



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.



November 3, 2024

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he.'" And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."
- Mk 12:32, 34ab

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

November: For anyone who has lost a child. We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday, November 4-St. Charles Borromeo

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

Tuesday, November 5

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

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Wednesday, November 6

Thursday, November 7

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

Friday, November 8

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Saturday, November 9

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass Joshua Brazis

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, November 10-32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass..... Mary Buccieri

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass Dolly Tinnirello

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

Pray for the Deceased

Loretta Oakar, Mother of Ann Henry

May perpetual light shine upon them

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Dan Sunyak

Wedding Banns

Eric Carlson & Patricia Kay *II*

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, November 9 @ 4:00pm	Lou Toth Bridget Blayney NOT FILLED	Paul Gambon	Joseph Sowul Patrick Sowul Kathryn Sowul
Sunday, November 10 @ 8:30am	Michael Kay Karen Cocita Mary Stamper	Monica Svetz NOT FILLED	London Dinya Julia McNulty Jacob Spolarich
Sunday, November 10 @ 11:30am	Rosanne Kelley Austin Tousley NOT FILLED	Eileen Andrews Cari Foster	Michael Doyle Clare Hurley Terry Waters

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past Sunday).....\$ 3,196.00
Faith Direct (past month total)\$ 5,038.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

Friends,

The papal intention this past month was “for a shared mission, that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.”

From its first day, the Church has been a community, with Jesus gathering around himself the apostles, the disciples, and the crowds. Sometimes he took the apostles aside to explain things in private, sometimes he sent the disciples out to prepare the towns he would be traveling to, and sometimes he would be moved by pity for the crowds and spent entire days healing their sick and being with them. While structure was needed then with the apostles having a special role, just as the Church needs structure now to maintain unity among roughly 1.4 billion Catholics, we have never been a corporation or a government or other modern ideas of institution revolving around authority and power.

We are a community, with a common mission and communion between all members. The Synodal lifestyle is not some new invention, it is just a new word for what we have always been, a word that emphasizes the need to hear each other as brothers and sisters.

In our small corner of this Church, the parish is not me and the parish is not you. The parish is us. My seemingly constant prayer is that visitors and new neighbors find in us a friendly place that connects them to Christ. In other words, that they find Christ and his apostles and his disciples and the crowds.

This month of November the papal intention will be “for anyone who has lost a child, that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.”



In Christ,
Fr. Adam

Faith Formation Parent Cafe

November 4 at 6:30pm in the St. Mark Social Hall

As part of our family faith formation project sponsored by NCCL, we will be hosting a “Parent Café” listening session to learn more about the needs of parents in our community. Parents of children birth through high school are invited to attend and answer a few open ended questions about your challenges and successes raising children of faith. Light refreshments will be available Please RSVP to the St. Mark parish office by October 30th. 216-226-7577

Reminders and Regular Events

St. Mark Prayer Group

Relax, pray and grow in faith

The parishioner-led prayer group will meet on Thursday, November 7th 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.

Eucharistic Adoration

Prayer and Thanksgiving before the Lord

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, November 8th from 3:30pm - 7:00pm.

Family Holy Hour

Friday, November 8th from 4-5pm

Children of all ages are invited with their families to come adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament! The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. There will be coloring, reading, and age appropriate contemplation.

NEWS AND EVENTS

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

Please join us November 2nd & 3rd after all masses.

St. Mark Youth Group

October Schedule

Sunday, November 3 - 11:30am-3pm

Mass Meetup & Donut Social @ St. Mark Church
Service Event @ Garfield Elementary Garden

Open to all 9th-12th Grade students! Contact Michael Kay at mkay@stmarkcleveland.com or 216-904-4774 with any questions and to RSVP.

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

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.

Veterans Spaghetti Dinner

St. Mark Cub Scout Pack #268

You are cordially invited to attend the 2nd Annual St. Mark Cub Scout Pack #268 Veterans Spaghetti Dinner, November 6th from 6:00pm - 7:00pm in the St. Mark Social Hall.

Veterans and Children 3 & under = Eat for Free

Adults & Children = \$10.00

Veterans Spouses = \$7.00

Meals include spaghetti, Bolognese sauce, salad, bread and water. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Disabled American Veterans Foundation. This event will also support St. Mark Cub Scouts Pack 268. Come support local veterans and our wonderful Cub Scouts! Please RSVP to Cubmaster Brad Schleter @ bschleter3@gmail.com

Take out will be available.

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:

Regional and Diocesan News and Events

Borromeo Seminary & St. Mary Seminary's

Novemberfest - Annual Italian Dinner

Please join us Saturday, November 16th from 5:00pm-8:00pm for great food - 50/50 Raffles. Cost: Adults: \$12, Children, ages 6-12 \$6, Children under 6, Free. Dinner tickets will be sold at the door until 7:30pm. No reservations are needed. Call (440) 943-7600 for more information.

Center for Pastoral Leadership
28700 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe, OH 44092

General Parish Calendar

Saturday,	November 2	
10:00 am	Mass All Souls	
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	Donut Social	
Sunday,	November 3	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS 2/Youth Group	
Monday,	November 4	
8:30 am	Mass	
12:30 pm	Gr. 3 Practice	CH
2:00 pm	Youth Choir Prac.	CH
4:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Prac.	G
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
6:30 pm	Parent Café	SH
Tuesday,	November 5	
8:30 am	Mass w/1st Floor	
2:30 pm	Children's Choir Prac.	CH
4:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Prac.	G
4:30 pm	RCIC	CC
7:00 pm	Bereavement	FR
Wednesday,	November 6	
4:00 pm	RCIA	CC
4:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Prac.	G
6:00 pm	Scout Pack #268 Spaghetti Dinner	SH
Thursday,	November 7	
8:30 am	Mass	
9:30 am	Veteran's Prayer Service	CH
10:00 am	Veteran's Day Reception	SH
4:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Prac.	G
6:00 pm	Scout Pack #268 Den Mtg.	SH
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
7:00 pm	Prayer Group	SS
7:00 pm	Conf. Candidate/Sponsor Night #1	CH
Friday,	November 8	
9:00 am	School Adoration	CH
3:30 pm	Eucharistic Adoration	CH
4:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Prac.	G
5:00 pm	Family Friendly Adoration	SH
Saturday,	November 9	
8:15 am	8th Grade Fundraiser	SH
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	November 10	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS w/Children's Choir	

Note: (LS)=Livestreamed



St. Mark Parish

3 November 2024

Friends,

I would like to hear your initial opinion on a minor renovation of the sanctuary. Please go to stmarkcleveland.com/voice to participate in a parish survey.

When I came to St. Mark six years ago, many people quickly made the request that we get rid of the portrait of St. Mark on the back wall of the sanctuary and return the crucifix to the wall. The portrait had only been added within the few years before my arrival. I asked them all to give me five years before attempting so significant of a change to the church. I am grateful for their respectful acceptance of that answer, and as expected in the past year people have been proposing the question again.

Over the years I have had many people comment on how strange the portrait just as a general passing comment, and no one has mentioned that they especially like it. Personally, while I like the color that it brings into the sanctuary, I'm not impressed by its artistic style and it seems visually odd to have the crucifix in front of it. But to be fair I am always looking out from the sanctuary and rarely face it myself.

I have two conditions beyond simply removing the portrait and returning the crucifix to the wall: (1) we will also do a minor renovation of the sanctuary and consider other changes and (2) a portion of the total project cost will be a donation to the poor. I think one improvement could be new lighting, as right now it is so diffused that no element of the sanctuary can be highlighted. I also think the walls behind the statues of Mary and Joseph are very plain with oddly positioned lighting. I know some have suggested that we could do much more with the back wall, whose wood slats look into a storage room if you are at the right angle.

Before approaching Henninger's to get mock-ups of what they recommend, I want to hear from the parish if this is supported and desired beyond the individuals who have said something to me. Please take the time to participate in the survey. Even a response of "I don't care" is very important for me to know the mind of the parish.

If we decide to move ahead, I do not expect the work to take place until 2026. First we will need to get sample mock-ups of what options and ideas the professionals have and what the cost will be, get cost estimates, and make decisions. Then any change of this nature to our church does have to be approved by the Worship Office of the Diocese of Cleveland, as well as the usual approval process from the diocese for any expenditure over \$25,000, if the cost should be that great. And then we would need to schedule the work around Christmas and Easter and the other major events so that there is as little disruption as possible to the parish.

In Christ,

Fr. Adam

PARISH GRADE SCHOOL

As we move on into the memories of the 1980's, St. Mark had both a new pastor and new principal. Fr. Jame Wagner was named pastor and served St. Mark from 1978-1988. Sr. Judy Weirick served as principal from 1979-1996.

In an interview about 15 years ago, Sr. Judy shared these memories:

- Gave detentions and as punishment- students had to carry books home for a week in a special bag.
- Had federal government TV's given to the school.
- The children at St. Mark wore uniforms, but their uniforms differed on what floor they were on. The top floor girls wore a red or green plaid skirt with a white shirt and vest, while the bottom floor wore red or green skirts with just a white polo shirt
- There was no carpeting in the school
- In 1988, an afterschool program was started, and our St. Mark Peace Pole was added.

The structure of the main school building was very different than it is today. There was no gym or separate kindergarten building, but there was a convent for the nuns. This changed in the 80's. A capital campaign led to the construction of the current Gymnasium, Faculty Room, and Community Center meeting room/Music classroom. In 1983, the convent became the Kindergarten building. (This building is presently known as the "IELC Building"- Innovation and Early Learning Center- and houses our PreK, two kindergarten classrooms, the STREAM Lab, and Library.) The sisters moved into house right next door since there were only a few sisters teaching at St. Mark.

The memory that mostly stands out to the past students that attended St. Mark in the 80's is walking home for lunch every day! (Times have certainly changed just in regards to student safety!)

Some other important memories from the 80's included:

- In 1983, the CYO 8th Grade football team won the City Championship. Their banner hangs in our school gym, and some of their team members have children in our school today. Some 41 years later, we added another CYO Championship banner last year after our CYO football team won the championship. History repeated itself!
- Fr. Anthony Muzic was appointed pastor of St. Mark in 1988

In other news, a special note of congratulations goes out to Scout Pack 268 who earned the Pope Paul VI National Catholic Unit Excellence Award. This award will be presented to them on Sunday at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Congratulations to Scoutmaster Brad Schleter and our scouts. You have helped to make St. Mark continue to *Shine Bright*, and I am so very proud of you!

On Monday, October 21st, while the rest of the school was most probably sleeping in, ten of our 7th and 8th Grade girls met our STREAM teacher, Mrs. Henley, at the Great Lakes Science Center for the *Stem Goes Red for Girls* program. *This program fills up fast, but we have been lucky enough to get into it almost every year. The purpose of this program is to introduce girls to the many different career opportunities available to them in the STEM related fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. Our girls started the day with hands-on activities and a career expo presented by different companies including Oatey, a family run, Cleveland based company that specializes in plumbing, Key Bank, University Hospitals, Lubrizol, Nasa, Cleveland Water, and many others were present. At each table students had the opportunity to learn about the company and job opportunities, and try an activity related to their product or service. Students attended a presentation on heart surgery, and learned about career paths in the field of medicine ranging from surgeon to surgical scrub technician. **Students had the opportunity to hold a human heart.** How brave they were!*

The third breakout session included a hands-on engineering challenge and a presentation given by 3 engineers explaining different engineering paths such as mechanical, electrical, and civil as well as job descriptions and opportunities. Finally, students had a mentoring session and were able to speak one on one with professionals in STEM fields. One of our girls was later interviewed by Tiffany Tucker of Ch. 19 and her enthusiasm about this experience resonated great joy! It was yet another opportunity for St. Mark to *Shine Bright*!

Have a great week!
Mrs. Cocita

