

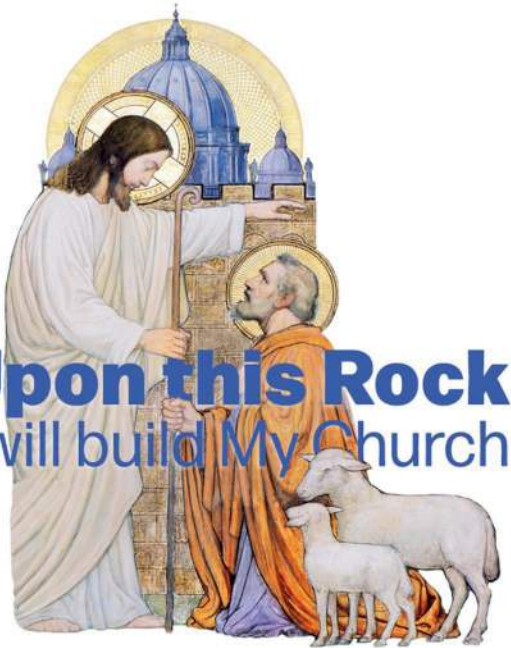
THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE
Dedication of a Church



SAINT✠MARK



WELCOME TO ST. MARK!



**Upon this Rock
I will build My Church**

Today is celebrated as a solemnity for St. Mark! It is officially The Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church. The readings aren't in the hymnal but can be found in the music handouts. The Order of the Mass can still 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



This weekend we celebrate a sacred milestone: the anniversary of the dedication of our church building. The readings chosen for this occasion invite us to look beyond

brick and mortar and ask a deeper question: What makes a house of God holy? And how do we, the living Church of Saint Mark, continue to be that house?

In the First Reading, Solomon stands before the newly completed Temple in Jerusalem and prays with both awe and humility: "Can it indeed be that God dwells on earth? If the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain you, how much less this temple which I have built!" Yet he dares to ask the Lord to keep His eyes open toward this place and to hear the prayers of His people. The Temple was never meant to limit God; it was meant to make His presence accessible to a people who needed a place to gather, to pray, and to be reminded that they belong to Him.

Saint Paul takes this truth even further. Writing to the Corinthians, he tells them — and us — "You are God's building... Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" The foundation of this living temple is Jesus Christ alone. No other foundation can be laid. The physical walls of our church matter. They have been consecrated. They shelter the Eucharist. They hold our baptisms, our weddings, our funerals, and our daily prayers. But the true temple is the community of believers who gather here. We are the living stones. When we treat one another with reverence, when we protect the dignity of every person, when we refuse to allow division or scandal to take root, we honor the Spirit who dwells among us.

Finally, in the Gospel, Jesus asks the decisive question: "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answers with the faith that becomes the rock: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Upon that confession Jesus builds His Church and entrusts Peter with the keys. Every time we renew our faith in Jesus as Lord, every time we hand over our lives to His authority, we strengthen the foundation

of this parish. Saint Mark's is not simply a building dedicated years ago; it is a community continually being built upon the rock of Peter's confession and the living presence of Christ.

As we mark this anniversary, let us give thanks for the sacred space that has sheltered our parish family. Let us also examine our hearts. Are we living as temples of the Holy Spirit? Are we building one another up on the one true foundation? May the Lord who cannot be contained by any temple continue to dwell richly among us — and may Saint Mark church always be a place where heaven and earth meet in prayer, in charity, and in faithful witness to Jesus Christ.

Pastoral Pondering

— Consecrated church buildings hold a central place in Catholic worship and theology because they are set apart as sacred space — places where heaven and earth meet in a privileged way. The architectural style, the overall design and the artistic elements are all to serve Catholic worship and belief. The following offers some information on the role of church buildings in the life of the Church.

1. They are truly dedicated to God

Through the solemn Rite of Dedication, a church building ceases to be ordinary architecture. The walls, altar, and space are anointed, blessed, and consecrated exclusively for divine worship. From that moment, the building belongs to God in a special way. Canon law treats consecrated churches as sacred places that may not be used for profane purposes (Canon 1210). This consecration is not merely symbolic; it affects a real change in the character of the place.

2. They house the Real Presence of Christ

The most decisive reason a consecrated church is holy is the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. Once the Eucharist is reserved there, the building becomes the dwelling place of the living Christ. Catholics genuflect not to architecture but to the Lord who remains present. The church is therefore more than a meeting hall; it is a true house of God. This presence elevates the entire space and gives Catholic church buildings a unique sacred character that persists even when no liturgy is being celebrated.

3. They are the ordinary place of the Church's sacramental life

The major sacraments of the Christian life — Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Matrimony, Ordination and Anointing of the Sick — are normally celebrated within consecrated churches. The building itself becomes the visible setting in which the invisible grace of the sacraments is given. The altar, in particular, is the focal point: it is anointed and contains relics of the saints, signifying that the sacrifice of Christ is offered in communion with the whole Church, living and dead.

4. They image the mystery of the Church

Catholic theology sees the consecrated building as a visible sign of the invisible reality of the Church. The physical structure points to the living temple made of "living stones" (1 Peter 2:5; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17). Just as Solomon's Temple was the place where God's name dwelt among His people, the church building is the place where the People of God gather as His temple. The architecture, art, and orientation of the building are meant to lift the mind and heart to the heavenly liturgy and to the eschatological reality of the New Jerusalem.

5. They foster continuity, identity, and reverence

A fixed, consecrated place creates a shared sacred memory across generations. The same walls that witnessed baptisms and weddings decades ago continue to shelter the community today. Beauty, silence, and sacred art within the building form the senses and train the soul in reverence. This is why the Church has always insisted on the dignity and permanence of consecrated churches: They shape the faith of those who pray within them.

In short, consecrated church buildings matter because Catholicism is a sacramental religion. God works through material realities — water, oil, bread, wine, and also space and architecture. A consecrated church is not merely a convenient location for worship; it is a privileged locus of God's presence, a visible expression of the Church, and a permanent invitation to encounter the living Christ.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please Pray For...

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

Tom Addison
Julie Andrews
Donald Arrup
Maryann Bahret
Lizzy Balzer
Daisy Bayona
Deidre Beck
Barbara Benner
Richard Biddy
Brian Blatchford & Family
Virginia "Gini" Bond
Kathy Brandt
Dave Breen
Lynne Bridges
Carman Butler
Helen Sally Buff
Carmen Cabranes
Anne Caestecker
Anthony Cain
Michelle Chicoine
Rod Clair
Jim Clark
Beth Collins
William Conklin
Vic Crognale
Ridge Curwood
Janice D'Angelo
Sheila DeArmon
Judy and Rich Deboer
John Deluca
Joan Demarco
Henry Diener

Charlie Donovan
Jane & William Dragoon
James P. Durcan
Joanne Errick
Jack Evans
Charles Fillipo
Al Fischlein
Alan Friedl & Family
Tom Fox
April Gallo
Valeria Gerbasi
Daniel Gilbridge
Denny & Monica Golden
Corbin Golightly
Tom Goodwin
Lucas Graf
Paige Grieshop
Rachel Grieshop
Helen Haddad
Victoria Hart
Fran Hehn
Laura Hehn
Allan Helmbrecht
Madeline Louise Henwood
William Hille
Hannah Hopkins
Frank Hunnicutt III
Cathi Kalberier
The Kibbee and Farnejad Family

Mary Kate Knight
Dennis Koenig
Jackie Kopicki
Aubrey Lamb
Craig Leiker
Carolina Liendo
Marie Ligon
Peter R. Loew
Kitty Long
Wilfredo Lostaunau
David Luongo
Margaret Lynch
Utelia Malwitz
Tom & Colette Manente
Sharon Marshall
Melissa McDonald
Cathy Milligan
Terry Milstead
Lucille Modica
Linda Morella
Mary Morgan
Haleigh Moss
Niall Mulkeen
Elizabeth Mulligan
Angeles Murphy
Maria Magdalena Murphy
Carl Muti
Emily Nash
Paul Nealon Jr.
Paul Sr. and Sally Nealon

The Ober Family
Louise Painter
Donna Paniagua
Fernando Paverpai
Jack Parley
Doug Peterson
Nicole & Bruce Preiss
Angela & Gianni Piraino
Johnathan Rametta
Joette Reid
Lindsay Remington
Butch Remesch
Thomas Rynne
Jack Schneider
Phyllis Searles
Mark Shields
Todd Singh
Bill Sirnack
Robert Somerville
Betsy Spartz
Mike Tolbert
Alston Torres
Mario Valinhas
Haley Velez
Julio Velez
Karen Vogel
Elise Weiss
Al Wiltz
Patricia Zeggert

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, August 24

7 am Cristina Ramirez
9 am † Joseph & Mary Montana

Tuesday, August 25

7 am † Zenon Robak
9 am Jayleah Gomez

Wednesday, August 26

7 am † Luz Maria Torres
7 am † Richard L. Loeffler
6:30 pm Purgatorial Society Mass

Thursday, August 27

7 am † Margaret A. Loeffler
9 am Robert Siao

Friday, August 28

7 am † Sharon Sheridan
9 am William Siao
7 pm † Patricia Hothersall

Saturday, August 29

9 am † James Cloutier
5 pm † Mike Harmon

Sunday, August 30

7:30 am St. Mark Parishioners
9 am Emily & Chris Bixler
11 am Mike & Jen Summinguit
1 pm † Marco A. Aguilera
4:30 pm † Georgiana Howe
5 pm Denise Goncalves

† Deceased

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 July 29, 2026.

Alfredo Eloy, Deceased Mary's Women of Joy

The following members will be remembered on August 26, 2026.

Jesus Ausberto B. Jaramillo, Joseph & Evelyn Pachana, Father Robert Pachana, Donald & Lois Somerville, Thomas McClintock

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 Caracillo; 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 Rusciollelli

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

..and all service members not listed.

READINGS

Sunday Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

Monday Rev 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51

Tuesday 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13; Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18; Ps 128:1-2, 4-5; Mt 23:27-32

Thursday 1 Cor 1:1-9; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mt 24:42-51

Friday 1 Cor 1:17-25; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11; Mt 25:1-13

Saturday 1 Cor 1:26-31; Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21; Mk 6:17-29

Sunday Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

SMALL GROUPS



Open Your Home.
Open God's Word.

Small Groups
registration opens
August 31!

We are grateful for the new hosts who have already stepped forward, but as we prepare to welcome parishioners into groups this fall, **we still need more hosts.**

Hosting isn't about teaching the faith or having all the answers. It is simply about welcoming people and helping create a place where friendships and faith can grow.

We provide the study materials, discussion guides and a brief facilitator workshop. You choose the day, time and location.

This fall, Small Groups will journey together through St. Paul's Letter to the Romans.

The more hosts we have, the more opportunities we can offer parishioners to find a group that fits their schedules and lives.

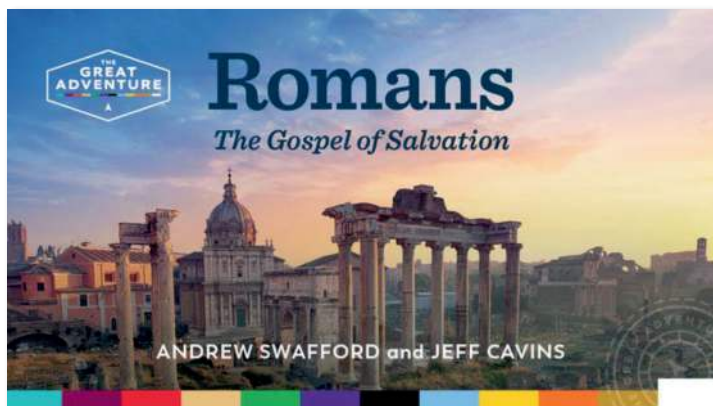
Perhaps God is inviting you to make room for a few more people and simply say, "You're welcome here."



Become a Host:

stmarknc.org/small-group-leaders

Contact: Karen Donahue,
karen.donahue@stmarknc.org



PARISH LIFE



Coming
Up at
St. Mark

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 12

Rorate Mass, 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.**

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE ADORATION SPACES. They are reserved for scheduled adorers only. Thank you for your patience and understanding.





Life Teen Schedule August and September

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.

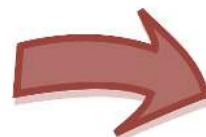
Faith Begins at Home!

As we celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of St. Mark Catholic Church this weekend, we give thanks for the beautiful spiritual home God has given our parish.

But the life of the Church doesn't end when we leave Mass. It continues in our homes, around our tables and in the small ways we pass the faith from one generation to the next.

As part of a renewed focus on supporting the families of St. Mark, we will be sharing "Little Traditions" throughout the year: simple Catholic practices, prayers, activities and traditions that can help make faith part of everyday family life. Some may already be part of your home; others may become new traditions of your own.

We will start with our first Little Traditions feature on page 7 and watch for more throughout the year.



Catechist Recruitment

Thank you
for saying
"YES"!



We are so
close... here
is what,
when,
where, and
who we
still need.

ECHO KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE:

(Note: High School age students can volunteer.)

Sunday 3:15-4:30 pm

- Kindergarten - 1 Co-Teacher
- First Grade - 3 Co-Teachers
- Second Grade - 2 Co-Teachers
- Sacramental Pathways (FHC) - 1 Co-teacher

Sunday 6:15-7:30 pm

- Pathways (FHC) - 2 Co-Teachers

EDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL:

(Note: High School Juniors/Seniors can volunteer.)

Sunday 3:15-4:30

- 7 Small Group Leaders
- Monday 6:15-7:30
- 5 Small Group Leaders

CONFIRMATION:

(Note: High School Juniors/Seniors can volunteer.)

Sunday 6:15-7:30

- 10 Small Group Leaders

If you can help teach our K-8 Faith Formation Classes, please call or email Maddie Torres for K-5 and Olivia DiGiovanni for 6-8 grades, or go to www.stmarknc.org/ff.

Maddie Torres: maddie.torres@stmarknc.org or 704-948-0231, Ext. 124
Olivia DiGiovanni: olivia.digiovanni@stmarknc.org

Important Notice:

Faith Formation Families

REGISTRATION CLOSING MONDAY!

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.

Registration closes August 25.

- **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

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

AN INTRODUCTION: LITTLE “t” TRADITIONS

little traditions

AT ST. MARK | BIG FAITH STARTS AT HOME

In Catholic circles, the passing down of the Faith from Christ and the apostles is referred to as "Sacred Tradition" or "Apostolic Tradition" — with a **big "T"** — to distinguish it from other, lesser, **little "t"** traditions.

There's actually a beautiful distinction in the Catholic faith between two kinds of tradition — and understanding it can transform how your family lives the faith at home.

Catholics distinguish **big "T"** Tradition, which *comes from God*, either through Christ or the apostles, from **little "t"** human traditions or customs.

Little "t" traditions are not required — *but they are powerful*. They are the ways Catholic families take the truths of the Faith and make them real in their homes, around their tables, and in the *rhythms of daily life*.

Examples of Sacred (Big "T") Traditions include:

- The apostles' teaching, liturgical practice, and institutions such as apostolic succession, including the seven sacraments and the office of bishop.
- The Sacrifice of the Mass, wherein Jesus offered bread and wine at the Last Supper, truly united to his sacrificial death so that all Masses offered by priests are sacrifices to God.
- The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist
- The authority of the Pope as Successor of Peter
- The canon of Sacred Scripture itself

Examples of little "t" traditions you can start this year:

- Lighting an Advent wreath together
- Doing the Epiphany Blessing with the chalk
- Praying a decade of the Rosary before bed
- Celebrating your patron saint feast day like a second birthday
- Praying a blessing before meals as a family
- Making the sign of the cross over your children at bedtime
- Observing meatless Fridays as a family act of penance and solidarity
- Framing an image of the Sacred Heart in your home

Why It Matters

The home is the **domestic church**, the first place where children learn who God is, what love looks like, and how faith is lived. Little "t" traditions are not merely nice customs. They are small daily acts that, over time, form the hearts of your children and strengthen the whole family in grace.

Every candle lit, every prayer whispered, every fast kept — is an echo of something eternal.

We will be sharing “**Little Ts**” (little traditions) throughout the year to support your family in enhancing or establishing your **domestic church**!

Do you have any Little Ts you are already doing and want to share them with us?

www.stmarknc.org/little-traditions



**SUBMIT THEM
AT THE QR
CODE HERE!**



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.



Find these words from this week's bulletin. They can be across, down, backward or diagonal.

Rosary
Anniversary
Grandparents
Congress
Young Adults
New Moms

Eucharist
Small Groups
Dedication
Faith Formation
Life Teen
Adoration

Baptism
Cub Scouts
Little Traditions
St. Mark

St. Monica & St. Augustine: August 27 & 28

Look closely at one of our stained-glass windows and you can find a famous mother and son: St. Monica and St. Augustine!

St. Monica, whose feast day is August 27, prayed for many years that her son Augustine would come to know and love God. She never gave up on him, even when he made choices that took him far from the Christian faith.

Her prayers were answered. Augustine eventually became a Christian and was baptized by St. Ambrose, the bishop pictured with Monica and Augustine in our window.

Augustine later became a bishop himself and one of the Church's greatest saints and teachers. We celebrate his feast day on August 28.

Their story reminds us to keep praying, keep trusting God, and never give up on the people we love.

Next time you're in church, look for this window and see if you can identify Monica, Augustine and St. Ambrose.



MARRIAGE MINISTRY



Couples Adoration and Outdoor Wine and Cheese Night

When: Sat., Sept. 19; 7-9 pm

Where: Church and outdoors

Married couples are invited to an evening of prayer, fellowship and time together, hosted by the St. Mark Marriage Ministry.

The evening begins with Couples Eucharistic Adoration from 7-8 pm in the church, with Confession available and time for peaceful music, prayer and placing your marriage before the Lord.

From 8-9 pm, couples are invited outdoors for a relaxed Wine and Cheese Reception with appetizers, light refreshments, conversation and fellowship. Couples may bring a favorite bottle of wine to share, if desired.

Come rest in the presence of Christ, reconnect with your spouse, and enjoy an evening of faith and fellowship. This is a free event.

Register: www.stmarknc.org/marriage-ministry



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.



An Invitation to Learn About the Annulment Process

When: Mon., Sept. 14; 7 pm

Where: Parish Hall

Are you or someone you know seeking clarity, healing, peace, or a fresh start after a divorce?

You are warmly invited to an informational meeting about the Catholic Annulment process on Mon., Sept. 14, at 7 pm in the Parish Hall.

Our presenters, Deacon Rich McCarron and Tribunal Advocate Rod Brostrom, will lead this gentle and supportive session.

They will demystify the process, explain the steps involved, and answer common questions about what an annulment is—and what it isn't. There is no cost to attend, no registration is required, and all conversation is strictly confidential. Whether you are divorced yourself or simply want to learn how to support a loved one, please join us.

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.



STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Spotlight: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults OCIA

If you or someone you know are interested in exploring the Catholic faith our Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) journey may be right for you. At St. Mark Catholic Church, we joyfully welcome all who are curious about the Catholic faith. We utilize a **year-round process**, allowing anyone to begin the journey at any time. Whether you've never been baptized, were baptized in another Christian tradition, or are a Catholic seeking to complete your sacraments, the door is always open.

A Lifelong Journey of Faith

OCIA is more than a class—it's a process of **conversion and discipleship**, centered on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and lived within the parish community. The journey

unfolds gradually through several stages, each supported by prayer, teaching, and the loving witness of our faith family.

Inquiry (Pre-Catechumenate): A time to ask questions, explore beliefs, and meet others who are also seeking.

Catechumenate: For those ready to continue, this period offers systematic formation in Catholic teaching and participation in parish life.

Purification & Enlightenment: Usually during Lent, participants prepare spiritually for receiving the sacraments at Easter through prayer, reflection, and special rites.

Mystagogy: After the sacraments, new Catholics continue growing in faith and learning to live as active members of the Church.

A Parish-Wide Mission

The OCIA process is not only for those joining the Church—it's a renewal for all of us. Parishioners play a vital role by praying for our inquirers, serving as sponsors and team members, and extending the warm hospitality that makes St. Mark such a welcoming home.

Each stage of OCIA includes liturgical rites celebrated at Mass—moments when the parish prays over and supports those discerning their call to Christ. From the Rite of Entrance into the Catechumenate, through the Scrutinies of Lent, to the Easter Vigil, our community walks side-by-side with those preparing to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Begin Anytime

Because OCIA at St. Mark runs continuously, there's no deadline to start. Each person's faith journey is unique, and our team will help discern the right next steps for you.

Sessions are held Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the School Library.

To inquire or to learn more, contact Leanne Vaccaro, Coordinator of OCIA: Leanne.vaccaro@stmarknc.org

Special Collection Next Sunday

On the weekend of August 29–30, our parish will take up a special second collection to support both Belmont Abbey College and The Catholic University of America, with undesignated gifts shared equally between the two institutions.

As the only Catholic college serving the Carolinas and neighboring states, Belmont Abbey College has been forming faithful Catholic leaders for 150 years, and this year's collection will help establish an endowment to provide tuition assistance for Catholic students from the Diocese of Charlotte.

Thank you for your prayerful generosity in supporting both our local Catholic college and the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States.

Belmont Abbey College has a direct donation link here: <https://belmontabbeycollege.givevirtuous.org/donate/recurring-gift-page>

Give at the weekend Masses or give online



Church and Kerin Center Maintenance Needs

Two significant maintenance needs are currently facing our parish.

Church Roof: After years of recurring leaks and repairs, it has become clear that the church roof needs to be replaced. Although a portion of the lower roof closest to the driveway has already been replaced, the remaining roof continues to require attention. After more than a year of pursuing an insurance claim, insurance will not cover the replacement. The estimated cost is approximately \$250,000, an expense that cannot currently be covered by parish reserves or the operating account.



Roof Fund
stmarknc.org/online-giving
account.



Family Center Fund
stmarknc.org/online-giving

Kerin Center Foundation: We are also continuing to address foundation instability at the Kerin Center related to water and drainage issues. Reinforcements were added to the school side of the building several years ago, and more recently we have seen concerns on the church side. We are monitoring the situation carefully and working with parishioners who have engineering expertise to determine the cause and appropriate repairs.

For those who would like to help with either of these needs, separate Church Maintenance and Kerin Center Repairs are available through parish online giving. We are grateful for your generosity and support of our parish facilities.

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

- 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.



Men's Bible Study: The Bible Timeline, The Story of Salvation

When: Most Wednesday evenings

7:15–8:45 pm; Sept. 9

Where: Room 200, Kerin Family Center

Join us as we continue this popular study, updated in 2025 and produced by Ascension Press, featuring the well-known Jeff Cavins and Fr. Mike Schmitz as presenters.

It is a powerful and immersive journey through Scripture beginning with the story of Creation and concluding with the establishment of the Church after Christ's Ascension. In the course, you'll explore the fourteen narrative books that tell the Bible's complete story.

You'll gain clear insights into how God's plan unfolds throughout history—and what it means for you today. Whether you're new to the Bible or looking to go deeper, *The Bible Timeline* will equip you to read and comprehend the entire biblical story—and discover your place within it.

Although this study began earlier this year, new participants can easily join. We will resume the course with a brief recap of prior lessons, then continue the story of salvation history from the Israelites' settlement in the Promised Land through our own journey to the eternal Promised Land.

For Registration & information: Ray FitzGerald RFitzg@aol.com or 704-992-1702. There is a fee for the workbook or online access to the video and course materials.

Singles 45+ Fellowship: Special One Year Anniversary Event!

When: Sun., Aug. 30; 5 – 8 pm

Where: Torrence and Knox, 20936 Torrence Chapel Road

Are you single? Are you over 45 years old (it doesn't matter how much older!)?

Come celebrate with us as we join for our one-year meeting celebration! Bring a friend for a relaxed, fun afternoon of fellowship.

Enjoy wonderful conversation, a lively atmosphere and delicious food. Take this opportunity to connect, make new friends and build community. We'd love to see everyone again!

Questions? Please RSVP to 45plussingles@gmail.com



PARISH LIFE



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.



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

Eucharistic Adorers Needed!

By: Donna Fodale/Adoration Coordinator

Imagine having one quiet hour each week where the noise of life fades, and you can simply rest in the presence of Jesus — no pressure, no agenda, just you and Him. That's what a Holy Hour offers: peace, clarity, and a love that renews you from the inside out."

"Many people say their Holy Hour becomes the anchor of their week — a time when worries lessen, gratitude emerges from deep within your heart, and the Lord's voice seems to become clearer. Even if you come tired, distracted, or unsure what to say, He meets you right where you are."

"Your hour isn't just for you — it's a gift to the whole Church. Every moment you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is a prayer for your family, your friends, and the world. You may never see all the fruits, but Heaven will." I truly believe that with all my heart!



Please help us get two Adorers for the hours that only have one. Yes, it is a sacrifice, but any sacrifice we make so that we can spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration will become like balm that we tenderly place upon His wounds. It will soothe his most Sacred Heart that has so often been rejected and forgotten. A heart that longs to draw closer to you. In this Holy Hour His grace will pour out upon you and bless you more than you could imagine!

Give your yes and He in His mercy will take care of the rest!

Hours that need one additional adorer:

Night Hours

Tuesday Midnight to 1 am
Tuesday 1 am to 2 am
Tuesday 2 am to 3 am

Day/Evening Hours

Saturday 5 pm to 6 pm
Saturday 10 pm to 11 pm
Monday 9 pm to 10 pm Wednesday 7 pm to 8 pm

Register at: www.stmarknc.org/adoration

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



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.



RESPECT LIFE

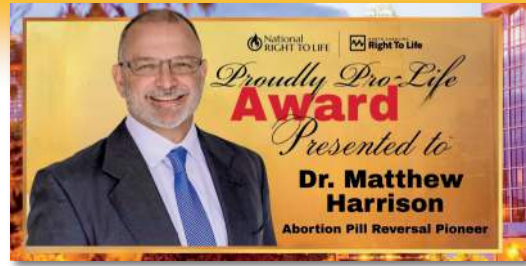
A Source of Hope for Student Moms

MiraVia's College Residence Program supports single pregnant and parenting student moms as they continue their education and build a hopeful future.

Located on the campus of Belmont Abbey College near Charlotte, MiraVia welcomes students from colleges, universities, community colleges, online programs, and vocational schools in the U.S.

Moms in our free College Residence Program receive a private suite, meals, childcare, diapers, baby supplies, life-skills classes, guidance, and education and career support.

MiraVia surrounds women with a caring community that reminds them they do not have to choose between their baby and their future. Learn more at www.miravia.org.



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 the Proudly Pro-Life Gala, featuring special guest Rachel Campos-Duffy, television personality, author and pro-life mother of nine.

St. Mark parishioner Dr. Matthew Harrison will be honored with the Proudly Pro-Life Award for his pioneering work in the abortion pill reversal process. Proceeds from the evening will benefit National Right to Life and North Carolina Right to Life.

Seating is limited and the event is expected to sell out.

Tickets and sponsorships: nrlcgala.com

Contact: events@nrlc.org

Practicing the Virtues: Orderliness

Orderliness, found in the scriptural art in the right transept above St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, is the virtue of putting things in their proper place and ordering our lives toward what matters most: God.

The opposite is disorder or allowing lesser things, distractions or our own desires to take the place that belongs to God.

As we celebrate the anniversary of the Dedication of St. Mark Church, we remember that this sacred space has been set apart for the worship of God. Its altar, tabernacle, sacred art and architecture all draw our hearts and minds toward Him.

St. Paul reminds us that we, too, are temples of God, with His Spirit dwelling within us. Just as our church is ordered toward God, we are called to order our priorities, choices and daily lives toward Him.

A well-ordered Christian life gives God His proper place: first.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

World Day for Grandparents and Elderly

When: *Sat., Sept. 12 and Sun., Sept. 13*

Where: *St. Ann Catholic Church, 3635 Park Road, Charlotte*

Join the Catholic Grandparents Association Charlotte Diocese Chapter in celebrating the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

Saturday, Sept. 12: Grandparents and families are invited to walk together in the Eucharistic Congress Procession. Meet at the corner of S. Tryon and 3rd streets and look for the Catholic Grandparents Association banner.

Sunday, Sept. 13; 10:30 am: Celebrate Mass at St. Ann Catholic Church, 3635 Park Road, Charlotte, followed by a reception at 11:30 am in the Allen Center. Come learn more about the Catholic Grandparents Association and its Charlotte Diocese Chapter.

This year's theme is *"I will never forget you"* (Isaiah 49:15), an invitation to celebrate, cherish and thank our grandparents and the elderly for their wisdom, love and faith.

Contact: Kathy Consler, cgakac24@gmail.com

Wedding Anniversary Mass & Reception

When: *Sun., Oct. 11; 2 pm*

Where: *Cathedral of St. Patrick, 1621 Dilworth Road E., Charlotte*

Couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary are invited to the Diocese of Charlotte's Wedding Anniversary Mass & Reception.

Join other couples from across the diocese in giving thanks for the gift of marriage and celebrating this special milestone together.

Registration is required. Scan the QR code for details and to register.



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

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deacon.rich@stmarknc.org
704-948-0231, Ext. 113

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704-948-0231, Ext. 121

Sacrament Admin/Adoration

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704-948-0231, Ext. 104

Director of Sacred Music

Manuel Mora
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704-948-0231, Ext. 130

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704-948-0231, Ext. 155

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704-948-0231

Director of Faith Formation

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704-948-0231, Ext. 137

Faith Formation Coordinator

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704-948-0231, Ext. 124

Faith Formation Admin Asst

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

Middle School Youth Ministry

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

Contact: divorce.support@stmarknc.org

DEL PÁRROCO



Este fin de semana celebramos un hito sagrado: el aniversario de la dedicación de nuestro edificio de iglesia. Las lecturas elegidas para esta ocasión nos invitan a

mirar más allá del ladrillo y el cemento y plantearnos una pregunta más profunda: ¿Qué hace que una casa de Dios sea sagrada? ¿Y cómo seguimos siendo nosotros, la iglesia viva de San Marcos? En la Primera Lectura, Salomón se presenta ante el recién terminado Templo en Jerusalén y reza con asombro y humildad: "¿Puede ser realmente que Dios habite en la tierra? Si los cielos y los cielos más altos no pueden contenerte, ¡mucho menos este templo que he construido!" Sin embargo, se atreve a pedirle al Señor que mantenga los ojos abiertos hacia este lugar y escuche las oraciones de su pueblo. El Templo nunca estuvo destinado a limitar a Dios; estaba destinada a hacer Su presencia accesible para un pueblo que necesitaba un lugar donde reunirse, orar y que le recordaran que le pertenecen.

San Pablo lleva esta verdad aún más lejos. Escribiendo a los Corintios, les dice—y a nosotros—"Sois la edificación de Dios... ¿No sabes que eres el templo de Dios y que el Espíritu de Dios habita en ti?" La base de este templo vivo es solo Jesucristo. No se puede poner otra base. Las paredes físicas de nuestra iglesia importan. Han sido consagrados. Protegen la Eucaristía. Celebran nuestros bautizos, nuestras bodas, nuestros funerales y nuestras oraciones diarias. Pero el verdadero templo es la comunidad de creyentes que se reúne aquí. Somos las piedras vivas. Cuando nos tratamos con reverencia, cuando protegemos la dignidad de cada persona, cuando nos negamos a permitir que la división o el escándalo echen raíces, honramos al Espíritu que habita entre nosotros. Finalmente, en el Evangelio, Jesús plantea la pregunta decisiva: "¿Quién dices que soy?" Pedro responde con la fe que se convierte en la roca: "Tú eres el Cristo, el Hijo del Dios viviente." Tras esa confesión, Jesús construye su Iglesia y confía las llaves a Pedro. Cada vez que renovamos nuestra fe en Jesús como Señor, cada vez que entregamos nuestras vidas a Su autoridad, fortalecemos los cimientos de esta parroquia. San Marcos no es simplemente un edificio dedicado hace años; es una comunidad que se construye continuamente sobre la roca de la confesión de Pedro y la presencia viva de Cristo.

Al conmemorar este aniversario, demos gracias por el espacio sagrado que ha acogido a nuestra familia parroquial. Examinemos también nuestro corazón. ¿Vivimos como templos del Espíritu Santo? ¿Nos estamos construyendo unos a otros sobre una sola base verdadera? Que el Señor, que ningún templo puede contener, siga habitando abundantemente entre nosotros—y que la iglesia de San Marcos sea siempre un lugar donde el cielo y la tierra se encuentren en oración, caridad y testimonio fiel a Jesucristo.

Reflexión pastoral – Los edificios eclesiásticos consagrados ocupan un lugar central en el culto y la teología católica porque están separados como espacios sagrados—lugares donde el cielo y la tierra se encuentran de manera privilegiada. El estilo arquitectónico, el diseño general y los elementos artísticos están destinados a servir al culto y la fe católica. A continuación se ofrece información sobre el papel de los edificios eclesiásticos en la vida de la Iglesia.

1. Están verdaderamente dedicados a Dios

A través del solemne Rito de Dedicación, un edificio de iglesia deja de ser arquitectura ordinaria. Las paredes, el altar y el espacio están ungidos, bendecidos y consagrados exclusivamente para el culto divino. Desde ese momento, el edificio pertenece a Dios de una manera especial. El derecho canónico trata las iglesias consagradas como lugares sagrados que no pueden usarse con fines profanos (Canon 1210). Esta consagración no es meramente simbólica; Produce un cambio real en el carácter del lugar.

2. Albergan la Presencia Real de Cristo

La razón más decisiva por la que una iglesia consagrada es santa es la presencia del Santísimo Sacramento en el tabernáculo. Una vez que la Eucaristía está reservada allí, el edificio se convierte en el lugar de morada del Cristo vivo. Los católicos no se arrodillan ante la arquitectura, sino ante el Señor que permanece presente. Por tanto, la iglesia es mucho más que una sala de reuniones; es una verdadera casa de Dios. Esta presencia eleva todo el espacio y otorga a los edificios de iglesias católicas un carácter sagrado único que persiste incluso cuando no se celebra ninguna liturgia.

3. Son el lugar ordinario de la vida sacramental de la Iglesia

Los principales sacramentos de la vida cristiana —Bautismo, Confirmación, Eucaristía, Reconciliación, Matrimonio, Ordenación y Unción de los Enfermos— normalmente se celebran en iglesias consagradas. El propio edificio se convierte en el escenario visible en el que se da la gracia invisible de los sacramentos. El

altar, en particular, es el punto central: está ungido y contiene reliquias de los santos, lo que significa que el sacrificio de Cristo se ofrece en comunión con toda la Iglesia, vivos y muertos.

4. Representan el misterio de la Iglesia

La teología católica ve el edificio consagrado como un signo visible de la realidad invisible de la Iglesia. La estructura física apunta al templo viviente hecho de "piedras vivas" (1 Pedro 2:5; 1 Corintios 3:16-17). Así como el Templo de Salomón fue el lugar donde el nombre de Dios habitó entre su pueblo, el edificio de la iglesia es el lugar donde el Pueblo de Dios se reúne como Su templo. La arquitectura, el arte y la orientación del edificio están destinados a elevar la mente y el corazón a la liturgia celestial y a la realidad escatológica de la Nueva Jerusalén.

5. Fomentan la continuidad, la identidad y la reverencia

Un lugar fijo y consagrado crea una memoria sagrada compartida a través de generaciones. Los mismos muros que presenciaron bautismos y bodas hace décadas siguen acogiendo a la comunidad hoy en día. La belleza, el silencio y el arte sagrado dentro del edificio forman los sentidos y entrenan el alma en la reverencia. Por eso la Iglesia siempre ha insistido en la dignidad y permanencia de las iglesias consagradas: ellas moldean la fe de quienes rezan en ellas.

En resumen, los edificios de iglesias consagradas importan porque el catolicismo es una religión sacramental. Dios actúa a través de realidades materiales: agua, aceite, pan, vino, y también el espacio y la arquitectura. Una iglesia consagrada no es solo un lugar conveniente para el culto; es un lugar privilegiado de la presencia de Dios, una expresión visible de la Iglesia y una invitación permanente a encontrarse con el Cristo vivo.



¡Última oportunidad para ordenar! Ordene la camiseta oficial de St. Mark para el Congreso Eucarístico **antes del 23 de agosto**. Disponible para niños y adultos, en inglés y español, por \$16-\$20. Las camisetas se entregarán después de las Misas del 5 y 6 de septiembre.

Escanee el código QR o visite stmarknc.org/eucharistic-congress para ordenar.



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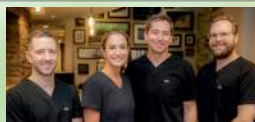
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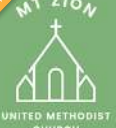


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