



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 23, 2025

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." - Lk 6:38

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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

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.

March: For families in crisis. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Liturgy Schedule

Scripture readings can be found online at:
bible.usccb.org

Monday, February 24

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

Tuesday, February 25

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass.....Gerri Joecken

Wednesday, February 26

Thursday, February 27

8:30am Mass.....Constance DeCore

Friday, February 28

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Saturday, March 1

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass Dolly Tinnirello

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, March 2-8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

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

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass For the Parishioners of St. Mark Parish and the Parishioners of St. Mel Parish

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	Aimee Roscoe
Jack Behnke	David Kurth	Nora Sudetic
Katy Brent	Gerald McArthur	George Surovec
Henry Buehner	Jim McIlwee	Herb Tippie
James Coyne	Mary Miller	Georgiann Treible
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

Gerri Joecken

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, March 1 @ 4:00pm	Rosanne Kelley Bridget Blayney Mary Price	Al Abel	Declan Fitzpatrick Grant Glazier Mary Kugler-Blayney
Sunday, March 2 @ 8:30am	Kathy O'Malley Karen Cocita Jessica Hanes	Mary Lewis NOT FILLED	Gabriela Santos Jacob Spolarich Colin Weaver
Sunday, March 2 @ 11:30am	Shawn Wroten NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Andrew Koch Emily Koch Jack Koch

NEWS AND EVENTS

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (see next Sunday) \$
Faith Direct (past month total) \$ 5,325.00
Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

March 5

- 6:45am - Mass at St. Mel
- 8:30am - Mass at St. Mark
- 12:00pm - Mass at St. Mel
- 7:00pm - Mass at St. Mark

Liturgical Ministers please see sign-up sheet in the Sacristy for Ash Wednesday 7pm services.

2025 Little Black Books

Lenten Reflection booklets

Reflection booklets will be at the Church entrances beginning next weekend. The cost is \$2.00 each. Please return envelopes to the Parish Office.

Please see the insert in next weekends bulletin for the St. Mark and St. Mel Lenten Schedule

St. Mark Fish Fry

March 14, March 28 & April 11

Please join us for the annual St. Mark Lenten Fish Fry! The social hall is the place to be from 5:00 to 7:00pm on Friday evenings for great food and community! Watch the bulletin for details in the coming weeks.

Parish News

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 the weekend of March 8 & 9 at all Masses. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Reminders and Regular Events

Local Author Vince McKee

March 11th at 6:30pm in the Social Hall

All are invited. Holy Name Society is proud to have Vince come to St. Mark as a guest speaker. Vince is the Owner of KEE on Sports Media Group. A company built on the very best in sports coverage and broadcasts of High School Sports, Boxing, NPSL Soccer, and everything the sports fans of Northeast Ohio want to know about. He is the play by play man for Ohio Boxing, as well as Cleveland SC of the NPSL. Vince is also a 12x published author who has interviewed everyone from Jim Thome & Austin Carr to Bill Belichick and Frankie Edgar. This event is open to all parishioners and their guests.

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

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: March 8 & 9

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: March 16 and April 13

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.

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

Saturday,	February 22	
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:30 pm	Basketball Tournament	
Sunday,	February 23	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS w/Pack #268	
12:30 pm	Pack #268 Blue & Gold Dinner	SH
4:00 pm	Living Stations Prac.	CH
Monday,	February 24	
8:30 am	Mass	
9:30 am	School Lenten Confessions	CH
2:30 pm	Youth Choir Prac.	CH
6:00 pm	Living Stations	CH
6:30 pm	PSR class Gr. 1-8	CR
Tuesday,	February 25	
8:30 am	Mass w/2nd Floor	
2:30 pm	Children's Choir Prac.	CH
4:30 pm	RCIC	CC
Wednesday,	February 26	
8:00 am	History Fair	SH
4:00 pm	RCIA	CC
Thursday,	February 27	
8:00 am	History Fair	
8:30 am	Mass	
6:00 pm	Scout Pack #268 Den Mtg.	SH
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
Friday,	February 28	
8:00 am	75th Dinner Dance Set-up	All
Saturday,	March 1	
8:00 am	Dinner Dance Set-up	All
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:30 pm	75th Dinner Dance	All
Sunday,	March 2	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
9:30 am	School Tours and Social	All
11:30 am	Mass LS w/Y&C Choir	
4:00 pm	Living Stations Prac.	CH
6:00 pm	Youth Group	CC

Note: (LS)=Livestreamed

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Today, though the LORD delivered you into my grasp,
I would not harm the LORD's anointed." (1 Sm 26:23)

Psalm:

The Lord is kind and merciful. (Ps 103)

Second Reading:

Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one,
we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.
(1 Cor 15:49)

Gospel:

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (Jn Lk 6:36)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus' message today is one of radical generosity and abundant mercy, and it scandalized the people of his time. It shook them to their core. It should do the same for us. Are we ready to live as Jesus lived? Are we ready to offer love in the face of hate?

Observances for the week of February 23, 2025

Sunday: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thursday: St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025 | 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Devotions, *Explained!*

Fasting was practiced by righteous men and women of the Old Testament and later by Christ himself. It remains an important part of the Christian devotional life today, being most strongly associated with the penitential season of Lent.

Prayer of Christian Life

Dear Jesus,
Help me to pray for and bless everyone I encounter, whether that be easy or hard. Help me to act in the mercy I have known through you. Help me to demonstrate generosity, as you have given so much to me. Amen.

General Audience of Pope Francis, on 12 February 2025

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. *Jesus Christ our Hope. I. The Infancy of Jesus. 5. “To you is born this day a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” (Lk 2,11). The birth of Jesus and the shepherds’ visit*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In our Jubilee journey of catechesis on Jesus, who is our hope, today we will reflect on the event of his birth in Bethlehem.

The Son of God enters history as our travelling companion, and begins to travel while still in His mother's womb. The evangelist Luke tells us that as soon as He was conceived, He went from Nazareth to the house of Zechariah and Elizabeth; and then, at the end of the pregnancy, from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census. Mary and Joseph were forced to go to the city of King David, where Joseph had also been born. The long-awaited Messiah, the Son of the God Most High, allows Himself to be counted, that is, counted and registered, like any other citizen. He submits to the decree of an emperor, Caesar Augustus, who thinks he is the master of all the earth.

Luke places Jesus' birth in “an exactly datable time” and in “an exactly indicated geographical setting”, so that “the universal and the concrete touch each other” (BENEDICT XVI, *The Infancy Narratives*, 2012, 77). God, who comes into history, does not dismantle the structures of the world, but wants to illuminate them and recreate them from within.

Bethlehem means “house of bread”. There, the days of child-birth were fulfilled for Mary and there Jesus was born, bread descended from heaven to satisfy the hunger of the world (cf. *Jn* 6:51). The angel Gabriel had announced the birth of the Messianic King in the sign of greatness: “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule of the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end” (*Lk* 1:32-33).

However, Jesus is born a way entirely unprecedented for a king. Indeed, “while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn” (*Lk* 2:6-7). The Son of God is not born in a royal palace, but at the back of a house, in the space where the animals are kept.

Luke thus shows us that God does not come into the world with resounding proclamations; he does not manifest himself with noise, but begins his journey in humility. And who are the first witnesses of this event? They are *shepherds*: men of little culture, malodorous from constant contact with

the animals, they live on the margins of society. And yet they practice the occupation by which God himself makes himself known to his people (cf. *Gen* 48:15; 49:24; *Ps* 23:1; 80:2; *Is* 40:11). God chooses them as the recipients of the most beautiful news that has ever resounded in history: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the city of David a saviour has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger”.

The place to meet the Messiah is a manger. Indeed, it happens that, after such expectation, “for the Saviour of the world, for He for whom all things were created (cf. *Col* 1:16), there is no room” (Benedict XVI, *The Infancy Narratives*, 2012, 80). The shepherds thus learn that in a very humble place, reserved to the animals, the long-awaited Messiah is born, and he is born *for them*, to be their Saviour, their shepherd. This news opens their hearts to wonder, praise and joyful proclamation. ‘Unlike so many other people, busy about many things, the shepherds become the first to see the most essential thing of all: the gift of salvation. It is the humble and the poor who greet the event of the Incarnation’ (Apostolic Letter *Admirabile signum*, 5).

Brothers and sisters, let us, too, ask for the grace of being, like the shepherds, capable of wonder and praise before God, and capable of cherishing what He has entrusted to us: the talents, charisms, our vocation and the people he places beside us. Let us ask the Lord to be able to discern in weakness the extraordinary strength of the Child God, who comes to renew the world and transform our lives with his plan full of hope for all humanity.

*St. Mark School
75th Anniversary Gala*

Saturday, March 1st

5:00 -10:00

Tours following 4:00 Mass

St. Mark Community Center

\$60 per person

Dinner, Drinks and Dancing

Adults Only



To RSVP scan the QR Code or visit
stmarkcleveland.com/rsvp

Deadline to RSVP is Monday, February 24th

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SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME