



# St. Mark Catholic Church

## Mission Statement

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 parishioners to participate in the shared responsibility of worship, prayer, study and service.



August 25, 2024

## 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." - Jn 6:67-69

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### PASTORAL STAFF

**Rev. Adam Zajac**

Pastor

**Mrs. Karen Cocita**

Principal

**Mrs. Meaghan McCarthy-Silver**

Pastoral Minister

**Mrs. Julia Wallace**

Director of Music Ministry

**Mr. Michael Kay**

Youth Minister

**Mrs. Jeannette Puckett**

Parish School of Religion Director (PSR)

### SACRAMENTS

**The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:** The RCIA is open to all those interested in becoming Catholic. Contact the Parish Office 216-226-7577.

**Baptism:** Available at 12:30 p.m. the fourth Sunday of the month and at Masses by arrangement. Parents must attend a Pre-Baptism class and Godparents must have a sponsor certificate.

**Reconciliation:** Saturday, 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. or by appointment.

**Marriage:** Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance with a priest or deacon.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please call the Parish Office.

**Communion Calls:** If you are unable to participate in the celebration of Mass and would like to receive Communion, please contact the office.

**New Parishioners:** All are welcome to join us by calling the office or visiting the website to schedule an appointment.

**Bulletin Deadline:** Bulletin Articles and Copied Items need to be in the Parish Office by 11:00 a.m. on Friday the week before the bulletin to print.

**Papal Intention**

**August:** For political leaders. We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.  
**September:** For the cry of the earth. We pray 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.

**Liturgy Schedule**

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

**Monday, August 26**

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

**Tuesday, August 27-St. Monica**

8:30am Mass.....Dave Adams  
6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

**Wednesday, August 28-St. Augustine**

**Thursday, August 29-The Passion of St. John the Baptist**

8:30am Mass.....Luke McGraw

**Friday, August 30**

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

**Saturday, August 31**

3:00pm Confessions  
3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel  
4:00pm Mass.....Marion Gallagher  
4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

**Sunday, September 1-Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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 Mass.....Mike & Maureen Gale

**Liturgical Ministers August 31 & September 1**

**Saturday, August 31 @ 4:00pm**

**Eucharistic Ministers:** John Levis, Gloria Morin, Bridget Elayney  
**Lector:** Gary Morin  
**Altar Server:** Aidan Gompf, Mary Kugler-Elayney, NOT FILLED

**Sunday, September 1 @ 8:30am**

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Kathy OMalley, Karen Cocita, Tim Schriem  
**Lector:** Lisa Braun, Mary Lewis  
**Altar Server:** Anthony McGevey, Kathleen Murray, Grace Schmidt

**Sunday, September 1 @ 11:30am**

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Deirdre Mueller, Michelle Eggins, Annamaria Masterson  
**Lector:** Eileen Andrews, NOT FILLED  
**Altar Server:** Clare Hurley, Braidyn McKenna, Reese Reichel

*Luke McGraw Memorial Candles*  
**Weekly Intention**  
**August 25**  
**Luke McGraw**

**IN MEMORIAM**

*May the peace of our Lord be with*  
Theresa Blackman, Mother of Nancy Kilbane  
*And may God grant comfort to her family and friends.*

**PRAYER FOR THE SICK**

Heavenly Father, we lift up all those who are facing various illnesses. Give them the hope and courage they need today and every day. Comfort their pain, calm their fears, and surround them with Your peace. In Jesus' name, Amen!

***Please Pray for Our Sick***



- |                    |                        |                      |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| William Adams      | Irene Gurchensky       | Nora Sudetic         |
| Gianna Andolina    | David Kurth            | Lena Sunyak          |
| Carol Behnke       | Catherine Kutsick      | George Surovec       |
| Jack Behnke        | Jim McIlwee            | Herb Tippie          |
| Katy Brent         | Mary Miller            | Georgieann Treible   |
| Henry Buehner      | Maisie Nowlin          | Joe Wantz            |
| James Coyne        | Bill Retzer            | Charlotte Whiting    |
| Margaret Fadrowski | Mary Stark             | Lillian Zahara       |
| Nicole Foerstner   | Sr. Josette Obodzinski | Lew Zahara Jr.       |
| Mary Frantz        |                        | Joseph Zavatchen Jr. |
| Theresa Fridrich   |                        |                      |

***Weekly Collections***

Sunday Envelopes.....\$ 2,830.00  
Faith Direct:.....\$ 5,410.00

**Thank you for your generosity!**



**“My Daily Prayers”**

is a FREE daily recording of prayers led by the bishops and priests of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, delivered each day through email.

Lasting about 7 minutes, “My Daily Prayers” invites you into prayer, sharing information about each specific day, encouraging you to enter into a deeper relationship with God.

Sign up here:  
[DioceseOfCleveland.org/MyDailyPrayers](http://DioceseOfCleveland.org/MyDailyPrayers)



*Let's all come together in prayer!*



Catholic Diocese of Cleveland

**The Parish Office will be closed for Labor Day, Monday, September 2nd**

**Mass will be at 8:30am**

**St. Mark PSR Program 2024 – 2025**

**A reminder that the St. Mark PSR Program’s first class will be Monday September 9th.** You must be registered before the first class.

Our St. Mark PSR program is on Monday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 in the school building. We serve students in Grades 1 – 8. Students in grades 2 and 8 are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist (grade 2) and Confirmation (Grade 8), as part of our curriculum. **For a student to receive these Sacraments they MUST be enrolled and attend PSR the previous year.**

**To register for the 2024 – 2025 school year:**

1. The materials can be downloaded from the St. Mark Church website [www.stmarkcleveland.com](http://www.stmarkcleveland.com), under heading FAMILIES (at the top of the page) and by clicking the PSR tab.
2. Registration materials can also be picked up at the Parish Office.

Registration forms and payment can be mailed to or dropped off at the Parish Office or put in the Sunday collection, marked to the attention of PSR.

For any questions or additional information, you can contact Jeannette Puckett at the Parish Office at 216-226-7577 or through email at [jpuckettpsr@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:jpuckettpsr@stmarkcleveland.com).

**St. Mark Sunday School**  
**Note: Time Change**

Register now to save your child's space in Sunday School for the 2024-2025 year! Sunday School is open to children ages 3-5 and takes place during the **8:30am** Mass. In-person registration will take place in the school hallway on Saturday, August 31 & September 1. Forms are available at all entrances to the church. You can also drop off registration forms to the parish office. Classes begin September 8th.

**Volunteer!**

We are currently seeking volunteers to assist in teaching Sunday School for the 2024-25 school year! Adults over 18 years of age must be Virtus Compliant to volunteer. Classes begin September 8th and meet during the 8:30am Sunday mass.

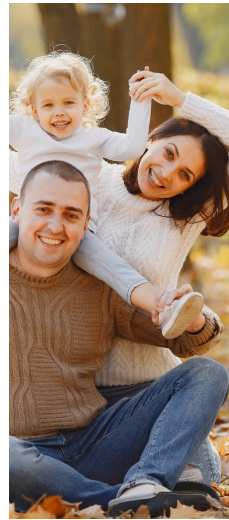
Please contact:  
Molly Stottner  
[mollystottner@hotmail.com](mailto:mollystottner@hotmail.com)  
For information regarding registration or volunteering



**St. Mark  
Holy Name Society**

**Welcome All  
Men and Women Parishioners  
18 and Older  
We Meet Second Tuesday of the Month  
at 6:00 in the Social Hall**

**Interested?  
Email [jimcocita@gmail.com](mailto:jimcocita@gmail.com)**



*Young Family  
Gatherings*

Once a month after 8:30 a.m. Mass, young families are welcome to gather in the Social Hall/ Pavilion for bagels, coffee, and community.

Dates vary each month. Questions? Please contact Briana David-  
[bciancibello@gmail.com](mailto:bciancibello@gmail.com)

**2024 UPCOMING DATES**

- July 21
- August 25
- September 22
- October 20

## Marker's/St. Mel 50+

It's time for a cookout!  
Join us on Saturday, September 14th,  
following the 4:00pm Mass.  
St. Mark Pavilion.

Burgers, brats and beverages will be provided.  
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, which will be most appreciated!

Please RSVP by Tuesday, September 10th to Mary Kay  
Text or call 216-402-8570

Looking forward to seeing you there!

### 6th Annual Cleveland Catholic Women's Day of Reflection "Inflame Me With Thy Love"

Saturday, September 28th - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
St. Albert the Great Parish Center, North Royalton

Join us for a day of spiritual renewal featuring:  
Mass with Bishop Edward C. Malesic  
Speakers: Heather Khym and Fr. Boniface Hicks  
Music by MarySarah Menkhaus

Register at [www.cleatholicwomen.org](http://www.cleatholicwomen.org) Cost \$45 (Students \$25, Religious free)

Ignite your faith and connect with other Catholic women!

### Retrouvaille A Lifeline for Married Couples A Unique Program to Strengthen and Heal Your Marriage - Beginning September 20-22, 2024

The Retrouvaille program is designed to help married couples develop improved ways of communicating and relating to each other in order to overcome challenges which have left them feeling frustrated, hurt, distant, or even hopeless. Retrouvaille, which means rediscovery, is open to couples of all faiths and is supported by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. This program consists of a weekend experience and six follow up sessions.

For more information or to register, visit:  
[www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) or call Shelly or Rob at 216-509-0301 or 440-836-4810.

### LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

There IS something more in our life of faith and as we grow in our relationship with Jesus. Come to commit or re-commit your faith in Jesus and know what a full life can offer you! Our Lady of Angels Prayer group will once again offer a Life in the Spirit Seminar beginning September 10, 2024 for seven consecutive Tuesday evenings through October 29th from 7:30-9:00pm. We meet in the Primary building of Our Lady of Angels School, (behind Linus Hall)

3644 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland, 44111. Please phone Verna, 216-251-3560 or Tom, 216-536-6495 for information or to register. There is NO charge for this seminar.

## THE WEEK AHEAD IN OUR PARISH

<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>August 24</b>		
	3:00 pm	Confessions	
	4:00 pm	Mass	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>August 25</b>		
	8:30 am	Mass	
	9:30 am	Rosary	
	9:30 am	Young Families	SH
	11:30 am	Mass LS	
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>August 26</b>		
	8:00 am	Teacher Meeting	SH
	8:30 am	Mass	
	6:30 pm	PSR Catechist Mtg.	SH
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>August 27</b>		
	8:00 am	Teacher Meeting	SH
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>August 28</b>		
	8:00 am	Teacher Meeting	SH
<b>Thursday,</b>	<b>August 29</b>		
	8:30 am	Mass	
	9:00 am	School Drop-in Day	SCH
	7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>August 30</b>		
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>August 31</b>		
	3:00 pm	Confessions	
	4:00 pm	Mass	
		<b><i>Sunday School Registration</i></b>	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>September 1</b>		
	8:30 am	Mass	
	9:30 am	Rosary	
	11:30 am	Mass LS	

**Note: (LS)=Livestreamed**

## VIRTUS COMPLIANCY — IMPORTANT

The USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) will be doing on-site audits at parishes in the Diocese of Cleveland. It is imperative that prior to working with children - coaches, scout leaders and helpers, St. Mark Staff, catechists & teachers (PSR and DAY school), parent volunteers, etc. - are Virtus compliant. This means that one must be:

- Virtus trained (see below)
- **Current with reading on-line bulletins**
- Read and signed off on Policy for **Protecting Children Revised 2016 (turn into Parish Office)**
- Read and signed off on **Standards of Conduct Revised 2016 (turn into Parish Office)**
- **New Volunteers must complete a Background Check through Virtus.org.** In the Virtus website click on the "Toolbox" tab, click on the Selection.com tab and begin the process. Must have a credit card to complete.
- **Current Volunteers with a BCI Fingerprint/Background check must renew after 5 years through Virtus.org click on the "Toolbox" tab, click on the Selection.com tab and begin the process. Must have a credit card to complete.**
- Filled out a **St. Mark Volunteer Application (turn into Parish Office)**

All of the above-mentioned requirements are mandatory. **This information can also be found on the church website at [stmarkcleveland.com](http://stmarkcleveland.com). Click the Families tab and click the Virtus tab.** (You can check your compliancy by going to "Virtus.org", signing in, and clicking on the green 'Training' tab.) If you are not sure of your compliancy, call Cheryl Birchfield at the Parish Office (216-226-7577) and your compliancy will be verified. If one is not Virtus compliant, **YOU MAY NOT WORK/VOLUNTEER WITH CHILDREN.**

**To see available Virtus training sessions please go to [Virtusonline.org](http://Virtusonline.org) click on First Time Registrant, Begin Registration Process also available is List of Sessions, select the Cleveland Diocese. You MUST register **ONLINE** to attend a session.**

**If you would like to Volunteer/Coach for the upcoming school year St. Mark will be hosting a Virtus Training session on Monday, September 16th beginning at 6:00pm. YOU MUST REGISTER AND SIGN UP FOR THE SESSION AT [VIRTUS.ORG](http://VIRTUS.ORG).**



Please come to pray WITH Mary, Our Blessed Mother, in this beautiful devotion, The Rosary. We are living in troubled times and so much in need of peace within our souls and for the world. We ask Mary, Our Mother, to intercede and lead us contemplating the mysteries of Jesus. "The Family that Prays together, Stays together"...Fr. Patrick Peyton  
Every Sunday following the 8:30am Mass

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, Say to the Lord,  
"My refuge and fortress, My God in whom I trust."  
Psalm 91:1-2

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers all our military men and women presently serving and those who have returned home.

Jason Bochert, James Boone, Jr., Elijah Brolly, Kurt Brown, Nathan Chomoa, Jeremy Cole, Matthew Craven, Josh Dunleavy, T.J. Finucan, Martin Hartsel, Joe Isabella, John Kester, Randy Kloos, Stephanie Lasch, Adam Lemmerman, Torrey Lynch, Ron McDough, Andrew J. McGinty, Owen McGrew, Jake North, Jon Novak, Danny O'Malley, Sean P. O'Reilly, Nick Ortiz, Steven Podhradsky, Nico Russo, Tom Sarko, Matthew Shirley, Brady Smith, Montana Stiegelmeier, Edward Thomas, Joseph Toole, Jacob Trefney, Jonah Treible, Roan Viancourt, Lukas Whitney.

God Bless them all!

Kathy O'Malley womalfam@sbcglobal.net for any updates.



# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

"Therefore we also will serve the LORD,  
for he is our God." (Jos 24:18)

### Psalm:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 34)

### Second Reading:

This is a great mystery,  
but I speak in reference to Christ and the church.  
(Eph 5:32)

### Gospel:

Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life." (Jn 6:68)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Many followers of Jesus could not accept his teachings. To those that remained, he posed a simple question: "Do you also want to leave?" He asks us the same, every moment of every day. Let us answer with confidence, in all that we do: "Only you have the words of eternal life."

## Observances for the week of August 25, 2024

<b>Sunday:</b>	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St. Monica
<b>Wednesday:</b>	St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
<b>Thursday:</b>	The Passion of St. John the Baptist
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Saint of the week

St. Damien de Veuster of Moloka'i (1840-1889) cared for the physical, medical, and spiritual needs of those exiled to the leper colony on the Hawaiian island of Moloka'i. His life of service shed light on the effects of this devastating disease and allowed people to see those afflicted with it with more compassion and love.

## Prayer of Declaration

Lord,  
In the season when faith is hard,  
help me to be as bold as Peter  
who picked you above all others  
saying, "To whom shall I go? You  
have the words of eternal life."  
You're my God.  
I'm yours.  
There is nowhere else I would  
rather be.  
Amen.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024 | 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of August 25, 2024

### Sunday:

Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 (9a)/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

### Monday:

2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5/  
Mt 23:13-22

### Tuesday:

2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/  
Mt 23:23-26

### Wednesday:

2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/  
Mt 23:27-32

### Thursday:

1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 6:17-29

### Friday:

1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/  
Mt 25:1-13

### Saturday:

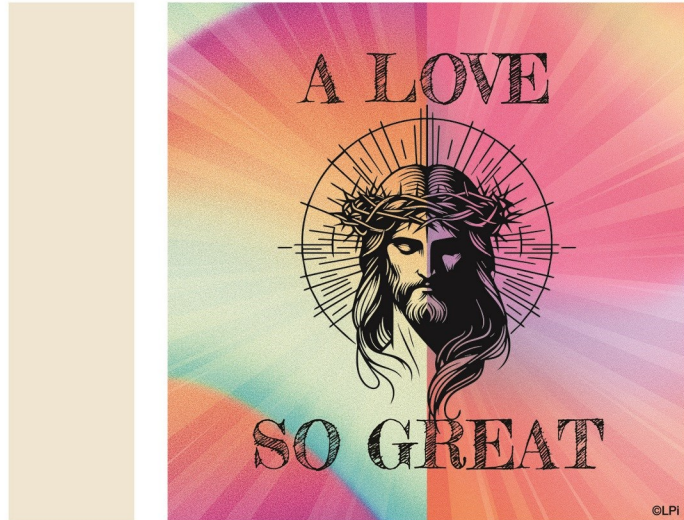
1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/  
Mt 25:14-30

### Next Sunday:

Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 1a/  
Jas 2:1-5/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/  
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

The famous Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky said, “Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing.” In the Gospel reading this week, Jesus does something harsh and dreadful — he watches his own disciples abandon him. What could possibly be loving about that?

Well, we notice the context is Jesus’ teaching about eating and drinking his body and blood. His followers hear this and say, “**This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?**” (John 6:60). We shouldn’t imagine we’d do anything different, because not even the ones who stay, like Peter, seem to understand what Jesus is saying. Then we hear this devastating line, “**Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him**” (John 6:66). Besides the night of the Last Supper, only now do Jesus’ disciples abandon him. And, painfully, Jesus just lets them go.

The best way to make sense out of this is love. Jesus is God’s love in action. He wants to become one with those whom He loves. He wants to love them as His own body. Yes, the oneness manifested in the Eucharist sounds harsh and dreadful because it is rooted in love which is willing to risk abandonment and separation to attain its goal: to be one body with the beloved. It is both terrifying and wonderful that Jesus will risk losing us in order to be one with us. Our response? Lord, we cannot grasp a love so great, but please help us never to abandon it, either.

— *Father John Muir*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024 | 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME