



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.

August 31, 2025

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." - Lk 14:13-14

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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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 1

8:30am MassSheila McGuire

Tuesday, September 2

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

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

Wednesday, September 3-St. Gregory the Great

Thursday, September 4

8:30am MassT.J. Costello

5:00pm Wedding

Friday, September 5

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

4:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday, September 6

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass Linda Lawrence

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, September 7-23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass..... For the Parishioners of St. Mark Parish
 and the Parishioners of St. Mel Parish

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass Dolly Tinnirello

12:30pm Baptism

Pray for the Sick

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

William Adams
 Gianna Andolina
 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.

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Special Intention

Wedding Banns

Frank Kasmerski & Kathryn Ferris III

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, September 6 @ 4:00pm	Marian Lundeen Mary Price NOT FILLED	Lisa Braun	Eoin Mueller Patrick Mueller
Sunday, September 7 @ 8:30am	Mary Stamper Michael Kay Laura Skonce	Ben Campbell Collette Joyce	London Dinya Gabriela Santos
Sunday, September 7 @ 11:30am	Annamaria Masterson Shawn Wroten Lisa Ditzel	Amanda Conklin Decorah Roscoe	Kiera Laurent Ian McCoy

NEWS AND EVENTS

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past weekend)\$ 2,719.00
Faith Direct (past month's weekly total)\$ 5,006.00
Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

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

Faith Direct is Becoming ParishSOFT

Exciting Update:

We're excited to share that Faith Direct will soon be upgrading to ParishSOFT Giving - our new, secure giving platform. This upgrade will happen automatically and securely. No action is required from you - your gift schedules and payment details will carry over seamlessly.

What's new about ParishSOFT Giving?

- **Weekly Giving:** If you selected weekly giving, your gifts will now be deducted each week instead of in one monthly batch.
- **More Flexibility:** Adjust your giving schedule to any date that works for you - not just the 4th or 15th.
- **More Ways to Give:** Now you can donate using PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay or Google Pay.

We're committed to making this a smooth transition. You'll receive more information as we get closer to launch.

St. Mark PSR Program 2025 - 2026

A reminder that the St. Mark PSR Program's first class will be Monday September 8th. You must be registered before the first class.

Our St. Mark PSR program is on Monday, evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 in the school building. We serve students in Grades 1 - 8. Students in grades 2 and 8 are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist (Grade 2) and Confirmation (Grade 8), as part of our curriculum. **For a student to receive these Sacraments they MUST be enrolled and attend PSR the previous year.**

To register for the 2025 - 2026 school year:

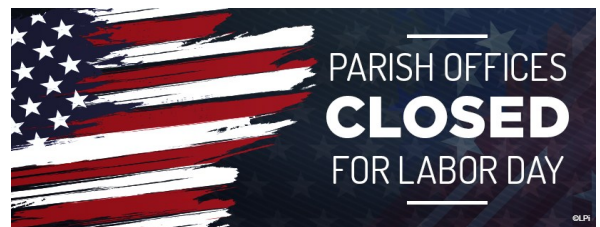
1. The materials can be downloaded from the St. Mark Church website www.stmarkcleveland.com, under heading FAMILIES (at the top of the page) and by clicking the PSR tab.
2. Registration materials can also be picked up at the Parish Office.

Registration forms and payment can be mailed to or dropped off at the Parish Office or put in the Sunday collection, marked to the attention of PSR.

For any questions or additional information, you can contact Jeannette Puckett at the Parish Office at 216-226-7577 or through email at jpuckettpsr@stmarkcleveland.com.

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.



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!

St. Mark Sunday School 2025-2026

Registration Information

Register now to save your child's space in Sunday School for the 2025-2026 year! Sunday School is open to children ages 3-6 and takes place during the 8:30am Sunday Mass. In-person registration will take place in the school hallway on Saturday/Sunday August 30th & 31st after all masses. Forms are available at all Church entrances. You can also drop off registration forms to the parish office. Classes begin September 7th. Any questions, please contact: Molly Stottner at mollystottner@hotmail.com

St. Mark Sunday School Volunteers

We are currently seeking volunteers to assist in teaching Sunday School for the 2025-2026 school year! High school students are welcome to assist. Adults 18 and over must be Virtus compliant to volunteer. Classes begin September 7th, and meet during the 8:30am Sunday mass. Please contact Molly Stottner at the above email address.

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

Eucharistic Adoration

Prayer and Thanksgiving before the Lord

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, September 5th 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.

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

Military

Please pray for our military presently serving.

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

NEWS AND EVENTS

Parish News

VIRTUS Program Compliancey

Check that you are up-to-date!

All staff and all volunteers who work with children (such as coaches, catechists, scout leaders, parent volunteers, etc.) are required to stay compliant with the VIRTUS program. No exceptions are made. This program is required by the Diocese of Cleveland, and we are audited annually.

For existing volunteers:

- Stay current with the online bulletins
- Renew your BCI Fingerprint and Background check every five years through virtusonline.org (see the Toolbox tab for selection.com background check).

New and interested volunteers working with children:

- Attend a VIRTUS training. Registration is through virtusonline.org.
- Read and sign the 2016 Policy for Protecting Children.
- Read and sign the 2016 Standards of Conduct.
- Complete a background check through virtusonline.org (see the Toolbox tab for selection.com background check).
- Complete the St. Mark Volunteer Application

Full information can be found on our parish website. To verify that you are in compliance call the parish office.

Need Art & Environment Volunteers

If you enjoy decorating in a group environment

The Art & Environment (A&E) group is looking for volunteers to plan and decorate the Church for religious seasons and holidays. Some of the tasks include planning and shopping for fabric, floral and ribbon, deciding on color schemes, arranging flowers and their placement, ironing fabrics, obtaining and watering plants, and brainstorming new decorating ideas in the spirit of enhancing worship at St. Mark. Fr. Adam provided his input as well as guidelines from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Built of Living Stones, a document intended for use by those engaged in the design of places of worship.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Art & Environment group, please email your interest to Mary Lewis at mmlewis873@gmail.com or phone 216-226-0242 (leave message). Thanks in advance for your consideration of volunteering for this rewarding endeavor.

General Parish Calendar

Saturday,	August 30	
9:00am-2:00pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR
1:00 pm	Wedding	CH
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	August 31	
8:30 am	Mass	
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS	
Monday,	September 1	
	School Closed	
	Parish Office Closed	
8:30 am	Mass	
Tuesday,	September 2	
	First Day of Pre-K	
8:30 am	Mass w/2nd Floor	
4:15 pm	OCIA	CC
5:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
5:30 pm	Cheerleading Prac.	PP
Wednesday,	September 3	
5:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
7:00 pm	Bible Timeline	CC
Thursday,	September 4	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00 pm	Wedding	
5:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH/PP
Friday,	September 5	
9:00 am	School Adoration	
4:00 pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
5:00 pm	Adoration Family Social	PP
6:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
Saturday,	September 6	
10:00am-2:00pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	Donut Social	
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

Jubilee Audience of Pope Leo XIV, on 20 August 2025

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. III. The Passover of Jesus. 3. Forgiveness. «He loved them to the end» (Jn 13:2)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we will look at one of the most striking and luminous gestures in the Gospel: the moment when Jesus, during the last supper, offers a morsel to the one who is about to betray him. It is not only a gesture of sharing: it is much more; it is love's last attempt not to give up.

Saint John, with his profound spiritual sensibility, tells us about this moment as follows: [During supper, when] "the devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over... Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass ... he loved them to the end" (Jn 13:1-2). To love until the end: here is the key to understanding Christ's heart. A love that does not cease in the face of rejection, disappointment, even ingratitude.

Jesus knows the time, but he does not submit to it: he chooses it. It is he who recognizes the moment in which his love must pass through the most painful wound, that of betrayal. And instead of withdrawing, accusing, defending himself... he continues to love: he washes the feet, dips the bread and offers it.

"It is the one to whom I hand the morsel after I have dipped it" (Jn 13:26). With this simple and humble gesture, Jesus carries his love forward and to its depths, not because he is ignoring what is happening, but precisely because he sees it clearly. He has understood that the freedom of the other, even when it is lost in evil, can still be reached by the light of a meek gesture, because he knows that true forgiveness does not await repentance, but offers itself first, as a free gift, even before it is accepted.

Judas, unfortunately, does not understand. After the morsel – says the Gospel – "Satan entered him" (v. 27). This passage strikes us: as if evil, hidden until then, manifested itself after love showed its most defenceless face. And precisely for this reason, brothers and sisters, that morsel is our salvation: because it tells us that God does everything – absolutely everything – to reach us, even in the hour when we reject him.

It is here that forgiveness reveals all its power and manifests the true face of hope. It is not forgetfulness; it is not weakness. It is the ability to set the other free, while loving him to the end. Jesus' love does not deny the truth of pain, but it does not allow evil to have the last word. This is the mystery Jesus accomplishes for us, in which we too, at times, are called to participate.

How many relationships are broken, how many stories become complicated, how many unspoken words remain suspended. And yet the Gospel shows us that there is always a way to continue to love, even when everything seems irredeemably compromised. To forgive does not mean to deny evil, but to prevent it from generating further evil. It is not to say that nothing has happened, but to do everything possible to ensure that resentment does not determine the future.

When Judas leaves the room, "it was night" (v. 30). But immediately afterwards, Jesus says, "Now is the Son of Man glorified" (v. 31). The night is still there, but a light has already begun to shine. And it shines because Christ remains faithful to the end, and so his love is stronger than hatred.

Dear brothers and sisters, we too experience painful and difficult nights. Nights of the soul, nights of disappointment, nights in which someone has hurt or betrayed us. In those moments, the temptation is to close ourselves up, to protect ourselves, to return the blow. But the Lord shows us the hope that that another way exists, always exists. He teaches us that one can offer a morsel even to someone who turns their back on us. That one can respond with the silence of trust. And that we can move forward with dignity, without renouncing love.

Let us ask today for the grace to be able to forgive, even when we do not feel understood, even when we feel abandoned. Because it is precisely in those hours that love can reach its pinnacle. As Jesus teaches us, to love means to leave the other free – even to betray – without ever ceasing to believe that even that freedom, wounded and lost, can be snatched from the deception of darkness and returned to the light of goodness.

When the light of forgiveness succeeds in filtering through the deepest crevices of the heart, we understand that it is never futile. Even if the other does not accept it, even if it seems to be in vain, forgiveness frees those who give it: it dispels resentment, it restores peace, it returns us to ourselves.

Jesus, with the simple gesture of offering bread, shows that every betrayal can become an opportunity for salvation, if it is chosen as a space for a greater love. It does not give in to evil, but conquers it with good, preventing it from extinguishing what is truest in us: the capacity to love.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Humble yourself the more, the greater you are,
and you will find favor with God. (Sir 3:18)

Psalm:

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.
(Ps 68)

Second Reading:

You have not approached that which could be touched
and a blazing fire and gloomy darkness. (Heb 12:18)

Gospel:

"For every one who exalts himself will be humbled,
but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Lk 14:11)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"When you hold a banquet, invite the poor,"
Jesus instructs. "Blessed indeed will you be
because of their inability to repay you." Each
of us has our own banquet to offer, our own
gifts to share. Who will we invite?

Observances for the week of August 31, 2025

- Sunday:** 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Labor Day
Wednesday: St. Gregory the Great, Pope and
Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Grandparents' Day



Devotions, Explained!

Imago divina (Latin for "divine image") is an extension of the ancient practice of *lectio divina* (literally, "divine lesson"). *Imago divina* is, in a sense, praying with one's eyes, using the medium of artwork to assist in lifting the mind to God.

Prayer for Humility

Dear God,
Mold my heart after Yours.
Help me to see myself as You
see me: surrounded by Your
love. Help me to see others as
You see them as well. Give me
knowledge of your ways, today
and always.
Amen.