



There is a treasure waiting for you at St. Mark RC Church

500 Wigwam Lane

Stratford, CT 06614

Fall Program Communications

What is a Novena?

A novena is a nine-day prayer that you typically say to a specific Saint for a special intention. Some novenas are said in one day, or over nine months, but typically you repeat them over nine consecutive days. Some people add on extra practices like fasting or acts of service to deepen their novena experience!

We have a variety of seasonal Novenas printed and in a folder outside the Reconciliation Room. Please take one and enjoy the prayer. In the future we will try to hold a Holy Hour with a relic from a specific Saint whose Novena we celebrate.

www.catholic203.com

A central communication channel, to effectively connect with young adults across The Diocese of Bridgeport. Shared social media, events, and a host of opportunities for young adults to connect.

Did you see the Video Blog speaking about stress? Did you see the FlockNote with questions to our Pastor? Our young adults asked Fr. Reggie to use a bible quote to discuss any issue they are going through. Please feel free to send him a request or drop a note in the “Ask the Pastor” boxes at all the entrances.

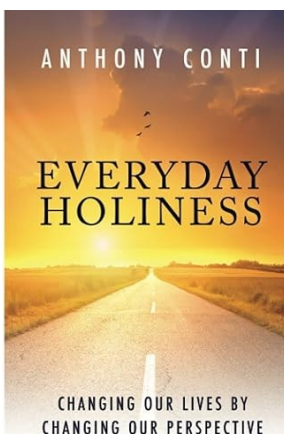
PREPARE ENRICH*

• building strong marriages •

Engaged and need to do Pre-Canna? Married and need to do a tune up? Relationships thrive when there is understanding. Let us provide the insights to get there. This is the number one Premarital and marriage assessment for over 45 years. Fr. Reggie is a certified facilitator for Prepare and Enrich. Email him to find out more details or to set up an appointment. “It is easier to get married than it is to stay married. Hard work always pays off. “

Don't believe what they say, you are still an important part of our church and you are welcome here. Meet with other individuals who have the same questions. Explore the Annulment process and get your questions answered. We will bring in a Canon Lawyer to help you. We are forming a support group and want you to start the healing process with love. To confidentially sign up, please contact Fr. Reggie via pastor@stmarkstfd.org.

DIVORCED & SEPARATED MINISTRY



SAVE THE DATE: ADVENT NIGHT OF REFLECTION. Acclaimed Author and Retired Deacon Anthony Conti will be joining us to deliver a thoughtful reflection on what Advent is and why it is so important to properly prepare for Christmas. Deacon Tony will give his talk in the Church at 6 PM on Monday, December 1, 2025. You don't want to miss this.

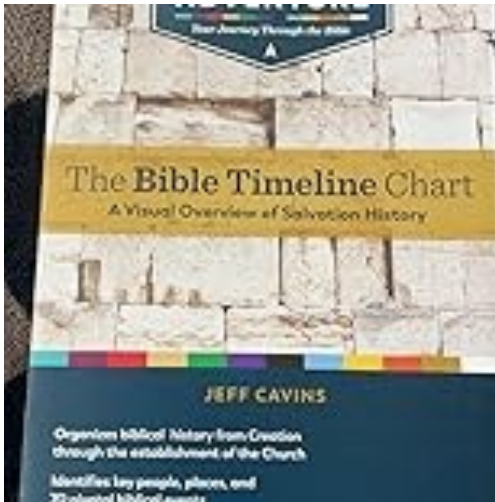
First Witness is a groundbreaking initiative to strengthen the bonds between parents and their parish, addressing the challenges of disaffiliation by fostering a culture of faithfulness. Research and experience show that parents play a vital role in shaping their children's faith, particularly in the critical years from birth to age three. Join Kelly Glazer and other families as we explore ways to introduce the faith to our youngest members.



Holiness at Home



St. Jerome Bible Study—Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM as we explore the upcoming Sunday reading and discuss our Faith. Our weekly scripture study is for everyone who wants to understand the word and the great riches found in God's word. You will become familiar with Catholic biblical teachings and much more with open discussions and questions you always wanted to ask being answered. You can miss a week and not be behind. The more we learn about God, the more we learn about ourselves and our future.



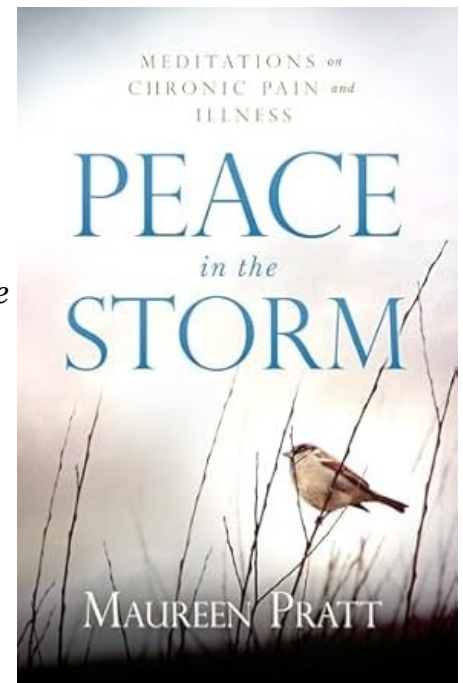
The Bible Timeline® study program takes you on a guided journey through salvation history. Presenter Jeff Cavins will show you how fourteen of the Bible's narrative books tell the biblical story from beginning to end and will give you the keys to understanding the amazing story woven throughout Scripture.

In this revolutionary approach to Bible study, The Bible Timeline divides the Bible into twelve color-coded time periods that make the narrative thread easier to follow. Using a unique color-coded chart, you will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and discover how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our Faith.

The Bible Timeline will teach you how to read and understand the entire Bible and introduce you to the wonderful narrative of Scripture in a way that will transform your life. Please email: rnorman@stmarkstfd.org if you are interested.

The Peace in the Storm Project offers individuals and groups the opportunity to reflect on specific, spiritual and theological questions that might arise within the heart of caregiving and life with chronic illness and pain ("Why me, God?" "Does God care?" "Why believe if I'll just keep on suffering?"). Anchored in scripture, reflection, Catholic tradition and the sacraments, and prayer through the themes presented in the books, *Peace in the Storm: Meditations on Chronic Pain and Illness*, and *Peace in the Storm for Caregivers*, these reflections are gently offered to encourage those who are caregivers or who live with ongoing pain and illness that all may experience God's unique and wonderful love, joy, peace, and purpose in and through their journeys.

We are currently training four facilitators to establish a support group for anyone who is suffering in any way. Stay tuned for more information to join this important group. Suffering is made easier when we do it together.



FAMILIES COOKING TOGETHER is a way to go back to an old but important family tradition. Join Fr. Reggie as he shows you ways to cook together with a special introduction to InstaPot and AirFryer cooking. As we prepare a meal together Fr. Reggie will show you ways to reconnect as a family. Each member of the family is encouraged to participate as we break bread together. If interested please send an email to rnorman@stmarkstfd.org

New Phones are here!

The parish office has upgraded to a new VOIP phone system that will save the parish on services and provide our parishioners with an automated system that will answer many of your questions. Please listen to the prompts and choose carefully. Emergency calls are only for life and death situations.





The St. Mark Travelling All-Stars want to take the faith on the road. If there is a site or venue you would like to visit as a group, please let them know. We will try to provide bus trips to regional events that are social, fun and captivating. Send your ideas to: [pastor @stmarkstfd.org](mailto:pastor@stmarkstfd.org)

Attention all Seniors!

We have many seniors who are lonely or bored. Why don't we get together for a monthly lunch or prayer service! Do you want to play cards, read, or gain information about aging gracefully? Come on out and together, we will keep this important group busy and appreciated. Email or call Fr. Reggie with your availability and ideas and we will set something up that will be fun, educational and full of love.

rnorman@stmarkstfd.org or 203-377-0444.



We heard there was interest in starting a Bell Choir—If you are interested— Please email rnorman@stmarkstfd.org to let us know your availability

Check Out our Youth Groups!

This year we have two youth groups to serve young people at St. Mark and surrounding area! **Junior Youth Group** is for youth in grades 6-7, and meets weekly on Thursday evenings 7:00-8:00pm starting on October 16. **Senior Youth Group** meets weekly on Sunday nights 6:00-7:30pm starting on October 12, and includes dinner. There is no cost to attend, and new members are welcome at any time. Some of our plans this fall include:

- Phantom Fall Fest at Lake Compounce
- Pumpkin carving night
- Christian music concert
- Community service with Al's Angels
- Roller skating
- Game night
- ...and more!

Please visit www.stmarkyouthgroup.org for more information and to join!