



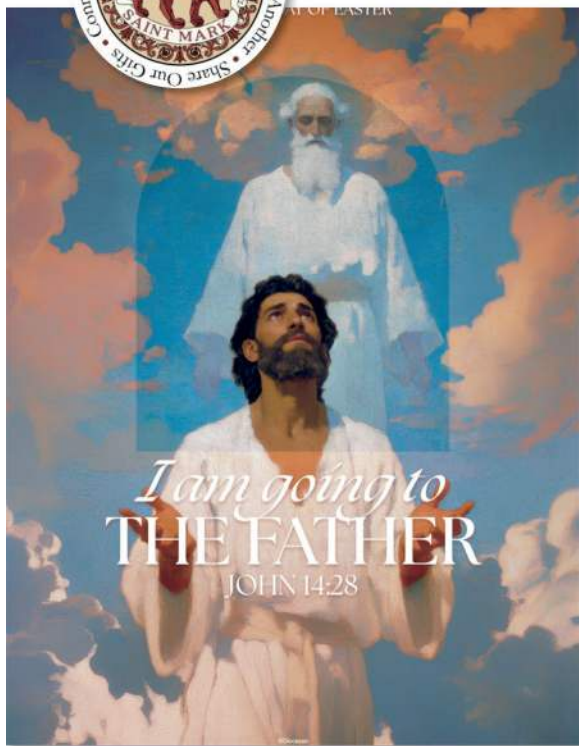
Celebrating Mary

SAINT MARK

Fifth Sunday of Easter • May 3, 2026 • Spanish Page 16



WELCOME TO ST. MARK!



Today is the Fifth Sunday of Easter! The readings can be found in the music handouts or on page 871 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 information.

ONLINE GIVING

Planned
Proportionate
Consistent



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.

Saturday Morning Mass Schedule Update

Please note that there will be no regular 9 am daily Mass on Saturdays from May 9 through May 30.

During these weeks, we will be celebrating our sacramental Masses for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, as well as the upcoming Diaconate and Priesthood Ordinations.

We invite you to all of these Masses and to keep those who are receiving the sacraments in your prayers.

FROM THE PASTOR



The readings on this fifth Sunday of Easter present us with themes of dwelling places and home. As Christian stewards, we recognize that

this world is not our permanent home. We are pilgrims here, making our way through the stewardship way of life toward our true home — heaven.

Yet, as we journey toward heaven, we are called to make our dwelling here — whether in a household of one or a full and busy family — a true “domestic church.” In other words, the stewardship way of life begins long before we set foot on parish grounds. Stewardship starts at home. It begins with our families — our domestic churches.

The domestic church plays a key role in our sanctification because it is the primary place where we learn and practice selfless love of others. In our Gospel passage from John, Jesus speaks of heaven as a home filled with dwelling places. “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?” This is a beautiful image of the glory that awaits us and the personal love our Lord has for us — preparing a place for each one of us who remains faithful to Him.

Let us respond to this great love by becoming good stewards of our earthly dwellings, making our homes true “domestic churches” where we honor God through prayer, care for one another, and generous hospitality.

Let us never forget that stewardship starts at home!

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Pastoral Pondering

A common question that comes up is why non-Catholics can’t receive Communion at weddings or funerals. Hence, in continuing to address *basics of the faith*, I offer the following:

The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, the real presence of our Lord Jesus Christ—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—under the appearances of bread and wine. Because the Eucharist both signifies and

effects the unity of the Church, the Catholic Church approaches the question of Eucharistic sharing, often called “intercommunion,” with profound reverence and care.

Catholic teaching holds that full participation in the Eucharist expresses full communion in faith, worship, and ecclesial life. For this reason, the Church ordinarily admits to Holy Communion only those who are fully initiated Catholics and who are properly disposed: in the state of grace, having observed the Eucharistic fast, and free from grave sin.

Intercommunion With Other Christians

Members of other Christian communities are not ordinarily admitted to Holy Communion at Catholic Masses. As the USCCB Guidelines for the Reception of Communion state: “Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion.” Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law.

A clear distinction exists between different Christian traditions:

- **Eastern Churches** (such as the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church) possess a valid priesthood and Eucharist by apostolic succession. Catholic ministers may licitly administer the sacraments of Penance, Eucharist, and Anointing of the Sick to members of these Churches if they spontaneously request them and are properly disposed (Canon 844 §3). However, these Christians are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches, many of which do not permit reception in Catholic celebrations.
- **Other Christians** (including Protestants) do not share the Catholic understanding of the Real Presence or the priesthood in its fullness. For them, reception of Holy Communion in a Catholic celebration is permitted only in cases of grave necessity—such as

danger of death—when they cannot approach a minister of their own community, they request the sacrament freely, and they manifest Catholic faith in the Eucharist while possessing the required dispositions (Canon 844 §4). General invitations at weddings, funerals, or other occasions are not permitted, as they could imply a unity that does not yet exist.

Catholics, in turn, may receive the sacraments only from Catholic ministers, with very limited exceptions for the Eastern Churches when necessary (Canon 844 §2). Catholics are not permitted to receive Communion in most Protestant services, as those celebrations do not possess a validly ordained priesthood.

A Call to Charity and Prayer

These norms are not rooted in exclusion but in fidelity to the truth of the Eucharist as the sacrament of ecclesial unity. The Church recognizes the real, though imperfect, communion that exists with all the baptized through faith in Christ and the gift of Baptism. We are encouraged to foster unity through joint prayer, Scripture study, works of charity, and dialogue, while patiently awaiting the full visible unity for which Christ prayed.

As the *Catechism* teaches, “Ecclesial communities derived from the Reformation... have not preserved the proper reality of the Eucharistic mystery in its fullness, which is why Eucharistic intercommunion is not possible” (CCC 1400). Yet we rejoice in the elements of sanctification and truth present in these communities and pray earnestly for the day when all Christians may gather at one altar in complete communion.

If you have questions about these teachings—perhaps in the context of family members of other Christian traditions—please speak with a priest. He can offer pastoral guidance tailored to your situation while remaining faithful to Church discipline.

May our reverence for the Most Blessed Sacrament deepen our love for Christ and our longing for the unity of His Church.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please Pray For

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

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, May 3

- 7:30 am † Jim Fall
- 9 am Suarez Family
- 11 am † Anna Veltri
- 1 pm † Adela Penafiel
- 4:30 pm † Pham, Cong
- 5 pm † Jose Mendoza

Monday, May 4

- 7 am St. Mark Parishioners
- 9 am Rose Gilly

Tuesday, May 5

- 7 am † Charles Kern
- 9 am † Agustin Perez

Wednesday, May 6

- 7 am Erica Hecht
- Mark Schmidt
- 6:30 pm † Cathy Rinaldi
- Ann & Dennis Bixler

Thursday, May 7

- 7 am Rosana Rojas
- 9 am † Al DellaRocco

Friday, May 8

- 7 am Rebecca Resavy
- 9 am † Sue McCarron
- 7 pm Family Zamudio & Crowel

Saturday, May 9

- 9 am First Communicants
- 12:30 pm First Communicants
- 5 pm Mr & Mrs Ryan Brindley

Sunday, May 10

- 7:30 am All Mother's living and deceased
- 9 am † Sue McCarron
- 11 am † Kayla Wilson
- 1 pm † Pedro P. Campozano
- 5 pm † Celmira Rojas

† Deceased

Our Faithful Departed

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

Patrina "Trina" Nuzziola
Wife of Tom Nuzziola

READINGS | WEEK OF MAY 3



Sun. Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

Mon. Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26

Tue. Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a

Wed. Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Jn 15:1-8

Thu. Acts 15:7-21; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10; Jn 15:9-11

Fri. Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12; Jn 15:12-17

Sat. Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5; Jn 15:18-21

Sun. Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

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; 2nd Lt. Drew Brenner; 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.



**Retreat Registration
NOW OPEN!**

**Marriage Retreat
at St. Mark, by St. Mark**
Fri., June 26: 7 pm-9 pm
Sat., June 27: 10 am-3 pm **(Lunch provided)**
Sun., June 28: 12 pm-3 pm **(Lunch Provided)**

Scan code or register at
stmarknc.org/marriage-ministry

**Learn how to create the marriage you have
always wanted with the spouse you already have.**

Marriage Ministry at St. Mark: Join in the May Date Night Challenge!

We started in March and are now in the final month. But it's not too late to join in the fun! We are asking all married couples to go on one intentional date each month.

Marriage is a vocation and a path to holiness. Strong marriages are built over time through presence, gratitude, sacrifice, and shared life. At St. Mark, we believe strong families build a strong parish, and what happens at home shapes the life of the Church.

As Christine Wisdom shared, "Healthy marriages don't just benefit couples. They shape the culture of a parish and help create a place where people feel known, supported, and not alone."

This isn't about fixing problems. It's about strengthening what you already have.

To join, sign up at stmarknc.org/communio or scan the QR code to the left. Take one small, intentional step, because when marriages are strong, the whole Church is stronger.



Navigating Us— A Marriage Retreat at St. Mark, by St. Mark

When: June 26-28

Where: St. Mark

Marriage is not something most people are ever really taught how to do. And yet, it shapes nearly every part of life.

This June, St. Mark is hosting Navigating Us, a weekend marriage retreat designed for couples in every stage of marriage.

This is not a retreat just for couples in crisis. It is for any couple who wants to grow, strengthen their relationship, and be more intentional about the life they are building together.

While all couples are welcome, this retreat is especially valuable in the early years of marriage.

The first several years are often the most formative and, at times, the most challenging. Building strong habits early can make a lasting difference.

Throughout the weekend, couples will gain simple, practical tools to communicate better, handle conflict in a healthy way, and better understand one another.

The focus is not on theory, but on real skills that can be put into practice right away.

Most importantly, this is a retreat for St. Mark couples.

It is an opportunity to step away from the pace of daily life, invest in your marriage, and grow alongside other couples in our parish community.

Childcare available.

Registration required.

Details at stmarknc.org/marriage-ministry or scan the code in the graphic.

Come invest in the marriage you already have.

STEWARDSHIP

Walking with Moms in Need: Diaper and Wipe Drive Now–May 10

As Mother's Day approaches on May 10, we have a simple, meaningful way to support mothers in our community.

From May 2–10, St. Mark will host a Diaper and Wipe Drive to benefit local organizations that serve women and children in need. Diapers and wipes are among the most requested and most needed items for young families. Your donation directly helps a mother care for her child.

This effort is part of our ongoing Walking with Moms in Need ministry, where parishioners accompany mothers through both practical support and personal care. Because of your generosity, thousands of diapers, wipes, and other essentials have already been shared with families across our community, reaching partners like Ada Jenkins, Angels & Sparrows, Caterpillar Ministries, Catholic Charities, Hope House, and the Community Pregnancy Center of Lake Norman.

But more than numbers, it is the impact on real lives that matters most. One mother shared, "I feel so touched and blessed."



 Walking with
Moms in Need

DIAPER & BABY WIPE COLLECTION May 2-10

sizes 3-7 and 5-7 needed

As Mother's Day approaches on May 10, help support mothers in our community. Diapers and wipes are among the most needed items for young families. Your donation provides real, immediate help to a mother caring for her child.

Donations benefit local organizations serving women and children in need.

Leave donations in the Narthex Bin.

*A simple gift.
A meaningful difference.*

Stewardship Spotlight: Prayer Chain Ministry



Our spotlight this week focuses on our prayer warriors who bring the intentions of their neighbors before God every day in love and prayer.

As Deacon Rich McCarron encouraged in a note to the ministry, "Prayer warriors try to be agents of peace and comfort to those in need of assistance and trust that all prayers have a positive outcome according to God's plan." Ephesians 6:18 tells us, "With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones."

St. Mark Prayer Chain Ministry prayer warriors are:

- Registered St. Mark Parishioners
- Devoted to daily prayer for the intentions and petitions mentioned in the prayer requests the ministry receives
- Committed to keeping the information of private prayer requests private

This ministry can be a good fit for parishioners whose circumstance don't currently allow for participation in other ministries.

Contact: prayerwarriors@stmarknc.org

Prayer requests: stmarknc.org/prayers#PrayerRequests.

Volunteer Opportunity: Food Pantry Parking Attendant

When: Thursdays, 9 am–12 pm

Where: Nourish Up Food Pantry, Huntersville United Methodist Church, Stumptown Rd.

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

What you'll do:

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

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

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

Diocesan Support Appeal: 72% of Goal Achieved!

TENDING the VINEYARD

Because of your response, we have now reached 72% of our DSA goal.

Status Update as of April 23:

Goal: \$425,648.00

Pledged: \$305,451.85

Balance: \$120,196.15

Numbers of Donors: 475



We are especially grateful for the 102 new donors since our last report. Each gift, no matter the size, supports seminarians, ministries, and outreach across our diocese.

If you have not yet participated, please prayerfully consider making a gift. Together, we can reach our goal. Thank you for your continued generosity.



Pro-Life Meeting

When: Tue., May 12; 6:30 pm
Where: Kerin Center Room 204

Saint Mark Respect Life Committee will hold its Spring meeting to discuss upcoming Pro-Life events and activities.



All who are interested in becoming more involved in pro-life work and learning about upcoming pro-life activities are invited to attend.

Contact: Mike FitzGerald,
respect.life@stmarknc.org

Respect Life Mass & Rosary Vigil

When: Tuesday, May 19; 9am
Where: St. Mark, then Planned Parenthood, 700 S. Torrence St., Charlotte

The Respect Life Committee invites you to come pray for the end of abortion and for abortion-minded women to choose life.

Please join us for St. Mark's quarterly Respect Life Mass in the church followed by peaceful prayer outside of Planned Parenthood.

Contact: Mike FitzGerald,
respect.life@stmarknc.org

**BEFORE I FORMED YOU
IN THE WOMB**
I knew you,
BEFORE YOU WERE BORN
I set you apart
JEREMIAH 1:5

ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration: Helpful Tips for Bringing Your Little Ones

By: Donna Fodale, Adoration Coordinator

There are times, I must admit sitting in adoration, I can get a little antsy. As an adult I can bring my focus back to the Lord, well most of the time. For children though, it is not as easy. I have heard from many parents that they want to bring their Children into the Chapel to visit the Lord but do not want to disrupt others while they are praying. I am sure that the people in the chapel appreciate that but please do not keep your children away from Adoration because you are worried about their behavior. While it is important to be considerate of others and to take a child out, even for a few minutes when crying or trying to run around the chapel, the Lord still wants you, as parents, to teach them about His true presence in the Eucharist. Seeing how all this can be challenging, I thought this week I would share something that I found online that may help.



Is Adoration for children? Yes! Adoration is great for them. Your children are just as welcome to come and worship their Savior as anybody else.

What did Jesus Say About Children?

When considering bringing little ones to Eucharistic Adoration, we must think: What would Jesus have us mothers do? Would He want us to scold them? Would He want us to leave them at home? No! He would welcome them. He said: And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them. (MK 10: 13-16)

How Do You Teach Children to Go to Adoration?

- 1. Explain the concept.** Before bringing your kids to Adoration, go over the basics (I'll list some below!).
- 2. Plan ahead.** A little preparation goes a long way when it comes to keeping quiet. Pick a good time when they aren't likely to be tired or hungry. Bring along a Children's Bible, journal or Adoration printable for kids.
- 3. Start small.** Depending on the age of your child, 5-15 minutes might be plenty for their first time.
- 4. Make it real.** Jesus is real and He is truly present to us. He wants us to come and meet Him. Encourage your children to say hello and goodbye to Jesus as they enter and leave.
- 5. Repeat.** In order to help Adoration become a part of their prayer lives, they need to go regularly. Making time to visit the Blessed Sacrament weekly or monthly, such as on First Fridays is a wonderful way to give your child plenty of exposure to this devotion.
- 6. Step back.** Jesus is alive and is truly present to us in the Blessed Sacrament. Trust that grace will flow. We don't need to control our children's experiences and in fact, if we listen to Matthew 18, **we** should be learning from **them**.

Preparing Children to Go to Adoration

Topical discussion questions for bringing children to adoration

- Who is Jesus to them?
- What is the Eucharist?
- How, when and why to genuflect.
- Ideas of how to pray.

To become a scheduled adorer, register at:
www.stmarknc.org/adoration



The Fifth Sunday

MAY: THE MONTH OF MARY

May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Throughout the Church, the faithful turn to her in a particular way during these weeks, honoring her as our mother and asking her intercession as we follow her Son.

One of the most important ways we do this is through the Rosary. This simple prayer leads us through the life of Christ, inviting us to reflect on His birth, His ministry, His suffering, and His Resurrection through the eyes of His mother. In our church, that prayer quite literally surrounds us.

Our stained glass windows tell the story of the Rosary. As we look around the church, we are reminded that the mysteries of Christ's life are not distant events. They are present to us, drawing us into deeper prayer and a closer relationship with Him.



LIVING THE MONTH OF MARY

*Pray the Rosary, even just a decade each day
Spend a few quiet moments with Our Lady and entrust your intentions to her*

Visit the Memorial for Life and offer a prayer for mothers and children

Consider a simple act of devotion:

*Consecrate yourself or your family to Mary
Place an image or statue of Our Lady in your home
Wear a Miraculous Medal as a quiet reminder of her presence*

Ask her, in all things, to lead you closer to her Son



MAY CROWNING AND MOTHER'S DAY PROCESSION

All children are invited to participate in our Mother's Day Procession and Crowning of Mary on Sunday, May 10 before the 9 am Mass. Children should meet in the Narthex at 8:45 am, get a flower, and process to the front of the church where they can place their flower in a vase.



MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS FOR MOM!

The Knights of Columbus Ladies' Auxiliary will be selling \$1 carnations after Mass for you to give to that special lady in your life. Proceeds from the sale raise funds to support the good work of the Ladies' Auxiliary. In the past month they have donated to the Daughters of the Virgin Mother, Seminarians from St. Mark and provided grocery cards for those in need.

THE ROSARY: SEEING CHRIST THROUGH THE EYES OF MARY



The stained glass windows in our church depict the Mysteries of the Rosary, moments from the life of Christ reflected through the presence of Mary. While her image appears often, the focus is always her Son.

The Rosary is a Scripture-based prayer that leads us through the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

Even the words of the Rosary come from the Gospel. In the Hail Mary, we repeat the angel

Gabriel's greeting, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you," and Elizabeth's words, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." These are not invented prayers, but words drawn directly from Scripture.

The Church turns to Mary because she always leads us to Jesus. Her role is not to draw attention to herself, but to point us to Him. When we pray the Rosary, we are meditating on the life of Christ, asking for the grace to see Him more clearly and follow Him more faithfully.

MOTHER'S DAY SPIRITUAL BOUQUET

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10. This Mother's Day, we invite you to honor the mothers in your life in a truly meaningful way. Through our Spiritual Bouquet, their names will be remembered in prayer at all Mother's Day Masses on Sunday, May 10.

Whether living or deceased, each mother entrusted to these prayers is lifted up in thanksgiving, love, and hope before the Lord.

You may stop by the Narthex to fill out a card and make your offering, or submit your intentions online at stmarknc.org/Mothers-Day.

A simple gift. A lasting prayer.



OF EASTER

Alleluia

MARY, MOTHER OF THE LIFE WITHIN

On the right side of our church stands the Memorial for Life, titled Mary, Mother of the Life Within. Installed in 2013 through the generosity of parishioners, it is a quiet but powerful witness to the dignity of every human life.

At first glance, the image is simple: a mother holding her child. But every detail invites deeper reflection.

Mary's posture reflects that of a mother protecting the life within her. The Child rests close to her heart, while her gaze gently surrounds them both. At the center is the Holy Spirit, represented by a dove, reminding us that every human life is not only physical, but spiritual. Each person is created by God and entrusted with an immortal soul.

There is also a deeper connection to the great tradition of the Church. The tilt of Mary's head recalls the Pietà, yet instead of sorrow, she is shown in a moment of quiet acceptance and trust. She receives the gift of life, protects it, and ultimately offers her Son to the world. That same love will one day carry her through His suffering and death.

The symbols throughout the statue continue this reflection. The crescent moon at Mary's feet recalls Our Lady of Guadalupe and her victory over death. The rosary placed on her arm is a clear invitation to prayer. It reminds us that the Rosary is not simply a devotion, but a way of entering into the mysteries of Christ's life.

In our church, the stained glass windows surrounding us depict those very mysteries. They lead us through the life of Christ—from the Annunciation to the Resurrection—offering a visual meditation on the same truths we hold in prayer.

Together, the windows and this statue tell one story: that life is a gift, that Christ has entered into it fully, and that through prayer, we are drawn more deeply into that mystery.

In its simplicity, the image speaks to everyone. A mother. A child. A life entrusted to love. And an invitation to protect, to pray, and to trust in the God who is the Lord, the Giver of Life.



PRACTICING THE VIRTUES: SIMPLICITY

In this Sunday's Gospel, Thomas asks a direct question: "How can we know the way?" Jesus responds just as directly. He does not give instructions or a plan. He says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

The virtue we consider this week is simplicity.

Simplicity does not mean a lack of thought or effort. It means clarity. It means recognizing what matters most and not losing sight of it.

The vice opposed to simplicity is complication. We can make the life of faith more difficult than it needs to be. We want every answer before we act. We want certainty before we trust.

But Jesus does not ask for that. He asks us to follow Him.

In our church, the word Simplicity appears above the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the front, right side of the church. Mary's life reflects this virtue in a quiet and steady way. She did not have every detail of God's plan, but she remained faithful to what was given to her.

In these weeks of Confirmation and First Holy Communion, we are reminded that faith is first received. It is then lived, step by step, over time.

The Christian life is not about mastering every question. It is about remaining close to Christ and trusting where He leads.

PARISH LIFE

10 Years of Care and Compassion St. Mark Alzheimer's Respite Ministry



St. Mark Parish gives thanks as we celebrate the 10-year anniversary of our Alzheimer's Respite Ministry. What began through the vision of Janet Urban and a small group of volunteers continues today as a steady and faithful presence for families in our community.

Each Monday, this ministry provides a safe, welcoming, and prayerful environment for those with early to moderate Alzheimer's. Guests gather for conversation, activities, gentle exercise, and prayer, while caregivers are given a few hours to rest and recharge. In these simple moments, our volunteers become the face of Christ for some of the most vulnerable among us, offering dignity, patience, and genuine care.

Over the years, many families have come through these doors. Relationships are formed, support is shared, and lives are touched in quiet but lasting ways. Through every season, this ministry has remained strong, sustained by the dedication of Janet Urban and her team, who continue to serve with compassion and consistency.

The Alzheimer's Respite Ministry meets Mondays from 1-4 p.m. and is offered free of charge. Registration is required. For more information or to get involved, contact Janet Urban at jgraceart@yahoo.com or the parish office.

We are grateful for 10 years of this beautiful ministry and for all who continue to make it possible.



Photos from 2016.

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

Millions of Monicas - One Hour, One Purpose, Our Children

*When: Wed. after 6:30 pm Mass,
Thur. 10 am*

Where: St. Mark Church in left transept

This ministry invites mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, aunts and other women to pray for our children's return to the faith. Join us for prayer, intentions and the rosary - with petitions to St. Monica and the conversion of souls.

Contact: KC at nccnms1@yahoo.com,
Kathleen at kmr10nc@gmail.com

Stephen Ministry

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

Stephen Ministry is here to serve you, so you don't have to suffer alone.

For more information, please contact either Leanne Vaccaro at leanne.vaccaro@stmarknc.org or Rich Kull at rkkull1216@mail.com or visit our website at stmarknc.org/Stephen-ministry.

*"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another." — John 13:35*



Coming Up at St. Mark



Sat/Sun May 2-10

Walking with Moms
Diaper Drive

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day May Crowning

Saturday, May 23

Diaconate Ordination 9 am

Sunday, May 24

Pentecost

Saturday, May 30

Priest Ordination 9 am

Saturday, June 6

Men's Evening of Reflection

June 8-11 & July 20-23

Preschool Camp

Saturday, June 13

Catholic Charities Houseware Collection

Sunday, June 21

Father's Day Donuts for Dad

June 22-26

Vacation Bible School

June 26-28

St. Mark Marriage Retreat

St. Mark Homeschool Ministry Registration

When: May 1- May 31, 2026

Calling all homeschooling families! Registration for the St. Mark Homeschool Ministry 2026-2027 academic year is now open!

We are currently a community of 50+ families with over 180 children of all ages. Our ministry offers family support and friendship, prayer and encouragement, liturgical celebrations, cooperative classes through 8th grade (co-op), high school classes (a la carte), extracurricular activities, adult events, and community service opportunities. If you are interested in learning more about our vibrant community, please reach out!

Contact: Diana Smith, 704-578-7827, dianacsmith@hotmail.com

New Moms Connect

When: Wed., May 27; 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.



Prayer & Praise Night

When: Tue., May 5; The Rosary starts at 7 pm and the Prayer and Praise is from 7:30-8:30 pm

Where: In the church

As we continue to celebrate Easter, let us prepare ourselves for Pentecost. Even after the resurrection



of our Lord Jesus Christ, the disciples were afraid gathering in the upper room. When the Spirit of God came upon them on Pentecost they were transformed. They went out to evangelize the world with the power of the Spirit. It is estimated that there are 2.6 billion Christians in the world today, but a great majority recognize themselves as Christians but live like the world. If the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives in us, we should be living an authentic Christian life, like the disciples, and evangelizing others.

Come to pray the rosary at 7pm and afterwards to worship God, be empowered by God's Spirit and to pray for healing.

Future dates: June 23, July 21

Contact information: Fernando, 252-412-9978 (call or text)

Men's Evening with Andy Lausier, Founder of Faith First Athletix

When: Jun. 6, 6 pm (after 5 pm Mass)

Where: Monsignor Kerin Hall

ALL MEN INVITED!

We are very excited to have performance coach Andy Lausier speak at our next Men's Evening of Reflection.



Come and join us for a night of brotherhood, spiritual growth, and FREE food and drinks!



RSVP: Scan QR code

Contact: Joe Aiello, 419-787-4677, atlanticpgm@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Mark High School Ministry

The **Road to Emmaus** Life Night Series

All high schoolers are invited to come learn how to celebrate Easter like the Apostles did!

April 19, 26 and May 3, 10, 17

Each Life Night will run from 6-8pm in the Parish Hall



Vacation Bible School Summer 2026!

Space is Limited: Register Today!

June 22-26, 9 am-12:30 pm

K-5th Grade Register to Attend

6-12th Grade Can Volunteer



Register and info: www.stmarknc.org/VBS
For volunteer information, contact:
Maddie Torres: maddie.torres@stmarknc.org
Sharon Torczynski: sharon.torczynski@stmarknc.org



High School Ministry Summer 2026 Registration

Registration is now open for the Steubenville Conference and Life Teen Camp Covecrest, two summer opportunities designed to help teens encounter Christ and grow in their faith. Open to rising freshmen through graduating seniors, space is limited and filled on a first come, first served basis.

For more information or to register, contact augustine.free@stmarknc.org.

A Season of Sacraments at St. Mark

We rejoice with our young people who have received, or will soon receive, the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. These weeks have been filled with grace, joy, and a visible reminder of God at work in our parish.

Our sacramental Masses began on April 18 and will continue through May 16. During this time, 184 of our youth are being confirmed and 217 are receiving their First Holy Communion. These are not simply milestones, but moments that shape lives.

We give thanks for each of these young people and their families, and we are deeply grateful to our clergy, staff, and catechists who have prepared and accompanied them with such care and dedication. Please continue to pray for them, that they may remain close to the Lord, strengthened by the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Eucharist. This is a joyful season for our parish, and a reminder that the Church is alive and growing.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

LAMB Clay Shoot Fundraiser

When: Fri., Sept. 25, 2026;

Arrival Time: 8 am /End Time: 4 pm

Where: Four Branches Sporting Preserve,
425 Poplar Hill Church Road, Polkton, NC



The LAMB Foundation of NC, Inc., a recognized 501(c)(3) charity operated by the Knights of Columbus This event supports individuals with intellectual disabilities in our local community — our “Least Among My Brethren.”

Event Details:

Morning Session: Begins at 8 am with check-in, registration, and breakfast. Teams are assigned to starting stations on the one-mile course. An opening speech and safety briefing will precede the 9 am start.

Afternoon Session: Starts at 11:30 am with check-in, registration, and lunch. After the safety briefing, the shooting competition begins at 1:30 pm. During lunch, participants will hear from some of the charities benefiting from the fundraiser.

Prizes are awarded to the top teams.

Teams rotate through 15 stations shooting clay targets and tracking their scores. Free shotgun loans are available with golf carts provided for transport between stations. All skill levels are welcome! Beginners will be teamed with experienced shooters.

Registration: Scan the QR code above to register and pay the \$150 entry fee. **To sign up for this event see the Knights after Mass.**

More information, contact Mike Garcia at Garciam25@gmail.com or Eddie Ippolito at Edmund.ippolito@gmail.com



Catholic Grandparents Association: Guiding the Next Generation to the Sacraments

When: Sat., May 9; Mass at 9 am, Meeting 10-11 am

Where: St Therese Catholic Church, Room 15/17,
217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville

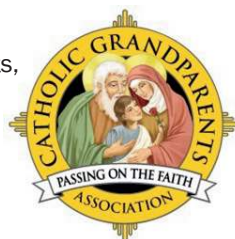
Many Catholic grandparents are seeking ways to guide their grandchildren toward the sacraments as they are called to be loving, patient, determined witnesses, helping lead their families closer to God. Please join us for an informative meeting with Deacon John Sims who will be discussing ways to guide grandchildren of all ages to the sacraments.

Preregistration is required by May 8. Register by sending your name and number attending to damicorj@gmail.com. All grandparents, godparents, great aunts and uncles are welcome!

Information:

catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

Contact: Renee' D'Amico, 614-937-4554,
damicorj@gmail.com



PILGRIMAGES

El Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage 2026

When: Oct 27 – Nov 7 2026

Where: Spain

Hello Friends! Have you ever thought of doing a Camino walk, but didn't know where to begin? One of the most famous and sacred walking pilgrimage in the world. For over 1,000 years, millions have journeyed these ancient paths — and countless more have dreamed of it...

Well...You're warmly invited to join us on our 11 Day Camino De Santiago Pilgrimage! Feel free to share this invitation with your family and friends — all are welcome for this beautiful experience! Find the full itinerary with the QR link or website below:



More Information: WoodardLuxuryTravel.com/events-trips

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

Danube River Cruise 2027 Information Session

When: May 17

Where: Huntersville Professional Building,
11330 Vanstory Drive and Virtually on Zoom

Join our meeting to get information on our amazing 2027 Danube River Cruise with Prague Pilgrimage! We will go through the itinerary, ship layout, answer your questions, and you can meet your fellow Pilgrims!

Doors and Zoom link will open at 1:30 pm and the meeting will begin at 2 pm.

There will be light refreshments as well for those in person!

Please RSVP at this link or scan the QR code: tinyurl.com/4f6d2kh4

More Information: WoodardLuxuryTravel.com/events-trips

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



Cursillo Weekends for Men and Women will be held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC

- ✓ Men's Cursillo Weekend: July 23-26, 2026
- ✓ Women's Cursillo Weekend: August 6-9, 2026

If you have been considering Cursillo as the next step in your spiritual journey, now is the time.

Contact Cursillo Ambassador: John Moloney

John.Moloney222@gmail.com

www.charlottecursillo.com

The Cursillo Movement is a recognized charism of the Catholic Church founded on small friendship groups.

Save the Date!

Meal Packaging Event!
Saturday, August 1



Annual Parish Family Social
SeptemberFest 2026
September 26, 6-9 pm



First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Baptism, Ordination Gifts and Cards

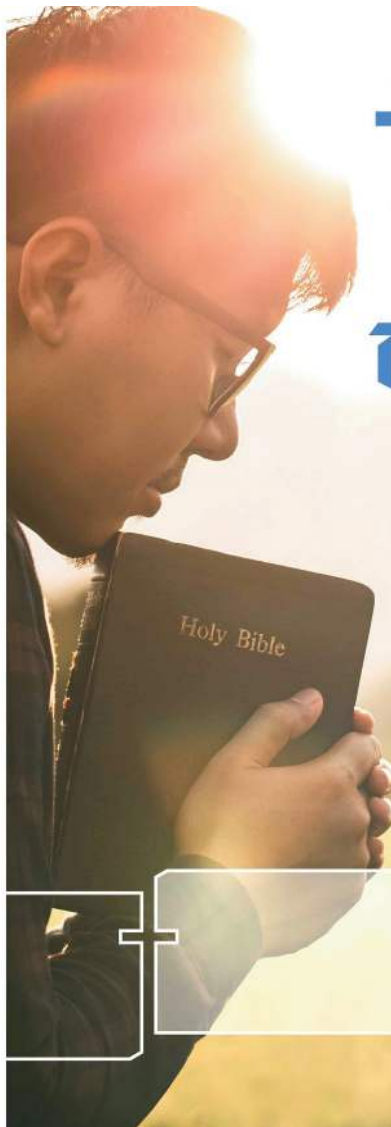
The Carolina Catholic Corner Book and Gift Store has a large selection of gifts for First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and Baptism.

You can also find a large selection of cards for men being ordained deacons and priests.

The store is located in the Kerin Family Center hallway near the Adoration Chapel.

We have bibles, youth bibles, rosaries, books, medals, prayer cards, key chains, jewelry, mugs, figurines, plush saints, religious socks, First Holy Communion gift sets, home décor, and more.

The store is parishioner owned and a portion of all sales goes to support the parish. Stop in anytime to shop for your family and friends who are receiving sacraments in May.



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FROM THE AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE



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

Liturgist 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

Faith Formation Coordinator

Maddie Torres
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
Angelo Sedacca
aasedacca@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 este quinto domingo de Pascua nos presentan temas sobre los lugares de residencia y el hogar. Como administradores cristianos, reconocemos que este mundo no es nuestro hogar permanente. Aquí somos peregrinos, avanzando por el camino de vida de la administración hacia nuestro verdadero hogar: el cielo.

Sin embargo, mientras viajamos hacia el cielo, estamos llamados a hacer de nuestra vivienda aquí —ya sea en un hogar de uno o en una familia plena y ocupada— en una verdadera "iglesia doméstica". En otras palabras, la forma de vida de la administración comienza mucho antes de que pisemos los terrenos parroquiales. La gestión empieza en casa. Empieza con nuestras familias — nuestras iglesias domésticas.

La iglesia doméstica desempeña un papel clave en nuestra santificación porque es el lugar principal donde aprendemos y practicamos el amor desinteresado hacia los demás. En nuestro pasaje del Evangelio de Juan, Jesús habla del cielo como de un hogar lleno de lugares donde habitar. "En la casa de mi Padre hay muchos lugares donde vivir. Si no lo hubiera, ¿te habría dicho que voy a prepararte un lugar?" Esta es una hermosa imagen de la gloria que nos espera y del amor personal que nuestro Señor tiene por nosotros — preparando un lugar para cada uno de nosotros que permanece fiel a Él.

Respondamos a este gran amor convirtiéndonos en buenos administradores de nuestras moradas terrenales, haciendo de nuestros hogares verdaderas "iglesias domésticas" donde honramos a Dios mediante la oración, cuidándonos unos a otros y hospitalidad generosa.

¡Nunca olvidemos que la gestión empieza en casa! © Consultores de Gestión Católica, 2026

Reflexión pastoral

Una pregunta común que surge es por qué los no católicos no pueden recibir la Comunión en bodas o funerales. Por lo tanto, al seguir abordando *los fundamentos de la fe*, ofrezco lo siguiente:

La Santa Eucaristía es la fuente y la cima de la vida cristiana, la verdadera presencia de nuestro Señor Jesucristo—Cuerpo, Sangre, Alma y Divinidad—bajo las apariencias del pan y el vino. Dado que la Eucaristía simboliza y produce la unidad de la Iglesia, la Iglesia católica aborda la cuestión del reparto eucarístico, a menudo llamada "intercomuni3n", con profundo reverencia y cuidado.

La ense1anza cat3lica sostiene que la plena participaci3n en la Eucaristía expresa la plena comuni3n en la fe, el culto y la vida eclesial. Por esta raz3n, la Iglesia admite ordinariamente a la Sagrada Comuni3n solo a quienes son plenamente iniciados cat3licos y que est1n debidamente dispuestos: en estado de gracia, habiendo observado el ayuno eucarístico y libres de pecado grave.

Inter comuni3n con otros cristianos

Los miembros de otras comunidades cristianas no suelen ser admitidos en la Santa Comuni3n en las misas cat3licas. Como indican las Directrices de la USCCB para la Recepci3n de la Comuni3n: "Debido a que los cat3licos creen que la celebraci3n de la Eucaristía es un signo de la realidad de la unidad de fe, vida y culto, los miembros de aquellas iglesias con las que a1n no estamos plenamente unidos normalmente no son admitidos en la Sagrada Comuni3n." El intercambio eucarístico en circunstancias

excepcionales requiere permiso seg1n las directrices del obispo diocesano y las disposiciones del derecho can3nico.

Existe una clara distinci3n entre las distintas tradiciones cristianas:

- **Las Iglesias Orientales** (como las Iglesias Ortodoxas, la Iglesia Asiria de Oriente y la Iglesia Nacional Cat3lica Polaca) poseen un sacerdocio y una Eucaristía v1lidos por sucesi3n apost3lica. Los ministros cat3licos pueden administrar legítimamente los sacramentos de Penitencia, Eucaristía y Unci3n de los Enfermos a los miembros de estas Iglesias si los solicitan espontáneamente y est1n debidamente dispuestos (Canon 844 §3). Sin embargo, se insta a estos cristianos a respetar la disciplina de sus propias iglesias, muchas de las cuales no permiten la recepci3n en celebraciones cat3licas.
- **Otros cristianos** (incluidos protestantes) no comparten la comprensi3n cat3lica de la Presencia Real ni del sacerdocio en su plenitud. Para ellos, la recepci3n de la Santa Comuni3n en una celebraci3n cat3lica solo est1 permitida en casos de grave necesidad —como el peligro de muerte— cuando no pueden acudir a un ministro de su propia comunidad, solicitan el sacramento libremente y manifiestan la fe cat3lica en la Eucaristía mientras poseen las disposiciones requeridas (Canon 844 §4). No se permiten invitaciones generales en bodas, funerales u otras ocasiones, ya que podrían implicar una unidad que a1n no existe.

Los cat3licos, a su vez, solo pueden recibir los sacramentos de ministros cat3licos, con excepciones muy limitadas para las Iglesias orientales cuando sea necesario (Canon 844 §2). No se permite a los cat3licos recibir la Comuni3n en la mayoría de los servicios protestantes, ya que esas celebraciones no cuentan con un sacerdocio v1lidamente ordenado.

Un llamado a la caridad y a la oraci3n

Estas normas no se basan en la exclusi3n, sino en la fidelidad a la verdad de la Eucaristía como sacramento de la unidad eclesial. La Iglesia reconoce la comuni3n real, aunque imperfecta, que existe con todos los bautizados a trav3s de la fe en Cristo y el don del Bautismo. Se nos anima a fomentar la unidad mediante la oraci3n conjunta, el estudio de las Escrituras, las obras de caridad y el di1logo, mientras esperamos pacientemente la plena unidad visible por la que Cristo or3.

Como ense1a el *Catecismo*, "Las comunidades eclesiales derivadas de la Reforma... no han preservado la realidad adecuada del misterio eucarístico en su plenitud, por lo que la Inter comuni3n eucarística no es posible" (CIC 1400). Sin embargo, nos alegramos de los elementos de santificaci3n y verdad presentes en estas comunidades y oramos fervientemente por el día en que todos los cristianos puedan reunirse en un mismo altar en plena comuni3n absoluta.

Si tienes preguntas sobre estas ense1anzas—quiz1 en el contexto de familiares de otras tradiciones cristianas—por favor, habla con un sacerdote. Puede ofrecerte una orientaci3n pastoral adaptada a tu situaci3n, manteniendo la fidelidad a la disciplina de la Iglesia.

Que nuestra reverencia por el Santísimo Sacramento profundice nuestro amor por Cristo y nuestro anhelo por la unidad de Su Iglesia.






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