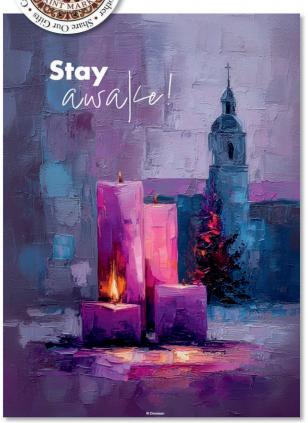


# Welcome to St. Mark



Happy New Year!

Today is the First Sunday of Advent when the Church calendar begins anew with the Holy Season of Advent. We will use the readings for Year A which begin on page 807 in the St. Augustine Hymnal. Music handouts are at the entrances; see an usher if you did not receive one.

Our Mission: 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 is given to us by God to share with others by spreading the Gospel and building His kingdom.

Thank you for being a part of our parish, either as a visitor or a long-time parishioner.

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 normal business hours. 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

Please join in the Prayer to St. Michael.

Please do not exit the church until after the priest and servers have left the building.

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**

- To be in a state of grace, that is to say, to be free from any unconfessed mortal sin.
- 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.
- 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, we invite you to come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing or to remain in your pew. See page 1302 in the hymnal for more information.

## FROM THE PASTOR



Today we begin the beautiful season of Advent — a season of preparation. For what are we preparing? The celebration of the birth of our Savior, and the anticipation of His second coming.

These are weighty tasks with eternal consequences. So, let us as Christian stewards make the words of the Prophet

Isaiah our motto for the season: "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways and we may walk in his paths."

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, it seems everywhere we turn we are pushed to spend more, do more, entertain more, and generally rush around at a frantic pace — all to create a "perfect" Christmas day. In contrast to this worldly pressure, the Church's guidance to use these weeks as a time to focus on our spiritual lives can indeed seem like a mountain climb.

But the intentional and wise use of the gift of time is exactly what the Christian steward is called to do, and with even greater intensity during Advent.

How can we use our time to prepare for a holy celebration of Jesus' birth on Dec. 25 and for his second coming at a date we do not know?

We can push back against the world's pressure to have the "perfect Christmas." Scale back on the material kind of gift-giving, the complicated menus, the unessential trappings of the season so that we have more time for the spiritual preparations: Confession, weekday Mass, adoration, family prayer time, lighting the Advent wreath, acts of kindness.

It may feel like a mountain climb, but in the end, we will be prepared to celebrate a truly meaningful Christmas, we will have become more like our Savior, and we will be ready for Him to come again. Let's go climb the Lord's mountain!

© Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2025

#### **Pastoral Pondering**

Advent brings a time of new beginning. A new liturgical year is upon us, but it is also a time to prepare our hearts for something – for the coming of the Lord. The first weeks of Advent focus on the Lord's coming at the end of time, and the latter weeks of Advent focus on preparing to celebrate His coming at the Nativity. Both, however, are interconnected.

The first coming of the Lord facilitates His coming into our hearts, which, in the end, facilitates His second coming to judge the living and the dead. The "in between" of these two comings is where time and eternity come together. We are called to live each day in expectation of His coming. We are called to hope for His coming and to expect it even when it seems long delayed.

It is in this expectation that we must learn to live our lives. Daily life is messy and unpredictable. We must deal with disappointments, sickness and loss. Yet, we do so as people of hope who know that in these crosses, there lies ultimate joy because of the love of the Father who sent his Son to love us to the end.

As we begin a new journey in a new liturgical year, let us do so with joyful expectation. Knowing that the end of the journey, if we are faithful, is paradise.







#### **Growing Our Parish Home in Gratitude**

If you've passed by Ranson Road recently, you may have noticed exciting progress across the street from St. Mark. Construction on our new rectory is moving swiftly, with the second-story framework now taking shape. This visible growth is a beautiful reminder of how much we have to be thankful for this past year.

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, we are able to take this important first step in expanding our parish home. As pledge payments continue to come in, we are steadily approaching the cash threshold needed to begin the next phase: building our Monsignor Bellow Parish Life Center and Adoration Chapel. We kindly ask that you continue submitting your pledge payments. As we near the end of 2025, it's especially important that any outstanding pledges from the first year are fulfilled.

If you're new to St. Mark and would like to join us in this meaningful endeavor, it's not too late to contribute to the campaign. Simply visit the link below (or scan the above QR code) to make your pledge and set up your payment: https://tinyurl.com/44x2bstj

As we enter the season of Advent, let us keep our hearts centered in gratitude- thankful to Jesus for the gifts He has given us, and for the opportunity to grow our parish home together.

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Please Pray For

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

Julie Andrews Sarah Armstrong **Donald Arrup** John & Casey Ball Daisy Bayona Deidre Beck Richard Biddy Beatrice Bilodeau Marilyn Bissinger 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 Maureen K. Frost Carmine Gallo Teri Gav Valeria Gerbasi Denny & Monica Golden

Tom Goodwin

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

Vernon McCord Cathy Milligan Terry Milstead Lucille Modica Vincent Montoya Mary Morgan Haleigh Moss Elizabeth Mulligan Jamie Mulvihill

Rosina Marcucci

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 Rvnne Phyllis Searles Daniel Sheffield 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, November 30

Ron & Kathleen Haley 7:30 am † Kathy Harmer 9 am 11 am † John Burger 1 pm † Ricardo Lora † Anna Royko 5 pm Monday, December 1

7 am † Philip Eigenbauer The Felder Family 9 am

Tuesday, December 2

7 am † Peter A. Redpath † Charles Kern 9 am Wednesday, December 3 The Pinto Family 7 am JoEllen Habel 6:30 pm

† Judy A. Taddei † Joseph (Jack) Cotter

Thursday, December 4 7 am † Ernesto Marrero 9 am † Patricia Warner

Friday, December 5

7 am † Gonzalo Echevarria All Souls in Purgatory & 9 am Conversion of Sinners 7 pm Thomas & Carla Grogan

Saturday, December 6 9 am † Anne Barnas

5 pm † John & Donna Wingert

Sunday, December 7

7:30 am St. Mark Parishioners 9 am † Anne Sinatra

11 am † Nicholas & Anna Royko 1 pm † Roberto Celmira Rojas 4:30 pm † Paulette Thurlow 5 pm † John Burger

7 pm David Stoughton Jr. & Family †Deceased

# READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday First Sunday of Advent

Is 2:1-5; Ps 122, 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9;

Rm 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Monday

Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;

Lk 10:21-24

Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest Wednesday

Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5,6; Mt 15:29-37

Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Thursday

Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31 Saturday Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6;

Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday Second Sunday of Advent Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;

Rm 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

# PR AY 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.

# **STEWARDSHIP**

#### Stewardship Spotlight: Prayer Shawl Ministry Serving One Another, Sharing Our Gifts, and Connecting in Faith

As the weather continues to cool, our Prayer Shawl Ministry creates shawls and baby blankets to wrap people in tangible reminders of prayers from our community. The shawls go to parishioners, the Levine & Dickson Hospice, and Rachael's Vineyard. The baby blankets go to Mira Via. As the items are made, the crafter prays for God's love and healing for the person who will receive it. After the items are completed, they are blessed by a priest or deacon before going to the recipient.

Knitters and crocheters who would like to serve in this ministry, please reach out to Liz Hoegler at <a href="mailto:ilhoegler@gmail.com">ilhoegler@gmail.com</a>, or join them on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 10 am in the Parish Hall. Yarn is provided through the parish ministry budget. Those who are unable to attend scheduled meeting times or prefer to work at home are welcome to join as well.

If you or someone you know is ill or in need of healing in mind, body, or spirit, please take them a prayer shawl. Let them know that they are held in prayer by the community of St. Mark Catholic Church. Email Liz Hoegler at <a href="mailto:jlhoegler@gmail.com">jlhoegler@gmail.com</a> to make a request.

#### Please Support Our Deployed Military Personnel this Christmas

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



# Put on the Lord Jesus Christ

**Romans 13:14** 



#### **Purgatorial Society**

Did you know that you can have your deceased loved ones remembered at a monthly Mass for a whole year?

On the last Wednesday of each month the 6:30 pm Mass is said for the Purgatorial Society. Names enrolled for the year will also be remembered during our Masses in November.

To enroll a family member, please complete the form found on our website at: <a href="https://www.stmarknc.org/purgatorial-society">www.stmarknc.org/purgatorial-society</a>.

The completed form can be returned with a \$25 check in person or by mail to the office, c/o Paige McCall.

Any questions should be directed to Paige McCall at paige.mccall@stmarknc.org or

704-948-0231.



#### **Christmas Giving Tree Updates**

Thank you to everyone who has participated so generously in this year's Christmas Giving Tree outreach. Your kindness is already bringing hope and joy to families, children, and seniors in need.

We are continuing to collect donations for gift cards, which allow us to serve our larger partner organizations and meet specific needs that individual gifts cannot cover.

If you would like to help, please make an online donation at <a href="mailto:stmarknc.org/">stmarknc.org/</a> <u>Christmas-Giving-Tree</u> or simply scan the OR code.

Thank you for sharing the love of Christ in such a beautiful way this Christmas.



Monthly Offertory Contributions	Oct-25
	Amount
Contributions	\$ 316,649
Budget	\$ 330,750
Over (Short)	\$ (14,101)
Average Weekly Mass Attendance	4557

Fiscal Year to Date Offertory Contributions	July 1st, 2025 - June 30th, 2026	
	Amount	
YTD Contributions through October 2025	\$ 1,281,459	
YTD Budget	\$ 1,303,000	
Over (Short)	\$ (21,541)	

2025 DSA Assessment	January 1st, 2025 - November 18th, 2025	
101.18		Amount
Total DSA Assessment	\$	403,139
Total Paid Pledges	\$	339,574
Total Unpaid Pledges	\$	29,836
Total Over (Short) Including Unpaid Pledges	\$	(63,565)
Total Number of Donors		515

2025-2026 Priest Retirement Assessment	July 1st, 2025 - June 30th, 2026	
		Amount
Total Priest Retirement Assessment	\$	120,953
Total Collected through October 2025	\$	45,600
Total Over (Short)	\$	(75,353)

# ADVENT 2025

#### A Joyful Advent for Our Whole Parish Family Special Pull-Out Section Page 8!

Advent is a season for everyone — children, teens, adults of every age, married or single, surrounded by family or walking a quieter road. No one journeys alone at St. Mark.

Before the season begins, we invite you to gather the simple things that help make this time prayerful at home: your Advent wreath, Nativity set, a candle or two, or a small prayer space. These familiar signs help us slow down and remember that Christ is near.

Family Advent Calendar: On page 8, you'll find a pull-out Advent Family Calendar filled with lighthearted, faithfilled activities perfect for households with young children.

Adult Advent Calendar: Here in this section, we offer a more mature Advent Calendar with simple daily suggestions for prayer, reflection, and parish life. Whether you come to daily Mass, join us for Coffee & Conversation, participate in parish events, or pray quietly at home, these small steps can help you prepare your heart with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Wherever you find yourself this Advent, may you feel the welcome of your parish family and the abiding nearness of Christ.

# Advent Daily Calendar of Activities for Teens & Adults

# Sun., Nov. 30: 1st Sunday of Advent (Hope)

Attend Mass. Light the first candle. Pray: "Jesus, fill my life with hope this Advent."

Mon., Dec. 1: Set Up Your Nativity
Create a prayer space at home. Set out
your Nativity and leave the manger
empty for now.

**Tues., Dec. 2:** Read today's Gospel. Choose one hopeful word to carry with you today.

**Wed., Dec. 3:** Send an encouraging text to someone. Attend daily Mass this week, offered every Wed. at 6:30 pm

Thurs., Dec. 4: Nine Lessons & Carols, Join us tonight 7 pm for a Christmas Concert.

**Fri., Dec. 5:** Pray the Joyful Mysteries while walking, driving, or sitting outside.

**Sat., Dec. 6: St. Nicholas Day** Leave a small note or treat for someone who needs encouragement.

# Sun., Dec. 7: 2nd Sunday of Advent (Peace)

Attend Mass. Light the second candle. Pray for peace in your heart, home, and parish.

Mon., Dec. 8: Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

Attend Mass. Entrust your Advent journey to Mary's care.

Tues., Dec. 9

Play Christmas Carols and sing—yes, even alone. Let joy lift your spirit.

**Wed., Dec. 10:** Do one small act of peace today: hold a door, let someone go first, or speak a kind word.

**Thurs., Dec. 11:** Call someone who may be alone this season. Invite them to Mass or a parish event.

**Fri., Dec. 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe** Pray a Hail Mary for mothers, families, and the unborn.

**Sat., Dec. 13: Parish Holiday Celebration** Join us for the Tree Lighting, cocoa, and caroling. Invite someone to join you.

Sun., Dec. 14: 3rd Sunday of Advent (Joy - Gaudete Sunday)

Attend Mass. Wear rose or pink to rejoice! Smile at all you meet.

Mon., Dec. 15: Las Posadas Begin Join us for one evening of Posadas or pray for all seeking welcome and home.

Tues., Dec. 16: Adoration Visit Spend even 10 minutes in the Adoration Chapel. Tell Jesus one thing you're grateful for and one thing you're carrying.

**Wed., Dec. 17:** Attend the 6:30 pm Mass. Come early for Rosary or Confession.

**Thurs., Dec. 18:** Make Christmas cards and randomly hand them out over the next week.

**Fri., Dec. 19:** Greet every store clerk or cashier today with "Merry Christmas" or a cheerful smile.

Sat., Dec. 20: Take a Christmas-light drive or walk. Thank God for every Nativity, angel, or star you see.

# Sun., Dec. 21: 4th Sunday of Advent (Love)

Attend Mass. Light the final candle. Bring a bag of non-perishable food items to put in the Narthex bin for the hungry.

Mon., Dec. 22: Christmas Movie Night Watch a joyful Christmas film. Afterward, thank God for one person whose kindness blesses your life.

**Tues., Dec. 23:** Include a small faith gift or prayer card with your Christmas cards or presents. Offer a simple prayer for each person on your list.

Wed., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Make a brief visit to the church or chapel during the day if you can. Offer a prayer for your parish family.

Thurs., Dec. 25: Christmas Day Attend Mass. Rejoice—Christ is born! Share kindness with someone who needs encouragement today. Invite someone who is alone to join you.

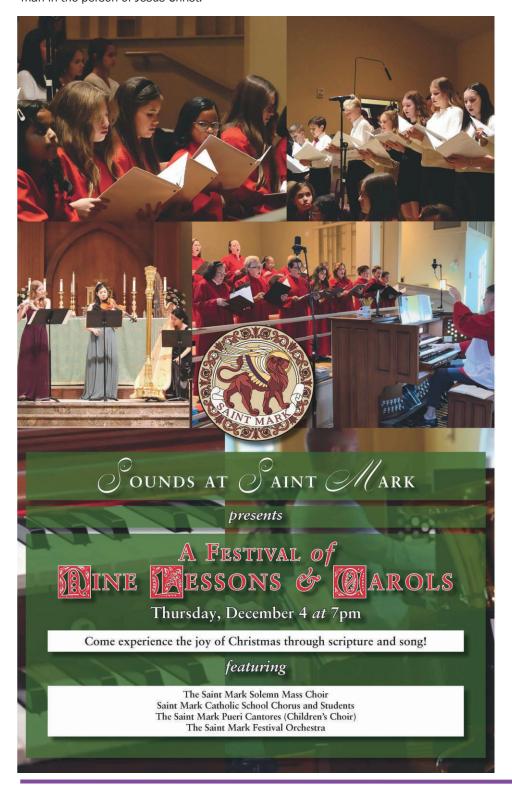


# ADVENT 2025

#### Sounds at St. Mark: A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

When: Thurs., Dec. 4, 7 pm Where: In the church

Lessons and Carols is a beautiful service that combines Scripture readings (lessons) with the singing of hymns, known as Christmas Carols. The concert tells the story of salvation history inviting us to reflect on the joy of the Incarnation — God becoming man in the person of Jesus Christ.





#### Prepare the Way: St. Andrew Christmas Novena

When: Pray Daily, Nov. 30-Dec. 24

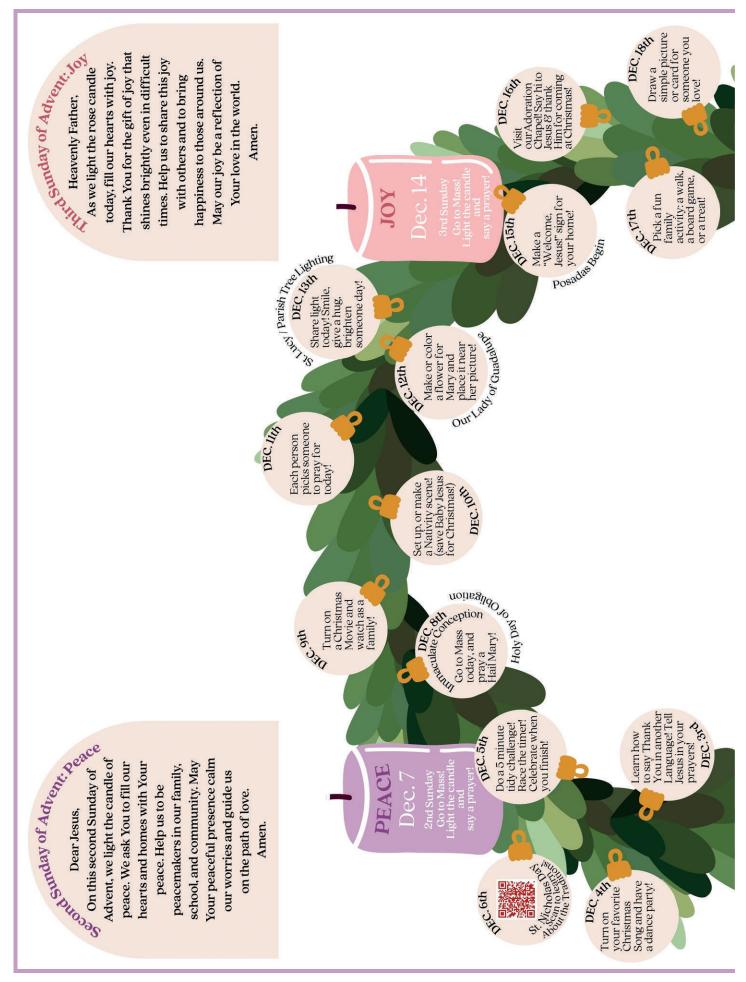
St. Andrew is associated with this Christmas novena because it begins on his feast day, November 30. He holds the honor of being the first apostle to be called by Christ to follow Him. This novena is a bit different in that it does not invoke the intervention or aid of the saint himself, but is adoring, glorifying the hour of Christ's birth and seeking aid from God Himself!

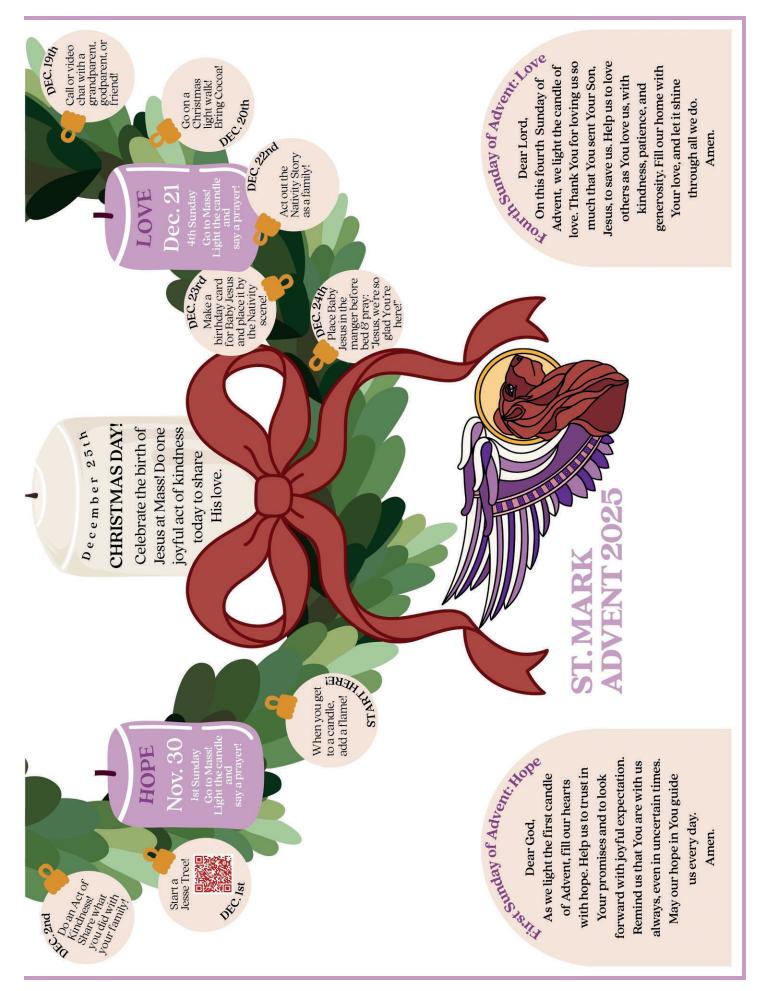
The St. Andrew Christmas Novena is typically prayed for 25 days and continues until Christmas Eve on December 24. All you have to do is pray the short novena prayer 15 times each day; you can pray them all at once or spread throughout the day. We can't promise you will get your request, but praying is indeed a gift to the Holy Child and a beautiful way to spiritually prepare for Christmas season by reflecting on Christ's birth.

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.

In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.









# Sunday, December 7

Second Sunday of Advent

\*Please attend Mass sometime after 4 p.m. Saturday and before 4 p.m. Sunday.

# Monday, December 8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Please plan to attend Mass for each day. One Mass does not fulfill both obligations.

#### **PICK ONE**

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT LITURGY

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday, December 6 5 pm Vigil

Sunday, December 7 7:30 am, 9 am, 11 am,

1 pm Spanish, 5 pm, 7 pm\*

- \* The Sunday 5 pm Mass is the 2nd Sunday of Advent liturgy.
- \* The Sunday 7 pm is the Immaculate Conception liturgy. You may attend back to back at 5 pm and 7 pm to fulfill both obligations.
- \* The Sunday 5 pm will meet your Holy Day Obligation provided you came to an earlier 2nd Sunday of Advent Mass.

**PICK ONE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION LITURGY** MASS SCHEDULE:

> Sunday, December 6 5 pm\*, 7 pm\* Vigil Monday, December 7 7 am, 9 am, 12:10 pm,

> > 7 pm Spanish

\* You may go to the Sunday 5 or 7 pm Mass to fulfill your Immaculate Conception Holy Day obligation,

#### The Immaculate Conception: Holy Day of **Obligation**

This year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—the patronal feast of the United States-falls on Monday, December 8, and remains a Holy Day of Obligation. Because of the calendar, Catholics will need to attend two separate Masses over two days:

- Mass for the Sunday obligation (Second Sunday of Advent)
- · Mass for the Holy Day of Obligation (Immaculate Conception)

#### The Immaculate **Conception and Advent**

Celebrated each year on December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception honors the moment when Mary, by a unique grace of God, was preserved from original sin from the first instant of her conception.

This teaching highlights God's plan for our salvation: from the very beginning, He prepared a pure and holy mother for His Son.

During Advent, as we prepare to welcome Christ anew, this feast reminds us that God always goes before us. Long before the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, God's saving work was already unfolding in Mary. Her "yes" to God makes her the model of discipleship: trusting, receptive, and full of grace.

The Immaculate Conception is also the patronal feast of our country. We ask Mary's intercession for our Church, our nation, and our families as we seek to grow in holiness during this sacred season.

Please plan now to attend:

- · One Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent
- · One Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Thank you for keeping these holy days with faith and devotion as we journey through Advent together.

NOTE: The parish offices will be closed December 8.

# ADVENT 2025

#### Mass & Veneration of the Relics of St. Anthony of Padua

When: Mon., Dec. 8, 12:10 pm/7 pm (Sp)

Where: In the church

St. Mark Catholic Church is honored to welcome two precious first-class relics of St. Anthony of Padua from the Pontifical Basilica in Padua, Italy. The relics will be accompanied by Fr. Mario Conte and Fr. Fabio Turrisendo, Franciscan Friars from the Basilica where the saint is buried.



#### **About the Relics**

Two reliquaries will be present:

- A golden bust containing layers of skin from St. Anthony's cheek
- A freestanding reliquary containing a fragment of his floating rib

These relics have been venerated by Pope Francis, Saint John Paul II, Saint Mother Teresa, Pope Benedict XVI, and Sr. Lúcia of Fatima.

#### **Veneration & Prayer Petitions**

After each Mass, the faithful may venerate the relics and take part in the worldwide tradition of writing prayer petitions to St. Anthony. Cards, pens, and holy cards will be provided. All petitions will be returned to the saint's tomb in Padua, where the Franciscan Friars will pray for each intention.

#### Who Is St. Anthony?

Born in 1195 in Lisbon, St. Anthony became a brilliant Franciscan preacher known for his miracles, teaching, and powerful intercession. He died in 1231 at age 35 and was canonized within a year—one of the fastest canonizations in Church history. In 1946 he was declared a Doctor of the Church.

While well-known for helping find lost items, St. Anthony is also a patron for those seeking faith, family harmony, health, hope, peace of mind, and trust.

All are warmly invited to join us for this special day of grace and to seek the intercession of one of the Church's most beloved saints.



#### **Oplaky Christmas Wafers**

The Eastern European Christmas Eve Tradition of sharing the Oplaky or Christmas Wafer at your Christmas Eve dinner can be rekindled. Traditionally, breaking and sharing the Christmas wafer with family and friends is accompanied with best wishes and expressions of forgiveness, helping us to bring joy and happiness to our hearts and homes. The Christmas Wafers are available in the St. Mark gift store located in the Kerin Center.



#### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

As your family begins planning for Christmas, here's our Mass schedule to help you prepare for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

#### **Christmas Eve**

Christ the King High School 3:30 pm and 5:30 pm

St. Mark Church 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm 11:30 pm Carols in the church Midnight Mass

#### **Christmas Day**

9:30 am Mass 11:30 am Mass (Spanish)



# Coming Up at Saint Mark

#### Monday, December 1

Triumph of the Heart Film, 6:45 pm

#### Thursday, December 4

Nine Lessons and Carols, 7 pm

#### Sunday, December 7

Knights of Columbus Blood Drive

#### Monday, December 8

Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation, Offices closed St. Anthony Relic Mass and Veneration

#### Tuesday, December 9

Prayer & 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

Events Scheduled to Change.

Details in the bulletin and newsletter in the weeks before event.

# PARISH LIFE

#### **NOW REGISTERING:**

#### Women's Welcome Retreat

Come be inspired by a community of women on your faith journey.

When: Feb.7-8, 8 am Sat.-3 pm Sun.

Where: Kerin Family Center

Our retreats have been a life-changing experience for the women who have attended. This is your opportunity to be a part of this amazing retreat program at St. Mark.

The 6th annual Women's Welcome Retreat will take place February 7 & 8, in the Kerin Family Center.

This is a 1.5 day women's retreat built around creating fellowship with other women of the parish where they can share their Catholic Faith and the challenges of living a Christ-centered life.

Welcome is designed to meet every lady right where she is in her faith journey, whether far away from God, seemingly close, or somewhere in between.

Created by Matthew Kelly's Dynamic Catholic organization, the retreat is led by ordinary parishioners. Participants will hear 10 inspiring witness

testimonies, enjoy great food, Mass, Adoration, examine their own faith experience, and build authentic Catholic fellowship.

Space is limited. Register at stmarknc.org/welcome-retreat or scan code. Questions? Email Lauren at LaurenFloyd@verizon.net.

#### Exclusive Film Screening: Triumph of the Heart

When: Mon, Dec. 1; Doors Open 6:15 / Movie 6:45 pm. Where: Kerin Family Center Parish Hall

St. Mark's Young Adult Ministry is thrilled to host a special screening of *Triumph of the Heart* – the moving true story of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Franciscan priest who



offered his life in exchange for another prisoner at Auschwitz during World War II.

All are invited to come and be inspired by this powerful witness of faith, courage, and sacrificial love. This screening is open to all diocese parishioners, families, and friends. Free admission; RSVP to Quinn Ostendarp at

quinnodarp@gmail.com.

Join us for this unique opportunity to encounter the heroic story of St. Maximilian Kolbe on the big screen! More about the movie at triumphoftheheart.com





#### Men's Bible Study: The Bible Timeline, A Story of Salvation

When: Most Wednesday evenings 7:15 – 8:45 pm, beginning Jan. 7

Where: Room 200 Parish Center

This popular study, updated in 2025 and produced by Ascension Press, features the well-known Jeff Cavins and Fr. Mike Schmitz as presenters. It is a powerful and immersive journey through Scripture beginning with the story of Creation and concluding with the establishment of the Church after Christ's Ascension. In the

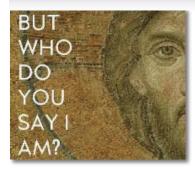
course, you'll explore the fourteen narrative books that tell the Bible's complete story. You'll gain clear insights into how God's plan unfolds throughout history—and what it means for you today. Whether you're new to the Bible or looking to go deeper, *The Bible Timeline* will equip you to read and comprehend the entire biblical story—and discover your place within it. It is anticipated that this course will run through most of 2026.

For Registration & information: Ray FitzGerald Rfitzg@aol.com or 704-992-1702

There is a fee for the workbook or online access to the video and course materials.



## ADOR ATION



By: Donna Fodale/Adoration Coordinator

This week while praying in Adoration the scripture passage Matthew 16: 13-16 came to my mind.

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is? "They replied, "Some say

John the Baptist,\* others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. "He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

I think that question is one that is important for each of us to

reflect on. When we become lukewarm with our belief in who we sit or kneel before in Adoration, it is a good time to pray and reflect on that question. Below are just a few of the titles used in scripture reminding us of who we are spending time with the Chapel. I invite you to bring this piece with you in adoration and imagine Our Lord asking you...Who do you say that I am? Which title resonates with you?

#### Titles of Jesus Christ in Scripture:

Advocate - 1 John 2:1

Alpha and Omega - Revelation 1:8; 22:13

The Almighty - Revelation 1:8

Beloved Son - Colossians 1:13

Bread of life - John 6:35

Living Bread - John 6:51

Bridegroom - John 3:29

Christ - Matthew 16:20

Emmanuel - Matthew 1:23

Good Shepherd - John 10:11; 14

High Priest - Hebrews 3:1; 4:14; 7:26

Holy One - Acts 2:27

I Am - John 8:58

Jesus - Matthew 1:21

Jesus the Nazarene - John 18:5

Just One - Acts 7:52

Just Judge - 2 Timothy 4:8

King of Kings - Revelation 17:14; 19:16.

1 Timothy 6:15

Lamb of God - John 1:29

Light - John 1:9; John 12:35

My Lord my God - John 20:28

Lord God Almighty - Revelation 15:3

Lord Jesus Christ - Acts 15:11

Messiah - John 1:41; 4:25

Mighty God - Isaiah 9:6

Prince of Peace - Isaiah 9:6

Redeemer - Isaiah 59:20

Resurrection and Life - John 11:25

Root of David - Revelation 5:5

Root of Jesse - Isaiah 11:10

Savior of the world - 1 John 4:14: John

4:42

Son of Joseph - John 1:45

Son of Man - John 5:27

Son of Mary – Mark 6:3

Son of the Father - 2 John 1:3

Son of the Living God - Matthew 16:16

Son of the Most High – Luke 1:32

Only Son of the Father - John 1:14

Stone rejected by the builders - Matthew 21:42; 1 Peter 2:8

Teacher - Matthew 8:19; Matthew 23:10

True God - 1 John 5:20

True Vine - John 15:1

The Way the Truth and the Life - John 14:6

Please prayerfully consider signing up for a weekly holy hour. Advent is a great time to become a regularly scheduled Adorer.

Register at: www.stmarknc.org/adoration To become a sub,

please email donna.fodale@stmarknc.org

# LIFE TEEN

St. Mark High School Ministry

# Advent Schedule:



# December 7: House, Hearth, and Crib Pt. 1.

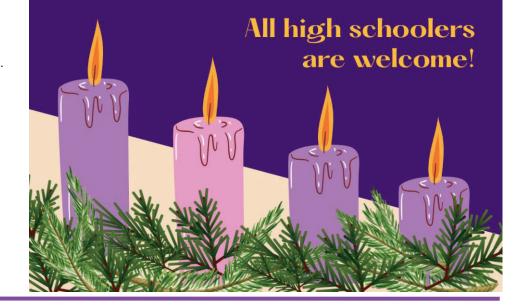
A life night about St. Joseph, from 6-8pm, in the Parish Hall. Dinner provided.

## December 14: House, Hearth, and Crib Pt. 2.

A life night about Our Lady, from 6-8pm, in the Parish Hall. Dinner provided.

## December 21: House, Hearth, and Crib Pt. 3.

A life night about Jesus, from 6-8pm, in the Parish Hall. Dinner provided.



# Saint Mark Parish Directory

stmarknc.org | 14740 Stumptown Rd, Huntersville NC 28078 Parish Office | Mon-Thur 9 am-7:30 pm, Fri 9 am-4:30 pm Sun 8:15 am-12:15 pm | Phone: 704-948-0231

#### **Pastor**

Very Rev. John T. Putnam, JV

#### **Parochial Vicars**

Rev. Kevin Martinez

Rev. Christopher Angermeyer Rev. Aaron Huber (in residence)

Rev. Mr. Thomas Martin Rev. Mr. Richard McCarron Rev. Mr. Thomas McGahey Rev. Mr. Tom McMahon

Rev. Mr. Louis Pais Rev. Mr. Ramon Tapia

**Director of Parish Operations** 

Scott Bruno

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

#### Sacristan

Sr. Mary Agnes sacristan@stmarknc.org 704-948-0231, Ext. 211

#### Liturgy Coordinator/Office Manager

**Emily Bixler** emily.bixler@stmarknc.org 704-948-0231, Ext. 102

#### Annulments, OCIA

Rev. Mr. Rich McCarron deacon.rich@stmarknc.org 704-948-0231, Ext. 113

#### Sacrament Admin/Adoration

Donna Fodale Donna.fodale@stmarknc.org 704-948-0231, Ext. 104

#### **Director of Sacred Music**

Manuel Mora manuel.mora@stmarknc.org 704-948-0231, Ext. 130

#### Director of Finance

Richard Cataldo richard.cataldo@stmarknc.org 704-948-0231, Ext. 116

#### **Hispanic Ministry Coordinator**

Emilio Gómez emilio.gomez@stmarknc.org 704-948-0231. Ext. 117

#### Stewardship Coordinator

Karen Donahue karen.donahue@stmarknc.org 704-948-0231, Ext. 136

#### Calendar Management

Sue Bruce sue.bruce@stmarknc.org 704-948-0231, Ext. 123

#### Director of Evangelization and Catechesis

Paul Laskowski

paul.laskowski@stmarknc.org 704-948-0231, Ext. 121

#### **Director of Faith Formation**

Sarah Boyd (Formerly Rider) sarah.boyd@stmarknc.org 704-948-0231, Ext. 137

#### **Elementary Faith Formation Coordinator**

Maddie Torres elementary@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 124

#### Middle School Youth Ministry/ **Confirmation Coordinator**

Olivia DiGiovanni olivia.digiovanni@stmarknc.org 704-948-1306, Ext. 105

#### **High School Youth Ministry Coordinator**

Augustine Free augustine.free@stmarknc.org 704-948-0231, Ext. 122

#### **Director of Preschool**

Amanda Rametta amanda.rametta@stmarknc.org 704-948-8015

#### Office of Faith Formation

Faith Formation Main Office Line: 704-948-0231, Ext. 103

#### **Tribunal Advocate**

Rod Brostrom rnbrostrom@rcdoc.org

#### **Bulletin Team**

bulletin@stmarknc.org

#### Mass Schedule

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

#### Carolina Catholic Corner Gift & Book Store Open daily in the Family Center

## Coffee & Conversation Social Gathering

Tuesdays, 9:30 am, Parish Hall.

#### Cursillo

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

#### Parishioner Assistance

#### Financial:

St. Vincent De Paul Society: Emily.Bixler@stmarknc.org

Life Crisis: Stephen Ministry stmarknc.org/stephen-ministry Paul G. | 704-641-0654

#### Food Insecurity:

Parish Office

stmarknc.org/assistance or Emily.Bixler@stmarknc.org or 704-948-0231, Ext. 102

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

#### **Natural Family Planning**

Joe and Kathy Hack; Sympto-Thermal Method;

704-548-1834; hackhouse@bellsouth.net; ccli.org

Elisabeth Laskowski: Creighton Model: creightonmodel@gmail.com; 484-332-9084

#### Crisis Pregnancy Help

Community Pregnancy Center of Lake Norman: 704-727-0535

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

Taken Abortion Pill? It may not be too late: Abortion Pill Reversal 877-558-0333 or abortionpillreversal.com



# AROUND THE DIOCESE



#### Divine Code Conference: Catholic Philosophy Meets Artificial Intelligence, Featuring Fr. David Miller

When: Sat., Dec 13, 9:30—3:30 Where: Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Ln, Hickory, NC

The cost is \$40 dollars, includes lunch. Pay on the Catholic Conference Center website, catholicconference.org, or in person upon arrival.

At an hour you do not expect, the SON OF MAN will come

Matthew 24:44

# RESPECT LIFE

# Monthly Respect Life Mass & Rosary Vigil

When: Tuesday, December 9; 9 am Where: St. Mark Catholic Church

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

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you..." Jeremiah 1:5



# **ESPANOL**

#### Misa y Veneración de las Reliquias de San Antonio de Padua

Cuándo: Lunes, 8 de diciembre, 12pm y 7 pm (Español) Dónde: En la iglesia



La Parroquia de San Marcos tiene el honor de recibir dos preciosas reliquias de primera clase de San Antonio de Padua provenientes de la Basílica Pontificia en Padua, Italia. Las reliquias estarán acompañadas por el P. Mario Conte y el P. Fabio Turrisendo, frailes franciscanos de la Basílica donde está sepultado el santo.

#### Sobre las Reliquias

Habrá dos relicarios presentes:

- Un busto dorado que contiene capas de piel de la mejilla de San Antonio
- Un relicario independiente que contiene un fragmento de su costilla flotante

Estas reliquias han sido veneradas por el Papa Francisco, San Juan Pablo II, Santa Madre Teresa, el Papa Benedicto XVI y la Sierva de Dios Sor Lucía de Fátima.

#### Veneración y Peticiones de Oración

Después de cada Misa, los fieles podrán venerar las reliquias y participar en la tradición mundial de escribir peticiones de oración a San Antonio. Se proporcionarán tarjetas, bolígrafos y estampas.

Todas las peticiones serán llevadas de regreso a la tumba del santo en Padua, donde los frailes franciscanos rezarán por cada intención.

#### ¿Quién es San Antonio?

Nacido en 1195 en Lisboa y un brillante predicador franciscano, San Antonio murió en 1231 a los 35 años y fue canonizado dentro de un año, una de las canonizaciones más rápidas en la historia de la Iglesia. Conocido por sus milagros, enseñanza y poderosa intercesión, fue declarado Doctor de la Iglesia en 1946.

Aunque es famoso por ayudar a encontrar objetos perdidos, San Antonio

también es patrono de quienes buscan fe, armonía familiar, salud, esperanza, paz interior y confianza.

Todos están invitados a unirse a nosotros en este día especial de gracia y a pedir la intercesión de uno de los santos más queridos de la Iglesia.



# DEL PARROCO



Hoy comenzamos la hermosa temporada del Adviento — una temporada de preparación. ¿Para qué nos estamos preparando? La celebración del

nacimiento de nuestro Salvador y la anticipación de Su segunda venida.

Son tareas pesadas con consecuencias eternas. Así que, como mayordomos cristianos, hagamos de las palabras del profeta Isaías nuestro lema para la temporada: "Venid, subamos al monte del Señor hasta la casa del Dios de Jacob, para que nos instruya en sus caminos y caminemos en sus caminos."

En las semanas previas a Navidad, parece que dondequiera que miremos nos empujan a gastar más, hacer más, entretener más y, en general, correr a un ritmo frenético — todo para crear un día de Navidad "perfecto". En contraste con esta presión mundana, la orientación de la Iglesia para usar estas semanas como un momento para centrarnos en nuestra vida espiritual puede parecer una montaña a la vez.

Pero el uso intencionado y sabio del regalo del tiempo es exactamente lo que el mayordomo cristiano está llamado a hacer, y con aún mayor intensidad durante el Adviento.

¿Cómo podemos usar nuestro tiempo para prepararnos para una celebración sagrada del nacimiento de Jesús el 25 de diciembre y para su segunda venida en una fecha que desconocemos?

Podemos resistir la presión mundial para tener la "Navidad perfecta". Reducir el tipo de regalos materiales, los menús complicados, los adornos poco esenciales de la temporada para que tengamos más tiempo para las preparaciones espirituales: confesión, misa entre semana, adoración, tiempo de oración familiar, encender la corona de Adviento, actos de bondad.

Puede parecer una montaña a la cuesta, pero al final estaremos preparados para celebrar una Navidad verdaderamente significativa, nos habremos convertido en más como nuestro Salvador y estaremos preparados para que Él vuelva. ¡Vamos a escalar la montaña del Señor! © Consultores de Gestión Católica, 2025

#### **Del Pastor**

El Adviento trae un tiempo de nuevos comienzos. Un nuevo año litúrgico se acerca, pero también es un tiempo para preparar nuestros corazones para algo: para la venida del Señor. Las primeras semanas de Adviento se centran en la venida del Señor al final de los tiempos, y las últimas semanas de Adviento se centran en prepararse para celebrar Su venida en la Natividad. Sin embargo, ambos están interconectados.

La primera venida del Señor facilita su entrada en nuestros corazones, lo que, al final, facilita su segunda venida para juzgar a los vivos y a los muertos. El "entre" de estas dos venidas es donde el tiempo y la eternidad se unen. Estamos llamados a vivir cada día en la expectativa de Su llegada. Estamos llamados a esperar Su llegada y a esperarla incluso cuando parece retrasada.

Es en esta expectativa donde tenemos que aprender a vivir nuestras vidas. La vida diaria es caótica e impredecible. Tenemos que lidiar con decepciones, enfermedades y pérdidas. Sin embargo, lo hacemos como personas de esperanza que saben que en estas cruces yace la alegría suprema gracias al amor del Padre que envió a su Hijo a amarnos hasta el final.

Al comenzar un nuevo camino en un nuevo año litúrgico, hagámoslo con alegre expectativa. Sabiendo que el final del camino, si somos fieles, es el paraíso.

## Adoración ¡Gracias!

Como saben, teniendo una capilla de Adoración Perpetua ha sido una gran bendición para nuestra parroquia. Quería tomarme un tiempo para agradecer especialmente a la comunidad hispana por pasar tiempo con Nuestro Señor en Adoración, Su devoción a nuestro Señor en el Santísimo Sacramento ha sido realmente inspiradora, no solo para mí sino para toda la parroquia. Muchas veces, he estado en la capilla y he sido testigo del amor y la reverencia que tienen por Nuestro Señor. Llena mi corazón de profunda gratitud y acción de gracias. Entonces, gracias y sepan que rezo por cada uno de ustedes y sus intenciones diariamente.

Suyo en Cristo,

Donna Fodale, Coordinadora de Adoración



#### Horario de Misas de Navidad

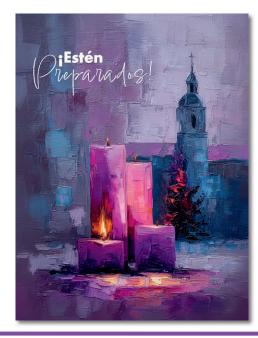
A medida que su familia comienza a planificar la Navidad, aquí está nuestro horario de Misas para ayudarle a prepararse para la Nochebuena y el Día de Navidad.

# Nochebuena Christ the King High School 3:30 pm v 5:30 pm

Iglesia de St. Mark
4:30 pm y 6:30 pm
11:30 pm Villancicos en la iglesia
Misa de Medianoche

#### Día de Navidad

9:30 am Misa 11:30 am Misa (en español)





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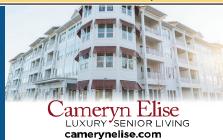


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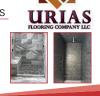
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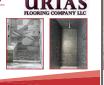




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