



**MARCH
2025**

Embracing the Journey of Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the sacred season of Lent, our 40-day journey of fasting, repentance, and reflection in preparation for Easter. Understanding the themes of Ash Wednesday can guide us to be better stewards in our day-to-day lives.

The ashes on this holy day remind us of our mortality, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. Acknowledging this encourages us to examine our lives, repent, and renew our commitment to living in accordance with God’s will.

Being a good steward of God’s will means we recognize the importance of using our talents and resources wisely to make a positive impact on the world. This process of self-examination and repentance is also integral to being a good steward because it involves acknowledging our shortcomings and striving to improve. We become better stewards of our actions by cultivating a spirit of humility and accountability.

In embracing the lessons of Ash Wednesday, we not only honor the profound traditions of our faith but also commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of stewardship. Through thoughtful reflection and intentional action, we can fulfill our call to be faithful stewards, embodying the spirit of Ash Wednesday in every aspect of our lives.

May this Ash Wednesday be the start of a blessed Lenten season for you and your loved ones.



Madelyn T. Weed, CFRE, CAP®

Interim CEO



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LEGACY PLANNING EVENT
Saturday, March 29, 2025
1:30pm - 4pm
Bishop Grady Hall

Plan to hear more from past attendees!

Planning Your Catholic Legacy
Life is Unpredictable. Are You Prepared?

Learn how to create (or update) a plan that protects your family and aligns with your Catholic values. Leave a legacy that will be remembered.

FREE

- Catholic Estate Attorney Advice on Wills, Trusts, Guardianship and more
- Guidance on Catholic Funeral Rites
- Charitable tools to create your legacy
- Planning Resources
- Snacks and Refreshments provided

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
4001 Edgewater Dr
Orlando, FL 32804

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER
stcharlesorlando.org/news/legacy-planning-rsvp/

70 Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church

The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida
Inspire Giving. Fund God's Work.

[Kicking Off The Year with Legacy Seminars](#)



Thank you once more to our wonderful parish hosts, ministry partners, event volunteers, and professional partners [Read more...](#)

[Philanthropy Moment: What is Stewardship?](#)



Jeannette Eddy, Director of Philanthropy, discusses different ways to be good stewards of God's creation. [Click here](#) to watch now.

Marian Essay Contest 2025

Winning entry receives

\$1,000
Scholarship

Submission Deadline
April 3, 2025



Theme: Mary, Pilgrim of Hope

cfocf.org/mariancontest

St. Joseph Education Endowment Fund:

The Power of Endowment in Catholic Education

The foundation of a Catholic education extends beyond traditional schooling; it creates a supportive environment that encourages students to deepen their connection with their faith, while also providing a curriculum focused on academic excellence. This vision was



inspired by a dedicated at St. Joseph Catholic Church parishioner [Read more...](#)

**[100th Anniversary Gala for the Basilica
St. Paul School](#)**



The Catholic Foundation is proud to sponsor Basilica of St. Paul School's Gala celebrating 100 years of stewarding Catholic education.

[Click here](#) if you would donate to the Basilica of St. Paul School or other Catholic Schools in Central Florida.

**[Women's Philanthropic Giving Circle
Kickoff 2025](#)**



The third year of the WPGC Kickoff with Mass, celebrating our new members and spiritual reflection.

[Click here](#) to watch the video.

[Click here](#) to join the Women's Philanthropic Giving Circle.

Monthly Legacy Reflection

What did you pray for when you were younger? What do you pray for now?



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Market Highlights from Our Trusted Partner The Concord Advisory Group, Ltd.

"Wall Street Thrives in the Darkness"

THE CONCORD ADVISORY GROUP, LTD: FEBRUARY 2025 MARKET HIGHLIGHTS COMMENTARY: "WALL STREET THRIVES IN THE DARKNESS"

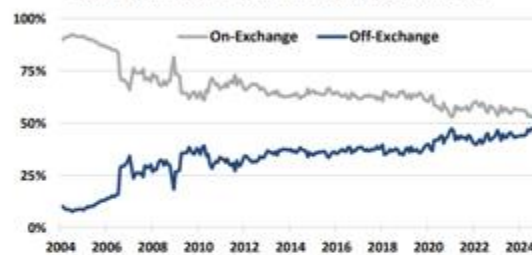
There are some broadly believed misconceptions about stock trading. One is that stocks only trade on exchanges. Increasingly, institutional and retail stock orders are being executed on private networks colloquially referred to as "dark pools." For the first time, stock trading volume in dark pools now exceeds the volume of shares traded on U.S. stock exchanges. Although 'dark pools' sounds scary and ominous, their lower fees, reduced market impact, and anonymity have made them attractive venues for large institutional investors.

It is often said in the media that the market went up or down because there were "more buyers than sellers" or "more sellers than buyers." These statements are incorrect, every share of stock that trades has a buyer and a seller, so the number of buyers and sellers always must be equal. It also represents a misconception that stock prices move predominantly because of trading.

Trading can impact stock prices, but news has a much bigger impact. Most economic and corporate news is reported outside of regular exchange trading hours. As the second chart shows, most of the gains in the market occur outside of regular trading hours, when fewer transactions are occurring.

The good news for investors is that off-exchange markets and the rapid reflection of new information into stock prices are signs of an efficient market becoming even more efficient. With commission-free trading, fractional shares, and multiple platforms to provide liquidity, investors are benefitting from the evolution of the stock market.

More Shares Trade Off the Stock Exchange Than On



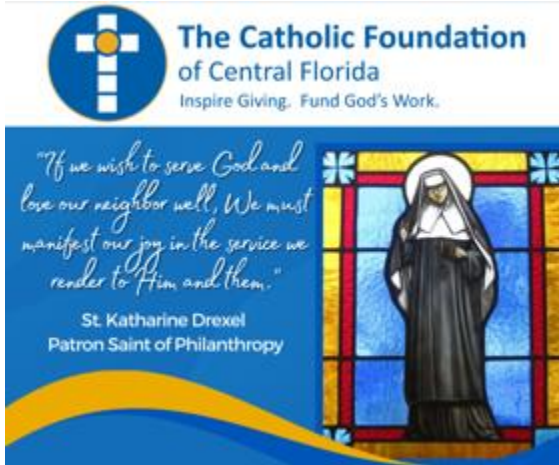
Cumulative S&P Returns Since 2015



Sources: Bloomberg 1/24/25, Nasdaq.com

There are some broadly believed misconceptions about stock trading. One is that stocks only trade on exchanges. Interestingly, institutional and retail [Read more...](#)

[Celebrating the Feast Day of Our Patron Saint: St. Katharine Drexel](#)



St. Katharine Drexel is a model of fearless generosity and complete trust in God to tend to her needs. [Click here](#) to join us in prayer.

[St. Katharine Drexel Feast Day Trivia Challenge](#)



Celebrate St. Katharine Drexel's Feast Day by testing your knowledge in this special trivia challenge! [Click here](#) to play!



[Learn more about joining the St. Katharine Drexel Society](#)



St. Katharine Drexel is the patron Saint of Philanthropy. The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida strives to emulate her work by enhancing philanthropic impact which serves those who are most in need in nine counties of Central Florida.

Our Mission:

To inspire and increase giving, to prudently invest the resources entrusted to us, and to capably steward those charitable gifts to support the spiritual and corporal needs of the community of the Diocese of Orlando.

Returning God's Gifts



Stay Connected With Us Everyday!



The Catholic Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation committed to fostering and stewarding philanthropy to address community issues and meet the spiritual and corporal needs of our community year-round. As a proven trustworthy philanthropic organization to give to and give through, we have received the Guidestar Platinum Seal of Transparency. Fully endorsed by the Diocese of Orlando and its Bishop, we work extensively with Catholic parishes, schools and nonprofit organizations aligned with Catholic social values to help inspire giving and



secure resources needed to further their long-term goals.

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