

LAETARE  
SUNDAY

*Rejoice!*

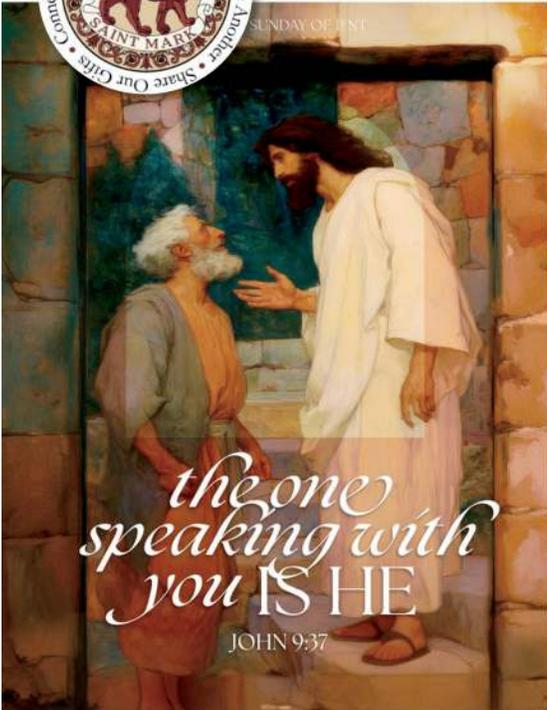
*Live as children  
of light.*

**SAINT MARK**

4th Sunday in Lent, March 15, 2026, Español pagina 15



# WELCOME TO ST. MARK!



Today is the Fourth Sunday of Lent, also known as Laetare Sunday! Readings can be found in the music handouts or on page 843 of the St. Augustine Hymnal. The Order of the Mass can be found on page 7.

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

Thank you for being a part of our parish, either as a visitor or a long-time parishioner. We are thankful that you are here and welcome you back anytime for Mass, prayer in our Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel or any of our programs.

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](http://stmarknc.org/registration) or use the QR code. You may submit the form online or bring a paper copy to the Welcome Desk during business hours, including Sunday 8:30 am-12:15 pm. Forms can be found in the narthex. Please know, you do not need to be Catholic to join and come to our parish.



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

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

## 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.

Thank you for generously sharing your gifts with the parish.

You may make an online donation at [stmarknc.org/online-giving](http://stmarknc.org/online-giving) or scan the code.



## We are called...

as one by Christ to embrace a spirit of stewardship and engagement to Grow in Christ, Serve One Another,

*Share Our Gifts*

and Connect in Faith.



## FROM THE PASTOR



Today's readings for this Fourth Sunday of Lent are filled with powerful contrasts — God's vision versus human vision, the light of Christ versus the darkness of sin, and spiritual

blindness versus spiritual sight.

Embracing a stewardship way of life frees us from spiritual blindness, helps us see as God sees, and allows us to reflect Christ's light in our daily lives.

In our Second Reading from Ephesians, St. Paul reminds us, "... You were once in darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light." Through Baptism, the very life and light of the Blessed Trinity dwell within us. Yet amid the busyness and challenges of daily life, it is easy to forget this truth. We may even struggle to recognize whether our actions truly reflect Christ's light.

A stewardship way of life — with its intentional and grateful use of our time, talent, and treasure — provides a daily guide to help us live as children of the light. It encourages us to make choices that reflect Christ in the way we serve, give, and love others.

In today's Gospel from John, Jesus restores sight to a man born blind, and the man simply testifies that Christ "opened my eyes." During these Lenten days, we too can ask Jesus to open our eyes — to help us see areas where spiritual blindness may still linger, especially in how we use the gifts entrusted to us.

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us renew our efforts wherever our vision has grown dim, so that by Easter we may truly live as children of the light. © Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2026.

**Pastoral Pondering** – It is always good to be reminded of the fundamentals of our faith. Recently, I have become more aware that some Catholics do not realize or understand the necessity of assisting at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. With that in mind, hopefully the following will be of assistance.

As Catholics, we are called to make the Eucharist the "center" of our spiritual lives. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is not merely a tradition or a good suggestion—it's a fundamental precept of the Church that helps us fulfill God's command and grow in faith.

### The Biblical and Divine Foundation

The importance begins with the Third Commandment: "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day" (Exodus 20:8). For Christians, Sunday—the Lord's Day—replaces the Jewish Sabbath because it commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the central event of our salvation. The early Church gathered on Sundays to break bread (the Eucharist) in memory of the Lord's passion, resurrection, and glorification (see Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that "the Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life" (CCC 2177). Sunday Mass is the "foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice" (CCC 2181). By participating, we obey Christ's command at the Last Supper: "Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19).

### Why the Church Requires It

The Church, guided by the authority Christ gave the apostles (Matthew 18:18), has established this as a precept to help us fulfill the moral law of worshiping God. Canon Law states: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass" (Canon 1247). Deliberately missing Mass without a serious reason (such as illness, caring for infants, or other grave circumstances) constitutes a grave sin (CCC 2181).

This obligation extends to Holy Days of Obligation, which highlight key mysteries of our faith—events in the life of Christ, Mary, or the saints that are so central they call the whole Church to gather in worship. These days remind us of God's saving work and invite us to pause our daily routines to give thanks and receive grace.

### Benefits for Our Spiritual Life

Attending Mass regularly:

**Unites us with Christ** in His sacrifice, allowing us to receive the Eucharist, our spiritual food and source of strength.

**Builds community:** We gather as the Body of Christ, supporting one another in faith (CCC 2182).

**Sanctifies our week:** It sets aside time for rest, reflection, family, and mercy, helping us avoid habits that harm our relationship with God.

**Testifies to our faith:** Public participation shows our commitment to Christ and His Church.

Holy Days of Obligation serve a similar purpose, celebrating core truths like the Incarnation, Mary's role, or Christ's

Ascension. In the United States, these typically include (in addition to all Sundays):

- **January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**
- **Ascension Thursday (transferred to Sunday in our Diocese)**
- **August 15: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (may be abrogated if it falls on Saturday or Monday in some cases)**
- **November 1: All Saints' Day**
- **December 8: Immaculate Conception**
- **December 25: Christmas**

### A Joyful Invitation, Not a Burden

The Church's precept isn't meant to restrict us but to free us for what truly matters: encountering the risen Lord. As one reflection notes, Sunday Mass reorients our lives toward God, reunites us in love, and pours out grace for salvation. It's the "sweetest obligation ever imposed" because it draws us into the mystery of God's love.

If scheduling conflicts arise, speak with your pastor—exceptions exist for serious reasons. But let's embrace this gift: make attending Mass a priority and let it transform your week and your life.

May the Eucharist strengthen us all as we journey together toward heaven!

### **Fatima Pilgrimage: 109th Anniversary**

*When: July 15-29, 2026*

You are invited to join Fr. John Putnam and Fr. Christopher Roux on a special pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal and Ávila, Spain as they celebrate the 109th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima's appearance to the three shepherd children.

This pilgrimage offers a beautiful opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the saints, pray at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, and deepen your faith alongside fellow pilgrims.

Organized through The De Deum Foundation, the journey will include sacred sites, prayer, and fellowship in some of the most significant places in Catholic history. Space is limited, and reservations must be made by April 1.

For more information, visit [www.dedeumfoundation.org](http://www.dedeumfoundation.org) or call 336-765-8837.

# REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

## Please Pray For

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

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

# MASS INTENTIONS

## Sunday, March 15

- 7:30 am St Mark Parishioners
- 9 am Gege Beck
- 11 am † Roberto Argente
- 1 pm † Esperanza Rodriguez
- 5 pm † Msgr. Richard Bellow

## Monday, March 16

- 7 am † Javier Vega
- 9 am † Ryan Palmeri

## Tuesday, March 17

- 7 am † John & Veronica Reardon
- 9 am Emilio Gomez

## Wednesday, March 18

- 7 am Laura Conter
- † Ryan Palmeri
- 6:30 pm † Kenneth Andrews
- † Ismael Sanchez

## Thursday, March 19

- 7 am Madelyn Klassey
- 9 am Mary's Women of Joy

## Friday, March 20

- 7 am St. Mark Parishioners
- 9 am † Patricia Warner

## Saturday, March 21

- 9 am Connor Theriot
- 5 pm † David Calabrese

## Sunday, March 22

- 7:30 am † Pompei "Paul" Cedrone
- 9 am St. Mark Parishioners
- 11 am † Thomas Lavinio
- 1 pm † Mario Franco
- 4:30 pm † Antionette Rinaldi
- 5 pm † Ernesto Marrero

† Deceased

# READINGS | WEEK OF MARCH 15

## Sunday

### Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a, Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 or Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

## Monday

Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b; Jn 4:43-54

## Tuesday

Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

## Wednesday

Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30

## Thursday

2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Rm 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

## Friday

Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

## Saturday

Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; Jn 7:40-53

## Sunday

### Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Rm 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

# PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

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

**Army:** 2nd Lt. Amelia Andretti; 1st Lt. Patrick Camatcho; 1st Lt. Sarah Camatcho; Major Robert Caraccilo; SSgt. Darcy Fisher; Kyle Hawk; PFC. J. Parker Hogan; Capt. John Hughes; Pvt. Chaz Margo; Maj. Daniel McCormick; 2nd Lt. Maria Morell; PV2 Matthew Pressley; Maj. Stephen J. Romeo; SSG Andrew Sales; Andrew Santos; Capt. Ramon Ricardo Tapia; Spl. Forces Nolan Tillotson; Josh Wagner; 1st Lt. Nick Worth; 2nd Lt. Matthew Zagar

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

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

..and all service members not listed.

## 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**  
 704-948-0231 ext. 136  
[karen.donahue@stmarknc.org](mailto:karen.donahue@stmarknc.org)

# 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



This Lent, St. Mark welcomes the **Dominican Friars of the Angelicum in Rome** for a parish mission titled **The Presence of God**.

Join us March 14–18 for Masses, mission talks, Eucharistic Adoration, confessions and a bilingual Eucharistic Healing Service. Come encounter Christ more deeply in the Holy Eucharist and rediscover the transforming power of His presence.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15:**

All parish Masses will be celebrated by a mission priest.

### Monday, March 16

***Divine Providence – Fr. Corwin Low, O.P.***

- 6:15 am Confessions begin
- 7:00 am Mass with mission priest
- 8:15 am Confessions begin
- 9:00 am Mass with mission priest
- 10:00 am Mission Talk\* with Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions
- 6:00 pm Confessions begin
- 7:00 pm Mission Talk\* with Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions

### Tuesday, March 17

***The Divine Indwelling – Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P.***

- 6:15 am Confessions begin
- 7:00 am Mass with mission priest
- 8:15 am Confessions begin
- 9:00 am Mass with mission priest
- 10:00 am Mission Talk\* with Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions
- 6:00 pm Confessions begin
- 7:00 pm Mission Talk\* with Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions

### Wednesday, March 18

***His Real Presence – Fr. Elias Ford, O.P.***

- 6:15 am Confessions begin
- 7:00 am Mass with mission priest
- 9:30 am Confessions begin
- 10:00 am Mission Talk\* with Eucharistic Healing Service with Confessions
- 6:00 pm Confessions begin
- 6:30 pm Mass with mission priest
- 7:00 pm MAIN EVENT / EVENTO PRINCIPAL

\* Bilingual Mission Talk with Eucharistic Adoration and Healing Service & Confessions

Charla misionera bilingüe con Adoración Eucarística y Oración de Sanación y Confesiones.

#### Note:

All morning and evening sessions are the SAME. You are welcome to attend one or the other.

## 3 SIMPLE Daily Practices



- 1) Start and end your day with a prayer and a kiss.

*Invite God into your marriage daily.*

- 2) Affirm your spouse every day.

*Express gratitude for their gifts.*

- 3) Practice intentional presence.

*Prioritize your friendship.*

*Spend quality time together without distractions.*

*Delight in one another.*

*Grow in intimacy at every stage of life.*

### Marriage Ministry and Communion at St. Mark See the Gift Again

Last week we reflected on presence. This week we turn to something just as powerful and just as simple: gratitude.

Over time, it can become easy to notice what is missing. The unfinished project. The forgotten errand. The difference in personalities. The ways we wish our spouse would grow.

But marriage is not sustained by focusing on what is lacking. It is strengthened when we learn to see the gift again.

Pope Francis writes that when we recognize our spouse's weak points, we must also have confidence in their good qualities and help those grow. In other words, we are called to notice the good and speak it out loud.

Gratitude changes the atmosphere of a marriage. It softens tension. It builds friendship. It reminds us why we chose one another in the first place.

### A Simple Practice for This Week

Each day this week, name one specific thing you appreciate about your spouse. Not general. Not assumed. Specific.

*Thank you for making time for the kids tonight.*

*I appreciate how hard you work for our family.*

*I admire your patience.*

*I am grateful for your sense of humor.*

Small words, spoken sincerely, carry great weight.

As part of our Spring Date Night Challenge, consider sharing these appreciations during your intentional date this month. Let gratitude shape your conversation. **Scan code to register for the Spring Date Night Challenge and more info.**

Lord, open our eyes to the gift of our spouse and give us the grace to speak that gift with gratitude.



### The Holy Face of Jesus and St. Joseph

When: Every Tuesday; 5:30 pm

Where: St. Mark Catholic Church

The primary purpose of this work is to make reparation for sins against the first three commandments. A prayer to St. Joseph asking his intercession for those who profane Sundays and Holy Days (the third commandment) is included in our Holy Face devotion.

#### PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF SUNDAYS AND FEAST DAYS

*Most Glorious Patriarch, St. Joseph, obtain, we beseech thee, from Our Lord Jesus Christ, His most abundant blessings on all who keep festival days holy; and grant that those who profane them may know, while there is yet time, the great evil they commit and the punishments they draw*

*down upon themselves both in this life and in the life to come; and grant that they may be speedily converted.*

*O Most faithful St. Joseph, thou who in thine earthly life wast ever faithful in keeping the law of God, grant that the day may soon come when all Christian people shall refrain from those works that are forbidden on festival days, devote themselves earnestly to the salvation of their souls and give glory to God; Who liveth and reigneth forever and ever. Amen.*

Join us to pray for these blessings and for needed conversions "while there is yet time."



## STEWARDSHIP

# LOVE IS...

## Discipleship & Stewardship

### Return Commitment Cards

As our Stewardship Renewal draws to a close this weekend, we thank you for taking time to reflect prayerfully on your call to follow Jesus as His disciple.

Today, we invite you to return your completed Stewardship Commitment Card as an offering of gratitude to God. Your response, whether great or small, is a sign of trust, love, and a desire to walk more closely with Christ.

Through our shared commitments, St. Mark Parish continues to be a place where faith is nourished, ministries flourish, and the love of Jesus is made visible in our community and beyond.

If you were unable to complete a card, additional copies are available at the Welcome Desk in the Kerin Center and may be returned at any time.

Thank you for being part of this parish and for sharing your gifts with love.



### Stewardship Spotlight: Charitable Services Volunteer Now Link

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

We are all called by Christ to love and serve others. "Remaining in the realm of ideas and theories, while failing to give them expression through frequent and practical acts of charity, will eventually cause even our most cherished hopes and aspirations to weaken and fade away... Whatever form it may take, almsgiving will touch and soften

our hardened hearts... Christian love breaks down every barrier, brings close those who were distant... it works miracles and knows no limits." (119.- 120. *Apostolic Exhortation Dilexite of the Holy Father Leo XIV to All Christians on Love for the Poor*)

Our Charitable Services Committee connects volunteers with opportunities to serve in our parish and community through the "Volunteer Now" link at [stmarknc.org](http://stmarknc.org). Information is updated regularly, so please visit often to see the latest needs. Please note that we are committed to protecting children and vulnerable adults. In compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, St. Mark follows the established policies and procedures for volunteers in the Diocese of Charlotte. New volunteers who are 18 or older, please visit [www.stmarknc.org/SAFE](http://www.stmarknc.org/SAFE) and follow the steps listed to become eligible to volunteer.

If you work or volunteer with organizations or parish groups that need volunteers, you may contact Bob Langbo at [rwlangbo@outlook.com](mailto:rwlangbo@outlook.com) to explain the opportunity. He will arrange for your information to be posted on the "Volunteer Now" pages. Everything we are and everything we have is Christ's gift. May our hearts be filled with His love, so that in His Spirit we may bond into a community of faithful, caring people committed to being good stewards of the time and talents He has entrusted to us.



## VIRTUES

### Practicing the Virtues: Sincerity

Throughout this year we have been reflecting on the virtues named on the pillars that surround the nave of our church. These virtues remind us that the Christian life is not only about believing the right things, but about allowing Christ to shape how we live each day.

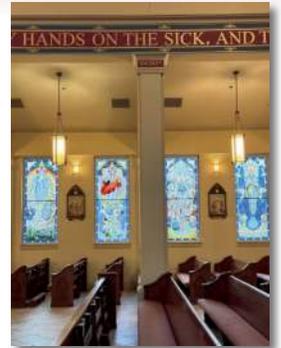
This Sunday is Laetare Sunday, when the Church pauses in the middle of Lent to remind us that the light of Easter is already beginning to break through.

As Fr. John often reminds us, growth in the spiritual life frequently happens when God transforms a vice into a virtue. The virtue we consider this week is sincerity.

The vice opposed to sincerity is hypocrisy — when our outward actions say one thing but our hearts are somewhere else. Sincerity calls us to stand honestly before God, allowing our prayer, our words, and our daily actions to reflect the same desire to follow Christ.

In our church, the word Sincerity appears above the pillar near the Ascension window and close to the image of the Resurrection. Its placement is a quiet reminder that Christ's light reveals what is hidden in our hearts not to shame us, but to heal us.

During Lent especially, sincerity means bringing our real selves to the Lord in prayer and allowing Him to continue the work of turning our weaknesses into virtues.



### New Moms Connect

When: Wed., March 25; 9:30 am

Where: North Mecklenburg Park

Are you a mom with a little one age two or under? We'd love for you to join us for a relaxed morning of connection, encouragement and community. This new meet-up group is a wonderful way to get to know other young moms, share the joys and challenges of this season, and let the little ones enjoy some fresh air at the park.

We hope you'll come to our first gathering and be part of this new community!

Contact: Hannah Gordon, [hannahgordon19@gmail.com](mailto:hannahgordon19@gmail.com)





# the holy season

## REJOICE!

### The Life of the Church in the Days Ahead

Even in the midst of Lent's prayer, fasting, and sacrifice, the life of the Church continues to unfold. The days ahead bring opportunities for prayer, learning, celebration, and fellowship as we continue our journey toward Easter.

### *A pause in Lent:*

## LAETARE SUNDAY

In the middle of Lent, the Church pauses for a moment of encouragement.

The name *Laetare* (pronounced Lay-TAR-ay) comes from the Latin word meaning "Rejoice," taken from today's entrance antiphon: "Rejoice, Jerusalem."

Even during this penitential season, the Church reminds us that Easter is drawing near.

You may notice a few visible signs in the liturgy:

- Rose vestments replace violet
- Flowers return to the altar
- The tone of the prayers becomes more hopeful

Laetare Sunday reminds us that Lent is leading us toward the joy of the Resurrection.



*No one, however weak, is denied a share in the victory of the cross.*

*No one is beyond the help of the prayer of Christ.*

— St. Leo the Great

### Parish Mission: The Presence of God

*When: March 16-18, 10 am and 7 pm*

*Where: In the Church*

Our parish mission invites us to pause in the middle of Lent and renew our awareness of God's presence in our lives. Through preaching, prayer, and reflection, these evenings will help us grow more attentive to the ways the Lord speaks through Scripture, the sacraments, and the life of the Church. Parish missions have long been part of the Church's Lenten tradition, offering a time for spiritual renewal as we continue the journey toward Easter. See page 5.

### St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick is remembered as the missionary who helped bring the Gospel to Ireland. His life reminds us that faith is meant to be lived with courage and shared with others. Even during Lent, the Church continues to celebrate the saints who carried the message of Christ into the world and whose witness still strengthens the faith of the Church today.



### St. Patrick's Day Mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church

*When: March 17, 10 am*

*Where: 2139 Mountain Island Highway / NC 273, Mount Holly, NC*

The Ancient Order of Hibernians invites parishioners to a special Mass celebrating the Feast of St. Patrick at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Mount Holly, one of the oldest Catholic churches in North Carolina and a historic site. Because the parish is no longer active, this annual Mass is one of the few times the church is used for the celebration of the Eucharist.

*Fr. John Putnam will serve as the celebrant.* Before Mass there will be a blessing of the grave of the church's

founder and first pastor, Fr. T. J. Cronin of County Cork.

Note: There are no restroom facilities.

# LENT

40 Days of Prayer, Fasting,  
and Almsgiving

*Mission. Saints. Prayer. Fellowship. The Road to Easter.*



## Feast of St. Joseph:

### A Feast in Lent!

When: March 19, 7 pm

Where: Church/Parish Hall

Join us as we celebrate the great Feast of St. Joseph, the faithful husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the earthly father of Jesus.

When the Church says fast, we fast, but when she says feast, we feast! This is a day of celebration and feasting. Start with Mass and prayer, followed by a reception in the Parish Hall hosted by our Hispanic Ministry with food, drinks, and desserts.

St. Joseph is honored as the Patron of the Universal Church and is remembered for his quiet strength, humility, and trust in God's plan.

## Looking Ahead: Passiontide

As Lent continues, the Church gradually turns her attention toward the mystery of Christ's Passion. Many parishes observe the ancient custom of veiling statues and crosses during these final weeks before Holy Week. This simple tradition helps focus our prayer on the suffering of Christ and prepares our hearts to enter more deeply into the solemn days that lead to the celebration of Easter.

*"Lent is not complicated. It is simply the steady work of returning to the Lord."*

— Fr. John

Lent is not meant to be lived alone. The Church invites us to walk this season together through prayer, repentance, worship, and the simple moments of parish life that strengthen our faith. Even in the midst of Lent, the Church gives us signs of hope. On Laetare Sunday the rose vestments appear and flowers return to the altar as a reminder that Easter is drawing near.

The wisdom of the Church guides us through this season with balance and purpose. When the Church calls us to fast, we fast. When she invites us to feast, we rejoice with gratitude. The Solemnity of St. Joseph reminds us of that joyful rhythm even during Lent.

If you are looking for a place to return to the Lord this Lent, come home to your parish. Come pray with us. Journey with us as we continue walking toward the joy of Easter.

## Friday Meal and Stations of the Cross: Tamales/Soup

When: March 20, 5:30 pm Dinner; Stations 7 & 7:30 pm Spanish

Where: Parish Hall/Church

No charge... hosted by Hispanic Ministry!

This evening begins with a shared meal before we gather in the church to pray the Stations of the Cross together. There will be tamales, soup and other meatless dishes. Walking the way of the cross invites us to reflect on Christ's sacrifice and draw closer to Him during the season of Lent. Sharing a meal and prayer as a parish community is a simple but meaningful way to support one another on the journey toward Easter.



Saturday, March 21

AOH St. Patrick's Day Dinner & Show

Friday, March 27

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry and Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale

March 29

Palm Sunday

March 31

Diocese of Charlotte Chrism Mass

April 2, 3, 4, 5

Holy Triduum and Easter

## PARISH LIFE

### Singles 45+ Fellowship Event

When: Sunday, March 15, 5 – 8 pm

Where: The Serve Pickleball + Kitchen,  
20220 Chartown Dr, Cornelius

Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun for those aged 45+! Whether you are a regular or a newcomer, we invite you to grab a friend and meet us for a great time of community. It's the perfect opportunity to connect and make new memories.

RSVP so we can plan for you at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2jmws4hf>

Questions? [45plussingles@gmail.com](mailto:45plussingles@gmail.com)



### Ongoing Food Bin and Gift Card Collection

When: Anytime

Where: Narthex Bin

Please remember to bring non-perishable food donations with you any time you come to the church. We have a permanent food collection bin inside the entrance of the church. Volunteers take this food every week to various food pantries in Huntersville and Charlotte.

**Grocery gift cards (\$25) can also be left in the parish office.**

**Please do not leave anything else in the Narthex Bin. It is a hardship to the volunteers to sort through clothing and household items.** We do not use these items and do not have a way to get them to people in need.

Thank you.

### Summer 2026 Preschool Camp

Looking for a joyful way for your child to grow in faith and have some summer fun? St. Mark Preschool invites children to join us for two special weeks of summer camp filled with faith, friendship, and hands-on activities.

This year's themes will explore the Fruits of the Spirit and the lives of the Saints. Each week will include faith-filled lessons, crafts, games, and plenty of summer fun.

Cost: \$130 per week (includes a camp t-shirt). Full payment is due at the time of registration.

Camp Weeks

Week 1: *Fruit of the Spirit*, June 8–11

Week 2: *Saints*, July 20–23

To register, complete the form at [www.stmarknc.org/preschool](http://www.stmarknc.org/preschool) and bring it with payment to the Welcome Desk.

If your child does not currently attend St. Mark Preschool, please also complete the Authorization for Release Form and Emergency Contact Form and email them or bring them to the Welcome Desk.



### Please Help Us Care for the Parish Grounds



Our parish grounds are a place where families gather, children play, and many people stop to pray or spend a few quiet moments near the fountain and gardens. We are grateful that so many people enjoy these spaces.

Over the past year we have made several repairs to the fountain, including installing new lights, and additional maintenance is planned this year.

Unfortunately, rocks, sticks, mulch, and other items have occasionally been thrown into the fountain, which can cause damage and costly repairs.

**We simply ask parents to help remind children not to throw anything into the fountain.**

**Please also help care for the landscaping by not picking flowers, digging in the soil, climbing the trees, or moving the drainage rocks around the beds.**

A small team of volunteers and professionals works hard to maintain the grounds, and we are grateful for the care they give to keeping the parish beautiful for everyone.

Thank you for helping us take good care of these shared spaces.

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

### Young Adult Ministry

Looking for a place to belong, grow in faith, and build real friendships? Our Young Adult Ministry invites adults ages 21–39 to gather for both faith-centered and social events throughout the year.

Whether you are new to the parish or simply hoping to connect more deeply, this group offers a relaxed and welcoming space to do just that. Upcoming March events include:

**Friday, March 21: Spring Cookout Details to be announced**

**Friday, March 28: Movie Night: *The Passion of the Christ* 6–10 pm at the Parish House**

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](mailto:seanmeier1@gmail.com)



## PARISH LIFE



### Stephen Ministers Commissioned at St. Mark: Help. Hope. Healing.

Last week, six parishioners were commissioned to serve as Stephen Ministers here at St. Mark. With their commissioning, our parish now has 23 trained Stephen Ministers serving the community.

Stephen Ministers are lay members of the parish who receive specialized training to provide one-to-one Christian care to people experiencing a difficult season of life. Through prayer, listening, encouragement, and faithful presence, they walk alongside individuals who may be grieving, facing illness, adjusting to major life changes, or simply in need of someone to talk with.

During the commissioning, Fr. John reflected on the words of Scripture that guide this ministry:

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any*

*trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."* (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

Stephen Ministry helps ensure that no one in our parish has to walk through hardship alone. It is one of the ways our community lives out Christ's call to care for one another with compassion and faith.

If you or someone you know could benefit from speaking with a Stephen Minister, please contact Leanne Vaccaro at [leanne.vaccaro@stmarknc.org](mailto:leanne.vaccaro@stmarknc.org) or Rich Kull at [rkkull1216@gmail.com](mailto:rkkull1216@gmail.com). Info: [stmarknc.org/stephen-ministry](http://stmarknc.org/stephen-ministry).



### Diocesan Support Appeal: Many Gifts, One Mission

Thank you to everyone who has already participated in this year's Diocesan Support Appeal. Your generosity helps support the mission of the Church across our diocese.

The DSA allows the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte to do together what no single parish could do alone. Through the appeal, we help form future priests in the seminary, support Catholic education and faith formation, care for those in need through Catholic Charities, and provide ministries that serve people throughout our region.

One of the most visible fruits of the DSA is the formation of seminarians preparing for the priesthood. These men are studying, praying, and discerning their vocation today so that our parishes will be served by faithful priests in the future. The support of the whole diocese helps make that possible.

If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, we invite you to participate this week. Every gift, no matter the size, strengthens the mission we share as Catholics throughout the diocese. Participation from many households allows the responsibility to be shared across the parish.

You may return a pledge envelope in the offertory basket or make a secure gift online at [charlottediocese.org/dsa](http://charlottediocese.org/dsa).

Thank you for helping the Church continue its work of forming disciples, serving those in need, and preparing future priests for the generations to come.



Congratulations to St. Mark parishioner and seminarian John Harrison, along with Gabriel Lugo and Ronan Ostendorf, who were instituted as acolytes on March 1 in Rome.

Your support of the Diocesan Support Appeal helps make the formation of seminarians possible as they prepare for the priesthood. Thank you for your generosity and your prayers.

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Parish Code: **STMARKCLT**



## ADORATION

### Eucharistic Stations of the Cross: Week 3 By: Donna Fodale/Adoration Coordinator

#### Tenth Station: Jesus Is Stripped

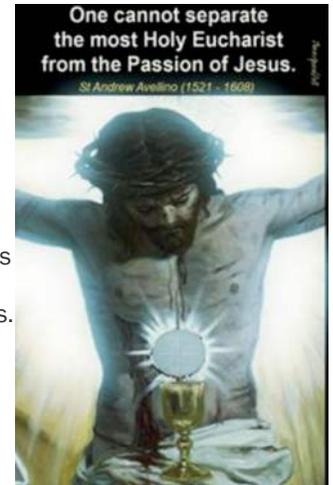
*"Behold, I am with you, until the end of time." (Matthew 28:20)*

Lord Jesus, they stripped you of your clothes and you stood before the crowds present in your body, blood, soul and divinity, with nothing covering you. Lord Jesus this is exactly how you appear before us in the Eucharist, where we see you uncovered in your host, and your bare presence is enough for us. Thank you for this great gift.

#### Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross

*"By his wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:24)*

Lord Jesus, to save our wounded human nature you yourself suffered the punishment we deserved. Every time we break bread may we remember that your body was broken for us and be "configured more deeply" to you by participating "with the whole community in [your] sacrifice by means of the Eucharist" (CCC 1322).



#### Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

*"All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death." (Romans 6:3)*

Lord Jesus, we tremble to see you in your crucifix, but we cannot forget that what the crucifix merely depicts, the Eucharist truly is, for "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 (CCC 1367) Lord, in profound gratitude, we unite our suffering, works, prayers and gratitude with your offering once and for all to the Father.

#### Thirteenth Station: Jesus Is Taken Down From the Cross

*"Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes." (Luke 2:7)*

Lord Jesus, seeing you taken down from the cross and placed in the lap of your mother, we can't help but remember your birthplace, Bethlehem, which means House of Bread. We know that "no one, whether shepherds or wise men, can approach God here below except by kneeling before the manger at Bethlehem and adoring him hidden in the weakness of a new-born child" (CCC 563) We adore you now, hidden in the Living Bread of the Blessed Sacrament.

#### Fourteenth Station: Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

*"They took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb." Acts 13:39*

Lord Jesus, they lay you in your tomb, but we know that you will not be there long but will rise as you promised. Lord, when we see the Blessed Sacrament placed in the Tabernacle we also know that you will triumph soon, bringing the whole of creation into your glory, for "There is no surer pledge or dearer sign of this great hope in the new heavens and new earth 'in which righteousness dwells,' than the Eucharist" (CCC 1405).

#### Conclusion

Lord Jesus, your Real Presence in the Eucharist "sustains our strength along the pilgrimage of this life, makes us long for eternal life, and unites us even now to the Church in heaven, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints" (CCC 1419). Be with us now as we leave your presence and continue your Way of the Cross in our lives.

To become a weekly Adorer register at: [stmarknc.org/adoration](http://stmarknc.org/adoration)

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

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### Director of Faith Formation

Saint Mark Catholic Church is seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation to lead, oversee, and supervise the parish's comprehensive Faith Formation Department.

The Director is responsible for the strategic vision, pastoral leadership, administration, and operational management of all parish faith formation programming for children, youth, and families. The Director ensures fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Church and alignment with diocesan policies while fostering a vibrant culture of discipleship within the parish.

This role serves as a senior parish leader and reports directly to the Director of Operations and the Pastor.

Those interested should send their resume to Scott Bruno at [scott.bruno@stmarknc.org](mailto:scott.bruno@stmarknc.org).

### 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 [rabadley4@yahoo.com](mailto:rabadley4@yahoo.com). For general questions about our Homeschool Ministry, contact [homeschool.ministry@stmarknc.org](mailto:homeschool.ministry@stmarknc.org).



# 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.**

### Christ the King Catholic High School College Fair

*When: Wed., March 18, 7-9 pm*

*Where: Christ the King Catholic High School Gymnasium, 2011 Crusader Way, Huntersville*

Students and parents are invited to attend the Christ the King Catholic High School College Fair. More than 40 colleges and universities will be represented, offering families the opportunity to meet directly with admissions representatives, explore academic programs, learn about campus life, and begin thinking intentionally about the future.

This is an excellent opportunity for high school students of all grade levels to start conversations, ask questions, and gather information in one place. Whether your student is just beginning to think about college or narrowing down options, this evening provides valuable face-to-face connections.

Participating institutions include Belmont Abbey College, Davidson College, UNC-Chapel Hill, NC State, Auburn University, Marquette University, Appalachian State, Clemson, and many more

CTK College Fair Graphic

.For more information, visit [www.ctlchs.org/college-fair](http://www.ctlchs.org/college-fair) or contact Todd Porter at [tporter@ctlchs.net](mailto:tporter@ctlchs.net).

All are welcome.



## Bishop's Youth Pilgrimage 2026 Middle and High School Students Invited! Saturday, March 28

All middle and high school students (grades 6-12) are invited to join St. Mark for the Bishop's Lenten Youth Pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey College.

This annual diocesan event brings together thousands of young Catholics from across the Diocese of Charlotte for a powerful day of faith, friendship, and encounter. The theme this year is "*I Thirst*" — a reminder of Christ's deep love for us and our own desire to know Him more.

The day includes:

- Mass with Bishop Martin
- A Eucharistic Procession across the historic Belmont Abbey campus
- Opportunities for Confession
- Praise and worship music
- Motivational Catholic speakers
- Games, lunch, and a vocations fair
- Separate tracks for middle and high school students

This pilgrimage is part of the Diocese's annual Eucharistic Congress and is often one of the most impactful faith experiences of the year for our youth.

### St. Mark Travel Details

Arrival: 8 am in the St. Mark parking lot (departing promptly at 8:10 am)

Event: 9 am-3 pm at Belmont Abbey College

Return: Approximately 3:45-4 pm at St. Mark

Transportation: Chartered bus and parent/chaperone drivers

Cost: \$25 per person

For more information or to register, contact Augustine Free, Coordinator of High School Ministry, at [augustine.free@stmarknc.org](mailto:augustine.free@stmarknc.org).

Space is limited. Registration deadline is March 13.

Let's show up strong from St. Mark and walk this Lenten pilgrimage together.



## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### Alan Ames Returns to the Diocese of Charlotte

Alan Ames, a Catholic evangelist who travels the world sharing his powerful conversion story and gift of healing, will visit three parishes in the area March 24-26.

Each evening will begin with Mass and will be followed by a talk by Ames and then a time of prayer and a healing service.

**March 24, 6 pm: Holy Family Catholic Church, 4820 Kinnamon Road, Winston-Salem**

**March 25, 6 pm: Saint Phillip the Apostle Catholic Church, 525 Camden Dr., Statesville**

**March 26, 6:30 pm: Saint Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, Gastonia**

For more information, visit [www.alanames.org](http://www.alanames.org) or [www.catholicnewsherald.com](http://www.catholicnewsherald.com)

# Saint Mark Parish Directory

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

## Pastor

Very Rev. John T. Putnam, JV

## Parochial Vicars

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

## Deacons

Rev. Mr. Thomas Martin  
Rev. Mr. Richard McCarron  
Rev. Mr. Thomas McGahey  
Rev. Mr. Tom 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

## Liturgy Coordinator/Office Manager

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

## Annulments, OCIA

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

## Sacrament Admin/Adoration

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

## Director of Sacred Music

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

## Director of Finance

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

## Hispanic Ministry Coordinator

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

## Stewardship Coordinator

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

## Calendar Management

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

## Public Relations Coordinator

Amy Burger  
amy.burger@stmarknc.org  
704-948-0231, Ext. 155

## Director of Marriage and Family Life

Christine Wisdom  
christine.wisdom@stmarknc.org  
704-948-0231

## Director of Faith Formation

(Open)

## 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

(Open)

## Tribunal Advocate

Rod Brostrom  
rnbrostrom@rcdoc.org

## Bulletin Team

bulletin@stmarknc.org

## Mass Schedule

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

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

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

## Confessions

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

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

## Rosary in the Church

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

## Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

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

## Hospitalization

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

## Baptisms & Weddings

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

## Financial Counseling

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

## Carolina Catholic Corner Gift & Book Store

Open daily in the Family Center

## Coffee & Conversation Social Gathering

Tuesdays, 9:30 am, Parish Hall.

## Cursillo

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

## Parishioner Assistance

### Financial:

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

### Life Crisis: Stephen Ministry

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

### Food Insecurity:

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

### 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](mailto:divorce.support@stmarknc.org)

## Natural Family Planning

Joe and Kathy Hack; Sympto-Thermal Method;

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

Elisabeth Laskowski; Creighton Model;

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

## Crisis Pregnancy Help

Community Pregnancy Center of Lake Norman:

704-727-0535

Catholic Charities: 704-370-3262; Birthright:

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

Poor prenatal diagnosis? You're not alone. There is help.  
[benotafrad.net](http://benotafrad.net)

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

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



# DEL PASTOR



Las lecturas de hoy para este Cuarto Domingo de Cuaresma están llenas de poderosos contrastes: la visión de Dios frente a la visión humana, la luz de Cristo frente a la oscuridad del pecado, y la ceguera espiritual frente a la visión espiritual. Adoptar una forma de vida de mayordomía nos libera de la ceguera

espiritual, nos ayuda a ver como Dios ve y nos permite reflejar la luz de Cristo en nuestra vida diaria.

En nuestra Segunda Lectura de Efesios, San Pablo nos recuerda: "... Antes estuviste en la oscuridad, pero ahora eres luz en el Señor. Vivid como hijos de la luz." A través del Bautismo, la propia vida y luz de la Santísima Trinidad habitan en nosotros. Sin embargo, en medio del ajetreo y los desafíos de la vida diaria, es fácil olvidar esta verdad. Incluso podemos tener dificultades para reconocer si nuestras acciones reflejan realmente la luz de Cristo.

Una forma de vida basada en la gestión responsable —con su uso intencionado y agradecido de nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro— nos proporciona una guía diaria para ayudarnos a vivir como hijos de la luz. Nos anima a tomar decisiones que reflejen a Cristo en la forma en que servimos, damos y amamos a los demás.

En el Evangelio de hoy de San Juan, Jesús restaura la vista a un hombre nacido ciego, y el hombre simplemente da testimonio de que Cristo "me abrió los ojos". Durante estos días de Cuaresma, nosotros también podemos pedirle a Jesús que abra los ojos — que nos ayude a ver áreas donde la ceguera espiritual aún puede persistir, especialmente en cómo usamos los dones que se nos han confiado.

Mientras continuamos nuestro camino cuaresmal, renovemos nuestros esfuerzos allá donde nuestra visión se ha apagado, para que para Pascua podamos vivir verdaderamente como hijos de la luz. © Consultores de Gestión Católica, 2026.

**Reflexión pastoral** – Siempre es bueno que se recuerden los fundamentos de nuestra fe. Últimamente, me he dado cuenta de que algunos católicos no se dan cuenta o no comprenden la necesidad de asistir a la misa los domingos y días festivos. Con esto en mente, esperamos que lo siguiente te sea de ayuda.

Como católicos, estamos llamados a hacer de la Eucaristía el **\*\*centro\*\*** de nuestra vida espiritual. Asistir a misa los domingos y **en días santos de obligación** no es simplemente una tradición o una buena sugerencia: es un precepto fundamental de la Iglesia que nos ayuda a cumplir el mandato de Dios y crecer en la fe.

## La Fundación Bíblica y Divina

La importancia comienza con el **Tercer Mandamiento**: "Recordad santificar el día del sábado" (Éxodo 20:8). Para los cristianos, el domingo—el Día del Señor—sustituye al Sabbat

judío porque conmemora la Resurrección de Jesucristo, el evento central de nuestra salvación. La Iglesia primitiva se reunía los domingos para compartir el pan (la Eucaristía) en memoria de la pasión, resurrección y glorificación del Señor (véase Hechos 20:7; 1 Corintios 16:2).

El **Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica** enseña que "la celebración dominical del Día del Señor y de su Eucaristía está en el corazón de la vida de la Iglesia" (CIC 2177). La misa dominical es la "base y confirmación de toda práctica cristiana" (CIC 2181). Al participar, obedecemos el mandato de Cristo en la Última Cena: "Haced esto en recuerdo de mí" (Lucas 22:19).

## Por qué la Iglesia lo exige

La Iglesia, guiada por la autoridad que Cristo dio a los apóstoles (Mateo 18:18), ha establecido esto como un precepto para ayudarnos a cumplir la ley moral de adorar a Dios. El Derecho Canónico establece: "Los domingos y otros días sagrados de obligación, los fieles están obligados a participar en la Misa" (Canon 1247). Faltar deliberadamente a la misa sin una razón grave (como enfermedad, cuidado de bebés u otras circunstancias graves) constituye un pecado grave (CIC 2181).

Esta obligación se extiende a **los Días Santos de Obligación**, que resaltan los misterios clave de nuestra fe: eventos en la vida de Cristo, María o los santos que son tan centrales que llaman a toda la Iglesia a reunirse en adoración. Estos días nos recuerdan la obra salvadora de Dios e invitan a pausar nuestras rutinas diarias para dar gracias y recibir gracia.





### Celebración de la Fiesta de San José : 19 de marzo, 7 pm

Todos están cordialmente invitados a unirse a nosotros el 19 de marzo a las 7 pm para celebrar la Fiesta de San José, el fiel esposo de la Santísima Virgen María y padre terrenal de Jesús. La celebración incluirá la Santa Misa, oraciones de devoción y una recepción en el Salón Parroquial con comida, bebidas y postres.

San José fue elegido por Dios para ser el guardián de María y el padre adoptivo de Jesús. Su vida es un ejemplo de obediencia fiel, humildad y confianza valiente en la providencia de Dios. En momentos de incertidumbre, escuchó la voz del Señor y respondió con prontitud y fidelidad. Su fortaleza silenciosa nos recuerda que la santidad muchas veces se vive en la fidelidad diaria y en el servicio amoroso.

La Iglesia también honra a San José como Patrón de la Iglesia Universal, título proclamado por el Papa Pío IX en 1870. Así como protegió a la Sagrada Familia, continúa intercediendo y cuidando al pueblo de Dios en todo el mundo.

Acompáñenos en esta hermosa celebración mientras damos gracias por la vida y el ejemplo de San José. ¡Todos están invitados!

### AVISO IMPORTANTE: ¿Por qué es importante usar tus sobres de ofrenda?

Recordamos amablemente a todos la importancia de usar sus sobres de ofrenda cada domingo en la Misa.

El uso de sobres de ofertorio no solo es una forma de apoyar económicamente a la parroquia, sino que también permite documentar adecuadamente su participación en la vida de la Iglesia. Este historial de participación nos permite ayudar a los feligreses que viven fielmente según los requerimientos de la Iglesia.

Al usar tu sobre, permite que la parroquia:

- Proporcione cartas de buena conducta cuando sea necesario (por ejemplo, para fines migratorios).
- Conceda permiso para servir como padrino/madrina para el sacramento de bautismo.
- Conceda permiso para servir como Padrinos para la Confirmación.
- Ofrezca ayuda financiera en momentos de necesidad, cuando sea posible.

Ten en cuenta que al colocar tu sobre de ofrenda en la canasta durante la misa es la forma de registrar tu asistencia y participación. Aunque no puedas contribuir económicamente, poner tu sobre en la cesta con tan solo un dólar nos permite marcar tu asistencia ese domingo.

Su uso constante de los sobres de ofrenda nos ayuda a servirle mejor y fortalece nuestra comunidad parroquial. Gracias por su fidelidad y apoyo continuo. **\*Si no están recibiendo sus sobres y ya están registrados en la parroquia, favor de notificarnos de inmediato para así hacerles llegar sus sobres al hogar\*\***

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 18 DE MARZO (MIÉRCOLES) | 7PM

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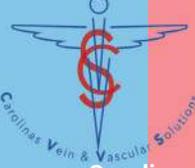

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