

Every
Life
a Gift

Respect Life Sunday
October 4



Life Chain
2-3 pm

Life Chain

SAINT✠MARK



Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi • October 4, 2026 • Espanol Page 16

WELCOME TO ST. MARK!



Today we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi rather than the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings can be found in the music handouts; 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.

COMMUNION GUIDELINES 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 either 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



This reflection pertains to the regular readings for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time. We have been given so many gifts and blessings by our Heavenly Father. Yet, in our fallen state it is all too easy to take them for granted. Our readings today teach us that we must live with an intentional awareness of our many blessings and use them gratefully to glorify God.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus uses the image of a vineyard to teach the importance of using our blessings well. He tells the story of a landowner who plants a vineyard and leases it to tenants before he goes on a journey. Instead of tending the vineyard, the tenants mistreat the servants in the vineyard and even the son of the landowner, whom they kill. When the landowner realizes what the tenants have done, he puts them to death and leases his vineyard to tenants who “will give him the produce at the proper times.”

By Baptism, we have received the gift of salvation and membership in the Kingdom of God — we are now “tenants” called to work in the “vineyard” and produce fruit for its owner, our Heavenly Father. Jesus makes it clear that if we squander the gift of salvation, we will lose it. It is a sobering truth.

So, let us use our intellect to think on these gifts throughout the day and resolve to use all our gifts for God’s glory.
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Pastoral Pondering: Why St. Francis Still Matters to the Church

On October 4 the Church honors St. Francis of Assisi, one of the most beloved and most demanding saints in our history. He is not merely a garden statue or a gentle friend of animals. Francis is a living reminder of what the Gospel looks like when it is taken at its word.

Born Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone around 1181 in Assisi, he was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. After a brief taste of knighthood and a season of pleasure, he heard Christ speak from the crucifix of San Damiano: “Francis, go and rebuild my house, which, as you see, is falling into ruin.” He took those words first as a command to repair a crumbling chapel. The Lord meant something larger: the renewal of the Church herself.

What Francis Restored in the Church:

Poverty as freedom.

Francis stripped himself of inheritance, status, and even the clothes on his back. He called Lady Poverty his bride. That was not a romantic gesture. It was a protest against a Church and a society grown comfortable. Every generation of Catholics needs that protest. When we confuse the Gospel with respectability, Francis stands at the door of the Church and asks whether we still believe that Christ is enough.

The crucified Christ at the center.

In 1224, two years before his death, Francis received the stigmata on Mount La Verna—the wounds of Christ marked in his own flesh. The Church has always taught that holiness is configuration to Jesus crucified and risen. Francis made that teaching visible. He did not invent devotion to the Passion; he embodied it so completely that the Church could not look away.

A family of religious life.

From one poor man came the Friars Minor, the Poor Clares with St. Clare, and the Secular Franciscans for men and women living in the world. That threefold family still serves the Church on every continent: preaching, serving the poor, praying, and keeping the memory of the Gospel simple. When we speak of “Franciscan” today—whether a friar, a sister, or a parishioner in the Secular Order—we are naming a way of belonging to Christ that the Church has never outgrown.

Creation as gift, not possession.

The Canticle of the Creatures—“Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth”—

is not nature poetry. It is theology. Francis saw every creature as a brother or sister because all things come from the same Father. Pope Francis took that insight into *Laudato Si’*. Care for our common home is not an optional hobby for Catholics. It is part of the same conversion that led Francis to kiss the leper and to call the wolf of Gubbio his brother.

Peace that costs something.

In 1219 Francis crossed battle lines during the Fifth Crusade and stood before Sultan al-Kamil. He did not win a treaty. He witnessed to a Lord who is Peace. The Church still needs disciples willing to speak of Christ without hatred and without watering Him down. Francis did both.

Why this Matters Here.

St. Francis matters to the life of the Church because he keeps returning us to the essentials: Christ poor and crucified, the Church always in need of reform, the poor as our brothers and sisters, creation as a hymn of praise, and joy that does not depend on having more. He is not a saint for specialists. He is a saint for anyone who has grown tired of a faith that costs nothing.

As we keep his memorial, I invite you to do one Franciscan thing that is within reach: give something away that you do not need; speak peace where there is friction in your home; spend a few minutes outdoors thanking God for what you did not make; or pray before the crucifix and ask, as Francis did, to know Jesus and to make Him known.

The little poor man of Assisi still rebuilds the Church—one converted heart at a time. May he rebuild ours.



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

MASS INTENTIONS

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

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

Sunday, October 4

7:30 am † Benny Benedikovic
9 am † Rose Seeling
11 am † Janet Pearson
1 pm † Esperanza Rodriguez
4:30 pm † Ramon Fullon
5 pm St. Mark Parishioners

Monday, October 5

7 am † James Honeycutt
9 am † James Donaghy

Tuesday, October 6

7 am † Carolyn Cascarano
9 am † Dean Steichen

Wednesday, October 7

7 am † Nancy Stone
† Carolyn Cascarano
6:30 pm Stephen Ministry
† Patricia Cavanaugh

Thursday, October 8

7 am † Timothy O'Connor
9 am † Dolores Nasife

Friday, October 9

7 am † Gary Van Nostrand
9 am Respect Life Ministry
7 pm The Gomez Family

Saturday, October 10

9 am Thomas and Eileen Garberina
5 pm † Bruce & Joan Tatur

Sunday, October 11

7:30 am St. Mark Parishioners
9 am † Cirila Geronimo
11 am Chris and Sarah Boyd
1 pm † Jose Edgar Flores
4:30 pm † Dean Metz
5 pm † Jose Mendoza

† Deceased

Stay Connected With St. Mark.
Find us on all social media platforms



or sign up for our weekly enewsletter 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.

READINGS

Week of October 4, 2026

Sunday	Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi Sir 50:1, 3-4, 6-7; Gal 6:14-18; Mt 11:25-30
Monday	Gal 1:6-12; Ps 111:1b-2, 7-8, 9, 10c; Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday	Gal 1:13-24; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15; Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday	Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Lk 11:1-4
Thursday	Gal 3:1-5; Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75; Lk 11:5-13
Friday	Gal 3:7-14; Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 11:15-26
Saturday	Gal 3:22-29; Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Lk 11:27-28
Sunday	Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14 or Mt 22:1-10

STEWARDSHIP

Coat, Blanket, Toy & Baby Drive Next Weekend

For years, St. Mark parishioners have generously donated coats, blankets and toys for families in need.

Last year alone, we were able to provide coats to 749 men, women and children!

This year, we are adding a Baby and Toddler Drive with our Walking with Moms in Need ministry.

Along with coats, blankets, toys and books, we will collect baby and toddler clothing and useful baby equipment for local mothers and families.

As we begin Respect Life Month, this is one simple way we can help. If you have coats, baby clothes or baby equipment your family has outgrown, please consider passing them along. Or, if you would rather, pick up something new while you are shopping this week.

A new coat, blanket, toy or baby outfit can make a real difference to a family who needs it.

The graphics on this page have the complete list of what we can accept.

Bring your donations next weekend, October 10–11, before or after Mass to the Parish Hall.

Please separate items for the two drives.

Coats/Blankets/Toys go on the tables to the left.

Baby Clothing and Equipment will go towards the stage.

There will be people to help you.

Please wait until collection weekend to bring your items, as we do not have room to store donations ahead of time.

Thank you for helping us take care of families in our community.

Coat, Blanket and Toy Drive Next Weekend!

We Will Collect Before and After All Masses!

October 10 & 11

Take donations to the Family Center Parish Hall

We are collecting coats for children (birth to 12), teens, women and men; blankets and comforters; and toys, games, puzzles, books for all ages (birth to teens). We will also take bikes. No clothes please! Tax receipts available.



The need is great.

Last year we served hundreds of people because of your generosity.

Thank you for your generosity!

Baby Clothing & Equipment Collection



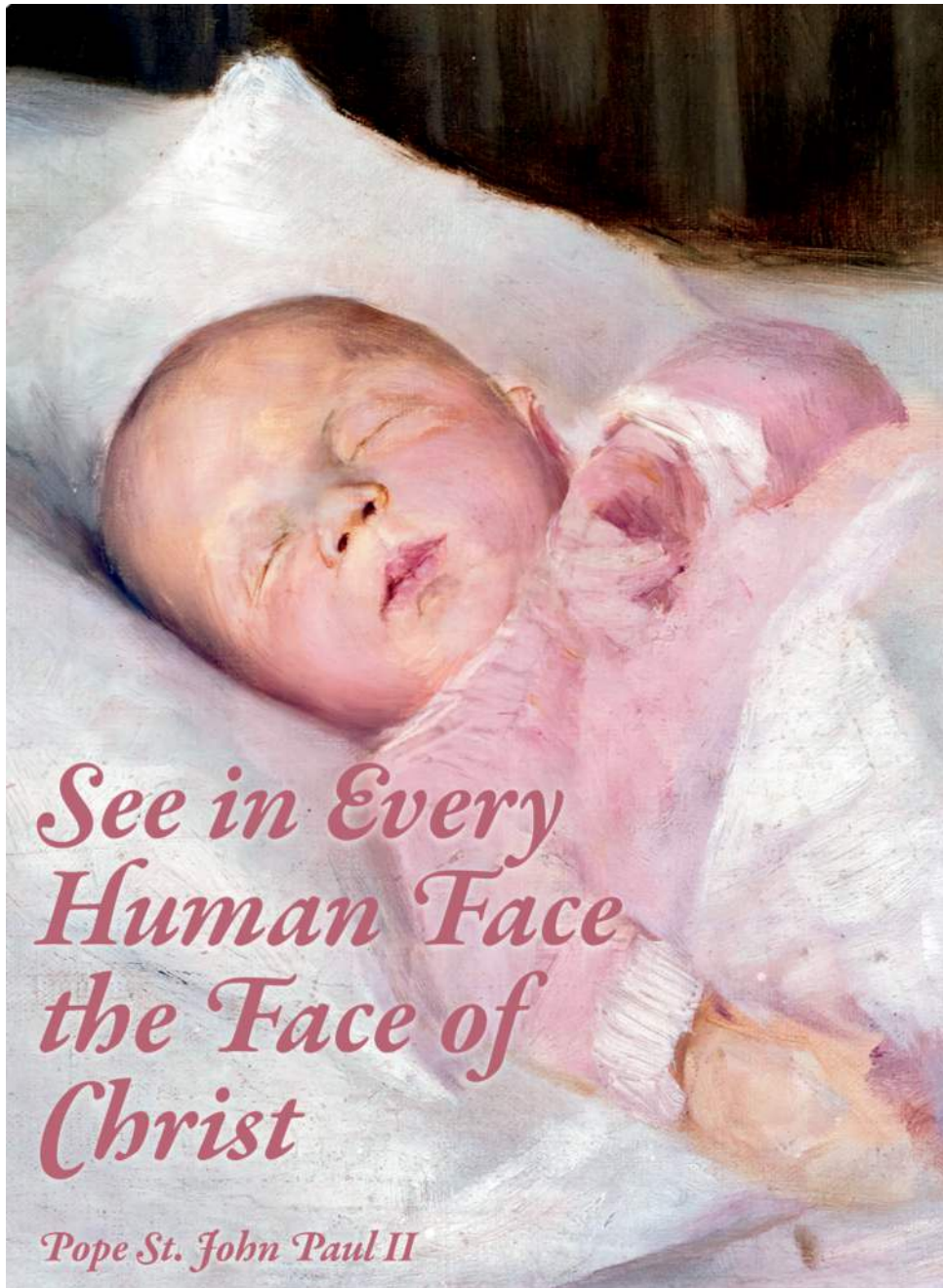
We Will Collect Before and After All Masses!

October 10 & 11

Take donations to the Family Center Parish Hall

Please Donate

- Infant and toddler clothing, newborn through 5T, washed, stain-free and sorted by size; (no shoes please)
- Plastic toddler hangers;
- Gently used baby equipment including Pack 'n Plays, strollers, high chairs, bassinets, bouncy seats and swings



Respect Life Month 2026

Each October, the Church celebrates Respect Life Month. As Catholics, we are called to recognize, defend and protect the dignity of every human life, from its beginning to its natural end and at every point in between.

Throughout this month, St. Mark offers opportunities to put our faith into action through prayer, service and support for those who are most vulnerable.

We invite you to find a way to take part.

Stand With Us: Annual Life Chain

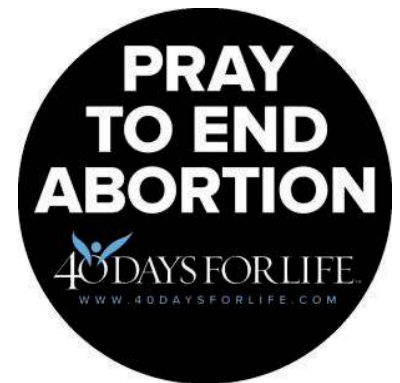
When: Sun., Oct. 4; 2–3 pm

Where: Meet at Memorial for Life

Simply stand along the roadway for one hour with signs and pray quietly for unborn children, their mothers and families, and for a greater respect for human life.

If you have never participated before, this is one of the simplest ways to begin. Meet at the Memorial for Life and then find a place along Stumptown Road. Signs will be provided in English and Spanish. Bring a Rosary, and feel free to bring a chair or umbrella.

You don't have to give a speech or know what to say. Just come and pray.



Monthly Respect Life Mass and Prayer Vigil

When: Fri., Oct. 9; 9 am Mass,
10:15–11:15 am Prayer Vigil

Where: Church, followed by Planned Parenthood, 700 S. Torrence St., Charlotte

Join us for Mass at St. Mark, followed by a peaceful prayer vigil outside the Planned Parenthood abortion facility in Charlotte.

Following Mass, we will caravan to Charlotte to pray the Rosary together for mothers, fathers and unborn children. We expect to return to St. Mark by approximately 11:45 am.

Information: respect.life@stmarknc.org

40 Days for Life

When: Sept. 23–Nov. 1

Where: Planned Parenthood, 700 S. Torrence St., Charlotte

The fall 40 Days for Life campaign is underway, and St. Mark parishioners are invited to take part. 40 Days for Life is an international effort centered on prayer and fasting, peaceful prayer vigils and community outreach. This fall, people are participating in hundreds of cities around the world.

You can participate by signing up for an hour of peaceful prayer at the Charlotte vigil or by joining in prayer and fasting wherever you are. Individuals, families and parish groups are welcome.

To choose a time to pray at the Charlotte location, visit the link below.

Information: 40daysforlife.com/en/charlotte



Register to Vote by Oct. 9

When: Fri., Oct. 9; 5 pm deadline

Where: Mecklenburg County Board of Elections

The deadline to register to vote in North Carolina for the Nov. 3 General Election is Oct. 9 at 5 pm. If you are new to the area, have recently moved or need to update your voter registration, now is a good time to check your registration and make any necessary changes. The regular deadline is Oct. 9; eligible voters who miss it may still register and vote during the in-person early voting period, Oct. 15–31. *Source: NCSBE*

Information: Mecklenburg County Board of Elections

Election Novena

When: Mon., Oct. 26–Tues., Nov. 3; Weekdays, 5:30–5:45 pm

Where: Church

As Election Day approaches, parishioners are invited to join in praying a short Election Novena for our country, our elected leaders and the protection of human life. We will gather in the church each weekday through Election Day to pray together for wisdom and guidance as voters prepare to cast their ballots.

More details will be provided in the weeks ahead.

Field of Crosses

Did you know that a team of volunteers from the Respect Life Ministry puts up crosses every year during Respect Life Month?

The crosses, located near the bell tower and along the entrance, symbolize the countless lives lost to abortion each hour. There are approximately 118 abortions per hour in the United States. That equates to 1 abortion per cross per hour.

As you see the crosses, pause to remember the little ones who never had the chance to be born, and lift them to the mercy of God.

Pray, too, for mothers and fathers who carry the pain of abortion, that they may find healing and hope in Christ.

*Heavenly Father,
Creator of all life, we grieve the loss of so
many innocent children.*

*We ask You to stir our hearts with
compassion and courage, that we may
defend life from conception
to natural death.*

*Give wisdom and strength to leaders who
work for the protection of the unborn, and
shower Your mercy upon all who seek
forgiveness and healing.*

*Help us build a culture of life in our parish,
our community, and our world.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



PARISH LIFE

Stewardship Spotlight: Men's Welcome Retreat

From the road to Emmaus, where the disciples walked with Christ after His crucifixion, to Paul's encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus, and to the road where the Good Samaritan answered the need of the wounded traveler, God speaks to those who are open to hearing.

Whether your daily life includes a strong relationship with God, you would like that to be stronger, or you are just exploring what that might look like, he longs to meet you there. The men's Welcome retreat is an opportunity to hear where other men met Christ and hear how he wants to speak with you.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
(Matthew 11:28) This retreat includes great food, great music, inspiring talks, and the opportunity to grow in Christ. Take time to step away from daily life for a weekend and join a team of ordinary parishioners who answered the call to share what they found.

Friendships form and flourish in this community of Christian brothers.

The next St. Mark Men's Welcome retreat is the weekend of November 7th and 8th, 2026.

Registration will be closing soon so secure your seat now.

**Renew.
Restore.
Transform.**

 **DynamicCatholic.com**
Be Bold. Be Catholic.

YOU'RE INVITED

MEN'S WELCOME RETREAT NOVEMBER 7-8

Our retreats have been a life-changing experience for the men who have attended. This is your opportunity to be a part of this amazing retreat program at Saint Mark. Take 1.5 days out of your life to renew, restore or even transform your life.

REGISTER TODAY:

at Saint Mark Catholic Church
Please use the QR code or go to
stmarknc.org/welcome-retreat



Welcome.
There is **More to Life**

It's BACK! Come to our sixth round of
this popular parish social event!

Wings and Trivia

Connect in Faith!

Saturday, October 17, 6:15-8:15 pm

Kerin Family Center Parish Hall

Bring your family... your friends... or just bring yourself and join in the fun! We will use the Kahoot app so teams need at least one charged mobile device.

Family trivia — music, religion, sports, television & more — will be played on your smartphone or join in with others and play as a team.



RSVP: Scan QR code or stmarknc.org/family-events

Lunch and Learn: Breaking Down Ageism for Awareness and Action

When: Mon., Nov. 2; 11 am to 1 pm

Where: Parish Hall

Ageism refers to the stereotypes (how we think), prejudices (how we feel), and discrimination (how we act) toward others or ourselves on age. It can exist in many forms and influences everything from personal interactions to public policy, impacting us at every age.

Do you view aging as the glass HALF-EMPTY; pessimism, weakness, fear, sadness, loneliness, regret or HALF-FULL: optimism, adventure, opportunity, friendship, health, purpose, passion?

A complimentary lunch is included. Registration required.

RSVP: Kevin & Janet Urban, urbkev@yahoo.com,
704-689-3847



New Altar Server Training

When: Sun. Oct. 18; 2:30 pm

Where: Church

Training for new Altar Servers will be held at 2:30 pm on Sunday, October 18 in the Church. Students who are rising 4th grade or older are welcome to learn to serve the Lord. Contact: [Emily Bixler](mailto:Emily.Bixler@stmarknc.org),
Emily.Bixler@stmarknc.org



PARISH LIFE

Young Adult Group

If you are 21-39 and looking for ways to connect with other faithful, our Young Adult Group would love to have you join them. Activities include both group study and social events. The best way to learn about upcoming events for this ministry is through their GroupMe.

Here you can find all events, chat with other members, make connections and find out about other things happening in the Diocese. Scan the code to sign up for the Group Me.



ASTRALIS
CHAMBER ENSEMBLE



Angela Massey
FLUTE



Seeun Baek
VIOLIN



Edward Luengo
CELLO



Alexandra Dunbar
HARPSICHORD

Masters of the Baroque

The award-winning musicians of the Astralis Chamber Ensemble have been described as "scary good" and "truly riveting." Angela Massey (flute), Seeun Baek (violin), Edward Luengo (cello), and Alexandra Dunbar (harpsichord) present "Masters of the Baroque." The concert will feature virtuosic works by substantial composers from the Baroque period, including JS Bach, Telemann, Handel, CPE Bach, and Vivaldi. Join us for a brilliant evening of music with the Astralis Chamber Ensemble.

October 26, 2026

St. Mark Catholic Church
14740 Stumptown Rd
Huntersville, NC 28078

7:00 PM

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Wrap Someone in Prayer

When: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month; 10 am
Next Meetings are October 13 and 27

Where: Parish Hall

A simple skein of yarn can become a powerful reminder of God's love.

Each month, St. Mark's Prayer Shawl Ministry lovingly creates 50–75 prayer shawls, baby blankets, and prayer squares that are blessed and shared with those facing illness, grief, cancer treatments, difficult pregnancies, time in the NICU, retreats, senior communities, and others in need of comfort throughout our parish and the greater Charlotte area.

If you know even the basics of knitting or crocheting, your hands can become part of this beautiful ministry. You don't need to be an expert, and if you can't attend meetings, you can create items from home using ministry patterns and guidelines.

Every stitch becomes a prayer, and every finished piece becomes a tangible reminder that someone is loved and remembered.

Contact: Erica Zinman at ericamariezinman@gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN ACTION

Saturday, October 17, 11:00 am

BLUE MASS

TO HONOR ALL PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL

police • fire • emergency • military • first responders



St. Mark will offer a special Blue Mass October 17 to give thanks to those who protect and serve in law enforcement, emergency management, and fire safety.

All area police officers, firefighters, law enforcement officials, military personnel, first responders, and their families, Catholic and non-Catholic, are invited to be a part of this special Mass. Uniforms may be worn.

We warmly invite all veterans to attend this year's Blue Mass.

You were among our nation's first responders.

A reception will follow in the Kerin Center after the Mass.

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus and the Ladies' Auxiliary for organizing this special Mass and reception.



**Knights of
Columbus®**



Community Blood Drive

When: Sun., Oct. 11; 8:30 am-1 pm

Where: St. Mark Parking Lot

St. Mark's Knights of Columbus are sponsoring with One Blood an October blood and platelet drive. One blood donation can save 3 lives.

All blood donated stays in the Charlotte area, saving local lives. Walk-ins are welcome or you can schedule an appointment directly with One Blood by scanning the code. Thank you to the Knights for their ongoing commitment to life.



oneblood
Share your power.



2026 Ireland of Your Dreams Raffle Tickets

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) will again be selling raffle tickets after Masses next week. The Grand Prize winner this year will receive up to \$5,000 toward a trip to Ireland thru Woodard Luxury Travel Vacations. There will be a 2nd Place Drawing for \$500, and a 3rd Place Drawing for \$250.

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

Raffle tickets will continue to be priced at \$25 each, or 5 tickets for \$100.00. Payments may be made by cash, check (payable to "AOH Meck #2") or credit card, or online using the QR Code. You can also contact the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians who are also fellow parishioners. Their names and information can be found below.

We sincerely thank you for your support and participation over the years, without which we could not have succeeded. The drawing will be held on Saturday, November 28, 2026. Good Luck to all.



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



Contact Information:

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

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

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

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



ADORATION

Adoration in Times of Desolation

by: Donna Fodale/Adoration Coordinator



In the spiritual life you will often hear people say that they feel that they are in the desert. They are finding it hard to pray and do not feel that the Lord is with them. This can be a very difficult place to be, especially when you are striving towards holiness, doing all the "right" things. There may even be times when you feel like giving up. If you have ever felt like this, please know that you are not alone. So many Saints have experienced times when they

felt no consolation from God. Yet they knew that the answer was to persevere in those times and trust that whether they were in a time of consolation or desolation, all was a part of God's plan for them. Not only for them but perhaps even the salvation of others.

Spending time in Adoration with the Lord can be very comforting during the times that you feel that you are in a season of desolation. When the soul is in darkness, Adoration can often become a lifeline.

Even though we may not feel like spending time in Adoration, the act of choosing to spend time with the Lord and not allowing our feelings to dictate our choices can bear great fruit and peace. The Lord may seem distant, prayer may feel empty, and joy may have faded. Yet Scripture and tradition teach that this is not

abandonment but often can be a purification that can deepen a person's union with Christ.

I would like to encourage those of you who may feel that you are in a season of desolation to spend time in Eucharistic Adoration. Place yourself in the heart of the Good Shepherd, knowing that He is indeed with you, leading you and loving you!

The following psalm and quote are reminders that you are truly never without the love and mercy of the Lord!

***"Though the night is long and the path is obscured,
the morning star of God's promise will inevitably
rise to guide you." — St. Bernard of Clairvaux***

Psalm 23 The Good Shepherd

***"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.***

***He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff comfort me.***

***You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever"***

Please prayerfully consider committing to a Holy Hour.

Register at: www.stmarknc.org/adoration

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



LITTLE TRADITIONS: THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF
Our Lady of the Rosary!

"The power of the Rosary is beyond description."

– BLESSED FULTON SHEEN

The **Rosary** is a Catholic devotion in which we ask for the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, to draw closer to her Son, Jesus. When praying the Rosary, you use the beads to keep track of your progress through the prayers.

Praying the Rosary together as a family captures something of the spiritual atmosphere of the household at Nazareth, placing Jesus at the center, sharing His joys and sorrows, and drawing from Him the hope and strength to go on.

The beads are separated into groups of 10 called **decades**. Each day there are different **Mysteries** you can pray with for each decade. The mysteries are different parts of Jesus' Life and Ministry! They are called **Mysteries** because in the Catholic faith, a mystery is a truth so big, so deep, so full of meaning that you can never reach the bottom of it. You can understand it, but you can never fully exhaust it. The more you look, the more you find.

How can you celebrate as a
family?

Pick the level that fits your family best and try to complete the challenge together!

- **BEGIN:** Take some time to pray the one decade of the rosary together each week!
- **BUILD:** Pray the Rosary once a week together using the Mysteries for the day!
- **DEEPEN:** Pray the Rosary every day with the Mysteries, taking turns leading each decade!

If you/your family needs a rosary/rosaries, contact our Rosary Ministry!
Email: sharon.torczyński@stmarknc.org

SCAN THIS QR CODE
FOR INSTRUCTIONS
ON HOW TO PRAY
THE ROSARY!



SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR
FREE PRAY-ALONGS OF THE
DIFFERENT MYSTERIES OF
THE ROSARY ON YOUTUBE!



little traditions
AT ST. MARK



YOUTH MINISTRY

High School Life Teen

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 p.m. Mass for engaging talks, small-group discussions, games, prayer, fun and opportunities to build friendships. And dinner is always included!

Coming Up:

October 4: 1+1=1 Relationship/Hypocrisy

October 11: Forever 1 Grace & Eternity

October 18: No Life Teen

October 25: Harvest Festival for Middle & High School



Stay Connected! Sign up for Life Teen emails and texts through Flocknote. Scan the QR code or visit stmarknc.flocknote.com/lifeteen.

For more information, contact Gus Free at augustine.free@stmarknc.org.



St. Francis Was More Than the Saint Who Loved Animals

You probably know St. Francis of Assisi as the saint who loved animals and all of God's creation. But there is much more to his story!

Francis was born in Assisi, Italy, more than 800 years ago. His father was a wealthy merchant, and young Francis liked fine clothes, parties and adventure. He dreamed of becoming a famous knight.

But God had a very different adventure planned for him.

As Francis grew closer to Jesus, he began to see the world differently. He spent time praying and started caring for people who were poor and sick. He gave away his expensive clothes and possessions and chose to live very simply.

One day, while Francis was praying before a crucifix in the little church of San Damiano, he heard Jesus tell him, "Francis, go and repair my Church." At first Francis thought Jesus meant the old church building, so he began fixing it! Later, he understood that God was asking him to help renew the whole Church by reminding people how to live the Gospel.

Other men soon joined Francis. Together they prayed, served the poor and told people about Jesus. Their community became the Franciscan order, which still serves the Church throughout the world today.

Francis wanted to follow Jesus so completely that he tried to make the Gospel the rule for everything he did. His love for animals and creation came from that much greater love: Francis loved the Creator first.

Be Like Francis This Week!

You don't have to give away everything you own or rebuild a church to follow St. Francis! You can begin by noticing someone who needs help and sharing what you have.

This weekend, St. Mark is collecting coats, blankets and toys, along with baby and toddler clothes and baby items for families in need. Ask your family if you can help choose something from home that you have outgrown, or pick out something new to give. A warm coat, a favorite kind of toy or a little outfit for a baby may seem like a small gift. But caring for someone in need is one way we can follow Francis and, most importantly, follow Jesus. St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us!



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OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Celebrating your 25th or 50th wedding anniversary?

You are invited to the Diocese of Charlotte's

Wedding Anniversary Mass & Reception

2 p.m. Sunday, October 11, 2026

The Cathedral of Saint Patrick

1621 Dilworth Rd E, Charlotte, NC 28203



8TH ANNUAL CATHOLIC MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT CONFERENCE

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.

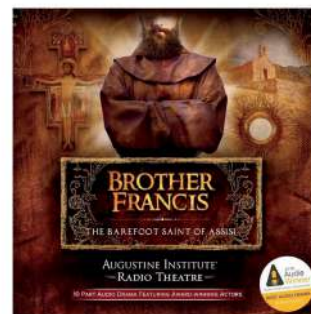
Cost: \$64 per couple/ \$40 per individual. **Register by October 5 for a discounted rate.**

Visit TogetherInHoliness.org or use the QR code to register.



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BUT SIMPLY PASS IT
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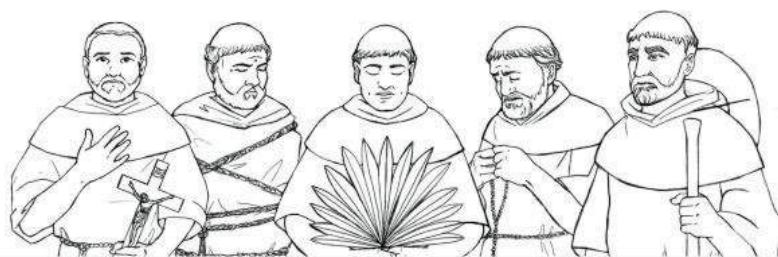
Brother Francis: The Barefoot Saint of Assisi

In this 10-part audio drama, listeners can dive into the life of St. Francis of Assisi as he goes from being a son of wealth and privilege to a man who gave up everything for the sake of Christ.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE



Mass of Beatification PEDRO DE CORPA AND FOUR COMPANIONS

Saturday, October 31, 2026, at 11 a.m. | Savannah Convention Center

Doors open at 8 a.m.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Visit the GeorgiaMartyrs.org

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

richard.cataldo@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 116

Director of Parish Operations

Scott Bruno

scott.bruno@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 118

Liturgy Coordinator/Office Manager

Emily Bixler

emily.bixler@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 102

Sacristan

Sr. Mary Philomena

sacristan@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 211

Baptism Coordinator

Sr. Mary Jacinta

mjacinta@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 121

Sacrament Admin/Adoration

Donna Fodale

Donna.fodale@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 104

Annulments, OCIA

Rev. Mr. Rich McCarron

deacon.rich@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 113

Hispanic Ministry Coordinator

Emilio Gómez

emilio.gomez@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 117

Bulletin Team

bulletin@stmarknc.org

Stewardship Coordinator

Karen Donahue

karen.donahue@stmarknc.org 704-

948-0231, Ext. 136

Calendar Management

Sue Bruce

sue.bruce@stmarknc.org 704-

948-0231, Ext. 123

Public Relations Coordinator

Amy Burger

amy.burger@stmarknc.org 704-

948-0231, Ext. 155

Marriage Enrichment Coordinator

Christine Wisdom

christine.wisdom@stmarknc.org 704-

948-0231

Director of Faith Formation

Becca Spurgeon

becca.spurgeon@stmarknc.org 704-

948-0231, Ext. 137

Faith Formation Admin Asst

Sharon Torczynski

sharon.torczynski@stmarknc.org 704-

948-0231, Ext. 103

Elementary Faith Formation

Coordinator

Maddie Torres

maddie.torres@stmarknc.org 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

High School Youth Ministry Coordinator

Augustine Free

augustine.free@stmarknc.org

704-948-0231, Ext. 122

Preschool Director

Amanda Rametta

704-948-8015

amanda.rametta@stmarknc.org

Tribunal Advocate

Rod Brostrom rnbrostrom@rcdoc.org

Angelo Sedacca aasedacca@rcdoc.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.

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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



Esta reflexión se refiere a las lecturas regulares del décimo séptimo domingo en Tiempo Ordinario. Nuestro Padre Celestial nos ha

dado tantos dones y bendiciones. Sin embargo, en nuestro estado caído, es demasiado fácil darlos por sentados. Nuestras lecturas de hoy nos enseñan que debemos vivir con una conciencia intencionada de nuestras muchas bendiciones y usarlas con gratitud para glorificar a Dios.

En nuestro pasaje evangélico de San Mateo, Jesús utiliza la imagen de un viñedo para enseñar la importancia de usar bien nuestras bendiciones.

Cuenta la historia de un terrateniente que planta un viñedo y lo arrenda a los arrendatarios antes de emprender un viaje. En lugar de cuidar el viñedo, los arrendatarios maltratan a los sirvientes del viñedo e incluso al hijo del terrateniente, a quien matan. Cuando el terrateniente se da cuenta de lo que han hecho los arrendatarios, los ejecuta y arrenda su viñedo a arrendatarios que "le darán la cosecha en el momento adecuado."

Por el Bautismo, hemos recibido el don de la salvación y la pertenencia al Reino de Dios — ahora somos "arrendatarios" llamados a trabajar en la "viña" y a producir fruto para su dueño, nuestro Padre Celestial. Jesús deja claro que, si desperdiciamos el don de la salvación, lo perderemos. Es una verdad aleccionadora.

Así que, usemos nuestro intelecto para pensar en estos dones a lo largo del día y decidamos usar todos nuestros dones para la gloria de Dios.

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Reflexión pastoral – Por qué San Francisco sigue siendo importante para la Iglesia

El 4 de octubre la Iglesia honra a San Francisco de Asís, uno de los santos más queridos y exigentes de nuestra historia. No es simplemente una estatua de jardín ni un amigo amable de los animales. Francisco es un

recordatorio vivo de cómo es el Evangelio cuando se toma al pie de la letra.

Nacido Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone alrededor de 1181 en Asís, era hijo de un rico comerciante de telas. Tras un breve sabor de caballero y una temporada de placer, escuchó a Cristo hablar desde el crucifijo de San Damiano: "Francisco, ve y reconstruye mi casa, que, como ves, está cayendo en ruinas." Interpretó esas palabras primero como una orden para reparar una capilla en ruinas. El Señor significaba algo más grande: la renovación de la propia Iglesia.

Lo que San Francisco restauró en la Iglesia

La pobreza como libertad. San Francisco se despojó de su herencia, su estatus e incluso la ropa que llevaba puesta. Llamó a Lady Poverty su esposa. Eso no fue un gesto romántico. Fue una protesta contra una Iglesia y una sociedad que se han acomodado. Cada generación de católicos necesita esa protesta. Cuando confundimos el Evangelio con la respetabilidad, San Francisco se pone en la puerta de la Iglesia y pregunta si seguimos creyendo que Cristo es suficiente.

El Cristo crucificado en el centro. En 1224, dos años antes de su muerte, Francisco recibió los estigmas en el monte La Verna—las heridas de Cristo marcadas en su propia carne. La Iglesia siempre ha enseñado que la santidad es la configuración de Jesús crucificado y resucitado. San Francisco hizo visible esa enseñanza. No inventó la devoción a la Pasión; la encarnó tan completamente que la Iglesia no pudo apartar la mirada.

Una familia de vida religiosa. De un hombre pobre surgieron los Frailes Menores, las Clarisas Pobres con Santa Clara y los franciscanos seculares para hombres y mujeres que viven en el mundo. Esa familia triple sigue sirviendo a la Iglesia en todos los continentes: predicando, sirviendo a los pobres, orando y manteniendo simple la memoria del Evangelio. Cuando hablamos hoy de "franciscanos"—ya sea fraile, hermana o feligrés en la Orden Secular—estamos nombrando una forma de pertenecer a Cristo que la Iglesia nunca ha superado.

La creación como don, no como posesión. El Cántico de las Criaturas—"Alabado seas tú, Señor mío, por medio de la Hermana Madre Tierra"—no es poesía de la naturaleza. Es teología. Francisco veía a cada criatura como un hermano o una hermana porque todas las cosas provienen del mismo Padre. El Papa Francisco llevó esa visión a Laudato Si'. El cuidado de nuestro hogar común no es un pasatiempo opcional para los católicos. Forma parte de la misma conversión que llevó a Francisco a besar al leproso y a llamar hermano al lobo de Gubbio.

Una paz que cuesta algo. En 1219 San Francisco cruzó las líneas de batalla durante la Quinta Cruzada y se presentó ante el sultán al-

Kamil. No ganó un tratado. Dio testimonio a un Señor que es Paz. La Iglesia aún necesita discípulos dispuestos a hablar de Cristo sin odio y sin diluirlo. Francisco hizo ambas cosas.

Por qué esto importa aquí

San Francisco importa para la vida de la Iglesia porque nos devuelve constantemente a lo esencial: Cristo pobre y crucificado, la Iglesia siempre necesitada de reforma, los pobres como hermanos y hermanas, la creación como himno de alabanza y alegría que no depende de tener más. No es un santo para especialistas. Es un santo para cualquiera que se haya cansado de una fe que no cuesta nada.

Mientras guardamos su memorial, os invito a hacer una cosa franciscana que esté al alcance: regalar algo que no necesitéis; hablar en paz donde haya fricción en su hogar; pasar unos minutos al aire libre dando gracias a Dios por lo que no crearon; o rezar ante el crucifijo y pedir, como hizo Francisco, conocer a Jesús y hacerle conocer.

El pobre hombre de Asís sigue reconstruyendo la Iglesia—un corazón convertido a la vez. Que reconstruya la nuestra.




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