TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | OCTOBER 18, 2026



THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK | www.onestrongfamily.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday is Financial Pledge Sunday which means the much vaunted Annual Parish Report is upon you! It ought be stuffed in this very bulletin, and you can otherwise access it at **stmark.xyz/2026apr** Look upon these financials and pledge mightily and generously!

We've had one Nazareth Night, yes, but what about Second Nazareth Night? November 4th is the next First Wednesday, and so we'll have our next Nazareth Night with the provocative presentation title of *"Conflict & Communication: Unitive, Fruitful and Joyful."* **Register at stmark.xyz/monfm**

Some housekeeping notes for comms! Strive to email the editor *directly* and *not* use other channels (like text) if you're sharing items for the parish comms, IT help, etc. Also, he has to use some of his limited work hours to address some IT and other infrastructure needs at the parish, so if you have a hurried and/or odd one-off request outside of sharing items via the usual channels (i.e., *"print X," "tweak Y," "my thing will only take a second!,"* etc), those may not be serviceable. Advance notice is always eminently advised for requests!

Indulgences for the departed (**stmark.xyz/indulgence**)! Recall that the first eight days of November present an opportunity to pray with special potency for the deceased. Last year a hearty crew of parishioners popped over to a local cemetery on All Souls Day (a Sunday) to pray for the departed, and we'll pursue a similar venture this year, albeit on **Sunday November 8th, following the 9:00 AM Mass!**

And **All Souls Day falls (Nov 02) on a Monday.** We have 3-day votive candles that will be placed on St. Joseph's altar for the 10:00 AM Mass. You may offer a candle for a deceased loved one; staff will place the person's name on the candle and family members can take home the candle after Mass. Parties can **email names of the deceased** for candles (suggested donation is $10) **to parishcenter@onestrongfamily.org by EOD Thu, Oct 29.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUN 18 OCT	*Pastor-Led Prayer at Planned Parenthood| 1:00 PM| 671 Vandalia St.* Pray to end abortion, and join our spiritual fathers in the ministry of prayer and presence at Planned Parenthood for an hour of prayer, as part of the 2026 Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign. And recall our next prayer vigil day is **Oct 22: stmark.xyz/40dfl**
TUES 20 OCT	*Fall Bible Study Night Two of Six| 7:00 PM| Carolyn Hall* The people are raving about the Fall Bible Study and Night Two is Peter's Prototypical Pentecost Preaching. Register at **stmark.xyz/bible** and find super cool materials, including recordings and documents, from the night[s] gone by at **stmark.xyz/acts**
THU 22 OCT	*40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil Outside Planned Parenthood| 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM| 671 Vandalia St.* Pray to end abortion as part of the 2026 Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign, especially at our next prayer vigil day; sign up at **stmark.xyz/40dfl**
SAT 24 OCT	*A Night of Swing| 7:00 - 10:00 PM| 1954 Marshall Avenue* Lessons start at 7:00 PM, and the dance to-the-live-NorthStar-Band runs from 7:30 - 1:00 PM! Beer and wine available for purchase! Entry is a steal ($10 general, $7 student (with ID); must be 18+ to attend) and volunteers, if any spots are still available (**stmark.xyz/help**), get in free, legitimately!
SUN 25 OCT	*Pledge Sunday| At 9:00 and 11:00 AM Masses| The Church* Make your commitment to support St. Mark's in the year ahead! Remember, we're a stewardship, grassroots kind of parish and to keep things going pledged parishioner support is key!!

October 18, 2026 - 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Annual Parish Financial Report



"But Father, tell us how the parish is doing *financially!*"

In my three years as a pastor, no one has ever said that to me. I suppose that the new arrivals see that the roof is not caving in and Masses take place as scheduled, as so things must be fine. And perhaps those who have been around figure that though the parish is in steep debt to the Archdiocese and year after year projecting a massive deficit, by the grace of God we seem to manage. So we all let sleeping dogs lie.

And there is something true about both perspectives. On top of that, we are not here to make money anyway, but spend it generously on the most important of purposes: the glory of the true God and the salvation and sanctification of souls. We want to do that responsibly but it will always remain a "losing endeavor" in the evangelical sense of the Apostle's words, "I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things" (Phil 3:8).

Even so, St. Robert Bellarmine, a doctor of the Church, considered *temporal prosperity* to be one of the marks of the Church. Not that he adhered to some proto-prosperity Gospel. This was a man who refused to have a private collection of books and so would always check out the volumes he needed for his theological projects from the community library… and return them before the end of the day. Yet he recognized that, at least when given a respite from persecution, the Christian life results in human flourishing, and the generosity of the faithful combined with the prudent administration of their gifts ordinarily will result in a holy sufficiency of temporal goods and an abundance of spiritual riches. But St. Paul already said as much when he told the Corinthians in his fundraising letter to them, "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." (2 Cor 9:8).

Therefore, I am very grateful to be able to share with you the financial figures in this year's Annual Report. Hopefully not for the first time since 1889, but certainly for the first time in recent memory, we are projecting a balanced budget. For newcomers, this may seem like no great thing; common sense even. For those who have been around, you know that this is worth at least a few chest bumps and a lot of alleluias.

It was just summer of 2025 when the Finance Council decided to begin meeting more frequently because it had declared a state of financial emergency. We were consistently projecting major budgetary deficits (in the ballpark of $150K). Each year was bringing with it major unexpected maintenance projects (a busted boiler here, a sagging roof there), and we had only been surviving because of large one-off windfalls which we could not reasonably expect to keep receiving.

It was good that we took the matter as seriously as we did. Thankfully, we elected to do what could be done for the time, avoid any drastic cuts in our parish operations, and continue to trust in Providence.

Over a year later, we are breathing much easier. As you can see from this year's report, far from realizing the projected deficits, we have actually been in the black the past two years. We are projecting to be so again this year.

What's changed? Well, thankfully last fiscal year we did not have any major physical plant breakdowns or unexpected repairs. Consistent efforts from our business office to reduce expenses are bearing fruit. Above all, however, the story is the generosity of our parishioners. St. Mark's is a small parish: just 560 souls on average each Sunday. But it is an incredibly generous parish, despite the incredibly low average age of those attending. The generosity of people like you make St. Mark's a medium-sized parish in terms of its operations, and I would say a "great" parish in terms of the commitment, engagement, and cohesion of its members.

It's also a growing parish. Mass counts have been increasing thirty to forty souls a year for the past two

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From the Heart of the Shepherd continued

years, and though each year parishioners depart as they move away, even more arrive. Financial contributions to the parish have been rising each year as our community grows, and as households find themselves in a position to be even more generous.

Crisis averted, then? Not entirely. Prices continue to rise across the board. The St. Paul Seminary's lease of the convent spaces ends this December. That will result in an over $100K budget impact which is only partially realized this fiscal year, an impact only partially offset by the arrival of TC Swing to our community of renters. The payments made to the Archdiocese in repayment of our $2M+ debt will continue to increase $10K a year for the next few years, putting additional pressure on the bottom line. With the advent of public preschool, our Catholic preschool is struggling to get enrollment back to where we would like to see it, despite the stellar efforts of Ms. Addie and her incredible team. And, given the age of our buildings, a major repair might always be lurking around the corner, even as we try to be better about staying on top of the upkeep of our beloved brick buildings.

Nevertheless, in this harvest season, there is cause for great rejoicing. God has blessed our parish, above all with so many beloved parishioners who, in turn, love and give generously to our parish. Next Sunday we will have our annual Parish Financial Pledge; I invite you to discern this week what you and your household are able to give to St. Mark's in the year to come. In the meanwhile, know of my gratitude for your support of St. Mark's. Our budget this year is a historic milestone and a "sacrament" of your generosity. Now let us rejoice, and fix our attention on the riches that really matter to God (Lk 12:21): humble holiness overflowing in loving works for God and needy neighbor.

A New Frontier in Pledging!

"What the what?! Next weekend is pledge weekend?!"

Yes. The Month of Stewardship drums have, for reasons sundry, beat far quieter this year than in years gone by (not the least because we're striving to distribute the load throughout the year). There will still be a pronounced invitation to make a financial pledge and that is next weekend: cards will be provided in the pews!

But here we're all about doing new and more things (except with our theology), and sometimes *less* is more.

So, one novelty we're pursuing this year is, in lieu of a "talent pledge," and, recognizing that we're very much a parishioners-as-stakeholders parish, we're including a **"Parish Event Volunteering Tithe."** It's not big gifts and galas that keep the ship going around here but stewardship, regular giving, *and volunteering!*

Next week's pledge card will include the invitation, and challenge, to all to pledge *volunteer* support for *at least two* events in the coming year!

"Ah, but I don't have my calendar ready! I, uh, can't commit that far in advance! And what if something else comes along [like a farm or a business]?!"

Friend, don't overthink this and beware of the other side of the coin: crippling option-itis, never committing, and pining after that "perfect" experience! What you're sharing is an expression of your willing spirit, today! Be generous!

The events noted for the "tithe pledge" will be...

Parish Picnic (*first Saturday of September*)
Fall Rummage Sale (*last week of September*)
Parish Soiree (*evening of Jan 23*)
Lenten Soup Supper (*1 of 4 Fridays this Lent*)
Lenten Fish Fry
Spring Rummage Sale (*week of April 20*)
Feast of St Mark (*evening of Apr 24*)
Assumption Ice Cream Social (*evening of Aug 14*)

MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions for week of October 18, 2026

	7 AM	10 AM
M:	***	---
T:	Patricia + & + Charles Bulla	Peter DeMarais
W:	Kay Wiederhold +	Averie Kadane
Tr:	Elizabeth Clare Macheichok +	Alesana Anetipa +
F:	Elizabeth Clare Macheichok +	Fr. David Hottinger

Sa: Dave McLaughlin (8 AM); Anthony & Ellen DiMauro (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 pray today? One of the saddest feelings in the world is it's 9:30 PM and you're about to turn in and you realize, oh no, I *didn't* [yet] pray today.

Just one of the many perks of a middle-of-the-night holy hour is you can *wake up* knowing that you already prayed today! Commit to an hour at **stmark.weadorehim.com**! Can't cover a whole hour, regulary? 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

Sidewalk Ministry Training (Oct 20)

There is a Pro-Life Sidewalk Ministry Annual Training Seminar, taking place at NATIVITY OF OUR LORD in Steiner Hall (basement of the church) on Tuesday evening Oct 20, from 7:00 PM - 9 PM. Sidewalk Counselors are ordinary people who offer literature to abortion-minded parents about the (1) Help Available, (2) Humanity of Preborn Children, and (3) Harm of Abortion, while offering words of Truth and Love, encouraging them to choose life, and directing them to a Pregnancy Resource Center.

Both counselor trainees and prayer supporters are encouraged to attend!! Prayerfully consider joining and spreading the word. This outreach has saved many lives!! Interested parties are asked to watch a brief video that explains more about the ministry, presented by Janet McCoy: **stmark.xyz/mccoy** Former abortion workers have said that when people are there praying, they have up to a 75% no-show rate for abortion appointment. YOUR prayers and presence MATTER



World Mission Sunday (Oct 18) Collection

World Mission Sunday's collection is the single canonically mandated collection for the whole Church and goes towards supporting her missionary work. Please make sure to support the effort with prayer and proper charitable sacrifices, as well!

If only you had quick way to make your gift!! You do: the massive QR code below will take you to **stmark.xyz/wms**



STAFF

Clergy:
Fr. David Hottinger, PES.....Pastor
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Fr. Patrick Evans, PES.....Associate Pastor
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Parish Staff:
Randy Lehnen.....Parish Business & Facilities Manager
Sr. Daniela Ormeno, PES.....Faith Formation & Ignite Youth Ministry
Annamarie Adkins.....Parish Family Life Coordinator
Kristen Grant.....Director of Discipleship
Andrew Kracht.....Facilities Maintenance Technician
Kathrine Handford.....Director of Music and Organist
Audrey Koval.....Pastoral Associate & Safe Environment Coordinator
Gina Brennan.....Administrative Assistant
Kevin Gearns.....Director of Communications

Parish Contact
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parishcenter@onestrongfamily.org

Parish Trustees: Kip Chaffee, Andrew Nowak
Parish Pastoral Council: Alex Coyne, Chair
Parish Finance Committee: Pat Shrake, 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: 5:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM
Daily Mass:
Monday-Friday: 10:00 AM
Tuesday-Friday: 7:00 AM
Saturday: 8:00 AM
Confession:
Tuesday-Friday: 9:30 AM
Saturday: 3:30-4:30 PM
Sunday: 8:30 - 9:00 & 10:30 - 11:00 AM
Rosary: The Rosary is prayed after every weekday Mass in the Adoration Chapel

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."

All Saints Day Celebration (Nov 01)



All parish youth are invited to attend Mass dressed as their favorite saints! After Mass, we will have a **Procession of Saints,** beginning 10 minutes after 9:00 AM Mass concludes. During the procession, children will have the opportunity to share which saint they chose to dress up as, so come prepared to tell us about your saint!

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our friends in Heaven and encourage our children to imitate their holy example.

Following the procession, children can walk around Carolyn Hall for some fun **"candy begging" (trick-or-treating)!**

All parishioners are welcome to bring candy to Coffee and Donuts to share with the children. Thank you for helping make this a fun and joyful celebration for everyone!

Open ~~House~~ Convent (Nov 08)

November 8th is a Religious Communities Open House Sunday and the PES sisters invite families, youth and all the faithful to visit the convent (8650 Russell Ave S, Bloomington) for a wonderful opportunity to pray together, encounter the love of the Sacred Heart, and learn more about religious life. **1:00 - 4:00 PM!**

All-Parish Retreat Day (Dec 13)

There will be an all-parish retreat day (including some semblance of childcare), including a combined 10:00 AM Mass, adoration and confession, brunch, talk, reflection, discussion and more. You know: a retreat! More details coming, but block that Sunday off!

New ~~Parishioner~~ *Staff* Series



One strong family united in Christ. This is one of our core values here at the Church of Saint Mark. Whether you are young or old, married or single, the parish community is here to support you and encourage you as you pursue sainthood.

We are blessed to have new members joining our parish and we'd like to introduce them to our parish family here. If you see them around the parish, please introduce yourself too!

Meet Andrew Kracht! Andrew comes from a large Catholic family of ten kids (he is number five) and he lives in West Saint Paul. He graduated from high school in 2025 and did a year of mission work with NET ministries after graduation.

While he waits for the Lord to call him to the next part of His plan, he is working at Saint Mark's as the Facilities Maintenance Technician. As a technician he will be doing all sorts of things from checking on the boilers to routine maintenance on the property.

Some of Andrew's hobbies include playing sports, playing cards, playing guitar, and hanging out with his family. He belongs to the Church of Saint Joseph in West Saint Paul and is looking forward to seeing how God can use his time at Saint Mark's to further God's plan in his life.

Thank you for all you do around the parish Andrew!

Pray the Rosary After Weekday Mass

In the adoration chapel!

"There are several ways of saying the Holy Rosary, but that which gives Almighty God the greatest glory, does the most for our souls and which the devil fears more than any other, is that of saying or chanting the Rosary publicly in two groups."
-St. Louis de Montfort's Forty-Sixth Rose from *The Secret of the Rosary*