



LOVE IS...

MINISTRY FAIR

this weekend!

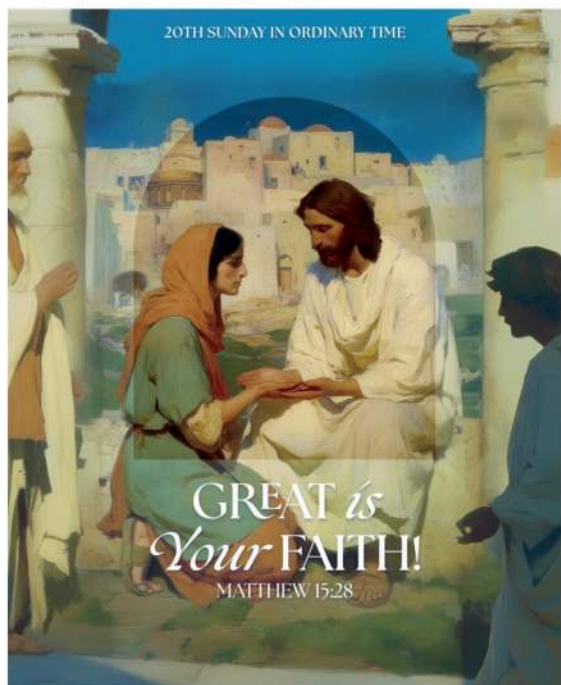
Details page 6.

Come find where
you belong!



SAINT MARK

WELCOME TO ST. MARK!



Today is the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings can be found in the music handouts or in the St. Augustine Hymnal on page 923. The Order of the Mass can be found on page 7; Mass prayers are on the last page of book.

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 of any unconfessed mortal sin—this includes, if married, being married in a way recognized by the Catholic Church.
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



Today's Gospel from Matthew reminds us to trust the Lord even when it seems He is not answering our prayers.

God desires to lead us to the joy of heaven

and eternal life with Him. To prepare us for that day, He calls us to grow in faith and to live each day as a grateful response to His goodness. In other words, He is forming us into saints. This is what the stewardship way of life is meant to accomplish. At times that process is difficult. Often, it stretches us beyond our comfort.

Jesus certainly challenged the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel. She cried out to Him on behalf of her daughter, who was tormented by a demon. How did Jesus respond to this desperate mother's plea? At first, He "did not say a word in answer to her." Undeterred, she continued to seek Him, and He continued to test her faith.

She responded with such remarkable trust that Jesus proclaimed, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." Imagine hearing those words spoken to us by our Lord. There could be no greater affirmation of a life lived in faithful discipleship.

The stewardship way of life will test our trust in God at times. But those are often the moments when He is doing His greatest work within us. Let us persevere in faith, trusting that His plan is always leading us toward the joy He has prepared for us.

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Pastoral Pondering

As the school year begins and we move into the post-summer routine, I wanted to give you an update on a few things which may be of interest to you.

Building projects – The rectory build is going well. Grainda Builders are projecting the project to finish by November (I am hoping for earlier!). We do plan to have an open house so that folks can see the new rectory upon its completion. The preliminary work for the second phase of our building projects is occurring with the installation of the water lines that will feed the new buildings. This will hopefully be done by Labor Day. We should be able to hold a groundbreaking shortly after the first of the year. Everything depends on when the present rectory sells and where we are with funding. The Diocese requires 40% of the project to be in cash, 30% to be in pledges and 30% allowable for Diocesan loan. We will keep you posted. Obviously, as we move forward, there will be growing pains that cannot be avoided due to the disruption of some parking. We are working with the general contractor to keep disruptions to a minimum, but we cannot avoid all of them. Thank you for your patience.

Church Maintenance – As many of you know, we have been battling issues with the church roof for some time. There have been numerous leaks over the years that have been patched and patched again. We have been battling the insurance company for over a year, and it is clear that, after a minimal payment to repair water damage, they are not going to approve a claim for roof replacement. Kudos to the Pastoral Council and Scott Bruno for making a significant investment of time and energy to try to do the groundwork to provide justification for the claim. With that being said, we have already replaced a portion of the roof that was causing significant problems (the lower roof closest to the driveway). Nonetheless, the whole roof really does need to be replaced. Estimates for replacement are in the neighborhood of \$250K. At present with the other projects going on, we do not have this in reserves or the operating account to cover this expense.

Should you wish to assist, donations can be made on the website. We will continue to monitor and do what we can to manage the problem until we are able to fully address it.

The second significant issue that has arisen is the foundation of the Kerin Center. Over the last several years, due to water and drainage issues, we have had to address foundation instability. Reinforcements were added a couple of years back to the school-side of the building, but we have been seeing some issues on the church-side of the building over the past year. We are watching it very carefully and trying to ascertain the root cause of the problems. We are appreciative of those parishioners with engineering expertise who have assisted in this effort. There is also a link on the parish donation website for Kerin Center repairs.



Roof Fund
[stmarknc.org/
online-giving](http://stmarknc.org/online-giving)

Family Center
Fund
[stmarknc.org/
online-giving](http://stmarknc.org/online-giving)



Next Sunday: Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Mark Church

On August 23, 2009, St. Mark Church was solemnly dedicated and set apart as a sacred place for worship, prayer, and the sacraments.

The anniversary of a church's dedication is more than a celebration of a building. It is a time to give thanks for our spiritual home and for the living Church — the people of God who gather here as the Body of Christ.

It also reminds us that every church points beyond itself to the heavenly Jerusalem, our eternal home.

Next Sunday, we commemorate this important day and renew our commitment to live as the Church gathered in Christ. The Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Mark Church will be celebrated as a Solemnity in our parish.

We will serve cookies after the 9 am and 1 pm Masses as we celebrate our parish's spiritual home.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please Pray For...

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

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

FORMED: Free Catholic Streaming for St. Mark Parishioners

Did you know that St. Mark provides every parishioner with free access to FORMED? Often called the "Catholic Netflix," FORMED offers thousands of Catholic movies, documentaries, Bible studies, audiobooks, children's programs, and faith formation resources for all ages.

Whether you're looking to deepen your faith, learn more about the saints, study Scripture, or find wholesome entertainment for your family, FORMED is available anytime on your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

To create your free account, visit signup.formed.org and search for St. Mark Catholic Church. Take advantage of this valuable resource provided by your parish and discover all that FORMED has to offer.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Air Force: C3C Andrew Bauders; Airman Gregory Burke; Airman Antoinio Diaz; Lt. Col. Michael Dragoon; Capt. Stephen Hack; Capt. Ryan Loyd; Alejandro Martinez; Sgt. James McCormick; SCANG Sgt. John Andrew McCormick; 2nd Lt. Connor Milligan; Airman Chloe Scott; Airman Michael F. Yellico

Army: 1st Lt. Amelia Andretti; Capt. Patrick Camatcho; Capt. Sarah Camatcho; Maj. Robert Caraccilo; Sgt. Maj. 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; Cpl. Baylin Prescott; Capt. Nathanael Rusciolli

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, August 16

7:30 am	St. Mark Parishioners
9 am	† James Cloutier
11 am	† Rich Covelli
1 pm	† Celmira and Roberto Rojas
5 pm	† Rose Seeling

Monday, August 17

7 am	† James Lane
9 am	† Donald F. DeCamp

Tuesday, August 18

7 am	Kris Owen Senapathy
9 am	† Madonna Wingert

Wednesday, August 19

7 am	Deacon Patrick Martin
	† Ryan King
6:30 pm	Luca Rodriguez
	The Ducey Family

Thursday, August 20

7 am	Lonnie Collins
9 am	Regina Reardon

Friday, August 21

7 am	Raymond FitzGerald
9 am	† Amedee Norvez
7 pm	† Jeanette Elder

Saturday, August 22

9 am	† Valeria Gerbas
5 pm	† Agustin Cerda

Sunday, August 23

7:30 am	† Jan Fredericks
9 am	† Johannah Holleran
11 am	† John O'Neill
1 pm	† Esperanza Rodriguez
4:30 pm	The Hunter Family
5 pm	St. Mark Parishioners

† Deceased

READINGS

Sun. Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8;
Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

Mon.
Ez 24:15-23; Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21;
Mt 19:16-22

Tue.
Ez 28:1-10; Dt 32:26-27ab,
27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab;
Mt 19:23-30

Wed.
Ez 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6;
Mt 20:1-16

Thu. Memorial of Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Ez 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-13, 14-15,
18-19; Mt 22:1-14

Fri. Memorial of Saint Pius X, Pope
Ez 37:1-14; Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7,
8-9; Mt 22:34-40

Sat. Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ez 43:1-7ab; Ps 85:9ab, 10, 11-12,
13-14; Mt 23:1-12

Sun. Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8;
Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

SMALL GROUPS

Open Your Home. Open God's Word.

This fall, St. Mark hopes to welcome even more parishioners into Small Groups—but first, we need a few more hosts.

Hosting isn't about teaching the faith or having all the answers. It's simply about welcoming people and providing a place where friendships and faith can grow. We'll provide the study materials, discussion guides, and a brief facilitator workshop. You choose the day, time, and location.

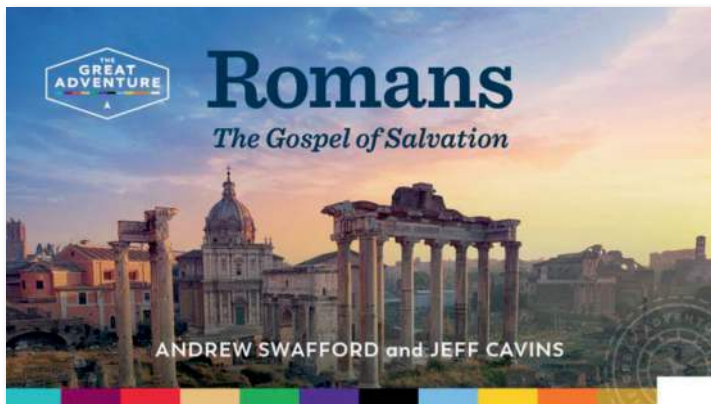


This year's parish-wide study will explore St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, and registration for participants will begin in September.

Someone sitting

near you at Mass may be praying for deeper friendships, encouragement, and a place to belong. Perhaps God is inviting you to be the one who says, "You're welcome here."

If you would like to learn more about becoming a Small Groups Host, contact Karen Donahue at karen.donahue@stmarknc.org or visit stmarknc.org/small-group-leaders.



PARISH LIFE



Coming
Up at
St. Mark

August 15 & 16

Ministry Fair

Friday, August 21

Middle School Movie Night

Sunday, August 23

Dedication of St. Mark Mass

Monday, August 31

Small Groups Registration
Opens

Wednesday, September 9

Young at Heart Luncheon

September 11 & 12

Eucharistic Congress

September 13-20

Diaper Drive

Tuesday, September 15

Coffee and Conversation

Saturday, September 19

Couples Adoration, Wine and
Cheese Night

Saturday, September 26

SeptemberFest

Tuesday, September 29

Prayer and Praise

August 30-September 1

Faith Formation Classes Begin

Sunday, October 4

Prayer Chain for Life

October 10 & 11

Coat/Blanket/Toy & Baby
Drive

Saturday, October 17

Blue Mass

Wings and Trivia

October 24-November 1

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Sunday, October 25

New Member Meet &
Greet

Sunday, November 1

All Saints Day

Monday, November 2

All Souls Day

Mass of Remembrance

November 7-8

Men's Welcome Retreat

Saturday, November 14

Marriage Date Night

Wednesday, November 18

Young at Heart Luncheon

Friday, November 20

Middle School Social

Tuesday, November 24

Prayer and Praise

Sunday, November 29

Advent Begins

St. Nicholas Breakfast

Tuesday, December 8

Immaculate Conception

Saturday, December 5

Family Christmas Event

Thursday, December 10

The Vigil Project

Saturday, December 13

Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 15-23

Posadas

December 25

Christmas

Wednesday, January 6

Young at Heart Luncheon

January 15-17

Marriage Retreat



Construction Notice

Work has begun on a new fire hydrant along the Family Center exit drive. The parallel parking spaces along that roadway are unavailable. Please use other parking areas and keep the exit drive clear. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

everyone welcome!

MINISTRY FAIR

THIS WEEKEND!

August 15–16



Saturday, August 15

Hot Dogs, Chips and Drink
after 5 pm Mass

Sunday, August 16

Donuts, Coffee, and Apple Juice
after 7:30 & 9 am Mass

Hot Dogs, Chips and Drink
after the 11 am Mass

Food • Refreshments • Door Prizes • Activities
• Fellowship • Fun • In the Parish Hall

The annual Ministry Fair is the perfect time to meet people, have fun, have a bite to eat, and discover how to get involved at St. Mark.

Tables with representatives from most of our ministries will be available to answer questions, share their experiences, and help you find the right fit for your gifts.

SPECIAL Pro-Life Ministry Section:

Come learn about local pro-life and pro-motherhood organizations and how you can support them.

Discover where God is calling you to grow, serve, share, and connect.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Spotlight: Pastoral Council

Our St. Mark purpose statement reads, "The love of Christ commands us to accompany and evangelize as many people as possible to the eternal happiness of heaven." Priests cannot accomplish this alone, and the Second Vatican Council made provisions for pastors and bishops to work together with the laity, forming parish and diocesan pastoral councils to help reach a wider audience. "While the same Spirit gives many different gifts, they are all given by the one Spirit and are intended to build up the unity of the Church in diversity." (Second Vatican Council, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen gentium) #9). This week, our spotlight focuses on the St. Mark Pastoral Council.

Parish Pastoral Council members serve by bringing questions, concerns and views of various parishioners to Father Putnam. They also provide opinions and insights from their perspectives on various matters affecting St. Mark, including the annual budget, capital campaign, and other special projects. Council members also serve as liaisons to various parish committees, including Evangelization, Liturgy, Stewardship, Building and Grounds, etc. Council members must maintain communion with the church and live holy lives.

The Pastoral Council typically meets on the fourth Monday of each month and seeks new members late each summer as part of rotating three-year terms. While on campus, council members wear name tags that identify them as such. If you are interested in learning more or considering joining this group of parish leaders, you can speak to a member, send an email to pastoral.council@stmarknc.org, or submit a letter of interest along with a short bio to fr.putnam@stmarknc.org.

Practicing the Virtues: RESPECT

Christian respect is more than courtesy or good manners. It is recognizing the God-given dignity of every person and treating each one as someone loved by God.

The opposite of respect is contempt — the temptation to dismiss, judge, or overlook another person because of who they are or where they come from. In this Sunday's Gospel, a Canaanite woman approaches Jesus with remarkable faith. Though she is an outsider, her persistence and trust are recognized, and her prayer is answered.

God's mercy is not reserved for a select few. As Isaiah reminds us, His house is to be "a house of prayer for all peoples." Christian respect asks us to look beyond differences and recognize the dignity God has placed in every person.

As we gather for our Ministry Fair this weekend, we are reminded that every person has a place in the life and mission of the Church. Each parishioner brings different gifts, experiences, and abilities, and all can be offered in service to Christ and His people.



Plan Today for a Peaceful Tomorrow

August is Make-a-Will Month, an ideal time to create or update your will. Thoughtful estate planning ensures that your wishes are honored, and your loved ones are cared for, providing comfort and peace of mind.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to those who have included St. Mark Catholic Church in their estate plans. Your generosity elevates our faith community to the status of family and ensures that future generations of parishioners can enjoy the same opportunities and experiences we cherish today.

If you have already made this kind gesture but haven't informed us, please let us know by emailing or calling Karen Donahue at karendonahue@stmarknc.org or 704-948-0231 x136. We would be delighted to welcome you into our St. Mark Legacy Society, established to honor those who have included the parish in their estate plans. Again, we thank you for lifting up your faith family at St. Mark in this meaningful way.





Young at Heart Ministry Luncheon
invites you to come and celebrate

America's 250th Birthday Luncheon
Wednesday, September 9, 11 am
Monsignor Kerin Center Parish Hall

Cut Off Date for Reservations
Monday, August 31
Donation is \$15 per person

Please place your donation and envelope in the black box on the wall next to the Welcome Desk in the Family Center.



ADORATION

The things we do for love...

By: Donna Fodale/Adoration Coordinator

Not sure if this was a Holy Spirit moment but as I was preparing my bulletin piece and asking the Lord what I should write about this week, a song popped into my head. Well, just a few lyrics really. The song is from the seventies called, "The Things We Do for Love." I had to go and listen to it again. Not much in the lyrics pertained to anything that I would want to share so I am thinking that the Lord wanted me to reflect on the *title*.

As you may know there are many types of love. There is the love between a husband and wife, love between a parent and a child, love between good friends and the list goes on.

There is one love though that surpasses all others. That love is the love that the Lord has for each one of us. Not one person is excluded from His love.

All love requires one thing. That is sacrifice. Reflecting on the title of this piece I was reminded of some of the things that Jesus did for love (of us).

Jesus healed, forgave and prayed for us to the Father. He suffered and died for us on the cross. He also gave us the gift of Himself in the Eucharist!

Years ago, Jesus placed a desire on Monsignor Bellow's heart to bring Perpetual Adoration to St. Mark. Through his faithful response, we now have an Adoration Chapel where we can visit Our Lord at any time, day or night, throughout the week. It is yet another gift of His love for us.

Now I would like to invite you to reflect on the love that is between you and the Lord. What are some of the things that you have done for love (of Him)?

Each one of us will probably have a few different things that we can list. I pray that one of the things that may be on your list is that you spend time with Him in Adoration. By spending time with Him in Adoration you are giving Him something that He desires greatly, the gift of yourself!

To grow in love in every relationship requires each person to make time for the other; to actively engage with one another. That is exactly what happens in Adoration. You share your heart with the Lord and He shares His heart with you. He draws you close to Himself and transforms not only the love that you share with Him but the love that is carried into all your relationships.

So, please come spend time with Jesus, visit Him in the Chapel. Love is not a verb, it requires action. Let the next thing you do after reading this be looking at the week ahead and adding visiting the Adoration Chapel to your schedule. Do for love!

Please prayerfully consider committing to a Holy Hour. Register at: www.stmarknc.org/adoration

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



STEWARDSHIP



Thank you! Last month, 740 parishioners came together to package 157,896 meals for those in need.

What a gift it is to come together as a parish family and unite for the sake of our brothers and sisters.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, organized, and prayed to make this event possible.

We could not have done this without you!

You can find more photos on our Facebook page!





PARISH LIFE

New Moms Connect

When: Wed., Aug. 26; 9:30 am

Where: North Mecklenburg Park

Are you a mom with a little one age two 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 and 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.



Young Adult Ministry Upcoming Events

Looking to grow in faith and build friendships with other Catholic young adults? Join the St. Mark Young Adult Ministry this August! This group is open to anyone in their 20s and 30s.

Whether you're new to the parish or have been here for years, there's a place for you.

August Events

- Saturday, August 22: Karaoke & Game Night, 5–9 pm, Parish House
- Thursday, August 27: Bible Study, 7–9 pm, Parish House
- Saturday, August 29: Movie Night (*Pope John Paul II*), 5–9 pm, Parish House

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

Contact: Sean Meier:

seanmeier1@gmail.com.



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American

2026 Ireland of Your Dreams Raffle Tickets

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) will again be selling raffle tickets after Masses next week. The Grand Prize winner this year will receive up to \$5,000 toward a trip to Ireland thru Woodard Luxury Travel Vacations. There will be a 2nd Place Drawing for \$500.00, and a 3rd Place Drawing for \$250.

This is the 16th consecutive year we have conducted this raffle, the proceeds of which have been used, and will continue to be used, to support our parish, pro-life activities, seminarian education and various other religious and humanitarian organizations.

Raffle tickets will continue to be priced at \$25 each, or 5 tickets for \$100. Payments may be made by cash, check (payable to "AOH Meck #2") or credit card, or purchased online using the QR Code. You can also contact the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians who are also fellow parishioners. Their names and information can be found below. We sincerely thank you for your support and participation over the years, without which we could not have succeeded. The drawing will be held on Saturday, November 28, 2026. Good Luck to all.

Contact Information:

Bernard Holst – bholst560@gmail.com, 704-507-3261

Ray FitzGerald – rfitzg@aol.com, 704-992-1702

Paul Mescall – pmesca@aol.com, 731-394-1795

Frank Fay – frankfay58@gmail.com, 704-641-4176



Monday Night Football Books After Mass

The Knights of Columbus Monday Night Football books are back again for the 16th Season and available after all Masses at the Ministry Fair this weekend while they last.

Books are \$20 each. Less than 75 books are available out of 1,100 to be sold this year. There will be 11 \$50 winners each week through the Super Bowl.

For more information, drop by their table near the Fountain and/or Ministry Fair or contact raymarr44@gmail.com.



Stephen Ministry: Help, Hope, Healing

Life brings seasons when we all need someone to listen, encourage, and pray with us. Whether you are grieving the loss of a loved one, facing illness, caring for a family member, experiencing divorce or separation, struggling with loneliness, unemployment, parenting challenges, or another difficult life circumstance, you don't have to walk through it alone.

Stephen Ministers are trained parishioners who provide one-on-one, confidential Christian care to those who are hurting. They offer a compassionate presence, a listening ear, and ongoing support rooted in Christ's love. If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, please contact Leanne Vaccaro at leanne.vaccaro@stmarknc.org or Rich Kull at rkull@optonline.net.

Learn more at stmarknc.org/stephen-ministry.

2026 EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Jesus still calls
ordinary people into
extraordinary purpose.



Cast your net wider.

CHARLOTTE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS
Friday-Saturday, Sept. 11-12, 2026

Eucharistic Congress Collection

The 2026 Eucharistic Congress will be September 11-12 at the Charlotte Convention Center. If you would like to make a donation to support this wonderful event, please go to www.osvhub.com/stmarknc/giving/funds/eucharistic-congress-2026, or use the QR Code. We are grateful for your generosity.

2026 Eucharistic Congress

Join thousands of Catholics from across the Diocese of Charlotte at the 2026 Eucharistic Congress, September 11-12 at the Charlotte Convention Center. This free, two-day event features nationally known Catholic speakers including **Katie Prejean McGrady, Ana Munley, and Erich Kerekes, co-founder of the Hallow prayer app.** Enjoy inspiring music from **The Scally Brothers, The Vigil Project, and Marieth Quintero**, along with Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, a Eucharistic Procession through Uptown Charlotte, and the closing Mass with Bishop Michael Martin.

Whether you attend for an hour or the entire weekend, come deepen your faith and celebrate the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Visit GoEucharist.com for the full schedule and details

Event Highlights:

- Friday-Saturday, September 11-12
- Charlotte Convention Center
- Free admission
- National Catholic speakers
- Inspiring music and worship
- Eucharistic Procession through Uptown Charlotte
- Eucharistic Adoration & Confession
- Closing Mass with Bishop Michael Martin
- Flexible schedule—attend for an hour or the full weekend



Called. Formed. Sent.
2026 EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS



**Custom St. Mark T-Shirt for
2026 Eucharistic Congress!**

Order by August 23

Walk with St. Mark at the 2026 Eucharistic Congress on Sept. 11-12 wearing this year's custom parish t-shirt.

Inspired by the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary (Sept. 12), this year's design features the Blessed Virgin Mary with the words from her Magnificat: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord." (Luke 1:46) It is a custom, original design by our own Elementary Faith Formation Coordinator Maddie Torres. The back has the parish logo and name.

Available in adult and youth sizes, with English and Spanish versions. Shirts are \$15-\$20 (depending on size) and are made to order.

Order Deadline: Aug. 23

Pick-Up: After Masses, Sept. 5-6

To place your order, scan the QR code or visit stmarknc.org/eucharistic-congress through parishioner-owned Chameleon Screen Printing.



Cub Scout Pack 97 Open House

When: Thurs., Aug. 27, 6–8 pm

Where: Front Lawn, Main Church Entrance

Looking for a fun way to help your son grow in faith, character, leadership, and service? Come learn about Cub Scout Pack 97, proudly sponsored by St. Mark Catholic Church.

Pack 97 welcomes boys in kindergarten through fifth grade, regardless of where they attend school. Boys may join at any age and at any time during the year. Scouts enjoy family-oriented activities where siblings are encouraged to participate while building friendships, learning new skills, and growing in confidence.

Throughout the year, Scouts take part in camping, hiking, rock climbing, shooting sports, STEM activities, local outings, the Pinewood Derby, popcorn fundraising, and an exciting end-of-year Super Trip.

Dens and Pack meetings are typically held on Friday evenings at the St. Mark Parish Center or School.



Did You Know? Because Pack 97 is sponsored by St. Mark Catholic Church, parent volunteer service with the Pack counts toward maintaining active parishioner status.

Can't attend the Open House or have questions? Contact Eric Ramarijaona at eramarijaona@cubscoutpack97.org or (980) 389-9749.



Important Notice: Faith Formation Families

Classes begin Aug. 30 and Sept. 1!

A Volunteer Meeting is Mon., Aug. 24.

Parent Meetings are Thurs., Aug. 27 and Fri., Aug. 28.

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



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Preschool Music Teacher Needed

St. Mark Preschool is in great need of a part-time Music Teacher (approximately 12 hours per week) for the upcoming school year. If you are interested, send a résumé to Preschool Director **Amanda Rametta** at amanda.rametta@stmarknc.org.

St. Roch: A Saint with a Faithful Friend Feast Day August 16

St. Roch loved Jesus so much that he spent his life caring for people who were sick. He traveled from town to town, praying with the sick and helping them whenever he could.

When St. Roch became sick himself, he went into the woods so he wouldn't spread his illness to others. God took care of him in an amazing way. A faithful dog visited him every day, bringing him food and keeping him company until people found him and helped him recover.

Because of this story, St. Roch is almost always shown with a dog by his side. He is the patron saint of the sick, pilgrims, and dogs.

Prayer: St. Roch, pray for everyone who is sick, for doctors and nurses who care for them, and for all who are lonely or suffering.

St. Mark Challenge!

St. Roch had a faithful dog who helped care for him. Can you find another dog in our church? Look for the stained glass window of St. Martin de Porres! What other animal is in the window?





Life Teen Schedule August and September

When: August 16: Parent Meeting and Family Adoration

August 23: Life Teen

August 30: Life Teen

September 6: No Life Teen

September 13: Color Games

September 20: Life Teen

September 27: Life Teen

All High school students (including rising 9th graders) are invited to join us for another exciting year of Life Teen at St. Mark!

Life Teen gathers on Sunday evenings after the 5 pm Mass throughout the year with engaging talks, small group discussions, games, prayer, fun, and opportunities to serve others. Dinner is always included.

Stay Connected: REMIND App: Class code **smhsym2025**; **Instagram:** @stmarknc.youth

Join our Email List:
augustine.free@stmarknc.org.

Middle School Family Movie Night

When: Fri., Aug. 21; 6:30-9 pm
Where: Parish Front Lawn

Grab a blanket or lawn chair and join us for a fun evening under the stars!

Middle school families are invited to our Family Movie Night on Friday, August 21, from 6:30–9 pm. on the Parish Lawn.

Enjoy a family-friendly movie along with free pizza, snacks, and drinks while spending time with friends and making new ones before the school year gets into full swing. Bring the whole family, invite another family to join you, and enjoy a relaxing summer evening together.

There's nothing quite like watching a movie outdoors with your parish family on a summer evening. We hope you'll join us!

Questions? Contact Olivia DiGiovanni at olivia.digiovanni@stmarknc.org.



Catechist Recruitment

Thank you for saying "YES"!

70 parishioners have already responded to God's call to help pass on the Catholic faith.

Thank you!

We still need 90 more catechists to teach the Faith! K-8 and High School volunteers needed.

Could God be calling you to say "YES"?

Information: www.stmarknc.org/ff

Thank You Altar Servers!

August is Altar Server Appreciation Month, and we are especially grateful for the many young people who faithfully serve at the altar at St. Mark. Last week, some of our servers traded cassocks and surplices for roller coasters and a day of fun together at Carowinds! Thank you to our altar servers for their reverent service at Mass, to their parents for supporting them, and to the leaders and chaperones who guided them and made this great day possible.



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FIND THESE WORDS

- MINISTRY FAIR
- SMALL GROUPS
- LIFE TEEN
- ADORATION
- SERVANTS
- EUCHARIST
- ROMANS
- T-SHIRT
- MOVIE NIGHT
- ST. ROCH
- ST. MARK
- HOST
- COUNCIL
- CATECHIST
- VOLUNTEER
- FRIENDSHIP
- PARISH
- BIBLE
- PRAYER
- WELCOME
- LEGACY
- CONGRESS
- FORMATION
- PASTORAL

Words may go in any direction!

AROUND THE DIOCESE



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MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT
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QUALITY TIME | DYNAMIC SPEAKERS | CHILDCARE | MASS + ADORATION + CONFESSION

Together in Holiness Marriage Conference

When: Sat., Nov. 21; 8 am–3:15 pm

Where: Charlotte, NC and Greensboro, NC

Married and engaged couples are invited to the 8th Annual Together in Holiness Catholic Marriage Enrichment Conference, presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation and the Diocese of Charlotte. Spend a day strengthening your marriage through dynamic speakers, quality time together, and opportunities for Mass, Adoration, and Confession. Childcare will also be available.

Cost: \$64 per couple • \$40 per individual

Early Bird Registration: Register by October 5 for a discounted rate. Visit TogetherInHoliness.org or use the QR code to register.



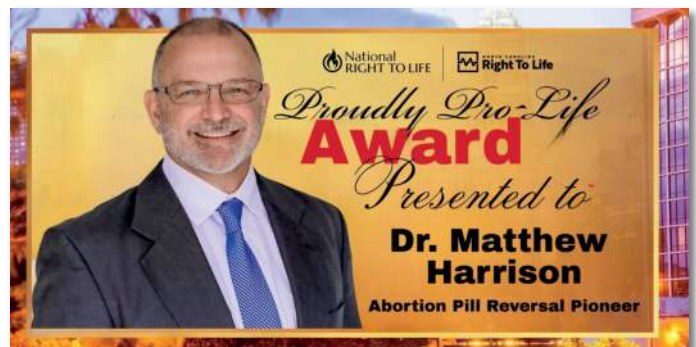
Proudly Pro-Life Gala with Rachel Campos-Duffy

When: Thur., Sept. 17; 7 pm

Where: Hilton Charlotte Uptown

Join National Right to Life and North Carolina Right to Life, for its Proudly Pro-Life Gala on Sept. 17 at the Hilton Charlotte Uptown featuring special guest Rachel Campos-Duffy. Dr. Matthew Harrison will be honored with the Proudly Pro-Life award for his work as a pioneer of the abortion pill reversal.

Tickets and sponsorships: nrlcgala.com Seating is limited and expected to sell out—reserve today! For questions contact events@nrlc.org



Divine Mercy (Poland) Pilgrimage

When: Mon., Aug. 24; 7 pm, **INFORMATION SESSION**

Where: Huntersville Professional Building, 11330 Vanstory Drive

This will be an informational meeting to provide information on our amazing 2027 Divine Mercy Pilgrimage to Poland in October 2027! We will go through the itinerary, answer your questions, and you can meet your fellow Pilgrims!

Doors open at 6:30 pm and the meeting will begin at 7 pm. There will be light refreshments as well for those in person! Please RSVP at code. Contact: Donny Woodard, 980-483-3620, dwoodard@WoodardLuxuryTravel.com



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 Philomena
sacristan@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 211

Liturgy Coordinator/Office Manager

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

Annulments, OCIA

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

Baptism Coordinator

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mjacinta@stmarknc.org
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Sacrament Admin/Adoration

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704-948-0231, Ext. 117

Stewardship Coordinator

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704-948-0231

Director of Faith Formation

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704-948-0231, Ext. 137

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704-948-0231, Ext. 124

Faith Formation Admin Asst

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704-948-0231, Ext. 103

Middle School Youth Ministry

Coordinator

Olivia DiGiovanni
olivia.digiovanni@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, 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.

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 are closed, meetings are at Lowe's Foods, exit 23.

Contact: divorce.support@stmarknc.org

DEL PASTOR



El Evangelio de hoy de San Mateo nos recuerda que debemos confiar en el Señor incluso cuando parece que no responde a nuestras oraciones. Dios desea guiarnos hacia la alegría del cielo y la vida eterna con Él. Para prepararnos para ese día, nos llama a crecer en la fe y a vivir cada día como una respuesta agradecida a Su bondad. En otras palabras, Él nos está formando en santos. Esto es lo que la vida responsable está destinada a lograr. A veces ese proceso es difícil. A menudo, nos lleva más allá de nuestra comodidad.

Jesús sin duda desafió a la mujer cananea en el Evangelio de hoy. Ella le clamó en nombre de su hija, que era atormentada por un demonio. ¿Cómo respondió Jesús a la súplica desesperada de esta madre? Al principio, él "no respondió ni una palabra a ella." Sin desanimarse, ella continuó buscándole, y Él continuó poniendo a prueba su fe.

Ella respondió con una confianza tan extraordinaria que Jesús proclamó: "¡Oh mujer, grande es tu fe! Que se haga por ti como deseas." Imagina escuchar esas palabras pronunciadas por nuestro Señor. No podría haber mayor afirmación de una vida vivida en discipulado fiel.

La forma de vida de la administración pondrá a prueba nuestra confianza en Dios en ocasiones. Pero esos suelen ser los momentos en los que Él está haciendo Su mayor obra dentro de nosotros. Perseveremos en la fe, confiando en que Su plan siempre nos guía hacia la alegría que Él ha preparado para nosotros. © Consultores de Gestión Católica, 2026.

Reflexión pastoral – A medida que comienza el curso escolar y pasamos a la rutina posterior al verano, quería darte una actualización sobre algunas cosas que podrían interesarte.

Proyecto de construcción – La construcción de la rectoría va bien. Grainda Builders proyecta que el proyecto termine para noviembre (¡eso espero antes!). Planeamos organizar una jornada de puertas abiertas para que la gente pueda ver la nueva rectoría cuando esté terminada. Los trabajos preliminares para la segunda fase de nuestros proyectos de construcción están en marcha con la instalación de las tuberías de agua que alimentarán los nuevos edificios. Esperamos que esto esté listo para el Día del Trabajo. Deberíamos poder celebrar una inauguración poco después del inicio del año.

Todo depende de cuándo se venda la rectoría actual y de dónde estemos con la financiación. La Diócesis exige que el 60% del proyecto sea en efectivo, el 30% en empeños y el 30% permitido para préstamos diocesanos. Los mantendremos informados. Obviamente, a medida que avancemos, habrá dolores de crecimiento que no se podrán evitar debido a la interrupción de algunos aparcamientos. Estamos trabajando con el contratista general para minimizar las interrupciones, pero no podemos evitarlas todas. Gracias por su paciencia.

Mantenimiento de la iglesia – Como muchos sabéis, llevamos tiempo lidiando con problemas con el tejado de la iglesia. A lo largo de los años ha habido numerosas filtraciones que se han parcheado y vuelvo a parchear. Llevamos más de un año luchando contra la compañía de seguros y está claro que, tras un pago mínimo para reparar daños por agua, no van a aprobar una reclamación por reemplazo del tejado. Enhorabuena al Consejo Pastoral y a Scott Bruno por invertir tanto tiempo y energía en intentar hacer el trabajo previo que justifique la afirmación.

Dicho esto, ya hemos reemplazado una parte del tejado que estaba causando problemas importantes (el tejado más bajo que está cerca de la entrada). Sin embargo, todo el tejado realmente necesita ser reemplazado. Las estimaciones para el reemplazo rondan los 250.000 dólares. Actualmente, con los otros proyectos en marcha, no tenemos esto en reservas ni en la cuenta operativa para cubrir este gasto. Si deseas ayudar, puedes hacer donaciones a través de la página web. Seguiremos monitorizando y haciendo todo lo posible para gestionar el problema hasta que podamos abordarlo completamente.

El segundo problema importante que ha surgido es la fundación del Centro Kerin. En los últimos años, debido a problemas de agua y drenaje, hemos tenido que abordar la inestabilidad de los cimientos. Hace un par de años se añadieron refuerzos en el lado del colegio del edificio, pero hemos estado viendo algunos problemas en el lado de la iglesia durante el último año. Lo estamos observando muy de cerca e intentando determinar la causa raíz de los problemas. Agradecemos a los feligreses con experiencia en ingeniería que han colaborado en este esfuerzo. También hay un enlace en la web de donaciones parroquiales para las reparaciones del Centro Kerin.



Camiseta Oficial de St. Mark para el Congreso Eucarístico

¡Haga su pedido antes del 23 de agosto!

Acompañe a la comunidad de St. Mark en el Congreso Eucarístico 2026, que se celebrará los días 11 y 12 de septiembre, luciendo la camiseta oficial de nuestra parroquia.

Inspirado en la Fiesta del Santo Nombre de María (12 de septiembre), el diseño de este año presenta a la Santísima Virgen María con las palabras de su Magnificat: «Mi alma proclama la grandeza del Señor.» (Lucas 1:46). El diseño es una creación original y exclusiva de Maddie Torres, Coordinadora de Formación en la Fe para Niños de nuestra parroquia.

Las camisetas están disponibles en tallas para niños y adultos, en inglés y español. El precio es de \$15 a \$20, según la talla, y cada camiseta se confecciona por pedido. Fecha límite para ordenar: 23 de agosto. Entrega de camisetas: Después de las Misas del 5 y 6 de septiembre.

Escanee el código QR o visite stmarknc.org/eucharistic-congress para realizar su pedido a través de Chameleon Screen Printing, empresa propiedad de un feligrés de St. Mark.

Próximo domingo: Aniversario de la Dedicación de la Iglesia San Marcos

El 23 de agosto de 2009, la Iglesia San Marcos fue solemnemente dedicada como lugar sagrado para el culto, la oración y los sacramentos.

El próximo domingo daremos gracias por nuestro hogar espiritual y por nuestra comunidad parroquial, el Cuerpo de Cristo. El aniversario de la Dedicación de la Iglesia San Marcos se celebrará como Solemnidad en nuestra parroquia.

Habrará galletas después de las Misas de 9 am y 1 pm.




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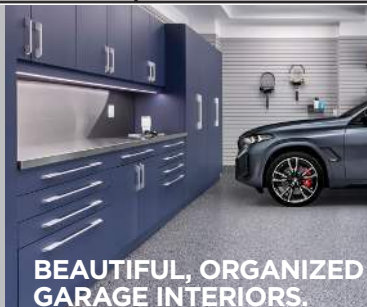
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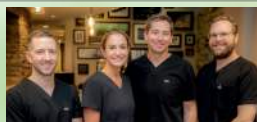
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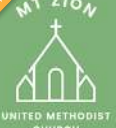


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