



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.

October 13, 2024

28TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

“All things are
possible for God.”
- Mk 10:27

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

October: For a shared mission. We pray that the church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday, October 14

8:30am Mass Thomas McGuire

Tuesday, October 15-St. Teresa of Jesus

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass Halina Fuhs

Wednesday, October 16

Thursday, October 17-St. Ignatius of Antioch

8:30am Mass Martin Burns

Friday, October 18-St. Luke

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Saturday, October 19-St. John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass Joanne Siford

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, October 20-29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass Mike & Maureen Gale

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass For the Parishioners of St. Mark Parish
and the Parishioners of St. Mel Parish

12:30pm Baptism

Pray for the Sick

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

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

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Joseph Spicuzza

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, October 19 @ 4:00pm	Shirlee Toth Bridget Blayney John Levis	Lou Toth	Houston Engle Owen Glazier Grant Glazier
Sunday, October 20 @ 8:30am	Mary Stamper Karen Cocita Tim Schmidt	Lisa Braun Laura Skonce	Luke Meisterics Grace Schmidt Colin Weaver
Sunday, October 20 @ 11:30am	Lisa Ditzel Annamaria Masterson NOT FILLED	Agnes Butler NOT FILLED	Kate Dillinger Emily Dillinger Cadhla McKenna

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past Sunday).....\$ 3,553.00
 Faith Direct (past month total)\$ 5,038.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News



NCCL
Parents & Families
 AT THE CENTER OF FAITH FORMATION

As part of an initiative led by NCCL, we are conducting a survey of all parents in the parish. The survey results will be used to create a parish plan for supporting parents of children and young people, and for engaging the whole family in faith formation - from birth through high school graduation. The survey will only take 8-10 minutes to complete and is anonymous. The survey will close October 15, so please submit your answers before then. We appreciate your time and contribution!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ClevelandParentSurvey>



Necrology Book

Book of the Deceased

The Necrology Book (or the Book of the Deceased) will be placed in the Church. Please feel free to add the names of your loved ones who have died. The Book will be left out for the entire month of October. We will pray for those who have died at the All Souls Mass on Saturday, November 2nd at 10am. The Necrology Book will remain in the Sanctuary during the month of November.



Share God's Love
St. Mark Faith Build

Second Collection - All Masses - October 19–20

A second collection to benefit the St. Mark/St. Mel Faith Build will be taken at all masses the weekend of October 19-20.

Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity President/CEO and St. Mark Alumnus John Litten will speak briefly about the faith Build at all masses.

Checks may be made payable to St. Mark Church; please add "2024 Faith Build" on the note line.

If you won't be present at the masses but wish to contribute, you may drop off donations at the Parish Office.

Reminders and Regular Events

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: October 20

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

Please join us October 12th & 13th after all masses. Sponsored by the Youth Group.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Reminders and Regular Events

St. Mark Youth Group

October Schedule

Sunday, October 13 - 11:30am-1:00pm

Mass Meetup and Donut Social @ St. Mark Church

Friday, October 18 - 6:00pm-9:00pm

Fall Festival Trip @ Mapleside Farms

Sunday, October 27 - 6:30pm-8:00pm

Sunday Night Meeting @ Community Center

Sunday, November 3 - 11:30am-3pm

Mass Meetup & Donut Social @ St. Mark Church

Service Event @ Garfield Elementary Garden

Open to all 9th-12th Grade students! Contact Michael Kay at mkay@stmarkcleveland.com or 216-904-4774 with any questions and to RSVP.

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. If you would like to know more, contact Jim Cocita at:

jimcocita@gmail.com

HNS FOOTBALL CRAZR FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by the Cleveland Diocese-HNS

Annual Cleveland Diocese - HNS Fundraiser. One ticket donation is \$10.00 for ten weeks of football games. There are three different teams each week printed on the ticket. Ten chances to win each week. Top eight highest scores win anywhere from \$150 to \$30. Two lowest scores win \$40 to \$30. The ten weeks of games are November 3rd - January 5th.

Contact Jim Cocita at jimcocita@gmail.com for more information and tickets.

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

The Importance of World Mission Sunday

Why World Mission Sunday Matters

World Mission Sunday, observed on October 20th this year, is not just another Sunday; it is a powerful reminder of our call to be missionaries. The collection taken upon this day is unique as it is mandated by the Code of Canon Law and is essential for the survival and growth of the Church in mission territories.

These funds support the pastoral and evangelizing work of the Church, including building churches, providing healthcare and education, and training future priests and religious. In places where resources are scarce, your generosity makes a profound difference. As we reflect on the theme "Go and invite everyone to the banquet," let us remember that our participation and support help invite countless souls to the feast of God's love.

Pilgrimage To Poland & Prague

Fr. Robert Ramser, Our Lady of Angels Parish

Please join Fr. Rob from May 11-22, 2026 for an All-Inclusive 12 days/10 nights, airfare & transportation, tours & activities, hotel accommodations and much more.

Contact 800-687-0306 for more information.

Regional and Diocesan News and Events

Human Trafficking

"I came so that they might have life."

The International Labour Office estimates that there are approximately 25 million men, women, and children subjected to labor or sex trafficking worldwide. It is important to understand how to prevent and recognize incidents of human trafficking within your own community. The USCCB strives to fulfill the Church's commitment to combat human trafficking and fight for a fair way of life for all through outreach and engagement programs. These initiatives rely on community and faith leaders like you to join the movement in defending the inherent right of every human being to freedom, justice, and protection.

Today, human trafficking is pervasive throughout the world, and no one is immune to its evils or its impact, including in our country's fifty states, Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville, auxiliary bishop of Washington and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration released the following statement regarding the Church's commitment to raising awareness of and eradicating human trafficking: "Let us reflect upon our responsibilities as individuals and as a Church to make the well-being and protection of victims of human trafficking a priority. We are called by our Holy Father to take a firm stance against this terrible violation of the dignity of the human person and to do everything in our power to eradicate it."

For help in raising awareness about human trafficking throughout the year and expanding anti-trafficking ministries at the local level, visit USCCB's "Become a SHEPHERD" program for downloadable educational materials and resources-<https://brycs.org/become-shepherd/>.

Borromeo Seminary & St. Mary Seminary's

Novemberfest - Annual Italian Dinner

Please join us Saturday, November 16th from 5:00pm-8:00pm for great food - 50/50 Raffles. Cost: Adults: \$12, Children, ages 6-12 \$6, Children under 6, Free. Dinner tickets will be sold at the door until 7:30pm. No reservations are needed. Call (440) 943-7600 for more information.

Center for Pastoral Leadership
28700 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe, OH 44092

<u>General Parish Calendar</u>		
Saturday,	October 12	
10:00am-2:00 pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	<i>Donut Social all Masses</i>	
Sunday,	October 13	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
9:45 am	Confirmation Service Mtg.	SH
11:30 am	Mass LS w/Youth Group	
1:30pm-6:30 pm	CYO Volleyball Game	G/FR
Monday,	October 14	
8:30 am	Mass	
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
5:00 pm	Athletic Assoc. Mtg.	SH
5:30 pm	Cross Country	PP
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
Tuesday,	October 15	
8:30 am	Mass w/1st Floor	
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
7:00 pm	Parent Club	SH
7:00 pm	Bereavement	FR
Wednesday,	October 16	
3:00 pm	Parent/Teacher Conferences	CR
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
5:30 pm	Cross Country	PP
Thursday,	October 17	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
8:00 am	Parent/Teacher Conferences	CR
8:30 am	Mass	
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
6:00 pm	Pack #268 Den Mtg.	SH
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
7:00 pm	Pastoral Council	CC
Friday,	October 18	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
Saturday,	October 19	
10:00am-2:00 pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	October 20	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
9:30 am	Young Families	PP/SH
11:30 am	Mass LS	
1:30pm-6:30 pm	CYO Volleyball Game	G/FR

Note: (LS)=Livestreamed

General Audience of Pope Francis, on 25 September 2024

Cycle of Catechesis. The Spirit and the Bride. The Holy Spirit guides the people of God towards Jesus our hope. 7. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. The Holy Spirit, our ally in the fight against the spirit of evil

Immediately after His baptism in the Jordan, Jesus “was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil” (Mt 4:1) – this is what the Gospel of Matthew says. The initiative is not Satan’s, but God’s. Going into the wilderness, Jesus obeys an inspiration of the Holy Spirit; He does not fall into an enemy snare, no, no! Once He has withstood the test, it is written, He returns to Galilee “in the power of the Spirit” (Lk 4:14).

In the wilderness, Jesus freed Himself of Satan, and now He can deliver from Satan. He freed Himself, He frees from Satan. It is what the Evangelists highlight with the numerous studies of deliverance from possession. Jesus says to His opponents: “If it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you” (Mt 12:28). And Jesus casts out the demons, with the aspiration of the kingdom of God.

Nowadays we are witnessing a strange phenomenon regarding the devil. At a certain cultural level, it is held that he simply does not exist. He would be a symbol of the collective subconscious, or alienation; in short, a metaphor. But “the cleverest ruse of the devil is to persuade you he does not exist!”, as someone wrote (Charles Baudelaire). He is astute: he makes us believe that he does not exist, and in this way he dominates everything. He is cunning. And yet our technological and secularized world is teeming with magicians, occultism, spiritualism, astrologers, sellers of spells and amulets, and unfortunately with real satanic sects. Driven out the door, the devil has re-entered, one might say, through the window. Driven out of faith, he re-enters with superstition. And if you are superstitious, you are unconsciously conversing with the devil. One does not converse with the devil.

The strongest proof of the existence of Satan is found not in sinners or the possessed, but in the saints! “And how can this be, Father?”. Yes, it is true that the devil is present and working in certain extreme and “inhuman” forms of evil and wickedness that we see around us. But by this route, though, it is practically impossible to reach, in individual cases, the certainty that it is truly him, given that we cannot know with precision where his action ends and our own evil begins. This is why the Church is so prudent and so rigorous in performing exorcism, unlike what happens, unfortunately, in certain films!

It is in the life of the saints, precisely there, that the devil is forced to come out into the open, to place himself “against the light”. All the saints, all the great believers, some more, some less, testify to their struggle with this obscure reality, and one cannot honestly assume that they were all deluded or mere victims of the prejudices of their time.

The battle against the spirit of evil is won as Jesus won it in the wilderness: by striking with the word of God. You see that Jesus does not converse with the devil, He never conversed with the devil. Either he casts him out, or condemns him, but He never converses. And in the wilderness, he replies not with His word, but with the Word of God. Brothers, sisters, never converse with the devil; when temptations present themselves: “But, this would be nice, that would be nice” – stop. Raise your heart to the Lord, pray to Our Lady and banish him, just as Jesus taught us how to banish him. Saint Peter also suggests another means, that Jesus did not need,

but we do – vigilance. “Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Pt 5:8). And Saint Paul says to us: “Give no opportunity to the devil” (Eph 4:27).

After Christ, on the cross, defeated forever the power of the “ruler of this world” (Jn 12:31), a Father of the Church said, “the devil is bound, like a dog on a chain; he cannot bite anyone except those who, defying the danger, go near him... He can bark, he can urge, but he can bite only those who want” [1]. If you are a fool and you go to the devil and say, “Ah, how are you?”, and everything, it ruins you. The devil – distance. One does not converse with the devil. One banishes him. Distance. And all of us, everyone, we have experience of how the devil approaches with some temptation. The temptation of the ten commandments: when we feel this, stop, keep your distance: do not approach the chained dog.

Modern technology, for example, besides the many positive resources that are to be appreciated, offers also countless means to “give an opportunity to the devil”, and many fall in the trap. Think of online pornography, behind which there is a flourishing market: we all know this. It is the devil at work, there. And this is a very widespread phenomenon, which Christians should beware of and strongly reject. Because any smartphone has access to this brutality, to this language of the devil: online pornography.

Awareness of the action of the devil in history should not discourage us. The final thought must be, also in this case, of trust and security: “I am with the Lord, be gone”. Christ overcame the devil and gave us the Holy Spirit to make His victory our own. The very action of the enemy can turn to our advantage, if with God’s help we make it serve our purification. Let us therefore ask the Holy Spirit, in the words of the hymn *Veni Creator*:

Drive far away our wily Foe,

And Thine abiding peace bestow;

If Thou be our protecting Guide,

No evil can our steps betide”.

Beware, the devil is astute – but we Christians, with God’s grace, are more astute than him. Thank you.

PARISH GRADE SCHOOL

On January 9, 1952, ground was broken and excavation was started for St. Mark's convent and rectory. Ten months later, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary moved into the convent on November 2, 1952. Prior to their move, they lived in the school! Today, the convent houses our Pre-Kindergarten classroom, in what was the former chapel of the convent. The 2nd floor, formerly the bedrooms of the sisters, now houses our two Kindergarten classrooms. The 1st floor of the convent, which had been the parlor, kitchen, and dining room is now our STREAM Lab.

When the renovation was being done back in 2019, I wanted to keep something original to the building to preserve part of our history. The floor tiles at the two main entrances to the building are original. I often times think about the many feet that once walked on these very tiles when I enter and exit the building.

Last year, we moved our Library over to the basement of the convent, which had been the laundry facility at one time. We added a Reading Room for students to enjoy the new books they have chosen from our Library, to read for that week. Last year, we received a wonderful donation of books from the Gideon Family in memory of their parents. Mrs. Gideon was one of our former librarians. The convent is now called the Innovation and Early Learning Center, and it is used by all students attending St. Mark School.

Many St. Mark families, past and present, contributed to these renovations over the years. Very soon, a large plaque will be hung with the names of all these donors. One family in particular, the Marron Family, is largely responsible for the renovations that occurred to the 2nd Floor of this building. We are forever grateful to our donors because we are able to offer so many experiences for our children today that would have never been possible without their financial support.

One of the many activities which occurs daily at the Innovation and Early Learning Center is our morning news broadcast. Student newscasters write their scripts which are read live "on air" using teleprompts. There are several students behind-the-scenes who are directing the news broadcast which begins with prayer every morning. There are students in the "control" room who are monitoring the broadcast, checking for sound or visual background issues. In all, it is quite a production which teaches the students many lessons which they will use for the rest of their lives including: public speaking, troubleshooting, creativity, writing, and voice projection, to name only a few. We have two teacher moderators who oversee every morning production, but it is the students themselves who are responsible for every morning broadcast. I jump in at the end with my thoughts and news for the day, and I can tell you first-hand, it is not as easy as our students make it seem! I am so proud of their accomplishments!

Great things happen every day at St. Mark. Stay tuned as we continue to Shine Bright through our 75 years of history!

Have a great week!
Mrs. Cocita

