

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT | MARCH 23, 2025



THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK | www.onestrongfamily.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A reminder: Father Patrick will be intermittently out of town some Sundays ahead (now just Mar 30, and Apr 13). As such, and especially for those days, *plan* for the 10:30 AM **Confessions to be capped at 10:50 AM!**

Kindle the fires of affection for it: the Rummage Sale (Apr 24-27) is always a big “W” for the parish when it comes to foot traffic and revenue! Setup traditionally begins the Sunday before the sale, which happens to be Easter Sunday (so, not setup Sunday this year!). As such, we made need a little extra lift power to get things rolling (maybe Holy Saturday or Easter Monday?) **If you want to know how you can give yet more love to the sale**, drop a line to Patti Shrake (ccw+owner@onestrongfamily.org) know now that you can help! **Perhaps better still: sign up to help at stmark.xyz/help**

Monday, April 7th is our next prayer vigil day, with Nativity of Our Lord, at Planned Parenthood, as part of the national 40 Days for Life Lent campaign. Signup for an hour at stmark.xyz/40Q1 and **clergy will lead an hour of prayer, at Planned Parenthood, Mar. 30 at 1 PM.**

Spring is here. (Though “Third Winter” may sneak up on us.) And that’s a big move time. Ideally, we want parishioners living as close to the parish as possible, so if you’re moving from—or looking to move closer to—the parish, please make good use of our homefinder project at onestrongfamily.org/house

It ends next Sunday: Open Window Theatre’s production of “Tolkien.” Better get while the getting can be got! For more info, visit openwindowtheatre.org or call 612-615-1515.

Alas, only eight nights remain of the Women’s Workouts for Winter-Spring 2025. Or at least that’s what the schedule says. Monday nights, in the gym, at 8:00 PM! stmark.xyz/workout

Mass intentions are available, don’t forget! And especially don’t forget to offer Masses for the living!

UPCOMING EVENTS

**TUE
28
MAR**

Prepare and Serve a Meal at Catholic Charities | Evening | 2001 Van Dyke St., Maplewood

If you’ve not served a meal in awhile, or ever, and even if you’re serving one *right now*, this is the golden opportunity to perform a work of mercy! Recall that you’re [also] serving our Lord: *worth it!* To volunteer, head to stmark.xyz/prepserve

**FRI
28
MAR**

Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper & Speaker Series | Soup Supper starts at 5:30 PM, Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM | Carolyn Hall; Church

Graces abound this Friday as it’s our fourth Lenten Soup Supper & Speaker Series and Stations of the Cross. If you’ve never been to or never missed one, don’t miss this year’s jewels in the crown of St. Mark’s! **This week’s speaker theme: Evangelization: You CAN Do It (Because Even I Did) Parishioner Testimonials**

**SUN
30
MAR**

Catholic Services Appeal | This Day | hope.archspm.org

It’s the Catholic Services Appeal, supporting those great ministries in the archdiocese that no one parish could! And our giving goal is \$30,000. That’s the sweet spot between a pittance and a trial: 5% of your annual household giving and we’re there! Feel the appeal and don’t neglect the needy Christ this Lent: hope.archspm.org (and make sure to note your affiliation with St. Mark’s!)

But wait, there’s more. Find the Parish calendar on our website: onestrongfamily.org/events.

From the Heart of the Shepherd

Fr. David Hottinger PES, Pastor

Parish School of Prayer, Pt 16: The Stations of the Cross



Who doesn't admire Veronica from the 6th Station of the Cross? These Lenten Fridays, when we pass by her memorial, I have to believe many of us are thinking: "Bravo, sister! Well done!" From there, it's only a half step to desire to imitate her splendid deed, were it possible. And then another half step towards realizing, "Well, I suppose I *could* console Christ by showing some compassion towards His disfigured face in that neighbor of mine who is going through X, Y, or Z..." This, in a nutshell, is what it looks like to make the Way of the Cross well.

The Way of the Cross is not about wringing sorry sentiments from our hardened hearts. Were we to make them with that attitude, we need only arrive at the 8th Station to be reminded, via Jesus' words to the wailing women, that tears without wisdom are of no avail. And as soon as we realize that, we are suddenly praying the Stations well again.

Of course, it's entirely possible that one makes it past even the 8th Station in a distracted stupor, absentmindedly mouthing the words while minding more the annoying thing our neighbor is doing that holy things depicted in the prayers and pictures before us. But it would take a hard heart indeed, however, for that attitude to survive the 12th Station, which confronts us with the doleful fact of Our Lord's sorrowful death for our sake... and perhaps our own unfeeling ingratitude for it, too. But to at least acknowledge this would already be the beginning of a prayer, if not a conversion of life.

And if we grumble about "having to do this all again" Friday after Lenten Friday, we have only to approach the 2nd Station (at which Our Lord shoulders His Cross) with an ounce of awareness in order to remember that we haven't yet done too much to commemorate all that Jesus suffered for us, and that we can indeed embrace the "burden" of a half-hour's devotion, along with all

of the other vexations and afflictions *du jour*, in order to not follow empty-shouldered on the way of self-giving, trustful love. And by the next station's first fall, if our afflictions seem too much to bear, we are reminded that the "Lord was pleased to crush Him in infirmity" (Is 53:10), and that it is good for us, who "have not resisted to the point of shedding blood," (Heb 12:4) to likewise "bear the yoke" and to "put our mouth to the dust," that we might learn to "wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord," (Lam 3:25-29) who also knows what it is to be overwhelmed. Everywhere you turn, and even when we try to turn away, the Stations are a springboard to prayer.

When Pope St. Paul VI streamlined the old *Raccolta* or *Enchiridion of Indulgences*, he included among the four "everyday" ways of earning a Plenary Indulgence the making of the Way of the Cross in a church or chapel. That means that, in the mind of the Church, the Stations are right up there with Scripture reading, the Rosary, and Eucharistic Adoration as specially incentivized practices of piety. Evidently, this method of prayer is supremely apt for our sanctification. No wonder, since spiritual progress is nothing less than learning to follow in the footsteps of the One "who loved me and gave Himself up for me" (Gal 2:20).

It is especially profitable to ponder the mysteries of Our Lord's passion and death. There, says St. Thomas of Aquinas, we learn best how much God loves us as we see how God in Christ as "loved us to the extreme" (Jn 13:1); there we behold every virtue exercised by Christ as He "leaves us an example, that we might follow in His footsteps" (cf. 1 Pet 2:21); there, too, we come into vital contact with the Precious Blood by which we are freed from sin and redeemed from death.

The fourteen tableaux of the Stations of the Cross are, therefore, so many portals through which we observe the unfolding of Our Lord's Passion. And if we pray with them well, they become fourteen windows by which His work of salvation sheds light on our way.

OUR MISSION IS TO LIVE AND SHARE CHRIST'S CALL TO HOLINESS



EVANGELIZATION IS OUR TOPIC *de la saison* for our Lenten Soup Supper & Speaker Series!

Two soup suppers remain:

MARCH 28:

Evangelization: You CAN Do It (Because Even I Did)
Parishioner Testimonials

APRIL 4:

Apologetics Q&A: Responding to Tough Questions

But this series is not to end in mere fuller tummies, but fuller pews (and hopefully, eventually, fuller names written in the Book of Life!!). Related to these suppers, April 3rd, we'll have a special holy hour for evangelization and then **April 5th, will be "St. Mark's in the Parks,"** wherein the faithful supper attendees are going to be collectively hitting the pavement to spread the Gospel. There are priceless souls to be gained!

Reach out to Kristen Grant (kgrant@onestrongfamily.org) for all matters on this subject, not the least if you're so-called to lead an evangelization team! Let's all live *and share* Christ's call to holiness!

And what sort of team leadership/groups have materialized thus far? **See the next column for details!**

Good news! It's just your interest that's needed right now.

"That's totally doable!" you say? *Great!* And that's what we're looking for: just your interest! (We have intrepid team leaders step up and generous ideas proposed, so surely we can muster the goodwill of our people, right?!)

As noted elsewhere (*e.g., see column to the left*), April 5^{th*} is a day wherein parishioners will go out with the Lord in their hearts, and to encounter him in engaging others, and so invite them to draw closer to the heart of the Savior. (As a refresher to what this might look like, check out the recording from our second soup supper this Lent at stmark.xyz/second)

"Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord!"

Check out the evangelization teams, *and share your interest*, at stmark.xyz/smitp

And keep this venture in your prayers! For the response from the faithful, for those encountered, and for felicitous weather, why not?! We'll trust God to "equip the called," and as goes without saying, more details to follow soon on these most exciting developments!

This is our mission!

MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions for week of **MAR 23, 2025**

7 AM
 M: ---
 T: Sr. Graclet
 W: **Mary & Matt Cecala Family**
 Tr: **John & Elizabeth Harmon +**
 F: ---
 S*: --- (8 AM); Janette Thill + (5:00 PM)

10 AM

Alan & Audrey Koval

Elizabeth Pelzer

BECOME CATHOLIC

Are you interested in learning more about becoming Catholic? Or do you know someone who is? Our Christian Initiation Ministry provides an introduction to Catholic faith and life for adults who are not baptized, baptized in another faith, or Catholics seeking to receive Eucharist or Confirmation. The program cycle begins in the fall, but newcomers should reach out any time! To find out more, contact ocia@onestrongfamily.org. Or sign up at stmark.xyz/cim

FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

FORMED has been back for awhile! Note we REALLY may eventually get around to cleaning up the back end, so if your old credentials don't get you in, it's "not you, it's us." To access content, visit Formed.org and click "Sign up as a parishioner" and find St. Mark's via our zip code: 55104

WE ALSO USE EMAIL

THE BULLETIN IS ONE OF THE MAINSTAYS for Catholic parish communications, but, alas, it's still a limited medium! As such, we also have a weekly newsletter, which, in addition to helping remind you of goings-on, also features vanguard news from the parish, or items not featured in the bulletin! Subscribe to it!



ST. MARK'S PRESCHOOL

ST. MARK'S PRESCHOOL offers full-day and half-day programs, up to five days a week. Enrollment for the upcoming school year is open now! Visit the preschool website, onestrongfamily.org/preschool, or contact Addie Smith, our Preschool Director at:

preschool@onestrongfamily.org
 651-644-5030

ADORATION



Deepen your Lent by making a weekly commitment and take your prayers and self reflection directly to the Lord... Like in His presence.... With him in the room... like really directly to Him! The graces you'll see in your physical life will astound you.

A simple click and you can create an account (stmark.weadorehim.com) and choose from over 100 times throughout the week.



The Church of St. Mark
*Our mission is to live and share
 Christ's call to holiness.*
 Learn more: onestrongfamily.org/mission

Know someone in need of prayers? Email your request to prayers@onestrongfamily.org and we'll be sure to pray for you!

SUPPORT ST. MARK'S

Thank you for your generosity! To donate, visit onestrongfamily.org/give-help.

For questions, contact parishcenter@onestrongfamily.org



ONE STRONG FAMILY UNITED IN CHRIST



How much would you pay for a super smart poster (18" × 24") like the above?

Well, not only is this image free*, in the form of a yard sign, but it could pay‡ to put it up and rep the preschool! Moreover, it could bring more souls under the auspicious influences of the Lord *via St. Mark's*.

And who doesn't want to see that?

While St. Mark's has many occasions for parishioner to be coworkers in the vineyard, this one has the potential for the most outsized impact: effectively putting classy billboards for St. Mark's around the neighborhood. (*So smart! Much ROI!*)

Even if you're not a preschool family, if you have yard (or even window space) to share, **would you put up one of these signs to help boost enrollment?**

If so, you magnanimous heart, you: **act now!** (*Like, right now! Like, Sunday (Mar. 23), if possible: we're ordering them ASAP.*) Let us know your interest at stmark.xyz/greatheart or via the QR code below

* ideally, as with Rummage Sale yard signs that go out for a season, these would be returned to the parish so we can reuse them

‡ as in it could pay St. Mark's and otherwise help us close our challenging financial gap



Fry Volunteer



THINK HOW GOOD THE FISH WILL TASTE AFTER a goodly time of Lenten fasting. And, providentially, our Fish Fry is the last Friday of Lent (Apr 11), so you'll have quite the tailwind! It's all good! And it'll taste even better if you volunteer: stmark.xyz/fryer

If you're waiting for a better time to start mobilizing for this, that was "yesterday." Now is the next best time! **Sign up!**

Help is needed **starting Wednesday, April 9th** and ending **Saturday, April 12th**.



STAFF

Clergy:

Fr. David Hottinger, PES.....Pastor
 frdavid@onestrongfamily.org

Fr. Patrick Evans, PES.....Associate Pastor
 frpatrick@onestrongfamily.org

Fr. Humberto Palomino, PES..... Associate Pastor
 frhumberto@onestrongfamily.org

Parish Staff:

Randy Lehn..... Parish Business Manager
 Br. José Ignacio Rodriguez.....Master of Ceremonies
 Br. Evan Steeves.....Ignite Youth Ministry
 Sr. Julieta Del Carpio, PES.....Faith Formation
 & Ignite Youth Ministry
 Larry Leif.....Head of Maintenance
 Kristen Grant.....Director of Discipleship
 Kathrine Handford.....Director of Music and Organist
 Audrey Koval.....Pastoral Associate
 Gina Brennan.....Administrative Assistant
 Kevin Gearn.....Director of Communications

Parish Contact

2001 Dayton Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104
 Phone.....(651) 645-5717
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 Pastoral emergency line.....(651) 354-9411
 parishcenter@onestrongfamily.org

Parish Trustees: Kip Chaffee, Andrew Nowak

Parish Pastoral Council: Michael Duchesne, Chair

Parish Finance Committee: John Wehrly, Chair

Saint Mark's Catholic Preschool

Addie Smith, Director
 651-644-5030
 preschool@onestrongfamily.org

CELEBRATIONS

Mass:

Saturday Evening Mass: 5 PM
 Sunday Mass: 9 AM and 11 AM

Daily Mass:

Monday-Friday: 10 AM
 Tuesday-Friday: 7 AM
 Saturday: 8 AM

Confession:

Tuesday-Friday: 9:30 AM; Saturday: 3:30-4:30 PM; Sunday:
 8:30-9 AM, 10:30-11 AM

Rosary: The Rosary is prayed after all daily Masses.

Liturgy of the Hours:

Tuesday-Friday: 6:30 PM (Vespers); Saturday: 7:30 AM (Lauds)

SACRAMENTS

Detailed information about Sacraments and Sacramental preparation can be found at onestrongfamily.org/sacraments or by contacting the Parish Center.

BAPTISMS are celebrated on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 10 AM (exceptions for holidays or major parish events). You must register for Baptism at least one month before your desired date. If this is your first child being baptized in the Catholic Church a Baptism preparation class is needed at least two months before the Baptism takes place.

SACRAMENTAL MARRIAGE preparation must begin at least six months prior to your wedding date. Weddings are most often celebrated on Saturdays at 2 PM.

IF YOU KNOW OF A CATHOLIC WHO IS HOMEBOUND and would like to receive weekly Communion or have their confession heard, please contact the Parish Center to learn more about our Homebound Ministry.

RECEIVING THE EUCHARIST: All are welcome to join us in worship at the Church of Saint Mark. Nevertheless, because the Holy Eucharist is the real Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, the reception of Holy Communion is reserved to those Catholics who are in full moral and doctrinal communion with the Catholic Church, are not conscious of any grave unconfessed sin, and who have kept the Eucharistic fast of one hour.

PRO ECCLESIA SANCTA



The Church of Saint Mark is served by the priests, brothers, and sisters of Pro Ecclesia Sancta, which is an institute of consecrated life founded in Lima, Peru in 1992, whose members dedicate themselves to living and promoting the universal call to holiness in the Church. Their motto is *ad maximam trinitatis gloriam*. Everything “for the greatest glory of the Holy Trinity.”

CONNECT



/ChurchofSaintMark



@churchofsaintmark

SAINT MARK, PRAY FOR US!

Catholic Services Appeal (Mar. 30)

CHRISTMAS MAY BE IN JUST 277 DAYS, but now is the time for gift-giving and wishlists! Avid readers of the bulletin will recall that Fr. David devoted his last week's article (stmark.xyz/csarticle) to the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA). We mustn't be myopic when it comes to the Catholic faith: the Heart of Jesus longs to touch those outside of Merriam Park, to extend mercy, to give grace, to form, save, and establish many, many souls. And that work takes resources: prayers, *but also funds!*

Check out who's helped by the CSA!

- Catholic Elementary Schools subsidies and scholarships
- Saint John Vianney College Seminary room and board
- Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW)
- Campus Ministry – St. Lawrence-Newman Center
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Twin Cities
- The Saint Paul Seminary room and board
- Catholic High School Scholarships
- American Indian Ministry
- Marriage, Family and Life
- Young Adult Ministry
- Venezuelan Mission
- Hospital Chaplains
- Catholic Charities
- Latino Ministry
- Prison Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Evangelization
- Deaf Ministry
- Elevate Life
- Parishes

This is the Lord's Church and it's active! A generous response is asked of each parish, with the request being made of St. Mark's as \$30,000. We'll have a special collection next Sunday (Mar. 30), though you're free to give whenever at hope.archspm.org (make sure to note your parish affiliation as St. Mark's!).

But don't just make this a perfunctory, cold give: people don't live on the bare material necessities, alone. Make this food for prayer, why don't you?





Open Hearts 2025

Young Women's Discernment Day

for young women in high school, college, & beyond

9:00 AM-4:30 PM
SAT MAR 29, 2025

What is Open Hearts?

A day for young women to come together, be immersed in what it means to discern God's call, and get to know women in religious and consecrated life.

Featuring:

- Keynote Talks
- Quality Time with Religious Sisters
- Question and Answer Panel
- Community, Prayer, and Reflection
- Mass, Food, and More

\$30/person (includes all food & drinks)

Register Today

dowr.my.canva.site/openhearts









Hosted at:
St. Thomas More Newman Center
1502 Warren St, Mankato



ABORTION IS STILL NOT UNTHINKABLE, and, moreover, it's still legally sanctioned (*sad!*), so there's another campaign of 40 Days for Life this Lent! St. Mark's and Nativity are taking **Apr. 07**, and our priests will


lead prayer an hour (1 PM) on **Mar. 30**. Sign up for an hour at stmark.xyz/40Q1 and perhaps next Lent no campaign will be relevant!

AN INTRO TO THE
ST. JOSEPH
BUSINESS GUILD

MAR 25
@ 6:30 PM

PIZZA
@ 7:00 PM

PRESENTATION
@ 7:30 PM



Enjoy your delicious moments!

1983
DAYTON AVE
ST. PAUL, MN

RSVP @ SJBUSINESSGUILD.COM

Note there is additional intro session Mar. 28!