



## SECOND SUNDAY *of* ADVENT

December 8: Solemnity of Immaculate Conception

December 12: Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 13: Christmas Tree Lighting and Caroling

*Details page 6 & 7*

# SAINT MARK

December 7, 2025, Español pagina 15





# Welcome to St. Mark



Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. We will use the readings for Year A which begin on page 809 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.

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](http://stmarknc.org/registration) or use the QR code. You may submit the form online or bring a paper copy to the Welcome Desk in the family center 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.

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

### Guidelines for Communion For Catholics

1. To be in a state of grace, that is to say, to be free from any unconfessed mortal sin.
2. To abstain for at least one hour before Holy Communion from any food and drink, with the exception of water and medicine.
3. To know what you are receiving and to approach the altar with devotion.
4. *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.



Parish Family Social

## *Christmas Tree Lighting & Nativity Blessing!*

**Saturday, December 13, 6 pm**

*Outside after the 5 pm Mass*

Join us as we light our new Christmas Trees and bless the outdoor Nativity. We will sing Christmas Carols with the children's choir, drink hot cocoa, eat cookies, and have a festive time together as a parish family.



## FROM THE PASTOR



On this Second Sunday of Advent, our second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans encourages us to focus our Advent preparations in this way: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." And how does Christ welcome us? With unconditional love.

This is the essence of Christian hospitality, a vital aspect of stewardship living. Fully embraced, it has the power to transform our lives and the lives of those who experience it through us.

The practice of Christian hospitality is also a way for us stewards to answer the call of John the Baptist, in our Gospel passage from Matthew. His words apply just as much to us today as they did to the people awaiting the Savior's arrival. John says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" And he recalls the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." There is a definite connection between repentance and effective hospitality.

So how can we make repentance a regular part of our everyday lives? We can make an "examination of conscience" a daily part of our prayers, thanking God for the times we said "yes" to Him, and asking forgiveness for the times we chose our own will. We can (and should!) go to Confession this Advent. We can reach out to a family member or friend where there is distance or discord and make peace.

As we "straighten the paths" of our own hearts and minds, we become more hospitable people, better stewards of God's grace and mercy, and far more open and ready to invite others into our lives, homes, and parish. This is preparation fitting for our merciful Savior. © Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2025

### Pastoral Pondering

Pope Leo XIV, the 267th Bishop of Rome, undertook his inaugural apostolic journey abroad from November 27 to December 2, 2025. This six-day itinerary encompassed Turkey (November 27–30) and Lebanon (November 30–December 2), marking a deliberate choice of destinations in the Middle East amid ongoing regional conflicts and global ecclesiastical anniversaries. As the successor to Pope Francis, who had planned a similar trip before his passing in April 2025, Leo XIV's

voyage fulfills a commitment to ecumenical and inter-religious engagement while advancing themes central to his nascent papacy: peace, unity, and dialogue.

### Historical and Ecumenical Significance in Turkey

The Turkish leg of the journey centered on İznik (ancient Nicaea), where Pope Leo XIV participated in commemorations of the 1,700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea (325 AD). This ecumenical council, convened by Emperor Constantine I, produced the Nicene Creed—a foundational statement of Christian faith affirming the divinity of Christ and shared by Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant traditions. The event underscored the common heritage of Christianity, with Leo XIV joining Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople for a joint declaration and doxology at the Patriarchal Church of Saint George in Istanbul. This collaboration highlights efforts to bridge the schism between the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches, echoing historical papal visits to Turkey (e.g., by Pope Paul VI in 1967 and Pope Benedict XVI in 2006).

In a broader context, the visit to predominantly Muslim Turkey (where Christians constitute less than 0.5% of the population) served as a gesture of interfaith outreach. Key moments included a prayer at Istanbul's Blue Mosque—though Leo XIV refrained from visibly praying there, distinguishing his approach from predecessors—and a meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

Discussions addressed tensions over sites like the Hagia Sophia, reconverted to a mosque in 2020, and emphasized mutual respect amid Turkey's role as a crossroads of early Christianity and St. Paul's homeland. The pilgrimage thus reinforced the papacy's commitment to fostering "what unites us" over divisions, as articulated by Vatican spokespersons.

### Humanitarian and Diplomatic Significance in Lebanon

Transitioning to Lebanon, Pope Leo XIV's itinerary addressed the nation's profound challenges: economic collapse since 2019, the devastating 2020 Beirut port explosion (which killed over 200 and displaced thousands), and renewed violence from Israeli airstrikes in 2024 targeting Hezbollah positions, despite a fragile Gaza ceasefire. Lebanon's Christian community, the largest in the Arab world (comprising 30–35% of the population), faces

emigration and instability, making the visit a vital affirmation of solidarity.

Notable engagements included meetings with President Joseph Aoun, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam; an inter-religious prayer at Beirut's port memorializing explosion victims; and visits to the tomb of St. Charbel and the statue of Our Lady of Lebanon. An open-air Mass at Beirut's waterfront, anticipated to draw 120,000 attendees, symbolized communal resilience. Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem extended a formal welcome, delivering a letter via group members and framing the visit as an opportunity for dialogue on regional peace. This outreach to Muslim-majority Lebanon (65–70% Muslim) amplified Leo XIV's message of coexistence, drawing parallels to Pope John Paul II's 1997 visit and Benedict XVI's in 2012 amid the Syrian civil war.

### Broader Geopolitical and Papal Implications

Occurring against the backdrop of a "piecemeal" third world war—encompassing Ukraine, Gaza, and Middle Eastern flashpoints—Leo XIV's journey positioned the Holy See as a moral voice for de-escalation. In addresses, he invoked his predecessor Pope Francis's warnings on humanity's endangered future, urging world leaders to prioritize peace negotiations. The trip's timing, covered by over 80 journalists from 15 countries (including major U.S. networks), amplified its global resonance, particularly as the first foreign voyage of an American pope.

Symbolically, selecting Muslim-majority nations for his debut underscores a pontificate rooted in Augustinian spirituality (Leo XIV being the first from the Order of Saint Augustine) and social teaching, echoing Pope Leo XIII's emphasis on justice in industrialized eras. It signals continuity with Francis's bridge-building while introducing Leo XIV's vision: unity across faiths, support for persecuted minorities, and advocacy for the vulnerable. By December 2, 2025, the visit had already prompted reflections on its potential to influence fragile truces and inter-communal harmony in the region.

This apostolic journey, therefore, transcends ceremonial bounds, serving as a strategic affirmation of the Catholic Church's role in promoting global stability and religious solidarity.

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### Please Pray For

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 Gay  
Valeria Gerbasi  
Denny & Monica Golden  
Tom Goodwin

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

### Monday, December 8

7 am Teresa-Ly-Nguyen Family  
9 am Mary's Women of Joy  
12:10 pm Paige McCall  
4:30 pm † Rick Pierce  
7 pm † Wilberto Cuadrado

### Tuesday, December 9

7 am Father John Putman  
9 am Respect Life Ministry

### Wednesday, December 10

7 am Catherine Stemper  
Emma Ducey  
6:30 pm Irais Balmaceda  
† Lorena Ostrea

### Thursday, December 11

7 am Cassidy Snow Cruz  
9 am Jennifer Hoopes

### Friday, December 12

7 am † Jan Fredericks  
9 am † John Hopkins  
7 pm † Jennifer Stephen

### Saturday, December 13

9 am † Alcides Zamudio  
5 pm † Thomas Scanlon

### Sunday, December 14

7:30 am The Depew Family  
9 am St. Mark Parishioners  
11 am Jorge y Jhoanna Utset  
1 pm † Luis & Maria Benavides  
5 pm † Thomas Muldoon

† Deceased

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### Sun. 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

### Mon. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gen 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;  
Lk 1:26-38

**Tue.** Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14

**Wed.** Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30

**Thu.** Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

**Fri.** Zech 2:14-17 or Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;  
Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

### Sat. Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19;  
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

### Sun. Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10;  
Mt 11:2-11

## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

**Air Force:** C4C Andrew Bauders; 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 Rusciollelli

**Navy:** DCFN Matthew J Bixler Jr.; LCDR. Matthew Giannone; SR Chase T. Golden; Lt. Albert Remmey, Jr.; LCDR. Jordan Mayo; ENS. Rory Moran, OSSN. Daniel Pressley; LCDR. Jenna Hehn Quist; ENS. Tyler Spear; LCDR. William Vey; CTT2. Zachary Wortham

and all service members not listed.



# STEWARDSHIP

## Support Our Parish Family

Thank you to everyone who has already responded to Father John's recent letter. As we approach the end of the calendar year, we invite all parish households to prayerfully consider an end-of-year gift to St. Mark. Your generosity supports our day-to-day ministry, our diocesan obligations, and the care of our parish facilities.

Every contribution, large or small, helps our parish continue its mission of worship, faith formation, outreach, and service. Together, we sustain a growing community where the Eucharist is at the center and Christ's love is shared in concrete and meaningful ways.

To give, use the QR code below or visit [www.stmarknc.org/online-giving](http://www.stmarknc.org/online-giving) to enroll in recurring offertory and support our parish all year long. You may also give directly to our special collections, including the Christmas & Year-End Fund, Diocesan Support Appeal, and Priest Retirement Assessment.

Thank you for supporting our parish family!

***For your convenience, please use these QR Codes to directly access giving opportunities:***



***Christmas & Year End Giving Fund***



***Diocesan Support Appeal***



***Priest Retirement Assessment***

## Stewardship Spotlight: Producing Good Fruit

***Growing in Christ, Serving One Another, Sharing Our Gifts, and Connecting in Faith***

Our Gospel today calls us to produce good fruit as evidence of our repentance. The desire to repent is rooted in recognizing our sin and admitting when our deeds and words do not align with Jesus' teaching. When we respond to His call to be Christian disciples, the evidence of how well we truly repent becomes visible in the fruit of our work.

"Offerings, when born of love, not only alleviate the needs of one's brother or sister, but also purify the heart of the giver, if he or she is willing to change." (46. *Apostolic Exhortation Dilexite of the Holy Father Leo XIV to All Christians on Love for the Poor*) When we offer our time, talent, and treasure to perform works of Mercy, we become a sign of hope in the world. Ideally, this is done in love, a sign of perfect contrition.

Consider the evidence of how you are producing good fruit by:

*Feeding the hungry;  
Counseling the doubtful;  
Giving drink to the thirsty; Instructing the ignorant; Sheltering the homeless; Admonishing the sinner; Visiting the sick; Comforting the sorrowful; Burying the dead; Forgiving injuries; Giving alms to the poor;  
Bearing wrongs patiently; and Praying*



## Ongoing Food and Gift Card Collection

*When: Anytime*

*Where: Narthex Bin*



Please remember to bring non-perishable food donations with you any time you come to the church. We have a permanent food collection bin inside the entrance of the church. Volunteers take this food every week to various food pantries in Huntersville and Charlotte.

**Grocery gift cards (\$25) can also be left in the parish office.**

**Please do not leave anything else in the narthex bin.** It is a hardship to the volunteers to sort through clothing and household items. We do not use these items and do not have a way to get them to people in need.

Thank you.

## 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: [www.stmarknc.org/purgatorial-society](http://www.stmarknc.org/purgatorial-society).

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](mailto:paige.mccall@stmarknc.org) or 704-948-0231.

# Two holy days, two Masses

Catholics should plan to attend two Masses  
over two days December 7 & 8:



## 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 attend Mass any time after  
4 p.m. Sunday or on Monday.

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

or

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 7

5 pm\*, 7 pm\* Vigil

or

Monday, December 8

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, provided you came to Mass at one of the earlier 2nd Sunday of Advent Masses.

## 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 Dec.8.**



# ADVENT 2025

## Calendar of Events

### Monday, December 8

#### **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

Did You Know? The Entire Month of December is dedicated to Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception.

*Father, you prepared the Virgin Mary to be the worthy mother of your Son. Trace in our actions the lines of her love and in our hearts her readiness of faith. Prepare once again a world for your Son who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*



### Tuesday, December 9

#### **Feast of St. Juan Diego**

Before Our Lady of Guadalupe, there was St. Juan Diego. It all started with this humble villager who walked 14 miles to Mass every week. On December 9, 1531, a beautiful lady dressed as an Aztec appeared to him. She was the Immaculate Virgin Mary and the events from that day changed the world. From his tilma that we received the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



### Tuesday, December 9

#### **Evening of Prayer and Praise Rosary, 7 pm; Prayer & Praise 7:30 pm**

Want to draw closer to God? Join us to pray the Rosary followed by an hour of Prayer & Praise. This will be a time to use music to enter into God's presence and spend an hour in prayer with Him. Led by Fernando & Karen De Urquidi.

### Friday, December 12

#### **Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

##### **7 am, 9 am, 7 pm Mass (Spanish)**

Celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe is a beautiful way to embrace Mary's role in preparing the way for Christ. Her appearance to Juan Diego brought a message of hope and salvation to the people of Mexico and she is the Patroness of the Americas. Our Hispanic community will have a special 7 pm Mass followed by a celebration in the Family Center. All are invited.

### Saturday, December 13



#### **Tree Lighting & Nativity Blessing Outside, 6:30 pm**

This will be a fun and festive night for the entire family! Join us after the Saturday 5 pm Mass to light the parish Christmas Trees. Our children's choir will lead us in caroling as we process to the Memorial for Life where we will then bless our outside Nativity. There will be hot chocolate and cookies for everyone afterwards!

*Thank you to the Knights of Columbus, the Ladies Auxiliary and Pastoral Council for hosting this annual event!*

### Monday, December 15 through Tuesday, December 23, 7 pm

#### **Posada, Bilingual**

Join the Hispanic community for this special Advent tradition. Posada means "inn" or "shelter." This nine-day event symbolizes Mary and Joseph's search for lodging before the birth of Jesus. Each evening, we will gather to pray, sing, read Scripture, re-enact the Nativity story, and have hot chocolate!



#### **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)

## PARISH LIFE

### 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 Turrissendo, 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.



### 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](mailto:seanmeier1@gmail.com)



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

**When:** Wed., Jan. 7, 7:15-8:45 pm  
then most Wed evenings

**Where:** Room 200, Family 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](mailto:Rfitzg@aol.com) or 704-992-1702

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

### Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry is made up of St. Mark parishioners who have received extensive training to give emotional and spiritual support to fellow St. Mark parishioners as well as to those in our community. This ministry is a confidential, one to one opportunity to receive Christian care in a comfortable meeting place, whether in your home, parish hall, or even in a park setting.



We all go through times of: *Grief, Children leaving home, Divorce, Parenting, Job Loss, Issues Related to Aging, Cancer Diagnosis, Adjustment to Retirement, Medical crisis, Job stress, Spiritual Crisis, Unemployment, Stress to Being a Caregiver, Relocation, Hospitalization, Changes in Living, Situations, Terminal Illness, Natural Disaster, Chronic Health Conditions, Adjustment to Disability, Rehabilitation from Illness or Injury, Marital Separation, and Pregnancy.*

Stephen Ministry is here to serve you, so you don't have to suffer alone. For more information, please contact either Rich Kull at [rkull@optonline.net](mailto:rkull@optonline.net) Leanne Vaccaro [leanne.vaccaro@stmarknc.org](mailto:leanne.vaccaro@stmarknc.org) or visit our website at [stmarknc.org/Stephen-ministry](http://stmarknc.org/Stephen-ministry).



## The Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mark

Confession is offered every day at our parish as a way to prepare our hearts to receive God's mercy.

Confessions always begin 45 minutes before Mass and end 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass, when the priests must begin preparing for the liturgy.

### Confessional Procedure

Confession lines will form down the side aisle. Please be attentive to the confessional lights:

Green: Open

Red: In Use

No Light: Confessional Closed

*The Confessional will close 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass.*

### Daily Confession Schedule

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday**

- 6:15–6:45 am
- 8:15–8:45 am

**Wednesday**

- 6:15–6:45 am
- 6:00–7:00 pm\*

**Friday**

- 6:15–6:45 am
- 8:15–8:45 am
- 6:15–6:45 pm

**Saturday**

- 8:15–8:45 am
- 3:00–5:00 pm\*

**Sunday**

- 6:45–7:15 am
- 8:15–8:45 am
- 10:15–10:45 am
- 12:15–12:45 pm
- 4:15–4:45 pm

*\*Extended confession times that fall outside the regular 45-minute window prior to Mass.*



## Diocese of Charlotte Advent Penance Services

Prepare your heart for Christmas by receiving God's mercy. Local parishes are offering communal penitential services followed by individual confession.

**St. Peter:** Dec. 4 (*time not provided*)

**Our Lady of the Assumption:** Dec. 9, 6 pm

**St. Luke:** Dec. 11, 7

**St. John Neumann:** Dec. 17, 6:30 pm

**St. Gabriel:** Dec. 17, 8 pm

*Please contact individual parishes to confirm time and details.*

## Singles 45+ Fellowship Event

**When:** Sunday, December 14, 5 – 8 pm

**Where:** Torrence and Knox,  
20936 Torrence Chapel Road,  
Cornelius

Note our new start time – 5pm!

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

There's a perfect outdoor space for us to meet.

Please scan code to RSVP so we can plan for you.

Questions? [45plussingles@gmail.com](mailto:45plussingles@gmail.com)



**WOMEN,  
ARE YOU  
SEARCHING  
FOR MORE  
MEANING IN  
YOUR LIFE?**

**DO YOU NEED  
SOME TIME TO  
RECONNECT  
WITH GOD?**

**COME BE  
INSPIRED BY A  
COMMUNITY  
OF WOMEN ON  
YOUR FAITH  
JOURNEY.**



## NOW REGISTERING!

### **WOMEN'S WELCOME RETREAT FEBRUARY 7TH & 8TH**

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 Saint 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.

There is no cost, but space is limited.

#### **At Saint Mark Catholic Church**

Scan code or go to  
[stmarknc.org/welcome-retreat](http://stmarknc.org/welcome-retreat)

Questions: Email Lauren at  
[LaurenFloyd@verizon.net](mailto:LaurenFloyd@verizon.net)



# Welcome.

## RESPECT LIFE

### Monthly Respect Life Mass & Rosary Vigil

When: Tues., Dec. 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](mailto:respect.life@stmarknc.org)

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

### 20th Annual MARCH FOR LIFE Charlotte!

When: Fri., Jan. 9; 10 am

Where: Cathedral of St. Patrick

Mass will be offered for The Unborn. At 11 am we will gather at the parking lot across the street from the Catholic Diocese located at 1123 S. Church St. Charlotte. Parking is very limited at the staging area parking lot, please expect to find parking on your own uptown. At 12 pm we will march to Trade and Tryon to be a witness for The Unborn. Fr. Brian Becker will be the guest preacher followed by the recitation of the Most Holy Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

**Please join us to march and pray for an end to abortion and save babies lives!**

See schedule details  
at [www.marchforlifecharlotte.com](http://www.marchforlifecharlotte.com)



## ADORATION



**Lord, this advent, let wanting to love you more be the light that guides us to spend time with you in adoration.**

By Donna Fodale: Adoration Coordinator

I was blessed with a wonderful relationship with my mom. She was my best friend. I would share everything with her. When she was diagnosed with stage four cancer, I was heartbroken. The following few years I was blessed to be able to accompany her right to the end of her life. It was the most difficult two years of my life. I remember the last few weeks specifically. She was in the hospital and though we did not know the exact time that she would pass, we knew that it was coming soon. This weighed heavily on my heart. I was working full-time and had a family to take care of. Still, there was no place I wanted (needed) to be more than at my mom's bedside praying and telling her how much I loved her.

It was never easy getting to the hospital. So many everyday things, big and small, became obstacles. However, even though it wasn't always easy getting there, there was nothing that would keep me from the time that I desired to spend with my her. It was important to me but also to her.

Somehow God worked it all out. I tell you this story because often when I am struggling to make time to go to Adoration and I list off all the things that I need to do, I am reminded of that time in my life when I would let nothing come between me and spending time with my mom.

We need to make spending time with Our Lord just as important.

Jesus is saying to each of us ...I want you to love me that much.

He does long for us to make time for Him in our busy schedules, even if it is just a few minutes a week. I have often heard the saying that if you put God first, everything else will fall into place. I believe this will all my heart.

This Advent as you prepare your hearts to receive our Lord, let loving Him be the light that guides you to spend time with Him in adoration. The light that draws you deeper into those holy moments when you get lost in the ocean of His love and mercy.

*Lord, help us love you more. Increase in us the desire to put you first in our lives but especially this Advent season.*

*We ask you, Blessed Mother, who is the best of all mothers, help us see Jesus through your eyes and to love Him as much as you love him.*

*May this Advent be a time of renewal and reflection. Drawing each of you closer and closer to receiving the newborn babe into the very center of your heart. Amen.*

Please prayerfully consider becoming a weekly Adorer...

Register at: [stmarknc.org/adoration](http://stmarknc.org/adoration)

TO BE A SUB PLEASE CONTACT [donna.fodale@stmarknc.org](mailto:donna.fodale@stmarknc.org)



St. Mark High School Ministry

## Advent Life Night 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.

**All high schoolers  
are welcome!**



High School Ministry

## Bible Study Advent Schedule:

### December 1: St. Joseph

A Bible Study about St. Joseph. 6-7pm  
in room 203 of the Parish Hall.

### December 9: Our Lady

A Bible Study about Our Lady. 6-7pm in  
room 203 of the Parish Hall.

### December 15: Jesus

A Bible Study about Jesus. 6-7pm in  
room 203 of the Parish Hall.

### December 22: Christmas

A Bible Study about Christmas. 6-7pm  
in room 203 of the Parish Hall.

**All high schoolers welcome!**



### Shop Local. Shop Catholic. Shop at Saint Mark.

ROSARIES. BOOKS. HOME DÉCOR. SPANISH. BIBLES. NATIVITIES. TOYS. JEWELRY. MEDALS.  
PRAYER CARDS. GIFTS. GAMES. STOCKING STUFFERS. ORNAMENTS. MUGS. FIGURINES. CANDLES.  
CLEARANCE TABLE. CHILDREN'S SECTION. SOCKS. BLOCKS.



**CAROLINA CATHOLIC CORNER**

*book and gift store*

located in the Kerin Family Center • open 7 am-9 pm • portion of all proceeds benefit Saint Mark



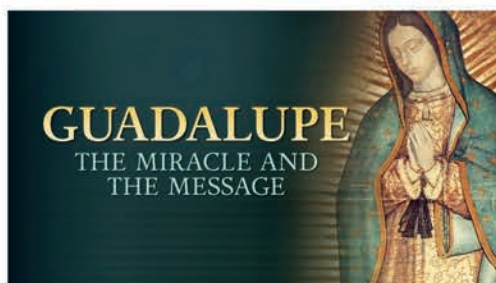
# This Week on Formed

## Week of December 07, 2025



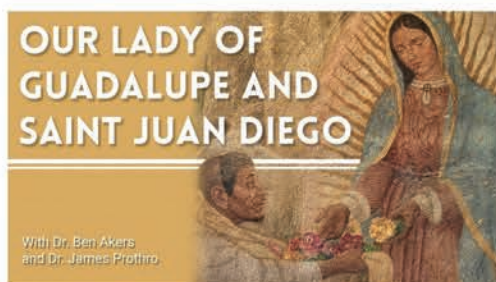
### What Is the Immaculate Conception?

Join Drs Tim Gray and John Sehorn as they examine Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. This dogma of the Catholic faith, promulgated in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, speaks of Mary's conception and what it means to the Church.



### Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message

Enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego, an encounter that has influenced the conversion of millions of people.



### Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Juan Diego | Catholic Saints

Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Dr. James Prothro to discuss Mary's apparition to Saint Juan Diego on Tepeyac hill under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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





## AROUND THE DIOCESE



PRIESTS **VS** SEMINARIANS

### ANNUAL SHOWDOWN

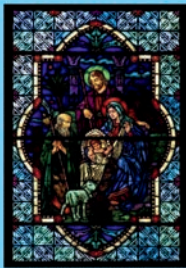
**Sunday, Dec. 21, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Charlotte Catholic High School**

**All proceeds benefit Holy Angels!**



THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PATRICK

## CONCERT OF SACRED MUSIC FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 7:30PM**

On Saturday, December 13th at 7:30 PM, the Cathedral of Saint Patrick will host its annual Concert of Sacred Music for Advent and Christmas. Performing at the concert will be the Cathedral Choir, Children's Choir, and High School Choir. The choirs will sing the *Magnificat* in C by Johann Georg Reinhardt, and other works by Parsons, Rathgeber, Bach, and Mendelssohn. All are invited to attend.

ADMISSION IS FREE FOR THIS CONCERT; A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE COLLECTED.

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PATRICK  
1621 DILWORTH RD. E  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28203

For more information contact Gianfranco De Luca at [gdeluca@stpatricks.org](mailto:gdeluca@stpatricks.org) or 704-334-2283.

### Retrouvaille Marriage Help

Retrouvaille offers a welcoming and loving space to couples who have been living with the misery of a failing marriage.

Retrouvaille offers hope: hope that it is not too late, hope for a different and better marriage. Retrouvaille helps couples to show each other mercy through the opportunities it provides to listen, to forgive, to be reconciled and to move into their futures believing that God loves them and, with His help and their efforts, their marriages can be healed and restored.

For over 48 years, Retrouvaille has provided help for marriage problems/difficulties/ crises.

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

Website: [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)



# Saint Mark Parish Directory

stmarknc.org | 14740 Stumptown Rd, Huntersville NC 28078

Parish Office | Mon-Thur 9 am-7:30 pm, Fri 9 am-4:30 pm

Sun 8:15 am-12:15 pm | Phone: 704-948-0231

## Pastor

Very Rev. John T. Putnam, JV

## Parochial Vicars

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

## Deacons

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

Fri: 7, 9 am

7 pm (Spanish)

Sat: 9 am, 5 pm Vigil

Sun: 7:30, 9, 11 am, 1 pm (Español), 5 pm

All Masses may be watched live: [stmarknc.org/livestream](http://stmarknc.org/livestream)

Please use Online Giving or mail in your offertory

[stmarknc.org/Online-Giving](http://stmarknc.org/Online-Giving)

Please do not attend Mass if you are sick, have a fever or are in a high-risk group.

## Confessions

Confessions are held 45 minutes prior to the start of Mass for a 30 minute duration.

In addition, Wednesday: 6 pm — 7:15 pm and Saturday: 3 pm — 5 pm

## Rosary in the Church

Tue: 7—7:30 pm

Wed: Immediately preceding 6:30 pm Mass

Sat: Immediately preceding 5 pm Mass

Sun: Immediately preceding 7:30 am Mass

## Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

Available in the Monsignor Bellow Adoration Chapel in the Family Center. See [stmarknc.org/adoration](http://stmarknc.org/adoration) for complete details.

## Hospitalization

If you or your loved one are in an area hospital, call the Parish Office to reach one of the Priests. The Priests offer Confession, bring the Holy Eucharist to you or administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

## Baptisms & Weddings

The use of the Church for Baptisms, Weddings and other Sacramental events is available to active parishioners. Contact the Parish Office. (Please note that weddings and baptisms cannot be celebrated during Lent.)

## Financial Counseling

Complimentary and confidential services are available to provide financial literacy training, personal financial coaching, and/or advocacy support for you and your family. Contact the Parish Office.

## Carolina Catholic Corner Gift & Book Store

Open daily in the Family Center

## Coffee & Conversation Social Gathering

Tuesdays, 9:30 am, Parish Hall.

## Cursillo

Visit [www.CharlotteCursillo.com](http://www.CharlotteCursillo.com) for information on upcoming retreat weekends, ultreys and group reunions.

## Natural Family Planning

Joe and Kathy Hack; Sympto-Thermal Method;

704-548-1834; [hackhouse@bellsouth.net](mailto:hackhouse@bellsouth.net); [ccli.org](http://ccli.org)

Elisabeth Laskowski; Creighton Model;

[creightonmodel@gmail.com](mailto:creightonmodel@gmail.com); 484-332-9084

## Crisis Pregnancy Help

Community Pregnancy Center of Lake Norman:

704-727-0535

Catholic Charities: 704-370-3262; Birthright:

704-975-8572; Post Abortion: 1-800-5-WE CARE

Poor prenatal diagnosis? You're not alone. There is help. [benotafraid.net](http://benotafraid.net)

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

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

## Parishioner Assistance

### Financial:

St. Vincent De Paul Society:  
[Emily.Bixler@stmarknc.org](mailto:Emily.Bixler@stmarknc.org)

### Life Crisis: Stephen Ministry

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

### Food Insecurity:

Parish Office  
[stmarknc.org/assistance](http://stmarknc.org/assistance) or  
[Emily.Bixler@stmarknc.org](mailto:Emily.Bixler@stmarknc.org) or  
704-948-0231, Ext. 102

### Al-Anon

Ellen | 704-907-8555

### Alcoholics Anonymous

Tom | 704-604-7739

### Alateen program

Paul G. | 704-641-0654

### Divorce Support Group

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

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





# DEL PARROCO

En este segundo domingo de Adviento, nuestra segunda lectura de la carta de San Pablo a los romanos nos anima a enfocar nuestros preparativos de Adviento de esta manera: "Recibidos unos a otros, pues, como Cristo os acogió, para la gloria de Dios." ¿Y cómo nos recibe Cristo? Con amor incondicional.

Esta es la esencia de la hospitalidad cristiana, un aspecto vital de la vida de mayordomía. Plenamente aceptado, tiene el poder de transformar nuestras vidas y las vidas de quienes lo experimentan a través de nosotros.

La práctica de la hospitalidad cristiana es también una forma para que nosotros, los mayordomos, respondamos al llamado de Juan el Bautista, en nuestro pasaje del Evangelio de Mateo. Sus palabras nos afectan hoy tanto como a las personas que esperan la llegada del Salvador. Juan dice: "¡Arrepiéntanse, porque el reino de los cielos está cerca!" Y recuerda las palabras del profeta Isaías: «Preparad el camino del Señor, rectificad sus caminos.» Existe una conexión clara entre el arrepentimiento y la hospitalidad efectiva.

Entonces, ¿cómo podemos hacer del arrepentimiento una parte habitual de nuestra vida cotidiana? Podemos hacer que un "examen de conciencia" sea parte diaria de nuestras oraciones, dando gracias a Dios por las veces que le dijimos "sí" y pidiendo perdón por los momentos en que elegimos nuestra propia voluntad. Podemos (¡y deberíamos!) ir a confesar este Adviento. Podemos contactar con un familiar o amigo donde haya distancia o discordia y hacer las paces.

A medida que "rectificamos los caminos" de nuestro propio corazón y mente, nos convertimos en personas más hospitalarias, mejores administradores de la gracia y misericordia de Dios, y mucho más abiertos y dispuestos a invitar a otros a nuestras vidas, hogares y parroquia. Esta es una preparación digna de nuestro misericordioso Salvador. © Consultores de Gestión Católica, 2025

**Reflexión pastoral** - El Papa León XIV, el 267º obispo de Roma emprendió su viaje apostólico inaugural al extranjero del 27 de noviembre al 2 de diciembre de 2025. Este itinerario de seis días abarcó Turquía (27-30 de noviembre) y Líbano (30-2 de diciembre), marcando una elección deliberada de destinos en Oriente Medio en medio de conflictos regionales en curso y aniversarios eclesiológicos globales. Como sucesor del Papa Francisco, quien había planeado un viaje similar antes de su fallecimiento en abril de 2025, el viaje de León XIV cumple un compromiso con el compromiso ecuménico e interreligioso, al

tiempo que avanza temas centrales para su incipiente papado: paz, unidad y diálogo.

## **Importancia histórica y ecuménica en Turquía**

La etapa turca del viaje se centró en İznik (antigua Nicea), donde el papa León XIV participó en las conmemoraciones del 1.700 aniversario del Primer Concilio de Nicea (325 d.C.). Este concilio ecuménico, convocado por el emperador Constantino I, produjo el Credo Niceno, una declaración fundamental de la fe cristiana que afirma la divinidad de Cristo y es compartida por las tradiciones católica, ortodoxa y protestante. El evento puso de relieve la herencia común del cristianismo, con León XIV uniéndose al patriarca ecuménico Bartolomé I de Constantinopla para una declaración conjunta y doxología en la Iglesia Patriarcal de San Jorge en Estambul. Esta colaboración pone de relieve los esfuerzos para tender puentes entre las iglesias católica y ortodoxa oriental, haciendo eco de las históricas visitas papales a Turquía (por ejemplo, de los papas Pablo VI en 1967 y Benedicto XVI en 2006).

En un contexto más amplio, la visita a la Turquía predominantemente musulmana (donde los cristianos constituyen menos del 0,5% de la población) sirvió como un gesto de alcance interreligioso. Momentos clave incluyeron una oración en la Mezquita Azul de Estambul—aunque León XIV se abstuvo de rezar visiblemente allí, distinguiendo su enfoque de sus predecesores—y una reunión con el presidente Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Las discusiones abordaron las tensiones en lugares como Santa Sofía, reconvertida en mezquita en 2020, y enfatizaron el respeto mutuo en medio del papel de Turquía como encrucijada entre el cristianismo primitivo y la patria de San Pablo. La peregrinación reforzó así el compromiso del papado de fomentar "lo que nos une" por encima de las divisiones, tal y como expresaron los portavoces del Vaticano.

## **Importancia humanitaria y diplomática en el Líbano**

Al trasladarse al Líbano, el itinerario del Papa León XIV abordó los profundos desafíos de la nación: el colapso económico desde 2019, la devastadora explosión del puerto de Beirut en 2020 (que causó más de 200 muertes y desplazaron a miles), y la renovada violencia por los ataques aéreos israelíes en 2024 dirigidos a posiciones de Hezbolá, a pesar de un frágil alto el fuego en Gaza. La comunidad cristiana del Líbano, la mayor del mundo árabe (que comprende entre el 30 y el 35% de la población), enfrenta la emigración y la inestabilidad, lo que convierte la visita en una afirmación vital de solidaridad.

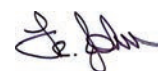
Entre sus compromisos destacados se encuentran reuniones con el presidente Joseph Aoun, el presidente del Parlamento, Nabih Berri, y el primer ministro, Nawaf Salam; una oración interreligiosa en el puerto de Beirut en conmemoración de las víctimas de la explosión; y visitas a la tumba de San Charbel y a la estatua de Nuestra Señora del Líbano. Una misa al aire libre en el malecón de Beirut, que se esperaba atraería a 120.000 asistentes, simbolizaba la resiliencia comunitaria. El líder de Hezbolá, Naim Qassem, le dio la bienvenida formal, entregando una carta a través de los miembros del grupo y presentando la visita como una oportunidad para el diálogo sobre la paz regional. Este acercamiento al Líbano de mayoría musulmana (65-70% musulmán) amplificó el mensaje de convivencia de León XIV, trazando paralelismos con la visita del Papa Juan Pablo II en 1997 y la de Benedicto XVI en 2012 en medio de la guerra civil siria.

## **Implicaciones geopolíticas y papales más amplias**

Ocurriendo en el contexto de una tercera guerra mundial "fragmentada"—que abarcaba Ucrania, Gaza y puntos conflictivos de Oriente Medio— el viaje de León XIV posicionó a la Santa Sede como una voz moral para la desescalada. En sus discursos, invocó las advertencias de su predecesor, el Papa Francisco, sobre el futuro en peligro de la humanidad, instando a los líderes mundiales a priorizar las negociaciones de paz. El momento del viaje, cubierto por más de 80 periodistas de 15 países (incluidas grandes cadenas estadounidenses), amplificó su resonancia global, especialmente como el primer viaje al extranjero de un papa estadounidense.

Simbólicamente, seleccionar naciones de mayoría musulmana para su debut subraya un pontificado arraigado en la espiritualidad agustiniana (León XIV fue el primero de la Orden de San Agustín) y en la doctrina social, haciendo eco del énfasis del papa León XIII en la justicia en las eras industriales. Señala continuidad con la construcción de puentes de Francisco mientras introduce la visión de León XIV: unidad entre religiones, apoyo a minorías perseguidas y defensa de los vulnerables. Para el 2 de diciembre de 2025, la visita ya había provocado reflexiones sobre su potencial para influir en frágiles treguas y armonía intercomunal en la región.

Este camino apostólico, por tanto, trasciende los límites ceremoniales, sirviendo como una afirmación estratégica del papel de la Iglesia Católica en la promoción de la estabilidad global y la solidaridad religiosa.



**Viernes, 12 de diciembre**

## **Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**

Misas a las 7 am, 9 am y 7 pm (en español)

Celebrar a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe es una manera hermosa de acoger el papel de María en la preparación del camino para Cristo. Su aparición a San Juan Diego llevó un mensaje de esperanza y salvación al pueblo de México, y es la Patrona de las Américas. Nuestra comunidad hispana tendrá una Misa especial a las 7 pm, seguida por una celebración en el Family Center.

**Todos están invitados.**



**Lunes, 15 de diciembre – Martes, 23 de diciembre, 7 pm**

## **Posada, Bilingüe**

Acompañe a la comunidad hispana en esta hermosa tradición de Adviento. Posada significa “posada” o “refugio.” Esta celebración de nueve días simboliza la búsqueda de alojamiento de María y José antes del nacimiento de Jesús.

Cada noche nos reuniremos para orar, cantar, leer la Sagrada Escritura, representar la historia del Nacimiento y disfrutar de chocolate caliente!



## **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**

Habrán 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.



## **El Sacramento de la Reconciliación en St. Mark**

Confesiones se ofrecen **todos los días** en nuestra parroquia como una manera de preparar nuestros corazones para recibir la misericordia de Dios.

Las confesiones **siempre comienzan 45 minutos antes de la Misa y terminan 15 minutos antes del inicio de la Misa**, cuando los sacerdotes deben comenzar a prepararse para la liturgia.

### **Procedimiento para Confesarse**

Las filas para confesión se formarán **por el pasillo lateral**. Por favor, preste atención a las luces del confesionario:

**Verde:** Abierto

**Roja:** En uso

**Sin luz:** Confesionario cerrado

El confesionario cerrará **15 minutos antes del inicio de la Misa**.



## **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 y 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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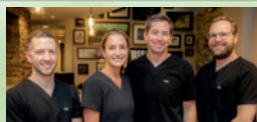
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