



*The Nativity of the Lord*



### Papal Intention

**December:** For persons with disabilities. We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation

### Liturgy Schedule

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

#### Monday, December 25-The Nativity of The Lord

8:30am Mass.....Dolly Tinnirello  
10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

#### Tuesday, December 26-St. Stephen

#### Wednesday, December 27-St. John

#### Thursday, December 28-The Holy Innocents

8:30am Mass.....Madeline McMahon

#### Friday, December 29-Fifth Day within the Octave of The Nativity of the Lord

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

#### Saturday, December 30-Sixth Day within the Octave of The Nativity of the Lord

3:00pm Confessions  
3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel  
4:00pm Mass.....Celine Weir  
4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

#### Sunday, December 31-The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel  
8:30am Mass.....Bernie Weir  
10:00am Mass @ St. Mel  
11:30am Mass...For The Parishioners of St. Mark Parish and St. Mel Parish

### Liturgical Ministers December 30 & 31

#### Saturday, December 30 @ 4:00pm

**Eucharistic Ministers** Shirlee Toth, NOT FILLED (2)

**Lector:** Lisa Braun

**Altar Server:** Morgan Adkins, Houston Engle, Evan Lentz

#### Sunday, December 31 @ 8:30am

**Eucharistic Ministers** Tim Schmidt, Karen Cocita, NOT FILLED

**Lector:** Mary Lewis, Monica Svetz

**Altar Server:** Kathleen Murray, Reese Reichel, Grace Schmidt

#### Sunday, December 31 @ 11:30am

**Eucharistic Ministers** Annamaria Masterson, Cari Foster, Deirdre Mueller

**Lector:** Eileen Andrews, NOT FILLED

**Altar Server:** Owen Goggin, Bill Sonby, Joseph Sonby

### Luke McGraw Memorial Candles

### Weekly Intention

**December 24**

**Dolly Tinnirello**



### IN MEMORIAM

*May the peace of our Lord be with  
Rev. Robert E. Pahler  
And may God grant comfort to his 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  
Gianna Andolina  
Carol Behnke  
Jack Behnke  
Katy Brent  
Henry Buehner  
James Coyne  
Margaret Fadrowski  
Nicole Foerstner  
Helen Forlini  
Mary Frantz  
Theresa Fridrich


Lisa Groh  
Irene Gurchensky  
Gerri Joecken  
David Kurth  
Catherine Kutsick  
Loree Leasure-Poirier  
Jim McIlwee  
Mary Miller  
Maisie Nowlin  
Sr. Josette Obodzinski  
Ryan Puzzitiello Jr.  
Bill Retzer

Sr. Mary Ann Spangler  
Mary Stark  
Nora Sudetic  
Lena Sunyak  
George Surovec  
Herb Tippie  
Georgieann Treible  
Joe Wantz  
Charlotte Whiting  
Lillian Zahara  
Joseph Zaatchen Jr.

### Last Week's Collection

Sunday Envelopes (12/11).....\$ 4,469.00  
Faith Direct:.....\$ 5,513.00

**Thank you for your generosity!**



Join us in prayer and worship during

# The Christmas Season

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sat Dec 23 4:00pm St. Mark

Sat Dec 23 4:30pm St. Mel

Sun Dec 24 7:00am St. Mel

Sun Dec 24 8:30am St. Mark

**10:00am and 11:30am Sunday masses are cancelled due to evening masses for Christmas Eve**

## The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Sun Dec 24 4:00pm St. Mark

Sun Dec 24 6:00pm St. Mel

Sun Dec 24 10:00pm St. Mark

Mon Dec 25 8:30am St. Mark

Mon Dec 25 10:00am St. Mel

The Christmas season continues with Masses at their regular times. The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God is not a holy day of obligation this year as it falls on a Monday.

**Sun Dec 31** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
**Mon Jan 1** Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
**Sun Jan 7** The Epiphany of the Lord  
**Mon Jan 8** The Baptism of the Lord

Christmas is a ray of light for all, because it reveals to us God's love and makes us feel the presence of Jesus with everyone, especially with those who are suffering. Just for this reason Jesus willed to be born in poverty and in the abandonment of a cave and to be laid in a manger.

Saint Pope John Paul II, *Address to Young People*, 1978

Background: Peter Paul Rubens, *Adoration of the Magi*, 1633



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

**December 24, 2023**  
**4th Sunday of Advent**

Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, "But she was greatly troubled at what was said." An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her precisely when she is troubled. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, "Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God."

— Father John Muir

©LPi



**Merry Christmas and God's Blessing to you and your families during this Christmas Season!**

**Fr. Adam and Staff**



Ohioans can receive a 100% tax credit against Ohio income tax liability for cash contributions to certified organizations that grant scholarships to students, including those attending Catholic schools. The maximum credit amount is currently \$750. If you are filing a joint return and both you and your spouse make eligible donations, each of you can claim this credit (up to \$1,500 total). St. Mark School can be designated when making contributions!

You can find detailed information on the Catholic Community Center website:  
[Catholiccommunity.org/angel](http://Catholiccommunity.org/angel)

from Music Ministry  
[JWallace@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:JWallace@stmarkcleveland.com)



### Special thanks to the Christmas Choir

MIKE ANTONELLI, JOHN COONEY, BOBBY DELIA, KAREN DELIA, KAY DEVER, LILIAN ESPARRA, MARIA ISABELLA, AUDREY ISABELLA, PATTY JOYCE, SHANNON JOYCE, CAROL KERRIGAN, PAT KERRIGAN, TIM MOHR, BOB MORAN, ED MORRIS, MARY PRICE, ANGELA SALAZAR, ELLA SONBY, BILL TODIA, SHIRLEE TOTH, JOE WILSON.

GIANNA ANDOLINA, MILLIE ANDOLINA, ELLIE BERGER, CORA CARR, LEO DENIGRIS, CORA DUPLISEA, CHARLIE GREULOCK, WILL GREULOCK, EVIE HANNA, DECLAN HANNA, BEA KRATT, SADIE KRATT, SAM KOCH, EMILY KOCH, LUKE MEISTERICS, BRENDAN MCBRIDE, JOSEPH SONBY, AINE STANARD, OLIVIA TUCKER, JOSEPHINE ZEIMANN, KATIE ZIEMANN, LORETTA ZIEMANN, RICKY ZIEMANN, TONY ZIEMANN.

*Our preparation fostered our spirits in Advent, and the sharing of our music with the congregation is a tremendous joy. Thank you for augmenting our liturgy with your praise!*  
*Julia*

## THE WEEK AHEAD IN OUR PARISH

<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>December 23</b>	
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>December 24</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
4:00 pm	Mass w/Youth Choir	
10:00 pm	Mass	
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>December 25</b>	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	
8:30 am	Mass	
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>December 26</b>	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	
	<b>No Mass</b>	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>December 27</b>	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
<b>Thursday,</b>	<b>December 28</b>	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>December 29</b>	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>December 30</b>	
9:00 am	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>December 31</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
11:30 am	Mass (LS)	
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>January 1</b>	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	
8:30 am	Mass	

**Note: (LS)=Livestreamed**

*St. Mark Holy Name Society*

*A Blessed Christmas to All!*

Welcome all Parishioners  
18 and Older

We meet the second Tuesday of the Month at  
6:00pm in the Social Hall

Interested? Email  
jimcocita@gmail.com

*Please remember Deacon Dave  
in your Prayers*



[www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net)

**St. Mark Church # OH274**

If you are using Faith Direct for eGiving....please access the website, log in and verify that all of your information is correct. You may need to update bank account or credit card numbers.

If you forgot your user name or password follow the directions on the login screen.

If you have questions about Faith Direct go to the FAQ section of the website for answers.

*Thank you for supporting  
St. Mark Church!*

**The 2024 Calendars are  
available at all Church  
entrances**



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 Stieglmeyer, Edward Thomas, Joseph Toole, Jacob Trefney, Jonah Treible, Lukas Whitney.

God Bless them all!

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





## Principal News

The meaning of Christmas is truly timeless. It is about the birth of God's son and the gifts of love, hope, and joy that we receive because of his birth.

Throughout the months of November and December, this message played out in so many ways. Small acts of service were evident time and time again. Prayer partners spent time together in school, including time in prayer. Our Thanksgiving Drive to feed the hungry had 62 bags filled with food along with some full cases in support of St. Edward High School's Labre Ministry. Our Veterans and the Poor Clare Cloistered communities throughout Cleveland were remembered in prayer and received some special cards made by the students themselves. Our Mission Club created beautiful placemats for the women making the St. Mark retreat earlier in December. Our school choir went on the road to Independence Village in Avon to share their beautiful voices with the residents as they sang Christmas carols for them. I'm not sure who enjoyed it more- the children or the residents! A special note of thanks to our music teacher, Dr. Rentz for arranging this trip. The coat collection we did in support of one of our alumni, Joe B. who currently attends St. Ignatius, had a tremendous response. I had to call Joe three times for pick-ups because of the donations coming in over the two weeks of collection. As I constantly remind the children, it is in those small acts of giving, that we receive great joy. "One thing I ask of you: Never be afraid of giving. There is a deep joy in giving, since what we receive is much more than what we give." St. Mother Teresa

We celebrated St. Nicholas Day in grand style! After our morning broadcast, every child placed one shoe out in the hallway, and before we knew it, those shoes were filled with great surprises. The following day, Santa made a special visit to our children in PreK-Gr. 3 and told them the story of the first Christmas and the birth of our Savior. To see their faces made it all worth it. The pictures capture it better than I can describe.

Our children went shopping in our Santa Shop, buying presents for the special people in their lives. Our older students were amazing personal shoppers for them, carefully checking their lists to make sure every person on it had a gift, but also followed the budget that could be spent. They can shop for me anytime!

Our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade put on a wonderful *Breakfast with Santa* which once again was record setting. The elves set up, served, and cleaned up of course under the direction of Miss McLaughlin and Miss Albrigo. A special thanks to the parents of our 8<sup>th</sup> Graders along with Mr. Cocita and Mr. Gunn, who cooked in the kitchen, served the hot beverages, or worked the cookie table. A special thanks to Mr. Marty, Mr. Dean, and Mr. Albert who cleaned and setup the Social Hall.

Finally, our Christmas show, *The Littlest Angel Choir*, was performed beautifully by our students in PreK-Gr. 2 on December 16<sup>th</sup>. They knew their lines perfectly and sang their hearts out. There was an air of happiness and peace as folks left the gym following the performance. Seeing Christmas through the eyes of children always brings great joy!

In a Twitter message from December 27, 2018, Pope Francis wrote, "Looking at Jesus we see the face of the God who is Love, and we learn to recognize Him in the faces of our brothers and sisters." I am so lucky to experience this first hand every day here at school.

When I look at the faces of all our children, I see love and acceptance. I see a genuine compassion for others and a thirst for learning. I see faith in action in so many little ways- and some pretty big ways as well.

On behalf of all of us at St. Mark School, I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. May the wonder of that first Christmas, the joy received from the many blessings received daily, and the peace of Christ be with you as the new year approaches.

Mrs. Cocita



# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

"Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever." (2 Sm 28:16)

### Psalm:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 89)

### Second Reading:

The revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith. (Rom 16:25-26)

### Gospel:

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." (Lk 1:31)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God's plans are not always what we imagined. Sometimes they make us hesitate. Be like Mary. Say "Yes, Lord" — and God will show you that His imagination is better than yours.

## Observances for the week of December 24, 2023

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve  
**Monday:** The Nativity of the Lord  
**Tuesday:** St. Stephen, First Martyr  
**Wednesday:** St. John, Apostle and Evangelist  
**Thursday:** The Holy Innocents, Martyrs  
**Friday:** St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr  
**Next Sunday:** The Holy Family; New Year's Eve



## Saint of the week

Servant of God Michelle Christine Duppong worked as a FOCUS missionary and a lay parish minister in the early 2000's. Her life was a testament to her commitment to God and social justice work. She died at age 31 in 2015 but her legacy lives on today in those whose lives she touched.

## Prayer

Jesus, I praise and thank you for the life of your servant Michelle Duppong. In her life and suffering, she joined you in your thirst for souls and embraced the cross offered to her. Following her example, I ask for the special grace of [personal intercession] and, if it brings you greater glory, that she be honored by your Church. Jesus, I ask this in your Holy Name.

Amen.

*-With ecclesiastical approval of Bishop David D. Kagan, Diocese of Bismarck*

(Prayer Source: <https://bismarckdiocese.com/prayer-of-intercession>)

©LPi

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023 | 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT