



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.

March 2, 2025

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." - Lk 6:43, 45

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

March: For families in crisis. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday, March 3

8:30am Mass.....**Presider's Intention**

Tuesday, March 4

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Wednesday, March 5-Ash Wednesday

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass..... Tom Bodle

12:00pm Mass @ St. Mel

7:00pm Mass For the Parishioners of St. Mark Parish and the Parishioners of St. Mel Parish

Thursday, March 6

8:30am Mass.....**Presider's Intention**

Friday, March 7

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

12:00pm Stations of the Cross @ St. Mel

4:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday, March 8

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass Ed Toth

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, March 9-First Sunday of Lent

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass..... Francine Hayden

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass Rita Szy

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	Aimee Roscoe
Jack Behnke	David Kurth	Nora Sudetic
Katy Brent	Gerald McArthur	George Surovec
Henry Buehner	Jim McIlwee	Herb Tippie
James Coyne	Mary Miller	Georgiann Treible
Matthew Craven	Maisie Nowlin	Joe Wantz
Nicole Foerstner	Bill Retzer	Charlotte Whiting
Mary Frantz	Mary Stark	Lillian Zahara
Theresa Fridrich	Sr. Josette Obodzinski	Lew Zahara Jr.
		Joseph Zavatchen Jr.

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Dolly Tinnirello

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, March 8 @ 4:00pm	Gloria Morin Erin Fitzpatrick NOT FILLED	Lisa Braun	Aidan Gompf Kerri Gompf Lucas Sambrook
Sunday, March 9 @ 8:30am	Karen Cocita Michael Kay NOT FILLED	Agnes Butler Michael Grathwol	London Dinya Rose Murray Kathleen Murray
Sunday, March 9 @ 11:30am	Deirdre Mueller NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Eliza Kratt Deborah Roscoe	Ian McCoy Patrick Mueller Eoin Mueller

NEWS AND EVENTS

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past Sunday)\$ 2,806.00
Faith Direct (past month total)\$ 5,325.00
Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

March 5

- 6:45am - Mass at St. Mel
- 8:30am - Mass at St. Mark
- 12:00pm - Mass at St. Mel
- 7:00pm - Mass at St. Mark

Liturgical Ministers please see sign-up sheet in the Sacristy for Ash Wednesday 7pm services.

2025 Little Black Books

Lenten Reflection booklets

Reflection booklets will be at the Church entrances beginning this weekend. The cost is \$2.00 each. Please return envelopes to the Parish Office.

Lenten Family Retreat

March 15 from 1:30pm-3:15pm in the Social Hall

Families are invited for an afternoon of prayer and learning about the season of Lent. Take some time away from your busy schedule to spend with Jesus, and come away with practices you can incorporate into everyday family life. After the retreat, you are invited to stay for Confession and Mass.

Families of all sizes and ages are invited. You are encouraged to RSVP to Meaghan (msilver@stmarkcleveland.com), but it is not required to participate.

Parish News

No Greater Love Video Bible Series

Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26 April 2, 9 @ 7:00pm

In No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion, we are going to walk step-by-step with Jesus on his journey from his agony in the garden to his crucifixion on Calvary. Along the way, we will unpack the biblical background to these events, the prophecies, and most especially, the ways Jesus is inviting us to walk more closely with him today.

We will meet every week for prayer, fellowship, discussion and an engaging video presentation presented by Dr. Edward Sri, which was filmed on location in the Holy Land, so we can see the actual locations where Christ's passion occurred!

Please reach out to Meaghan with any questions at (msilver@stmarkcleveland.com)

St. Mark Fish Fry

March 14, March 28 & April 11

Please join us for the annual St. Mark Lenten Fish Fry! The social hall is the place to be from 5:00 to 7:00pm on Friday evenings for great food and community! Watch the bulletin for details in the coming weeks.

Parish Outreach

Mark's Madness Fundraiser March 9th 6-8pm

This fundraising basketball game between 8th grade day school/PSR students and coaches/teachers of all sports supports our Parish Outreach program, which helps people in our parish.

There will be a Second Collection for our Parish Outreach program the weekend of March 8 & 9 at all Masses. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Parish News

Music Ministry

Echoing Hymns:

Here is a call to consider serving our community as a singer!

Do you ever get snippets of a song echoing in your mind? Maybe a certain phrase comes back to you? How special! I encourage you to try and hold onto those ear worms. They are often quotes from scripture, and they may even be an invitation to lead!

Recently, the scriptures have included a theme of the Church as a unified community: many parts of one body; sharing of our gifts; calls to care for one another. If you are still looking for your way to serve, consider offering your voice to lead our music. It is a humbling and extremely rewarding experience. We have a small group of devoted cantors and choristers who you know & appreciate, a group of nearly 40 students who sing at school and weekend Masses, and we are ALWAYS welcoming more voices.

In whatever capacity you're comfortable with: *you are welcome and wanted.*

Take a moment to thank one of our loyal volunteers cantors: Mike Antonelli (Marks, Sat), John Cooney (Mels), Lilly & Noel (Marks), Patty Joyce (Marks), Tim Mohr (Marks), Angela Salazar (viola), Bill Todia (Marks), Diane Virostko (Mels), and the children's choir.

Sincerely,
Julia Wallace
Email: jwallace@stmarkcleveland.com

Reminders and Regular Events

Local Author Vince McKee

March 11th at 6:30pm in the Social Hall

All are invited. Holy Name Society is proud to have Vince come to St. Mark as a guest speaker. Vince is the Owner of KEE on Sports Media Group. A company built on the very best in sports coverage and broadcasts of High School Sports, Boxing, NPSL Soccer, and everything the sports fans of Northeast Ohio want to know about. He is the play by play man for Ohio Boxing, as well as Cleveland SC of the NPSL. Vince is also a 12x published author who has interviewed everyone from Jim Thome & Austin Carr to Bill Belichick and Frankie Edgar. This event is open to all parishioners and their guests.

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

St. Mark Prayer Group

Relax, pray and grow in faith

The parishioner-led prayer group will meet on Thursday, March 6th at 7pm in the Servers Sacristy. There is a book available near the Sacred Heart Statue in the Church for prayer requests. These will receive prayers by this group. Feel free to share answered prayers here also. Please join us! There is no need to sign up.

Eucharistic Adoration

Prayer and Thanksgiving before the Lord

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, March 7th from 4:00pm - 5:00pm.

Family Holy Hour

Our First Friday adoration will continue to provide prayerful options for people of all ages, especially families of young children. Fr. Adam will be available to hear Confession.

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: March 16 and April 13

NEWS AND EVENTS

Reminders and Regular Events

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: March 8 & 9

Regional and Diocesan News and Events

Respect Life

From March 5 - April 13 you are invited to join with other Christians for 40 Days for Life - 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. Additionally, you are invited to stand and peacefully pray anytime between 7am 59 7pm during the 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Pre-term - 1200 Shaker Blvd., Cleveland 44120.

<http://www.40daysforlife.com/cleveland>

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,	March 1	
8:00 am	Dinner Dance Set-up	All
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:30 pm	75th Dinner Dance	All
Sunday,	March 2	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
9:30 am	School Tours and Social	All
11:30 am	Mass LS w/Y&C Choir	
4:00 pm	Living Stations Prac.	CH
6:00 pm	Youth Group	CC
Monday,	March 3	
8:30 am	Mass	
2:30 pm	Youth Choir Prac.	CH
6:00 pm	Living Stations	CH
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
Tuesday,	March 4	
2:30 pm	Children's Choir Prac.	CH
Wednesday,	March 5-Ash Wednesday	
8:30 am	Mass w/All School	
7:00 pm	Mass	
Thursday,	March 6	
8:30 am	Mass	
6:00 pm	Scout Pack #268 Den Mtg.	SH
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
7:00 pm	Prayer Group	SS
Friday,	March 7	
12:00 pm	Stations of the Cross @ St. Mel	
2:00 pm	School Stations of the Cross	CH
4:00 pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
5:00 pm	Family Social	SH
5:00 pm	Fish Fry @ St. Mel	
Saturday,	March 8	
9:00 am	K-2 Basketball	G
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	Donut Social	
Sunday,	March 9	
	Donut Social	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS w/HNS Corporate Comm.	
1:00 pm	K-2 Basketball	G
3:00 pm	Mark's Madness Set-up	CC/G
6:00 pm	Mark's Madness	CC/G

Note: (LS)=Livestreamed

General Audience of Pope Francis, on 19 February 2025

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. I. The Infancy of Jesus. 6. “They saw the child ... They prostrated themselves and did him homage” (Mt 2:11). The Visit of the Magi to the newborn King

Dear brothers and sisters,

In the Gospels of the childhood of Jesus there is an episode which is exclusive to Matthew’s narrative: the *visit of the Magi*. Attracted by the appearance of a star, which in many cultures is the harbinger of the birth of an exceptional person, some wise men set out on a journey from the east, without knowing exactly where they will go. They are the Magi, people who do not belong to the people of the covenant. The last time we spoke about the shepherds of Bethlehem, marginalized by Hebrew society because they were considered “impure”; today we encounter another category, the foreigners, who immediately arrive to pay homage to the Son of God who entered into history with an entirely unprecedented kingship. Hence, the Gospels tell us clearly that the poor and foreigners are invited among the first to meet God made child, the Saviour of the world.

The Magi were considered to be representatives both of the primordial races, generated by the three sons of Noah, and of the three continents known in antiquity, Asia, Africa and Europe, as well as the three phases of human life: youth, maturity and old age. Aside from all possible interpretations, they are men who do not stay still but, like the great chosen ones of biblical history, feel the need to move, to go forth. They are men who are able to look beyond themselves, who know how to look upwards.

The attraction for the star that appeared in the sky sets them on the move to the land of Judaea, to Jerusalem, where they meet King Herod. Their naivety and trust in asking for information about the newborn king of the Jews clashes with the shrewdness of Herod, who, troubled by the fear of losing his throne, immediately tries to obtain a better view, contacting the scribes and asking them to investigate.

The power of the earthly ruler thus shows all his weakness. The experts know the Scriptures and refer to the king the place where, according to Micah’s prophecy, the leader and shepherd of the people of Israel should be born (*Mi 5:1*): little Bethlehem, and not great Jerusalem! Indeed, as Paul reminds the Corinthians, “God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong” (*1 Cor 1:27*).

However, the scribes, who are able to identify the Messiah’s birthplace exactly, show the way to others, but they themselves do not move! Indeed, it is not enough to know the prophetic texts to tune in to the divine frequencies; one must let them to enter within and allow the Word of God to revive the yearning to seek, the kindle to desire to see God.

At this point Herod, acting in secret, as do the deceitful and violent, asks the Magi the precise moment of the appearance of the star and incites them to continue their journey and then to return to bring him news, so that he too can go and adore the newborn. For those attached to power, Jesus is not the hope to be welcomed, but a threat to be eliminated!

When the Magi set off again, the star reappears and leads them to Jesus, the sign that creation and the prophetic word represent the alphabet with which God speaks and lets Himself be found. The sight of the star inspires an irrepressible joy in those men, because the Holy Spirit, who stirs the heart of whoever sincerely seeks God, also fills it with joy. Having entered the house, the Magi prostrate themselves, adore Jesus and offer Him precious gifts, worthy of a king, worthy of God. Why? What do they see? An ancient author writes: they see “a humble little body that the Word has assumed; but the glory of divinity is not hidden from them. They see an infant child; but they worship God” (CROMAZIO DI AQUILEIA, *Comment on the Gospel of Matthew*, 5:1). The Magi thus become the first believers among the pagans, the image of the Church drawn together from every language and nation.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us, too, follow in the footsteps of the Magi, these “pilgrims of hope” who, with great courage, turned their steps, hearts and goods towards the One who is the hope not only of Israel but of all peoples. Let us learn to adore God in His smallness, in His kingship that does not crush but rather sets us free and enables us to serve with dignity. And let us offer Him the most beautiful gifts, to express our faith and our love.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Praise no one before he speaks,
for it is then that people are tested. (Sir 27:7)

Psalm:

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you. (Ps 92)

Second Reading:

But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 15:57)

Gospel:

"A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart
produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil
produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth
speaks." (Lk 6:45)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Remove the beam from your own eye, Jesus reminds us, before removing the splinter from your brother's. This doesn't mean we should not help each other to be holy. But holiness must come from within. If we don't have it, we can't share it. Are we looking hard enough at our own souls?

Observances for the week of March 2, 2025

- Sunday:** 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin
- Tuesday:** St. Casimir
- Wednesday:** Ash Wednesday
- Friday:** Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs
- Saturday:** St. John of God, Religious
- Next Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins



Devotions, *Explained!*

Though an icon depicts an image, it's much more than a religious picture. An icon is visual theology. It expresses the same truths written in the Gospel, but through an artistic medium, mirroring how Christ's incarnation made the Word visible to man in the flesh.

Prayer for Interior Life

Dear Jesus,
Fill my heart so full of
goodness that it produces your
goodness.
Let my thoughts, words, and
actions reflect you.

Amen.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025 | 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME