



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.



September 22, 2024

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, “Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me.” - Mk 9:35b-37a

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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

September: For the cry of the Earth. We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday, September 23-St. Pius of Pietrelcina

8:30am MassMary Smrekar

Tuesday, September 24

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am MassMartin Gorman

Wednesday, September 25

Thursday, September 26

8:30am MassFrank Gallagher

Friday, September 27-St. Vincent de Paul

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Saturday, September 28

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass For the Parishioners of St. Mark Parish and the Parishioners of St. Mel Parish

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, September 29-26th Sunday in Ordinary time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass Frank & Jean Gurchensky

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am MassPhilip Hendrickson

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		

Pray for the Deceased

Patty Lynch, Wife of Mark Lynch

May perpetual light shine upon them

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Mary Smrekar

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, September 28 @ 4:00pm	Gloria Morin Shirlee Toth Mary Price	Al Abel	Declan Fitzpatrick Mary Kugler-Blayney Cristian Trump
Sunday, September 29 @ 8:30am	Laura Skonce Karen Cocita Mary Stamper	Michael Grathwol Monica Svetz	Clare Stock Fiona Stock Joe Svetz
Sunday, September 22 @ 11:30am	Cari Foster Michelle Biggins Annamaria Masterson	Eileen Andrews Eliza Kratt	Gianna Andolina Joseph Andolina Bill Sonby

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past Sunday).....\$ 2,576.00
 Faith Direct (past month total)\$ 5,387.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

St. Mark Bereavement

Contact the Parish Office to register 216-226-7577

Six sessions of bereavement will be offered to those who are in need of support while experiencing grief and loss. Please consider joining us as we journey together through the Seasons of Hope program.

Tuesdays at 7pm
 October 15
 October 22
 October 29
 November 5
 November 12
 November 19

Arts & Environment

The Arts & Environment committee is looking for volunteers to help with decorating and maintaining the Liturgical settings of the church. If you are able to volunteer beginning with Thanksgiving and Advent please contact Kate MacBride at 216-225-9391.

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.

St. Mel Pancake Breakfast

Please come and join us Sunday, September 22nd after the 7am & 10am masses at St. Mel Church hall. Sponsored by the St. Mel Rosary Group.

Adult \$6.00 Children \$3.00-under 10 years)

Includes: pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee

We hope to see you there.



Share God's Love

St. Mark/St. Mel Faith Build

Dean's Greenhouse In-Store Fall Fundraiser

September 1 through October 15

Looking for autumn floral and gardening supplies? Visit Dean's Greenhouse starting September 1 through October 15 and mention St. Mark/ St. Mel when you shop, and Dean's will donate 20% of the sales to the St. Mark/St. Mel Faith Build.

Dean's Greenhouse is located at 3984 Porter Road, Westlake, 44145.

www.deansgreenhouse.com; 440-871-2050

Questions? Email Amy Asseff at aasseff@aol.com.

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: September 22, 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

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

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 \$15 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.

St. Mark Youth Group Fall Cookout

Sunday, September 29 | 6:30-8:30pm | St. Mark Pavilion

Join St. Mark Youth Group on Sunday, September 29th from 6:30-8:30pm for a welcome back Fall Kickoff and Cookout at the St. Mark Pavilion and Social Hall!

Come share in some burgers, hot dogs, snacks, yard games, board games, community, and faith! All high school aged students are welcome to this event whether you've come to youth group for over three years or less than three times. And bringing a friend is encouraged, we'll have plenty of food! We'll have some time to enjoy some crisp fall weather and to share in our lives of faith as well.

Contact Michael Kay at mkay@stmarkcleveland.com or 216-904-4774 with any questions and to RSVP! See you then, peace!

VIRTUS Program Compliancy

Check that you are up-to-date before Fall programs start

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 you are in compliance call the parish office.

Regional and Diocesan News and Events

Men's Sock & Underwear Drive

Sponsored by the Cleveland Diocesan Holy Name Society

This years recipient of the proceeds of the drive will be the Cleveland Police Foundation and will be distributed to various charities

When: October 5th-13th

What: New men's socks, underwear in any size for the homeless and the needy. Or if you prefer, cash donations to be used to purchase socks and underwear.

Collection boxes can be found at all Church entrances.

See flyers on the bulletins boards!

General Parish Calendar

Saturday, 10:00am-2:00 pm	September 21 CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	Food Sunday	
	September 22	
8:30 am	Mass	
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
Monday,	September 23	
8:30 am	Mass	
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
Tuesday,	September 24	
8:30 am	Mass w/1st Floor	
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
4:30 pm	RCIC	CC
6:00 pm	Scout Pack #268	SH
6:00 pm	Cheerleading Prac.	PP
7:00 pm	Confirmation Parent Candidate Mtg.	CH
Wednesday,	September 25	
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
4:00 pm	RCIA	CC
5:30 pm	Daisy Troop Mtg.	SH
Thursday,	September 26	
8:30 am	Mass	
3:00 pm	Faculty Mtg.	SH
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
Friday,	September 27	
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
Saturday,	September 28	
10:00 am	Family Faith Team Mtg.	CC
10:00am-2:00 pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	September 29	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS	
1:30pm-6:30 pm	CYO Volleyball Game	G/FR
6:00 pm	Youth Group Mtg.	SH/PP

Note: (LS)=Livestreamed

St. Mark Grade School News

Mrs. Cocita, Principal

We're BACK! It was a long summer with lots going on throughout the building, but having the students back was met with great enthusiasm from the faculty, the students, and I must say, most especially with the parents! During "Drop-in Day" prior to the start of the school year, both parents and students were amazed at the transformation within the school building., This was a huge endeavor on the part of our school and parish community, and as we embark on our 75th year; it was a much-needed change. Special thanks to both Fr. Adam and Mrs. Winans who walked us through this transformation. Minus a few surprises, the project was very successful. Both the teachers and students are enjoying the air conditioning, and we look forward to the new heating once the flakes start flying (hopefully not too soon!). A special note of thanks to the entire maintenance crew for all the hard work that went into putting the classrooms and offices back together while I had faculty meetings going on, the week prior to school beginning. They made magic happen through their hard work! We opened our doors on September 3rd and have not looked back!

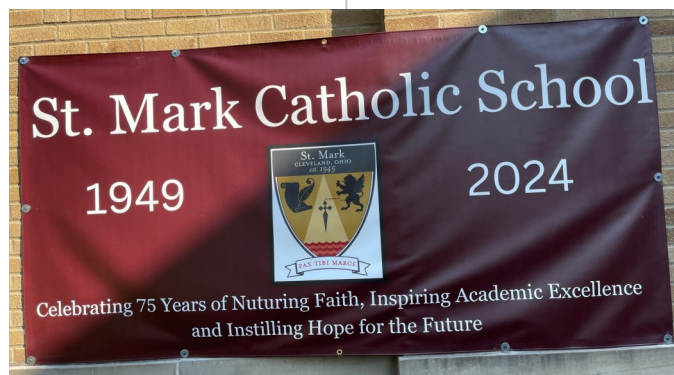
The theme for this school year is, "Shine Bright." *We chose this theme because we are celebrating our 75th year. As a graduate of St. Mark School myself and witnessing the success my sons have in their chosen careers, we have much to celebrate! Both of them still talk about the teachers they had. Often times they bring Miss McLaughlin's name up because of the excellent math preparation they had. She is the reason why they both work with numbers in their careers today. As the school year progresses, I want to share a few facts or stories with you each week about the history of our school, and I invite you to send me any facts or memories YOU may have. You can email those to me at cocita@stmarkwestpark.com. Throughout the year, we will be celebrating the many ways St. Mark School has SHINED BRIGHT for the past 75 years through our academics, our involvement in faith formation, our service to others, our athletic achievements, and the many other clubs and extracurricular opportunities our children have been involved in. This is our story.*

All of us are called to become examples of faith to one another, and in St. Mark Catholic School, the leadership roles that Fr. Adam, Mrs. Gunn, and I have, in addition to parents as primary educators, are essential in bringing others to Christ. Weekly Mass or prayer services are planned, so that our children are each provided with opportunities to develop a personal relationship with Christ. Our entire teaching staff recognizes that as a Catholic school, our first priority is to further develop the faith in each of our children, following in the footsteps of their parents. We begin and end every day in prayer, taking time to remember all those who are most in need of our prayers. Religion is taught every day- both as instruction and as a way of life, because as Fr. Adam reminded the faculty at our opening Mass, our faith should encompass all that we are and do. I must admit, it made me so proud when the parent of one of our older students contacted me to inquire about his child becoming Catholic by her desire. The Holy Spirit is certainly alive here at St. Mark.

A lion's roar goes out in welcome to both our new faculty members and our new children and their families joining St. Mark this year in grades 1-8, as well as all our Kindergarten and PreK families. New faculty members include: Ms. April Gaukin (Kdr.) and Mrs. Katie Gorman (Gr. 2). They are wonderful additions to our TEAM! The energy and positive atmosphere felt from the entire faculty would energize anyone. What a great team I have in place! They are a true blessing to everyone involved. I watched these past few weeks as our veteran teachers took time to assist our new teachers, making sure their questions were answered and needs met. Teachers assisted one another in getting classrooms together, and were just "present" to help. Their positivity and excitement is yet another way we SHINE BRIGHT!

It is going to be a fantastic year- it already has been! I look forward to hearing your stories and memories from years past....

Have a great week!
Mrs. Cocita



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Let us condemn him to a shameful death;
for according to his own words, God will take care of him.
(Wis 2:20)

Psalm:

The Lord upholds my life. (Ps 54)

Second Reading:

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace
for those who cultivate peace. (Jas 3:18)

Gospel:

"If anyone wishes to be first,
he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." (Mk 9:35)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The apostles argue, each one claiming to be the greatest of Christ's followers. But Christ shows them who is truly the greatest — a child, one who has no thought of his own importance, one who has no ambition. Let's seek to be like that child.

Observances for the week of September 22, 2024

- Sunday:** 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest;
National Migration Week
Thursday: Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs
Friday: St. Vincent de Paul, Priest r
Saturday: St. Wenceslaus, Martyr; St. Lawrence Ruiz
and Companions, Martyrs
Next Sunday: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Priesthood Sunday



Saint of the week

Often called the father of the medieval papacy and Apostle of the English, Saint Gregory (540-604) became Pope in 590. He is known for his reform of the liturgy, the consolidation of papal power, and the conversion of England.

Prayer for Children

Dear Jesus,
Wrap the young members of
our family in your love.
They know how to love BIG,
even though they are still
small.
Their trust can inspire, their
faith can change hearts.
Help them to know you, now
and always.
Amen.