

YOU ARE *the*
LIGHT *of* THE
WORLD

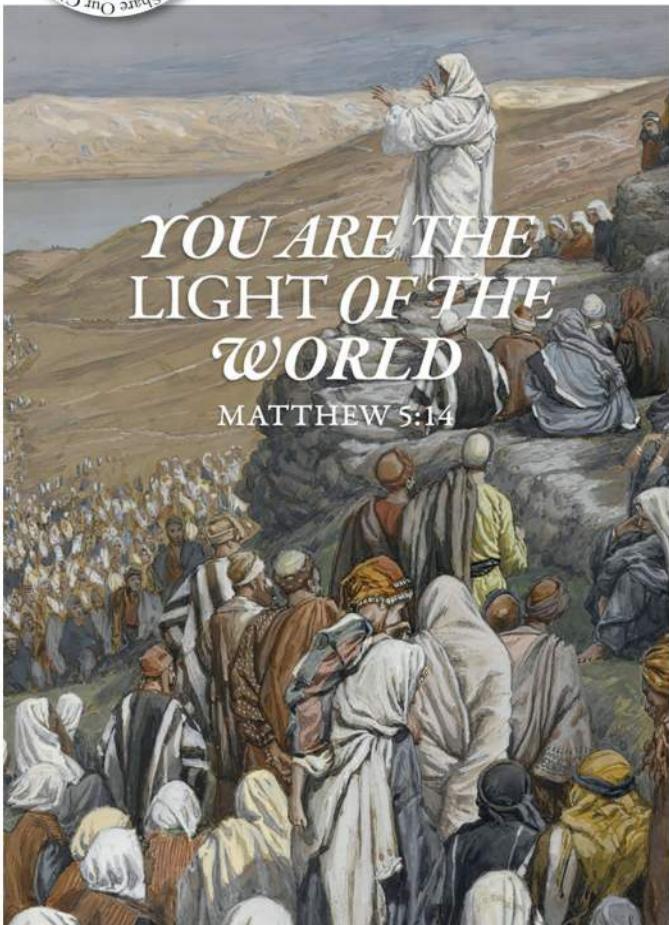
Just so, your light
must shine before
others, that they may
see your good deeds,
and glorify your
heavenly Father.

SAINT MARK

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 8, 2026, Español página 16



Welcome to St. Mark!



**YOU ARE THE
LIGHT OF THE
WORLD**

MATTHEW 5:14

Today is the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Readings can be found in the music handouts or on page 895 of the St. Augustine Hymnal. The Order of the Mass can be found on page 7.

At St. Mark, we believe we are all called as one by Christ to embrace the spirit of stewardship and engagement to Grow in Christ, Serve One Another, Share Our Gifts and Connect in Faith. This mission is our quest for holiness. It is by our intentional discipleship that each of us become stewards of the gifts God has given us and to share them with others. Our time, our talent and our treasure are given to us by God to share with others by spreading the Gospel and building His kingdom.

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.



*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. *You may receive Holy Communion standing or kneeling.*
5. *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, please feel free to come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing or to remain in your pew.

See page 1302 in the hymnal for more information.

FROM THE PASTOR



Today's readings are both encouragement and instruction for us as Christian stewards. They offer clear direction on what matters most to God and how He calls us to use the gifts He has entrusted to us.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah gives us straightforward guidance: "Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own." There is no ambiguity here. Caring for our brothers and sisters in need is not optional — it is a fundamental responsibility of the Christian steward.

Yet the Lord also reminds us of His generosity when we live this way. "Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed." When we give of ourselves, we do not lose — we gain. God's grace grows within us, and we experience deeper joy and peace as our lives become more aligned with His will.

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks plainly to His disciples — and to us — calling us the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world." But salt loses its purpose if it goes stale, and light cannot shine if it is hidden. Our faith must be lived, not concealed. We are called to act so that others may see the way we serve, how we care for the vulnerable, how we prioritize our families, and above all, how we love God — and through our witness, give glory to Him.

Pastoral Pondering

With everything that's been going on in Minneapolis and in other areas of the country, I have had a number of folks ask me how we should respond as Catholics. The following is my opinion, based on sound Catholic teaching.

First and foremost, Catholics are called to respond to civil unrest neither with indifference nor with partisan reflex, but with faith-formed conscience, rooted in the Gospel, the dignity of the human person, and the pursuit of the common good.

The Church offers clear moral principles—even when facts are still unfolding or emotions are intense.

1. Begin With the Dignity of Every Human Life

The Catholic response must start with mourning the loss of life, regardless of ideology, immigration status, profession, or political alignment.

Recent unrest in Minneapolis followed multiple fatal shootings involving federal agents, resulting in the deaths of American citizens and triggering widespread protests and confrontations. Archbishop Paul Coakley, president of the USCCB, emphasized:

"Peace is built on respect for people... Public authorities especially have a responsibility to safeguard the well-being of people in service to the common good."

Catholics must resist any rhetoric that dehumanizes protesters, immigrants, law-enforcement officers, or public officials. Every person involved is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27; USCCB, *Life and Dignity of the Human Person*).

2. Reject Violence — From Any Side

The Church is unequivocal: violence against persons is morally unacceptable, whether it comes from rioters, vigilantes, or excessive use of force by authorities.

Recent demonstrations in Minneapolis have included street takeovers, clashes with law enforcement, and use of tear gas,

batons, and flash-bangs. Catholic leaders have consistently called for restraint and nonviolence. Also, as Bishop Robert Barron warned, destroying property, interfering with law enforcement or intimidation or mob action do not advance justice and instead deepen wounds. The same can be said of the disruption of church services.

At the same time, the Church also insists that the use of state power must be proportionate and accountable, especially when lethal force is involved (CCC §§2263–2267).

3. Pray — Publicly and Persistently — for Peace and Conversion

The Church's first response is spiritual, not performative.

In January 2026, Archbishop Coakley asked dioceses across the country to hold a Holy Hour for peace, explicitly in response to unrest connected to immigration enforcement and deaths in Minneapolis. As Catholics we should pray for the dead and their families, pray for healing in affected communities, pray for law-enforcement officers placed in morally complex situations, and pray for public officials making consequential decisions. This is not passivity. It is placing the crisis under the Lordship of Christ.

4. Support Lawful Protest — Not Lawlessness

Catholic teaching affirms the right to peaceful protest against injustice. The USCCB teaches that political participation, including protest, is legitimate when it respects human life, respects the rule of law, and seeks the common good rather than domination or chaos (*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*). However, Catholics must refuse participation in rioting, property destruction, intimidation, or disruption of worship (explicitly condemned by bishops). As several Catholic leaders noted, anger does not sanctify actions.

5. Insist on Truth, Due Process, and Accountability

Catholics should resist both instant condemnation without facts, and blind defense without accountability. The Church supports transparent investigations, lawful oversight of enforcement agencies, and respect for constitutional and human rights. Ongoing legal review and court interventions in Minnesota illustrate the importance of due process in moments of unrest.

6. Engage Politically — but Never Reduce Faith to Politics

Catholics may contact elected officials, advocate for humane immigration policies, and support reforms aligned with human dignity. But the bishops repeatedly warn against substituting ideology for the Gospel.

As Catholic World Report summarized:

"The current climate of fear and polarization... does not meet the standard set by Christ in the Gospel."

No party, platform, or protest movement substitutes for Christian charity and moral clarity.

7. Build Peace Locally

Finally, Catholics are called to act close to home by supporting local parishes offering prayer or aid, participating in dialogue rather than online outrage, and assisting immigrants, families of victims, and first responders. Catholic Social Teaching emphasizes that peace is built from the ground up, in families, parishes, and neighborhoods (*Call to Community and Participation*).

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please Pray For

Tom Addison
 Julie Andrews
 Sarah Armstrong
 Donald Arrup
 Maryann Bahret
 John & Casey Ball
 Daisy Bayona
 Deidre Beck
 Catherine Belloni
 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 Chicoine
 Rod Clair
 Jim Clark
 Murphy Clark
 Beth Collins
 William Conklin
 Vic Crognaile
 Janice D'Angelo
 Sheila DeArmon
 Judy and Rich Deboer
 John Deluca
 Joan Demarco
 Henry Diener
 Charlie Donovan
 Jane & William Dragoon
 James Dupree
 Barbara Dutty
 James P. Durcan
 Joanne Errick
 Jack Evans
 Frances & Kai Ferell & Family
 Charles Fillipo
 Al Fischlein
 Joseph Fiore
 Tom Fox
 Alan Friedl & Family
 Carmine Gallo
 Teri Gay
 Valeria Gerbasi
 Daniel Gilbridge
 Denny & Monica Golden
 Tom Goodwin

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

Josette Grace
 Robert Graham
 Paige Grieshop
 Rachel Grieshop
 Hank Griffin
 John Grivizas
 Helen Haddad
 Fran Hehn
 Laura Hehn
 Allan Helmbrecht
 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
 Aubrey Lamb
 Peggie Lauricella
 Craig Leiker
 Joan Lesch
 Marie Ligon
 Peter R. Loew
 Kitty Long
 Mary Jo Lucey
 Margaret Lynch
 Utelia Malwitz
 Tom & Colette Manente
 Dr. Sivaramalingam
 Manickavasagar
 Rosina Marcucci
 Vernon McCord
 Melissa McDonald
 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
 Louise Painter
 Margaret Paquette
 Hazel Palmer
 The Patterson Family
 Fernando Paverpai
 John Pecoraro
 Doug Peterson
 Angela Piraino
 Gianni Piraino
 Ellen Posey
 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
 Pennie Singh
 Todd Singh
 Bill Sirnack
 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
 Kristine Yeager
 Margaret Yeager
 Robert Virgint
 Caroline Vogel
 Jonathan Wark
 Welcome Retreat Staff
 Paul Widman
 Carol Woodard
 Mary Jane Zimmerman

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, February 1

7:30 am † Maria Torres
 9 am † Charles Kern
 11 am † Eileen Marino
 1 pm The Gonzalez
 4:30 pm † Derek McDonald
 5 pm † Jose Mendoza

Monday, February 2

7 am Eileen Corkery
 9 am † Amy Vaughn

Tuesday, February 3

7 am The Deininger Family
 9 am Larry Taylor Jr.

Wednesday, February 4

7 am The King Family
 † Joseph Barrett
 6:30 pm † Ben Wagner
 † James Woodworth

Thursday, February 5

7 am † Robert J. McCommons Jr.
 9 am † Patricia Anderson

Friday, February 6

7 am † Sharon Sheridan
 9 am Margaret Armour
 7 pm St. Mark Parishioners

Saturday, February 7

9 am † John Matthew Stengel
 5 pm † Kenneth Coolidge

Sunday, February 8

7:30 am † Steve and Vicki Edens
 9 am † Charlie Martin & Family
 11 am † Marion Catalano
 1 pm The Trenton Philips O'Neil Family
 4:30 pm † Dennis Miller
 5 pm † Nancy Breen

† Deceased

Pray for Our Military

Air Force: C4C Andrew Bauders; Airman Gregory Burke; Amn Antoinio Diaz; Lt. Col. Michael Dragoon; Capt. Stephen Hack; Lt. Col. Douglas Lincoln; Capt. Ryan Loyd; Alejandro Martinez; Sgt. James McCormick; SCANG Sgt. John Andrew McCormick; 2nd Lt Connor Milligan; SrA. Benjamin Salber; Airman Chloe Scott; Amn Michael F. Yellico

Army: 2nd Lt. Amelia Andretti; 1st Lt. Patrick Camatcho; 1st Lt. Sarah Camatcho; Major Robert Caraccilio; 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; SSG Andrew Sales; Andrew Santos; Capt. Ramon Ricardo Tapia; Spl. Forces Nolan Tillotson; Josh Wagner; 1st Lt. Nick Worth

Marines: LCPL. Richard Breier; 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.

READINGS | WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8

Sun. Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

Mon. 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56

Tue. Memorial of Saint Scholastica, Virgin

1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11; Mk 7:1-13

Wed. 1 Kings 10:1-10; Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mk 7:14-23

Thu. 1 Kings 11:4-13; Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40; Mk 7:24-30

Fri. 1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19; Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15; Mk 7:31-37

Sat. Memorial of Saints Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop

1 Kings 12:26-32, 13:33-34; Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22; Mk 8:1-10

Sun. Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 or Mt 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

LENTEN PREPARATION

Holy Face of Jesus Novena and Mass -

Pray the Novena

When: Novena Prayer, Feb. 9-17

Where: Pray privately to prepare for the feast day

Novena of Praise, Petition, and Thanksgiving to the Most Holy Face of Jesus

This novena invites us to prepare for Lent by placing our intentions, struggles, and hopes before the loving gaze of Christ.

O Lord Jesus Christ, in presenting ourselves before Thy adorable Face, to ask of Thee the graces of which we stand in most need, we beseech Thee, above all, to give us that interior disposition of never refusing, at any time, to do what Thou require of us by Thy holy commandments and Divine inspirations.

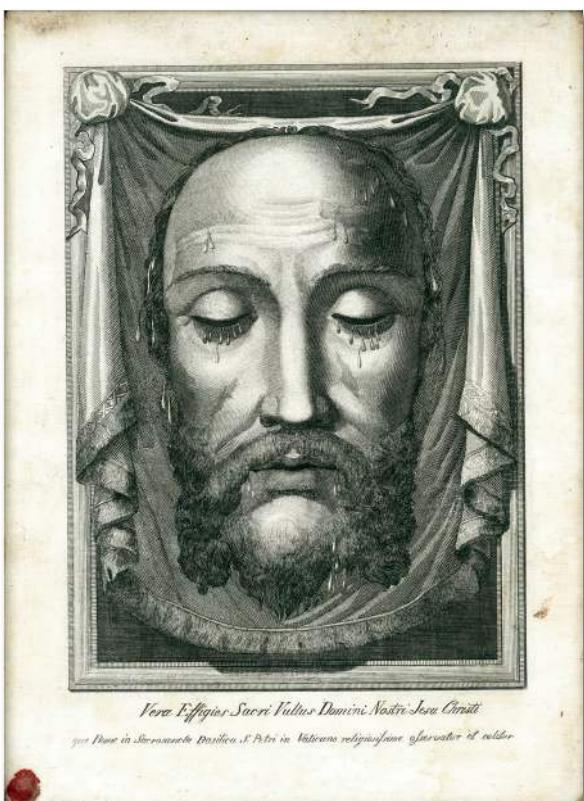
O Good Jesus, Who hast said "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you," give us, O Lord, that faith which obtains all, or supply in us what may be deficient.

Grant us, by the pure effect of Thy charity, and for Thy eternal glory, the graces that we need and that we seek from Thy infinite mercy. (Mention your petition here)

Be merciful to us, O God, and reject not our prayers, when amid our afflictions, we call upon Thy Holy Name and seek with love and confidence Thy Adorable Face.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for all Thy benefits, and we entreat Thee to engrave in our hearts feelings of love and gratitude, putting upon our lips songs of thanksgiving, to Thine eternal praise.

Amen.



The Holy Season of Lent begins

ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17

Mass Schedule:

7 am Mass

8:30 am Mass

This is a St. Mark School Mass. Both transepts and front sections will be reserved for students and faculty.

There will be overflow in Parish Hall.

11 am Liturgy of the Word (with Ashes)

1 pm Liturgy of the Word (with Ashes)

5:30 pm Mass

Overflow in Parish Hall.

7:30 pm Spanish Mass

Mass of the Most Holy Face of Jesus

When: Tue., Feb. 17, 7 pm

Where: In the church

Lent begins not with ashes, but with a gaze.

On the evening before Ash Wednesday, we gather for a rare and beautiful movable feast always celebrated on the Tuesday before Lent begins.

The devotion to the Holy Face draws from Scripture and sacred tradition, recalling moments when the suffering face of Jesus was revealed with love and mercy especially in His Passion. To contemplate the Holy Face is to encounter Christ personally: wounded yet radiant, humble yet victorious, silent yet speaking mercy.

As Lent calls us to conversion of heart, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, this Mass sets the tone in a powerful way. Before we examine ourselves, we first behold Him.

This unique Vigil Mass offers a prayerful threshold into Lent a moment of stillness, reverence, and intention. Whether you are longing for renewal, carrying burdens, or simply desiring to begin Lent well, this Mass is an invitation to come and see.

Come. Gaze upon the face of Christ. Begin Lent from the heart of His mercy.

Begin your Lenten journey in Adoration! See pg. 10

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK: FEBRUARY 7-14

National Marriage Week is an invitation to pause and reflect on the gift of marriage as a sacred vocation.

In the midst of busy schedules, responsibilities, and competing demands, this week offers couples an opportunity to step back, reconnect, and remember that marriage is more than a commitment it is a living sign of Christ's faithful love for His Church.

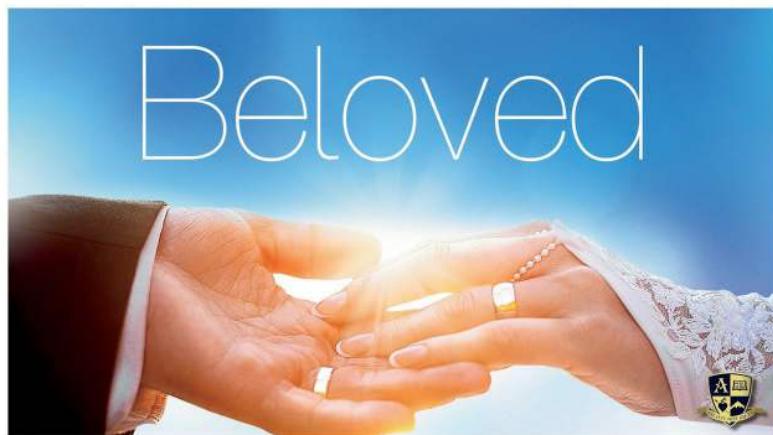
At Saint Mark, we are entering a season of renewed focus on marriage and family life. In the months ahead, you will begin to hear more about *Communio*, a parish-wide initiative dedicated to strengthening marriages, supporting families, and fostering healthier, Christ-centered relationships at every stage of life. National Marriage Week serves as a time to reflect, pray, and look ahead with hope to the good work God is unfolding in our parish.

Under the direction of Christine Wisdom, M.S., LCMHC, Part-time Director of Marriage and Family Life Ministries, Saint Mark is committed to walking alongside couples not only in moments of celebration, but also in times of growth, challenge, and renewal. Throughout the year, opportunities for prayer, enrichment, and connection will continue to develop, offering couples practical and spiritual support rooted in the Church's understanding of marriage as a lifelong covenant.

As part of this week, married couples are also invited to mark Valentine's Day by sharing in a parish Marriage Ministry Date Night, an evening designed simply to enjoy one another's company, celebrate the joy of marriage, and strengthen your bond. It is one small but meaningful way to say yes to your marriage and to the grace God continually offers through it.



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Forming Catholics for Life.



Beloved | Trailer

Beloved uncovers the mystery and the meaning of the sacrament of marriage. What if marriage is more than you think it is? What if God has woven into the very fabric of your humanity a purposeful need and desire that can only be fulfilled in your marriage? Beloved invites all couples to experience firsthand the wonder, mystery, and joy behind that first "I do" ... whether you said it last year or many years ago.

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!



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

www.stmarknc.org † 704-948-0231

A Simple Invitation to Pray Together: Lectio Divina for National Marriage Week

As part of National Marriage Week, couples and families are invited to participate in a daily *Lectio Divina* prayer experience. *Lectio Divina*, meaning “sacred reading,” is an ancient prayer practice of the Church that invites us to listen to God speaking through Scripture not for information, but for relationship and transformation. This approach to prayer is simple, flexible, and accessible to everyone, regardless of where you are in your faith journey.

Each day's prayer follows a gentle rhythm: reading a short passage of Scripture, reflecting quietly on words or phrases that stand out, offering prayer to God, and considering how His Word might shape daily life. The reflections are intentionally rooted in the realities of marriage and family life, inviting couples to slow down and reflect together on communication, forgiveness, healing, gratitude, rest, and service.

Rather than adding another obligation to an already full schedule, *Lectio Divina* offers couples a way to pause even for just a few minutes a day.

It can be prayed at the kitchen table, before bed, during a quiet moment in the evening, or individually and shared later. Whether prayed as a couple, as a family, or alone, this daily practice invites spouses to place Christ at the center of their marriage and to rediscover the grace already present in their relationship.

Throughout the week, Scripture passages from Ordinary Time gently guide couples toward deeper unity and renewed purpose. By listening together to God's Word, spouses are invited to grow in compassion, mercy, and love, allowing their marriage to more fully reflect the faithful love of Christ.

To access the full daily *Lectio Divina* guide for Feb. 7-14, scan the QR code.



Valentine's
DAY

DATE NIGHT

February 14, 6-10 pm
Dinner. Music. Games. Talk. Friends.

All married couples are invited to our third annual **Marriage Ministry Date Night** as we reflect on this year's National Marriage Week theme from the USCCB: “**Man and Woman, He Created Them: Together with Purpose.**”

Marriage is more than a commitment, it is a sacred sacrament, a vocation through which husband and wife reveal Christ's faithful love to the world. This Valentine's Day, step away from the busyness of life and enjoy an evening designed to strengthen your bond, celebrate your unique gifts as a couple, and reconnect with joy and intention.

Registration: stmarknc.org/marriage-ministry; \$50 per couple; in the Parish Hall.

Questions? Christine Wisdom, christine.wisdom@stmarknc.org



“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.”

**How can we prioritize restful time with one another?
What activities or distractions crowd our schedules?
How can we build prayer, relaxation, and joy into our family?**

The USCCB Secretariat on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth is offering a variety of resources for those discerning marriage, engaged couples, and those already living out the vocation of marriage. These include an at-home week-long retreat, a marriage-centered *Lectio Divina*, and social media graphics.

For more information visit www.foryourmarriage.org.



Coming Up at Saint Mark

Saturday, February 14

Marriage Date Night

Sunday, February 15

Donut Sunday

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday

Saturday, February 21

Rite of Election

Friday, February 27

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Saturday, February 28

Stewardship Renewal Weekend

Saturday, March 7

Family Ministry First Saturday Dinner

Monday, March 9

St. Serra Mass

Friday, March 13

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Sunday-Tuesday 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

Thursday-Sunday, 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



PARISH LIFE

Scouting For Food 2026

When: Feb. 7-8; after Masses

Where: Near St. Mark Fountain

The Saint Mark Cub Scout Pack 97 will collect non-perishable food items before the Masses on February 7 and 8 and deliver the food to the Nourish Up food bank in Charlotte in support of our local needy families. Anything you can provide is greatly appreciated. Donations can also be left in the Narthex bin.

Priority food needs include canned fruit (especially no sugar added), canned meats, canned pastas, cereal and low or no sodium canned vegetables.

Singles 45+ Fellowship Event

When: Sunday, Feb. 22, 5-8 pm

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

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!

Please RSVP via SignUp Genius so we can plan for you.

<https://tinyurl.com/3my3dp49>

Questions? 45plussingles@gmail.com

2026 Hibernian St. Patrick's Dinner & Show

When: Sat., March 21; 6:30-10 pm

Where: Msgr. Kerin Family Center

The St. Brendan the Navigator Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), a Catholic-Irish Fraternal Organization, will be presenting their annual St. Patrick's Dinner and Show.

Entertainment includes Irish Music, a Sing along, Irish Step Dancers and a Silent

Auction. Admission includes a traditional Irish dinner and dessert. "Tis a grand time we'll be having" and you don't have to be Irish to enjoy this fun-filled evening.

Admission is \$35 for adults and \$15 for children 6-12 years of age. No charge for children under 6.

Tickets will be sold after Masses on February 14-15, February 28-March 1 and March 14-15. This annual event is usually a sellout, so be sure to purchase your tickets early!

To purchase tickets online, use the QR Code.

Contact: Ray FitzGerald 704-992-1702 (aohmeck2@aol.com) or Bernard Holst 704-507-3261 (bholst560@gmail.com)



Catholic Classics Concert

When: Wed., Feb. 11, 7:30 pm

Where: In the church

Join us for an evening of prayerful, joy-filled music at our Catholic Classics Concert, part of the new Little Flower Concert Series.

Under the direction of Manuel Mora, the St. Mark Choirs will lead a *sing-along* concert celebrating the depth and beauty of Catholic sacred music across generations.

The program features works by classical masters such as César Franck and Franz Schubert, whose compositions are known for their rich harmonies, expressive melodies, and deep sense of reverence—music that lifts the soul and draws the listener into prayer.

Alongside these timeless classics, the concert also includes beloved contemporary Catholic hymns by Dan Schutte and Marty Haugen. Their music reflects the prayer and spirit and invites full participation through accessible melodies and heartfelt texts rooted in Scripture.

This is a *sing-along* concert, designed for everyone, whether you love traditional sacred music, modern Catholic hymnody, or simply enjoy lifting your voice in praise with the parish community.

All are welcome. Come listen, sing, and experience the beauty of our Catholic musical tradition—shared together as one parish family.



Prayer Apostolate of Reparation

When: Every Tuesday, 5:30 pm

Where: St. Mark Catholic Church

In 1843, Jesus revealed to Sister Mary of St. Peter, a Carmelite nun in Tours, France, that reparation was imperative for the sins of atheism, blasphemy, and the profanation of Sundays and Holy Days. The Archconfraternity of the Holy Face was established in 1885 to facilitate this work of reparation looking to St. Veronica as their model.

You are invited to participate in the work of reparation through this devotion, imitating the actions of the holy woman Veronica. In her desire to alleviate, in whatever way she could, the sufferings inflicted on Jesus by His executioners during His Passion, Veronica wiped the filth from His Holy Face.

By praying the prayers of reparation and striving to promote the faithful observance of the first three commandments of the Lord, we seek to alleviate the sufferings our Lord endures from atheists, blasphemers, and those who profane His Holy Days.

"Let us, therefore, wipe the august Face of the Savior, soiled with the spittle of blasphemers, and He will wipe our soul, soiled with the spittle of sin."

Sr. Mary of St. Peter

(Manual of the Holy Face p. 363)

Upcoming EMHC Training

Training will be offered on Sunday, February 15 after the 5 pm Mass for anyone interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC).

The sessions will take 1.5 hours to complete. Safe Environment requirements must be met and other information is also required.

If interested, please contact Ralph Wearsch at rwearsh@gmail.com.



Virtue for the Week: Fortitude... Turning Hope into Action.

Fortitude is the virtue that gives us the strength to remain faithful when love becomes costly.

Fortitude is often mistaken for boldness or heroic courage, but it is more often quiet and hidden. It is the strength to endure, to persevere, and to continue choosing what is right even when the path is difficult,

misunderstood, or draining. Fortitude allows us to remain rooted in Christ when faith is tested and hope feels fragile.

In our church, the pillar marked Fortitude stands above the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This placement is deeply fitting. The Sacred Heart reveals the source of true fortitude: not human strength, but steadfast love. Jesus does not turn away from suffering or sacrifice. He remains faithful, offering His Heart fully, even unto the Cross.



The opposite of fortitude is not weakness, but fear, avoidance, or giving up when discipleship demands perseverance. As

Fr. John has encouraged us this year, growth in the Christian life often begins when God transforms these quiet vices into virtues.

Fortitude grows when we remain close to the Heart of Christ through prayer, the Sacraments, and daily acts of fidelity. Each time we choose patience over frustration, faithfulness over convenience, and love over self-protection, God strengthens us from within.

As we walk with Christ through Ordinary Time, may we ask for the grace of fortitude: not dramatic courage, but the steady strength to love faithfully, trusting that Christ's Heart remains with us in every trial.

Pilgrimage to Holy Land with Fr. Kevin Martinez, March 15-26

Experience five nights in Jerusalem and three nights at the Sea of Galilee.

While in Jerusalem, we will celebrate early morning Mass each day in the Tomb of Christ or on Calvary. We will visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, and the Church of Visitation where Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth. We will do the Way of the Cross and the Palm Sunday route as well as having an evening holy hour in the Garden of Gethsemane. We will take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and have Mass on Mt. Tabor and on the Mt. of Beatitudes. We will celebrate Mass in Nazareth and renew our Baptismal vows next to the Jordan River. We will visit all the mystery sites of the Holy Rosary.

Fr. John Putnam and Christopher Cross recently returned from the Holy Land with the seminarians, and both can attest to the fact that their spiritual pilgrimage was very safe at every site they visited.

There are only a few seats left for this trip, and the departure is only seven weeks away.

Contact: Christopher Cross, 704-274-2031 or visit CatholicHolyLand.com.

Become a St. Mark Ambassador- Make a Meaningful First Impression!

Do you enjoy meeting new people and sharing why St. Mark is such a special place? We'd love your help!

St. Mark Ambassadors play a vital role in welcoming new parishioners and helping them feel at home in our parish.

Ambassadors reach out to newcomers by email and by phone and help guide them to parish resources and opportunities for connection. We're also looking for Spanish-speaking Ambassadors.

Why consider becoming an Ambassador?

- Minimal time commitment
- Can be done from your home
- A simple script is provided to get you started
- Basic computer, email and phone skills are all you need

For many new parishioners, our Ambassadors are their first personal connection to St. Mark, making this an important and rewarding ministry.

Contact John O'Neill at oneilljm6@gmail.com

ADORATION

Time to prepare...

By Donna Fodale,
Adoration Coordinator

These past few weeks we have certainly had to be in preparation mode. Snow and ice storms looming over us. Nothing is worse than feeling unprepared for things that come our way. Yet, if you are anything like me, you often find yourself unprepared for different things in life. Obviously, there are certain things that we cannot prepare for. Those unexpected happenings that maybe we did not see coming.

However, as we inch closer to Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent, many of us start to go into that preparation mode. Praying about what should be given up, what might I add to my prayer life or what can I give to others that are in need.

The Lenten season is a time when the Lord invites us to draw nearer to Him. To walk with Him more intimately. To go to the places that are not warm, fuzzy and bring us comfort, but rather to the places where we meet the suffering Christ.

When we sit before the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration, we are in the direct presence of Jesus Christ. The same Christ who chose the Disciples, who performed miracles, who was betrayed by a kiss and who was crucified on the cross.

This Lent, I would like to invite you to come to the Adoration Chapel and draw near to the Lord in his suffering. Begin this journey with him by meditating on his suffering, offering him consolation and the gift of yourself.

Give him that time that he asked the disciples for in the Garden of Gethsemane. Don't wait until Holy Week. Make this Lent all about Him, just as He made all that He did about us.

The Adoration Chapel is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This is a great blessing. Imagine yourself right outside the chapel door and you hear the Lord whisper your name saying, "Come, even just for a moment. Come and keep me company."

Lord,

As I prepare my heart for this Lenten season, give me the graces I need to draw nearer to you so that I can give you my heart completely this Lenten season without reserve.

Amen

Please prayerfully consider becoming a scheduled adorer. Lent is a perfect time to become a weekly Adorer or a sub.

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

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



Fatima Celebrates 109th Anniversary

Pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal & Avila Spain
July 15-July 29, 2026



Join Father John Putnam & Father Christopher Roux on a special pilgrimage celebrating the 109th anniversary of the Appearance of Our Lady of Fatima to Three Shepherd Children.

For more information contact The Te Deum Foundation, Inc.
336-765-1815 or visit our website: www.tedeumfoundation.org
Reservation Deadline: April 1, 2026



Because of recent weather disruptions, we are experiencing an offertory shortfall.

Your generosity helps the parish meet its responsibilities, support our staff, our ministries, our outreach efforts and sustain the ongoing life of St. Mark.

Offertory may be given online, by mail, or at Mass.

Thank you for helping support the mission of St. Mark and keep the lights on as parish life continues.



www.stmarknc.org/online-giving

RESPECT LIFE

Diaper & Wipe Drive

Now-February 8

5th Annual Drive!



My name is Annie Morell. I am a sophomore at Community School of Davidson and parishioner at St. Mark.

This year, I have taken the lead—along with fellow parishioner Lelia McQuaid—of the Pro-Life Club at our school. Our mission is to raise awareness about the reality of abortion and to support women who choose life.

My sister, Colette Morell, founded the Pro-Life Club four years ago. I assisted her throughout that time, and after her graduation, I felt inspired and called to continue this precious mission at our school.

This month, we are hosting our 5th Annual Diaper Drive.

Over the past four years, our club has collected more than 50,000 diapers and over 100,000 wipes. Imagine the number of mothers and babies who have benefited from your generosity!

Thank you to the St. Mark parishioners for your enthusiastic and faithful support of these efforts.

We are currently collecting diapers and wipes to donate to MiraVia and other local organizations that serve mothers and children in need.

Thank you for supporting life.

You may leave donations in the Narthex Bin.



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

STEWARSHIP

Stewardship Spotlight: Stewarding the Call to Discipleship

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

Our first reading today reminds us of our call to discipleship and what that means in our daily lives. "Bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted." (Isaiah 58:10 - Lectionary: 73) The same verse is also translated, "Lavish your food on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted." (New American Bible, Revised Edition) Bestow and lavish both mean giving or conferring something of great value. As we receive our physical and spiritual daily bread, may we recognize the value of what we receive and respond generously to satisfy the needs of those who are struggling around us.

By the power of God, we are called to follow Him in sharing the grace and mercy we receive with others. "Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:16) May we be open to the good deeds He calls us to each day, and glorify our heavenly Father.

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2nd Annual

Open House

SUNDAY, FEB. 15
2 - 4 PM

Light refreshments will be served.

4435 Monroe Road
Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 975-8572



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

It's Almost Fish Fry Season!

When: Friday, Feb. 27; 4:30 – 7:30 pm

Where: Kerin Family Center

Mark your calendar for the famous Showmars, Knights of Columbus Fish Fry events! This year three Fridays have been set aside for this popular annual fundraiser. The first fish fry will take place on Feb. 27, followed by two additional dates: March 13 and March 27. The events will be held at the Kerin Center, or you can use the drive-thru located between the Kerin Center and St. Mark School for your convenience. Both fried and broiled fish will be offered again this year, giving you the option to choose your favorite. For those who do not care for fish, a pasta platter will also be available. The Kitchen Krew will be cooking up all your favorites. Please support our Knights of Columbus by attending and enjoying these delicious meals. Your participation helps make this fundraising event a success! For further information see the contacts listed below.

Contact: Frank Salvato, 703-585-0534, gk6831@msn.com or Ray Marr, 704-904-3839, raymarr44@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus State Raffle

We have kicked off the Knights of Columbus raffle at our first 2026 Council meeting. We have already sold 100 tickets at the meetings. Our goal is 1000 tickets. Each ticket is \$5. Half of that goes to the council to fund charitable requests. The other half goes to the state to fund larger statewide initiatives. To have a successful fundraiser, the council and state need matching funds. All the funding is used for local needs and our fundraising efforts along with other statewide councils combine efforts and funding for a greater ability to serve community needs.

Minimum orders are \$20 for 4 tickets and \$5 for each additional ticket. The Knights themselves have been very generous in the past, but we would hope other parishioners and community partners would help us in funding the many requests that come to the council monthly. So far, we have supported 10 seminarians, 2 missionaries, monthly meals for Fraternus and Fidelis, monthly meals for Davidson College Catholic Ministry dinners, Life Teen, Edge, Faith Formation, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Scouts, Christmas trees, Into The Breach booklet series, and multiple other parish needs and activities.

This year we would like to expand our \$100 (20 tickets) Club. Last year we had 8 members - we would like to try for 20+ this year. We will also offer a \$500 Corporate option. That will allow for 100 tickets to be offered as customer giveaways (contact Richard Clancey regarding giveaway options.)

First prize is \$5000. Second prize is \$4000. 3rd & 4th prizes are \$500. 5th & 6th prizes are \$400 and 7th prize is \$200. Drawing is May 16, 2026.

Hand offs can be done in person or via the K of C mailbox at the reception desk.

Payment options: Cash, Checks made out to Msgr. Kerin Council 12654, Zelle or Venmo to Richard Clancey.

Contact Richard Clancey for tickets: 704-609-4400. Rclancey@gmail.com or every Sunday at 5pm Mass

Two Parishioners Accepted as Full-Time Life Teen Missionaries

For many years now the Msgr. Kerin Council has offered \$500 stipends for Seminarians connected with the parish. This year that number is ten. For about seven years now we have offered similar funding for young parish adults that choose to spend a year or two as campus Missionaries. They are required to cover their own expenses for that time and must do their own fundraising. This year the council is assisting two parishioners that will be full-time missionaries with Life Teen. Our stipend is significant but not enough to cover their needs for a year. Below is their information for individual support. Alex has finished college, spent some time in seminary and has now chosen the mission route. Anabella has graduated high school and cherished her own time with the various Life Teen offerings here at St. Mark and away retreats. She was also accepted as a full time Life Teen Missionary.

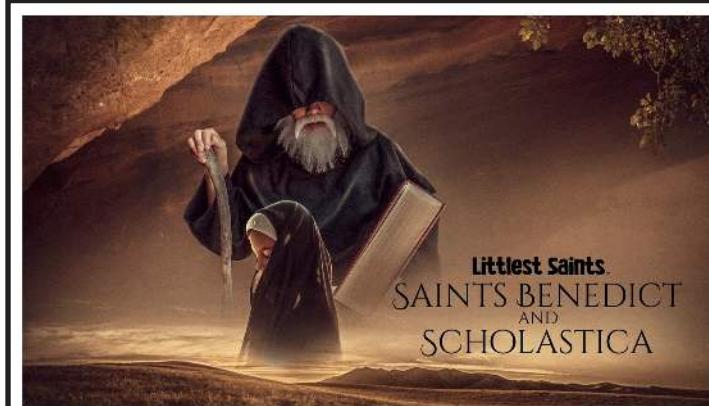
Contact :alex.lavine116@gmail.com, or visit donate.lifeteen.com/fundraiser/6566992.

Contact for Anabella Quintero: aquintero@lifeteen.com.

Mail: You can also send a check to Life Teen, Inc.

Note either "Alex Lavine Mission Year" or "Anabella Quintero – Missionary" in the memo line and mail to:

Life Teen, Inc
Attn: Full-Time Missions
P.O. Box 117299
Atlanta, GA 30368-7299



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An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

YOUTH MINISTRY

Super Bowl Party!

When: Sun., Feb. 8, 6-8 pm

Where: Parish Hall

This Life Night will **CONTINUE** as scheduled and will be a Super Bowl party from 6-8 pm! The reason behind this is that our adult volunteers still have work on Monday, and some of our teen leaders don't have their after-9's yet!

For the sake of those people then, we will ask that teens be picked up at 8 pm still! This should work out with the first half of the game wrapping up right around 8 pm!

High School Youth Ministry February

When: Most Sundays, 6-8 pm

Where: Family Center Parish Hall

These evenings are designed especially for teens. A place to gather, ask questions, build friendships, and grow in faith in a way that feels real and welcoming.

Each Life Night includes

- Dinner together
- Prayer and reflection
- Time to connect with other teens
- Honest conversations about faith and life

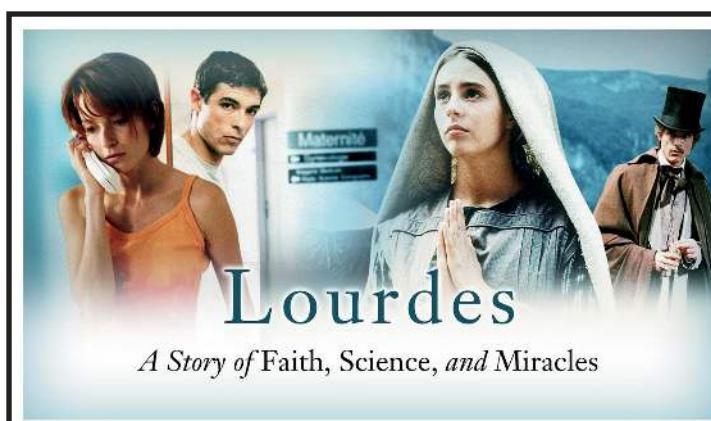
No pressure. No need to have everything figured out. Just come as you are.

Whether your teen has been involved before or is thinking about coming for the first time, this is a great moment to jump in. Many teens find that these nights become one of the highlights of their week, a place where they feel known, supported, and encouraged.

High school students are invited to come, bring a friend, and be part of something meaningful this winter as we continue through the Holy Season of Christmas, Ordinary Time, and toward Lent together.

Stay Connected! REMIND App: Class code **smhsym2025** Instagram: @stmarknccyouth

Join our Email List: augustine.free@stmarknc.org.



Lourdes: Story of Faith, Science,

The film follows a journalist, his ancestor who met Bernadette at Lourdes, and the story of a woman healed by Lourdes' waters, tracing three lives.

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!



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

AROUND THE DIOCESE



A reflection on Dilexi te (I Have Loved You), the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Leo XIV

This coming Saint Valentine's Day, consider reflecting on the unconditional love God has for each of us, and the special place in Jesus's heart for those who are poor.

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DEACON SCOTT GILFILLAN
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<https://fs11.formsite.com/sistersofmercy/g1q13an7o13/index.html>

More information about the event and speaker is available at ccdoc.org/education

Questions? Email scaeducation@ccdoc.org



Healed and Restored Golf Tournament Fundraiser

When: April 6, 8:30 am Check-In, 9:00 am Shotgun Start
Where: Mooresville Golf Club



Healed and Restored is hosting its second annual golf tournament fundraiser.

Healed and Restored is a nonprofit organization that was created here at St. Mark in 2020. Our mission is to help women and girls who are survivors of abuse, assault, domestic violence, trafficking, and all other types of trauma find healing, restoration, and move on to thrive in all areas of their lives.

The cost is \$150 per player or \$600 for a team of four. 100% of the proceeds will benefit Healed and Restored and support its mission.

Participants will enjoy a day of fellowship, friendly competition, and purpose while supporting a meaningful cause.

Contact: David Spaedy, 704-808-0343, david@ds1phonesystems.com

Drexel High School's "Shoot for the Truth" Clay Shoot

When: Sat., Mar. 21
Where: Hidden Brook Sporting Club,
N. Wilkesboro, NC

Get ready to aim high for a great cause! Join us for our 2nd annual "Shoot for the Truth" Clay Shoot Fundraiser supporting Drexel High! Mark your calendars and reserve your spot now for a day of friendly competition, fun, and Drexel community spirit. Whether you're a seasoned shooter or a first timer, this event promises excitement and memories you won't want to miss!

Entry: \$1000 per 4-person team. Register as an individual or as a team! Registration includes clay targets, all ammunition, and a golf cart. Breakfast and lunch are provided too!

Scan the QR code to register now! Spots are limited!



Questions? Interested in sponsoring this amazing event? Please visit our website at www.drexelhigh.org or call 704-930-0994.

Help Shape the Future of Catholic Charities

Help Catholic Charities identify the most pressing needs in communities across the Diocese by completing a brief online survey.

Your input will help shape the future direction of our charitable outreach.

Complete the survey here —>



DEL PASTOR



Las lecturas de hoy son tanto un estímulo como una instrucción para nosotros como administradores cristianos. Ofrecen una dirección clara sobre lo que

más importa para Dios y cómo Él nos llama a usar los dones que nos ha confiado.

En la primera lectura, el profeta Isaías nos da una guía directa: "Compartid vuestro pan con los hambrientos, acoged a los oprimidos y a los sin hogar; vístelos desnudos cuando los veas y no les des la espalda a ti mismo." Aquí no hay ambigüedad. Cuidar de nuestros hermanos y hermanas necesitados no es opcional — es una responsabilidad fundamental del mayordomo cristiano.

Sin embargo, el Señor también nos recuerda Su generosidad cuando vivimos así. "Entonces tu luz estallará como el amanecer, y tu herida se curará rápidamente." Cuando damos de nosotros mismos, no perdemos — ganamos. La gracia de Dios crece dentro de nosotros, y experimentamos una alegría y paz más profundas a medida que nuestras vidas se alinean más con Su voluntad.

En el Evangelio, Jesús habla claramente a sus discípulos — a nosotros — llamándonos la "sal de la tierra" y la "luz del mundo". Pero la sal pierde su propósito si se vuelve rancia, y la luz no puede brillar si está oculta. Nuestra fe debe ser vivida, no oculta. Estamos llamados a actuar para que otros vean cómo servimos, cómo cuidamos de los vulnerables, cómo priorizamos a nuestras familias y, sobre todo, cómo amamos a Dios — y a través de nuestro testimonio, le damos gloria.

Reflexión pastoral - Con todo lo que ha estado ocurriendo en Minneapolis y en otras zonas del país, varias personas me han preguntado cómo deberíamos responder como católicos. Lo siguiente es mi opinión, basada en una sólida enseñanza católica.

Ante todo, los católicos están llamados a responder a los disturbios civiles no con indiferencia ni con reflejos partidistas, sino con una conciencia formada por la fe, arraigada en el Evangelio, la dignidad de la persona humana y la búsqueda del bien común.

La Iglesia ofrece principios morales claros, incluso cuando los hechos aún se están desarrollando o las emociones son intensas.

1. Comenzar con la dignidad de toda vida humana

La respuesta católica debe comenzar con el duelo por la pérdida de una vida,

independientemente de la ideología, el estatus migratorio, la profesión o la orientación política.

Los recientes disturbios en Minneapolis siguieron a múltiples tiroteos mortales que involucraron a agentes federales, lo que resultó en la muerte de ciudadanos estadounidenses y desencadenó protestas y enfrentamientos generalizados. El arzobispo Paul Coakley, presidente de la USCCB, enfatizó:

"La paz se construye sobre el respeto a las personas... Las autoridades públicas, en particular, tienen la responsabilidad de salvaguardar el bienestar de las personas al servicio del bien común."

Los católicos deben resistir cualquier retórica que deshumanice a manifestantes, inmigrantes, agentes de la ley o funcionarios públicos. Cada persona involucrada está hecha a imagen de Dios (Génesis 1:27; USCCB, *Vida y Dignidad de la Persona Humana*).

2. Rechazar la violencia — de cualquier lado

La Iglesia es inequívoca: la violencia contra las personas es moralmente inaceptable, ya sea por parte de alborotadores, vigilantes o el uso excesivo de la fuerza por parte de las autoridades.

Las manifestaciones recientes en Minneapolis han incluido tomadas de calles, enfrentamientos con las fuerzas del orden y el uso de gas lacrimógeno, porras y granadas cegadoras. Los líderes católicos han pedido consistentemente contención y no violencia. Además, como advirtió el obispo Robert Barron, destruir propiedades, interferir con la aplicación de la ley, intimidar o actuar de turbas no avanza la justicia y en cambio profundiza las heridas. Lo mismo puede decirse de la interrupción de los servicios religiosos.

Al mismo tiempo, la Iglesia también insiste en que el uso del poder estatal debe ser proporcional y responsable, especialmente cuando se trata de fuerza letal (CCC §§2263-2267).

3. Rezar — públicamente y de forma persistente — por la paz y la conversión

La primera respuesta de la Iglesia es espiritual, no performativa.

En enero de 2026, el arzobispo Coakley pidió a las diócesis de todo el país celebrar una Hora Santa por la paz, explícitamente en respuesta a los disturbios relacionados con la aplicación de la ley migratoria y las muertes en Minneapolis. Como católicos, deberíamos rezar por los fallecidos y sus familias, rezar por la sanación en las comunidades afectadas, rezar por los agentes de la ley situados en situaciones

moralmente complejas y rezar por que los funcionarios públicos tomen decisiones trascendentales. Esto no es pasividad. Está poniendo la crisis bajo el Señorío de Cristo.

4. Apoyar la protesta legal — no la ilegalidad

La enseñanza católica afirma el derecho a la protesta pacífica contra la injusticia. La USCCB enseña que la participación política, incluida la protesta, es legítima cuando respeta la vida humana, respeta el estado de derecho y busca el bien común en lugar de la dominación o el caos (*Formando Conciencias para una Ciudadanía Fiel*). Sin embargo, los católicos deben negarse a participar en disturbios, destrucción de propiedades, intimidación o interrupción del culto (condenados explícitamente por los obispos). Como señalaron varios líderes católicos, la ira no santifica las acciones.

5. Insistir en la verdad, el debido proceso y la rendición de cuentas

Los católicos deberían resistir tanto la condena instantánea sin hechos como la defensa ciega sin rendición de cuentas. La Iglesia apoya investigaciones transparentes, supervisión legal de las agencias de aplicación y el respeto a los derechos constitucionales y humanos. La revisión legal continua y las intervenciones judiciales en Minnesota ilustran la importancia del debido proceso en momentos de conflicto.

6. Participar políticamente — pero nunca reducir la fe a la política

Los católicos pueden contactar con cargos electos, abogar por políticas migratorias humanas y apoyar reformas alineadas con la dignidad humana. Pero los obispos advierten repetidamente contra sustituir el Evangelio por ideología.

Como resumió Catholic World Report: *"El clima actual de miedo y polarización... no cumple con el estándar establecido por Cristo en el Evangelio."*

Ningún partido, plataforma o movimiento de protesta sustituye a la caridad cristiana y a la claridad moral.

7. Construir la paz localmente

Por último, se llama a los católicos a actuar cerca de casa apoyando a parroquias locales que ofrecen oración o ayuda, participan en el diálogo en lugar de la indignación en línea y ayudan a inmigrantes, familias de víctimas y primeros intervinientes. La Doctrina Social Católica enfatiza que la paz se construye desde abajo, en las familias, parroquias y barrios (*Llamado a la Comunidad y la Participación*).

SEMANA NACIONAL DEL MATRIMONIO: 7-14 DE FEBRERO

Semana Nacional del Matrimonio 7-14 de febrero

En el marco de la Semana Nacional del Matrimonio, la parroquia San Marcos invita a los matrimonios a renovar su amor y su fe, recordando que el matrimonio es una vocación sagrada y un reflejo del amor fiel de Dios.

Como parte de esta semana, el **Ministerio Matrimonial Hispano** invita a todas las parejas casadas al **Retiro de Matrimonios: Reflejo del Amor de Dios**, el **sábado 14 de febrero**, de **8:00 a.m. a 4:00 p.m.**, en el **Salón Familiar de la Iglesia San Marcos**.

Habrá cuidado de niños y almuerzo incluido.

Una oportunidad especial para fortalecer el matrimonio, crecer en la fe y redescubrir el amor que Dios ha sembrado en su relación.

Una invitación sencilla a orar juntos Lectio Divina | Semana Nacional del Matrimonio

Durante la Semana Nacional del Matrimonio, se invita a matrimonios y familias a participar en una breve oración diaria de **Lectio Divina**. Esta práctica sencilla de la Iglesia nos ayuda a escuchar a Dios a través de la Sagrada Escritura y a reflexionar sobre la vida matrimonial, el perdón, la comunicación, la sanación y el amor.

La **Lectio Divina** puede realizarse en pareja, en familia o de manera individual, en cualquier momento del día, incluso con solo unos minutos. Es una invitación a poner a Cristo en el centro del matrimonio y a redescubrir la gracia que Dios ya ha sembrado en la relación.

Para acceder a la guía completa de **Lectio Divina** (7-14 de febrero):
<https://www.usccb.org/resources/semana-nacional-del-matrimonio-2025-lectio-divina-en-espanol>



Ayude a definir el futuro de Caridades Católicas

Ayude a Caridades Católicas a identificar las necesidades más urgentes en las comunidades de la Diócesis completando una breve encuesta en línea. Su aporte ayudará a definir la dirección futura de nuestra labor de alcance caritativo.

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