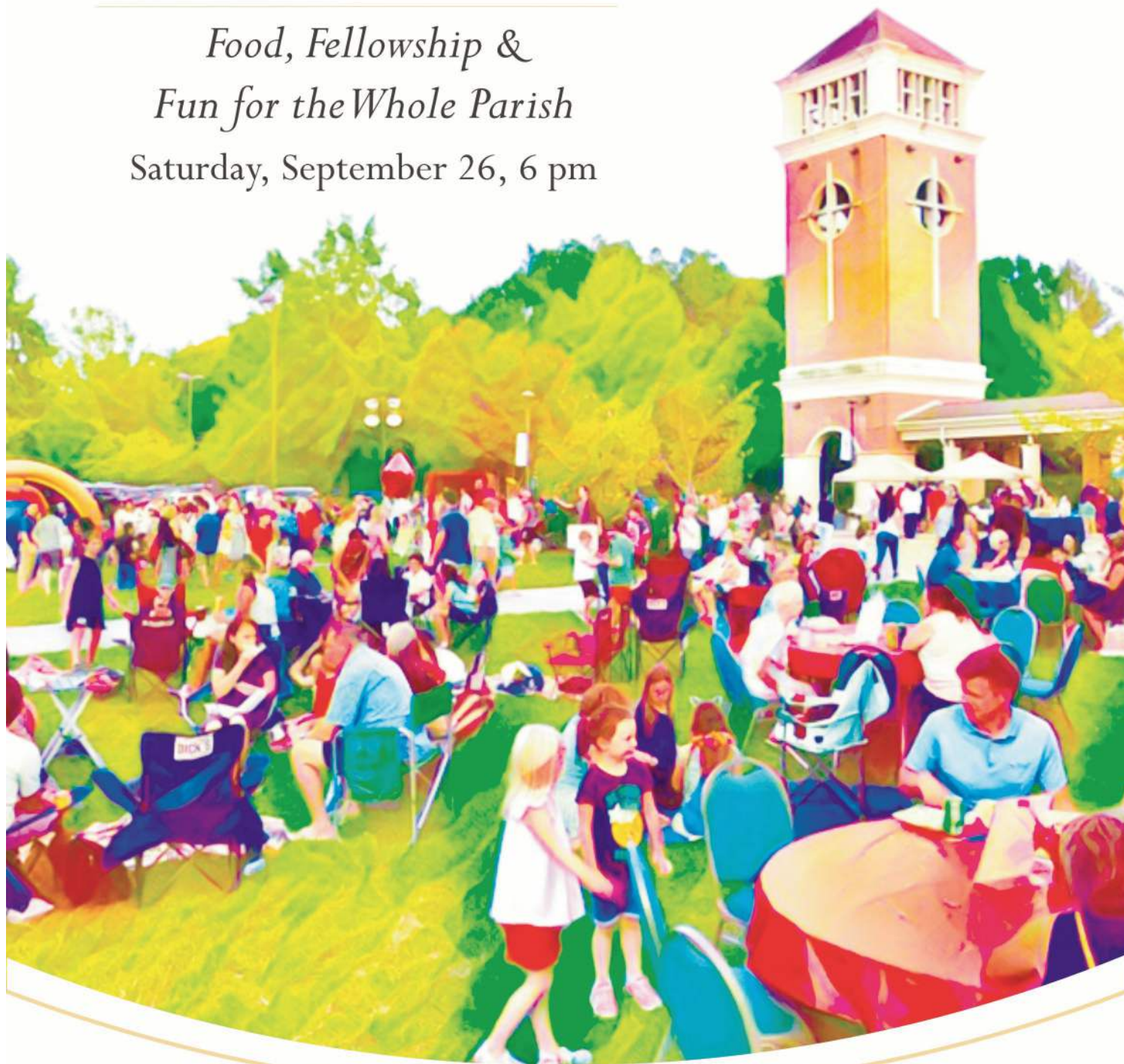


COME TO SEPTEMBERFEST

*Food, Fellowship &
Fun for the Whole Parish*
Saturday, September 26, 6 pm

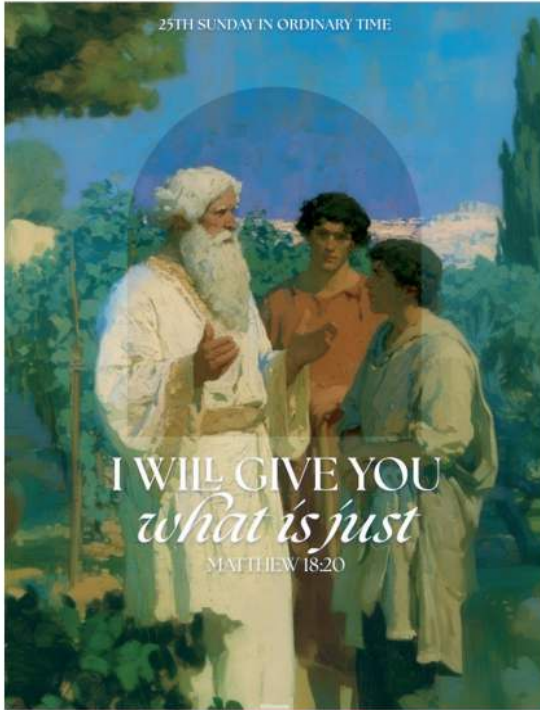


SAINT✦MARK



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time • September 20, 2026 • Espanol Page 16

WELCOME TO ST. MARK!



Today is the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings can be found in the music handouts or in the St. Augustine Hymnal on page 932. The Order of the Mass can be found on page 7; Mass prayers are on the last page of the hymnal.

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



Though we can never fully comprehend the perfection of God and His ways, Sacred Scripture reminds us that God's ways are often very different from our own.

In our First Reading from Isaiah, the Lord declares, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways." As His disciples, we are called to see life from God's perspective, using our time, talents, and treasure with eternity in mind.

In today's Gospel, Jesus illustrates this divine perspective through the parable of the workers in the vineyard. Some labor all day, while others are called only near the end of the day. Yet the landowner gives each worker the same wage. Those who worked the longest grumble because they are thinking according to human standards rather than God's generosity.

The same temptation can affect us. We may compare ourselves to others and wonder whether everyone else is contributing as much as we are at home, in our parish, or in our community. Instead, we should remember what a privilege it is to have been invited into the Lord's vineyard. Living the stewardship way of life fills our lives with meaning, purpose, and lasting joy.

May we thank God each day for calling us to share in His work. ©Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2026

Pastoral Pondering:

Why the Church — and Society — Should Welcome Children

God's first blessing on man and woman was not a burden: "Be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:28). The Catechism calls children "the supreme gift of marriage." They are not an accessory to married love. They spring from the spouses' gift of self. Marriage is ordered to the good of husband and wife and to the procreation and education of children. The Church does not assign a number. She teaches a truth: married love, by its nature, is open to life.

A Gift, Not a Possession

A child is a person, never a product. Couples do not have a "right to a child." The child has rights: to be received as a gift, to be the fruit of his or her own father and mother, and to be respected from conception. When we welcome children we cooperate with the Creator. Responsible parenthood is generous discernment before God — not selfish delay, and not closing the marital act against life. For serious reasons a couple may space births. Natural Family Planning honors both the unitive and procreative meanings of marriage. Large families, received with joy, remain a sign of blessing. Couples who cannot conceive are not forgotten: their marriages can still be fruitful in charity, hospitality, and spiritual fatherhood and motherhood.

Good for the Church. Good for the City.

The family is the first school of the Gospel — and the foundation of the common good. Nations endure when men and women marry, stay faithful, welcome children, and raise them in virtue. Children are not a private hobby. They are tomorrow's neighbors, workers, caregivers, citizens, and saints. A culture that treats fertility as a problem, delays marriage, or is indifferent to the unborn mortgages its own future.

Advocates in Public Life

Families also need a voice beyond the parish. The American Principles Project works to place the family at the center of public debate: parental rights, the protection of childhood, the defense of life, and policies that make it more possible for the young to marry and raise children. A bulletin is not a campaign flyer. The Church baptizes no political organization. Catholics may differ on particular tactics. We may not differ on this: marriage, children, and a parent's duty are not partisan inventions. They belong to the natural law and to the Gospel.

Here at Saint Mark

Encourage the young couples in the pews. Thank the families who fill our Masses with life. Walk with those who wait for a child. Learn NFP as the Church teaches it. Speak and vote as people who believe every child is a gift. And if God is asking your household for another act of generosity, do not be afraid. He who blesses does not abandon. Children are not a threat to our future. They are our future — and a living sign that God has not finished creating.

Children Are Welcome Here

To our families with young children: We are glad you are here. The giggles, whispers and occasional cries are part of bringing children to Mass and helping them learn that the church is their home, too.

Sit where your children can see. Help them follow the Mass. Sing, pray and respond together. Children learn how to worship by watching you. And if you need to step out for a few minutes, please come back. You and your children belong here.

To the rest of us: remember that bringing little ones to Mass is not always easy. A smile, a kind word or a little patience can mean more than we realize.

The sound of children at Mass is the sound of a parish with a future.



Part-Time Preschool Movement & Music Teacher Wanted

We are seeking an enthusiastic, creative, and nurturing Part-Time Movement & Music Teacher to bring the joy of music, movement, and self-expression to our preschool children!

The ideal candidate loves working with young children and enjoys creating fun, engaging experiences that encourage children to explore rhythm, music, movement, coordination, and creativity in a playful and supportive environment. Musical ability is not necessary. We have lots of recorded music for the children to sing along to! Please contact Preschool Director Amanda Rametta at

amanda.rametta@stmarknc.org to discuss.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please Pray For...

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

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

Stay Connected With St. Mark.

Find us on all social media platforms



or sign up for our weekly newsletter at

stmarknc.org/emailnewsletter

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. **Bobby Holden**; Cpl. **Baylin Prescott**, Capt. **Nathanael Rusciolelli**

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

Coast Guard: BM2 **Hannah Schramke**

..and all service members not listed.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 20

7:30 am † Rosalie & Frank Sternisha
9 am St. Mark Parishioners
11 am St. Mark Parishioners
1 pm † Jose Edgar Flores
5 pm † Marilyn Bissinger

Monday, September 21

7 am Jim & Sharon Pecka
9 am Richard & Barb Cataldo

Tuesday, September 22

7 am Amelia Tomchik - Triana
9 am † John D Hall

Wednesday, September 23

7 am † Philip Richard
† Carolyn Cascarano
6:30 pm † Ryan King & Christian King
† Michael Little

Thursday, September 24

7 am † Valeria Gerbasi
9 am Pat Giampolo

Friday, September 25

7 am † Nelson Buquid
9 am † Phyllis Moore
7 pm † Brian Cabreja

Saturday, September 26

9 am † Rodney Clair
5 pm † Nancy Stone

Sunday, September 27

7:30 am † Thuc-Cuong-To-Van-Hang-Dau
9 am Andrea DiGiovanni
11 am † Alvaro Torres
1 pm St. Mark Parishioners
4:30 pm † Dr. Carlos Ong
5 pm † Jeremy Noonan

† Deceased

READINGS

Sunday	Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a
Monday	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Mt 9:9-13
Tuesday	Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday	Prv 30:5-9; Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163; Lk 9:1-6
Thursday	Eccl 1:2-11; Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17bc; Lk 9:7-9
Friday	Eccl 3:1-11; Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4; Lk 9:18-22
Saturday	Eccl 11:9-12:8; Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17; Lk 9:43b-45
Sunday	Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Phil 2:1-11 or Phil 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32

STEWARDSHIP

Caring for the Priests Who Have Cared for Us: Priests' Retirement & Benefits Collection This Sunday!

Throughout their years of ministry, our priests walk with us through some of life's most important moments. They baptize our children, celebrate our weddings, hear our confessions, visit us when we are sick, bury our loved ones and bring us Christ in the Eucharist.

This weekend's Priests' Retirement & Benefits Collection is an opportunity to care for them in return. The collection helps provide pension and health benefits for retired diocesan priests while also helping provide for the future retirement of the priests serving our parishes today.

This collection is important to St. Mark, too. Every parish in the Diocese of Charlotte is assessed an amount for priests' retirement and benefits. If contributions fall short of our assessment, St. Mark must make up the difference from parish operating funds. That isn't theoretical for us; St. Mark's own financial communication has explained that shortfalls in this mandatory assessment must be covered by operating funds.

Please prayerfully consider supporting the collection next weekend in gratitude for the faithful shepherds who have given so much to the Church.

Thank you.



Honoring Our Faithful Shepherds

The annual appeal for
Priests' Retirement Benefits Collection
will be held in every parish
September 19-20, 2026.



Stewardship Spotlight: Millions of Monica's

Just as St. Monica longed for her son's conversion and humbly prayed for him, we invite all Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers, and Aunts to join Millions of Monica's gathering to pray for their children.

Millions of Monica's purpose is to encounter God for themselves and their children through prayer. "Again, I tell you that if two of you join your voices on earth to pray for anything whatever, it will be granted you by my Father in heaven. Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst." (Matthew 18:19-20)

For more information about Millions of Monica's, see millionsofmonicas.com/about/ or contact Kathleen Rose-Bellot at Kmr10nc@gmail.com or KC Shinnars at nccnms1@yahoo.com.

Bring your rosary and join them at St. Mark on Thursdays from 10-11 am (year round except on holy days/holidays), or on Wednesday evening after Mass (Sept. through May) in the left transept.



SeptemberFest

Parish-Wide
Saturday,

This is a parish-wide, just-for-fun, connect-with-others-who-share-a-love-of-Christ, celebration, and family social event!

Thank you to the many volunteers, ministries, apostolates, groups, staff, and vendors who work to bring us this parish social each year.



Candid Captures
photobooth

NEXT SATURDAY!

Family Social



September 26, 6-9 pm

What you need to know:

FOOD TRUCKS and DRINKS!

No Admission: *This is not a fundraiser.* Food and beverages will be available for sale from vendors (cash, debit/credit accepted.) Ice cream, hot dogs, and beverage tickets will need to be purchased from the Stewardship Tent. Picnic baskets are welcome!

Six Food Trucks: Lobster Dogs; Muchachos Tacos; Libretto's Pizzeria, St. Mark Hispanic Ministry Tamales, Elotes (Mexican Corn on The Cob), Fruit Cup, and Aguas Frescas; Fishbaugh Hot Dogs; and The Butcher Grill. Pay with cash or credit; Fishbaugh Dog will only take tickets.

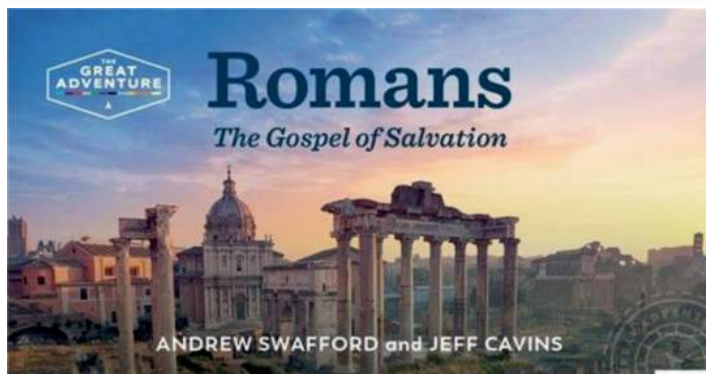
Beverages: Primal Brewery, Wine, Soda and Water

Desserts: Bruster's Ice Cream and Kona Ice

GAMES and ENTERTAINMENT!

Activities: All activities are free. Split Second Sound DJ and Dance Party; Candid Capture Photo Booth; Inflatable Obstacle Course, Football Toss, and Bounce House for ages 5 and Under; Cornhole; Game Truck; Bingo; Face Painting; Crafts; Cookie Walk; and more.

Fun for the Entire Family: This is a family event. We will have tables outside but you can bring a chair, blanket and friends. There will be activities outside and in the Parish Hall.



Small Groups Start Next Week Sign Up Today — Registration Closes Sept. 21

There is still time to find your place in a St. Mark Small Group, but don't wait. Groups begin next Sunday, September 27.

This fall, parishioners will spend eight weeks together studying Romans: The Gospel of Salvation, but Small Groups are about more than a Bible study. They are a chance to know other people in the parish, grow in your Catholic faith, pray for one another and build the kind of friendships that can be hard to find in a parish as large as St. Mark.

You don't need to know anyone before you join, and you don't need to be a Scripture expert. Groups are available for men, women, couples, singles, young adults and others, with a variety of days, times and locations.

If you've been meaning to sign up, this is the week. Find the group that fits you and join us!

Small Groups begin September 27
\$15 per person | Optional workbook \$10
Register at stmarknc.org/small-groups or scan the QR code.



Welcome One Another

ROMANS 15:7



Men's Welcome Retreat

November 8 & 9, 2025



Men, There Is More to Life

Men's Welcome Retreat | November 7-8

Work. Family. Responsibilities. The constant demands of everyday life. It is easy to stay so busy taking care of what needs to be done that we rarely stop to ask the bigger questions: What matters most? What am I here for? Who is God calling me to be?

The St. Mark Men's Welcome Retreat is an invitation to step away for a weekend and give God some room to answer those questions. Led by men of our own parish, the weekend includes personal witness, fellowship, prayer, Mass and Adoration, with time to reflect on your faith, your relationships and the man God is calling you to become.

Welcome.
There is More to Life

You do not need to be a "retreat guy." You do not need to know Scripture inside and out or feel

like you have your faith life together. Come as you are. Whether you feel close to God, far away or somewhere in between, there is a place for you.

More than 400 men of St. Mark have already experienced a Welcome Retreat. Maybe this November, it is your turn.

Give God a weekend. You may be surprised by what He gives you in return.

November 7-8; Space is limited. Register today at stmarknc.org/welcome-retreat or scan the QR code.



FORMED: Free Catholic Streaming for 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.



Men's Night

When: Sat., Oct. 3; 6 pm (after 5pm Mass)

Where: Monsignor Kerin Hall

Come hang out, break bread, have a beer or two, watch some football, meet someone new, and build some great bonds with the crew!

Come hungry, come ready to have a good time, and most importantly, come ready to connect! We will also be raffling some manly items so bring some cash. Brought to you by the men of Regnum Christi.

RSVP: Scan QR code

Contact: Joe Aiello, 419-787-4677, atlanticpgm@gmail.com



I Have Called You By Name...

By: Donna Fodale/Adoration Coordinator

Growing up there was a show that I would watch called Romper Room. In the beginning of the show the host would pick up a mirror, look into it, and say, "I see...." proceeded by different children names. Every time I watched it, I eagerly waited to hear my name. Unfortunately, I never heard it and if it was said, I must have missed that episode.

My excitement and hopefulness quickly turned into a feeling of sadness and disappointment. Has this ever happened to you? Have you ever had the desire to be seen and acknowledged by someone only to be left disappointed and sad? I want you to know that when you walk into the Adoration Chapel, Jesus sees you. He knows you by name. **YES, He knows you by name.** He loves you and will never disappoint you or forget about you. Your name is written on His heart!

So, when you walk into the Adoration Chapel, I would like to invite you to reflect on that truth. Then listen. Can you hear Jesus whispering your name? What is He saying to you after He whispers your name? What do you think the expression on His face would be when He sees you walk into the Chapel? Can you see how his gaze rests upon you?

Isaiah 43:1 But now, thus says the **LORD**, who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; **I have called you by name: you are mine.** Please prayerfully consider signing up for a Holy Hour. The world is such a noisy busy place, often filling our minds and hearts with things that move us away from our relationship with God. In Adoration you come face to face with the Lord. The same Lord that was in the womb of the Blessed Mother, the same Lord that walked with the Apostles, performed miracles, and was crucified on the cross.

This is not just any old invitation. It is a personal invitation from Jesus Himself with your name on it. He is waiting for you.

Please prayerfully consider committing to a Holy Hour.

Register at: www.stmarknc.org/adoration

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



Faith, Sports, and Leadership: A Conversation with Coach Bob McKillop

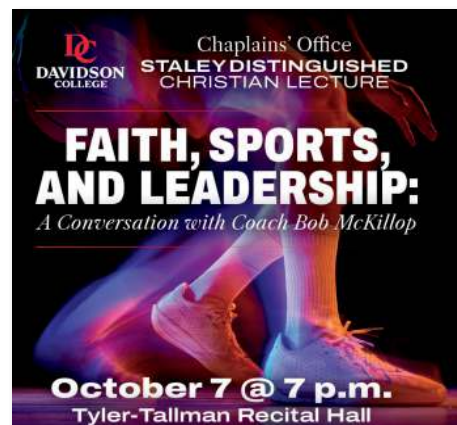
When: Wed., Oct. 7; 7 pm

Where: Davidson College Sloan Music Center Tyler-Tallman Recital Hall

Join Davidson College's Chaplains' Office for the Staley Distinguished Christian Lecture on Wednesday, October 7 at 7 pm in Tyler-Tallman Recital Hall.

Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame nominee and longtime Davidson basketball coach Bob McKillop will sit down with Chaplain Daniel Heath for a conversation about faith, sports and leadership. Drawing on more than three decades of coaching, McKillop will reflect on how faith has shaped the way he leads, cares for others, faces success and adversity, and understands the purpose of sports beyond wins and losses.

The event is free and no registration is required. For directions, enter "Sloan Music Center" in Waze. Parking is available along Concord Road, and the building is located directly on Concord Road.



ROSARY MAKERS: 4041 WORLD MISSION ROSARIES

4,041 Rosaries, One Summer and a Prayer for the World

Seventy-five years after Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen introduced the World Mission Rosary, parishioners at St. Mark spent their summer helping carry his mission of prayer around the world.

From June through August, members of our Rosary Makers Ministry, Our Lady Undoer of Knots, along with other parishioners, hand-knotted **4,041 World Mission Rosaries** for Sheen's Sept. 24 beatification in St. Louis.

The effort was part of a nationwide call for more than 75,000 World Mission Rosaries to mark the 75th anniversary of the rosary Sheen designed in 1951. One of the most recognizable American Catholic figures of the 20th century, Sheen reached millions through his radio and television programs while also serving as national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.



The World Mission Rosary reflects that missionary work. Its five colored decades represent different regions of the world: green for Africa, blue for the Pacific Islands, white for Europe, red for the Americas and yellow for Asia.

In a 1951 radio broadcast, Sheen urged Catholics to look beyond themselves in prayer: "Peace will come only when the hearts of the world have changed. To do this, we must pray, and not for ourselves, but for the world."

A Parish Effort: When ministry coordinator Sharon Torczynski learned of the national project, she set a goal of 4,000 rosaries for St. Mark. **The final count was 4,041.**

Every rosary was hand-knotted. Experienced rosary makers worked alongside people who had never made one before. Others counted beads, cut cord, assembled kits and packaged completed rosaries.

"There's something for everyone," Torczynski said.

Erica Barnett Richardson was among those who learned specifically for the project. New to St. Mark and currently going through OCIA with her husband, she saw the request in the bulletin and decided to help.

"I really just wanted to do something for God," Richardson said.

She learned to make the rosaries by watching YouTube and completed about 100 during the summer. At the same time, she began praying the Rosary herself.

"It's literally just changed my life," she said. "I just feel more connected to God. In the mornings, I just have more peace. I have more grace during the day."



Blessed and Sent

On Aug. 30, the completed rosaries filled baskets at St. Mark as many of the people who had spent the summer making them came together for a final blessing.

St. Mark Parochial Vicar Father Christopher Angermeyer blessed all 4,041 rosaries.



"May our Lord bless and sanctify these rosaries and those who will use them," Father Angermeyer prayed. "May they receive the promise of grace that Our Lady bestowed upon the Blessed Rosary."

Afterward, he thanked the rosary makers for their work.

"I know it's a lot of dedication, so I'm happy you guys were able to do this," he said.

The following day, the rosaries were packed into four boxes and shipped to the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in Peoria, Illinois, where rosaries from around the country are being collected for the beatification.



Together, St. Mark's four boxes weighed **154 pounds**.

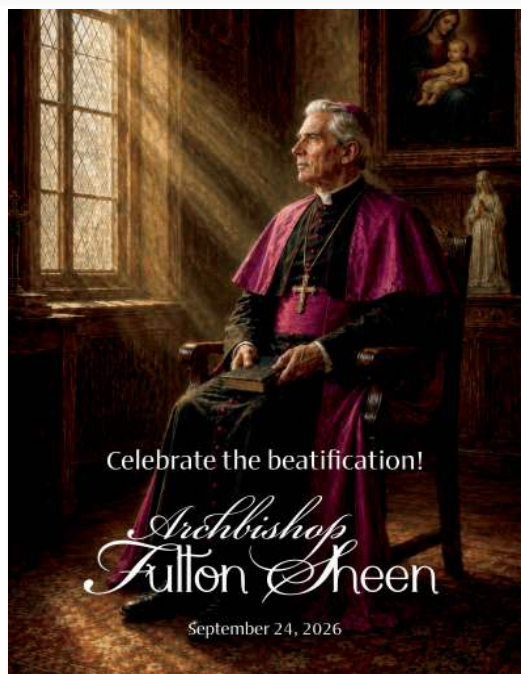
For Torczynski, the numbers are impressive, but it is what happens next that matters most. The rosaries will eventually be placed into the hands of people who will pray with them.

"Just imagine the power of the prayer," she said. "It gives me goosebumps."

The Rosary Makers Ministry's work continues throughout the year, making rosaries for St. Mark's sacramental programs, ministries and outreach. Additional World Mission Rosaries are also being made for our own parishioners.

But for one summer, 4,041 hand-knotted rosaries made here at St. Mark became part of a much larger prayer, fulfilling Sheen's invitation from 75 years ago to pray not only for ourselves, but for the world.

BEATIFICATION OF VENERABLE FULTON SHEEN: SEPT. 24



Fulton Sheen: An American on the Road to Sainthood

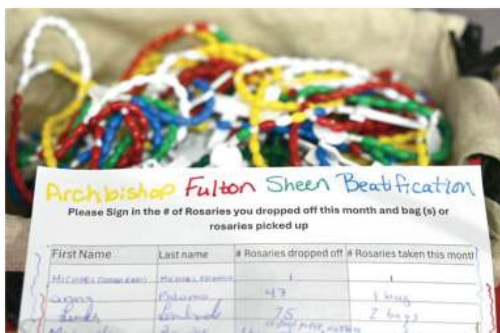
For generations of American Catholics, Fulton J. Sheen was one of the most familiar faces and voices of the Church.

Born in El Paso, Illinois, in 1895 and ordained a priest in 1919, Sheen became a nationally known preacher, author and eventually archbishop. Beginning in 1930, his radio broadcasts on *The Catholic Hour* reached millions of listeners. In the early years of television, his program *Life Is Worth Living* brought discussions of faith, morality and everyday life into homes across the country, at times drawing an audience of approximately 30 million viewers.

Sheen was also deeply committed to the missionary work of the Church. He served for 16 years as national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, now part of The Pontifical Mission Societies USA. In 1951, he introduced the *World Mission Rosary*, inviting Catholics to pray for the needs of the Church and people throughout the world.

Now, nearly 47 years after his death, the American archbishop is taking another significant step toward possible sainthood.

On Sept. 24, Archbishop Sheen will be beatified in St. Louis, Missouri, during a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, representing Pope Leo XIV.



What Does Beatification Mean?

The Catholic Church does not simply declare someone a saint because he or she was admired or lived an extraordinary life. The canonization process involves a careful examination of the person's life, writings, reputation for holiness and evidence of heroic virtue.

Sheen's cause for canonization formally opened in 2002. In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI recognized that Sheen had lived a life of heroic virtue and declared him Venerable.

The next major step ordinarily requires recognition of a miracle attributed to the person's intercession. In 2019, Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to Sheen's intercession, clearing the way for his beatification.

At the Sept. 24 Mass, Sheen will receive the title Blessed Fulton J. Sheen. Beatification permits public veneration of him according to the norms established by the Church and formally recognizes that he is in heaven and may be invoked in prayer.

Beatification is not the same as canonization. For Sheen to be declared a saint, another miracle attributed to his intercession after beatification would ordinarily need to be investigated and approved by the Church. Canonization would then extend his veneration to the universal Church.

That means Sept. 24 is an important milestone, but not the end of Sheen's cause. An American priest who used the newest media of his time to bring the Gospel into millions of homes will officially become one of the Church's newest blessed, another step on the road toward possible canonization.



His connection to this summer's St. Mark project reaches back 75 years. The World Mission Rosaries made here in Huntersville are the same form of rosary Sheen introduced in 1951, with five colored decades representing different regions of the world.

Seventy-five years later, more than 75,000 of those rosaries are being prepared for pilgrims attending his beatification, including 4,041 hand-knotted right here at St. Mark.





Meet St. Padre Pio

St. Padre Pio was an Italian priest who loved Jesus deeply and spent much of his life helping people grow closer to God. His feast day is September 23.

Padre Pio was especially known for hearing Confessions, celebrating Mass and encouraging people to pray. Even when his own life was difficult, he trusted God and reminded others not to be afraid. One of his best-known sayings is, "Pray, hope, and don't worry."

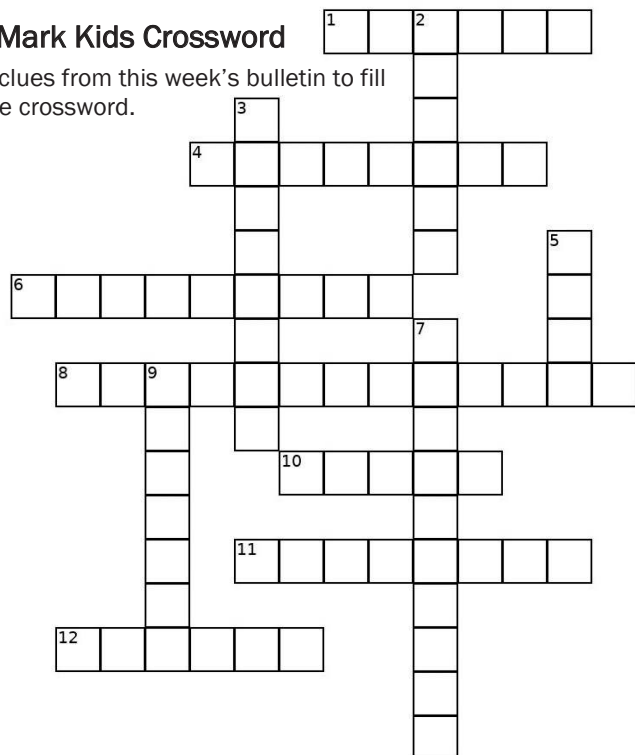
Padre Pio died in 1968 and was declared a saint by Pope St. John Paul II in 2002. Today, Catholics around the world ask for his prayers.

You can find St. Padre Pio right here at St. Mark! Look for his stained-glass window in the right transept of the church. The next time you see it, remember his simple lesson: keep praying, keep hoping and trust God with your worries.

St. Padre Pio, pray for us!

St. Mark Kids Crossword

Use clues from this week's bulletin to fill in the crossword.



Catechists & Faith Formation Volunteers Still Needed!



Thank you to all who have already volunteered to serve our parish families!



SUNDAY 3:15-4:30 PM

- Kindergarten-5th Grade and Grades 6-7

SUNDAY 6:15-7:30 PM

- Kindergarten-5, 6-7 grades, and Confirmation

MONDAY 4:30-5:45 PM

- Kindergarten-5th Grade

MONDAY 6:15-7:30 PM

- Kindergarten-5th Grade and Grades 6-7



If you feel called to serve, we would love to have you join our team!

Please contact Becca Spurgeon at rebecca.spurgeon@stmarknc.org for more information or to get involved.

High school student volunteer opportunities are also available.

ACROSS

1. Free Catholic streaming available to St. Mark parishioners.
4. In Sunday's Gospel, the workers are called to labor here.
6. Quiet prayer before Jesus in the Eucharist.
8. St. Mark's big parish-wide family social on September 26.
10. The American archbishop being beatified September 24.
11. Fr. John reminds us that they are a gift and are welcome at Mass.
12. St. Mark parishioners made 4,041 of these for the Fulton Sheen project.

DOWN

2. The book of the Bible St. Mark Small Groups will study this fall.
3. St. Mark's Sunday evening ministry for high school students.
5. Bring your furry, feathered or finned friends for their blessing October 3.
7. One of the gifts that can grow through Small Groups and Life Teen.
9. This weekend's special collection helps provide for their retirement and benefits.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

New Life Teen Year!

All high school students are invited to join us for another exciting year of Life Teen.

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 form friendships.

And dinner is always included!

September 20: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

September 27: Color Games

October 4 : The Incarnation

October 11: Life in the Church

**October 18: Harvest Festival
(Middle and High School)**



Stay connected by signing up for Flocknote!

Scan to sign up or go to stmarknc.flocknote.com/lifeteen

Info contact Gus Free at augustine.free@stmarknc.org.

LIFE TEEN ANNUAL COLOR GAMES

**September 27
6-8 pm**



PARISH LIFE

Coffee & Conversation

Every Tuesday after
9am Mass in the
Kerin Family Center

Meet new people.
Enjoy old friends.
Connect to the community.



St. Mark Prayer Chain Ministry

Everyone is invited to become a Prayer Warrior through the St. Mark Prayer Chain.

Each volunteer prays for the requests submitted through the private prayer form found on the St. Mark website in addition to praying for the people whose names are listed in the St. Mark bulletin.

Each prayer warrior prays for these prayer intentions separately, at different times, and in different ways.

For example, in nightly family prayer time, during times at the Eucharistic adoration chapel, at home, using the rosary, or through the intercession of saints.

If you would like to become a member of the St. Mark Prayer Chain Ministry please contact us.

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." — Matthew 18:20

Peace, Kevin & Janet Urban,

Contact us: urbkev@yahoo.com, 704-689-3847

Interested in Learning How Fasting Can Become A Spiritual Practice That Brings You Closer To Christ?

Join other St. Mark women for a Delay and Pray Book Study. Together, we will explore how to offer our fasting, sacrifices and struggles with food to God while learning practical tools for growing in both spiritual and physical freedom. Because meetings will be held in a parishioner's home, space is limited.

Wednesdays, beginning October 7

7:30-8:30 pm for 6 weeks.

To register or learn more, contact: Annmarie Camatcho
at annmariecamatcho@gmail.com

PARISH LIFE

Join the Knights of Columbus Ladies' Auxiliary!

When: Mon., Sept. 21; 6-7 pm
Where: Family Center Room 200

The Knights of Columbus Ladies' Auxiliary is a fun and supportive community of like-minded women. Our organization offers women a chance to form friendships, do the work of the parish, and support the mission and activities of the Knights of Columbus.

We raise funds through flower sales at Christmas, Mother's Day, and Easter to provide funding for the St. Joseph College seminarians and Daughters of the Virgin Mother sisters. We provide and sell baked goods at the annual Lenten Fish Fry, help the parish with hospitality at receptions, and run the annual children's Cupcake Walk at SeptemberFest.

Our meetings always include a meal, hospitality, and time to socialize plus we have an annual Christmas party and end-of-year dinner.

All women of the parish are invited to our first meeting for the 2026-27 year. We will meet on Monday, September 21 at 6 pm in Room 200 in the Kerin Family Center. The potluck dinner meetings only last for one hour (officially) however we generally stay and socialize for a while. Please consider joining a wonderful group of women whose mission is to help the community of St. Mark Parish.

Information: MaryJane Zimmerman, email stmarkkocladiesauxiliary2011@gmail.com



45+ Singles Fellowship Event

When: Sun., Sept. 27; 5-8 pm
Where: The Serve Pickleball + Kitchen
 20220 Chartown Dr, Cornelius

Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun for those aged 45+! Whether you are a regular or a newcomer, we invite you to bring a friend and meet us for a great time of community. It's the perfect opportunity to connect and make new memories.

RSVP Today: Please let us know you're coming so we can plan for you.

Questions? We are here to help! Feel free to reach out to us at 45plussingles@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Second Annual



SK David Calabrese MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026

Event Details

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

Contacts:

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

Registration and Sponsorship Opportunities:

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

A sign-up drive will be held after Masses the weekend of September 19 & 20.



Healed and Restored: 4th Annual Hope for Healing Gala

When: Fri., Oct. 2; 7 pm
Where: St. Mark Catholic Church - Parish Hall

Our mission: We assist women and girls who have experienced abuse, trauma, and exploitation in

healing, rebuilding stability, and moving forward into thriving lives.

Join us for the 4th Annual Hope for Healing Gala on Friday, October 2 at 7 pm.

Come for a night of fellowship, cocktail hour, and hors d'oeuvres. Our keynote speaker is Christine Wisdom from Wisdom Integrated Counseling. Benefitting the women and girls served by Healed and Restored.

Cocktail attire is recommended. This is a free event to attend that's also a fundraising night, guests will be invited to make a financial gift to Healed and Restored

Scan the QR code below to register and reserve your seat. For more information visit our website at healedandrestored.org or email us at info@healedandrestored.org.



Blessing of Pets

When: Sat., Oct. 3; 9:30 am
Where: In front of church

Please join us with your finned, feathered and furry friends for a special Blessing of the Pets to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi.

Although we ask that you not bring your pets inside the church, you can listen to the Mass outside or in your car on our livestream at stmarknc.org/livestream.
 "Praise be You my Lord with all Your creatures."

— St. Francis of Assisi



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 Sacred Music

Manuel Mora

manuel.mora@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 130

Director of Finance

Richard Cataldo

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704-948-0231, Ext. 116

Director of Parish Operations

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Sacristan

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704-948-0231, Ext. 211

Baptism Coordinator

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704-948-0231, Ext. 121

Sacrament Admin/Adoration

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704-948-0231, Ext. 104

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deacon.rich@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 113

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emilio.gomez@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 117

Stewardship Coordinator

Karen Donahue

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704-948-0231, Ext. 136

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704-948-0231, Ext. 123

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Amy Burger

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704-948-0231, Ext. 155

Marriage Enrichment Coordinator

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704-948-0231

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Faith Formation Admin Asst

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704-948-0231, Ext. 103

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Coordinator

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704-948-0231, Ext. 124

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

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



Aunque nunca podamos comprender plenamente la perfección de Dios y de sus caminos, la Sagrada Escritura nos recuerda que los caminos de Dios

suelen ser muy diferentes de los nuestros.

En nuestra Primera Lectura de Isaías, el Señor declara: "Mis pensamientos no son tus pensamientos, ni tus caminos son mis caminos." Como Sus discípulos, estamos llamados a ver la vida desde la perspectiva de Dios, usando nuestro tiempo, talentos y tesoros pensando en la eternidad.

En el Evangelio de hoy, Jesús ilustra esta perspectiva divina a través de la parábola de los trabajadores en la viña. Algunos trabajan todo el día, mientras que otros son llamados solo cerca del final del día. Sin embargo, el dueño de la finca le da a cada trabajador el mismo salario. Los que más tiempo trabajaron se quejan porque piensan según los estándares humanos en lugar de la generosidad de Dios.

La misma tentación puede afectarnos. Podemos compararnos con los demás y preguntarnos si todos los demás contribuyen tanto como nosotros en casa, en nuestra parroquia o en nuestra comunidad. En cambio, deberíamos recordar el privilegio que es haber sido invitados a la viña del Señor. Vivir la vida de la mayordomía llena nuestras vidas de sentido, propósito y alegría duradera.

Que demos gracias a Dios cada día por llamarnos a compartir Su obra.
©Consultores de Gestión Católica, 2026

Reflexión pastoral : por qué la Iglesia — y la sociedad — deberían acoger a los niños

La primera bendición de Dios sobre el hombre y la mujer no fue una carga: "Sed fecundos y multiplicaos" (Génesis 1:28). El Catecismo llama a los niños "el don supremo del matrimonio." No son accesorios del amor matrimonial. Surgen del don de sí mismos de los cónyuges. El matrimonio se ordena para el bien de marido y mujer y para la procreación y educación de los hijos. La Iglesia no asigna un número. Ella enseña una verdad: el amor matrimonial, por su naturaleza, está abierto a la vida.

Un regalo, no una posesión

Un niño es una persona, nunca un producto. Las parejas no tienen un "derecho a un hijo". El niño tiene derechos: ser recibido como un regalo, ser fruto de su propio padre y madre, y ser respetado desde la concepción. Cuando damos la bienvenida a los niños, cooperamos con el Creador. La paternidad responsable es un discernimiento generoso ante Dios — no un retraso egoísta, ni no cerrar el acto matrimonial contra la vida. Por razones serias, una pareja puede espaciar los partos. La Planificación Familiar Natural honra tanto los significados unitarios como procreativos del matrimonio. Las familias numerosas, recibidas con alegría, siguen siendo un signo de bendición. Las parejas que no pueden concebir no son olvidadas: sus matrimonios pueden seguir siendo fructíferos en la caridad, la hospitalidad y la paternidad espiritual y la maternidad.

Bien para la Iglesia. Bien para la ciudad.

La familia es la primera escuela del Evangelio — y la base del bien común. Las naciones perduran cuando hombres y mujeres se casan, permanecen fieles, acogen a los hijos y los crían en virtud. Los niños no son un hobby privado. Son vecinos del mañana, trabajadores, cuidadores, ciudadanos y santos. Una cultura que trata la fertilidad como un problema, retrasa el matrimonio o es indiferente a los no nacidos hipoteca su propio futuro.

Defensores en la vida pública

Las familias también necesitan una voz más allá de la parroquia. El Proyecto Principios Americanos trabaja para situar a la familia en el centro del debate público: derechos parentales, protección de la infancia, defensa de la vida y políticas que faciliten el matrimonio y la cría de los hijos. Un boletín no es un folleto de campaña. La Iglesia no bautiza ninguna organización política. Los católicos pueden diferir en tácticas concretas. Puede que no discrepemos en esto: el matrimonio, los hijos y el deber de un padre no son invenciones partidistas. Pertenecen a la ley natural y al Evangelio.

Aquí en San Marcos

Anima a las parejas jóvenes en los bancos de la casa. Da las gracias a las familias que llenan nuestras misas de vida. Camina con quienes esperan a un hijo. Aprende la NFP tal y como la enseña la Iglesia. Habla y vota como personas que creen que cada niño es un regalo. Y si Dios está pidiendo a tu hogar otro acto de generosidad, no tengas miedo. Quien bendice no abandona. Los niños no son una amenaza para nuestro futuro. Son nuestro futuro — y una señal viviente de que Dios no ha terminado de crear.

Los Niños Son Bienvenidos Aquí

A nuestras familias con niños pequeños: nos alegra que estén aquí. Los movimientos, los susurros y algún que otro llanto son parte de traer a los niños a Misa y ayudarlos a aprender que la iglesia también es su hogar.

Siéntense donde sus hijos puedan ver. Ayúdenlos a seguir la Misa. Canten, recen y respondan juntos. Los niños aprenden a participar en la Misa observándolos a ustedes. Y si necesitan salir por unos minutos, por favor regresen. Ustedes y sus hijos tienen un lugar aquí.

A todos los demás: recordemos que traer a los pequeños a Misa no siempre es fácil. Una sonrisa, una palabra amable o un poco de paciencia pueden significar mucho más de lo que imaginamos.

El sonido de los niños en Misa es el sonido de una parroquia con futuro.




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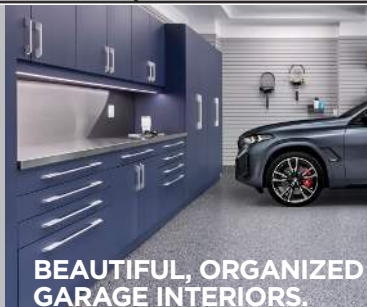
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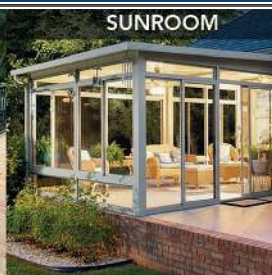
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