

THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | FEBRUARY 15, 2026



LIVING FOR THE
DAY OF THE LORD

THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK | www.onestrongfamily.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The choir is in full swing preparing for Lent and Easter. **New singers are always welcome!** Requirements are some previous experience singing in a choir and the ability to read musical notation. We are in particular need of tenors and basses. If you are interested, please see Kathy Handford after mass or contact her in the parish offices during the week.

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. For more information, visit our website: saintmarkspreschool.org

The Archdiocesan "Lord, Renew Your Church" Capital Campaign was announced two weekends ago after Mass. \$250 million dollars is the target, with 60% of funds raised will stay at the parishes. Campaign details for St. Mark's will be shared in due time—you may already have received an outreach from some campaign volunteers from the parish—but lift up the campaign in your prayers today! To that end, prayer cards and blessed candles are available in the narthex.

Springtime seems near! Or *does it* (see Fr.'s article)? In the spirit of spring cleaning, and seeing the rapid proliferation of impressive nefarious tech exploits and fraud that the new order has begotten, now's a helpful reminder to practice cyber-vigilance and cyber-resilience! There's a nontrivial case to be made to assume all the images and video you see online are fake (and be wary of phone calls, even) until proven otherwise! Should you ever receive consequential or urgent messages purporting to be from the St. Mark-o-sphere, authenticate via secure channels!

Monday, February 16th is Presidents' Day, so don't come knocking on the parish center doors: **closed!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

WED 18 FEB *Ash Wednesday | Masses at 7:00 & 10:00 AM, 6:00 PM | Church*
Repent and believe in the Gospel! Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return!
Obligatory day of fasting and abstinence! *Get your ash in Mass!*

Friday Soup Supper & Speaker Series & Stations of the Cross
Supper at 5:30, Presentation ~6:00, Stations at 7:00 PM | Carolyn Hall, Church

Our first presentation for our series, *Claiming Country for Kingdom - Your Part in the National Consecration*, is "The Catholic History of the USA," with one Fr. David presenting.

FRI 20 FEB This year's series is *especially* providential! Given that it's the semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the US Bishops will consecrate these United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in June and all parishes are invited to join. **But a good consecration takes preparation!** A most excellent harmony of this preparation with our year's focus on Living for the Day of the Lord (which we had planned to be capped with the Feast of the Sacred Heart, which is also so integral to the spirituality of our venerable Pro Ecclesia Sancta family) is a win-win-win-win. Never tire of winning, friends! And **do your part for country and kingdom!**

SAT 21 FEB *Men's Night | 5:00 - 9:00 PM | Cafeteria*
When are the men of the parish exclusively invited to come together and, as burning embers in a fire, spur one another on to stronger fires of devotion and fraternity? (And share a meal?) This event! Register at stmark.xyz/mn

Feb 15 - 6th Sunday



Remember Lent? Well, it's back. Your favorite time of year: when the natural world is thawing out and the world invites you to rejoice and frolic, but the Church makes you punish yourself by being sad and finding ways to suffer more than you already do. So you can appreciate Easter all the more!

It may feel like that. But in truth, Lent is about learning how to rejoice and take delight *rightly*. To do that, we have to unlearn that worldly way of feasting which actually is an ever-deeper dive into increasing internal misery and disorder in our relationships. Yes: woe to those who never make a good Lent! Their lives are a continual descent into the dead of winter, whatever the weather is like outside!

What recoils from the discipline of the forty days is our flesh: that insatiable, impetuous underlord of our souls... if our spirit allows it to rule our decision making. The flesh is what grows fearful over all the comforts it "can't live without," and the thought of doing anything difficult for longer than we feel like it. "The eye is not satisfied with seeing," observes Qoholeth, "nor the ear filled with hearing" (Eccl 1:8), nor self-will with getting its way. And the flesh will never learn to be content with less *until we teach it that it is not in control and that it must accept what it is given, which is always less than it might like*.

St. Paul commands Christians to "walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh, for the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would" (Gal 5:16-17). Because of that opposition, one cannot serve both; only one can be the master. Yet we must serve one, the flesh or the Spirit: either we live to gratify ourselves, or we live to gratify God. Man will either seek delight in pleasing himself, or he will seek (and find!) delight in pleasing God. Thus St. Augustine was able to divide all of mankind into two camps, two cities: "[And the] two cities have been formed by two loves: the earthly by the love of self, even to the contempt of God; and the

heavenly by the love of God, even to the contempt of self" (*City of God*, 14.28).

Those who choose to "sow in the seedbed of the flesh," says St. Paul, "will reap a harvest of corruption" (cf. Gal 6:8). In other words, those who obediently serve the passions and appetites of the body will be paid in the currency of sin— "immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, carousing," etc. (Gal 5:19-21) —the wages of which are slavery and death. But those who refuse to obey every prompting of the flesh, but rather take their marching orders from the Spirit of Truth, will know the freedom of the spirit, and reap a better harvest: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;" i.e., the best of things (Gal 5:22).

Lent is about choosing (again, and again) to which camp we will belong; which god we will serve: the Lord, or our stomachs (see Phil 3:19). Here, it's worth remembering that "whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Mt 16:25). Yes, the discipline of Lent *does* involve suffering and death... for that part of us that wishes to live according to the flesh. But it's the hard narrow path that leads to true life: eternal life in the Spirit who brings freedom wherever He goes (cf. 2 Cor 3:17). And so: be fearless and bold in making your Lenten resolutions, friends! In these matters, it is merciful to be a little cruel with your selfish self. It's not about piling on suffering or suffocating springtime joy; it's about choosing wisely who we seek to please, and being willing to disappoint or even do a little violence to the desires of the flesh, remembering that "the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and men of violence take it by force" (Mt 11:12).

LENT 2026



2026 LENTEN SCHEDULE

PRAY FAST GIVE ALMS

ASH WEDNESDAY

Feb. 18; Mass @ 7 AM, 10 AM, & 6 PM

SOUP SUPPER & SPEAKER SERIES

Fridays at 5:30 PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays @ 7:00 PM

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

Mar. 12

ANNUAL FISH FRY

Mar. 27 @ 5:00 - 7:00 PM



For all things Lent at the Church of St. Mark, visit
onestrongfamily.org/lent

CRS Rice Bowls



This Lent St. Mark's community is participating in CRS Rice Bowl, an almsgiving and prayer opportunity supporting the work of Catholic

Relief Services, the official international relief and development agency of the USCCB. For prayer content, simple Lenten recipes, and to meet the children and families impacted around the world, visit crsricebowl.org

2026 LENTEN SOUP SUPPER & SPEAKER SERIES

CLAIMING COUNTRY FOR KINGDOM

Your Part in the National Consecration

- 2/20 **The Catholic History of the USA**
Fr. David Hottinger, P.E.S.
- 2/27 **What is National Consecration?**
Fr. Patrick Evans, P.E.S.
- 3/6 **Starting Small: Personal Consecration
& Household Enthronement**
Drew and Shannon Nowak
- 3/13 **Leading with Love: Personal Testimonies
of the Evangelical Power of the Sacred Heart**
- 3/20 **Panel Discussion:
That They Might All Be One:
Making America Catholic (again)**

Calling All Markers! Get Ready for Sunday!

This Lent, our parish will be Living for the Day of the Lord by preparing for Sunday *together*. How will we do this? In our small groups, of course!; in this season, every Saint Mark's small group will be reflecting on the coming Sunday readings with the help of reflections by Dr. Brant Pitre, Catholic scripture scholar at the Augustine Institute. Be convicted: Father David encouraged the parish to turn to small groups in his bulletin article from last week (stmark.xyz/sg4all).

Don't have a small group? Well, this is the time to find one! You don't have to sign up for life, just for Lent! Our list of current St. Mark's groups (more can be added!) is at stmark.xyz/finder

MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions for week of FEBRUARY 15, 2026

7 AM

- M: ***
- T: **Guy Clobes +**
- W: **James M Shrake**
- Tr: ---
- F: **Fr. Patrick Evans**

- Sa: **Brenda Frutis Estrada (8 AM); --- (5 PM)**
- Su: **Pro Populo (9 AM)**

10 AM

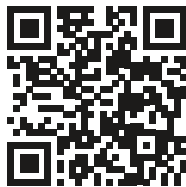
-
- Donald Newby +**
- Robert Clarkin +**
- Patty Hamel**
- Gertrude Johnston +**

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 will be great! Even more so if you 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



Meet Claire Zwiefelhofer who entered the Catholic Church this past spring! Claire graduated from the University of Minnesota, graduating in 2022 with a Bachelor of Music. She lives in Bloomington, but grew up in rural Wisconsin, near Chippewa Falls.

Claire works as a clarinet specialist at a small woodwind shop in the Twin Cities. She also plays regularly in regional orchestras, jazz combos, and churches, holding a small private studio of woodwind students. In her free time she enjoys writing and making music, singing, playing piano, and guitar, getting lost in nature, photography (especially of wildlife and landscapes), enjoying time with family and friends, and crafting Japanese and Korean-inspired meals.

Claire was interested in joining the Catholic church a couple of years ago, and knew about St. Mark's both from a college friend and a mentor that brought her to the adoration chapel a few times. She was drawn by the number of young adults at the parish and the vibrant community. She joined OCIA and the rest is history! She said she has never experienced such a rock-solid, God-seeking community before coming to St. Mark's. Some of her favorite things about the parish are the priests, the reverence for the Lord, as well as the kindness and generosity of the community.

She also greatly enjoys cantoring with Kathy, the musical director, who she says is a phenomenal musician. Being a cantor at Mass has helped Claire see the greater purpose that music has in the church and in the world.

This season Claire is most looking forward to taking care of herself and taking life one day at a time - with patience and trust.

Welcome to the parish Claire!

Friday, March 6, 2026
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Capitol Vault Room B15

Adoration
at the Capitol

RSVP at:
mncatholic.org/adoration

MINNESOTA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Andrew Dinner

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

6:00 - 8:00 PM | ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
19795 Holyoke Ave, Lakeville, MN 55044

Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda, Bishop Michael J. Izen, Bishop Kevin T. Kenney, and Fr. Mark Pavlak, Vocation Director, invite men, 16 and older, who are discerning their vocation, to join them for dinner and conversation about priesthood and religious life.

REGISTER ONLINE
before Thursday, February 26 at
10000vocations.org

"The Lord continues to call by name, just as He once called the Apostles on the shores of the Sea of Galilee."
Pope Benedict XVI

St. Mark's Men's Night (Feb 21)

**ST. MARK'S
MEN'S
NIGHT**

The next quarterly Men's Night is this month! Feb 21, from 5:00 - 9:00 PM in the cafeteria! Lasagna! Fraternity! \$10 suggested donation. RSVP at stmark.xyz/mn

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. Alejandra Escobar, 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

Fire on the Hill (Feb 21)



A time of Adoration with praise and worship music, and an offering of prayer team ministry for healing and prophetic encouragement. For more info, visit archspm.org/fireonthehill



The **ONLY Middle School Retreat** offered this academic year via St. Mark's (**Mar 13 - Mar 15** at Camp Courage in Maple Lake, Minn) is on the horizon. **Register by this Thursday, February 19th**, or while spots are still available; \$250 for individuals, max \$350 per family.

Conferences will be given by the religious of Pro Ecclesia Sancta, with a priest, brothers and sisters on hand; Mass; adoration; confession; fellowship; games; and fun! And no cell phones! Register at stmark.xyz/msr



Know a Catholic who boldly lives the Catholic faith in their labors —be they professional, enthusiast, or apostolate—and so positively impacts the broader community?

The Leading With Faith Awards returns to honor such individuals and organizations. Under new direction—transferred from The Catholic Spirit to The St. Joseph Business Guild—**2026's awards focus expands beyond just C-suite leadership** to include employees, individuals, entrepreneurs, founders, executives, professionals, and organizations whose faith-informed work is actively changing the landscape of culture, and business, in the Archdiocese.

Nominate faithful Catholics who are examples of innovation, business growth, entrepreneurship, community impact, and/or collaboration & partnership.

Nominating encourages others to be imitators of them, then, as they are of Christ, and so helps make our little corner of the church and the world that much stronger. **Nominations are requested by Mar 22.** The Awards event itself, open to all the faithful, will be May 1st, 2026 at 6:00 PM at St. Patrick's Church in Edina.

Head to sjbusinessguild.org/lwf to take action!

