

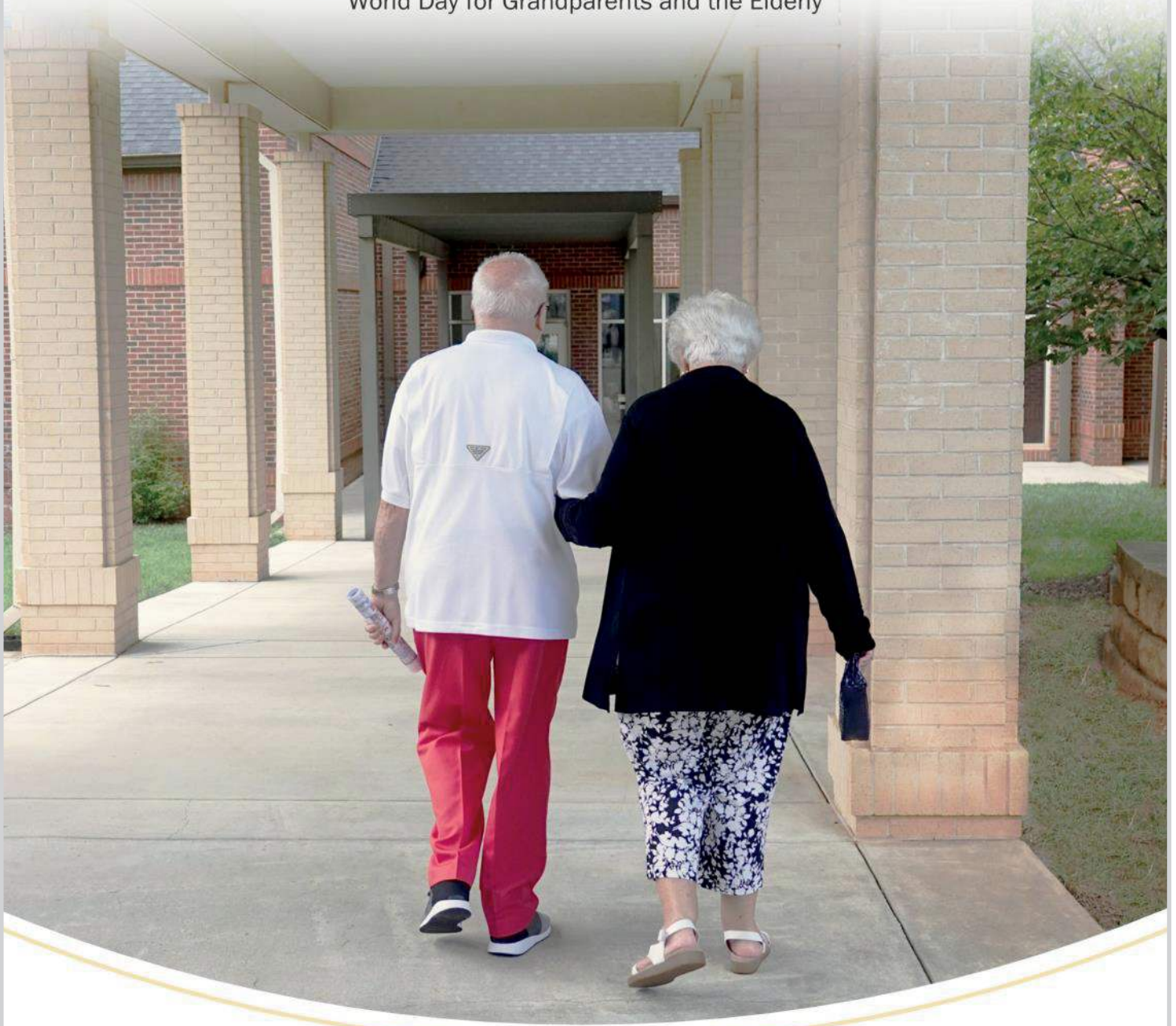
17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The Pearl of Great Price

The greatest treasure is a life lived with Christ.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

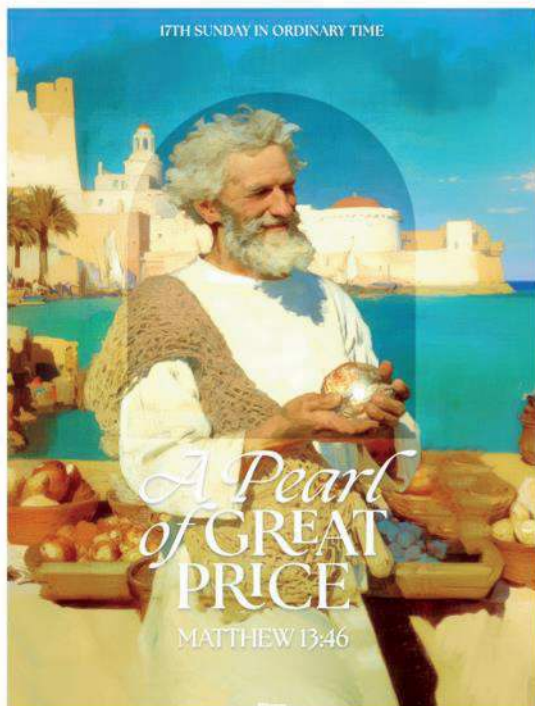


SAINT✠MARK



July 26, 2026 • Espanol Page 15

WELCOME TO ST. MARK!



Today is the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings can be found in the music handouts or in the St. Augustine Hymnal on page 918. 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

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN GIVE YOUR OFFERTORY ONLINE?

*Planned
Proportionate
Intentional
Consistent*

sign up at stmarknc.org/online-giving

FROM THE PASTOR



The stewardship way of life could be described as a daily pursuit of the Kingdom of Heaven. In today's Gospel from Matthew, Jesus uses a series of parables to help us understand the

incomparable value of that Kingdom.

First, He reminds us that living for Him and for His Kingdom will require sacrifice. Yet the joy that comes from following Christ makes any sacrifice worthwhile. Jesus says, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." He then compares the Kingdom to "a merchant searching for fine pearls." When the merchant finds a pearl of great price, he gladly sells everything he has to obtain it.

In both parables, the Kingdom is something precious that must be sought and recognized. We must intentionally look for it amid the distractions and noise of the world.

Yet Jesus also reminds us that the Kingdom is meant for everyone. He compares it to a net cast into the sea that gathers fish of every kind.

At the same time, He reminds us that each of us will one day be judged. The angels "will separate the wicked from the righteous." It is a powerful reminder that our choices matter.

Let us pray for the wisdom to recognize the Kingdom of Heaven in our midst and to pursue it above all else. There is no greater treasure, and no greater source of joy, than a life lived as a faithful disciple of Jesus.

© Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2026.

Pastoral Pondering

I enjoy books generally. I like to hold them, look at them and, of course, read them. I also enjoy audiobooks because they are a good way to pass the time with all the driving that I do. I like a wide variety of books, but I generally try to avoid things that are strictly political. Hence, I was a little hesitant when the book *Communion* by J.D. Vance was recommended to me. However, what I discovered is that it is an excellent read and has nothing to do with politics. Rather, it is the story of the Vice President's return to the Christian faith that eventually resulted in his becoming Catholic.

I suppose "conversion" stories attract me because of my own background. And while I did not grow up in Ohio coal country as he did, there are many similarities to his family, described in *Hillbilly Elegy*, and my dad's family from the mountains of North Carolina.

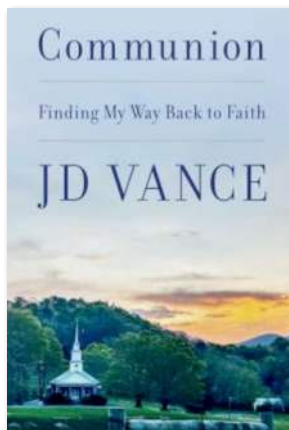
This particular book, in some ways, is a sequel to *Hillbilly*. It discusses his chaotic childhood and exposure to Baptist and Pentecostal churches, his drift into atheism as a young adult, following the death of his grandmother, and his gradual return to faith which culminated in his conversion to Catholicism in 2019.

The title refers to the Eucharist, and the author explores what it means to be Christian across life stages – as a child, young man, husband, father and public

figure – while reflecting on the role of religion in public life and American society.

This memoir mixes spiritual autobiography with broader commentary on faith, politics, family values, and societal problems. While some have criticized it as more of a cultural manifesto, I appreciated the honest assessment of one man's journey from his childhood faith to an adult faith which led to full

communion with the Catholic Church. Granted, it may not be to everyone's liking, but it shouldn't be dismissed simply because the author is the current Vice President. I enjoyed it, and if you want something to pass a lazy summer afternoon, I'd recommend it.



Is God Calling You to Share Your Faith? BE A CATECHIST!

This fall, hundreds of children and teens at St. Mark will gather each week to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Behind every class is an ordinary parishioner who answered an extraordinary invitation: **to help pass on the Catholic faith.**

As we prepare for another year of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry, we invite you to begin praying about whether God may be calling you to serve. There are opportunities to teach, assist in a classroom, lead a small group, or simply offer a welcoming presence to our young people. Training, materials, and ongoing support are provided.

Our volunteers serve just 16 weeks during the school year, from late August through early May, and families who volunteer receive free Faith Formation registration for their children.

Next weekend, members of our Faith Formation team will be outside after every Mass to answer questions, share more about the different volunteer opportunities, and help anyone who feels called to serve.

Please take this week to pray. **Ask the Lord if He might be inviting you to help form the next generation of disciples.** For more information or to see our Catechist Commitment Form, scan the QR code or you can email Olivia DiGiovanni at Olivia.DiGiovanni@stmarknc.org.



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please Pray For...

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

Tom Addison	Jane & William	Mary Kate Knight	Paul Sr. and Sally
Julie Andrews	Dragoon	Dennis Koenig	Nealon
Donald Arrup	James P. Durcan	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	April Gallo	Wilfredo Lostaunau	Johnathan Rametta
Kathy Brandt	Valeria Gerbasi	David Luongo	Joette Reid
Dave Breen	Daniel Gilbridge	Margaret Lynch	Lindsay Remington
Lynne Bridges	Denny & Monica Golden	Utelia Malwitz	Butch Remesch
Helen Sally Buff	Corbin Golightly	Tom & Colette Manente	Thomas Rynne
Carmen Cabranes	Tom Goodwin	Sharon Marshall	Jack Schneider
Anne Caestecker	Lucas Graf	Melissa McDonald	Phyllis Searles
Anthony Cain	Paige Grieshop	Cathy Milligan	Mark Shields
Michelle Chicoine	Rachel Grieshop	Terry Milstead	Todd Singh
Rod Clair	Helen Haddad	Lucille Modica	Bill Sirnack
Jim Clark	Fran Hehn	Linda Morella	Robert Somerville
Beth Collins	Laura Hehn	Mary Morgan	Betsy Spartz
William Conklin	Allan Helmbrecht	Haleigh Moss	Mike Tolbert
Vic Crognale	Madeline Louise Henwood	Niall Mulkeen	Alston Torres
Janice D'Angelo	Hannah Hopkins	Elizabeth Mulligan	Mario Valinhas
Sheila DeArmon	Frank Hunnicutt III	Angeles Murphy	Haley Velez
Judy and Rich Deboer	Suzy Iskander	Maria Magdalena Murphy	Julio Velez
John Deluca	Cathi Kalberier	Carl Muti	Caroline Vogel
Joan Demarco	The Kibbee and Farnejad Family	Paul Nealon Jr.	Patricia Zeggert
Henry Diener			
Charlie Donovan			

"Heavenly Father, wrap us in Your loving arms and provide the comfort we need. Let us feel Your presence and know that we are not alone. Amen."

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, July 27

7 am Lisa Modzelewski
9 am Fr. Michael Eades

Tuesday, July 28

7 am Aveline Hashemi
9 am † Nicholas Frangipane

Wednesday, July 29

7 am † Roslyn Boone Mizzell
† Paul Bever Jr.

6:30 pm Purgatorial Society Mass

Thursday, July 30

7 am † Barbara Forsythe
9 am Becca Resavy

Friday, July 31

7 am † Anna Claire Fowler
9 am † Roland Luze
7 pm Andrea Solorzano

Saturday, August 1

9 am † Scottie Mickey
5 pm Donna Fodale

Sunday, August 2

7:30 am † Jim Fall
9 am † Cathy Rinaldi
11 am † Joseph Pradas
1 pm St. Mark Parishioners
5 pm † Jose Mendoza

† Deceased

READINGS

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

Mon. Jer 13:1-11; Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21; Mt 13:31-25

Tue. Jer 14:17-22; Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13; Mt 13:36-43

Wed. Jer 15:10, 16-21; Ps 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Thu. Jer 18:1-6; Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab; Mt 13:47-53

Fri. Jer 26:1-9; Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14; Mt 13:54-58

Sat. Jer 26:11-16, 24; Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 14:1-12

Sun. Is 55:1-3; Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18; Rom 8:35, 37-39; Mt 14:13-21

SAINT MARK PURGATORIAL SOCIETY

Saint Mark offers the opportunity for you to have your loved ones remembered at a monthly Wednesday 6:30 pm Mass for a calendar year. Names enrolled for the year will also be placed on the altar during our Masses in November. To enroll a family member, please contact the Office at 704-948-0231 or complete the form on our website at www.stmarknc.org/purgatorial-society.

The following members were remembered on June 24, 2026:

All the Souls in Purgatory	Hoa (Anna) Do
Pho Pham	Dao (Anna) Do
Tin (Peter) Do	Luong (Dominico) Do
Nhein (Joseph) Nguyen	Y (Mary) Tran
Hong Phuc (Catherine) Do	Het (Mary) Nguyen
Thien (Teresa) Do	Cong (Joseph) Pham

The following members will be remembered on July 29, 2026

John, Gail, & Chuck Savaso	Kathleen Smith
Al & Therese Mosher	Nancy Harkey
Michael Flattery	Alfredo Eloy

SMALL GROUPS: A REINTRODUCTION



"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God."
Romans 15:7

Welcome One Another: Small Groups Hosts Needed This Fall

One of the greatest blessings of St. Mark is that we are a large and vibrant parish. Every weekend, thousands of people come together to worship the Lord. Yet in a parish our size, it can be easy to know faces without ever knowing names.

The Church has always been more than a place we attend on Sunday. It is a family where we pray together, encourage one another, and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Small Groups helps make that possible.

This fall, we are looking for parishioners who are willing to become Small Groups Hosts.

Hosting isn't about having all the answers or being an expert in Scripture. It's simply about welcoming others and creating a place where friendships can grow and faith can be shared. We'll provide the study materials, host resources, and a short facilitator workshop to help you get started.

This fall, our Small Groups will journey together through St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, offering parishioners an opportunity to deepen their understanding of God's grace while growing in friendship with fellow members of our parish.

Someone sitting near you at Mass may be hoping to find friendships rooted in faith. Perhaps God is calling you to be the person who extends that invitation.

Prayerfully consider becoming a Small Groups Host this fall.

To host, contact Karen Donahue at karen.donahue@stmarknc.org or visit stmarknc.org/small-group-leaders.

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE SECOND COLLECTION



St. Mark parishioner Dulce Peña lost her mother and aunt on June 24.

Read more in the Catholic News Herald:



Support Earthquake Relief in Venezuela: Second Collection July 25 and 26.

The devastating earthquakes that struck Venezuela on June 24 have deeply touched our own St. Mark parish family. Parishioner Dulce Peña lost both her mother, Dulce María Avila de Peña, and her aunt, Gladys Josefina Avila, after days of desperately searching for news of their loved ones. At the same time, her brother and sister-in-law miraculously survived after falling 14 stories through the collapse of their apartment building. As a parish, we continue to pray for the repose of those who died, for all who are grieving, and for the many families whose lives have been forever changed.

Across the earthquake-ravaged region, countless families have been left without homes, food, clean water, or medical care. Catholic Relief Services is working alongside the local Church to



Support Venezuela Disaster Relief

Second Collection July 18-19

Scan to donate:



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



provide emergency food, water, shelter, hygiene supplies, and other life-saving assistance. Please prayerfully consider supporting our second Special Collection for Venezuela Earthquake Relief this weekend. Every gift will help bring hope to those suffering in the aftermath of this disaster.

STEWARDSHIP



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



Important!

Servants with a Heart Meal Packing Volunteer Information!

Thank you for volunteering! Please plan to arrive at the Parish Hall 10 minutes before your scheduled shift.

Schedule of Events

Setup: Friday, July 31, 12-2 pm

Event Day: Saturday, August 1

- **1st Shift:** 8 am–10:15 am
- **2nd Shift:** 10:30 am–12:45 pm
- **3rd Shift:** 1–3 pm
- **Cleanup:** 3-4:30 p.m.



Important Reminders:

- Wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes.
- Please eat a snack before arriving, as no food or drinks are permitted in the packing room.

If you have any questions, please contact **Karen Donahue** at karen.donahue@stmarknc.org.

We look forward to serving with you!

Stewardship Spotlight: Fraternus

We are all called as one by Christ to embrace the spirit of stewardship to grow in Christ, serve one another, and connect in faith. Fraternus is a parish-sponsored school-year program that invites young men in grades 6-12 into brotherhood with fathers, sons, and men of all ages for activities, adventure, prayer, and growth. Fraternus provides an all-male space and structure to guide "brothers" into virtuous men and provide mentoring for all who attend.

Fraternus seeks, in part, to "inspire boys to grow into men of virtue, strength, and service." St. Mark Fraternus Commander David Liberto shared, "To raise a family, and specifically young men, it takes a village of faithful witnesses. With an average of 75 brothers and captains showing up each week, we challenge every young man at St. Mark, along with their fathers, to join us, as iron sharpens iron and we grow in virtue. Be warned: this adventure is not for the faint of heart. We pray, serve, compete, camp, and have fun for the glory of God."

The mission of Fraternus is "to raise men who, as fathers, will restore communities." All men are welcome to join Fraternus and leave boyhood behind. For more information, reach out to St. Mark Fraternus Commander David Liberto at commander.stmark.fraternus@gmail.com or visit www.fraternus.org.





Thinking About BECOMING CATHOLIC?



ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

New Session Begins

Tuesday, August 4

6:30-8 pm, St. Mark School Library

Are you, or someone you know, feeling drawn to the Catholic Church?

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process through which individuals become Catholic and receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion.

What Is OCIA?

The OCIA is the official process established by the Universal Church for welcoming new members into the Catholic faith.

It is a journey of conversion, centered on building a deep relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church He founded.

This process unfolds over time and through distinct stages, offering thorough catechesis, participation in the life of the parish, and commitment to the moral and liturgical life of the Church.

Who Should Come to OCIA?

1. *Persons in need of Baptism*
2. *Baptized Christians who wish to become Catholic*
3. *Baptized Catholics who never received First Holy Communion or Confirmation*

How Long Does OCIA Take?

Every journey is different. Some may take six months, others up to three years. The Church respects the time each person needs for discernment and conversion. *The typical journey takes about one year.*

**Please let us know you are coming by emailing:
leanne.vaccaro@stmarknc.org**

PARISH LIFE



Practicing the Virtues: Optimism

Christian optimism is more than seeing the bright side of life. It is the confident hope that comes from trusting in God's promises.

Yet the opposite of Christian optimism is despair - the temptation to believe that God is absent, that our efforts are meaningless, or that nothing can change. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that nothing could be further from the truth.

He tells of a man who joyfully sells everything to obtain a hidden treasure and of a merchant who gives up all he has to possess a pearl of great price. They recognize something worth every sacrifice. The Kingdom of Heaven is that treasure, and the joy of finding it outweighs everything left behind.

This week, Fr. John reflects on the conversion story of J.D. Vance, whose journey from childhood faith, through atheism, and ultimately into the Catholic Church reminds us that the Lord never stops calling His children home. God is always at work, even when we cannot yet see the whole picture.

When we keep our eyes fixed on Christ, despair gives way to hope, sacrifice becomes an act of love, and we discover the greatest treasure of all: life in His Kingdom.

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.



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



Are you new to Saint Mark?
(Or not "new" but still feel "new"?)

Women Newcomers

**Please come join us to laugh, cry,
and make new friends!**

**Wednesdays
September 9–November 11
10–11:30 am**

New to our parish or still feel "new"? The class is based on Susan Miller's book **"After the Boxes Are Unpacked"** dealing with the spiritual, emotional and practical needs when making a move. It is a great way to meet fellow parishioners and make new friends.



Space is limited; reserve your spot today!
To register or for further information, please call Catherine, 704-340-6234 or email after-the-boxes@stmarknc.org.

We look forward to meeting you!

High School and College School Supply Drive

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.

New Moms Connect

Are you a mom with a little one age 2 or under? We'd love for you to join us for a relaxed morning of connection, encouragement and community.

This new meet-up group is a wonderful way to get to know other young moms, share the joys and challenges of this season, and let the little ones enjoy some fresh air at the park.

We meet once a month at **North Mecklenburg Park**. Our next gathering will be **Wednesday, July 29 at 9:30 am**.

We hope you'll come and be part of this new community!

For more information, contact Hannah Gordon:
hannahigordon19@gmail.com or click on the QR code to join the GroupMe.



*More Scripture,
More Mary,
More McAlear,
& Holy Spirit
Surprises*

Led by:
Father Richard McAlear
*renowned scripture scholar
& healer*



Mary's Women of Joy: Fall 2026

When: Thursdays, Sept. 10-Nov. 19

Morning and Evening sessions

Where: Kerin Family Center

Study Theme: More Scripture, More Mary, More McAlear, and More Holy Spirit Surprises

Discovering what is concealed in the Word of God about our Mother Mary. Experience the freedom of listening to her with complete trust and vulnerability. This study is led by Father Richard McAlear, renowned Scripture Scholar and Healer.

Mary's Women of Joy is a sisterhood rooted in prayer and the Catholic study of Sacred Scripture and Church teaching. It encourages women to grow together in faith, understanding, and joyful discipleship.

Morning session 10-12:30 pm Evening session 6:30-9 pm

Space is limited. Registration closes when sessions are full.

Cost: \$45/Info and registration: stmarknc.org/mwoj



Help Wanted: Catholic School Assistants Needed!

Looking for a rewarding part-time job that works around your schedule? Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools is now hiring **After School Assistants** to help provide a safe, welcoming environment for students after the school day ends.

Now Hiring at:

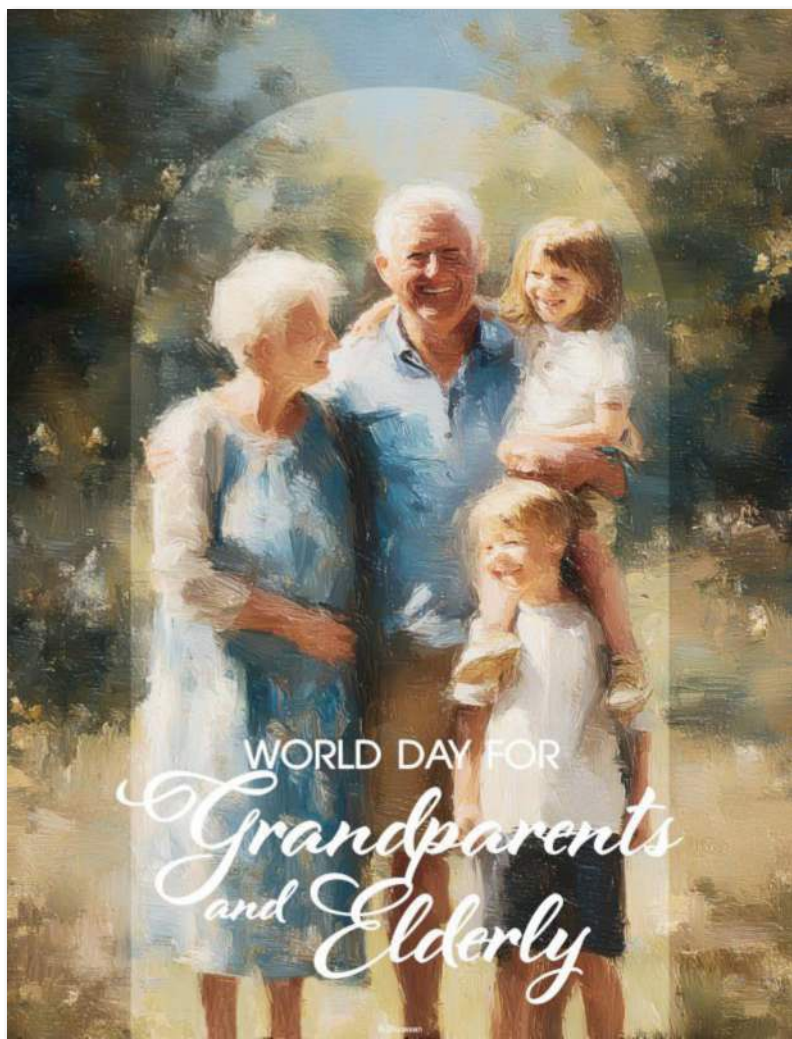
- **St. Mark Catholic School.** St. Ann Catholic School, St. Patrick Catholic School, and Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School

Position Details:

- Mid-August through May, 2:30-6 pm, 3-5 days per week, no weekends or evenings, and summers off

If you enjoy working with children and would like to be part of a faith-filled school community, we'd love to hear from you!

For more information, contact: **Ellen Buening**, ehbuening@rcdoc.org, 704-370-3268



World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

On Sunday, July 26, the Catholic Church celebrates the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, established by Pope Francis to honor the invaluable role that older adults play in families, parishes, and society.

Celebrated each year near the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus (July 26), this day reminds us that grandparents and the elderly are a living treasure whose wisdom, faith, and witness continue to enrich the Church.

Take a moment this week to thank the grandparents and older adults who have shaped your life. Visit or call an elderly family member or neighbor, pray with them, or simply spend time listening to their stories. If your grandparents have gone before the Lord, remember them in prayer and give thanks for the gift of their lives.

May we always recognize, cherish, and accompany our elders with the same love and dignity that Christ shows to each of us.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Treasure
Joy
Sells
Pearl
Sea
Wicked
Righteous
Scribe
New
Old

©Diocesan

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.

- **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.



Meet Saints Joachim & Anne The Grandparents of Jesus: Feast Day: July 26

Did you know that Jesus had grandparents? Their names were **Saints Joachim and Anne**, and they were the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Although the Bible doesn't tell us much about them, the Church has honored them for centuries as faithful grandparents who loved God and helped prepare Mary for the special mission He had planned for her.

Joachim and Anne taught Mary to pray, to trust God, and to love Him with all her heart. Because they faithfully raised their daughter in the Jewish faith, Mary was ready to say "yes" when the Angel Gabriel asked her to become the Mother of Jesus. In this way, Saints Joachim and Anne helped prepare the world to receive our Savior.

This week, thank your grandparents—or another older person who has helped you grow in faith. Give them a hug, make them a card, call or visit them, or spend time listening to one of their stories. If your grandparents are in heaven, say a prayer of thanks for them and ask Saints Joachim and Anne to pray for your family.

Try This: Ask a grandparent or another older person: "What was your favorite prayer when you were my age?"

Prayer: *Saints Joachim and Anne, thank you for your faith and for helping prepare Mary to become the Mother of Jesus. Bless our grandparents and all older adults. Help us to love, honor, and learn from them as they share God's love with us. Amen.*



Ladies, Come and See!

When: Fri., Aug. 7; 7 pm

Where: Parish House

Have you been looking for a way to deepen your faith while building meaningful friendships with other Catholic women?

Fidelis Sisterhood invites you to a special Come and See Night to learn more about this growing community of women seeking to live their faith together.

Join us on Friday, August 7, at 7 pm in the Parish House to discover what Fidelis is all about, meet current members, and learn how you can become part of the sisterhood.

All women who are high school graduates or older are warmly invited to attend. Whether you're simply curious or ready to get involved, we hope you'll join us for this evening of fellowship and faith.

ADORATION

"You Are Staying with the Giver"

Excerpt from Fr. John Putnam's Homily at the Mass of Thanksgiving for Eucharistic Adorers

The Holy Eucharist is at the very heart of our Catholic faith. Jesus is not offering us a symbol or simply a reminder of His love. He offers us Himself—His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.

He is here.

This is why we celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This is why we build chapels of adoration. This is why we spend time in silence before the Blessed Sacrament. Christ remains with us, inviting us to draw near to Him.

To our Eucharistic Adorers, thank you. Your silent, faithful presence is a powerful witness to our parish—that Jesus is here, that He is real, and that He is worth our time. The Lord sees your love, and our entire parish is strengthened by your faithful witness.

When you come before the Lord in Adoration, you are doing something beautiful.

"You are not merely gathering manna to eat and walk away. You are staying with the Giver. You let the Lord look at you, and you look at Him."

There, worries are laid down, sins are surrendered, joys are offered, and love is returned.



Many adorers have shared how time before the Blessed Sacrament has changed their lives—making them more patient, more generous, and more courageous in living their faith. That is the power of Christ at work.

Today, we thank our Eucharistic Adorers for their faithful witness. We also invite every parishioner to consider spending time with Our Lord in the Adoration Chapel. Whether you commit to a weekly Holy Hour or simply stop by for a few quiet moments, the Lord is waiting for you.

May we always echo the words of the psalmist:

"Taste and see the goodness of the Lord."

I Am the Good Shepherd, and I Know Mine and Mine Know Me...

By: Donna Fodale, Adoration Coordinator

A big thank you to all those who were able to come to the special Mass for Adorers on July 13! For those who could not come, please know that you're remembered in prayer and that you were missed!

This August will be three Years since I started as the coordinator for the Adoration Chapel. It has been such a blessing. I am truly humbled by the love that you all have for Eucharistic Adoration. It has been said that Eucharistic Adoration along with the Sacramental life, is the spiritual heartbeat of a parish.

For us at St. Mark, we can see without hesitation the fruit that has come from Adoration both for the parish and for the spiritual growth of our parishioners.

Many of you have shared with me personal stories on how spending time in the Chapel has changed your life, helped you encounter Jesus in a more personal way and how it has become a great source of peace in these turbulent times.

May God bless you and know that without you, we would not be able to have Perpetual Adoration.

If you have not been able to visit the Chapel, I would like to invite you to do so. When we come before the true presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament a story of love begins to unfold. This story is like no other. It is based on the truth that you are loved, seen, chosen and that there is nothing that you cannot overcome when you give your heart to Jesus!

Remember what scripture says...*When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. John 10:4*

I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. John 10:14-15

By spending time with Jesus in Adoration, you will surely come to know him more and will recognize His voice.

Please prayerfully consider committing to a Holy Hour.

Register at: www.stmarknc.org/adoration

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



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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:**

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.

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COORDINATORS AT TH@FORLIFEANDFAMILY.ORG

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Retreat: Finding God in a New Season of Life

Life is filled with transitions - some joyful, some unexpected, all filled with God's grace.

Come to this two-night retreat and discover how God has been guiding you through every season of your life and how God may be inviting you into the next.

Enter the next season of your life with greater peace and confidence—**Sept. 4-6** at the beautiful **Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC.**

For more information or to register, visit www.catholicconference.org/new-season, email info@catholicconference.org, or call 828-327-7441.



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

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

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deacon.rich@stmarknc.org
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704-948-1306, Ext. 105

High School Youth Ministry

Coordinator
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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.

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

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 Monday 7 pm, Room 204. If parish offices closed, meetings at Lowe's Foods, exit 23.

Contact: divorce.support@stmarknc.org



DEL PASTOR



El modo de vida de la administración podría describirse como una búsqueda diaria del Reino de los Cielos. En el Evangelio de hoy de Mateo, Jesús utiliza una serie de parábolas para ayudarnos a comprender el valor incomparable de ese Reino.

Primero, nos recuerda que vivir para Él y para Su Reino requerirá sacrificio. Sin embargo, la alegría que proviene de seguir a Cristo hace que cualquier sacrificio valga la pena. Jesús dice: "El reino de los cielos es como un tesoro enterrado en un campo, que una persona encuentra y esconde de nuevo, y de alegría va y vende todo lo que tiene y compra ese campo." Luego compara el Reino con "un mercader en busca de perlas finas". Cuando el mercader encuentra una perla de gran valor, vende encantado todo lo que tiene para conseguirla.

En ambas parábolas, el Reino es algo precioso que debe ser buscado y reconocido. Debemos buscarla intencionadamente en medio de las distracciones y el ruido del mundo.

Sin embargo, Jesús también nos recuerda que el Reino está destinado a todos. Lo compara con una red lanzada al mar que recoge peces de todo tipo.

Al mismo tiempo, nos recuerda que cada uno de nosotros será juzgado algún día. Los ángeles "separarán a los malvados de los justos." Es un recordatorio poderoso de que nuestras decisiones importan.

Recemos por la sabiduría de reconocer el Reino de los Cielos entre nosotros y de perseguirlo por encima de todo. No hay mayor tesoro, ni mayor fuente de alegría, que una vida vivida como fiel discípulo de Jesús. © Consultores de Gestión Católica, 2026.

Reflexión pastoral

En general, disfruto de los libros. Me gusta sostenerlas, mirarlas y, por supuesto, leerlas. También disfruto de los audiolibros porque son una buena forma de pasar el tiempo con todo el tiempo que conduzco. Me gustan muchos libros, pero en general intento evitar cosas estrictamente políticas. Por eso, me sentí un poco reticente cuando me recomendaron el libro *Comunión* de J.D. Vance. Sin embargo, lo que descubrí es que es una lectura excelente y no tiene nada que ver con la política. Más bien, es la historia del regreso del vicepresidente a la fe cristiana lo que finalmente llevó a que se convirtiera en católico.

Supongo que las historias de "conversión" me atraen por mi propio origen. Y aunque yo no crecí en la zona minera de Ohio como él, hay muchas similitudes con su familia, descrita en *Hillbilly Elegy*, y la familia de mi padre de las montañas de Carolina del Norte.

Este libro en particular, en cierto modo, es una secuela de *Hillbilly*. Habla sobre su caótica infancia y su exposición a iglesias bautistas y pentecostales, su deriva hacia el ateísmo en la juventud tras la muerte de su abuela, y su regreso gradual a la fe, que culminó con su conversión al catolicismo en 2019.

El título hace referencia a la Eucaristía, y el autor explora lo que significa ser cristiano a lo largo de las etapas de la vida – como niño, joven, marido, padre y figura pública – mientras reflexiona sobre el papel de la religión en la vida pública y en la sociedad estadounidense.

Estas memorias mezclan una autobiografía espiritual con comentarios más amplios sobre la fe, la política, los valores familiares y los problemas sociales. Aunque algunos lo han criticado por considerarlo más un manifiesto cultural, aprecié la evaluación honesta del camino de un hombre desde su fe infantil hasta una fe adulta que condujo a la plena comunión con la Iglesia Católica. Ciertamente es que puede que no sea del gusto de todo el mundo, pero no debería descartarse simplemente porque el autor sea el actual vicepresidente. Me gustó, y si quieres algo para pasar una tarde de verano tranquila, te lo recomendaría.



Foco en la Gestión Fraternus

Todos estamos llamados como uno por Cristo a abrazar el espíritu de custodia para crecer en Cristo, servirnos unos a otros y conectar en la fe. Fraternus es un programa escolar patrocinado por la parroquia que invita a jóvenes de 6° a 12° curso a la hermandad con padres, hijos y hombres de todas las edades para actividades, aventura, oración y crecimiento. Fraternus ofrece un espacio y estructura exclusivamente masculino para guiar a los "hermanos" hacia hombres virtuosos y proporcionar mentoría a todos los asistentes.

Fraternus busca, en parte, "inspirar a los chicos a convertirse en hombres de virtud, fortaleza y servicio." El comandante del St. Mark Fraternus, David Liberto, comparte: "Para criar una familia, y específicamente a los jóvenes, se necesita un pueblo de testigos fieles. Con una media de setenta y cinco hermanos y capitanes que acuden cada semana, desafiamos a todos los jóvenes de San Marcos, junto con sus padres, a unirse a nosotros, mientras el hierro afila el hierro y nosotros crecemos en virtud. Aviso: esta aventura no es para los débiles de corazón. Oramos, servimos, competimos, acampamos y nos divertimos para la gloria de Dios."

La misión de Fraternus es "formar hombres que, como padres, restauren comunidades." Todos los hombres son bienvenidos a unirse a Fraternus y dejar atrás la infancia.

Para más información, contacta con el comandante del St. Mark Fraternus, David Liberto, en commander.stmark.fraternus@gmail.com o visita www.fraternus.org.



Apoye a las Víctimas del Terremoto en Venezuela Segunda Colecta Especial – 25 y 26 de julio

Los devastadores terremotos que sacudieron Venezuela el pasado 24 de junio también tocaron de cerca a nuestra familia parroquial de San Marcos. Nuestra feligresa Dulce Peña perdió a su madre, Dulce María Avila de Peña, y a su tía, Gladys Josefina Avila, mientras que, milagrosamente, su hermano y su cuñada sobrevivieron al derrumbe de su edificio. Como comunidad parroquial, seguimos orando por todos los que fallecieron, por quienes lloran la pérdida de sus seres queridos y por las familias que ahora enfrentan un futuro incierto.

Miles de personas han quedado sin hogar, alimentos, agua potable ni atención médica. Catholic Relief Services, en colaboración con la Iglesia local, está brindando ayuda de emergencia a los afectados. Le invitamos a considerar en oración apoyar nuestra Segunda Colecta Especial para el Alivio del Terremoto en Venezuela este fin de semana. Su generosidad llevará esperanza y ayuda concreta a quienes más lo necesitan.



Ayude a las familias afectadas por el desastre en Venezuela

Segunda Colecta
25 y 26 de julio

Escanee el código QR para donar:



Fotografía: Juanjo Arocho Esteves, OSV News

Aporte en línea: www.crs.org/donate/venezuela-earthquake



Colecta de Útiles Escolares para Estudiantes de Preparatoria y Universidad

¡Ayude a 85 estudiantes de nuestra comunidad!

Cuándo: Ahora hasta el 2 de agosto

Dónde: Deposite sus donaciones en el Nártex

No todas las colectas de útiles escolares son iguales.

La Iglesia San Marcos se ha unido a Caterpillar Ministries para recolectar útiles escolares para 85 estudiantes de preparatoria y universidad de la comunidad de Huntington Park.

Caterpillar Ministries es una organización cristiana sin fines de lucro que sirve a más de 800 niños, jóvenes, adultos y personas mayores a través de formación en la fe, apoyo académico, ayuda en situaciones de crisis y acompañamiento. Muchos feligreses de San Marcos forman parte de esta comunidad. Este año se nos ha pedido ayudar específicamente a los estudiantes mayores, cuyas necesidades son muy diferentes a las de los niños pequeños. Los artículos solicitados incluyen:

- **Mochilas para adolescentes y universitarios**
- **Memorias USB de 16 GB o 32 GB**
- **Agendas escolares**
- **Papel cuadriculado**
- **Cuadernos de espiral con rayado universitario**
- **Plumas de gel azules y negras**
- **Tarjetas de índice**
- **Lápices mecánicos**
- **Carpetas y archivadores (binders)**
- **Estuches para lápices**
- **Notas adhesivas (Post-it)**

Las donaciones pueden depositarse en el contenedor ubicado en el Nártex desde ahora hasta el 2 de agosto. ¡Gracias por ayudar a estos estudiantes a comenzar el nuevo año escolar con confianza y con las herramientas necesarias



Día Mundial de los Abuelos y de los Mayores

Este domingo **26 de julio**, honremos a nuestros abuelos y adultos mayores por su amor, sabiduría y ejemplo de fe. Visítelos, llámelos o recen por ellos. ¡Gracias por ser una bendición para nuestras familias y nuestra Iglesia!






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