

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | AUGUST 16, 2026



THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK | www.onestrongfamily.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nature is healing: it's been a slower summer around the parish, and, ya know, that's probably fitting given the severe American proclivity for "busy-ness." Keep enjoying the business of summer, then, friends! And the editor can keep getting away with fine marine + summer art since this Sunday finds our Lord in the port district of Tyre and Sidon. Why not use Bouguereau's 1869 work, "Le Crabe," French for "The Crab," especially given the Canaanite woman's preoccupation with her needing-of-deliverance daughter?

Holy Kids! Huge, huge thanks to all those who made Holy Kids Camp a raucous success! Extra special thanks to our PES religious and the stalwart volunteers who sacrificed much to fan into flame the faith of the youth. You know who you are, God knows who you are, and may he richly bless you for bringing the children to him!

Peter Distelzweig (peter.disco@gmail.com) and fellow Catholic Melissa Marsolais (marsolaismelissa7@gmail.com) are exploring the possibility of launching a Catholic Worker-inspired house of hospitality for four to six homeless men in the Frogtown area of St. Paul. The House would serve as a hub for a loose-knit, welcoming, Catholic community that crosses the divide between the housed and unhoused. They are trying to gauge interest and support. Please take a moment to fill out the google form at stmark.xyz/sherburne Feel free also to pass it on to any in your circles who might be interested.

Mark September 12th on your calendar yesterday: **that's the parish picnic!** And note that Adreianna Vyvyan, who has expertly charted the picnic waters for the past three years, will be retiring that mantle after this one, so a newcomer, hungry for the glory of the parish is being sought. (A Vyvs has offered to also support that party.) File wherever!

If you're ever in Kitui, Kenya you should be able to find a friendly face as our annual summer mission appeal goes to our sister diocese there. **This year's mission appeal will be NEXT weekend: August 22/23!**

Recall our PES male religious are practically gone until the end of August.

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

Know someone buying or selling a home around St. Mark's? Keep us in the loop so we can keep other interested buyers or sellers in the loop. Provided those buyers or sellers want to live by the parish or facilitate others living by the parish! onestrongfamily.org/house

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 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)!



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

20th Sunday - *The Eschatological Adventure*, Revisited: Epilogue

[A]uthor's note: during the summers of 2024 and 2025, respectively, this venerable publication ran parts 1 and 2 of the *Eschatological Adventure*, a fictional envisioning of the last things for the individual (Part 1)

and for the cosmos as a whole (Part 2). Though those hoping for a Part 3 this summer were disappointed (all two of them!), during my travels I have been revising the text with the helpful input of some charitable parishioners who indulge their pastor's authorial illusions. On the occasion of Our Lady's Assumption, this epilogue, which otherwise has no business being run in the parish bulletin, serves to direct our thoughts onwards and upwards into heavenly glory.]

Twelve thousand and fifty two. For the interested reader, that is how many cycles it took from the dawning of the new creation for the saints known in time as Eager Louis and Jolianna to have their first heart-to-heart conversation in heaven. By "cycle" we mean the heavenly equivalent of what we now call "years." For though there was no more sun or moon or the settings thereof, for the Lamb was the light of all the saints and around Him everything revolved, there was not, for that reason, any less regularity and recurrence in the progression of things. On the contrary, the complex of days and weeks, months and years that frames our life now is only a preparation for the supremely beautifully harmonious and ordered unfolding of the great pageant of the saints. The clockworklike revolutions of a Victorian-era ballroom suggests something of the reality, as a two-dimensional pencil sketch suggests the laugh of one's beloved. Indeed, the heavenly processing into eternity was like a spiral, circling ever upward into the heights of elation and, at the same time, downward into the very depths of the divinity. The axis around which this cycle turned was, of course, God himself, who was both the focal point and conductor of the utterly unhurried waltz of the saints. And with each new turn, each "cycle" (our words, of course, fail miserably), the saints encountered Him as if for the first time as the Ever Ancient, Ever New, beholding some previously unseen aspect of His

beauteous Being in the shared and yet uniquely-personal apprehension each had of His infinitude.

The movement of the saints in paradise can be understood on analogy with the "dance" of the planets around the sun; it can also be understood as a rotation of one-on-one conversations – something like speed dating, but without any anxiety, desperation, or disappointment. If one can taste something in this life of the pleasure of a good conversation – a sharing of hearts, through which the participants come to know themselves, and each other, and their subject of conversation better as they delight in the good that each is and has and which they now share – how much more intense and pure and possible is this pleasure in heaven! Each saint sharing with the other his or her insight into God, and together arriving at new insights as their individual perspectives combine like colors or rather like light to produce new hues and deeper knowledge. Those perspectives, of course, are informed by previous conversations with other saints, whose insights each one has assimilated and personalized, as an artist integrates various influences into his or her own unique style and message. And, most delightfully, though each one's perspective (or rather, the message that each one is about God, the "name" each one bears and shares and is about Him) is wholly distinctive and original, there was never any discord or disagreement. All is harmony; all is mutually illuminating and complementary.

Twelve thousand cycles may seem like a long "time," especially if one considers that a single saintly "conversation," a sole movement in the heavenly dance, might be the equivalent of a first-creation century, a mortal lifetime, involving the full development of a person, the exhausting of what one has to say. But Jolianna and Eager, now known by their new and presently ineffable names, were hardly avoiding each other. Each was perfectly aware of the other by means of their knowledge of all things in God, their sharing in His very Knowledge. In fact, they had been peacefully anticipating the arrival of their first heavenly intercourse, even as they delighted to contemplate God's masterwork
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OUR MISSION IS TO LIVE AND SHARE CHRIST'S CALL TO HOLINESS

from the Heart of the Shepherd continued

in each of the millions of saints with whom they dialogued beforehand.

What was it like when they finally “met”? Perhaps we could compare it to two old friends meeting on a park bench after many years. Except that they simply gaze, with great love and radiant faces, if not to say tears of joy (were they possible in heaven), into each other’s souls for an eon, before bidding each other farewell with a knowing look and a reverent nod. For heaven is not so much about *saying* as it is about *seeing*. They did not speak about how their mortal lives were intertwined in the plan of God (though that connection was far less tenuous than it may seem to us). For there “the former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.” Rather, they each beheld God in the other. They listened, with expert ear, to what the Word of God was uttering about Himself through the person of the other, the unique and harmonious note that both he and she contributed to the heavenly symphony, appreciating that note for what it was in itself and for how it enriched and fit into the whole. It was an act of worship, really, as well as contemplation and appreciation, revelling in and reverencing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit revealed in the divine resemblance found in their children. And then, when that segment of the waltz was over, that movement of the symphony concluded, they parted ways, more united than ever, until the heavenly rotation should bring them face to face again, and again, unto ages unending, Amen.

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/

“Let the children come to Me” Holy Hour

Fridays at 9am

All are welcome to adore our Lord in the chapel.

We hope that a dedicated hour will encourage moms and tots to feel especially at home.

Sign up or
drop in!

Scan here:



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 16, 2026

10 AM

M: ***
T: Ron E. Anderson +
W: Fr. David Hottinger, P.E.S.
Tr: Mike Cummings +
F: Fr. Patrick Evans

Sa: Helena Sezer (8 AM); Clare Robins (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

life is good **SPEAKER SERIES**



Fruitful Beyond Biology

The Adventure of an Open Heart

Kory & Alicia LaCroix



Kory and Alicia LaCroix are high school sweethearts who grew up just a mile apart in Buffalo, Minnesota. They are the grateful parents of seven children through birth, adoption, and foster care. Alicia and Kory have generously responded to God's invitation to expand their hearts and family. Their family has welcomed many children beyond biology, beginning a journey that has transformed their faith and family life. They hope their family's story encourages others to embrace the Gospel of life with courage, generosity, and trust in God's plan.

Choose from Two sessions:

Tuesday, August 18th at 6:00pm-7:30pm

Wednesday, Aug. 19th at 8:30am-10am

Light refreshments will be served

Includes time for Q & A, discussion afterwards



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
680 Mill Street, Excelsior, MN

DeMontreville Retreat (Aug 20)

Go to a place where you can hear the voice of the Lord in the quiet and peaceful setting of Lake DeMontreville for a three-day men's silent retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House. The retreat begins Thursday evening, August 20, 2026, and ends Sunday evening August 23, 2026. Free-will donations are accepted. For more information call 651-777-1311 or visit demontrevilleretreat.com



The SJBG has regularly-scheduled intro meetings on the calendar. Check it out at sjbusinessguild.org/intro-meetings

Check out Scouts at St. Mark's

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).

ADVENTURE AWAITS!

CUB SCOUTS & BOY SCOUTS AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK

BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS... ONE ADVENTURE AT A TIME.

It's a tradition going back to 1910 when Troop 1 became the first Catholic Scouting unit in America!

LEARN MORE & APPLY ONLINE
BEASOUT.ORG
CUB SCOUTS & BOY SCOUTS

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT MIKE TRUSO
mfruso@gmail.com

CHARACTER. LEADERSHIP. FAITH. ADVENTURE.
>> THAT'S SCOUTING! <

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK

End-of-Life Workshop (Nov 07)

This is a comprehensive pre-planning workshop (Nov 7, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, St. John the Baptist, New Brighton) where you'll learn from expert speakers about a variety of end-of-life planning topics and fill out a pre-planning workbook. Registration includes seat and lunch.

Attendees can optionally purchase the workbook as well. Find more information at the Catholic Cemeteries website: catholic-cemeteries.org

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

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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."

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

"What God has joined together, let no one separate." – Mark 10:9



Worldwide Marriage Encounter
GOD CHOSE YOU FOR ME

"Our desire for each other mirrors God's desire to be one with us."

WHAT YOU WILL EXPERIENCE:

- ✓ **A NEW WAY TO PRAY**
Prayer will become a daily expression of love between you and your spouse – a way to invite God deeper into your relationship.
- ✓ **A NEW WAY TO CONNECT**
Share, listen, and reflect together to deepen your emotional and spiritual connection.
- ✓ **A NEW WAY TO ENCOUNTER GOD'S LOVE**
By seeing your marriage through the lens of faith, you will discover how your love reveals the presence of Christ in your everyday life.

Your Marriage is not just a relationship – it is a holy **commitment**. And your sacrament is a living sign of Christ's presence in the world.

763-464-9609 | northmnwwme.org/enrichment.php
jason.karen.grahek@wwme.org

EVENT DETAILS:

- 📅 Saturday, September 12
- 🕒 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- 📍 St. Hubert Catholic Community
8201 Main Street
Chanhassen, MN 55317

For all couples! RSVP below.



\$100/PER COUPLE LUNCH INCLUDED

 **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.

Note the above falls on the day of our parish picnic, but if you have need to avail yourself of such an event, now you know!



Etiquette Glass 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.



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