

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH | DECEMBER 29, 2024



THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK | www.onestrongfamily.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IT'S STILL CHRISTMAS: act accordingly! (Also next Friday and Saturday are First Friday and First Saturday, respectively!)

IT'S ALSO THE LAST BULLETIN of the calendar year. Wow. It's all so real.

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OUR PRESCHOOL: we've got one of the most accommodating programs around! Inquire with the director (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.

SAVE THE DATE (and spread the word about it): St. Mark's Preschool will also have an open house January 19th, from 10 AM - 1 PM! Look for more details in the weeks ahead! A vibrant preschool is a springboard for life in Christ via the parish!

AS SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE, things slow down in the office around this time of year. Expect lighter staffing! Unless it's an office closed date, though, *someone* should be around during office hours, though perhaps not your favorite staff member!

ROMA! Sounds good this time of year, huh? (How about Monte Cassino, Assisi, and Loretto, to name a few more vistas?) You could still get in on the PES-led Rome summer pilgrimage! **Register by Jan. 31 at stmark.xyz/rp** but if you're still discerning, check out this recording of Fr. Jorge reviewing the itinerary at stmark.xyz/itinerary

THERE'LL BE NO 7 AM MASS ON TUESDAY DEC. 31, nor during the week of Jan. 7 -11.

THE WEEK OF JAN. 13-17 adoration will be in the main church as a wall-repair and paint job is scheduled at that time in the chapel.

ARE YOU NEW, OR NEW-ISH TO THE PARISH? Then you'll definitely want to mark off noon on February 2nd: that'll be our next New Parishioner Lunch! Don't go making other plans!

WE HAVEN'T FINISHED GOING THROUGH ST. PAUL'S LETTERS! Part two of the Bible Study starts Tuesday, Jan. 28 and ends Tuesday Mar. 04! The plan is once again have Fr. David lead these live studies!

BE FREE OF THE WEIGHT of an every-other week Happy Hour, young adults crew! These are now going to a quarterly schedule! Nevertheless, the young adults will continue to strive for the weekly 7:00 PM Thursday Holy Hour (*which our whole community should strive for!*) and then gather at the back of the church for fellowship thereafter!

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God | 5:00 PM Vigil Mass on Dec. 31, 10 AM Mass on Jan. 01 | Everywhere

Remember, it's a Holy Day of Obligation!

TUES-WED
31-01
DEC-JAN

And this year you can ring in the **New Year** *with holiness*: the adoration chapel will be *open* over New Year's Eve (**Dec. 31**). Additional substitute help would still help to pull this off; what a great gift you can give to the Church of St. Mark: giving an hour to help us start 2025 off with prayer!

Note the parish office is closed Jan. 01 and there will be no 7:00 a.m. Mass!

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



From the Heart of the Shepherd

Fr. David Hottinger PES, Pastor

Holy Family 2024



Though each is a universe unto itself, the high feast days of the Christmas Octave together offer a consoling-but-challenging Word for Christians in the world today.

First, we have the Nativity. Especially this year, I was impressed by the texts of the Sacred Liturgy, which invite us to marvel at all the paradoxes packed into the condescension of the Infinite who is now bounded by an infant's body. The bookend or coda of the octave is Mary Mother of God, which strikes a similarly-tender note in a more feminine key. There, the Church contemplates the great privilege of our Lady, from which all her others flow. If she is conceived without sin, if she was uniquely and intimately associated in the work of our redemption, if she was assumed into Heaven, and made our mother (and she certainly was all of these), it is because she was (or was to be) the Mother of God.

But the feasts that come within the octave are notably less tender, more stark. Holy Family is charming enough, rejoicing in the fact that God who is from all eternity a family (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) willed to have a human family too, a family into which we are called and incorporated in Christ. But for the world today, this feast is also “fighting words.” In the age of the “modern family,” a.k.a. the family as a human creation, a fluid thing that can be made up of whatever members we decide (be they married or not, men or women, humans or dogs), the reminder that God is the author of the family—for which He has a will and a plan and has given a fixed nature—is both abrasive and countercultural.

The feast of St. John the Evangelist has already clued us to the reason. His gospel tells us that at Christmas “the true light that enlightens every man has come into the world” (cf. Jn 1:9) and that we who observe the feast with faith “have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.” (Jn 1:14). Yet sadly, mysteriously: “this is the verdict, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil” (Jn 3:19). The light continues to shine in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (cf. Jn 1:5) but the majority of men do not want to step into the light, “because their deeds are evil” (Jn 3:20).

If we hadn't been paying attention, Holy Innocents (Saturday the 28th) then rouses us rudely from our tender Christmas contemplations. Scores of darling baby boys—the same age, perhaps, as some of our sons, nephews, or grandchildren—brutally ripped from their mothers arms and executed, *just in case* one is the newborn Messiah sent to save us from our sins. Such is the hostility of the world to the Light. Like the body's immune response to the presence of a foreign body, the world bristles and reacts with mortal jealousy towards a perceived threat. Yes, the world has hated Jesus from the beginning (cf. Jn 15:18). Therefore His own people did not receive Him (Jn 1:11) but sought rather to put Him and anyone who resembles Him to death. So in our day. The world seeks to blot out face of Christ from the celebration of Christmas, neutering it into an end-of-the-year occasion for feasting and family gatherings, shorn of any confession of the One “who is both Christ and Lord” (cf. Lk 2:11).

The feast of St. Stephen brings this lesson to bear on Christian discipleship. If the world hates Christ, it will hate too those who follow Him (cf. Jn 15:18). If the world refuses to receive Christ or to step into His light, it will also reject those who reflect that light and walk in it themselves. We can only persevere in adoring the newborn savior if, like the wise men and shepherds, we are also willing to confess Him before others and share the good news concerning “the newborn King of the Jews” (Mt 2:2). If Christ conformed Himself to our human condition, entering this world just as we do, it was so that we might conform our lives to His, exiting this world as He did, persevering in our Christian confession until death.

At year's end, I ask myself: do I end 2024 standing more firmly in the Light than I began it? When opportunity arose, did I witness to Christ and His will/plan for humanity, even when I perceived I would be made to pay for it? Is my discipleship (and therefore celebration of Christmas) superficial and sentimental, like the world wants it to be, or is founded on solid rock, like the faith of the martyrs? (*New Year's resolutions then make accordingly*)

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

The end of the year giving finish line!

GO FOR THE GOLD!

The end of the year end appeal is nigh. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to give some much-needed attention to our church building this year, and hope to accomplish much more!

And good news!: though not all the pledged funds are in, counting donations made and donations pledged we will exceed our \$200k goal for our Rebuild My Church Appeal 2024 (stmark.xyz/2024rmca)!

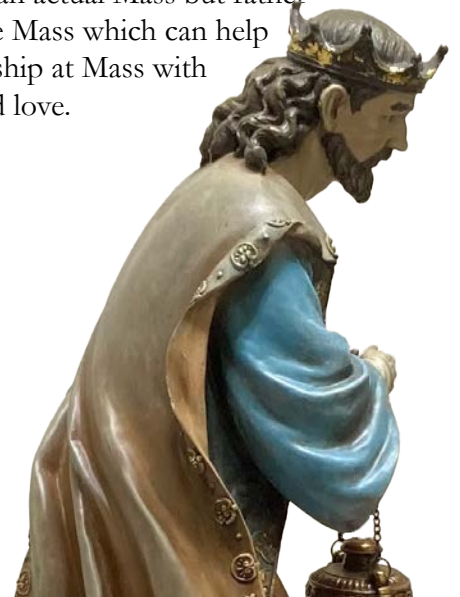
If you've not yet given and still want to be a part of team window-savers, your generosity **would not be for naught!** (Especially to give the church a greater cushion in case the project costs exceed current estimates.)

As for any additional year end giving, now is the hour! And the keenest need is just general, operational giving! Gifts received by end of office hours on the 31st, or postmarked the 31st would be included in your 2024 giving.

Finally, don't forget you can get creative in giving: consider the gift of stocks, bonds, annuities, what-have-you. Consult with your tax professional and/or our business manager, of course, but gifting things like stocks can have substantial tax benefits for you rather than simply selling and donating from the sale!

To give, visit stmark.xyz/give

Let's finish strong and take 2025 by storm!



Appreciate the preserved windows!

WE'RE ALL INDEBTED TO THE SHRAKE FAMILY for providing the means to restore our adoration chapel windows! You've no doubt seen the shiny, clean windows: a great improvement over the dilapidated state they were in months ago!

They're a veritable gallery of art and light! And galleries are better with guides to pull out the texture and deeper meaning! Father David and a nameless, humble cameraman recently put together a tour of the windows to really help them pop and fuel your devotion! Check it out (stmark.xyz/chapel) as a primer for your own giving!



Be a cultured parishioner and give it a watch!

The Mass will be explained!

THE MASS EXPLAINED: Would you like to understand more deeply what is happening during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and why the Church prays the way that she does? On Tuesday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m., our Christian Initiation Ministry Team will present "The Mass Explained," in which we will walk through all the parts of the Mass with narration and explanation of the words and actions of our liturgy. All are welcome; please come and invite anyone you know who would like to know more about the truth and beauty of the Mass. Note: this will not be an actual Mass but rather a "guided tour" of the Mass which can help us all to pray and worship at Mass with greater knowledge and love.

MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions for week of DEC 29, 2024

7 AM

M: ---

T: ---

Tr: Tom Sexton +

F: Dustin Graham +

S*: Jerry Kern + (8 AM); Shirley & Jerome Berg + (5:00 PM)

10 AM

Alex & Clare Shumate

Francis Shrake +

Joseph Spinharney

Thomas McNamara

Drew Nowak

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. Meetings will begin on Wednesday, September 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room. To find out more, contact rcia@onestrongfamily.org. Or sign up at 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 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, or contact Amie Iwaskowicz, our Preschool Director at:

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 or Email 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

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

Mothers of Lu (Jan. 05)

FOLLOWING 9:00 AM MASS, join fellow mothers at Mary's altar to pray for vocations from among our families!

Pray in the New Year!

OUR CHAPEL WILL BE OPEN OVER NIGHT THIS NEW YEAR'S EVE, and the Cathedral is offering a special night, too. Archbishop Hebda will celebrate a Vigil mass at 11 PM, followed by hospitality and fellowship! The editor is yawning (*yawns of enthusiasm!*) just thinking about this.

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL
 Pray in the
NEW YEAR
 & Celebrate the Solemnity of Mary,
 the Mother of God
 December 31, 2024
 11pm Vigil Mass with Archbishop Hebda
 Champagne Reception
 follows in Hayden Hall
 We look forward to being with you!
 VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Christmas Flower Offerings

DON'T NEGLECT YOUR DEPARTED loved ones at the altar. And a special devotion was made for the following faithfully via our Christmas poinsettias adorning the sanctuary (albeit obstructed from view in the pic below from the Christmas Vigil Nativity Tableau. Photo credit Drew Nowak..

Janette Kay Thill
 Louis & MaryAnn Thill
 David Louis Thill
 Donald Martin
 Mark Burns
 Steve & Kitty Gleason
 Joan & Jim Ryan
 Lavern & Tom Gleason
 Vickey Hobza
 Marjorie Smith
 Steve & Sophie Chlebeck
 Robert & Catherine Nelson
 Anne Duffy
 Patricia Roy
 Roger & Dorothy Coffman
 Parry & Schmidt Family Members
 Lorraine Peller
 Ancil N. Payne, Jr.
 Kathryn Munoz
 Kathleen & James Munoz



STAFF

Clergy:

Fr. David Hottinger, PES.....Pastor
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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



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 or by contacting the Parish Center.

BAPTISMS are celebrated on the 3rd 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!



Andrew Dinner

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

6:00 - 8:00 PM | ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC CENTER
777 Forest Street, St. Paul, MN 55106


Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda and Father Mark Pavlak, Director of Vocations, invite men, 16 and older, who are discerning their vocation, to join them for dinner and conversation about priesthood and religious life.

REGISTER ONLINE
before Friday, February 21
10000vocations.org

"The Lord continues to call by name, just as He once called the Apostles on the shores of the Sea of Galilee."
Pope Benedict XVI



OFFICE OF VOCATIONS
ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS
www.10000vocations.org • 651.962.6890



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 10000vocations.org/events before January 17.
Call: 651.962.6890 • Email: stpaulvocations@10000vocations.org



OFFICE OF VOCATIONS
ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS
www.10000vocations.org • 651.962.6890



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Join the Minnesota Catholic Conference Staff for
First Fridays at the Capitol
January - May

Adoration available
9 AM - 4 PM
Governor's Dining Room
(Located in the basement level of the Minnesota State Capitol)

Visit www.MNCatholic.org/events to RSVP.
Questions? Call the Minnesota Catholic Conference (651-227-8777).

SCAN FOR DETAILS



MNCATHOLIC.ORG/EVENTS



And pray in the new year!

Demontreville Retreat House invites you out to a place where you can hear the voice of the Lord in the quiet and peaceful setting of Lake DeMontreville. Join them for a three-day men's silent retreat at the DeMontreville Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Elmo, Minnesota. The retreat begins Thursday evening February 13, 2025, and ends Sunday evening February 16, 2025. Free-will donations are accepted. For more information call their office at 651-777-1311 or see their website demontrevilleretreat.com

AN INTRO TO THE ST. JOSEPH BUSINESS GUILD

PIZZA & NETWORKING @ 7:30 PM

1983 DAYTON AVE ST. PAUL, MN

JAN 07 @ 6:30 PM



RSVP @ SJBUSINESSGUILD.COM