



St. Mark Parish

St. Mark is a Catholic parish committed to fostering discipleship through the Word of God and the Sacraments. We are dedicated to providing Catholic education to our youth, to bringing a deeper relationship with Christ to our adults, and to supporting those in need through the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. We encourage all of our parishioners to participate in the shared responsibility of worship, prayer, study and service.



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more." - Jn 8:11b

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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PASTORAL STAFF

- Rev. Adam Zajac**
Pastor
- Mrs. Karen Cocita**
Principal
- Mrs. Meaghan McCarthy-Silver**
Pastoral Minister
- Mrs. Julia Wallace**
Music Ministry Director
- Mr. Michael Kay**
Youth Ministry Director
- Mrs. Jeannette Puckett**
Parish School of Religion (PSR) Director

COMMUNITY & SACRAMENTS

- New Parishioners:** All are welcome to join the parish! Visit the website or call the parish office to arrange to meet a pastoral staff member.
- Become Catholic:** Interested in becoming Catholic? Call the parish office for an appointment with a pastoral staff member to learn more.
- Infant Baptism:** As you celebrate a new birth, make sure to arrange for the child's baptism. The third Sunday of the month is our regular schedule.
- Reconciliation:** Mercy and peace are here for you. Confession is available on Saturdays from 3:00pm to 3:45pm, or by appointment.
- Marriage:** Over six months we will prepare you to exchange vows before the altar. Whether engaged or civilly married, contact us to get started.
- Anointing of the Sick:** If you or a loved one is seriously sick, please call the parish office to arrange for a priest to visit and anoint.
- Homebound:** We are happy to bring Communion to you if you are unable to participate in the celebration of Mass.

LITURGY AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Papal Intention

April: For the use of the new technologies. Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

Liturgy Schedule

Scripture readings can be found online at:
bible.usccb.org

Monday, April 7

8:30am Mass **Presider's Intention**

Tuesday, April 8

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass **Presider's Intention**

Wednesday, April 9

Thursday, April 10

8:30am Mass **Presider's Intention**

Friday, April 11

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

12:00pm Stations of the Cross @ St. Mel

Saturday, April 12

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass Living Intention Jake Konys

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, April 13-Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass Dave Adams

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass Dolly Tinnirello

Pray for the Sick

We commend to your personal prayers parishioners who have asked to be prayed for:

William Adams	Irene Gurchensky	Aimee Roscoe
Gianna Andolina	Carol Hughes	Nora Sudetic
Katy Brent	David Kurth	George Surovec
Henry Buehner	Gerald McArthur	Barbara Thiel
James Coyne	Jim McIlwee	Herb Tippie
Matthew Craven	Mary Miller	Georgiann Treible
Nicole Foerstner	Maisie Nowlin	Joe Wantz
Mary Frantz	Bill Retzer	Charlotte Whiting
Theresa Fridrich	Mary Stark	Lillian Zahara
	Sr. Josette Obodzinski	Lew Zahara Jr.
	Judy Reitz	Joseph Zavatchen Sr.

Pray for the Deceased

Fr. Edward Burba

Terry McManamon, Father of Colleen Ganor

May perpetual light shine upon them

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Connie Surovec

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, April 12 @ 4:00pm	Bridget Blayney Gloria Morin John Levis	Al Abel Lou Toth	Houston Engle Grant Glazier Lucas Sambrook
Sunday, April 13 @ 8:30am	Michael Kay Kathy O'Malley Austin Tousley	Michael Grathwol Tim Mohr	London Dinya Adlee Rave Jacob Spolarich
Sunday, April 13 @ 11:30am	Lisa Ditzel Rosanne Kelley Cari Foster	Eileen Andrews Eliza Kratt	Michael Doyle Rowan Schleter Joseph Sonby

Join us in prayer and worship during

The Sacred Triduum

Holy Thursday April 17th

8:30am Morning Prayer @ St. Mark
7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper@ St. Mel
10:00pm Night Prayer@ St. Mel

Good Friday April 18th

8:30am Morning Prayer @ St. Mark
3:00pm The Passion of the Lord@ St. Mel

Holy Saturday April 19th

8:30am Morning Prayer @ St. Mark
1:00pm Food Blessing@ St. Mel
9:00pm The Easter Vigil..... @ St. Mark

Easter Sunday April 20th

7:00am Mass@ St. Mel
8:30am Mass @ St. Mark
10:00am Mass@ St. Mel
11:30am Mass @ St. Mark

“Holy Week is a time of grace, let us not forget; it is a time of grace that the Lord gives us so that we can open the doors of our hearts, our parishes, our confraternities. To ‘open’ and to ‘go out’ is what we are asked to do in Holy Week, to open the heart and go towards Jesus and others, and also to bring the light and joy of our faith. Always go out! And do so with the love and tenderness of God, with respect and patience, knowing that we give our hands, our feet, our heart, but it is God who guides us and shows us the way.”

Pope Francis, Message of the Holy Father for the Mérida Holy Week, 16 March 2024

Background: Ricci Sebastiano, *The Resurrection*, circa 1715

NEWS AND EVENTS

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past Sunday)\$ 2,597.00
Faith Direct (past month total)\$ 5,460.00
Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

No Greater Love Video Bible Series

Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26 April 2, 9 @ 7:00pm

In No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion, we are going to walk step-by-step with Jesus on his journey from his agony in the garden to his crucifixion on Calvary. Along the way, we will unpack the biblical background to these events, the prophecies, and most especially, the ways Jesus is inviting us to walk more closely with him today.

We will meet every week for prayer, fellowship, discussion and an engaging video presentation presented by Dr. Edward Sri, which was filmed on location in the Holy Land, so we can see the actual locations where Christ's passion occurred!

Please reach out to Meaghan with any questions at (msilver@stmarkcleveland.com)

The Living Stations of the Cross

The Youth of St. Mark, St. Christopher and Our Lady of Angels

Join the youth of these parishes and witness this powerful prayer and performance as we journey through Holy Week this year.

Friday, April 11th, 7:30pm at St. Mark Parish

Sunday, April 13th, 7:30pm at St. Christopher Parish

Friday, April 18th, 7:30 pm at Our Lady of Angels Parish

Parish News

St. Mark Fish Fry

April 11 - 5:00-7:00pm

Please join us for the St. Mark Fish Fry in the Social Hall. Fish, Shrimp, Pierogi or Mac & Cheese dinners or Pizza and Grilled Cheese for the kids... Pick your favorite and enjoy! All dinners come with two sides, roll, cookie and beverage. Please see the link on the St. Mark website at stmarkcleveland.com

Liturgical Ministers

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 19 at 9pm

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Sacristy for the Easter Vigil service. Thank you for your continued ministry.

Reminders and Regular Events

Holy Name Society Meetings

Fellowship, prayer, and service for all parishioners

All men and women of the parish ages 18 and older are welcome to join the St. Mark Holy Name Society. Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in either the Picnic Pavilion or Social Hall. At these gatherings, we dine together and discuss what event we will be doing next to help the community of St. Mark. If you would like to know more, contact Jim Cocita at: jimcocita@gmail.com

Young Family Gatherings

Connect with other young parents

Once a month after the 8:30am mass, young families are welcome to gather in the Social Hall (or Pavilion) for bagels, coffee, and community. Dates vary each month. For questions contact Briana Dave at: bciancibello@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates: April 13

Reminders and Regular Events

Donut & Coffee Social

Once a month after all masses in the Social Hall. Gather with fellow parishioners. For questions contact Michael Kay at mkay@stmarkcleveland.com

Upcoming Date: April 5 & 6

Virtus-Empowering God's children

Monday, April 28th

We are offering a one-time **Empowering God's Children** class for **adults** on Monday, April 28th from 6:30pm-7:30pm in the Social Hall. *Empowering God's Children* compliments the adult *Protecting God's Children* program. This parent/volunteer session is essential to the effective protection of children and young people. Please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office at cbirchfield@stmarkcleveland.com to register for this presentation by April 27th if you are planning on attending.

REQUEST FOR 2024 CONTRIBUTION REPORT

Please send a request via email to dbroughton@stmarkcleveland.com or fill out this form and return it to the Parish Office.

Name (print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email report to: _____

Pick up at Parish Office _____ Mail to above address _____

General Parish Calendar

Saturday,	April 5	
10:00 am	Funeral	
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	Donut Social after all Masses	
Sunday,	April 6	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS	
4:00 pm	Living Stations Prac.	CH
6:00 pm	Youth Group	CC
Monday,	April 7	
8:30 am	Mass	
2:30 pm	Youth Choir Prac.	CH
6:00 pm	Living Stations	CH
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
Tuesday,	April 8	
8:30 am	Mass w/1st Floor	
2:30 pm	Children's Choir Prac.	CH
3:30 pm	OCIA	CH
4:30 pm	RCIC	CC
6:00 pm	Holy Name Mtg.	SH
7:00 pm	Choir Prac.	CH
Wednesday,	April 9	
8:15 am	Gr. 5	SH/CH
4:00 pm	OCIA	CC
5:30 pm	Daisy Troop Mtg.	SH
7:00 pm	Lenten Series	SH
Thursday,	April 10	
8:15 am	Gr. 4	SH
8:30 am	Mass	
6:00 pm	Scout Pack #268 Den Mtg.	SH
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
7:00 pm	Pastoral Council	CC
Friday,	April 11	
12:00 pm	Stations of the Cross @ St. Mel	
2:00 pm	School Stations of the Cross	CH
4:00 pm	A&E Decorating	CH
5:00 pm	Fish Fry	SH
7:30 pm	Living Stations	CH
Saturday,	April 12	
9:00 am	Jesus Day	CH/SH/SCH
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	Palm Sunday	
Sunday,	April 13	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
9:30 am	Young Families	SH
11:30 am	Mass LS w/Y&C Choir	

General Audience of Pope Francis, on 26 March 2025

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. II. The life of Jesus. The encounters 2. The Samaritan Woman. “Give me a drink!” (Jn 4:7)

Dear brothers and sisters,

After contemplating the encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus, who went in search of Jesus, today we will reflect on those moments in which it seems that He is in fact waiting right there, at that crossroads in our life. They are encounters that surprise us, and at the beginning we are perhaps even a little diffident; we try to be prudent and to understand what is happening.

This was probably also the experience of the Samaritan woman, mentioned in chapter four of John’s Gospel (cf. 4:5-26). She did not expect to find a man at the well at noon; indeed she hoped to find no one at all. In fact, she goes to fetch water from the well at an unusual hour, when it is very hot. Perhaps this woman is ashamed of her life, perhaps she has felt judged, condemned, not understood, and for this reason she has isolated herself, she has broken off relations with everyone.

To go to Galilee from Judea, Jesus would have had to choose another road and not pass through Samaria. It would also have been safer, given the tense relations between the Jews and the Samaritans. Instead, He wants to pass through there, and stops at that very well, right at that time! Jesus waits for us and lets Himself be found precisely when we think that there is no hope left for us. The well, in the ancient Middle East, is a place of encounter, where at times marriages are arranged; it is a place of betrothal. Jesus wants to help this woman understand where to find the true answer to her desire to be loved.

The theme of desire is fundamental to understanding this encounter. Jesus is the first to express His desire: “Give me a drink!” (v. 10). For the sake of opening a dialogue, Jesus makes Himself appear weak, in order to put the other person at ease, making sure that she is not frightened. Thirst is often, even in the Bible, the image of desire. But Jesus here thirsts first of all for the woman’s salvation. “He who was asking drink”, says Saint Augustine, “was thirsting for the faith of the woman herself”. [1]

Whereas Nicodemus had gone to Jesus at night, here Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at midday, the time when there is most light. It is indeed a moment of revelation. Jesus makes Himself known to her as the Messiah and also sheds light on His life. He helps her to reread her history, which is complicated and painful: she has had five husbands and is now with a sixth who is not a husband. The number six is not accidental, but usually indicates imperfection. Perhaps it is an allusion to the seventh bridegroom, the one who will finally satiate this woman’s desire to be truly loved. And that bridegroom can only be Jesus.

When she realizes that Jesus knows her life, the woman shifts the conversion to the religious question that divided Jews and Samaritans. This happens sometimes to us too when we pray: at the moment in which God is touching our life, with its problems, we lose ourselves at times in reflections that give us the illusion of a successful prayer. In reality, we have raised barriers of protection. However, the Lord is always greater, and to that Samaritan woman, to whom according to cultural precepts He should not even have spoken, He gives the highest revelation: He speaks to her of the Father, who is to be adored in spirit and truth. And when she, once again surprised, observes that on these things it is better to wait for the Messiah, He tells her: “I am he, the one who is speaking with you” (v. 26). It is like a declaration of love: the One you are waiting for is Me; the One who can finally respond to your desire to be loved.

At that point the woman runs to call the people of the village, because mission springs precisely from the experience of feeling loved. And what proclamation could she have brought, if not her experience of being understood, welcomed, forgiven? It is an image that should make us reflect on our search for new ways to evangelize.

Just like a person in love, the Samaritan forgets her water jar, leaving it at Jesus’ feet. The weight of that jar on her head, every time she returned home, reminded her of her condition, her troubled life. But now the jar is left at Jesus’ feet. The past is no longer a burden; she is reconciled. And it is like this for us too: to go and proclaim the Gospel, we first need to set down the burden of our history at the feet of the Lord, to consign to Him the weight of our past. Only reconciled people can bring the Gospel.

Dear brothers and dear sisters, let us not lose hope! Even if our history appears burdensome, complicated, perhaps even ruined to us, we always have the possibility of consigning it to God and setting out anew on our journey. God is merciful, and awaits us always!

We had such an active March at St. Mark School!

As a school and parish, we celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph with a canned food collection. At our St. Joseph School Mass, students brought their canned food donations into church and individually placed them into the bags donated by Heinen's. I asked our school families to have their children "earn" their canned food donations by doing extra chores around their homes. In all, there were 34 bags of canned food collected and \$223 in cash. This was all donated to the St. Edward High School Labre ministry, which actively services the poor within our Greater Cleveland community. In addition, our 7th Grade students created 134 "Blessing Bags" filled with needed hygiene items and snacks which would also be distributed by St. Edward students to those in need. It was great to have some St. Edward students come out to share their Labre journeys with our 7th Grade students. Thank you to Mrs. McGee for partnering with St. Mark and sharing the personal experiences of what this ministry does. Thank you, Ms. DeGennaro, for providing the opportunity of doing a "Special Service" for our 7th Grade students.

Back on March 21st, we held our highly anticipated St. Baldrick's event once again. We have been participating in St. Baldrick's Shave Your Mane event for over 11 years now! If you look at the logo for St. Baldrick, the "S" and "B" represent St. Baldrick's, in the form of a four leaf clover. The four leaves represent our volunteers, donors, researchers, and families who come together under the St. Baldrick name to lead the charge against childhood cancer. Many of our shavees were St. Mark students and their family members. There were 69 of them braving the shave, both boys and girls, and even one of the barbers from West Park jumped in, which was awesome!! What a wonderful example was set for all of us. Each one of our shavees is one of our St. Mark's quiet heroes who elected to do this to combat childhood cancer. At the assembly, we heard two heartfelt stories, one from Gianna, a current St. Mark 8th Grader, and alumni Ashley whose brother is currently in the 6th Grade. Their inner strength shined as they shared what they remembered life was like for them at very young ages where they spent much of their lives in hospitals. Both girls promised to continue to fight. May God bless them with good health as they continue to do great things. A Lion's Roar goes out to Mrs. Julie Andolina and her band of volunteers (Mrs. Soeder, Mrs. Berger, Mrs. Glazier, and Mrs. Koch), who worked tirelessly behind the scenes for months to make this event so successful. I am just so proud of the participation from our families, who turn out year after year in support of this event, which has surpassed over \$600,000, all of which has gone to pediatric childhood cancer research.

Our 8th Grade spent three wonderful days with me in Washington, D.C. in March as well, and we ended the month with another fieldtrip with the 7th and 8th Grades to the Mansfield Reformatory, the Botanical Garden in Columbus where they saw a beautiful butterfly exhibit, and COSI. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves! Our 4th Grade visited City Hall in March, spending some time with Councilman Charles Slife and Judge Oakar.

It has been a busy month, but I have even more to share in my next article. The reality of the school year winding down very quickly is a reminder of how fortunate we are to have the ability to offer so many opportunities for our children!

There is more to come, so stay tuned! Have a blessed week!
Mrs. Cocita

