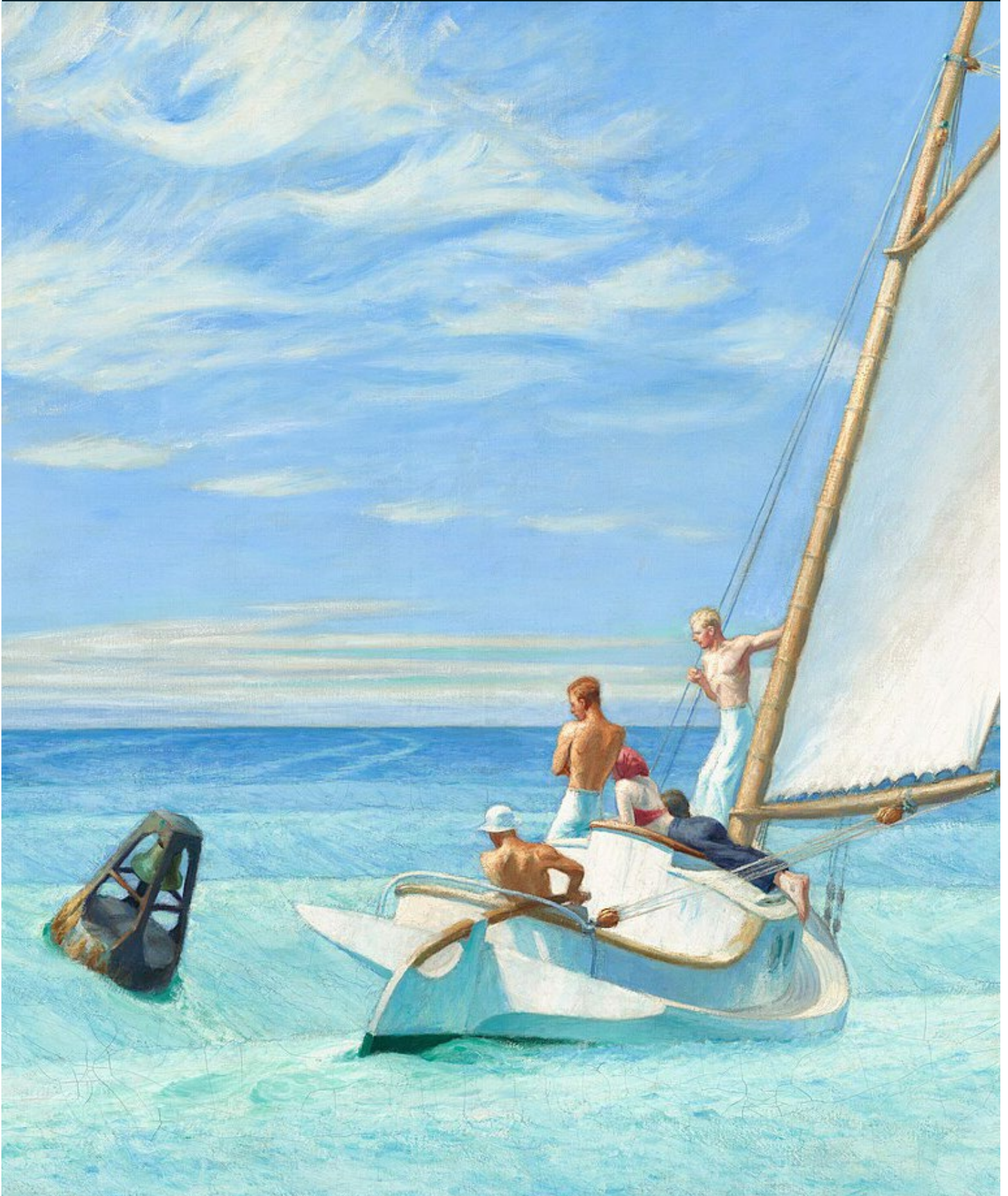


SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | JULY 26, 2026



THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK | www.onestrongfamily.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We've got another bulletin cover in the theme of fine nautical + summer art. It's "Ground Swell" (1939) by Edward Hopper. All the readily discoverable commentary on the piece that the editor could find ("I looked nowhere and found nothing.") suggest the painting is actually supposed to have an ominous [under]tone to it. But, aside from the boat being a bit too close to that buoy while being in waves, the editor thinks those commentators are out to lunch. Just look at those bright values, clean masses, and warm tones! Hopper wasn't known for being particularly chipper, but, at least as far as his "oeuvre" is concerned, this one radiates mirth.

Close and/or faithful readers of the bulletins will recall that there's a good degree of shake-up with our resident holy orders this summer, as Fr. David noted in the bulletin article two weeks ago. (*Closer* readers need not be so swift to point out the editor's typos and peccadilloes.)

But it can be bewildering keeping track of who's where, so, in the interest of clarity:

- Dcn Evan is in SD until mid-August
- Dcn José Ignacio Rodriguez is IN THE HOUSE!
- Fr. Patrick is *presumably* here
- Fr. David is effectively gone until mid-August (on retreat and then off to Peru)
- and then the PES men are gone mid-August until end of August, whence they're all back here

St. Mark's Preschool is seeking caring, faith-filled, responsible individuals to care for the preschoolers during the 2026-27 school year. A variety of hours are available. Please reach out to Addie Smith, the director, at asmith@onestrongfamily.org to inquire.

And, among other things that St. Mark's is seeking, is we've got **two open** positions, or at least the potential for two open positions: Facilities Maintenance Technician (stmark.xyz/fmt) and also a Buildings and Grounds Custodian (stmark.xyz/bgc). These both fall under the Business and Facilities heading and conceivably there's some overlap between the two, or at least the potential for overlap within a particular candidate for the two, as the positions relate to physically keeping St. Mark's shipshape. If you know a good lead for the position[s], send them to Randy Lehnen, business and facilities manager to the stars, at rlehnen@onestrongfamily.org

This is your helpful reminder that TC Swing (tcswing.com) has a First Saturday Night Swing Dance here on campus, barring a holiday. This Saturday (Aug 01) is a First Saturday! They also have their perpetual Thursday night offering, too, again, here on campus. [Lindy] Hop to it!

The Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force. Let that encourage you that, in a world entangled in permission-seeking, you, dear reader, can, nevertheless, "just do things." One of those things you can just do: request Masses be celebrated for you and yours! Do that by dropping a line to parishcenter@onestrongfamily.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

THU
30
JUL

Women's Summer Social | 7:00 PM | *Laurel's SUMMIT AVE Home (2037 Summit Ave)*
It's the WSS! Which is snake-tongue for "Not To Be Missed Annual Women's Summer Social!"
Sounds great, especially in English, but it's only for the ladies. RSVP greatly appreciated at stmark.xyz/wss

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 26

I once heard this story. Perhaps it is apocryphal. But it was presented as true.

So there was this rural town in Mexico. (OK that part is definitely true). It was hot there, all year round. *Really* hot. Since the village was poor, no one had air conditioning. Maybe not even electric fans. The best they could do in the heat of the day was to sit out on their porches, hope for a breeze, and fan themselves (with their sombreros, I imagine).

Until the Yankees came. Some go-getting group of American missionaries, or philanthropists, or Spring Breakers had occasion to visit the town. Or maybe it was an eccentric billionaire. (On this point, obviously, I am a bit fuzzy on the details). Whoever it was, they felt compassion for these poor Mexican villagers who endured such awful heat most of the year. So what did the Yankees do? They donated an air conditioner to each home in the village. Aww!

Know what happened next? The town collapsed. Turns out its culture and civic life depended on those afternoon porch sits, in which people would visit one another and chat and maintain relationships as they shared news, struggles, and swapped stories and songs (I imagine). Once the AC units were installed, everyone just stayed in their homes. No one spoke to each other anymore. They fell out of touch, out of contact. Young people had less keeping them there and, when they came of age, they moved away. And the old died off, in the cool of their homes. All thanks to those darn Yankees!

Why am I sharing this story? Oh, no reason. Forecast calls for high temps this Sunday. You might be feeling them right now. You might be asking, "Why doesn't St. Mark's have AC like all the other churches?" Nobody knows! Probably not because of what happened to that town in Mexico.

In any case, let it be known that we are exploring options, especially after learning that with just three

mini-splits we can cool the gym down significantly. However, we want to be sure that such a solution would not mar the aesthetics of our church, inside or out. Also, we want to be sure that the investment will mesh with the hope-for renovation of the lower church, which might involve an HVAC solution. When the time comes to pull the trigger, trust I will let you know via a plea for the necessary funds (BTW, it's looking like it would be in the ballpark of \$80K 😊).

Know where it *is* air-conditioned at St. Mark's? The Adoration Chapel. It warms my pastor's heart to see so many coming and going in that chapel this summer. How Jesus must delight that souls from near and far can come to our parish to keep Him company, pour out their hearts, and receive the special blessings He so longs to bestow on His little lambs!

I also delight that some of you are making use of our chapel on Sundays to escape from the heat, but not from the liturgy, on Sundays. We presently are looking into solutions to get audio from the sounds system in there (again, without marring the aesthetics).

Just as we are aware that St. Mark's is blessed to have an (air-conditioned) Adoration Chapel, we are also all aware that St. Mark's is even more blessed to have so many babies attending its Masses and adoration times (babies, the credit goes to your *parents*). We are aware of this fact, in part, because babies and other little ones tend to make their presence *heard*.

Hopefully we all agree that this is an enormous blessing. All the more so since babies are the future and they tend to attract more families with babies to our parish. Which has such a bright future! Learning the lesson of those darn Yankees, I think we should be very careful not to do anything at our parish that might have the unintended consequences of occasioning its death... by making parents with small children feel unwelcome.

That said, I am also very aware, as pastor, that little ones can create *challenges*. (I suppose their parents know *continued on page 4*)

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

From the Heart of the Shepherd continued

this better than anyone else.) I am usually a pretty cool cucumber up there at the altar, but I too must admit that there are some Masses in which some little yodeller is vying with God for my pious attention. Vying... and *winning*.

This happens in the Adoration Chapel too. We ought to admire those parents who, for their own benefit or their children's, undertake the surely challenging task of bringing their little ones to see Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, if only for a few minutes. Who recognize in this way how much they need His grace, even if coming to ask for it is not pretty or convenient. If we are tempted to be annoyed by the squeals or shrieks, we might think of Jesus' word to His indignant disciples, as the little ones were approaching His presence: "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 19:14). Surely, that saying applies to our chapel!

I am also aware, however, that the presence of little ones in the chapel can be... challenging, and not just for their parents. The natural environment of adoration is silence and stillness, so that we can be aware of the Sacred. We want our chapel to be a refuge of divine tranquility and God-mindfulness. And that can be hard when a junior adorer is being fussy or running around in the pews, or banging books... whether observers are bothered by their antics or distracted by their cuteness.

What to do? At bottom, I beg for *mutual consideration*. Parents, know that you and your children are most welcome in the chapel—you have a right to be there, and it is "good for all of us to be here" as St. Peter said in the same Presence. But also be considerate of others who are present. Try to keep the experience positive for all, which may mean removing children who are in a yelling mood, or tailoring visit length to your child's capacities. (For that matter, don't feel you are a bad Catholic or parent if you don't have a committed hour at this stage of your life or bring your children to adoration... parental spirituality has its own particular

grace—usually one of self-sacrifice—and hardly requires long stretches of stillness and/or deep contemplative prayer). Others, be considerate and compassionate with parents. Admire them for bringing children into this world and into our church and chapel. Remember when you were in their shoes, or recognize that you haven't been yet. Be more ready to support than to criticize. And to suffer a little in solidarity with them knowing that Jesus is probably not as cross as you are at the babies. And recognize that the annoyed glances or judgmental thoughts are probably not from the Holy Spirit. (But, again, parents, don't let your child become an occasion of wrath for the worshippers around you, who are not *as* desensitized to the shrieks!)

Remember, we are all on the same team here. Let's "bear each others' burdens," not add to them, "and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal 6:2). In the spirit of trying to make things easier, not harder for parents, *as well as* other adorers, **St. Mark's is instituting a weekly time of adoration for parents and little ones.** Fridays at 9am have now been pithily dubbed the "Let the Children Come to Me Hour." Not that they are *not* welcome at other hours. But so that for at least one hour, parents can feel free to bring their little ones—regardless of how much chapel etiquette they have internalized—to see Jesus, and so that the parents can have a moment of adoration too perhaps while their kids are distracted with the other kids their present. And other adorers will be on notice, then, that the chapel might be a little chaotic or rambunctious during that time, but should trust that Jesus, behind the veil of the Sacrament, is beaming warm and wide.

And, speaking of kids and prayer

Holy Kids Camp is in two weeks or so (Aug 10-14). Please keep that venture in prayer and make a special effort to be a prayer warrior on behalf of all involved!

MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions for week of JULY 26, 2026

10 AM

M: ***
T: Jane Schlangen
W: Patricia Bulla +
Tr: Sam Chaffee +
F: Joanna Chang

Sa: Kathryn Shrake (8 AM); Kristi Newby & Kayla Edstrom Helgemo (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

CCW Funds Disbursement

Remember how the CCW *really* gets after things during the year and does great work? Remember how they asked for input on whence to send the fruits of their labors? Well, now wonder no more where this past year's efforts all go to: CCW sent funds to the following 10 Church Projects and 20 Charitable Organizations!

In Support of Parish Projects: \$32,000:

- Ignite High School and Middle School Retreat Scholarships and Bus rental: \$4,000
- Carolyn Hall Tablecloths: \$2,000
- Carolyn Hall Art: \$500
- Carolyn Hall New Bunn Automatic coffee maker: \$2,000
- Preschool Security cameras and infrastructure: \$1,000
- Preschool Playground climbing equipment and children's picnic table: \$500
- Church Bathroom repairs: \$200
- Easter flowers: \$300
- New Mary Altar and St. Joseph Altar cloths: \$2,000
- Sanctuary Restoration/cleaning/painting: \$19,500
(in reserve until bell tower repairs, more will be allotted next year)

Charity: \$21,000

- Aim Higher Foundation (Catholic Education): \$1000
- Caring/ Sharing Hands (Family Homeless facility, Mpls): \$1000
- Dorothy Day (Catholic Charities, St. Paul): \$1000
- Interfaith Action Ministry (Project Home): \$1000
- Partners for Hope (Druffner family mission in Tanzania): \$1000
- St. Jerome's school (KaRen Immigrants) : \$1000
- Keystone (Food shelf): \$1000
- Eden Invitation (Catholic Response to Gender issues): \$1000
- Madonna plan (NCCW Catholic Relief Services): \$1000
- Risen Savior Missions (Germ family mission in Philippines): \$1000
- Casa Guadalupana (Catholic Worker house for immigrants, St. Paul, West side): \$1000
- Philomena House (Housing for homeless pregnant mothers and babies): \$1000
- NET Ministries (High School/Jr. HS Evangelization): \$1000
- SPO (University/College Evangelization): \$1000
- Open Window Theater (Catholic Professional Theater): \$1000
- Jack's Basket (Downs Syndrome family support): \$500
- St. Vincent DePaul (truck for Rummage Sale unsold items): \$500
- Abria (pro-life support for women/families): \$2000
- Birthright (pro-life support for women/families): \$2000
- Our Lady of Peace (Parish Hospice): \$1000

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

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

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

Audition for Missed the Boat (Aug 3 & 4)

Missed the Boat Theatre (missedtheboattheatre.com) is holding auditions (Aug 3 & 4 at Church of St. Mary (St. Paul)) for their **2026 New Works Lab**, featuring workshops and staged readings of two new scripts, to be performed at Art House North in Saint Paul on September 24-26, 2026.

About the Shows:

The Lost Art of the Private Eye

Written by Hannah Reller

Directed by Sam Vargo

It's 1950 in the bustling metropolis of Capitol City. Eustace Wonderly, Private Eye, takes on a case to search for the Alabaster Child, a priceless figurine stolen from the Capitol City Art Museum. But something about this case is different. Eustace has taken on a new partner—his younger, starry-eyed brother Ned. As they dive into the eccentric world of art idolizers, corrupt art dealers, and genuine lovers of beauty, the Wonderly brothers must navigate hidden doors, a fist fight, a car chase, and more in order to solve the case of the Alabaster Child.

The Women of Cheboksary

Written by Emily Schoenbeck

Directed by Jimmy Bickerstaff

As the Russian village of Cheboksary prepares to celebrate their annual Kupala festival, a messenger sent on behalf of Ivan the Terrible arrives and announces that the tsar has decided to take a Russian bride and is having all of the virtuous maidens of Russia rounded up to compete for his hand in marriage at the palace. When a young woman of the town does not want to be taken, she and a recently betrothed couple decide to create a fake scandal to let her stay. But how far are they willing to go to keep her in Cheboksary?

Learn more about the show and audition information by visiting the audition: stmark.xyz/nwl! Please contact admin@missedtheboattheatre.com with any questions!



Barn Dance (Aug 08)



Parishioner Jillian Jean has shared the above item with the parish community: a barn dance (including bonfire, lessons, and more) at the Barn at Jean Acres. Free (aside from having to get yourself to Ellsworth, WI)! Sounds like a great time: RSVP appreciated but not required! You better go unless you're literally lame.