



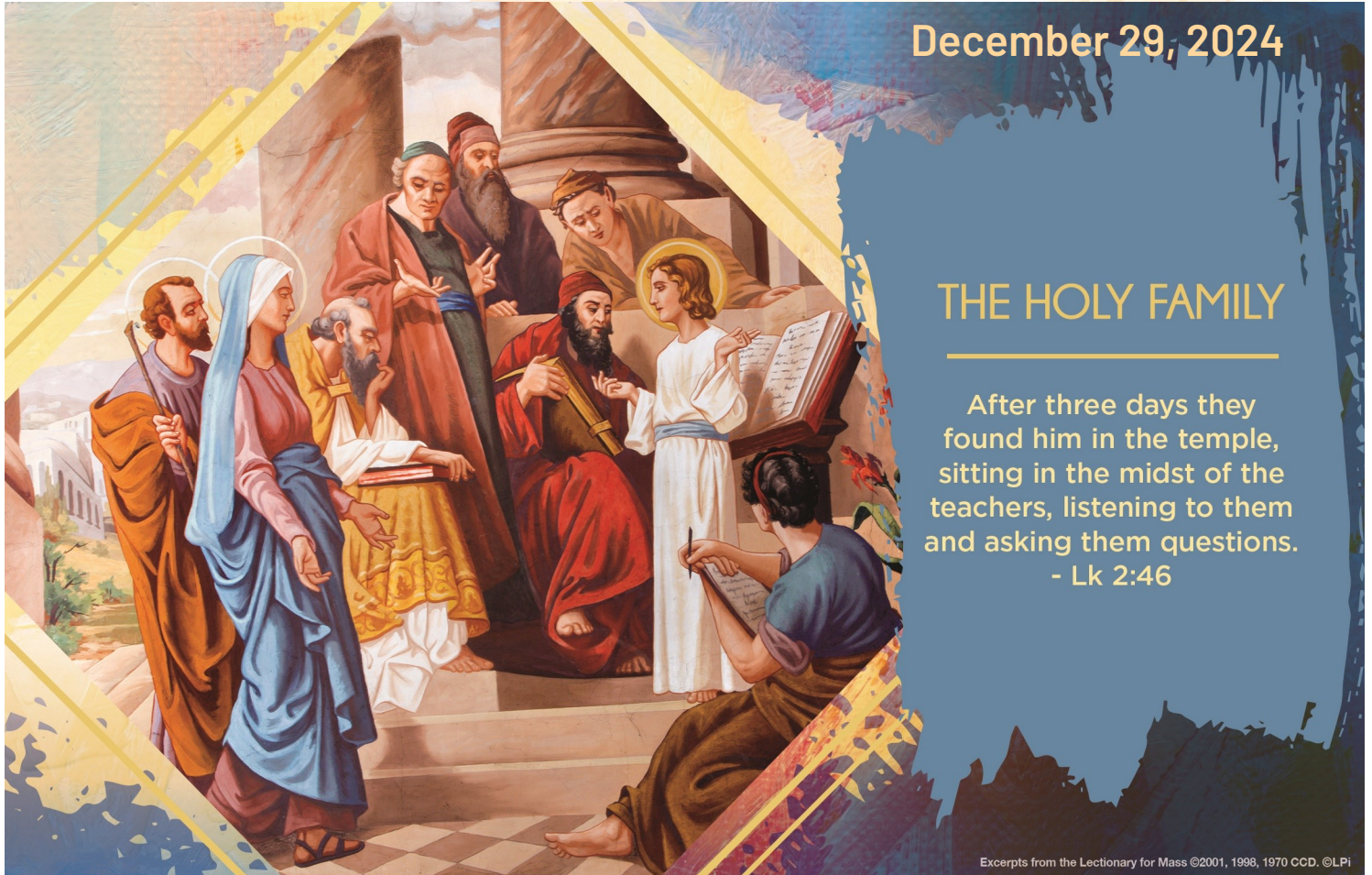
St. Mark Parish

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 29, 2024

THE HOLY FAMILY

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.
- Lk 2:46



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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

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.

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.

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday, December 30

8:30am Mass..... Tom Metcalf

Tuesday, December 31-Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

7:00pm Mass Lew Zahara

Wednesday, January 1-Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

12:00pm Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass..... Dolly Tinnirello

Thursday, January 2-Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

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

Friday, January 3

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Saturday, January 4-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm MassLiving Intention Mac Sunyak

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, January 5-The Epiphany of the Lord

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass..... For the Parishioners of St. Mark Parish and the Parishioners of St. Mel Parish

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am MassMaggie Willmitch

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

Carol Behnke, Wife of Jack Behnke


May perpetual light shine upon them

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Dolly Tinnirello

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, January 4 @ 4:00pm	Bridget Blayney Shirlee Toth NOT FILLED	Lou Toth	Declan Fitzpatrick Charlotte Greuloch Mary Kugler-Blayney
Sunday, January 5 @ 8:30am	Kathy O'Malley Mary Stamper Jessica Hanes	Michael Grathwol Monica Svetz	Fiona Stock Clare Stock Adlee Rave
Sunday, January 5 @ 11:30am	Cari Foster Michelle Biggins Rosanne Kelley	Eileen Andrews Eliza Kratt	Andrew Koch Jack Koch Emily Koch



Join us in prayer and worship during

The Christmas Season

Wednesday December 25

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Tue Dec 24	4:00pm	St. Mark
Tue Dec 24	6:00pm	St. Mel
Tue Dec 24	10:00pm	St. Mel
Wed Dec 25	8:30am	St. Mark
Wed Dec 25	10:00am	St. Mel

Sunday December 29

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Regular Sunday mass schedule

Wednesday January 1

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Tue Dec 31	7:00pm	St. Mark
Wed Jan 1	6:45am	St. Mel
Wed Jan 1	8:30am	St. Mark
Wed Jan 1	12:00pm	St. Mel

Sunday January 5

The Epiphany of the Lord

Regular Sunday mass schedule

Sunday January 12

The Baptism of the Lord

Regular Sunday mass schedule

Christmas is a ray of light for all, because it reveals to us God's love and makes us feel the presence of Jesus with everyone, especially with those who are suffering. Just for this reason Jesus willed to be born in poverty and in the abandonment of a cave and to be laid in a manger.

Saint Pope John Paul II, *Address to Young People*, 1978

Background: Peter Paul Rubens, *Adoration of the Magi*, 1633

NEWS AND EVENTS

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection 12/15\$ 2,497.00
Faith Direct (past month total)\$ 5,300.00
Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Wednesday, January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Please see Page 3 for the Holy Day mass schedule.

Family-Friendly Holy Hour

Friday, January 3 from 4-5 at St. Mark

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.

Birthing Baby Bottle Donations

January 11 & 12 through January 25 & 26

We are sponsoring a fundraiser for Birthing, a pregnancy crisis and counseling center. Baby bottles will be available to pick up at all Church entrances January 11 & 12. 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.

Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Altar Servers

Please notify in writing or by email of any dates that you are not available to serve for the next schedule, which will be from February 2025-May 2025. We need this information so that all Ministers are available to fulfill their scheduled Mass times. We appreciate your continued service. The deadline to submit dates is Monday, January 13th by 4:30pm to cbirchfield@stmarkcleveland.com. Please be mindful of holidays and vacations. Thank you for your help.

Angel Scholarship Fund

Catholic Community Foundation

Did you know the State of Ohio scholarship tax credit program makes a "no-net cost" donation possible that greatly benefits St. Mark School students and Catholic school students throughout the Diocese of Cleveland?

Donors to the Angel Scholarship Fund may be eligible for a 1:1 state tax credit against their Ohio tax liability (up to \$750 for individuals or \$1,500 for married couples filing jointly, when both spouses contribute \$750).

Our hope and prayer is that more of our families will participate in this wonderful scholarship tax credit program by making a "no-net cost" donation for the 2024 tax year, and that we will be able to secure funds for our Angel scholars in 2025/2026.

To Donate: www.CatholicCommunity.org/angel-contribution

Contact the ASF office for more information on how to "Be an Angel!" 216-902-1312/asfinfo@catholiccommunity.org

**The 2025 Calendars are
available at all Church
entrances**

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. 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

Happy New Year!

May God's Blessing Shower Upon You

The Holy Name Society extends its wishes to the St. Mark and St. Mel Communities to have a Blessed and Happy New Year. May your year be filled with Peace, Prosperity and Love.

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: January 12, February 9, March 16 and April 13

St. Mark Prayer Group

Relax, pray and grow in faith

The parishioner-led prayer group will meet on Thursday, January 2 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.

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: January 4 & 5

General Parish Calendar

Saturday,	December 28	
9:00 am	Basketball Tournament	
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:30 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
Sunday,	December 29	
8:30 am	Mass	
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS	
1:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
Monday,	December 30	
	School Closed	
8:30 am	Mass	
4:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Prac.	G
Tuesday,	December 31	
	School Closed	
	Parish Office Closed	
7:00 pm	Mass	
Wednesday,	January 1	
	School Closed	
	Parish Office Closed	
8:30 am	Mass	
Thursday,	January 2	
	School Closed	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
7:00 pm	Prayer Group	SS
Friday,	January 3	
	School Closed	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
Saturday,	January 4	
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:30 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
	Donut Social	
Sunday,	January 5	
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

Note: (LS)=Livestreamed

PARISH GRADE SCHOOL

"There is this girl who stole my heart and she calls me Daddy." In early December, we held our annual all-school father (or important person)-daughter dance called *The Snowflake Ball*. It was yet another magical moment in St. Mark's history, and it is still one of my most favorite events. It is hard to believe that we have done this for 12 years! Over 150 "couples" attended the ball. As was the case in previous years, I heard girls of all ages talking about their dresses being matched perfectly to their dads' ties. Being a shoe lover myself, it was adorable to see how many of the girls had shoes that matched their outfits as well!

But before the magic happened, several teachers and some After-care students helped to fluff trees and decorate. Before my eyes, our Gym was quickly transformed into a forest of white and green trees canopied with snowflakes overhead in the lobby. Before I realized it, I found myself anxiously awaiting the arrival of our very special couples. Many of the girls were wearing small wrist corsages and proudly wanted to show them to me at their arrival. As they waited in line to get their "Couple Photo" taken, I found myself thinking yet again that every one of the girls looked like a beautiful princess- not because she had a prince, but because she had her king with her. My favorite part of the evening was watching dads with their princesses dancing in their arms. As I watched, I was reminded of this quote: "A daughter is someone who fills your heart with love and your days with joy. She is someone who changes your life from the moment she becomes a part of it, and then makes you wonder how you ever lived without her." I did find some humor in the evening when at one point, the pile of shoes had grown because the girls found that they could "slide" better on the gym floor! The dads just did not have that same slide down! I am not so sure the girls returned home with the same pair of shoes they came in, but I can assure you that everyone left with a pair! One of our dads told me that he and his daughter had practiced slow dancing all week in preparation for the evening. These are the stories I love hearing! Our DJ, Carl, from *Just Playin' Around*, did another outstanding job in his role as DJ for the evening. He certainly kept things moving all night.

Our dads could not have been prouder of their little girls. "I look at you, and I do not see the passage of time. I see my little girl playing dress up, running through the yard, playing on a swing. You must understand that to me, you will always be my little girl, I may not be able to carry you in my arms anymore, but I will always carry you in my heart." (Author unknown) As I looked at some of the photos I took of our 8th Grade girls, I remember so vividly what they looked like as preschoolers attending their first dance. How grown up they are in such a relatively short amount of time!

As vacation neared, I found myself reflecting on so many different things. I thought about how important relationships are. Relationships are imperative because they have a direct effect on our emotional well-being. We struggle when we don't have that in our lives. We need someone to count on, someone we can trust, and someone we can turn to when faced with challenges, even if it is just to lend an ear.

I thought about the many blessings I have in my life. My husband has been my rock for almost 50 years now, and my family and friends are always so supportive of my endeavors. I thought about how wonderful it is to have three beautiful grandchildren, ages seven, three, and one. It is hard to believe that the baby has just turned one! New life is truly a miracle. It has been so fun to watch Rocco's siblings interact with him, loving him so affectionately, and then sometimes not so affectionately when he goes after one of their things! All of us need to take time to appreciate the important people in our lives and not take them for granted.

I thought about how loving our school children are. They share their affection all the time- it's one hug after another as I pass them in the hallways. I sometimes watch them in the cameras as they walk the hallways skipping! It is precious! I try skipping with them sometimes, and they just giggle!

And finally, I thought about the one common thread woven through all of this – my faith. It is a great time of year to think about and appreciate all that God has given us. Living my faith every day through the eyes of children is such a privilege for me. Having the church so close to my office, allows me time to stop in sometimes just to say a quick "Thank you." This is an even greater privilege. Working with children every day is a gift. They really are our hope for the future.

Mrs. Cocita



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." (1 Sm 1:27-28)

Psalm:

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)

Second Reading:

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. (1 Jn 3:2)

Gospel:

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers. (Lk 2:46)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

For three days, Mary and Joseph search and worry before finding Jesus in the temple. "Didn't you know where I was?" he says to them, in so many words. We, too, look for Jesus. We, too, know where to find him. Let us never forget and never despair.

Observances for the week of December 29, 2024

- Sunday:** The Holy Family
Tuesday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
Wednesday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace
Thursday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Friday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Saturday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord



Saint of the week

St. Gianna Beretta Molla (1922-1962) is the first woman doctor and working mom to be canonized. During her last pregnancy a uterine tumor was surgically removed so she could bring her daughter into the world, even at the expense of her own life.

Prayer for Family

Dear God,

Help my family to be holy, too!

Amen.

