

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT | FEBRUARY 22, 2026



LIVING FOR THE  
DAY OF THE LORD

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Lent, request Masses for your loved ones, why not?! [parishcenter@onestrongfamily.org](mailto:parishcenter@onestrongfamily.org)

**You can still make it.** The powers that be behind the Middle School Ignite Retreat (Mar 13-15) have extended the register-by deadline: grab a spot while they last for the *one* Middle School retreat this year. Life changing! Register at [stmark.xyz/msr](http://stmark.xyz/msr)

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

On Monday, Feb. 23, a Minnesota state Senate committee will **hold a public hearing on a bill for an abortion-up-to-birth constitutional amendment.** Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life encourages you to take action on behalf of unborn babies and their moms! You're invited to the Capitol on Feb. 23 to witness to senators; hearing takes place at 12:30 p.m. in room G-15 of the Capitol. Plan to arrive well before then; MCCL will have signs available to hold outside of the hearing room. You're encouraged to contact your state senator and tell them to oppose the abortion-up-to-birth ERA bill. Contact information for state senators can be found at [stmark.xyz/sen](http://stmark.xyz/sen)

Another way to take action on behalf of unborn babies and their moms: prayer and witness! St. Mark's is teaming up with Nativity of Our Lord for the Spring 40 Days for Life campaign! Prayer vigil days for us are **Mar 13 & 25**, from 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM! **Sign up at [stmark.xyz/40days](http://stmark.xyz/40days)**

**Please keep our catechumen and candidates in your prayers** as they are sent from our parish today to be recognized by the Archbishop at a liturgy this afternoon at the Cathedral

### Catechumen

Jose Salgado Rosas

### Candidates

Kristin Bakeman

Sarah Bakeman

Martha Connaire

Erin Erickson

Eric Eskuri

Cassandra Gray

Jaden Kalal

Charlie Lidberg

Paul Metal

Samuel Norland

AJ Plehal

Jennilee Plehal

Vincent Risso

Skarlett Salazar-Mondra

Sean Sanford

John Zeimet

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*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 second presentation for our series, *Claiming Country for Kingdom - Your Part in the National Consecration*, is "What is National Consecration?" with one Fr. Patrick Evans, PES presenting.

**FRI  
27  
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!**

## Feb 22 - 1st Sunday Lent



In the Pledge of Allegiance we recognize this land as “one nation, under God, indivisible, with justice for all.” We are forced, of course, to acknowledge that is more aspiration than reality: we live in a

time when the oneness and indivisibility of the USA are under a severe test. And the degree to which the nation is or ever has been under truly the dominion of the God of Heaven, and so able to ensure that degree of justice one can hope to enjoy in this life to each one, is debatable. But ideals can be approximated, even if they are never fully attained.

“Under God.” Whatever the diverse minds among the founding fathers believed, we know that the true God is the one revealed by Jesus Christ: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The same Father who has handed over “all authority on Heaven and earth” to His incarnate Son (Mt 28:18), who conquered this world and its former prince on the tree of the Cross.

Truly, Christ is King. He calls Himself one in the parable of the sheep and the goats: “Then the king will say to those on his right...” (Mt 25:34). Yet His kingdom is not of this world. Rather, it is an everlasting kingdom; it is the Kingdom of Heaven whose advent He came to both announce and bring about. It is a Kingdom that comes wherever the Father’s will is “done on earth as it is in heaven.”

At St. Mark’s, we are blessed to have two woodcarvings of Our Lord in the main church: one of Christ the Teacher with His Sacred Heart exposed (“learn of Me, for I am meek and humble of heart”), the other of Christ the Priest and King, reigning above the tabernacle. The two images aptly express Our Lord’s humility and majesty; His nearness and His transcendence; His justice and His mercy. He is the King, but He is the King of Love; He is meek and humble, but He also “lives and reigns forever and ever.” He is a man like us, but He is also Mighty God.

To aspire that our nation be *under God* is therefore to

aspire that it be subject to the reign of the meek and humble Heart of Christ the King; that it form a part of His Kingdom, recognize His Lordship, and belong to His dominion. As we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation’s founding, perhaps it is time to ask, how can that aspiration be made reality?

Nothing can replace conversion of heart, which brings about the entrance of a nation’s citizens themselves into the Kingdom of God. But when it comes to a nation, something more is required. A formal act, as it were, whereby the nation, or at least its leaders, collectively and in virtue of their authority dedicate their country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, pledging it to His kingship. In practice, this act is known as *national consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*. Pope Pius XI praised this custom a century ago when he established the Solemnity of Christ the King: “The kingship and empire of Christ have been recognized in the pious custom, practiced by many families, of dedicating themselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; not only families have performed this act of dedication, but nations, too, and kingdoms” (*Quas primas*, 26).

It would be hard to imagine our civil leaders uniting to consecrate the nation to the Sacred Heart anytime soon. So, on the occasion of the nation’s semiquincentennial, its bishops will do it instead. This June, US bishops will unite in dedicating the United States of America to the Divine Heart of our Lord. (For precedent, think of how Our Lady of Fatima requested that the pope and bishops consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart—surely without the cooperation of the communist government of that country, and likely without the involvement of the Russian Orthodox bishops either.)

As members of the nation, we want to do our part. This year’s Lenten Speaker Series will focus on preparing us to participate in the national consecration. I invite you to join us there each Friday, that starting with the bit of its soil that each of us is, this nation might be more perfectly placed under God’s loving dominion, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

## LENT 2026



# 2026 LENTEN SCHEDULE

PRAY FAST GIVE ALMS

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://stmark.xyz/finder)

# MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions for week of **FEBRUARY 22, 2026**

**7 AM**  
**M:** \*\*\*  
**T:** Ava Duchesne  
**W:** Finn Leonard  
**Tr:** Lucy Simones & Family  
**F:** Evans Family

**Sa:** Abigail Dill (8 AM); Leyna Krouchick (5 PM)  
**Su:** Pro Populo (9 AM)

**10 AM**  
 ---  
**Pat Daoust**  
**Sanford Johnson +**  
**Jason Kampa + (FUNERAL)**  
**Fr. David Hottinger**

## 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

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



# Adoration

at the Capitol

RSVP at:  
[mncatholic.org/adoration](http://mncatholic.org/adoration)



MINNESOTA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE




# Parish Family FORMATION PIZZA NIGHT




**RSVP HERE**  
**ALL INVITED!**

**Wednesday, March 4th | 5:30 - 7:30pm at Carolyn Hall**  
Meal | Formation | Adoration | Small Group Discussion  
**Topic: "The Good Shepherd: Fostering a deep, contemplative relationship with God"**

### Audition for Moonshot! (Mar 1-2)

Missed the Boat Theatre is holding auditions for Moonshot: A Statistically Insignificant Musical, an original musical written by Fr. Kyle Kowalczyk, music by the Chad Berg, playing June 18-27 at the Helene Houle Auditorium at Saint Agnes School.

**About the Show:** Life, for Melvin, is as predictable as he can make it. In fact, he's working as an actuary, to create a world in which everyone around him is focused on avoiding risks. But one day Christa walks into his life and... life doesn't feel very predictable anymore. She isn't something he can write off. When his doctor calls him on the same day with a life-altering diagnosis, Melvin is faced with a decision: will he spend the rest of his short and statistically insignificant life avoiding all risk, or will he take a chance on all the things he's been missing out on (like asking out a girl, reconnecting with old friends, or even going to the moon)?

**Auditions (30 minute slots)** will be at The Church of St. Mary (267 E. 8th St., St. Paul) from 6:30 - 9:30 PM March 1-2. **Callbacks are** March 8, 6:00-9:00 PM.

Take action at [missedtheboattheatre.com/audition](http://missedtheboattheatre.com/audition)

# Lenten Retreat

For High Schoolers

Join us for a morning of reflection, prayer, and fun!

Reflect on the true purpose of this season and how we can live it in the most fruitful way.

**REGISTER TODAY:**



Feb 28th  
9:30am - 1:00 pm  
Sacred Heart of Jesus Convent

Suggested donation: \$10

**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](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 1st) 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/sjf](http://sjbusinessguild.org/sjf) 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.