

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

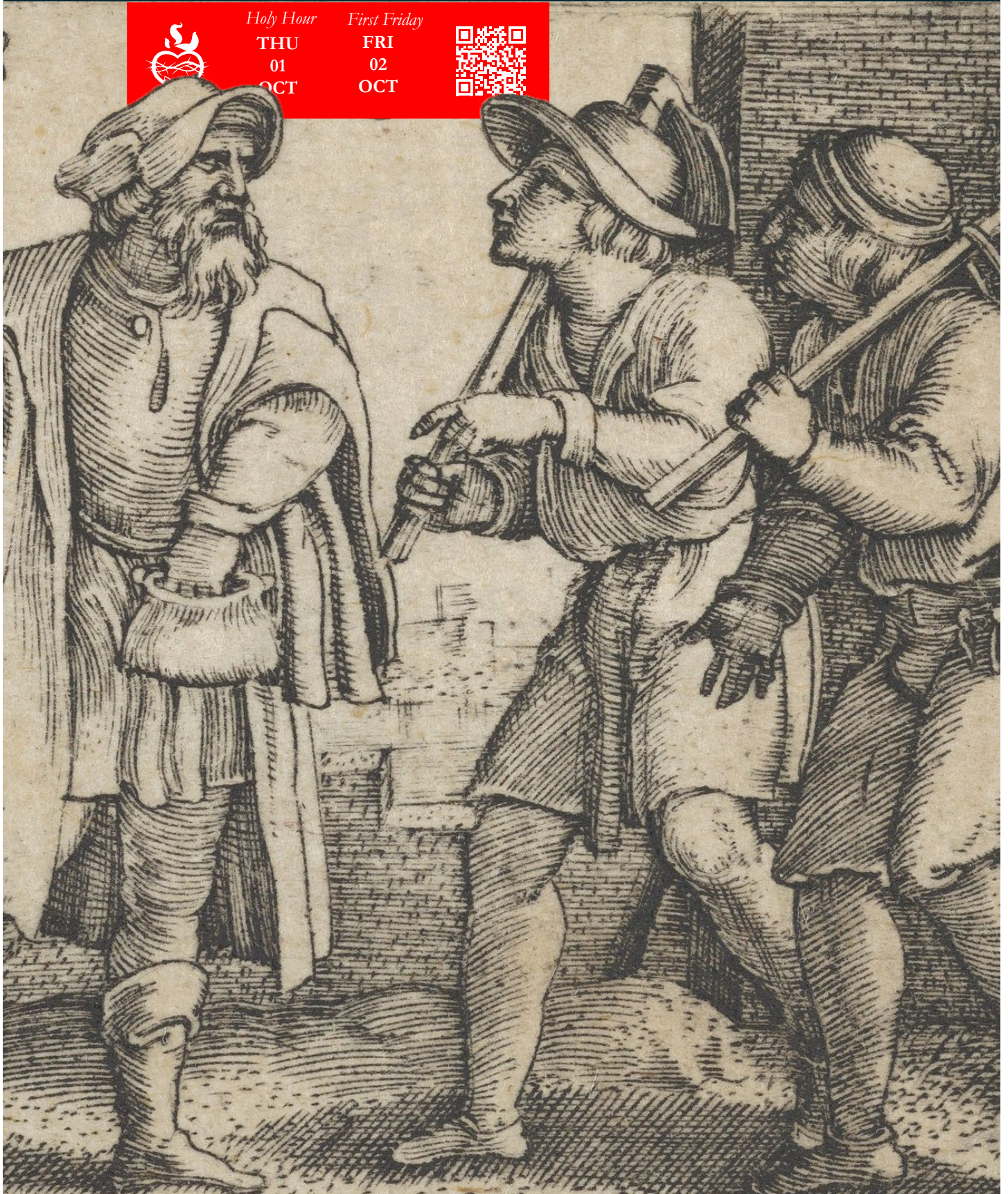


Holy Hour

THU
01
OCT

First Friday

FRI
02
OCT



THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK | www.onestrongfamily.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nazareth Nights are starting soon: Oct 07 is the first evening of our reconstituted ministry to support families. Recall Father David devoted an entire Sunday Bulletin Article to this new venture which will combine an every-time shared meal, catechesis and community offerings for PreK - 5th grade children, and, especially for the adults, these newly minted Nazareth Nights are ordered to feed your hunger for more fellowship, peer-to-peer wisdom sharing, and discussion: talking to each other about how you navigated certain challenges, comiserating and “co-parenting” in the best sense. You can sign up at stmark.xyz/nazareth

”Deadlines, schmeadlines,” am I right? No, I am not. And you’re not. Deadlines are flexible until they’re not and don’t get into the habit of trying to keep doors open too long — ask your doctor if you suffer from “option-itis”: chances are you do! The following deadlines should be observed for sign ups (if only that you don’t build up the habit and think your life’s *final* deadline is flexible!):

Oct 01 for the Ignite High School Retreat (Oct 23-25): stmark.xyz/dun

Sep 27 for the Ignite Games (Sep 30): stmark.xyz/games2026

Shared for your consideration: The Minnesota Alliance for Ethical Healthcare is sponsoring a film festival, Life in Focus, on November 7 in Minneapolis focused on principled, life-affirming approaches to end-of-life care: stmark.xyz/focus

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUES 29 SEP	<i>OCIA First Regular Session 7:00 PM Community Room</i> Did God <i>really</i> create the universe? Yes, but he didn’t <i>really</i> say “You must not eat from any tree in the garden.” More on that, and some of the biggest mysteries, and best intro mysteries there are, at OCIA’s first regular session! Hear about how it all started good, how it all Fell, all the fine nuances and more! Invite, invite, invite! For questions, contact ocia@onestrongfamily.org
THU-FRI 01-02 OCT	<i>First Friday-tivities Parish Holy Hour* @ 7:00 PM Thursday; First Friday Mass 7:00, 10:00 AM Church</i> Console the Sacred Heart of Jesus! As our Lenten formation illuminated, the faithful are encouraged to receive Holy Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months to make reparation for the sins committed against his Sacred Heart. And to console the Sacred Heart in a time when He was alone, a special invitation is also given to the faithful to observe the 11 PM - 12 AM Thursday hour as an hour of prayer and meditation joining with Christ in his Agony in the Garden. As this can constitute a particular challenge for many, given their state in life, a parish holy hour is marked at 7:00 PM, particularly during the academic year.
FRI 02 OCT	<i>40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil Day 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM Planned Parenthood, 671 Vandalia St.</i> Homicide has been with the race since the early, early days (see OCIA note about “The Fall” above!) — and unfortunately many a child in the womb is still a target. Prayer and witness cover a multitude in saving lives and moving hearts, so consider giving an hour at the fall 40 Days for Life campaign. Contact karenmccann3@gmail.com or 612-964-4622 for details.
SAT 04 OCT	<i>New Parishioner Lunch Following 11:00 AM Mass Carolyn Hall</i> There is no “Established Parishioner Lunch:” you need to seize the free, introductory rite of passage and welcoming meals and socials when you can! If you’re new to the parish, registered or no[t yet], then we want your RSVP ASAP for the New Parishioner Lunch: stmark.xyz/npl

September 27, 2026 - 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Deeper Dive



The Gospel for this Sunday, the parable of the two sons, on the surface seems straightforward enough. In fact, its lesson can be summed up in another saying of Our Lord: “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven” (Mt 7:21). The first son merely says he will obey. The second son actually obeys. We make Jesus our Lord by doing the Father’s will, not by our lip service. Etc. Etc.

But the Fathers of the Church saw more going on. There are actually two strands of interpretation.

The first line, championed by heavy hitters like St. Jerome and St. John Chrysostom, understands the parable as relating the history of the Jews and Gentiles. The Gentiles are represented by the first son, since before Abraham, all were Gentiles. These effectively responded “I will not” to God’s command that they serve Him when they chose to worship false gods. But “afterwards,” when they encountered Christ, they “changed their minds,” i.e. converted and began to serve God.

Israel, in contrast, is represented by the second son. When that nation made a covenant with God under Moses, they had said, “We will do everything the Lord has said” (Ex. 19:8). But subsequently, they did not live out the Lord’s commands, they “did not go” into His vineyard.

The interpretation is an intriguing one, because of the degree of “fit” between the parable and the history, at least if we understand things in broad strokes (not all the Gentiles have accepted Christ; not all the Israelites rejected Him, and at least some were faithful to the covenant before Christ). And this reading is supported by the fact that, in Matthew 21, the parable of the two sons is followed immediately by the parable of the wicked tenants. There, Jesus again speaks about a vineyard, and the moral of the parable is that “the

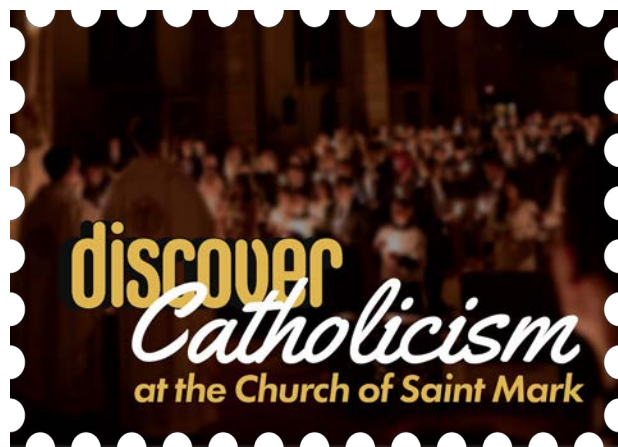
kingdom of God [the “vineyard”] will be taken away from you [the Jews, or perhaps the Jewish leaders] and given to a people that will produce its fruit [the Gentiles, or perhaps the Church].

And yet the fit is not perfect. There is another line of interpretation—and Jerome acknowledges it—who observe that the punchline of the parable is not “Gentiles are entering the kingdom before you (Jews),” but rather “Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you (chief priests and elders)” (Mt 21:31). The parable, therefore, should be understood as speaking about the “unrepenting righteous” and (repentant) sinners, not Jews and Gentiles. This reading is supported by the fact that the parable comes right after the debate about Jesus’ authority and the authority of John the Baptist, a debate whose relevance was entirely contained within Judaism. Those who recognize the heavenly origin of John’s preaching and heed his call to repentance, and his identification of the Lamb are those to whom the Kingdom are given, whereas those who were previously in authority, who sat on the chair of Moses but refused to acknowledge John as a prophet, will have the kingdom taken from them.

Following Fathers (like St. Jerome) we don’t need to choose between the two readings. They are both correct in their way. What matters is that we take the parable to heart. Whatever our past, whatever our nationality, whether we are cradle Catholics or adult converts, and whatever “words” we utter by our outward show, the talk we talk, or the position and authority we enjoy within the Church, what matters in God’s eyes is that we do His will. Those who do so enter the Kingdom. They become the “mother, brothers, and sisters” of Jesus. Even if we were pagans a moment ago, or have been a publican or prostitute in our own way, so long as we are willing to “change our mind” and devote ourselves to serving God in the vineyard of Christ’s activity in this life, we can rejoice and be at peace, for “the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these” (Mt 19:14).

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

OCIA (Sep 29)



DISCOVER CATHOLICISM at our first regular OCIA session of the year. Father David will talk about “Creation and Fall” — how God created all things good and how sin changes our reality. Tuesday, September 29, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Community Room. Questions (like, “Where is the Community Room?”): contact ocia@onestrongfamily.org

Men's Retreat (Dec 4-6)

You are invited to register for our upcoming retreat - Dec 4 to 6 - at Dunrovin Retreat Center in Marine on St. Croix. The retreat is open to all men and provides time for recollection at the beginning of Advent.

Fr. Patrick Evans, PES, will lead the retreat along with other PES priests and deacons who will share seven reflections on the Beatitudes and provide opportunities for confession, spiritual direction, and one-on-one moments. Periods of adoration and prayer will follow each talk.

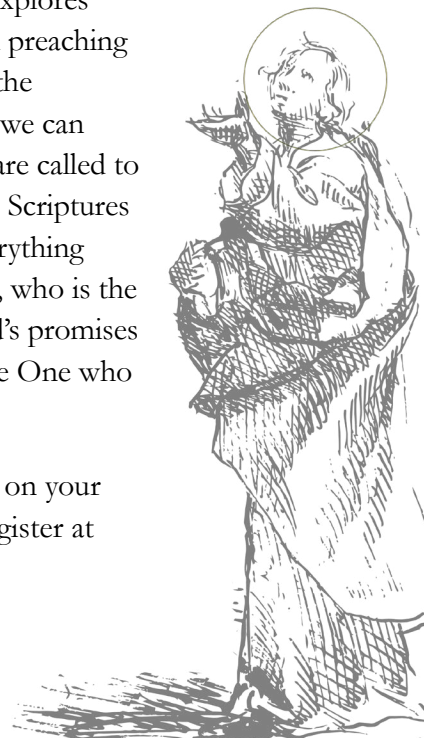
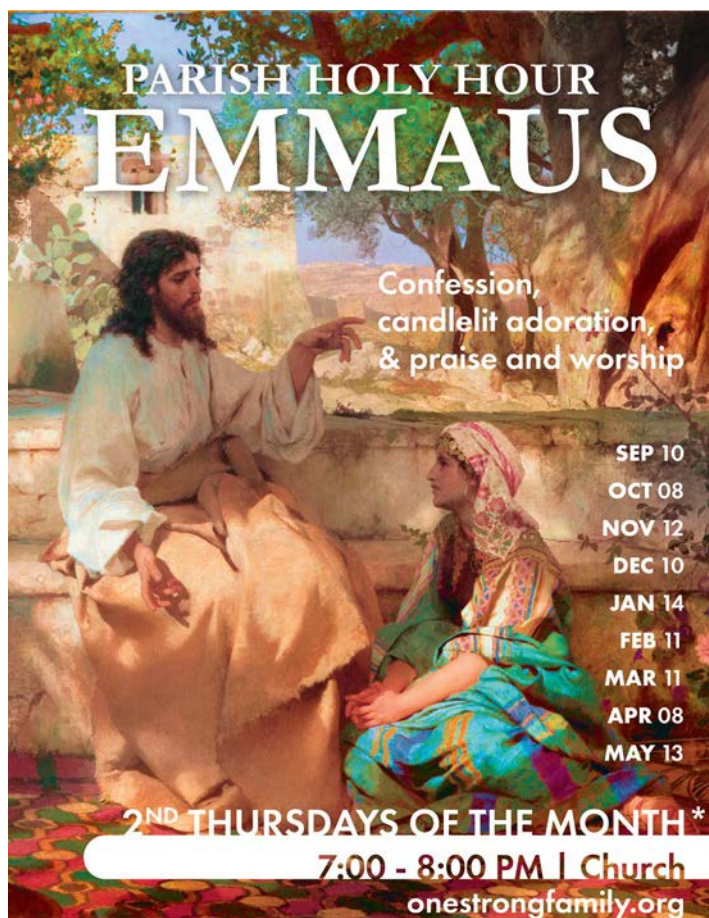
They expect the retreat to be full, so sign up soon to secure your spot. If you have any questions, please reply to mensretreats@thecatholicadvance.org or register at stmark.xyz/cam

2026 Fall Bible Study (Oct 13 - Nov 17)

Our 2026 Fall Bible Study will be kicking off what with fall falling. This year's study is “*The Acts (and Preaching) of the Apostles: The Mystery of Christ Proclaimed through the Figures of the Old Testament*”

Based on the thesis written for his Licentiate in Theology, Fr. David explores the pattern of biblical preaching found in the Acts of the Apostles. From these we can learn how Christians are called to read and proclaim the Scriptures and discover how everything points towards Christ, who is the “Amen” to all of God's promises and the fullness of the One who fills all things!

Mark **Oct 13-Nov 17** on your calendar today and register at stmark.xyz/bible



MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions for week of SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

7 AM

M: ***
T: Benjamin Newby
W: Hubert Livingston +
Tr: Joanne Cary +
F: Elmer Kaardal +

Sa: Sheldon Anderson + (8 AM); Stephen Robins (5 PM)
Su: Pro Populo (9 AM)

10 AM

M: ---
T: Julian Maas
W: Dolly Rosales
Tr: PES Community
F: Devra Jean Bowie +

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, 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

40 Days for Life et al

St. Marks and Nativity will share two adopted days in the Fall 40 Days for Life campaign, on **Friday October 2** and **Thursday October 22**. Sign up for an hour of prayer between 7 am and 5 pm for those dates. (Sign up details presumably coming soon; otherwise contact karenmccann3@gmail.com or 612-964-4622.)

Also on the horizon 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

New Parishioner Lunch (Oct 04)



New to the parish as of 2026? Registered or no[t yet], we want you to hit up the **Oct 04 New Parishioner Lunch!** RSVP at stmark.xyz/npl



Featuring
THE NORTHSTAR BIG BAND

ST. MARK'S GYM
1950 Marshall Ave. Saint Paul

7 PM. SWING LESSONS
7:30-10 PM. MUSIC

\$10. ADMISSION AT THE DOOR
(\$7 with student ID)

BEER AND WINE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

18+ EVENT

MORE INFO AT stmarkxyz/swing



Open House | Thursday, October 8 | 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.



TRINITY SCHOOL
AT RIVER RIDGE

**Continue Your Child's Journey in Faith
and Academic Excellence**

A Classical Christian Education for High School
Partnering with Catholic Families



☒ **Dedicated 9th Grade**
Catholic Doctrine

☒ **Single-Sex Classes**
Co-Ed School

☒ **Scripture Sequence**

☒ **Excellence: Humanities,
STEM, Fine Arts**

TrinityRiverRidge.org | 651-789-2894 | Grades 6 - 12

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

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: 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

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."

ST. MARK, PRAY FOR US

SJBG MEMBER-BUSINESS CATHOLIC

ARTISAN MARKET

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
@ 1983 DAYTON AVE,
ST. PAUL, MN

SAT 03 OCT

SJBUSINESSGUILD.ORG/MARKET



This is not a St. Mark's event, proper. Technically it's not even a "St. Joseph Business Guild HQ" event, proper. But member businesses of the St. Joseph Business Guild are hosting a Catholic artisan/farmer market in our school's courtyard this Saturday. 16+ Catholic vendors + live music, and an opportunity to carve out some greater commerce and community space for the Church!

DBH BOSCO FEST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD
5PM-10PM
GRILL OUT
GAMES
BYOB
LIVE MUSIC
FEATURING
ANNA GOTTWALT
@ARENEEGOTTWALT



The Don Bosco House (DBH, @ 1509 Ashland Ave.) is a house of young catholic men, in our very parish territory, striving to grow in virtue, prayer, and discipline, preparing for our vocations while fostering a welcoming community. Their mission to cultivate a joyful Catholic fraternity dedicated to holiness and hospitality guided by Don Bosco's example is to help us extend hospitality and serve in charity our local Catholic communities and parishes. Throughout the year they will be hosting events for young adults to foster community and share the Gospel. On behalf of the DBH, all the families of St. Mark's Catholic Church are invited to the DBH kickoff event of the year; their annual neighborhood block party Bosco Fest. They'll have games, live music, and a grill out.

IGNITE GAMES

"You are the light of the world."
Matthew 5:14

WEDNESDAY
SEPT 30TH
5:30pm - 8:00pm
ST MARK'S - CAROLYN HALL
Dinner included!

RSVP BEFORE 09/27

Suggested donation: \$5




HIGH SCHOOL Retreat

FRIDAY - SUNDAY
OCTOBER 23-25
AT DUNROVIN

\$225 until Sept. 15, then \$250
Register by Oct. 1



IGNITE: led by the Religious of Pro Ecclesia Sancta

