



# 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.

December 8, 2024

## 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths."*

- Lk 3:4

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

### 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

**December:** For pilgrims of hope. We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

## Liturgy Schedule

Scripture readings can be found online at:  
[bible.usccb.org](http://bible.usccb.org)

### Monday, December 9-The Immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel  
 8:30am Mass..... Loretta Oakar  
 12:00pm Mass @ St. Mel  
 7:00pm Mass .....**Presider's Intention**

### Tuesday, December 10

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

### Wednesday, December 11

### Thursday, December 12-Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30am Mass..... Elda Stefanic

### Friday, December 13-St. Lucy

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

### Saturday, December 14-St. John of the Cross

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, December 15-Third Sunday of Advent

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel  
 8:30am Mass..... Dave Adams  
 10:00am Mass @ St. Mel  
 11:30am Mass ..... Joseph Tira  
 12:30pm Baptism

## 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	Shirlee Toth
James Coyne	Maisie Nowlin	Joe Wantz
Matthew Craven	Bill Retzer	Charlotte Whiting
Nicole Foerstner	Mary Stark	Lillian Zahara
Mary Frantz	Sr. Josette Obodzinski	Lew Zahara Jr.
Theresa Fridrich		Joseph Zavatchen Jr.

## Pray for the Deceased

**Patrick Patton**

May perpetual light shine upon them

## Other Intentions

**Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention**

Connie Surovec

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
<b>Saturday, December 14 @ 4:00pm</b>	Mary Price Bridget Blayney Marian Lundeen	Al Abel	Joseph Sowul Patrick Sowul Kathryn Sowul
<b>Sunday, December 15 @ 8:30am</b>	Kathy O'Malley Tim Schmidt Jessica Hanes	Michael Grathwol Mary Lewis	Michael Doyle Julia McNulty Grace Schmidt
<b>Sunday, December 15 @ 11:30am</b>	Lisa Ditzel Deirdre Mueller Shawn Wroten	Lisa Braun NOT FILLED	Lukas Horton Eoin Mueller Patrick Mueller

## Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection ( 11/24 Sunday).....	\$ 4,599.00
In-Pew Collection ( 12/1 Sunday).....	\$ 4,145.00
Faith Direct (past month total) .....	\$ 5,300.00
Thank you for your generosity!	

## Parish News

### The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday, December 9th. Holy Day of Obligation

Mass Schedule as follows:

Monday, December 9th 6:45am @ St. Mel

Monday, December 9th 8:30am @ St. Mark with School

Monday, December 9th 12:00pm @ St. Mel

Monday, December 9th 7:00pm @ St. Mark

### Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers

Please see sign-up sheets in the Sacristy for The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Christmas masses and The Solemnity of Mary.

### 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]

### St. Mark Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is up and adorned with ornaments of Christmas wishes from our school, parish and surrounding communities. Thank you to everyone who has taken a tag or has donated to this ministry! This is the last weekend to take a tag from the tree as all gifts are due back under the tree no later than Noon on Sunday, December 15.

Please remember to attach the tag to the outside of the wrapped gift, gift card 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.

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

### Music Ministry

JWallace@stmarkcleveland.com

There is much to celebrate about the music ministry at Marks and Mels!

There are over thirty students participating in Saint Mark Singers Youth & Children Choir this year. Enjoy their lovely singing every other week at the 11:30 mass (11/24, 12/8, 12/24).

**Mark your calendars: Sunday, December 15th, 3PM** the SMS Youth and Children Choir will be performing at the Lakewood Cluster Annual Advent Concert, at St. Luke Church. They'll sing with a chamber orchestra & neighbors from LCA. Bring your kids for cocoa & gingerbread house-building after the concert. The music is arranged by former Marks music director, Lawrence Wallace, and conducted by Julia Wallace. It is a truly lovely event.

**Christmas Choir: Call for singers!** Consider joining us as a chorister or cantor for this year's Christmas masses. Drop in our **rehearsals 12/3, 12/10 & 12/17; 7PM, St. Mark Choir loft.**

12/24 T Mark 4PM Children's Choir  
12/24 T Mel 6PM Adult Choir (Possible)  
12/25 W Mark 8:30AM Adult Choir

**Encouragement:** This fall, Fr. Adam has emphasized the importance of collective singing to the school children. Their response has been great! Consider attending a school mass so that you can witness the joy of congregational singing in action.



# NEWS AND EVENTS

## Reminders and Regular Events

### 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!

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### BSA Troop 293 Christmas Tree Sale

Freshly Cut Frasier-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!

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### 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](mailto:bciancibello@gmail.com)

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

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### 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](mailto:jimcocita@gmail.com)

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### 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](mailto:mkay@stmarkcleveland.com)

Upcoming Date: January 4 & 5

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### 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.

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## Regional and Diocesan News and Events

### Communal Penance Service

Our Lady of Angels Parish

There will be a communal penance service for Advent at Our Lady of Angels on Monday, December 16th at 7:00pm.

### General Parish Calendar

<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>December 7</b>	
9:00am-1:00 pm	CYO Basketball Games	FR/G
10:00 am	Funeral	CH
10:30am-7:00 pm	Christmas Tree Sale	PP
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	<b>Giving Tree</b>	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>December 8</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
9:45 am	Confirmation Service Mtg.	SH
11:30 am	Mass LS w/Children's Choir	
12:30 pm	Rite of Acceptance	CH
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>December 9</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
2:00 pm	Youth Choir Prac.	CH
7:00 pm	Mass	
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>December 10</b>	
8:00 am	Santa Shop	SH
2:30 pm	Children's Choir Prac.	CH
4:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Prac.	G
6:00 pm	Holy Name Mtg.	SH
7:00 pm	Choir Practice	CH
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>December 11</b>	
8:00 am	Santa Shop	SH
5:30 pm	Daisy Troop Mtg.	SH
<b>Thursday,</b>	<b>December 12</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
3:15 pm	Faculty Mtg.	SH
6:00 pm	Scout Pack #268 Den Mtg.	SH
6:30 pm	Advent Lectio Divina @ St. Mel	
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH/PP
7:00 pm	Pastoral Council	CC
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>December 13</b>	
1:00 pm	Christmas Show (PK-2,Band,Choir)G/CC	
3:00 pm	Breakfast w/Santa Set-up	SH
6:30 pm	Christmas Show (PK-2,Band,Choir)G/CC	
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>December 14</b>	
7:00 am	Breakfast w/Santa	SH
10:00 am	Family Faith Formation	CC
3:00 pm	Giving Tree Wrapping	CR
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:00 pm	Marker's 50+	SH
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>December 15</b>	
8:00 am	Giving Tree Wrapping	CR
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS	
6:00 pm	Youth Group	SH

**Note: (LS)=Livestreamed**

We just never miss a beat- quite literally!

For example, our Pre-K spent the last week learning about the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade! They read the story *Balloons Over Broadway* and then made their very own balloon puppets for their own parade. Their smiles speak for themselves. Our PreK rocks because of the hard work Mrs. Melvin-Marko and her aide, Mrs. Virginia Greuloch each brings into the classroom daily.

As part of the commitment we have made to support our Veterans, every student made a Christmas card for the Veterans Last Patrol organization as part of their Annual Holiday Salute. Their mission is to BEFRIEND, HONOR, and SUPPORT veterans on their Last Patrol. As I read through the children's cards, so many of them referred to these Veterans currently in hospice as heroes. We are blessed as a nation because of these heroes, and if a small smile came to their faces because of what the children wrote, we have done our job.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students spent time this past month studying air resistance. To put what they learned into practice, they were able to use the gym and classroom creating and flying paper planes to demonstrate how air resistance can counter gravity and Newton's Laws of Motion. Students bounced basketballs, tossed dodgeballs, glided on scooters, and jumped high and far to experience the principles of force and motion in action. Each station brought the laws of physics to life. Having fun while learning can lead to better learning outcomes and helps students stay engaged and motivated. Great job, Mrs. True!

Our Student Council sponsored a paid dress down day last month. In total, students donated \$805.00 which was sent to Catholic Charities for the relief fund which was established for those impacted by Hurricanes Milton and Helene. Catholic Charities has been providing relief with necessities such as water, food, and shelter while long-term recovery takes place. The leadership our Student Council has shown sets a great example for all of us!

Education is always challenging students to look at things from a **different perspective**. Do we choose to see beyond anything ever imagined before? Do we choose to see the possibilities awaiting? Do we choose to add a different perspective- a different possibility- which **transforms the ordinary** into something extraordinary. At our 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Awards Ceremony, I challenged our children with this thought: "Think about that plain empty piece of white paper Mrs. Hanna gives you to draw on in art. You have drawn some very beautiful masterpieces to fill that empty piece of white paper. So many parishioners comment about the beauty of your work and offer to buy your artwork! Today, we live in a world full of innovative ideas because people much like you, have chosen to look beyond what is possible, chasing their dreams and building them into today's realities." The lesson that I wanted all of them to remember is that **each one of us** is gifted with unique and special talents. It is our job to discover what those gifts are! Sometimes it takes a great deal of hard work to discover those talents, which is why we celebrate our students' achievements at an Awards Ceremony.

Congratulations to these students who received awards at our 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Awards Ceremony:

Third Honors: Hunter C., Ian M., Brendan D., Ryker L., Skylar T., Lajla K., Aine S., Morgan A., Cole C., Brendan M., Caroline R., Jacob S., Olivia T., Zora G., Ian R., Corwin S., Kendra A., Lukas B., Josephine G., McKenna P., Chloe W., Eleanor C., Emily D., Sebastian H., Declan H., Colton K., James M., Luke M., Zoe M., Francesca P., Maeve S., Scarlett T., Lochlan B., Joachim L., Joshua M., Noah P., and Emalyn W.

Second Honors: Antonio A., Saoirse B., Sofia C., Jackson G., Charlotte G., Olivia M., Julia M., Neva M., Elizabeth N., Mia O., Lucas S., Kathryn S., Evelyn B., Elizabeth C., Isabel D., Houston E., Emily K., Tadhg M., Patrick M., Liam P., Ella S., Dominic S., Anna T., Patrick B., Aleynah C., Josephine D., Calvin G., Ruby J., Emma R., Reese R., Joseph S., Carlina V., Gabriel W., Colette A., Ellie B., Fiona C., Liam F., William G., Nicholas H., Kiera L., Benjamin L., Killian M., Dawson W., Charlotte B., London D., Camden D., Clare G., Kerri G., Clara G., Connor M., Evelyn P., Logan W., Jack W., Charlotte B., Leonardo D., Oliver E., William G., Charlotte G., Alberto L., Anna M., Nauvia M., Brian N., Anna O., Gavin S., Gabriela S., Helen S., Seamus W., Thomas C., Michael D., Jax G., Adrianna M., Mia O., Olivia W., Samantha Y., Swayze E., Quinn K., Niall M., Cadhla M., Beatrice N., Harlowe O., Jackson P., Nolan S., and Arya S.

First Honors: Ava B., Madeline C., Grace D., Aidan G., Clare H., Leah T., Gianna A., Kathleen M., Julia S., Margaret S., Fiona S., Thomas C., Theodore F., Declan F., William L., Frances M., Emily P., Emma T., Cloey B., Benjamin B., Luca D., Connor H., Clare S., Brigid C., Evelina F., Grant G., Markeita J., Benjamin K., Nolan L., Rose M., Joseph P., Lilly R., Bridget R., Emily S., Luciana B., Noah K., Brynn S., Colin W., Emilia A., Adelaide C., Kate D., Lukas H., and Kellen L.

Principal's Award: Ryker L., Julia S., Charlie G. (x2), Kathryn S., Ellie B., William G., Thomas C., Aine S., Oliver E., Anna M., Clara G., Nolan L., Jackson P., Lynnette J., Jax G. (x2), Francesca P., Johnny B., Soeli W. (x2), Hannah H., Jace G., Maura K., Fionn J., Liam W., Amelia S., Josephina R., Ryan N., Ronan B., Elise M., Brooks F., Allie L., Sebastian G., Ava C., Giada G., Beau S., Ava N., Remington J., Elizabeth N., James R., Charlotte G., Christian W., Curtis P., Sebastian H., Marie K., James G., Helen S., Theodore G., and Emily S.

These are a few reasons from teachers about the students receiving Principal Awards:

- Kindhearted friend to all
- Showing great progress and improvement
- A strong example for his peers
- Outstanding contributions to class discussions connecting faith and content
- Showing an example of excellence
- Honesty and good work ethic
- Consistently works to the best of his ability
- Being a bright light in the classroom
- Being a strong leader
- Spreads joy with her upbeat, positive attitude
- Excellent teamwork and perseverance in STREAM

Congratulations to all our 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter award winners!

Mrs. Cocita



# PARISH GRADE SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

