

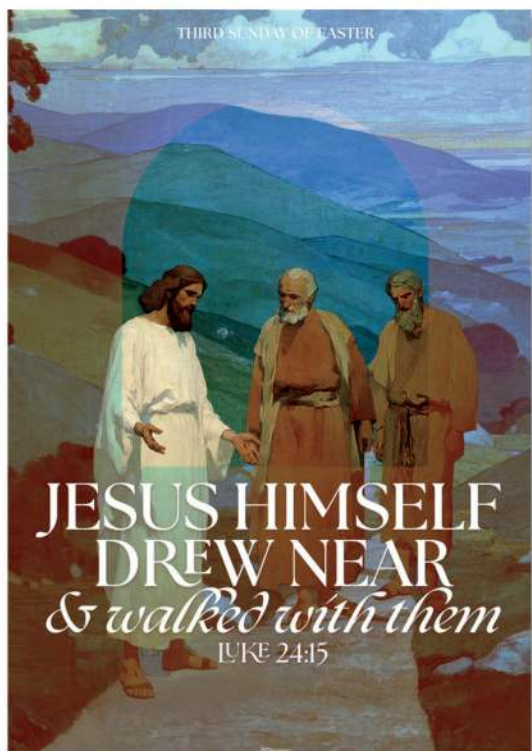
They recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread.



Third Sunday of Easter
SAINT MARK

April 19, 2026 • Spanish Page 16

WELCOME TO ST. MARK!



Today is the Third Sunday of Easter! The readings can be found in the music handouts or on page 866 in 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 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.

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.

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 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 focus on a theme of "sojourning." As Christian stewards, we know our lives are a sojourn toward the ultimate destination of heaven.

Our Gospel passage today describes the sojourn of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. The two are dejected and despondent after Jesus' death. They knew

Jesus personally. They had heard the Gospel message directly from His lips. They heard the testimony of the women who discovered our Lord's empty tomb and saw a vision of angels announcing He was alive. They had been informed by other disciples who went to the tomb that all was exactly as the women reported.

How much more obvious could the Good News be?

And yet, at times, the reaction of the two disciples describes our own stewardship journey, doesn't it? We have the fullness of the Catholic faith, the power of the sacraments, and the support of our parish family. Yet, we often lose our way. We fail to see all the gifts we have been given. We lack trust in the perfect goodness and almighty power of God.

But notice what happens to the two men when their eyes are opened once again, and they recognize Jesus in the Eucharist — the "breaking of the bread." They are transformed! Their hearts are set on fire with love for the Lord and for their faith. They recall that their hearts began "burning within" as the Lord was explaining the Scriptures to them. When we find we have lost our way, we can go to the same sources as the two disciples on the road to Emmaus — the Scriptures and the Eucharist.

In this Easter season, resolve to feast deeply on these two sources of grace. They are the fuel that will propel us on our journey toward heaven. © Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2026

Pastoral Pondering – Returning to a review of Catholic teaching basics, as we move into spring, we often see an increase in the number of weddings requested. Sadly, it is not uncommon these days to find couples choosing to live together prior to their marriage. Hence, I thought it would be a good idea to lay out the Church's teaching on this matter in a concise way.

Living Together Before Marriage: A Catholic Perspective

From the Catholic Church's teaching, living together (cohabitation) before marriage is morally wrong, primarily because it typically involves **fornication**—sexual relations outside of marriage—which is gravely sinful (CCC 2353).

Human sexuality is a sacred gift ordered by God to the unitive and procreative purposes of marriage alone. Sexual intimacy outside marriage cannot express the total, faithful, and permanent self-giving that spouses vow in the sacrament. Instead, it says with the body what is not yet true in commitment: "I give myself to you completely and forever." This makes the act a contradiction, contrary to the dignity of persons and God's plan for love (see CCC 2391; USCCB resources on marriage preparation).

Cohabitation also:

- Creates a **near occasion of sin**, placing the couple in a situation that strongly tempts them toward grave immorality.
- Gives **scandal**, leading others—especially the young—to doubt or dismiss the Church's teaching on chastity and the sacredness of marriage.
- Treats marriage as a "trial" rather than the definitive covenant it is meant to be. True love "demands a total and definitive gift of persons to one another" and cannot be an arrangement "until further notice."

Additionally, studies cited by Catholic sources show that couples who cohabit before marriage face higher risks of divorce, instability, and weaker commitment compared to those who do not.

The Church calls engaged couples to practice **chastity in continence** during preparation for marriage—an "apprenticeship in fidelity" that builds mutual respect and prepares them to receive the grace of the sacrament (CCC 2350). Priests, deacons and pastoral ministers accompany cohabiting couples with mercy and truth, encouraging them to live separately or chastely while preparing for a valid sacramental marriage.

In a culture that often views cohabitation as practical or normal, the Church invites couples to witness the beauty of God's design: chastity before marriage, followed by a joyful, lifelong union blessed by the sacrament. For more, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (esp. 2331–2400).



May 1-3, 2026

Friday 6-8p / Saturday 8a-7p / Sunday 8a-4p
Belmont Abbey College - Belmont, NC

The Domestic Church Marriage Retreat is for Catholic married couples who desire to grow in holiness together. It provides a renewed experience of marital spirituality allowing us to encounter Christ and grow toward sainthood. Come, receive the Good News, and stir up the grace of your Sacrament!

contact: region14@domesticchurchfamilies.com.

Nursing babies are welcome!
The \$150.00 registration fee includes meals and materials.
There are limited scholarships available.

Register



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please Pray For

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

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, April 19

7:30 am † Elizabeth Redmond
 9 am Davey Family
 11 am St Mark Parishioners
 1 pm Gladys and Brandon Almanza
 4:30 pm David Schmidt
 5 pm † Carol Sanguine

Monday, April 20

7 am † Barbara Donoghue
 9 am † Matthew Hauser

Tuesday, April 21

7 am † Philip H. Schmitt
 9 am † Margaret Hillman

Wednesday, April 22

7 am † Alcides Zamudio
 Matthew Schnur
 6:30 pm † Catherine Belloni
 Chad & Lauren Theriot

Thursday, April 23

7 am † Joe Punturi
 9 am † Patricia Anderson

Friday, April 24

7 am † Cathy Rinaldi
 9 am † Sean Harrington
 7 pm † Esperanza Rodriguez

Saturday, April 25

9 am First Communicants
 5 pm Julie Nardella

Sunday, April 26

7:30 am † St Mark Parishioners
 9 am † Charles Williams
 11 am † Patrick Mann
 1 pm The Almanza Franco Family
 4:30 pm † Theresa Prah
 5 pm Brian and Marin Hack

† Deceased



READINGS | WEEK OF APRIL 19

Sunday	Third Sunday of Easter Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35
Monday	Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday	Acts 7:51-8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a; 17 and 21ab; Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday	Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a; Jn 6:35-40
Thursday	Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51
Friday	Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59
Saturday	Feast of Saint Mark, Evangelist 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20
Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

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; Airman Chloe Scott; Amn Michael F. Yellico

Army: 2nd Lt. Amelia Andretti; Capt. Patrick Camatcho; Capt. 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.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Spotlight on Hope House Foundation

As we ponder the hope that underlies the Easter season, we share opportunities to stand with an organization bringing hope to vulnerable families in our area. Hope House Foundation welcomes home women and children experiencing transitional homelessness in our community. They strive to educate and empower them in a healing environment by providing supportive services and teaching critical skills to help clients improve their lives, including career and employment training opportunities, financial literacy, and personal improvement planning. Their mission is to serve as a catalyst for social change to end homelessness in the Huntersville area by providing supportive services to families as they transform their lives and work towards self-sufficiency.

One of the most important ways to support the women and children of Hope House is to pray for them, the staff, and volunteers. Also, pray for all the homeless in our community who cannot find places like Hope House. Those who wish to help with donations can find a list of current needs at <https://hopehousefoundation.org/donation-wish-list/> or make an online donation at <https://hopehousefoundation.org/donate>.

Volunteers are always needed at Hope House. Some of the many ways to serve include making a weekly meal on Thursday nights when the women have support sessions, welcoming new families by helping in the creation of welcome baskets, organizing a room for a new move-in, and tutoring children and teens, often not up to their grade level in basic skills, especially reading. Other ways to volunteer include gardening, lawn maintenance, or hosting an outdoor barbecue. Anyone interested in volunteering can connect with them at <https://hopehousefoundation.org/volunteer-opportunities>.

St. Mark's partnership with Hope House is an excellent opportunity to Serve One Another, Share our Gifts, and Connect in Faith. Hope House Executive Director, Debbie O'Handley, is grateful for the faith-based partnership with St. Mark and welcomes our involvement in this important ministry, which serves some of the most vulnerable in our community. Joan Lesch is our St. Mark parishioner contact person for Hope House and can be reached at joanlesch@yahoo.com or 516-238-1007.

TENDING *the* VINEYARD

Diocesan Support Appeal: Divine Mercy in Action

This Divine Mercy Sunday, we are grateful for the generosity of our parish family.

We have now reached **50% of our DSA goal**. Thank you to the 373 parishioners who have already made a gift.

Status Update as of March 27

Goal: \$425,648.00

Pledged: \$213,182.45

Balance: \$212,465.55

Numbers of Donors: 373

Each gift, no matter the size, helps support seminarians, ministries, and outreach across our diocese. If you have not yet participated, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a gift.

Every gift matters. Every gift makes a difference.

Thank you! We had 136 new donors since our last report.



LEARNING

Safe Environment Training

Did you know that **ALL clergy, religious, seminarians, employees, and volunteers are required to complete a background check and safe environment abuse prevention and education training?** And once safe environment certified, annual renewal training is required. Find more information about the Diocese of Charlotte's Safe Environment program and register for a CMG Connect account that combines all Safe Environment screening, onboarding and training in one place: <https://charlottediocese.org/offices/safe-environment/>

Questions? Please contact our parish local Safe Environment coordinator: Lizzy Coleman, elizabeth.coleman@stmarknc.org, 704-948-0231, ext.119.

You may also contact the Diocese Safe Environment department at safeenvironment@rcdoc.org.

CPR Classes

When: Sat. May 2, 6 pm;
Sun. May 3, 8 am, 10 am, 12 pm
Where: Room 200, Kerin Family Center

We will offer CPR classes in May. This class is "Hands Only" and does not include breathing. AED device training is included.

Classes will be offered after the Saturday 5 pm Mass on May 2 and after the 7:30 am, 9 am, and 11 am Masses on Sunday, May 3.

For more information, please contact KC Shinnars at nccnms1@yahoo.com or 704-458-8783.

Marriage Encounter

It's not too late to make a resolution to enrich your marriage!

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience helps couples to better communicate in all areas of their relationship.

Make a good marriage a great one by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience:

- May 1-3, 2026, in Raleigh
- May 29-31, 2026 in Hickory
- Nov. 6-8, 2026 in Emerald Isle

Early sign-up is recommended. For more information, visit our website at NCMarriageDiscovery.org or contact us at applications@NCMarriageDiscovery.org or 919-740-7435.

More Flower Thank
Yous...

We are grateful for the parishioners who gave to our Easter Flower Fund. Your gifts make our church a beautiful place of worship as we celebrated the Resurrection of the Lord.

- Sarturo Fuentes
- Nancy Herrera
- David Fogarty
- James Phillips
- Carole Lavinio
- Marvin Cameros
- Leidy Santos Mellado
- Jose Ayala
- Maria Lozano
- Miguel Angel Cerda
- Antonia Monfil
- Gonzalo Herrera
- Bryan Fenton
- Lorenzo Silva
- Rosa Rojas DeSilva
- Jeffrey Hoffer
- Ashley Summitt
- Aaron Allred
- Charles Donahue III
- Laura Phillips
- Dana Iannielli
- Juniper Kim
- Douglas Powell
- John Bissinger
- Deborah Frazier
- Jacob Pushparaj Galvin
- Raymond Fitzgerald
- Dominick Golino
- Annette Mann
- James Mulvihill

The Third Sunday

SCRIPTURAL ART AT ST. MARK



“Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel.”

These words of Christ, from the end of the Gospel of Mark, surround us here. Written across our church walls, they remind us that the mission given to the first disciples has been entrusted to us.

As our patron, St. Mark did not only record

these words. He lived them. His Gospel ends not only with the Resurrection, but with the sending forth.

The Resurrection is not the end. It is the beginning.

Christ sends His disciples into the world, and “the Lord worked with them.” That same mission continues here, in this parish that bears his name.

Look up. Then look around. The mission is above us.

FEAST DAY OF ST. MARK

Saturday, April 25

On Thursday, April 25, we celebrate the feast day of our patron, St. Mark the Evangelist.

For us, this is more than a feast. It is a solemnity, the highest level of celebration in the Church. This day belongs to our parish in a special way.

The word “patron” comes from the Latin and means one who protects and cares for a people. When this parish was entrusted to St. Mark, we were placed under his care. He is not just a name on our building. He is our patron. Our intercessor. Our guide.

Each time we pray, “St. Mark, pray for us,” we are reminded that we belong to him in a real way. We are part of a parish that bears his name, and through that, we share in his protection and his prayers.

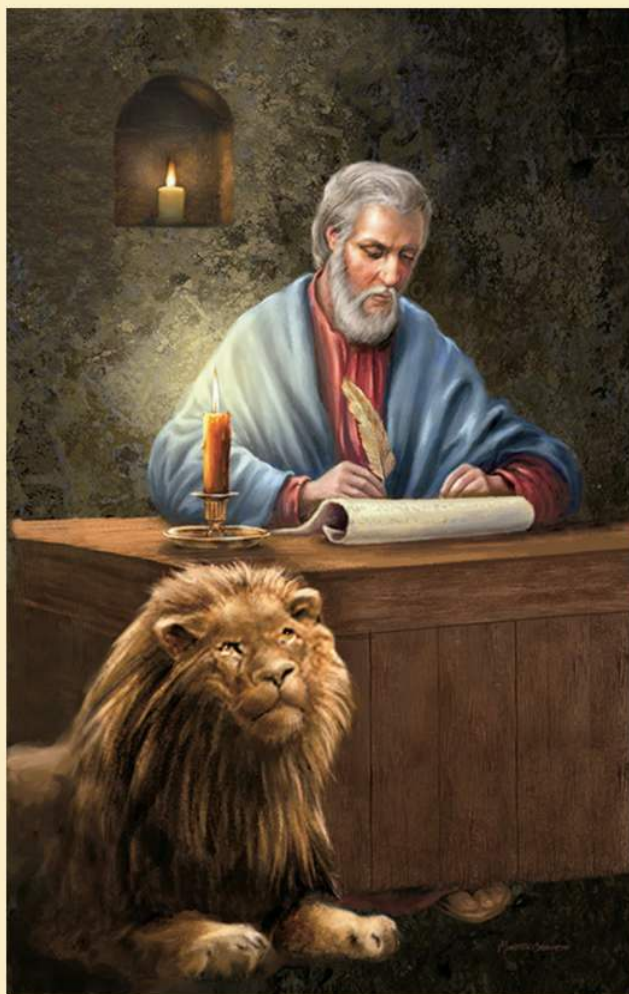
But how often do we turn to him personally?

As we approach his feast day, take a moment to ask for his intercession. Ask him to pray for you, for your family, and for our parish. Ask him to lead us closer to Christ, whose Gospel he proclaimed. St. Mark, pray for us.

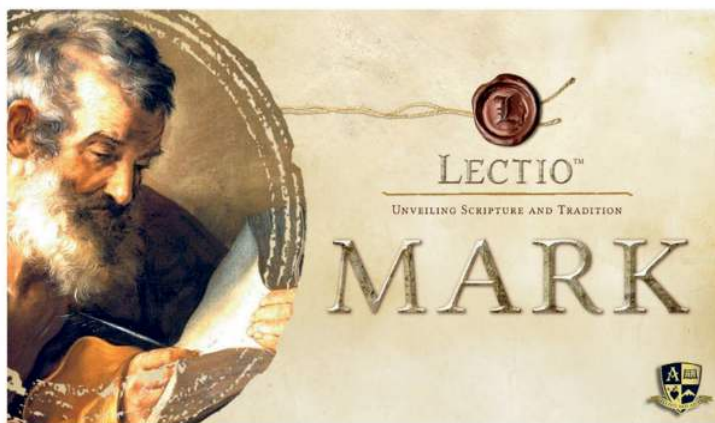
Thank you to our Gardening Ministry for your faithful care of the sanctuary and the beauty of the Easter flowers.



OF EASTER *Alleluia*



formed
Forming Catholics for Life.



Saint Mark the Evangelist

Just who is St. Mark, the author of this short but action-packed Gospel? Using outside sources, other books of the Bible, and the Gospel itself, Dr. Gray takes a closeup look at St. Mark, and his connection with St. Peter and the Christians of Rome.

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



An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE



PRACTICING THE VIRTUES: FAITH

As on the Third Sunday of Easter, the Gospel recounts the road to Emmaus. Two disciples walk with Jesus, but do not recognize Him at first. Only later, in the breaking of the bread, are their eyes opened.

The virtue we consider this week is faith.

As Fr. John often reminds us, growth in the spiritual life often happens when God transforms a vice into a virtue. The vice opposed to faith is doubt. When doubt takes hold, we can lose sight of God's presence and begin to believe we are walking alone.

In our church, the word Faith appears near the back of the nave beneath the words of Christ's command to go out and proclaim the Gospel. It is a quiet reminder that faith is not only something we hold, but something we carry into the world.

The story of Emmaus reminds us that Christ is often closer than we realize. He walks with us, speaks to us, and reveals Himself, even when we do not immediately recognize Him. Faith allows us to see what is already there.

In these weeks, many in our parish will receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Like the disciples on the road, they are invited into a deeper encounter with Christ – to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and to recognize Him in the Eucharist.

As we continue through the Easter season, the virtue of faith invites us to walk with Christ more attentively and to carry that faith into our daily lives, trusting that He is present, even when we do not yet see Him clearly.

ADORATION



By; Donna Fodale/ Adoration Coordinator

Recently a member of the Seven-Sisters Apostolate contacted me. She asked if I could reach out to our adorers to see if any of them would be willing to sub for one of the members that have a specific day she prays for one of the

priests in our diocese. This request reminded me of how important praying for our priests is and how the Seven Sisters apostolate coming to be, was truly inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The Mission and Structure of the Apostolate: The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop—a “holy wasting” (cf. Mt. 26:10) or lavishing of prayer for his deeper conformity to Christ.

Offering up an hour in Adoration for a priest is one of the best gifts that you can give him. Prayers support their spiritual well-being, help them fulfill their vocation, and strengthen the community’s connection to their spiritual leaders.

I would like to invite you to prayerfully consider adopting a priest and offering a Holy Hour for them. It can be an hour for one of our priests or any priest that you feel called to pray for. There are cards in the Chapel that you can fill out and send to the priest that you offered the Holy Hour for.

To learn more about the Seven Sisters Apostolate visit:

<https://sevensistersapostolate.org>

Prayer for Priests by St. Therese of Lisieux

*O Jesus, eternal Priest,
keep your priests within the shelter of Your Sacred Heart,
where none may touch them.*

*Keep unstained their anointed hands,
which daily touch Your Sacred Body.
Keep unsullied their lips,
daily purpled with your Precious Blood.
Keep pure and unearthly their hearts,
sealed with the sublime mark of the priesthood.*

*Let Your holy love surround them and
shield them from the world’s contagion.
Bless their labors with abundant fruit and
may the souls to whom they minister be their joy and
consolation here
and in heaven their beautiful and everlasting crown.
Amen.*

PLEASE HELP...

Unfortunately, our list of hours that need one additional adorer is the longest it has been in a long time. I know that we are all busy but please, in gratitude for all the blessings that our Lord has given you, please prayerfully consider becoming a scheduled weekly adorer. It is just one hour of your time each week. [To view the hours that need one additional adorer or to register for an hour please go to: www.stmarknc.org/adoration](http://www.stmarknc.org/adoration)

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

PARISH LIFE

Mother’s Day Spiritual Bouquet

In celebration of Mother's Day, we will remember mothers during our Mother's Day Masses on Sunday, May 10. You can stop by the Narthex to complete the card and make your donation, or you may submit an online version at www.stmarknc.org/Mothers-Day.

Widow’s Ministry

When: Thursdays, 10-12 (weekly)
Where: Kerin Family Center, Room 204

We welcome you to join our widow’s ministry, a caring and supportive community where widows come together to share experiences, offer encouragement, and support one another. Through conversation, planning, and community, we walk alongside each other as we navigate grief and begin building new lives filled with hope and purpose.
Contact: Karen Lynn, 405-305-9380, cwik2016@aol.com

Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry is made up of St. Mark parishioners who have received extensive training to give emotional and spiritual care/ support to fellow St. Mark parishioners as well as to those in our community. This ministry is a confidential, one to one opportunity to receive Christian care in a comfortable meeting place, whether in your home, parish hall, or even in a park setting. We all go through times of:

Grief
Children leaving home
Divorce
parenting
Job Loss
Issues related to aging
Cancer diagnosis
Adjustment to retirement
Medical crisis
Job stress
Spiritual crisis

Unemployment
Stress to being a caregiver
Relocation
Hospitalization
Changes in living situations
Terminal Illness
Natural disaster
Chronic health conditions
Adjustment to disability
Rehabilitation from illness or injury
Marital separation

Stephen Ministry is here to serve you, so you don’t have to suffer alone. For more information, please contact either Leanne Vaccaro at leanne.vaccaro@stmarknc.org or Rich Kull at rkkull1216@mail.com or visit our website at stmarknc.org/Stephen-ministry.

YOUNG AT HEART MINISTRY

SINGLES 45+



**Food Fun and Fellowship
Invites all 55 & Over to Our
International Dance Day
Luncheon
Wednesday,
April 29th, 2026**

Starting at
11:00AM in the Parish Hall

**Our entertainment will be
Provided by
Freddy Tripp**

**\$15.00 Donation for each person
Envelopes are at the Reception Desk**

**Cutoff Date for reservations is
Monday, April 20th**

**Place your envelope in the Black Box
On the wall by the Double Doors
In the Parish Hall**

**We will be holding a Dance Contest for
all our guests!
So Come and Plan on Dancing!!**

Singles 45+ Fellowship Event

When: Sunday, April 26; 5 - 8 pm
Where: Harp & Crown
19930 W. Catawba Ave (#130),
Cornelius



Ready to meet some new faces? We're hosting a night out for singles. It's a great chance to relax, enjoy some conversation, and grab a bite.

Please feel free to bring a friend along to join the fun! To make sure we have enough space for everyone, please use our [Signup Genius](#) by scanning the code.

We look forward to a great evening of good company and local flavor! Questions? 45plussingles@gmail.com

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Attention 21-39 Year Olds!

"The world is your oyster! Adventures await!" But where do you start as a 21-39 year old?

Join other like-minded young adults aged 21-39 as they embark on faith-filled journeys of growth and community. No matter if you are new to the area, recently discovering Catholicism, or just want to form a deeper connection, this ministry is for you. We have faith-centered and other social events (Mass and coffee, movie nights, campfire, etc.) throughout the year.

The Young Adult Ministry meets on Thursdays 7-9 pm at the Parish House (14630 Stumptown Rd. Huntersville, NC 28078). You can find the path leading to the Parish House from the parking lot; it is surrounded by some trees to the left of the church near the entrance.

To learn about upcoming events for this ministry, scan the QR code to register for the GroupMe or contact Sean Meier at seanmeier1@gmail.com.



A Visit from St. Mark This Easter

On Easter Sunday, one of our parishioners brought the Eucharist to those in our local homebound facilities, continuing a quiet but essential ministry of care and connection.

Along with the Blessed Sacrament, residents also received Easter cards and prayer beads made by the students of St. Mark School. These simple gifts carried with them the prayers and love of our parish community.

Pictured here is Tom Fox, a St. Mark parishioner and former Knight of Columbus, now residing at Lakeside Health and Rehab. Tom was grateful to receive one of the Easter cards, a small but meaningful reminder that he is remembered and loved by his parish family.

Moments like these reflect the heart of St. Mark. Across generations, from our school children to our homebound parishioners, we remain united in prayer, in service, and in Christ.

HIGH SCHOOL



Easter Luau

When: Sun., April 19; 6–8 pm

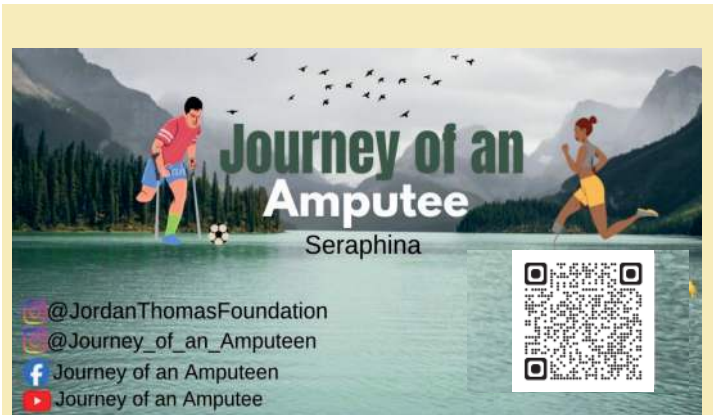
All high school students are invited to a fun, South Seas-themed evening celebrating Easter and the beginning of spring with games, prizes, dessert, and more.

Encouraged attire includes floral prints, skirts, dresses, or beach-style outfits.

Life Teen nights are a great opportunity for teens to grow in faith and friendship while exploring the Church's teaching on the dignity and purpose of the human person.

Each evening includes dinner, games, a talk, small group discussion or prayer, and time to connect with other teens in our parish community.

All high school students are welcome.



Hi, my name is Seraphina, and I have been a parishioner at St. Mark for 10 years. This church has been more than a place of worship it has been a home filled with faith, love, and people who have supported my family throughout my journey.

I was born in China with Proximal Femoral Focal Deficiency (PFFD), a condition that prevented my leg from developing normally. When I was seven, I joined my forever family in the United States, and together we made the difficult decision for amputation so I could learn to walk.

Today, I love to bike, run, swim, and dance. I have accomplished so much, and there is still more to achieve. If it weren't for the Jordan Thomas Foundation, I would not be where I am today.

Please help me give back so kids like me can achieve their dreams. Even \$1 makes a difference. Please donate using the QR code above. Thank you.

High School Ministry Summer 2026 Registration

Give your teen something meaningful this summer.

Registration is now open for two powerful opportunities through St. Mark High School Ministry: the Steubenville **Conference and Life Teen Camp Covecrest**. Both are designed to help teens step away from the noise of daily life and encounter Christ in a real and lasting way.

Steubenville Conference: The Steubenville Conference is a three-day Catholic youth conference that brings together thousands of teens from across the country. Through dynamic speakers, powerful worship, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and time in small groups, teens are invited into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Many describe it as a turning point in their faith, where what they've learned becomes personal and real.

Life Teen Camp Covecrest: Camp Covecrest is a weeklong Catholic summer camp set in the mountains of Northern Georgia. It offers a unique balance of prayer and adventure. Each day includes Mass, opportunities for Confession, engaging talks, and small group time, along with outdoor activities like ropes courses, sports, and even whitewater rafting. Teens grow in their faith while also building strong friendships within their parish community.

Both experiences are open to rising freshmen through graduating seniors. Space is limited and spots are filled on a first come, first served basis. For more information or to register, contact augustine.free@stmarknc.org.

Come be part of a summer that can truly make a lasting difference. →

St. Mark High School Ministry

Summer 2026 Registrations Are Open!

Please consider signing your teen up for one or both of the available camps/retreats. They are both awesome opportunities for your teen to rekindle their faith this Summer! Reach out to augustine.free@stmarknc.org with any questions.



*Steubenville
Conference
Registration*

**SPACE IS LIMITED AND
FIRST COME FIRST
SERVED.**

**BOTH EVENTS ARE OPEN
TO RISING FRESHMEN
THROUGH GRADUATING
SENIORS.**



*Life Teen
Camp Covecrest
Registration*



Life Teen Camp



Steubenville Conference



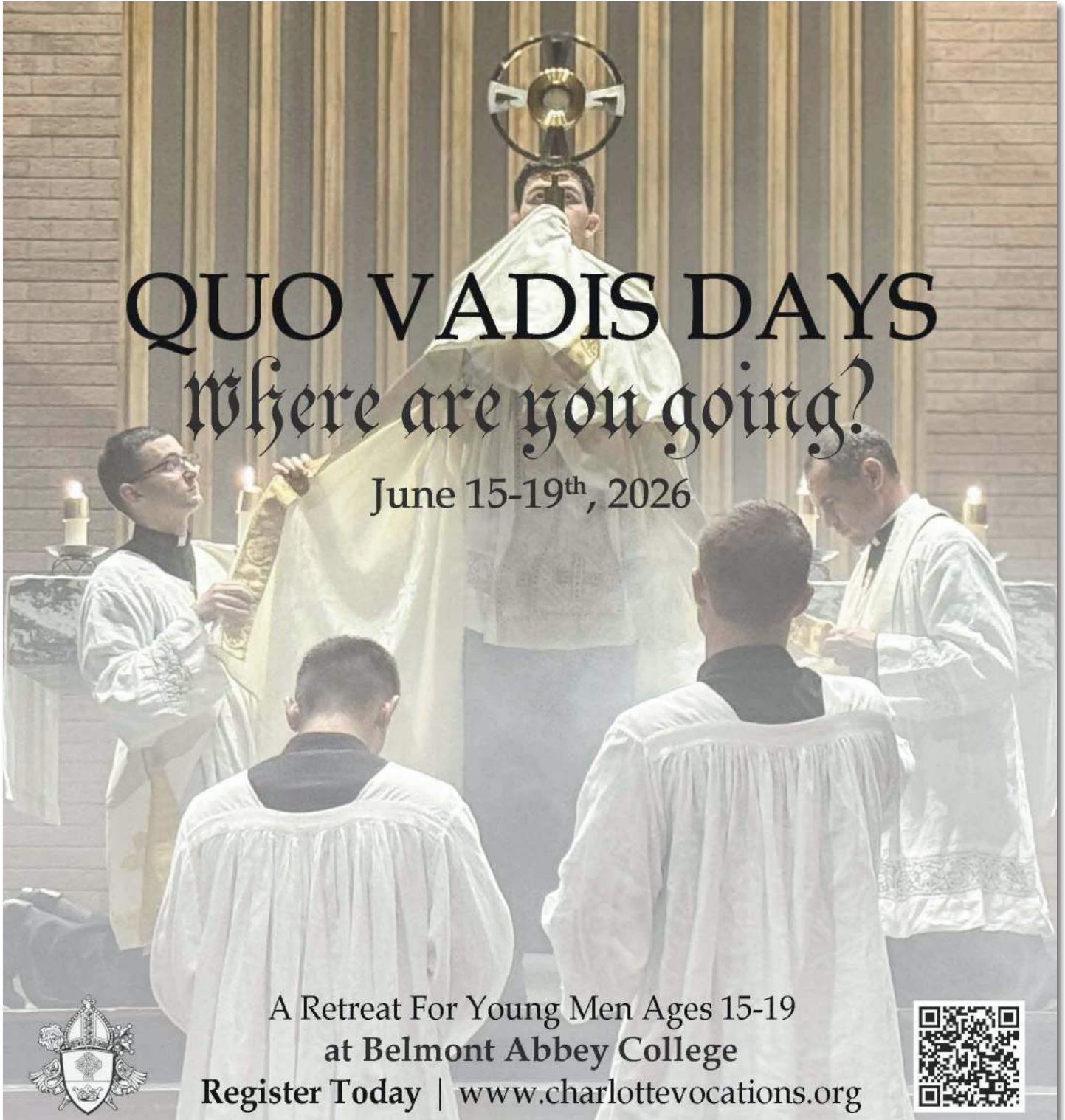
Life Teen Camp

YOUTH MINISTRY

For Young Men: Quo Vadis Days

Quo Vadis Days is a vocations discernment camp for young men (ages 15-19) held at Belmont Abbey College. Its goal is to challenge young men to ask the fundamental question “quo vadis” or “where are you going?”, while equipping them with the tools and opportunity to discern God’s will for their life.

Quo Vadis Days attempts to strike a balance between the activity of a summer camp and the quiet of a retreat. Each day of the five-day camp is structured to include Holy Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration, time for personal reflection, and interaction with priests and seminarians. The program features talks by local priests, seminarians and others on the vocations to the priesthood, marriage and fatherhood. There is also time devoted to activities, games and fellowship.



QUO VADIS DAYS

Where are you going?

June 15-19th, 2026

A Retreat For Young Men Ages 15-19
at Belmont Abbey College

Register Today | www.charlottevocations.org



YOUTH MINISTRY

For Young Women: Duc In Altum and Talitha Koum



Duc In Altum is a five-day event – part summer camp, part retreat – designed for young women in the diocese ages 16-19 to explore their relationship with Our Lord and gain a deeper understanding of their present vocation as daughter – Daughter of God, Daughter of Mary, and Daughter of the Church – through talks and time spent in prayer and worship.

Talitha Koum is a daylong retreat at Belmont Abbey College for young women ages 12-15 to grow in their relationship with Jesus and Mary and to spend time having fun with each other. Think of it as a “mini” Duc in Altum. Its name is inspired by Our Lord’s words to Jairus’ daughter: “Little girl, I say to you, arise!” (Mark 5:41 RSVCE). It is the hope that those who attend will be inspired by Our Lady’s desire to do the will of God and will open their hearts to do the same.

Learn more by going to www.charlottediocese.org/vocations/woman-religious/duc-in-altum/



Coming Up at St. Mark

Saturday, April 25

Feast Day of St. Mark

Wednesday, April 29

Young at Heart Ministry Luncheon

Sat/Sun May 3 & 4

Walking with Moms Diaper Drive

Saturday, May 23

Diaconate Ordination

Sunday, May 24

Pentecost

Saturday, May 30

Priest Ordination

Saturday, June 6

Men’s Evening of Reflection

YOUNG FAMILIES

New Moms Connect

When: Wed., April 22; 9:30 am

Where: North Mecklenburg Park

Are you a new mom with a little one age 2 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 and be part of this new community!

Contact: Hannah Gordon,
hannahgordon19@gmail.com or
use the QR code to join the
GroupMe.



Rainforest Falls VBS: Exploring the Nature of God:

When: June 22-26; 9 am-12:30 pm

Where: Family Center

Children entering Kindergarten through rising 5th grade are invited to join us for a fun and faith-filled week. Rising 6th graders through graduating seniors, along with adults, are invited to serve as volunteers.

Vacation Bible School is a high energy week where children come together to grow in faith through games, music, activities, and time with Scripture. It is a joyful way for our parish to share the beauty of our faith with the next generation.

We are especially in need of adult volunteers to help make this week possible. Whether you can lead a group, assist with activities, or simply help where needed, your presence makes a difference.

To learn more and register scan code or www.stmarknc.org/VBS. For volunteer information, contact: Maddie Torres: maddie.torres@stmarknc.org Sharon Torczynski: sharon.torczynski@stmarknc.org



Summer 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: *Fruits of the Spirit*, June 8-11

Week 2: *Saints*, July 20-23

To register, complete the form at 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 in the Family Center.



saint mark preschool

St. Mark Preschool Openings 2026-27!

More than an education. The beginning of a lifelong journey.

St. Mark Preschool offers a safe, loving, and Catholic environment for children ages 3-5. Here, our youngest learners are introduced to the joy of learning while growing in faith, friendship, and confidence.

Each day is rooted in care and purpose. Through play, structure, and gentle formation, children begin to discover who they are and how deeply they are loved by God.

We still have limited openings for the 2026-27 school year in our 3-year-old and 4-year-old classes.

To learn more, explore class options, or begin the registration process, visit: stmarknc.org/preschool

To schedule a tour or speak with our director, contact: Amanda Rametta amanda.rametta@stmarknc.org

Come see how St. Mark Preschool helps lay the foundation for a life of faith and learning.



Saint Mark Parish Directory

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

Pastor

Very Rev. John T. Putnam, JV

Parochial Vicars

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

Deacons

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

Director of Parish Operations

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

Sacristan

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

Liturgy Coordinator/Office Manager

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704-948-0231, Ext. 102

Annulments, OCIA

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deacon.rich@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 113

Sacrament Admin/Adoration

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704-948-0231, Ext. 104

Director of Sacred Music

Manuel Mora
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704-948-0231, Ext. 130

Director of Finance

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

Hispanic Ministry Coordinator

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

Stewardship Coordinator

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

Calendar Management

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704-948-0231, Ext. 123

Public Relations Coordinator

Amy Burger
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704-948-0231, Ext. 155

Director of Marriage and Family Life

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704-948-0231

Faith Formation Coordinator

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

Faith Formation Admin Asst

Sharon Torczynski
sharon.torczynski@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 103

Middle School Youth Ministry 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

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

Al-Anon

Ellen | 704-907-8555

Alcoholics Anonymous

Tom | 704-604-7739

Alateen program

Paul G. | 704-641-0654

Divorce Support Group

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

Contact: divorce.support@stmarknc.org

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



Las lecturas de hoy se centran en un tema de "estancia". Como administradores cristianos, sabemos que nuestras vidas son un viaje hacia el destino final del cielo.

Nuestro pasaje evangélico de hoy describe la estancia de los dos discípulos en el camino hacia Emaús. Ambos están abatidos y abatidos tras la muerte de Jesús. Conocían a Jesús personalmente.

Habían escuchado el mensaje del Evangelio directamente de Sus labios. Escucharon el testimonio de las mujeres que descubrieron la tumba vacía de nuestro Señor y vieron una visión de ángeles anunciando que Él estaba vivo. Otros discípulos que fueron a la tumba les informaron que todo era exactamente como las mujeres habían informado.

¿Qué tan más evidente puede ser la Buena Noticia?

Y, sin embargo, a veces, la reacción de los dos discípulos describe nuestro propio camino de administración, ¿no es así? Contamos con la plenitud de la fe católica, el poder de los sacramentos y el apoyo de nuestra familia parroquial. Sin embargo, a menudo nos perdemos el rumbo. No vemos todos los dones que nos han dado. Nos falta confianza en la bondad perfecta y el poder todopoderoso de Dios.

Pero fíjate en lo que les ocurre a los dos hombres cuando vuelven a abrir los ojos y reconocen a Jesús en la Eucaristía — al "romper el pan". ¡Están transformados! Sus corazones arden de amor por el Señor y por su fe. Recuerdan que sus corazones empezaron a "arder por dentro" mientras el Señor les explicaba las Escrituras. Cuando descubrimos que hemos perdido el rumbo, podemos acudir a las mismas fuentes que los dos discípulos en el camino a Emaús: las Escrituras y la Eucaristía.

En esta temporada de Pascua, decidid festejar profundamente con estas dos fuentes de gracia. Son el combustible que nos impulsará en nuestro camino hacia el cielo. © Consultores de Gestión Católica, 2026

Reflexión pastoral – Volviendo a una revisión de los fundamentos de la enseñanza católica, al entrar en primavera, a menudo vemos un aumento en el número de bodas solicitadas. Lamentablemente, hoy en día no es raro encontrar parejas que decidan vivir juntas antes de casarse. Por ello, pensé que sería buena idea exponer la enseñanza de la Iglesia sobre este tema de forma concisa.

Vivir juntos antes del matrimonio: una perspectiva católica

Según la enseñanza de la Iglesia Católica, convivir juntos antes del matrimonio es moralmente incorrecto, principalmente porque normalmente implica **fornicación**—relaciones sexuales fuera del matrimonio—que es gravemente pecaminoso (CIC 2353).

La sexualidad humana es un don sagrado ordenado por Dios solo para los fines unitarios y procreativos del matrimonio. La intimidad sexual fuera del matrimonio no puede expresar la entrega total, fiel y permanente que los cónyuges juran en el sacramento. En cambio, dice con el cuerpo lo que aún no es verdad en el compromiso: "Me entrego a ti por completo y para siempre." Esto convierte el acto en una contradicción, contraria a la dignidad de las personas y al plan de amor de Dios (véase CIC 2391; Recursos de la USCCB sobre preparación matrimonial).

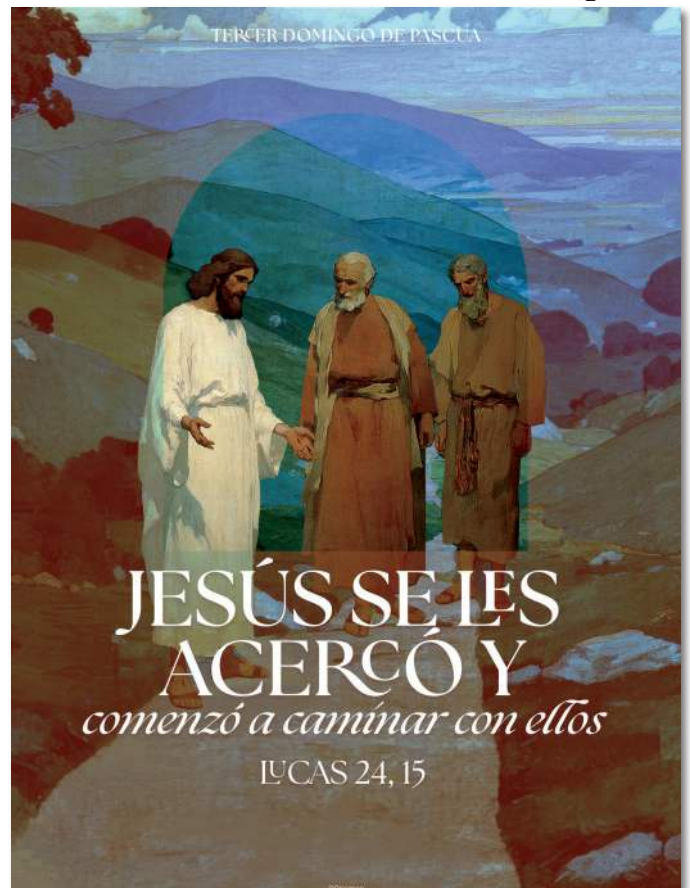
La convivencia también:

- Crea una **ocasión cercana al pecado**, colocando a la pareja en una situación que les tienta fuertemente hacia una grave inmoralidad.
- Genera **escándalo**, llevando a otros—especialmente a los jóvenes—a dudar o despreciar la enseñanza de la Iglesia sobre la castidad y la sacralidad del matrimonio.
- Trata el matrimonio como una "prueba" en lugar del pacto definitivo que pretende ser. El amor verdadero "exige un regalo total y definitivo de personas entre sí" y no puede ser un acuerdo "hasta nuevo aviso."

Además, estudios citados por fuentes católicas muestran que las parejas que conviven antes del matrimonio enfrentan mayores riesgos de divorcio, inestabilidad y un compromiso más débil en comparación con quienes no lo hacen.

La Iglesia llama a las parejas comprometidas a practicar **la castidad en continencia** durante la preparación para el matrimonio, un "aprendizaje en la fidelidad" que construye respeto mutuo y los prepara para recibir la gracia del sacramento (CIC 2350). Sacerdotes, diáconos y ministros pastorales acompañan a las parejas que conviven con misericordia y verdad, animándolos a vivir por separado o castamente mientras se preparan para un matrimonio sacramental válido.

En una cultura que a menudo considera la convivencia como práctica o normal, la Iglesia invita a las parejas a ser testigos de la belleza del diseño de Dios: castidad antes del matrimonio, seguida de una unión alegre y de por vida bendecida por el sacramento. Para más información, véase el [Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica](#) (especialmente 2331–2400).






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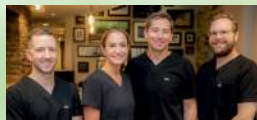
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