



Most Holy Trinity
SAINT MARK

**Ordained to the
Sacred Priesthood**

*Congratulations
Father James Tweed*

**Mass of
Thanksgiving**

*Sunday, May 31, 9 am
Reception to follow
in the Parish Hall*

WELCOME TO ST. MARK!



GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON JOHN 3:16

Today is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. The readings can be found in the music handouts in the St. Augustine Hymnal on page 883 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.

IMPORTANT Mass Schedule Changes

There will be no regular 9 am daily Mass Saturday, May 30.

We will be celebrating the Priesthood Ordination. There will be no confession prior to these Masses.

Sunday, May 31

There will be no confessions.

FROM THE PASTOR



Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity — the central mystery of our faith.

Though the Trinity is a profound mystery, it also reveals something very practical for us as Christian stewards. The Trinity is a communion of Persons who give themselves completely to one another. This self-giving

love is at the heart of the stewardship way of life.

In our Gospel, we hear, “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.” God gives Himself to us out of love. We are called to respond in the same way — by giving ourselves back to Him and to others.

The more we give of ourselves in love, the more we experience “the grace of the Lord, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit” within us.

This Triune God invites us into a deeper relationship with Him — one that grows as we live a life of gratitude and self-gift through the stewardship way of life.

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Pastoral Pondering

In light of the blessing of the ordination of ten new priests for the Diocese of Charlotte and the 34th anniversary of my own ordination (May 30), I thought it would be good to reflect on the importance of the ministerial priesthood in the life of the Church.

The Catholic priesthood (ministerial priesthood) is essential to the Church's life, mission, and sacramental reality. It flows directly from Christ's own priesthood and enables the Church to continue His saving work until the end of time.

Rooted in Christ's Priesthood

Catholic teaching holds that **Jesus Christ is the one eternal High Priest** (Hebrews 5:1-10, 7-10). The ministerial priesthood does not replace or compete with His but participates in it in a unique way.

Priests are ordained to act *in persona Christi Capitis* (“in the person of Christ the Head”), especially in the sacraments.

This differs essentially (not just in degree) from the **common priesthood of all the baptized**, by which every Christian offers spiritual sacrifices, lives a holy life, and witnesses to the Gospel (1 Peter 2:5, 9). The ministerial priesthood exists “for the service” of the common priesthood, to build up the Church as the Body of Christ.

Key Roles and Importance

Priests exercise a threefold ministry (teaching, sanctifying, and governing), called the three *Munera*, that mirrors Christ's:

- **Sanctifying the People of God:** Priests are the ordinary ministers of several sacraments, above all the **Eucharist**. Through them, Christ's one sacrifice on the Cross is made

present in the Mass. Without ordained priests, there would be no valid Eucharist in the Catholic understanding. They also forgive sins in Confession, anoint the sick, baptize (in ordinary circumstances), and celebrate other sacraments. This makes divine grace accessible in a tangible, ecclesial way.

- **Proclaiming the Word:** Priests preach the Gospel, teach the faith, and guide consciences. They are “co-workers” with bishops in shepherding the faithful.
- **Governing and Serving:** As spiritual fathers, they lead communities, counsel, perform works of mercy, and foster unity. They do this not by their own power but as instruments of Christ.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: “In the ecclesial service of the ordained minister, it is Christ himself who is present to his Church as Head of his Body, Shepherd of his flock, high priest of the redemptive sacrifice, Teacher of Truth.”

Apostolic succession ensures continuity: Bishops ordain priests through the laying on of hands, tracing back to the apostles. This sacramental character is indelible—permanent.

Why It Matters to the Church

- **The Church cannot fully be the Church without it** in Catholic doctrine. The priesthood guarantees the valid celebration of the Eucharist (the “source and summit” of Christian life) and the other sacraments that nourish faith.
- **It maintains the Church's hierarchical structure** for unity and ordered mission.
- **Priests enable the laity's priestly vocation** by providing the sacraments and pastoral care that empower everyday Christians to live out their baptismal calling.
- **Historically and theologically**, the priesthood fulfills and surpasses the Old Covenant priesthood, making Christ's mediation present across time and place.



Fr. John's Ordination, May 30, 1992

Vatican II's *Presbyterorum Ordinis* (Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests) emphasizes that priests are “taken from among men and appointed for men in the things that pertain to God” (Hebrews 5:1). Their celibacy, obedience, and life of prayer are oriented toward total availability for the Gospel and the flock.

In short, the Catholic priesthood is not an optional “clergy class” but a divine gift by which Christ continues to shepherd, teach, and sanctify His Church. Catholics believe that through faithful priests, grace flows to the world, making salvation accessible and the Church a living sacrament of Christ's presence.

Let's thank God for the gift of our newly ordained priests and ask the Lord to continue to send workers into the vineyard.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, May 31
 7:30 am † Aldo Capristo
 9 am Shingledecker Family
 11 am Wisdom Family
 1 pm † Esperanza Rodriguez
 5 pm Raj and Rajinbeer Uppal

Monday, June 1
 7 am † Elizabeth and Stephen Shailor Sr.
 9 am † Michael

Tuesday, June 2
 7 am † Irene Luisa Canino & Milagros Guillen Canino
 9 am The Doyle Family

Wednesday, June 3
 7 am Aileen Echevarria
 Donna Fadale
 6:30 pm James Nobers
 † Anthony Joseph Montana

Thursday, June 4
 7 am † Fr. O'Conner
 9 am Mary's Women of Joy

Friday, June 5
 7 am † Hanne Hancock
 9 am † Charles Kern
 7 pm St. Mark Parishioners

Saturday, June 6
 9 am Anna Kennedy
 5 pm † Marcella & Louis Clark

Sunday, June 7
 7:30 am St. Mark Parishioners
 9 am Esser Family
 11 am † Kayla Wilson
 1 pm † Lueia Sigueneia
 5 pm † Sebastian Remedios
 † Deceased

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: 1st 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.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sun. Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
 Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9; Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18

Mon. Memorial of Saint Justin, Martyr
 2 Pt 1:2-7; Ps 91:1-2, 14-15b, 15c-16; Mk 12:1-12

Tue. 2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18; Ps 90:2, 3-4, 10, 14 and 16; Mk 12:13-17

Wed. Memorial of Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs
 2 Tim 1:1-3, 6-12; Ps 123:1b-2ab, 2cdef; Mk 12:18-27

Thu. 2 Tim 2:8-15; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Mk 12:28-34

Fri. Memorial of Saint Boniface, Bishop and Martyr
 2 Tim 3:10-17; Ps 119:157, 160, 161, 165, 166, 168; Mk 12:35-37

Sat. 2 Tim 4:1-8; Ps 71:8-9, 14-15ab, 16-17, 22; Mk 12:38-44

Sun. Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ
 Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; 1 Cor 10:16-17; Jn 6:51-58

HOLY ORDERS



Rejoicing with the newly ordained priests and deacons of the Diocese of Charlotte.



ONCE ALTAR SERVERS AT ST. MARK

Three parishioners now ordained deacons preparing for the priesthood.



DEACON BRADLEY LOFTIN



DEACON PATRICK MARTIN



DEACON CONNOR WHITE

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS



Thank you for your witness, your sacrifice, and your yes to Christ and His Church.



FATHER JAMES TWEED

You spent a year with us in parish ministry. You were vested by Deacon Rich at your diaconate ordination.



Thank you for the honor of celebrating your Mass of Thanksgiving here at St. Mark.

Sunday, May 31, 9 am

Reception to follow in Parish Hall, all invited.

Vocations grow in the life of the Church through families, friendship, prayer, and the encouragement of faithful parishioners.

We rejoice with all those ordained for the Diocese of Charlotte and with the men of St. Mark continuing to answer Christ's call.

Thank you to the many parishioners who support seminarians, priests, and deacons through their prayers, encouragement, and generosity.



Where did Easter go?

From Pentecost to Ordinary Time

Last Sunday, the Church celebrated Pentecost and concluded the Easter season after fifty days of rejoicing in Christ's Resurrection. This week, Ordinary Time resumes. But if you look around the church, you may notice that things do not immediately feel "ordinary."

That is because the Church now enters a beautiful sequence of solemnities that help us reflect more deeply on the mysteries we have celebrated throughout Easter.

Today we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**, contemplating the life of God Himself: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Next Sunday, we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ or Corpus Christi**, giving special honor to Christ truly present in the Holy Eucharist. And finally, on Friday, June 12, the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**, drawing our attention to the depth of Christ's love for His people.

These celebrations remind us that Ordinary Time does not mean ordinary as in unimportant. The word comes from *ordinal*, meaning counted or ordered. These weeks invite us to live the grace of Easter in daily life and continue growing as disciples.

The Easter season may have concluded, but the work of the Holy Spirit continues.



STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Spotlight: Angels & Sparrows

Our Stewardship Spotlight highlights *Angels & Sparrows*, a Huntersville nonprofit dedicated to "empowering families to overcome barriers and gain upward mobility by ensuring food security and access to essential educational opportunities."

In addition to its Monday–Friday seated lunch service (11 am–1 pm), summer bag lunch program, and emergency food pantry, Angels & Sparrows offers a wide range of services:

- Neighborhood outreach for communities needing additional support
- English and High School Equivalency (HSE) classes for adults, with further training opportunities
- Literacy support and tutoring for elementary-aged children
- Social-emotional learning, tutoring, and college and career readiness for teens
- Family coaching through Mobility Mentoring
- Wraparound services, including financial and transportation assistance, mental health support, and referrals

Angels & Sparrows envisions a community where a child's future is not determined by household income. Through their Food Security Programs and nationally recognized two-generation Pathway Program, they equip families with the tools, education, and resources needed to break cycles of poverty and food insecurity.

As Christian stewards, we are called to serve and connect with others through compassionate outreach, especially in our concern for those in need.

We are currently seeking a St. Mark liaison to partner with Angels & Sparrows.

This individual would help coordinate and promote opportunities for parishioners to serve, strengthening our connection with this impactful ministry. **If interested, please contact Karen Donahue at karen.donahue@stmarknc.org.**

Parishioners can support Angels & Sparrows through volunteer service as well as in-kind and financial donations.

To learn more or get involved, visit: <https://angelsandsparrows.org/volunteer/>



TENDING the VINEYARD

Your Support of the DSA directly helps funding to the Diocese of Charlotte's Vocations programs, specifically supporting permanent diaconate formation and seminarian education.

The DSA also provides annual funding to help carry out the diocese's mission: to "grow ever more perfectly into a community of praise, worship, and witness, and to become a leaven of service and sign of peace through love in the Piedmont and western North Carolina."

The DSA provides funding for over 50 ministries and programs.

We ask that all parishioners make a donation, no matter the size. Please go to charlottediocese.org/dsa or scan the code.



St. Mark Status Update:
 Goal: \$425,648.00
 Pledged: \$349,537.48
Balance: \$ 76,110.26
 Number of Donors: 535



Angels & Sparrows Ministry Leader Needed!

We are looking for a new ministry leader for our Angels & Sparrows outreach program. This position acts as a liaison to Angels & Sparrows communicating their needs and volunteer opportunities with the parish. Minimal time is required and can be done from home.

Contact: Karen Donahue at 704-948-0231 ext. 136 or karen.donahue@stmarknc.org



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.

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.

SAVE THE DATE Meal Packaging: Details and Sign-Up to Come Soon!

Meal Packaging Event!
Saturday, August 1



Housewares and Furniture Collection Drive for Catholic Charities/ Homemakers of Mercy

When: *Sat., June 13*

Where: *St. Mark Parking Lot*

Catholic Charities and Homemakers of Mercy are collecting housewares and furniture to prepare apartments for families in great need (transitioning from homelessness, Roof Above, abusive situations).

For small housewares, volunteers will be available to receive your donations in the St. Mark parking lot, June 13, 9 am – 12 noon.

We will collect new or gently used housewares: **Microwaves | Pots and pans | Lamps | Kitchen utensils (silverware, mixing bowls, gadgets) | Bath towel sets | Household cleaning products | Laundry and dishwasher soaps | Queen or Twin sheets/blankets/comforters/pillows *new only please***

For furniture donations, please do not bring them to the church, email the address below and we will arrange a pickup time for that morning.

Appointments must be made a week in advance for pick up of furniture: **Sofas (no sleeper sofas or futons) | Upholstered chairs | Kitchen tables and chairs (tables 6ft or smaller) | Coffee, End, and Bedside tables | Dressers TVs | small Desks. We cannot accept: TV cabinets/large armoires/entertainment centers/tall bookcases | Mattresses | Headboards/footboards/bed frames | Office equipment | File cabinets**

Information:

www.stmarknc.org/catholic-charities

Contact:

CatholicCharitiesOALead@stmarknc.org



ADORATION

Adoration... An Hour of Power

By: Donna Fodale/Adoration Coordinator

If you had to describe in just a few words what spending an hour with Jesus in Adoration means to you, what would you say?

Someone recently said to me that it was their “hour of power.” I just loved that! Within that time frame so many things happen between an Adorer and the Lord. I would imagine the moment you walk in and you gaze at each other, our Lord’s heart is filled with such joy. After all, he is always waiting for us to visit him. I also would imagine that our Guardian Angels fall to their knees as they enter the Chapel with us.

In one hour, we often offer the Lord the intentions we carry in our heart, words of thanksgiving, we meditate on scripture, pray the Rosary, read spiritual books and hopefully we offer some time just to give him praise.

Praising the Lord is something that we are all called to do. So, what exactly is praise? For most of us, we think praise is giving thanks, but it is very different.

Praise describes the “attributes of God,” acknowledging God for who He is: the Lord of Lords, the Alpha and the Omega, the Prince of Peace, our Savior, our Redeemer, our Protector, our Comforter, our Rock, our Creator, the Word made Flesh and on and on.

I recently read that the word praise appears 550 times in Scripture.

Psalms 150 is just one of the many places we find an invitation to offer the Lord praise.

Psalm 150

Hallelujah!

Praise God in his holy sanctuary;
give praise in the mighty dome of heaven.
Give praise for his mighty deeds
praise him for his great majesty.
Give praise with blasts upon the horn
praise him with harp and lyre.
Give praise with tambourines and dance,
praise him with strings and pipes
Give praise with crashing cymbals,
praise him with sounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath
give praise to the LORD!
Hallelujah!

So, what does your hour of power consist of? Adding one Holy Hour to your week will help you grow in holiness, strengthen you and help you persevere on your journey to heaven. It will change your life!

Please prayerfully consider signing up for a Holy Hour.

Register at www.stmarknc.org/adoration

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Please join us for our **Third Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for all Scheduled Adorers**, Subs and anyone who has spent time with the Lord in Adoration.

Date: Mon., July 13 Mass at 6:30 pm followed by a light Reception in the Parish Hall.

More information to follow.



Next Week: Corpus Christi Procession!

When: Sun., June 7, after 9 am and 1 pm Mass

Where: Outside after Mass

We invite you to celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, also known as Corpus Christi, with a solemn Eucharistic procession, which will take place following both the 9 am and the 1 pm Spanish Mass.

This sacred event is a beautiful opportunity for us to publicly honor the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. As we carry the Blessed Sacrament, we bear witness to our faith and express our gratitude for the gift of the Holy Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian life.

All parishioners, families, and friends are encouraged to participate. Please bring your rosaries and join in prayer and song as we process together, uniting our hearts in

Pray a Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

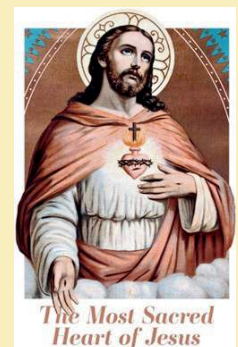
When: June 3–11

This June, the Catholic bishops of the United States invite the faithful to join in a national Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in preparation for the consecration of our nation to the Sacred Heart on June 11.

The novena draws from the Litany of the Sacred Heart and includes daily reflections, prayers and practical invitations rooted in the Church’s longstanding devotion to the Heart of Christ. It concludes with a special Prayer of Consecration asking the Lord to renew hearts, strengthen families and bring healing and peace to our nation.

The Sacred Heart reminds us that Christ’s love is not distant or abstract. His Heart remains open to us and calls us to deeper conversion, trust and charity.

Scan the QR code to pray the novena each day.



MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

Prayer for Married Couples

Lord God, from you every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

Father, you are Love and Life. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, born of woman, and through the

Holy Spirit, fountain of divine charity, grant that every family on earth may become for each

successive generation a true shrine of life and love.

Grant that your grace may guide the thoughts and actions of husbands and wives for the good of their families in the world.

Grant that the youth may find in the family solid support for their human dignity and for their growth in truth and love.

Grant that love strengthened by the grace of the sacrament of marriage, may prove mightier than all the weakness and trials through which our families sometimes pass.

Through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that the Church may fruitfully carry out her worldwide mission in the family and through the family. Through Christ our Lord, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life far ever and Ever.

Amen



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.**

Marriage is one of the greatest blessings and one of the greatest responsibilities God gives us. But healthy marriages do not happen automatically. They are built over time through prayer, communication, sacrifice, forgiveness, and friendship.

Navigating Us is a weekend retreat for couples who want to strengthen their marriage and be more intentional about the life they are building together.

This is not only for couples in crisis. It is for newlyweds, longtime married couples, and anyone who wants to grow closer to their spouse and learn practical ways to communicate better and navigate challenges together.

Join other couples from St. Mark for a weekend of encouragement, conversation, and renewal.

Childcare available. Registration required.

PARISH LIFE



Coming Up at St. Mark

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

Sunday June 7

Solemnity of Corpus Christi
Procession after the 9 am and 1 pm Mass

June 8-11 & July 20-23

Preschool Camp

Saturday, June 13

Catholic Charities Houseware Collection

Thursday, June 18

Talk: Protecting Our Daughters

Sunday, June 21

Father's Day Donuts for Dad

June 22-26

Vacation Bible School

June 26-28

St. Mark Marriage Retreat

Monday, July 13

Adoration Mass of Thanksgiving

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

Lunch and Learn: Living Life with Laughter and Purpose

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

Where: Parish Hall

Everyone is invited to this 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

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Next City-Wide Vigil of the Two Hearts

When: Fri., June 5; see times below

Where: Cathedral of St. Patrick

1621 E. Dilworth Road, Charlotte

Join us on each First Friday through First Saturday at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in an overnight vigil to honor the Hearts of Jesus & Mary, to pray for our families, offer penance for our sins, pray for an end to abortion and for our country's conversion back to God.

The devotion begins with 8 pm First Friday Mass, June 5 followed by Nocturnal Adoration and concluding with 8 am First Saturday Mass on June 6. The priest will be newly ordained Fr. Robert Bauman (to be ordained May 30) and Deacon John Kopfle (St. Vincent) will lead the holy hour.

Organized by Carolina Pro-Life Action Network (C-PLAN). To adopt an hour in prayer visit:

www.defendthefamily.org/two-hearts

Practicing the Virtues: Friendship

On the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, the Church celebrates the mystery of one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Trinity is not simply something to be explained. It is the revelation of God's own life.

The virtue we consider this week is friendship.

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 friendship is isolation. When we turn inward, we can begin to live as though we do not need God or one another, keeping relationships at a distance and relying only on ourselves.

Friendship is more than companionship or shared interests. Christian friendship is rooted in love, trust, sacrifice, and a desire for the good of the other. It draws us out of ourselves and teaches us to receive as well as give.

In our church, the word Friendship appears along the left side of the nave toward the front. Its placement is fitting. As we move toward the altar, we are reminded that the Christian life is not lived alone. Christ gathers us into communion with God and with one another. The Church itself is not simply a collection of individuals, but a people united in Him.

The Trinity reveals that relationship is not secondary to life with God. Relationship is at the center of it. The Father gives Himself completely to the Son. The Son receives and returns that love. The Holy Spirit proceeds as the bond of that perfect love. We are created not for isolation, but for communion.

This weekend, we witnessed men ordained to the priesthood at our parish. Their vocation is not lived for themselves, but in service to helping others grow in friendship with Christ and with His Church.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, the virtue of friendship invites us to consider where God may be calling us into deeper relationship with Him and with one another, trusting that we are never meant to walk alone.

MEN'S EVENING OF REFLECTION



SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH

AFTER THE 5PM MASS AT THE KERIN CENTER

ANDY LAUSIER

PERFORMANCE COACH • LEADERSHIP FACILITATOR

Helping men build resilience, sharpen identity, and perform under pressure.

**“AS IRON SHARPENS IRON,
SO ONE MAN SHARPENS ANOTHER.”**

— PROVERBS 27:17 —

ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH

14740 STUMPTOWN RD | HUNTERSVILLE, NC.

ALL MEN INVITED!

COME AND JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF BROTHERHOOD & SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

ANDY LAUSIER IS A PERFORMANCE COACH, LEADERSHIP FACILITATOR,
AND FOUNDER OF FAITH FIRST ATHLETIX.

WITH YEARS OF EXPERIENCE COACHING AT THE
COLLEGIATE LEVEL, ANDY HELPS MEN
UNLOCK THEIR FULL POTENTIAL—NOT
JUST IN COMPETITION, BUT IN LIFE.





FAITH FORMATION

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ECHO
MIDDLE SCHOOL EDGE/CONFIRMATION
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

to nurture and support the *spiritual growth* every child & teen.

Faith Formation Registration Now Open!

Registration for the 2026–2027 Faith Formation year opens Tuesday, May 25 at stmarknc.org/ff.

Faith Formation at St. Mark supports the spiritual growth of our children and teens and prepares them to receive the sacraments, including First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We invite all families with children in grades K – 8 who are not enrolled in a Catholic school religion program to register.

All classes are held on campus at St. Mark Church and School, with multiple session times available to support your family's schedule.

New Schedule for 2026–2027

K–5 (ECHO)

Sunday: 3:15–4:30 pm or 6:15–7:30 pm
Monday: 4:30–5:45 pm or 6:15–7:30 pm

Echo is our faith formation (religious education) program for those in Kindergarten - 5th grade.

Our elementary program is called ECHO — because what children learn in the classroom is meant to be lived and shared at home.

Edge (Grades 6–7)

Sunday: 3:15–4:30 pm
Monday: 6:15–7:30 pm

EDGE is a Life Teen program for middle school students, helping them grow in their relationship with Christ. Participation in 7th grade EDGE is required for Confirmation in 8th grade.

Confirmation (Grade 8)

Sunday: 6:15–7:30 pm
Tuesday: 6:15–7:30 pm

Students preparing for Confirmation complete two consecutive years of formation and must be baptized.

Beginning this fall, Faith Formation will move outside of Sunday morning hours. This allows for a safer campus environment as our parish continues to grow and helps families be more intentional about attending Mass together.

If your child attends Catholic school or is homeschooled, they do not need to attend weekly Faith Formation classes but must register for sacramental preparation in the year they will receive a sacrament.

Parents are the first and most important teachers of the faith. What is lived at home—especially participation in Sunday Mass—shapes a child's relationship with Christ more than anything else.

Preparation for the sacraments follows a two-year process. First Holy Communion is typically received in 2nd grade, and Confirmation in 8th grade. Older students who have not yet received the sacraments will be placed in appropriate pathways or OCIA.

All of the information needed to find out what classes your child should be in can be found at stmarknc.org/ff or by scanning the code.

Thank you for your commitment to the faith formation of your children. Please know of our prayers for you and your families.



Most Holy Trinity

T	B	P	W	O	R	L	D	Q	S
A	M	D	N	E	B	O	R	G	A
L	P	J	Z	G	E	Q	E	W	V
O	B	P	K	G	L	I	T	X	E
V	O	E	W	O	I	N	E	J	D
E	O	R	Z	D	E	A	R	B	K
D	N	I	Z	A	V	M	N	Z	G
M	L	S	T	Q	E	E	A	P	N
H	Y	H	S	P	R	J	L	T	D
X	K	O	Z	Y	T	J	S	O	N

God
Loved
World
Only
Believe
Son
Perish
Eternal
Saved
Name

©Diocesan

The Little Ones
Jim Burrows

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. 2 Cor 13:13

For more from the New Saint's Spiritual Pathways (NSP) visit us at stmarknc.org



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Join us! Knights of Columbus

When: Mon., June 1; 6:30 pm

Where: Family Center Room 200

Are you a Catholic man looking to grow in your faith, serve your parish and community, and become part of a Brotherhood rooted in charity and Catholic values?

The Knights of Columbus invite you to be part of something greater. As a member, you will have opportunities to:

- Deepen your spiritual life and Faith formation
- Support local charitable causes and parish initiatives
- Participate in family and community events
- Build strong bonds of brotherhood with fellow Catholic men

Whether you're looking to give back, grow spiritually, or simply connect with like-minded men, there is a place for you in our Council.

Please come to our next general meeting as our guest to see what we are all about.

To learn more or express interest contact Ray FitzGerald at RFITZG@AOL.COM or 704-992-1702.



Rosary Makers Thank You!

The Knights of Columbus extend their appreciation to the dedicated Rosary Makers Ministry, who generously crafted 200 rosaries for our membership. These rosaries, made in the Knights' signature colors of blue, red, and gold, were recently distributed to our members during our general meeting. This partnership underscores unity and support among the groups at St. Mark, showing how they collaborate to address needs as they arise.

The Rosary Makers Group was established in 2008 with the Wild Family. Currently, we have 92 members. Five individuals produced 200 rosaries over a span of three weeks. They gather on the fourth Saturday of each month, and members regularly return supplies and rosaries throughout the week.



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





**Coming to the
Diocese of Charlotte!**
May 30 - June 2
Moroë | 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

Protecting Our Daughters



Mary Summa
NC Values Coalition



Sponsored by the Carolina Family Coalition
and Saint Mark Respect Life Committee
www.defendthefamily.org/protect

What can parents do to protect their girls from gender ideology and the abortion pill?

With **Mary Summa, J.D.**
General Counsel,
NC Values Coalition

**Thursday, June 18
at 7:00 p.m.**

**Saint Mark Church
Kerin Center**
14740 Stumptown Road
Huntersville, NC

Today girls and young women are having their privacy and safety threatened with:

- Sharing public school bathrooms and locker rooms with males
- Unfairly competing against biological men in sports
- The proliferation of the harmful abortion pill

Learn how to **stand up and protect** the dignity of girls and women.



YOUNG ADULTS

NEW Weekly Event in Charlotte!

When: Wednesdays, 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.

Information can be found on Instagram on the Friars ministry account:
[@search_charlotte](https://www.instagram.com/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: seanmeier1@gmail.com.



Catholic Sports Summer Volleyball 18+

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-sports
elizabethmkenney@gmail.com



VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE SUMMARY

- Format: 6v6 Casual & 4v4 Competitive
- Location: Jeff Adams Park
- Begins: June 4, 2026
- Time: Thursday's from 6:30-8:30 PM
- Duration: 6 weeks + playoffs
- Roster Size: Casual Min: 8, Max 10 - Competitive Min: 4, Max: 7
- League Rules
- League Host: Liz K

Saint Mark Parish Directory

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

Pastor

Very Rev. John T. Putnam, JV

Parochial Vicars

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

Deacons

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

Director of Parish Operations

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

Sacristan

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

Liturgy Coordinator/Office Manager

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

Annulments, OCIA

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

Sacrament Admin/Adoration

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

Director of Sacred Music

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

Director of Finance

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

Hispanic Ministry Coordinator

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

Stewardship Coordinator

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

Calendar Management

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

Public Relations Coordinator

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

Director of Marriage and Family Life

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

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



Hoy celebramos la Solemnidad de la Santísima Trinidad — el misterio central de nuestra fe.

Aunque la Trinidad es un misterio profundo, también revela algo muy práctico para nosotros como administradores cristianos. La Trinidad es una comunión de Personas que se entregan completamente unas a otras. Este amor entregado está en el corazón de la forma de vida de la

mayordomía.

En nuestro Evangelio escuchamos: "Dios amó tanto al mundo que dio a su único Hijo." Dios se entrega a nosotros por amor. Estamos llamados a responder de la misma manera: entregándonos a Él y a los demás.

Cuanto más nos damos en amor, más experimentamos "la gracia del Señor, el amor de Dios y la comunión del Espíritu Santo" dentro de nosotros.

Este Dios Trino nos invita a una relación más profunda con Él — una que crece a medida que vivimos una vida de gratitud y de auto-regalo a través del modo de vida de la mayordomía.

© Consultores de Gestión Católica, 2026

Reflexión pastoral

A la luz de la bendición de la ordenación de diez nuevos sacerdotes para la Diócesis de Charlotte y el 34º aniversario de mi propia ordenación (30 de mayo), pensé que sería bueno reflexionar sobre la importancia del sacerdocio ministerial en la vida de la Iglesia.

El sacerdocio católico (sacerdocio ministerial) es esencial para la vida, la misión y la realidad sacramental de la Iglesia. Fluye directamente del propio sacerdocio de Cristo y permite a la Iglesia continuar su obra salvadora hasta el fin de los tiempos.

Enraizados en el sacerdocio de Cristo

La enseñanza católica sostiene que **Jesucristo es el único Sumo Sacerdote eterno** (Hebreos 5:1-10, 7-10). El sacerdocio ministerial no reemplaza ni compite con el Suyo, sino que participa en él de una manera única. Los sacerdotes están ordenados para actuar *in persona Christi Capitis* ("en la persona de Cristo Cabeza")— especialmente en los sacramentos.

Esto difiere esencialmente (no solo en grado) del **sacerdocio común de todos los bautizados**, por el cual todo cristiano ofrece sacrificios espirituales, vive una vida santa y da testimonio del Evangelio (1 Pedro 2:5, 9). El sacerdocio ministerial existe *para el servicio* del sacerdocio común, para edificar la Iglesia como el Cuerpo de Cristo.

Roles clave e importancia

Los sacerdotes ejercen un ministerio triple (enseñanza, santificación y gobierno), llamado los tres *Munera*, que refleja el de Cristo:

- **Santificar al Pueblo de Dios:** Los sacerdotes son los ministros ordinarios de varios sacramentos, sobre todo de la **Eucaristía**. A través de ellos, el único sacrificio de Cristo en la Cruz se hace presente en la Misa. Sin sacerdotes ordenados, no habría

Eucaristía válida en la comprensión católica. También perdonan pecados en la confesión, ungen a los enfermos, bautizan (en circunstancias ordinarias) y celebran otros sacramentos. Esto hace que la gracia divina sea accesible de manera tangible y eclesial.

- **Proclamando la Palabra:** Los sacerdotes predicán el Evangelio, enseñan la fe y guían las conciencias. Son "colaboradores" de obispos en la guía de los fieles.
- **Gobernar y Servir:** Como padres espirituales, lideran comunidades, aconsejan, realizan obras de misericordia y fomentan la unidad. No lo hacen por su propio poder, sino como instrumentos de Cristo.

El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica afirma: "En el servicio eclesial del ministro ordenado, es Cristo mismo quien está presente a su Iglesia como Cabeza de su Cuerpo, Pastor de su rebaño, sumo sacerdote del sacrificio redentor, Maestro de la Verdad."



La sucesión apostólica garantiza la continuidad: los obispos ordenan sacerdotes mediante la imposición de manos, remontándose a los apóstoles. Este carácter sacramental es imborrable—permanente.

Por qué es importante para la Iglesia

- **La Iglesia no puede ser plenamente la Iglesia sin ella** en la doctrina católica. El sacerdocio garantiza la celebración válida de la Eucaristía (la "fuente y cima" de la vida cristiana) y de los demás sacramentos que nutren la fe.
- Mantiene la estructura jerárquica de la Iglesia para la unidad y la misión ordenada.

- Los sacerdotes facilitan la vocación sacerdotal de los laicos proporcionando los sacramentos y la atención pastoral que empoderan a los cristianos cotidianos para vivir su vocación bautismal.
- Histórica y teológicamente, el sacerdocio cumple y supera el sacerdocio de la Antigua Alianza, haciendo que la mediación de Cristo esté presente a lo largo del tiempo y el lugar.

El *Presbyterorum Ordinis* (Decreto sobre el Ministerio y la Vida de los Sacerdotes) *del Vaticano II* enfatiza que los sacerdotes son "tomados de entre los hombres y designados para los hombres en las cosas que corresponden a Dios" (Hebreos 5:1). Su celibato, obediencia y vida de oración están orientados a la disponibilidad total para el Evangelio y el rebaño.

En resumen, el sacerdocio católico no es una "clase clerical" opcional, sino un don divino por el cual Cristo continúa pastoreando, enseñando y santificando a Su Iglesia. Los católicos creen que, a través de sacerdotes fieles, la gracia fluye al mundo, haciendo la salvación accesible y haciendo que la Iglesia sea un sacramento vivo de la presencia de Cristo.

Demos gracias a Dios por el don de nuestros sacerdotes recién ordenados y pidamos al Señor que siga enviando trabajadores a la viña.






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