



ST. MARK *the* EVANGELIST

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Our Mission

To invite all
on our journey to:

Learn

Orar (Pray)

Gi**V**e

Evangelize

All Are Welcome!

If you are a visitor,
we hope you will find our
bulletin to be a reflection of
our vibrant and spirit filled
parish, and that you will
consider becoming a part of
our family!

To join us,
please register online at
www.stmarktampa.org/join
or call the Parish Office at
813-907-7746.

*For more information,
visit our website at:
www.stmarktampa.org*



The Candle of
JOY

*The shepherds received a
message of joy!*

December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM
Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 5:30 PM
Sunday in Spanish: 12:30 PM
Monday* & Thursday: Noon
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 8:30 AM
*Mondays that fall on a holiday: 8:30 AM

Reconciliation

Saturdays 3 PM - 3:45 PM (or by appt.)

Rosary

Every weekday half hour before Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Every weekday after Mass

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Open during Parish Hours

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

First Wednesday of Month: 9 AM - 7 PM

Closes with Benediction at 7 PM

Church Hours

Monday 9 AM to 4 PM

Tuesday & Thursday

8 AM to 4 PM

Wednesday 8 AM - 8 PM

Friday 8 AM - Noon

Pastor

Rev. Richard Jankowski

FrRichard@stmarktampa.org

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Cosmas O. Amadi

Frcosmas@stmarktampa.org

Priests in Residence

Rev. Jose George

Assisting Deacons

Deacon Moises Gutierrez

DeaconMoises@stmarktampa.org

Deacon Jose Moronta

DeaconJMoronta@stmarktampa.org

Deacon Scott Paine

DeaconScott@stmarktampa.org

Deacon Hector Rios

DeaconHector@stmarktampa.org

Deacon Mike Kopczynski

DeaconMike@stmarktampa.org

Parish Hours

Mon through Wed 9 AM - 4 PM
Thursday 9 AM - 8 PM
Friday 9 AM - Noon
(changes on holidays - please call)

Phone: (813) 907-7746

Fax: (813) 907-7556

9724 Cross Creek Blvd
Tampa, FL 33647.

Website: www.stmarktampa.org

Email: info@stmarktampa.org

Venetian Rental Info: (813) 508-2735

Events Calendar and Tickets

www.stmarktampa.org/calendar

Bulletin Submissions

Bulletin@stmarktampa.org

Weekly deadline: Tuesdays at 9 AM
the week prior to publication,
earlier holiday deadlines TBA

Ministry Contacts

To find out more information about our many ministries
or to contact the ministry leader visit our website:

www.stmarktampa.org/ministries

Or contact our Ministry Coordinator at
mstrickland@stmarktampa.org

Sign Up Now! www.FORMED.org

Enjoy Catholic content (like Netflix!) all in one place!
Go to <https://formed.org/> - Choose "I'm a Parishioner of a Parish"
next type in our name: "St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church"
and then out of the many St. Mark the Evangelist parishes...
choose the one with our address
(9724 Cross Creek Blvd, Tampa, FL 33647).
That's all there is to it!

Deanery Events

For more information about our Deanery and their events,
visit our website:

www.stmarktampa.org/our-deanery.

Social Media



www.facebook.com/stmarktampa



www.instagram.com/StMarkLOVE

Donate / Support

Credit Card/Online: www.DonateStMark.org

Text to Give: 813-296-5116

To set up Recurring Automatic Donations: Contact

Claudia Garcia at cgarcia@stmarktampa.org or 813-907-7746 x 322

Sacramental Preparation

Baptism

Please call (813) 907-7746 to sign up
for required pre-baptism classes.
Brochures, forms, and sponsor letters can
be found online at: stmarktampa.org/baptism.

Marriage

Couples planning their marriage should call
(813) 907-7746 ext. 317 at least six months
prior to their wedding date in order to complete
their pre-marital assessment, discernment,
and marriage preparation enrichment.
For info go to: stmarktampa.org/marriage.

RCIA

Adults, older children, or teens who have not
been baptized, or have been baptized in another
Christian Community, who desire to enter into
full communion with the Catholic Church,
please call (813) 907-7746 ext. 317.
For info go to: stmarktampa.org/RCIA

First Communion & Confirmation

Adults who have been baptized, but have not
received their First Communion and/or Confirmation,
should call (813) 907-7746 ext. 317.

Children and Teens: Students must attend
two consecutive years. Preparation in the parish
is necessary for the sacraments
(even for those at parochial schools).
Brochures and forms can be picked up at the
Parish Office or found online at:
stmarktampa.org/communion or
stmarktampa.org/confirmation-1

ADVENT

"May we be in this world a ray of that light which
shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and
peace to the hearts of all men and women."

– Pope Francis



This is the third week of Advent.

You will light two purple candles and the rose colored candle.

**This week's candle is the rose colored candle representing JOY
and celebrating Gaudete Sunday as we prepare for Christmas.**

JOIN US FOR ALL OF OUR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVENTS

This Weekend (December 16/17) Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 16

Experience Bethlehem 9am – walk through town and visit our Columbiette Kid's Market & Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, December 17

Pastorella – our traditional Spanish Christmas pageant

Wednesday, December 20

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament beginning after our 8:30am Daily Mass, ending with Night Prayer & Benediction at 7pm

Weekend of December 23/24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass Times: Saturday 4pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm (Spanish). NO 5:30pm MASS

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Vigil of Christmas Mass Times: 4pm (Church), 4:10pm (The Venetian), 6:30pm (Church)

Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Christmas Day Mass Times: 12 Midnight, 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm (Spanish), NO 5:30 MASS

Weekend of December 30/31 – Feast of the Holy Family

Blessing of Families after Communion at all Masses

Monday, January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Mass Time—8:30am Daily Mass (NOT A HOLYDAY THIS YEAR)

Weekend of January 6/7 - Solemnity of the Epiphany

Three Kings Procession at all Masses; distribute House Blessing Kits & Candy after all masses

Nativity Showcase in The Venetian: Saturday 5-6pm and Sunday after 8:30am & 10:30am Masses

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 18 through Sunday, December 24

Mon., Dec. 18	Noon	Roberto Cuadra (d) By Franco & Sandra Chamorro
Tues., Dec. 19	8:30 am	Melanie & Maycie McBride (l) By John Aguilar
Wed., Dec. 20	8:30 am	Vocations
Thurs., Dec. 21	Noon	Ralph Piscitelli (d) By Lydia Piscitelli
Fri., Dec. 22	8:30 am	Jeff Chmura (d) By Fran Chmura
Sat., Dec. 23	4:00 pm	Hank Linne (d) By Ceci & Gene Gutierrez
Sun., Dec. 24	8:30 am	Parishioners of St. Mark
	10:30 am	John N. Mubang, M.D. (d) By Angeline Mubang
	12:30 pm	Roberto Nunez (d) By Carmen Nunez
	4:00 pm	Victor Alfonso Hernandez Ordaz (d) By Laura Hernandez
	4:10 pm	George Novac (d) By Teresa Novac
	6:30 pm	Teresa Carillo Mendoza (d) By Nino Mendoza & Family

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of John Carlo
By Helen Carlo

Mass Intentions

&

Sanctuary Candles

Online purchases are available for 2024
www.stmarktampa.org.

The cost is \$25.00

Monthly Finance Reports

<https://stmarktampa.org/finances>

Low Gluten Hosts Available

See Luther Ferris

Ministry Meeting Room Reservations

roomschedule@stmarktampa.org

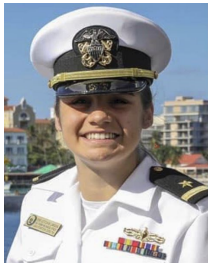


To view and listen to both our beautiful prelude and
Christmas Midnight Mass:

Log in by 11:25pm to either: www.facebook.com/stmarktampa
or: www.youtube.com/stmarktampa.

Orar ~ Pray

Pray for Our Heroes



**Leticia
Larson**

*No Photo

Brian Artienda	Jacob Meier
Ulio & Francisco Arocho	Jack Manning
Christina Bennett	George Martin
Ryan John Berardi	Yerandy Molina
Morgan Boruty	Merridith Morrison
*Stephen Brown	Ismael A. Olivo-Alvarez
Tanya Buckley	Anthony Orcajo
*Ron Caputo	Christopher Parkes
Neal Cheramie	Jorge A. Perez III
Ryan Clisset	James Phillips
Adrian A. Cruz	Paul Pita
Tyler Emerick	Pedro Rico
*Jorge Farchakh	Daniel Sabarese
Christopher A. Garcia	Michael Schiano
*Ian Garia	Nicholas Stiegler
Olivia Faith Giarrizzo	Tiffany Stiegler
Kevin Howell	Bobby Thomas
Samantha Howell	Nicholas Tyrbus
*Bryan Hunt	Ana Maria Vargas
*Ryan Irwin	*Camilo Andres Vargas
Mark Kieweg	Disney Velez
Harold La Rock	Khiry White
Leticia Larson	Daniel Woodard
Robert Letzeisen Jr.	Steven Woodard
Louis Ludwig	Robert Woodards

Get Well Prayers

**Bob Cabana
Patty Dawson
Daniel Byrne
Dan Gonzalez
Michael Wilps
Oliver Warnock
Ralph Palomba
Bob Russo**

Please send your request to Prayers@stmarktampa.org

Learn ~ Aprender

Deacon Jose Moronta

Advent isn't a boring season... it offers different approaches.

For the past two weeks we have heard of the Lord's coming as judge of all at the end of time. The celebrants of the Mass wear penitential purple during this season to help us realize our part in turning from God's covenant and participating in acts of darkness (sin), although rose may be worn on this Sunday, traditionally called "Gaudete".

Gaudete Sunday, in the pre-conciliar delineation of the liturgical year, was regarded as a day of joy with Advent half over and Christmas soon to follow. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Introit (Entrance Antiphon) "Rejoice", taken from Philippians 4:4-5.

In the First Reading we hear,

«The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song... Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing... »

In the moments when we feel sadness and depression or when we find ourselves in desperate situations, it would be good for us to read this page from Isaiah, the comforting prophet. How we need prophets!

A splendid restoration movement is announced, like a wonderful rebirth, starting with nature: the desert will be a garden, everything full of beautiful flowers, it will be a pleasure to walk through the desert and the steppe. It is then passed on to individuals and nations: the defeated and downcast, with faltering knees and curved backs, will stand firm, determined to fight for life; the depressed will overflow with hope; the blind, deaf, dumb, lame, will be filled with health and life.

This is not a dream. It is the announcement of a transforming reality. "God comes in person." And God is blessing and grace, he leaves everything full of beauty and life. God is joy. Christian patience lives on hope, and it is an active virtue that should not be confused with a fatalistic resignation. He who waits is not daunted by difficulties and dangers, lives attentive to the signs of the times and tries to make the most of every opportunity to come ever closer to the kingdom of peace and justice.

Then in the gospel, the story of John the Baptist is continued from last week. John gives directions to those who come to him and tells them that he is not the Messiah. He points beyond himself to Jesus, who is to come. Many centuries have passed since the Lord promised his second coming. The Church has been patient in this prolonged Advent. Today we hear a part of the letter of James in the second reading that brings us reason for continuing being patient in this wait.

Sometime between A.D. 50 and his death, James wrote his epistle to the Jewish Christians dwelling in Palestine and adjacent countries. The main object of this letter is not to teach doctrine, but to improve morals. In the reading for today, these Jewish Christians are reminded of the need for patience, both in bearing the sufferings of human life and in their expectation of the coming of the Lord. When the Lord comes, it is then that they will receive their reward.

«... Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand...»

Our call would be to continue living this season of Advent with patience and the joyful expectation of the coming of the Lord. It's a preparation not limited to the four weeks before Christmas, but to be experienced along all of our lives, because, as Jesus Christ promised, He will come again. This is the coming that we long for and we must be prepared to participate fully and joyfully in what will be the most important event of the history of the universe.

This patience of the poor, of the sick, of those who suffer, should resemble that of men in the country. They know how to wait after sowing, they know that harvest time will come. Not everything is in the hands of the farmer, and the farmer needs patience, but it would be stupid to expect anything, when nothing has been sown. You have to sow to reap, because the solutions do not come as if they fell from the sky.

Let us rejoice and be glad because God is among us!

Thanks for Reading! Want to read more?

Every week I publish a reflection for each of the three readings of the Sunday Mass, a week ahead.

I invite you to go to our website at stmarktampa.org

and click on "Mass Times" at the top, then scroll down to "Sunday Mass Reflection".



YEAR-END GIVING reminders & ideas

YEAR END GIVING & TAX ADVANTAGES

Year end is quickly approaching!

We wanted to remind you that there is still time to support St. Mark this season and optimize your impact with a gift by December 31!

**All gifts postmarked, delivered to the parish office
or made online (www.stmarktampa.org/donate)
by midnight on December 31 count on your tax filing.**

**Give Smart, give stock: Donate appreciated stock, pay no capital gains
and your charitable deduction is at the full,
fair market value of the stock.**

**Make gift that pays you back: Set-up a Charitable Gift Annuity or
remainder trust and transfer assets to help lower estate taxes.**

**If you are 70 1/2 or older: Make a gift directly from your IRA -
it counts toward your required minimum distribution!**

**Make your mark on the future: Leave a gift in your will or trust,
give life insurance you no longer need or donate real estate.**

**Contact Dr. Valerie Mainguy at 813-907-7746 ext. 333
at the parish office to learn more about how to make your year-end gift.
You are a gift to us, your faith family. With a heart full of gratitude,
we wish you a Merry Christmas and blessed holiday season!**



First Friday Mass at St. Mark
8:30 AM

SMARTS meeting at The Venetian
11:00 AM
Second Wednesday of the month.

Miniature Golf at Plantations Palms
First & Third Monday,
11:00 AM

Card Social at St. Mark
First & Third Thursday
11:00 - 3:00 PM

Bowling at Bowlero
Second & Fourth Friday
11:00 AM

Game Day at Venetian
Third Wednesday
11:00 - 2:30 PM

**All those interested in joining
SMARTS are always welcome.**
Contact Paulette Nardelli
843-540-5571/
Pnardelli51@gmail.com
or Roe Black,
813-383-8360/
Roe1Black@yahoo.com



**Our Food Pantry
Is open for those in need!**

**Drive-up open
on 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month
from 1 pm - 4 pm**

Please help stock our Food Pantry!

Canned Pasta Sauce

Collection Saturday Only

No Collection on Sunday

drop off at the cart inside our Social Narthex

by our Information Desk during the week

or

outside during Weekend Mass Hours.

Drop off times will coincide with our church hours:

&

at all Masses

Thank you for your continued support!

If you would like to volunteer to help distribute food at our food pantry
please go to: www.stmarktampa.org/FoodPantrySchedule
to check the schedule for vacant dates & send an email to:
smpantry@gmail.com with the vacant date(s) you would like to volunteer.

Svdp Thrift Store: 12310 N. Nebraska Ave in Tampa. (813) 977-7057.

Please consider joining our

St. Mark the Evangelist Legacy Society

To remember St. Mark in your will or trust,
please ask your attorney to use the following terminology:
I give, devise, bequeath (amount, article, stock, property, etc.)

to

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church
9724 Cross Creek Blvd,
Tampa, FL 33647

For more information, please contact Val anytime at 813-508-2735
or vmainguy@stmarktampa.org

WE'RE HIRING !!

Facilities and Maintenance Manager – Full-Time St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church has a Full-Time opening. The Facilities Manager provides facilities support to all ministry and parish functions. Responsible for implementing a preventative maintenance program that ensures that all parish buildings and grounds are maintained to the highest standards of safety, functionality, operational efficiency, and appearance. Ensures that any required repairs are completed in a timely and professional manner. Manages vendors and contractors that assist in facilities upkeep and repair such as janitorial, pest control, landscaping, HVAC repair, roofers, etc.

This position requires a team player attitude, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, attention to detail, and project coordination with the ability to multitask on an ongoing basis. The Facilities Manager can collaborate with and support the Pastor, General Manager, parish staff, and parishioners.

Ideal Candidate must have the following criteria:

- High School Diploma with training in the maintenance of buildings
- 5 years experience in facilities management or building trade.
- Experience in supervising others
- Knowledge of plumbing, electrical and HVAC
- Ability to safely lift a minimum of 50 lbs.
- Ability to work a flexible schedule, including evenings and weekends.
- Must successfully pass a level II FBI background screening and attend a Safe Environment Training

Interested candidates, please send your resume to: Claudia Garcia Cgarcia@stmarktampa.org

Ministry Coordinator – PT St. Mark the Evangelist

St. Mark the Evangelist is looking for a Ministry Coordinator. This is a Part-Time position. This position is responsible for providing training and support to all our ministries and provides a single point of contact for the ministry leaders needing assistance. The coordinator will also maintain up-to-date info on all the ministry members, as well as the yearly scheduling of events on the calendar. This position helps new leaders in formulating a new ministry for approval.

The ideal candidate will have training and volunteer management experience. Candidate must be able to work alone and available on evenings and some weekends.

Proficient with computers and programs including Google Apps, Word, Excel, and ParishSoft. And bilingual is a plus.

The candidate must successfully pass a Level II (FBI) Criminal History Background Check and successfully complete mandated Safe Environment training programs.

Interested candidates must submit their resume to cgarciastmarktampa.org

DIVINE MERCY CENACLES

(Small Faith Sharing Groups)

Come join us as we delve more deeply
into the writings of St. Faustina
and the messages Jesus gave to her regarding the Eucharist
and God's great love and mercy.

Cenacle gatherings meet every Thursday at 1:00pm
in the St. Michael the Archangel classroom located in the church.

For more information, please contact
Divine Mercy Ministry at leader-divinemercy@stmarktampa.org.



Grief Ministry
Meets every 2nd and 4th Monday
of each month
at 6:30 to 8 pm.
in The Venetian, Matthew 1.

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church Soccer

A Catholic Youth Sports League soccer program for boys and girls ages 6 – 18 and all athletic abilities is ready for a sixth (Winter 2024) season at St. Mark.

The season begins in January, with first practice January 4 (early Thursday evenings at St. Mark) and the first game (Saturday mornings) on January 6. Games will be at St. Mark the Evangelist soccer fields as well as at two other churches in the North Tampa area. There will be one practice and one game per week.

The program uses small sided games: 4 players on U8 and 7 players including a goalie on U10 and above teams.

Teams include U6 (born before 1/1/2017), U8 (1/1/2015), U10 (1/1/2013), U13 (1/1/2010) and U18 (born before 1/1/2005).

Register online using the registration link at www.stmarktampa.org/sports. Registration opened on 10/1/2023. Cost per player is \$120 per player. Cost after November 15 increases to \$160 per player. Registration cost includes a uniform. Number of players is limited, so please register early.

Contact: Don at soccer@stmarktampa.org for more information or if you would like to volunteer. Coaches and referees (Grade 8 and above) are always needed and will be trained at St. Mark.





*Msgr. Kevin S. Mullen Columbiette Auxiliary #12956 cordially
invites you to join us on a magical journey
to destinations around the world.*

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

**The Venetian Event Center
9724 Cross Creek Boulevard
Tampa, Florida 33647**

Hats and tea party attire greatly encouraged!

**TEA LUNCHEON & MYSTERY BOXES
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT & PRIZES
SHARE THE WEALTH RAFFLE**

TICKETS: \$30.00 Adults \$10.00 Children (5 yrs. - 9 yrs.)

Tickets on sale online at www.stmarktampa.org/columbiettes and on the
Piazza after all weekend Masses Jan 6-7, Jan 13-14, Jan 20-21, 2024
(Advance Purchase Required)



For more information, email Darlene Fritz at darlkev@msn.com

Proceeds will benefit Columbiette charities.

Our Virtual Church Offerings

www.stmarktampa.org

Sunday Masses:

Our Saturday 4pm Vigil & Sunday 12:30pm (Spanish) Masses will be Livestreamed onto our Facebook Page or our YouTube Channel.

To view the Livestream Mass, on Facebook: type into your URL: either www.facebook.com/stmarktampa or www.youtube.com/stmarktampa.

Ways to Give:

Donate online to support St. Mark at donatestmark.org

Scan code with your phone camera to go directly to our donate page >>>



Additional Offerings:

Deacon Jose's weekly *Bilingual Liturgical Reflections*: Website.

Deacon Scott holds a livestream *Morning & Evening Prayers* daily:
Facebook - Deacon Scott Paine.

Abbot Isaac & the Benedictine Monks celebrating their *LIVESTREAMED Daily Mass at Noon each weekday*: Facebook - St. Leo Abbey.

And last - a link to our FREE Catholic "Netflix-type" resource: *FORMED.org*



www.DonateStMark.org

Text to Give: 813-296-5116

It is in Giving that we receive

Thank you ALL for your support through the pandemic
and your continual generosity!

Ways to Give:

Traditional Envelopes

Using Credit or Debit Cards at the Kiosks at the Information Desk
located inside the front church doors.

Text to Give: 813-296-5116

Simply use your own personal Online Banking / Bill Pay
and add St. Mark as a payee

Scan your phone camera on our QR Code:



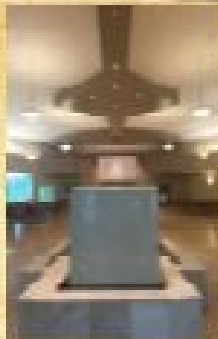
To set up Recurring Automatic Credit Card Donations:
Contact the Parish Office at 813-907-7746 for support.

The Venetian Event Center

<http://thevenetiantampa.com>



- Over 11,000 sq ft Event Space
- Seats Up to 880 Banquet Style
- Seats Over 1,000 Theatre Style
- Wet Bar / Cafe & Reception Area
- Outdoor Event Space available on our Terrace
- Piano Available
- Adjustable Lighting and Room Darkening Shades
- Tables Included
- Floating 16 ft x 9 ft HDMI Projection Screen
- Shure Clear Audio and Components
- Your Choice of Caterers & Vendors
- Catering Staging Area



Wedding Receptions ~ Anniversary Parties
Banquets ~ Quinceañeras
Birthdays ~ Concerts

For rental information call or text 813-508-2735

Tax Free Contribution Information

If you are over 73 and have an IRA or similar retirement account you may be required to take annual distributions prescribed by the IRS. These distributions are usually taxed at your ordinary income tax rate.

New laws have been passed which may allow you to contribute any part of your IRA including these required distributions to St. Mark TAX FREE!

Example: If you contribute \$5000 from your IRA to St. Mark and are in a 20% tax bracket, the church receives the \$5000 and you may save \$1000 in taxes.

A WIN-WIN for both the church and the parishioner!

If your tax advisor agrees and you want to contribute from your 2021/2023 required annual distributions or even from your current IRA,

instruct your IRA custodian to make the check out to: St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church.

They can either send it to you or directly to the church.

This is a great way to fulfill your pledge and/or contribute your annual offering in a lump sum.

Questions: please contact Val at 813-508-2735