

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE BOOK



SAINT MARK
CATHOLIC CHURCH

60 years young!

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

WELCOME MESSAGE

FR. ANGEL QUITALIG



Dear Beloved Parishioners and Friends of Saint Mark,

With deep joy and profound gratitude to Almighty God, I warmly welcome you to this special commemorative book celebrating the 60th foundation anniversary of Saint Mark Catholic Church.

This milestone is a sacred moment in our parish's journey; it is a time to reflect on our past with gratitude, to celebrate our present with faith, and to look toward the future with hope. We give heartfelt thanks to our founding clergy and parishioners whose courage, vision, and dedication laid the cornerstone of what has become a vibrant and enduring community of faith. Their legacy continues to inspire us today.

I also wish to express my deep appreciation to all the clergy, religious, and faithful parishioners, past and present, who have generously shared your time, talents, and love in building up this parish over the decades. Your tireless efforts to keep the faith alive, active, and strong in our community are a testament to the enduring spirit of Saint Mark. Above all, we give thanks to our gracious and loving God, who has blessed our parish abundantly through the years. His presence continues to guide us, strengthen us, and unite us as one family in Christ.

As we celebrate 60 years of faith, service, and fellowship, may we be inspired to carry forward the mission entrusted to us with renewed zeal and unwavering trust in God's providence. May this anniversary renew our commitment to live as true disciples of Christ – spreading His love, mercy, and truth in all that we do.

To all the members of our parish community, both near and far, thank you for being part of this blessed journey. Together, as grateful parishioners of Saint Mark, let us continue to grow in faith and in love, for the greater glory of God.

One with you in Christ.

Our STORY

St. Mark Parish was established by Archbishop Joseph McGucken and opened on September 12, 1965, serving the Belmont-San Mateo community.

The first pastor was Fr. William Flanagan who found an automotive garage to use.



The garage at 785 Old County Road (circa 1965).

Everything we have, we worked for and fought for to build our church." - Conni Ramirez

New Parish to Serve San Mateo-Belmont Area

A new parish, St. Mark's, has been established in the San Mateo-Belmont area by Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken. The boundaries will include San Mateo village, Hillsdale and McLellan area, Los Prados-Marina area, and all of Belmont east of El Camino Real.

Father William J. Flanagan has been named the first pastor. Father Daniel F. Walsh, of Serra high school faculty, will be in residence and will assist in forming the new parish.

Temporary location of St. Mark's which opens officially on Sunday, September 12, will be at 785 Old County road, 591-5937.



FR. W. FLANAGAN
new parish pastor



A Remembrance Of The Opening
Of
ST. MARK'S PARISH
September 12, 1965

Feast of the Holy Name of Mary

O God, from whom everything good takes its origin and receives its steady and full growth, grant, we implore you, that what we are starting to build for the glory of your name may, by the ever-present aid of your fatherly wisdom, be brought to completion.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

St. Mark, pray for us.

Prayer card commemorating the first mass at Saint Mark.

*Humble beginnings
Yet indeed Holy Ground*

* Background: SF Archdiocese Attestation
of Installation of Pastor, 1965

Early YEARS

Parish life flourished at Saint Mark church, fondly referred to as God's garage by its parishioners.

In 1969, Fr. David Walsh became pastor after Fr. Flanagan was transferred to Saint Patrick church in San Jose.

In that same year, the Redwood Shores community became part of the parish.

"Really a nice parish! Only after feeling a bit strange in the garage, we realized that we were growing with Saint Mark Catholic Church. It was a close-knit family."
- Jo Ellen Nieder



First Holy Communion in God's garage.



Fr. Flanagan poses with young communicant.



Celebrating Christmas in the 60's

**Background: Fr. Flanagan letter to parishioners, October 1965*

*Sincerely, your Pastor
Father William J. Flanagan*

PASTOR:
 FATHER

MASSE
 8:00,

CONFES
 Satur

Father
 Father
 a ple
 Paris

We wish to thank all the parishioners who
 have helped and volunteered to help in so
 many ways to set up the Parish so that we
 can have this Official Opening today.

Fr. David Walsh and Fr. Daniel Walsh

*"People were warm and welcoming, and we knew
 we found our church, our home." - Jackie Guzman*

exemplified by the spirit of sincere
 willingness to cooperate and help and their
 interest and enthusiasm

Facil
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C.C.D.
 begin

the program and facilities can be completed.
 Meanwhile, parents are urged to give
 whatever informal training and instructions
 they can to their children at home.

C.D. High School students are
 continue for one year at the C.C.D. High
 School of Religion at St. Gregory's
 immaculate Heart of Mary Church.
 convenient.

*God's work continues
 through joys and trials*

Daily Mass, except First Friday, until we
 have a larger home than we might be able to
 have a small chapel.

**Background: Saint Mark paper bulletin in the early years*



On November 8, 1966 the old church
 of Saint Gregory was moved down
 El Camino Real to the Marine View
 lot to become Saint Mark's new
 church.

Unfortunately, the building was
 deemed unsafe by the fire marshal.
 It was used instead for fire
 department training.



"It was God's plan!" - Robert Van Huystee

Our New HOME

On June 27, 1970, ground was broken and our new church was finally built. We had found our permanent home at 325 Marine View Avenue in Belmont!

Saint Mark Catholic Church was formally dedicated at a Mass celebrated by Archbishop McGucken with blessings sent by Pope Paul VI.



Moving (heaven and) earth!



The building fund for the new St. Mark's Church and parish center will benefit from "Fashions On the Go," a dessert fashion show which the parish women's club will present on June 5 at 1 p.m. Inspecting the project, which will tentatively be completed in June, are (from left) Mrs. Paul Teldeschi, chairman, and Mesdames Anthony Graham, Edward Reiser, and Victor Wieder. The show will take place in the parish hall of the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Belmont. Models include Mrs. Howard Knapp, Mrs. Peter Wingard, Rosella Letterst, Jan Collins, and Rose Knapp. (Times Photo)



Clockwise from the top: Fr. Walsh and parishioners at the 1970 groundbreaking ceremony; Saint Mark Catholic Church under construction; press photo of the parish women's club fundraiser for the benefit of the Saint Mark building fund.



A CHURCH WITH GOOD BONES, BUILT TO LAST



Clockwise from the top: Front exterior of Saint Mark Catholic Church built in 1971, the church interior, Saint Mark Rectory added in 1983, the Saint Mark chapel and the tabernacle in the chapel.

Growing PARISH

In the succeeding decades, Saint Mark flourished as a small parish serving the Belmont-San Mateo-Redwood Shores Catholic community.

In 1989, Fr. Flanagan returned as co-pastor after Fr. Walsh had taken ill and passed away. He lived in the rectory, actively participated in the parish and served our community even after his retirement.



Top to bottom: 1998 groundbreaking ceremony for the Saint Mark parish center project; Architect Frank Gonsalves, Msgr. Floro Arcamo & Msgr. Harry Schlitt at the grounds; construction of the parish center underway!



Parish slice of life - (top) ladies of the parish prepare a meal in the kitchen; (bottom) CCD class in church.



*A place where His glory
may shine*

The Saint Mark Parish Center was completed in the year 2000 and was blessed by Archbishop Levada.

On March 17, 2006, the parish center was formally dedicated as the Fr. Flanagan Hall in honor of our inaugural pastor.



Left to right: Blessing of the Saint Mark Parish Center; Fr. Flanagan and Msgr. Arcamo celebrate the blessing.

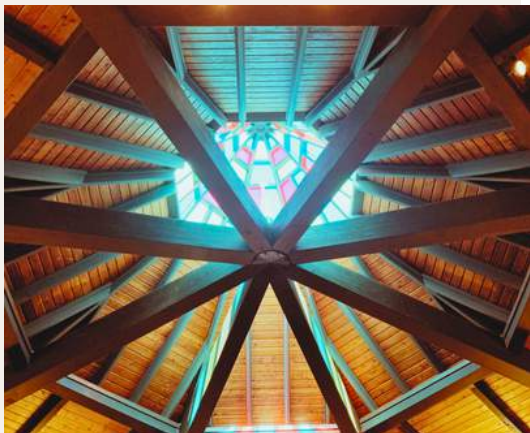
Thriving 2000'S

By the turn of the century, Saint Mark had evolved into a thriving and welcoming church.

We have been blessed with dedicated Pastors who provide spiritual guidance to the parishioners. They also led a series of enhancement projects for the church, its grounds and facilities in support of the needs of the parish community.



Counterclockwise: The old Saint Mark signage to welcome parishioners; stained glass feature; and Saint Mark devotional area in church.



Top : A new roof and stained glass cupola were added in 2007 creating a distinct look for the church; Bottom : A view of the cupola inside the church, bringing more light to masses and other church activities.



Our Lady of Lourdes GROTTO

On December 4, 2022, St. Mark parishioners together with clergy and in the presence of Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, witnessed the unveiling and blessing of the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto at the parish grounds.

It is a beautiful and peaceful retreat, a place of prayer and reflection.



Left to right : Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto at Saint Mark; the grotto plaza with engraved bricks donated by parishioners; a custom made outdoor altar used for prayer and worship activities at the grotto grounds.

Honoring our **CLERGY**

From our very first pastor, Fr. William Flanagan to our present pastor, Fr. Angel Quitlig, we give thanks and honor the clergy who have devoted their love, service and dedication to Saint Mark Catholic Church.



FATHER WILLIAM FLANAGAN



FATHER DAVID WALSH



MONSIGNOR FLORO ARCAMO



FATHER JOE BRADLEY



REVEREND ALWYN FURTADO



MONSIGNOR ALVAN HEURING

"The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ."

— St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests



MONSIGNOR JAMES TARANTINO



DEACON JERRY QUINN



ARCHBISHOP SALVATORE CORDILEONE



FATHER ANGEL QUITLIG



FATHER DOMINIC LEE



DEACON RICH DIZON

The Next CHAPTER

On its 60th year, Saint Mark embarked on a redevelopment project to enhance its front exterior.

It was completed in April 2025 and on Easter Sunday, parishioners attended the blessing ceremony led by Bishop William Justice, Fr. Angel Quitalig and Deacon Rich Dizon





A highlight of the new front exterior of the church is the Saint Mark prayer garden.

A serene and refreshing corner dedicated to our parish patron saint, Saint Mark the Evangelist.

The place reminds us of the almighty power of faith and prayer.

Saint Mark PRAYER GARDEN



Thank You! 60TH ANNIVERSARY DONORS

- ALICE DY
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Thank You! 60TH ANNIVERSARY DONORS

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Pray for us



www.saintmarkbelmont.com