



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.

February 2, 2025



THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

“Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel.”
- Lk 2:34

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

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, February 3

8:30am Mass.....Jim Flynn

Tuesday, February 4

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass.....Rita Szy

Wednesday, February 5-St. Agatha

Thursday, February 6-St. Paul Miki and Companions

8:30am Mass..... Charles & Margaret Bartley

Friday, February 7

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

4:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday, February 8

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm MassDave Adams

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, February 9-5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass..... Bernie & Celine Weir

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass Marty Gorman

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

Luann Vatruba, Sister of Mary Jane Miller

Elizabeth Koenig, Wife of Frank Koenig

May perpetual light shine upon them

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Dolly Tinnirello

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, February 8 @ 4:00pm	Shirlee Toth Erin Fitzpatrick Gloria Morin	Gary Morin	Declan Fitzpatrick Grant Glazier Mary Kugler-Blayney
Sunday, February 9 @ 8:30am	Bridget Blayney Mary Stamper Austin Tousley	Lisa Braun Michael Grathwol	Lillian Stock Clare Stock Fiona Stock
Sunday, February 9 @ 11:30am	Annamaria Masterson Michelle Biggins NOT FILLED	Eileen Andrews Cari Foster	Gianna Andolina Joseph Andolina Lukas Horton

NEWS AND EVENTS

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past Sunday)\$ 2,559.00
Faith Direct (past month total)\$ 5,041.00
Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

World Day For Consecrated Life

February 4 & 5

This Sunday we celebrate *World Day for Consecrated Life*. We recognize and give thanks for those who have consecrated their lives to God and the Church through the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. The consecrated life is one way that women and men live out their baptismal commitment as followers of Jesus. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day.

Eucharistic Adoration

Prayer and Thanksgiving before the Lord

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, February 6th 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.

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 this weekend at all Masses. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Reminders and Regular Events

Markers/Mels 50+

Valentine Celebration

Come join us on Saturday, February 8 after the 4pm Mass in the Social Hall.

The evening program has changed to hosting a speaker from Women in History. The historical person to be portrayed will be Mary Todd Lincoln.

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 Kay. Call or text 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.

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 - Sponsored by the Holy Name Society.

St. Mark Prayer Group

Relax, pray and grow in faith

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

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.

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!

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 _____

NEWS AND EVENTS

Regional and Diocesan News and Events

Collection for California Fire Victims

With the devastation of the Los Angeles County fires over the past weeks, Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) is assisting with humanitarian relief through the local agencies on the ground and will continue to help during the extensive recovery period to come.

Please continue to pray for the victims of the fires. All donations should be remitted directly to CCUSA, which will ensure that funds are quickly available for critical relief efforts, including shelter, food and other humanitarian aid for those most in needs.

The mailing address is: Catholic Charities USA, 2050 Bal-lenger Ave., #400, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Thank you for helping our brothers and sisters in the Los Angeles area who are in such great need of our prayers and support.

General Parish Calendar

Saturday,		
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
Monday,	February 3	
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,	February 4	
8:30 am	Mass w/1st Floor	
2:30 pm	Children's Choir Prac.	CH
7:30pm-9:00pm	Basketball Tourn.	G/FR
Wednesday,	February 5	
5:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
Thursday,	February 6	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
6:00 pm	Scout Pack #268 Den Mtg.	SH
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
7:00 pm	Prayer Group	SS
Friday,	February 7	
8:30am-10:30am	Grandparents Day A-L	
9:00 am	School Adoration w/grandparents	
12:30pm-2:00pm	Grandparents Day M-Z	
4:00 pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
5:00 pm	Family Social	SH
5:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
Saturday,	February 8	
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:30 pm	Basketball Tournament	
Sunday,	February 9	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Young Families	SH
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS	
4:00 pm	Living Stations Prac.	CH
5:00 pm	Super Bowl Party	SH

Note: (LS)=Livestreamed

General Audience of Pope Francis, on 22 January 2025

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. *Jesus Christ our Hope. I. The Infancy of Jesus. 2. "The Annunciation. Mary listens and is willing (cf. Lk 1:26-38)"*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today we will resume the catecheses of the Jubilee cycle on *Jesus Christ our hope*.

At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke shows the effects of the transforming power of the Word of God, which reaches not only the halls of the Temple, but also the poor dwelling of a young woman, Mary, who, betrothed to Joseph, still lives with her family.

After Jerusalem, the messenger of the great divine announcements, Gabriel, is sent to a village never mentioned in the Hebrew Bible: Nazareth. At that time, it was a small village in Galilee, in a remote area of Israel, a border area with the pagans and their contamination.

It is there that the angel brings a message of an entirely unheard-of form and content, so much so that Mary's heart is shaken, disturbed. In the place of the classic greeting, "Peace be with you", Gabriel addresses the Virgin with the invitation "*Hail!*", "*rejoice!*", an appeal dear to sacred history, because the prophets use it when they announce the coming of the Messiah (cf. *Zeph 3:14; Joel 2:21-23, Zec 9:9*). It is the invitation to the joy that the Lord addresses to His people when the exile ends and the Lord makes His living and active presence felt.

In addition, God calls Mary with a loving name unknown in biblical history: *kecharitoméne*, which means "filled with divine grace". Mary is full of divine grace. This name says that God's love has already for some time inhabited, and continues to dwell in Mary's heart. He says how "gracious" she is, and above all how God's grace has accomplished in her an inner engraving, making her His masterpiece: full of grace.

This loving moniker, which God gives only to Mary, is immediately accompanied by reassurance: "Do not be afraid!", "Do not be afraid!": the presence of the Lord always gives us this grace of not fearing, and so He says to Mary: "Do not be afraid!". God says "Do not be afraid" to Abraham, Isaac and Moses in history: "Do not be afraid!" (cf. *Gen 15:1; 26:24; Dt 31:8; Joshua 8:1*). And He says to us too: "Do not be afraid, keep going; do not be afraid!". "*Father, I am afraid of this*"; "*And what do you do when...*". "*I am sorry, Father, I will tell you the truth: I go to the fortune teller*". "*You go to the fortune teller!*". "*Ah yes, I have my palm read...*". Please, do not be afraid! Do not be afraid! Do not be afraid! This is good. "I am your travelling companion": and He says this to Mary. The "Almighty", the God of the "impossible" (*Lk 1:37*) is with Mary, together with and beside her; He is her companion, her principal ally, the eternal "I-with-you" (cf. *Gen 28:15; Ex 3:12; Jdg 6:12*).

Then Gabriel announces to the Virgin her mission, making echo in her heart numerous biblical passages referring to the kingship and messianic nature of the child that must be born of her, and that the child will be presented as the fulfillment of the ancient prophesies. The Word that comes from on High calls Mary to be the mother of the Messiah, that long-awaited Davidic Messiah. She is the mother of the Messiah. He will be king, but not in the human and carnal manner, but in the divine, spiritual manner. His name will be "*Jesus*", which means "*God saves*" (cf. *Lk 1:31; Mt 1:21*), reminding everyone forever that it is not man who saves, but only God. Jesus is the One who will fulfil these words of the prophet Isaiah: "It was not an envoy or a messenger, but His presence that saved them [with] His love and pity" (*Is 63:9*).

This motherhood shakes Mary to the core. And as the intelligent woman she is, thus capable of reading into events (cf. *Lk 2:19,51*), she tries to understand, to discern what is happening to her. Mary does not look outside, but within. And there, in the depths of her open and sensitive heart, she hears the invitation to trust in God, who has prepared for her a special "Pentecost". Just as at the beginning of creation (cf. *Gen 1:2*), God wants to nurture Mary with His Spirit, a power capable of opening what is closed without violating it, without encroaching on human freedom; He wants to envelop her in the "clouds" of His presence (cf. *1 Cor 10:1-2*) because the Son lives in her, and her in Him.

And Mary is illuminated with trust: she is "a lamp with many lights". Mary welcomes the Word in her own flesh and thus launches the greatest mission ever entrusted to a woman, to a human creature. She places herself in service: she is full of everything, not like a slave but as a collaborator of God the Father, full of dignity and authority in order to administer, as she will do at Cana, the gifts of divine treasure, so that many will be able to draw from it with both hands.

Sisters, brothers, let us learn from Mary, Mother of the Saviour and our Mother, to let ourselves open our ears to the divine Word and to welcome it and cherish it, so that it may transform our hearts into tabernacles of His presence, in hospitable homes where hope grows. Thank you!

2nd Quarter is now officially over! That is hard to believe! Last week, we hosted our Open House with a large number of people in attendance. Our PreK program is full and we are nearing full capacity in a number of other classrooms. Plans are already underway for next school year.

To "Mark" the end of 2nd Quarter, we held our Awards Assembly. I had two of our 8th Grade students share their reflective essays they wrote about their time here at St. Mark. Many of you heard other 8th Grade students share their thoughts at the Masses last weekend. These were written from the heart as they commented on specific teachers, including Mr. Adams, who had a special impact on their lives. There is a saying, "To teach is to change a life forever," which is so true.

As the Awards Assembly went on, I commented on many of the Science Fair projects which were on display in the Social Hall. The project display boards were beautiful and the topics most interesting! Here are a few of their chosen topics with a fun fact or discovery:

- **"How Do Leaves Change Color?"**- As days shorten and sunlight decreases, the green pigment chlorophyll breaks down within the leaf, revealing other pigments like yellows and oranges and reds that were always present
- **Ice Insulation**- Stanley held ice longer than Owala
- **Whopper vs. Cheeseburger Mold Time**- Mold needs air to grow. The cheeseburger started growing mold first.
- **Outstanding Stain Removers**- TIDE removed about 95% of the stain, Oxiclean 90%, Shout 85%, and Dawn 70%.
- **Temperature Effect on Fruits**- The fruits in the freezer had the least amount of mold because they were exposed to less mold spores.
- **Formation Sensation**- Rock candy is an example of crystallization, which happens when sugar molecules in a supersaturated solution come together.
- **Trash Talkin'**- The weight of three different trash bags were tested in three trials. Water bottles were used to measure the weight. The average weight was used to determine which bags were the strongest. Hefty bags were the strongest.
- **Colorful Growth**- Different lights affect plant growth
- **The War of Roses: Take 2**- When you go to someone's house for a party, you might not think of where the best place is to purchase flowers.
- **In the Zone**- Have you ever wondered how high your heart rate is while exercising?
- **Charred**- Which type of wood burns the fastest- oak, birch, or pine?
- **Bounce That Ball**- Although mass plays a huge role in the bounce of a ball, elasticity of the material also does. Air inside the ball and the material which makes the ball compress create an opposite reaction.
- **Bright Smiles**- Which toothpaste removes the stains the best? Tom's and Sensodyne removed stains better than Colgate.

Congratulations to all of our Science Fair participants. An impressive 40 students in Gr. 1-4 participated voluntarily along with our students in Gr. 6 and 8. Special thanks to Miss Meal, Mrs. Kehl, Miss Wazevich, and Mrs. Heintel for preparing our students so well. Additional thanks to our judges for giving up time in their days to be here to judge our older students. Thank you, Case Western Reserve University for providing funds to assist our children with materials needed to produce their experiments.

As the Awards Ceremony continued, the following students were awarded Principal Awards:

Michelle T.- Helps friends and shows kindness to all
Phillip P.- Great classroom helper and enthusiastic learner
William T.- Significant growth and making everyone's day brighter!
Jack C.- Lighting up each room he walks into.
Annie K.- Always kind and helpful
Lenny S.- Being a kind and compassionate friend
Lorelei K.- Always choosing to do what is right
Mallorie W.- All of her work shows thought and effort
Nolan S.- Always works hard and gives 100% effort
Riley K.- Always working hard and being helpful
Ada P.- Setting a positive example to others
Brendan A.- Love for learning and caring for others
Evelyn W.- Care for our class
Marie K.- Brings a smile to school every morning and works hard
Sullivan P.- Works hard and is a friend to classmates
Samira S.- Always putting in 100% effort
Daniel H.- Trying his best every day
James E.- Good citizenship, kindness, and positive attitude
Nora K.- Academic achievement and positive attitude
Noah P.- Strong work ethic and effort
Cadhla M.- Positive attitude and help
Adrianna M.- Setting a positive example and genuine interest
Noah K.- Being conscientious and contributing to classroom discussions
Emily S.- Great role model and kind friend
Gavin S.- Leader and positive influence
Brigid C.- Prepared and friend to all
Markeita J.- Responsible and respectful
Fiona C.- Working hard independently
Killian M.- Showing significant growth
Tavia J.- Exceptional dedication and hard work
Joseph S.- Quietly makes a difference and considerate to classmates
Ava B.- Positive attitude and desire to do her best
Jack G.- Strong work ethic and kindness
Skylar T.- Outstanding dedication to personal growth
Evelyn B.- Kindness, empathy, and responsibility
Finn M.- Being Respectful and kind
Colin W.- Being respectful and kind
Eliza Y.- Always on task and helping at the end of class
Samira S.- Always attempting new things
Kelly P.- Excellent teamwork and consideration of others
Apolo P.- Brings creativity and enthusiasm to STREAM
Markeita J.- Exceptional effort
Angelo M.- Exceptional work
Alaina L.- Demonstrates respect and outstanding effort in Spanish class
James E.- Outstanding achievement and politeness
Dawson W.- Works hard and has a great attitude
Amara J.- Positive attitude
Isabel D.- Creative style in art and tenacity
Mia O.- Growth and creativity

Congratulations to all our award winners!

Mrs. Cocita