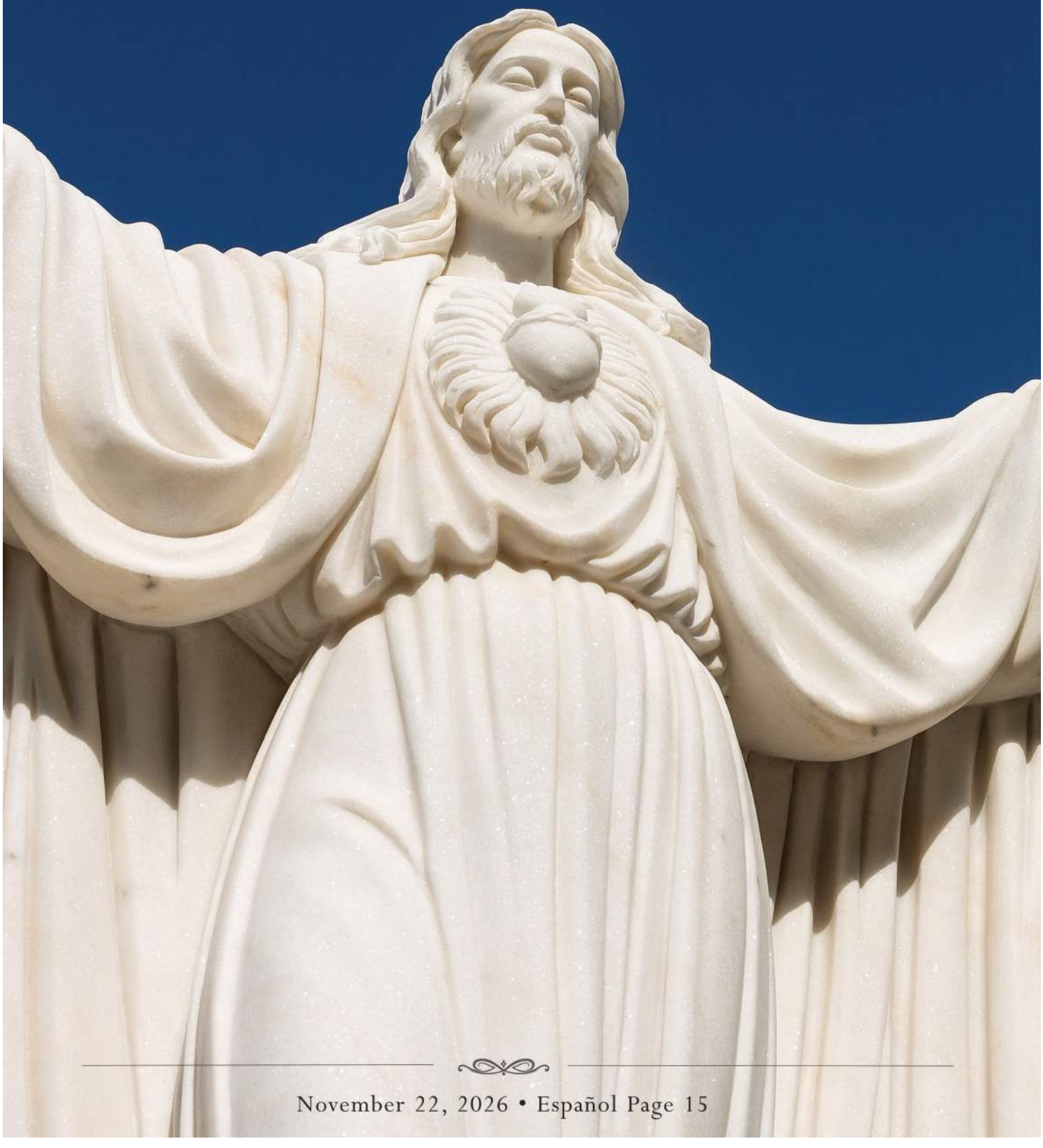
SAINT MARK

Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



WELCOME TO ST. MARK!



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.

Today we celebrate Solemnity of Christ the King. It is the last Sunday of our Year A readings. The readings can be found on page 950 in the St. Augustine Hymnal or 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.

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 becomes a steward 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.

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.*

A Reminder About Active Parish Membership

Being an active, registered parishioner is an important part of parish life, especially when preparing for sacraments, enrolling in Catholic school, becoming a godparent or Confirmation sponsor, or requesting a letter of good standing.

Your ***weekly offertory envelopes, online giving, and/or registration for parish events***, help us to keep a record of your participation at Mass.

Whether you're new to St. Mark, have attended for years, or are an adult still registered under your parents' membership, we encourage you to make sure your parish registration is up to date. We're so thankful you are a part our parish family!

To request envelopes, contact Sue.Bruce@stmarknc.org. To register, visit stmarknc.org/registration.

Thank you for generously sharing your gifts with the parish.

Online Giving

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN GIVE YOUR OFFERTORY ONLINE?

Planned
Proportionate
Intentional
Consistent



sign up at stmarknc.org/online-giving

FROM THE PASTOR



Today we come to the end of the liturgical year, celebrating the magnificent feast of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Our readings provide contrasting images of this King of ours — He has authority over each and everything, and yet, He is humble and tender in His care for us, especially the most vulnerable.

How can we properly honor and love such a King? By offering Him our very lives through the stewardship way of life.

The Gospel passage from Matthew shows us how. The passage begins with Christ's own description of His Second Coming, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him." Then the moment of judgment will come. Some will be invited into the Kingdom of Heaven — the others to eternal punishment.

This judgment will be based not on how influential we became in society, how high we climbed the corporate ladder, or any "worldly" achievements. Rather our judgment will be based on how we treated the least of those around us, whom Jesus calls His brothers. "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me." To make His point very clear, Jesus gives specifics — feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, showing hospitality to the stranger, and caring for the ill and imprisoned.

The more deeply we embrace the stewardship way of life, the more closely our priorities will align with His.

© Catholic Stewardship Consultants

Pastoral Pondering – With Thanksgiving just a few days away, we have much for which to be grateful. This Sunday brings us to the end of the Church year as we celebrate Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Kingship and Lordship are perhaps difficult concepts for the contemporary thinker, but they are apt images of our human relationship with the Divine. While some like to think of God as a buddy or pal, we should never reduce the Almighty to categories that are beneath the Divine dignity. Jesus did indeed take on flesh and become one of us to be Our Savior and our friend. At the same time, He did not do so to become more like us, but that we might become more like Him. Truly making Him Lord of our lives means more and more dying to ourselves so that His reflection can shine through us. This requires identifying the unhealthy attachments in our lives and asking Him for the grace to break them so that we can live in the freedom of God's children. He will give the necessary grace if we are humble and sincere in asking.

On a more practical note, I am especially grateful this Thanksgiving that our priests are finally back home on the parish campus!

After living off campus since 2020, we moved into the new rectory this past week. It has been a long time coming, and I am thankful to everyone who helped bring us to this point. I want to offer a special word of thanks to the individuals and parish ministries who generously donated furnishings for the new rectory, as well as those who helped prepare the house and assisted with the move. So many people contributed in ways both large and small to make this house a home, and we are most grateful.

The rectory is the first completed phase of our Growing Home Capital Campaign. It provides a home not only for our priests but also a place to welcome seminarians during their breaks from the seminary. Having our priests living here again, close to the church and the daily life of the parish, is a blessing that will serve St. Mark for many years to come.

Of course, we are not finished growing home. The Monsignor Richard Bellow Parish Life Center and the new Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel are still ahead of us. But this Thanksgiving, it is good to pause and give thanks for what has already been accomplished through your prayers, sacrifices, and generosity.

May God bless you and your families with a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

Tom Addison
Mary Asher
Maryann Bahret
Lizzy Balzer
Daisy Bayona
Barbara Benner
Brian Blatchford & Family
Marlene Bombay
Virginia "Gini" Bond
Lynne Bridges
Carman Butler
Anne Caestecker
Anthony Cain
Michelle Chicoine
Ridge Curwood
Joan Demarco
James P. Durcan
Joanne Errick
Jack Evans
Frances & Kai Ferell & Family
Al Fischlein
Louie Flores
Padraic Foley
Tom Fox
April Gallo
Valeria Gerbasi
Daniel Gilbridge
Denny & Monica Golden
Corbin Golightly
Lucas Graf
Ron Haley
Victoria Hart
Fran Hehn
Allan Helmbrecht
Bill Hille
Mary Kate Knight
The Kibbee and Farnejad Family
Aubrey Lamb
Joan Lesch
Craig Leiker
Carolina Liendo
Wilfredo Lostaunau
David Luongo
Phil Lyons
Utelia Malwitz
Sharon Marshall
Rose Mauceri
Melissa McDonald
Terry Milstead
Linda Morella
Angeles Murphy
Charlie Murphy
Emily Nash
Sarah Obermiller
Elizabeth Padgett
Louise Painter
Donna Paniagua
Jack Parley
Angela & Gianni Piraino
Tom Quist
Johnathan Rametta
Joette Reid
Natalie Roberts
Jack Schneider
Phyllis Searles
Fernando Suclupe
Daria Szot
Alexander Tarquinio
William and Sharon Tumidanski
Mario Valinhas
Haley Velez
Julio Velez
Elise Weiss
Al Wiltz
Patricia Zeggert

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, November 22
7:30 am † Luz Maria Torres
9 am † Father George H. Moreau
11 am St. Mark Parishioners
1 pm † Esperanza Rodriguez Trujillo
5 pm † John Wingert
Monday, November 23
7 am Allen & Gini Bond
9 am † Carolyn Cascarano
Tuesday, November 24
7 am † Johnny Ocampo Hernandez
9 am † Sr. Mona Wingert & Sr. Bev Eckert
Wednesday, November 25
7 am † Hannah Fodale
† Andrea Martinez
6:30 pm Purgatorial Society
Thursday, November 26
9 am † Jeremy Noonan
Friday, November 27
7 am † Bonnie Prunka
9 am † Jeanette Guimond
7 pm † Tami Fitzpatrick Loudder
Saturday, November 28
9 am † Joan Kumor
5 pm † Helen Haddad
Sunday, November 29
7:30 am † Dorothy Hall
9 am † Joann Simiele
11 am † Rose Seeling
1 pm St. Mark Parishioners
5 pm † Gabriela Gallese

† Deceased

SAINT MARK PURGATORIAL SOCIETY

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

The following members will be remembered on November 25: Mary Elizabeth Granados (Beatty), Capt. Andrew Patrick Ross (Army), Felix Zyra Sr., Rita Zyra, Walter Michalojko, Helen Michalojko, Mary Ann Shutty, Arnold Schmidt, Arnold Langbo, Cher Abell

SCRIPTURE READINGS

For the Week of November 22, 2026

Sunday	**The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe** Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46
Monday	Rev 14:1-3, 4b-5; Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday	**Memorial of Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs** Rev 14:14-19; Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday	Rev 15:1-4; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 7-8, 9; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday	**Thanksgiving Day** Sir 50:22-24; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19
Friday	Rev 20:1-4, 11-21:2; Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a, 8a; Lk 21:29-33
Saturday	Rev 22:1-7; Ps 95:1-2, 3-5, 6-7ab; Lk 21:34-36
Sunday	**First Sunday of Advent** Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

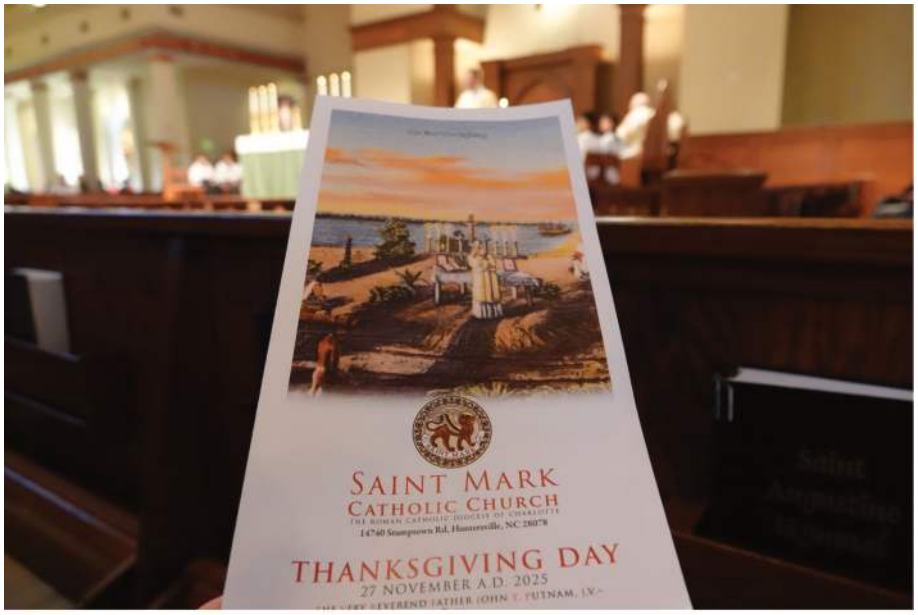
Air Force: C3C **Andrew Bauders;** Airman **Gregory Burke**; Airman **Antoinio Diaz**; Lt. Col. **Michael Dragoon;** Capt. **Stephen Hack;** Capt. **Ryan Loyd; Alejandro Martinez;** Sgt. **James McCormick;** SCANG Sgt. **John Andrew McCormick;** 2nd Lt **Connor Milligan;** Airman **Chloe Scott;** Airman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



Include Mass in Your Thanksgiving Traditions

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS AND BLESSING OF THE BREAD

Thursday, November 26, 9 am

This Thanksgiving, in the midst of the traditions that you and your family have, give thanks to God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon you.



Thanksgiving Schedule Changes

Tues., Nov. 24: There will be no Coffee and Conversation this coming Tuesday, November 24. We will see you back on December 1.

Thurs., Nov. 26: 9 am Mass only; Parish Offices Closed

Fri., Nov 27: Parish Offices Closed

Happy Thanksgiving from St. Mark!

This Thanksgiving, we give thanks to God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us, especially the gift of our parish family. We are grateful for each of you: for the faith you share, the prayers you offer, the kindness you extend to others, and the countless ways you care for one another.

Thanksgiving reminds us that all we have is a gift from God. And one of the most beautiful ways we can thank Him is by sharing those gifts with others, especially those who are lonely, struggling, or in need.

As you gather with family and friends, we invite you to pray this beautiful blessing from the Church's Book of Blessings:



A Prayer of Thanksgiving

God most provident, we join all creation in raising to you a hymn of thanksgiving through Jesus Christ, your Son.

For generation upon generation peoples of this land have sung of your bounty; we too offer you praise for the rich harvest we have received at your hands.

Bless us and this food which we share with grateful hearts.

Continue to make our land fruitful and let our love for you be seen in our pursuit of peace and justice and in our generous response to those in need.

Praise and glory to you, Lord God, now and forever. Amen.

BEFORE CHRISTMAS COMES ADVENT

Making Room for a Season of Hope, Prayer, and Joyful Expectation



As we gather around our Thanksgiving tables this week, we pause to give thanks for the blessings of the past year. And just beyond Thanksgiving, the Church invites us into another beautiful season: Advent.

Next Sunday, November 29, we begin a new liturgical year and four Sundays of preparation for the birth of our Savior. While the world around us is already celebrating Christmas, the Church asks us to do something a little different. She asks us to wait.

Not because Christmas joy should be delayed, but because some things are worth preparing for.

Advent comes from the Latin word adventus, meaning "coming." During these weeks, we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth in Bethlehem, while also looking forward to His promised return in glory. It is a season of hope, longing, and joyful expectation.

Why does the Church look different during Advent?

Beginning next Sunday, you will notice changes in our church. The green vestments of Ordinary Time give way to violet, a color associated with preparation and penance. The flowers that ordinarily adorn our sanctuary will be replaced by simple greenery, and the Advent wreath will mark the passing weeks as we draw closer to Christmas.

These changes are intentional. The Church's liturgy teaches us that we are not yet at Christmas. The beauty of the season is found in its simplicity, allowing the full joy and splendor of the Nativity to unfold when Christmas finally arrives.

Advent has a penitential character, though it is not as solemn as Lent. It is a time to examine our hearts, turn away from sin, seek forgiveness, and make room for Christ. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, daily prayer, and small acts of charity help us prepare to welcome Him.

There is room for both celebration and preparation.

None of this means we cannot enjoy the festivities that make this time of year so special. Decorating our homes, baking cookies, gathering with friends, enjoying Christmas music, and making memories with our families can all be wonderful expressions of love and joy.

But amid the shopping, decorating, and busy calendars, Advent reminds us not to lose sight of the One we are preparing to welcome. As we give thanks this week, may gratitude open our hearts to the season ahead. Before we hurry to the manger, let us take time to prepare the way.

Christmas will come.

But first, let us experience the gift of Advent.



Bring Advent Into Your Home

This Advent, consider beginning a new family tradition or returning to one you may have set aside. Small, meaningful practices can help us slow down, pray together, and prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Create a Jesse Tree.

Add an ornament each day as you follow the story of salvation, from Creation to the birth of Christ.

Pray the St. Andrew Christmas Novena. Beginning November 30 and continuing through Christmas Eve, pray this beautiful prayer 15 times daily in anticipation of Christ's birth.

Light Your Advent Wreath.

Give it a special place in your home where everyone can see and enjoy it. Light the candles each evening during family prayer or at dinner.

Prepare your Nativity Scene.

Set out the stable and figures during Advent, saving the Christ Child for Christmas. Children can add a piece of straw to the manger for each act of kindness or sacrifice.

Choose an Advent devotion.

Turn to the next page for free daily reflections, videos, prayers, and family activities. Find one that speaks to you and make it part of your daily routine throughout Advent.

Make Time for Prayer and Fasting.

Set aside a few quiet moments with God each day. Consider fasting from a favorite treat, social media, or another distraction, offering that small sacrifice as a way to make more room for Christ.

Practice Charity and Generosity.

Give to those in need, reach out to someone who is lonely, or find a simple way to serve others during the season.

Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Advent is a beautiful opportunity to examine our hearts, seek God's mercy, and prepare to welcome Christ with renewed faith.

Come, Lord Jesus!



Make This Advent a Season of Prayer

Advent begins next Sunday, November 29. Before the busyness of Christmas takes over, make a little room each day to prepare your heart for the coming of Christ.

These Catholic resources offer free reflections, prayers, videos, and activities for individuals and families.

FOR ADULTS

BEST ADVENT EVER: Dynamic Catholic

Short daily video reflections with Matthew Kelly, delivered to your inbox. This year's theme is Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy. dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html

Advent A to Z: Loyola Press

A daily email series with reflections to help you find God in the ordinary moments of Advent.



loyolapress.com

Daily Advent Reflections: FORMED

Dr. Tim Gray reflects on the daily Mass readings throughout Advent. Sign up for free emails.

daily.formed.org

2026 Advent Calendar: USCCB

Download a calendar with daily prayers and simple ways to live the season.

usccb.org/resources/2026-advent-calendar

FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Advent Adventure: Holy Heroes

Free daily videos, Jesse Tree activities, coloring pages, prayers, and more to help children prepare for Christmas.

holyheroes.com/pages/advent-adventure



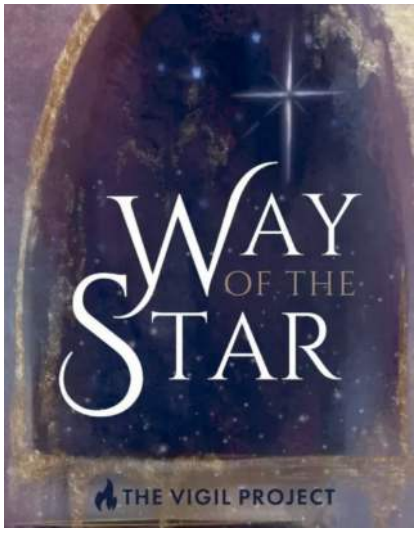
Advent Family Activities: Loyola Press

Children's Advent calendars, family prayers, Advent wreath blessings, and activities for celebrating at home.

loyolapress.com

MORE ON FORMED:

Explore Advent videos, reflections, and children's programs through our parish's FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org to get started.



Save the Date! The Vigil Project Returns to St. Mark

When: Thurs., Dec. 10, 7-9 pm
Where: In the Church

One of our most beloved parish events returns this Advent! The Vigil Project, a talented collective of Catholic musicians dedicated to drawing people closer to Christ through music and prayer, will return to St. Mark for a special evening on Thursday, December 10.

Their Way of the Star Advent experience invites us to journey toward Bethlehem through beautiful music, Scripture, prayer and reflection on the birth of our Savior. The evening will culminate in Eucharistic Adoration, offering an opportunity to encounter Christ and prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Info: thevigilproject.com.





PREPARE THE WAY: CHRISTMAS 2026

Ladies Auxiliary Flower Sale: Christmas Flowers That Give Back!

When: *Sat. and Sun., Nov. 28 & 29*

Where: *In front of the church*

Bring a little Christmas cheer into your home while supporting the wonderful work of the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary!

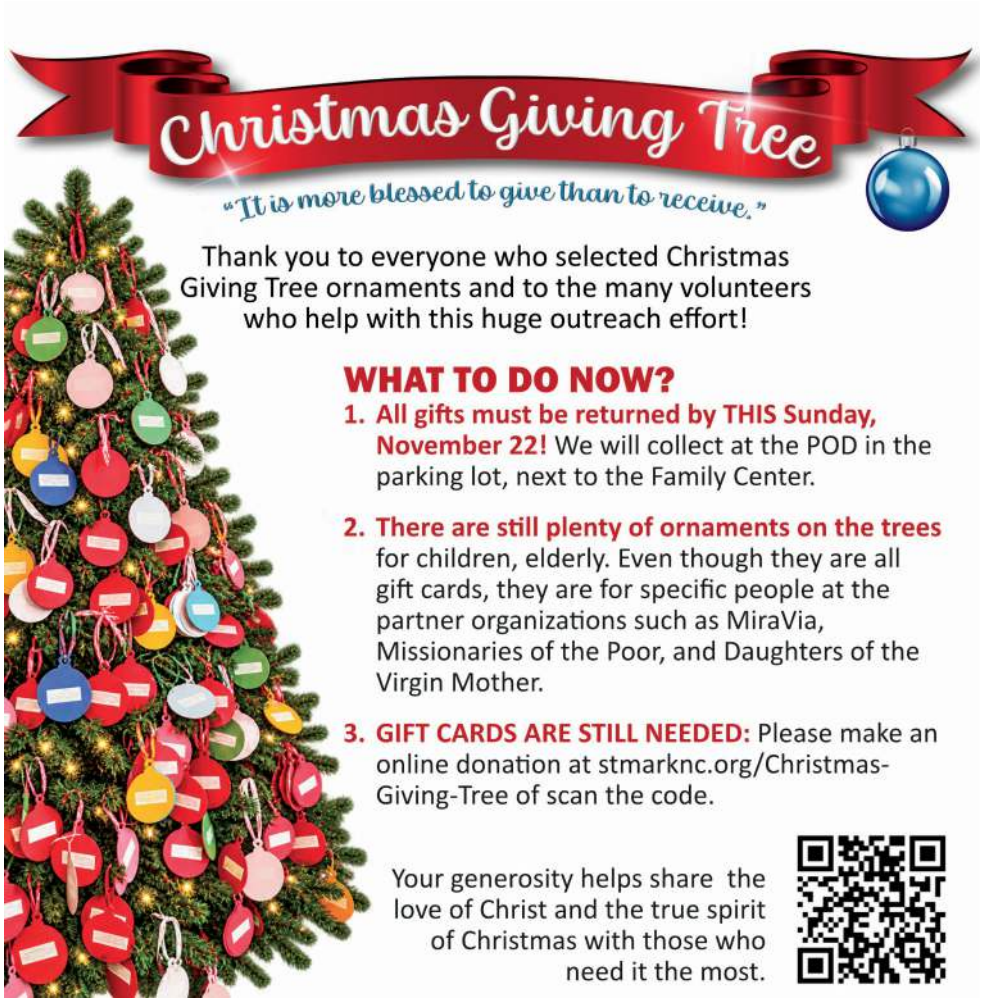
The Ladies will be selling beautiful Christmas poinsettias and flowers after all Masses on the First Sunday of Advent, November 28 & 29. Flowers will be available for immediate purchase near the fountain, while supplies last. Your purchase supports so much more than flowers!



Throughout the year, the Ladies provide cookies and refreshments for parish events, gift cards for our Thanksgiving Food Drive and Christmas Giving Tree, supplies for our Rosary Makers and Prayer Shawl ministries, and support for our St. Joseph College seminarians and the Daughters of the Virgin Mother, among many other acts of generosity.

All plants are $25. Cash or check accepted.

Thank you for supporting these wonderful women and the many ways they serve our parish!





LAST CHANCE! Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale

Order Deadline: Sat., Nov. 28

Pickup: Sat., Dec. 5, 8 am-2 pm, St. Mark Parking Lot

There's nothing quite like the fragrance of a fresh Christmas tree to welcome the season!

For more than a decade, our Knights of Columbus have helped parish families prepare for Christmas with their annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale. This favorite tradition is back, and orders are now being accepted!

Beautiful Fraser fir Christmas trees are available in three sizes: 6-7 ft. ($80), 7-8 ft. ($95) and 8-9 ft. ($125). Fresh wreaths are also available in 22-inch, 26-inch and 30-inch sizes, with decorated and undecorated options ranging from $25 to $55.

Orders may be picked up on December 5 in the church parking lot. Home delivery is also available within 15 miles of the church for an additional $25.

Proceeds support the charitable programs and good works of Knights of Columbus Council #12654. Order your Christmas greenery, support the Knights and share this longtime parish tradition with family and friends!

Order: Use the online order form or scan the QR code to select your items, quantities and delivery preference. Payment may be made in advance by check or Zelle, or by check at pickup.

Questions? Contact Edmund Ippolito at edmund.ippolito@gmail.com or 631-682-0121 (text preferred).



Calendar of Events

Tuesday, November 24
Prayer and Praise

Thursday, November 26
Thanksgiving, Offices Closed
9 am Mass only (no 7 am Mass)

Sunday, November 29
Advent Begins

Sunday, December 6
St. Nicholas Breakfast

Monday, December 7
Room in the Inn begins
Vigil Mass Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, December 8
Immaculate Conception Holy Day
Offices Closed

Thursday, December 10
The Vigil Project Concert

Saturday, December 12
6 am Rorate Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 15-23
Posadas

December 17
Lessons and Carols

December 25
Christmas

Saturday, January 2
First Saturday Pizza Dinner

Wednesday, January 6
Young at Heart Luncheon

January 15-17
Marriage Retreat

February 13-14
Women's Welcome Retreat

Friday, February 19, March 5 & 12
KofC Fish Fry

Saturday, February 20
Marriage Date Night

Saturday, March 13
AOH St. Patrick's Dinner



Please Support Our Deployed Military Personnel This Christmas

If you know someone in the military that is deployed and will not be home for the holidays, please email Susan Evilsizer with their name and address.

We are preparing cards and care packages to send to military personnel and do this on a monthly basis.

If you would like to donate items for the care packages, please contact Susan to arrange pickup.

We want to make sure they know we support them; we care and are thankful for all they are doing for us and this country!

Contact: Susan Evilsizer, susan.evilsizer@gmail.com

Stewardship Spotlight: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Growing in Christ, Serving One Another, Sharing Our Gifts, and Connecting in Faith.

As we celebrate the feast of Christ the King, it is a good time for reflection on Holy Communion and the grace we receive in the true body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ.

"Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.'" (Luke 22:19).

May we never take for granted this gift which strengthens us and increases our unity with Christ, our King.

This week we highlight a ministry that helps ensure Holy Communion is available to all who need it. Our bishops, priests, and deacons are ordinary ministers of Holy Communion by the authority of their ordination.

In a church the size of St. Mark, we need help beyond our ordinary ministers to distribute Holy Communion effectively during weekend Masses and to those who are homebound, in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or hospitalized. Lay parishioners answering the call to serve in this way become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Training ensures proper reverence, consistency, and a safe environment in accordance with church norms. In a statement of welcome to this ministry, Father John notes that these volunteers "…not only respond to their Baptismal call to serve the people of God, but make a commitment to Christ through their dedication and evangelization as instructed at the end of Mass: Go and Announce the Gospel of the Lord."

They share in Christ's loving ministry to His people as they visit with or offer the Eucharist.

If you feel called to serve in this way, please reach out to Deacon Tom McGahey, who coordinates the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for the Homebound at TEMcGahey@rcdoc.org or 704-577-6229; or Ralph Wearsch, who coordinates the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Mass at rwearsch.em@gmail.com or 704-906-7031.







Room in the Inn (RITI)

Room in the Inn (RITI) is a ministry that serves the homeless, or neighbors, in the Charlotte area by providing meals and overnight accommodations in the Parish Hall at St. Mark. We offer a safe place to sleep, hot breakfast, a bag lunch, and laundry service. RITI operates in the winter months, from December through March. The program is coordinated by Roof Above in Charlotte, an organization that serves the homeless in many ways.

St. Mark has been an active participant in RITI since 2013, having served hundreds of people during that time with the help of hundreds of volunteers.

For 2026-2027 we will serve on MONDAYS about twice a month. Our first date will be Monday, December 7.

We are in need of some donations. The following items can be left in the Narthex bin, labeled RITI, or brought to the Office.

- Sweatpants and sweatshirts for men and women, sizes L through 2XL
- Ladies' underwear, sizes 6 through 10
- Warm hats and gloves
- Men's plain white t-shirts, sizes L through 2XL
- Travel size deodorant and lotion
- Toothbrushes and razors
- New Pillows

If you are interested in helping organize for this year, please contact Bob Langbo rwlangbo@outlook.com or Sue Bruce smbruce99@gmail.com.

For more information on RITI, visit www.stmarknc.org/RITI.

Prayer & Praise Night

When: Tues., Nov. 24; Rosary 7 pm; Prayer and Praise 7:30-8:30 pm
Where: In the church

Jesus said in Matthew 18: 19-20: *"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*

Come to gather in Jesus' name and to ask Him for more of Himself in our lives and for healing. We have seen wonderful things happen as people receive prayer for healing.

Future dates: To be announced.

Contact information: Fernando at (252) 412-9978 (call or text)

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Praise Be to God!

With grateful hearts, we are delighted to share that, thanks to the extraordinary generosity, prayers, and commitment of our parish family, we have successfully completed Phase I of our Growing Home Building Campaign and moved our beloved priests into their new rectory!

What a blessing it is to provide a welcoming home for our four priests in residence, as well as the seminarians who join us throughout the year. This milestone would not have been possible without the many parishioners who contributed financially, offered encouragement, and faithfully prayed for the success of this project. Thank you for helping make this vision a reality.

As we look ahead to the next phase of our campaign, the construction of the Monsignor Richard Bellow Parish Life Center and Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel, we remain excited about all that God has in store for our parish. At the same time, we are facing a funding gap that must be addressed before construction on the final phase can begin.

Since our original estimates were completed, construction costs have risen significantly. Steel prices alone have increased by approximately 35% over the past year, reaching a four-year high. In addition, the county has required the installation of a fire hydrant and water line to serve the new building, resulting in an unexpected expense of almost $500,000. These and other factors have increased project costs by $1,269,049.

To move forward with construction of Phase II, the Diocese requires that 40% of the total project cost be available in cash before construction can begin. As we work toward meeting that requirement, we ask those who have already supported the campaign to prayerfully consider whether they might be able to help us reach this benchmark sooner. Earlier fulfillment of pledged gifts and any additional support will help us keep the project moving forward and bring the Monsignor Richard Bellow Parish Life Center and Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel closer to reality.

We are also actively exploring ways to reduce expenses while preserving the mission and functionality of the project. For example, one option under consideration is eliminating the covered portico, which would provide an estimated savings of $750,000.

We are deeply grateful for all who have already supported this campaign. If you are new to our parish and would like to participate in this effort, we warmly welcome your support as we work together to bring this important project to completion.

To make a donation, please visit www.osvhub.com/stmarknc/giving/funds or scan code.

For additional information, please contact: Karen Donahue, Development Coordinator, at karen.donahue@stmarknc.org.



Congratulations to Our Newest Catholics!

When: Sun., Nov. 22, 2:30 pm

Where: In the Church

What a joyful day for our parish! This Sunday, November 22, on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, we will welcome 34 adults into the Catholic Church during a special Mass of Christian Initiation at 2:30 pm in the church. All parishioners are invited to celebrate with them! This Mass fulfills your Sunday Mass obligation.

Traditionally, our parish welcomed new Catholics primarily at Easter and Pentecost. With our year-round Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) program, adults now have opportunities to enter the Church at other times throughout the liturgical year as they complete their preparation.

Catechumens receiving Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion: Jeffrey Bowllan, Ryann Kelly, Moani Lomax, Felicitas Tucker, Janzen McKinney, Stephen Balok, Andrew Fries, and Jessica Jones.

Candidates entering into full communion with the Catholic Church: Britni Alatorre, Thomas Gallagher V, Haley McKinney, Lucas Kistel, Caleb Tucker, Marcus Moore, Pamela Rivera, David Maruna, Christopher McDonnell, Joshua Mertzlufft, Cheyenne Boone, Carey Balok, Reese Balok, Carson Dahl, Elizabeth Dahl, Derek Davis, Jeffrey (Scott) Hendricks, William (Bill) Lawler II, Cynthia Martin, Tara Olds, Michael Romps, Dustin Shepard, Nicole De La Barrera, Darrien “Cole” Brown, Rachael Hasson, and Bella Bowman.

Please join us in congratulating these men and women and praying for them as they take this beautiful step in their journey of faith!

ADORATION

Today Bring to Me the Souls Who Are Detained in Purgatory and Immerse Them in the Abyss of My Mercy...

By: Donna Fodale/Adoration Coordinator

As we enter into week four of praying for the Holy Souls, I am reminded of how much power there is in praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet for these souls.

As you may know, the first Sunday after Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. One of the things that we do to prepare for Divine Mercy Sunday is pray for the Divine Mercy Novena. Each day calls to mind certain groups of people that the Lord has asked prayers for. On day eight of the Novena, we pray especially for the Souls in Purgatory. This day is dedicated to the Church Suffering — those who have died in God's grace but still need purification before entering heaven.

According to Catholic teaching, purgatory is not a place of punishment but of purification, like a spiritual hospital where souls are healed of imperfections so they can enter heaven completely pure.

On day eight of the Novena Jesus tells St. Faustina...

"Today bring to Me the souls who are detained in Purgatory and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy. Let the torrents of My Blood cool down their scorching flames. All these souls are greatly loved by Me. They are making retribution to My justice. It is in your power to bring them relief. Draw all the indulgences from the treasury of My Church and offer them on their behalf. Oh, if you only knew the torments they suffer, you would continually offer for them the alms of the spirit and pay off their debt to My justice." (Diary of St. Faustina, 1226)

As we head towards the end of November, please consider stopping in Adoration and offering a Chaplet for the Souls in Purgatory. Some poor soul may just be one prayer away from being freed from Purgatory and entering heaven to be with the Lord. Your sacrifice of prayer will bear much fruit.



How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Use standard five-decade rosary beads.

1. Opening Prayers:

Make the Sign of the Cross.

Optional Opening Prayers from St. Faustina's Diary:

Pray once:

"You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us."

Pray three times:

"O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!"

2. Introductory Prayers: Our Father, Hail Mary, Apostles' Creed

3. The Five Decades

On each large bead (once per decade): "Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."

On each of the 10 small beads: "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world." Repeat for all five decades.

4. Conclusion: Pray three times: "Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

Please prayerfully consider becoming a adorer or a sub.

Register at: www.stmarknc.org/adoration

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

High School Life Teen

All high school students are invited to join us!

Life Teen gathers on Sunday evenings after the 5 pm Mass for engaging talks, small-group discussions, games, prayer, fun and opportunities to build friendships. And dinner is always included!



November 22, Thanksgiving Party

All high school students are invited to celebrate Thanksgiving with Life Teen!

For those who would like to play, casual flag football will take place on the Parish Lawn from 5–6 pm. No cleats, please. Teams will be randomly assigned when players arrive.

Help make the feast!

Families are invited to contribute a side dish. Please use the sign-up form to let us know what you can bring.

Annual Pie Baking Competition

Teens and families are invited to enter their favorite homemade pies, brought pre-sliced and ready to share. Store-bought pies are also welcome for the dessert table, but only homemade pies will be judged.

Whether you're a Life Teen regular or joining us for the first time, we'd love to see you there! Stay Connected! Sign up for Life Teen emails and texts through Flocknote. Visit stmarknc.flocknote.com/lifeteen.

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

TO BE
GRATEFUL IS
To Recognize
THE LOVE OF GOD
In Everything
Thomas Merton

Three Celebrations, One Grateful Heart!

This week brings three wonderful opportunities to grow closer to Jesus! Today we celebrate Christ the King, on Thursday we give thanks for God's blessings, and next Sunday we begin Advent.

Before the Christmas busyness begins, make time for faith and family. Talk about how Jesus is King of our hearts, share your blessings around the Thanksgiving table, and choose a family Advent tradition.

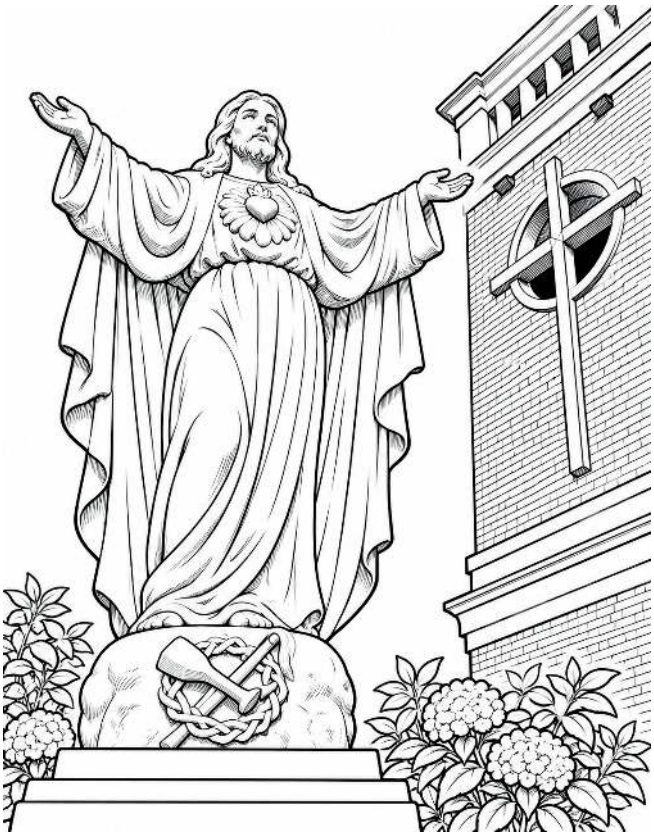
Light an Advent wreath, begin a Jesse Tree, pray together, or find a way to help someone in need. Sometimes the simplest moments become our most treasured memories!

CHRIST THE KING

Today we celebrate Jesus Christ, King of the Universe! His kingdom is one of love, mercy, and peace.

Color our statue of Jesus -- add a halo or a crown! Then think of one way you can show His love to someone this week.

Jesus, help me love others as You love me.

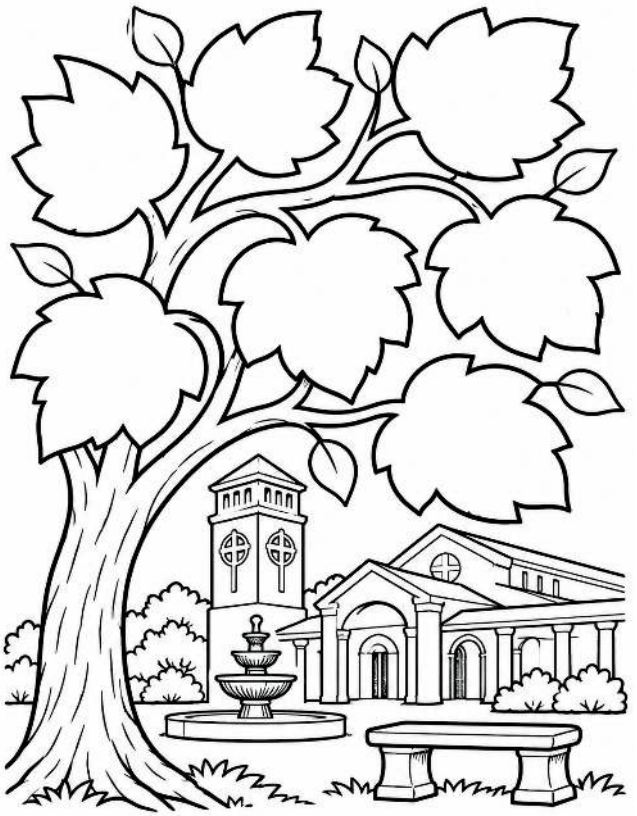


THANKSGIVING

God has given us so much to be thankful for! Sometimes the greatest blessings are the people in our lives.

Fill our parish tree with gratitude! On each leaf, write or draw something you are thankful for. Share your blessings with your family on Thanksgiving Day.

Thank You, Lord, for all the blessings You have given us!



ADVENT

Next Sunday, November 29, Advent begins! For four weeks, we prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus at Christmas.

Color our parish Advent wreath! Three candles are violet and one is rose (pink). Each Sunday, we light another candle as Christmas draws closer.

Family challenge: Find a special place for your Advent wreath at home. Gather around it each week to pray together.

Come, Lord Jesus!



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 30 minutes.
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*

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
Rev. Msgr. John T. Putnam, V.G., J.V.
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
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manuel.mora@stmarknc.org
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Director of Finance
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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. 117
Bulletin Team
bulletin@stmarknc.org

Stewardship Coordinator
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Public Relations Coordinator
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704-948-0231, Ext. 155
Marriage Enrichment Coordinator
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704-948-0231, Ext. 125
Director of Faith Formation
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704-948-0231, Ext. 137
Faith Formation Admin Asst
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704-948-0231, Ext. 103
Elementary Faith Formation Coordinator
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704-948-0231, Ext. 124
Middle School Youth Ministry Coordinator
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704-948-0231, Ext. 105
High School Youth Ministry Coordinator
Augustine Free
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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

Alcoholics Anonymous
Theresa 704-654-6915
Al-Anon
Ellen | 704-907-8555
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

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

DEL PÁRROCO



Hoy llegamos al final del año litúrgico, celebrando la magnífica fiesta de la Solemnidad de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, Rey del Universo. Las lecturas nos presentan imágenes contrastantes de nuestro Rey: Él tiene autoridad sobre todo y sobre todos y, sin embargo, es humilde y tierno en su cuidado por nosotros, especialmente por los más vulnerables.

¿Cómo podemos honrar y amar debidamente a un Rey así? Ofreciéndole nuestra propia vida mediante un estilo de vida basado en la corresponsabilidad.

El pasaje del Evangelio de Mateo nos muestra cómo hacerlo. Comienza con la descripción que el mismo Cristo hace de su segunda venida: «Cuando el Hijo del hombre venga en su gloria, acompañado de todos sus ángeles, se sentará en su trono de gloria. Entonces serán congregadas ante él todas las naciones». Después llegará el momento del juicio. Algunos serán invitados a entrar en el Reino de los Cielos, mientras que otros recibirán el castigo eterno.

Este juicio no se basará en la influencia que hayamos alcanzado en la sociedad, en cuánto hayamos ascendido profesionalmente ni en nuestros logros «mundanos». Más bien, seremos juzgados por la manera en que hayamos tratado a los más pequeños de entre nosotros, a quienes Jesús llama sus hermanos. «Yo les aseguro que, cuando lo hicieron con el más insignificante de mis hermanos, conmigo lo hicieron». Para dejarlo muy claro, Jesús nos da ejemplos concretos: dar de comer al hambriento, dar de beber al sediento, acoger al forastero y cuidar a los enfermos y a los encarcelados.

Cuanto más profundamente abracemos un estilo de vida basado en la corresponsabilidad, más se alinearán nuestras prioridades con las de Cristo. © Catholic Stewardship Consultants

Reflexión del Párroco -- A pocos días del Día de Acción de Gracias, tenemos mucho por lo cual estar agradecidos. Este domingo llegamos al final del año litúrgico de la Iglesia al celebrar a Jesucristo, Rey del Universo. La realeza y el señorío quizá sean conceptos difíciles de comprender para el pensamiento contemporáneo, pero son imágenes apropiadas para expresar nuestra relación humana con lo divino. Aunque algunos prefieren pensar en Dios como un compañero o un amigo más, nunca debemos reducir al Todopoderoso a categorías que estén por debajo de su dignidad divina. Jesús ciertamente se hizo carne y se hizo uno de nosotros para ser nuestro Salvador y nuestro amigo. Sin embargo, no lo hizo para parecerse más a nosotros, sino para que nosotros pudiéramos parecernos más a Él. Hacerlo verdaderamente Señor de nuestras vidas significa morir cada vez más a nosotros mismos para que su imagen pueda resplandecer a través de nosotros. Esto requiere reconocer los apegos perjudiciales en nuestras vidas y pedirle la gracia de liberarnos de ellos, para que podamos vivir en la libertad de los hijos de Dios. Él nos concederá la gracia necesaria si se la pedimos con humildad y sinceridad.

En un aspecto más práctico, ¡este Día de Acción de Gracias estoy especialmente agradecido de que nuestros sacerdotes finalmente hayan regresado a casa, al recinto parroquial!

Después de vivir fuera de las instalaciones de la parroquia desde 2020, nos mudamos a la nueva casa parroquial esta semana pasada. Ha sido una larga espera, y estoy agradecido con todos los que nos ayudaron a llegar hasta este momento. Quiero expresar un agradecimiento especial a las personas y a los ministerios parroquiales que generosamente donaron muebles y otros artículos para la nueva casa parroquial, así como a quienes ayudaron a preparar la casa y colaboraron con la mudanza. Muchas personas contribuyeron, de maneras grandes y pequeñas, para convertir esta casa en un verdadero hogar, y estamos profundamente agradecidos.

La casa parroquial es la primera fase completada de nuestra Campaña de Capital Growing Home (Creciendo en Nuestro Hogar). No solo proporciona un hogar para nuestros sacerdotes, sino también un lugar donde recibir a los seminaristas durante sus períodos de descanso del seminario. Tener nuevamente a nuestros sacerdotes viviendo aquí, cerca de la iglesia y de la vida cotidiana de la parroquia, es una bendición que beneficiará a San Marcos durante muchos años.

Por supuesto, todavía no hemos terminado de construir nuestro hogar parroquial. Aún nos quedan por delante el Centro de Vida Parroquial Monseñor Richard Bellow y la nueva Capilla de Adoración Eucarística Perpetua. Pero en este Día de Acción de Gracias, es bueno detenernos un momento y dar gracias por todo lo que ya se ha logrado gracias a sus oraciones, sacrificios y generosidad.

Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias y les conceda un feliz y bendecido Día de Acción de Gracias.





Misa de Acción de Gracias y Bendición del Pan

Cuándo: Jueves 26 de noviembre, 9 am

Dónde: En la iglesia

¡Incluya la Santa Misa entre sus tradiciones del Día de Acción de Gracias! Antes de reunirse con familiares y amigos para celebrar, los invitamos a comenzar el día dando gracias a Dios por las muchas bendiciones que hemos recibido.

Durante la Misa también se realizará la tradicional Bendición del Pan. Las familias están invitadas a traer el pan que compartirán en su cena de Acción de Gracias para recibir una bendición especial.

¡Celebremos juntos este día con gratitud, fe y oración!

Aviso: Cambios de horario

Martes 24 de noviembre: No habrá Café y Conversación este martes 24 de noviembre. Nos volveremos a reunir el 1 de diciembre.

Jueves 26 de noviembre: Únicamente habrá Misa a las 9:00 a. m. Las oficinas parroquiales estarán cerradas.

Viernes 27 de noviembre: Las oficinas parroquiales estarán cerradas.

¡Feliz Día de Acción de Gracias de parte de San Marcos!



Estamos agradecidos por cada uno de ustedes. Esta es la oración oficial del Libro de las Bendiciones que pueden rezar el Día de Acción de Gracias:

Dios providentísimo, nos unimos a toda la creación para elevarte un himno de acción de gracias por Jesucristo, tu Hijo.

De generación en generación, los pueblos de esta tierra han cantado las alabanzas de tu generosidad; también nosotros te alabamos por la abundante cosecha que hemos recibido de tus manos.

Bendícenos a nosotros y a estos alimentos que compartimos con corazones agradecidos.

Sigue haciendo fecunda nuestra tierra y permite que nuestro amor por ti se manifieste en nuestra búsqueda de la paz y la justicia, y en nuestra respuesta generosa a quienes más lo necesitan.

A ti la alabanza y la gloria, Señor Dios, ahora y por siempre. Amén.

Preparándonos para un tiempo de esperanza, oración y gozosa espera



Al reunirnos alrededor de la mesa para celebrar el Día de Acción de Gracias esta semana, hacemos una pausa para agradecer a Dios por las bendiciones recibidas durante el último año. Y justo después de esta celebración, la Iglesia nos invita a vivir otro hermoso tiempo: el Adviento.

El próximo domingo, 29 de noviembre, comenzaremos un nuevo año litúrgico y cuatro domingos de preparación para el nacimiento de nuestro Salvador. Mientras el mundo que nos rodea ya está celebrando la Navidad, la Iglesia nos pide algo un poco diferente. Nos invita a esperar.

No porque debamos retrasar la alegría de la Navidad, sino porque hay cosas que merecen una preparación especial.

La palabra Adviento proviene del latín adventus, que significa «venida». Durante estas semanas, nos preparamos para celebrar el nacimiento de Cristo en Belén, mientras esperamos también su regreso glorioso al final de los tiempos. Es un tiempo de esperanza, anhelo y gozosa espera.

¿Por qué la iglesia se ve diferente durante el Adviento?

A partir del próximo domingo, notarán algunos cambios en nuestra iglesia. Las vestiduras verdes del Tiempo Ordinario darán paso al color morado, asociado con la preparación y la penitencia. Las flores que normalmente adornan nuestro presbiterio serán reemplazadas por sencillos arreglos de ramas verdes, y la corona de Adviento marcará el paso de las semanas a medida que nos acerquemos a la Navidad.

Estos cambios tienen un propósito. La liturgia de la Iglesia nos enseña que todavía no hemos llegado a la Navidad. La belleza de este tiempo se encuentra en su sencillez, que permite que toda la alegría y el esplendor del Nacimiento de Jesús se manifiesten plenamente cuando finalmente llegue la Navidad.

El Adviento tiene un carácter penitencial, aunque no es tan solemne como la Cuaresma. Es un tiempo para examinar nuestro corazón, alejarnos del pecado, buscar el perdón y hacer espacio para Cristo. El sacramento de la Reconciliación, la oración diaria y los pequeños actos de caridad nos ayudan a prepararnos para recibirlo.

Hay lugar tanto para la celebración como para la preparación.

Nada de esto significa que no podamos disfrutar de las festividades que hacen tan especial esta época del año. Decorar nuestros hogares, hornear galletas, reunirnos con amigos, disfrutar de la música navideña y crear recuerdos con nuestras familias pueden ser maravillosas expresiones de amor y alegría.

Pero, en medio de las compras, las decoraciones y las agendas llenas de compromisos, el Adviento nos recuerda que no debemos perder de vista a Aquel a quien nos estamos preparando para recibir.

Mientras damos gracias esta semana, que la gratitud abra nuestros corazones al tiempo que se aproxima. Antes de apresurarnos hacia el pesebre, dediquemos tiempo a preparar el camino.

La Navidad llegará. Pero primero, vivamos el regalo del Adviento.

Lleva el Adviento a tu hogar

Este Adviento, considera comenzar una nueva tradición familiar o retomar alguna que hayas dejado de practicar. Las pequeñas tradiciones llenas de significado pueden ayudarnos a hacer una pausa, orar juntos y preparar nuestros corazones para la Navidad.

Crea un Árbol de Jesé.

Agrega un adorno cada día mientras recorres la historia de la salvación, desde la Creación hasta el nacimiento de Cristo.

Reza la Novena de Navidad de San Andrés.

Desde el 30 de noviembre hasta la Nochebuena, reza esta hermosa oración 15 veces al día mientras te preparas para celebrar el nacimiento de Cristo.

Enciende tu corona de Adviento.

Colócala en un lugar especial de tu hogar donde todos puedan verla y disfrutarla. Enciende las velas cada noche durante la oración familiar o a la hora de la cena.

Prepara tu nacimiento.

Coloca el establo y las figuras del nacimiento durante el Adviento, reservando la imagen del Niño Jesús para Navidad. Los niños pueden agregar una pajita al pesebre por cada acto de bondad o pequeño sacrificio que realicen.

Dedica tiempo a la oración y al ayuno.

Reserva cada día unos momentos de tranquilidad para estar con Dios. Considera renunciar a algún dulce favorito, a las redes sociales o a otra distracción, ofreciendo ese pequeño sacrificio como una manera de hacer más espacio para Cristo.

Practica la caridad y la generosidad.

Ayuda a quienes más lo necesitan, acércate a alguien que se sienta solo o busca una manera sencilla de servir a los demás durante este tiempo.

Recibe el sacramento de la Reconciliación.

El Adviento es una hermosa oportunidad para examinar nuestros corazones, buscar la misericordia de Dios y prepararnos para recibir a Cristo con una fe renovada.

¡Ven, Señor Jesús!

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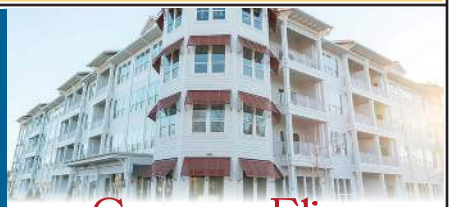


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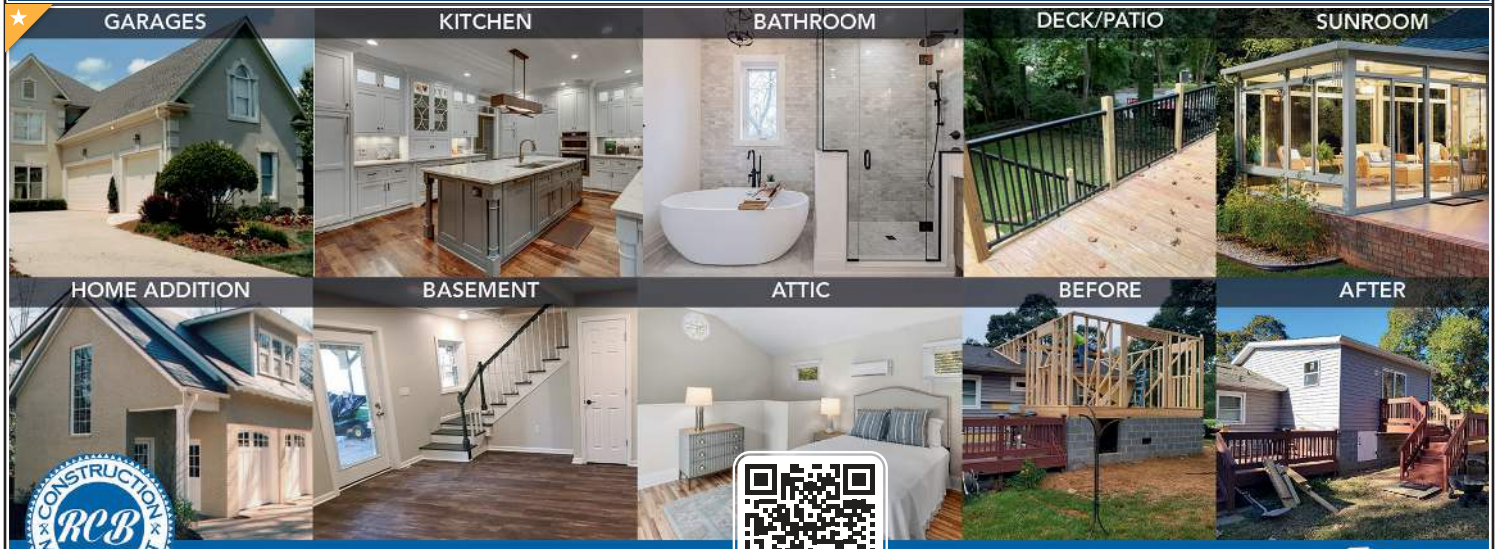
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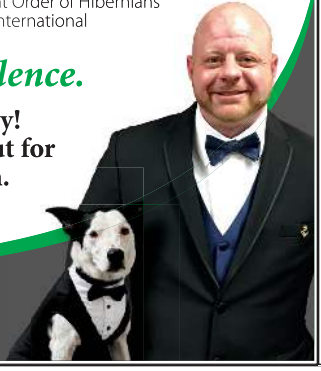
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