



St. Mark Catholic Church

Mission Statement

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 parishioners to participate in the shared responsibility of worship, prayer, study and service.



August 18, 2024

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.”
- Jn 6:56-57

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Adam Zajac

Pastor

Mrs. Karen Cocita

Principal

Mrs. Meaghan McCarthy-Silver

Pastoral Minister

Mrs. Julia Wallace

Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Michael Kay

Youth Minister

Mrs. Jeannette Puckett

Parish School of Religion Director (PSR)

SACRAMENTS

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: The RCIA is open to all those interested in becoming Catholic. Contact the Parish Office 216-226-7577.

Baptism: Available at 12:30 p.m. the fourth Sunday of the month and at Masses by arrangement. Parents must attend a Pre-Baptism class and Godparents must have a sponsor certificate.

Reconciliation: Saturday, 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. or by appointment.

Marriage: Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance with a priest or deacon.

Anointing of the Sick: Please call the Parish Office.

Communion Calls: If you are unable to participate in the celebration of Mass and would like to receive Communion, please contact the office.

New Parishioners: All are welcome to join us by calling the office or visiting the website to schedule an appointment.

Bulletin Deadline: Bulletin Articles and Copied Items need to be in the Parish Office by 11:00 a.m. on Friday the week before the bulletin to print.

Papal Intention

August: For political leaders. We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday, August 19

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

Tuesday, August 20-St. Bernard

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Wednesday, August 21-St. Pius X

Thursday, August 22-The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30am Mass.....Ed Toth

Friday, August 23

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Saturday, August 24-St. Bartholomew

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass.....Giuseppe Coreno

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, August 25-Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass.....Ellen Moran

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass.....Deacon Dave Lundeen

Luke McGraw Memorial Candles

Weekly Intention

August 18

Giuseppe Coreno

IN MEMORIAM

*May the peace of our Lord be with
Michael Angers, Son of Russ & Therese Angers
And may God grant comfort to his family and friends.*

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Heavenly Father, we lift up all those who are facing various illnesses. Give them the hope and courage they need today and every day. Comfort their pain, calm their fears, and surround them with Your peace. In Jesus' name, Amen!

Please Pray for Our Sick



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

Liturgical Ministers August 24 & 25

Saturday, August 24 @ 4:00pm

Eucharistic Ministers: Gloria Morin, Shirlee Toth, Mary Price

Lector: Carole Iseli

Altar Server: Huston Engle, Declan Fitzpatrick, Cristian Trump

Sunday, August 25 @ 8:30am

Eucharistic Ministers: Michael Kay, Laura Skonce, Mary Stamper

Lector: Monica Svetz, NOT FILLED

Altar Server: Julia McNulty, Clare Stock, Joe Svetz

Sunday, August 25 @ 11:30am

Eucharistic Ministers: Cari Foster, Rosanne Kelley, NOT FILLED

Lector: Cari Foster, Lisa Braun

Altar Server: Gianna Andolina, Joseph Andolina, Owen Goggins

Weekly Collections

Sunday Envelopes.....\$ 2,799.00
Faith Direct:.....\$ 5,410.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Friends,

As you likely saw, the major storm that came through the area on August 6 caused many large branches to fall from the oak trees on the parish property. We had an arborist come after the storm to assess the condition of the trees. Unfortunately, all seven oak trees are severely damaged and need to be cut down. The only ones that are able to remain are the clump of several oaks in the far northwest corner beyond the stations of the cross; only one of those needs to be removed.

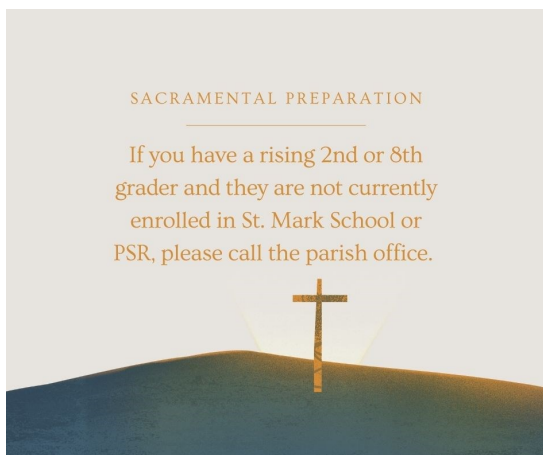
My understanding is that with their age, weakening from carpenter ants and other issues, and losing so many branches to the storm, that they are likely to start dropping more branches even without severe weather. In particular, the one near the pavilion now has a noticeable lean to much of its top half. With the number of people and especially children on our property, as well as the sheer size of these oaks, we have to take them down quickly.

While I know we have no real choice in this, the news is still devastating to me. These oak trees were here before the parish existed, and for most of St. Mark history the character of our property has been defined by their presence. You probably have also picked up from my homilies that hiking in the excellent parks we have in northeast Ohio and taking care of my garden behind the rectory are things that I enjoy. If there were a reasonable way to keep the oaks I absolutely would, but we are beyond that point. We have replanted many trees over the years that will grow to be giants on our property again. In the fall we intend to replant some oak trees and will watch them slowly grow and return the parish grounds to its old character.

In Christ



Fr. Adam



St. Mark PSR Program 2024 – 2025

A reminder that the St. Mark PSR Program's first class will be Monday September 9th. You must be registered before the first class.

Our St. Mark PSR program is on Monday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 in the school building. We serve students in Grades 1 – 8. Students in grades 2 and 8 are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist (grade 2) and Confirmation (Grade 8), as part of our curriculum. **For a student to receive these Sacraments they MUST be enrolled and attend PSR the previous year.**

To register for the 2024 – 2025 school year:

1. The materials can be downloaded from the St. Mark Church website www.stmarkcleveland.com, under heading FAMILIES (at the top of the page) and by clicking the PSR tab.
2. Registration materials can also be picked up at the Parish Office.

Registration forms and payment can be mailed to or dropped off at the Parish Office or put in the Sunday collection, marked to the attention of PSR.

For any questions or additional information, you can contact Jeannette Puckett at the Parish Office at 216-226-7577 or through email at jpuckettpsr@stmarkcleveland.com.

St. Mark Sunday School Note: Time Change

Register now to save your child's space in Sunday School for the 2024-2025 year! Sunday School is open to children ages 3-5 and takes place during the **8:30am** Mass. In-person registration will take place in the school hallway on Saturday, August 31 & September 1. Forms are available at all entrances to the church. You can also drop off registration forms to the parish office. Classes begin September 8th.

Volunteer!

We are currently seeking volunteers to assist in teaching Sunday School for the 2024-25 school year! Adults over 18 years of age must be Virtus Compliant to volunteer. Classes begin September 8th and meet during the 8:30am Sunday mass.

Please contact:
Molly Stottner
mollystottner@hotmail.com
For information regarding registration or volunteering



**St. Mark
Holy Name Society**

**Welcome All
Men and Women Parishioners
18 and Older
We Meet Second Tuesday of the Month
at 6:00 in the Social Hall**

**Interested?
Email jimcocita@gmail.com**

**6th Annual Cleveland Catholic Women's Day of Reflection
"Inflame Me With Thy Love"**

Saturday, September 28th - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
St. Albert the Great Parish Center, North Royalton

Join us for a day of spiritual renewal featuring:
Mass with Bishop Edward C. Malesic
Speakers: Heather Khym and Fr. Boniface Hicks
Music by MarySarah Menkhaus

Register at www.cleatholicwomen.org Cost \$45 (Students \$25, Religious free)

Ignite your faith and connect with other Catholic women!

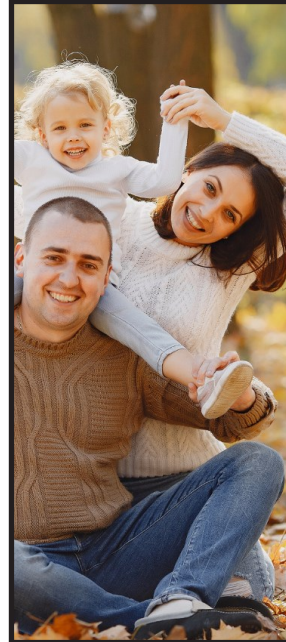
**Retrouvaille
A Lifeline for Married Couples
A Unique Program to Strengthen and Heal Your Marriage - Beginning September 20-22, 2024**

The Retrouvaille program is designed to help married couples develop improved ways of communicating and relating to each other in order to overcome challenges which have left them feeling frustrated, hurt, distant, or even hopeless. Retrouvaille, which means rediscovery, is open to couples of all faiths and is supported by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. This program consists of a weekend experience and six follow up sessions.

For more information or to register, visit:
www.helpourmarriage.org or call Shelly or Rob at 216-509-0301 or 440-836-4810.

FOOD SUNDAY

The Bountiful Basement at Blessed Trinity parish has requested these items for their Clients next weekend: ravioli, chili, stews, canned chicken meat, canned meals, hamburger helper, black olives and PBJ. They could also use hygiene products, especially shampoo, body wash, and deodorant. All of your donations are appreciated. Thank you. May God bless all!



Young Family Gatherings

Once a month after 8:30 a.m. Mass, young families are welcome to gather in the Social Hall/ Pavilion for bagels, coffee, and community.

Dates vary each month. Questions? Please contact Briana David-
bciancibello@gmail.com

2024 UPCOMING DATES

- July 21
- August 25
- September 22
- October 13

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

There IS something more in our life of faith and as we grow in our relationship with Jesus. Come to commit or re-commit your faith in Jesus and know what a full life can offer you! Our Lady of Angels Prayer group will once again offer a Life in the Spirit Seminar beginning September 10, 2024 for seven consecutive Tuesday evenings through October 29th from 7:30-9:00pm. We meet in the Primary building of Our Lady of Angels School, (behind Linus Hall)

3644 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland, 44111. Please phone Verna, 216-251-3560 or Tom, 216-536-6495 for information or to register. There is NO charge for this seminar.

THE WEEK AHEAD IN OUR PARISH

Saturday,	August 17		
	3:00 pm	Confessions	
	4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	August 18		
	8:30 am	Mass	
	9:30 am	Rosary	
	11:30 am	Mass LS	
Monday,	August 19		
	8:30 am	Mass	
Tuesday,	August 20		
	6:30 pm	PreK Parent Mtg.	CH
Wednesday,	August 21		
	7:00 pm	Mass	
Thursday,	August 22		
	8:30 am	Mass	
	6:00 pm	Kindergarten Parent Mtg.	CH/Kbldg.
	7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
Friday,	August 23		
Saturday,	August 24		
	3:00 pm	Confessions	
	4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	August 25		
	8:30 am	Mass	
	9:30 am	Rosary	
	9:30 am	Young Families	SH/PP?
	11:30 am	Mass LS	

Note: (LS)=Livestreamed

VIRTUS COMPLIANCY — IMPORTANT

The USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) will be doing on-site audits at parishes in the Diocese of Cleveland. It is imperative that prior to working with children - coaches, scout leaders and helpers, St. Mark Staff, catechists & teachers (PSR and DAY school), parent volunteers, etc. - are Virtus compliant. This means that one must be:

- Virtus trained (see below)
- **Current with reading on-line bulletins**
- Read and signed off on Policy for **Protecting Children Revised 2016 (turn into Parish Office)**
- Read and signed off on **Standards of Conduct Revised 2016 (turn into Parish Office)**
- **New Volunteers must complete a Background Check through Virtus.org.** In the Virtus website click on the "Toolbox" tab, click on the Selection.com tab and begin the process. Must have a credit card to complete.
- **Current Volunteers with a BCI Fingerprint/Background check must renew after 5 years through Virtus.org click on the "Toolbox" tab, click on the Selection.com tab and begin the process. Must have a credit card to complete.**
- Filled out a **St. Mark Volunteer Application (turn into Parish Office)**

All of the above-mentioned requirements are mandatory. **This information can also be found on the church website at stmarkcleveland.com. Click the Families tab and click the Virtus tab.** (You can check your compliancy by going to "Virtus.org", signing in, and clicking on the green 'Training' tab.) If you are not sure of your compliancy, call Cheryl Birchfield at the Parish Office (216-226-7577) and your compliancy will be verified. If one is not Virtus compliant, **YOU MAY NOT WORK/VOLUNTEER WITH CHILDREN.**

To see available Virtus training sessions please go to Virtusonline.org click on First Time Registrant, Begin Registration Process also available is List of Sessions, select the Cleveland Diocese. You MUST register **ONLINE to attend a session.**

If you would like to Volunteer/Coach for the upcoming school year St. Mark will be hosting a Virtus Training session on Monday, September 16th beginning at 6:00pm. YOU MUST REGISTER AND SIGN UP FOR THE SESSION AT VIRTUS.ORG.



Please come to pray WITH Mary, Our Blessed Mother, in this beautiful devotion, The Rosary. We are living in troubled times and so much in need of peace within our souls and for the world. We ask Mary, Our Mother, to intercede and lead us contemplating the mysteries of Jesus. "The Family that Prays together, Stays together"...Fr. Patrick Peyton
Every Sunday following the 8:30am Mass

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, Say to the Lord,
"My refuge and fortress, My God in whom I trust."
Psalm 91:1-2

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers all our military men and women presently serving and those who have returned home.

Jason Bochert, James Boone, Jr., Elijah Broly, Kurt Brown, Nathan Chomoa, Jeremy Cole, Matthew Craven, Josh Dunleavy, T.J. Finucan, Martin Hartsel, Joe Isabella, John Kester, Randy Kloos, Stephanie Lasch, Adam Lemmerman, Torrey Lynch, Ron McDough, Andrew J. McGinty, Owen McGrew, Jake North, Jon Novak, Danny O'Malley, Sean P. O'Reilly, Nick Ortiz, Steven Podhradsky, Nico Russo, Tom Sarko, Matthew Shirley, Brady Smith, Montana Stieglmeyer, Edward Thomas, Joseph Toole, Jacob Trefney, Jonah Treible, Roan Viancourt, Lukas Whitney.

God Bless them all!

Kathy O'Malley womalfam@sbcglobal.net for any updates.



Seven Sisters Apostolate of Prayer
Individuals privately offer one full Holy Hour on one specific day of the week solely for the intentions for our Pastor.
SevenSistersApostolate.Org
Contact Kim at 216-401-1185

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Come, eat of my food,
and drink of the wine I have mixed!" (Prv 9:5)

Psalm:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 34)

Second Reading:

Therefore, do not continue in ignorance,
but try to understand what is the will of the Lord.
(Eph 5:17)

Gospel:

"For my flesh is true food,
and my blood is true drink." (Jn 6:55)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus warns us that unless we eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, we do not have life within us. The Eucharist is the wellspring of our Christian life, in every place and in every moment. Let us always remember that where there is no Eucharist, there is no life.

Observances for the week of August 18, 2024

- Sunday:** 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** St. John Eudes, Priest
- Tuesday:** St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
- Wednesday:** St. Pius X, Pope
- Thursday:** The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Friday :** St. Rose of Lima, Virgin
- Saturday:** St. Bartholomew, Apostle
- Next Sunday:** 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saint of the week

St. Charbel Maklouf (1828–1898) was a Maronite monk and priest who lived much of his life as a hermit. He was renowned for healing, casting out demons, and levitating during prayer. Millions have visited his tomb and sought and received his intercession, even those of other faiths.

Prayer of Eucharist

Dear Lord,
May our congregation be more deeply assured of Your love each time we receive Communion.
May our "Eucharist" make our lives a song of worship and thanks, sung to You.
May this sacred food nourish us to be bold and brave disciples of You.
Amen.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024 | 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of August 18, 2024

Sunday:

Prv 9:1-6/Ps 34:2-3, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (9a)/Eph 5:15-20/Jn 6:51-58

Monday:

Ez 24:15-23/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/
Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday:

Ez 28:1-10/Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab/Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday:

Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Mt 20:1-16

Thursday:

Ez 36:23-28/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/
Mt 22:1-14

Friday:

Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Mt 22:34-40

Saturday:

Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/
Jn 1:45-51

Next Sunday:

Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 (9a)/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A priest I know was asked by a door-to-door evangelist, “Do you believe in Jesus?” He answered, “Yes, I do. But if I may ask you,” he continued, “Where do you experience Jesus’ body and blood?” His interlocutor responded somewhat confusedly, “I don’t. I just believe in him. That’s all that is needed.” Later my priest friend would relate to me, “The more I thought about it, that response struck me as totally inadequate. As human beings, we need to encounter Jesus’ body and blood, not just hear about him and mentally believe. Otherwise, Jesus is just a ghost.”

This week we see this central point as we arrive at the climactic moment of Jesus’ teaching on the Eucharist. Jesus has established the importance of believing in him as the **“bread of life come down from heaven.”** Belief deeply matters because it leads to a real, bodily encounter with Jesus through eating and drinking. That’s why Jesus emphasizes to an almost outrageous degree the non-metaphorical necessity to **“eat my flesh and drink my blood”** (John 6:54). The real presence of Jesus’ body and blood — he himself, truly, really, substantially — has been the Church’s treasure since Holy Thursday. Internal belief in the heart *and* the ritual act of eating and drinking the Eucharist, the Church has stubbornly insisted on *both*, not just one or the other.

This is not meant to criticize non-Catholic Christians who deeply trust and love Jesus, nor is it a triumphal elitist claim about the Catholic Mass. Rather it is a humble, trusting acknowledgement that God in Jesus comes to us in a way most proper to human beings: in our hearts and our bodies, faith *and* the Eucharist.

— *Father John Muir*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024 | 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME