



Liturgy Schedule

Saturday Vigil:

5:00 p.m.,
7:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Sunday:

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,
11:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. (reserved
for 60 & above parishioners),
4:00 p.m. (Lifeteen)

Daily Mass:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 7:30 a.m.;
Wed, 12:00 p.m. (noon)

Adoration:

Mon. - Thurs. 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Confessions:

Sat, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Meet Our Youth Ministry Coordinator Charlie Berneche

Sharing Stewardship Gifts and Bringing Our Faith to the Next Generation



Charlie has been a parishioner here at St. Mark's for over three years and recently stepped into the role as Youth Minister.

Growing up, Charlie Berneche's family was actively involved in their parish. He describes his family life growing up as "very Catholic." Charlie attended a youth ministry program in middle school and high school — so he knows firsthand the positive effects that a good program can have a young Catholic.

"I was the 'parents made me come' kid in middle school and early high school," Charlie says. "That was until my parents threw me on the bus (kind of serious about that) to attend Alive in You Catholic Mission Trip. My experience there showed me how amazing it was to be comfortable in my faith because there were other teens who loved Jesus and weren't afraid to show it."

When Charlie and his wife met, they were both living very busy lives, and did not have a lot of time for date nights. However, their faith was rooted in Christ and the sacraments, so they made it a priority to attend 7 p.m. Mass on Wednesday, fol-

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Youth Ministry Coordinator Charlie Berneche

continued from front cover

lowed by Reconciliation, Adoration, and ice cream. They were married here at St. Mark's in November 2022.

"My wife is a huge reason I jumped back into youth ministry," Charlie says. "She inspires me, and challenges me to be a better husband and faith leader, and to take those responsibilities seriously."

Charlie has been a parishioner here at St. Mark's for over three years and recently stepped into the role as Youth Minister. He is in charge of coordinating the High School Life Teen program, the Middle School EDGE program, and the Confirmation Preparation program.

"Youth Ministry invites me to continue learning about the faith in ways that are unimaginable," Charlie says. "Youth Ministry has increased the depths of my faith because it allows me to spend my energy into learning the vast teachings of the Church so that I can pass that on to the teens. At the core of my Youth Ministry philosophy you will find that 'ownership of faith' is one of the biggest aspects of what I want the teens to take with them in their journey after they graduate."

Over the summer, the high school teens had the opportunity to participate in a few events. Fifty teens from St. Mark attended the Steubenville Lonestar and many participated in a half-day Youth Conference that was led by the seniors on the STORM Team (Saint Training Offering Redeeming Mercy).

"One of the programs I started yielded fruits I had not expected," Charlie says. "We started LIFT (Live In Fellowship on Tuesdays), which was a weekly get-together where we played kickball, ultimate frisbee, or games indoors due to the heat. We started with three teens, then a few weeks later we had over 20 organically!"

Charlie plans to include more activities and events for the middle schoolers, and is also working to include more time for adoration as a group.

"I am blessed that this parish is my home," Charlie says. "From sitting in the back on Wednesday night Mass, to ac-



Charlie attended a youth ministry program in middle school and high school — so he knows firsthand the positive effects that a good program can have a young Catholic.

cepting this role in Youth Ministry, the parishioners have been the most welcoming community I've encountered. There is a special bond this parish has and I am blessed to be able to use my time, talent, and treasure to build this community through the next generation of Catholics."

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— Charlie Berneche

The Mass is a Gift, to God and Our Parish Community

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is hard to believe that autumn is upon us. It seems as if we were just looking forward to summer and all the pleasures associated with that time – and now, children have returned to school, summer vacations are over, and the time when things here at our parish get busier again.

We call them vacations, but the British call them “holidays.” It does not take a genius to see that the words “holiday” and “holy day” share the same roots. There was a time when the only “holidays” people experienced were indeed “holy days.” That included Sunday, to be sure, but the reason people had these “holy days” was to celebrate religious times and occasions.

An important facet of the concept of stewardship is our practice of the faith – our commitment to fulfill what the Church views as our duties related to our beliefs. Most of us, as Catholics, are very familiar with the term “Holy Day of Obligation.” According to the Church’s Code of Canon Law (1247), “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass.”

Note that what this actually says is that Sunday – just like the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, Christmas, Immaculate Conception, and other holy days – is, in fact, a Holy Day of Obligation. Do we really think of our weekly attendance at Mass in that way? Certainly, our parents and grandparents (and many of us as well) understood that we were supposed to go to Mass each Sunday, and there were other times during the Church year when we were expected to go to Mass — the Holy Days of Obligation.

Sometimes in our busy lives, we lose sight of how important this is. As I indicated earlier in this letter, these are



holy days – these are days (including every Sunday) when we need to make the effort and commitment to participate in the Mass. The Code of Canon Law that I quoted earlier continues as follows: “Moreover, they [that means you and me] are to abstain from those works and affairs which hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord’s Day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body” (1247).

“Rendered to God” means that our Mass attendance is a gift to God. Stewardship, of course, is how we take the gifts God has given us, use those gifts responsibly, and then return them and share

them with the Lord and those around us. Although going to Mass is a gift to the Lord, it is also a gift to our community and to ourselves as well. We need that time to step back from our daily worries and concerns, and to look deeper into the meaning of living and of the importance of our relationship with God.

I would like each of us to consider just how important it is to attend Mass. If we are really going to be committed to this concept of stewardship, we need to realize the significance of setting aside time each week, and on those other designated holy days to be with the Lord and with our parish community at Mass. We must be committed to living out our Catholic faith properly and completely.

In Christ,

Fr. George
Pastor

Parish Community Looks Forward to M

“Our Church Is Liter

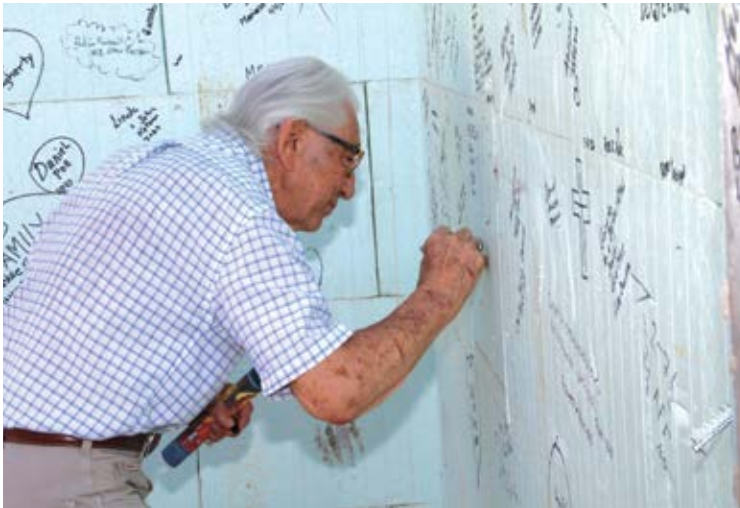


After 25 years of celebrating Mass in temporary buildings, we will enter a new era at St. Mark's with our own church on April 13, 2024. We will finally have achieved our goal of “building a community to worship as one.” We have collected \$11.8 million, and work continues on the beautiful building.

This beautiful building will surely help us meet our mission to “be a God-centered Catholic community of Faith which teaches, evangelizes and ministers to the needs of God's people.”

It will be such a blessing to celebrate together as a community in our new church building. Kim Harbert, Business Manager, greatly anticipates April 13, when all the waiting is over. She also looks forward to having the Parish Activity Center (PAC) as a place for Faith Formation and parish ministries. The current building was completed in 2014, and planning for the new church began in 2015.

“We are looking forward to celebrating Mass together in a beautiful new church home for generations



*“We are looking forward to
in a beautiful new church
come. Freeing up the Parish
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— Kim Harbert, B*



Making Church Home in New Building

Really Built on Prayer”

to come,” she says. “Freeing up the Parish Activity Center will help grow our faith and community and serve God.”

The new church will be simple, yet beautiful. It is more than 34,000 square feet and will seat more than 1,800 with 457 additional parking spaces. The building will be a Spanish mission-style design with two cry rooms and a bridal changing room. It will also feature energy-efficient heating, cooling and lighting systems.

This past Feb. 13, parishioners were able to write their prayers on cards, which were placed in the ground where the sanctuary will sit.

“Our church is literally built on prayer,” Kim says.

On June 10 and 11, parishioners could see inside the construction site and had the opportunity to sign their name on a steel beam or the walls.

Celebrate the exciting opening of our new worship space with our parish family. Be sure to mark your calendars for the opening and dedication Mass at 10 a.m. on April 13!

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Business Manager





Living According to God's Will

Forming a Conscience and Moral Code

As Christians, it is important that we recognize the difference between right and wrong — both morally and ethically. Sometimes, though, this line can become blurred.

Many situations we encounter in our lives include variables that can leave us internally conflicted and unsure of how to move forward in accordance with God's will.

So, how do we work through these moral conundrums? One way is to develop a solid Christian conscience.

A moral conscience exists in the heart of every individual. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, “When he listens to his conscience, the prudent man can hear God speaking. Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed” (1777, 1778).

Think of your conscience as the “angelic” version of yourself sitting on your shoulder, giving you sound advice.

While everyone is blessed with a conscience, each individual has a responsibility to develop this conscience from the time they are young. Parents obviously play an important role in developing their children's consciences. As the primary educators of their children on ethical issues and the Catholic faith, parents have a responsibility to teach virtue to their children and help them to avoid fear, selfishness and

pride. As we grow older, we take on the lifelong challenge of continually forming our own consciences, and establishing a moral code that enables us to make the proper judgments.

One valuable tool in forming a conscience is the practice of introspection. “It is important for every person to be sufficiently present to himself in order to hear and follow the voice of his conscience” (CCC 1779). In contemporary society, where there are so many distractions and routines, it is extremely important that we take the time to look inward and truly listen to what our inner voice is telling us.

Another way to ensure we are developing a good moral code is by conforming to the mind of Christ. God the Father gave us Christ, physically present on this earth and recorded in Sacred Scripture, as the ultimate example of what to do and how to behave according to God's will. In turn, when we act in loving imitation of Christ, we are certain to make practical judgments of conscience.

The next time you are faced with a moral dilemma, take some quiet time to look inward, weigh the positive and negative outcomes, and listen to the voice of your conscience. Read the Gospels for examples of Christ's teachings. By making this a regular practice, you will find that the voice of your conscience will come in louder and more clearly than you may have initially expected.

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Celebrating the Feast of the Archangels

Every Sept. 29, the Church celebrates the feast day of the Archangels — St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael. We are blessed to be inspired by these “servants and messengers of God” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 329).

The term “archangels” has its Scriptural basis in the New Testament (1 Thes 4:16, Jude 1:9), indicating a chief or leading angel. “Archangel” generally refers to St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael, as they are the three angels most frequently mentioned throughout Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. The fact that these three angels are mentioned by name on multiple occasions indicates the significance of their roles in the history of salvation. It is because of these important roles that we take pause to celebrate on Sept. 29.

St. Michael is mentioned by name on several occasions in Sacred Scripture (Dn 10:13, Rev 12:7), and his role in the Tradition of the Church has been extensively documented. He has been widely referred to as the “great prince,” and is most often associated with the apocalypse — the final battle against Satan. Christian Tradition gives St. Michael four different roles, but he has primarily been regarded as the patron and protector of the Church.

St. Gabriel is mentioned by name in Scripture (Lk 1:19), and Tradition has also assigned him implicit roles within Scripture where he is not specifically mentioned. Most important, however, is St. Gabriel’s role as the messenger of God, delivering to Mary the announcement of the birth of Our Savior (Lk 1:26).

St. Raphael is mentioned by name only in the Book of Tobit, where he is responsible for healing Tobias. Raphael means “God has healed” and thus, he has also often been associated with the “angel of the Lord” (Jn 5:4).

The feast day on Sept. 29 gives each of us the opportunity to consider our own role in the Church, as we gratefully commemorate the Archangels responsible for carrying out their roles of defender, messenger and healer.

Saint Mark

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Upcoming Events

Oct. 7

Marriage Conference

7:30 a.m. Mass

8-9 a.m. Breakfast

9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Talks and Group Discussions

Oct. 7

*Remembrance Mass for Pregnancy
and Infant Loss*

6 p.m.