy" (Sirach 7:33). For deeper study, consult the **Catechism** (CCC 958, 1030-1032) or Vatican documents like *Indulgentiarum Doctrina* (1967).







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,
 Certified Personal
 Retirement Specialist™



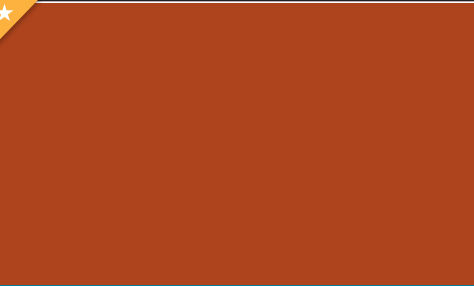
Fee-based financial planning and investment advisory services are offered by A4 Wealth Advisors, LLC a Registered Investment Advisor an SEC investment advisor. Insurance products and services are offered through A4 Insurance Solutions. A4 Wealth Advisors LLC and A4 Insurance Solutions are affiliated companies.


Raymer-Kepner
 FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES



Family Owned & Operated
On Site Crematory
Two Locations to Serve You:
 16901 Old Statesville Road, Huntersville, NC 28078
704-892-9669
 388 NC 16 Business Hwy. • **Denver, NC 28037**
704-966-4257
raymerfh.com

John & Claudia Kepner and son
 Jonathan & Lindsey Kepner



(704) 997-6068 | Drawn2ArtStudios.com/Cornelius
 Cornelius@Drawn2ArtStudios.com

CAROLINA'S VEIN & VASCULAR SOLUTIONS
Dr. Martin Carignan
Vascular Surgeon, Parishioner
 EXPERIENCE PERSONALIZED CARE AND COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR VASCULAR HEALTH JOURNEY. BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT WITH OUR TRUSTED VASCULAR SURGEON TODAY!
704-659-4499
 Mooresville, NC
 & Huntersville, NC
www.CarolinasVeinAndVascular.com

Nice difference.®
Free shuttle service
Free courtesy inspection
Complete automotive repair
All makes and models
Mon - Fri: 7am - 6pm • Sat - Sun: Closed
After Hours Drop Off
LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED BY:
Steve & Sherry Genenbacher
Owners & Parishioners
ChristianBrothersAuto.com | (704) 727-0808
16618 Old Statesville Rd, | Huntersville, NC


B&T
FINANCIAL COACHING

- Personal Financial Literacy
- CPA Tax Preparation & Planning
- Small Business Consulting & Training

Bob & Terri Langbo
704-737-0085
BTFinancialCoaching@gmail.com

Vincent Montoya
CONCRETE & ASPHALT SPECIALIST
Owner / Parishioner
Complimentary 1st Consultation • Now Offering Financing
 Landscaping, outdoor kitchens, fire-pits, fireplaces, retaining walls, patios, fences and much more!
Vmlandscapeandstone.co

10% OFF
NEW PROJECTS
 WITH MENTION OF AD


GARAGE LIVING

GARAGE FLOOR COATINGS
CABINETRY
CAR LIFTS
SLATWALL ORGANIZATION
OVERHEAD STORAGE

Visit our Huntersville showroom
704.897.7298
garageliving.com/charlotte

Kevin + Blanca
 Parishioners



 **980.328.1144**
kbinteriorscc@gmail.com
kandbinteriors.com

Kitchen & Bath • Remodeling
New Construction • Interior Design
 Cabinets, Countertops, Trim,
 Custom Carpentry

CAROLINA ORAL & FACIAL SURGERY

MICHAEL J. COLEMAN, DDS
PARISHIONER
MICHAEL J. FORAN, DMD

704.892.1198
CAROLINAOMS.COM

LAKE NORMAN'S TRUSTED
CHOICE FOR ORAL SURGERY
SINCE 1985

WISDOM TEETH
IV SEDATION
DENTAL IMPLANTS
EXTRACTIONS



JAMES
FUNERAL HOME
CEMETERY & ONSITE CREMATORY



NORTHLAKE
MEMORIAL GARDENS
A PERPETUAL CARE CEMETERY

The Closest Funeral Home to St. Mark

Lake Norman's Only Family Owned
Funeral Home, Cemetery & Crematory Combination
jamesfuneralhomelkn.com | 704-584-9004 | northlakememorial.com
Traditional Funerals • Cremation with Memorial Service
Service with Cremation to Follow • Graveside Services
Transportation of Remains to or from Anywhere in the World

Our Cemetery Includes Catholic Consecrated Gardens



a neighborly company

LOCAL SERVICE YOU CAN TRUST

The top rated garage door company in the Charlotte-area

Locally owned and operated
Best warranty in the business
Installs • Repairs • Tune-ups
Licensed, Bonded & Insured

(980) 243-3655

WWW.GARAGEDOORSCHARLOTTENC.COM

GREAT SELECTION OF BURG'RS, BEER & WINE



HAND CRAFTED BURG'RS.
UNIQUE SIDES & APPETIZERS.

KENTON 17015 Kenton Dr. Cornelius, NC 28031 (704) 997-5388	DENVER 547 Breilwood Rd. Denver, NC 28037 (704) 966-1820	ANTIQUITY 21726 Catawaba Ave. Cornelius, NC 28031 (704) 897-7320
--	--	--

CRAFTYBURGR.COM Local Parishioner owned



- Powerlifting
- Weightlifting
- Cross Training
- Bodybuilding
- Personal Training
- Heavy Bag
- Cardio

365 24/7

704-397-7582
olympus365.com
olympus365@yahoo.com

14125 Statesville Rd.
Huntersville, North Carolina 28078
Saint Mark Parishioners



Personal & Business
Insurance

TONY POMORSKI

Text or Call
704.777.0771
Tony@piedmont-ins.com

PROTECTING WHAT
MATTERS MOST
TO YOU



Creative Window Coverings LLC

Bill Fitzpatrick
Owner / St. Mark Parishioner

GRABER. | DELIGHT IN EVERY DETAIL

Quality products and superior customer service since 2000

Plantation Shutters | Blinds & Shades
704.947.9822 | www.cwcsouth.com

AJW Detailing

Mobile Detailing Services
(We come to you)

Alex Adams
Parishioner for 14 years
St. Mark & CTK Grad
704.885.4819
AJWDetailing.com
10% Discount
with bulletin

TITAN BUILT CONSTRUCTION

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL PAINTING
KITCHEN/BATH REMODELS • BASEMENT REMODELS
FLOORING (HARDWOOD, TILE & MORE)
DECKS & FENCES

FREE ESTIMATE

WWW.TITANBUILTCONSTRUCTION.COM
ASK FOR JAY HORTON • OWNER & PARISHIONER
704-777-0100 • Lic & Ins.
JHortonTitanBuilt@gmail.com

DAVID SELF
FAMILY LAW & MEDIATION
EXPERIENCED • HONEST • ADVOCACY

Providing clear, honest guidance and experience you can trust

DavidSelfFamilyLaw.com
980.441.1110

WHEN IT REALLY MATTERS, WE ARE HERE FOR ALL OF YOUR FAMILY LAW NEEDS

SACRED HEART DERMATOLOGY .com

Blake Sanders, D.O.
Board Certified Dermatologist

Privately Owned Clinic - Accepting New Patients
170 Medical Park Rd | Suite 203
Moorseville, NC 28117
(980) 550-2400

Segovia Cleaning Services

EXPERT CLEANING FOR YOUR SPACE
Serving the local community since 2020

Residential Cleaning
Move in/out Cleaning
Commercial Cleaning
Airbnb Turnover Services

(980) 622-6071
Call for your **FREE** estimate today!

Parishioners
SegoviaCleaningServices.net

Pregnant & in college?
We're here to help!

MIRAVIA
Serving Pregnant Women & Their Children Since 1994

f @ MiraViaLife

704-602-4806 MiraVia.org info@miravia.org

PRIDEMORE COMPASS

Guided by Faith, DRIVEN TO SERVE.

Mike Hege, MRE
Broker | Realtor®
704.491.9445
mikehege.com

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR A FREE HOME VALUE REPORT!

RICARDO URIAS
OWNER

URIAS FLOORING COMPANY LLC

uriasflooringco@gmail.com
(980) 475-7405
Charlotte, NC
www.uriasflooringllc.com



WHITEANDHAINES

advanced dentistry
General & Cosmetic Dentistry

Steven M. White, DDS, PA | *Parishioner*
Brad S. Haines, DDS, PA
Claire E. Papp, DMD
704.896.9535
drswiteandhaines.com



9725 Caldwell Commons Circle Cornelius, NC 28031



**Birkdale
Audiology**

Advanced Hearing Care

Advanced Hearing Care Services

- Comprehensive Diagnostic Hearing Tests
- Communication Needs Assessments
- Hearing Aid Fittings and Repairs
- Tinnitus Evaluations & Management
- Ear Wax Management
- Custom Ear Molds



Kelly Knolhoff, AuD.

Doctor of Audiology • St. Mark's Parishioner

704.237.4099

www.BirkdaleAudiology.com

8936 Northpointe Executive Park Dr | Ste 195 | Huntersville, NC 28078



Call Elite when you
need a new 'ROOF'!

704.992.7474

eliteroofandsolar.com

WOODARD LUXURY TRAVEL

Your Refined Journey Awaits... *join us!*

Donny Woodard

980-483-3620

St. Mark Volunteer & Parishioner



UPCOMING HOSTED TRIPS

May 2026 – Catholic Pilgrimage:
Fatima, Spain, & Lourdes with Fr. Martinez
Fall 2026 – TBD

Visit
WWW.WOODARDLUXURYTRAVEL.COM
for more details