

GOD SO  
LOVED *the*  
WORLD

that he gave his  
Only Begotten Son,  
so that all who believe in  
him may not perish,  
but may have eternal life.

*Lent Begins this Week!*  
*Ash Wednesday Mass*  
*Schedule Page 6*

SAINT MARK

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 15, 2026, Español pagina 16



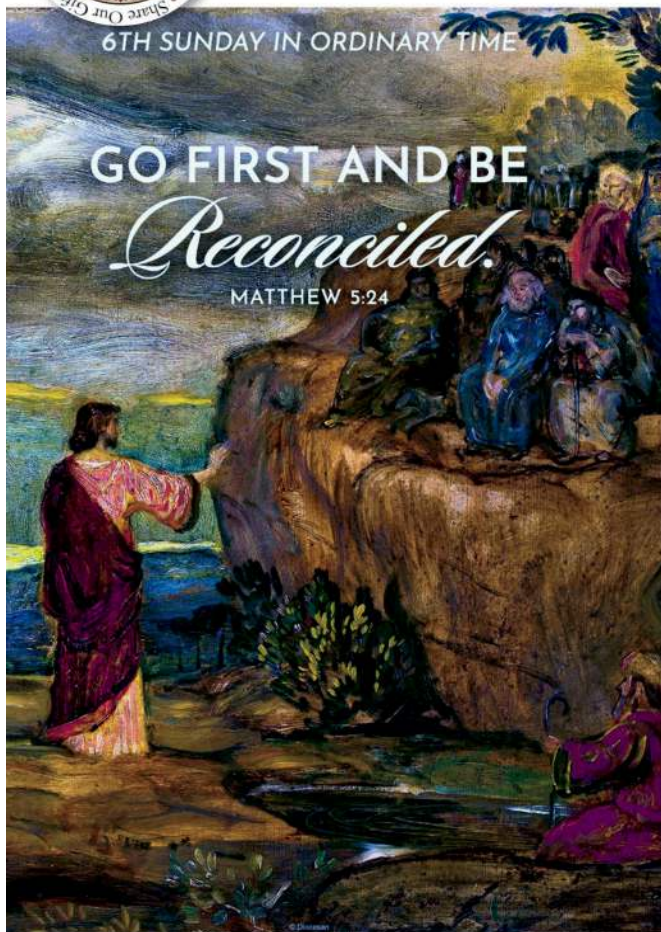


# WELCOME TO ST. MARK!

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GO FIRST AND BE  
*Reconciled.*

MATTHEW 5:24



Today is the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Readings can be found in the music handouts or on page 897 of the St. Augustine Hymnal. The Order of the Mass can be found on page 7.

We have come to the end of our first journey through Ordinary Time. Next Sunday, we will enter the holy season of Lent. The image on the cover of today's bulletin, Jesus in the Agony of the Garden, invites us to begin preparing our hearts through prayer, reflection, and a renewed openness to God's will.

*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](http://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](http://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.**

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



Thank you for generously sharing your gifts with the parish. You may make an online donation at [stmarknc.org/online-giving](http://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 challenge us to reflect on the true state of our hearts as it relates to stewardship. Do we think of stewardship as something we take care of once a year, simply a matter of ticking off boxes on a commitment card — or do we choose to embrace it as a spirituality and a way of life that allows us to grow in conformity to Christ every day?

Our first reading, from the Book of Sirach, teaches that our good God has given us the freedom to make this choice — “Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him.”

The concept of stewardship helps us live out this fundamental choice to put God first. Stewardship is not meant to be a mere external exercise that we participate in on an occasional basis. It is meant to be embraced as a way of life — a life that involves a continuous conversion of heart.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus illustrates the difference between an external observance of the law and a true conversion of heart, saying, “You have heard that it was said ... you shall not kill ... But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment.” Our Lord is asking us not only for exterior acts, but for a true change of heart. In stewardship terms, that means seeing everything as a gift from Him, to be used for His glory and the good of others.

In the week ahead, let us examine the state of our hearts and ask whether we have allowed stewardship to shape the way we live each day. When we do, we open ourselves to its deeper meaning and its power to change our hearts. The choice is ours.

### Pastoral Pondering

I am appreciative of the cooperation we have had with the recent changes in the distribution of Communion. Please be mindful that each person has the right to choose the manner in which he or she receives Holy Communion. As long as that choice is in conformity with what the Church allows, the individual is free to exercise that right.

We all have preferences and pious practices that are important to us. It is important, however, that we do not pass judgment on the reasons someone else chooses differently from us. No one knows the heart of another; God alone knows those things. Clearly, if someone is doing something that is improper or sacrilegious, we have a moral obligation to say something. However, when another is making a legitimate choice, he or she is free to do so. We all need to be conscious of the importance of exercising charity, especially with one another.

As we prepare to embark on our Lenten journey, please take time to pray and ponder what you need to do (and not do) to make this a truly fruitful Lent. Taking time for prayer and reflection and asking the Lord to guide you in choosing your Lenten sacrifices and works of charity, is a wonderful way to prepare for and to receive the full grace of this special season of the liturgical year.

Penance, of course, is a regular part of Catholic life. Every Friday throughout the year is a day of penance. During Lent, every Friday is a day of abstinence from meat; outside of Lent, one may choose an alternative form of penance. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting for those between the ages of 14 and 60. Let us pray for one another that our Lenten observances may help us grow in holiness, become more attentive to the promptings of the Spirit, and be instruments of the light of Christ in the world.

## 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.  
980-355-8762 or visit our website: [www.tedeumfoundation.org](http://www.tedeumfoundation.org)  
Reservation Deadline: April 1, 2026*



## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### Please Pray For

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

Tom Addison	Valeria Gerbasi	Mary Morgan
Julie Andrews	Daniel Gilbridge	Haleigh Moss
Donald Arrup	Denny & Monica Golden	Niall Mulkeen
Maryann Bahret	Tom Goodwin	Elizabeth Mulligan
Deidre Beck	Paige Grieshop	Angeles Murphy
Richard Biddy	Rachel Grieshop	Maria Magdalena Murphy
Brian Blatchford & Family	Helen Haddad	Carl Muti
Virginia "Gini" Bond	Fran Hehn	Paul Nealon Jr.
Kathy Brandt	Laura Hehn	Paul Sr. and Sally Nealon
Dave Breen	Allan Helmbrecht	Joann Nigro
Helen Sally Buff	Madeline Louise Henwood	The Ober Family
Carmen Cabranes	Kevin Herman Sr.	Louise Painter
Michelle Chicoine	Hannah Hopkins	Fernando Paverpai
Rod Clair	Frank Hunnicutt III	Doug Peterson
Jim Clark	Cathi Kalberier	Nicole & Bruce Preiss
Beth Collins	Karen Kastle	Joette Reid
William Conklin	Gary Katz	Lindsay Remington
Vic Crognale	Dennis Koenig	Butch Remesch
Janice D'Angelo	Jackie Kopicki	Thomas Rynne
Sheila DeArmon	Aubrey Lamb	Mark Shields
Judy and Rich Deboer	Craig Leiker	Pennie Singh
John Deluca	Marie Ligon	Todd Singh
Joan Demarco	Peter R. Loew	Bill Sirnack
Henry Diener	Kitty Long	Robert Somerville
Charlie Donovan	Margaret Lynch	Betsy Spartz
Jane & William Dragoon	Utelia Malwitz	Mike Tolbert
Joanne Errick	Tom & Colette Manente	Alston Torres
Charles Fillipo	Melissa McDonald	Kristine Yeager
Al Fischlein	Cathy Milligan	Margaret Yeager
Alan Friedl & Family	Lucille Modica	Caroline Vogel

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Sunday, February 15

7:30 am	† Agnes Furmanek, Anna Haussler, & Stephanie Koziel
9 am	Matthew and John Engel
11 am	Lukas Andrews
1 pm	Kris Owen Senapathy
4:30 pm	† Michael Downey
5 pm	† Msgr. Richard Bellow

### Monday, February 16

7 am	St. Mark Parishioners
9 am	† Andrzej Sobjanek

### Tuesday, February 17

7 am	† Sharon Antoszyk
9 am	† Allison Roberts

### Wednesday, February 18

7 am	† Peggy Diver
	† Ann Cassidy
8:30 am	St Mark School 4B Homeroom
5:30 pm	† The Davey Family
	† Salvador and Inez Almanza
7:30 pm	† Robert Conklin
	† Lee Ashley Benson

### Thursday, February 19

7 am	† Benny Benedikovici
9 am	† Piper Grace Amundson

### Friday, February 20

7 am	† Henriette Bleuzen
9 am	† Dorris & Al Riggio

### Saturday, February 21

9 am	Joshua Martinez
5 pm	† Donald St. Pierre

### Sunday, February 22

7:30 am	Richard Cataldo
9 am	† Peter Sirianni
11 am	Xander Wendt
1 pm	Christopher Hartle
4:30 pm	† Maureen Parr
5 pm	† Nancy Breen

† Deceased

## READINGS | WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15

<b>Sunday</b>	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
<b>Monday</b>	Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mk 8:11-13
<b>Tuesday</b>	Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Joel 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
<b>Thursday</b>	Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 9:22-25
<b>Friday</b>	Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
<b>Saturday</b>	Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Rm 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-11

### 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 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; SSG Andrew Sales; Andrew Santos; Capt. Ramon Ricardo Tapia; Spl. Forces Nolan Tillotson; Josh Wagner; 1st Lt. Nick Worth

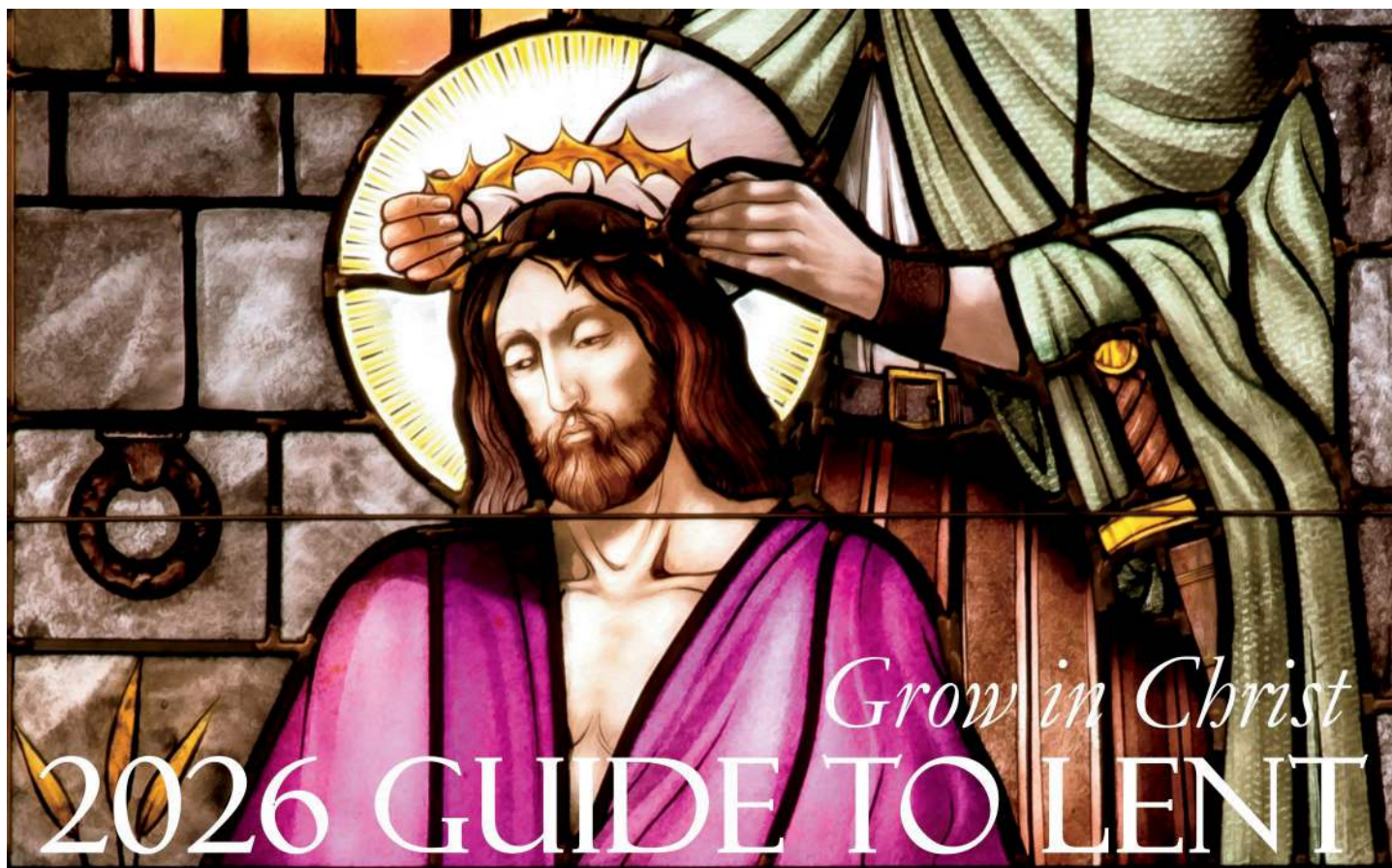
**Marines:** LCPL. Richard Breier; Maj. Matthew Santoli; Cpl. Ben Holden; 1st Lt. Nathanael Rusciollelli

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

...and all service members not listed.







## A LENTEN INVITATION

When you come for ashes on Ash Wednesday, consider it an invitation to return throughout Lent and take part more fully in the life of the parish.

In this guide, you will find opportunities for prayer, the sacraments, service, and community as we journey together toward Easter.

As you walk with Jesus on the way of the Cross, may the practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving shape your heart and renew your faith.

## *The Holy Season of Lent*

begins with Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting and abstinence that calls us to reorient our hearts and minds toward the Lord. Yet many of us struggle with what that truly means. We want to give Jesus our hearts, but often we are unsure how to do so.

It is easy to go through the motions. We pray. We come to Mass. We observe the outward practices of our faith. But these things lose their meaning if they do not flow from an interior conversion of love.

What the Lord desires more than anything is not simply outward observance, but hearts that are truly open to Him.

Jesus teaches us that following Him is not about doing the bare minimum or simply avoiding wrongdoing.

He calls us to something deeper.

He invites us to look honestly at what is happening within our hearts: our intentions, our words, and our relationships.

Faith is not meant to remain on the surface of our lives. It is meant to shape who we are from within.

Christ's greatest expression of love was His willing self-gift. In love, He entrusted Himself completely to the Father. In return, He asks us to entrust our hearts to Him. When we do, we begin to understand what living the Christian life is truly about. It is about love lived with sincerity and integrity.

We are broken people. We stumble and fall. Yet when we remember how deeply we are loved, we can raise our eyes to Him, allow ourselves to be embraced by His mercy, and begin again.

Lent is an invitation to start over, calling us to reconciliation, honesty, and renewal.

When the ashes are placed upon our foreheads, they are an outward sign of an inward reality. We acknowledge that we are sinners, but we also proclaim our hope. Even in our weakness, we are loved, and the Lord invites us to love Him in return with our lives.

Fasting, abstinence, and other penances lack meaning if they are not rooted in love for the Lord and a desire for conversion of heart.

This Lent, give Him your heart. Allow Him to dwell more fully within you, and experience how His love can transform your life.





## ENTERING THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

Lent is a sacred season of reflection on the Lord's Passion and a time to realign our lives with the will of God. While it is a penitential season, it is also a hopeful one and an invitation to walk together toward the joy of Easter.

Yes, Lent calls us to confront the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, but it also invites us to come together as a parish family to worship, enter more deeply into prayer, and grow in love through simple acts of faith and charity.

*Let us begin, trusting that God will meet us in this holy season.*

### Tuesday, February 17

*Feast Day of*

### THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

Pray the Rosary: 6:30 pm

Mass: 7 pm Mass



This is a movable feast celebrated on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Sr. Mary of St. Peter was a Discalced Carmelite nun from Tours, France. From 1843-1848, she received visions of Jesus saying:

*"Look at the torrents of tears that stream from My eyes! Can I find no one to wipe away these tears by making reparation to My Father, and imploring forgiveness for the guilty?"*

Enter into the season of Lent by coming to this special Mass.

*The relics of St. Veronica, the True Cross, the Cords of Flagellation, the Rock of Calvary, St. Helen, St. John the Apostle, Blessed Virgin Mary, and St. Mary Magdalene will be available for veneration.*

### Wednesday, February 18

*A day of abstinence and fasting.*



## ASH WEDNESDAY

*No Confessions before Mass or Liturgy.*

**7 am Mass**

**8:30 am Mass**

Note: Both transepts and front sections of the church will be reserved for students and faculty of St. Mark School. There will be overflow in Parish Hall.

**11 am Liturgy of the Word  
& Ashes**

**1 pm Liturgy of the Word  
& Ashes**

**5:30 pm Mass**

Overflow in Parish Hall.

**7:30 pm Spanish Mass**

As Catholics, we receive ashes as part of a liturgy where we are assembled together. The ashes are blessed with holy water and placed upon our heads. These ashes are more than an external gesture, they are a sacramental given to us by the Church.

### Every Friday

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

12:10 pm, 7 pm,

7:30 pm (Sp)



The Stations of the Cross invite us to walk with Jesus along the Way of the Cross, pausing to reflect on His suffering and His great love for us. This guided devotion allows us to place ourselves alongside Christ as He carries the weight of our sins and freely gives Himself for our salvation.

For years, St. Mark has prayed the Stations using the meditations of **St. Alphonsus Liguori**.

His reflections are simple and deeply personal, helping us not only to consider what Jesus endured, but to respond with repentance, gratitude, and a renewed desire to follow Him more closely. **Prayer books are provided or you can find this at [stmarknc.org/Lent](http://stmarknc.org/Lent).**

Praying the Stations during Lent prepares our hearts for Easter by teaching us to unite our own crosses to Christ's and to trust in His mercy and love.





Oftentimes we focus so much on what we give up — a practice not mandated by the Church — that we neglect the three things we are called to add during Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.



**Prayer:** Lent is an extended act of prayer, unfolding over 40 days. Through prayer, we journey more deeply with Christ and allow ourselves to be changed by our encounter with Him.

**Fasting:** Fasting goes very well with prayer. Use your hunger to focus on Christ and let it become an exercise in prayer.

**Fasting (ages 18–59) and Abstinence (ages 14+) Ash Wednesday & Good Friday**

One full meatless meal is permitted, along with two smaller meatless meals that together do not equal a full meal.



**Abstinence (ages 14+):** Meatless meals on all Fridays of Lent.

While giving up certain foods can sometimes feel casual or routine, fasting is meant to be a true act of penance. When our intention is properly aligned, fasting helps turn our hearts away from sin and toward Christ. As the saying goes, fasting without prayer is simply a diet.

*Lenten Idea: While the above days are obligatory, consider adding either of these disciplines to one additional day each week.*



**Almsgiving:** Another word for charity, almsgiving invites us to renew our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering, or in need. Let the Corporal Works of Mercy guide your generosity during Lent.

Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday until Holy Thursday. Excluding Sundays, the season lasts 40 days.

The time frame is rooted in the biblical usage of the number 40, the length of Jesus' time of trial in the desert.

During Lent, the Mass looks, and sounds, very different:

#### Color:

The vestments and altar coverings are purple, a color that symbolizes repentance.

#### Flowers:

Only simple greenery is used.

#### Gloria/Alleluia:

We must wait until Easter to hear these joyous prayers.

#### Bells:

A gong replaces the bells during the consecration. It will switch to a clacker after Palm Sunday.

#### Weddings and Baptisms:

Because this is a time of penance, the Church prohibits festivities such as weddings and baptisms.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Lenten Idea: Invite someone who might be alone, or someone who doesn't know Christ, with you to one of our parish events.*

### Sunday, February 15

Donut Sunday after morning Masses  
Date Night Challenge Begins

### Tuesday, February 17

Rosary then Holy Face Mass, 6:30 pm

### Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday (see page 6)

### Fridays, Feb 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27

Stations of the Cross, 12:10, 7, 7:30 pm  
(Spanish) in the church

### February 27, March 13, & 27

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry and  
Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale

### Sat, Feb. 28/Sun, March 1

Stewardship Renewal Weekend

### March 6

Homeschool Soup & Stations Meal

### March 7

First Saturday Devotion Dinner

### March 9

St. Serra Installation Mass, 6 pm

### March 16-18

Parish Mission: The Presence of God

### March 21

AOH St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Show

### March 19, 7 pm

Solemnity of St. Joseph Feast Day

### March 29

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

### March 31

Chrism Mass

### April 2, 3, 4, 5

Holy Triduum and  
Easter

### Sunday, April 12

Divine Mercy Sunday







## MAKING ROOM FOR HIS PRESENCE: *Clearing Out Distractions, Making Room for God*

We live in a world that constantly demands our attention. Between work, family, news, entertainment, and the daily rush of responsibilities, it is easy for faith to slip into the background. Lent invites us to pause, take an honest look at our lives, and choose once again to make space for God.

On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes as a humble reminder of who we are and who we depend on. Lent is not about proving our strength or doing everything perfectly. It is about remembering that we need the Lord and allowing Him to dwell more fully in our hearts.

The Church gives us this season as a gift: 40 days to clear away what clutters the soul and return to what matters most. Like any home, our interior life needs regular attention. Without intention, even good habits fade. Lent offers us the opportunity to begin again, gently and honestly.

Rather than attempting dramatic changes, consider making a simple and sincere Lenten commitment. Start small. Choose something real. Let it open space for the living presence of God.

*Lent is not about perfection, but about presence and intention.*

### Lenten Practices to Consider:

#### Prayer

Commit to a consistent time each day with the Lord, even if it is only a few minutes. Consistency matters more than intensity.

#### Fasting

Choose a modest fast that helps train the heart to say yes to God. This may include food, media, entertainment, or other comforts.

#### Almsgiving

Give generously to support the Church and care for those in need. Generosity loosens our grip on possessions and enlarges the heart.

#### Confession

Allow the Lord to heal and restore you through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Clearing away sin makes room for grace.

#### Discipleship and Community

Consider participating in a Lenten small group, parish events, or the Parish Mission *Presence of God* (March 16–18), led by Dominican friars from the Angelicum in Rome.

#### Service and Intercession

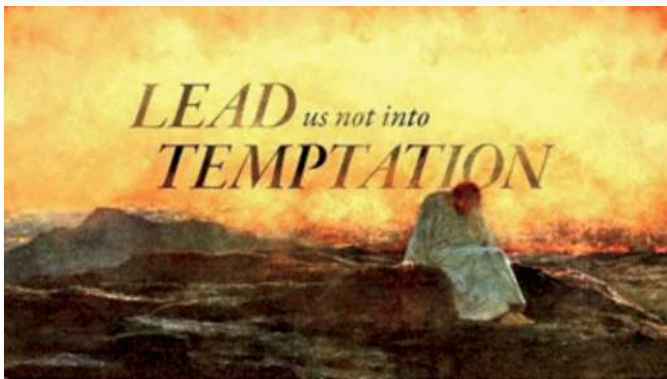
Pray for those in OCIA preparing to enter the Church at Easter and Pentecost, and look for ways to serve others with quiet faithfulness.

Lent is an invitation to clear the clutter and make room for what is real: the living presence of God, active in our lives and our parish.

*For additional Lenten prayers, devotionals, Stations of the Cross meditations, and parish resources, visit [stmarknc.org/Lent](http://stmarknc.org/Lent).*



## ADORATION



### Lead us not into temptation

By: Donna Fodale/ Adoration Coordinator

Sometimes when I am praying the Our Father, I seem to be just saying the words without giving them any thought. Those are the times I imagine the Lord inviting me to slow down and to pay attention.

Today was one of those days. When I slowed down the words “lead us not into temptation” seemed to jump out at me and I knew why.

Lent is a time of sacrifice, penance and going deeper into the mystery of our faith.

It doesn't matter what we do this Lent to draw closer to the Lord, we know that there will always be the temptation to give up what we wanted so much to offer up for the Lord. Let's face it temptation is not something that is limited to the season of Lent. It is something that usually happens to us daily. Even Jesus was tempted.

During Lent though, many of us seem to have a deeper resolve to overcome certain temptations that are placed before us. As Catholics we are blessed with many spiritual weapons to help us fight against the temptations that we encounter.

We have the Sacraments. Mass, receiving the Eucharist and Confession are right at the top of things that are offered to us when we are in spiritual battle. Offering prayers like the Rosary and the prayer of St. Michael for protection are help as well.

There are also the graces that we receive when we sit before the Lord in Adoration. It is in Adoration we often receive peace, strength and the grace of perseverance. Adoration is a place where the Lord pours out his goodness upon us. He places on our hearts the desire to overcome the things that keep us from growing in our relationship with Him.

So, this Lent, when you are feeling tempted...in any way, stop in the chapel and share these things with the Lord. Ask Him for the graces that you need to stay on course and offer Him that very prayer that he gave to us Himself, the Our Father, emphasizing the words, lead us not into temptation.

Please prayerfully consider become an Adorer of the Blessed Sacrament. The time you spend in front of the Blessed Sacrament is like lifting the veil between heaven and earth. It is transforming.

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

To be a sub please contact: [donna.fodale@stmarknc.org](mailto:donna.fodale@stmarknc.org)

## Practicing the Virtues: Temperance

As we approach the beginning of Lent, the Church invites us to pause, not to fast or sacrifice yet, but to prepare the heart. The virtue that stands at this threshold is temperance.

Temperance is often misunderstood as mere self-denial or moderation. In truth, it is the virtue that orders our desires toward God. Temperance teaches us when to say yes, when to say no, and how to choose rightly among good things so that nothing takes the place of God in our lives.

The cover image of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane reveals temperance at its deepest level. In the garden, Jesus experiences fear, sorrow, and the natural desire to avoid suffering. Yet He does not act on impulse or emotion. Instead, He entrusts His will to the Father, praying, “Not my will, but yours be done.” This surrender—restraining even a rightful desire in obedience to God—is perfect temperance.

In our church, the pillar marked Temperance stands near the transept exit, quietly positioned between courage and fortitude. This placement reminds us that temperance is an interior decision that makes perseverance possible. Before we can endure hardship or act with courage, we must first learn to govern our desires and place them in God's hands.

The opposite of temperance is not enjoyment, but excess or disorder, allowing habits, comforts, or emotions to rule us. As Fr. John has encouraged us this year, growth in the Christian life often means allowing God to transform these tendencies into virtues that bring true freedom.

As we stand on the edge of Lent, temperance invites us to look honestly at our lives and gently ask: What is shaping my choices? What am I holding too tightly? In learning to surrender our will to God, we make room for grace to lead us more deeply into conversion.



## Mardi Gras FEAST BEFORE THE FAST!

**Donut Sunday**

**Sunday, February 15**

Beads and donuts after all morning Masses.

**Coffee & Conversation**

**Tuesday, February 17**

after the 9 am Mass

Coffee, tea, pastries, and beads.





# PARISH LIFE

## Mass Schedule Changes

The parish offices will be closed on **Monday, February 16**, in observance of President's Day. We will have 7 and 9 am Mass.

**Wednesday, February 18**, is Ash Wednesday. Please see the Mass schedule on page 6; note that there will not be confession before Masses on this day.

**Next Sunday, February 22**, is a Faith Formation class weekend, and the parking lot will be very crowded prior to and during the 11 am Mass. Class begins at 9:30 am and ends at 10:45 am. We appreciate your patience.

## Singles 45+ Fellowship Event

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

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

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](mailto: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, 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.

\$35 for adults and \$15 for children 6-12 years of age. No charge for children under 6/ Tickets 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!

Scan code for online tickets.

Contact: Ray FitzGerald 704-992-1702 [aohmeck2@aol.com](mailto:aohmeck2@aol.com)

Bernard Holst 704-507-3261 [bholst560@gmail.com](mailto:bholst560@gmail.com)



## Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry is made up of St. Mark parishioners who have received extensive training to give emotional and spiritual care/ 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. Stephen Ministry is here to serve you, so you don't have to suffer alone. For more information, please contact either Leanne Vaccaro at [leanne.vaccaro@stmarknc.org](mailto:leanne.vaccaro@stmarknc.org) or Rich Kull at [rkkull1216@gmail.com](mailto:rkkull1216@gmail.com) or visit our website at [stmarknc.org/Stephen-ministry](http://stmarknc.org/Stephen-ministry).

## 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 [rwearsch.em@gmail.com](mailto:rwearsch.em@gmail.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](mailto:oneilljm6@gmail.com)

## The Holy Face of Jesus and the GOLDEN ARROW

**When:** Every Tuesday, 5:30 pm

**Where:** St. Mark Catholic Church

This prayer was dictated by Jesus to Sr. Marie de St. Pierre in 1843 as the means to glorify the Most Holy Name of God and to repair His wounds caused by blasphemy:

*"May the most holy, most sacred, most adorable, most incomprehensible and ineffable Name of God, be forever praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified in heaven, on earth, and in the hells, by all the creatures of God, and by the Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Amen."*

Sister was astonished by the word "hells." Jesus did not use the singular "hell" but the plural "hells," indicating to her that this includes purgatory where souls are being purified for their entrance into the eternal bliss of heaven where they will see God "face to Face." Torrents of grace pour out for sinners each time this prayer is prayed. Pray it often!

Join us Tuesday evenings. Pray in reparation for the glory of God and for the conversion of sinners, that no souls will be lost!

**If you trust in God,  
you too shall live**

SIRACH 15:15



# STEWARDSHIP



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.

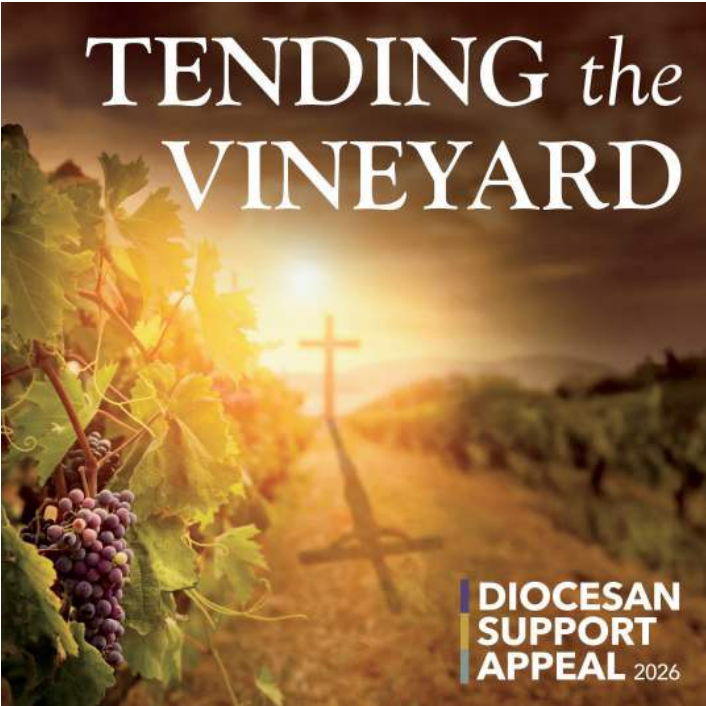


[www.stmarknc.org/online-giving](http://www.stmarknc.org/online-giving)

## Stewardship Spotlight: Stewarding the Commandments, Growing in Christ, Serving One Another, Sharing Our Gifts, and Connecting in Faith

Our first reading from Sirach outlines our choice to keep the commandments. If we choose to keep them, they will save us, but whatever we choose will be given to us. It is also a great reminder that nothing we do, or fail to do, is hidden from God: "Immense is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power, and all seeing... he understands man's every deed." (Sirach 15:18-19)

Jesus' teaching in the Gospel today reminds us that He came to fulfill the commandments. As His disciples, we are warned about the consequences of failing to obey the law and the rewards of obeying and teaching the commandments. "Whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:19) May we be quickly reconciled to God and our brother when we fail and so offer our gifts without spot or blemish.

# TENDING *the* VINEYARD

**DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL 2026**

## Introducing: 2026 Diocesan Support Appeal: *Tending the Vineyard!*

This month begins the 2026 Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) for the Diocese of Charlotte. This annual appeal provides critical funding that supports more than 50 ministries and programs across Western North Carolina, ministries that no single parish could carry out alone.

Your gifts to the DSA help:

- Feed the hungry, comfort the poor, and support families in crisis
- Form young people in faith through campus & youth ministry
- Educate children, adults, and catechists in the ways of our Catholic faith
- Foster vocations to the priesthood and permanent diaconate
- Strengthen multicultural ministries and diocesan events like the Eucharistic Congress
- Provide counseling, disaster relief, refugee services, senior ministries, and more.

The theme for this year's appeal is "Tending the Vineyard", a reminder that, as followers of Christ, we are called to care for one another and to grow God's Kingdom with charity and kindness.

Please take time to pray over your gift and give generously to the 2026 Diocesan Support Appeal. Your support changes lives and helps advance the mission of Christ throughout our diocese.

To donate, please go to [charlottediocese.org/dsa](http://charlottediocese.org/dsa) or scan the code. Thank you.







## What Catholics Believe About Lent: Fasting, Ashes, and 40 Days Explained

Join Fr. Scott Bailey, a priest in the Archdiocese of Denver, as he answers some of the Internet's most asked questions about Lent. What is Lent? Why is it 40 days long? Or even, what should I give up for Lent? Find out in this episode of What Catholics Believe.

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



## RIGHT TO LIFE



Join the Spring 2026 40 Days for Life campaign of **prayer, fasting and community outreach to stop abortion!** This **peaceful, prayerful and law-abiding** effort involves spending time in prayer outside a local abortion facility. The campaign goes from Ash Wednesday, February 18 to Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026. It will be held at 700 S. Torrence Street, Charlotte. The times are from 7 AM to 7 PM, Monday through Saturday.

**Scan the QR code for more information and to sign up.** Even one person praying can inspire mothers to choose life!



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

# **Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry** **Friday, February 27!** 2 More: Save the Date March 13 and 27



# 4:30-7:30 pm

## dine in/drive-thru

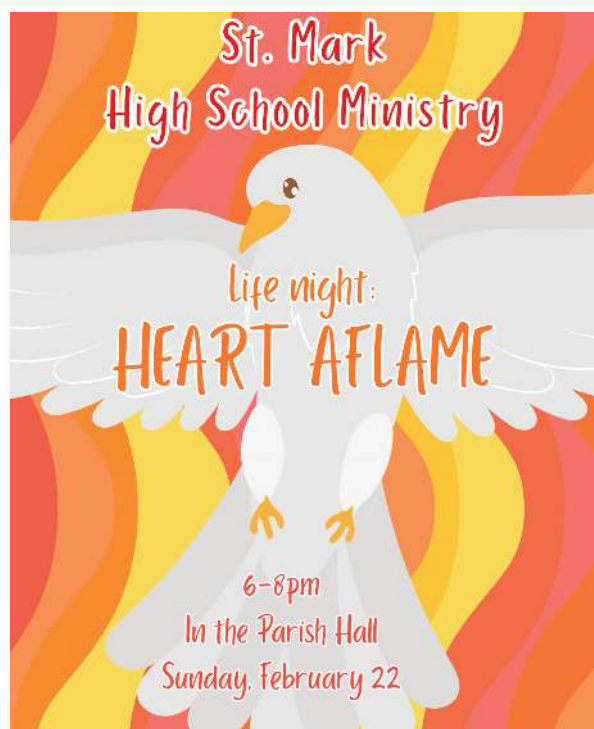
**Flounder Plate: \$20**  
**Pasta meal or Mac-n-Cheese: \$5**  
**Baked Cod Fish Option: \$20**  
*Includes drink, tax and fees.*  
**Tickets at the Door — in the Parish Hall**  
**Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale**  
**\$1 for homemade desserts; bring cash**

**Present this coupon for**  
**Special Offer: Free Pasta Meal**  
**(with coupon and purchase of 2 fish meals)**





## YOUTH MINISTRY



## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

### Young Adult Ministry: Bonfire & Craft Night

When: Sat., Feb., 21, 6-10 pm

Where: Parish House

Young adults ages 21-39 are invited to gather with our Young Adult Ministry for a Bonfire and Arts and Crafts Night on Saturday, February 21, from 6-10 pm at the Parish House.



Young adulthood can be a busy and transitional season of life, and the Church recognizes the importance of community during this time. Coming together allows young Catholics to build friendships, share faith, and support one another as they grow in relationship with Christ and His Church.

Our Young Adult Ministry offers opportunities for both faith formation and fellowship, helping young adults stay connected to parish life and to one another. Whether you are new to the parish or looking for deeper connection, you are warmly invited to join us.



To stay informed about upcoming events, join the group through their GroupMe by scanning the QR code.

For more information, contact Sean Meier at [seanmeier1@gmail.com](mailto:seanmeier1@gmail.com).

## FAMILY MINISTRY



**"A family that prays together stays together, and a world at prayer is a world at peace."**

**-Venerable Father Patrick Peyton-**



## FIRST SATURDAY DINNER

**Saturday, March 7, 2026**

**6:15 - 8:00 PM**

**In the parish hall**

**Buffet Dinner, Games, Prayer, Fellowship**

**Open to Singles, Couples, and Families**

**\$5 per person**

**Please RSVP by March 3, 2026**

\*Scan QR Code for details on food



**SAINT MARK  
FAMILY MINISTRY**



# Saint Mark Parish Directory

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

## Pastor

Very Rev. John T. Putnam, JV

## Parochial Vicars

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

## Deacons

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

## Director of Parish Operations

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

## Sacristan

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

## Liturgy Coordinator/Office Manager

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

## Annulments, OCIA

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

## Sacrament Admin/Adoration

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

## Director of Sacred Music

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

## Director of Finance

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

## Hispanic Ministry Coordinator

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

## Stewardship Coordinator

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

## Calendar Management

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

## Director of Evangelization and Catechesis

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

## Director of Faith Formation

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

## Elementary Faith Formation Coordinator

Maddie Torres  
elementary@stmarknc.org  
704-948-0231, Ext. 124

## Middle School Youth Ministry/ Confirmation Coordinator

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

## High School Youth Ministry Coordinator

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

## Director of Preschool

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

## Office of Faith Formation

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

## Tribunal Advocate

Rod Brostrom  
rnbrostrom@rcdoc.org

## Bulletin Team

bulletin@stmarknc.org

## Mass Schedule

Mon/Tue/Thu: 7, 9 am  
Wed: 7 am, 6:30 pm  
Fri: 7, 9 am  
7 pm (Spanish)  
Sat: 9 am, 5 pm Vigil  
Sun: 7:30, 9, 11 am, 1 pm (Español), 5 pm

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

Please use Online Giving or mail in your offertory

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

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

## Confessions

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

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

## Rosary in the Church

Tue: 7–7:30 pm

Wed: Immediately preceding 6:30 pm Mass

Sat: Immediately preceding 5 pm Mass

Sun: Immediately preceding 7:30 am Mass

## Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

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

## Hospitalization

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

## Baptisms & Weddings

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

## Financial Counseling

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

## Carolina Catholic Corner Gift & Book Store

Open daily in the Family Center

## Coffee & Conversation Social Gathering

Tuesdays, 9:30 am, Parish Hall.

## Cursillo

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

## Parishioner Assistance

### Financial:

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

### Life Crisis: Stephen Ministry

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

### Food Insecurity:

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

### Al-Anon

Ellen | 704-907-8555

### Alcoholics Anonymous

Tom | 704-604-7739

### Alateen program

Paul G. | 704-641-0654

### Divorce Support Group

For anyone going through separation and/or divorce. Meetings are held Monday evenings at 7 pm in Room 204. If parish offices are closed, meetings are held at Lowe's Foods, exit 23.  
Contact: [divorce.support@stmarknc.org](mailto:divorce.support@stmarknc.org)

## Natural Family Planning

Joe and Kathy Hack; Sympto-Thermal Method;

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

Elisabeth Laskowski; Creighton Model;

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

## Crisis Pregnancy Help

Community Pregnancy Center of Lake Norman:

704-727-0535

Catholic Charities: 704-370-3262; Birthright:

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

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

[benotafraid.net](http://benotafraid.net)

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

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





## DEL PASTOR



Las lecturas de hoy nos desafían a reflexionar sobre el verdadero estado de nuestro corazón en relación con la mayordomía. ¿Pensamos en la gestión como algo de lo que cuidamos una vez al año, simplemente como marcar casillas en una tarjeta de compromiso — o elegimos abrazarla como una espiritualidad y un modo de vida que nos permite crecer en conformidad con Cristo cada día?

Nuestra primera lectura, del Libro de Sirach, enseña que nuestro Dios bueno nos ha dado la libertad para tomar esta decisión — "Ante el hombre están la vida y la muerte, el bien y el mal, se le dará a quien él elija."

El concepto de administración nos ayuda a vivir esta elección fundamental de poner a Dios en primer lugar. La gestión no pretende ser un mero ejercicio externo en el que participemos de forma ocasional. Está pensado para ser abrazado como un modo de vida — una vida que implica una conversión continua del corazón. En nuestro pasaje evangélico de Mateo, Jesús ilustra la diferencia entre una observancia externa de la ley y una verdadera conversión de corazón, diciendo: "Habéis oído que se dijo ... no matarás... Pero os digo que quien esté enfadado con su hermano será condenado." Nuestro Señor nos pide no solo actos externos, sino un verdadero cambio de corazón. En términos de administración, eso significa ver todo como un regalo de Él, para ser usado para Su gloria y el bien de los demás.

En la próxima semana, examinemos el estado de nuestros corazones y preguntemos si hemos permitido que la administración influya en nuestra forma de vivir cada día. Cuando lo hacemos, nos abrimos a su significado más profundo y a su poder para cambiar nuestros corazones. La elección es nuestra.

### Reflexión pastoral

Agradezco la cooperación que hemos tenido con los recientes cambios en la distribución de la Comunión. Por favor, ten en cuenta que cada persona tiene derecho a elegir la forma en que recibe la Sagrada Comunión. Mientras esa elección esté en conformidad con lo que la Iglesia permite, el individuo es libre de ejercer ese derecho.

Todos tenemos preferencias y prácticas piadosas que son importantes para nosotros. Sin embargo, es importante que no juzguemos las razones por las que otra persona elige de forma diferente a nosotros. Nadie conoce el corazón de otro; Solo Dios sabe esas cosas. Claramente, si alguien hace algo impropio o sacrilego, tenemos la obligación moral de decir algo. Sin embargo, cuando otro toma una decisión legítima, es libre de hacerlo. Todos debemos ser conscientes de la importancia de ejercer la caridad, especialmente entre nosotros.

Mientras nos preparamos para embarcarnos en nuestro viaje cuaresmal, por favor, tómate un tiempo para orar y reflexionar sobre lo que necesitas (y qué no hacer) para que esta sea una Cuaresma verdaderamente fructífera. Tomarse un tiempo para la oración y la reflexión, y pedir al Señor que te guíe en la elección de tus sacrificios cuaresmales y obras de caridad, es una forma maravillosa de prepararte y recibir la plena gracia de esta temporada especial del año litúrgico.

La penitencia, por supuesto, es una parte habitual de la vida católica. Cada viernes a lo largo del año es un día de penitencia. Durante la Cuaresma, cada viernes es un día de abstinencia de carne; fuera de la Cuaresma, se puede elegir una forma alternativa de penitencia. El Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo son días de ayuno para quienes tienen entre 14 y 60 años. Oremos unos por otros para que nuestras observancias de Cuaresma nos ayuden a crecer en santidad, a estar más atentos a los impulsos del Espíritu y a ser instrumentos de la luz de Cristo en el mundo.



### Campaña Diocesana de Apoyo 2026 – Cuidando la Viña

Este fin de semana comenzamos la **Campaña Diocesana de Apoyo (DSA) 2026** de la *Diócesis de Charlotte*. Esta campaña anual proporciona fondos esenciales que apoyan **más de 50 ministerios y programas** en todo el oeste de Carolina del Norte — ministerios que ninguna parroquia podría sostener por sí sola.

Sus donaciones a la DSA ayudan a:

- Alimentar a los hambrientos, consolar a los pobres y apoyar a familias en crisis
- Formar a los jóvenes en la fe a través de los ministerios universitarios y juveniles
- Educar a niños, adultos y catequistas en la fe católica
- Fomentar las vocaciones al sacerdocio y al diaconado permanente
- Fortalecer los ministerios multiculturales y los eventos diocesanos
- Proveer servicios de consejería, ayuda en casos de desastre, servicios de refugio, ministerios para adultos mayores y más

El lema de la campaña de este año es **"Cuidando la Viña"**, un recordatorio de que, como seguidores de Cristo, estamos llamados a cuidarnos unos a otros y a hacer crecer el Reino de Dios con caridad y generosidad.

Por favor, tómesese un momento para orar por su donación y considere apoyar generosamente la Campaña Diocesana de Apoyo 2026. Su apoyo transforma vidas y ayuda a avanzar la misión de Cristo en toda nuestra diócesis.





## HACIENDO ESPACIO PARA SU PRESENCIA

### Despejar las distracciones. Hacer espacio para Dios.

Vivimos en un mundo que constantemente compite por nuestra atención. Entre el trabajo, la familia, las noticias, el entretenimiento y las responsabilidades diarias, es fácil que nuestra vida de fe quede en segundo plano. La Cuaresma nos invita a detenernos, mirar con honestidad nuestras vidas y elegir nuevamente hacer espacio para Dios.

El Miércoles de Ceniza recibimos las cenizas como un recordatorio humilde de quiénes somos y de quién dependemos. La Cuaresma no se trata de perfección, sino de conversión: de volver nuestro corazón hacia Dios y permitirle obrar en nosotros.

Este tiempo sagrado nos llama a despejar aquello que nos distrae, a simplificar y a crear espacio interior para la oración, el sacrificio y el amor. Al ayunar, dar limosna y orar, no nos vaciamos sin sentido, sino que hacemos espacio para que Dios nos llene con Su gracia.

La Iglesia nos ofrece tres prácticas tradicionales para vivir la Cuaresma con mayor profundidad: **la oración, el ayuno y la limosna**. Juntas, nos ayudan a volver nuestro corazón hacia Dios y hacia los demás.

La **oración** fortalece nuestra relación con Dios. Durante la Cuaresma, se nos invita a desacelerar, escuchar y dedicar tiempo intencional al Señor por medio de la oración personal, la Sagrada Escritura, la Misa y la oración comunitaria, como el Vía Crucis.

El **ayuno** nos ayuda a desprendernos de distracciones y a

recordar nuestra dependencia de Dios. Los católicos entre **18 y 59 años** están obligados a ayunar el **Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo**, permitiendo una comida completa y dos comidas pequeñas que juntas no equivalgan a una comida completa. Todos los católicos de **14 años en adelante** están obligados a abstenerse de comer carne el **Miércoles de Ceniza y todos los viernes de Cuaresma**.

La **limosna** nos llama a vivir la generosidad y la compasión. Al compartir nuestro tiempo, recursos y dones con quienes más lo necesitan, reflejamos el amor de Dios y crecemos en gratitud por todo lo que hemos recibido. Estas prácticas no están destinadas a ser una carga, sino una invitación a permitir que Dios actúe más profundamente en nosotros.

En la parroquia de San Marcos, la Cuaresma es una invitación a caminar juntos como comunidad de fe. A lo largo de estas semanas, se nos ofrece oportunidades para profundizar en la oración, participar en la vida sacramental y servir a los demás con un corazón generoso.

Ya sea asistiendo a la Misa diaria o dominical, participando en la oración comunitaria, o dedicando tiempo al silencio y la reflexión personal, cada pequeño paso cuenta. Dios se encuentra con nosotros precisamente en esos momentos sencillos y fieles.

La Cuaresma nos prepara para la Pascua, para la alegría de la Resurrección. Al hacer espacio para Dios ahora, permitimos que Su presencia transforme nuestras vidas y renueve nuestro corazón.

Te invitamos a vivir esta Cuaresma con intención. Deja que sea un tiempo de renovación, esperanza y encuentro con el Señor.

## Oportunidades en español durante la Cuaresma

**Misa de Miércoles de Ceniza en español:** 7:30 pm

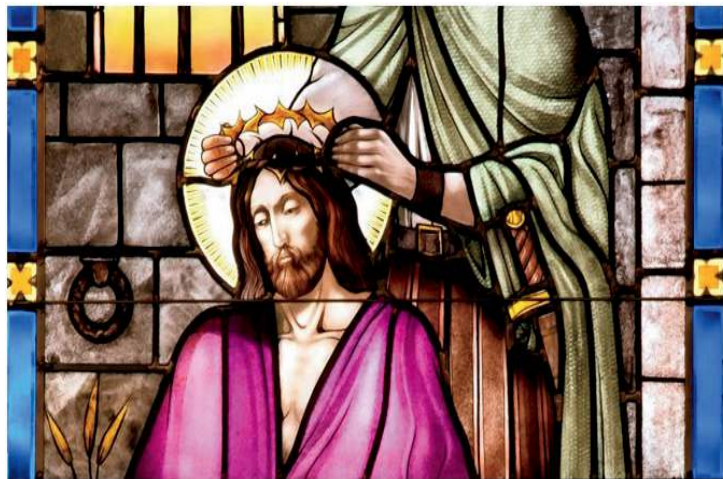
**Vía Crucis en español:** viernes a las 7:30 pm

(No habrá Misa los viernes a las 7:00 pm)

Todos los demás programas, estudios y actividades cuaresmales se ofrecerán en inglés.

Para más recursos, reflexiones y detalles, visita:

[www.stmarknc.org/Lent](http://www.stmarknc.org/Lent)



## Lecturas de las Escrituras

Para la Semana del 15 de Febrero de 2026

<b>Domingo</b>	<b>Sexto Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario</b> Sir 15, 16-21; Sal 118, 1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34; 1 Cor 2, 6-10; Mt 5, 17-37 o Mt 5, 20-22. 27-28. 33-37
<b>Lunes</b>	Stgo 1, 1-11; Sal 118, 67. 68. 71. 72. 75. 76; Mc 8, 11-13
<b>Martes</b>	Stgo 1, 12-18; Sal 93, 12-13a. 14-15. 18-19; Mc 8, 14-21
<b>Miércoles</b>	<b>Miércoles de Ceniza</b> Jol 2, 12-18; Sal 50, 3-4. 5-6a. 12-13. 14 y 17; 2 Cor 5, 20-6, 2; Mt 6, 1-6. 16-18
<b>Jueves</b>	Dt 30, 15-20; Sal 1, 1-2. 3. 4 y 6; Lc 9, 22-25
<b>Viernes</b>	Is 58, 1-9; Sal 50, 3-4. 5-6a. 18-19; Mt 9, 14-15
<b>Sábado</b>	Is 58, 9-14; Sal 85, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6; Lc 5, 27-32
<b>Domingo</b>	<b>Primero Domingo de Cuaresma</b> Gén 2, 7-9; 3, 1-7; Sal 50, 3-4. 5-6a. 12-13. 14 y 17; Rm 5, 12-19 o Rm 5, 12. 17-19; Mt 4, 1-11






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