

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | JANUARY 07, 2024



THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK | [www.onestrongfamily.org](http://www.onestrongfamily.org)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*In a refreshing change of pace, the yeoman's work of copywriting for this Sunday's bulletin comes care of our pastor (thanks, Fr. David!) and nothing of value was lost by the editor writing less. Prepare to be stirred to action, dear reader!*

**2024 IS YOUR YEAR! EVEN IF YOU MISSED THE MARK FOR THE FIRST SIX DAYS OF IT**, you've still got ~99% of the year ahead to be dedicated totally to God (bonus: it's a leap year)! So get to it! Especially in this year, let's keep extra vigil of prayer, so be audacious with your visits to the Adoration chapel! Visit **stmark.weadorehim.com**

**BUT PLAN YOUR ROUTE ACCORDINGLY** SINCE this next week the men of PES will be probing the depths of scripture out in California, so there will not be 7:00 AM weekday Mass nor the 7:00 PM Parish Holy Hour.

**EXODUS 90 STARTED JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>!** But, don't think you've missed the boat, Men of the Parish! Fr. Patrick (frpatrick@onestrongfamily.org) still wants you to join (for your own Exodus~84 or what-have-you)! **Nothing ventured, nothing gained!**

**NEW YEAR, NEW (TO YOU) HOUSE** on the horizon? If you're looking to move closer to (or farther from but you live close to) the parish, then we want to hear from you to connect potential buyers and sellers since, ceteris paribus, we want as many St. Mark parishioners living near the parish as we can! Visit **onestrongfamily.org/house** for more info!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>THUR</b> <b>18</b> <b>JAN</b>	<i>Supper at Emmaus   5:30 PM - 8:00 PM   Carolyn Hall, Church</i> Experience what the world cannot give! It's that extra-special St. Mark's institution, featuring a potluck dinner (5:30 PM), a dynamic presentation given by one of our venerable pastors (6:00 PM), and then candlelit adoration with beautiful musical accompaniment and opportunity for Confession. Imagine the hall and church packed and then do your part to go manifest that vision! (YA crowd will be hitting up Groveland Tap immediately following the Holy Hour.)
<b>SUN</b> <b>21</b> <b>JAN</b>	<i>New Parishioner Lunch   After the 11:00 AM Mass   Community Room</i> New-ish to the parish since January of 2023? And you've not attended a New Parishioner Lunch? <b>NOT EVEN RSVPED TO THE NEW PARISHIONER LUNCH?!</b> Don't deprive the staff and fellow new-to-the-parish(ioners) and their families of sharing this initiation meal with you! They're absolutely wonderful occasions, so no false modesty: <b>head over to stmark.xyz/lunch and RSVP!</b>
<b>SUN</b> <b>21</b> <b>JAN</b>	<i>Think &amp; Drink   2:00 - 4:30 PM   Carolyn Hall</i> Dr. Robert Kennedy will be presenting on joining the rigors of theology with the practical challenges of being a professional out there in "the world." A good time will be had by all: though the YA crowd is running the show, the invite is flung wide to adults of the parish!
<b>WED</b> <b>24</b> <b>JAN</b>	<i>CCW Meeting   1:00 - 3:00 PM   Community Room</i> Open to all women of the parish! We will be reviewing how the Christmas Boutique and Giving Tree went and making plans for the upcoming Family Game and Pizza night (which will now be on February 3 <sup>rd</sup> 5:30-9:30 in the School Cafeteria, rescheduled due to the Swing Dance).

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. 3: *Adoration*



Ask yourself: what are the best things you could wish for those you love the most? How would you feel if you were able to give them those things, but they rejected the gift?

For Jesus, those “good things” are: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. “There is one alone who is good: God” (Mt 19:17). To those whom He “loved to the end,” He promised, “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.” (Jn 14:23). And in Luke’s Gospel: “I have come to set the world on fire,” He said, referring to the fire of His Heart, “and how I wish it were already burning!” (Lk 12:49) Or again, “How much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Lk 11:13).

Unfortunately, many are not interested in asking for or receiving the Gift. At several places in the Gospels, Jesus witnesses to the great bitterness this rejection causes Him: “I came that they might have life, and have it more abundantly,” He declared, “But you do not want to come to me to have life.” (Jn 10:10, 5:40). And when many of His disciples decided to abandon Him, He complained to the Twelve, “Don’t you also want to leave?” (Jn 6:67) The gall Jesus tasted on the Cross was only a symbol of the bitter cup He drank all His life, on account of the fact that “He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him” (Jn 1:11).

Now, the vehicle by which Jesus prefers to deliver to us the abundant life of the Trinity is the Eucharist. “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day” (Jn 6:54). How it must delight His Heart when a person frequents that mystery! Yet how it must pain Him when we neglect it. “Could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray!” “Take and eat!” (Mt 26:40-41, 26).

Now, a parish can’t always be receiving this gift by participating in the Sacrifice of the Mass or receiving Holy Communion. But it is certainly possible that as a parish family we always or nearly always be “receiving” the gift of Our Lord’s presence in the Eucharist through adoration. How eager are we to receive that gift? To be set on fire? To console His heart? To abide with Him? Look no further

than our adoration commitment page. That is the gauge.

Unfortunately, at present our eagerness is waxing weak. Most hours only have one committed adorer. Some have none.

*Why do I need to commit to an hour?* What’s wrong with dropping in when it works for my schedule? Nothing wrong with that. But it’s because of committed adorers that the chapel is open in the first place. Drop-in adoration for the many is made possible by the sacrifice of relatively few.

*Why keep the chapel open at night, when the rest of the world is sleeping?* Why require that sacrifice? For one, on account of spiritual combat. Lest we forget it, the Church is always engaged in a battle to the death “against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness” (Eph 6:12). I assure you, the devil does not sleep! Just like Moses, who kept his hands raised in prayer as Joshua battled the Amalekites (Ex 17), one who generously enlists for nocturnal adoration will obtain for our parish family graces to overcome those temptations and evil spirits who prowl about especially in the nighttime hours. Second, just as Jesus called His closest friends to console Him in His agony by their presence and prayer, so He longs to have His faithful friends with Him still when everyone else has abandoned Him. And He rewards them with special graces, even if their prayer is a constant struggle to simply keep awake!

(Regarding nighttime hours, I have to say: men at the parish, the women are putting us to shame! For hours between 10pm and 5am, female adorers outnumber male 3:1. Should not the men be taking these “watches” rather than leaving them to our sisters, who run greater risks at those hours?)

Finally, what to do if a weekly hour is too much for my family? The wise men did not commit to the journey alone. I encourage all of you who do not have a regular hour to find your team of “magi”. Team up with 1-3 others. Rotate if needed. Split an hour into halves. Swap when necessary. Do whatever it takes to enable yourself to make that commitment to “receive” Jesus and the eternal life He so longs to share regularly, and to provide others with the opportunity to stumble into that stable that is our adoration chapel and discover the Treasure you are helping to keep open and available at every hour.

## FROM THE PASTOR TO THE ONE STRONG FAMILY UNITED IN CHRIST

### The Administrative Assistant and the Pastoral Associate

"I am aware that many parishioners have never darkened the doors of 1976 Dayton Avenue, a.k.a. the St. Mark's Parish Center. But those who have come over during office hours have surely had their day brightened by the smile of our senior lay staff member, Audrey Koval.

Since late 2021 (and just after joining the parish herself) Audrey has served St. Mark's in the capacity of Office Manager. What exactly that title meant was, I think, intentionally ambiguous. Thanks to her capability and general helpfulness, and the fact that our whole office staff turned over after her hire, Ms. Koval quickly became the go-to person for just about everything: problem with the door programming? Call Audrey. Setting up online giving? Audrey will know how. Mass intention? Flower delivery? Event permit or Baptismal certificate needed? Office Manager to the rescue. If "Front Office Lady" or "Everything Person" were official titles, perhaps those would have been better options for her name plate.

In recognition of her stellar work, and to better align her position with her gifts, as of this January 1st, Audrey is being promoted to Pastoral Associate. As this new title hopefully conveys, her focus now will be helping the clergy in *caring for the people of our parish*. Don't worry, she will still be the Front Desk Young Lady and first responder when it comes to receiving with kindness those who reach out to St. Mark's by email, phone, or in person. But she will also be (officially) responsible now for providing administrative support for those preparing to receive sacraments, ensuring

that our homebound and institutionalized members are cared for by coordinating the pastoral care ministry, and looking after the parish family as a whole in the areas of parishioner engagement & member care, which cover everything from administrative support for all-parish events, new parishioner onboarding, and making sure the pastor sends out those nice mailings each Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. And, most likely, a whole lot of other duties as assigned or assumed.

Please join me in congratulating Audrey next time you see her, and showing our appreciation for all the ways she keeps our One Strong Family running. I also want to thank Gina Brennan, whose presence in the Business Office has made this transition possible. Gina is now your go-to person for event scheduling and room rental, programming doors and fobs, accounts receivable and payable, and donations. And if you have any questions about any of this, I recommend asking Audrey, she'll know!" And, most likely, a whole lot of other duties as assigned or assumed.

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### Just how generous was the response to the "Rebuild Our Church" Appeal?

"Dear parishioners,

I owe you all a word of gratitude as we march into the New Year. Checks are still coming in, but as of this Wednesday we have received just shy of \$60,000 in contributions towards the Rebuild Our Church appeal, exactly twice our stated goal. If we include \$8,000 in seed money given by a parish family towards the same project this past fall, that puts us at a total of \$68K. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion, praise your God!

The 'excess' giving is much appreciated, not only because it is a proof of our parishioner's generous love for our beautiful church

and desire to see it restored, but also because, as many of you know, projects like these can easily end up costing much more than initially expected. Your generosity will give us, I think, a healthy cushion, and may enable us to expand the scope of work if that proves optimal.

Of course, this is merely "Part 1" of a series of anticipated face lifts. Some floor tiles popped loose at the Mass this Monday, reminding us that there are "mountains beyond mountains" for us to climb together. Rejoice with me that we have a parish community ready to climb those together with the grace of God!"

## MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions for week of JAN 07, 2024

### 7 AM

M: ---  
T: ---  
W: ---  
Tr: ---  
F: ---  
S\*: + Lang Vu

### 10 AM

Benedictine Oblates  
Lauren Groppetti  
+ Frank Stumpf  
+ Matthew Monette  
Deborah Ann Sacramo

## 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. Meetings began Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room. To find out more, contact [rcia@onestrongfamily.org](mailto:rcia@onestrongfamily.org). Or sign up at [stmark.xyz/cim](http://stmark.xyz/cim)

## FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

EVERY MEMBER of our St. Mark's community can enjoy a free subscription to [formed.org](http://formed.org), the incredible online gateway to the best Catholic content, all in one place! With FORMED, you can:

- Prepare for Sunday Mass by watching an insightful five-minute video by renowned Catholic teachers.
- Enjoy a movie with your family that is both nourishing and entertaining.
- Find great e-books and audio books
- Listen to talks from all your favorites, like Dr. Edward Sri, Bishop Robert Barron, Teresa Tomeo, and more.
- Help your children grow in character and embrace the beauty and wonder of our faith.

To access content, visit [Formed.org](http://Formed.org) and click "Sign up as a parishioner" and find St. Mark's via our zip code: **55104**

## 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 pre-school website, [onestrongfamily.org/preschool](http://onestrongfamily.org/preschool), or contact Amie Iwaskowicz, our Preschool Director at:

[preschool@onestrongfamily.org](mailto:preschool@onestrongfamily.org)  
651-644-5030

## ADORATION



*"To place the Eucharist at the centre of the life of the Church and at the centre of our lives is to place the encounter with Christ before all else, to be with Him, identifying Him in that extraordinary sacramental presence which precedes and excels all other forms of the presence of the Lord. And the Eucharist transforms us. In particular, Eucharistic Adoration becomes union."*  
- Bishop Gino Reali of Porto Santa Rufina, Italy

We are so thankful to the many Adorers who commit to spending an hour (or more!) with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at our Adoration chapel. **We continue to have COUNTLESS hours which need to be filled each week.** A number of our long-time Adorers are unable to continue and we need your help!

Make your Advent a special time of prayer this year. Visit [stmark.weadorehim.com](http://stmark.weadorehim.com), log-in and choose your adoration commitment. Questions? Email [adoration@onestrongfamily.org](mailto:adoration@onestrongfamily.org)



## DONATE TO ST. MARK'S

Thank you for your generosity! To donate, visit [onestrongfamily.org/give-help](http://onestrongfamily.org/give-help). For questions, contact [parishcenter@onestrongfamily.org](mailto:parishcenter@onestrongfamily.org)





## MINISTRIES

## Supper at Emmaus (Jan 18)



## SUPPER AT EMMAUS

Join us for a potluck dinner in Carolyn Hall at 5:30pm  
January 18th, April 18th, and May 16th

**It's SO BACK!** It's the stuff of legends! It's Emmaus + Supper at Emmaus! And the first supper is nigh, so don't miss out on hallowing your Thursday evening with good food, moving fervorinos, and candlelit prayer before the Blessed Sacrament! Would that everynight was Supper at Emmaus!

NEW PARISHIONER  
LUNCH

JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>  
AFTER 11 AM MASS

**AND DON'T DECEIVE YOURSELF** into thinking that St. Mark's is all lunches and dinners. You have to seize these moments lest they be lost forever to the current of time. So while you can still be considered a new(-ish) parishioner, make sure you attend a New Parishioner Lunch! **RSVP at [stmark.xyz/lunch](https://stmark.xyz/lunch)** if you're new as of Jan. 2023 and have not attended this initiation!

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



**JANUARY 27, 2024**  
**3:00-4:30PM**  
**ST. MARK'S CAMPUS**

**Men of the parish, unite for Exodus 90!**



**LIKE IT OR NOT, THE WORLD IS A BIG "CLASS" CONFLICT!** But we wrestle not with flesh and blood, (*and definitely not with the "owners" or the "workers"*) but with the powers and principalities of this world. So take up spiritual arms of fraternity, self-denial, and prayer with the Exodus 90 crew! Even now, the door is being kept open for you!

Contact Fr. Patrick ([frpatrick@onestrongfamily.org](mailto:frpatrick@onestrongfamily.org)) to join! You have nothing to lose but your [spiritual] chains!

## STAFF

**Clergy:**

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

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

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

**Parish Staff:**

Randy Lehn..... Parish Business Manager  
 Br. José Ignacio Rodriguez.....Master of Ceremonies  
 Br. Evan Steeves.....Ignite Youth Ministry  
 Sr. Leann Luecke, PES.....Ignite Youth Ministry  
 Sr. Maddy Elking, PES.....Faith Formation  
 & Ignite Youth Ministry

Larry Leif.....Head of Maintenance  
 Patricia Hartshorn..... Volunteer Liturgy Coordinator  
 Kristen Grant.....Director of Mission  
 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

Fax .....(651) 644-0011

*Pastoral* emergency line.....(651) 354-9411

parishcenter@onestrongfamily.org

**Parish Center Hours**

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Friday: 9 AM - 12 PM (Noon)

**Parish Trustees:** Kip Chaffee, Andrew Nowak

**Parish Pastoral Council:** Colleen Beatty, Chair

**Parish Finance Committee:** John Wehrly, Chair

**Saint Mark's Catholic Preschool**

Amie Iwaszkowicz, 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

## SACRAMENTS

Detailed information about Sacraments and Sacramental preparation can be found at [onestrongfamily.org/sacraments](http://onestrongfamily.org/sacraments) or by contacting the Parish Center.

**BAPTISMS** are celebrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



HAVE ANY PICS OF ST. MARK'S GOINGS-ON? SHARE AT [SUBMISSIONS@ONESTRONGFAMILY.ORG](mailto:SUBMISSIONS@ONESTRONGFAMILY.ORG)

## Preschool Teacher Position

**IF YOU LOVE WORKING WITH PRESCHOOLERS**, are self motivated, and want to work with an amazing staff St Mark's Preschool is looking to hire a part time afternoon teacher to love, teach, shape, and mold our fantastic preschoolers.

If you are interested and would like to talk to more about this position please contact Amie at [aiwaszkowicz@onestrongfamily.org](mailto:aiwaszkowicz@onestrongfamily.org) or 651-644-5030

## Women's Workout Nights (Mondays)

**COME GET FUN NIGHTS OF MOVEMENT INTO YOUR LIFE FOR THE NEW YEAR!** ALL women of the parish are welcome to come (and friends too!) to Monday workout nights at 8:00 PM in the school gym. The January and February schedule is set for:

Jan 15 Rosemarie-Shine Dance Fitness

Jan 29 Leah-Pilates

Feb 12 Leah- Pilates

Feb 26 Rosemarie-Shine Dance Fitness

A new schedule of workouts beginning in March will be announced at a later date. Any questions? Email [rosemariemw@gmail.com](mailto:rosemariemw@gmail.com) with questions about Shine Dance Fitness or [leahannamundson@gmail.com](mailto:leahannamundson@gmail.com) with questions about Pilates.

## Miriam Dinner with Archbishop Hebda

**ARCHBISHOP BERNARD A. HEBDA**, Bishop Michael Izen and Fr. David Blume, Director of Vocations, invite women, ages 16 – 35, who are discerning consecrated life to join them for a dinner event called the Miriam Dinner. Each Miriam Dinner includes an evening of prayer, dinner and conversation with consecrated women who come and share their vocation testimonies and answer questions about consecrated life. Register before January 19<sup>th</sup> at [10000vocations.org/miriam-dinner](http://10000vocations.org/miriam-dinner)

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

## A plea and a prayer for Adoration!

"... for my house shall be called the house of prayer, for all nations."  
-Is 56: 7

**COME  
LET US  
ADORE  
HIM**

Commit to an hour a week  
in your "home away from home"

[stmark.weadorehim.com](http://stmark.weadorehim.com)

Lord Jesus,

We can't thank You enough for the way You have chosen to remain with Your Church and nourish her as You prolong Your saving sacrifice in the Holy Eucharist.

We want to be good stewards of this Gift. We want to love You well and receive from Your beating Heart the overflow of grace You are so eager to share. We want others to have the chance to find You too, and come to know You and love You in Your Eucharistic presence.

Make us true adorers. Make us those wise eagles who gather lovingly around Your Body. Teach us to adore You truly. Lead us to visit You frequently. Help us to abide in Your presence with living faith, to pour out our troubles hearts before You, and to console Your Most Sacred Heart with our humble attentiveness. Make Eucharistic Adoration flourish at our parish. Bless and protect all our adorers. Anoint and empower their prayers with Your Spirit.

And attract more souls to discover this hidden Treasure, fall in love with It, and prize It above all else.

For You are worthy of all praise, honor, and thanksgiving, forever and ever. Amen.