



**FIRST SUNDAY
IN LENT**

“Lord, teach us to pray.”

— Luke 11:1

**PRAY THE STATIONS
OF THE CROSS**

Fridays in Lent

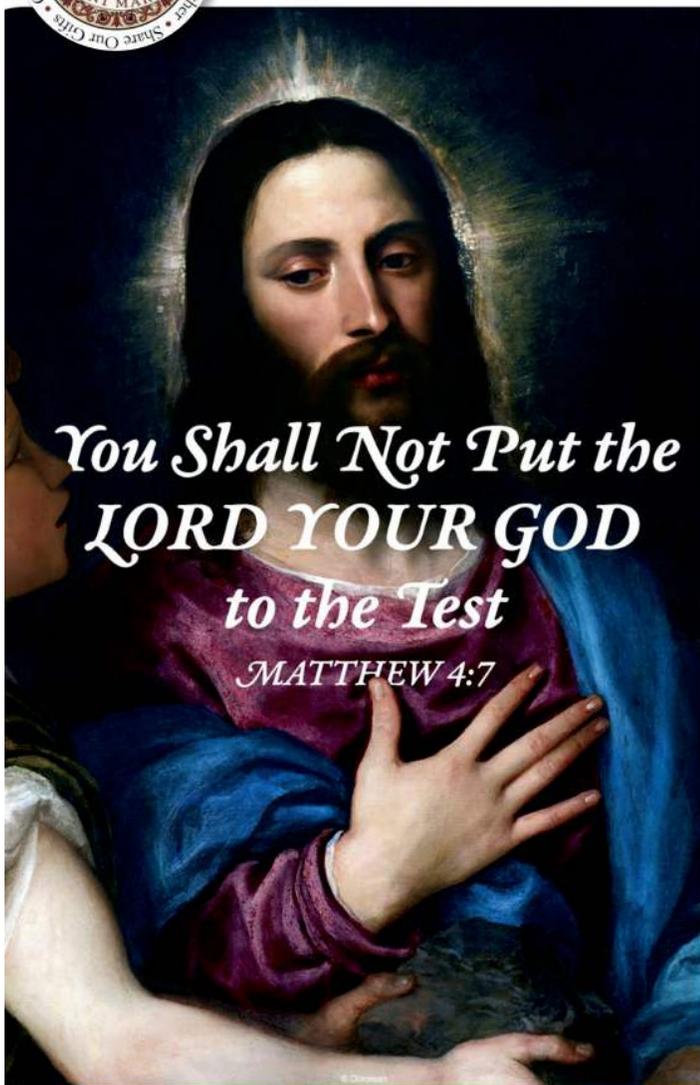
12:10 pm • 7 pm • 7:30 pm Spanish

SAINT MARK

First Sunday in Lent, February 22, 2026, Español página 15



WELCOME TO ST. MARK!



*You Shall Not Put the
LORD YOUR GOD
to the Test
MATTHEW 4:7*

Today is the First Sunday in Lent! Readings can be found in the music handouts or on page 836 of the St. Augustine Hymnal. The Order of the Mass can be found on page 7.

As we enter into the season of Lent, our readings and church traditions remind us of our need for salvation. They also invite us to remember and appreciate the cost of this gift and our call to steward it well. *"But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by that one person's transgression the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one person Jesus Christ overflow for the many."* (Romans 5:15)

"Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." (Luke 12:48)

As Jesus persevered through temptations in our Gospel reading today, he invites us to follow His example to the best of our abilities. May we worship and serve the Lord as disciples, responding with gratitude that honors the gift of salvation we did not earn but overflows to us by grace.

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



As we begin the season of Lent, the Church invites us into 40 days of renewal and refocusing. Lent is not only about giving something up, but about making room for God. For Christian stewards, this season invites us to reflect on how we are using the time entrusted to us.

In the first reading, Adam and Eve turn their attention away from God and allow doubt to take root. Trust is replaced by self-reliance, and the harmony of the Garden is broken. These same temptations remain familiar when our days become crowded with distractions that pull us away from God.

In the Gospel, Jesus shows us a different path. In the desert, He gives time to prayer and fasting, remains grounded in Scripture, and places His complete trust in the Father. By intentionally giving time to God, Jesus resists temptation and remains faithful.

Lent invites us to do the same. By making space in our schedules for prayer, Scripture, and quiet reflection, we grow in trust and gratitude. When we place God at the center of our time, stewardship becomes a way of life, and our hearts are prepared to celebrate the joy of Easter. © *Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2026*

Pastoral Pondering – Folks often asks the priests, “Father, how do you pray?” The question is not that different from the request the apostles made of Jesus in Luke 11:1-4 when they asked Him to teach them how to pray. There are lots of possibilities out there. One of those that I find particularly helpful is *Lectio Divina* or *Divine Reading*. What follows is a brief outline of the method that some may find helpful.

In our busy lives, it's easy to read the Bible quickly or skim through it like any other book. But what if we approached Scripture not just to learn information, but to encounter God personally? That's the heart of *Lectio Divina*, an ancient Catholic practice of "divine reading" that transforms ordinary reading into a profound prayerful conversation with the Lord.

Lectio Divina dates back to the early monastic communities, encouraged by figures like St. Benedict, and has been a cherished method in the Church for centuries. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes, it engages our thoughts, imagination, emotions, and desires to deepen our faith and draw us closer to Christ (CCC 2708). Today, it's experiencing a beautiful renewal as more Catholics rediscover this simple yet powerful way to let God's Word speak directly to our hearts.

The traditional steps of *Lectio Divina* are four (sometimes with a fifth for action):

1. **Lectio (Reading)**

Choose a short passage of Scripture—perhaps from the day's Gospel or a favorite psalm. Read it slowly, perhaps aloud, several times. Listen attentively, as if God is speaking the words to you personally. Pay attention to any word, phrase, or image that stands out or "shimmers" in your heart. This isn't about covering ground; it's about letting the Word sink in.

2. **Meditatio (Meditation)**

Reflect on what you've read. Ask: What is this passage saying? What does it reveal about God? How does it connect to my life right now? Ruminates on it like a cow chewing cud—slowly, thoughtfully. Let your mind and heart ponder the meaning, imagining yourself in the scene if it's a Gospel story.

3. **Oratio (Prayer)**

Turn your reflection into a personal conversation with God. Respond honestly: Thank Him, praise Him, ask for forgiveness, seek guidance, or simply tell Him how the Word moves you. This is where prayer flows naturally from the Scripture—it's no longer just words on a page, but a dialogue with the living God.

4. **Contemplatio (Contemplation)**

Rest quietly in God's presence. Let go of words and thoughts. Simply be with Him, allowing His love to envelop you in silence. This is the moment of resting in the peace that comes from encountering the Lord.

Some traditions add a fifth step: ****Actio (Action)****—carrying the grace received into daily life through concrete changes or acts of charity.

Lectio Divina is for everyone—not just monks or scholars. You don't need hours; even 15-20 minutes can be transformative. Try it with the Sunday readings or start with a single verse like "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). Find a quiet spot, invite the Holy Spirit to guide you ("Come, Holy Spirit"), and open your heart.

As Pope Benedict XVI encouraged, *Lectio Divina* helps us hear God's voice in Scripture and respond with our whole lives. In a world full of noise, this ancient practice invites us to slow down, listen deeply, and grow in intimacy with Christ.

Why not give it a try this week? Your soul—and God—will thank you.



Congratulations to Eric Kennedy!

I wanted to take a moment to recognize Eric Kennedy, who was installed as an acolyte last weekend as part of his formation for the permanent diaconate. This marks an important step forward along the way.

Eric was instituted as an acolyte by Bishop Michael Martin at St. Patrick Cathedral, along with thirteen other men from across the Diocese of Charlotte. As an acolyte, he is entrusted with assisting at the altar and helping ensure the reverent celebration of the Eucharist.

Please keep Eric in your prayers as he continues his formation. God willing, he will be ordained to the diaconate in the future, and we are grateful for his generous response to the Lord's call.

To read more about the Rite of Acolyte and the institution ceremony, visit the Catholic News Herald at catholicnews herald.com.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please Pray For

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

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

Our Faithful Departed

May God's grace be with the family of our recently deceased.

Marilyn Hayes

Mother of Heather Martin

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, February 23

7 am † Lalchand Uppal
9 am † John Huber

Tuesday, February 24

7 am † Gail Williamson
9 am St. Mark Parishioners

Wednesday, February 25

7 am † Gail Williamson
Judie Fall-Lasser
6:30 pm Purgatorial Society Mass

Thursday, February 26

7 am † James J. Williams
9 am † Alexander Colon

Friday, February 27

7 am † Irene St Pierre
9 am † Michael Warner

Saturday, February 28

9 am † Anna Veltri
5 pm † Edward & Marie Hopeck

Sunday, March 1

7:30 am St Mark Parishioners
9 am † Lucy Encinareal
11 am † Philip L. Sumner
1 pm Nathan Hartle Family
4:30 pm † Timothy Noone
5 pm † Jose Mendoza

† Deceased

READINGS | WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22

Sunday

First Sunday of Lent

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

Monday

Lev 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday

Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday

Jonah 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

Friday

Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday

Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 Tim 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

Pray for Our Military

Air Force: C4C Andrew Bauders; Airman Gregory Burke; Amn Antonio Diaz; Lt. Col. Michael Dragon; 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 Rusciolli

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.

Saint Mark Purgatorial Society

Saint Mark offers the opportunity for you to have your loved ones remembered at a monthly Wednesday 6:30 pm Mass for a calendar year. Names enrolled for the year will also be placed on the altar during our Masses in November. To enroll a family member, please contact the Office at 704-948-0231 or complete the form on our website at www.stmarknc.org/purgatorial-society.

The following members were remembered on January 28, 2026

John Carpino

Albert McNulty & Doloris Wilt McNulty

The following members will be remembered on February 25, 2026.

All the Souls in Purgatory

Alcides Zamudio

Leonardo Antonio Pierro

Marilyn Hayes

STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

LOVE IS... *Discipleship and Stewardship*

Love is at the very heart of the Gospel. Jesus calls each of us, not first to a task or obligation, but into a relationship- to walk with Him, to be shaped by His love, and to share that love with the world.

When Jesus calls His disciples, He does not simply say "Do something for me." He says, "Follow me." From that "yes" flows everything else: our prayer, our service, our generosity, and our care for one another. This is the spirit of Christian stewardship, a life lived in grateful response to God's love.

Over the next few weeks, our parish will begin a Stewardship Renewal journey, an invitation for each of us to reflect prayerfully on our call to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Stewardship is not simply about what we do or give; it is about how we live each day in response to God's love.

Next weekend, prior to Mass, you will hear lay witness talks from fellow parishioners who will share how following Jesus and offering their God-given gifts of time, talent, and treasure has deepened their faith and strengthened our parish.

In the weeks following, we will invite you to make commitments for this year which will help you to renew or begin to live a stewardship way of life.



PARISH MISSION: MARCH 16-18

LENTEN PARISH MISSION | DOMINICAN FRIARS OF THE ANGELICUM IN ROME

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

16-18 MARCH 2026 | 10AM & 7PM
BILINGUAL EUCHARISTIC HEALING SERVICE
18 MARCH (WED) | 10AM & 7PM



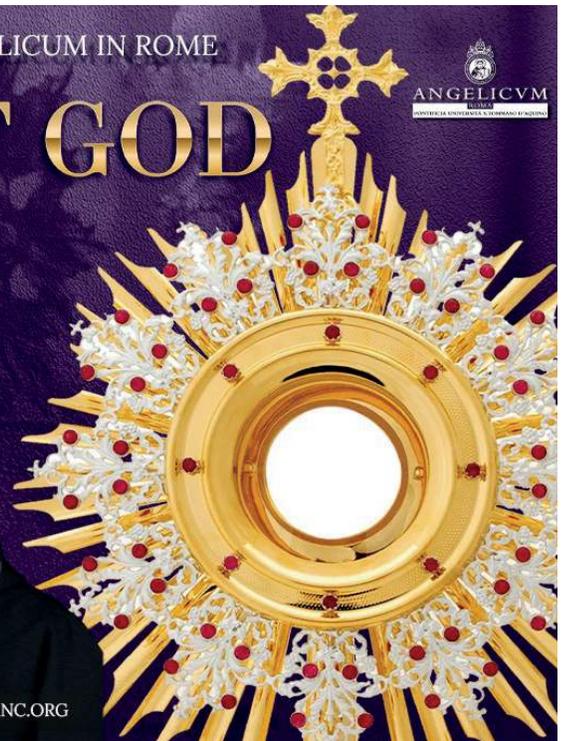
FR. BENEDICT CROELL, O.P.
EASTERN PROVINCE, ROME



FR. CORWIN LOW, O.P.
WESTERN PROVINCE, ROME



FR. ELIAS FORD, O.P.
WESTERN PROVINCE
SAN FRANCISCO



ANGELICVM
INSTITUTUM
OFFICINA UNIVERSITATIS TORONTO-ENSARUM

SAINT MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH - 14740 STUMPTOWN RD, HUNTERSVILLE, NC 28078 | WWW.STMARKNC.ORG

HOLY SEASON OF LENT: RETURNING TOGETHER

RETURNING TOGETHER

As we begin the season of Lent, the Church invites us to return, not alone, but together.

Lent is not meant to be lived privately or quietly in isolation. It is a season the whole parish walks as one body.

We fast together. We pray together. We give together. And we return to the Lord together.

The Church gives us concrete practices to guide these forty days: deeper prayer, intentional fasting, and generous almsgiving. At St. Mark, those practices take visible and communal form.

The Sacrament of Confession is offered regularly throughout Lent, inviting each of us to experience the mercy of Christ personally and sacramentally. There is no greater freedom than a clean heart. Each Friday, we gather for the Stations of the Cross: walking with Christ in His Passion and remembering the depth of His love for us.

And throughout Lent, our parish family comes together for simple meatless meals followed by Stations. These evenings are hosted by the Knights of Columbus, our homeschool families, and our Hispanic Ministry. But they are more than food. They are fellowship. They are prayer. They are parish life lived well.

Some meals are fundraisers. Some are freely offered. All are opportunities to sit at table together, observe the Lenten discipline of abstinence, and then enter the church as one family at 7 pm (7:30 pm in Spanish) to pray the Stations of the Cross.

Virtue: Repentance

As we begin the season of Lent, the Church invites us to form the foundational virtue of repentance.

Throughout the year, our parish reflects on the virtues named on the pillars that surround the nave and sanctuary—virtues that shape daily discipleship and steady growth in the Christian life.

On this first Sunday of Lent, however, the Church asks us to pause. Repentance is not one of the virtues named on our pillars because it is not an end point. It is the turning of the heart that prepares us to live every other virtue more faithfully.

Repentance is not shame or self-condemnation. It is the willingness to turn back toward God with honesty and trust. In the Gospel, Jesus enters the desert and confronts temptation directly, remaining rooted in the Father's will. Lent begins by forming this same posture in us.

As Fr. John has reminded us, growth in the spiritual life often happens when God transforms vices into virtues. The opposite of repentance is not sin itself, but resistance—avoiding self-examination or delaying change out of fear or pride. Repentance replaces resistance with humility and openness to grace.

This first week of Lent simply invites us to turn—to listen, to be honest, and to allow God to begin again with us. Repentance prepares the soil so that perseverance and renewal can take root in the weeks ahead.



Reparation Through Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus

When: Every Tuesday at 5:30 pm; Where: St. Mark Catholic Church

Reparation is the act of making amends; giving satisfaction for a wrong done. The “wrong done” in this case is blasphemy against God Who gratuitously created and sustains us because He loves us. Pope St. John Paul once referred to Reparation as the “unceasing effort to stand beside the endless crosses on which the Son of God continues to be crucified”. Not much has changed since 1845 when Our Lord revealed to Sr. Marie de St. Pierre that blasphemers were continuing to crucify Him daily by their sins.

The purpose of the Apostolate of Reparation through the Holy Face here at St. Mark is the same as that stated by the holy Sister: “By virtue of this Holy Face, offered to the Eternal Father, we can appease His anger, and obtain the conversion of the wicked and of blasphemers.” (Golden Arrow p. 157)

Moving forward during this Holy Season of Lent, consider offering a daily act of reparation to God for the conversion of sinners, and join with us on Tuesday evenings to offer prayers of reparation for the grievous sins of blasphemy, idolatry, and irreverence.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

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

Confessional Procedure

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

- Green: Open
- Red: In Use
- No Light: Confessional Closed

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

Daily Confession Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

- 6:15–6:45 am
- 8:15–8:45 am

Wednesday

- 6:15–6:45 am
- 6–7 pm*

Friday

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

Saturday

- 8:15–8:45 am
- 3–5 pm*

Sunday

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

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



HOLY SEASON OF LENT: WALKING TOGETHER

WALKING THESE FORTY DAYS TOGETHER

Lent is not meant to be lived alone. While much of our prayer and sacrifice happens quietly, the Church also calls us to gather — to pray side by side, to share simple meals, and to strengthen one another in faith.

At St. Mark, Lent unfolds in Friday Stations of the Cross, shared meatless meals, our Parish Mission, and the sacred days of Holy Week. Some gatherings support parish ministries. Others are freely offered. All are invitations.

Make time this Lent not only for personal sacrifice, but for shared prayer and community. Lent leads us to Easter, and we travel there together.



Friday, February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27
Stations of the Cross,
12:10, 7, 7:30 pm
(Spanish) in the church

February 27 
Knights of Columbus Fish Fry and
Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale

Sat. Feb. 28/Sun. March 1
Stewardship Renewal Weekend

Friday, March 6 
Soup & Stations Meal (free)

March 7
First Saturday Devotion Dinner

March 13, & 27 
Knights of Columbus Fish Fry and
Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale

March 16-18
Parish Mission: The Presence of God

March 19 
Feast of St. Joseph Mass and Reception

Friday, March 20
Dinner and Stations Family Meal (free)

March 21
AOH St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Show

March 27 
Knights of Columbus Fish Fry and Ladies
Auxiliary Bake Sale

March 29
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

March 31
Diocese of Charlotte Chrism Mass

Lent is not about doing everything perfectly. It is about showing up. Returning. Beginning again.

We invite you to make this Lent a season of presence: in the confessional, in the pew, and at the parish table.

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

Huge Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale

\$1 for homemade desserts; cash or check only

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

Support the good work of our Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary. Baked Fish. Fried Fish. Pasta. Fries. Baked Goods.

SEMI-ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT

**St. Mark Parish
2025-2026
Financial Report Fiscal Year
to Date: December 31, 2025**

Overview

The Finance Council is pleased to present the six-month financial report for St. Mark Parish for the fiscal period ending December 31, 2025. As part of our commitment to responsible financial stewardship, the parish maintains cash reserves equal to three months of operating expenses to protect against unexpected declines in offertory income.

Capital Improvements

During this period, the parish made significant progress on several major capital initiatives. Improvements include upgrades to the Family Center, enhancements to the parish network and computer systems, and continued construction of the new Rectory.

Ministries and Outreach

St. Mark Parish continues to actively support more than 82 ministries and apostolates, as well as numerous outreach and charitable organizations that serve our parish and the wider community.

Online Giving and Stewardship

Online giving now represents 54% of total parish contributions. In addition, many parishioners have utilized tax-free charitable distributions from retirement accounts to support the Church. Parishioners have shown tremendous generosity not only through regular offertory collections but also through participation in multiple special collections.

For more information or to contribute online, please visit www.stmarknc.org/online-giving.

St. Mark Catholic Church Report to Parishioners December 31st, 2025		
PARISH STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	Fiscal YTD 12/31/2025 Actual	2025-2026 Full Year Budget
Operating Revenue		
Offertory	\$ 2,186,331	\$ 4,236,000
Unrestricted Donations & Other Support	\$ 54,809	\$ 84,000
Fundraising Income	\$ 3,367	\$ 2,500
Religious Formation Fees	\$ 36,813	\$ 77,050
Day Care/Preschool Tuition and Fees	\$ 137,051	\$ 305,000
Other Fees and Misc Income	\$ 97,216	\$ 161,525
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 2,515,587	\$ 4,866,075
Operating Expenses		
Ministry & Liturgy	\$ 531,258	\$ 1,004,136
Religious Formation	\$ 283,130	\$ 643,718
Charity/Outreach	\$ 103,583	\$ 278,250
School Subsidy	\$ 382,102	\$ 783,646
Preschool Program Expenses	\$ 156,183	\$ 339,020
Other Parish Program Expenses	\$ 6,535	\$ 10,300
Facilities Expenses	\$ 306,559	\$ 603,297
Diocesan Assessments	\$ 229,898	\$ 480,559
General & Administrative Expenses	\$ 379,600	\$ 722,873
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 2,378,848	\$ 4,865,799
Total Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 136,739	\$ 276
PARISH STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
	Fiscal YTD 12/31/2025	
Assets		
Checking Account Balances - Operating	\$ 517,702	
Checking Account Balances - Restricted	\$ 1,803,602	
Savings Accounts - Operating	\$ 908,792	
Savings Accounts - Restricted	\$ 1,279,565	
Endowment Accounts	\$ 18,536	
Receivables and other Current Assets	\$ 29,485	
Property, Plant and Equipment	\$ 18,509,666	
Total Assets	\$ 23,067,348	
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 28,745	
Custodial Obligations	\$ 173,612	
Other Liabilities	\$ 59,219	
Total Liabilities	\$ 261,575	
Net Assets	\$ 22,805,773	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 23,067,348	

Thank you for your continued commitment and generosity as we strive to GROW, SERVE, SHARE, and CONNECT within our community. As Catholics, we are called to share our financial gifts with those in need, embodying Jesus' teaching in Luke 3:11: 'Whoever has two tunics should share with the one who has none, and whoever has food should do likewise.' Giving with a generous heart allows us to participate in the compassion and love of Christ.

Notes on Revenue and Expenses:

Operating Revenue: Operating revenue exceeded budget projections by 2%, while expenses were 3% under budget, resulting in a positive overall financial performance.

Offertory Budget: The 2025-2026 offertory budget is based on actual offertory collections from the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Fiscal year-to-date General Offertory collections are currently 1% below budget.

Religious Formation Expenses: These expenses include Faith Formation programs, Youth Ministry, Adult Education, and the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

DSA Shortfall: The parish did not meet its 2025 Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) goal, resulting in a shortfall of \$16,710, which must be covered by operating cash. **The 2026 DSA goal is \$425,648. Parishioners are encouraged to make pledges and contributions early to help avoid a shortfall.**

Priest Retirement Fund: Contributions for the Priest Retirement assessment are currently short by \$24,607. Parishioners are encouraged to help close this gap through donations to the Priest Retirement Fund.

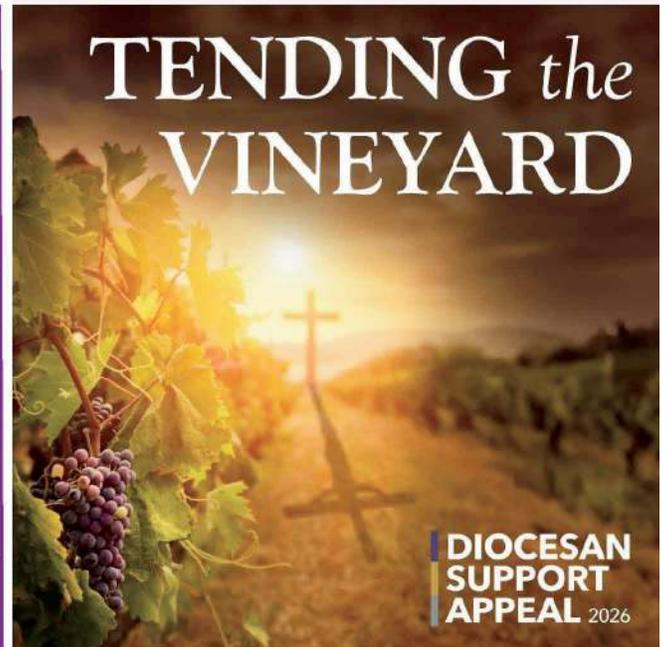
Growing Home Capital Campaign: In October 2024, St. Mark Parish launched the Growing Home Capital Campaign to fund the construction of a new Multipurpose Building, Adoration Chapel, and Rectory. We are pleased to report that the campaign has exceeded its \$9,700,000 goal, with pledges totaling more than \$10,500,000. Construction of the new Rectory is well underway, made possible by the generous support of 1,807 parish families.

Growing Home



Finance Council

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Pastor | Father John Putnam |
| Finance Director | Richard Cataldo |
| Director of Parish Operations | Scott Bruno |
| Finance Council Chair | Amy Permenter |
| Council Member | Deacon Tom McGahey |
| Council Member | Mario Martinez |
| Council Member | Rick Szafran |
| Council Member | John Gentile |
| Council Member | John Moore |
| Council Member | John Panizza |
| Pastoral Council Representative | Chris Fernandez |



Diocesan Support Appeal & Lenten Almsgiving

By now, you should have received a letter from Bishop Michael Martin inviting you to support the Diocesan Support Appeal. As we begin the holy season of Lent, we are called to renew our hearts through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

The Diocesan Support Appeal is a meaningful way to live out Lenten almsgiving by sharing our blessings with the wider Church. Through your generosity, vital ministries of our diocese are sustained, serving those in need, forming future priests, and strengthening parishes and families across western North Carolina.

Please give prayerful consideration to how you will respond. Pledge envelopes are available in the pews. You may complete one today and place it in the offertory basket. If you prefer to give online, gifts may be made at charlottediocese.org/dsa.

As we reflect on the many ways God has blessed us, may we offer a proportionate and grateful gift in return, trusting that God is never outdone in generosity.



ADORATION

The Eucharist, my Constant Companion, my Anchor in the Storm

By: Donna Fodale/Adoration Coordinator

Did you ever have a conversation with someone sharing your concerns about things going on in the world or in your own personal life and they cut you off saying, you should have more faith, you should pray more, you should do this or that. I just want to say, please stop should (ing) on me. People should (ing) on others happens all the time. I often find myself doing it at times.

We know though, that their intentions are good and if we are honest with ourselves, we know they are right in many ways. However, for some of us, especially those who have been through some things, we may not always find it easy to respond in the ways mentioned above and that is okay.

The question is how can we get to that place of trusting in the Lord more? How can we be at peace even when everything around us seems to be falling apart?

In the title of this piece there are two things that jumped out at me when I was reading some articles on Adoration.

Making the Eucharist your constant companion is such a beautiful thought and one that is completely possible. By receiving the Lord at Mass, spending time with Him in Adoration and looking for Him in all those you encounter each day, you are making Him part of everything that you do. This is where He becomes your constant companion.

The Eucharist, an anchor in the storm reminds me of the scripture:

Matthew 14:29-31

He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.

But when he saw how [strong] the wind was, he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" I just love this Scripture. This happens to all of us and how easy it is to take our eyes off the Lord when the storm is coming at us. Yet, this is what He calls us to. We need to learn to trust Him more.

By spending time with the Lord in Adoration, it helps our trust in Him grow. Being in His presence reveals to us a Lord

BECOMING CATHOLIC: OCIA

During Lent, there's a group in our parish that often goes unnoticed, even though they're at the heart of what the Church is doing in this season: those preparing to enter the Catholic Church through OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults).

For our catechumens (those who are not yet baptized), Lent marks a special phase of their journey called **Purification and Enlightenment**. This is a time of deeper prayer, conversion, and preparation of heart as they get closer to receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

As part of this process, the Church celebrates the **Scrutinies** on the **3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent**. These are special readings used during the Mass (usually 9 am), that the "elect" use to examine their lives to make room for Christ. They ask the Lord to strengthen them against sin and draw them more fully into His life. The readings focus on Christ as Living Water, Christ as the Light of the World, and Christ as Resurrection and Life.

During Lent they will also receive two beautiful "handing on" rites:

The Presentation of the Creed & The Presentation of the Lord's Prayer (Our Father)

These are moments when the Church entrusts to them the words of faith and prayer that will soon become their own as full members of the Body of Christ.

Please keep our OCIA participants in your prayers during Lent, especially our catechumens as they prepare for Baptism. A simple prayer, a kind word, or a warm welcome at Mass can make a bigger impact than you think.



that loves us, that hears us and Who wants to be a constant companion to us in our everyday lives, in every trial and storm that comes our way. Not just in the good times and not just in the bad, but at all times. By spending time with the Eucharistic Lord, we come to trust more and love more.

Please prayerfully consider sacrificing one hour a week to spend time with the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration. We need one additional Adorer for the hours listed below.

Tuesday 10 pm to 11 pm

Wednesday 1 am to 2 am

Thursday 6 pm to 7 pm

Register at: stmarknc.org/adoration

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



MARRIAGE MINISTRY: DATE NIGHT CHALLENGE



Spring Date Night Challenge Three Months. Three Dates. One Stronger Marriage.

At St. Mark, we believe strong marriages build strong families, and strong families build a strong parish. Marriage does not grow by accident. It grows through small, intentional moments of connection.

This spring, we are inviting couples to take a simple but powerful step: one date per month for three months.

That's it.

Three intentional evenings to reconnect, laugh, talk, and remember why you chose each other.

How It Works

- Scan the QR code to sign up for the Spring Date Night Challenge.
- Go on one date each month in March, April, and May.
- At the beginning of each month, you will receive an email with creative date ideas and conversation starters to make it easy.
- Keep it simple. Keep it meaningful.
- Email a photo of the two of you on your date to christine.wisdom@stmarknc.org.

Please include your first and last names, phone number, and the month of the date you are submitting. Each date submitted counts as one entry to win.

Prizes Include

\$50 gift card to a local restaurant; Date Night Gift Basket; One complimentary couple's admission to our upcoming Marriage Retreat (tentatively June 27th.)

Make it fun. Make it intentional. Make it happen.

Keep dating. Your marriage is worth it.



PARISH LIFE

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

P Saint PATRICK'S DINNER

SATURDAY MARCH 21 6:30 - 10 P.M.

ST. MARK MSGR. KERIN FAMILY CENTER

Featuring

IRISH SINGER MICKEY SPAIN
IRISH STEP DANCERS
SILENT AUCTION

Tickets will be sold after Masses
on Feb. 14, 15, 28
and March 1, 14 & 15.

\$35 for adults; \$15 for children 6-12;
no charge for children under 6.

Scan to order tickets online or visit aohmeck2.org

Questions? Email aohmeck2@aol.com or call 704-992-1702



Maybe Lent isn't about what you give up...

it's about what you add.

Lenten Resources: stmarknc.org/lent

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Mark
High School Ministry

Life night:
HEART AFLAME

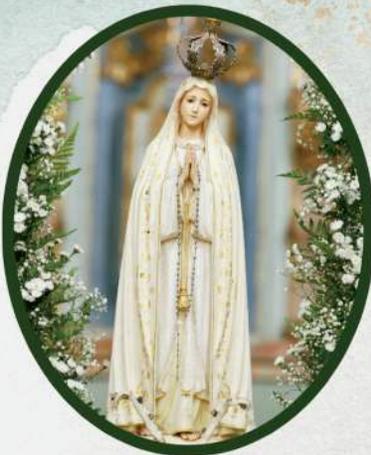
6-8pm
In the Parish Hall
Sunday, February 22

SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 22-26

**RAINFOREST
FALLS**
VBS '26

Exploring the Nature of God

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



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

St. Ann Lenten Parish Mission: The Four Last Things

All are invited to St. Ann for *The Four Last Things*: Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell. These essential teachings of the Church invite us to reflect on eternity, conversion, and the hope found in Christ.

The mission will be led by Fr. Chad Ripperger, SMD, whose preaching combines theological clarity with practical spiritual insight, encouraging a deeper examination of the spiritual life.

The mission will take place at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church (1400 Suther Rd., Charlotte, NC):

Friday, March 6

- Confessions at 6:00 pm
- Sermon at 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 7

- Confessions at 7:00 pm
- Sermon at 7:00 pm

All are encouraged to attend and to take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. More information: stacharlotte.com/lentenmission

YOUNG ADULT Sand Volleyball



Young adults are invited to join the Catholic Sports Sand Volleyball League, a fun and competitive opportunity to connect, stay active, and build community

with other young adults this spring.

The league will take place on Sundays beginning March 8, from 4–7 pm, at Renaissance Park. Games will be played in a casual 6v6 format with a competitive 4v4 option, making this league welcoming for a range of skill levels.

This league is designed especially for Young Adult Co-Ed teams, offering a relaxed and social environment rooted in fellowship and community. It's a great way to meet new people, strengthen friendships, and enjoy time outdoors together.

Teams are encouraged to register in advance. To sign up, scan the QR code or visit www.catholicsports.net for registration and information.

Come out, bring a team, and enjoy an afternoon of volleyball, laughter, and community.



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.



Healed and Restored Second Annual 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



Christina Latini 7th Annual Memorial 8K Run, 2 Mile Walk & Virtual Run

When: Sat., March, 21; 8 am

Where: Grand Oak Elementary School

On the day before she was to receive her Holy Communion, Friday May 6, 2016, we lost our daughter, Christina, to a disease called Myocarditis. To keep Christina's spirit alive, we decided to create a non-profit organization called Operation Sweet Tooth. Our mission is to honor Christina by supporting the youth in our community. Our goal is to raise funds, toys, personal items, and school supplies for the children in our community who are sick, impoverished, displaced, homeless, or just need their spirits lifted. Additionally, it is our goal to bring awareness to heart health and help protect our children and patrons in public parks and settings by providing life - saving AEDs.

It's of great importance that we turn our pain into purpose. We cannot do this alone. We need your help in running, walking, volunteering and/or praying for us to have a successful event which allows us to be the light. Please pray and consider supporting our cause. Thank you!

Information: <https://latinimemorial8k.raceroster.com>
www.operationsweettooth.org

Contact: Greg Latini, 704-641-0895, greg@operationsweettooth.org

Volunteer Opportunity: Food Pantry Parking Attendant

When: Thursdays, 9 am – 12 pm

Where: Nourish Up Food Pantry located at Huntersville United Methodist Church on Stumptown Rd.

Join us in making a difference! Nourish Up is looking for a friendly, dependable volunteer to help manage their parking lot on Thursday mornings.

What you'll do:

- Welcome clients with a smile and assign arrival numbers
- Keep the flow of guests moving smoothly into the building
- Assist with loading groceries into cars

Your help ensures families receive food with dignity and care. If you enjoy meeting people and lending a hand, this is the perfect role for you!

Contact Lauren Steele at laurenfloyd@verizon.net to get started.

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 McCarron
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

Liturgist/Office Manager

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

Annulments, OCIA

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

Sacrament Admin/Adoration

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

Director of Sacred Music

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

Director of Finance

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

Hispanic Ministry Coordinator

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

Stewardship Coordinator

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

Calendar Management

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

Director of Evangelization and Catechesis

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

Director of Faith Formation

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

Elementary Faith Formation

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

Middle School Youth Ministry/

Confirmation Coordinator

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

High School Youth Ministry Coordinator

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

Director of Preschool

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

Office of Faith Formation

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

Tribunal Advocate

Rod Brostrom
rnbrostrom@rcdoc.org

Bulletin Team

bulletin@stmarknc.org

Mass Schedule

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

All Masses may be watched live: stmarknc.org/livestream
Please use Online Giving or mail in your offertory
stmarknc.org/Online-Giving

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

Confessions

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

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

Rosary in the Church

Tue: 7–7:30 pm
Wed: Immediately preceding 6:30 pm Mass
Sat: Immediately preceding 5 pm Mass
Sun: Immediately preceding 7:30 am Mass

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

Available in the Monsignor Bellow Adoration Chapel in the Family Center. See stmarknc.org/adoration for complete details.

Hospitalization

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

Baptisms & Weddings

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

Financial Counseling

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

Carolina Catholic Corner Gift & Book Store

Open daily in the Family Center

Coffee & Conversation Social Gathering

Tuesdays, 9:30 am, Parish Hall.

Cursillo

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

Parishioner Assistance

Financial:

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

Life Crisis: Stephen Ministry

stmarknc.org/stephen-ministry

Food Insecurity:

Parish Office
stmarknc.org/assistance or
Emily.Bixler@stmarknc.org or
704-948-0231, Ext. 102

AI-Anon

Ellen | 704-907-8555

Alcoholics Anonymous

Tom | 704-604-7739

Alateen program

Paul G. | 704-641-0654

Divorce Support Group

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

Contact: divorce.support@stmarknc.org

Natural Family Planning

Joe and Kathy Hack; Sympto-Thermal Method;

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

Elisabeth Laskowski; Creighton Model;

creightonmodel@gmail.com; 484-332-9084

Crisis Pregnancy Help

Community Pregnancy Center of Lake Norman:

704-727-0535

Catholic Charities: 704-370-3262; Birthright:

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

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

benotafraid.net

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

Reversal 877-558-0333 or abortionpillreversal.com



DEL PASTOR



Al comenzar la Cuaresma, la Iglesia nos invita a 40 días de renovación y reenfoque. La Cuaresma no es solo renunciar a algo, sino hacer espacio para Dios. Para los mayordomos cristianos, esta temporada nos invita a reflexionar sobre cómo estamos utilizando el tiempo que se nos ha

confiado.

En la primera lectura, Adán y Eva apartan su atención de Dios y permiten que la duda echa raíces. La confianza es reemplazada por la autosuficiencia y la armonía del Jardín se rompe. Estas mismas tentaciones siguen siendo familiares cuando nuestros días se llenan de distracciones que nos alejan de Dios.

En el Evangelio, Jesús nos muestra un camino diferente. En el desierto, dedica tiempo a la oración y al ayuno, permanece arraigado en las Escrituras y deposita su completa confianza en el Padre. Al dedicar intencionadamente tiempo a Dios, Jesús resiste la tentación y permanece fiel.

La Cuaresma nos invita a hacer lo mismo. Al reservar espacio en nuestros horarios para la oración, las Escrituras y la reflexión silenciosa, crecemos en confianza y gratitud. Cuando ponemos a Dios en el centro de nuestro tiempo, la mayordomía se convierte en una forma de vida, y nuestros corazones están preparados para celebrar la alegría de la Pascua. © Consultores de Gestión Católica, 2026)

Reflexión pastoral – La gente suele preguntar a los sacerdotes: "Padre, ¿cómo rezas?" La pregunta no es tan diferente de la petición que los apóstoles hicieron a Jesús en Lucas 11:1-4 cuando le pidieron que les enseñara a orar. Hay muchas posibilidades ahí fuera. Uno de los que encuentro especialmente útil es *la Lectio Divina* o *Lectura Divina*. A continuación, se presenta un breve resumen del método que a algunos les puede resultar útil.

n nuestras vidas ajetreadas, es fácil leer la Biblia rápidamente o hojearla como cualquier otro libro. Pero, ¿y si nos acercáramos a las Escrituras no solo para aprender información, sino para encontrarnos con Dios personalmente? Ese es el corazón de la Lectio Divina, una antigua práctica católica de la "lectura divina" que transforma la lectura ordinaria en una profunda conversación de oración con el Señor.

La Lectio Divina se remonta a las primeras comunidades monásticas, fomentada por figuras como San Benito, y ha sido un método muy apreciado en la Iglesia durante siglos. Como señala el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, involucra nuestros pensamientos, imaginación, emociones y deseos para profundizar nuestra fe y acercarnos a Cristo (CIC 2708). Hoy, está experimentando una hermosa renovación a medida que más católicos redescubren esta forma sencilla pero poderosa de dejar que la Palabra de Dios hable directamente a nuestros corazones.

Los pasos tradicionales de la Lectio Divina son cuatro (a veces con una quinta para la acción):

1. Lectio (Lectura)

Elige un pasaje corto de las Escrituras—quizá del Evangelio del día o de un salmo favorito. Léelo despacio, quizá en voz alta, varias veces. Escucha con atención, como si Dios te estuviera hablando las palabras personalmente. Presta atención a cualquier palabra, frase o imagen que destaque o "brille" en tu corazón. No se trata de cubrir terreno; se trata de dejar que la Palabra se asiente.

2. Meditatio (meditación)

Reflexiona sobre lo que has leído. Pregunta: ¿Qué dice este pasaje? ¿Qué revela sobre Dios? ¿Cómo se conecta con mi vida ahora mismo? Reflexiona sobre ello como una vaca masticando cuds—despacio, pensativamente. Deja que tu mente y tu corazón reflexionen sobre el significado, imaginándote en la escena si es una historia del Evangelio.

3. Oratio (Oración)

Convierte tu reflejo en una conversación personal con Dios. Responde honestamente: Dale las gracias, alabadle, pídele perdón, buscad guía o simplemente dile cómo te mueve la Palabra. Aquí es donde la oración fluye de forma natural desde las Escrituras: ya no son solo palabras en una página, sino un diálogo con el Dios vivo.

4. Contemplatio (contemplación)

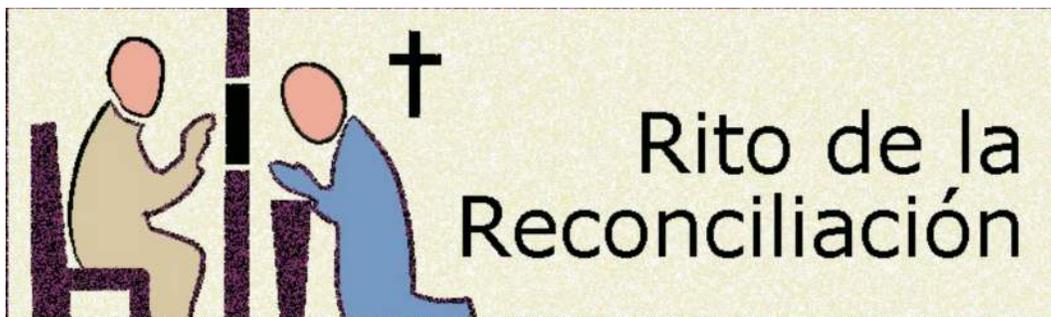
Descansa tranquilamente en presencia de Dios. Suelta palabras y pensamientos. Simplemente estate con Él, permitiendo que Su amor te envuelva en silencio. Este es el momento de descansar en la paz que surge al encontrarse con el Señor.

Algunas tradiciones añaden un quinto paso: **Actio (Acción)**—llevar la gracia recibida a la vida diaria mediante cambios concretos o actos de caridad.

La Lectio Divina es para todos, no solo para monjes o eruditos. No necesitas horas; Incluso 15-20 minutos pueden ser transformadores. Pruébalo con las lecturas dominicales, o empieza con un solo versículo como "Estate quieto y sabe que yo soy Dios" (Salmo 46:10). Busca un lugar tranquilo, invita al Espíritu Santo a guiarte ("Ven, Espíritu Santo") y abre tu corazón.

Como animó el Papa Benedicto XVI, la Lectio Divina nos ayuda a escuchar la voz de Dios en las Escrituras y a responder con toda nuestra vida. En un mundo lleno de ruido, esta antigua práctica nos invita a desacelerar, escuchar profundamente y crecer en la intimidad con Cristo.

¿Por qué no lo intentas esta semana? Tu alma—y Dios—te lo agradecerán.



TEMPORADA SANTA DE CUARESMA: CAMINANDO JUNTOS

Caminando estos Cuarenta días juntos

La Cuaresma no está hecha para vivir sola.

Aunque gran parte de nuestra oración y sacrificio ocurre en silencio, la Iglesia también nos llama a reunirnos — a orar lado a lado, a compartir comidas sencillas y a fortalecernos mutuamente en la fe.

En San Marcos, la Cuaresma se desarrolla en los viernes en las Vías Crucis, comidas compartidas sin carne, nuestra Misión Parroquial y los días sagrados de la Semana Santa. Algunas reuniones apoyan ministerios parroquiales. Otros se ofrecen libremente. Todas son invitaciones.

Dedica tiempo esta Cuaresma no solo para sacrificios personales, sino para la oración compartida y la comunidad. La Cuaresma nos lleva a la Pascua, y viajamos juntos.



Viernes, 27 de febrero, 6, 13, 20, 27 de marzo
Vías del Vía Crucis,
12:10, 7, 7:30 pm (en español) en la Iglesia

Viernes, 27 de febrero 
Venta de Pastelería de Pescado y Auxiliar de Mujeres de los Caballeros de Colón

Sábado, 28 de febrero/domingo, 1 de marzo
Fin de semana de renovación de la gestión

Viernes, 6 de marzo 
Comida de sopa y estaciones (gratis)

7 de marzo
Cena de Devoción del Primer Sábado

Viernes, 13 y 27 de marzo 
Venta de Pastelería de Pescado y Auxiliar de Mujeres de los Caballeros de Colón

16-18 de marzo
Misión Parroquial: La Presencia de Dios

19 de marzo
Fiesta de San José Misa y Recepción
Viernes, 20 de marzo 
Cena y Comida familiar en las estaciones (gratis)

21 de marzo
AOH Cena/Espectáculo del Día de San Patricio

27 de marzo 
Venta de Pastelería de Pescado y Auxiliar de Mujeres de los Caballeros de Colón

29 de marzo
Domingo de Ramos de la Pasión del Señor

31 de marzo
Misa crismática de la Diócesis de Charlotte

La Cuaresma no consiste en hacerlo todo a la perfección. Se trata de presentarse. Regresando. Empezando de nuevo.

Os invitamos a que esta Cuaresma sea una temporada de presencia: en el confesionario, en el banco y en la mesa parroquial.



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
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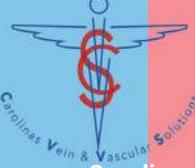


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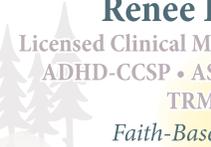


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