



# 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.



October 6, 2024

## 27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He said to them in reply,  
"What did Moses command you?"  
They replied, "Moses permitted a  
husband to write a bill of divorce  
and dismiss her." But Jesus told  
them, "Because of the hardness  
of your hearts he wrote you this  
commandment. But from the  
beginning of creation, God  
made them male and female."

- Mk 10:3-6

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

**October:** For a shared mission. We pray that the church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

## Liturgy Schedule

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

### Monday, October 7

8:30am Mass .....Michael Pelleschi

### Tuesday, October 8

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass ..... Roger Libbey

### Wednesday, October 9

### Thursday, October 10

### Friday, October 11

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

### Saturday, October 12

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass ..... Dolly Tinnirello

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

### Sunday, October 13-28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass .....Joseph Spicuzza

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass ..... Joseph Tira

## 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	Catherine Kutsick	George Surovec
Jack Behnke	Pat McAndrew	Herb Tippie
Katy Brent	Jim McIlwee	Georgieann Treible
Henry Buehner	Mary Miller	Joe Wantz
James Coyne	Maisie Nowlin	Charlotte Whiting
Matthew Craven	Bill Retzer	Lillian Zahara
Margaret Fadrowski	Mary Stark	Lew Zahara Jr.
Nicole Foerstner	Sr. Josette Obodzinski	Joseph Zavatchen Jr.
Mary Frantz		
Theresa Fridrich		

## Other Intentions

### Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Andy Helbig

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
<b>Saturday, October 12 @ 4:00pm</b>	Rosanne Kelley Mary Price NOT FILLED	Paul Gambon	William Lentz Nolan Lentz Kellen Lentz
<b>Sunday, October 13 @ 8:30am</b>	Mary Stamper Kathy O'Malley NOT FILLED	Monica Svetz NOT FILLED	Rose Murray Kathleen Murray Adlee Rave
<b>Sunday, October 13 @ 11:30am</b>	Eileen Andrews Shawn Wroten NOT FILLED	Cari Foster Deborah Roscoe	Ian McCoy Jackson Wroten Cormac Wroten

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past Sunday).....\$ 2,388.00
Faith Direct (past month total) .....\$ 5,038.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

Friends,

The papal intention this past month was "for the cry of the Earth, that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live."

I'm writing this only a few days after Hurricane Helene made landfall. I suspect we don't know the full scope of what damage it caused, as we can all remember how hard it was to communicate here after the tornados with no power and limited cell service. Right now at least 100 are dead, hundreds are missing, and no doubt repairs to homes and infrastructure will take a long time. Natural disasters cause human suffering; how human activity affects the climate and worsens those disasters therefore has amoral dimension. If you haven't considered it that way before, rereading Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical Laudato Si' might be worth your time and give you some substance to bring to the conversation of prayer.

The challenge for me in this prayer was the challenge for all (which obviously includes "me") to personally care for the world. What I wrestled with is that the problem seems so large and my life seems so small. I suppose I can do things to live a simpler life, I can and do include an environmental organization in my personal charitable giving, I can keep learning and understanding what the scientists are saying...but is it enough?

Sometimes prayer should challenge us. This is a good thing.

This month of October the papal intention will be "for a shared mission, that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

In Christ

Handwritten signature of Fr. Adam

Fr. Adam

Necrology Book

Book of the Deceased

The Necrology Book (or the Book of the Deceased) will be placed in the Church. Please feel free to add the names of your loved ones who have died. The Book will be left out for the entire month of October. We will pray for those who have died at the All Souls Mass on Saturday, November 2nd at 10am. The Necrology Book will remain in the Sanctuary during the month of November.



Share God's Love

St. Mark Faith Build

Second Collection - All Masses - October 19-20

A second collection to benefit the St. Mark/St. Mel Faith Build will be taken at all masses the weekend of October 19-20.

Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity President/CEO and St. Mark Alumnus John Litten will speak briefly about the faith Build at all masses.

Checks may be made payable to St. Mark Church; please add "2024 Faith Build" on the note line.

If you won't be present at the masses but wish to contribute, you may drop off donations at the Parish Office.

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: October 20,

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

Please join us October 12th & 13th after all masses. Sponsored by the Youth Group.

# NEWS AND EVENTS

## Reminders and Regular Events

### St. Mark Youth Group

October Schedule

**Sunday, October 13 - 11:30am-1:00pm**

Mass Meetup and Donut Social @ St. Mark Church

**Friday, October 18 - 6:00pm-9:00pm**

Fall Festival Trip @ Mapleside Farms

**Sunday, October 27 - 6:30pm-8:00pm**

Sunday Night Meeting @ Community Center

**Sunday, November 3 - 11:30am-3pm**

Mass Meetup & Donut Social @ St. Mark Church

Service Event @ Garfield Elementary Garden

Open to all 9th-12th Grade students! Contact Michael Kay at [mkay@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:mkay@stmarkcleveland.com) or 216-904-4774 with any questions and to RSVP.

### 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)

### HNS FOOTBALL CRAZR FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by the Cleveland Diocese-HNS

Annual Cleveland Diocese - HNS Fundraiser. One ticket donation is \$10.00 for ten weeks of football games. There are three different teams each week printed on the ticket. Ten chances to win each week. Top eight highest scores win anywhere from \$150 to \$30. Two lowest scores win \$40 to \$30. The ten weeks of games are November 3rd - January 5th.

Contact Jim Cocita at [jimcocita@gmail.com](mailto:jimcocita@gmail.com) for more information and tickets.

### 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.



NCCL

**Parents & Families**  
AT THE CENTER OF FAITH FORMATION

As part of an initiative led by NCCL, we are conducting a survey of all parents in the parish. The survey results will be used to create a parish plan for supporting parents of children and young people, and for engaging the whole family in faith formation - from birth through high school graduation. The survey will only take 8-10 minutes to complete and is anonymous. The survey will close October 15, so please submit your answers before then. We appreciate your time and contribution!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ClevelandParentSurvey>



### A Prayer for Life to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

**O Jesus, you came that we might have life-and have it in abundance. Together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you form us in our mothers' wombs and call us to love you for all eternity.**

**In your most precious gift of human life is attacked, draw us ever closer to your Real Presence in the Eucharist. Dispel the darkness of the culture of death, for you are the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

**By the power of your Eucharistic Presence, help us to defend the life of every human person at every stage. Transform our hearts to protect and cherish all whose lives are most vulnerable.**

**For you are God, forever and ever, Amen.**

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**Regional and Diocesan News and Events**

**Men's Sock & Underwear Drive**

Sponsored by the Cleveland Diocesan Holy Name Society

This years recipient of the proceeds of the drive will be the Cleveland Police Foundation and will be distributed to various charities

When: October 5th-13th

What: New men's socks, underwear in any size for the homeless and the needy. Or if you prefer, cash donations to be used to purchase socks and underwear.

Collection boxes can be found at all Church entrances.

See flyers on the bulletins boards!

**Diocese of Cleveland CYO Office**

CYO Basketball

The Diocese of Cleveland CYO are seeking high school, college students and adults interested in officiating.

Training will be provided. Officials are paid a fee to officiate. There will be mandatory training sessions on October 13, 20, 27 & November 3, 10 & 17 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm at Walsh Jesuit Hight School. Equipment is provided at no cost. Whistle, lanyard & referee shirt.

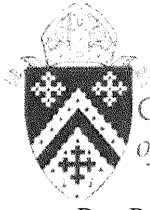
If you are interested please contact: Tim Shovlin: at

tshovlin@neo.rr.com or Nick Crème: gcreme@neo.rr.com

**General Parish Calendar**

<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>October 5</b>	
10:00am-2:00 pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>October 6</b>	
8:30 am	Mass w/HNS Corporate Communion	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
9:45 am	Confirmation Service Mtg.	SH
11:30 am	Mass LS	
1:30pm-6:30 pm	CYO Volleyball Game	G/FR
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>October 7</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
5:00 pm	Athletic Assoc. Mtg.	SH
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>October 8</b>	
8:30 am	Mass w/2nd Floor	
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
4:30 pm	RCIC	CC
6:00 pm	Holy Name Mtg.	SH/PP
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>October 9</b>	
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
4:00 pm	RCIA	CC
5:30 pm	Daisy Troop Mtg.	SH
<b>Thursday,</b>	<b>October 10</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
6:00 pm	Pack #268 Den Mtg.	SH
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>October 11</b>	
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>October 12</b>	
10:00am-2:00 pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	<i>Donut Social all Masses</i>	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>October 13</b>	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
9:45 am	Confirmation Service Mtg.	SH
11:30 am	Mass LS w/Youth Group	
1:30pm-6:30 pm	CYO Volleyball Game	G/FR

**Note: (LS)=Livestreamed**



Catholic Diocese  
of Cleveland

Office of the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the Catholic Tradition of responsible citizenship, we are morally obligated to participate in political life and to make choices based on a properly formed conscience, voting for the candidates who best support the moral teachings of our Catholic faith. As you prepare to cast your ballot for the upcoming November election, I ask that you pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and educate yourself on the candidates' positions on the critical issues that will affect us all, both now and in the future.

Before we are members of any political party, we must be faithful followers of Jesus, who told us "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 3:35). So, it is incumbent on us who are believers to live our Catholic faith outside the walls of our Churches, putting Christ at the center of our public lives as citizens. Our consciences must be well informed through prayer and fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Church. Then we must vote our consciences, which I urge you to do, so that your Catholic faith will impact the moral and social fabric of our society.

In the *Introductory Note to Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, the document issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to help guide us on our political responsibilities, we bishops again said that the defense of unborn life remains our pre-eminent priority because abortion is a direct attack on the most vulnerable among us. We also recognize that other grave threats to the life and dignity of the human person include euthanasia, gun violence, terrorism, the death penalty, human trafficking, the redefinition of marriage and gender, threats to religious freedom, lack of justice for the poor, the suffering of migrants and refugees, racism, and the lack of care for our common home. All these issues must be considered when voting for the person who will best represent us, placing the interests of the most vulnerable first among others.

At a time when our nation is so polarized by partisanship and ideology, and the issues are so serious and complex, it is of the utmost importance that we persevere in hope, remembering the words found in the Book of Micah, who said, "You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do justice and love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

For those looking for more information on faithful citizenship, both the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Conference of Ohio (which outlines topics specific to our state) offer extensive materials and resources to provide guidance. Please join me in praying for all those who are running for office in the upcoming election. May the Lord inspire and guide them to lift up the dignity of all persons they will serve if chosen by the electorate. May the Lord guide us in these important decisions at this critical time in our history, heal our divisions, and unite us one nation, under God.

May God bless you and those you love.

Your brother in Christ,

Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, JCL  
Bishop of Cleveland

## PARISH GRADE SCHOOL

As promised, here is a little more history about St. Mark Parish.....

In 1949, Sister Bernadette Sheridan became the first principal of St. Mark School. She arrived in Cleveland along with three other Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters from Monroe, Michigan, to start St. Mark School. St. Mark School opened its doors for 220 students. The first floor church opened in August 1949 as well. The first Mass was said in the new building on August 22, 1949. The Library opened with over 500 donated books and \$112 worth of new books. A committee headed by parishioners Mrs. Paul Shaughnessey and Mrs. John Cachat had begun collecting books for a library, and by the time the school opened, they had a garage full of children's books, all catalogued and ready to transport to the new Library at St. Mark School. On June 11, 1950, St. Mark School held its first 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation with 6 boys and 16 girls.

As I wrote the opening paragraph, I found myself thinking about the many hands which over the years have transformed St. Mark School into what it is today. St. Mark has always been "marked" by its many volunteers, who from its very first year have willingly rolled up their sleeves to make this such a strong and active parish and school community. The foresight and conviction that people like Mrs. Shaughnessey and Mrs. Cachat had back 75 years ago is as tenacious as ever today. We are blessed in so many ways.

Fast forward to today's schools, the world of technology has definitely impacted classrooms today. Blackboards have virtually been replaced by interactive Activpanels in our school. In speaking with one of our teachers, she had remarked how transformational it was to have a 'whiteboard' in her classroom 15 short years ago! That is old news! Chromebooks have replaced paper in many of our classrooms, drones, 3D printers, laser cutters, and programmable robots are very much a part of the classroom today. Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence are common terms today. Classrooms certainly look different, but the thirst to learn is as strong today as it was back in 1949.

Keep sending in those memories... I love reading your stories...

Our children hear this message every single day, "Shine Bright." It is the theme the teachers chose for this school year. As a school we have challenged our children to look for the smallest of opportunities- little ways that they can shine every single day. I am reminded of the words Bishop Edward Malesic spoke at his installation Mass when he addressed the youth of the diocese:

"I want to give some advice to our young people now: Listen to your heart, the place where God speaks to you. Listen carefully, because he is calling each of you by name. God has a plan for you. You are on this planet for a reason. Do not stop searching until you find God's will for you. He is calling you to a life of holiness, to discipleship, to service, and to do something special for him. Follow Jesus. He will show you the way."

God certainly has a plan for every one of us, so to assist our parents as the first teachers of their children, one of our many jobs at school is to show our children how to be disciples, how to live lives of holiness, and how satisfying it is to shine bright. I feel as if we are blessed every day by some act of kindness, which ultimately allows others to shine bright. Whether it is an encouraging email, cookies for the faculty, extra supplies, medals and rosaries for the children- this only begins the examples. Mr. Al Cool and Ms. Lisa Smith had offices close this past year. In both cases, they donated many office supplies, furniture, and equipment to our school- much needed supplies which the teachers use throughout the school year. A couple my husband and I sit next to at Guardians games is always giving me Guardians merchandise to share with the students once they found out what I did. In each one of these cases, they are living a life of discipleship because they care for others. What a great example of how easy it is to "Shine Bright!"

St. Therese of Lisieux was known for her *Little Way leading to sainthood*. "Do small things with a great love," is one of her most well-known quotes and one of my favorites. It is the little acts of kindness which can be the most transformational in other people's lives.

As I remind our children, we live in a world where we can be anything we want to be. God has a plan for every one of us- we need to listen and follow our Lord to discover what that plan is. This is only one of the many things I absolutely love about being principal. What better career is there than the one I have because I get to see kindness, discipleship, and holiness shine bright every single day.

Have a great week!  
Mrs. Cocita

