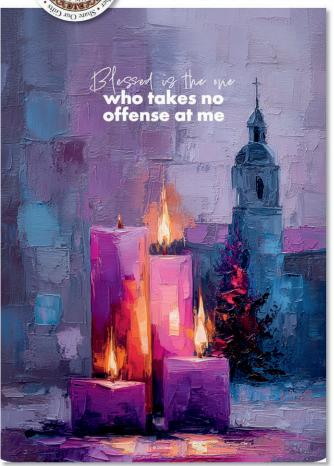


SAMMI MARK

Gaudete Sunday, December 14, 2025, Español pagina 15

Welcome to St. Mark



Rejoice! It is the 3rd Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday. The readings can be found page 811 in the St. Augustine Hymnal or in the music handouts.

What Is Gaudete Sunday?

Halfway through Advent, the Church gives us a joyful pause called Gaudete Sunday. The name comes from the Latin word gaudete, meaning "rejoice," taken from St. Paul's words: Rejoice in the Lord always. That is why today we see rose-colored vestments and candles instead of purple. Advent is still a season of preparation, but today we are reminded that our waiting is joyful because Christ is very near.

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 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.

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.

ONLINE GIVING

Planned Proportionate Consistent



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.
- 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



Good news, Christian stewards
— we are gaining ground on our Advent mountain climb and it is time to take a moment to rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will come

again in triumph one day. Today's readings on this Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday are filled with reminders of God's final victory over suffering and injustice, and encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to live as faithfilled disciples.

Such a day almost seems too good to be true, especially when we look around at the dire circumstances we face in our world at present. But by faith, we know this day is coming. Lest we grow weary as we await the glorious day of Christ's return, St. James, in our second reading, offers wise counsel. "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord." "Make your hearts firm... Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged."

This is excellent advice for us Christian stewards as we face the challenges of everyday life in our broken world, especially in the hectic days that precede Christmas when stress can make us and those around us less than our best selves. St. James reminds us that we can choose our response to both the great strains and the minor annoyances of life. In other words, we can be good stewards of our attitude, "making our hearts firm" by practicing patience with others and refusing to give

in to the temptation to complain.

We can choose to see and rejoice in God's presence with us, no matter the circumstances surrounding us. © Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2025

Pastoral Pondering – Prior to the Hamas attack in Israel of October 7, 2023, I was planning to lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with our seminarians. The events of that day put that pilgrimage on hold even though we had already raised funds for the pilgrimage. Now that relative peace has been restored, we will be embarking on the pilgrimage on December 26th. I wanted to thank all of you who supported the effort and wanted to let you know that we are finally preparing to go.

Pilgrimages to the Holy Land are very special opportunities for everyone, but such a pilgrimage is especially significant for a man preparing for priesthood because it provides a completely different perspective on the Scriptures and is able to inform his preaching and teaching.

Christopher Cross is organizing this for us, and I would recommend one of his trips to anyone who would like to go. Chris brings a unique blend of humor and deep faith that makes the experience come alive in a wonderful way. I have been on a number of pilgrimages, and those with Chris have been the most impactful by far.

Please keep all of us in your prayers as we prepare for the pilgrimage and certainly know that you all will be in ours as we spend the Christmas Octave in the Holy Land.







THE MYSTERIES OF THE INCARNATION

"The angel waits, creation waits, heaven and earth wait for Mary's reply."

— Inspired by St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Our stained glass windows reveal the quiet joy of Christ's coming:

The **Annunciation**, where Mary receives God's promise,

The **Visitation**, where grace moves between two mothers,

The **Nativity**, where the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us.

In these three moments, the joy of heaven enters our world:
God draws near, Mary believes, and Christ is born.





REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please Pray For

Julie Andrews Sarah Armstrong **Donald Arrup** John & Casev 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

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

Joann Nigro

Hazel Palmer

John Pecoraro

Doug Peterson

Angela Piraino

Gianni Piraino

Ella Postlewait

Thomas Ranney

Butch Remesch

Lola Rodriguez

Maria Rubinos

Thomas Rynne

Phyllis Searles

Mark Shields

Todd Singh

Betsy Spartz

Terri Summers

The Tate Family

Cheryl Thompson

Lucia Solis Vallarino

Welcome Retreat Staff

Mary Jane Zimmerman

Mike Tolbert

Alston Torres

Zaida Torres

Robert Virgint

Caroline Vogel

Jonathan Wark

Paul Widman

Carol Woodard

Kenneth Terry & Family

Jeff Stark

Sue Sia

Daniel Sheffield

Sherwood Family

Robert Somerville

Lindsay Remington

Joette Reid

The Ober Family

Blanca Yolanda Ojeda

The Patterson Family

Nicole & Bruce Preiss

Margaret Paquette

Fernando Paverpai

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 Rosina Marcucci

Vernon McCord Kathleen McMillan Cathy Milligan Terry Milstead Lucille Modica

Vincent Montoya Mary Morgan Haleigh Moss Niall Mulkeen Elizabeth Mulligan Jamie Mulvihill Angeles Murphy

Maria Magdalena Murphy Carl Muti

Paul Nealon Jr.

Paul Sr. and Sally Nealon Margaret Nelson

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 14 7:30 am The Depew Family St. Mark Parishioners 9 am 11 am Jorge v Jhoanna Utset 1 pm † Luis & Maria Benavides

5 pm † Thomas Muldoon

Monday, December 15

7 am † Steve Connor & Kami Hansen

9 am Pat Battaglia Tuesday, December 16

† Frank A. Gilardi Jr. 7 am † Jose Mendoza 9 am Wednesday, December 17

† Frances Trinite Forte 7 am

† David Calabrase 6:30 pm † Philip Eigenbauer

Mrs. Estrada & Mrs. Fernandez

Thursday, December 18

† Arnold & Doris Riggio 7 am † Ginny & Martin White 9 am

Friday, December 19

† Christy Henson 7 am 9 am † Roland Luze Derek & Holly Satz 7 pm

Saturday, December 20 9 am † Anthony Bucci 5 pm † Audrey DeHart

John Williams Stoker & Family Sunday, December 21 7:30 am † Pat Nestor **Amanda Rametta** 9 am † John Burger 11 am 1 pm † Juan Carlos Aguilera

†Deceased

Our Faithful Departed

St. Mark Parishioners

May God's grace be with the family of our recently deceased. Gladys Margarita Acuna Orta

Great Aunt of Jesus Acuna

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 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

Num 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab; 6 and 7bc, 8-Monday

9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23;

Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday Gen 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8,17; Mt 1:1-

Thursday Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25 Jdg 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk **Friday**

1:5-25

Saturday Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-

24

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

5 pm

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 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.

STEWAR DSHIP

Christmas Giving Tree: A Heartfelt Thank You!

This Advent season, your generosity has been a true reflection of Christ's love! Through your gifts, gift cards, and donations, we were able to bless **1,621** children, elderly, and individuals in need, providing over **\$80,000** in support. Your kindness touched hearts in schools, care centers, and ministries including Blythe Elementary, Croft Community School, Huntersville Elementary, Long Creek Elementary, St. Mark Catholic School, Torrence Creek Elementary, Huntersville Oaks, Hope House, Children's Hope Alliance, Bridge of Hearts, Catholic Charities, Missionaries of the Poor, Mira Via, Little Smiles, St. Mark Parishioners, Daughters of the Virgin Mother, and Neighborhood C.A.R.E. Center.

A special thank you to all the volunteers and to our **lead coordinators**: Kathy Barrick, Alicia Bowman, Gail Bennett, Oscar Bernardo, Amy Burger, Tamara Cislo, Brenda Fay, Ali Fritz, Emilio Gomez, Arelis Herman, Bob Langbo, Kelly Long, Savannah Long, Laura Mulkeen, Pam Schneider, Teressa Quijada, Michelle Revak, Maia Setzer, and Andrew Sullivan. We also extend our gratitude to Michelle Potuzak, Kathleen Schroeder, and Jennifer Walker for leading this incredible outreach.

You are the hands and feet of Christ, bringing hope and joy to those most in need. May the love you've shared continue to inspire us all to live generously and to shine His light throughout the year!

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have; God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind."

(Hebrews 13:16)





Stewardship Spotlight: Stewarding the Kingdom of Heaven Growing in Christ, Serving One Another, Sharing Our Gifts, and Connecting in Faith

Our Gospel today reminds us how blessed we are to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. John heralded Jesus and the Kingdom of Heaven to come. Now, we have received the Kingdom of Heaven through the living waters of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Eucharist. He has entrusted the Kingdom of Heaven to us through the Sacraments, traditions, and teachings of the Holy Catholic church. Do our lives reflect this truth?

In addition to the gifts of the Spirit that we all receive at Baptism, each of us has our own unique personal mission. "God has determined... that I should reach that which will be my greatest happiness. He looks on me individually, He calls me by my name, He knows what I can do, what I can best be, what is my greatest happiness, and He means to give it to me." ~ St. John Henry Newman *The fruit of the Spirit grows as your relationship with God grows*.

When we allow the graces and gifts bestowed on us through the Holy Spirit and the Sacraments to transform us, we join the growth of His Kingdom. We are then called to eternal purpose, to allow the Holy Spirit to live through us in the world and proclaim the good news. The Kingdom of Heaven grows when we acknowledge the gifts and graces we receive and allow God's will to form our hearts and actions by sharing them with others.



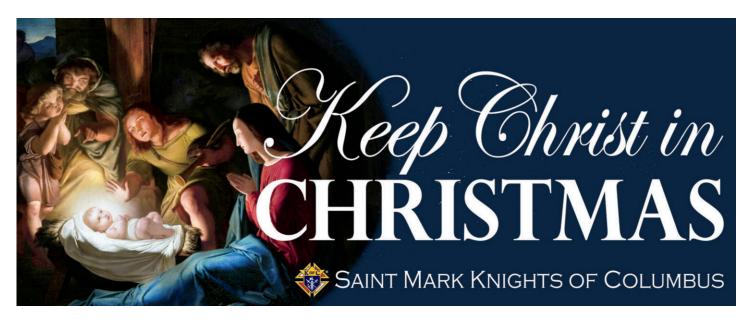
Ongoing Food Bin and Gift Card Collection

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.



Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

Last chance to enter!

St. Mark Knights of Columbus is excited to invite all Kindergarten through 8th grade students to participate in our "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest!

This is your chance to share your creativity and show what Christmas truly means to you. Each grade level will be judged separately, and winners will receive a special certificate and gift. Plus, every student who participates will receive a certificate!

All the instructions and the entry form you need can be found at stmarknc.org/koc or by scanning the code.

Completed posters must be submitted no later than Friday, December 17 to the reception area of the Kerin Family Center.

Let's fill this Christmas season with faith, joy, and beautiful artwork that keeps Christ at the heart of it all. We can't wait to see your designs!





Thank You to All Who Made Our Christmas Tree Lighting Special

A heartfelt thank you to our Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary for hosting this



year's Christmas Tree Lighting. Your hospitality, complete with trees, hot cocoa and cookies, made the evening truly special for our parish family.

Thank you also to our Children's Choir for filling the night with Christmas carols. Your voices brought joy to everyone gathered and reminded us of the beauty of this season.

We are also grateful to our Pastoral Council and to the many facility and grounds volunteers who worked so hard to decorate the exterior of the church. Because of your efforts, our

parish grounds glow with welcome and faith as we enter Advent and prepare for the birth of Christ. Thank you all for sharing your time, talent, and love for St. Mark.

Preparing the Manger

From an empty stable in the morning... to lighted by night, a team of volunteers spent a day preparing our outdoor Nativity.

But it isn't just decoration. This display is our parish's way of keeping the focus on the true meaning of Christmas and sharing that message with everyone who passes by.

At home, we invite you to set up your own Nativity as well. And it's okay to leave the manger empty for now. During these days of Advent, that empty space is a simple reminder that we are waiting for the Lord. (Filling it one day at a time is also a nice tradition for children.)

As we continue our Advent journey, let the empty manger remind us:

We are waiting for Him. We are making room. And He will come.

Thank you to all the parishioners who helped build, carry, lift, assemble, and light our outdoor Nativity today. Your service is a gift to our parish family.



ADVENT 2025

Christmas Flower Offering:

Remember someone special this Christmas.

Your gift helps beautify our church, Christ the King Catholic High School, and the Family Center Parish Hall for the celebration of Christmas Mass. It is a meaningful way to honor your loved ones while giving glory to Jesus Christ during this holy season of Christmas.

Flower offerings may be made using the envelope in your offertory packet, an envelope in the Narthex, or online at stmarknc.org/online-giving.



Posada, Bilingual

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

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

Come, let us adore Him.



CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRIST THE KING
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
2011 Crusader Way, Huntersville,
3:30 pm and 5:30 pm

ST. MARK CHURCH
4:30 pm and 6:30 pm
There will **NOT** be incense
at these two Masses.

11:30 pm Christmas Carols Midnight Mass



CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30 am and 11:30 am

PAR ISH LIFE

Retired Religious Collection on December 13-14

For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Your generosity today is not just a donation — it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious. There are envelopes in your packet, or you can donate through Online Giving at www.osvhub.com/stmarknc/giving/funds/religious-retirement.





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 Leanne Vaccaro leanne.vaccaro@stmarknc.org or visit our website at stephen-ministry.

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





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 or 704-992-1702

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

PARISH LIFE

Caffee & Conversation

Coffee & Conversation: December Schedule

Merry Christmas from our Coffee & Conversation team of volunteers! Please note our adjusted meeting times for the holiday season:

We will not meet on Tuesday, December 23.
 We will meet on Tuesday, December 30,

Coffee & Conversation meets after the 9 am Mass in the Kerin Family Center Parish Hall.

If you are home for the holidays, we invite you to stop by to enjoy a cup of coffee, meet new people, and reconnect with parish friends. All are welcome.

Be strong, fear not! HERE IS YOUR GOD

Isaiah 35:4

Shop Local. Shop Catholic. Shop Saint Mark.

ROSARIES. BOOKS. HOME DÉCOR. SHINING LIGHT DOLLS. SPANISH BIBLES. NATIVITIES. TOYS.

JEWELRY. PUZZLES. MEDALS. PRAYER CARDS. GIFTS. GAMES. STOCKING STUFFERS. ORNAMENTS. MUGS.
FIGURINES. CANDLES. PARISH MUGS. CLEARANCE TABLE. CHILDREN'S SECTION. SOCK RELIGIOUS.



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



Coming Up at Saint Mark

December 15-23

Posada, nightly, Spanish

Thursday, December 25

Christmas, Offices Closed Dec. 24-28

Thursday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Day, Offices Closed

Saturday, January 3

First Saturday Dinner

Friday, January 9

Paul Zuccarelli Talk, 7 pm

Saturday, January 10

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest Volunteer Appreciation 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



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

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

Questions: <u>paige.mccall@stmarknc.org</u> or 704-948-0231.

PARISH LIFE

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. 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





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

Questions: Email Lauren at LaurenFloyd@verizon.net



Welcome.

RESPECT LIFE

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

ADORATION

This week I would like to share some thoughts on Adoration from Richard Clancey, our Knights of Columbus Adoration Coordinator.

Richard writes... I have seen my share of Hallmark movies. I take offense however, to their new tag line, "It's not Christmas without Hallmark." I ran to my Christmas decorations in storage and pulled out my "Keep Christ in Christmas " magnets. Several parish ministries have those reminders out now also.

Advent is upon us, and our focus should be Christ and our many blessings. Both of those collide at our Adoration Chapel. One of those blessings is that we are approaching our 15th anniversary of 24/7 adoration availability.

For many years we had adoration opportunities, but it was not until May 2011 that we committed to having every hour covered 24/7. The Knights of Columbus answered the request to have as many men as possible filling the midnight to 6 am hours. We chose 4 am Saturdays. For those of you that remember your college party days, that is a tough hour to fill weekly.

Dick Christian, PGK (and countless parish ministries) and I coordinated the KofC hour. We used Signup

Genius to get council Knights to participate. As it turned out most Knights already had their own hour (or my buddy with 3). This was an opportunity for those, like me,

that thoroughly enjoy adoration but could not commit to their own hour weekly. This allowed them to schedule a week they were available. Dick and I rotated as subs when that 10 pm to 3 am call came in that the car won't start, or icy roads prevented them from riding up a hill out of the neighborhood.

After 60 to 90 minutes with the Lord, I drive by the post office and get my mail. Then I go to Waffle house for breakfast while checking the mail. Then I make it home to greet the early risers. Find a routine that works for you and enjoy that much-needed quiet prayer time you need just for yourself. Think of it as your own Christmas stocking gift.

Dick has passed on but I continue as co-coordinator with Chris Boudon. We now try to sign up 2 volunteers each week, so Chris and I get fewer 3 am emergency replacement calls. I stay in touch with Donna, regularly. I love her bulletin reminders of the blessing of adoration that we have right here at St. Mark. Prior to us having the Chapel open 24 hours, parishioners that appreciate the late-night solitude had to travel to parishes such as St. Gabe.

We still have several hours that do NOT have an adorer scheduled. During this Advent season think about how you want to maintain a really close relationship with God. Maybe like the KofC you are in a ministry that can share an hour with several group members. Those that would love to take the opportunity often, but schedules do not permit a weekly commitment. Of course, without your own hour, take the opportunity to stop in anytime for as little or long as you can stay to have a quiet, distraction free moment with our Lord.

If you are interested in becoming a weekly adorer, please register at: www.stmarknc.org/adoration.

TO BE A SUB PLEASE CONTACT donna.fodale@stmarknc.org.



This Week on Formed

Week of December 14, 2025



Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.



30 Minutes BC

30 Minutes BC creatively explores the profound emotions and intimate struggles of Mary and Joseph during the final 30. minutes before the birth of Jesus. As the clock ticks down, the couple navigates a whirlwind of hope, joy, and uncertainty, turning to God amidst it all.



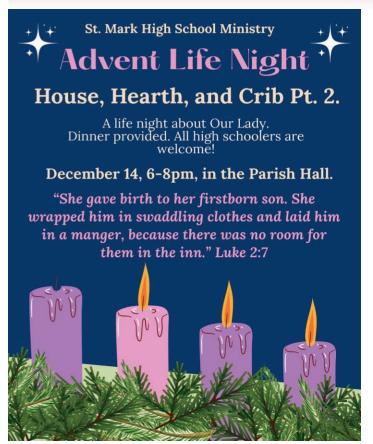
Is Christmas Pagan? What Catholics Believe About Christmas

Dr. Michael Barber answers some of the Internet's most asked questions about Christmas. Is Christmas a pagan holiday? Why is Christmas celebrated on December 25? What happened at the "first Christmas"? Find out the answers to these and more!

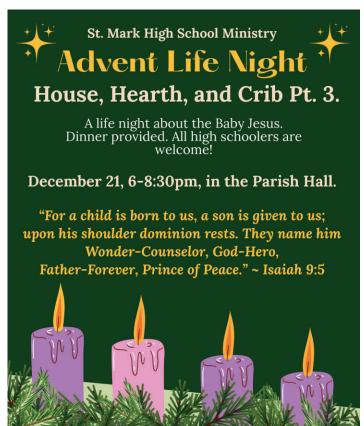
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For over 48 years, Retrouvaille has provided help for marriage problems/difficulties/ crises.

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

Website: 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

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Catechesis

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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

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 <u>stmarknc.org/adoration</u> 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

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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



ESPANOL



Del pastor

Buenas noticias, mayordomos cristianos: estamos ganando terreno en nuestra ascensión de Adviento y es hora de tomarnos un momento para

alegrarnos en las Buenas Nuevas: que nuestro Salvador volverá algún día en triunfo. Las lecturas de hoy en este domingo de Gaudete ("Regocijaos") están llenas de recordatorios de la victoria final de Dios sobre el sufrimiento y la injusticia, y de ánimo para mantenernos firmes en nuestra misión de vivir como discípulos llenos de fe.

Un día así casi parece demasiado bueno para ser verdad, especialmente cuando miramos a nuestro alrededor las circunstancias tan graves que enfrentamos en nuestro mundo actualmente. Pero por la fe, sabemos que este día llegará. Para que no nos cansemos al esperar el glorioso día del regreso de Cristo, Santiago, en nuestra segunda lectura, ofrece sabios consejos. "Sed pacientes, hermanos y hermanas, hasta la venida del Señor." "Firmad vuestros corazones... No os quejáis, hermanos y hermanas, unos de otros, para que no seáis juzgados."

Este es un consejo excelente para nosotros, los administradores cristianos, mientras afrontamos los retos de la vida cotidiana en nuestro mundo roto, especialmente en los días ajetreados que preceden a la Navidad, cuando el estrés puede hacer que nosotros y quienes nos rodean seamos menos que nuestra mejor versión. Santiago nos recuerda que

podemos elegir nuestra respuesta tanto a las grandes tensiones como a las pequeñas molestias de la vida. En otras palabras, podemos ser buenos administradores de nuestra actitud, "haciendo nuestro corazón firme" practicando la paciencia con los demás y negándonos a sucumbir a la tentación de quejarnos.

Podemos elegir ver y alegrarnos en la presencia de Dios con nosotros, sin importar las circunstancias que nos rodean. © Consultores de Gestión Católica, 2025

Reflexión pastoral – Antes del ataque de Hamás en Israel el 7 de octubre de 2023, planeaba liderar una peregrinación a Tierra Santa con nuestros seminaristas. Los acontecimientos de ese día pusieron esa peregrinación en pausa, aunque ya habíamos recaudado fondos para la peregrinación. Ahora que se ha restaurado la relativa paz, emprenderemos la peregrinación el 26 de diciembre. Quería agradecer a todos los que apoyáis el esfuerzo y quería que sepáis que por fin nos estamos preparando para irnos.

Las peregrinaciones a Tierra Santa son oportunidades muy especiales para todos, pero dicha peregrinación es especialmente significativa para un hombre que se prepara para el sacerdocio porque ofrece una perspectiva completamente diferente sobre las Escrituras y puede informar su predicación y enseñanza.

Christopher Cross está organizando esto para nosotros, y recomendaría uno de sus viajes a cualquiera que quiera ir. Chris aporta una mezcla única de humor y una fe profunda que hace que la experiencia cobre vida de una manera maravillosa. He

hecho varias peregrinaciones, y las que acompaño a Chris han sido, con diferencia, las más impactantes.

Por favor, mantenednos a todos en vuestras oraciones mientras nos preparamos para la peregrinación y sabed que estaréis en la nuestra mientras pasamos la Octava de Navidad en Tierra Santa.

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

<u>Día de Navidad</u> 9:30 am Misa 11:30 am Misa (en español)

Colección Continua de Alimentos y Tarjetas de Regalo

Cuándo: En cualquier momento **Dónde:** Contenedor en el Nártex

Por favor recuerde traer donaciones de alimentos no perecederos cada vez que venga a la iglesia. Tenemos un contenedor permanente de alimentos en la entrada del templo. Los voluntarios llevan estos alimentos cada semana a varias despensas de Huntersville y Charlotte.

Las tarjetas de regalo de supermercados (\$25) también pueden dejarse en la oficina parroquial.

Por favor, no deje ningún otro tipo de artículo en el contenedor del nártex.

Es muy difícil para los voluntarios clasificar ropa y artículos del hogar. No usamos esos artículos y no tenemos manera de distribuirlos a personas necesitadas.

Gracias por su comprensión y cooperación.

Calendario



15 DECEMBER

Iglesia / Church 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

16 DECEMBER

Iglesia / Church 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

17
DECEMBER

Iglesia / Church

18 DECEMBER Salon Familiar / Parish Hall 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

19 DECEMBER Iglesia / Church 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

20 DECEMBER

Salon Familiar / Parish Hall 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

21 DECEMBER

Iglesia / Church 6:30 PM TO 9:00 PM

22 DECEMBER

Salon Familiar / Parish Hall 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

23
DECEMBER

Salon Familiar / Parish Hall 5:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

Mas Información

Raquel Neri / 980-349-9763



¡Querida familia de San Marcos! ¡Tenemos 2 peregrinos que están buscando una morada, dicen que un niño va a nacer y no han encontrado ningún lugar! ¿¡Tenemos que hacer algo verdad!? ¿¡Te unes a orar en comunidad por 9 días una preciosa novena para que juntos podamos prepararle esa morada!?

Les preparamos una morada sencilla, pero arropadora y amorosa, abriremos las puertas de nuestro corazón para que la gracia del Espíritu Santo venga y limpie nuestras casas, esta morada va albergar a alguien muy muy especial, ya viene y su Luz y su alegría harán que rebosemos de alegría y gozo para adorar al niño que ha de nacer!

El camino puede ser cansado o peligroso pero la gracia de Dios nos dará la perseverancia y el Ángel del Señor irá delante de nosotros; al finalizar cada día de oración tendremos un sencillo compartir, si comemos mucho nos vamos a desenfocar, ipero algo sencillo nos dará el ánimo de caminar cada día! La gran celebración será el 23 de Diciembre, ahí sí que tendremos mucha comida, bebidas calientes, dulces, música.





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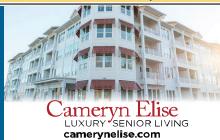


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