



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.

June 1, 2025



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

"You are witnesses
of these things."
- Lk 24:48

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

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

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday, June 2

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

Tuesday, June 3-St. Charles Lwanga and Companions

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Wednesday, June 4

Thursday, June 5-St. Boniface

8:30am MassMaureen Gale

Friday, June 6

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

4:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:30pm Marriage Validation

Saturday, June 7

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm MassHalina Fuhs

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, June 8-Pentecost Sunday

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am MassLuann Votruba

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am MassDolly Tinnirello

Pray for the Sick

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

William Adams	David Kurth	Nora Sudetic
Gianna Andolina	Tom Lembach	George Surovec
Katy Brent	Gerald McArthur	Barbara Thiel
Henry Buehner	Jim McIlwee	Herb Tippie
James Coyne	Mary Miller	Georgieann Treible
Matthew Craven	Jack Mohar	Joe Wantz
Nicole Foerstner	Maisie Nowlin	Charlotte Whiting
Mary Frantz	Bill Retzer	Lillian Zahara
Theresa Fridrich	Mary Stark	Lew Zahara Jr.
Irene Gurchensky	Sr. Josette Obodzinski	Joseph Zavatchen Sr.
Carol Hughes	Judy Reitz	Joseph Zavatchen Jr.
	Aimee Roscoe	

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention
Deceased Members of the St. Mark Class of 1975

Wedding Banns III
Nathan Basile & Alayna Tomaro

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, June 7 @ 4:00pm	Lou Toth R.V. Threadgill Erin Fitzpatrick	Lisa Braun	Declan Fitzpatrick NOT FILLED
Sunday, June 8 @ 8:30am	Austin Tousley Laura Skonce Karen Cocita	Ben Campbell Collette Joyce	Michael Doyle Gabriela Santos
Sunday, June 8 @ 11:30am	Jeff Joecken NOT FILLED NOT FILLED	Amanda Conklin Mary Lewis	Hunter Conklin Emily Dillinger

NEWS AND EVENTS

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (see 6/8 bulletin) \$
Faith Direct (past month weekly total) \$ 5,417.00
Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

St. Mark Bereavement Group

Tuesday's at 7pm

Six sessions of bereavement will be offered to those who are in need of support while experiencing grief and loss. Please consider joining us as we journey together through the Seasons of Hope program. Please call Meaghan at the Parish Office to register 216-226-7577.

May 20
May 27
June 3
June 10
June 17
June 24

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Schedule for May-August

We are very happy to be restarting Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 8:30am Mass at St. Mark. Children who are in PreK and above but have not yet received their First Communion will be invited to process into the sacristy during 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 dates are:

May 18th
June 1st
June 8th
July 13th
August 3rd
August 17th

Children's Choir at St. Mark & St. Mel

For parents of choristers & parishioner parents who are interested in getting their children involved in choir for church. Please complete this 4 question survey.



Dean's Greenhouse 2025 Spring In-Store Fundraiser

to benefit the St. Mark/St. Mel Faith Build

May 1 through June 30

Spring has sprung, and it's time to spruce up your garden and yard! Shop Dean's Greenhouse for all your gardening needs starting May 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025, mention St. Mark/St. Mel when you check out, and Dean's will donate 20% of your purchase to the St. Mark/St. Mel Faith Build.

Dean's Greenhouse is located at 3984 Porter Road, Westlake, 44145.

www.deansgreenhouse.com; 440-871-2050

Questions? Email Amy Asseff at aasseff@aol.com.

Parish News

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.

St. Mark PSR Program 2025-2026

Registration

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.**

You can register in a number of different ways for the 2025-2026 school year:

Registration is due with payment by June 10, 2025.

1. Current PSR families will receive a packet with the registration materials. The packet will be sent home with your child.
2. 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.
3. Registration materials can also be picked up at the Parish Office.

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

Classes will begin in September.

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.

Reminders and Regular Events

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

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

Join us on Friday, June 6th at Progressive Field

We have a block of seats in the mezzanine section in right field. It's a loaded night of specials! Free shirt Friday, Dollar Dog Night, Two dollar beer until 7:00pm, and Fireworks. All for the price of \$32.00 per seat. Come on down and join us for a great evening of baseball and fun!

There is a seat waiting for you! For information contact Tim Mohr or Jim Cocita. jimcocita@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, June 29th 12:30-5:00pm

Holy Name Society Annual Parish Picnic. Join us for a day of gathering with others from St. Mark and St. Mel and former families of the parishes. This is a Free Will Donation! There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, brauts, ice cream and beverages. We will have games for kids of all ages. Bring a dish to shar! More information to come at a later date. See you there!

St. Mark Prayer Group

Relax, pray and grow in faith

The parishioner-led prayer group will meet on Thursday, June 5 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.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Reminders and Regular Events

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: June 29th

Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Altar Servers

The new Minister schedule for June 2025-September 2025 is now available on the church website and those that receive a hard copy, for pick-up in the Sacristy. Copies of rosters can be found in the Sacristy if a substitute is needed.

If you have any questions please call Cheryl in the Parish Office at 216-226-7577.

Regional and Diocesan News and Events

The FEST

Mark your calendars!

Join us for the highlight of the summer....The FEST on Sunday, August 3rd. The FEST is an inspiring day of faith, family and fun - all for FREE. Come and hear the best of the Contemporary Christian Artists: Maverick City Music, Danny Gokey, Ben Fuller and Seph Schlueter. There's something for everyone at The FEST from meaningful displays to faith-based crafts and activities for the kids. You can visit the Marc's Mom's Relaxation Station along with getting your favorite summer foods at family friendly prices!

Invite family and friends for the 25th anniversary of The FEST held on the campus of the Center for Pastoral Leadership in Wickliffe. The day begins at 12 noon and continues until 8pm when we come together United in faith...hope and love...for a beautiful outdoor Mass followed by an amazing American Fireworks Display. For all the details go to: www.theFEST.us. For thousands across our region it truly is the highlight of the summer. Please join us!!!

General Parish Calendar	
Saturday,	May 31
7:30 am	Run for the Arts
3:00 pm	Confessions
4:00 pm	Mass
Sunday,	June 1
8:30 am	Mass
8:30 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word SS
9:30 am	Rosary
11:30 am	Mass LS w/Youth & Children's Choir
Monday,	May 2
8:30 am	Mass w/Teachers
Tuesday,	June 3
6:00 pm	Pack #268 SH
7:00 pm	Bereavement FR
Wednesday,	June 4
7:00 pm	Bible Timeline CC
Thursday,	June 5
8:30 am	Mass
7:00 pm	Troop #293 CC
7:00 pm	Prayer Group SS
7:00 pm	Pastoral Council CC
Friday,	June 6
4:00 pm	Eucharistic Adoration CH
5:00 pm	Family Social PP
6:30 pm	Marriage Validation CH
Saturday,	June 7
3:00 pm	Confessions
4:00 pm	Mass
Sunday,	June 8
8:30 am	Mass
8:30 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word SS
9:30 am	Rosary
11:30 am	Mass LS
6:00 pm	Youth Group CC/PP

Military

Please pray for our military presently serving.

Josh Dunleavy, John Kazanowski, Randy Kloos, Sean O'Reilly, Nico Russo, Matthew Shirley, Jonah Treible

General Audience of Pope Leo XIV, on 21 May 2025

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. II. The life of Jesus. The parables 6. The sower. He spoke to them at length in parables (Mt 13:3a)

Dear brothers and sisters,

I am pleased to welcome you in this, my first general Audience. Today I will resume the cycle of Jubilee catecheses, on the theme “Jesus Christ Our Hope”, initiated by Pope Francis.

Let us continue today to meditate on the parables of Jesus, which help us to regain hope, because they show us how God works in history. Today I would like to dwell on a parable which is somewhat peculiar, because it is a sort of introduction to all the parables. I refer to that of the sower (cf. Mt 13:1-17). In a certain sense, in this account we can recognize Jesus’ way of communicating, which has a great deal to teach us for proclaiming the Gospel today.

Every parable tells a story that is taken from everyday life, yet wants to tell us something more, to refer us to a deeper meaning. The parable raises questions in us; it invites us not to stop at appearances. Before the story that is told or the image that is presented to me, I can ask myself: where am I in this story? What does this image say to my life? In fact, the term “parable” comes from the Greek verb *paraballein*, which means *to throw in front of*. The parable throws before me a word that provokes me and prompts me to question myself.

The parable of the sower talks precisely about the dynamic of the word of God and the effects it produces. Indeed, every word of the Gospel is like a seed that is thrown on the ground of our life. Jesus uses the image of the seed many times, with different meanings. In chapter 13 of the Gospel of Matthew, the parable of the sower introduces a series of other short parables, some of which talk precisely about what is happening on the terrain: the wheat and the weeds, the mustard seed, the treasure hidden in the field. What, then, is this soil? It is our heart, but it is also the world, the community, the Church. The word of God, in fact, makes fruitful and provokes every reality.

At the beginning, we see Jesus who leaves the house and gathers a great crowd around him (cf. Mt 13:1). His word fascinates and intrigues. Among the people there are obviously many different situations. The word of Jesus is for everyone, but it works in each person in a different way. This context allows us to understand better the meaning of the parable.

A rather unusual sower goes out to sow, but does not care where the seed falls. He throws the seeds even where it is unlikely they will bear fruit: on the path, on the rocks, among the thorns. This attitude surprises the listener and induces him to ask: how come?

We are used to calculating things – and at times it is necessary – but this does not apply in love! The way in which this “wasteful” sower throws the seed is an image of the way God loves us. Indeed, it is true that the destiny of the seed depends also on the way in which the earth welcomes it and the situation in which it finds itself, but first and foremost in this parable Jesus tells us that God throws the seed of his Word on all kinds of soil, that is, in any situation of ours: at times we are more superficial and distracted, at times we let ourselves get carried away by enthusiasm, sometimes we are burdened by life’s worries, but there are also times when we are willing and welcoming. God is confident and hopes that sooner or later the seed will blossom. This is how he loves us: he does not wait for us to become the best soil, but he always generously gives us his word. Perhaps by seeing that he trusts us, the desire to be better soil will be kindled in us. This is hope, founded on the rock of God’s generosity and mercy.

In telling the way in which the seed bears fruit, Jesus is also talking about his life. Jesus is the Word, he is the Seed. And the seed, to bear fruit, must die. Thus, this parable tells us that God is ready to “waste away” for us and that Jesus is willing to die in order to transform our life.

I have in mind that beautiful painting by Van Gogh, *The sower at sunset*. That image of the sower in the blazing sun also speaks to me of the farmer’s toil. And it strikes me that, behind the sower, Van Gogh depicted the grain already ripe. It seems to me an image of hope: one way or another, the seed has borne fruit. We are not sure how, but it has. At the centre of the scene, however, is not the sower, who stands to the side; instead, the whole painting is dominated by the image of the sun, perhaps to remind us that it is God who moves history, even if he sometimes seems absent or distant. It is the sun that warms the clods of earth and makes the seed ripen.

Dear brothers and sisters, in what situation of life today is the Word of God reaching us? Let us ask the Lord for the grace always to welcome this seed that is his Word. And if we realize we are not a fruitful soil, let us not be discouraged, but let us ask him to work on us more to make us become a better terrain.

One of our storied traditions at St. Mark is the annual 8th Grade Carnival. Students were placed together in teams and had to come up with carnival booth ideas. Tickets were sold in classrooms for the rest of the school to participate in the carnival games. There was a snack stand, featuring 8th Grade parent volunteers, several of whom were volunteering for one last time at school. There were some very interesting and unique booth ideas. I am not sure who had more fun- the students attending or the 8th Grade!

On Thursday, May 15th, we held a pep rally to celebrate some very special events that occurred here throughout the year. Our young cheerleaders started off the rally with some invigorating cheering! Individual student athletes were recognized for their Mental Resilience, Discipline, Leadership, Passion, Coachability, Attention to Detail, and their Competitive Spirit. Special recognition went to Coach Tome's 7th Grade Girls Basketball Team who won a new banner for St. Mark's Gym as the 2024-2025 CYO Basketball Division Champs in their division. Our Cross Country and Track and Field teams currently are doing very well this year too! Our Classroom of Champions team took 1st Place overall for the year once again! Our children excel both academically and physically because of the dedication of so many who volunteer their time to make this happen. I am so grateful to all our Athletic Association coaches and want to express my appreciation specifically to Jean Berger who took on the role as Athletic Director, making St. Mark her second home. We welcome Eamon Fitzpatrick as St. Mark's new AD next year. I wish him the very best!

On Friday, May 16th, our 8th Grade hosted an event here for about 160 people to show appreciation to them for all the support and love they received during their years here at St. Mark. Their parents and teachers were treated to a fabulous dinner which consisted of a variety of hors d'oeuvres upon their arrival, followed by a dinner which the students prepared under the supervision of adults. The desserts were a hit- double chocolate Godiva cheesecake, chocolate lemon bars, tiramisu, double chocolate brownie, plain cheesecake, and macarons. The students selected the menu, prepared the meal, and decorated the Social Hall. After an earlier etiquette lesson, each 8th Grader had a very specific job to do that evening. Following dinner, there was a video presentation marking all their years here at St. Mark. This was a tear jerker for so many of our wonderful parents, especially those who were graduating their last child from St. Mark. They are family to us, and it is hard to let go. It was a great night for some pretty amazing young adults, each one of whom has a very bright future ahead.

We had to move our morning Field Day activities up a day this year due to the weather, so on Tuesday, May 20th every class wore their Guardians gear and participated in a variety of activities including the Sponge Relay, Beach Ball Keep Up, Hula Hoop Teamwork, Ping Pong Relay, Bottle Relay, Balloon Toss, Over/ Under, Obstacle Course, Basketball Knockout, and Tug of War. It was great fun! On Wednesday, we held our Faculty vs. 8th Grade Volleyball Game, and I am happy to report that the Faculty came out on top! I will tell you that the competition was fierce throughout. As a special treat, we had a surprise visit from Guardians Ketchup, Onion, and Mustard. The children went wild with excitement when these characters entered the gym!

As the school year comes to a close, it is with such mixed emotion that am retiring as principal of St. Mark School. Mrs. Christine Gunn will become the new principal of St. Mark effective with the start of the new school year. It has been a true privilege for me. I would like to thank Fr. Adam for believing in me and supporting me in all that I was able to do in my 14 years as principal. It is hard to believe that I have been in Catholic Education for 50 years. The number of lives that I was able to be a part of is humbling. As I stand at the close of this chapter in my life, I'm filled with a deep sense of gratitude and reflection. It is hard to put into words what this journey has meant to me. Teaching has been more than a profession—it's been a calling, a source of joy, challenge, and constant growth. Each student who walked through my door brought with them a unique story, a spark of curiosity, and the potential to shape the world. It has been one of my life's greatest privileges to guide, support, and learn alongside so many bright young minds in a Christ-centered environment. I've watched children grow into confident learners, thinkers, and kind-hearted individuals. I've celebrated their victories, encouraged them through challenges, and been reminded daily of the resilience and brilliance of youth. Over the years, I've worked with incredible colleagues—people who inspire me with their passion and dedication. Together, we've built more than lessons; we've built a community rooted in care, collaboration, and the shared belief in the power of education. Retirement is a bittersweet moment. While I look forward to new adventures and more time with family and three new grandchildren due this year, I know I'll miss the rhythm of the school day, the laughter in the hallways, and the magic of watching a student's eyes light up with understanding. To my students, past and present: thank you for allowing me to be part of your journey. You've taught me just as much as I ever hoped to teach you. And to my fellow educators: keep believing in your impact—it is deeper and more lasting than you may ever realize. As I turn the page, I carry with me countless memories, the echoes of classroom conversations, and a heart full of gratitude. Teaching has shaped who I am, and I am forever changed—for the better—because of it.

With heartfelt thanks,
Mrs. Cocita

