



1

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OUR PRESCHOOL:** we've got one of the most accommodating programs around! Inquire with the director ([asmith@onestrongfamily.org](mailto:asmith@onestrongfamily.org)) and know that your child is in a truly Catholic program! Also, staff is needed for the preschool in the upcoming semester on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

**A NEW SEASON OF WOMEN'S WORKOUT SESSIONS IS ON THE CALENDAR!** Find the schedule at [stmark.xyz/workout](http://stmark.xyz/workout) and head to the school gym (corner of Marshall and Prior) on Monday nights at 8:00 to attend!

**HAVE YOU BEEN LURKING AROUND** the Church of St. Mark but not yet registered as a parishioner? Registering is more than a formality around here: join us and experience the benefits that flow from being on the roster! [stmark.xyz/join](http://stmark.xyz/join) is the place to do that!

**TOMORROW (JAN. 20) IS MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY:** the parish office will be closed, but otherwise it should be "business as usual."

**AND EXODUS 90 STARTS TOMORROW (JAN. 20)!** Attention men of the parish, meet Easter with even more freedom and manly virtue this year by starting Exodus 90 (and on such a cold day, there's so much more strength you can muster for it)! Contact Fr. Patrick ([frpatrick@onestrongfamily.org](mailto:frpatrick@onestrongfamily.org)) if interested in a group effort!

**IT'S BEGUN, AND SOME OTHER ITS ARE FINISHED!** What's *begun* (though likely you won't see much this week during the deep freeze) is the great Rebuild My Church Appeal *work* for our stained glass windows! What's finished is the adoration chapel restoration project (this was one of the distributions from the CCW's largesse (so much of which comes from those Rummage Sales, recall!))! Let us be interiorly transformed, as well!

**AND AN IT IS SOON ENDING:** Early Bird Registration for the PES Rome trip ends January 31<sup>st</sup>! The flyer is at [stmark.xyz/roma](http://stmark.xyz/roma) and you can learn more about the itinerary at [stmark.xyz/itinerary](http://stmark.xyz/itinerary) and register at [stmark.xyz/rp](http://stmark.xyz/rp)

**RECALL THAT THIS WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22,** is the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection for Unborn Children!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Preschool Open House | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM | Preschool*

**SUN  
19  
JAN**

Though it's *right there*, our parish's preschool can be a hidden reality even to the most dyed-in-the-wool parishioner: sad! But in many ways it's one of the most impactful parts of what goes on in our campus! So, no matter your state in life, pull back the veil this Sunday, share a word about it with your outside-St.-Mark's circle, and connect with this staple of the Church of St. Mark! Not the least because through the preschool **many souls may be brought to Christ** and you could be instrumental in that connection!

**SAT  
25  
JAN**

*WCI Community Gathering | 8:45 - 10:45 AM | Carolyn Hall*

Potluck breakfast, and the chance for formation and bonding with fellow parishioners (and more free thanks to provided childcare), drinking from the wellspring of JPII's Rule for Married Couples! RSVP at [stmark.xyz/wci](http://stmark.xyz/wci) and be transformed!

**TUE  
28  
JAN**

*Bible Study Starts | 7:00 - 8:30 PM | Carolyn Hall*

Live study with Fr. David going through St. Paul's letters! As good as dispelling the already beaten-down myth that Catholics don't read the Bible is, even better is the marked fruits this could produce in your own spiritual life!

But wait, there's more. Find the Parish calendar on our website: [onestrongfamily.org/events](http://onestrongfamily.org/events).



## From the Heart of the Shepherd

Fr. David Hottinger PES, Pastor

### Ask the Pastor: An Ongoing Series, Beginning for the First Time



*Q: Hey Father, how long can Christmas decorations be left up?*

*A: Living liturgically is a great way to integrate the mysteries of our faith into daily life. Those who pick their Sunday sweater based on the color of the priest's chasuble, for example, get*

Pastor's Points. However, liturgy can get complicated.

For example, we all know and rejoice that when March 19 and 25 roll round, St. Joseph and Our Lady provide us with two island oases in the middle of the Lenten sea. On those days, we chant the glory with no scruples and feast on fleshmeats with thanksgiving. But what follows when the feast of the Transfiguration falls on a Friday of Ordinary Time? Does feast trump fast? Split the difference? Both/and?

Regarding the Christmas season, liturgical law is clear. The General Instruction to the Roman Missal states: "Christmas Time runs from First Vespers of the Nativity of the Lord up to and including the Sunday after Epiphany or after January 6." That Sunday typically coincides with the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. Thus, after the Baptism, white is changed for green, and the readings at Mass turn our attention to the Lord's active ministry. (By the way, the tradition of the "twelve" days of Christmas is based on a shorter Christmas season in the old liturgical calendar, running from Christmas day to January 6, the traditional fixed date of the Epiphany).

However, as you know, many of the feasts of the liturgical year share a chronological relationship. Nine months after the Solemnity of the Annunciation we have that of the Nativity of the Lord. And eight days after Christmas comes the solemnity on which we liturgically commemorate the Lord's circumcision (among other important things), on what is now known as the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God.

According to Luke's Gospel, "When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord" (Lk 2:22). Following Leviticus 12 (the passage of the law of Moses

that Luke refers to), we know this purification/presentation occurred forty days after a male child's birth. And so it is liturgically: forty days after December 25, on February 2, we have the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, on which Jesus is once again beheld as a tender babe in the arms of His mother... as well as those of Simeon. Hence the tradition, dating back to medieval times, of leaving up Christmas decorations, such as the Nativity scene, tree, and greenery, until February 2, given the historical connection between these holy days.

Arguably, in the old calendar there was more of a basis for this custom. Though the color of the Sundays after Epiphany was green, there was no "Ordinary Time" (a creation of the Second Vatican Council). The stretch was simply called "After Epiphany" and went up to Septuagesima Sunday, seventy days before Easter. The very name lends itself to basking a little longer in the light of Christmas.

Is there any "official" basis for prolonging the magic now? According to the Vatican News (quoting a document I cannot find), a Christmas 'window' is indeed left open until 2 February, Feast of the Presentation. And apparently in St. Peter's Square the Pope's Nativity scene is usually left up until that day, preserving the ancient tradition. So, yes.

Now, I encountered that tradition for the first time while staying at a convent in Mexico City in 2019 with my seminary class. My first reaction was that either the sisters either must not visit their chapel where the Nativity was still standing (complete with blinking lights and endlessly cycling chiptune Christmas music) very often, or had grown rather lazy. I was mistaken in my ignorance. But such can be the impression (or even the reality).

So whether you opt to observe that tradition or fastidiously transition to Ordinary Time in your homes is entirely up to you. Liturgical law does not touch your living room decorations. Here at St. Mark's, the local custom is to take things down after the Baptism. As I write, the trees and a few poinsettias still adorn the altar; we will have to see what kind of a "window" we keep open here until Candlemas!

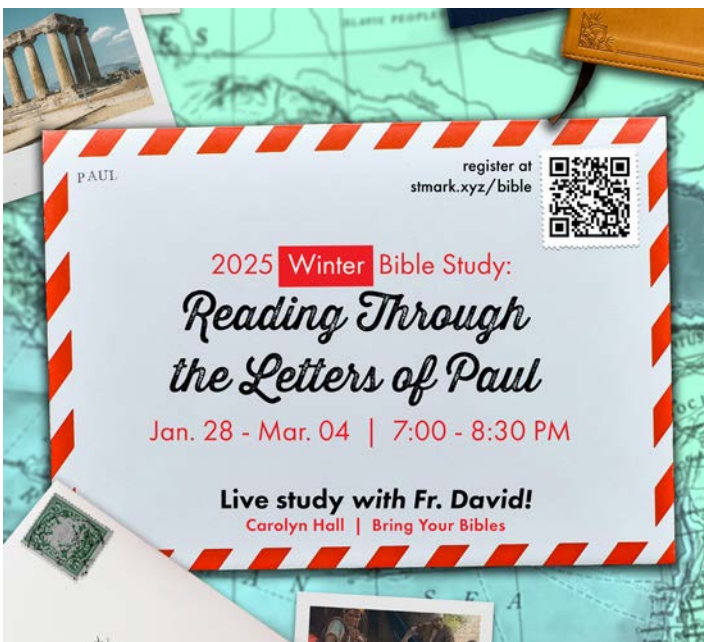
OUR MISSION IS TO LIVE AND SHARE CHRIST'S CALL TO HOLINESS



EVERY PRESCHOOLER COUNTS at St. Mark's Preschool! So we want to get the message out to check out the school: even if you don't have preschool age children, you can still help boost this important work at the Church of St. Mark. Check out the open house, next Sunday, from 10 AM to 1 PM, at the preschool!

### Bible Study Part II

THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING to not be deceived by this familiar graphic below, dear reader: it has been altered from its Fall 2024 design! For the academic year 2024-2025, recall our parish Bible Studies will be reading through the letters of (St.) Paul and the second half of that study starts January 28<sup>th</sup>! For six weeks, Fr. David will guide us through the remaining letters of St. Paul! Register at [stmark.xyz/bible](http://stmark.xyz/bible)



### New Parishioner Lunch (Feb 02)



NEW TO THE PARISH AS OF JUNE 2024? And you've not been to a new parishioner lunch?! Our next one is coming up February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is a catered lunch (not potluck), but don't think that'll spoil the small-town, family spirit that characterizes the parish. The exact opposite: these lunches are invaluable opportunities to meet staff, clergy, and fellow newcomers and be yoked ever more to the mission of St. Mark's!

RSVP at [stmark.xyz/npl](http://stmark.xyz/npl)



## MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions for week of JAN 19, 2025

	<b>7 AM</b>		<b>10 AM</b>
M:	---		---
T:	David Lee Pederson +		Kurt Redlinger
W:	David Lee Pederson +		Clement & Eliza Michels
Tr:	David Lee Pederson +		Jake Navin +
F:	Albert & Judy Lefere		Patricia Cummings +
S*:	Mary Catherine Axtell + (8 AM); Charles Underbrink (5:00 PM)		

### 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)

### FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

FORMED has been back for awhile! Note we REALLY may eventually get around to cleaning up the back end, so if your old credentials don't get you in, it's "not you, it's us." To access content, visit [Formed.org](http://Formed.org) and click "Sign up as a parishioner" and find St. Mark's via our zip code: 55104

### 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. Enrollment for the upcoming school year is open now! Visit the preschool website, [onestrongfamily.org/preschool](http://onestrongfamily.org/preschool), or contact Addie Smith, our Preschool Director at:

[preschool@onestrongfamily.org](mailto:preschool@onestrongfamily.org)  
651-644-5030

### ADORATION



We are blessed to have Eucharistic Adoration available at our parish. However, help is needed to maintain it. Please prayerfully consider signing up for a weekly holy hour. We have a number of openings plus there are many hours that could use a prayer partner (currently only one Adorer committed):

**Monday:** 11pm  
**Tuesday:** Noon  
**Wednesday:** 2am  
**Thursday:** 9am  
**Friday:** Noon, 6pm, and 7pm  
**Saturday:** 5am



Create an account at [stmark.weadorehim.com](http://stmark.weadorehim.com) or Email [adoration@onestrongfamily.org](mailto:adoration@onestrongfamily.org)

**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

**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
IGNITE**

**YOUTH GROUP DATES**

**KICK OFF!** MS Ignite Games // Sat, Feb 8  
\*\*Nerf Battle & Pizza lunch provided!\*\*  
**RSVP REQUIRED**

Wednesday Sessions

February 12  
February 26  
March 12  
March 26  
April 9  
April 23  
April 30

**BE WHO GOD MEANT YOU TO BE, AND YOU WILL SET THE WORLD ON FIRE.**  
-- St. Catherine of Siena



**WCI  
COMMUNITY  
GATHERING**

Join us for a morning of breakfast, prayer, fellowship, and discussion on marriage and family life according to Saint John Paul II's Rule for married couples.



**Saturday, January 25th**  
8am: Mass at St. Mark's

8:45-10:45 Potluck brunch, talk, discussion, and prayer in Carolyn Hall

**We are a family of families; all stages of life are welcome:**

- Single
- Dating
- Engaged
- Married

Children of all ages are welcome! We provide childcare during the talk and discussion.

**Scan the QR code to let us know you will be joining us!**




**Seminary Lecture**

The Saint Paul Seminary invites you to their upcoming Voices in Education lecture, given by Andrew Pudewa, who will speak about the importance of writing for clear thinking. To be held at the St. Paul Seminary Ireland Library on Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM.

A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow. Additional information and registration are available via the QR code to the right!



**Trinity Open House (Jan. 23)**

TRINITY SCHOOL AT RIVER RIDGE educates students in an environment designed to awaken a sense of wonder about the world. Their Open House Thursday, January 23 is a great way to learn about Trinity's classical curriculum that blends a strong STEM program with an equally rigorous study of the humanities, Scripture, Catholic doctrine and the fine arts. Your whole family is welcome to attend. To register & learn more, visit [tsrr.org/visit](http://tsrr.org/visit).

**MIRIAM  
DINNER**

**Tuesday, January 21, 2025 • 6-8 p.m.**  
Archdiocesan Catholic Center, 777 Forest Street, St. Paul



Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda and Father Mark Pavlak, invite women, ages 16-35, who are discerning consecrated life to join us for a Miriam Dinner.

Come for an evening of prayer and dinner with consecrated women sharing their vocation testimonies.

*It is typical for women discerners to be accompanied by their pastor, consecrated religious, or youth minister.*

RSVP at [1000vocations.org/events](http://1000vocations.org/events) before January 17.

Call: 651.962.6890 • Email: [stpaulvocations@1000vocations.org](mailto:stpaulvocations@1000vocations.org)



## STAFF

### Clergy:

Fr. David Hottinger, PES.....Pastor  
frdavid@onestrongfamily.org

Fr. Patrick Evans, PES.....Associate Pastor  
frpatrick@onestrongfamily.org

Fr. Humberto Palomino, PES..... Associate Pastor  
frhumberto@onestrongfamily.org

### Parish Staff:

Randy Lehn..... Parish Business Manager  
Br. José Ignacio Rodriguez.....Master of Ceremonies  
Br. Evan Steeves.....Ignite Youth Ministry  
Sr. Julieta Del Carpio, PES.....Faith Formation  
& Ignite Youth Ministry  
Larry Leif.....Head of Maintenance  
Kristen Grant.....Director of Discipleship  
Kathrine Handford.....Director of Music and Organist  
Audrey Koval.....Pastoral Associate  
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

## 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 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month at 10 AM (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.”

SAINT MARK, PRAY FOR US!

2025 MCCL

# MARCH FOR LIFE

JAN. 22, 2025 | NOON-1:00  
MN State Capitol

Join thousands of pro-life Minnesotans for an unforgettable remembrance of lives lost and a compelling call to rebuild a Minnesota where every human life is valued and loved



12:00-12:30: **March around Capitol mall** (south side of building)  
12:30-1:00: **Program on Capitol steps** (speakers and music)

Opportunities to meet with legislators also available

 Learn more and let us know you're coming at [mccl.org/march](https://mccl.org/march)

Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life | 612-825-6831 | 

### Intergenerational Women's Night (Feb 22)



## Growing in Community



As women of all ages and stages in life, let us come together to share, learn, and grow in our Catholic faith.

Through an inspiring talk about "How to Foster Catholic Community Among Women," prayer, and social time, we will:

- Learn from one another's experiences and perspectives
- Strengthen our bonds with other Catholic women
- Discover new ways to live out our faith in daily life

**"THE 'GENIUS OF WOMAN' IS SEEN IN FEMININE STYLES OF HOLINESS, WHICH ARE AN ESSENTIAL MEANS OF REFLECTING GOD'S HOLINESS IN THIS WORLD." - POPE FRANCIS**

Saturday, February 22nd | 7pm-9pm  
Carolyn Hall, Church of St. Mark  
Bring an appetizer or dessert to share!  
Scan the QR code or call the Parish Office to sign up.



WITH SPEAKER  
DR. FAITH PAWL!

# IGNITE

**MIDDLE SCHOOL IGNITE GAMES**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8  
9:30AM - 1PM  
CAROLYN HALL

Includes pizza lunch and nerf battle!

**HIGH SCHOOL NERF NIGHT**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7  
7PM-10PM  
CAROLYN HALL

BRING YOUR OWN NERF GUNS!  
DARTS PROVIDED!

 DON'T FORGET TO RSVP!

### Think, Pray, Live Mercy Events (Jan 31 - Feb 1)



**MERCY IN ACTION!** Saying "go in peace, keep warm and well fed" is well and good, but mercy needs to do more! Fittingly, and coincidentally happening quite locally, members of the Community of Christ the Redeemer are putting on an event(s) in this vein at the end of January! Especially if you're looking for opportunities to encounter the Lord in the distressing disguise of the poor, then see the bulletin board for details, and/or RSVP at [stmark.xyz/tpl](https://stmark.xyz/tpl)