

SAINT MARK

December 21-25, 2025, Español página 16



WELCOME HOME
for CHRISTMAS!

Welcome Home to St. Mark!



The image on our cover captures a quiet and sacred moment of Advent preparation. This is Sister Mary Agatha Rose of the Daughters of the Virgin Mother, kneeling in the aisle as she lovingly prepares our church for Christmas. She and her sisters serve our parish as sacristans, faithfully tending the altar, candles, linens, and sacred spaces where we encounter the Lord. Their hidden, prayerful work is a great blessing to our parish family.

As we step across the threshold from Advent into Christmas, we also look forward to welcoming home our seminarians during these holy days. Their return is a joyful reminder that God continues to call forth vocations from our community and that the future of the Church is alive with hope.

At Christmas, the waiting gives way to wonder. Light breaks into the darkness. The Church blossoms with beauty and song as we proclaim that God has drawn near to us in the simplicity of a child.

Whether you worship with us every week or this is your first visit in years, please know this: you are welcome here.

This parish is not just a place decorated for a season — it is a family preparing together for Christ. Welcome home, and Merry Christmas.

This bulletin is for the Fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas. Readings can be found in the St. Augustine Hymnal or in the Mass handout: Fourth Sunday page 1138; Christmas Masses pages 815-820. The Order of the Mass can be found on page 7.

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

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



Thank you for generously sharing your gifts with the parish. You may make an online donation at stmarknc.org/online-giving

Guidelines for Communion For Catholics

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

We invite you to make St. Mark your parish home!

If you are interested in registering as a member of St. Mark, please go to stmarknc.org/registration or scan the code. You may submit the form online or bring a paper copy to the Welcome Desk during normal business hours. Forms can be found in the narthex. Please know, you do not need to be Catholic to join and come to our parish.

Stay up-to-date on all happenings at the parish by following us on social media or signing up to receive our e-newsletter at stmarknc.org/emailnewsletter.



FROM THE PASTOR



As our Advent preparations draw to a close and Christmas fast approaches, it is fitting that today's readings demonstrate the intensity of the Father's perfect

and passionate love for each of us, culminating in the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, on Christmas Day. As we reflect on the enormity of this gift, let us ask ourselves what we can offer in return.

In our first reading, from Isaiah, the Lord invites King Ahaz to "ask for a sign from the Lord, your God." And not just any sign. The Lord says, "let it be deep as the nether-world, or high as the sky!" Ahaz, though, cannot arouse himself from his bleak and limited outlook, and actually refuses this invitation. Undeterred by his negativity, the Lord says through the prophet Isaiah, that he himself will provide the sign: "the virgin shall conceive and bear a son" and his name will be Emmanuel which means, "God with us." What great love and patience our heavenly Father has shown his people throughout all ages!

In the second reading, from Paul's letter to the Romans, St. Paul sends a blessing of "Grace...and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. This — grace and peace — is precisely the gift we celebrate on Christmas Day. Through his incarnation, Jesus brings the intimate love of God right into our midst; and through His death and resurrection, He

saves us from our sins and restores us to right relationship with the Father. This is the peace that the world cannot offer.

In response to such an overwhelming gift, what can we do except offer our lives as a gift in return, embracing a stewardship way of life with all the love and strength we have to give?

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, we find an unparalleled example of one who embraced this way of life in St. Joseph, as he responds to God's call to him through the message of an angel. St. Joseph immediately and humbly obeys the instruction from the angel: "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Open to this extraordinary role, he did as the angel commanded and "takes Mary into his home."

We never hear St. Joseph speak, but the Scriptures tell us he was always listening, attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit for his family. It was Joseph who found the stable where the baby Jesus would be born. No doubt it was Joseph who cleaned it up and prepared it for Mary and Jesus since we know that Mary was about to give birth. Joseph protected the family, guarded them, and tended to their safety, their comfort, and their well-being at the expense of his own plans and preferences. Though we do not hear any words from St. Joseph his actions clearly show that he offered himself, his whole life, as a gift to his family through his strong guidance, protection, and service.

Let us imitate St. Joseph, then, as good stewards, giving our very lives to those around us in love and gratitude to God who has given us everything we have, especially His own Son, Jesus Christ. We will no doubt find that the more we give ourselves away, the more our generous Father will fill us with His grace and peace — these are truly the best Christmas gifts we could receive. © Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2025

Pastoral Pondering – Christmas is upon us and as we enter into these last days before the celebration of the Lord's birth, I wanted to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for the myriad ways each one of you makes St. Mark a wonderful place to pray, to worship and find a parish home.

As I speak to people who visit us from other parts of the country or parishioners who, due to trips away, visit other parishes, it is nice to hear that St. Mark has something special about it. That "something special" has a great deal to do with the people who call St. Mark home. Christmas is a time to share the love of Christ, and over the past several weeks, you have done just that in our various charitable efforts, most recently our Christmas Giving Tree. Lives have been impacted for the better because of your generous response, and I know that God will bless you because He is never outdone in generosity.

Finally, please know that Fathers Angermeyer, Martinez, Huber and I wish each and everyone of you a very merry and blessing-filled Christmas!

A handwritten signature in blue ink.



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
Rod Clair
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 Ferrell & 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

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
Tom & Collette Manente
Dr. Sivaramalingam
Manickavasagar
Rosina Marcucci
Vernon McCord
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
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
Roberto Vazquez
Robert Virgint
Caroline Vogel
Jonathan Wark
Welcome Retreat Staff
Paul Widman
Carol Woodard
Mary Jane Zimmerman

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 21 †Deceased
7:30 am † Pat Nestor
9 am Amanda Rametta
11 am † John Burger
1 pm † Juan Carlos Aguilera
5 pm St. Mark Parishioners
Monday, December 22
7 am † Jan & Mark Pierce
9 am Deacon Rich McCarron
Tuesday, December 23
7 am Jackson Rey Cruz
9 am Teresa-Ly-Nguyen Family
Wednesday, December 24
3:30 pm † Cessie Polychronakis
4:30 pm † Catherine Rinaldi
5:30 pm † Michael & Barbara Fatula
6:30 pm The Gregory Family
Thursday, December 25
12 am † Karen Morrow
9:30 am † Charles Wiggins
11:30 am Family of Neri Cruz
Friday, December 26
7 am † Gilbert Misner
9 am † Michael & Rose Hopkins
7 pm † Salvador Almanza
Saturday, December 27
9 am † Marcella & Louis Clark
9 am Emilio & Itsel Gomez
Sunday, December 28
7:30 am † Anne & Daniel J. Cleary Jr.
9 am † Charles Kern
11 am † Alice Ley Cwetna
1 pm St. Mark Parishioners
5 pm † Teyanna Phillips
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 Rusciorelli
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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sun. Fourth Sunday of Advent Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24
Mon. 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Tues. Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66
Wed. 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Lk 1:67-79
Thur. The Nativity of the Lord
Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25
Mass during the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Mass at Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Fri. Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Mt 10:17-22
Sat. Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a and 2-8
Sun. Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Dear Parish Family,

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, may His coming fill your hearts with steadfast hope and enduring peace. God enters our world not in power, but in humility, drawing near to us, redeeming us, and offering us the joy that only He can give.

We warmly invite you and your loved ones to join us at the altar this Christmas. Your presence is a gift to our parish family, and we look forward to worshipping together as we welcome the Savior.

May the Christ Child bless you and those you hold dear, and may the peace of His birth remain with you throughout the coming year.

In Christ,
The staff of St. Mark

HOLY
HOLY
HOLY



A Prayer of St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas, faithful shepherd of God's people, you showed the world that generosity, humility, and quiet acts of mercy can change hearts forever.

Intercede for us in this holy season of Christmas.

Teach us to give without counting the cost, to serve without seeking recognition, and to love with a joyful and trusting heart.

Watch over our children and families.

Protect the poor, the vulnerable, and all in need.

Strengthen our parish in faith, unity, and charity, that Christ may be seen through our lives.

As we welcome the newborn King, help us to follow your example of faithful service and generous love.

St. Nicholas, pray for us. Amen.



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

No incense at the 5:30 pm Mass.

ST. MARK CHURCH

4:30 pm and 6:30 pm

No incense at these two Masses.

The parking lot will close when full.

11:30 pm Christmas Carols

Midnight



CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30 am and 11:30 am (Sp)

**Note: There will be no daily Mass on December 24.
There will be no confessions for the Christmas Eve
or Christmas Day Masses.*

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Spotlight: Seeing and Serving God with Us

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

As we prepare to remember Jesus' birth, we hear that his very name, Emmanuel, means "God is with us". It bears reflection that He voluntarily came not only in lowly human form, not only to a poor family, but humbling himself to be born where animals lodged, and quickly migrating to avoid the murderous wrath of a jealous king. These circumstances help lead us where He wants us to go. As Jesus lived humbly, He also calls us to see Him in the faces of the poor.

Many saints have sought to emulate Christ and live fully in this call. Saint Mother Teresa took a vow of poverty to serve and live among the poorest of the poor. Saint Francis of Assisi, "saw brothers and sisters, living images of the Lord... through a solidarity that overcame distances and a compassionate love." (64. *Apostolic Exhortation Dilexite of the Holy Father Leo XIV to All Christians on Love for the Poor*) Saint Clare of Assisi embraced voluntary poverty for her order and "taught her sisters that Christ was their only inheritance and that nothing should obscure their communion with him." (65. *Apostolic Exhortation Dilexite of the Holy Father Leo XIV to All Christians on Love for the Poor*)

Although we are not all called to voluntary poverty, we are all called to seek and serve Him through service to the poor and marginalized. "...whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40) There are many ways to respond to this call, and St. Mark's partners with several diocesan and community organizations, which we encourage you to prayerfully consider joining with your gifts of time, talent, and/or treasure. As those who give can attest, seeing and serving Jesus in the poor will transform us.

Angels & Sparrows	Hope House	Roof Above
Catholic Charities	Mira Via	Room in the Inn
Food Pantry Collection	Nourish Up	Walking with Moms in Need

Reflecting
God's
Light

DIOCESAN
SUPPORT
APPEAL 2025

Please make a
donation to the
2025 DSA today!



**END OF YEAR
GIVING**

Share Your Gifts

Donate online, at Mass, bring
to the office, or send
in the mail.

stmarknc.org/online-giving



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.

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.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Consecration to the Holy Family

We invite every family of our parish to engage in the Consecration to the Holy Family. You can use the prayer below to prepare from now until Sunday, December 28 when we have the Consecration at all Masses. Prayer cards will also be passed out after all Masses this Sunday.

PRAY DAILY NOW-DECEMBER 28

O Lord Jesus, you lived in the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth. There you grew in age, wisdom and grace as you prepared to fulfill your mission as our Redeemer. We entrust our family to you.

O Blessed Mary, you are the Mother of our Savior. At Nazareth you cared for Jesus and nurtured him in the peace and joy of your home. We entrust our family to you.

O Saint Joseph, you provided a secure and loving home for Jesus and Mary, and gave us a model of fatherhood while showing us the dignity of work. We entrust our family to you.

O Holy Family, we consecrate ourselves and our family to you. May we be completely united in a love that is lasting, faithful and open to the gift of new life.

Help us to grow in virtue, to forgive one another from our hearts, and to live in peace all our days.

Keep us strong in faith, persevering in prayer, diligent in our work, and generous toward those in need. May our home, O Holy Family, truly become a domestic church where we reflect your example in our daily life. Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!



2025 Winners



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

Free Throw Championship

Sponsored by St. Mark Knights of Columbus Council #12654

WHEN:

Saturday, January 10

Anytime between 9 am and Noon



WHERE:

St. Mark Catholic Church, 14740 Stumptown Road,
Huntersville • In the Kerin Family Center Parish Hall



WHO:

as of Jan. 1, 2026

Boys & Girls, Ages 9-14

Register on-site or use the QR Code to get registration form. You can send the completed form via email to Frank Salvato or bring the completed form to event.

Questions? Frank Salvato at GK6831@msn.com or 703-585-0534

Boys and girls Council Winners from each age category will receive a medal and earn the right to compete at the District Level in February!
All entrants will receive a certificate of participation.

Ages 9 thru 11 (Boys and Girls) competition will shoot from 12-foot foul line. All other age groups will shoot from the normal foul line which is 15 feet from the basket.



NO ENTRY FEE; Hot dogs, Snacks and Drinks Served.

Mass Schedule Changes

- Wed., Dec. 24:** There be no daily Mass so that we may prepare the church for Christmas Eve Masses. Note: there will be no confessions prior to the Christmas Eve Masses. and Christmas Day Masses.
- Thurs., Dec. 25:** There will be a 9:30 and 11:30 am Christmas Mass only (no 7 am or 6:30 pm). Note: There will be no confessions prior to the Christmas Eve Masses and Christmas Day Masses.
- Wed., Dec. 31:** There will be a 9 am daily Mass. The Holy Day of Obligation Vigil Mass for Holy Mary, Mother of God is at 6:30 pm. Confession 6-7:15 pm
- Thurs., Jan. 1:** Masses for the Holy Day of Obligation for Solemnity of Mary Mother of God are at 7 am, 9 am, 12:10 pm, 7 pm Spanish

The Parish Offices and Kerin Family Center will be closed from December 23-26 and Thursday, January 1.

HOLY SEASON OF CHRISTMAS



The Holy Season of

Christmas!

We've had Eastertide, Allhallowtide,
and now it's Christmastide.

The Holy Season of Christmas!

While the rest of the world is packing things
up, we as Catholics are just getting started.

You will notice that it is only now that we
adorn the sanctuary with poinsettias,
Christmas trees, and our beautiful Nativity.
It's time for the proverbial 12 days of
Christmas, so let the festivities and
Christmas Carols begin!

The first 8 days are known as the Octave of
Christmas, a time of solemn rejoicing. In the
Catholic Church, solemnity doesn't mean
grim, it means the highest ranking which
means serious rejoicing, pomp and glory.

Each of these 8 days are celebrated just like
they were Christmas day itself from
Christmas Eve Vigil until the Solemnity of
Mary the Mother of God on January 1.

Epiphany is celebrated on the first Sunday
after January 1, and this year that date is
January 4! The Christmas Season officially
comes to end on Sunday, January 11 when
we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord.

Try to keep your Christmas tree up until then,
but if you cannot, at least keep your Nativity
on display.

Christmas Octave Calendar of Events

Make time for daily Mass to celebrate the Season of Christmas. Confession
is offered 45 minutes before all Masses.

December 26	Feast of St. Stephen, 7 & 9 am , 7 pm Sp
December 27	Feast of St. John the Apostle, 9 am
December 28	Feast of the Holy Family & Consecration at all Masses Vigil Mass 5 pm (12/27) Feast Day 7:30, 9, 11 am, 1 pm Sp, 5 pm Feast of The Holy Innocents, Holy Hour of Reparation, 2-3 pm

Holy Day of Obligation: Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

December 31	Vigil Mass 6:30 pm; Recite the Te Duem
January 1	7 am & 9 am, 12:10 pm, 7 pm (Sp), Recite Veni Creator
January 2	Feast of Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory, 7 am, 9 am, 7 pm Sp
January 3	First Saturday/The Most Holy Name of Jesus, 9 am,
January 4	The Epiphany of the Lord Vigil Mass 5 pm (1/3) Feast Day 7:30, 9, 11 am, 1 pm Sp , 5 pm
January 11	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Vigil Mass 5 pm (1/10) Feast Day 7:30, 9, 11 am, 1 pm Sp, 5 pm
January 12	Ordinary Time Begins



PARISH LIFE

Hear the Testimony of Paul Zucarelli



When: Wed., Jan. 9, 7pm
Where: Parish Hall

On Pentecost Sunday in 2017, Catholic
businessman Paul Zucarelli went into sudden
cardiac arrest after heart surgery. He suffered
nine cardiac arrests and was clinically dead for
nearly two hours. Doctors had little hope, yet
through the fervent intercessory prayer of family,
friends, and Bishop Thomas Olmsted, Paul

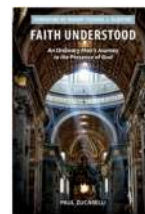
survived and returned with a powerful testimony of Heaven and of
Christ's merciful love.

*We cannot comprehend the love, mercy and grace of God who
created each of us. I am a Blessed man who gives all glory to God
Through the Cross of Jesus Christ - Christ in us our hope of Glory.*

Paul shares how that experience completely changed his life and
his priorities. Once focused on success and comfort, he now
travels the country urging people to take God seriously, to return to
the sacraments, and to live every day in light of
eternity. He tells his story in his book *Faith
Understood: An Ordinary Man's Journey to the
Presence of God* and in *One Lord, One Faith, One
Church*, written with evangelist Jesse Romero.

His witness has been featured on EWTN Live with Fr.
Mitch Pacwa and on Divine Mercy programs with Fr.
Chris Alar, as well as on the John-Henry Westen
Show and other Catholic media.

Come hear Paul's testimony on January 9 at 7 pm in the Kerin
Center. This is a chance to hear a modern story of God's mercy,
the power of prayer, and the hope of Heaven. Invite family, friends,
and anyone who may be struggling in faith or searching for
answers.



PARISH LIFE

Christmas Flower Offering: Remembering Our Loved Ones

Throughout Advent, our church has been marked by simplicity. We have prepared in a spirit of waiting and quiet expectation with only greenery reminding us that Christ is drawing near. Advent is a penitential season, a time set aside for reflection, repentance, and hope as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Savior.

At Christmas, that waiting gives way to joy. The Church shifts from restraint to celebration as we proclaim the birth of Jesus Christ. The return of flowers is more than decoration. It is a visible sign of the Church's rejoicing. Just as creation itself rejoiced at Christ's birth, so too does the Church now blossom in praise.

Your Christmas Flower Offering helps fill our church, Christ the King Catholic High School, and the Family Center Parish Hall with beauty worthy of the Holy Season of Christmas. These flowers surround the altar where heaven meets earth, and they help create a prayerful and reverent space for worship during this most sacred time of year.

It is also a meaningful way to remember loved ones, living and deceased, as we celebrate the gift of Christ, who came to bring life, light, and salvation to the world. Your offering honors their memory while giving glory to Jesus Christ.

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



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.



"A family that prays together stays together, and a world at prayer is a world at peace."
-Venerable Father Patrick Peyton-



FIRST SATURDAY DINNER

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE ENTIRE PARISH FOLLOWING THE 5 PM MASS IN THE ST. MARK PARISH HALL.

*ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES, INCLUDING BASKETBALL, COLORING, AND GAGA BALL.

Saturday, January 3, 2026

Blessing and food at 6:15 PM
Meditation video made by Father Christian Goduti & Rosary at 7:00 PM
Dessert and fellowship at 7:30 PM

\$5 per person
Please RSVP by December 30, 2025
*Scan QR Code for details on food



 **SAINT MARK FAMILY MINISTRY**

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 stmarknc.org/Stephen-ministry.



Fidelis January Jumpstart 2026 **PERSEVERANCE**

A Catholic retreat for young women in 6th-12th grade



St. Mark Catholic Church
14740 Stumptown Rd. Huntersville, NC

Friday, January 30th (Highschool) 6:30pm-9:00pm

Saturday, January 31st (Everyone) 9:00am-5:00pm

SISTERS
(6th-12th grade)



<https://tinyurl.com/JJ-2026-Sisters>

Registration:

\$25 FRIDAY NIGHT ONLY
\$45 PER ATTENDEE
\$100 FAMILY MAXIMUM
Register by January
16th to guarantee a
Jumpstart t-shirt!

LADIES
(volunteers)



<https://tinyurl.com/JJ-2026-Ladies>



**Coming Up at
Saint Mark**

December 21-23

Posada, nightly, Spanish

Thursday, December 25

Christmas, Offices Closed Dec. 23-26

Thursday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Day, Offices Closed

Saturday, January 3

First Saturday Dinner

Sunday, January 4

Epiphany Donut Sunday

Friday, January 9

Paul Zuccarelli Talk, 7 pm

Saturday, January 10

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

January 30 & 31

Fidelis January Jumpstart

February 7 and 8

Women's Welcome Retreat

February 11

Young at Heart Luncheon

Saturday, February 14

Marriage Date Night

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday

Friday, February 20

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Monday, March 9

St. Serra Mass

Friday, March 13

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Sun-Tues, March 16-18

Parish Mission, Benedict Croell OP

Saturday, March 21

St. Patrick Dinner and Show

Friday, March 27

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Tuesday, March 31

Chrism Mass

April 2-5

Easter Triduum and Easter

Sunday, April 12

Divine Mercy Sunday

Wednesday, April 29

Young at Heart Ministry Luncheon

Saturday, May 23

Diaconate Ordination

Saturday, May 30

Priest Ordination

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.



PARISH LIFE

Women's Newcomers: After the Boxes Spring 2026

When: Wednesdays, Feb. 4-Apr. 22, 10-11:30 am

Where: Family Center Room 200

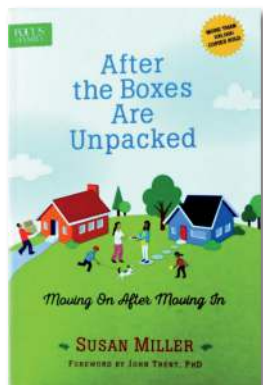
New to our parish or still feeling a bit "new"?

Join us for this welcoming and supportive gathering based on Susan Miller's book *After the Boxes Are Unpacked*, which explores the spiritual, emotional, and practical challenges that often come with new seasons of life and change.

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other women, share stories, grow in faith, and build lasting friendships. Along the way, you will laugh, reflect, and discover that you are not walking this journey alone.

Space is limited. To reserve your spot or for more information, please contact:

Catherine at 704-340-6234 or Maxine at 515-570-1293



The Sacrament of Reconciliation

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.

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.

**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.**

DynamicCatholic.com
Be Bold. Be Catholic.

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.

Altar Server Training

When: Sun., Jan. 11; 6:30 - 8 pm

Where: Church

Serving at the altar is a beautiful way for our young people to grow in faith and assist the priest during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We invite all rising 4th graders and older who feel called to serve the Lord in this special ministry to attend our upcoming training session.

Join us on Sunday evening, January 11, to learn the roles, responsibilities, and reverence of being an Altar Server.

Contact: Matt Mixa, stmarkacolytes@gmail.com



PARISH LIFE

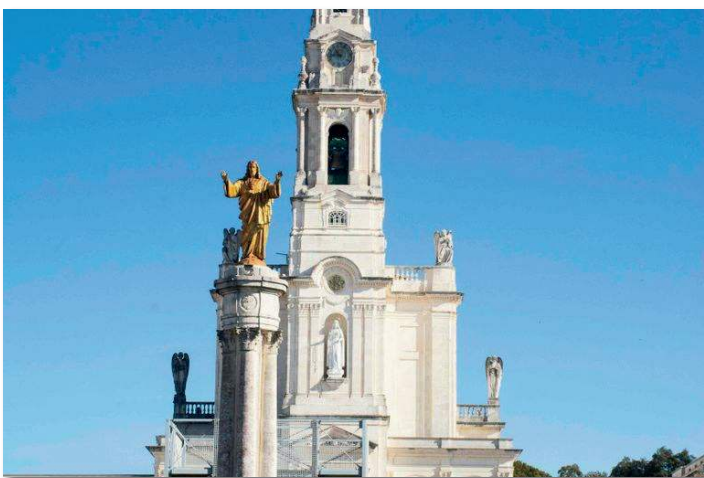
St. Mark Preschool Registration 2026-27 School Year Opens in January!

Saint Mark preschool offers classes for 3-5 year old children in a safe, loving, secure and Catholic environment. Our children have fun while learning about their faith and preparing for kindergarten.

Registration dates for the 2026-27 school year:

- Jan. 12 Current and Alumni Families
- Jan. 26 Parishioners of St. Mark
- Feb. 9 Community

Go to stmarknc.org/preschool for complete program details, classes, registration forms and more. Contact our preschool director to schedule a tour: Amanda.Rametta@stmarknc.org



Fr. Kevin Martinez Pilgrimage to Fatima, Spain & Lourdes

When: May 24-June 4, 2026

Where: Fatima, Spain, Lourdes

Join Father Kevin Martinez and Woodard Luxury Travel for an unforgettable 12-day pilgrimage through Fatima, Spain, and Lourdes—a sacred adventure filled with faith, food, fun, and awe-inspiring beauty!

Trip Highlights Include: The miraculous site of Fatima, where the Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children. A visit to the birthplace of St. Teresa of Avila, one of the great Doctors of the Church. Time to explore the vibrant culture and stunning sights of Madrid, Zaragoza, and La Rioja. A tour of Burgos Cathedral, a breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage Site. A moving experience in Lourdes, complete with the moving candlelight procession! Whether you're deepening your spiritual journey or exploring Europe's holy gems, this trip is sure to uplift your heart and soul. Space is limited—don't miss this chance to travel with purpose and joy!

Reserve your spot today and make memories that will inspire you for a lifetime. More Information: www.WoodardLuxuryTravel.com/events-trips

Contact: Donny Woodard, 980-483-3620, or



RESPECT LIFE

*Let the little children come to me;
do not prevent them, for the
kingdom of God belongs to such as
these.*

Mk 10:14

20th Annual March for Life Charlotte

Jan. 9, 2026

March at 12:00pm

Start to gather at 11am at the parking lot on the corner of W. Palmer and S. Church St. (across from the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center) and march at 12:00pm to Trade & Tryon St. After the speakers have finished we will pray the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Signs will be available at the staging area parking lot. If you bring a sign, it must meet picketing law regulations. If you work uptown, join us on your lunch hour for part of the march! Be prepared to park on your own if needed. Check our web-site frequently for updates on parking.



Fr. Brian Becker
Director of Formation
St. Joseph's College Seminary
&
Vocations Promoter
Diocese of Charlotte

Holy Sacrifice

of the Mass

Offered for The Unborn

Jan. 9, 2026 10:00am



Cathedral of St. Patrick
1621 Dilworth Rd. East
Charlotte, NC 28203

Be a witness for the sanctity of human life and march for an act of reparation for an end to abortion.

marchforlifecharlotte.com

ADORATION

Still Looking for the Perfect Gift to Give This Christmas? Why Not Give the Gift That Truly Keeps on Giving?

By: Donna Fodale/Adoration Coordinator

This year I would like to invite you to give those you love the gift of prayer.

We have special cards in our Adoration Chapel that you can fill in after offering a Holy Hour for someone.



This is a very special gift, especially for those who are: struggling with health issues, looking for work, struggling with depression, need healing in their families, struggling with grief, those who desire to start a family, for our children who have lost their faith, the list goes on.

While it is nice to go shopping and buy material gifts, we know that these things do not last. The gift of one Holy Hour before Our Lord is worth so much more. This gift is an expression of the love that you have for that person. The love that you have for their soul.

Choosing the perfect gift is actually not difficult at all. Knowing that the goal to get to heaven is not only for ourselves but also for others, we should make prayer at the top of everyone's list. Interceding in prayer on behalf of others can be transforming. This is not only for those we pray for but for us too.

How pleased our Lord will be when you give up an hour from your busy schedule to completely focus on the needs of someone else. So, this year, give the perfect gift, a gift that is truly a one size fits all, the gift of a Holy Hour.

Cards are in the stand on the table in the Chapel. Please limit it to a few per person. This is something that is available all year long!

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

Stay Connected with St. Mark!

Celebrate the joy of Christmas with us all season long. Follow St. Mark Catholic Church on social media for daily reflections, parish events, beautiful moments from our liturgies, and reminders of God's presence in our community.

Looking for ways to grow in faith and get involved in the new year? Discover opportunities to Grow, Serve, Share, and Connect through our parish ministries by visiting our Stewardship Directory at www.stmarknc.org/stewardship-directory

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube and Tik Tok by searching St. Mark Catholic Church Huntersville.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

St. Mark High School Ministry **Christmas Party**

December 21, 6-8:30pm, in the Parish Hall.

White Elephant: To participate, just show up, and bring a \$10-\$17 gift. MINIMUM \$10 value! If you need gift ideas, contact augustine.free@stmarknc.org.

Cookie Exchange: Please bring 24-36 of one of your family's signature Christmas cookies. Everyone will take home a plate of various cookies!



House, Hearth, and Crib Pt. 3.

A life night about the Baby Jesus.
Dinner provided. All high schoolers are welcome!

December 21, 6-8:30pm, in the Parish Hall.



High School Ministry
**Bible Study
Advent Schedule:**

December 22: Christmas
A Bible Study about Christmas. 6-7pm
in room 203 of the Parish Hall.

All high schoolers welcome!

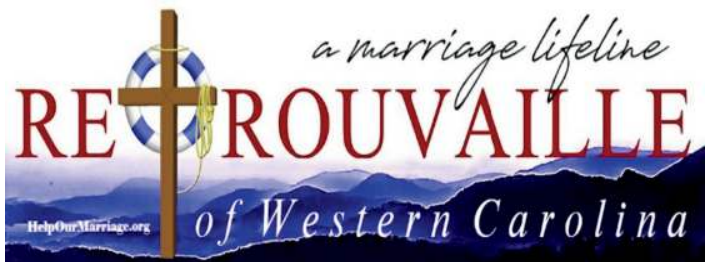
OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

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 or call 727-343-6701.

Website: www.HelpOurMarriage.com



formed™
Forming Catholics for Life.

The Story of Christmas | Benjamin Cello Christmas Special

In this special hour-long television event, Benjamin Cello and his friends travel to Pennywhistle Park for a spectacular shadow puppet retelling of "The Story of Christmas" by Brother Joseph and "The Shadow of His Wings" puppet theater.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



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
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 stmarknc.org/adoration for complete details.

Hospitalization

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

Baptisms & Weddings

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

Financial Counseling

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

Carolina Catholic Corner Gift & Book Store

Open daily in the Family Center

Coffee & Conversation Social Gathering

Tuesdays, 9:30 am, Parish Hall.

Cursillo

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

Parishioner Assistance

Financial:

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

Life Crisis: Stephen Ministry

stmarknc.org/stephen-ministry

Food Insecurity:

Parish Office
stmarknc.org/assistance or
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

Natural Family Planning

Joe and Kathy Hack; Sympto-Thermal Method;

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

Elisabeth Laskowski; Creighton Model;

creightonmodel@gmail.com; 484-332-9084

Crisis Pregnancy Help

Community Pregnancy Center of Lake Norman:

704-727-0535

Catholic Charities: 704-370-3262; Birthright:

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

Poor prenatal diagnosis? You're not alone. There is help.
benotafraid.net

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

Reversal 877-558-0333 or abortionpillreversal.com

DEL PASTOR—ADVIENTO



A medida que nuestros preparativos de Adviento llegan a su fin y se acerca el ayuno navideño, es apropiado que las lecturas de hoy demuestren la intensidad del amor perfecto y apasionado del Padre por cada uno de nosotros, culminando en el regalo de Su propio Hijo, Jesucristo, el día de Navidad. Al reflexionar sobre la magnitud de este regalo, preguntémonos qué podemos ofrecer a cambio.

En nuestra primera lectura, de Isaías, el Señor invita al rey Acáz a "pedir una señal al Señor, tu Dios." Y no es cualquier cartel. El Señor dice: "¡Sea tan profundo como el inframundo, o alto como el cielo!" Sin embargo, Ahaz no puede salir de su visión sombría y limitada, y de hecho rechaza esta invitación. Sin dejarse intimidar por su negatividad, el Señor dice a través del profeta Isaías que él mismo dará la señal: "la virgen concebirá y dará a luz un hijo" y su nombre será Emanuel, que significa "Dios con nosotros." ¡Qué gran amor y paciencia ha mostrado nuestro Padre celestial a su pueblo a lo largo de todos los tiempos!

En la segunda lectura, de la carta de San Pablo a los Romanos, San Pablo envía una bendición de "Gracia... y paz de parte de Dios nuestro Padre y del Señor Jesucristo. Esto — la gracia y la paz — es precisamente el regalo que celebramos el día de Navidad. A través de su encarnación, Jesús trae el amor íntimo de Dios directamente a nuestro medio; y mediante su muerte y resurrección, nos salva de nuestros pecados y nos devuelve la recta relación con el Padre. Esta es la paz que el mundo no puede ofrecer.

Ante un regalo tan abrumador, ¿qué podemos hacer salvo ofrecer nuestras vidas como regalo a cambio, abrazando una forma de vida de gestión con todo el amor y la fuerza que tenemos para dar?

En nuestro pasaje evangélico de Mateo encontramos un ejemplo inigualable de alguien que abrazó este modo de vida en San José, al responder al llamado de Dios a través del mensaje de un ángel. San José obedece de inmediato y humildemente la instrucción del ángel: "No tengáis miedo de acoger a María, vuestra esposa, en vuestra casa. Porque es por el Espíritu Santo que este niño ha sido concebido en ella. Ella dará a luz un hijo, y tú lo llamarás Jesús, porque él salvará a su pueblo de sus pecados." Abierto a este papel extraordinario, hizo lo que el ángel le ordenó y "acoge a María en su hogar."

Nunca escuchamos hablar a San José, pero las Escrituras nos dicen que siempre escuchaba, atento a la guía del Espíritu Santo para su familia. Fue José quien encontró el establo donde nacería el niño Jesús. Sin duda fue José quien lo limpió y lo preparó para María y Jesús, ya que sabemos que María estaba a punto de dar a luz. Joseph protegía a la familia, los protegía y cuidaba de su seguridad, su comodidad y su bienestar, a costa de sus propios planes y preferencias. Aunque no escuchamos ninguna palabra de San José, sus acciones muestran claramente que se ofreció a sí mismo, toda su vida, como un regalo a su familia a través de su fuerte guía, protección y servicio.

Imitemos a San José, entonces, como buenos mayordomos, entregando nuestra propia vida a quienes nos rodean con amor y gratitud a Dios, que nos ha dado todo lo que tenemos, especialmente a Su propio Hijo, Jesucristo. Sin duda descubriremos que cuanto más nos entreguemos, más nos llenará nuestro generoso Padre con Su gracia y paz — estos son realmente los mejores regalos de Navidad que podríamos recibir. © Consultores de Gestión Católica, 2025

Reflexión pastoral – La Navidad está aquí y, al entrar en estos últimos días antes de la celebración del nacimiento del Señor, quería aprovechar esta oportunidad para expresar mi más sincero agradecimiento por las múltiples maneras en que cada uno de vosotros hace de San Marcos un lugar maravilloso para orar, adorar y encontrar un hogar parroquial.

Al hablar con personas que nos visitan desde otras partes del país o feligreses que, debido a viajes, visitan otras parroquias, es agradable saber que San Marcos tiene algo especial. Ese "algo especial" tiene mucho que ver con las personas que llaman hogar a San Marcos. La Navidad es un momento para compartir el amor de Cristo, y en las últimas semanas has hecho precisamente eso en nuestros diversos esfuerzos benéficos, siendo el más reciente nuestro Árbol de Donación de Navidad. Vidas han mejorado gracias a tu generosa respuesta, y sé que Dios te bendecirá porque nunca se queda atrás en generosidad.

Por último, por favor, sepan que los padres Angermeyer, Martínez, Huber y yo deseamos a cada uno de vosotros una Navidad muy feliz y llena de bendiciones.

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)




THE SOCIETY FOR FINANCIAL AWARENESS


A4 WEALTH ADVISORS, LLC
 FINANCIAL CENTER
 16140 Norcross Drive | Huntersville, NC 28078
 office: 704-509-1141

- Comprehensive Retirement Planning
- Wealth Management
- Income Planning
- Medicare Consulting
- Insurance Planning
- Long-Term Care Planning
- Social Security Maximization

John Balcerzak
 Investment Advisor
 Representative,
 Certified Financial
 Planner™



Shauntae Funkhouser
 Investment Advisor
 Representative,
 Certified Personal
 Retirement Specialist™

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



Raymer-Kepner
 FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES


John & Claudia Kepner and son Jonathan & Lindsey Kepner

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


Riley Grace
 SENIOR APARTMENTS
rileygraceliving.com
 14801 Stumpton Rd.
 Huntersville, NC 28078

Luxury Apartments for Seniors
 Call to schedule a tour today!
704-363-4086


Cameryn Elise
 LUXURY SENIOR LIVING
camerynelise.com
 8521 Sam Furr Rd.
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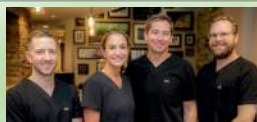
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