



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 26, 2025

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*The Spirit of the Lord
is upon me...
He has sent me to
proclaim liberty to
captives
and recovery of sight
to the blind,
to let the oppressed
go free.
- Lk 4:18*

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

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.

February: For vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday, January 27

8:30am Mass.....Loren McKeon

Tuesday, January 28-St. Thomas Aquinas

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass..... Loretta Oakar

Wednesday, January 29

Thursday, January 30

8:30am Mass..... Anne McGinty

Friday, January 31-St. John Bosco

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Saturday, February 1

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm MassRita 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 MassGerri 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.

Pray for the Deceased

Fr. David McCafferty

Richard Mazzella

May perpetual light shine upon them

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Dan Sunyak

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, February 1 @ 4:00pm	Lou Toth Mary Price NOT FILLED	John Levis	Aidan Gompf Kerri Gompf Lucas Sambrook
Sunday, February 2 @ 8:30am	Kathy O'Malley Karen Cocita Michael Kay	Agnes Butler Mary Lewis	Albert McGervey Anthony McGervey Gabriela Santos
Sunday, February 2 @ 11:30am	Rosanne Kelley Shawn Wroten NOT FILLED	Deborah Roscoe NOT FILLED	Michael Doyle Ian McCoy Cadhla McKenna

NEWS AND EVENTS

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past Sunday)\$ 4,859.00
Faith Direct (past month total)\$ 5,041.00
Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

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

Annual Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 9th

Come join us at the Holy Name Society Annual Super Bowl Party. All are invited. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Free Will Donation of \$10.00. Sloppy Joes, popcorn, pop, water and beer supplied. Bring a dish to share with others! Two large screen TV's. Squares and Football question game available to participate.

Living Stations of the Cross

Open to all students in grades 7 to 12

Living Stations is a powerful prayer and performance put on by the youth of St. Mark, St. Chris and OLA parishes. Anyone in 7th through 12th grade is welcome to join. We will have two informational nights, on Sunday, February 2nd at St. Mark from 4-5pm in the church, and Tuesday, February 4th at OLA from 7-8pm in the church. Weekly practices will begin the following weekend on Sundays to prepare for three performances during Holy Week in April. If you are interested, join us at one of the information nights to learn more! See the flyers at the church doors for more information and reach out to Michael Kay to sign up or ask any questions - mkay@stmarkcleveland.com or 216-904-4774. We are excited to welcome you to Living Stations 2025!

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: 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

Upcoming Date: February 1 & 2

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.

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,	January 25	
9:00 am	CYO Basketball	G/FR
10:00 am	Family Faith Formation	CC
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	Food Sunday	
	Baby Bottle Drop-off	
	Book Fair & Science Fair	SH
Sunday,	January 26	
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	
Monday,	January 27	
8:30 am	Mass	
2:30 pm	Youth Choir Prac.	CH
5:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
Tuesday,	January 28	
8:30 am	Mass w/2nd Floor	
1:30 pm	Awards Assembly	G
2:30 pm	Children's Choir Prac.	CH
4:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Prac.	G
4:30 pm	RCIC	CC
Wednesday,	January 29	
4:00 pm	RCIA	CC
5:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
Thursday,	January 30	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
Friday,	January 31	
5:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
Saturday,	February 1	
9:00 am	CYO Basketball	G/FR
11:00 am	Pack #268	SH
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:30 pm	Basketball Tournament	
	Donut Social	
Sunday,	February 2	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS	
1:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
4:00 pm	Living Stations Prac.	CH
6:00 pm	Youth Group	CC

Note: (LS)=Livestreamed

General Audience of Pope Francis, on 15 January 2025

Catechesis. *The most beloved of the Father. 2*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In the last audience we spoke about children, and today too we will talk about children. Last week we focused on how, in his work, Jesus repeatedly spoke of the importance of protecting, welcoming and loving the little ones.

Yet, even today in the world, hundreds of millions of minors, despite not being of the minimum age to undergo the obligations of adulthood, are forced to work and many of them are exposed to particularly dangerous work; not to mention the boys and girls who are slaves to trafficking for prostitution or pornography, and forced marriages. And this is rather bitter. In our societies, unfortunately, there are many ways in which children are abused and mistreated. Child abuse, of whatever nature, is a despicable act, it is a heinous act. It is not simply a blight on society, no, it is a crime! And it is a gross violation of God's commandments. No child should be abused. Even one case is already too many. It is therefore necessary to awaken our consciences, to practice closeness and genuine solidarity with abused children and young people, and at the same time to build trust and synergies between those who are committed to offering them opportunities and safe places in which to grow up serenely. I know a country in Latin America, where a special fruit grows, very special, which is called *arándano* [a species of cranberry]. Harvesting the *arándano* requires tender hands, and they make children do it, they enslave them as children to harvest it.

Widespread poverty, the shortage of social support tools for families, the increased marginality in recent years along with unemployment and job insecurity are factors that burden the youngest with the highest price to pay. In the metropolises, where the social divide and moral decay "bite", there are children engaged in drug dealing and the most diverse illicit activities. How many of these children have we seen fall as sacrificial victims! Sometimes tragically they are induced to become "executioners" of their peers, as well as damaging themselves, their dignity and humanity. And yet, when on the street, in the neighbourhood of the parish, and these lost lives present themselves before our eyes, we often look the other way.

There is also a case in my country: a boy called Loan has been abducted and his whereabouts are unknown. And one of the theories is that he has been sent to have his organs removed, for transplants. And this happens, as you well know. This happens! Some return with a scar, others die. This is why today I would like to remember this boy Loan.

It pains us to recognize the social injustice that drives two children, perhaps living in the same neighbourhood or apartment block, to take diametrically opposed paths and destinies because one of them was born into a disadvantaged family. An unacceptable human and social divide: between those who can dream and those who must succumb. But Jesus wants us all free and happy; and if He loves every man and woman as His son and daughter, He loves the little ones with all the tenderness of His heart. That is why He asks us to stop and listen to the suffering of the voiceless, the uneducated. Fighting exploitation, especially child exploitation, is the way to build a better future for the whole of society. Some countries have had the wisdom to put children's rights in

writing. Children have rights. Look yourselves on the internet to find out what children's rights are.

And so, we can ask ourselves: what can I do? First of all, we must recognize that, if we want to eradicate child labour, we cannot be complicit in it. And when is this the case? For example, when we purchase products that involve child labour. How can we eat and dress, knowing that behind that food and those garments there are exploited children, who work instead of going to school? Find out where those products come from. Awareness of what we purchase is a first act in order not to be complicit. Some will say that, as individuals, we cannot do much. True, but each one can be a drop that, together with many other drops, can become a sea. However, institutions, including church institutions, and companies must also be reminded of their responsibility: they can make a difference by shifting their investments to companies that do not use or permit child labour. Many states and international organizations have already enacted laws and directives against child labour, but more can be done. I also urge journalists – there are some journalists here – to do their part: they can help raise awareness of the problem and help find solutions. Do not be afraid, denounce, denounce these things.

And I thank all those who do not turn away when they see children forced to become adults too soon. Let us always remember the words of Jesus: "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt 25:40). Saint Teresa of Calcutta, a joyful worker in the vineyard of the Lord, was a mother to the most disadvantaged and forgotten girls and boys. With the tenderness and attention of her gaze, she can accompany us to see the invisible little ones, the too many slaves of a world that we cannot abandon to its injustices. Because the happiness of the weakest builds the peace of all. And with Mother Theresa, let us give voice to the children:

"I ask for a safe place

where I can play.

I ask for a smile

From someone who knows how to love.

I ask for the right to be a child,

to be the hope

Of a better world.

I ask to be able to grow

as a person.

Can I count on you?' (Saint Teresa of Calcutta)

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.

PARISH GRADE SCHOOL

This past week in the Service Learning module presented by Mrs. Lawless from the McKeon Group to our 8th Grade students, they focused on the sick and hospitalized. They talked about ways these people may struggle physically, mentally/emotionally, and spiritually. The students then brainstormed ways they can support those in our families and communities with life threatening illnesses. They made chemo support bags for children with cancer that Mrs. Lawless took to Rainbows Babies and Children. These bags included Chapstick, lotion, socks, pens, journals, and a blanket. Our 8th Grade students LOVED doing this and gained great insight into how important it is that we remember those afflicted with illnesses. They are looking forward to her next presentation!

As we embark on this year's Catholic Schools' Week celebration, it is a great time to pause and reflect on the many benefits this has brought to students over these past 75 years. I can speak personally in regards to both of my sons who still to this day make mention of the excellent education they received here at school, and how that education especially influenced them in their chosen fields today. Every year, I ask our current 8th Grade to write reflective essays on how their education at St. Mark has impacted them thus far. You will hear some of these presentations during the weekend Masses both at St. Mark and St. Mel, but I want to share some of their thoughts with you:

- "I am a Prayer Partner to a 2nd Grader and Kindergartner. We meet once a month to do fun-based activities. We sit next to each other at Mass; they look up to us as 8th Graders. I am just a small step in their Catholic journey as a St. Mark student, and I take pride in knowing that I am a role model for these younger students.
- When I came here I had no idea who God was and now this March, I am converting to Catholicism. I have learned so much over these past two years about mathematics that I did not know existed. I have received many opportunities such as making strong relationships with friends, doing service projects such as serving food to the homeless, going on field trips, and learning about the Holocaust. I have been a part of Entrepreneurship Club, Student Council, Algebra elective, Basketball, and Cheer to name a few.
- When the Stream Lab was first built, I was one of the first to use the equipment. This changed how I looked at science. I realized science was more than books; it was experiments.
- The Catholic education I have received at St. Mark School will continue to impact me long after I graduate. It has given me a strong foundation of Catholic values and academic excellence. I have learned so much about my faith and how to live it. I have been taught many ways to pray, participate in Mass, and follow the rules of the Church. All these things are valuable life lessons. St. Mark has a great community which has shown me how to make people feel welcomed and like they belong.
- Catholic education has truly shaped me as a person and helped me to build my character. My Catholic education has brought me closer to God in many different ways. First of all, it starts in Religion class with discussions of faith, reading from the Bible, and shining light on the less fortunate places in the world today. We learn about different things to become better people throughout our lives. We do many hands-on service in our community. Catholic education has made me the person I am today.
- One of the opportunities which has brought me closer to God is altar serving. This has been an important part of my life as a Catholic because it provides me with the experience of learning more about how the Mass works and allows me to be a servant of God while doing so.
- My education at this school has always been very dear to me. All of my teachers have taught me that I am very fortunate to receive the education that I do. I feel that because of this, it has helped me to be a very gratitude-driven person, and that is something I know will stick with me the rest of my life. Thank you, St. Mark Parish and Father Adam, for guiding my peers and me in the footsteps of Christ. I am honored to say that I attend a school where I can openly speak about our Lord and Savior, and on top of that, learn more about him every day. I want to ultimately thank God. I have had the opportunity to be able to have such a wonderful education and be able to grow my faith.

This Sunday, take some time to walk our hallways to see why we are such a blessed community. Stop down in the Social Hall to view the students' Science Fair projects and our Scholastic Book Fair. Enjoy Catholic Schools' Week 2025. See why we are why a "Catholic School: United in Faith and Community!"

Mrs. Cocita

