



ST. MARK *the* EVANGELIST

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Our Mission

To invite all
on our journey to:

Learn

Orar (Pray)

Give

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*



February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM
Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 5:30 PM
Domingo en Español 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 to 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

1st Wednesday of the Month

from 9am to 7pm with Benediction at 7 PM

3rd Wednesday of the Month from

4 PM to 8 PM with Benediction at 8 PM

Church Hours

Monday 9 AM to 4 PM

Tuesday 8 AM to 4 PM

Wednesday 8 AM to 8 PM

Thursday 8 AM to 4 PM

Friday 8 AM to Noon

Saturday 2 PM to 5:30 PM

Sunday 7:30 AM to 6:30 PM

Pastor

Rev. Richard Jankowski

FrRichard@stmarktampa.org

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Cosmas O. Amadi

Frcosmas@stmarktampa.org

Priest in Residence

Rev. Jose George

Frijose@stmarktampa.org

Assisting Deacons

Deacon Moises Gutierrez

DeaconMoises@stmarktampa.org

Deacon Mike Kopczynski

DeaconMike@stmarktampa.org

Deacon Jose Moronta

DeaconJMoronta@stmarktampa.org

Deacon Scott Paine

DeaconScott@stmarktampa.org

Deacon Hector Rios

DeaconHector@stmarktampa.org

Parish Office Hours

Mon through Thurs 9 AM to 4 PM

Friday 9 AM to 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) 725-0875

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, Toni Ann Cascaes
tacascaes@stmarktampa.org 813-725-0856

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).

Deanery Events

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

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
accounting@stmarktampa.org

Sacramental Preparation

Baptism

Please call (813) 973-1841 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) 973-1841 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.

OCIA

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) 973-1841.
For info go to: stmarktampa.org/OCIA

First Communion & Confirmation

Adults who have been baptized, but have not
received their First Communion and/or Confirmation,
should call (813) 973-1841.

Children and Teens: Students must attend
two consecutive years. Preparation in the parish
is necessary for the sacraments
(even for those at parochial schools).

Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 22nd

1st Sunday of Lent

8:30 am

† Delia Chambers by Lisa Scragg

10:30 am

Parishioners of St. Mark

12:30 pm

† Hernan Carvajal by Wife, Children & Grandkids

5:30 pm

† Ana Díaz Johnson by Christian Barrientos

Monday, February 23rd

St. Polycarp

12:00 pm

† Philip Tritchler by Diana Tritchler

Tuesday, February 24th

Lenten Weekday

8:30 am

† Hans Bendixen by Lorena Cesar

Wednesday, February 25th

Lenten Weekday

8:30 am - Vocations

Thursday, February 26th

Lenten Weekday

12:00 pm

† The Medina Family by Carmencita Espada

Friday, February 27th

St. Gregory of Narek

8:30 am

Tony and Mallori DePiero (Living) by Mom and Dad

Saturday, February 28th

Lenten Weekday

4:00 pm

† Herbert Schumann by Dan & Kathy Mallard

GRIEF MINISTRY

Our program is about healing.
It offers support, and mentoring, as needed.
It is being offered at no cost, and designed
with you in mind.

For information contact Deacon Mike at:

deaconmike@stmarktampa.org

Mass Intentions & Sanctuary Candles

2026

Mass Intentions & Sanctuary Candles
are available.

To book, go to:

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

Procedures for Filing Abuse Complaints

For information on how to file an abuse
complaint, please go to [https://](https://www.dosp.org/safe-environment/how-to-file-an-abuse-complaint/)

[www.dosp.org/safe-environment/how-to-
file-an-abuse-complaint/](https://www.dosp.org/safe-environment/how-to-file-an-abuse-complaint/)

Prayers for Healing and Protection

Bob Cabana

&

All of our Military and First Responders

Please send your request to Prayers@stmarktampa.org

Learn ~ Aprender Deacon Jose Moronta

Beginning a journey through the “Plan of Salvation”

In the season of Lent, we have a different outline for the Liturgy of the Word. In Ordinary Time the Gospel is chosen as a continuous chain of passages. This year, for example, we have been reflecting until last week, on the gospel written by Matthew, chapters 4 and 5. When this happens, the First Reading is chosen among the texts of the Old Testament that are connected somehow with the gospel. During Lent, the choice of First Reading is made under a different methodology. We are to reflect during the five Sundays of Lent what may be called the “Plan of Salvation”, unveiled by God after sin was introduced in the world and twisted the original plan of God.

This Plan of Salvation should be seen as a series of coordinated events along the centuries that preceded the coming of Christ. It was necessary to go step by step as God was shaping humanity before the right moment when He would become man and dwell among us. Today, for example, we have a passage from the Book of Genesis.

This Book offers a substantial part of the beginning of GPS (“God’s Salvation Plan”), as it records the creation of the world and our first parents, and the origin of sin; the history of mankind from the time of Noah; the Flood; the tower of Babel; the confusion of languages, and the division of the human race. The author then turns to Abraham, the father of the chosen people. Then follows the history of Abraham’s son Isaac, of Esau’s forfeiture of his birthright blessing, and the succession of Jacob. Jacob’s fortunes are next related in detail. Lastly, the personal history of Joseph is told, and the migration of his father Jacob and his brethren into the land of Egypt.

The primal history, from which our reading for today comes, marks a significant beginning in that it underscores Israel’s own understanding of itself against the background of world history. In our reading today, the essential goodness of creation stands in bleak difference to human disobedience.

«... The serpent asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?" The woman answered the serpent: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.'”...»

The serpent’s question is a distortion of the divine command - it makes it sound like an unwarranted restriction that deserves a reply if conversation is to be maintained. The woman corrects the serpent’s distortion but adds a distortion of her own. The command given the man by God was simply “not to eat of the tree”. This original sin begins with some distortion of the truth on the part of both Satan and mankind.

Then, we have the Second Reading, from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Written by Paul from Corinth around the year 58, this is the most morally instructive of all his letters and also the most doctrinally profound. It is also very beautifully written, from a stylistic point of view. It contains a summary of Christian teaching, starting with the Old Covenant and an outline of God’s plans for man’s salvation after the fall of our first parents.

In this reading, Paul explains how the new Christian life brings about freedom from sin and death. Paul does this by comparing Adam, the first parent, with Christ, the head of the new humanity (the new Adam). He reflects on the sin of Adam in the light of the redemptive mystery of Christ.

«...For if, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ....»

Death came through one man, Adam, and the gift of upright life is obtained through one man, Jesus the Christ. The formal effect of Adam’s disobedience was to make mankind not only liable to punishment, but actually made us sinners.

«...For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. ...»

Adam’s disobedience placed the mass of mankind in a condition of estrangement from God. “many will be made righteous” most likely refers to the final judgment, when the final phase of the process of justification will be achieved in glory. From Adam we get a sinful nature, but from Christ we get a righteous nature.

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”.*



Eucharistic Adoration & Exposition of our Most Blessed Sacrament

All are Welcome to spend time with He who loves you
the most!

Adoration is in our Reservation Chapel anytime the
church is open

Exposition

- 1st Wednesday: 9am and concludes with Benediction
at 7pm
- 3rd Wednesday: 4pm and concludes with Benediction
at 8pm



CENTRAL TOPIC
of Fr. Frank's preaching
will assist us with a
much needed gift from
God in these times:
HOPE

Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP

Is a Paulist missionary based in New York City. Ordained in 1972, has served in various roles, including pastor in New York and Chicago. Is the author of many books, and has a website where he shares his writings, thoughts, and homilies. He is also president of Paulist Evangelization Ministries and has served as consultant for the U.S. Bishops Committee on Evangelization

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
JESUS IS OUR HOPE
Deacon Scott Paine**

“The Lord, your God, shall you worship, and him alone shall you serve.”

This past Wednesday, we entered into the liturgical season of Lent. Lent is the Church’s annual invitation to us to become more reflective, to acknowledge our shortcomings and seek God’s mercy and grace. It is a season of preparation. We are preparing for the renewal of our faith in Jesus and our commitment to discipleship.

In the midst of our busy lives, we can easily begin to sacrifice the essential and eternal for the convenience and comfort of this brief moment in time. Our immediate needs and wants are obvious to us. Put food on the table. Pay the mortgage or rent. Care for the kids. Secure a little comfort, a little time for ourselves.

We know that our bills won’t pay themselves. Neither will our children raise themselves or our parents manage their own late-in-life struggles on their own. These are the ‘must dos’ that, together with the work we do to secure an income, incessantly demand our attention, our service. They can easily become, not just important things, but everything.

Yet there is another voice that speaks to our hearts, not of fleeting things, but of things beyond our understanding, beyond our achieving, but not beyond hope..

It takes courage and faith to listen to this mysterious voice, for it is the Word itself, a powerful and yet mysterious voice.

Jesus does not entice us with the prospect of riches or power. He does not even promise us that there will always be food on the table, a roof over our heads, or a comfortable place to rest at the end of the day.

Jesus draws us to himself by his very nature, by being the God-who-became-man who knows our struggles and suffering, our hopes and dreams, as one who has shared them, experienced them, lived them just as we do. He sets before us a model to follow which is at once completely beyond us and fully within our grasp, if we reach with Him, in Him, and through Him.



And He promises us peace,

Let us begin this Lenten journey seeking to model our way on Christ’s own. If we will do so, we must begin as Jesus did. We must stand firm against the temptations of this world, calling us to pay homage to our work, our wealth, our health, or even our family. There is one we are called to worship, one we are called to serve.

And when we do, everything else will, in God’s time, fall into place. Not perhaps as we want it to do, but in the way that God knows is best.

Coffee and Community/Ministry Showcase

Please join us for some fellowship, coffee and donuts,
and to meet a few of our Dedicated Ministries!

March 1

after the 8:30am, 10:30am and 12:30 (Spanish) Masses





MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LENTEN FISH FRYS



**Continues every Friday
through March 27.**

Twice named champion of the Spirit FM World Fish Fry Tour, our award-winning dinners will be offered from 5 to 8 pm.

Meals include: Adult Fish/Shrimp Combo - \$15, Child \$11
Adult Fish or Shrimp Dinner - \$13, Child \$9
Adult Mac & Cheese Dinner - \$10, Child \$7
New England Clam Chowder - \$6
Shrimp Ceasar Salad - \$8

Also, various sides, delicious desserts prepared by our Columbiettes, and a variety of beverages will be available.

All dinners include fries, coleslaw, hush puppies and iced tea and coffee.
Cash/check preferred but will accept credit cards.
We look forward to seeing all of you there!

**Knights of Columbus Flag Retirement
Ceremony, Saturday, 14 March, 10:00 am
At the Church Flag Pole.**



**Bring in your old worn-out
flags for proper disposal.
Flags can be left at Church
in the room behind Luther's
Office.**

Child, Family & Youth Evangelization

Faith Formation/ Evangelization Team

813-973-1841
stmarktampa.org/
faith-formation

*Director of
Evangelization*

Deacon

Scott Paine

DeaconScott

@stmarktampa.org

*Director of Child &
Family Ministry*

Katie Napolitano

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*Administrative
Assistants*

MGaska

@stmarktampa.org

Aitana Munoz

ALMunoz

@stmarktampa.org

FF Office Hours

Sunday 8am-12pm

Monday 9am-8pm

Tuesday 9am-4pm

Wednesday 9am-4pm

Thursday 9am-4pm

Friday 9am-12pm



Need a Refresher?

AscensionPress.com

How-to-Go-to-Confession

Complete Step-by-Step

Catholic Guide

**DON'T BE AFRAID
TO GO TO THE
SACRAMENT OF
CONFESSION,
WHERE YOU
WILL MEET
JESUS WHO
FORGIVES YOU.**

Pope Francis



Confession is an act of honesty and courage – an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God.

LIFE TEEN

**Sundays
3:15-5:15pm**

Leading Teens Closer to Christ

EDGE

**Wednesdays
6:30-8:30pm**

Sacred Heart Icon to be Displayed at St. Mark



The St. Mark's Knights of Columbus Council 12956 is commemorating the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the display of the venerated Sacred Heart icon

It will be displayed from March 9th - March 13th in the liturgical narthex of the church.

Please join us as we spread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus during the

Holy Hour of Devotion - Thursday March 12th at 7 pm in the church

" We pray to Our Lord to make his heart our own, so that we may see and love in others what he sees and loves in us"

Sponsored by Your Local Council



Knights of Columbus Council #12956



THE PARISH BOOK CART
WILL BE AVAILABLE
AFTER ALL MASSES
OUTSIDE THE GIFT SHOP
THIS WEEKEND

ALL BOOKS ARE FREE

When you have finished reading, you may keep the book, share it with someone, or return it to our Liturgy Office in the Church to be placed back on our cart.

If you have any Catholic books you would like to donate to the Book Cart, please leave them at the Liturgy Office in the Church.

All books must be reviewed prior to placement.

Please do not leave donated books on the cart.

Remember all books are donated and cannot be used for resale.



Frederic's Corner – The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Did you know...our St. Mark SVDP Conference helps support a sister conference at St. Francis of Assisi parish in Quezon,

Helping Neighbors in Need

Our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society conference continues to serve families and individuals who are struggling with food, housing, and utility needs. With your support, we bring Christ's love to our neighbors in their time of need.

Food Pantry Needs

The food pantry is open on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays of the month from 1pm to 4pm.

Our collection schedule for the next several weeks:

- Feb. 21 & 22 – Chunky Soup
- Feb. 28 & Mar. 1 – Canned Pasta
- Mar. 7 & 8 – Canned Fruit or Apple Sauce
- Mar. 14 & 15 – Boxed Mac 'n Cheese

Please place donations in the SVdP bins at the church entrance before mass. To volunteer to work in the pantry, please email smpantry@gmail.com. You can view the pantry schedule at www.stmarktampa.org/FoodPantrySchedule

Get Involved!

- **Volunteer:** Join us on a client visit! Leave a message at **813.755.3702**.
- **Donate:** Use the Poor Box, SVDP envelopes or give online at stmarktampa.org/donate
- **Please make your checks payable to St. Vincent de Paul**
- **Pray:** Keep our neighbors and Vincentians in your prayers.

Upcoming Meetings

📅 Thursday, February 19, 2026 ⌚ 6:00 p.m. 📍 Classroom John 2

📅 Thursday, March 19, 2026 ⌚ 6:00 p.m. 📍 Classroom John 2

All are welcome! Come see how you can live your faith in service.

Need Assistance?

If you or someone you know needs help, please call our SVdP Helpline at **813.755.3702**.



SMARTS is a group that enjoy outings such as bowling, mini golf, card socials, game day, theatre, dining out, bus trips, and cruises.

Something for everyone!!

The group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month, sometimes followed by a speaker, games, lunch and/or an ice cream social.

Membership dues are \$25 per year.

We would love you to join !!

First Friday Mass at St. Mark
8:30 AM

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

Mini Golf will be the first Monday of the month at Grove Mini Golf.

Billiards at Peabody's
First & Third Tuesdays
11:00AM

Card Social In John 1 & 2
First & Third Thursday
11:00 - 3:00 PM

Bowling at Bowlero
Second & Fourth Friday
12:00 Noon

Game Day In John 1 & 2
Third Wednesday
11:00 – 2:30 PM

For more info, Contact:

Rod Lenhart
813-447-0145

mrandmrssmarts@gmail.com

or

Roe Black
813-383-8360

Roe1Black@yahoo.com

St. Mark Lion Cubs



St. Mark Lion Cubs is a group that brings together Mothers and their children during the early childhood years (Ages 0-6+).

Lettuce Lake Park & Playground (\$2 Entry Fee)

Location: 6920 E Fletcher Ave

Meet at the Playground

Join our Facebook group for more details:

www.facebook.com/groups/stmarklioncubs

For more information contact:

Bobbi JoEmail:



DIVINE MERCY CENACLES (Small Faith Sharing Groups) **ALL ARE WELCOME**

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.

English Cenacle Gathering meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 1:00 in the St. Michael classroom located in the Church.

Hispanic Cenacle Gathering meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 1:00 in Mark 1 located in the Venetian.

For more information please contact:

English: Alan and Janice Birkett birkajtb@gmail.com

Spanish: Maria Figueroa mofnyc01@yahoo.com

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.

*****Join 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.TheVenetianTampa.com 813-725-0875



The Venetian Event Center

Over 11,000 sq. ft Event Space
Seats Up to 750 Banquet or over 1,000 Theater
Wet Bar / Café & Reception Area
Outdoor Event Space on the Venetian Terrace
Room Darkening Shades
Round and Rectangle Tables
Floating 16 ft x 9 ft HDMI Projection Screen
Your Choice of Caterers & Vendors
Large Catering Staging Area

Wedding Celebrations

Quinceañeras & Sweet 16s

Corporate Events ~ Fundraisers ~ Expos

www.DonateStMark.org
Text to Give 813-296-5116

It is in Giving that we receive

Thank you all for your continued generosity!

Ways to Give:

Traditional Envelopes

Using Credit or Debit Cards at the Kiosks at the Information Desk
located inside our church entrance.

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.

God Bless You!

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

Thank you & God Bless!

TAX FREE CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

If you are over 73 and have an IRA or similar retirement account that IRS requires you to take annual distributions 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 \$5,000 from your IRA to St. Mark and are in a 20% tax bracket, the church receives the \$5,000 and you may save \$1,000 in taxes.

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

If your tax advisor agrees and you want to contribute any of your required annual distributions/required minimum distributions or even from your current IRA, instruct your IRA custodian to make the check out to St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic 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 the Parish Office at 813-907-7746