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THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK | www.onestrongfamily.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It would be nigh on perfect to feature an image of an alabaster sculpture of Saint Peter on this week's bulletin cover (a rocky likeness of the rock that is Peter), but, due to customary aversion to photos of statues around here, instead, for your contemplation is provided a Harry Fenn (184-1911) image of Caesarea Philippi (an easy way to remember the spelling of Philippi is that it's like Mississippi: double-p at the end!), in the district of which St. Peter makes his famous confession and Christ his famous Petrine promises. And for the archaeologically or biblically literate, it's an area with great symbolism. From it issues a natural spring into the Jordan and for centuries preceding our Lord's advent in the flesh, it was a locale associated with pagan deities and it had long-standing infrastructure even before the great event from this Sunday's gospel. The whole place and gospel is chock full of meaning!

7:00 AM Tue-Fri Masses, Sunday 8:30 - 9:00 & 10:30 - 11:00 AM Confessions, and 7:00 PM Thursday Holy Hour are all set to resume next week! Note **the parish office will be closed for Labor Day (Monday, Sep 07), as well as Sep 02** as Father David will be running the staff through pre-ministry year boot camp.

Outdoor adventures, camping, games, friendships, and character development. All boys K-12 are invited to join **Scouts at St. Marks!** It's a tradition going back to 1910 when Troop 1 became the first Catholic Scouting unit in America! Learn more and apply online at BeAScout.org for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts or contact Mike Truso (mfruso@gmail.com).

You can do it: request Masses be celebrated for your intentions! Just email parishcenter@onestrongfamily.org to get the ball rolling. Super simple and a great offering for timely grace!

We've got a Facilities Maintenance Technician lined up; we still have need of a Buildings and Grounds Custodian. For more info, visit and/or share stmark.xyz/bgc

The St. Mark's Preschool Early Learning Scholarship is available: get after it! Especially if you're thinking about enrolling and could use a little extra wind beneath your wings. Applications are super quick to fill out and are due **September 1st**; the review committee will make their determination for by **September 15th** and notice will be provided shortly thereafter. For all the few terms and details, and to submit, visit stmark.xyz/ps or scan the accompanying QR code. Questions? Contact director Addie Smith (asmith@onestrongfamily.org)!



St. Mark's Preschool is seeking to grow our parish CGS program with the help of generous parishioners! We received a generous grant this summer to pay for St. Mark's parishioners to attend CGS training. If you are interested in learning more about this scholarship opportunity or to support the CGS program in other ways, please complete this brief survey: stmark.xyz/cgs

And don't forget to checkout the preschool, for, you know, preschool purposes: saintmarkspreschool.org

And a few more "don't forgets" as we've got space to spare:

- don't forget the foodshelf
- don't forget about our 9:00 AM on Fridays "Let the Children Come to Me" Child-Friendly Holy Hour
- don't forget, if you've not already read it, and even if you have, the Archbishop's pastoral letter for the upcoming synodal theme year: archspm.org/familyletter
- don't forget to not only commit to a holy hour every week, at the parish, but to be passionate about adoration: stmark.weadorehim.com

August 23 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



In late 2023 my Aunt Julie was diagnosed with ALS. The degenerative disease first manifested itself as an emergent speech impediment in my aunt, then just 63. Over the next two and a half years, that “impediment” spread throughout the muscles of her body.

I was able to fly to visit her in April of 2024 and spend a few days with her and the family while she was still able to get around more or less like always, just with greater difficulty and speaking and some fatigue. But by the end of that year she could communicate only with her iPad. By the end of 2025 she was entirely confined to her bed and dependent on her family for all her needs.

In June of this year, very early on a Monday morning, I got a text message from my mom. I saw the notification but didn’t read the message. I thought to myself, *why is mom texting at five thirty in the morning?* Aunt Julie had not been on my mind in recent days. Nevertheless, the thought came immediately: *Aunt Julie must have died; Mom is texting us kids to let us know.*

I sat with that thought—a supposition, really—for a moment, and then fell back to sleep (Mondays are my rest day, after all!). When I got up later and checked my phone, I saw that the text message was about something entirely different.

Even earlier that same morning, on the other side of the country, one of my uncles (also named David) awoke around 2:30am. Uncharacteristically, he was unable to fall back asleep.

That same night, my Aunt Julie’s sister had a dream. In it, Julie appeared to her and said, “Goodbye Jan. I’m going to Heaven.” Then she disappeared.

It turns out that my Aunt Julie did in fact die very early that morning. Perhaps around the time my Uncle David awoke. Shortly before Jan had that dream. Hours before

her priest nephew interpreted a text message as the herald of her passing.

These individual threads, each individually rather insignificant, were tied together only on the day of her funeral, when my large maternal extended family flew into Kansas City. Tied together, I think they serve as a reminder both of our interconnectedness, and the nearness (and real-ness) of the “spiritual world.” Which, of course, is the same world we inhabit, only we tend to pay more attention to the material side of things.

When the soul leaves the body at the moment of death, what stories like these indicate is that there is typically a *lapse* in which the body is dead but the soul is somehow still “around”, “on earth.” If the soul is Heaven-bound, it will eventually make its way there. But the length of the lapse depends on the soul’s readiness at the time of death. If Jan’s dream is to be trusted, through her two-plus years of suffering and preparation, my Aunt Julie evidently became very ready. Her lapse was very brief—time enough to make some rounds within her extended family that morning and then pass over. Others are not so ready. In San Francisco, there is a retired U.S. aircraft carrier known as the Hornet. Apparently, it is one of the most studied and documented “haunted” places in the world. Tourists and scientists alike have had thousands of encounters with the ghosts of the men who served on that vessel over the decades. Comparing those sightings to naval records, they say they have even been able to identify hundreds of these spectres. And if you are willing to believe it: one is a Catholic priest! He had served as chaplain on the carrier. Then he died and (don’t ask me how they ascertained this) went to Heaven, his soul returned to the ship to help those still “stuck” there move along towards the light.

You can make of that what you will. In last weekend’s bulletin, in honor of the solemnity of the Assumption, I shared a fictional attempt to envision what Heaven will be like—at least one aspect of it. Now, after the conclusion of the “Assumption octave” (yesterday was the feast of the Queenship of Mary, August 22), with all
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OUR MISSION IS TO LIVE AND SHARE CHRIST'S CALL TO HOLINESS

From the Heart of the Shepherd continued

that is going on at the parish I think it's fitting to reflect a bit on the journey that hopefully awaits us all when our mortal lives come to an end. True, unlike Mother's, our bodies will be more like checked luggage, for which we will have to wait a bit after our arrival. Still, (and especially after a year in which we were striving to live for the Day of the Lord) we should be sure we are ready to make that trip at the drop of a hat, or the sound of the trumpet. And when we discover that those we love have earlier departure times, to take solace in the knowledge that God and His Mother are trying to bring us all to the same destination.

CONFIRMATION 2026-2027

"**The Holy Spirit** that the Father will send in my name— He **will teach you everything** and remind you of all that I told you."
-John 14:26

REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!



**Xavier Room
(Parish Center)**

6:30-8:00PM

1st and 3rd Wed

Remembrance Service for Miscarriages (Oct 17)

Saturday, October 17, 10 a.m., Gethsemane Cemetery Chapel Mausoleum, New Hope and Resurrection Cemetery Chapel Mausoleum, Mendota Heights
This special service of remembrance is an opportunity for those who lost a child before birth. Find more information and promotional materials on the event page: archspm.org/events/service-of-remembrance-for-those-who-lost-a-child-before-birth/

Immigration 101 (Sep 15)

"Will this be on the test?"

Unknown, but life's more likely to serve you pop quizzes, and, often she's a harsh teacher, giving the test first and the lesson after!

And, especially around these parts as the Twin Cities has too often been a nexus for various national dramas, this has really hit home with respect to the topic of immigration. All the more beneficial it is for Catholics to be formed with respect to the wisdom of the Church on the subject, as well as illumination about the present legal policies. As such, our MercyWorks team at the parish is sponsoring this session, hosting immigration lawyers Allison Wells and Lauren Lowry (themselves Catholic) for guidance for the faithful.

For all the details, visit stmark.xyz/101 and note the event will be in Carolyn Hall, September 15th, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM.

ST. MARK YOUNG ADULTS COOKOUT



RSVP to let us know
you're coming!

5PM-
7:30PM

**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13
RECTORY GARDEN**



Come join us to meet new folks, pray together, eat good food, and hear what we have in store!

MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions for week of AUGUST 23, 2026

10 AM

M: ***

T: Richard Shrake

W: Elizabeth Macheichok (funeral)

Tr: Sebastian DeRoberts

F: Fr. David Hottinger

Sa: Deborah Finstad (8 AM); Fr. Patrick Evans (ordination anniversary - almost!) (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



Did you know that now is a great time to adore the Lord and be solicitous in dedicating, via a commitment, an hour (or more) of your week to being in front of him in the Blessed Sacrament?!

It's true!
Commit to an



hour at stmark.weadorehim.com!

Can't cover a whole hour, regular? 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

Summer Mission Appeal

Fr. Simon Peter Kitute of the Diocese of Kitui, Kenya, will be celebrating Masses at St. Mark this weekend of August 22-23, in support of the Kitui Partnership. The Kitui Partnership is a global solidarity partnership between our archdiocese and the Diocese of Kitui, Kenya, begun in 2004 in recognition of our shared faith in the Eucharist. The Diocese of Kitui covers an arid and semi-arid rural region that often battles drought and famine, and we are hoping to raise \$20,000 to help fund increased access to clean water, sanitation improvement, and education on best hygiene practices. Funds raised in excess of this amount will go to support the general and administrative work of the partnership. Thank you for your generosity.



About Fr. Simon Peter



I was born into a Catholic family of five siblings in Matinyani, Kitui County, and belong to St. Patrick's Parish, Mutune. I attended St. Patrick's Mutune Primary School and Matinyani Secondary School

before joining Christ the King Major Seminary in Nyeri for priestly formation in spirituality, philosophy, and theology. I was ordained a priest on June 11, 2022, and currently serve as the parish priest at St. Francis of Assisi, Kamutei. For four years, I served as the diocesan youth chaplain, offering spiritual guidance through talks, confessions, recollections, and Mass. I enjoy football, swimming, movies, and traveling. I am passionate about youth ministry, school apostolate, and caring for the sick and elderly.

The Catholic Diocese of Kitui, where I serve, has 36 parishes spread across a vast and semi-arid region of Kenya. Our communities face severe challenges due to climate change—rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and unreliable rainfall have left many families without access to clean water for drinking, sanitation, or livestock. This scarcity of water has deepened poverty and made daily life difficult.

Access to clean and reliable water will greatly improve the livelihoods of our people. With water available, families can engage in agriculture to boost food security and income. Moreover, the many hours spent especially by women and children searching for water can instead be used for schooling, farming, and other constructive activities. Through this mission appeal, you have the opportunity to bring lasting transformation to the lives of families in Kitui. Your support will help us construct water wells, sand dams, and earth dams that will supply sustainable, clean water to our communities and uplift their overall well-being.



SEPTEMBER 12TH

10 AM - 2 PM

NEWELL PARK IN SAINT PAUL

ADULT KICKBALL

FOOD TRUCK LUNCH

(OR BRING YOUR OWN!)

GAMES

TUG OF WAR

STMARK.XYZ/PICNIC

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 & Facilities Manager
Sr. Daniela Ormeno, PES.....Faith Formation
& Ignite Youth Ministry

Annamarie Adkins.....Parish Family Life Coordinator

Matt Hoffman.....Lead Custodian

Kristen Grant.....Director of Discipleship

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

Audrey Koval.....Pastoral Associate

& Safe Environment Coordinator

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 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

Saturday: 8 AM

Confession:

Tuesday-Friday: 9:30 AM

Saturday: 3:30-4:30 PM

Sunday: 8:00 - 8:45 AM

Rosary: The Rosary is prayed after all daily Masses.

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."

ST. MARK, PRAY FOR US



Etiquette Class and Dinner

Children and parents, come experience an interactive etiquette dinner with professional instructor, Julie Frantz! Course content is intended for ages 8+, though attentive, interested children aged 6 or 7 are also welcome.

4-6 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 29
Carolyn Hall

\$20/person (\$60 family cap)
Email Shannon at snowakdesign@gmail.com with questions or to RSVP by Aug. 24.
More info about Julie Frantz can be found at everydayetiquette.com.

AUDITIONS FOR MISS BENNET: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY!

Missed the Boat Theatre is holding auditions for *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon, directed by Jaclyn Mack. Performances will be at Upson Hall at the Church of St. Mary (St. Paul), December 10-20, 2026.

Audition info:

30-minute audition slots will be Sep 8 - 9, from 6:00 8:00 PM, at The Church of St. Mary (267 E 8th St, Saint Paul, MN 55101).

About the Show:

In this imagined sequel to Jane Austen's beloved *Pride and Prejudice*, we find Mary Bennet grown and wishing for a place in the world to call her own. When she visits the Darcys at Pemberley House and reunites with her sisters, they must all learn to see each other as they actually are. This leaves the men to navigate their new family's dynamics and manage some unexpected guests all while attempting to keep Christmas full of lots of laughter, warmth, and love.

Learn more about the show and audition information by visiting their audition posting (missedtheboattheatre.com/audition)! Contact admin@missedtheboattheatre.com with any questions!



Quarterly Dinner of the St. Joseph Business Guild
5:00 PM | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

“A Catholic SPIRIT OF ‘26”

All are welcome!
Cost: \$17.76; Free to clergy, unemployed, students

Holy Family Catholic Church,
5900 W Lake St., Mpls, MN

RSVP at
sjbusinessguild.org

All are invited to the St. Joseph Business Guild's next quarterly dinner meeting at Holy Family Catholic Church, on September 17th! The Guild is all about Catholics helping Catholics build an economy that puts first the kingdom of God. And this evening they're taking a novel and perhaps inflammatory look at our American and Catholic roots and what fruits we can get from them today. \$17.76; free for clergy, unemployed, and students.



September 24th - 27th

ST. MARK'S FALL
RUMMAGE SALE

CHURCH OF ST MARK
2001 Dayton Avenue,
St. Paul, MN 55104
(@ the corner of Dayton & Moore)

Fri. - Sat., 9-4 PM | Sun. 9 AM-11 AM
Sneak Peek Thursday (Sep 24) 5-7 PM; \$5 admission

stmark.xyz/sale