



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.



March 30, 2025

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

"His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.'" - Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a

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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

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.

April: For the use of the new technologies. Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday, March 31

8:30am Mass **Presider's Intention**

Tuesday, April 1

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass Catherine Norris

Wednesday, April 2

Thursday, April 3

8:30am Mass **Presider's Intention**

Friday, April 4

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

12:00pm Stations of the Cross @ St. Mel

4:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday, April 5

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass Connie Surovec

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, April 6-5th Sunday of Lent

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass Joseph Spicuzza

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

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

12:30pm Baptism

Pray for the Sick

We commend to your personal prayers parishioners who have asked to be prayed for:

William Adams	Irene Gurchensky	Aimee Roscoe
Gianna Andolina	Carol Hughes	Nora Sudetic
Katy Brent	David Kurth	George Surovec
Henry Buehner	Gerald McArthur	Barbara Thiel
James Coyne	Jim McIlwee	Herb Tippie
Matthew Craven	Mary Miller	Georgiann Treible
Nicole Foerstner	Maisie Nowlin	Joe Wantz
Mary Frantz	Bill Retzer	Charlotte Whiting
Theresa Fridrich	Mary Stark	Lillian Zahara
	Sr. Josette Obodzinski	Lew Zahara Jr.
	Judy Reitz	Joseph Zavatchen Sr.

Pray for the Deceased

Thomas Szoradi, Wife of Sharon

Jack Behnke

May perpetual light shine upon them

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Michelle Smith

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, April 5 @ 4:00pm	Erin Fitzpatrick Bridget Blayney R.V. Threadgill	Lisa Braun	Declan Fitzpatrick Mary Kugler-Blayney Dominic Sutcliff
Sunday, April 6 @ 8:30am	Karen Cocita Jessica Hanes Shawn Wroten	Mary Lewis Monica Svetz	Rose Murray Kathleen Murray Joe Svetz
Sunday, March 30 @ 11:30am	Eileen Andrews Deirdre Mueller Michelle Biggins	Deborah Roscoe NOT FILLED	Ian McCoy Patrick Mueller Eoin Mueller

NEWS AND EVENTS

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past Sunday)\$ 2,756.00
Faith Direct (past month total)\$ 5,460.00
Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

No Greater Love Video Bible Series

Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26 April 2, 9 @ 7:00pm

In No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion, we are going to walk step-by-step with Jesus on his journey from his agony in the garden to his crucifixion on Calvary. Along the way, we will unpack the biblical background to these events, the prophecies, and most especially, the ways Jesus is inviting us to walk more closely with him today.

We will meet every week for prayer, fellowship, discussion and an engaging video presentation presented by Dr. Edward Sri, which was filmed on location in the Holy Land, so we can see the actual locations where Christ's passion occurred!

Please reach out to Meaghan with any questions at (msilver@stmarkcleveland.com)

The Living Stations of the Cross

The Youth of St. Mark, St. Christopher and Our Lady of Angels

Join the youth of these parishes and witness this powerful prayer and performance as we journey through Holy Week this year.

Friday, April 11th, 7:30pm at St. Mark Parish

Sunday, April 13th, 7:30pm at St. Christopher Parish

Friday, April 18th, 7:30 pm at Our Lady of Angels Parish

Parish News

St. Mark Fish Fry

April 11 - 5:00-7:00pm

Please join us for the St. Mark Fish Fry in the Social Hall. Fish, Shrimp, Pierogi or Mac & Cheese dinners or Pizza and Grilled Cheese for the kids... Pick your favorite and enjoy! All dinners come with two sides, roll, cookie and beverage. Please see the link on the St. Mark website at stmarkcleveland.com

Eucharistic Adoration

Prayer and Thanksgiving before the Lord

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, April 4th from 4:00pm - 5:00pm.

Family Holy Hour

Our First Friday adoration will continue to provide prayerful options for people of all ages, especially families of young children. Fr. Adam will be available to hear Confession.

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: April 13

Reminders and Regular Events

St. Mark Prayer Group

Relax, pray and grow in faith

The parishioner-led prayer group will meet on Thursday, April 3rd at 7pm in the Servers Sacristy. There is a book available near the Sacred Heart Statue in the Church for prayer requests. These will receive prayers by this group. Feel free to share answered prayers here also. Please join us! There is no need to sign up.

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: April 5 & 6

Regional and Diocesan News and Events

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Cleveland's "Protecting God's Children" program is a continuing effort to instruct and inform everyone about the protection of children from sexual abuse. To report any past or present suspected inappropriate behavior toward children by priests, deacons, religious, lay ecclesial ministers or personnel associated with the Church, immediately inform local authorities about inappropriate behavior. Also, please contact the Diocesan Response Service Office at 216-334-2999 or via email.

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,	March 29	
10:00 am	Family Faith Formation	CC
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	March 30	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS w/Y&C Choir	
4:00 pm	Living Stations Prac.	CH
Monday,	March 31	
8:30 am	Mass	
2:30 pm	Youth Choir Prac.	CH
6:00 pm	Living Stations	CH
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
Tuesday,	April 1	
8:30 am	Mass w/2nd Floor	
1:00 pm	First Communion Prac.	CH
2:30 pm	Children's Choir Prac.	CH
7:00 pm	Choir Prac.	CH
Wednesday,	April 2	
1:30 pm	Awards Assembly	G
Thursday,	April 3	
8:30 am	Mass	
6:00 pm	Scout Pack #268 Den Mtg.	SH
7:00 pm	Troop #293	CC
7:00 pm	Prayer Group	SS
Friday,	April 4	
12:00 pm	Stations of the Cross @ St. Mel	
2:00 pm	School Stations of the Cross	CH
4:00 pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
5:00 pm	Family Social	SH
5:00 pm	Fish Fry @ St. Mel	
Saturday,	April 5	
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	Donut Social after all Masses	
Sunday,	April 6	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS	
4:00 pm	Living Stations Prac.	CH
6:00 pm	Youth Group	CC

General Audience of Pope Francis, on 19 March 2025

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our hope II. The life of Jesus. The encounter 1. Nicodemus. “You must be born from above” (Jn 3:7b)

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

With this catechesis we will begin to contemplate some of the encounters narrated in the Gospels, to understand the way Jesus gives hope. Indeed, they are encounters that enlighten life and bring hope. It can happen, for example, that someone helps us to see a difficulty or a problem we are experiencing from a different perspective; or it can happen that someone simply gives us a word that makes us feel that we are not alone in the pain we are going through. At times there can even be silent encounters, in which one does not say anything, and yet those moments help us to get back on track.

The first encounter I would like to look at is that of Jesus with Nicodemus, narrated in chapter 3 of the Gospel of John. I will start with this episode because Nicodemus is a man who, with his history, shows that it is possible to emerge from darkness and find the courage to follow Christ.

Nicodemus goes to Jesus at night: it is an unusual time for a meeting. In John’s language, temporal references often have symbolic value: here the night probably refers to what is in the heart of Nicodemus. He is a man who finds himself in the darkness of doubt, in that darkness that we experience when we no longer understand what is happening in our lives and do not see the way forward clearly.

If you are in the dark, of course you seek the light. And John, at the beginning of his Gospel, writes: “The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world” (1:9). Nicodemus therefore seeks Jesus because he has sensed that He can illuminate the darkness of his heart.

However, the Gospel tells us that Nicodemus does not immediately understand what Jesus is saying to him. And so we see that there are many misunderstandings in this dialogue, and also a lot of irony, which is a characteristic of the evangelist John. Nicodemus does not understand what Jesus is telling him because he continues to think with his own logic and categories. He is a man with a well-defined personality; he has a public role, he is one of the leaders of the Jews. But probably something no longer adds up for him. Nicodemus senses that something no longer works in his life. He feels the need to change, but he does not know where to begin.

This happens to all of us in some phases of life. If we do not accept to change, if we close ourselves up in inflexibility, in habits or our ways of thinking, we risk dying. Life resides in the capacity to change to find a new way to love. Indeed, Jesus speaks to Nicodemus of a *new birth*, which is not only possible, but even necessary at certain moments in our journey. To tell the truth, the expression used in the text is already ambivalent in itself, because *anōthen* (ἀνωθεν) can be translated as either “from above” or “again”. Slowly, Nicodemus will understand that these two meanings go together: if we allow the Holy Spirit to generate new life in us, we will be born again. We will rediscover that life, which was perhaps fading in us.

I have chosen to begin with Nicodemus also because he is a man who, with his very life, shows that this change is possible. Nicodemus is able to do it: in the end he will be among those who go to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus (cf. *Jn 19:39*)! Nicodemus has finally *come to the light*, he is reborn, and he no longer needs to stay in the night.

Changes sometimes frighten us. On the one hand they attract us, at times we desire them, but on the other we would prefer to remain in comfort. Therefore the Spirit encourages us to face these fears. Jesus reminds Nicodemus – who is a teacher in Israel – that even the Israelites were afraid when they were walking in the desert. And they focused so much on their worries that at a certain point those fears took the form of venomous snakes (cf. *Nm 21:4-9*). In order to be freed, they had to look at the copper serpent that Moses had placed on a pole, that is, they had to look up and stand before the object that represented their fears. Only by looking into the face of that which frightens us can we begin to be set free.

Nicodemus, like all of us, can look at the Crucified One: the One who defeated death, the root of all our fears. Let us also lift our gaze to the One they pierced, let us also be met by Jesus. In Him we find the hope to face the changes in our lives and be born again.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

While the Israelites were encamped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated the Passover. (Jos 5:10)

Psalm:

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

Second Reading:

And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Cor 5:18)

Gospel:

“But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.” (Lk 15:32)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The Prodigal Son doesn't dare ask for the honor of being called his Father's son again. All he wants is to be close to his Father, to be cared for. But his Father surprises him with his mercy, as God surprises us. He offers more than just forgiveness. He offers redemption.

Observances for the week of March 30, 2025

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Lent
- Tuesday:** April Fools' Day
- Wednesday:** St. Francis of Paola, Hermit
- Friday:** St. Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Saturday:** St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest
- Next Sunday:** 5th Sunday of Lent



Devotions, *Explained!*

A novena is a nine-day period of prayer focused on a specific topic, saint, or devotion. There are four basic categories of novenas — novenas of preparation, of mourning, of prayer, and of indulgence. This 9-day period of prayer can be traced back to the Acts of the Apostles.

Prayer of a Father's Blessing

God who wills good things for your children, Help me to trust that You will be faithful.
God who will not leave me, Help me to seek You, too.
God who is ever-waiting for me, Help me to run straight towards You.

Amen.

PARISH GRADE SCHOOL

We have had so many activities occurring at school over these past few months. With every special activity, it is important to remember that it is driven by one or more faculty members who offer their time to provide these extracurricular activities. Here are some of these extras that our children have been involved in:

- St. Mark School Talent Show- Our Talent Show featured 13 different acts with 16 performers. There was some Irish dancing, gymnastics, guitar, jokes, singing, dancing, and piano. The talent our children display and the bravery they have to stand in front of the entire school is nothing short of amazing. Congratulations to Niamh c., Will H., Cora C., Skylar D., Hailey S., Corey W., Zoe P., Addie T., Orla E., Mae H., Samantha Y., Addie B., Lily W., Matthew B., Arya S., and Lukas H. Special thanks to Dr. Rentz, Mrs. Schimming, Ms. Colegrove, Ms. Dunleavy, Mrs. Gorman, and Ms. Gaukin.
- Our students were provided with the opportunity to view some NASA astronauts currently in space and pose questions to them to answer. What a fantastic experience this was which may someday result in one of our own children making a career of this.
- Realeyes presented information to our students on how important it is to take good care of your eyes. After listening to these presentations, I asked teachers to have the children share some important facts they learned about eye safety. Here are a few responses:
 - ◇ If you are using a power tool, you should wear safety glasses. (Will L.)
 - ◇ You should not touch your eyes without clean hands first. (Maeve C.)
 - ◇ If you are prescribed eyeglasses, you should always wear your glasses so your eyes don't weaken. (Sebastian G.)
 - ◇ Use sunglasses to take care of your eyes and protect them from the sun. (Kdr.)
 - ◇ Use safety glasses when mowing the lawn to protect your eyes from grass and dirt flying up in the air. (Kdr.)
 - ◇ It is important to visit the eye doctor (LaVera S.)
 - ◇ The colored part of the eye is called the iris. (Niamh E.)
 - ◇ Optical illusions are fun to look at, and they play tricks on your eyes! (Emmet C.)
 - ◇ The cornea is connected to blood vessels in your body and eye. (Harry S.)
 - ◇ I learned that our eyes are more important than I thought. I thought they were only for seeing. (Fiona K.)
 - ◇ I learned that some people are nearsighted and some are farsighted. (Jase H.)
 - ◇ Did you know that eyeglasses are designed for each person who needs a pair? (Brendan A.)
- Special congratulations to Kindergarten student Kiera M. for her art entry into Padua High School's Elementary Art Show. Kiera won 2nd Place in her division. Special thanks to Mrs. Hanna, her art teacher, who does extraordinary work with students across all grade levels. This year there were over 200 entries into the art show. Congratulations, Kiera!
- The Irish leprechaun was up to no good in our PreK! He made a mess all over their classroom on St. Patrick's Day! When the children returned on Tuesday, they were quite surprised!
- Finally, Ideastream came to St. Mark a few weeks ago to interview our children involved in our Veterans' Day Assembly back in November. I was present for the interview, the questions of which off the cuff, and I can tell you firsthand how impressive the children answers were. I am not one easily moved to tears, but hearing what that ceremony meant to them, brought tears to my eyes! As a special treat, we invited our Special Friend, Mr. Gary Schuld, to come in for the interview and he spoke of how moved this ceremony was for him. Special thanks to WVIZ and Mike Elderman for taking time to visit us and produce a piece on WVIZ for all to see.

Mrs. Cocita

