

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



God sees and treasures our offerings of time, talent, and treasure.

When placed in His hands, they bear more fruit than we could ever imagine.

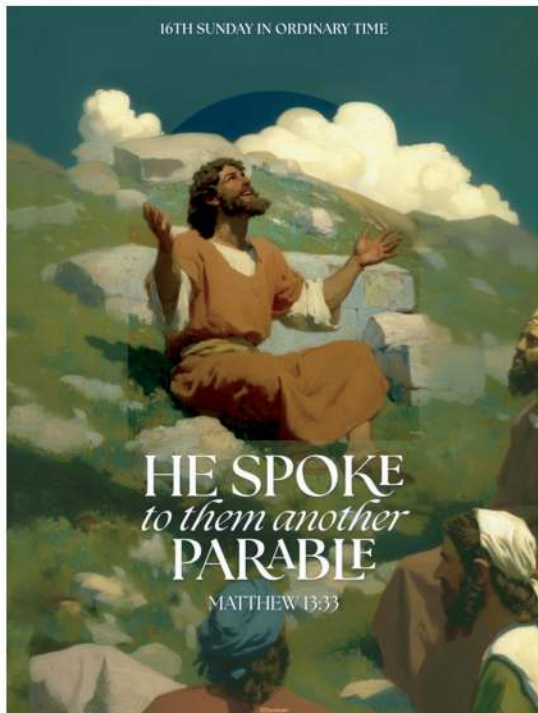


SAINT✠MARK



July 19, 2026 • Spanish Page 16

WELCOME TO ST. MARK!



Today is the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings can be found in the music handouts or in the St. Augustine Hymnal on page 916. 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, 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 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.

Thank you for
generously
sharing your
gifts with the
parish.



Online Giving

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YOU CAN GIVE YOUR
OFFERTORY ONLINE?**

*Planned
Proportionate
Intentional
Consistent*



sign up at stmarknc.org/online-giving

FROM THE PASTOR



Today's Gospel passage from Matthew contains several parables that offer both challenge and encouragement to the Christian steward as Jesus describes

the Kingdom of Heaven and our role in helping to build it.

First, He compares the Kingdom to a field where both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. Only then are they separated — the wheat gathered into the sower's barn and the weeds destroyed. It is a sobering reminder that our choices matter and that God, in His justice, will one day call each of us to account for how we have lived and used the gifts He has entrusted to us.

But Jesus also offers great encouragement. He compares the Kingdom to a mustard seed, the smallest of seeds, which grows into a large plant. He also compares it to a small amount of yeast that quietly transforms an entire batch of dough. These images are especially consoling for Christian stewards. So often, the prayers we pray, the service we offer, and the gifts we share can seem small compared to the needs around us. Yet Jesus reminds us that God works powerfully through even the smallest acts of faithfulness.

God sees and treasures our offerings of time, talent, and treasure. When placed in His hands, they can bear far more fruit than we could ever imagine. In gratitude for all He has given us, let us remain faithful to the mission entrusted to our care for the building of His Kingdom. © Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2026.

Pastoral Pondering: The Catholic Church teaches that lying is always wrong and intrinsically evil, as it offends against the truth, which is rooted in the nature of God Himself (who is Truth, cf. John 14:6). This is a consistent teaching drawn from Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium, particularly articulated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC).

Official Definition from the Catechism

- CCC 2482: "A lie consists in speaking a falsehood with the intention of deceiving." (Quoting St. Augustine.)
- CCC 2483: "Lying is the most direct offense against the truth. To lie is to speak or act against the truth in order to lead someone into error. By injuring man's relation to truth and to his neighbor, a lie offends against the fundamental relation of man and of his word to the Lord."
- Lying profanes speech, whose natural purpose is to communicate truth. It is condemned by its very nature (CCC 2485), and no good intention or end can justify it—evil may not be done so that good may come of it.

Gravity of Lies: The seriousness of a lie varies:

- It is measured by the nature of the truth deformed, the circumstances, the intentions of the liar, and the harm caused to victims (CCC 2484).
- A lie can be venial or mortal sin. It becomes mortal if it gravely injures justice or charity (e.g., false witness in court, lies causing significant harm, or deception with potentially deadly consequences).

Biblical and Theological Roots

- Scripture strongly condemns lying: e.g., the Eighth Commandment ("You shall not bear false witness," Exodus 20:16), Psalms 5:6, Proverbs 12:22, and Jesus calling the devil "a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44).
- Church Fathers like St. Augustine wrote extensively against lying (even "white lies" or lies to save a life), and this has been the dominant tradition, upheld by St. Thomas Aquinas and the Magisterium. While some historical discussions exist (e.g., distinctions between injurious, officious, or jocose lies), the Church holds that lying is always contrary to the virtue of truthfulness.

Common Questions and Nuances

- "White lies" or lies to spare feelings? Still wrong, though lesser in gravity if they cause little harm. Better to use prudence, silence, or evasive but truthful speech.
- Lying to save a life (e.g., Nazis at the door)? The Church's teaching is that lying remains sinful; alternatives like mental reservation, broad statements, or silence are preferred where possible. The good end does not justify the means.
- Mental reservation or broad mental reservation: In some moral theology traditions, one may use ambiguous speech that is true in a certain sense (e.g., when the listener has no right to the truth), but this must not cross into actual falsehood. The Catechism's emphasis is on communicating truth.
- Jokes or fiction: Obvious jokes or storytelling (where no one is expected to take it as literal truth) are generally not lies.

Practical Pastoral Advice: Christians are called to be people of truth, reflecting Christ. Repentance, confession, and striving for veracity build trust and communion.

Healed and Restored: Mission & Impact Night

When: Wed., Aug 5; 7:15 pm

Where: Room 200 of Parish Hall

COME AND LEARN: Join us for an opportunity to learn about Healed and Restored, a Catholic nonprofit organization founded here at St. Mark in 2020. The Healed and Restored mission is to assist women and girls who have experienced abuse, trauma, or exploitation as they heal, rebuild stability, and move forward into thriving lives.

This is an excellent opportunity to:

- Introduce parishioners who may not be aware of our existence and those who are eager to learn more about the mission and how they can contribute to the work of Healed and Restored.
- Explore the origins of Healed and Restored, our mission, and the various volunteer opportunities available.
- Discuss how we need help to expand our reach so that we can assist even more women and girls on their journey toward healing, restoration, and freedom through Christ.



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, July 19

7:30 am	St. Mark Parishioners
9 am	† William Casey
11 am	† Valeria Gerbasi
1 pm	† Ricardo Gomez
5 pm	† Carmen Wong Choy

Monday, July 20

7 am	† Thomas Lane
9 am	† Diane Litjes

Tuesday, July 21

7 am	† Michael Hall
9 am	† Marilyn Hayes

Wednesday, July 22

7 am	Michele Gittens
	† Patti Fall
6:30 pm	† A.J. Stephany
	† Alice & Lawrence Felder

Thursday, July 23

7 am	† Nicholas Thomas Frangipane
9 am	† Maria Pinto

Friday, July 24

7 am	† Richard Altemueller
9 am	Respect Life Ministry
7 pm	† Jose Edgar Flores Flores

Saturday, July 25

9 am	† Cathy Rinaldi
5 pm	† Agustin Cerda

Sunday, July 26

7:30 am	† Luz Maria Torres
9 am	Chris Bixler
11 am	† Judy Deboer
1 pm	St. Mark Parishioners
5 pm	† Rose Seeling

† Deceased

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Air Force: C3C **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**; Capt. **Nathanael Rusciolelli**

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**; LTJG. **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

Sun. Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43 or Mt 13:24-30

Mon. Mi 6:1-4, 6-8; Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 12:38-42

Tue. Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8; Mt 12:46-50

Wed. Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene

Sg 3:1-4b; or 2 Cor 5:14-17; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Thu. Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Ps 36:6-7ab, 8-9, 10-11; Mt 13:10-17

Fri. Jer 3:14-17; Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; Mt 13:18-23

Sat. Feast of Saint James, Apostle

2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Mt 20:20-28

Sun. Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52 or Mt 13:44-46

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CATHOLIC PARISH LOWARENG'AK DIOCESE OF LODWAR



I serve as the parish priest of St. Joseph The Worker Catholic - Parish in Lowareng'ak, located in the northern part of Turkana County, Kenya near the border with south sudan.

Our community faces harsh conditions, including prolonged drought, poverty, limited access to education, healthcare and clean water. Despite these challenges, our people remain strong in faith and hope.



CURRENT MAIN PARISH

I HUMBLY INVITE YOU TO PARTNER WITH US IN THE FOLLOWING MISSION PROJECTS:

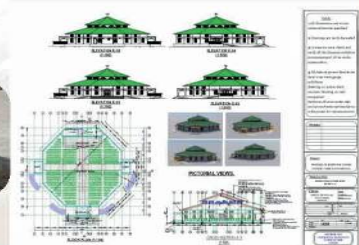
1 CONSTRUCTION OF OUR NEW PARISH CHURCH PHASES

PHASE 1 : CLEARING GROUND AND FOUNDATION
By the grace of God we have completed the foundation.



WE SEEK SUPPORT IN THE FOLLOWING PHASES

Phase	Required Amount For Completion
PHASE 2 : CONSTRUCTING WALL AND BEAMS	USD 32,000
PHASE 3 : ROOFING	USD 128,000
PHASE 4 : FINISHING (Plastering, Fixing Doors, windows, terrace, painting, wiring And Solar Installation)	USD 40,000
PHASE 5 : EQUIPMENTS (seats and Alter)	USD 16,000
TOTAL	USD 216,000



NEW PARISH PLAN

2 ST.CLEARE CHILDREN'S HOME

Last year we opened a home for orphans, vulnerable children, the elderly and children living with HIV. We urgently need an estimated amount of USD 20,000 to renovate the current building and construct additional building to provide separate accommodation for males and females.



3 CLEAN WATER

Due to frequent drought, families walk many miles to fetch water. we appeal for support to drill borehole and provide clean and safe water. The Total cost for drilling water and solar pump installation is estimated at USD 16,000



4 EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP

Many orphaned children are enrolled in schools but are experiencing school fees challenge. We firmly believe that education is the ultimate equalizer and greatest gift we can offer them. We have bright, resilient orphaned children who are eager to learn but lack the means to cover tuition, school uniforms, learning materials and basic sustenance. The annual cost to sponsor one child is USD 375



5 HOSPITAL RENOVATION

Our hospital facility St Joseph The Worker Health Care roofing is totally leaking and the entire building is cracked and weak thus risking the lives of our patients and practitioners and also affecting the normal running of the facility during rainy seasons. The repair cost for the facility is USD 16,000.



6 VEHICLE FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY

Our old vehicle broke down because of the rough terrain of our roads. we are seeking support to replace the Old vehicle engine costing USD 5,000 and purchase a reliable land cruiser, estimated at USD 64,000 to reach our outstations and serve our people. The vehicle will enable us assist in transporting students to respective schools and also transportation of the sick to referral hospitals.



OLD VEHICLE



PREFERRED VEHICLE

Thank you for walking with us in faith
and helping us bring hope to the people of lowarengak
May God bless you abundantly for your generosity and prayers

TO PARTNER OR DONATE, PLEASE CONTACT:
St. Joseph the worker parish - lowarengak
P.O Box 7, Turkana County, Kenya
Phone/Whatsapp: +254 797716692 | Email: stjosephcatholic966@gmail.com

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers
and sisters of mine, you did for me."

- Mathew 25:40

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED TO SUPPORT
ANY OF THE PROJECT, EMAIL OR CONTACT
US FOR THE PROPOSAL AND MORE DETAILS

STEWARDSHIP



DISCOVER YOUR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS!

Called & Gifted™ Charisms and Gifts Discernment Workshop Series

When: Wednesdays, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; 6:30 - 8 pm

Where: Kerin Family Center, Room 204

St. Mark will share the Catherine of Siena Institute Called and Gifted™ workshop series this September. This five-session experience will help you discover the unique spiritual gifts, called charisms, that God has given you, not only for your personal journey but to serve others and reflect Christ's light in the world.

Whether you are navigating one of life's transitions, are a new or returning Catholic, are a young adult, or are simply wondering, "How can I follow Jesus' plan for my life?", this workshop is for you. This wonderful opportunity to learn more about charisms and how we can each discern our unique gifts includes small-group learning sessions and discussions. The \$20 registration fee includes the workshop, personal gifts inventory, and a resource book. This is the first step in a three-part discernment process which also includes a personal interview and small group discernment. Scan code or register at stmarknc.org/called-and-gifted.

Registration will be limited to 15 participants for the September sessions.

Information:

stmarknc.org/called-and-gifted



THANK YOU, ST. MARK!

**We asked.
You responded.
God is at work.**

Thank you to everyone who signed up for our Servants with a Heart Meal Packaging Event!

Because of your incredible generosity, all 600 volunteer spots are now filled.

On Saturday, August 1, parishioners of every age will come together to package 150,000 meals for families in need around the world.

Although our volunteer shifts are full, you can still help make this possible through a financial gift.

**Donate today at
stmarknc.org/swh or scan
the QR code below.**



*For I was hungry and you gave me food.
— Matthew 25:35*



Support Venezuela Disaster Relief

**Second Collection
July 25 and 26**

Scan to donate:



Photo: Junno Arocho Esteves, OSV News

Donate Online: www.crs.org/donate/venezuela-earthquake

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Spotlight: Fidelis

At St. Mark, we encourage people to embrace a life of stewardship by offering ways to grow in Christ, serve one another, share our gifts, and connect in faith for all ages and stages of life. Fidelis is a parish-sponsored school-year program leading girls in grades 6-12 into sisterhood with women, young and old, leading each other to Christ. The girls are Fidelis Sisters, and the adults are Fidelis Ladies.

Marleena Young, Fidelis Lead Lady, shared that being a Fidelis Lady greatly impacted her faith and helped her connect with other women at St. Mark. Through the small group sessions each week, they discuss the scriptures, virtue of the week, saint quotes, and invitations. "This has led to a greater understanding of our Catholic faith, our Catholic virtues, and how to live this out in my everyday life. It is inspiring to see so many women of all generations working together to become stronger in our faith and to help each other get to heaven. Sisters to Saints."

The Fidelis program incorporates all the St. Mark stewardship pillars: grow, serve, share, and connect. Fidelis Lady Bridget Russo shared some examples she has witnessed. "A King's Message about making giving IMPACTFUL, not just what you have left over . . . invitations to read the Bible or commit scripture to memory. Events dedicated to wonderful female friendships, where sisters and ladies can enjoy ice skating or hiking. Everyone who takes part in a Fidelis night shares their gifts with everyone else there. We have a wonderful hospitality team that cooks and cleans up each week. Many participants are crafty or sporty and excel at the activities. Some are gifted in organization and planning, and others have the gift of crafting captivating messages. During our discussion, every person who shares their perspective is giving a gift to the small group. I've honestly gained more from the sisters during those talks than I've given."

The mission of the Fidelis ministry, "forming girls — heart, mind, body, and soul — into a sisterhood of mature, virtuous disciples of Christ through the witness of Catholic women," focuses on growth in relationship with Christ and connecting in faith, which overflows into serving one another and sharing our gifts. St. Mark Fidelis invites girls in grades 6-12 and women to join them. They would love to have you come and see what Fidelis is all about on Wednesday nights this fall!

For more information about Fidelis, contact St. Mark Fidelis Lead Lady, Marleena Young at fidelis@stmarknc.org or visit www.fidelissisterhood.org.

New Member Meet & Greet

When: Sun., July 26, 10:15 am

Where: Family Center Parish Hall

One of the blessings of St. Mark is our vibrant and growing parish community. We also know that in a parish our size, it can sometimes take time to feel at home. That's why we host a New Member Meet & Greet several times each year—to help new parishioners make connections, meet our clergy and staff, and learn more about parish life.

If you are new to St. Mark—or have been here for a while but still don't feel connected—we warmly invite you to join us on Sunday, July 26, following the 9 a.m. Mass (approximately 10:15 am) in the Kerin Family Center.

Enjoy a light breakfast, meet fellow parishioners, and discover the many opportunities to grow in faith, serve others, and become involved in the life of our parish.

Please RSVP at stmarknc.org/meet-and-greet so we can prepare for your visit.



Fidelis
SISTERHOOD

CALLING ALL LADIES...

You are invited to join us for a special
COME AND SEE NIGHT.

August 7, 2026
Parish House @ 7:00pm

Learn all about Fidelis and
how you can be apart of
our sisterhood.

Ages: High School graduate or older.

Join us for our annual Summer Bash on July 22!
See page 11 for details!



PARISH LIFE



Practicing the Virtues: Justice

For the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we reflect on the virtue of Justice.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parables of the wheat and the weeds, the mustard seed, and the yeast. Together they remind us that God's Kingdom grows quietly through lives of faithful discipleship. While God alone will bring about perfect justice at the final harvest, He invites each of us to help build His Kingdom through the ordinary choices we make each day.

Justice is the constant and firm will to give God and our neighbor what is rightfully due. It begins by recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God and that we are called to use those gifts faithfully in His service. Even the smallest acts of honesty, generosity, and kindness become seeds that God can use to bear abundant fruit.

The greatest obstacle to justice is selfishness. When we place our own desires ahead of what is true, good, and right, we fail to give God and our neighbor what they are due. Justice calls us instead to lives of truth, generosity, and faithful stewardship.

The virtue of Justice is found along the right side of the nave, between Optimism and Loyalty. Together these virtues remind us to trust in God's promises, remain faithful to Him, and seek what is right in all we do. May we never underestimate how God can use even our smallest acts of faithfulness to help build His Kingdom.

45+ Singles July Fellowship Event

When: Sun., July 26; 5–8 pm
Where: H2 Public House, 19906
N. Cove Road, Cornelius

Looking to meet some new friends and enjoy a relaxing evening out?

Join our 45+ Singles group for a casual night of fellowship at H2 Public House in Jetton Village on Sunday, July 26, from 5–8 pm.

Whether you've attended before or this is your first time, you'll find a welcoming group, great conversation, and the opportunity to enjoy dinner and fellowship in a relaxed setting. Feel free to invite a friend to come along!

To help us reserve a table large enough for everyone, please RSVP by emailing 45plussingles@gmail.com.

We are using email RSVPs only and not SignUpGenius.

We look forward to a wonderful evening of friendship, conversation, and good food.

If you have any questions, please contact 45plussingles@gmail.com



Coming Up at St. Mark

Monday, July 20

Divino Nino Mass, 7 pm

July 20-23

Preschool Camp

Tuesday, July 21

Prayer and Praise

Sunday, July 26

New Member Meet and Greet

Saturday, August 1

Meal Packaging Event

Wednesday, August 5

Holy Hour of Reparation

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



PARISH LIFE

High School and College School Supply Drive: Help 85 Local Students!

When: Now-August 2

Where: Leave donations in the Narthex

Not all school supply drives are the same.

St. Mark is partnering with Caterpillar Ministries to collect school supplies for 85 high school and college students in the Huntington Park Community.

Caterpillar Ministries is a Christian nonprofit that serves more than 800 children, teens, adults, and seniors through faith formation, academic enrichment, crisis care, and advocacy. Many St. Mark parishioners are part of this community. This year we have been asked to help serve the older students and their lists are very different.

This drive focuses specifically on the needs of **high school and college students**.

Requested items include: **Backpacks for teens and college students** • **USB flash drives, 16GB or 32GB** • **Student planners** •

Graph paper • **College-ruled spiral notebooks** • **Blue and black gel pens** • **Index cards** • **Mechanical pencils** •

Folders and binders • **Pencil pouches** • **Post-it Notes**

Donations may be placed in the collection bin in the Narthex **now-August 2**. Thank you for helping these students begin the school year with confidence and the tools they need to succeed.



Prayer & Praise Night

When: Tues, July 21, Rosary starts at 7 pm; Prayer and Praise 7:30-8:30 pm

Where: In the church

If the Spirit of God lives within us (Romans 8:11), then we can walk in confidence—living in the power of the Spirit. It isn't about our success or strength. It's all about Him: the transforming power of His Spirit at work in our lives and in the lives of others, even through us.

Come worship God and seek prayer for healing. He is always calling us—will we hear Him? And if we do, will we respond?

Future dates: August 18, Sept. 29, Oct 27 & Nov 24, March 24, April 14.

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

Young Adult Ministry: Bible Study and River Jam

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

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

Upcoming July Events:

- **July 23 and 30: Bible Study at the Parish House**
- **July 25: River jam at U.S National Whitewater Center (5000 Whitewater Center Pkwy, Charlotte, NC 28214)**

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

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



ADORATION

Nothing Better Than a Good Litany

By: Donna Fodale/Adoration Coordinator

I don't know about you, but I love a good Litany! I even have a book filled with all kinds of Litanies. Did you know that The Catholic Church's first recorded litany — the *Litany of the Saints* is believed to have originated in the 4th century?

The earliest *prescribed* litany in the Church's history was ordered by Pope Gregory the Great in 590 A.D. for a public procession of thanksgiving after a plague devastated Rome.

The litany's structure — alternating petitions to God and the saints with fixed responses — became a hallmark of Catholic devotional practice and was later incorporated into the Mass and other liturgical rites.

One of my favorite Litanies is the Litany of the Precious Blood. I would like to share it with you and invite you to pray it in our Adoration chapel, before the Blessed Sacrament. There is so much power and grace offered through the Precious Blood of Jesus!



Litany of the Precious Blood.

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

God our Father in heaven
 God the Son, Redeemer of the world
 God the Holy Spirit
 Holy Trinity, one God
 Blood of Christ, only Son of the Father
 Blood of Christ, incarnate Word
 Blood of Christ, of the new and eternal covenant
 Blood of Christ, that spilled to the ground
 Blood of Christ, that flowed at the scourging
 Blood of Christ, dripping from the thorns
 Blood of Christ, shed on the cross
 Blood of Christ, the price of our redemption
 Blood of Christ, our only claim to pardon
 Blood of Christ, our blessing cup
 Blood of Christ, in which we are washed
 Blood of Christ, torrent of mercy
 Blood of Christ, that overcomes evil
 Blood of Christ, strength of the martyrs
 Blood of Christ, endurance of the saints
 Blood of Christ, that makes the barren fruitful
 Blood of Christ, protection of the threatened
 Blood of Christ, comfort of the weary
 Blood of Christ, solace of the mourner
 Blood of Christ, hope of the repentant
 Blood of Christ, consolation of the dying
 Blood of Christ, our peace and refreshment
 Blood of Christ, our pledge of life
 Blood of Christ, by which we pass to glory
 Blood of Christ, most worthy of honor
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world

*Lord, you redeemed us by your blood.
Let us pray.*

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

*have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
be our salvation
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us*

You have made us a kingdom to serve our God.



*O God, who by the Precious Blood of your Only Begotten Son have redeemed the whole world, preserve in us the work of your mercy, so that, ever honoring the mystery of our salvation, we may merit to obtain its fruits.
Through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.*

Wednesday, July 22!



Fidelis & Fraternus Youth Ministry Summer Bash

Wednesday, July 22
6:30-8:45 pm
Outside on the lawn

**Mass. Cookout. Outdoor
Field Games and Prizes.**

We will start with Holy Mass at 6:30 pm; Bash follows
outside until 8:45 pm.



**All
Middle &
High School
Youth
Invited!**



Register NOW: Faith Formation

Registration for the 2026–2027 Faith Formation year has been open for a while for students in **Kindergarten through Grade 8**.

If you have not registered your child, please do so today.

Whether your child is beginning the journey of faith or continuing to grow in their relationship with Christ, St. Mark offers engaging formation and sacramental preparation for every stage:

- **ECHO (K–5):** Sunday and Monday afternoon/evening options
- **EDGE (Grades 6–7):** Sunday and Monday afternoon/evening options
- **Confirmation (Grade 8):** Sunday and Tuesday evening options

New this year: To better support family schedules and Sunday Mass attendance, Faith Formation classes will be held outside of Sunday morning hours.

Visit stmarknc.org/ff to register, view schedules, and learn more.

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Kingdom
Field
Asleep
Enemy
Weeds
Wheat
Harvest
Barn
Spoke
Fulfill



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Meet St. Mary Magdalene!

Have you ever been so excited that you couldn't wait to tell someone the good news?

That's exactly what happened to St. Mary Magdalene!

Mary Magdalene loved Jesus and faithfully followed Him. She stayed near Him during His suffering and was one of the first people to visit His tomb on Easter morning.

When she arrived, the tomb was empty. As she stood there weeping, Jesus appeared to her. At first she didn't recognize Him, but when Jesus called her by name—"Mary!"—she immediately knew it was the Lord.

Jesus gave Mary a very important mission. He told her to go and tell the apostles that He had risen from the dead. Because she was the first to announce the Resurrection, the Church calls her the "Apostle to the Apostles."

What Can We Learn?

Jesus knows each of us by name, just as He knew Mary. When we stay close to Him, He gives us the courage to share His love with others.

Prayer

St. Mary Magdalene, pray that we may always recognize the voice of Jesus and joyfully share the Good News.

★ Did You Know?

St. Mary Magdalene was the **first person to see the risen Jesus** and the first to announce that He was alive!



Meet St. James the Greater!

Before he became one of Jesus' apostles, **James was a fisherman!** One day, Jesus called James and his brother John to leave their fishing boat and follow Him. They said "yes" right away.

James became one of Jesus' closest friends. He was there when Jesus raised Jairus' daughter, when He was transfigured on the mountain, and when He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before His Passion.

After Jesus rose from the dead, James traveled far and wide telling people about Him. He became the first of the apostles to give his life for the Gospel.

Today, millions of pilgrims walk the famous **Camino de Santiago** in Spain to honor St. James and grow closer to God.

What Can We Learn?

Like St. James, we are called to follow Jesus with courage, even when the path is difficult.

Prayer

St. James the Greater, pray that we may always say "yes" to following Jesus with faith and courage. Amen.

★ Did You Know?

Pilgrims have been walking the **Camino de Santiago** for more than 1,000 years to honor St. James!





VBS THANK YOU!

What a joy to see this place filled with its future. More than 130 children filled St. Mark in July for VBS, discovering just how much God loves them.

Throughout the week, our campers learned that God is our Creator, our safe place, all-knowing, and everlasting love. Each day was filled with prayer, music, games, crafts, laughter, and new friendships, all centered on growing closer to Christ.

A heartfelt thank you to our Elementary Faith Formation Coordinator, Maddie Torres, for leading an incredible week, along with Olivia DiGiovanni, Gus Free, more than 50 middle school, high school, and adult volunteers, and all of the families who made VBS such a success.

Please keep these children in your prayers as they carry what they learned this week into the rest of their summer.



THINGS TO DO

Second Annual



SK David Calabrese MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026

Event Details

Cowan's Ford Golf Club,
761 Club Drive, Stanley, NC 28164
18-hole Captain's Choice with cart and lunch
Sign-in: 8:30 am
Shotgun start: 10:00 am
Registration: \$160 per player /
\$640 per foursome

Registration and Sponsorship Opportunities:

Please pre-register and submit payment for players, teams, and sponsorships by scanning the QR code or visiting tournevents.com/kofcgolf.

Contacts:

John Knight, 703.618.3779;
Rick Szafran, 704.564.2814;
Bill Pugh, 704.309.7466



Your Next Step in Faith? Cursillo!

Have you been looking for a way to deepen your relationship with Christ and grow in your Catholic faith? The Cursillo Movement offers a powerful opportunity to encounter the love of God, strengthen your prayer life, and build lasting friendships with fellow Catholics.

It is a three-day experience of prayer, talks, discussion, and fellowship that helps participants discover how to live their faith more fully in everyday life. Since starting in Spain more than 75 years ago, Cursillo has helped Catholics renew their commitment to Christ and become active disciples within their parishes and communities.

Upcoming weekends will be held at the **Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC:**

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

If you have been considering Cursillo as the next step in your spiritual journey, now is a wonderful time to learn more.

For information, contact **John Moloney**, Cursillo Ambassador, at John.Moloney222@gmail.com. Visit www.charlottecursillo.com for additional information.

Feast Day Honoring God the Father

When: Sun., Aug. 2; 3 pm

Where: St. Therese Catholic Church
217 Brawley School Rd.,
 Mooresville, St. Ignatian Day Chapel

In 1934, God the Father requested a Feast Day be created in a private revelations to Mother Eugenia Ravasio, outlined in the spiritual work (book) "The Father Speaks to His Children." After a lengthy investigation by the Church, it was published in 1989.

God the Father expresses His deep love for each of us and invites us to know Him not as a distant judge, but as a loving Father who desires a personal relationship with His children.

Join parishioners from around the Charlotte Diocese and Father Mark Lawlor as he celebrates:

The special Mass for Feast of God the Father of All will fulfill your Sunday obligation.

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COORDINATORS AT TH@FORLIFEANDFAMILY.ORG

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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. John Cuppett (in residence)

Deacons

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

Director of Parish Operations

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

Sacristan

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

Liturgist Coordinator/Office Manager

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

Announcements, 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

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704-948-0231, Ext. 116

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704-948-0231, Ext. 117

Stewardship Coordinator

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704-948-0231, Ext. 136

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704-948-0231, Ext. 123

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704-948-0231, Ext. 155

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704-948-0231

Faith Formation Coordinator

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

Faith Formation Admin Asst

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

Middle School Youth Ministry

Coordinator

Olivia DiGiovanni
olivia.digiovanni@stmarknc.org
704-948-1306, Ext. 105

High School Youth Ministry Coordinator

Augustine Free
augustine.free@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 122

Director of Preschool

Amanda Rametta
amanda.rametta@stmarknc.org
704-948-8015

Tribunal Advocate

Rod Brostrom
rnbrostrom@rcdoc.org
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, ultreys 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



El pasaje evangélico de hoy de San Mateo contiene varias parábolas que ofrecen tanto desafío como ánimo al mayordomo cristiano, mientras Jesús describe el Reino de los Cielos y nuestro papel en ayudar a construirlo.

Primero, compara el Reino con un campo donde crecen juntos trigo y maleza hasta la cosecha.

Solo entonces se separan — el trigo se acumula en el granero del sembrador y las malas hierbas se destruyen. Es un recordatorio sobrio de que nuestras decisiones importan y que Dios, en Su justicia, algún día nos llamará a rendir cuentas por cómo hemos vivido y usado los dones que nos ha confiado.

Pero Jesús también ofrece un gran ánimo. Compara el Reino con una semilla de mostaza, la más pequeña de las semillas, que crece hasta convertirse en una planta grande. También lo compara con una pequeña cantidad de levadura que transforma silenciosamente todo un lote de masa.

Estas imágenes son especialmente consoladoras para los mayordomos cristianos. Muy a menudo, las oraciones que rezamos, el servicio que ofrecemos y los dones que compartimos pueden parecer pequeños en comparación con las necesidades que nos rodean. Sin embargo, Jesús nos recuerda que Dios obra poderosamente incluso a través de los actos más pequeños de fidelidad.

Dios ve y atesora nuestras ofrendas de tiempo, talento y tesoro. Cuando se ponen en Sus manos, pueden dar mucho más fruto del que jamás podríamos imaginar.

En gratitud por todo lo que nos ha dado, permanezcamos fieles a la misión que se nos ha encomendado para la edificación de Su Reino. © Consultores de Gestión Católica, 2026.

Reflexión pastoral – La Iglesia Católica enseña que mentir siempre es incorrecto e intrínsecamente malo, ya que ofende contra la verdad, que está enraizada en la naturaleza del propio Dios (que es la Verdad, cf. Juan 14:6). Esta es una enseñanza coherente extraída de las Escrituras, la Tradición y el Magisterio, especialmente articulada en el *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica* (CCC).

Definición oficial del Catecismo

-CIC 2482: "Una mentira consiste en decir una mentira con la intención de engañar." (Citando a San Agustín.)

-CCC 2483: "Mentir es la ofensa más directa contra la verdad. Mentir es hablar o actuar en contra de la verdad para llevar a alguien al error. Al dañar la relación del hombre con la verdad y con su prójimo, una mentira ofende la relación fundamental entre el hombre y su palabra con el Señor."

La mentira profana el discurso, cuyo propósito natural es comunicar la verdad. Está condenado por su propia naturaleza (CIC

2485), y ninguna buena intención ni fin puede justificarlo—no puede hacerse el mal para que de ello salga bien.

Gravedad de las mentiras

La gravedad de una mentira varía:

- Se mide por la naturaleza de la verdad deformada, las circunstancias, las intenciones del mentiroso y el daño causado a las víctimas (CCC 2484).

- Una mentira puede ser venial o pecado mortal. Se vuelve mortal si daña gravemente la justicia o la caridad (por ejemplo, falso testimonio en el tribunal, mentiras que causan daño significativo o engaño con consecuencias potencialmente mortales).

Raíces bíblicas y teológicas

- Las Escrituras condenan firmemente la mentira: por ejemplo, el Octavo Mandamiento ("No darás falso testimonio", Éxodo 20:16), Salmos 5:6, Proverbios 12:22, y Jesús llamando al diablo "mentiroso y padre de mentiras" (Juan 8:44).

- Padres de la Iglesia como San Agustín escribieron extensamente en contra de la mentira (incluso de las "mentiras piadosas" o de las mentiras para salvar una vida), y esta ha sido la tradición dominante, sostenida por Santo Tomás de Aquino y el Magisterio. Aunque existen algunas discusiones históricas (por ejemplo, distinciones entre mentiras perjudiciales, oficiosas o jocosas), la Iglesia sostiene que mentir siempre es contrario a la virtud de la veracidad.

Preguntas comunes y matices

- ¿"Mentiras piadosas" o mentiras para no sentir nada? Siguen siendo incorrectos, aunque con menor gravedad si causan poco daño. Mejor usar prudencia, silencio o un discurso evasivo pero sincero.

- ¿Mentir para salvar una vida (por ejemplo, nazis en la puerta)? La enseñanza de la Iglesia es que mentir sigue siendo pecado; Se prefieren alternativas como la reserva mental, declaraciones generales o silencio cuando sea posible. El buen fin no justifica los medios.

- Reserva mental o reserva mental amplia: En algunas tradiciones de teología moral, se puede usar un discurso ambiguo que es verdadero en cierto sentido (por ejemplo, cuando el oyente no tiene derecho a la verdad), pero esto no debe cruzarse con la falsedad real. El énfasis del Catecismo está en comunicar la verdad.

- Chistes o ficción: Los chistes evidentes o la narración (donde nadie se espera que lo tome como verdad literal) generalmente no son mentiras.

Consejos Pastorales Prácticos

Los cristianos están llamados a ser personas de verdad, reflejando a Cristo. El arrepentimiento, la confesión y el esfuerzo por la veracidad construyen confianza y comunión.

Misa en Honor al Divino Niño Jesús

La comunidad hispana de St. Mark está cordialmente invitada a celebrar la **Misa en Honor al Divino Niño Jesús** el **lunes 20 de julio a las 7:00 p.m.**

La devoción al Divino Niño Jesús, muy querida en muchos países de América Latina, nos recuerda el amor, la ternura y la confianza que debemos tener en Nuestro Señor. La imagen del Divino Niño invita a los fieles a acercarse a Jesús con un corazón sencillo y lleno de fe.

Al finalizar la Misa, se distribuirán medallas, estampas y tarjetas de oración previamente bendecidas.

¡Los esperamos para compartir juntos esta hermosa celebración de fe!






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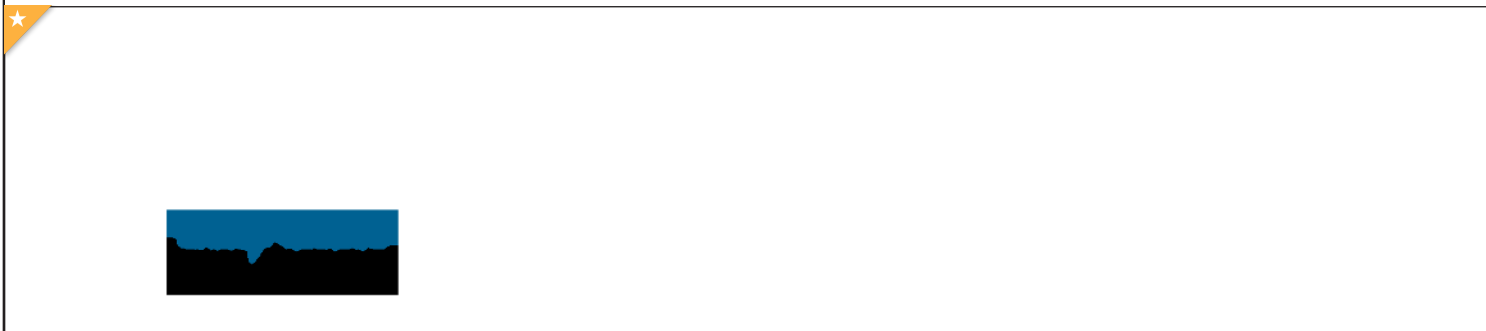
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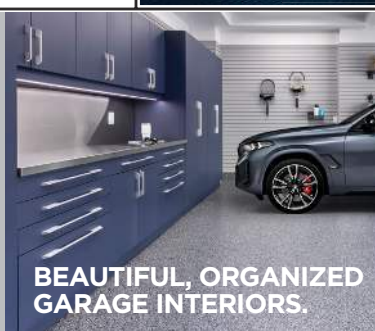


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