

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY) | MARCH 15, 2026



LIVING FOR THE  
DAY OF THE LORD



THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK | [www.onestrongfamily.org](http://www.onestrongfamily.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Ab, Venice!: resting place of our great patron's remains and a historical hub of coffee's influx to the old world, as a cursory Google search would indicate! A cursory search also indicates yesterday (Mar 14) was the supposed patron of coffee's supposed birthday! There's a lot there to lean into for stoking the fires of community and devotion!*

**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](http://saintmarkspreschool.org)

And St. Mark's Preschool is *still* seeking a loving, energetic, and compassionate individual to **sub from April 7<sup>th</sup>-April 24<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto: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](http://stmark.xyz/house) has more details!

Saturday, Mar 21 @ 6:30 PM, the Cathedral is offering its monthly time of adoration with praise and worship music, and an offering of prayer team ministry for healing and prophetic encouragement ([archspm.org/fireonthehill](http://archspm.org/fireonthehill)).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**THU**  
**19**  
**MAR**

*Mass of Perpetual Vows of Brother Evan LeRoy Steeves, P.E.S. | 6:00 PM | Church*

The Archbishop will be presiding and all the faithful are encouraged to attend and lift up our brother in prayer as he makes his perpetual vows. Reception to follow!

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

**FRI**  
**20**  
**MAR**

Our *final* presentation for our series, *Claiming Country for Kingdom - Your Part in the National Consecration!* Local luminary and executive director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference, **the Jason Adkins, presenting** on "That They Might All Be One: Making America (More) Catholic." Missed a soup supper? Find available materials from the series at [stmark.xyz/sup](http://stmark.xyz/sup)

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.

**Don't miss this final installment, as well, because provided will be invitational items you can use to better incline your neighbors towards attending (Mar 27)!**

*Various Things | Various Times | Various Places*

**SUN**  
**22**  
**MAR**

The YA crowd (ages 18-39) are invited to hit up the Loons game at 1:30 PM (meet at rectory at 12:40 PM; RSVP at [stmark.xyz/mar22](http://stmark.xyz/mar22)) and the anyone and everyone crowd (especially couples/families) are invited to hit up the Twin Cities Community Gathering of the Wojtyła Community & Institute at 4:00 PM in Carolyn Hall for a potluck dinner and presentation! Community! RSVP at [stmark.xyz/tccg](http://stmark.xyz/tccg)

March 15 - 4th Sunday



Last week I shared some encouraging figures regarding some special almsgiving efforts that members of the parish have undertaken. Just as “deep calls on deep” when it comes to more causes for encouragement around

the parish.

In the summer of 2019, there was a “town hall meeting” at the home of a parish family in the wake of the school closure that spring. Concerned parishioners felt moved to gather and have a frank conversation about what direction their beloved parish should chart in the wake of such a drastic change. (Doors closed to clergy... this was a grassroots undertaking!) Among the many ideas that were floated and discussed, one very concrete—very tangible, almost edible, you could say—idea generated the most energy and consensus: *why don't we have Coffee & Donuts after Mass every Sunday???*

Lest it seem a little petty, the reasoning behind the idea is worth sharing. Many at St. Mark's were new to the parish, many new to the Cities. And given its location—central to the Metro, near UST and UMN—all kinds of new people were constantly checking the parish out. But how to get to know one another? How to form community, especially when many were coming from disparate directions? Weekly parishioner fellowship, rooted in the liturgy but outside of it, with a low bar for entry and the virtue of organizational simplicity, seemed to be just what was needed. And when the idea was floated to parish leadership, the answer was simply “why not!?”

Weekly Coffee & Donuts began that fall. Though surely there are other factors in play, the following statistics are noteworthy:

### Average Sunday Mass Attendance.

(At 9am/11am/Overall).

2019: 159/178/468.

2020 (COVID 🤒): 149/146/390.

2021: 181/164/448

2022: 214/166/471

2023: 249/181/495

2024: 271/166/506

2025: 287/161/507

2026 (to date): 319/185/565.5

Notice anything? It's curious that since C&D became more frequent (setting aside the COVID-19 dip, from which the parish recovered remarkably quickly), our Sunday Mass attendance—arguably the best indicator of parish size—has been trending steadily upwards *despite* the school closure. Yet while attendance at the 11am (after which still Coffee & Donuts remains only about monthly, due to the lunch hour most likely) has stayed consistent, attendance at the 9am has **more than doubled**.

Coincidence? Doubtful. Surely, it is God who gives the increase. But He does so as a reward to our cooperation with His inspirations!

For better or worse, we did not think to calculate the *cost* of C&D before we made it weekly. Turns out it runs the parish about \$10K a year to provide coffee and donuts free of charge at this frequency. A lot of money? Yes. Worth it to build up the parish? Two new families giving annually can more than offset the cost. All the same, I invite you to consider helping to sponsor a weekend or volunteer to help host (if you are not already), so that through the power of the Holy Spirit, frosted deep fried batter can be transformed into the up-building Body of Christ (literally!). And may God bless the many who, over the years, have contributed to this ministry and the growth of our community (in more ways than one).



Give to Coffee & Donuts



Serve at Coffee & Donuts

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

### New Parishioner Series



Meet Skarlett Salazar-Mondragon! Skarlett lives in Eagan with her Jack Russel Terrier, Winston. She was born in Nicaragua where she was baptized Catholic, but raised here in the Twin Cities where her family joined a Baptist Church. She is now in OCIA and is very excited to

fully enter the Catholic Church.

Skarlett builds software at a health information network. She has also spent two years in training as a clinical herbalist and takes clients on the side, addressing health concerns and helping to bring balance back to people's bodies through herbs and lifestyle changes.

In her free time you'll find her reading, enjoying a walk, or a light outdoor hike...emphasis on the word "light" she says :). She also enjoys painting, writing poems, dabbling in creative hobbies from guitar to crochet, and working on agility and rally obedience with her dog.

Skarlett found Saint Mark's on [reverentcatholicmass.com](http://reverentcatholicmass.com). Upon visiting, she found that at Saint Mark's people talked to each other outside the parish after Mass, which was something she hadn't noticed at other parishes. She also appreciated the ample opportunities to join a small group as well as the homilies which always provided her with a concrete way to live out her faith a little better each day.

This spring she is most looking forward to Confirmation and First Eucharist and to continue growing in and learning more about the faith. Also, since moving back to Minnesota last year after spending a few years in Florida, she is thoroughly enjoying being back near her family and friends again (especially now that she is a first time aunt)!

Welcome to the parish Skarlett!

### Lord, Renew Your Church Campaign update

We are the 81%! As Father David shared after Mass last Sunday, with 30-some families pledged so far, we're looking at being 81% (as of last Sunday) toward the goal for the Archdiocesan Lord, Renew Your Church campaign. Recall that 60% of funds raised up to the campaign goal go right back to the parish (*score!*). But it gets even better: after we surpass our primary goal (\$760,000), then the split of funds goes to 80% of additional dollars go back to the parish (*score again!*). So **definitely lean in, friends**, as this is a great opportunity to support the local church *and* capitalize on the tailwinds and infrastructure the archdiocese has set up for us!

### Annual Fish Fry (Mar 27, 5:00 - 7:00 PM)

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!**

The fast facts are above (or at [stmark.xyz/fryday](http://stmark.xyz/fryday) (like the menu)). But heed the call for volunteers! If you've got liberty on or around March 27<sup>th</sup>, then consider yourself compelled to help out with the fry! Opportunities to volunteer can be found at [stmark.xyz/fryer](http://stmark.xyz/fryer) (or via the accompanying QR code)!



### Saint Marks in Art (for Apr 25)

Honor our patron and our parish with novel parishioner-made art: it's the first-ever community art expo at our Patronal Feast Day celebration! The call is to artists young and old to spin out some St. Mark's imagery to otherwise incline minds and hearts toward our great parish, patron, and/or devotions! Details and sign up information are at [stmark.xyz/marky](http://stmark.xyz/marky) (or via the accompanying QR code)!



# MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions for week of MARCH 15, 2026

**7 AM**  
**M:** \*\*\*  
**T:** Michael T. Scanlon  
**W:** Mario Manese +  
**Tr:** Clinton J. Racine +  
**F:** Fr. Patrick Evans

**Sa:** Ronnie Johnson (8 AM); Steven Warner + (5 PM)  
**Su:** Pro Populo (9 AM)

**10 AM**  
 ---  
 Deceased CCW Members +  
 Leona Hammerbeck +  
 Chris Heiskanen +  
 Mark Worms +

## 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](mailto:ocia@onestrongfamily.org). Or sign up at [stmark.xyz/cim](http://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](http://saintmarkspreschool.org), or contact Addie Smith, our Preschool Director at:

[preschool@onestrongfamily.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://onestrongfamily.org/mission)

Know someone in need of prayers? Email your request to [prayers@onestrongfamily.org](mailto: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](http://onestrongfamily.org/give-help). For questions, contact [parishcenter@onestrongfamily.org](mailto:parishcenter@onestrongfamily.org)



ONE STRONG FAMILY UNITED IN CHRIST

SUN, MAR 22 1:30P GAME \$22

JOIN THE ST. MARK YOUNG ADULTS

LET'S GET LOONY!

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 25<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM! Sign up at [stmark.xyz/40days](http://stmark.xyz/40days)

*With praise and gratitude to Almighty God*

*the General Superior, the members of Pro Ecclesia Sancta, and the family of our brother, request the honor of your presence at the Mass of Perpetual Vows of:*

**Brother Evan LeRoy Steeves, P.E.S.**

*which will be presided by the Most Reverend Bernard Hebda Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis.*

*Thursday, March 19, 2026  
Solemnity of St. Joseph  
at 6:00 pm at the Church of St. Mark  
(2001 Dayton Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104)*

*Reception to follow after Mass*

**A.M.T.G.**

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 7<sup>th</sup> at [stmark.xyz/funds](http://stmark.xyz/funds) or using the accompanying QR code.



**"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.

**Entering into Holy Week**

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

RSVP here

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



## 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](http://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](mailto:stmarkxyz/tccg)



NEW

2026

# LEADING WITH FAITH

AWARDS



You 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: make them known! The Leading With Faith Awards returns (May 1<sup>st</sup>) to honor individuals and organizations whose faith-informed work is actively changing the landscape of culture, and business, in the Archdiocese. Seeking examples of innovation, business growth, entrepreneurship, community impact, and/or collaboration & partnership. **Nominate at [sjbusinessguild.org/lwf](http://sjbusinessguild.org/lwf) by Mar 22!**

### 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](http://roccaseccaproject.org)

## 2026 MEN'S CONFERENCE

# "AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE..."

Joshua 24:15



Keynote Speaker  
**Doug Barry**  
founder and director of the Catholic ministry RADIX

JOIN US

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026**

SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON  
2035 15th St W Hastings, MN 55033

**Doors open at 7 AM!**  
Mass at 8 AM celebrated by  
Archbishop Hebda, Bishop Izen  
and Bishop Kenney.  
Conference and Holy hour 9 AM - 12:30 PM.