



# 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.



September 15, 2024

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

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it." - Mk 8:34-35

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

**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, September 16-St. Cornelius

8:30am Mass ..... Joe Patten

### Tuesday, September 17

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass ..... Michael Angers

### Wednesday, September 18

### Thursday, September 19

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

### Friday, September 20-Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gon and Paul Chong Ha-sang

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

### Saturday, September 21-St. Matthew

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass ..... Dan Sunyak

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

### Sunday, September 22-25th Sunday in Ordinary time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass ..... Mike & Maureen Gale

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass ..... John & Sharon Vertal

## 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
Margaret Fadrowski	Bill Retzer	Lillian Zahara
Nicole Foerstner	Mary Stark	Lew Zahara Jr.
Mary Frantz	Sr. Josette Obodzinski	Joseph Zavatchen Jr.
Theresa Fridrich		

## Other Intentions

### Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Dolly Tinnirello

### Baptized This Week

Alaina Grace Lesniak

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
<b>Saturday, September 21 @ 4:00pm</b>	Rosanne Kelley Bridget Blayney NOT FILLED	John Levis	Houston Engle Aidan Gompf Charlotte Greuloch
<b>Sunday, September 22 @ 8:30am</b>	Michael Kay Kathy O'Malley Tim Schmidt	Lisa Braun Tim Mohr	Julia McNulty Kathleen Murray Grace Schmidt
<b>Sunday, September 22 @ 11:30am</b>	Michelle Biggins Lisa Ditzel NOT FILLED	Carole Iseli NOT FILLED	Patrick Bryant Owen Glazier Owen Goggin

## Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past Sunday).....\$ 4,431.00  
 Faith Direct (past month total) .....\$ 5,387.00

Thank you for your generosity!

## Parish News

### St. Mark Bereavement

Contact the Parish Office to register 216-226-7577

Six sessions of bereavement will be offered to those who are in need of support while experiencing grief and loss. Please consider joining us as we journey together through the Seasons of Hope program.

Tuesdays at 7pm  
 October 15  
 October 22  
 October 29  
 November 5  
 November 12  
 November 19

### 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 October 2024-January 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 Friday, September 13th by 4:30pm to [cbirchfield@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:cbirchfield@stmarkcleveland.com). Please be mindful of holidays and vacations. Thank you for your help. If you are interested in becoming a Minister please contact the Parish Office at 216-226-7577.

### Food Sunday Collection

Items going to Lakewood Community Service Center

The Lakewood Community Service Center lost 3000 pounds of meat from their 8 freezers during the power outage last month! They could use our help in feeding their Clients. Tasty brand-name meals-in-cans would be especially appreciated; like ravioli, spaghetti, stews, chili, hearty soups, and also, kid's cereals. They are grateful for all of your donations. Thank you. May God bless all!

### St. Mel Pancake Breakfast

Please come and join us Sunday, September 22nd after the 7am & 10am masses at St. Mel Church hall. Sponsored by the St. Mel Rosary Group.

Adult \$6.00 Children \$3.00-under 10 years)

Includes: pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee

We hope to see you there.



## Share God's Love

### St. Mark/St. Mel Faith Build

Dean's Greenhouse In-Store Fall Fundraiser

September 1 through October 15

Looking for autumn floral and gardening supplies? Visit Dean's Greenhouse starting September 1 through October 15 and mention St. Mark/ St. Mel when you shop, and Dean's will donate 20% of the sales to the St. Mark/St. Mel Faith Build.

Dean's Greenhouse is located at 3984 Porter Road, Westlake, 44145.

[www.deansgreenhouse.com](http://www.deansgreenhouse.com); 440-871-2050

Questions? Email Amy Asseff at [aasseff@aol.com](mailto:aasseff@aol.com).

## Reminders and Regular Events

### 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](mailto:mkay@stmarkcleveland.com)

**September 7 & 8**  
**Sponsored by:**  
**The Holy Name Society**



# NEWS AND EVENTS

## 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. If you would like to know more, contact Jim Cocita at:

jimcocita@gmail.com

**September 10 @ 6:00pm  
Cookout in the Pavilion**

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### 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: September 22, October 20,

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### 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.

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### VIRTUS Program Compliancy

Check that you are up-to-date before Fall programs start

All staff and all volunteers who work with children (such as coaches, catechists, scout leaders, parent volunteers, etc.) are required to stay compliant with the VIRTUS program. No exceptions are made. This program is required by the Diocese of Cleveland, and we are audited annually.

For existing volunteers:

- Stay current with the online bulletins
- Renew your BCI Fingerprint and Background check every five years through [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org) (see the Toolbox tab for selection.com background check).

New and interested volunteers working with children:

- Attend a VIRTUS training. Registration is through [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org).
- Read and sign the 2016 Policy for Protecting Children.
- Read and sign the 2016 Standards of Conduct.
- Complete a background check through [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org) (see the Toolbox tab for selection.com background check).
- Complete the St. Mark Volunteer Application

New volunteers/coaches for the upcoming school year at St. Mark may be interested in registering for the Monday, September 16 session at St. Mark. Registration is through [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org).

Full information can be found on our parish website. To verify that you are in compliance call the parish office.

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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!

**Blue Mass at St. John the Evangelist**

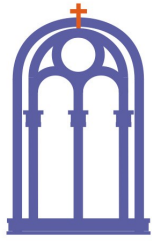
To honor and recognize all police, fire and first responders

All are invited to the Annual Blue Mass. There will be a reading of names of those who have served our Greater Cleveland communities and who died in this past year. The Honor Guard for police and fire as well as Pipes and Drums will be present. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Michael Woost on Wednesday, September 11th at 6pm. It is sponsored by the Greater Cleveland Safety Forces Holy Name Society and the Diocese of Cleveland.

**General Parish Calendar**

<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>September 14</b>	
10:00am-2:00 pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:00 pm	Marker's 50+ Picnic	PP/CC
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>September 15</b>	
	<b>Catechetical Sunday</b>	
8:30 am	Mass w/Teachers	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS	
1:30pm-6:30 pm	CYO Volleyball Game	G/FR
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>September 16</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
6:00 pm	Virtus Training Session	SH
6:30 pm	PSR First Day & Opening Mass	CR/CH
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>September 17</b>	
8:30 am	Mass w/2nd Floor	
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
6:00 pm	Cheerleading Prac.	PP
7:00 pm	Parent Club Mtg.	SH
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>September 18</b>	
4:00 pm	Diocesan Mtg.	SH
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
<b>Thursday,</b>	<b>September 19</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
4:00 pm	Diocesan Mtg.	SH
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>September 20</b>	
4:00-9:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>September 21</b>	
10:00am-2:00 pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	<b>Food Sunday</b>	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>September 22</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
9:30 am	Young Families	PP/SH
11:30 am	Mass LS	
1:30pm-6:30 pm	CYO Volleyball Game	G/FR

**Note: (LS)=Livestreamed**



# HEART OF A SHEPHERD

Building for Today. Providing for Tomorrow.

[www.catholiccommunity.org/shepherd](http://www.catholiccommunity.org/shepherd)



SUMMER 2024

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

MORE THAN  
**\$47.1 MILLION**  
HAS BEEN RECEIVED  
OF THE  
**\$52.8 MILLION**  
PLEGGED TO THE  
CAMPAIGN BY  
**13,520 DONORS\***

In addition to supporting the seminary renovation, priest pension retirement fund, and education debt relief for newly ordained clergy, this campaign includes a share going back to parishes for local projects. \$17.8 million has already been distributed to parishes for local projects and needs.

This progress is primarily thanks to pastors and parishes across the Diocese of Cleveland and to the generosity of the faithful who continue to "build for today and provide for tomorrow."

If you would like more information or a way to pledge your support, please call 216-902-1300 or visit [www.catholiccommunity.org/shepherd](http://www.catholiccommunity.org/shepherd).

\*Totals include a \$3 million commitment on behalf of the Diocese of Cleveland.



## EASING EDUCATION DEBT FOR NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS

When seminarians are ordained, many face significant financial hardship. A seminarian graduating today may have accumulated between \$8,000 and \$112,000 in education debt, with the average debt hovering around \$38,000. This financial burden and inability to repay the debt due to limited income can be overwhelming, potentially hindering their ability to fully dedicate themselves to their vocation.

To address this issue, the Heart of a Shepherd campaign has established a new endowment fund specifically for loan repayment assistance for newly ordained priests. This initiative aims to alleviate the financial pressure on our new priests, enabling them to serve our communities and dedicate their lives to the Lord without the weight of debt holding them back.

This support is a testament to our community's commitment to fostering the spiritual growth and well-being of our clergy.

*"RECOGNIZING THE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES FACED BY MANY OF OUR SEMINARIANS, THE HEART OF A SHEPHERD CAMPAIGN'S NEW ENDOWMENT FUND FOR LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE STANDS AS A BEACON OF HOPE AND SUPPORT."*

By helping to reduce their financial burden, we empower our newly ordained priests to fully embrace their calling and serve our communities with unwavering dedication and commitment," said Fr. Andrew Turner, President-Rector of Saint Mary and Borromeo Seminaries.

Heart of a Shepherd has contributed \$600K to date to the newly-created debt relief fund.

## General Audience of Pope Francis, on 28 August 2024

### Cycle of Catechesis. Sea and desert

Today, I will postpone the usual catechesis and I would like to pause with you to think about the people who – even at this moment – are crossing seas and deserts to reach a land where they can live in peace and safety.

*Sea* and *desert* : these two words reappear in many testimonies I receive, both from migrants, and from people who are engaged in coming to their aid. And when I say “sea”, in the context of migrations, I also mean ocean, lake, river, all the insidious bodies of water that so many brothers and sisters all over the world are forced to cross to reach their destination. And “desert” is not only that of sand and dunes, or rocks, but also those inaccessible and dangerous territories, such as forests, jungles, steppes where migrants walk alone, left to their own devices. Migrants, sea and desert. Today’s migratory routes are often marked by crossings of seas and deserts, which for many, too many people – too many! – are deadly. Therefore, today I want to dwell on this tragedy, this pain. Some of these routes we know well, because they are often in the spotlight; others, the majority, are little known, but no less travelled.

I have spoken about the Mediterranean many times, because I am the Bishop of Rome and because it is emblematic: the *mare nostrum*, a place of communication between peoples and civilizations, has become a cemetery. And the tragedy is that many, the majority of these deaths, could have been prevented. It must be said clearly: there are those who work systematically and with every means possible to repel migrants – to repel migrants. And this, when done with awareness and responsibility, is a grave sin. Let us not forget what the Bible says: “You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him” (Ex 22:21). The orphan, the widow and the stranger are the quintessential poor whom God always defends and asks to be defended.

Some deserts too, unfortunately, are becoming cemeteries of migrants. And even here it is not always a matter of “natural” deaths. No. At times, they have been taken to the desert and abandoned. We all know the photograph of Pato’s wife and daughter, who died of hunger and thirst in the desert. In the time of satellites and drones, there are migrant men, women and children that no one must see: they are hidden. Only God sees them and hears their cry. And this is a cruelty of our civilization.

Indeed, the sea and the desert are also biblical places, loaded with symbolic value. They are very important settings in the history of the exodus, the great migration of the people led by God through Moses from Egypt to the Promised Land. These places witness the tragedy of the people fleeing oppression and slavery. They are places of suffering, fear and desperation, but at the same time they are places of passage for liberation – and how many people cross the seas and the deserts to free themselves, today. They are places of passage for redemption, to reach freedom and the fulfilment

of God’s promises (cf. *Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2024*).

There is a Psalm which, addressing the Lord, says: “Thy way was through the sea / thy path through the great waters” (77:19). And another says that he “led his people through the wilderness, / for his steadfast love endures for ever” (136:16). These blessed words tell us that, to accompany the people on the journey to freedom, God himself crosses the sea and the desert; God does not remain at a distance, no; he shares in the migrants’ tragedy. God is there with them, with the migrants, he suffers with them, with the migrants. He weeps and hopes with them, with the migrants. It will be good for us today to think: the Lord is with our migrants in the *mare nostrum*, the Lord is with them, not with those who repel them.

Brothers and sisters, we can all agree on one thing: migrants should not be in those lethal seas and deserts. Today’s migrants should not be there – and they are, unfortunately. But it is not through more restrictive laws, it is not with the militarization of borders, it is not with rejection that we will obtain this result. Instead, we will obtain it by extending safe and legal access routes for migrants, providing refuge for those who flee from war, violence, persecution and various disasters; we will obtain it by promoting in every way a global governance of migration based on justice, brotherhood and solidarity; and by joining forces to combat human trafficking, to stop the criminal traffickers who mercilessly exploit others’ misery.

Dear brothers and sisters, think about the many tragedies of migrants – how many die in the Mediterranean. Think of Lampedusa, of Crotona... how many ugly and sad things. I wish to conclude by acknowledging and praising the commitment of the many good Samaritans who do their utmost to rescue and save injured and abandoned migrants on the routes of desperate hope, in the five continents. These courageous men and women are a sign of a humanity that does not allow itself to be contaminated by the malign culture of indifference and rejection – it is our indifference and that attitude of rejection that kills migrants. And those who cannot stay with them “on the front line” – I think of the many good people who are there on the front line, with “Mediterranea Saving Humans” [see page 16] and so many other associations – are not therefore excluded from this fight for civilization. We cannot be on the front line, but we are not excluded; there are many ways to make a contribution, first and foremost prayer. And I ask you: do you pray for migrants, for those who come to our lands to save their lives? And then “you” want to send them away...

Dear brothers and sisters, let us join our hearts and forces, so that the seas and deserts are not cemeteries, but spaces where God may open up roads to freedom and fraternity.