



# 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.

January 5, 2025

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed  
at seeing the star.  
- Mt 2:10



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

**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](http://bible.usccb.org)

### Monday, January 6

8:30am Mass.....Neal Novak

### Tuesday, January 7

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass..... Tom Bellezza

### Wednesday, January 8

### Thursday, January 9

8:30am Mass..... Marion Gallagher

10:00am Funeral

### Friday, January 10

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

### Saturday, January 11

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass ..... Ed Toth

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

### Sunday, January 12-The Baptism of the Lord

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass.....Josephine Fiske

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass .....Sabian Berdin

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

## Other Intentions

### Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Timothy Geiger

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
<b>Saturday, January 11 @ 4:00pm</b>	Bridget Blayney Gloria Morin NOT FILLED	Paul Gambon	William Lentz Nolan Lentz Kellen Lentz
<b>Sunday, January 12 @ 8:30am</b>	Laura Skonce Austin Tousley Tim Schmidt	Lisa Braun Agnes Butler	Luke Meisterics Grace Schmidt Colin Weaver
<b>Sunday, January 12 @ 11:30am</b>	Annamaria Masterson Deirdre Mueller NOT FILLED	Mary Lewis NOT FILLED	Eoin Mueller Patrick Mueller Bill Sonby

# NEWS AND EVENTS

## Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection December 22 .....\$ 6,366.00  
Faith Direct (past month total) .....\$ 5,300.00  
Thank you for your generosity!

## Parish News

Friends,

The papal intention this past month was “for pilgrims of hope, 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.”

This intention ties into the start of the Church’s 2025 jubilee year, with the same theme of being pilgrims of hope. I plan to introduce this more in the next few months as the new year begins, but if you are eager the Diocese has some information at [“dioceseofcleveland.org/pilgrims-of-hope”](http://dioceseofcleveland.org/pilgrims-of-hope). One thing that will be encouraged is making short but intentional pilgrimages here within the diocese to specific places that have been designated, such as the cathedral.

My reflections, though, have been more on the idea of hope than on the idea of pilgrimage. Hope is a precious thing: taking it from someone can do great harm and giving it can be a great blessing. I feel like the world is more adept at taking hope, thinking about the experiences of war and poverty that humanity has found no solution to ending.

All the more precious, then, is the moments that our faith and our daily life can make agents of hope to others. This jubilee year can be a special time to keep that in our minds, to think about the impact that our kindness and charity can have on others and help them take more steps on this pilgrim journey of faith.

This month of January the papal intention will be “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.”

In Christ,

Fr. Adam

## 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](mailto:cbirchfield@stmarkcleveland.com). Please be mindful of holidays and vacations. Thank you for your help.

## Birthright Baby Bottle Donations

January 11 & 12 through January 25 & 26

We are sponsoring a fundraiser for Birthright, 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.

**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

### 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

### 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

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### General Parish Calendar

<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>January 4</b>	
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:30 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
	<b>Donut Social</b>	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>January 5</b>	
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
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>January 6</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
4:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Prac.	G
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>January 7</b>	
8:30 am	Mass w/All School	
4:00 pm	Basketball Practice	G
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>January 8</b>	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
5:30 pm	Daisy Troop Mtg.	SH
<b>Thursday,</b>	<b>January 9</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
10:00 am	Funeral	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
6:00 pm	Pack #268 Den Mtg.	SH
7:00 pm	Eucharist Parent/Child Mtg.	CH
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>January 10</b>	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>January 11</b>	
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:30 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
	<b>Baby Bottle Pick-up</b>	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>January 12</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
9:30 am	Young Families	SH
11:30 am	Mass LS	
1:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR

**Note: (LS)=Livestreamed**

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

### Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

### Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 3:5-6)

### Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

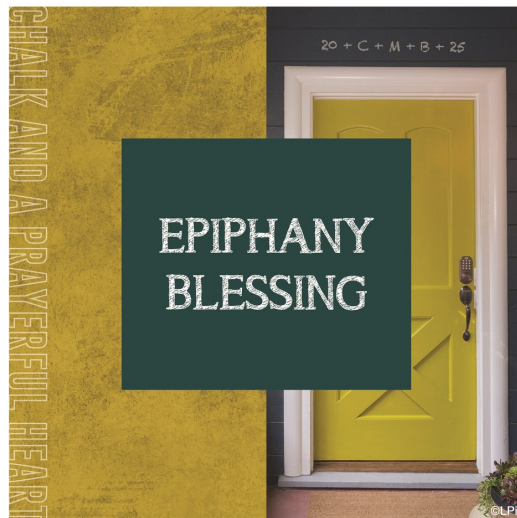
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The news of the Messiah unsettled Herod. We see his anxiety clearly in today's Gospel. This is what Christ has come to do, after all. He has come to shake things up. Are we ready to be unsettled?

## Observances for the week of January 5, 2025

- Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord  
**Monday:** St. André Bessette, Religious  
**Tuesday:** St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest  
**Wednesday:**  
**Thursday:**  
**Friday:**  
**Saturday:**  
**Next Sunday:** The Baptism of the Lord



## Devotions, Explained!

The Epiphany household blessing is an ancient practice in the Church. This tradition is a beautiful way to observe the coming of the magi while invoking God's blessing on your home and all who enter it. All that is needed is chalk and a prayerful heart!

## Prayer of Rejoicing

Fill our hearts, Lord, with rejoicing as we seek and discover You. Your ways are full of wonder, glory, surprise, and joy.

Amen.

# PARISH GRADE SCHOOL

As part of our Accreditation with the Ohio Department of Education, we have focused on two goals over these past four years. Our Catholicity Goal reads, "Students will grow in understanding and practice of the Catholic Social Justice teaching of Call to Family, Community, and Participation." Over these years, both our faculty and children have participated in professional development with a special focus this year on Habitat for Humanity to raise awareness on ways we can participate to help others as well as **why** we should participate. Prayer Partner activities have occurred which reflect service learning, and to assure that students understand the "why", each student has completed reflections in their Service Journals. One of the books that will be shared in our classrooms is entitled, *Beatrice's Goat*. This children's story book is based on the true account of Beatrice Biira, an impoverished Ugandan girl whose life is transformed by the gift of a goat from the nonprofit world hunger organization Heifer International. Lessons on topics of how we take simple things in life like clean water and plumbing will follow. Plans for the rest of the year include hosting a speaker from Fair Trade as well as hosting Dr. David Clifford, a parishioner, who has made many trips to Honduras to assist in bringing a better quality of life to our neighbors in need. In the spring, we have plans on sponsoring a walk-a-thon tied into earlier lessons on the need for clean water in some parts of our world and the lessons learned from *Beatrice's Goat*. I will share some of our students' reflections with you once we have completed this project.

Just prior to Christmas break, we challenged our students to a silent sustained reading activity with follow-up summaries of what they read in a reading log. Students earned "dollars" through this reading project which purchased items for a specific room in the Habitat for Humanity new house build locally. (St. Mark Parish helps to sponsor a house build every year, and we have a very dedicated team of parishioners who actually assist in the build.) In our schoolwide project, money was generously donated to each grade by our Parent Club, and each grade decided on the items they wanted to purchase for their assigned room with the money they "earned" by their reading and reflections. Not only were students engaged in reading, but they were also doing it for a cause that they took a personal interest in. Here is the breakdown of room assignments where the students have input into the items needed:

- PreK & Kindergarten- Bedroom
- Gr. 1 & 5- Kitchen
- Gr. 2 & 6- Bathroom
- Gr. 3 & 7- Garage
- Gr. 4 & 8- Cleaning supplies

I look forward with great anticipation to hearing some of the students' journal entries and viewing the final items each grade decided to purchase for their assigned room. In the meantime, one of the many lessons for all of us to remember is how often we take the simple things in life for granted until we have to go without. I think back to the loss of power many of us experienced back in August as well as the destruction to property. Adversity does bring people together as witnessed by the many offers of help people within our neighborhood offered to one another. St. Mark, as well as our greater West Park community, is blessed in so many ways.

Before I close out my article, I hope you enjoy some of the final photos of our school Christmas celebrations! We had the Polar Express, great music, nutcrackers galore, and LOTS of sugar! May all of you have a sweet 2025!  
Mrs. Cocita



## General Audience of Pope Francis, on 18 December 2024

Cycle of Catechesis - Jubilee 2025. *Jesus Christ our Hope. I. The Infancy of Jesus. 1. Genealogy of Jesus (Mt 1,1-17). The entry of the Son of God in history.*

*Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!*

Today we will begin the cycle of catechesis that will continue throughout the Jubilee Year. The theme is “Jesus Christ our Hope”: for He is the aim of our pilgrimage, and He Himself is the way, the path to follow.

The first part will look at the childhood of Jesus, which is narrated to us by the Evangelists Matthew and Luke (cf. *Mt* 1-2; *Lk* 1-2). The Infancy Gospels recount Jesus’ virginal conception and His birth from Mary’s womb; they recall the messianic prophecies fulfilled in Him and speak of the legal paternity of Joseph, who grafted the Son of God onto the “trunk” of the Davidic dynasty. We are presented with an infant, child and adolescent Jesus, submissive to his parents and, at the same time, aware that He is wholly devoted to the Father and His Kingdom. The difference between the two Evangelists is that while Luke recounts the events through Mary’s eyes, Matthew does so through Joseph’s, insisting on this unprecedented fatherhood.

Matthew begins His Gospel and the entire New Testament canon with the ‘genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham’ (*Mt* 1:1).

It is a list of names already present in the Hebrew Scriptures, to show the truth of history and the truth of human life. In fact, “the Lord’s genealogy consists of the true story that includes a number of figures who are problematic to say the least, and the sin of King David is also emphasized (cf. *Mt* 1:6). Yet, everything culminates with Mary and Christ (cf. *Mt* 1:16)” (*Letter on the Renewal of the Study of Church History*, 21 November 2024). Then, there appears the truth of human life that passes from one generation to the next, bringing three things: a name that encompasses a unique identity and mission; belonging to a family and a people; and finally, the adherence of faith to the God of Israel.

Genealogy is a literary genre, that is, a form suitable for conveying a very important message: no one gives life to himself, but receives it as a gift from others. In this case, the chosen people, and those who inherit the legacy of faith from their forefathers, in passing on life to their children, also convey to them the faith in God.

Unlike the genealogies of the Old Testament, however, where only male names appear – because in Israel it is the father who imposes the name on his son – in Matthew’s list of Jesus’ ancestors, women also appear. We find five of them: Tamar, the daughter-in-law of Judah who, left a widow, pretends to be a prostitute in order to ensure an offspring for her husband (cf. *Gen* 38); Racab, the prostitute of Jericho who allows the Jewish explorers to enter the promised land and conquer it (cf. *Jas* 2); Ruth, the Moabite who,

in the book of the same name, remains faithful to her mother-in-law, takes care of her and will become King David’s great-grandmother; Bathsheba, with whom David commits adultery and, after having her husband killed, begets Solomon (cf. *2 Sam* 11); and finally Mary of Nazareth, wife of Joseph, of the house of David: from her the Messiah, Jesus, is born.

The first four women have in common not the fact that they are sinners, as is sometimes said, but the fact that they are *foreign* to the people of Israel. What Matthew brings out is that, as **Benedict XVI** has written, “through them the world of the Gentiles enters ... into Jesus’ genealogy - his mission to Jews and Gentiles becomes visible” (*The Infancy Narratives*, Milan-Vatican City 2012, 15).

While the four previous women are mentioned alongside the man who was born of them or the one who begot him, Mary, on the other hand, acquires particular prominence: she marks a new beginning. She herself is a new beginning, because in her story it is no longer the human creature who is the protagonist of generation, but God Himself. This is clearly seen from the verb “was born”: “Jacob [was] the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born” (*Mt* 1:16). Jesus is the son of David, grafted by Joseph into that dynasty and destined to be the Messiah of Israel, but He is also the son of Abraham and of foreign women, destined therefore to be the “*Light of the Gentiles*” (cf. *Lk* 2:32) and the “*Saviour of the world*” (*Jn* 4:42).

The Son of God, consecrated to the Father with the mission of revealing His face (cf. *Jn* 1:18; *Jn* 14:9), enters the world like all children of man, so much so that in Nazareth He will be called “son of Joseph” (*Jn* 6:42) or “son of the carpenter” (*Mt* 13:55). True God and true man.

*Brothers and sisters, let us awaken in ourselves the grateful memory of our ancestors. And above all, let us give thanks to God, who, through Mother Church, has generated us to eternal life, the life of Jesus, our hope.*