"The mission of St. Mark Catholic Church is to invite, inspire, educate, and lead people to know and love Jesus Christ; to understand and live their Catholic faith; to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel through love and service to one another."

"La misión de la Iglesia Católica de San Marcos es invitar, inspirar, educar y guiar a la gente para conocer y amar a Jesucristo, entender y vivir la fe católica y proclamar la Buena Nueva del Evangelio a través del amor y el servicio a los otros."
Today’s Gospel

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Mk 1: 1-8

Did you know???

While most of the prayers that the priest offers at Mass are offered out loud on behalf of all present, there are several private prayers that he prays just for himself. These prayers almost exclusively relate to the priest’s unworthiness to be doing what he is doing.

So, for example, before the Gospel, if there is no deacon, the priest prays: “Cleanse my heart and my lips, almighty God, that I may worthily proclaim your holy Gospel.” And before receiving Communion he prays, “May the receiving of your Body and Blood, Lord Jesus Christ, not bring me to judgment and condemnation, but through your loving mercy be for me protection in mind and body and a healing remedy.”

These prayers are a reminder to the priest, and to all of us, that while we are grateful for the gift of the Eucharist, we must never be presumptuous in how we receive so great a gift! “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.”

Questions or ideas? Send them to didyouknow@stmarkcatholicchurch.com

Remaining Advent Reconciliation Services

Cape Fear Deanery Churches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 9, 2014</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>St. Brendan the Navigator—Shallotte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Sacred Heart—Whiteville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 10, 2014</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Our Lady of the Snows—Elizabethtown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 11, 2014</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>St. Stanislaus—Castle Hayne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 16, 2014</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>St. Therese—Wrightsville Bch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eucharistic Adoration

Fridays from 9:00am—9:00pm (with exceptions)

For information about Eucharistic Adoration please contact:

Bonnie Laurino (910) 508-8820
or Debbie Kotas at (919) 656-5785
### Time and Talent Opportunities

**TODAY**

- **Dec 7**
  - **Gifting Masses**
  - **TODAY**, please place new unwrapped toys (infant to age 12) under the tree in the Gathering Space.

- **TREE LOT IS NOW OPEN**

**Monday**

- **Dec 8**
  - **HOLY DAY of OBLIGATION**
  - **Angel Advent Tree goes up**
  - **8:00am** Temporalities
  - **8:30am** Feast of the Immaculate Conception—Mass, Church
  - **9:30am** Pack 215 Cub Scouts, Parish Hall
  - **10:00am** Daily Mass, Church
  - **12:00pm** SMCS Parenting Seminar, Parish Hall
  - **1:00pm** Vigil Mass, Church
  - **6:00pm** Christmas Breakfast—Parish Hall after Mass
  - **7:00pm** Knights Before Christmas Breakfast—Parish Hall after 9:30am Mass

**Tuesday**

- **Dec 9**
  - **8:00am** SMCS PTO, Rms. 5 & 6
  - **8:30am** Daily Mass, Church
  - **9:00am** Daily Mass, Church
  - **12:00pm** Bible Study, Rms. 5 & 6
  - **6:45pm** SMCS Parenting Seminar, Parish Hall
  - **7:00pm** General Council Meeting, Parish Hall

**Wednesday**

- **Dec 10**
  - **8:30am** Daily Mass, Church
  - **9:00am** Our Lady's Rosary Makers, Rms. 5 & 6
  - **9:15am** Prayer Shawl Ministry, Church Library
  - **1:00pm** Children's Faith Formation (Gr. 1-5), School
  - **4:15pm** RCIA Inquiry, Library
  - **6:30pm** RCIC/Children's Faith Formation (Gr. 1-5), School
  - **7:00pm** Contemporary Choir Rehearsal, Church
  - **7:30pm** Vigil Mass, Church

**Thursday**

- **Dec 11**
  - **6:30am** Men's Prayer Group, Rm. 7
  - **8:30am** Daily Mass, Church
  - **9:00am** Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel
  - **9:15am** Bible Study, Rms. 5 & 6
  - **11:00am** Women of the Word, Rm. 7
  - **12:00pm** Men's Basketball Outreach, School Gym
  - **6:00pm** Sts. Middle School Faith Formation, School
  - **7:00pm** Contemporary Choir Rehearsal, Church
  - **7:30pm** Vigil Mass, Church

**Friday**

- **Dec 12**
  - **5:00pm** Mañanitas, Iglesia ~ Celebración después, Parish Hall
  - **8:30am** Daily Mass, Church
  - **9:00am** Men's Prayer Group, Rm. 7
  - **9:15am** Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel
  - **10:00am** Bible Study, Rms. 5 & 6
  - **12:00pm** Men's Basketball Outreach, School Gym
  - **7:00pm** Vigil Mass, Church

**Saturday**

- **Dec 13**
  - **8:00am** Meals on Wheels Volunteers, Kitchen
  - **8:30am** Youth Group, Parish Hall
  - **9:30am** BSA 215, Parish Hall
  - **10:00am** Sts. Middle School Faith Formation, School
  - **1:00pm** Vigil Mass, Church
  - **6:00pm** Vigil Mass, Church
  - **7:00pm** Vigil Mass, Church

**Sunday**

- **Dec 14**
  - **7:30am** Vigil Mass, Church
  - **9:30am** Vigil Mass, Church
  - **11:30am** Vigil Mass, Church
  - **1:30pm** Vigil Mass, Church
  - **6:00pm** Vigil Mass, Church

### St. Mark Calendar of Events

- **Drop off Christmas Donations for Domestic Violence Victims—bin located near the Parish Hall**
  - **7:30am** Mass, Church
  - **9:30am** Mass, Church
  - **11:30am** Mass, Church
  - **1:30pm** Misa en español, Iglesia
  - **6:00pm** Confirmation I and II, School

### Parish Membership

Are you new to St. Mark Parish? We are anxious to WELCOME you to our parish family. Registration is available via our website, or hard copies of our registration form are available in the literature rack outside of the chapel or outside room 10 in the education wing of the church. Please complete a form INCLUDING YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IF YOU HAVE ONE and drop it in the offertory or return it to the office so that we can WELCOME you.

If you have questions, or if you have completed a registration, but have not received a response, please call 910 398-6508 or email: office-secretary@stmarkcatholicchurch.com

### Stewardship Thought

"Prepare the way of the Lord…”

Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that—it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too.

### Mass Attendance—Nov 22/23

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>AM 5:00</th>
<th>AM 7:00</th>
<th>AM 8:30</th>
<th>AM 9:00</th>
<th>AM 10:00</th>
<th>PM 12:00</th>
<th>PM 1:00</th>
<th>PM 5:00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. 7:30</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. 9:30</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. 11:30</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. 1:30</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Stewardship of Treasure

**OFFERTORY** for the week of Nov 22/23, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identifiable</td>
<td>$18,164.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose Cash</td>
<td>$2,550.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for Nov 22/23</td>
<td>$20,719.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Campaign for Human Development</td>
<td><strong>$4,362.32</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD as of November 22/23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budgeted</td>
<td>$471,875.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>$481,214.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference—Favorable</td>
<td>+ $9,339.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Parking, Parish Hall, Activity Ctr. and Columbarium Prev. Bal.)</td>
<td><strong>$2,018,705.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Reduction Received YTD</td>
<td><strong>$11,140.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Debt YTD</td>
<td><strong>$2,007,565.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### All are Subject to Change Without Notice

When in doubt, please check with your ministry/group leaders.
EMHC / CAMILLUS

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Camillus Ministry Training Sessions will be held during the year as needed. Times and dates will be published in the bulletin one month prior to each training. If you have questions regarding EMHC’s please call Ron Probst at 910-620-2717, questions regarding Camillus please call David Powell at 910 350-8936.

Baptism

“You have put on Christ, in Him you have been baptized. Alleluia, alleluia!”

Baptism Preparation classes in English are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm.

Clases de preparación Bautismal en español se celebran el primer sábado de cada mes y comenzará puntualmente a las 9:30 am.

For more information please call (910) 398-6509.

Marriage

Couples must contact the office six months prior to their planned wedding date to enter Pre-Cana preparation.

For information about wedding preparation contact the office of the Pastoral Secretary, at 910 398-6509.

Our Deceased

In Memoriam

Michael Lauro

We pray always and everywhere for all the souls of the faithful departed family and friends of our St. Mark Parish Community.

Intentsos for Dec 6—Dec 14, 2014 / Usher Team A—Usher Team B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass Schedule</th>
<th>Mass Intention</th>
<th>Requested by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/6 Sat</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Joe Mittal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CTK 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Armand Droz and Kevin Wrublowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/7 Sun</td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>David Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team A</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Robert Cookston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Pro Populo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Mass</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>Sargeil Romero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*12/8 Mon</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Bill Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12/8 Mon</td>
<td>Pro Populo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/9 Tues</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Grilli &amp; DeSanto families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>James Imbrogulio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/10 Wed</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Kris Stoneman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Araceli Cabiero McShane</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cheryl Sandridge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/11 Thurs</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Vernon Dostal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/12 Fri</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Lois &amp; Michael Collins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Bob Collins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/13 Sat</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Robert Cookston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CTK 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Claudio Picasso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/14 Sun</td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Araceli “Li” McShane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team B</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Araceli Cabiero McShane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>David Swanson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Mass</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>Pro Populo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional intentions are now available, with two Masses on Tuesdays and concelebrated Masses on Wednesdays and Fridays.

***Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation.***

Daily Mass has moved from the Chapel to the Church for Advent.

For a Mass Intention for a loved one, living or deceased (†), please contact Cathie Welch in the church office—Room #10 or call (910) 398-6508.

Sanctuary Candle & Flowers

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE is offered this week in Memory of their beloved baby granddaughter, Lily Hotmire by Mike & Ebbie Yamat

ALTAR FLOWERS are provided by our St. Mark Parish Community

To make donations for altar flowers or the sanctuary candle in honor or in memory of a loved one, please come by or call the parish office (910) 398-6508.

Scripture Readings

December 7—December 14, 2014

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 41:13-20; Ps 99; Lk 1:26-38

Liturgy and Worship

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DEC 8, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 99; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Is 40:1-11; Ps 96; Mt 18:12-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Is 40:25-31; Ps 103; Mt 11:28-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Is 41:13-20; Ps 145; Mt 11:11-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80; Mt 17:9a, 10-13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
The Power of Prayer—Please Pray for Our Sick

May They and Their Caretakers Know God’s Peace

Please make your prayer requests by emailing: bulletin@stmarkcatholicchurch.com or by calling the church office (910) 392-0720.

Laurie Adams
Bobby Bailey, Sr.
Helen & Nicholas Bak
Percy Barbour
Evelyn Bass Hood
Angela Beal & Baby Chance
Paige Buottwright
Scott Braswell
Dawn Brown
Frank & Jeanne Buza
John Burton
Joyce Bussewitz
Mayela Cajar
Karolyn Campbell
Pauline Caneone
Charles Cassella
Mark Cassella
Lou Celender
Alice Choma
David Coleman
Robert Colon
Tony Croom

Danny Decker
Kitty DeMaria
Mary Derck
Darrell & Sharon Dismukes
Krystyna & Tony Droz
Margie Duke
Jeanna Elsley
Brian Ennis
Anna and John Evanko
Christine & Bernard Foppe
David Foreman
Betsy Frase
Mike Gallagher
Teresa Gauzman
Infant Ryleigh George
Claudia Good
Sue Good
Susan Goodlow & Infant Twins
Bob Gustafson
Sue Hack
Bill Harrigan
Joanne Harrigan
Kim Hashim
Sandy Hill
Bob Huntley
Bob Johnson
Jaime Phillips Johnson
Patricia Johnson
Clint Jones
Joseph Kloiber
Phyllis Knight
Ann Kurtz
Ted Lang
Doug Langan
Darlene Larkins
Rosemary Lauro
Betty Leddick
Stacy Lee
Courtney Lenaburg
Bob Lord
Ira Lowe
Alison Magnin

Trudy Mallon
Joan Malloy
Kim Manha
Rose Martyn
Maddie McPherson
Alex Monticello
Mary Catherine Moore
Jane Mruzcek
Emory Oeser
Michael J. Oeser
Leigh Oliver
Charlotte O’Neill
Mildred Paluch
Judis Paschall
Robin Pestone
Billy E. Philips
Amelia Quarto
Beth Richards
Jess Roggina
Rich Romanowski
Lucille Romeo
Phil Rose
Gregory Sarajak
Tony Manha
Connie Siers
Bernadette Secondo
Margaret Smith
Major Aaron Smithley
Rose Sordellini
Ed Stapleton
Diane Starze
Marjorie Steck
Jim Stock
Fred Streck
Lonnie Taylor
Philip Thalheimer
Lori Tufts
Felice Van Eron
Jennifer Van Eron Viscosi
Carmen Vera
Fr. Joe Vetter
Joe Wagner
Fr. John Walsh
Helen Zawiszak

If your name or that of a loved one has been removed, it is because it appeared for six weeks or more and you did not request an extension. If prayers are still needed, you may request that a name be placed back on the list at any time.

To request that a name be added to the list of Prayers for the Sick, please call Cathie Welch at (910) 392-0720, ext. 249 or you can email your request to: bulletin@stmarkcatholicchurch.com

Sacramental Emergencies After Hours: In the event of TRUE LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES ONLY Those needing the Anointing of the Sick after regular office hours or weekends please call (910) 399-1591.

The Spirit of the Liturgy
Alex Hill, Director of Music and Liturgy, 910 398-6514 / music@stmarkcatholicchurch.com

The Mass as a “Theophany”

Pope Francis often celebrates Mass in the chapel of the St. Martha “Domus” (residence hall) where he lives, worshipping with guests and employees together. While acknowledging that some attend Mass with the Pope for “tourist” reasons, he also reminds them that it is much more—it is a theophany. The root words are theo- (God) and –phanos (appearance). In other words, “God appears.” Pope Francis reminds all of us that a Catholic Mass is not a “prayer service,” it is not a pious gathering of believers, and even with the Pope celebrating it is not a “tourist attraction.” We “enter into the mystery of God,” a very real Divine Presence at Mass. Pope Francis says, “When we celebrate Mass, we are not re-enacting the Last Supper: no, it is not a re-enactment. It is something more: it really is the Last Supper. It is really living the Passion and the redemptive death of the Lord once more. It is a theophany: the Lord is present on the altar to be offered to the Father for the salvation of the world. We hear or say, “I have to go to Mass, I have to go to hear Mass.” We do not “hear” Mass, we participate in this theophany, in this mystery of the Lord’s presence among us.

We will do well today to ask the Lord to give us a “sense of the sacred,” this sense that we understand that it is one thing to pray at home, pray at church, pray the Rosary, pray many beautiful prayers, do the Way of the Cross, so many beautiful things, read the Bible … and another to celebrate the Eucharist. In the celebration we enter into the mystery of God, on that path that we cannot control: only He is the One, He is the glory, He is the all-powerful, He is everything. We ask for this grace that the Lord teach us to enter into the mystery of God.

The liturgy is God’s time and God’s space, and we must place ourselves there, in God’s time, in God’s space without watching the clock. All of you come here, we gather here to enter into the mystery: this is the liturgy. It is…the cloud of God that surrounds us all.

As we begin a new liturgical year, we are reminded what the Church has consistently taught from the beginning. We don’t come together on Sunday for a social function, a Christian music concert, a motivational seminar, or a prayer service. We come to “enter into the mystery,” a very real encounter with God, in Flesh and Spirit. Each Mass is the “Incarnation” when Christ comes to us “in the flesh” as Emmanuel - God With Us.

Save the Date for a St. Mark Christmas Eve Concert and Midnight Mass

On Christmas Eve at St. Mark, we have a wonderful tradition to celebrate the joy and beauty of Christ's birth. At 11 pm in the Church, you are invited to a Christmas concert sponsored by the St. Mark Music Ministry, featuring choirs, soloists, organ, and orchestra. This year we will hear “Classics of Christmas” with excerpts from Handel’s Messiah, Pietro Yon's Gesu Bambino, music of Bach, Britten, and other beloved Christmas works. Following the concert, the orchestra and vocalists will stay to celebrate the “Midnight Mass” at 12 am, with all the beauty and solemnity as befits the birth of our Lord and Savior. Come celebrate with us!
Biblical/Scriptural Learning for Adults

Weekly Bible/Scripture studies are a staple of St. Mark Parish Life. For more information, please see descriptions of our groups via ACCESS under Available Activities or contact the leadership of our Study Groups.

Monday Evening Adults meet at 7:00pm in the Cana/Conference Room #7 during the school year. “The current group is full for The Lamb’s Supper study. The next study will begin in January.”

Courageous Women now meets (every other week) on Monday mornings in the Cana/Conference Room #7 at 9:00 AM. For more information or to join this group, please contact Carolyn Landenberg (910) 679-4048 or email csgrnc3@gmail.com.

Thursday Morning Bible Study is held in Rooms 5 & 6 beginning with social time at 9:00am and class begins promptly at 9:15. Nursery is available during this weekly study Contacts are: Mike Hession at 910-232-3676 or cj24392@aol.com or Sue Hack at 910-512-2380.

Women of the Word Thursdays 11am - 12: 30pm. For more information please contact Cheryl Whitaker cwhitaker1027@gmail.com or 910-371-0724.

Prayer Groups

St. Mark Respect Life
Mary (910) 319-7911
Deacon Orlando Perez deacon@stmarkcatholicchurch.com

CENCACLE OF LIFE - Every Thursday after morning Mass. We will pray two rosaries for life after the 8:30 AM Mass. Please come and join us in praying with Our Blessed Mother before Her Son in the tabernacle for an increased respect for the dignity of all human life.

Natural Family Planning (NFP)
For information, contact Allison Lamporte at (910) 279-6860 or alamporte@bizec.rr.com

Charismatic Prayer Group

The Blessed Trinity Charismatic Prayer Group meets for prayer, praise, sharing and intercession on Tuesday evenings following the 6 PM evening Mass in the Chapel. The first Tuesday Mass intention is always for Life, Marriage and Religious Freedom. All are welcome to attend any prayer meeting. If you want to know more about the prayer group or the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, contact any member of the leadership team: Carl Rilling at 910 392-6064, or Mary Jo Harrington at wmphwmph@yahoo.com.

Men’s Morning Prayer Group
We’re looking for a few good Catholic men to engage in spiritual combat. Every Thursday morning before the break of dawn, men meet for an hour or more to pray the rosary and study the Mass reading for the upcoming Sunday. Once fortified, you’ll be able to more actively participate on Sunday through better understanding of the scriptures. No experience necessary. We provide everything. All that’s missing is you. Join us Thursday mornings in Conference Room 7 at 6:30 am.

Support Ministries

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Ladies from the parish meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm in the library to knit or crochet shawls for those in need of consolation for loss or illness. If you would like more information or you would like to participate, please contact Jacque Ennis 910 686-3659.

Empty Cradle
Empty Cradle support group meets at St. Mark Church on the third Wednesday of each month except December, at 6:30 pm. We are a support group for parents that have experienced ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage, still birth and infant loss. For more information, please contact Nora Golden at: ngolden28@yahoo.com

Faith Development & Fraternities for Adults

CURIOS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?
Wondering? Seeking a welcome? Saint Mark’s program of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) can help you. If you have questions about the Catholic faith, please drop by for Inquiry any Wednesday evening at 6:00pm in the church library or contact Sandy at 910 686-9056 or Paul at 910-792-1931 or you can send an email to Paul at: townendp@ymail.com

THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

The local fraternity meets at 1:00pm on the third Sunday of the month in the Cana Conference Room (7) in the education wing of St. Mark Church. For information on the Secular Franciscan Order, please contact Brenda Wells at (910) 256-8765 or Margaret Horan at (910) 579-3212.

Knights of Columbus 12017
St. Mark Catholic Church

Dedicated to charity, unity, fraternity, patriotism, fund-raising programs and social events. Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month. (See www.kofc12017.org) Contact: James Laraia, 937-609-1753, jtlaraia@aol.com

Fr. James E. Waters Columbiettes Auxiliary
The Columbiettes is an auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus committed to Marian devotion and extensive community social outreach. Members are Catholic women in good standing. Being married to a Knight is not a requirement of membership.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is a fraternal group for men of Irish descent and is complimented by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. For more information on these groups, and the charities they support, please contact: Maureen and Jim Quinn 910 686-5151.
I am asking that each family think about one way they can ADD something Advent into the next few weeks and TAKE AWAY something about Christmas. In other words, try not to rush into the Christmas season because it's not Christmas yet! Advent started Nov 29th/30th - instead of hanging a Christmas wreath on your front door, perhaps hang an Advent wreath. A simple green wreath with purple ribbon wrapped around it, some purple ornaments and perhaps one rose/pink one would make a perfect Advent wreath. And then on Dec. 24th, you could replace your Advent wreath with a Christmas wreath. Just try one different twist this year is all I ask! A few other suggestions:

• Put an Advent wreath with the 4 candles somewhere your family regularly gathers - the kitchen table, dining room table or in the living room! Each night light the appropriate candle and pray. It only takes a few minutes and will add to your Advent journey!
• Try not to put the Christmas tree up so early - and just let it be for a while; as we get closer to Christmas - then decorate the tree
• Write and send your Christmas cards DURING the Christmas season - what a novel idea!
• Keep Christmas in your house until the Feast of the Epiphany, don't take the tree and everything down the day after Christmas!

Advent Angel Tree will be up December 8th
Each year the Children’s Faith Formation office helps our families at our mission church, Christ The King in Riegelwood, NC, filling needs to make Christmas morning a little brighter for the children and their parents. We do this by putting Angels on the Christmas tree which will be located in the Gathering Space, and parishioners pick angels, and bring back the new items unwrapped. Then we have some great volunteers that fill the wish list of the needy families. Mark your calendars - our Angel Gifting Tree - will be in the Gathering Space with angels on it starting Monday, December 8th. Unwrapped gifts can be placed under the tree OR dropped off at the Children's Faith Formation office.

All gifts need to be dropped off by Sunday, December 21st!

Help is needed to sort out clothes and toys from our Angel Tree and to make up the bags for our family assistance program. We will be doing this Sat. Dec. 22nd/Sunday Dec. 23rd after the Masses. Please contact Ms. Anne if you would like to give a few hours and help put smiles on some faces this upcoming Christmas season! Call (910) 398-6511 or email Ms. Anne at children-ministry@stmarkcatholicchurch.com to volunteer!
TODAY

“KNIGHTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS”
ANNUAL EVENT
A Special Christmas Thank You from the Knights and Columbiettes

ALL are invited to join us in the Parish Hall following 9:30 Mass on December 7th for our Parish Breakfast (regular prices apply) and a special Christmas reading. We will also welcome a visitor from the North Pole! (Great photo-op!) The Knights and Columbiettes wish to thank the Parish Community for all of their support by presenting this Special Christmas Event!

Interested in finding out more about the Knights? Stop by their table outside after Masses THIS weekend, or talk with any Knight.

ANNUAL GIFTING MASSES
New Unwrapped Toys will be collected in the Gathering Space and will later be picked up and distributed by Catholic Charities

Helping Domestic Violence Victims
Drop-Off donations the Weekend of Dec 6/7 (collection bin is located near the Parish Hall)

Any help you can offer for these deserving victims would be greatly appreciated. Contact: Sonya Leonard 910 232-0396, leod1214@bellsouth.net

NEXT WEEKEND

“Bread for Life . . .” A Gleaning Ministry
Claudette Fiskin, M.S.W., Director

Please donate the following essential non-food items to “Bread for Life . . .” on behalf of the elderly poor who receive pantry services through this ministry:

DAILY DOZEN
TOILET PAPER...TOOTHPASTE...MOUTHWASH....
BATH SOAP (BAR, FOAM, ETC.) ......
SHAMPOO....CONDITIONING RINSE.....
BODY/HAND LOTION.....
DISH DETERGENT ...... LAUNDRY DETERGENT.....
PAPER TOWELS.....

STORAGE/TRASH BAGS (VARIOUS SIZES)

The bin for the DAILY DOZEN collection will be located near the Parish Hall. Please be sure to drop off your items when you come to Mass NEXT weekend. Ministry volunteers will pick up donations in a timely manner.

Whereas “Bread for Life’s . . .” mission is to “. . . feed the hungry” (Matthew 25), our ministry strives to also provide the DAILY DOZEN items to the seniors along with the monthly food distribution.

Currently BFL is providing full pantry services once a month to over 300 seniors in the Greater Wilmington Area. Our ministry also provides bread and produce tables to another 100+ seniors weekly.

On behalf of those we serve, thank you in advance for your generosity in donating to our DAILY DOZEN drive for Christmas.

St. Anthony of Padua . . . Pray for us.
St. Mark Parishioners . . . Pray for us.

More News for Next Weekend and Beyond

From Toddlers to Teens, everyone loves books!
We have been asked to help support the Carousel Center for abused children with a Christmas Collection—books for all ages—Toddlers to Teens. Please bring new unwrapped books the weekend of Dec 13/14. A collection box will be located in the Gathering Space.

K of C LAMB Drive for Advent (Least Among My Brethren—for intellectually disabled) will be on the sidewalk after Masses NEXT weekend.

COLUMBIETTES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE
DECEMBER 20/21—AFTER MASSES

Come see what delicious treats the Columbiettes have in store for you this year. Each plate of assorted Christmas Cookies will sell for $5.00. Your purchases help support Columbiette charitable activities.

Thank you to all who have already donated to our Christmas flowers collection for 2014. Your gifts in memory or honor of your loved ones will help us to decorate our Church and the Activity Center for the celebration of Christmas Masses. An envelope is provided for those of you who receive regular offertory envelopes at home. For those of you who use AUTO DRAFT or contribute via personal check we have placed Floral Remembrance envelopes on the table near the Chapel for your convenience. We will be accepting donations until December 17th for our Annual Remembrance Booklet, which will be available for donors the weekend of December 20/21. Thank you again for your generous gifts.

Wilmington Catholic Radio 93.1 FM

Carolina Catholic Honors
Father Vincent R. Capodanno, Servant of God

CC’s December show welcomes Father Patrick Keane, Pastor of St. Mark Catholic Church, as he shares the story of a Naval Chaplain to the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, Servant of God Vincent R. Capodanno, a Maryknoll missionary. Father Capodanno died serving the men he loved, the “grunts” of the Marine Corps. Known as the “Grunt Padre” to the men he served, this holy man gave his life while trying to protect the life of a corpsman. His heroic service and death earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor, a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and the love and admiration of the Marine Corps. A book on his life, The Grunt Padre, is a beautiful testimony to his courage, humility, and love that those who served with him witnessed first-hand.

This loving tribute to Father Capodanno can be heard on Wilmington Catholic Radio 93.1 FM the second and third weekends of December, Saturdays December 13th and 20th at 11:00 AM and Sundays, December 14th and 21st at 6:00 PM.

This show can also be heard on the WCR website at wilmingtoncatholicradio.com by clicking on the Carolina Catholic tab.
St. Mark Employment Opportunities

Our St. Mark Nursery is seeking new staff members 18 yrs. of age and older. You must be available for weekend Masses on Saturdays at 5:00pm and Sundays at 9:30 and 11:30am. You must also pass a background check and take a Safe Environment training course required by the Diocese of Raleigh.

If you love children and you would like to help take care of infants through age four while their parents are at Mass, please consider applying to become one of the newest members of our Nursery staff.

Send your contact information and experience to: ministry@stmarkcatholicchurch.com
Subject: Nursery Position

Facilities Assistant
(full time, exempt position with benefits, flexible hours)
Specific Job skills required:
- Ability to effectively communicate verbally and via computer
- Working computer skills to program various control systems
- Able to take verbal instructions and complete work independently
- Knowledge of light electrical, plumbing, carpentry, landscaping, custodial processes, HVAC systems, and capable of heavy lifting
- Ability to multi-task, effectively prioritize, and be on call during off times
- Dependable with reliable transportation
- Applicants must pass background checks

Email resume with references to:
maintenance@stmarkcatholicchurch.com

At Our Sister Parish

Frozen Pierogi and Kielbasa, Anyone?
We have lots in stock, friends! St. Stanislaus Church in Castle Hayne will be selling frozen packages of Pierogi and Kielbasa on the weekend of December 6-7, 2014. The sale will take place in the St. Stanislaus Parish Hall, 4849 Castle Hayne Road (Hwy 133) in Castle Hayne on Saturday, Dec 6 from 9 to 12 noon, and again following the 5:00 pm Mass. The sale will continue on Sunday, Dec 7 following the 9:00 am Mass. For more information, please call Joan at the St. Stanislaus Parish office at 910 675-2336.

Sincere thanks to our advertiser of the week:

Ocean Blue Pools & Spas

More News & Staff Directory

ST. MARK ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH
Second Sunday of Advent—December 7, 2014

CHURCH OFFICE
HOURS 9:00AM-4:00PM, Mon.—Fri.
PHONE 910 392-0720 ~ FAX 910 392-6777
WEB SITE www.stmarkcatholicchurch.com

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dre@stmarkcatholicchurch.com

CHILDREN’S FAITH FORMATION Anne Doyle 910 398-6511
Pre-K thru Grade 5 children-ministry@stmarkcatholicchurch.com

YOUTH MINISTRY Melissa Quaranto 910 398-6510
Grades 6-12 youth-ministry@stmarkcatholicchurch.com

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Connect with the Diocese

You will find the Diocese, your favorite ministries, parishes and schools on our Diocesan Facebook page! Like us here:

https://www.facebook.com/dioceseofraleigh

You are invited to follow the Diocese and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge on twitter. Follow @RaleighDiocese and @BishopBurbidge. Diocesan tweets include current news items. Bishop Burbidge’s tweets include daily reflections and reports from events he is attending. If you are not on Twitter, you can still receive the Bishop’s messages by simply texting follow bishopburbidge to phone number: 40404.

New Video Available - Who should plan for end of life and Why

In March of this year, The Catholic Diocese of Raleigh released an Advanced Directive Document. This resource is offered to assist the faithful in making sure that the care and treatment at the end of a person's life is consistent with the Catholic faith and their personal wishes.

Go to: http://www.dioceseofraleigh.org/offices/human-life-and-dignity/publications

Mark Your Calendars

NEW LOCATION AND TIME!

Diocesan Mass for Life, January 17 at NOON at Halifax Mall in downtown Raleigh

The annual Diocesan Mass for Life which is always held the day of the North Carolina Rally and March for Life has a new location and time! Join us at Halifax Mall in downtown Raleigh at Noon for Mass with Bishop Burbidge. This new tradition will allow us to join over 1000 Diocese of Raleigh Youth in a heated tent for Mass! It will be a wonderful event. Mark your calendars today! More details will be coming soon about location and parking. Following the Mass, the faithful are encouraged to join the NC Rally and March for Life, also in Halifax Mall, to offer witness to the sanctity of human life and for the protection of the unborn.

Fifth Annual Love My Life Youth Rally

On Saturday, January 17 at 10:30 the Fifth Annual Love My Life Youth Rally will be held at Halifax Mall in downtown Raleigh. The Rally is an opportunity for Catholic teens to come together in celebration, to connect with others from across the Diocese, and to learn more about living and promoting the pro-life culture. Contact your school or youth leaders for more information on this awesome, spirit filled event. The Diocesan Respect Life mass will immediately follow at noon. All of these events will be held in a heated tent!

Blessing of the Child in the Womb

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge will bless the children in the womb at the 10:45 a.m. Mass at St. Catherine of Siena parish in Wake Forest on December 21, 2014. The Office of Human Life and Dignity and the Office of Divine Worship are encouraging participation in this ceremony, recently released from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, to encourage parish prayers for -- and recognition of -- the precious gift of the child in the womb, and to foster respect for human life within society. If you are expecting a baby and would like to receive this very special blessing from our Bishop, please respond to Christiana at the church office (919) 570-0070.

. . . At St. Mark

The Blessing of the Child in the Womb will take place at Masses the week-end of December 20/21. If you are pregnant and would like to receive this special blessing from one of our priests, please call the church office at 910-388-6509 before December 20 to specify which Mass you will be attending that week.

Looking at the Year Ahead

World Meeting of Families and Evangelization

Don’t miss the fall registration for the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, Sept. 22-27, 2015! Text “world” to 51555 for up to the minute updates and visit: http://www.worldmeeting2015.org/plan-your-visit/register/

All families will need to register individually through their website according to the WMF organizers. Hotel rooms will be available to those who register first. Weekend rates will surely climb if there is an official announcement of the Pope’s visit.

Available Support

“I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” Have you invited the Holy Spirit into your marriage? The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are Feb 6-8, 2015 in Asheville, NC and May 1-3, 2015 in Charlotte, NC. Early sign up is highly recommended.

For more information visit our website at: http://NCMarriageDiscovery.org or contact us at applications@NCMarriageDiscovery.org or phone us at 704-315-2144