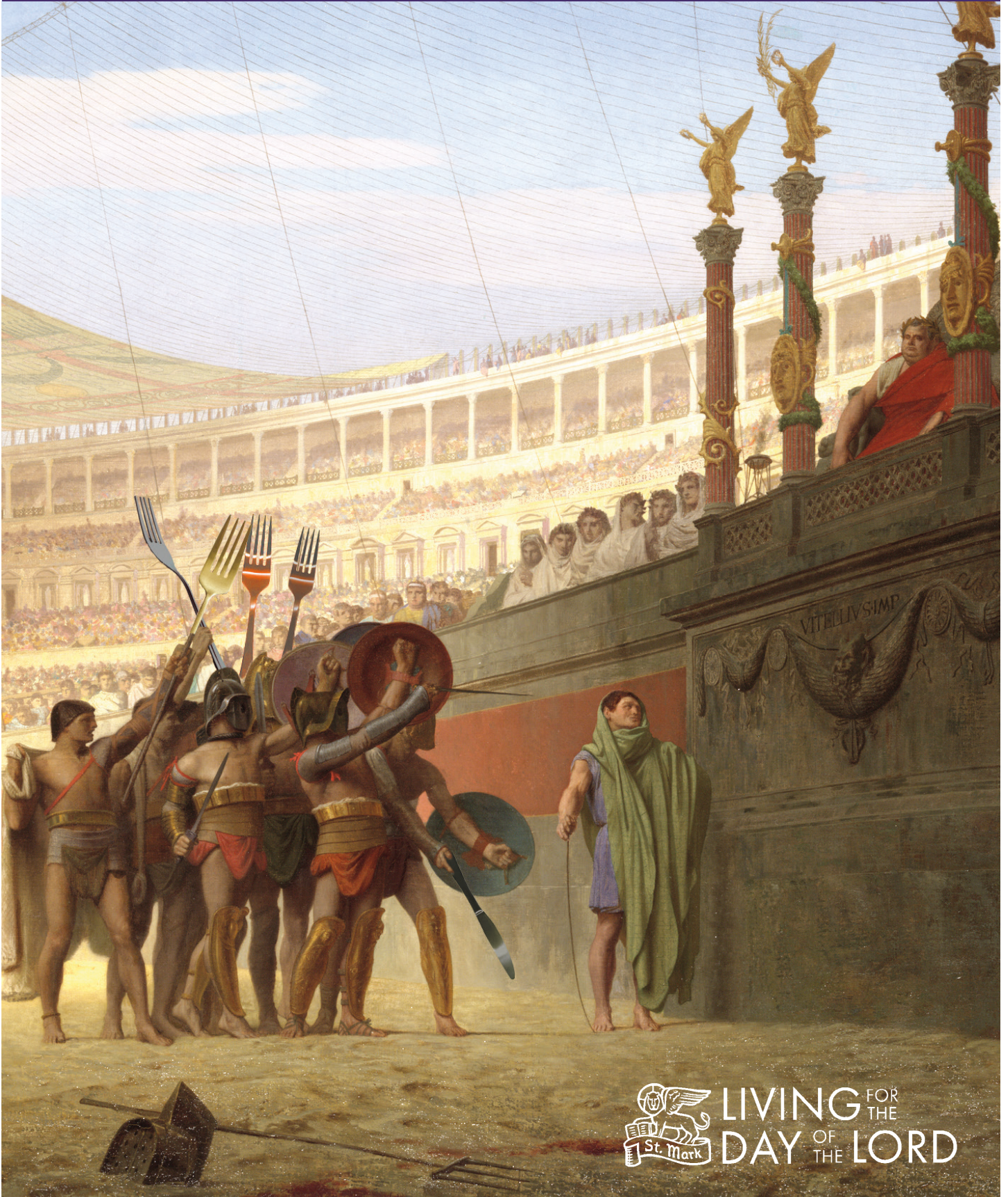


FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT | MARCH 22, 2026



 LIVING FOR THE
DAY OF THE LORD

THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK | www.onestrongfamily.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To those about to fry, we salute you! As fine art is usually the staple for our cover, this weekend's cover image is an ever so small edit — as a tip of the hat to our Annual Fish Fry[ers] — of Jean-Léon Gérôme's "Ave Caesar! Morituri te salutant (Hail Caesar! We Who Are About to Die Salute You)." The editor leaves it to the discerning reader to figure out what was edited in the image. (Less discerning readers please ask more discerning readers.)

Enroll now for the 2026 - 2027 school year! Set your child up for success at St. Mark's Preschool. Our experienced teachers craft engaging, play-based lessons that enhance cognitive, social-emotional, physical, and language development, which foster creativity and inspire a lifelong love of learning. saintmarkspreschool.org

And St. Mark's Preschool is *still* seeking a loving, energetic, and compassionate individual to **sub from April 7th-April 24th** with opportunities to sub throughout the school year and summer as well. Individuals must be available from 12:00pm-6:00pm each day. Please reach out to asmith@onestrongfamily.org with inquiries.

We'd love to see a thoroughly Catholic Merriam Park, whether by multiplication, evangelization, invitation, or immigration. And to further facilitate the last item, don't neglect St. Mark's home buyer initiative, matching interested neighborhood sellers with potential parishioner-buyers! stmark.xyz/house has more details!

Solo priest mode activated for this upcoming Sunday (Mar 29), and, given that it's Palm Sunday (yes, already), **Sunday Confessions will be heard from 8:15 - 8:45 AM only.**

The Solemnity of the Annunciation is March 25th. It does not rise to the level of a Holy Day of Obligation, believe it or not, but you should really consider making something special of it. Mass times are at 7:00 and 10:00 AM.

A helpful and due reminder: stretch a bit more in overseeing your child's conduct in the small gym. We have an accredited preschool, subject to surprise inspections, and a handicap entrance/exit that we have to maintain. Help your children be vigilant by not obstructing the entrance/exit door of the small gym, as well as cleaning up when done and removing broken toys (please place them "in the hallway between the 'gym' space and the bathrooms"). While this message *is* particularly apt to the [mis]conduct of the editor's children, nevertheless/believe-it-or-not, it wasn't *just* addressed to him, so there must be merit in sharing this housekeeping memo with the greater parish.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**SUN
22
MAR**

Twin Cities Community Gathering | 4:00 - 6:00 PM | Carolyn Hall

Anyone and everyone (especially couples/families) is invited to hit up the Twin Cities Community Gathering of the Wojtyla Community & Institute at 4:00 PM in Carolyn Hall for a potluck dinner and presentation! Community! RSVP at stmark.xyz/tccg

**WED
25
MAR**

40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil Day | 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM | Planned Parenthood (671 Vandalia St.)

While the scourge of abortion endures, there are few days more fitting to pray for its immediate end and for an outpouring of mercy than the Solemnity of the Annunciation! Adopt an hour of prayer and witness by visiting stmark.xyz/40days

**FRI
27
MAR**

Annual Fish Fry | 5:00 - 7:00 PM | Cafeteria

Meals are available in adult and child sizes. The adult meal offers freshly battered and fried fish, mac & cheese, coleslaw, cookie, and drink. The child meal has fish, choice of mac & cheese or coleslaw, cookie, and drink. Meals are \$12 for adult, \$9 for child, \$40 for family of 4, and \$60 for family of 6. Kids 4 and under eat free! Volunteers for the fry can also volunteer, *for free*, by going to stmark.xyz/fryer

March 22 - 5th Sunday



Last week we looked at donuts. Particularly, the marvelous manner by which investing in those “frosted energy wheels” has so helped to incorporate and build up the living stones of our parish. With the capital

campaign underway, I should also say a word about the more enduring investments which also cry out for our attention, that we might better receive and gather that growing body of Christ.

As announced earlier this month, the Archdiocese is asking St. Mark’s to raise \$760,000 in the *Lord, Renew Your Church* campaign, now underway. That’s our parish’s share of the \$250 million that the campaign seeks to generate for the local Church. Given the 60/40 initial split of funds, \$456,000 of our goal is to be destined towards capital projects at our parish, and the remaining \$304,000 is our contribution to the Archdiocesan-wide projects (to wit: Catholic schools, caring for priests, renovating the Cathedral/Basilica, and a rainy-day fund for disaster relief).

From among the many capital projects we could choose from, our parish’s share of its campaign funds have been designated for the following: the renovation of our bell tower and steeple (roof and brick work), the replacement of the floor in our church, and setting up a fund for parish families who encounter extraordinary financial needs.

As of writing, after roughly three months of campaigning, forty-six parish families have pledged \$725,800 dollars towards the campaign. If three verbal commitments totalling \$17.5K are added to the tally, that brings us to 97.8% of our goal. (*Who will be that lucky 50th or 51st household to push us over the threshold?*). This is incredible. I suppose I should be the last person to be surprised by the generosity of the people at this parish. But I will admit to being somewhat guarded in my expectations of success. “*This is a small parish,*” I thought as I sat in my pastor’s thinking chair, “*with a lot of young people still in school or just beginning their careers or raising large,*

hungry and often sickly families, who are already being so generous at the parish and beyond... how can we possibly ask for more?”

Well, we have been asking, and you all *have* been giving, and in a measure that is as moving as it is humbling.

When the thermometer hits 100°, mission accomplished, right? Not quite. Early estimates for the floor project put the expected cost (new high altar included) in the ballpark of \$315,000-415,000. The quotes for the bell tower and steeple run about \$315K. Add in the \$45.6K that will go to start the family-fund, and we are looking at about \$675-775K needed to fully fund our case statement. So 100% from the Archdiocese’s standpoint is not really 100% for our needs.

Thus, as astounding as we have done already, it would astound all more for another fifty households to pledge. And imagine if all the remaining ~250 active parish households did so! All the more so since 80% of the next \$380K we raise beyond our goal goes to St. Mark’s, and 90% of the *next* 380K. This means that if we hit 150% of our goal, \$760K goes to the parish... enough to fund our projects at the upper-limit of their current estimates. If by chance we hit 200% (not out of the question considering that only about 20% of the parish have made a decision about their participation)... \$1.1M goes to the parish, and 100% of all funds raised beyond that as well.

As a Caribbean adage goes, “There are mountains beyond mountains.” In the past three years, we have scaled the ascending foothills of the West Wall Project (\$74K), the stained glass window work (\$280K raised), and are on the point of reaching the false summit of our capital campaign (minimum) goal. What mountains lie beyond? As you all see better than I do on Sundays, the plaster and paint in the sanctuary needs repair (hopefully a relatively low peak), but then, looming in the not-to-distant distance, *the lower church*, which has such tremendous potential as an event space (with modern multi-stall bathrooms!) and a backup worship space, but currently lies fallow. But that will require a fundraising campaign that quadruples the current one or more. And so, *verso l’alto*, my people!

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

CELEBRATE WITH US THE **HOLY TRIDUUM** & EASTER SUNDAY

HOLY THURSDAY (APR 02)

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper @ 7:00 PM
Altar of Repose after Mass until Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (APR 03)

Stations of the Cross & Confessions @ 3:00 PM
Liturgy @ 7:00 - 8:30 PM

HOLY SATURDAY (APR 04)

Easter Vigil Mass @ 9:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY (APR 05)

ONE COMBINED MASS @ 10:00 AM



ONESTRONGFAMILY.ORG

Drogo Day (Mar 14/15-ish... now 22)

To help us Live for the Day of the Lord, we should **Stay Awake for the Day of the Lord!** To this end, we're blessed with a rich Lord's Day Coffee & Donuts ministry, dubbed "Team Drogo," after the supposed patron saint of coffee. As Father noted in last Sunday's bulletin article, it's been a pillar of community building and intergenerational fellowship. It's the premiere parishioner-to-parishioner watering hole offering at the parish. And St. Mark's is an outlier in the Catholic community in how frequently we have Coffee & Donuts.

But, while it's rich in fruits, it's **perpetually red on the balance sheet**. For FY 2025, our cost for donuts was ~\$250 per weekend, and recently we had to stomach a 22% increase in costs (although, through some expeditious initiative, our new supplier, *La Boulangerie Marguerite* has brought donut costs down to ~\$200 per week). **But for FY 2025, we were short ~70% of the donations needed to cover our expenses.**

We've gotta get creative about funding! So, this "Drogo Day," please [re]commit to supporting this ministry! (St. Drogo's birthday is supposedly March 14th, though a celebration that weekend was providentially prohibited due to snow. So now we're making it March 22nd.) Give generously (stmark.xyz/doughnate); the *encouragement* per week has been \$3 per individual, \$5 per family!

"But wait, there's more!"

In the spirit of our year's Living for the Day of the Lord theme, we're doing a **limited** run of novelty "Stay Awake for the Day of the Lord" items to foster devotion and bridge the gap between parish church and domestic church... if you stretch your donation a bit from the above: a *Karol Coffee*, freshly roasted for-us blend (\$23 donation), and some primo mugs (care of *Prodigal Pottery*; \$25 donation,). Throw a few extra shekels toward fueling yourself and C&D!

And please support the businesses that support our Coffee & Donuts culture (and let 'em know you're a St. Mark's parishioner)!



You're invited to the annual

FISH FRY

\$12 for adult, \$9 for child, \$40 for family of 4, and \$60 for family of 6. **Kids 4 and under eat free!**



MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions for week of MARCH 22, 2026

7 AM
M: ***
T: Laura Shrake
W: Alan & Audrey Koval
Tr: Ron E. Anderson +
F: Belen Sy

10 AM

 Suzanne Marlowe +
 Margaret Elhart +
 Lucy Simones & Family
 Fr. David Hottinger

Sa: Fount of the Merciful Lamb Household (8 AM); Pamela Donohoe (5 PM)
Su: Pro Populo (9 AM)

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

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. Visit the preschool website, saintmarkspreschool.org, or contact Addie Smith, our Preschool Director at:

preschool@onestrongfamily.org
 651-644-5030

ADORATION



2026 is nigh on a quarter of the way done: what are you waiting for to sign up for adoration?! (5/16ths of the year?!) Commit to an hour of adoration!

A simple click and you can create an account (stmark.



weadorehim.com) and choose from over 100 times throughout the week.

Can't cover a whole hour, regularly? We also have a team-builder initiative where you can be matched with other adorers to adore in rotation! Share your interest and availability via stmark.xyz/team

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

New Parishioner Series



One strong family united in Christ. This is one of our core values here at the Church of Saint Mark. Whether you are young or old, married or single, the parish community is here to support you and encourage you as you pursue sainthood.

We are blessed to have new members joining our parish and we'd like to introduce them to our parish family here. If you see them around the parish, please introduce yourself too!

Meet Isabelle and Ryan Leriche! Ryan and Isabelle are both from Oregon, but they met at church in San Francisco. They moved to the Cedar Riverside neighborhood in Minnesota from San Francisco so that Ryan could complete his MD/PhD program at the U of M.

Isabelle is doing her Masters in Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas while also being a long-term Theology sub at the Academy of Holy Angels. In Isabelle's free time you'll find her reading, baking, and running. Her favorite books are by C.S. Lewis, Oscar Wilde, and Dostoevsky. Ryan enjoys reading as well, and in addition to Dostoevsky and C.S. Lewis, he loves learning more about science and anything about the brain. Together they enjoy going on walks, playing board games, and soccer.

A friend told them about Saint Mark's when they moved to Minnesota, and after visiting, they decided to stay for the crying babies at the 9:00 a.m. :). They love how intentionally everything is done and how multigenerational the community feels.

This season they are most looking forward to visiting family in Oregon as well as having them visit Minnesota. Also, for spring to return!

Welcome to the parish Isabelle and Ryan!

40 Days for Life (Mar 25)

St. Mark's is teaming up with Nativity of Our Lord for the Spring 40 Days for Life campaign! Our next prayer vigil day is March 25th, from 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM! **Sign up at stmark.xyz/40days**

"Your Sorrow Shall be Turned into Joy"
CRS HYMNS AND LESSONS
Dr. David Jenkins, Organist
Reflection by Archbishop Hebda

TUESDAY, MARCH 24 • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Church of St. Thomas More, St. Paul

Join us for an evening of hymns and reflection to learn about the CRS impact from local leaders who have experienced CRS's work firsthand. The evening will take us through a reflection of God's grace in accompanying us through sorrow while leading us to abundant joy.



There will be a free-will offering for CRS Rice Bowl during this event.
Refreshments will follow.

CCW Funds

Every year the St. Mark's Council of Catholic Women raise \$30-40,000. Please submit your requests or suggestions to them on where to send the funds! **Respond by April 7th at stmark.xyz/funds or using the accompanying QR code.**



Entering into Holy Week

All young adult women are welcome to join us for a **MINI-RETREAT** in prepare for Holy Week!

March 28th | 9:00am-12:30pm
Sacred Heart of Jesus Convent

RSVP here

STAFF

Clergy:

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

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

Parish Staff:

Randy Lehnen..... Parish Business Manager
Sr. Daniela Ormeno, PES.....Faith Formation
& Ignite Youth Ministry

Annamarie Adkins.....Youth Ministry Program Assistant

Larry Leif.....Head of Maintenance

Kristen Grant.....Director of Discipleship

Kathrine Handford.....Director of Music and Organist

Audrey Koval.....Pastoral Associate
& Safe Environment Coordinator

Gina Brennan.....Administrative Assistant

Kevin Kearns.....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 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

UPDATE YOUR INFO



Need to be added to or have your info updated in our new digital directory? Don't have access to it but you would like to? Have other operative questions thereto? All that and more can be found on the

parish website using the QR code to the left.

CONNECT



/ChurchofSaintMark



@churchofsaintmark

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 Saturdays (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."

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

WOJTYŁA COMMUNITY & INSTITUTE

TWIN CITIES COMMUNITY GATHERING

Join us for an evening of prayer, fellowship, and discussion on marriage and family life according to Saint John Paul II's Rule for Married Couple Groups. Bring a potluck dish to share!

Sunday, March 22nd
Church of St. Mark

4-6pm in Carolyn Hall

Speakers: Peter and Theresa Martin; authors of *The Rule*; St. John Paul II's Rule for a Joy-Filled Marriage of Divine Love

We are a family of families; all stages of life are welcome. Childcare is provided. RSVP: stmarkxyz/tccg



Leading With Faith Awards (May 01)

Last chance!: nominate by end-of-the-day March 22! Surely someone you know is eligible for the 2026 Leading With Faith Awards! Instituted by the Archdiocese in 2003 and now managed by the St. Joseph Business Guild, these are about lifting up exemplary faith-driver leaders and laborers in our archdiocese, so we can all profit from their examples of innovation, business growth, entrepreneurship, community impact, and/or collaboration & partnership. The awards show will be May 1st, 6:00 PM, at St. Patrick's in Edina. **Nominate at sjbusinessguild.org/lwf**



**3:00 PM on Saturday,
May 02, at the
St. Joseph's Fair in Edina**



An event offering material support (via cash prizes and crowdfunding), advertising and exposure, and encouragement to budding projects being undertaken by the faithful in our community.

Visit sjbusinessguild.org/saintly-ventures

Applications are required by Apr 05.

Holy Relationships Conference (Mar 28)

In a world marked by confusion, isolation, and broken relationships, the Holy Relationships Conference (Mar 28) offers something profoundly hopeful: an occasion to explore the theological foundations and practical wisdom of Christian marriage and family life as a compelling response to the relational challenges of our time.

Participants will experience a full day (8 AM - 5 PM) with morning Mass, inspiring keynote talks, practical workshops, shared meals, and time for fellowship and connections. They will leave with relevant formation, renewed clarity, and tangible resources to help them walk faithfully toward vibrant, Christ-centered relationships.

Hosted by the Roccasecca Project in partnership with UST's Campus Ministry and Catholic Studies, and the Archdiocese. To attend, visit roccaseccaproject.org

Our final MERCy Retreat of '25-'26

Mark your calendars for our Easter Retreat for Couples coming up on Saturday morning, April 11th (9 AM - Noon, breakfast included; Carolyn Hall). Fr Patrick will be with us LIVE to offer a half-day retreat on "A Cure for Discouragement." In our Easter retreat we will dive into the Lord's appearance to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. We will look at the causes of the discouragement of these disciples, and contemplate practical ways Jesus cured them from their discouragement, applying these causes and cures to the ups and downs of married life.