

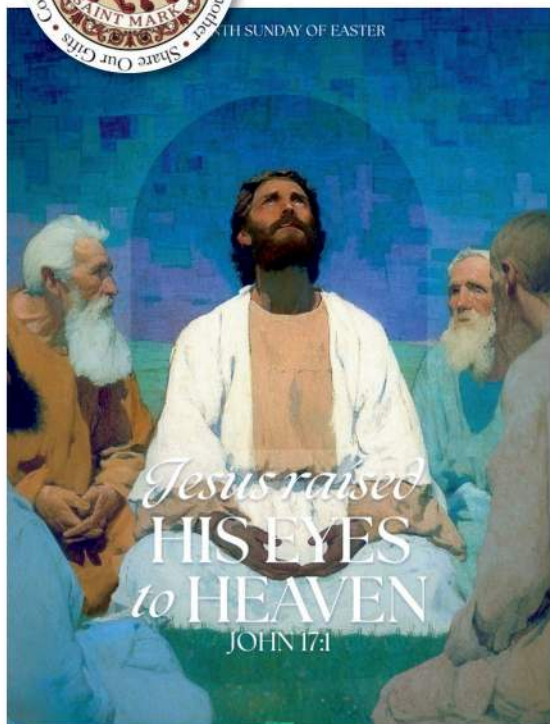


Ascension of the Lord
SAINT MARK

May 17, 2026 • Spanish Page 15



WELCOME TO ST. MARK!



Today is the Ascension of the Lord! The readings can be found in the music handouts or on page 874 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 16 through May 30.

During these weeks, we will be celebrating our sacramental Masses for Confirmation and 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.

Sunday, May 23 and 24 Mass Incense Notice:

There will be incense used next weekend at the Saturday, 5 pm Vigil Mass and the Sunday 9 am and 11 am Masses.

FROM THE PASTOR



Today we celebrate the great feast of our Lord — that moment when Jesus, 40 days after His Resurrection, was lifted up

into heaven as the apostles looked on. It must have been an extraordinary sight. But the first reading tells us they were not meant to stand there for long. “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?”

In other words — don’t just stand there. Do something.

This is a message for us as Christian stewards. We have been given every grace and blessing — through the Mass and the sacraments, through the Word of God, and through the gifts of our time, talent, and treasure.

We are not meant to simply receive these gifts. We are meant to use them — in gratitude to the One who gave them.

Like the apostles, we are called “to be [His] witnesses... to the ends of the earth.” And we do this not by our own strength, but through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us. © *Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2026*

Pastoral Pondering

Just War Theory: The Catholic Moral Framework for Armed Conflict

Just War Theory is one of the most important and carefully developed areas of Catholic moral theology. It does not glorify war — quite the opposite. The Catechism begins its section on war with a solemn reminder that “the fifth commandment forbids the intentional destruction of human life,” and because of the evils and injustices that accompany all war, the Church insistently urges everyone to prayer and action so that God may free us from the ancient bondage of war.

And yet, while war always involves evils, sometimes the choice **not** to engage in war can be an even greater evil — and this is the theory behind the Church’s teaching that a nation **can** wage a just war.

Historical Roots

The theory of when and how war can be morally justified goes back at least to the pre-Christian Roman orator Cicero, and

was taken up by St. Ambrose, then systematically developed by St. Augustine. Augustine’s account was later refined by St. Thomas Aquinas, whose rendering was normative for Catholic theorists from the Middle Ages onward. The Second Vatican Council re-presented the classical account, placing much greater emphasis on the avoidance of war and offering a forceful condemnation of weapons of mass destruction. The current Catechism (CCC 2307–2317) develops this by conceiving war as a means of legitimate societal self-defense.

Two Dimensions of Justice in War

The Catholic Church distinguishes between two types of justice concerning war: *jus ad bellum* (justice before the war) and *jus in bello* (justice during the war). Most discussion focuses on *jus ad bellum* — the four conditions inherited from St. Augustine that determine whether going to war is justified. *Jus in bello* refers to how the war is actually conducted once it has begun.

It is entirely possible for a country to fight a war that meets the *jus ad bellum* conditions for being just, and yet to fight that war **unjustly** — by targeting innocent civilians or dropping bombs indiscriminately.

The Four Conditions for a Just War (CCC 2309): As long as the danger of war persists and no international authority has sufficient power to prevent it, governments cannot be denied the right of lawful self-defense once all peace efforts have failed. The strict conditions for legitimate defense by military force require that **all four of the following be met simultaneously:**

1. **The damage inflicted by the aggressor** on the nation or community of nations **must be lasting, grave, and certain.**
2. **All other means** of putting an end to it must have been shown to be **impractical or ineffective.**
3. There must be **serious prospects of success.**
4. **The use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver** than the evil to be eliminated.

These are hard conditions to fulfill, and with good reason — the Church teaches that war should always be the **last resort.**

Justice During War (*Jus in Bello*)

Even in a just war, moral law does not evaporate on the battlefield. The Church

and human reason both assert the permanent validity of the moral law during armed conflict — “the mere fact that war has regrettably broken out does not mean that everything becomes licit between the warring parties.”

Noncombatants, wounded soldiers, and prisoners must be respected and treated humanely. Actions deliberately contrary to the law of nations are crimes, as are the orders that command them. Blind obedience does not excuse those who carry them out. The extermination of a people, nation, or ethnic minority must be condemned as a mortal sin — and one is morally bound to resist orders that command genocide.

As the Catechism states clearly: “Every act of war directed to the indiscriminate destruction of whole cities or vast areas with their inhabitants is a crime against God and man, which merits firm and unequivocal condemnation.”

Catholics in the Armed Forces

A Catholic who serves in the armed forces must discern the morality of any conflict. If ordered to commit an intrinsically evil act — such as the direct killing of an unarmed civilian or the torture of a prisoner of war — a Catholic soldier must **refuse** that order, even if it is legal and even if punishment results.

The Challenge of Modern Warfare

Pope John Paul II suggested that the threshold for a just war has been raised very high by the existence of weapons of mass destruction. Cardinal Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict XVI) went even further, asking “whether as things stand, with new weapons that cause destruction that goes well beyond the groups involved in the fight, it is still licit to allow that a ‘just war’ might exist.”

Just War Theory is not a loophole for violence — it is a moral **fence** around it. The presumption always begins with peace. War is a tragic concession to human sinfulness, never a first resort, and always bound by the permanent demands of justice and human dignity.

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, May 17

7:30 am † Armondo Riccobono
 9 am † Ed Field
 11 am † Catherine Blain
 1 pm St Mark Parishioners
 5 pm Evan Pereira

Monday, May 18

7 am † Roberto Rojas
 9 am Betty Sexton

Tuesday, May 19

7 am Bill Fountain III
 9 am Respect Life Ministry

Wednesday, May 20

7 am † Richardo Antonio Lora
 † Samuel Pinto

6:30 pm † Stephen Raymond

6:30 pm † Joan Famularo

Thursday, May 21

7 am † Michael Warner
 9 am † Maria Leonor Campozano de Ochoa

Friday, May 22

7 am Jack Sullivan
 9 am † Stephen L. Wilkerson
 7 pm † Joel Nasario Campopoverde

Saturday, May 23

9 am Deacon Ordination
 5 pm Bill & Rosie Fountain

Sunday, May 24

7:30 am † Salvatore Buccellato
 9 am † Scottie Mickey
 11 am Nishikant Uppal
 1 pm St Mark Parishioners
 5 pm † Msgr. Richard Bellow

† Deceased

READINGS | WEEK OF MAY 17

Sunday Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23; Mt 28:16-20

Monday Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19

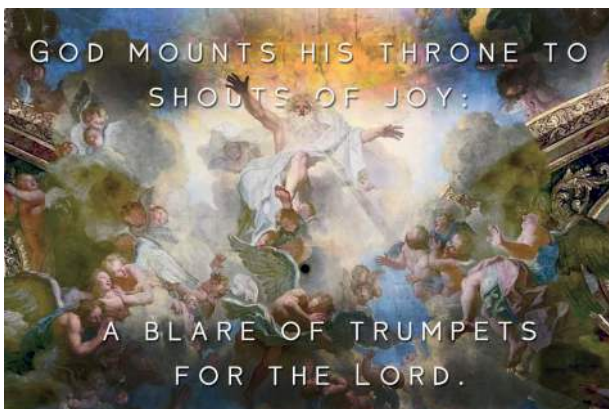
Thursday Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Jn 17:20-26

Friday Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19

Saturday Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5 and 7; Jn 21:20-25

Sunday Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23



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 Rusciollelli

Navy: MIDN 3C USNA Kellan Azzopardi; DCFN Matthew J Bixler Jr ; LCDR. Matthew Giannone; SR Chase T. Golden; MIDN 3C USNA Malerie Lague; Lt. Albert Remmey, Jr.; LCDR. Jordan Mayo; ENS. Rory Moran; OSSN. Daniel Pressley; LCDR. Jenna Hehn Quist; ENS. Tyler Spear; LCDR. William Vey; MIDN 3C USNA Patrick Walsh; CTT2. Zachary Wortham

..and all service members not listed.



Navigating US
DISCOVER THE PATH
TO A STRONGER MARRIAGE

**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.**

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

When: June 26-28

Where: St. Mark

Marriage shapes nearly every part of life, but it's something most people are never really taught how to do.

This June, St. Mark is hosting Navigating Us, a weekend retreat for couples at any stage who want to grow, strengthen their relationship, and be more intentional about the life they are building together.

This is not just for couples in crisis. It is for any couple who wants practical tools to communicate better, navigate conflict, and understand one another more deeply.

While all are welcome, this retreat is especially valuable in the early years of marriage, when strong habits can make a lasting difference.

Step away from the pace of daily life and invest in your marriage alongside other couples in our parish.

Childcare available. Registration required. Details:

stmarknc.org/marriage-ministry

3 Simple Daily Practices for a Stronger Marriage

Strong marriages are often built through small, consistent habits practiced over time. Simple moments of attention, affection, prayer, and intentional presence can shape the culture of a relationship in lasting ways. Even strong marriages benefit from stepping away from daily routines to reconnect, reflect, and continue growing together, which is one reason retreats like *Navigating Us* can be so valuable.

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

Even brief moments of prayer together help keep Christ at the center of marriage and remind couples that they are walking through life together, not alone.

2. Affirm your spouse every day.

Words matter. Encouragement, gratitude, and simple acts of kindness help build trust, friendship, and connection through every stage of marriage.

3. Practice intentional presence.

Put away distractions and spend quality time together. Strong marriages grow when couples continue learning how to listen, communicate, laugh, and simply enjoy one another's company.

Marriage does not become strong all at once. It grows through daily choices, ordinary moments, and the grace of God working through a shared life together.

STEWARDSHIP

Walking with Moms in Need: Thank you!

So many of you showed up for our Diaper and Wipe Drive, and it made a real difference. These simple, everyday items are already getting into the hands of mothers in our community who truly need the support.

This is what it looks like when a parish takes care of its own. Quiet generosity. Real love in action.

We'll have another opportunity to support families later this year. Our Baby Supply Drive will take place October 10 and 11 as part of our annual Coat, Blanket, Toy, and Baby Supply Drive. ***If you're able, we invite you to set aside gently used baby items and warm winter clothing for that time.***

For now, please hold onto those items until October so we can distribute everything together when the need is greatest.

Thank you for walking with them.



Stewardship Spotlight

This week, our spotlight is on our Alzheimer's Support Group. The Alzheimer's Association trained parishioner Janet Urban is a support group facilitator. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) St. Mark Alzheimer's Sport Group assists those who are caregivers or family members of those affected by Alzheimer's or another dementia.



No one should make this journey alone. Support is vital to caregivers' health. Connecting with others who are going through similar situations helps reduce feelings of isolation. The latest statistics report that 40% of caregivers end up sicker than the loved ones they care for. "Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2) Since it can be difficult for some to leave their loved ones, this group meets via Zoom® on the first Monday of each month from 6:30 pm – 8 pm. Participants offer advice about different things they have tried, sharing what worked well and what did not. Anyone interested in joining this support group can contact Janet Urban at 704-236-7475 or via email at jgraceart@yahoo.com. She will send the Zoom® link to join their meetings.



Thank You: 81% Goal!

Let's keep going. If you haven't donated, give something today... **we have had 50 new donors in the past two weeks!!**

Status Update as of April 23:

Goal: \$425,648.00

Pledged: \$343,337.78

Balance: \$ 82,310.22

Numbers of Donors: 524



Each gift, no matter the size, supports seminarians, ministries, and outreach across our diocese.



YOUR LIFE'S JOURNEY...

How will you be remembered?

ESTABLISH A LEGACY THAT RESPONDS TO THE MANY GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN YOU.

Creating a Lasting Legacy of Faith

Did you know that you can make a gift that reflects the blessings you've received and shared throughout your lifetime? By including St. Mark in your will or making another planned gift, you help ensure ongoing support for our parish and its mission. You can also honor the memory of a loved one by contributing to an endowment that strengthens our Catholic faith for generations to come.

For more information, please contact Karen Donahue, Development Coordinator: karen.donahue@stmarknc.org

ADORATION

ADORERS NEEDED...PLEASE HELP!!

Donna Fodale/ Adoration Coordinator

We are so blessed at St. Mark to have Perpetual Adoration.

To keep Perpetual Adoration going, we need at least two Adorer's per hour.

There are 168 hours in the week, and each hour should have two adorers. We are blessed to have some Adorers that have been committing to more than one hour a week. We also have an awesome sub team.

With over 300 weekly scheduled Adorers it is inevitable that circumstances change for some of our Adorers and that often leads to hour changes or having to give up being a committed hour completely.

With a parish as large as ours, I just know that we can cover every hour that needs one more Adorer. I am asking you to please prayerfully consider making a commitment.

Here are some questions that you may have...

What does it mean to sign up for a Holy Hour? It means that you choose a day and an hour that you can attend every week.

What happens if I sign up for a weekly hour and I need to miss it, due to illness, appointments, etc.? You simply would let me know and I will put out a sub request.

What happens if things change and I can no longer commit to the time that I originally signed up for? Just let me know and I can remove you from the schedule. Many times this happens and people choose a different hour if they can.

Can I split the hour with a friend or members of a group that I belong to? Yes!! Absolutely! We have many groups that have an hour and the members rotate the weeks that they come. The same can be done with a friend.

I want to take an hour in the middle of the night, but I am a little nervous and may not feel safe. How can I be safe at night? We lock the chapel from midnight to 5 am every night. Only scheduled Adorers will receive a code to get into the chapel.

On the spiritual side, I would just say that having Jesus truly present body, blood, soul and divinity in the Chapel is a blessing. Not many parishes are able to have Perpetual Adoration. The Lord placed a desire in Monsignor Bellow's heart for a Chapel and the rest is history.

Time with the Lord in Adoration renews, refreshes and strengthens the soul. The graces that come from your encounters with Jesus have a ripple effect not only in your life, your family's life, the community you live in but ultimately in the world.

*"I have a burning thirst to be honored by men in the Blessed Sacrament".
(Jesus speaking to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque)*

Below is the list of hours that need one more adorer, however you can sign up for any hour that works best with your schedule.

Night Hours:

Sunday Midnight to 1 am

Monday 3 am to 4 am

Tuesday 1 am to 2 am

Wednesday 1 am to 2 am

Day/Evening Hours:

Tuesday 8 pm to 9 pm

Friday 4 pm to 5 pm

Saturday 5 pm to 6 pm

Sunday 10 am to 11 am

Register at: www.stmarknc.org/adoration

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



Priests' Kneeler Pilgrimage!

When: May 18-24

Where: Adoration Chapel

The Mary's Sons Apostolate invites you to join them in praying in a special way for the 10 men who are preparing to be ordained to the Holy Priesthood for the Diocese of Charlotte: Deacons Robert Warren Bauman, Michael Patrick Camilleri, John Warren Cuppett, Maximilian Karl Frei, Juan González Hernández, Bryan Ilagor, Michael James Lugo, Daniel Chaves Peña, Peter James Townsend, and James Connor Tweed.

From May 18 to May 24, five handmade wooden kneelers will be at our parish (the second set of kneelers will be here May 25-30 .)

Please take a moment to pray on the kneelers for the deacons. There will be prayer cards for you to take and journals in which you can write messages of encouragement and well wishes. The kneelers will be given to the men at their ordination on May 30, here at St. Mark.

Our intent for the Kneeler Pilgrimage is to give the faithful across the diocese an opportunity to pray on every new priest's kneeler in a very personal way.

The kneelers symbolize God's call to the laity to take these new priests into our hearts and to pray for them without ceasing.

Our hope is that the kneelers provide a wonderful way to further connect the faithful to our new priests and, through the many prayers offered on these kneelers, these men will be strengthened in their journey to ordination and sustained in their Holy Priesthood.

For more information about Mary's Sons and the Kneelers for Priests Pilgrimage program, please visit www.maryssons.org.

THE ASCENSION

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.



The Ascension of the Lord (cover image) was our first Mysteries of the Rosary stained glass window, installed on October 17, 2018. In the right light, the red cloak almost appears three dimensional, even though it is part of the same flat surface.

The Ascension, celebrated forty days after Easter, marks Christ's return to the Father. As we profess in the Creed, "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father."

This moment is not simply a departure. It is a promise. Christ reigns, intercedes for us, and prepares a place for us.

But before He goes, He sends His disciples. What began with following Him now becomes a mission.

The Gospels recount the Ascension, and it is told again in the Acts of the Apostles, where the disciples are left looking upward. Yet they are not meant to remain there. They are called to go, to live what they have received, and to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

NEXT WEEKEND: PENTECOST MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 23:

Diaconate Ordination, 9 am, *No confession before Mass*

Sunday, June 24:

Vigil 5 pm, 7:30 am, 9 am, 11 am, 1 pm Spanish, 2:15* pm OCIA Candidate Mass, 5 pm

* We will have a special Mass to welcome our OCIA candidates into full communion with the Catholic Church. All are welcome to witness their reception of First Holy Communion and Sacrament of Confirmation.



Ordination to the Diaconate: Saturday, May 23, 9 am

Join us as we witness the ordination of parishioners Bradley Loftin, Connor White, and Patrick Martin to the transitional diaconate. James Johnson will also be ordained.

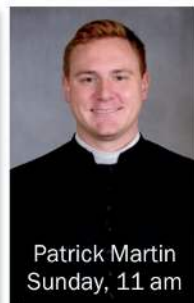
All are invited to a reception in their honor on Sunday, May 24 after the 11 am Mass. They will preach their first homilies at the times listed to the right. *Please note, there will be incense used at all of these Masses.*



Bradley Loftin
Saturday, 5 pm



Connor White
Sunday, 9 am



Patrick Martin
Sunday, 11 am



Fr. Tweed
Sunday, 9 am

Ordination to the Priesthood: Saturday, May 30, 9 am

Join us to witness the ordination of Deacons Michael Camilleri, Robert Bauman II, Daniel Peña, John Cuppett, Maximilian Frei, Juan Hernández, Bryan Ilagor, Michael Lugo, Peter Townsend and James C. Tweed. Fr. Tweed will celebrate his Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Mark on Sunday, May 31, at 9 am. A reception will follow.

OF THE LORD

NOVENA FOR DEACONS WHO WILL BE ORDAINED PRIESTS

Pray May 21-May 29

On Saturday, May 30, 10 deacons from the Diocese of Charlotte will be ordained priests at St. Mark. Please offer a bouquet of prayers and/or a Novena to the Holy Spirit for them:

Eternal Father, we offer our prayers, fasting and sacrifices in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ for our deacons to be ordained priests:

Robert W. Bauman II, Michael P. Camilleri, Daniel E. Chavis Peña, John W. Cuppett, Maximilian K. Frei, Juan González Hernández, Bryan Ilagor, Michael J. Lugo, Peter J. Townsend and James C. Tweed.

Your bouquet of prayers could be like this or similar:

- † One Holy Hour each day (9 Hours)
- † Abstinence of one meal each day or fast on bread and water every day (9 Days of fasting/abstinence)
- † Novena to the Holy Spirit (9 days)
- † 1 Rosary daily (9 Rosaries)
- † Litany to the Sacred Heart of Jesus daily (9)

Kneelers for each ordinand will be in the Adoration Chapel for you to pray on (see page 7.)



Complete prayers can be found in English and in Spanish at stmarknc.org/novena or scan code.



PRACTICING THE VIRTUES: AUDACITY

As we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, the disciples watch as Christ is taken from their sight. What began with following Him now changes. They are no longer simply observers. They are sent.

The virtue we consider this week is audacity.

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 audacity is hesitation, the tendency to hold back, to wait for perfect clarity, or to remain where we are rather than step forward in faith.

Audacity is not recklessness or impulse. It is the willingness to act when something is clearly good, even if the path is not fully known. It is the readiness to move when Christ calls, trusting that He remains present even when He is no longer seen.

In the Ascension, the disciples are left looking upward, but they are not meant to remain there. They are called to go, to carry forward what they have received, and to begin the work entrusted to them.

In our church, the virtues that surround us are not meant to remain on the walls. They are meant to be lived. Audacity allows that movement to happen. It turns belief into action and trust into response.

As we move toward Pentecost, the virtue of audacity invites us to step forward where we may have been holding back, to act where we have hesitated, and to trust that Christ continues to guide us as we are sent into the world.

PARISH LIFE

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



Singles 45+ Fellowship Event

When: Sunday, May 17, 5 - 8 pm

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

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

RSVP Today:

Questions? We are here to help! Feel free to reach out to us



at 45plussingles@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!



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, hannahigordon19@gmail.com or use the QR code to join the GroupMe.



YOUNG ADULT

Attention 21-39 Year Olds! NEW Weekly Event in Charlotte!

When: Wed. May 20, 6 pm

Where: 200 Foster Ave, Charlotte, NC



The Friars are kicking off a weekly Young Adult Gathering at "The Fran" (their new location) every Wednesday. Come join us weekly for

fellowship, faith formation and FOOD.

The Kick-Off will be held Wednesday, May 20, 6-9 pm. Come socialize around a taco bar. QR Code for details.

Information can also be found on Instagram on the Friars ministry account "SEARCH_Charlotte"



Young Adult Ministry at St. Mark

Join other like-minded young adults 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 many social events throughout the year.

To be a part of this great group and learn about upcoming events, scan the QR code to register for the GroupMe.

Contact: Sean Meier at seanmeier1@gmail.com.



Catholic Sports Summer Volleyball

When: Thursdays; 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Where: Jeff Adam's Park

Ages 18 and up are welcome to register for our **Summer Volleyball League**. The summer session runs from Thursday, June 4 for 6 weeks and then goes into playoffs.

Register as a team, a small group of four or less, or a free agent! There is a spot for everyone, whether you want to play in a casual league or a competitive division. Register and Contact:

catholicsports.net/charlotte-sport
elizabethmkenney@gmail.com

PARISH LIFE



Coming Up at St. Mark

Saturday, May 23

Diaconate Ordination, 9 am

Sunday, May 24

New Deacon Reception, 11 am
OCIA Candidate Mass, 2:15 pm

Saturday, May 30

Priest Ordination, 9 am

Sunday, May 31

Reception for Fr. James Tweed, 10 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

Sunday, July 26

New Member Meet and Greet

Saturday, August 1

Meal Packaging Event

August 15 & 16

Ministry Fair

September 5 & 6

Life Teen Retreat

September 11 & 12

Eucharistic Congress

Saturday, September 26

SeptemberFest

Sunday, October 4

Prayer Chain for Life

October 10 & 11

Coat/Blanket/Toy & Baby Drive

Saturday, October 17

Wings and Trivia

October 24-November 1

Thanksgiving Food Drive

November 1

Thanksgiving Food Drive and Giving Tree

November 7 & 8

Men's Welcome Retreat

November 29

First Day of Advent/St. Nicholas Brunch

International/National Combined Collection

The International Combined Collection this weekend combined five collections into one. Your donation to this collection contributes toward the Collection for the Holy Land, the Collection for the Works of the Holy Father (Peter's Pence), the Church in Latin America, the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, and the Church in Africa. Please be generous to these programs. Envelopes for this collection are in your parish envelope packet, or you can go to osvhub.com/stmarknc/giving/funds/combined-mission-collect, or use the QR code.



Lunch and Learn: Living Life with Laughter and Purpose

When: Monday, June 15; 11 am to 1 pm

Where: Parish Hall

Join us for an uplifting presentation by Amanda Buck, Director of Community Engagement at Carolina Caring. Amanda will share:

- The benefits of laughter and practical ways to bring joy into your life
- How to live the joyful life God intended for us
- This inspiring event will leave you energized and ready to embrace joy and purpose every day!



A complimentary lunch is included. Registration required.

RSVP: Kevin & Janet Urban, urbkev@yahoo.com,
704-689-3847

Volunteer Opportunity: Nourish Up Food Pantry

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.

RESPECT LIFE

Talk: Protecting Our Daughters from Gender Ideology and Abortion

When: Thursday, June 18; 7 pm

Where: Saint Mark Kerin Center

Today girls and young women have their privacy and safety threatened by gender ideology. From sharing public school bathrooms and locker rooms with males, to competing against men in women's sports and the proliferation of the harmful abortion pill. Learn how to recognize the dangers and protect our daughters with a special briefing by Mary Summa, JD, General Counsel with the NC Values Coalition. Sponsored by Carolina Family Coalition and Saint Mark Respect Life Committee.

*Information: defendthefamily.org/protect
Contact: Mike FitzGerald, 704-313-8414,
info@defendthefamily.org*

Respect Life Mass & Rosary

When: Tue., May 19; 9 am

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, [re-spect.life@stmarknc.org](mailto:respect.life@stmarknc.org)

FAITH FORMATION

Congratulations to our First Holy Communicants!

We rejoice with the 217 children who received their First Holy Communion on May 9 across two beautiful Masses. It was a joyful day for our parish. We also celebrate the 184 teens who were confirmed on May 16, continuing this season of grace for our St. Mark families.

We give thanks for each of these children and their families, and for the clergy, staff, and catechists who have prepared and accompanied them with such care. Please continue to pray for them, that they remain close to the Lord, strengthened by the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Eucharist.



9 am Mass



12:30 pm Mass



Altar Server Training

When: Sun. May 17; 6:30-8 pm

Where: Church


Altar servers hold a uniquely sacred role in the life of the Church, standing at the side of the priest, witnessing the miracle of the Eucharist up close, and helping to ensure the Mass is celebrated with reverence and beauty. It is one of the most meaningful ways a young person can actively participate in the worship of God.

Any rising 4th grader or older who has received First Holy Communion is warmly invited to come and discern this call.

For more information, please contact Matt Mixa at stmarkacolytes@gmail.com.




YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES



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



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.

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/



Duc In Altum
2026
June 22-26th
A Weeklong Retreat for
Young Women Ages 16-19

Come with us
www.charlottevocations.org

St. Mark School Lion Theatre Summer Camps

At St. Mark School | Led by Children’s Choir Director Lori Gabriel

Lion Performing Arts Summer Camp offers three sessions focused on musical theatre performance. Students will learn basic acting, vocal technique, and participate in improvisation while preparing a short musical to perform for families at the end of the week.

Session 1: Cub Theatre (Rising 2nd–3rd Grade)

June 8–12 or July 13–17 | 9–11:30 am

Session 2: Lion Theatre Level 1 (Rising 4th–5th Grade)

June 15–19 | 9–11:30 am

Scenes from The Wizard of Oz

Session 3: Advanced (Rising 6th–8th Grade)

June 22–25 | 9 am–12 pm

Details: Drop-off: 8:55 am at main school entrance

Pick-up: Main lobby (11:30 am or 12 pm for middle school)

Final-day performance for families

Cost: \$250 per session

Register: <https://forms.gle/FQdrW3nSncoUhgaw8>

Deadline: May 28, space is limited

Payment: Venmo @Lorie-Gabriel or Zelle

duoseraphims@yahoo.com

Registration is complete upon receipt of form and payment.

No refunds within 48 hours of the first day of camp.

Questions: imgabriel@stmarkcatholic.net



Talitha Koum
2026
June 22nd

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
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Liturg Coordinator/Office Manager

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704-948-0231, Ext. 102

Annulments, OCIA

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704-948-0231, Ext. 113

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704-948-0231, Ext. 155

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704-948-0231

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704-948-0231, Ext. 124

Faith Formation Admin Asst

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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



NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE



**Coming to the
Diocese of Charlotte!**
May 30 - June 2
Monroe | Charlotte | Statesville | Greensboro



**¡Próximamente en la
Diócesis de Charlotte!**
30 de mayo - 2 de junio
Monroe | Charlotte | Statesville | Greensboro

Don't miss this moment!

Join the Blessed Sacrament on its nationwide pilgrimage through the Diocese of Charlotte

PRAY

Holy Mass,
Eucharistic Adoration

GIVE

Support
Catholic Charities

WATCH

"Cabrini"
movie screening

✙ ✙ ✙ All events are FREE – everyone welcome! ✙ ✙ ✙



Meet the Pilgrims:

Pilgrimage stops at:

- Our Lady of Lourdes Church
- St. Vincent de Paul Church
- St. Peter Church
- St. Philip the Apostle Church
- St. Pius X Church

Scan for
more info!



Exclusive screening:

7 p.m. Sunday, May 31
Free - reservations required
Co-sponsored by
St. Matthew Parish of Charlotte

No te pierdas este momento

Únase al Santísimo Sacramento en su peregrinación nacional a través de la Diócesis de Charlotte

Orar

Santa misa,
adoración eucarística

Dar

Apoyar
Catholic Charities

Ver

"Cabrini"
proyección de película

¡Todos los eventos son GRATIS – todos son bienvenidos!



Conoce a los Peregrinos:

Paradas de la peregrinación:

- Our Lady of Lourdes Church
- St. Vincent de Paul Church
- St. Peter Church
- St. Philip the Apostle Church
- St. Pius X Church

¡Escanee para
más
información!



Proyección exclusiva:

7 p.m. domingo 31 de mayo
Gratis – se requieren reservaciones
Cofinanciado por la Parroquia de
San Mateo de Charlotte

ESPAÑOL

Novena por los diáconos que serán ordenados sacerdotes: Ore del 21 al 29 de mayo

El sábado 30 de mayo, diez diáconos de la Diócesis de Charlotte serán ordenados sacerdotes en St. Mark. Les invitamos a ofrecer un ramo espiritual de oraciones y/o una novena al Espíritu Santo por ellos:

Padre eterno, ofrecemos nuestras oraciones, ayunos y sacrificios en el Nombre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo por nuestros diáconos que serán ordenados sacerdotes:
Robert W. Bauman II, Michael P. Camilleri, Daniel E. Chavis

Peña, John W. Cuppett, Maximilian K. Frei, Juan González Hernández, Bryan Ilagor, Michael J. Lugo, Peter J. Townsend y James C. Tweed.

Su ramo espiritual de oraciones puede ser como este u otro similar:

- Una Hora Santa cada día (9 horas)
- Abstinencia de una comida cada día o ayuno a pan y agua cada día (9 días de ayuno/abstinencia)
- Novena al Espíritu Santo (9 días)
- Un Rosario diario (9 rosarios)
- Letanía al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús diaria (9)



Oraciones completas disponibles en inglés y en español en stmarknc.org/novena o escanee el código.

DEL PASTOR



Del Pastor – Ascensión A-2026

Hoy celebramos la gran fiesta de la Ascensión de nuestro Señor — ese momento en que Jesús, 40 días después de su Resurrección, fue elevado al cielo mientras los apóstoles observaban.

Debió de ser un espectáculo extraordinario. Pero la primera lectura nos dice que no estaban destinados a quedarse allí mucho

tiempo. “Hombres de Galilea, ¿por qué estáis ahí mirando al cielo?”

En otras palabras: no te quedes ahí parado. Haz algo.

Este es un mensaje para nosotros como administradores cristianos. Se nos ha dado toda gracia y bendición — a través de la Misa y los sacramentos, por la Palabra de Dios y por los dones de nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro.

No estamos destinados a simplemente recibir estos regalos.

Estamos destinados a usarlos — en agradecimiento a Aquel que los dio.

Como los apóstoles, estamos llamados “a ser [sus] testigos... hasta los confines del mundo.” Y lo hacemos no con nuestra propia fuerza, sino por el poder del Espíritu Santo que actúa en nosotros.

© Consultores de Gestión Católica, 2026

Reflexión pastoral

Teoría de la Guerra Justa: El marco moral católico para el conflicto armado

La Teoría de la Guerra Justa es una de las áreas más importantes y cuidadosamente desarrolladas de la teología moral católica. No glorifica la guerra, sino todo lo contrario. El Catecismo comienza su sección sobre la guerra con un solemne recordatorio de que “el quinto mandamiento prohíbe la destrucción intencionada de la vida humana”, y debido a los males e injusticias que acompañan a toda guerra, la Iglesia insta insistentemente a todos a la oración y la acción para que Dios nos libere de la antigua esclavitud de la guerra.

Y sin embargo, aunque la guerra siempre implica males, a veces la elección de no entrar en guerra puede ser un mal aún mayor — y esta es la teoría detrás de la enseñanza de la Iglesia de que una nación **puede** librar una guerra justa.

Raíces históricas

La teoría de cuándo y cómo puede justificarse moralmente la guerra se remonta al menos al orador romano precristiano Cicerón, y fue retomada por San Ambrosio y luego desarrollada sistemáticamente por San Agustín. El relato de Agustín fue posteriormente refinado por Santo Tomás de Aquino, cuya versión era normativa para los teóricos católicos desde la Edad Media en adelante.

El Concilio Vaticano II volvió a presentar el relato clásico, poniendo mucho más énfasis en la evitación de la guerra y ofreciendo una condena enérgica de las armas de destrucción masiva. El Catecismo actual (CIC 2307–2317) desarrolla esto concebiendo la guerra como un medio legítimo de autodefensa social.

Dos dimensiones de la justicia en la guerra

La Iglesia Católica distingue entre dos tipos de justicia en relación con la guerra: *ius ad bellum* (justicia antes de la guerra) y *ius in bello* (justicia durante la guerra). La mayor parte de la discusión se centra en el *ius ad bellum* — las cuatro condiciones heredadas de San Agustín que determinan si está justificado ir a la guerra. *Ius in bello* se refiere a cómo se lleva a cabo realmente la guerra una vez que ha comenzado.

Es totalmente posible que un país luche una guerra que cumpla las condiciones de *ius ad bellum* para ser justo, y aun así lluche esa guerra **injustamente** — atacando civiles inocentes o lanzando bombas indiscriminadamente.

Las cuatro condiciones para una guerra justa (CCC 2309)

Mientras persista el peligro de la guerra y ninguna autoridad internacional tenga suficiente poder para evitarlo, no se podrá negar a los gobiernos el derecho a la legítima defensa una vez que todos los esfuerzos de paz hayan fracasado. Las estrictas condiciones para una defensa legítima por la fuerza militar exigen que se cumplan simultáneamente los siguientes cuatro:

1. El daño infligido por el agresor a la nación o comunidad de naciones debe ser duradero, grave y seguro.
2. Todos los demás medios para ponerle fin deben haber demostrado ser imprácticos o ineficaces.
3. Debe haber serias perspectivas de éxito.
4. El uso de armas no debe producir males y desórdenes más graves que el mal que deben ser eliminados.

Estas son condiciones difíciles de cumplir, y con razón: la Iglesia enseña que la guerra siempre debe ser el último recurso.

Justicia durante la guerra (*ius in bello*)

Incluso en una guerra justa, la ley moral no se evapora en el campo de batalla. La Iglesia y la razón humana afirman la validez permanente de la ley moral durante el conflicto armado — “el mero hecho de que lamentablemente haya estallado la guerra no significa que todo se vuelva lícito entre las partes en guerra.”

Los no combatientes, soldados heridos y prisioneros deben ser respetados y tratados con humanidad. Las acciones deliberadamente contrarias al derecho de las naciones son delitos, al igual que las órdenes que las ordenan. La obediencia ciega no excusa a quienes las llevan a cabo. El exterminio de un pueblo, nación o minoría étnica debe ser condenado como un pecado mortal — y uno está moralmente obligado a resistir órdenes que ordenan genocidio.

Como afirma claramente el Catecismo: “Todo acto de guerra dirigido a la destrucción indiscriminada de ciudades enteras o vastas áreas con sus habitantes es un crimen contra Dios y el hombre, que merece una condena firme e inequívoca.”

Católicos en las Fuerzas Armadas

Un católico que sirve en las fuerzas armadas debe discernir la moralidad de cualquier conflicto. Si se le ordena cometer un acto intrínsecamente malvado — como el asesinato directo de un civil desarmado o la tortura de un prisionero de guerra — un soldado católico debe **rechazar** esa orden, aunque sea legal e incluso si resulta un castigo.

El desafío de la guerra moderna

El papa Juan Pablo II sugirió que el umbral para una guerra justa se ha elevado muy alto debido a la existencia de armas de destrucción masiva. El cardenal Ratzinger (más tarde Papa Benedicto XVI) fue aún más allá, preguntando “si, tal y como están las cosas, con nuevas armas que causan destrucción que va mucho más allá de los grupos implicados en la lucha, sigue siendo lícito admitir que podría existir una ‘guerra justa’.”

La Teoría de la Guerra Justa no es una laguna legal para la violencia — es una valla moral que la rodea. La presunción siempre comienza con la paz. La guerra es una trágica concesión a la pecaminosidad humana, nunca un primer recurso y siempre atada a las demandas permanentes de justicia y dignidad humana.






THE SOCIETY FOR FINANCIAL AWARENESS


A4 WEALTH ADVISORS, LLC
 IKN FINANCIAL CENTER
 16140 Northcross Drive | Huntersville, NC 28078
 office: 704-509-1141

- Comprehensive Retirement Planning
- Wealth Management
- Income Planning
- Medicare Consulting
- Insurance Planning
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John Balcerzak
 Investment Advisor
 Representative,
 Certified Financial
 Planner™



Shauntae Funkhouser
 Investment Advisor
 Representative,
 Certified Personal
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Fee-based financial planning and investment advisory services are offered by A4 Wealth Advisors, LLC a Registered Investment Advisor an SEC investment advisor. Insurance products and services are offered through A4 Insurance Solutions. A4 Wealth Advisors LLC and A4 Insurance Solutions are affiliated companies.


Raymer-Kepner
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