



The Nativity of the Lord

Liturgy Readings for the Week

Saturday,	December 24-Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
4:00 p.m.	Is 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25
10:00 p.m.	Maggie Willmitch Dolly Tinnirello
Sunday,	December 25-The Nativity of the Lord
8:30 a.m.	Is 9:1-6 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14
11:30 a.m.	For the Parishioners of St. Mark Parish & St. Mel Parish Luke McGraw
Monday,	December 26-St. Stephen
8:30 a.m.	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday,	December 27-St. John, Apostle
8:30 a.m.	Jn 1:1-4 Jn:20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday	December 28-The Holy Innocents
	Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18
Thursday,	December 29-The Fifth Day Within The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
8:30 a.m.	Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35
Friday,	December 30-The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
8:30 a.m.	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday,	December 31-The Seventh Day Within The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
4:00 p.m.	Jn 2:18-21 Jn 1:1-18
Sunday,	January 1-Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
8:30 a.m.	Nm 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21
11:30 a.m.	For the Parishioners of St. Mark Parish & St. Mel Parish Dolly Tinnirello

Pope's Intention December: For volunteer not-for-profit organizations. We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Pope's Intention January: For educators. We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fellowship rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Liturgical Ministers December 31 & January 1

Saturday, December 31 @ 4:00pm

Eucharistic Ministers: Deacon Dave, Marian Lundeen, Shirlee Toth

Lector: Carole Iseli

Altar Servers: Kathryn Sowul, Joseph Sowul, Patrick Sowul

Sunday, January 1 @ 8:30am

Eucharistic Ministers: Sheila Gallagher, Karen Cocita, Laura Skonce

Lector: Mary Lewis, Monica Svetz

Altar Servers: Evan Lentz, Anthony McGervey, Joe Svetz

Sunday, January 1 @ 11:30am

Eucharistic Ministers: Michelle Biggins, Deirdre Mueller, Rosanne Kelley

Lector: Eileen Andrews, **NOT FILLED**

Altar Servers: Gianna Andolina, Eoin Mueller, Patrick Mueller

Luke McGraw
Memorial Candles
Weekly Intention
December 25
The Tinnirello Family



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	Gerri Joecken	Mary Stark
Gianna Andolina	David Kurth	Nora Sudetic
Carol Behnke	Catherine Kutsick	Lena Sunyak
Jack Behnke	Loree Leasure-Poirier	George Surovec
Katy Brent	Mary Maloney	Herb Tippie
Henry Buehner	Jim McIlwee	Joe Wantz
Margaret Fadrowski	Mary Miller	Charlotte Whiting
Nicole Foerstner	Betty Minotas	Lillian Zahara
Helen Forlini	Maisie Nowlin	
Mary Frantz	Sr. Josette Obodzinski	
Theresa Fridrich	Ryan Puzzitiello Jr.	
Cecilia Frischauf	Bill Retzer	
Irene Gurchensky	Sr. Mary Ann Spangler	



May the peace of our Lord be with
Dave Adams, Husband of Pam Adams
and may God grant comfort to his family and friends.



Join us in prayer and worship during

The Christmas Season

Christmas Eve

Sat Dec 24th

4:00pm St. Mark *
4:30pm St. Mel
7:00pm St. Mel
10:00pm St. Mark *

Christmas Day

Sun Dec 25th

8:30am St. Mark *
10:00am St. Mel
11:30am St. Mark *

* Overflow seating available at St. Mark in the Social Hall

The Christmas season continues with Masses at their regular times. The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God on January 1st is a holy day of obligation but also falls on Sunday this year.

Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Sun Jan 1st

The Epiphany

Sun Jan 8th

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

Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lighted four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.

Let us pray...

God,
you became human through the obedience
of a simple young woman named Mary.
Mary is our model of faith.
May we be faithful to your word as Mary was.
Give us the courage to face each day
with the yes that Mary gave to you.
We ask this through the incarnate God,
who comes to us again during this Christmas
season.
Amen.

Blessings to all of you this Christmas and my
prayers that your loved ones have peace and hope
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ,



Fr. Adam

THANK YOU!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who made the Giving Tree ministry a wonderful success! Whether you donated, shopped for a gift, wrote out ornaments, sorted and checked in the gifts, delivered gifts or said a prayer for the people we serve - we could not do it without YOU! More than 400 gifts were collected this year and the organizations and individuals we serve are so very appreciative!! From hats and gloves to fishing poles and games, so many Christmas wishes came true because of the collective effort of our parish. Thank you for helping spread the feeling of hope and love throughout our community which lasts long after the gifts are unwrapped.
Merry Christmas!



*Turning taxes into tuition with the
Catholic Community Foundation*

The Catholic Community Foundation has established The Angel Scholarship Fund as a brand new opportunity to support our Catholic Schools and students in the Diocese of Cleveland. It is possible to "turn tax dollars into tuition" by making a charitable contribution to the Angel Scholarship Fund in 2022 that is eligible for a 100% tax credit on the donor's 2022 State of Ohio income tax return. The maximum credit amount is currently \$750 (\$1500 if married filing jointly, where each spouse donates \$750). Donors can make undesignated contributions to the Angel Scholarship Fund, and the Angel Scholarship Fund can then award to any eligible student from any Catholic school, or donors can make a contribution designated to benefit students at a particular school. The Angel Scholarship Fund, like any SGO, is required to prioritize "low income" (under 300% of the poverty threshold) recipients, but otherwise the law does not place limits on which K-12 students can be served or the number of scholarships that can be awarded. This program holds tremendous potential for bolstering our efforts to ensure the viability of our Catholic schools and has the potential to benefit every Catholic school in the diocese.

All students that apply are eligible to receive an Angel Scholarship. While applicants that are under 300% of the poverty threshold (in 2021-2022 this is \$79,500 for a family of four) will be prioritized, applicants that are over this threshold are also eligible for an Angel Scholarship, based on availability of funds.

Please visit www.catholiccommunity.org/angel for more information about this exciting initiative!

THE WEEK AHEAD IN OUR PARISH

Saturday,	December 24	
4:00 pm	Mass w/Children's Choir	
10:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	December 25	
8:30 am	Mass	
9:30 am	Rosary	CH
11:30 am	Mass (LS)	
Monday,	December 26	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G
Tuesday,	December 27	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G
Wednesday,	December 28	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
5:00-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G
Thursday,	December 29	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G
Friday,	December 30	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G
Saturday,	December 31	
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	January 1	
8:30 am	Mass	
9:30 am	Rosary	CH
11:30 am	Mass (LS)	

PLEASE BE SURE TO PICK UP
YOUR 2023 PARISH CALENDAR,
AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH
ENTRANCES



Parish Office Schedule

Friday, December 23rd - Closed
Monday, December 26th - Closed
Friday, December 31st - Closed
Monday, January 2nd - Closed

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 Stiegelmeyer, Edward Thomas, Joseph Toole, Jacob Trefney, Jonah Treible, Lukas Whitney.
God Bless them all!

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



In Appreciation



Thank you to all of the Liturgical Ministers for
their faithful service to St. Mark Church as
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion,
Lectors, Altar Servers, Ushers, Music Ministers,
Sacristans the Art & Environment team
throughout the past year!

Sunday & Christmas Collections

Thank you for your support and generosity of St.
Mark Parish during this past year.
Please see the January 8th bulletin for the
Sunday & Christmas collections.

PRINCIPAL NEWS

As we waited to celebrate Christmas and the birth of Baby Jesus, there was magic happening in our school building. Our 8th Grade students held their annual Breakfast with Santa, featuring a sausage and pancake breakfast in two sold out seatings. The class served as elves and were assigned very specific tasks which included greeting and seating guests, waiting on tables, selling baked goods, cleaning up, and of course, welcoming Santa! Many of our 8th Grade parents volunteered to help that Saturday morning as well as my husband, Mr. Gunn, and Mr. Sevier, all of whom came in extra early before the students to begin the cooking in the kitchen. Watching one family after the next place their children in Santa's arms and capture the moment with a photograph was nothing short of exciting. It stirred many memories of when we had taken our own sons to St. Mark's Breakfast with Santa many years ago. I believe traditions like these are important because they provide a sense of belonging and meaning to our lives. If you think about it, family traditions give us something to look forward to and something to hope for. They help us anticipate what is to come. Great job, 8th Grade! Special thanks to Miss McLaughlin and Mrs. Gallagher for all the behind-the-scene work and attention to detail that went into this event. I am already looking forward to next year's Breakfast with Santa!

Students in our Junior High also had the opportunity this past week to hear Rachel Stoklosa and Lindsay Friedman, Education Director with the Kol Israel Foundation, speak about their Face to Face Holocaust Program. As you know, the Holocaust was a government organized persecution of 6 million Jews and 5-7 million other people determined to be inferior or different between 1933-1945. Our children learn about the Holocaust in Social Studies and Reading, so it was very fitting for them to experience the passionate stories of those who had family living this first-hand during this relevant time in history. Rachel shared personal stories of how her grandmother was forced to walk barefoot in below zero weather to go to work at the tender age of 14. Learning about the Holocaust is an opportunity to unpack and analyze the decisions and actions taken or not taken by a range of people in a time of crisis. It is an opportunity to raise awareness of how prejudice, stereotyping, and racism affects us today. Many thanks to Mrs. Riordan for arranging this visit for our students.

Our Christmas program was performed last Friday and featured students in Gr. K-3 as well as our School Choir. The children spent a great deal of time practicing their lines and learning new songs as the performance time neared. As the children in K-Gr. 2 worked on their performance of The Littlest Christmas Tree, their excitement grew and they were having such great fun! They knew one another's lines and were more than willing to help by stepping in or coaching if needed. No worries about jitters! As our 3rd Grade performed The Meaning of Christmas, the true meaning of Christmas certainly was gifted to everyone present. The choir was equally as beautiful, hitting every note with such perfection. Christmas is a story of love. The birth of Baby Jesus, the Christ Child, brought great joy to so many hundreds of years ago and continues to bring us great joy today. Special thanks go out to Dr. Rentz, our music teacher; our primary teachers, Mrs. Patton, Ms. Maroon, Miss Dunleavy, Miss Jones, Mrs. McGinty, Ms. Colegrove, Mrs. Litten, Mrs. Kehl, Mr. Adams, Mrs. Henley, and Mrs. Schmidt; our aides, Mrs. McNeeley and Miss Rickard; our custodians, Mr. Eric and Mr. Dean; and Mrs. Winans, who lovingly created many of the costumes for the performance. It truly takes a team to create magic, and I cannot say enough about this amazing team. I am so very blessed to be surrounded with such a caring staff.

May all of you have a very Merry Christmas. I pray that the joy and peace you celebrate this Christmas Day resonate in your hearts throughout this next year.
Mrs. Cocita



SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

For a child is born to us, a son is given us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests. (Is 9:5)

PSALM:

Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord. (Ps 96)

SECOND READING:

Beloved:

The grace of God has appeared, saving all. (Ti 2:11)

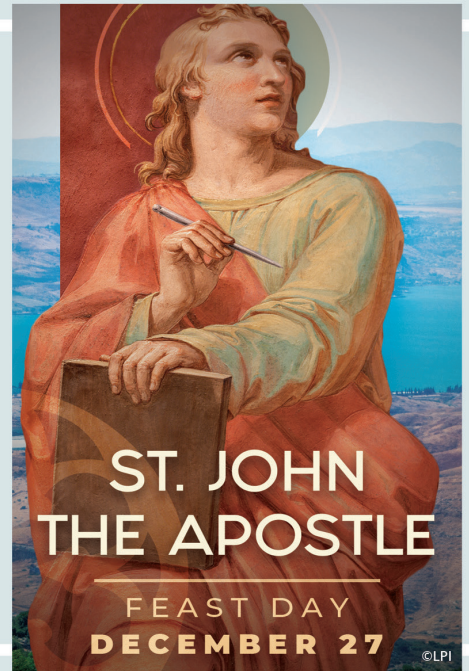
GOSPEL:

"Do not be afraid;
for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy
that will be for all the people.
For today in the city of David
a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."
(Lk 2:10-11)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 25, 2022

Sunday:	The Nativity of the Lord
Monday:	St. Stephen, First Martyr
Tuesday:	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Wednesday:	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Thursday:	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
Friday:	Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Saturday:	St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
Next Sunday:	Mary, The Holy Mother of God, National Migration Week, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace



Saint of the Week

Saint John was one of the Twelve, part of Jesus' inner circle, among the few that witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of Jarius' Daughter, and the Agony in the garden at Gethsemane. He and his brother James were the sons of Zebedee and Salome. When Jesus called them, they left their father mending nets and followed him. Jesus called the brothers "Boanerges," meaning "sons of thunder" — they were passionate in their faith and Jesus had to rebuke them for their fiery zeal on more than one occasion. John, the younger brother, possibly the youngest disciple, was the only one present at Jesus' death.

Saint John the Apostle is traditionally thought to be the author of the fifth Gospel, the three Epistles of John, and the Book of Revelation. However, there has been some debate among scholars from antiquity to the present. Tradition also gives him the title Beloved Disciple and John's Gospel sees him seated next to Jesus at the last supper and the one to whom Jesus gives the care of Mary at the crucifixion.

Although Church tradition says that John survived the other disciples, living a long life, much of it is steeped in myth and legend. Some say he retired to Ephesus after the crucifixion with Mary and remained there until he died. But in other traditions he is more active. For a time he remained in Jerusalem with the other disciples, then founded churches in Asia Minor. In a legend of his persecution, during the reign of the Emperor Domitian, John is taken to Rome and thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil but preserved from death. He is then exiled to the island of Patmos where the Book of Revelation was written.

Most accounts agree that after his exile and the Assumption of Mary he returned to Ephesus where he died sometime after 98, during the reign of the Emperor Trajan.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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