



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.



November 24, 2024 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." - Jn 18:37

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

November: For anyone who has lost a child. We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday, November 25

8:30am Mass.....Fr. Casper Heimann

Tuesday, November 26

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am MassLoren McKeon

Wednesday, November 27

Thursday, November 28

8:30am Mass..... Fr. Tony Muzic

Friday, November 29

Saturday, November 30-St. Andrew

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm MassDave Adams

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, December 1-First Sunday of Advent

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass.....Andy Helbig

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

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

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 | Pat McAndrew | George Surovec |
| Jack Behnke | Gerald McArthur | 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 |
| Nicole Foerstner | Mary Stark | Lew Zahara Jr. |
| Mary Frantz | Sr. Josette Obodzinski | Joseph Zavatchen Jr. |
| Theresa Fridrich | | |

Pray for the Deceased

Deacon Thomas Senn

May perpetual light shine upon them

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Joseph Spicuzza

| Liturgical Ministers | emHCs | Lectors | Servers |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|
| Saturday, November 30 @ 4:00pm | Mary Price Kathy O'Malley Shirlee Toth | Al Abel | Charlotte Greuloch Kellen Lentz Lucas Sambrook |
| Sunday, December 1 @ 8:30am | Austin Tousley Tim Schmidt Karen Cocita | Agnes Butler Tim Mohr | Rose Murray Kathleen Murray Adlee Rave |
| Sunday, December 1 @ 11:30am | Eileen A Annamaria Masterson NOT FILLED | Cari Foster Eliza Kratt | Owen Goggin Kiera Laurent Bill Sonby |

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past Sunday)...\$ see 12/1 bulletin
Faith Direct (past month total)\$ 5,331.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

We Give Catholic

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

St. Mark will be raising funds for parish grounds improvements this year through We Give Catholic. Continuing our desire to ensure St. Mark remains a thriving and vibrant parish and school community, we will be planting new trees, improving the landscaping and installing new signage throughout the campus. Replacing some of the original majestic oak trees with new ones, helping people know which building is for mass and which is for sports and a sprinkling of beautiful color all sound good to us. We hope they sound good to you as well. Please consider supporting St. Mark on December 3rd with a donation through We Give Catholic.

Wegivecatholic.org ~ search for St. Mark Parish

Advent Prayer Nights

Peaceful meditation on sacred scripture

Join as Fr. Adam teaches *lectio divina*, a traditional way of meditating on sacred scripture that has been taught since the earliest days of Christianity in monastic communities. Enter into the prayer and peaceful anticipation of Advent with this devotion! After the guided silent meditation, there will be an optional social. Join us Thursday, December 5th and December 12th at 7:00pm [in the church/at St. Mel]

Military Service

If you know of any parishioners that are in active military service, please contact the parish office with their name. At cbirchfield@stmarkcleveland.com or call 216-226-7577.

St. Mark Giving Tree

Preparations are underway for our St. Mark Giving Tree ministry! We will be serving the following organizations: May Dugan Center, Fatima Family Center, St. Thomas School, University Settlement Adult, University Settlement Youth, St. Francis School and St. Mark Parish and School. Ornaments will be placed on the Giving Tree located at the front of the church beginning the weekend of November 30 and December.

If you take an ornament to purchase a gift, please remember to attach the tag to the outside of the wrapped gift or gift bag as the gifts are sorted by organization and checked that each gift has been returned prior to delivery. Please note that if multiple gift ideas are listed on the ornament, you need not purchase every item listed. Or, if you are unable to find a requested item, it is no problem to purchase a similar item or gift card.

If you are ordering gifts online, please be mindful of delivery dates and possible shipping delays. Please return all wrapped gifts under the Giving Tree by Noon on Sunday, December 15. At that time, the gifts are prepared for delivery.

So many people make this ministry a huge success every year and we could not make it all happen without many helping hands. Thank you for your generous support and making Christmas wishes come true for so many people in our community.

St. Mark CYO Site Supervisor

Part-time Position

We are looking for an adult over the age of 21 to fill an open Site Supervisor position at St. Mark.

The Site Supervisor must be fully Virtus compliant and able to work evenings during the week and day/evening hours on the weekends. The position is paid and would be 3 to 4 days per week.

The responsibilities include, but are not limited to, opening and closing the gym, monitoring the practices or games and handling payments for the student workers.

If you are interested, please contact Teresa Purenciu-Winans at twinans@stmarkcleveland.com or 216-226-7577 for detailed information.

NEWS AND EVENTS

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

jimcocita@gmail.com

We will be sponsoring coffee and donuts after the 8:30am Mass on Thanksgiving Day. Please join us for a little gathering before you start out for your Thanksgiving Day with Family and Friends. Happy Thanksgiving!

St. Mark Youth Group

Thanksgiving & CLE2:16 Conference

Thanksgiving Meeting - Sunday, November 24th 6:30-8:00pm St. Mark Social Hall.

CLE2:16 Youth Conference:

Join fellow St. Mark Youth Group high schoolers at the diocesan high school youth conference at John Carroll University! This is a day-long conference on Saturday, January 4, 2025, complete with speakers on different faith topics, mass, and time for building community with others! Tickets are limited, please reach out to Michael Kay for more details and to reserve your tickets to attend.

Stay tuned for next week's bulletin for our upcoming December events!

Youth Group is open to all 9th-12th Grade Students! Please contact Michael Kay at mkay@stmarkcleveland.com or 216-904-4774 with any questions and to RSVP!

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: November 30 & December 1

Markers/Mels 50+

Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14th - 5-8pm St. Mark Social Hall.

Catered dinner with beverages provided. \$25 per person. A dessert to share would be greatly appreciated.

To RSVP, call or text Mary Kay at 216-402-8570 by December 9th.

Please bring a wrapped gift for the white elephant gift exchange! Enjoy our great entertainment and be sure to wear an ugly sweater!

BSA Troop 293 Christmas Tree Sale

Freshly Cut Fraser-Fir Christmas Trees

Friday, December 6th - 5-9pm

Saturday, December 7th - 10:30am - 7pm

Sunday, December 8th - 12pm-3pm

St. Mark Pavilion. Cash and check accepted. Bring the bulletin for \$5 off!

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: December 22, January 12, February 9, March 16 and April 13

VIRTUS Program Compliancy

Check that you are up-to-date!

All staff and all volunteers who work with children (such as coaches, catechists, scout leaders, parent volunteers, etc.) are required to stay compliant with the VIRTUS program. No exceptions are made. This program is required by the Diocese of Cleveland, and we are audited annually.

For existing volunteers:

- Stay current with the online bulletins
- Renew your BCI Fingerprint and Background check every five years through virtusonline.org (see the Toolbox tab for selection.com background check).

New and interested volunteers working with children:

- Attend a VIRTUS training. Registration is through virtusonline.org.
- Read and sign the 2016 Policy for Protecting Children.
- Read and sign the 2016 Standards of Conduct.
- Complete a background check through virtusonline.org (see the Toolbox tab for selection.com background check).
- Complete the St. Mark Volunteer Application

Full information can be found on our parish website. To verify that your are in compliance call the parish office.

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.

General Parish Calendar

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|----|
| Saturday, | November 23 | |
| 10:00 am | First Reconciliation | CH |
| 3:00 pm | Confessions | |
| 4:00 pm | Mass | |
| Sunday, | November 24 | |
| 8:30 am | Mass | |
| 8:30 am | Sunday PreSchool | CR |
| 9:30 am | Rosary | |
| 11:30 am | Mass LS w/Children's Choir | |
| 5:00 pm | Youth Group | SH |
| Monday, | November 25 | |
| 8:30 am | Mass | |
| 2:00 pm | Youth Choir Prac. | CH |
| 4:00pm-9:00 pm | Basketball Prac. | G |
| 6:30 pm | PSR Class Gr. 1-8 | CR |
| Tuesday, | November 26 | |
| 8:30 am | Mass w/2nd Floor | |
| 2:30 pm | Children's Choir Prac. | CH |
| 4:00pm-9:00 pm | Basketball Prac. | G |
| 6:00 pm | Pack #268 Mtg. | SH |
| Wednesday, | November 27 | |
| 4:00pm-9:00 pm | Basketball Prac. | G |
| 5:30 pm | Daisy Troop Mtg. | SH |
| Thursday, | November 28 | |
| | Parish Office Closed | |
| | School Closed | |
| 8:30 am | Mass | |
| 9:30 am | Donut Social | |
| Friday, | November 29 | |
| 4:00pm-9:00pm | Basketball Prac. | G |
| Saturday, | November 30 | |
| 3:00 pm | Confessions | |
| 4:00 pm | Mass | |
| | Donut Social | |
| | Giving Tree | |
| Sunday, | December 1 | |
| 8:30 am | Mass | |
| 9:30 am | Rosary | |
| 11:30 am | Mass LS | |
| 6:00 pm | Youth Group | SH |

Note: (LS)=Livestreamed

Covering the years 2010-2024, here are some noteworthy facts:

- 2011, thirty iPads were purchased for use in school
- 2011, Dr. Kurnath retired as principal and I became principal
- 2011, the crucifix was moved from the back wall of the sanctuary to above the altar
- 2012, the 8th Grade girls became the city CYO Basketball Champions
- 2013, the school building went wireless
- 2013, a second set of iPads were purchased
- 2015, the 8th Grade received Chromebooks to carry from class to class
- 2018, plans were developed to renovate the convent and install new Kindergarten classrooms, a STREAM Lab, and Pre-school
- 2019, both 7th and 8th Grades were carrying Chromebooks to their classes and the 5th and 6th Grades used Chromebook carts
- 2019, Fr. Adam was installed as pastor
- 2019, the Kindergarten and Preschool moved into their new classrooms
- 2019, Covid changed the world and classroom instruction became online instruction. Students were issued computers, remote learning took place using the school Activpanels, classroom Elmo's, and new large screen TV's generously donated by Councilman Kazy so teachers could interact with students
- 2020, students were welcomed back into classrooms for live instruction, but students and teachers had to wear masks
- 2022, the Computer Lab was updated with 30 new iMac computers
- Mark's Madness and St. Baldrick's *Shave Your Mane* are *STILL* popular fundraising events for our Parish Outreach and childhood cancer research
- 2023, 200 new Chromebooks were purchased with a grant for student use
- 2024, our new HVAC system replaced the original school boiler and air conditioning replaced ceiling fans
- 2024, 100 new Chromebooks were purchased with a grant for student use
- 2024, we received a class set of drones for students to use
- 2024, the Library was moved into the IELC building (Innovation and Early Learning Center aka the Convent or Kindergarten building)
- 2022-2024, our STREAM Lab received supplies and equipment from several grants. We have made a very conscientious effort to stay current with new trends in the world of science. All equipment is for student use; however, long-range plans call for adult education as well! Some of the equipment includes:
 - DASH robots that are programmed by students using code
 - Makey-Makeys- allow students to create items like external keyboards
 - 3D Printer- there are 4 of these in the lab. Last year, students in our Chess Club created their own chess pieces using these 3D printers
 - Snap Circuits- crate simple electrical circuits. Last year students made LED light-up Christmas cards
 - Lazer Engraver- students have made puzzles, boxes, maps, art work, and photos
 - Legos and two Lego walls
 - Keva Planks building blocks and Strawbees
 - Poster Printer- students are able to create their own posters as well as support community projects
 - Cricut Maker for school use

(continued next page)

PARISH GRADE SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

Much has changed over the 75 years of St. Mark School's history. What has not changed is the faith formation our students receive and the important role each one of them takes on as a child of God. Faith is part of our everyday living. Our children give of themselves to help others, and opportunities to do so are frequently present in our school as evidenced by last week's Veterans Day prayer service. Our children are encouraged to live their faith not only within community but also beyond. An example I want to share to demonstrate how loving our children are is a personal one. One of my cousins, "Cousin Gary in Pittsburgh" was recently diagnosed with cancer. As a school we have been praying for him as well as any other special intentions the children bring to my attention. Several of the children made cards for him on their own, and I mailed those to him. He cried when he read their kind words and prayers. Their messages gave him such great hope, and their words "I love you" were nothing short of precious. (I told Gary to let his wife know she has some competition from 6 & 7 year olds!)

Pope Francis released a new encyclical in October titled, *Dilexit nos*. In the encyclical, Pope Francis encourages all of us to have a devotion to the Sacred Heart, one that creates an experience of Christ's love that inspires us to live out our faith in concrete acts of love and service toward our brothers and sisters. This mission is one we, as a school, will be strongly focusing on, because all of us, regardless of age, have something quite valuable to offer.

Have a wonderful week!

Mrs. Cocita

