

Saint Mark Catholic Church

Weekly Newsletter

March 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent

In this weekend's readings, we are given a wake up call. The story in the gospel is about the man who was born blind and who was given sight by Jesus. It is a story of faith and lack thereof. What prevents us from seeing God in the everyday moments of our lives? As stewards of the light of Christ, we are to reflect that light with the help of the Holy Spirit. If Christ's work has transformed and illuminated our lives, there should be a change. The light of Christ's active presence should be at work in us. We are used by God to shine the light of Christ on the lives of others.

Is the light of Christ shining in our hearts? Is the light of Christ reflecting out from us to others? Spend time recalling moments in which you have "seen" God at work in your lives or the lives of family and friends. Perhaps you are the person God is using to shine the light for others?

Continue to watch Mass live this weekend at 9 and 11 am or 1 pm (Spanish) by logging on to www.stmarknc.org/livestream.

Blessings,
Father John

For a message from Father John and step-by-step instruction on how to make Spiritual Communion, please visit youtu.be/fljwous43JQ.



CONFESSION SCHEDULE

as of March 16, 2020


Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
4-5 pm

Wednesday
6-7:30 pm

Saturday
3-5 pm

PLEASE NOTE:
The line for confession will use proper distancing.

Confession lines will go down the side aisle and individuals will space themselves 4 pews apart.



ADORATION SCHEDULE

In the Church

Monday– Saturday
10 am - 5 pm

Wednesday
8 am - 7:30 pm

Please use proper distancing with 4 pews between adorers. Adoration will be suspended in the event of a funeral.

As of March 16, 2020

Dear Saint Mark Family,

As your Pastor, and with the assistance of our parochial vicars and deacons, our primary role is to provide for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the faithful. As members of the broader community, we are committed to participating in the larger response to the Pandemic by our cities and state. Bishop Jugis' decision to dispense from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, as well as the canceling or curtailing of all other liturgical events and gatherings, was based on the CDC and state government guidelines. Local priests are to provide for the needs of their parishioners within these parameters and, of course, provide care for the sick and dying.

Our primary concern is the holiness, health and safety of our parishioners. We are praying for all who have been impacted by the current health crisis, especially the sick and their care givers. The spread of COVID-19 has truly impacted our parish, our community, our country, and the world at large. We will continue to communicate with you through our parish app, our e-newsletter, the website, Facebook and Instagram. If you are not using these platforms and need assistance, please email stewardship@stmarknc.org or contact our office at 704-948-0231.

We must continue to pray and support those most vulnerable – the poor, those with less stable employment, and parents who need to work and are unable to find childcare. In a special way, we want to support the elderly, sick and shut-ins who may feel isolated and lonely. In the spirit of Lent, I ask all of us to embrace the works of mercy with zeal and to practice a spirit of gratitude and generosity to others. In the spirit of almsgiving please continue to spend time in prayer, donate to our parish offertory and the Diocesan Support Appeal, and consider dropping food at our local community outreach organizations.

Please know that we are committed to continuing the good work of our parish and the Church at this time. We want to thank each of you for the many ways you support our mission, and ask that you please continue to support the work of our Church. Our parish is dependent upon your weekly financial gifts to continue its ministries in this critical time of crisis when we are not able to attend Mass. Our weekly offertory of approximately

\$30,000 helps to offset our expenses and provide assistance to those in need. With the closing of Mass, we are not receiving that general offertory. If you are able to continue to support the needs of the church please consider transitioning to online giving using this link <https://www.stmarknc.org/online-giving> , or mail your weekly offertory donations to the parish. We are grateful for your contributions.

Join me in prayer for the repose of those who have died, for the recovery of those who are sick, for the strength of healthcare workers and caregivers, and for an end to this health crisis. Please be assured of my prayers for all of you, our Saint Mark parishioners, and know that we are here for you.

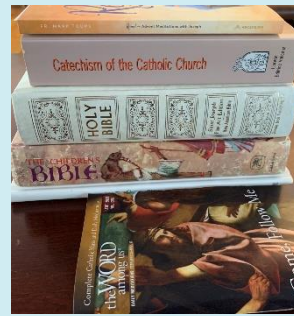
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father John Putnam,
Pastor

Grow in Christ

Looking for a way to Grow in Christ at Home? We have many resources for you and your family. This page will be updated regularly.

www.stmarknc.org/GrowinChristatHome



Serve One Another

If you are looking for a way to Serve Others during this challenging time, please check our website for urgent needs. We will be updating this as other information becomes available. www.stmarknc.org/UrgentNeeds

