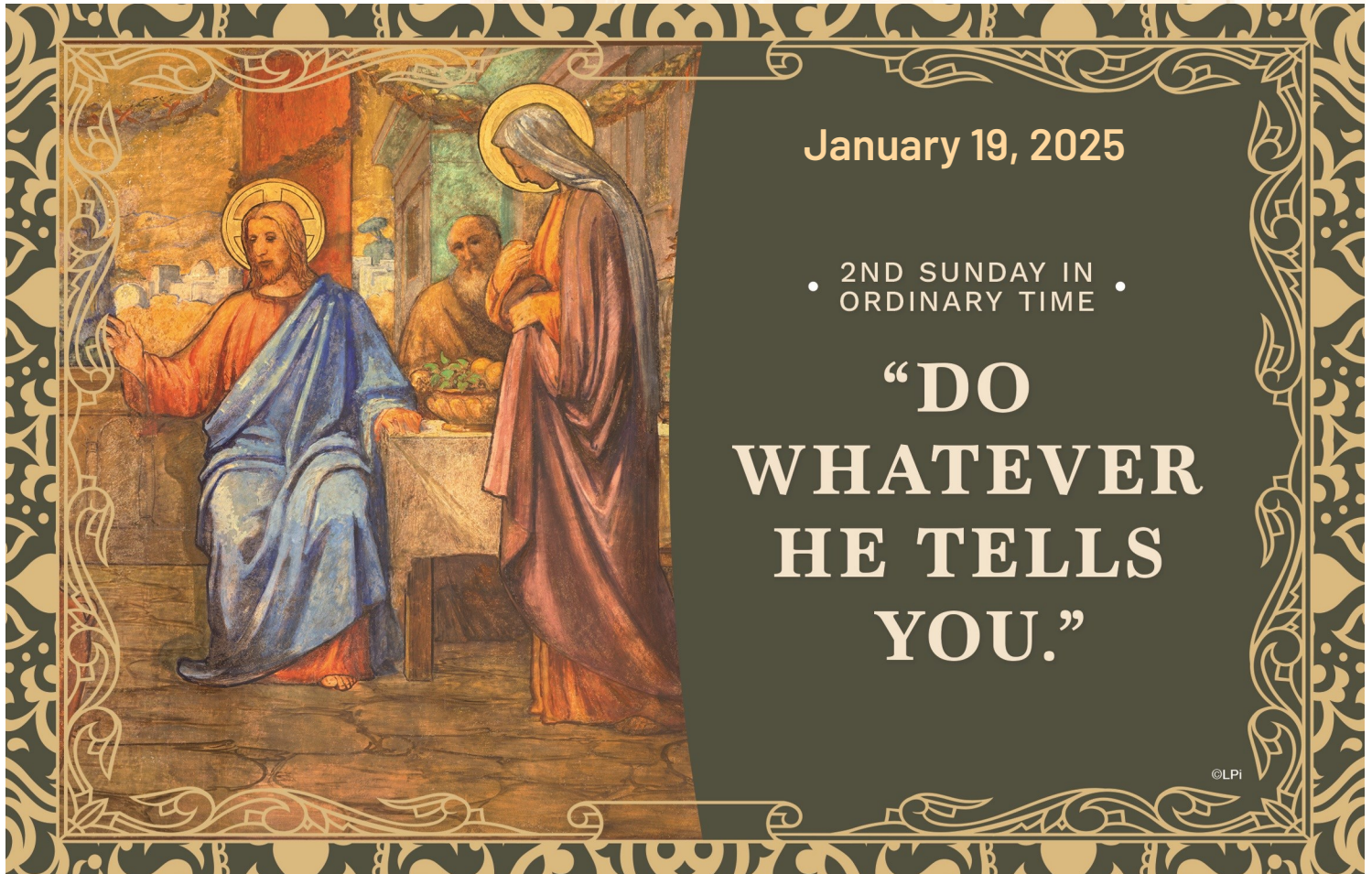




# St. Mark Parish

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.



January 19, 2025

• 2ND SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME •

“DO  
WHATEVER  
HE TELLS  
YOU.”

©LPI

## 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

**January:** For the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

## Liturgy Schedule

Scripture readings can be found online at:  
[bible.usccb.org](http://bible.usccb.org)

### Monday, January 20

8:30am Mass..... Evelyn Moran

### Tuesday, January 21-St. Agnes

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass.....Constance DeCore

### Wednesday, January 22

### Thursday, January 23

8:30am Mass..... Ann Goyette

### Friday, January 24-St. Francis de Sales

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

### Saturday, January 25-The Conversion of St. Paul

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass .....Rita Szy

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

### Sunday, January 26-3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass.....Dave Adams

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass .....Gerri Joecken

## Pray for the Sick

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

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

## Other Intentions

### Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Special Intention

### Baptized This Week

Elizabeth Noelle Holland

Mairin Elizabeth Kern

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
<b>Saturday, January 25 @ 4:00pm</b>	Shirlee Toth Bridget Blayney Gloria Morin	Al Abel	Joseph Sowul Patrick Sowul Kathryn Sowul
<b>Sunday, January 26 @ 8:30am</b>	Jessica Hanes Mary Stamper Laura Skonce	Tim Mohr Monica Svetz	Rose Murray Kathleen Murray Joe Svetz
<b>Sunday, January 26 @ 11:30am</b>	Deirdre Mueller Annamaria Masterson Cari Foster	Eileen Andrews Eliza Kratt	Owen Goggin Joseph Sonby Terry Waters

# NEWS AND EVENTS

## Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past Sunday) ..... \$  
Faith Direct (past month total) ..... \$ 5,041.00  
Thank you for your generosity!

## Parish News

### Food Sunday

January 26, 2025

St. Patrick - West Park serves over 60 families each month. Next weekend, they have requested these items for their clients: canned peas, corn, green beans, pork & beans, chili w/beans, beef stew, sloppy joe, tuna, spaghetti & sauce w/ meat, chicken noodle/tomato/cream of mushroom soups, ramen noodles, peaches, pears, mixed fruits, apple sauce in jars, rice, instant potatoes, egg noodles, stuffing, mac & cheese, cereal, pancake mix & syrup, jello, peanut butter & jelly (squeezable), and saltine crackers. All of your donations are appreciated. Thank you. May God bless all!

### Birthright Baby Bottle Donations

Return January 25 & 26

We are sponsoring a fundraiser for Birthright, a pregnancy crisis and counseling center. Baby bottles will be available to pick up at all Church entrances. If you are able, please pick up a baby bottle, fill it with spare change to 'help make a change in a young woman's life'. Please return the filled bottles the weekend of January 25 & 26. Bottles may also be returned to the Parish Office.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

## Reminders and Regular Events

### Markers/Mels 50+

Valentine celebration

Come join us on Saturday, February 8th, after the 4:00p.m. Mass in the Social Hall.

Enjoy a fun game night of bingo, trivia... and fellowship with Markers/Mels!

Pizza, salad and refreshments will be provided. Snacks and desserts to share are always welcomed and appreciated!

If attending, please RSVP by Monday, February 3rd to Mary Key. Text/call at 216-402-8570

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:bciancibello@gmail.com)

Upcoming Dates: February 9, March 16 and April 13

### 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](mailto:mkay@stmarkcleveland.com)

Upcoming Date: February 1 & 2



## Reminders and Regular Events

### Sunday Rosary

A devotion to enrich your prayer life

Please come to pray with Mary, Our Blessed Mother, in this beautiful devotion. Parishioners gather in the church to pray the rosary after the 8:30am mass every Sunday. Contemplating the mysteries of the life of Christ, we pray for peace and grace in the world.

## Regional and Diocesan News and Events

### Respect Life

Living the Gospel of Life

“There is such a wide spectrum of issues involving the protection of human life and the promotion of human dignity. Good people frequently disagree on which problems to address, which policies to adopt and how best to apply them. But for citizens and elected officials alike, the basic principle is simple: We must begin with a commitment never to intentionally kill, or collude in the killing, of any innocent human life, no matter how broken, unformed, disabled or desperate that life may seem. In other words, the choice of certain ways of acting is always and radically incompatible with the love of God and the dignity of the human person created in His image.”

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
 “Living the Gospel of Life,” c 1998 USCCB

## General Parish Calendar

<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>January 18</b>	
9:00 am	CYO Basketball	G/FR
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>January 19</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS	
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>January 20</b>	
	<b>School Closed</b>	
	<b>Parish Office Closed</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>January 21</b>	
8:30 am	Mass w/All School	
2:30 pm	All Choir Practice	CH
4:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Prac.	G
7:00 pm	Parent Club Mtg.	SH
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>January 22</b>	
2:45 pm	Rosary Club	
5:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
<b>Thursday,</b>	<b>January 23</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
7:00 pm	Parish Council Mtg. @ St. Mel	
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>January 24</b>	
5:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>January 25</b>	
9:00 am	CYO Basketball	G/FR
10:00 am	Family Faith Formation	CC
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	<b>Food Sunday</b>	
	<b>Baby Bottle Drop-off</b>	
	<b>Book Fair &amp; Science Fair</b>	<b>SH</b>
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>January 26</b>	
8:30 am	Mass w/teachers	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
9:30 am	School Open House	
11:30 am	Mass LS w/Y&C Choir	

Note: (LS)=Livestreamed

## 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 Audience of Pope Francis, on 8 January 2025

*Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!*

I wish to dedicate this and the next catechesis to *children*, and to reflect in particular on the scourge of *child labour*.

Nowadays we want to turn our gaze towards Mars or towards virtual worlds, but we struggle to look in the eyes of a child who has been left at the margins and who is exploited or abused. The century that generates artificial intelligence and plans multiplanetary existences has not yet reckoned with the scourge of humiliated, exploited, mortally wounded childhood. Let us think about this.

First of all, let us ask ourselves: what message does the Sacred Scripture give us about children? It is curious to note that the word that occurs most frequently in the Old Testament, after the divine name of *Jahweh*, is the word *ben*, that is, “son”: almost five thousand times. “Certainly, sons (*ben*) are a gift from the Lord, the fruit of the womb, a reward” (*Ps* 127:3). Children are a gift from God. Unfortunately, this gift is not always treated with respect. The Bible itself leads us through the streets of history where songs of joy resound, but also the cries of victims are raised. For example, in the book of Lamentations we read: “The tongue of the infant cleaves to the roof of its mouth in thirst; children beg for bread, but no one gives them a piece” (4:4); and the prophet Nahum, recalling what had happened in the ancient cities of Thebes and Nineveh, writes: “Even her little ones were dashed to pieces at the corner of every street” (3:10). Think of how many children, today, are dying of hunger and destitution, or torn apart by bombs.

The storm of the violence of Herod, who slaughters the infants of Bethlehem, erupts immediately even on the newborn Jesus. A dismal tragedy that repeats in other forms throughout history. And here, for Jesus and His parents, is the nightmare of becoming refugees in a foreign country, as still happens today to many people, to many children (cf. *Mt* 2:13-18). Once the storm has passed, Jesus grows up in a village never named in the Old Testament, Nazareth; He learns the carpenter’s trade from His legal father, Joseph (cf. *Mk* 6:3; *Mt* 13:55). In this way, “the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon Him” (*Lk* 2:40).

In His public life, Jesus went preaching from village to village together with His disciples. One day, some mothers approached Him and presented Him their children to bless; but the disciples rebuked Him. So Jesus, breaking with the tradition according to which children were considered simply as passive objects, calls the disciples to Him and says: “Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these”. And He thus indicates the little ones as a model for adults.

And He solemnly adds: “Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it” (*Lk* 18:16-17).

In a similar passage, Jesus calls to a child, places him among the disciples, and says: “Unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven” (*Mt* 18:3). And then He cautions: “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea” (*Mt* 18:6).

Brothers and sisters, the disciples of Jesus Christ must never allow children to be neglected or mistreated, to be deprived of their rights, not to be loved or protected. Christians have the duty to earnestly prevent and firmly condemn violence or abuse against children.

Today too, in particular, there are too many children forced to work. But a child who does not smile, a child who does not dream cannot know or nurture his or her talents. In every part of the globe there are children who are exploited by an economy that does not respect life; an economy that, in so doing, consumes our greatest store of hope and love. But children occupy a special place in God’s heart, and whoever harms a child will have to account to Him.

Dear brothers and sisters, those who recognize themselves as children of God, and especially those who are sent to bring the glad tidings of the Gospel to others, cannot remain indifferent; they cannot accept that our little sisters and brothers, instead of being loved and protected, are robbed of their childhood, of their dreams, victims of exploitation and marginalization.

Let us ask the Lord to open our minds and hearts to care and tenderness, and for every boy and every girl to be able to grow in age, wisdom and grace (cf. *Lk* 2:52), receiving and giving love. Thank you.

**St. Mark School Registration for 2025-2026**

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will begin on Monday January 20, 2025, for all returning families and returning families with new student(s) going into Pre-school or Kindergarten.

Registration will take place using your Digital Academy account. The Digital Academy link can also be found on the school website's main page. Priority registration concludes Sunday January 26, 2025.

Open registration for new families to St. Mark School entering K-8 will begin Sunday January 26, 2025. Registration will take place through the Digital Academy link on the school website's main page. Interested families may arrange a private tour by contacting the school office at 216-521-4115.

**January 26-February 1**



*True education enables us to love life  
and opens us to the fullness of life. - Pope Francis*

St. Mark School Open House will take place on Sunday, January 26, 2025, between 9:30-11:30. Prospective new families will have the opportunity to tour the school and meet the classroom teachers.



As I mentioned in a previous article, every five years we go through an accreditation process with the Ohio Department of Education. Our current Catholicity Goal states: *"Students will grow in understanding and practice of the Catholic Social Justice Teaching of Call to Family, Community, and Participation."* As mentioned, we had speakers come out from Habitat for Humanity to share with the students all the good work that they do. Moving on this, before Christmas we challenged our children to read and maintain a Reading Log, which in turn earned dollars to purchase items for one room in a new build home for Habitat for Humanity. Every grade was assigned a different room. Students then had to write reflections in their journals, and I wanted to share some of their reflections with you:

"Although I wasn't able to actually build homes for people in need, I am glad I was able to do my part in helping. I love Habitat for Humanity's program because it looks out for people who live in shelters. When I am older, I would really love if I could join in building homes. My class was in charge of getting things for a bathroom. It was cool that we could do our part by reading. I hope we continue to do this in the future because we are helping those in need. I also want to thank the volunteers who go out of their way to help this program."

"When we did our part by reading to help furnish homes for Habitat for Humanity, I felt good about it. I knew I was doing my part to help someone in need. When I am older, I would love to build homes for people in need. I know what a blessing it is to have a home to live in. I hope that one day, we all have a place to stay where we feel safe at home."

Providing opportunities for students to reflect on these types of experiences affirms that our children are, in fact, growing in understanding of this Catholic Social Justice Teaching.

Our students in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade also had a speaker just last week from the McKeon Group address Service Learning with them. The first lesson covered the Catholic Social Justice Teaching *Life and Dignity of the Human Person*. Mrs. Lawless, the instructor, had the students brainstorm the term "Dignity"- what it means and how we show it to others. Students responded with thoughts which included: All life is sacred. All people should be treated with dignity. Mrs. Lawless discussed with them how frequently people are stereotyped, especially those who are homeless. As part of her presentation, students made hygiene kits for the homeless which included soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, and a toothbrush- all simple things we take for granted daily. Each one of the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students wrote a generic letter letting the recipients know they were praying for them. Students were then left with this quote from Mother Teresa: "If you can't feed one hundred people, then feed just one." Mrs. Lawless will continue to come out over the next few weeks to continue discussing the many different components to Service Learning.

I am looking forward to having two students from St. Joseph Academy, along with two of their teachers, spend time at St. Mark's reading and completing crafts with some of our students. It is a great partnership as well as a win-win for both groups.

Finally, I want to congratulate graduates Joe B. and Hank Mc. Who partnered with us in collecting coats for the less fortunate. Both of these boys currently attend St. Ignatius High School. They took care of all the details needed to make this project so successful, including making several trips to pick up the donated coats and deliver them. We had close to 100 coats donated in various sizes. Thank you, Joe and Hank, for doing your part in bringing warmth to others during these cold winter days! I am very proud of both of you!

As Fr. Adam has mentioned, the pastoral letter written by Bishop Malesic, A Flourishing Apostolic Church, asks that each of us should "Serve the Lord with Gladness." We are well on our way!

We hope that you are able to stop by for a visit during our Open House on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> between 9:30-11:30. We would love to share the work of our students with you.

Save the date for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala- Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. More information will be out next week.

Mrs. Cocita

