

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD | MAY 17, 2026



LIVING FOR THE
DAY OF THE LORD



THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK | www.onestrongfamily.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*It would have been fitting to have an image of the Ascension of the Lord on this week's cover. But you only First Communion once, so why not have *The Virgin Adoring the Host (1852)* by the prolific Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres to commemorate our parish youths receiving their First Communions this Sunday! Check out Jean's "oeuvre" for some thoroughly French and/or Catholic works. The full painting for today's cover is only 15.875" × 12.875", as well! Great detail work!*

Want a blast from the past and even more Ascension action? What about some more new deacon preaching action? We've got one-stop shopping: Ascension 2020 with a cherubic *Dcn.* David Hottinger, PES preaching. Find it at stmark.xyz/dcn2020

Enroll now for the 2026 - 2027 school year! Set your child up for success at St. Mark's Preschool. **Not looking to send kids to preschool?** Spread the word, and you're boosting our parish mission! saintmarkspreschool.org

Defend Life! Abortion remains the preeminent violation of human rights in our country, and the numbers of abortions are going up in Minnesota and the United States. All Catholics have a duty to stand up and defend vulnerable unborn children. Our parish pro-life ministry is currently in need of new leadership. Is God asking you to answer this call? Please contact Kristen Grant at kgrant@onestrongfamily.org to learn more about how you can serve in this crucial work of mercy.

Look to your left. Look to your right. Who are these people? Correct, they're those who should discern beefing up adoration commitments for the summer. We naturally have a dip in adorers in the summer, what with people seizing the fair weather. And this does present a bit of a strain. Especially if the summer finds you with more flexibility, what a gift to give back to the Lord, to spend time with him! Commit to an hour at stmark.weadorehim.com

Not all Christian bodies have pastoral letters issued from a local successor to the apostles. But we do. And so we should live like we do; the faithful of the Archdiocese are greatly encouraged to read Archbishop Hebda's pastoral letter, *Only One Thing is Necessary*, which will frame Archdiocesan over- and under-tones for the upcoming "pastoral year," and likewise for St. Mark's! Find that letter at stmark.xyz/familyletter

The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is coming (June 12)! And the US Bishops are consecrating the US to the Sacred Heart on June 11. Plan accordingly!

UPCOMING EVENTS

**WED
20
MAY** *CCW Meeting and Potluck Dinner* | 4:30 - 6:30 PM | *Community Room*
All women of the parish are invited to the next St. Mark's Council of Catholic Women (CCW) meeting and potluck dinner. At the meeting will be planning next events, review funding requests and voting on disbursements and CCW officers.

**WED
20
MAY** *FFF & Ignite Closing Night* | 5:30 - 7:30 PM | *Carolyn Hall*
An evening of community, fun, faith and thanking the Lord for all the ways He has blessed the spiritual journey of the children, youth and families in our parish. All FFF and Ignite families are welcome to come for a recap of the year, the chance to meet the catechists and volunteers, and a free catered meal! Please RSVP for food planning purposes: stmark.xyz/eoy

May 17 - Ascension/First Communion



This year's Bible Study has provided the occasion to "resurrect" our parish's YouTube channel, which was much more active during COVID, when we livestreamed daily Mass, stations of the Cross, etc. Last week, shortly

after our new deacon's first homilies, I was scrolling through old videos on our channel and happened across the livestream for Ascension Sunday 2020... at which your pastor preached his first homily!

I couldn't resist passing the link on to Kevin for dissemination, if only to make us all more grateful that we are not in 2020 anymore. But ever since "ascending" to the lectern in that all-but-empty church six years ago to try to expound on the mystery we celebrate today, I feel a special connection with Our Lord's Ascension.

I am struck by Luke's very short telling of the event. "While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy" (Lk 24:51-52).

Jesus leaves... but they still can worship Him. He has departed... but they are filled with great joy. The paradox is even more apparent in the Mass this year. Matthew's Gospel ends with Jesus saying, "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" and yet we hear those words in the context of the Mass in which we remember His leaving earth to take His seat at the right hand of the Father in Heaven!

A classic Catholic both/and: Jesus has both ascended into Heaven *and* remained with us; He is still here, but we also await His return. Hebrews 6 gives a striking image of this dynamic: like a high priest who has entered into the Holy of Holies with a rope tied about his waist, held by those who remain outside in case he faints while in there and they need to pull him out (since no one else but him can enter), so Jesus has entered into the true sanctuary of Heaven, yet has left us a "rope" by which we still cling to Him—our faith—in virtue of which Jesus has become *the anchor of our soul*. This high priest will not

faint, but if we do, He shall keep us from drifting away!

In 2026, this mystery speaks of hope and joy amid sorrow. We are all navigating our own mortality in one way or another. Many within our parish community are confronting it directly through the death or illness of themselves or a loved one. The Ascension reminds us, however, that to follow Christ it is "good for us to go" as well, so long as we are going to the Father (cf. Jn 16:7). Good Friday was only half the story; in Christ our death has become a path to exultation. "God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy!" (Ps 47:6). True, it is rare that anyone goes joyfully to their end (though the martyrs often have!). But in the measure the Faith sinks into our bones, death loses its power to make us sad. Granted, before entering heavenly glory, we mortals must first appear before the judgement seat of God, in whose eyes not even the angels are wholly pure (Job 15:15). But if Christ stands before the Father now pleading for us, how can we who long to see Him fear to stand before His face?

As with Christ, so with those who die in Christ: they have left us, but they remain with us. Their bodies lie in the earth. But in the Communion of Saints, their souls are closer to us than ever, provided they rest in God. This of course does not completely or even halfway alleviate the pain separation. But it does provide us an invincible reason for hope. And so, as we delight in mother nature's annual resurrection from the dead this springtime, and with the apostles stare a bit into the Heaven into which Our Lord has disappeared for a time, may the mystery and certainty of the Ascended Christ be for us an anchor for the soul while the waves of life wash over us.

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



Join women from around the Archdiocese for the 4th annual Women's Day Retreat. Speakers will talk about holy women from the Bible beginning with Our Blessed Mother, St. Anne, St. Elizabeth, Sts. Martha & Mary, Deborah, Esther, Ruth & Naomi. Learn how we can derive strength from these Holy Women, especially our Blessed Mother, and say YES to God's will for our lives!

TWO GRAND PRIZES!
Mother Mary Leather tote bags!



COST: \$50 / \$25 Religious
REGISTER AT
STPATRICK-EDINA.ORG
OR SCAN THE QR CODE



THE RETREAT DAY WILL INCLUDE

- Coffee & light breakfast
 - Four wonderful Catholic Speakers
 - Mass, Adoration & Rosary
 - Catered lunch by Crisp & Green (salad choices on registration page)
 - Social Hour, Door Prizes & Treats
 - Shopping at various Catholic Vendors
- Retreatants will receive a leather journal, pen & bookmarks

Campers Registration here!

Youth Volunteers

Adult Volunteers

HOLINESS THE TRUE ADVENTURE

DATE: MONDAY **AUG 10TH** TO FRIDAY **14TH**
"Family Celebration" lunch included, following the conclusion of the camp on Friday 12:00pm

TIME: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

LOCATION: CHURCH OF ST. MARK, ST. PAUL

PRICE: \$55
Max \$165 per family

HOLY KIDS CAMP
FOR ECCLESIA SANCTA

Summer Camps 2026
Trinity School at River Ridge

Camp	Grades	Dates	Time
Adventure Camp	Rising 4 th - 6 th Graders	June 15-19	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
From Clay to Carvas	Rising 4 th - 6 th Graders	June 15-19	12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Ingenious Machines	Rising 1 st - 3 rd Graders	July 6-10	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Forces at Play	Rising 4 th - 6 th Graders	July 6-10	12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Boys Wrestling Camp	Rising K - 8 th Graders	July 20- 22	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Register and pay online at
<https://trinityriverridge.org/workshops/summer-camps/>

All camps located at Trinity School
601 River Ridge Parkway, Eagan, MN 55121

Don't forget the foodshelf!

Prayer and almsgiving are definitely still a must, even during the Easter season.

Request Masses!

Not all Christian bodies have valid Eucharistic sacrifices, but we do. Consider offering Masses for the deceased or the living via the priests of the Church of Saint Mark! Just email parishcenter@onestrongfamily.org to request a Mass!

MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions for week of **MAY 17, 2026**

7 AM
M: ***
T: Mark Worms +
W: Sanchez Family
Tr: LuVerne & Loretta Worms +
F: Fr. Patrick Evans

10 AM

Adeline Dummer
Sheldon Anderson +
Lee Meriwether
Special Intention of S.B.

Sa: Erik Reichard + (8 AM); Lois Lotzer + (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



Easter is here! 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



All Women of the Parish are invited to the Annual CCW

Spring LUNCHEON

**SATURDAY JUNE 6 11-1
CAROLYN HALL**

RSVP by May 29: stmark.xyz/luncheon

Year in Review, funding announcements

Catered lunch

Door Prizes!



AN INVITATION TO LONGING HEARTS

The Church's Wisdom for LGBTQ+ Experiences



Thursday, June 18th
7:00 PM- 10:00 PM
Our Lady of Grace, Edina, MN

Find more info and register online at edeninvitation.com/events

Are you curious about the Church's wisdom for people wrestling with sexuality and gender? Join us for an evening hosted by Eden Invitation! Together we'll learn, pray, and grow in our accompaniment of people with LGBTQ+ experiences. The evening will feature a talk from Anna Carter (Co-Founder & President), Eucharistic adoration, and a social with Q&A.

Summer Camp!

Girls ages 5-9 are invited to join us for a five-day camp filled with friends, games, crafts, and fun in the sun!

**June 8th -12th
9:30-11:30am**

What To Expect

This camp will be an opportunity for campers to make new friends, to do great crafts, and enjoy group games. Each day will have a different theme. The themes are below.

Additional Details

Camp will be hosted at
734 Woodridge Dr., Mendota Heights 55118

Themes :

Monday- Arts and Crafts, Tuesday- Ocean Day, Wednesday- Music and Acting Day, Thursday- Princess Adventure Day, Friday- Olympic Day

Total cost for 5-day camp: \$60
(\$40 registration + \$10 materials fee + \$10 snack fee)

SUMMER Art CLASSES!



CLASSES OFFERED:
(2 SESSIONS PER CLASS, 90 MINUTES EACH)

- Drawing 1 & 2
- Watercolor
- Hand Sewing

Meet your instructor, Gabrielle Johnson! Trinity Alum, Benedictine College student, oldest of nine siblings. Loves art, teaching, & kids!

Classes offered Mondays June 1st ~ August 3rd
Morning and afternoon sessions available
Ages 5-9 and 9&-up
Maximum of 4 students per class
Home studio located in Mendota Heights

COST
\$30 per class, plus \$8 materials fee

Registration Information
gabrielegracejohnson07@gmail.com
(952)-250-5107



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

TWO WELLS, ONE WATER

A four-session series for Catholics in recovery.

If you are Catholic — or have any connection to the Catholic tradition — and are active in a twelve-step recovery program, you know the experience of living between two worlds. Both have changed your life. Both ask something deep of you. And sometimes it is hard to know how they fit together.

This **four-session series** is a space to explore that experience honestly. Not to resolve every tension, but to reflect more intentionally on what each tradition has given you — and what each tradition might ask of you.

Session 1

How AA spirituality complements Catholic faith

Session 2

How Catholic faith complements AA spirituality

Session 3

How AA spirituality sharpens or challenges Catholic faith

Session 4

How Catholic faith sharpens or challenges AA spirituality

Each evening is about 60 minutes: a short talk followed by small group conversation. There's no agenda beyond the conversation itself. Each session stands alone — come to one, or come to all four.

Wednesdays in June (3,10,17) and July 1 – 4:00 (5:15 mass to follow) at the **Cathedral** (in the Ryan Room (basement)). Sessions are free and open to all. Registration is not required but e-mailing Michael Blaes (mnablaes@aol.com) will help manage the process. What is shared in the room stays in the room.



Save Even More Lives - Sign Up
for Our Next Drive Today!

Thursday, May 28
10:30am – 4:30pm
Nativity Catholic Church

Scan Here to Save Lives!



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

Jubilee Pilgrimage with the Franciscans

Care of the Franciscan Brothers of Peace, you're invited to join the Franciscan Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima this October-2026 **during the Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi**. The pilgrimage link for all the info, the brochure and the enrollment page is: selectinternationaltours.com/fr-seraphim-wirth-fbp/ (QR code to the right). If you have any questions, email Mark Miller at: mpmille333@yahoo.com.

