



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.

September 7, 2025

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Anyone of you who
does not renounce all his
possessions cannot
be my disciple."
- Lk 14:33

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Adam Zajac
Pastor

Mrs. Christine Gunn
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

September: For our relationship with all of creation. Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday, September 8-The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30am Mass Edith Lecher

Tuesday, September 9-St. Peter Claver

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass Fred Nickels

Wednesday, September 10

Thursday, September 11

8:30am Mass Edith Lecher

Friday, September 12

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Saturday, September 13-St. John Chrysostom

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass James Keane

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, September 14-The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass..... Terry & Cynthia McManamon

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass Mindy Biggins

Pray for the Sick

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

William Adams
 Gianna Andolina
 Alex Brugh
 Henry Buehner
 James Coyne
 Matthew Craven
 Nicole Foerstner
 Mary Frantz
 Theresa Fridrich
 Amy Glazier
 Carol Hughes

David Kurth
 Tom Lembach
 Gerald McArthur
 Jim McIlwee
 Judy McIntyre
 Mary Miller
 Jack Mohar
 Maisie Nowlin
 Sr. Josette Obodzinski
 Mary Stark

Aimee Roscoe
 Nora Sudetic
 George Surovec
 Barbara Thiel
 Herb Tippie
 Michele Vollmer
 Joe Wantz
 Lillian Zahara
 Lew Zahara Jr.
 Joseph Zavatchen Sr.
 Joseph Zavatchen Jr.

Pray for the Deceased

Fr. Jack Manning

May perpetual light shine upon them

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Dolly Tinnirello

Baptized This Week

Cecilia Rininger

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, September 13 @ 4:00pm	Erin Fitzpatrick Bridget Blayney R.V. Threadgill	John Levis	Hunter Conklin Kerri Gompf
Sunday, September 14 @ 8:30am	Kathy O'Malley Karen Cocita NOT FILLED	Mary Lewis Tim Mohr	Clare Stock Fiona Stock
Sunday, September 14 @ 11:30am	Jeff Joecken Cari Foster Deirdre Mueller	Eliza Kratt NOT FILLED	Emily Koch Jack Koch

NEWS AND EVENTS

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (see next bulletin) \$
Faith Direct (past month’s weekly total)\$ 5,006.00
Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

“Hello, my name is Josh Stecz, I am a seminarian studying for the Diocese of Cleveland. My home parish is St. Francis de Sales, Akron. I attended grade school at my home parish and high school at St. Vincent St. Mary. I entered the seminary after graduating high school, and this is my seventh year in the seminary. I am one of four siblings, and I have a large extended family, so big groups are natural for me . I enjoy sports, the outdoors, spending time with family and friends, and working out. I am excited to get involved and get to know the people of both St. Mark and St. Mel.”
Pax,
Josh



Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Altar Servers

Please notify in writing or by email of any dates that you are not available to serve for the next schedule, which will be from October 2025-January 2026. We need this information so that all Ministers are available to fulfill their scheduled Mass times. We appreciate your continued service. The deadline to submit dates is Monday, September 8th by 4:30pm to cbirchfield@stmarkcleveland.com. Please be mindful of holidays and vacations. Thank you for your help.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word

Schedule for September-December

Children who are in PreK and above but have not yet received their First Communion will be invited to process into the sacristy during 8:30am Mass to hear the Gospel proclaimed in an accessible way. Children’s Liturgy of the Word is meant to shed light on the Gospel when a passage is particularly challenging for children to understand, so it will only take place on Sundays when it has been determined to be useful and appropriate. We will publish a schedule of the chosen dates a few months at a time.

The upcoming Children’s Liturgy dates are:

- September 28
- October 12
- October 26
- November 9
- December 21
- December 28

Special Collection

September 13th & 14th

There will be a second collection to assist the Christians and other innocent victims of violence in Gaza and surrounding areas who are struggling to survive, protect their children and live with dignity in dire conditions. The Holy Father continues to call for a cease fire and for aid to enter the territory, noting with great sorrow that “Gaza is starving”.

Reminders and Regular Events

MarkersMels50+

We’re having a picnic!

Come join us on Saturday, September 13th, after the 4:00pm Mass, at the St. Mark’s pavilion! Good food (hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, beverages provided), a lot of fun and great fellowship! Sides and/or desserts to share are always enjoyed and appreciated!

To RSVP, please text or call Mary Kay at 216-402-8570 by Monday, September 8th.

Hope to see you there!

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

Upcoming Date: September 6th & 7th

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 David at: bciancibello@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates: September 14th

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.

Military

Please pray for our military presently serving.

Josh Dunleavy, Nick Hupka, John Kazanowski, Randy Kloos, Sean O'Reilly, Nico Russo, Matthew Shirley

General Parish Calendar

Saturday,	September 6	
10:00am-2:00pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	September 7	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday Preschool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS	
1:30 pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR
6:00 pm	Youth Group	CC
Monday,	September 8	
8:30 am	Mass	
6:30 pm	PSR First Day/Opening Mass	CH/CR
Tuesday,	September 9	
8:30 am	Mass w/1st Floor	
4:30 pm	OCIA	CC
5:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
5:30 pm	Cheerleading Prac.	G
6:00 pm	Holy Name Society Mtg.	PP/SH
Wednesday,	September 10	
5:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
5:30 pm	Brownie Troop #70996	SH
6:00 pm	Band Parent Mtg.	CC
Thursday,	September 11	
8:30 am	Mass	
6:00 pm	Scout Pack #268	SH
5:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH/PP
Friday,	September 12	
6:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
Saturday,	September 13	
10:00am-2:00pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:00 pm	Markers/Mels 50+ Picnic	PP/CC
Sunday,	September 14	
	Catechetical Sunday	
8:30 am	Mass w/Teachers	
8:30 am	Sunday Preschool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
9:30 am	Young Families	SH/PP
11:30 am	Mass LS	
1:30 pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR

Jubilee Audience of Pope Leo XIV, on 27 August 2025**Summary of Catechesis:**

Dear brothers and sisters, in our continuing catechesis on the Jubilee theme of “Christ our Hope,” today we consider the freedom and determination shown by Jesus at the moment of his arrest in the Garden of Olives. Our Lord approaches his coming passion freely and consciously, in obedience to the will of the Father and as an act of redemptive love. In this way, he reveals the essence of true hope: the firm conviction that even in the midst of violence, injustice and suffering, God’s love is ever present as a source of spiritual fruitfulness and the promise of eternal life. The way that Jesus exercised his freedom in the face of death teaches us not to fear suffering, but to persevere in confident trust in God’s providential care. May our lives always be marked by this hope, born of the knowledge that if we surrender to God’s will and freely give our lives in love for others, the Father’s grace will sustain us in every trial and enable us to bear abundant fruit for the salvation of our brothers and sisters.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight. (Wis 9:18)

Psalm:

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge. (Ps 90)

Second Reading:

Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while,
that you might have him back forever. (Phlm 1:15)

Gospel:

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me
cannot be my disciple. (Lk 14:27)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Today, Jesus tells us the cost of true discipleship — and it turns out, it's everything. We must reject the world in order to love God. What attachments are holding us back from the relationship we could have — we *should* have — with our Lord?

Observances for the week of September 7, 2025

Sunday:	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents' Day
Monday:	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday:	St. Peter Claver, Priest
Thursday:	Patriot Day
Friday:	The Most Holy Name of Mary
Saturday:	St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday:	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Devotions, *Explained!*

Lectio divina ("divine reading") is an ancient practice of praying through the reading of Scripture. It includes four steps: read (*lectio*), meditate (*meditatio*), pray (*oratio*) and contemplate (*contemplatio*).

Prayer of Simplicity

Dear God,
In my desire for You, take away anything that keeps me from knowing You, myself, or my mission here on earth. Help me to remember what is truly important, and to seek and treasure that.
Amen.

How exciting to welcome our students, families, teachers, and staff back for a new school year at St. Mark School! With classrooms filled, hallways bustling, and laughter returning, the building has once again come alive and vibrant with the energy our Lions bring to school every day!

We began our school year by gathering as a community for Mass, the most important thing we do as a Catholic school. There is no better way to start than at the Lord's table, placing Christ at the center of all we do. In the Eucharist, we find the strength for the journey ahead and the reminder that every moment of learning and growth finds its true meaning in Him.

This year, our school theme is **ROAR** – a reminder that we are called to live our faith boldly and joyfully each day. ROAR stands for **Respect Others, Own Your Actions, Act Safely, Rise to the Challenge**. Living out the Gospel message every day, we are called to treat others with dignity, take responsibility for our choices, care for the well-being of those around us, and rise each day with courage and perseverance. These values will guide our students not only in their learning, but also in their growth as disciples of Christ. We can't wait to see how loudly our St. Mark Lions **ROAR** this school year!

We extend a warm welcome to all our new students and their families in grades 1–8, as well as to our Kindergarten and Pre-K families who are beginning their journey at St. Mark this year. We are also blessed to welcome new members to our faculty: Mrs. Allison Finkovich (Assistant Principal), Ms. Maria Keohane (Middle School English), and Mrs. Rachele Morchak (Grade 1 Aide). Each of them has already proven to be a wonderful addition to our outstanding team, and we are so grateful they are here.

For those of you who don't know, I grew up in the neighborhood and my family and I were parishioners at St. Mark. In fact, my Mom still lives in the same house I grew up in and continues to be a parishioner. We moved here in the middle of my 8th grade year, so I did not attend school at St. Mark, but was always jealous of the kids who did! My husband Joe and I were married here and our oldest child, Allison, was baptized here before we moved out of the neighborhood. St. Mark holds a special place in our family's life, and it is with deep humility and gratitude that I begin my journey as Principal, committed to carrying on the values and traditions that make St. Mark such so remarkable. I am especially thankful for the kindness you have shown me and for your steadfast support of our school. The true strength of St. Mark lies in its people and the vibrant spirit of our community.

Please know you, our parish family, are in the daily prayers of our school community. In turn, I humbly ask each of you to keep our students, parents, and teachers in your prayers as we begin this year. With your support and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we look forward to a year of growth, faith, and community—living out our **ROAR** in all we do!

