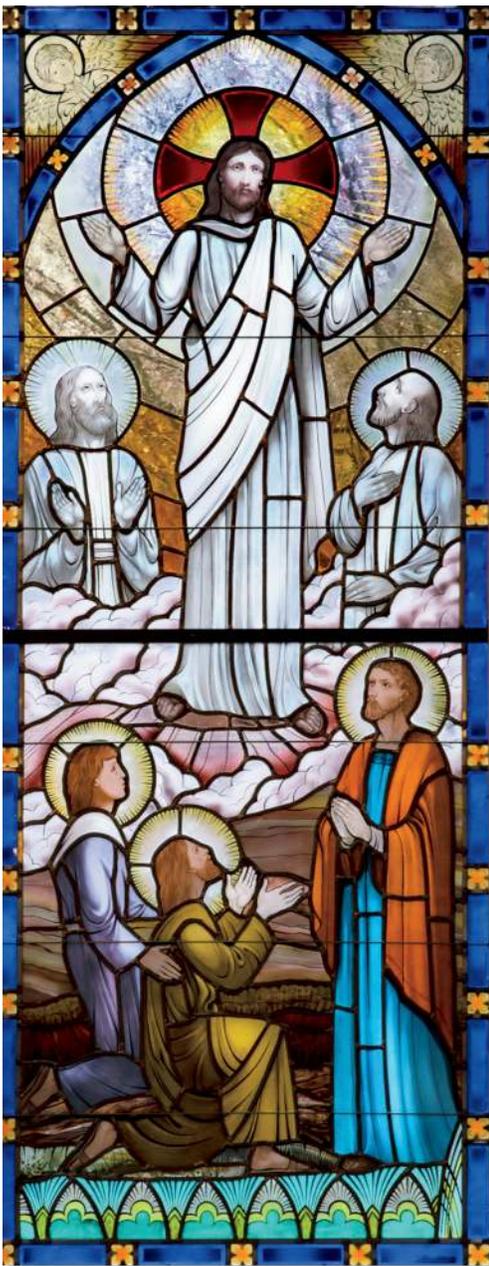




SAINT MARK

Second Sunday of Lent, March 1, 2026



WELCOME TO ST. MARK!

Today is the Second Sunday of Lent! Readings can be found in the music handouts or on page 839 of the St. Augustine Hymnal. The Order of the Mass can be found on page 7.

The image on our cover is taken from one of the stained glass windows in our church, depicting the Fourth Luminous Mystery of the Rosary, the Transfiguration of the Lord.

Our stained glass window captures this moment of radiance, Christ at the center, bathed in light, the apostles below in awe. The vivid reds and golds surrounding His halo remind us that divine glory is not distant, but breaking into our world even now.

As you pray in our church this week, take a moment to look at this window. Let it draw your eyes upward. Let it remind you that Lent is not merely about what we give up, but about what God reveals. In the Rosary, when we meditate on this Luminous Mystery, we ask for the grace to see Christ more clearly and to follow Him more faithfully.

May this season help us to recognize His glory and to listen.

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

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.

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



Our readings for this second Sunday of Lent offer us, as Christian stewards, the motivation to continue our 40-day journey toward deeper holiness.

The first reading from the book of Genesis describes God's call to Abram (who would later be called Abraham). God instructs Abram to leave his home and set out to a

land that God had chosen for him. Abram's response is an ancient example of good stewardship. Instead of clinging to his comfortable home and way of life, he recognizes that all he has is a gift from God, puts his trust in God, and obeys. And God rewards him, saying, "I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."

To "be a blessing" is the true aim of a stewardship way of life. It is also an excellent way to live out the season of Lent. The sacrifices we take on, the spiritual disciplines we practice, and the extra acts of service we perform during this season — all give glory to God and transform our lives into a blessing for others.

Lest we grow weary on this path, our Gospel passage today, from Matthew, offers us a powerful image of the great God we serve. It is the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus, when our Lord reveals Himself in His true glory and the Father says, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." The apostles who witnessed this were awestruck. But our loving Savior reassured them saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid."

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us take these two verses, "Listen to him," "Rise, and do not be afraid" to heart.

Let us rely on God's strength to aid us in our spiritual disciplines as we move through Lent. We will arrive at Easter with deeper holiness, as a blessing to God and others — and as better stewards of all God's gifts to us. © Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2026)

Pastoral Pondering – Stewardship holds profound importance in **Catholic teaching** because it is fundamentally an expression of discipleship and a grateful response to God's immense love and generosity. Catholics believe that **everything**—our lives, time, talents, treasure (material resources), the earth itself, and all creation—belongs to God as the Creator and Owner. We are not owners but **stewards**, entrusted with these gifts to manage responsibly, not for selfish purposes but to honor God, serve others, and build His Kingdom.

This concept is rooted in Scripture and has been articulated clearly by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in their 1992 pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. The bishops describe a Christian steward as one who:

- Receives God's gifts **gratefully**
- Cultivates them **responsibly**
- Shares them **lovingly** in justice with others
- Returns them **with increase** to the Lord

Stewardship is not optional for Catholics; it flows naturally from becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ. As the USCCB explains, "once one chooses to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option." It is a way of life that shapes how Catholics understand and live out their faith daily.



LOVE IS...

Discipleship & Stewardship

Our 2026 theme, **Love is... Discipleship and Stewardship**, reminds us that loving God and loving others are the two greatest commandments.

This weekend, we hear from fellow parishioners who are sharing how they live as disciples of Jesus Christ and practice stewardship as a way of life.

When Jesus calls His disciples, He does not first ask them to do something for Him. He invites them to follow Him. From that "yes" flows everything else: our prayer, our service, our generosity, and our care for one another. Stewardship is not simply about what we do or give, but about how we live each day in grateful response to God's love.

Our goals for this Stewardship Renewal include growing in relationship with Christ and responding to His invitation to follow Him more intentionally as Christian disciples and good stewards.

As you reflect on the witness shared this weekend, please begin praying with these questions throughout the week:

How is Jesus calling me to grow closer to Him?

How am I being invited to share God's gifts with love for others?

May this Stewardship Renewal deepen not only our commitments, but also our hearts, drawing us closer to Christ and to one another.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please Pray For

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

Tom Addison	Valeria Gerbasi	Lucille Modica
Julie Andrews	Daniel Gilbridge	Mary Morgan
Donald Arrup	Denny & Monica Golden	Haleigh Moss
Maryann Bahret	Tom Goodwin	Niall Mulkeen
Lizzy Balzer	Lucas Graf	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
Anne Caestecker	Hannah Hopkins	Fernando Paverpai
Michelle Chicoine	Frank Hunnicutt III	Doug Peterson
Rod Clair	Suzu Iskander	Nicole & Bruce Preiss
Jim Clark	Cathi Kalberier	Joette Reid
Beth Collins	Karen Kastl	Lindsay Remington
William Conklin	Dennis Koenig	Butch Remesch
Vic Crognale	Jackie Kopicki	Thomas Rynne
Janice D'Angelo	Aubrey Lamb	Mark Shields
Sheila DeArmon	Craig Leiker	Pennie Singh
Judy and Rich Deboer	Carolina Liendo	Todd Singh
John Deluca	Marie Ligon	Bill Sirnack
Joan Demarco	Peter R. Loew	Robert Somerville
Henry Diener	Kitty Long	Betsy Spartz
Charlie Donovan	Wilfredo Lostaunau	Mike Tolbert
Jane & William Dragoon	Margaret Lynch	Alston Torres
Joanne Errick	Utelia Malwitz	Kristine Yeager
Charles Fillipo	Tom & Colette Manente	Margaret Yeager
Al Fischlein	Melissa McDonald	Caroline Vogel
Alan Friedl & Family	Cathy Milligan	

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, March 2

7:00 am	Dan and Susan Hennessy
9:00 am	Jim and Laura Engel

Tuesday, March 3

7:00 am	Ryder and Gabrielle Babik
9:00 am	† Margaret Poorman

Wednesday, March 4

7:00 am	† Brianna Greene
	St. Mark Parishioners
6:30 pm	† Vic Crognale
6:30 pm	† Margaret McCrosson

Thursday, March 5

7:00 am	Jay and Pat Butler
9:00 am	† Charles Kern

Friday, March 6

7:00 am	† Anna Veltri
9:00 am	† Patricia Anderson

Saturday, March 7

9:00 am	† Annette Pressley
5:00 pm	† Marcella & Louis Clark

Sunday, March 8

7:30 am	Jack Nobers
9:00 am	† Patricia Kaslavage
11:00 am	† Kayla Wilson
1:00 pm	St Mark Parishioners
5:00 pm	† Josiah Emanuel Gomez

† Deceased

READINGS | WEEK OF MARCH 1

Sunday

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9
Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13; Lk 6:36-38

Monday

Tuesday

Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-21 and 23; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday

Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday

Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 16:19-31

Friday

Gen 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21;
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rm 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 or Jn 4:5-15,
19b-26, 39a, 40-42

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Air Force: C4C Andrew Bauders; Airman Gregory Burke; Amn Antonio 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.

Stewarding Your Legacy

As disciples of Christ, we are called to be faithful stewards, caring for the gifts God has entrusted to us and using them to build up His Church. This includes supporting the mission of our parish today while also helping to ensure its strength and vitality for the future.

Planned giving offers a simple, meaningful way to extend your discipleship. By remembering St. Mark in your will or estate plans, you create a legacy of faith that helps our parish continue forming disciples, serving families, and sharing Christ's love for generations to come.

To learn more, contact Karen Donahue at 704-948-0231 ext. 136 or karen.donahue@stmarknc.org.

DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL

Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA)

Last weekend, we invited our parish to support the Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA). Thank you to all who have already made a pledge or gift.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to participate, we invite you to do so this weekend. The DSA allows the Church to do together what no single parish can do on its own, especially the formation of future priests and the care of those in need throughout our diocese.

Participation is what matters most. When many members of the parish take part, even in a modest way, the responsibility is shared and the mission is sustained. When our parish goal is not met, the remaining balance must be covered from parish offertory.

DSA pledge envelopes are available in the pews and gifts may also be made online. Please prayerfully consider your participation as part of your Lenten commitment.

Thank you for your generosity and for supporting the mission of the Church.



PARKING NOTICE

Reserved Adoration Parking During Mass

Please do not park in the reserved Adoration Parking spaces if you are not a scheduled adorer for THAT hour. Those spaces are reserved for committed adorers only who are registered through the sign-up process. While we understand that finding a space can sometimes be a challenge, these spaces must be available for those who are committed to keeping watch with our Lord.

This is especially important during Mass times. Each hour has **at least** two committed adorers but there must be four spaces available to them: two spaces for the incoming adorers and two spaces for the outgoing adorers.

We understand that finding a space can sometimes be a challenge, these spaces must be available for those who are committed to keeping watch with our Lord.

If you are a scheduled adorer and you stay beyond your hour, please kindly move your car before attending another event at the church. Thank you for your understanding and respecting for those who commit to a Holy Hour every week.

Please be aware that this March 1 is a Faith Formation weekend. 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.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young Adult Ministry

If you are 21-39 and looking for ways to connect with other faithful, our Young Adult Ministry would love to have you join them. Activities include both group study and social events. This group may be especially helpful for those new to the parish or otherwise looking to build new friendships.

The best way to learn about upcoming events for this ministry is through their GroupMe address by scanning the QR code.

Contact: Sean Meier at seanmeier1@gmail.com



Young Adult Sand Volleyball

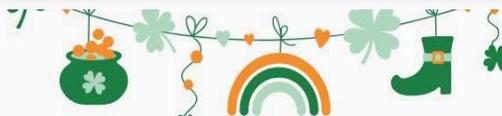
Young adults are invited to join the Catholic Sports Sand Volleyball League, taking place on Sundays beginning March 8, from 4-7 pm, at Renaissance Park. Co-ed games will be played in a casual 6v6 format with a competitive 4v4 option, making this league welcoming for a range of skill levels.

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.



MARCH EVENTS



MARCH 1	Mass and Coffee 9:00-11:30am at Waterbean Coffee
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MARCH 5	Bible Study 7:00-9:00pm, Thursdays at the parish house
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MARCH 14	Game Night 5:00-10:00pm at the parish house
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MARCH 21	Spring Cookout Details TBD
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MARCH 28	Movie Night: The Passion of the Christ 6:00-10:00pm at the parish house
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Calendar of Events

Fridays, March 6, 13, 20, 27

A Day of Abstinence

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 1

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

April 2, 3, 4, 5

Holy Triduum and Easter

the holy season of

SOUP & STATIONS

Parish Family Dinner

Friday, March 6

5:30-7 pm, Parish Hall

Stations of the Cross: 7 & 7:30 pm (Spanish)



The St. Mark Homeschool Community invites you to join us for a simple, meatless Lenten supper followed by the Stations of the Cross.

This evening is casual and free. It is truly an invitation to dine and break bread together as a parish family.

There is no charge. Just come.

A generous selection of homemade, healthy, meat-free soups and dishes will be served, along with bread, salad, peanut butter sandwiches, and beverages for all who attend.

Lent is not meant to be lived alone. Gather, share a meal, and then enter the church together to pray the Stations of the Cross.

Thank you to our St. Mark Homeschool Community for hosting this special evening for our parish.

Lenten Idea:

Children are encouraged to "follow the leader" while praying the Stations of the Cross. This way children can pray, kneel, and journey with Jesus together to the cross.



LENT

Living Lent at St. Mark

We are a week and a half into Lent.

*If you began strong, stay steady.
If you have not begun, begin now.*

Fr. John reminded us that outward signs mean nothing if they do not reflect an interior reality. Lent is not about appearances. It is about a real desire to change. These forty days are given to us so that we might grow in our relationship with Christ, become more loving and charitable toward our neighbor, and be intentional about our life with God.

Fr. Angermeyer reminded us that Lent prepares us for the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord. Throughout the year we lose focus. Habits take hold. Distractions rise to the surface. Lent is the time to purify and reorder our lives. But our penances are not about proving what we can do. They are offerings. We fast, pray, and sacrifice because we love the Lord. Even small sacrifices, when done out of love, bear great fruit.

Fr. Martinez challenged us as well. Lent is not meant to be comfortable. We are supposed to feel some detachment. We are supposed to feel the ache. It is not meant to be an easy glide into Easter. At the same time, do not promise the Lord something you cannot give. Be generous, but be honest. Give from the abundance of your heart, trusting that the Lord cannot be outdone in generosity.

The Church gives us three pillars for these forty days:

Prayer: to grow in relationship with God and to be intentional about time with Him.

Fasting and penance: to discipline ourselves and keep our desires from becoming idols.

Almsgiving: to love our neighbor in concrete ways and to be aware of those who are struggling.

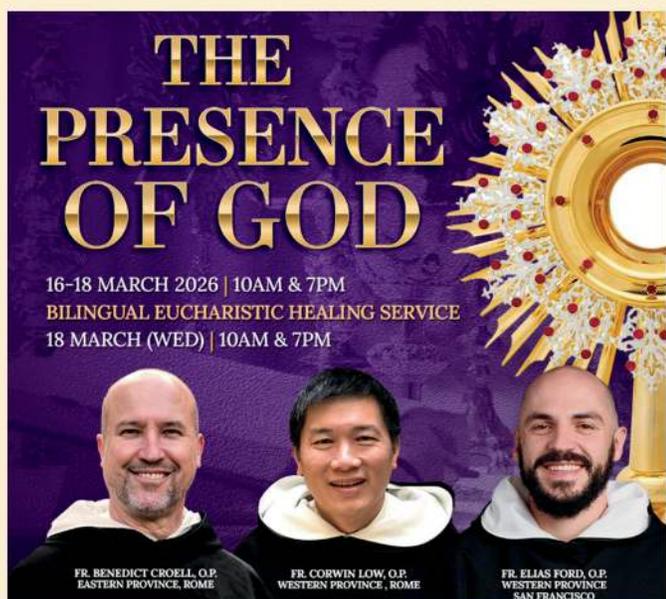
Each of us can do something. We all face temptation. We all do battle in small ways every day. If we want to grow in holiness, we must engage that battle intentionally.

If you are still struggling with what to do:

- Five minutes a day.
- Five minutes of silence.
- Five minutes of prayer.
- A small sacrifice offered with love.
- An act of charity for someone who needs encouragement.
- Come to Stations of the Cross.
- Spend time in Adoration.
- Go to Confession.
- Share a simple meal with your parish family.
- Offer your Lenten sacrifices for someone.

You do not need a perfect plan. Stay steady. Keep going.

Save the Date:
2026 Lenten Parish Mission



WHAT IS A PARISH MISSION — Why this one?

A parish mission is a special, parish-wide retreat designed to foster spiritual renewal, deepen our faith, and help us encounter Christ more personally.

This year's Presence of God parish mission comes to St. Mark with Dominican friars from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas (the Angelicum) in Rome — an international preaching team who have led this mission in parishes across the United States with powerful spiritual fruit.

Over three nights, the friars will help us see God at work in real ways: exploring Divine Providence, Christ dwelling within our souls, and most especially the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist — God with us in body, blood, soul, and divinity.

This mission isn't just another talk series. It is an invitation to encounter Jesus more deeply through prayer, preaching, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and a special Eucharistic healing service. Many who have attended these missions around the country have experienced healing, peace, and renewed zeal for their faith.

Attending can enrich your Lenten journey, deepen your relationship with Christ, strengthen your connection to our parish community, and give you practical ways to live your faith more fully every day.



For information and to sign up for the Date Night Challenge, scan code or go to stmarknc.org/marriage-ministry

SPRING *Date Night* Challenge

- One Date. Once a Month. Three Months.
- March • April • May
- Go on one intentional date each month
- Snap a photo together and submit it
- Each date = entry to win prizes
- **Our goal:** Build a culture of intentional relationship growth

Marriage Ministry and Communio at St. Mark *Building a Culture of Intentional Relationship Growth*

At St. Mark, we are committed to strengthening marriages and families, not only when there is a crisis, but as a way of life.

Marriage is not simply about compatibility or finding the “right person.” It is a vocation. It is a path of sanctification. It is the daily call to help one another grow in holiness and to walk together toward Heaven.

As Christine Wisdom reminded us at our recent Marriage Ministry gathering, marriage reflects Christ’s redemptive love. When sin entered the world, unity was wounded. But Christ redeemed marriage. It is now a sign of hope; a reflection of Christ the Bridegroom loving His Church. Our spouse is not just our partner in life, but our companion on the road to Heaven.

Strong marriages do not happen accidentally. They are built through intentional presence, gratitude, sacrifice, and friendship. When we are truly present to one another, we feel seen, known, and loved. Marriage becomes a refuge in difficult times and a witness of Christ’s love to the world.

Fr. John reminded us that strong families build strong parishes, and strong parishes strengthen the Church. Christianity spreads through community. The family is the first community. The parish is a coming together of families. When marriages are strong, faith is strengthened for generations.

As a parish, we are beginning a renewed focus on Marriage Ministry rooted in relationship, formation, and accompaniment. One simple step is our Spring Date Night Challenge:

One intentional date each month
March • April • May

Couples who participate will receive conversation prompts and encouragement to help grow friendship, communication, and connection. This is not about fixing problems. It is about nurturing love before problems arise.

We invite you to join us. Sign up for the Date Night Challenge and take one small, intentional step toward strengthening your marriage this spring.

Because when we grow in love at home, the whole Church grows stronger.



COMMUNIO

Does Your Marriage Need Help: We recommend the Retrouvaille. Not only are there retreats, but their website as valuable resources and support. This is a welcoming and loving space for couples who have been living with the misery of a failing marriage. Retrouvaille offers hope: hope that it is not too late, hope for a different and better marriage. Retrouvaille helps couples to show each other mercy through the opportunities it provides to listen, to forgive, to be reconciled and to move into their futures believing that God loves them and, with His help and their efforts, their marriages can be healed and restored. For over 48 years, Retrouvaille has provided help for marriage problems/difficulties/ crises. For more information about an upcoming couples Retrouvaille Weekend program in Charlotte area on May 1-3, email: billynfolson@gmail.com (3 L's in a row) or Call: 727-343-6701 or www.HelpOurMarriage.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

PARISH LIFE

Charter Mass for the Serra Club of Charlotte

When: Mon., March 9, 6 pm
Where: In the Church



St. Mark is honored to host a Charter Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael Martin, OFM Conv. to formally establish St. Serra of Charlotte, a new lay ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The new Serra club is affiliated with Serra International, a worldwide organization founded in 1935 that includes over 500 clubs in 48 countries. The St. Serra Club of Charlotte is the 190th club in the U.S. In collaboration with local dioceses, Serra clubs promote, foster and support vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life.

At a time when the Church depends deeply on holy and faithful priests and religious, the formation of a local Serra Club is an important step for our parish and our diocese. It is a visible sign of commitment to pray for vocations, support discernment, and to strengthen families as the first place where vocations are nurtured.

All parishioners are warmly invited to attend this Charter Mass and join us in praying that the Lord will continue to raise up shepherds after His own Heart.

For more information or to inquire about membership, please email sterracharlotte@gmail.com.

Homeschool Ministry Teaching Jobs

St. Mark Homeschool Ministry aspires to encourage and equip Catholic homeschool families by providing academic, social, and spiritual support and activities. We are expanding our high school offerings and are seeking qualified teachers, especially for the following subjects: Math: Personal Finance; History: American or World History; Electives & More

If you're interested in teaching or know someone who may be, please send recommendations to Rolanda Bradley at rabradley4@yahoo.com.

For general questions about our Homeschool Ministry, contact homeschool.ministry@stmarknc.org."

Camino Pilgrimage 2026 – Virtual Information Session

When: March 10; 7 pm
Where: Virtual on Zoom



Hello Friends! Have you ever thought of doing a Camino walk, but didn't know where to begin? Please join our **virtual informational meeting** about our **11 Day Camino Pilgrimage beginning Oct. 27!** This meeting will be a wonderful opportunity to see the itinerary, ask questions, and meet your fellow Camino Crusaders!

Feel free to **share this invitation** – all are welcome to join and learn more about this beautiful experience! We can't wait to see you online and begin this exciting journey!

Please use the following Zoom meeting information or scan the QR code:

Meeting ID: 852 6054 2368
Passcode: 298332

Contact: Donny Woodard, 980-483-3620, dwoodard@WoodardLuxuryTravel.com

More Information:
www.WoodardLuxuryTravel.com/events-trips

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Next Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry

When: Fri., March 13; 4:30 – 7:30 pm

Where: Kerin Family Center

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the first Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry last week. Your support made it a wonderful evening of fellowship, great food, and parish spirit.

The Knights of Columbus invite you to join us again for the next Fish Fry on Friday, March 13, from 4:30–7:30 pm in the Kerin Family Center. For your convenience, drive-thru service will again be available between the Kerin Center and St. Mark School.

Enjoy a delicious Lenten meal featuring fried or baked fish, along with pasta and other options for those who prefer a non-fish entrée. The Knights' Kitchen Krew will be cooking up all your favorites.

Be sure to stop by the Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale, offering homemade desserts for just \$1 each. Proceeds from the Fish Fry and Bake Sale support the good works of the Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary here at St. Mark.

Additional Fish Fry dates will be held on March 13 and March 27. We hope you will mark your calendar and join us again.

For more information, please contact: *Frank Salvato*, 703-585-0534 | gk6831@msn.com or *Ray Marr*, 704-904-3839 | raymarr44@gmail.com



BECOMING CATHOLIC: OCIA

Rite of Sending & Rite of Election: A Joyful Step Toward Easter

On February 15, our parish celebrated the Rite of Sending, prayerfully sending our catechumens and candidates to Monsignor Patrick Winslow for the Rite of Election.

Standing before the altar and surrounded by this community, they were presented as men and women who have listened to the Word of God, grown in faith, and shown a sincere desire to live fully in Christ and His Church. Their godparents and sponsors testified to their readiness. Our parish affirmed what we have witnessed: God has begun a good work in them.

The Rite of Election marks the beginning of their final period of preparation, a season of purification and enlightenment during Lent. Our catechumens will receive Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Our candidates will complete their initiation by receiving Confirmation and the Eucharist.

On February 21, St. Mark had the privilege of hosting the diocesan Rite of Election for 19 parishes from across the Diocese of Charlotte. It was a powerful moment to see the wider Church gathered together as Monsignor Winslow called each catechumen by name and declared them among the Elect chosen in Christ.

These sacred rites remind us that faith is not lived alone. The Church walks together. Our catechumens and candidates now enter Lent with special purpose. They look to us for example. We look to them and are reminded of the gift of faith and the joy of conversion.

Please continue to pray for them, for their sponsors and catechists, and for our OCIA team as they prepare for the great celebration of Easter.

May this Lent be radiant with charity and constant in prayer for all who seek Christ.



ADORATION

Eucharistic Stations of the Cross

By: Donna Fodale / Adoration Coordinator

One of the greatest devotions that can be done during Lent is praying the Stations of the Cross. I found this great piece written by Tom Hoopes, a writer in the residence of Benedictine College in Kansas on the Stations of the Cross done in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Many of you may not be able to get to Church when the Stations are prayed so I thought that this would be something that you could bring with you to the Chapel. I still would like to encourage you to make the Stations in the Church when you can.

Due to the length of the prayers, they will be broken up over three weeks. You can find all the Stations at: [In the Presence of the Sacrifice: Eucharistic Stations of the Cross—Benedictine College Media & Culture.](#)

As you pray these Stations, may our Lord lead you into the deep recesses of His most Sacred Heart revealing to you all that He endured because of His great love for you. May this love transform those of us who are lukewarm into people of great zeal and faithfulness to our dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Opening Prayer

The Church teaches that “The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one since sacrifice...The same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross is contained and is offered in an unbloody manner” in the Eucharist (CCC1367).

Lord Jesus, as we pray your Stations of the Cross in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, help us enter more deeply into your life and death for all.

The First Station: Jesus Is Condemned by Pilate

“You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above. (John 19:11)

Lord Jesus, you reminded Pilate that you are the great king who gave yourself into the hands of sinners. Now, Lord, in the Blessed Sacrament you have gone further: You have placed yourself at our disposal, putting yourself at the mercy of our freedom. Give us the grace to always treat you in the Blessed Sacrament with “respect, solemnity, and joy.: [CCC1387](#))



The Second Station: Jesus Accepts His Cross

“No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.” (John 10:18)

Lord Jesus, You willingly took up your cross for us not just on Calvary but on the night before. As we remember at Mass: “At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into His passion, He took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying...this is my body, which will be given up for you... Through the gift of your Blessed Sacrament give us the grace to accept the crosses of our lives as a sacrifice of gratitude and praise.

The Third Station: Jesus Falls for the First Time

“After this, many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him.” (John 6:66)

Lord Jesus, upon receiving the cross, you fell. Upon receiving your word about the Eucharist, many of your disciples fell away. As we remember your first fall, we ask your forgiveness for our own lack of faith in your Eucharist, and ask for the grace to keep close to the faith of Peter who stayed and believed, saying “You have the words of eternal life.”

Please prayerfully consider becoming an Adorer. Register at stmarknc.org/adoration

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

Practicing the Virtues: Perseverance



On this Second Sunday of Lent, we encounter both promise and endurance.

Abram is asked to leave what is familiar and walk into the unknown. The disciples witness the glory of Christ on the mountain. Yet neither Abram nor the apostles remain in that moment. They must continue walking.

Perseverance is the virtue that carries faith forward after inspiration fades. It is the grace to remain faithful when prayer feels quiet, when sacrifice becomes real, or when progress seems slow.

The vice that works against perseverance is discouragement. Not dramatic rejection, but the quiet interior decision to stop trying. To settle. To assume growth is no longer possible. Discouragement tempts us to stay still.

Above the right transept, near St. Anthony of Padua, the word Perseverance is written high on the pillar. It is not placed at eye level. It lifts our gaze upward. A reminder that endurance is not merely human effort. It is grace received from above.

Lent invites us not only to begin well, but to continue well. Christ strengthens us not only in moments of light, but in the steady steps that follow.

YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Mark Life Teen

Theology of the Body: Life Night Series;

- March 1 - Original Innocence
- March 8 - The Law of the Gift
- March 15 - Nuptial Meaning of the Body
- March 22 - Shame
- March 29 - Concluding Panel



All high schoolers are invited to join us for a Life Night series about the Theology of the Body by Pope St. John Paul II. Every night will include dinner, a game, a talk, small groups or prayer time, and more.

EVERY LIFE NIGHT WILL RUN FROM 6-8PM IN THE PARISH HALL.

RESPECT LIFE

North Carolina Right to Life's
28th Annual

March for Life

HALIFAX MALL RALEIGH, NC

March 7, 2026

Can you partner as a bus or trip coordinator?

Beginning at
12:15
Concluding by
3:30
Music, Rally
& March



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!



SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 22-26

RAINFOREST FALLS
VBS '26
Exploring the Nature of God



BISHOP'S YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

"I thirst"

- Jesus

Encounter our Lord through
praise and worship, Eucharistic
Adoration, talks, and confession.

Join us for a day of **fun** and **inspiration**

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 | 9:00AM-3:30PM

Location: Belmont Abbey College | Open to grades 6-12!

Registration Deadline - March 13



Belmont Abbey
COLLEGE



Scan to
register!



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Christina Latini 7th Annual Memorial 8K Run, Two 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

Converging Roads: Medicine and the Dignified Mission to Heal

When: Sat., March 21, 8 am–5:45 pm

Where: Cathedral of St. Patrick, Charlotte

Continuing education credits are available for Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Chaplains and Social Workers. This presentation is available both in person and online. It is being presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation, Belmont Abbey College and the Diocese of Charlotte Family Life Office.



"A unique responsibility belongs to health care personnel...their profession calls for them to be guardians and servants of human life." -St. John Paul II

Presentation topics will include human dignity and medicine as a healing profession, human trafficking and the response of Catholic health care, dignity of the caregiver and more! For more information or to register, scan the QR code.

Convergingroads.com/charlotte

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

When: Sat., March 21, 2026

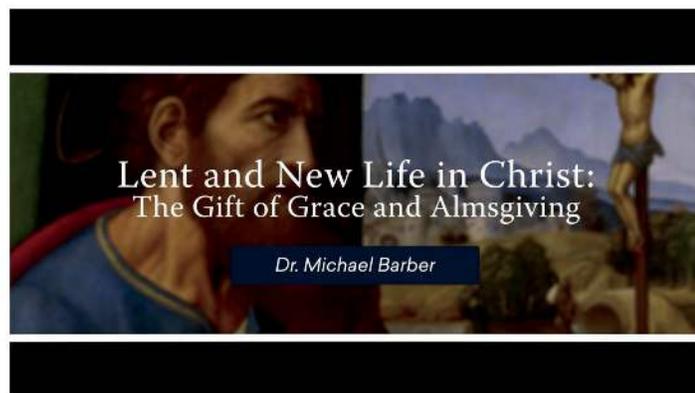
Where: Hidden Brook Sporting Club, N. Wilkesboro, NC

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.



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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 McMahan
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



Nuestras lecturas para este segundo domingo de Cuaresma nos ofrecen, como administradores cristianos, la motivación para continuar nuestro camino de 40 días hacia una santidad más profunda.

La primera lectura del libro del Génesis describe la llamada de Dios a Abram (que más tarde sería llamado

Abraham). Dios ordena a Abram que abandone su hogar y se dirija a una tierra que Dios había elegido para él. La respuesta de Abram es un antiguo ejemplo de buena administración. En lugar de aferrarse a su hogar y forma de vida cómoda, reconoce que todo lo que tiene es un don de Dios, confía en Dios y obedece. Y Dios le recompensa, diciendo: "Haré grande tu nombre, para que seas una bendición."

"Ser una bendición" es el verdadero objetivo de una forma de vida basada en la gestión. También es una excelente manera de vivir la temporada de Cuaresma. Los sacrificios que asumimos, las disciplinas espirituales que practicamos y los actos extra de servicio que realizamos durante esta temporada — todo ello da gloria a Dios y transforma nuestras vidas en una bendición para los demás.

Para que no nos cansemos en este camino, nuestro pasaje del Evangelio hoy, de Mateo, nos ofrece una imagen poderosa del gran Dios al que servimos. Es la historia de la Transfiguración de Jesús, cuando nuestro Señor se revela en su verdadera gloria y el Padre dice: "Este es mi Amado Hijo, con quien estoy bien complacido; escúchale." Los apóstoles que presenciaron esto quedaron asombrado. Pero nuestro amoroso Salvador les tranquilizó diciendo: "Levantaos y no tengáis miedo."

Mientras continuamos nuestro viaje cuaresmal, tomemos en serio estos dos versículos, "Escúchale", "Levántate y no tengas miedo". Confiamos en la fuerza de Dios para que nos ayude en nuestras disciplinas espirituales mientras avanzamos por la Cuaresma. Llegaremos a la Pascua con una santidad más profunda, como bendición para Dios y los demás — y como mejores guardianes de todos los dones de Dios para nosotros. © Consultores de Gestión Católica, 2026)

Reflexión pastoral – La mayordomía tiene una importancia profunda en la **enseñanza católica** porque es **fundamentalmente, una expresión de discipulado** y una respuesta agradecida al inmenso amor y generosidad de Dios. Los católicos creen que **todo**—nuestras vidas, tiempo, talentos, tesoros (recursos materiales), la propia tierra y toda la creación—pertenece a Dios como Creador y Propietario. No somos dueños, sino **mayordomos**, encargados de estos dones para gestionar responsablemente, no por motivos egoístas, sino para honrar a Dios, servir a los demás y construir Su Reino.

Este concepto está arraigado en las Escrituras y ha sido articulado claramente por la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (USCCB) en su carta pastoral de 1992 *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. Los obispos describen a un mayordomo cristiano como alguien que:

- Recibe los dones de Dios **con gratitud**
- Los cultiva **de forma responsable**
- Los comparte **con amor** y justicia con los demás
- Los devuelve **con aumento** al Señor

La administración no es opcional para los católicos; surge de forma natural al convertirse en discípulo de Jesucristo. Como explica la USCCB, "una vez que uno elige convertirse en discípulo de Jesucristo, la administración no es una opción." Es una forma de vida que moldea cómo los católicos entienden y viven su fe a diario.

LECTURAS DE LAS ESCRITURAS

Para la Semana del 1 de Marzo de 2026

Domingo	Segundo Domingo de Cuaresma Gén 12, 1-4a; Sal 32, 4-5. 18-19. 20 y 22; 2 Tm 1, 8b-10; Mt 17, 1-9
Lunes	Dn 9, 4-10; Sal 78, 8. 9. 11 y 13; Lc 6, 36-38
Martes	Is 1, 10. 16-20; Sal 49, 8-9. 16bc-17. 21 y 23; Mt 23, 1-12
Miércoles	Jer 18, 18-20; Sal 30, 5-6. 14. 15-16; Mt 20, 17-28
Jueves	Jer 17, 5-10; Sal 1, 1-2. 3. 4 y 6; Lc 16, 19-31
Viernes	Gén 37, 3-4. 12-13. 17-28; Sal 104, 16-17. 18-19. 20-21; Mt 21, 33-43. 45-46
Sábado	Mi 7, 14-15. 18-20; Sal 102, 1-2. 3-4. 9-10. 11-12; Lc 15, 1-3. 11-32
Domingo	Tercero Domingo de Cuaresma Éx 17, 3-7; Sal 94, 1-2. 6-7. 8-9; Rm 5, 1-2. 5-8; Jn 4, 5-42 o Jn 4, 5-15. 19b-26. 39a. 40-42

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28th Anual
Marcha por vida
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March 7, 2026

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Hasta las **3:30**
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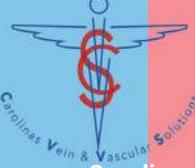


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