



NOT A HAIR on your head WILL BE DESTROYED



Today we celebrate the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, the final Sunday in the liturgical year. The readings can be found on page 1203. 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

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





Thank you for sharing your gifts. You may give online at: 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.
- 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.
- Please consume the Holy Eucharist in front of the minister of Holy Communion, before walking awav.

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.

Planned

Proportionate

Consistent

FROM THE PASTOR



As we approach the end of the liturgical year, our readings offer a sober reminder that this life is not our aim and that God's justice will triumph in the

end. Now is the time to get our priorities in order, putting God above all else as his faithful stewards.

Our Lord brings home the urgency of right priorities in our Gospel passage from Luke, reminding the people around him who were looking at the temple nearby, "All that you see here—the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down." Our Lord reminds us that all in this world is passing. We must keep our focus on eternity.

Yet before the eternal bliss of heaven, we should expect to be tried and tested. "Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name."

Sounds scary. But if you are living a stewardship way of life, there is nothing to fear. You have a plan in place. All you need to do is stick with it. Put our Lord first in your time, with your talents, and through your use of treasure. This way of life is not easy. But Jesus promises it will lead to eternal salvation and the joy of union with Him. "You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on

your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance, you will secure your lives." Onward, Christian stewards, the struggle is worth the joy that awaits!

Pastoral Pondering

On November 4th the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith released *Mater Populi Fidelis*, a 20-page doctrinal note which was approved by the Holy Father. The Document addresses longstanding requests for clarification on Marian titles related to Mary's cooperation in salvation. It emphasizes Mary's unique role as Mother of believers while safeguarding Christ's sole mediatorship, aiming to foster authentic devotion, Catholic fidelity, and ecumenical dialogue.

The Note responds to decades of proposals, including petitions for new Marian dogmas, often amplified via social media and private revelations. It draws on Scripture, Tradition (e.g., St. Augustine), and prior papal reflections, including Joseph Ratzinger's 1996 and 2002 critiques of certain titles as unclear or prone to misunderstanding. The document appreciates popular piety but cautions against expressions that could confuse the faithful or obscure Christ's centrality. It promotes "participated mediation"-Mary's supportive role in union with Christwithout equating her to the Redeemer. The document goes on to underscore "approved titles/expressions" and "discouraged titles/expressions." Those

that are encouraged include: Mother of God (Theotokos), Mother of Believers. Spiritual Mother, Mother of the Faithful People of God, and Mediatrix (in a general sense of intercession). It notes that these underscore Mary's maternal bond with Christ and the Church, directing devotion to the Son. They are biblically rooted (e.g., John 19:26-27) and foster hope, tenderness, and unity. Those titles discouraged are Coredemptrix and Mediatrix of All Graces. It notes that these risk eclipsing Christ's unique mediation (1 Tim 2:5) and redemption; not explicitly in Scripture or early Tradition; potential for confusion or imbalance in faith, especially ecumenically.

I know in my own discussions over the years; it is very easy (especially for my non-Catholic relatives) to get confused over certain Marian titles. They can certainly be explained, but as the DDF points out, those titles that require greater explanation for common understanding should be discouraged. To be sure, you can find both titles used in various Catholic resources, and the document certainly does not forbid their use. Nonetheless, it approaches the topic in a balanced and pastorally sensitive way that recognizes the importance of Marian devotion and piety while, at the same time, reminding us all of the importance supporting and encouraging doctrinal harmony.



Editor's Note:

Thank you for your understanding as we clarify a small error from last week's Pastoral Pondering regarding the altar rails. The original version gave the impression that this change was being implemented throughout the Diocese. In fact, the decision applies only **here at St. Mark**, beginning the First Sunday of Advent.

Below is the corrected section of the message from Fr. John:

Last year I noted that the norm for the distribution of Holy Communion in the United States is standing and on the hand. I brought it up because parishioners were questioning why Bishop Martin, when he visited the parish, did not utilize the altarrails. This is not the norm universally, but each conference of bishops is asked to adopt that posture which is to be normative. The USCCB website states the following:

"The General Instruction asks each country's Conference of Bishops to determine the posture to be used for the reception of Communion and the act of reverence to be made by each person as he or she receives Communion. In the United States, the body of Bishops has determined that '[t]he norm... is that Holy Communion is to be received standing, unless an individual member of the faithful wishes to receive Communion while kneeling,' and that a bow is the act of reverence made by those receiving (no. 160). The right to receive Communion on the tongue or on the hand and whether to receive kneeling or standing belongs to the individual. The normative practice, however, is clear and is set by the body of bishops."

www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist/the-reception-of-holy-communion-at-mass Fr. John reminds us that our love and devotion for the Eucharist can be expressed in many ways, and that reverence, unity, and obedience all flow from that same love. The Eucharist remains the very heart of our parish life and from it comes our strength to serve, to teach, and to share Christ with others.

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 Charlie Donovan Jane & William Dragoon James Dupree Barbara Dutty James P. Durcan Jack Evans Frances & Kai Ferell & Family Charles Fillipo Al Fischlein Joseph Fiore Tom Fox

Alan Friedl & Family

Denny & Monica Golden

Maureen K. Frost

Carmine Gallo

Valeria Gerbasi

Tom Goodwin

Teri Gay

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

Josette Grace Robert Graham 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 Margaret Lynch Dr. Sivaramalingam Manickavasagar 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 Joann Nigro

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 Sherwood Family Mark Shields Sue Sia

Todd Singh Robert Somerville Betsy Spartz Jeff Stark

John Williams Stoker & Family 7 pm

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, November 16

7:30 am † Gregory Warner 9 am † Carol Tipton Hook 11 am † Anthony Yenichek St. Mark Parishioners 1 pm

4:30 pm + Frani Hibbs

† Burdzinski & Kazimierski 5 pm

Families

Monday, November 17

7 am Mr. & Mrs. Gerald & Eileen Corkery

9 am **Emmanuel Garcia**

Tuesday, November 18

† Timothy William Cunnane 7 am

Heidi Durschlag 9 am Wednesday, November 19

† Ken Terminini 7 am † David Calabrase

6:30 pm † Jean Yves Ramarijaona

† Kieran & Carol Grogan

Thursday, November 20

7 am Terry Mendonsa 9 am Mary's Women of Joy

Friday, November 21

† Philip Eigenbauer 7 am † Helena Solanilla 9 am Jasmine Perez

Saturday, November 22

9 am † Fr. George H. Moreau 5 pm † Steve Takahashi

Sunday, November 23 7:30 am † Pat Nestor

9 am Father Christian Goduti 11 am † Roger Porubsky

1 pm † Epigmenio Martinez Domingues

5 pm St. Mark Parishioners & Kazimierski Families

†Deceased

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Vic Crognale, father of Susie Mostert

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Sun.

Mal 3:19-20a; Ps 98:5-6, 7-8, 9; 2 Thes 3:7-12; Lk 21:5-19

Memorial of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious

1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; Lk 18:35-43

Tue. 2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Lk 19:1-10

Wed. 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15; Lk 19:11-28

1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44 Thu.

Fri. Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a,

12bcd; Lk 19:45-48

Sat. Memorial of Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr

1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19; Lk 20:27-40

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe 2 Sm 5:1-3; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43 **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, Airman Michael F. Yellico

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.

CLOSING THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Final Sunday of the Church Year!

This weekend, the Church celebrates the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, the final Sunday of the Liturgical Year. Next week, we will celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (often called *Christ the King Sunday*), which marks the completion of the Church's annual journey through the life of Christ. The following week, the First Sunday of Advent on November 30, we begin again.

Understanding the Liturgical Year

The Church's calendar isn't based on the regular January–December year. Instead, it follows the rhythm of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. We begin with Advent, a season of waiting and hope for Christ's coming. Christmas celebrates His birth; Lent prepares us for His Passion; and Easter rejoices in His Resurrection. After Pentecost, we live in the long, green season of Ordinary Time, growing in faith and discipleship.

The Three-Year Cycle

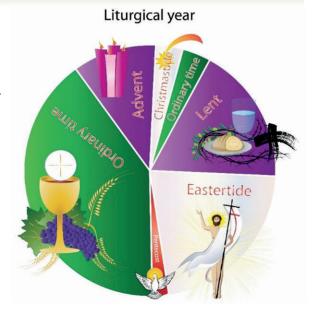
At Sunday Mass, the Church reads most of the Bible over a three-year period:

- Year A focuses on the Gospel of Matthew
- Year B highlights Mark
- Year C centers on Luke

The Gospel of *John* is woven throughout special seasons like Lent and Easter. This cycle helps us hear God's Word more fully and encounter Jesus in different ways each year.

A New Beginning

Next week, as we honor Christ the King, we give thanks for His reign over all creation. Then, with Advent, we start anew — entering once again into the great story of salvation, waiting with hope for the coming of the Lord.



2026 Liturgical Calendars Now Available!

Thank you to James Funeral Home for generously underwriting our annual calendar giveaway. Calendars for the 2026 Liturgical Year are now available! Please pick one up in the Narthex after Mass this weekend — while supplies last.

STEWAR DSHIP

Stewardship Spotlight: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

If you or someone you know are interested in exploring the Catholic faith our Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) journey may be right for you. At St. Mark Catholic Church, we joyfully welcome all who are curious about the Catholic faith. We utilize a year-round process, allowing anyone to begin the journey at any time. Whether you've never been baptized, were baptized in another Christian tradition, or are a Catholic seeking to complete your sacraments, the door is always open.

A Lifelong Journey of Faith

OCIA is more than a class—it's a process of conversion and discipleship, centered on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and lived within the parish community. The journey unfolds gradually through several stages, each supported by prayer, teaching, and the loving witness of our faith family.

- 1. Inquiry (Pre-Catechumenate): A time to ask questions, explore beliefs, and meet others who are also seeking.
- 2. Catechumenate: For those ready to continue, this period offers systematic formation in Catholic teaching and participation in parish life.
- 3. Purification & Enlightenment: Usually during Lent, participants prepare spiritually for receiving the sacraments at Easter through prayer, reflection, and special rites.
- 4. Mystagogy: After the sacraments, new Catholics continue growing in faith and learning to live as active members of the Church.

A Parish-Wide Mission

The OCIA process is not only for those joining the Church — it's a renewal for all of us. Parishioners play a vital role by praying for our inquirers, serving as sponsors and team members, and extending the warm hospitality that makes St. Mark such a welcoming home. Each stage of OCIA includes liturgical rites celebrated at Mass—moments when the parish prays over and supports those discerning their call to Christ. From the Rite of Entrance into the Catechumenate, through the Scrutinies of Lent, to the Easter Vigil, our community walks side-by-side with those preparing to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Begin Anytime

Because OCIA at St. Mark runs continuously, there's no deadline to start. Each person's faith journey is unique, and our team will help discern the right next steps for you.

Sessions are held Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM in the School Library. To inquire or to learn more, contact Leanne Vacarro, Coordinator of OCIA: Leanne.vacarro@stmarknc.org; Paul Laskowski, Director of Evangelization: Paul.Laskowski@stmarknc.org





Include Mass in Your Thanksgiving Traditions

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS

and

BLESSING OF THE BREAD

Thursday, November 27, 9 am

This Thanksgiving, in the midst of the traditions that you and your family have, give thanks to God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon you.



PARISH LIFE

Thanksgiving Food Drive - Thank You!

Once again, the parishioners of St. Mark have shown extraordinary generosity during this year's Thanksgiving Food Drive. Thanks to your kindness, we gave out **406 bags of food** and over **180 gift cards** for local families in need. In addition, we filled an entire **storage pod** with surplus donations, which were gratefully received by **Hearts and Hands Ministries**.

A heartfelt thank you goes to **KC Shinners** for leading this incredible outreach effort, and to the many volunteers of all ages who contributed by donating, collecting, sorting, loading, and unloading food. Your dedication made a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to **Harris Teeter** for donating **900** grocery bags, and to the **7th** grade students at **St. Mark School** who helped unload the pod and load the trucks bound for Hearts and Hands Ministries.

Your compassion and commitment to serving others truly embody the spirit of Thanksgiving. Thank you!



PARISH LIFE

Singles 45+ Fellowship Event

When: Sun., Nov. 16, 4–8 pm Where: Brickhouse Tavern 209 Delburg St., Davidson

Let's meet again! 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 friends! We'd love to see everyone! Please RSVP with the QR

code so we can plan.

Questions? 45plussingles@gmail.com

Did You Miss Our Estate Planning Seminar?

If you were unable to attend the free Estate Planning Seminar held on Oct. 23 we'd be happy to provide you with more information. Please feel free to reach out to Karen Donahue at

karen.donahue@stmarknc.org.

We have extra information packets from the Diocese available to assist you with your estate planning needs.

Please Support Our Deployed Military Personnel



If you know someone in the military that is deployed and will not be home for the holidays, please email Susan Evilsizer with their name and address. We are preparing cards and care packages to send to military personnel and do this on a monthly basis. If you would like to donate items for the care packages, please contact Susan to arrange pickup. We want to make sure they know we support them; we care and are thankful for all they are doing for us and this country!

Contact: Susan Evilsizer, susan.evilsizer@gmail.com

Ministry for Couples Struggling with Infertility: Harvest Hope

When: Nov. 20: 8 pm

(We meet once a quarter)
Where: Zoom; RSVP for meeting link

For couples experiencing infertility, it is often a lonely road to walk. There is an undercurrent of hope, resting in the Lord's providence, that the harvest will come despite the heavy cross. Harvest Hope is launching to provide a Catholic support group for couples walking the road of infertility. This group will provide a space to share the trials that infertility can bring to a couple's life while upholding the Church's teachings.

The group name comes from Galatians 6:9: "And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap a harvest, if we do not lose heart."

Contact: Lindsey Schmidt & Mary Weaver, <u>harvest.hope.stmark@gmail.com</u>

Prayer & Praise Night



When: Tue., Nov. 25, Rosary at 7 pm Prayer and Praise 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 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.

Future date: December 9

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

Alzheimer's Respite Ministry -A Place of Peace

When: Mondays 1-4 pm

Alzheimer's.

Where: Kerin Family Center, Room 200
Caring for someone with Alzheimer's can be both beautiful and challenging. At Saint Mark Catholic Church we understand the deep need for companionship, spiritual support and meaningful engagement – especially in the early to moderate stages of

Our Alzheimer's Respite Ministry offers a safe, welcoming space where your loved one can experience prayer, friendship and joyful socialization. Our dedicated volunteers recognize that meaningful relationships are possible at every stage of Alzheimer's. We are here to nurture those connections with compassion and faith.

You are welcome to attend with your loved one or allow us to care for them while you receive some much-needed respite from your caregiving.

To enroll in this free program, contact: Janet Urban, <u>jgraceart@yahoo.com</u> or 704-236-7475.

Make a Difference with Nourish Up! Volunteers Needed



Looking for a meaningful way to give back to your community? Join the Nourish Up Food Pantry team and

help bring hope and nourishment to our neighbors!

We're seeking friendly, compassionate volunteers to assist clients in selecting food items at the pantry on Stumptown Rd. This is a hands-on, client-facing role perfect for those who love connecting with people and making a direct impact.

Volunteers are needed to work on Wednesdays or Thursdays from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. Volunteer weekly, bi-weekly, or even just once a monthwhatever fits your schedule!

Contact Lauren Steele at laurenfloyd@verizon.net to get started.

PARISH LIFE

Millions of Monicas - One Hour, One Purpose, Our Children

When: Wed. after 6:30 pm Mass, Thur. 10 am

Where: St. Mark Church - left transept

This ministry invites mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, aunts and other women to pray for our children's return to the faith. Join us for prayer, intentions and the rosary - with petitions to St. Monica and the conversion of souls.

Contact: KC at

nccnms1@yahoo.com, Kathleen at kmr10nc@gmail.com

For More Information Visit www.millionsofmonicas.com

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

Walkers, Wheelchairs and Rollators Available

If you or a loved one needs a free walker. wheelchair or rollator. we have a limited supply available through generous donations. If you're interested, please contact KC Shinners at nccnms1@yahoo.com



or 704-458-8783 for assistance.

Pray the Rosary

Using our beautiful stained-glass windows as a guide, join us in praying the rosary on



Tuesdays at 7 pm and immediately before the following Masses: Wednesday 6:30 pm Saturday 5pm Sunday 7:30 am



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Coats for Kids

This initiative provides warm coats to children in need through pre-purchased donations, distributing them to those facing the greatest hardship. The recent Coats for Kids campaign resulted in 45 coats being donated to Catholic Charities. Additionally, more than 200 coats were delivered to five local elementary schools serving students with significant needs, as well as to Hope House. Our efforts also supported the St. Mark coat drive in response to their substantial demand.

Blood Drive

When: Sunday, Dec. 7, 8 am-1 pm Where: Kerin Family Center

The St Mark's Knights of Columbus, in collaboration with One Blood, will host a blood drive at the Kerin Center from 8 am-1 pm. Blood donations collected will remain in the Charlotte area for local use. Appointments to donate can be scheduled online or at the Knights of Columbus table outside the Church after Mass. The target is to reach 60 donors.

Coming Up at Saint Mark

Wednesday, November 19

Young at Heart Luncheon

Tuesday, November 25

Prayer & Praise

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

Friday, December 12

Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday, December 13

Parish-Wide Holiday Celebration

December 15-23

Posada, nightly, Spanish

Thursday, December 25

Christmas

Thursday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Day, Offices Closed

Saturday, January 3

First Saturday Dinner

Saturday, January 10

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

Volunteer Appreciation Event

Saturday, January 17

Meal Packaging Event

Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King Day, Offices Closed

February 7 and 8

Women's Welcome Retreat

February 11

Young at Heart Luncheon

Saturday, February 14

Marriage Date Night

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday

Friday, February 20

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Monday, March 9

St. Serra Mass

Friday, March 13

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Saturday, March 21

St. Patrick Dinner and Show

Friday, March 27

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

April 2-4

Easter Triduum

April 5

Easter Sunday

Events Scheduled to Change.

Details in the bulletin and newsletter

in the weeks before event.

CHRISTMAS TREES SALE

The Knights of Columbus are announcing the annual

Christmas tree sale at St. Mark's, an event held for over a decade.

Proceeds from tree sales will be directed to charities supported by the organization.

A limited number of Fraser fir Christmas trees

are available in three sizes:

6-7 ft.

7-8 ft.

8-9 ft.

Wreaths are also offered in 3 different sizes with the

option to add decorations for an additional fee.

Delivery to your home is also an option.

Orders can be placed by scanning the QR code or visiting

stmarknc.org/koc.

Order must be received with your payment by November 28,2025

Pickup / Delivery date will be Saturday,

December 6, from 8am till 2 pm.

ADORATION

Lord, I've Got Nothing!, By: Donna Fodale/ Adoration Coordinator

After sitting at my computer the other day, I was praying about what to write this week. I just said out loud, Lord, I've got nothing! Apparently, so it seemed, the Holy Spirit didn't have anything for me either. So, I decided to go spend time with the Lord in Adoration. I am never disappointed when I spend time in Adoration!

While in Adoration those very words, Lord, I've got nothing started to rise from deep within me. Coming right from my heart. There was more going on here and I knew that this is what I needed to share.

How many times do we go about our busy lives feeling that we are empty? That we have nothing left to give. Overwhelmed by the things of life and the crosses that we carry.

It can be so difficult to hear the Lord speak to us in those moments. It can be difficult to receive the peace and help that He is offering us.

THIS IS EXACTLY WHY spending time before the Lord in Adoration is so

important. This is where He offers you rest, peace, comfort, mercy, hope and love. His grace pours out upon you in adoration. Many do not realize immediately the ways in which this transforms you, but you will definitely see the fruit over time. Sitting before Him in Adoration you realize you do have something. You have all that you need in Him! Everything is right before you in that little white host.

I would like to invite you to bring the following Psalm to Adoration, especially when you feel like you've got nothing.

Psalm 23 reminds us:

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for His Name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

IF YOU CAN, PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER COMMITING TO ONE HOUR A WEEK AS AN ADORER. Choose an hour that works with your schedule. Register at www.stmarknc.org/adoration

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



This Week on Formed

Week of November 16, 2025



What Catholics Believe About Mary: Immaculate Conception, Virginity

Join Dr. Edward Sri as he answers some of the internet's most asked questions about Mary. Who is Mary? Why do Catholics pray to Mary? How could she be a virgin if Jesus had brothers and sisters according to the Bible? Find out answers to these and more questions in this episode of What Catholics Believe.



Ode to Saint Cecilia

The lives of the saints are epic stories and particular expressions of God's grace in humanity. Celebrate St. Cecilia with this audio drama by the Augustine Institute Radio Theatre.



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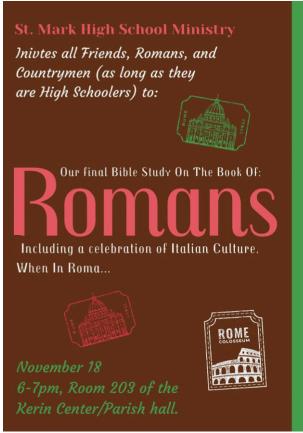


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For more information about an upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend program in Charlotte area on January 16-18, 2026 for couples, email 3062r@helpourmarriage.org or call 727-343-6701

Website: www.HelpOurMarriage.com

The Igbo Catholic Community

When: Sun., Nov. 23, 7 pm
Where: Our Lady of Consolation
1235 Badger Ct, Charlotte

The Igbo Catholic Community Diocese of Charlotte, will celebrate their last Mass for the year. This will be a historic landmark celebration for all Nigerians and especially the Igbos in the Diocese of Charlotte as it is the first time it will be hosted in the City of Charlotte. We encourage everyone to attend as we celebrate and thank God together as one family. There will be refreshments after the Mass.

Please bring your families and friends to join us for fellowship, friendship, and food!

God bless you as you celebrate with us!

Fr. Kevin Martinez Pilgrimage to Fatima, Spain & Lourdes

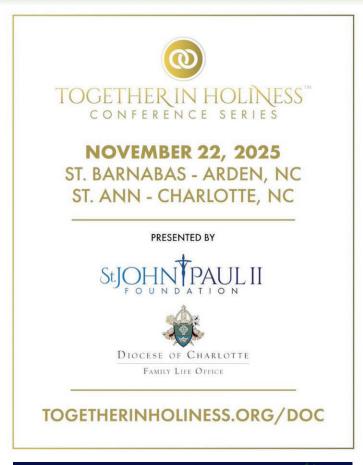
When: May 24-June 4, 2026 Where: Fatima, Spain, Lourdes

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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. Mr. Ramon Tapia

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scott.bruno@stmarknc.org 704-948-0231, Ext. 118

Sacristan

Sr. Mary Agnes

sacristan@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 211

Liturgy Coordinator/Office Manager

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emily.bixler@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 102

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704-948-0231, Ext. 121

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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

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Life Crisis: Stephen Ministry

stmarknc.org/stephen-ministry Paul G. | 704-641-0654

Food Insecurity:

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

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Ellen | 704-907-8555 **Alcoholics Anonymous**

Tom | 704-604-7739

Alateen program

Divorce Support Group

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

Contact: divorce.support@stmarknc.org

Mass Schedule

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

7, 9 am

7 pm (Spanish) 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

Sat:

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.

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

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Crisis Pregnancy Help

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benotafraid.net

Community Pregnancy Center of Lake Norman:

Catholic Charities: 704-370-3262: Birthright: 704-975-8572; Post Abortion: 1-800-5-WE CARE Poor prenatal diagnosis? You're not alone. There is help.

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DEL PÁRROCO



A medida que nos acercamos al final del año litúrgico, nuestras lecturas ofrecen un sobrio recordatorio de que esta vida no es nuestro objetivo y

que la justicia de Dios triunfará al final. Ahora es el momento de poner en orden nuestras prioridades, poniendo a Dios por encima de todo como sus fieles mayordomos.

Nuestro Señor trae a casa la urgencia de las prioridades correctas en nuestro pasaje del Evangelio de Lucas, recordando a las personas a su alrededor que miraban el templo cercano: "Todo lo que veis aquí, vendrán días en que no quedará piedra sobre piedra que no sea derribada". Nuestro Señor nos recuerda que todo en este mundo está pasando. Debemos mantener nuestro enfoque en la eternidad. Sin embargo, ante la bienaventuranza eterna del cielo, debemos esperar ser probados y probados. "Pero antes de que todo esto suceda, te prestarán y te perseguirán, te entregarán a las sinagogas y a las cárceles y te harán comparecer ante reves y gobernadores por causa de mi nombre". Suena aterrador. Pero si estás viviendo un estilo de vida de mayordomía, no hay nada que temer. Tienes un plan en marcha. Todo lo que necesitas hacer es seguir con él. Pon a nuestro Señor en primer lugar en tu tiempo, con tus talentos y mediante el uso de tus tesoros. Esta forma de vida no es fácil. Pero Jesús promete que conducirá a la salvación eterna y al gozo de la unión con Él. "Serás odiado por todos a causa de mi nombre, pero ni un cabello de tu cabeza será

destruido. Con vuestra perseverancia, aseguraréis vuestras vidas". ¡Adelante, mayordomos cristianos, la lucha vale la pena el gozo que nos espera!

Meditación pastoral

El 4 de noviembre, el Dicasterio para la Doctrina de la Fe publicó Mater Populi Fidelis, una nota doctrinal de 20 páginas que fue aprobada por el Santo Padre. El documento aborda las solicitudes de aclaración de larga data sobre los títulos marianos relacionados con la cooperación de María en la salvación. Enfatiza el papel único de María como Madre de los creyentes al tiempo que salvaguarda la única mediación de Cristo, con el objetivo de fomentar la devoción auténtica, la fidelidad católica y el diálogo ecuménico.

La Nota responde a décadas de propuestas, incluidas peticiones de nuevos dogmas marianos, a menudo amplificadas a través de las redes sociales y revelaciones privadas. Se basa en las Escrituras, la Tradición (por ejemplo, San Agustín) y reflexiones papales anteriores, incluidas las críticas de Joseph Ratzinger de 1996 y 2002 a ciertos títulos por ser poco claros o propensos a malentendidos. El documento aprecia la piedad popular, pero advierte contra las expresiones que podrían confundir a los fieles u oscurecer la centralidad de Cristo. Promueve la "mediación participada", el papel de apoyo de María en la unión con Cristo, sin equipararla con el Redentor.

El documento continúa subrayando "títulos/expresiones aprobados" y "títulos/ expresiones desalentados". Aquellos que se animan incluyen: Madre de Dios (Theotokos), Madre de los Creyentes, Madre Espiritual, Madre del Pueblo Fiel de Dios y Mediadora (en un sentido general de intercesión). Señala que estos subrayan el vínculo materno de María con Cristo y la Iglesia, dirigiendo la devoción al Hijo. Están arraigados bíblicamente (por ejemplo, Juan 19:26-27) y fomentan la esperanza, la ternura y la unidad.

Los títulos desaconsejados son Corredentora y Mediadora de Todas las Gracias. Señala que estos corren el riesgo de eclipsar la mediación única de Cristo (1 Tim 2:5) y la redención; no explícitamente en las Escrituras o en la Tradición primitiva; potencial de confusión o desequilibrio en la fe, especialmente ecuménicamente.

Lo sé en mis propias discusiones a lo largo de los años; es muy fácil (especialmente para mis parientes no católicos) confundirse con ciertos títulos marianos. Ciertamente se pueden explicar, pero como señala el DDF, aquellos títulos que requieren una mayor explicación para un entendimiento común deben ser desalentados. Sin duda, puede encontrar ambos títulos utilizados en varios recursos católicos, y el documento ciertamente no prohíbe su uso. Sin embargo, aborda el tema de una manera equilibrada y pastoralmente sensible que reconoce la importancia de la devoción y la piedad marianas y, al mismo tiempo, nos recuerda a todos la importancia de apoyar y fomentar la armonía doctrinal.



Nota del editor:

Gracias por su comprensión al aclarar un pequeño error de la Meditación Pastoral de la semana pasada con respecto a las barandillas del altar. La versión original daba la impresión de que este cambio se estaba implementando en toda la Diócesis. De hecho, la decisión se aplica solo **aquí en San Marcos**, comenzando el primer domingo de Adviento.

A continuación, se muestra la sección corregida del mensaje del Padre Putnam:

El año pasado noté que la norma para la distribución de la Sagrada Comunión en los Estados Unidos es de pie y en la mano. Lo mencioné porque los feligreses se preguntaban por qué el obispo Martin, cuando visitó la parroquia, no utilizó las barandillas del altar. Esta no es la norma universalmente, pero a cada conferencia de obispos se le pide que adopte esa postura que debe ser normativa. El sitio web de la USCCB establece lo siguiente:

"La Instrucción General pide a la Conferencia Episcopal de cada país que determine la postura que se utilizará para recibir la Comunión y el acto de reverencia que debe hacer cada persona al recibir la Comunión. En los Estados Unidos, el cuerpo de obispos ha determinado que "la norma... es que la Sagrada Comunión debe recibirse de pie, a menos que un miembro individual de los fieles desee recibir la Comunión mientras está arrodillado', y que una reverencia es el acto de reverencia hecho por los que reciben (no. 160). El derecho a recibir la Comunión en la lengua o en la mano y si recibe de rodillas o de pie pertenece al individuo. La práctica normativa, sin embargo, es clara y está establecida por el cuerpo de obispos".

www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist/the-reception-of-holy-communion-at-mass El Padre Putnam, nos recuerda que nuestro amor y devoción por la Eucaristía se pueden expresar de muchas maneras, y que la reverencia, la unidad y la obediencia fluyen de ese mismo amor. La Eucaristía sigue siendo el corazón mismo de nuestra vida parroquial y de ella proviene nuestra fuerza para servir, enseñar y compartir a Cristo con los demás.





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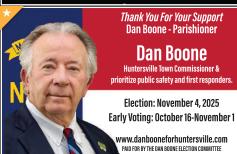


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