



MAY THE SOULS *of*  
*the* FAITHFUL DEPARTED,  

---

*THROUGH the* MERCY  
*of* GOD, REST IN PEACE.



1936 - 2025

©LPi

# LITURGY AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

## Papal Intention

**April:** For the use of the new technologies. Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

**May:** For working conditions. Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfillment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

## Liturgy Schedule

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

### Monday, April 28

8:30am Memorial Mass ..... Rick Haborak  
 7:00pm Memorial Mass @ St. Mel

### Tuesday, April 29-St. Catherine of Siena

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel  
 9:30am Mass ..... Pope Francis

### Wednesday, April 30

### Thursday, May 1

8:30am Mass ..... Linda Lawrence

### Friday, May 2-St. Athanasius

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel  
 4:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

### Saturday, May 3-Sts. Philip & James

3:00pm Confessions  
 3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel  
 4:00pm Mass .....For the Parishioners of St. Mark Parish  
 and the Parishioners of St. Me Parish  
 4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

### Sunday, May 4-3rd Sunday of Easter

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel  
 8:30am Mass ..... Lana Conroy  
 10:00am Mass @ St. Mel  
 11:30am Mass ..... Joseph Spicuzza

## 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	Gerald McArthur	George Surovec
Katy Brent	Jim McIlwee	Barbara Thiel
Henry Buehner	Mary Miller	Herb Tippie
James Coyne	Maisie Nowlin	Georgieann Treible
Nicole Foerstner	Bill Retzer	Joe Wantz
Mary Frantz	Mary Stark	Charlotte Whiting
Theresa Fridrich	Sr. Josette Obodzinski	Lillian Zahara
Irene Gurchensky	Judy Reitz	Lew Zahara Jr.
Carol Hughes	Aimee Roscoe	Joseph Zavatchen Sr.
		Joseph Zavatchen Jr.

## Pray for the Deceased

Deacon Robert Kovach

His Holiness Pope Francis

May perpetual light shine upon them

## Other Intentions

### Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

LuAnn Votruba

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
<b>Saturday, May 3 @ 4:00pm</b>	Lou Toth Bridget Blayney R.V. Threadgill	Lisa Braun	Declan Fitzpatrick Aidan Gompf Lucas Sambrook
<b>Sunday, May 4 @ 8:30am</b>	Austin Tousley Kathy O'Malley NOT FILLED	Tim Mohr Monica Svetz	Gabriela Santos Joe Svetz Colin Weaver
<b>Sunday, May 4 @ 11:30am</b>	Shawn Wroten Cari Foster NOT FILLED	Mary Lewis NOT FILLED	Cadhla McKenna Jackson Wroten Cormac Wroten



# NEWS AND EVENTS

## Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (4/13) .....\$ 2,417.00  
 Easter Collection ..... \$  
 Faith Direct (past month weekly total) .....\$ 5,460.00  
 Thank you for your generosity!

## Parish News

Friends,

With sadness, I share in our parish’s grief over the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis, who entered eternal life on Easter Monday. This news tempers our Paschal joy as we remember a shepherd who led the universal Church with humility and compassion.

As this bulletin goes to print shortly after learning of his death, please refer to parish emails and Mass announcements regarding our communal prayers for the repose of his soul. The Church observes a formal nine-day period of mourning (the novendiales).

Pope Francis’s papacy began just months before my ordination to the priesthood. I am deeply grateful for how his teachings on mercy, care for creation, and accompaniment of those on the margins have shaped my own ministry. I look forward to sharing more reflections with you during this time of mourning.

The conclave to elect a new pope will likely begin fifteen to twenty days after Pope Francis’s death. When those days come, I invite you to join me in prayer for the cardinal electors and that the Holy Spirit will guide their discernment in a way that is powerful and clear. Do not allow others to treat this like politics; the pope unifies the Church, and only the evil one would use a papal election to sow division among us.

May Pope Francis rest in peace, and may perpetual light shine upon him.

In Christ,

Fr. Adam

## Music Ministry

A special thanks to all the folks who prepared music for our Holy Week Liturgies. They have been practicing weekly since February to make sure the worship was our best.

Mike Antonelli, Tim Mohr, Ed Morris, John Cooney, Lily Esparra, Patty Joyce, Bill Todia, Beth Diekroger & Diane Virostko.

And to our children:

Cantors: Gianna A, Millie A, Kerri G

Choristers: Adeline B, Johnny B, Liam B, Ava C, Cora C, Emmet C, Mattie C, Charlie G, Eva G, Will G, Mae H, Will H, Fionn J, Remington J, Adeline K, Noah K, Niamh L, Brigid M, Elise M, Leo M, Luke M, Maria M, Margaret M, Zoe P, Josephine R, Clare S, Aine S, Jocelyn S, Maeve S, Peyton S, Piper S, Adeline T, Carlina V, Mallorie W, Caralynne W, Evelyn W and Emalyn W.

More than you realize , your music uplifts us all!

Thank you!

Julia Wallace, Music Minister



### Share God’s Love

St. Mark/St. Mel Faith Build

## Save the Dates!

Habitat for Humanity

The St. Mark/St. Mel 2025 Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity Faith build “build dates” are set, and registration will open soon.

2025 Build Dates:

- Thursday, July 24
- Saturday, August 2
- Saturday, September 13

If you are new to the Faith Build, are seeking more information, or need assistance registering, contact: Amy Asseff @ 216-346-0722 or aasseff@aol.com

## Parish News

### Eucharistic Adoration

Prayer and Thanksgiving before the Lord

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, May 2nd 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.

---

### 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](http://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](mailto:jpuckettpsr@stmarkcleveland.com).

## Reminders and Regular Events

### Markers/Mels50+

It's time for the Derby!!

Celebrate this Southern tradition with us on Saturday, May 3rd, after the 4:00pm Mass, in the Social Hall.

Enjoy pulled pork sliders and beverages! Sides and desserts to share are very much appreciated. We will have a 50/50 raffle, games (and prizes!), enjoy watching the race and have great fun and fellowship!

Ladies don't forget your hats and gents grab your bow ties! To RSVP, please call or text Mary Kay at 216-402-8570.

---

### Virtus-Empowering God's children

Monday, April 28th

We are offering a one-time **Empowering God's Children** class for **adults** on Monday, April 28th from 6:30pm-7:30pm in the Social Hall. *Empowering God's Children* compliments the adult *Protecting God's Children* program. This parent/volunteer session is essential to the effective protection of children and young people. Please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office at [cbirchfield@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:cbirchfield@stmarkcleveland.com) to register for this presentation by April 27th if you are planning on attending.

---

### 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](mailto:mkay@stmarkcleveland.com)

Upcoming Date: May 17 & 18

---

### St. Mark Prayer Group

Relax, pray and grow in faith

The parishioner-led prayer group will meet on Thursday, May 1st 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

### 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 A 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!

## School News



### Support the students of St. Mark Catholic School!

Tickets available through Wednesday, April 30th at 5:00 PM

Live drawing on St Mark's social media on Thursday, May 1st

- First Prize: \$2,500
- Second Prize: \$1,000
- Third Prize: \$500



<u>General Parish Calendar</u>		
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>April 26</b>	
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	<b>Food Sunday</b>	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>April 27</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS	
6:00 pm	Youth Group	CC
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>April 28</b>	
8:30 am	Memorial Mass	
1:00 pm	first Communion Prac.	CH
2:30 pm	All Choir Practice	CH
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
6:30 pm	Empowering God's Children	SH
7:00 pm	Memorial Mass @ St. Mel	
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>April 29</b>	
9:30 am	Mass w/All School	
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>April 30</b>	
<b>Thursday,</b>	<b>May 1</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
6:00 pm	Scout Pack #268 Den Mtg.	SH
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
7:00 pm	Prayer Group	SS
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>May 2</b>	
9:00 am	School Adoration	CH
4:00 pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
5:00 pm	Family Social	SH
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>May 3</b>	
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:00 pm	Marker's 50+	SH
	<b>Food Sunday</b>	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>May 4</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS w/Y&C Choir	
6:00 pm	Youth Group	CC

## General Audience of Pope Francis, on 16 April 2025

**Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. II. The life of Jesus. The encounters 5. *The merciful father. He was lost and has been found (Lk 15:32)***

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

After reflecting on Jesus' encounters with some figures from the Gospel, I would like to pause, starting with this catechesis, on some parables. As we know, they are stories that draw on images and situations from everyday reality. That is why they also touch our lives. They provoke us. And they ask us to take a position: where am I in this story? Let us begin with the most famous parable, the one that we perhaps all remember from when we were children: the parable of the father and the two sons (*Lk 15:1-3, 11-32*). In this we find the heart of the Gospel of Jesus, namely God's mercy.

The evangelist Luke says that Jesus tells this parable for the pharisees and the scribes, who lamented that He ate with sinners. This is why it could be said that it is a parable addressed to those who are lost, but do not know it, and judge others.

The Gospel is intended to give us a message of hope, because it tells us that wherever we are lost, and however we are lost, God always comes looking for us! Perhaps we have gone astray like a sheep, which has wandered off the path to graze, or fallen behind due to fatigue (cf. *Lk 15:4-7*). Or maybe we have been lost like a coin, which has perhaps fallen on the ground and can no longer be found, or someone has put it somewhere and cannot remember where. Or maybe we are lost like the two sons of this father: the youngest because he got tired of being in a relationship that he felt was too demanding; but the eldest is also lost, because it is not enough to stay at home if there is pride and resentment in his heart.

Love is always a commitment, there is always something that we must lose in order to go towards the other. But the younger son in the parable thinks only of himself, as happens in certain phases of childhood and adolescence. In reality, we also see around us many adults who are like this, who are unable to maintain a relationship because they are selfish. They delude themselves that they will find themselves and instead they lose themselves, because only when we live for someone do we truly live.

This younger son, like all of us, hungers for affection, he wants to be loved. But love is a precious gift; it must be treated with care. Instead, he squanders it, he disregards it, he does not respect himself. He realizes this in times of famine, when no-one cares for him. The risk is that in those moments we beg for affection and attach ourselves to the first master we chance upon.

It is these experiences that give rise within us to the distorted belief that we can only be in a relationship as servants, as if we had to atone for a guilt or as if true love could not exist. Indeed, the younger son, when he hits rock bottom, thinks he will go back to his father's house to pick up a few crumbs of affection from the ground.

Only those who truly love us can free us from this false view of love. In the relationship with God, we have precisely this experience. The great painter Rembrandt, in a famous painting, beautifully depicted the return of the prodigal son. Two details in particular strike me: the young man's head is shaven, like that of a penitent, but it also looks like the head of a child, because this son is being born again. And then the father's hands: one male and the other female, to describe the strength and tenderness in the embrace of forgiveness.

But it is the eldest son who represents those for whom the parable is told: he is the son who always stayed at home with his father, yet was distant from him, distant in heart. This son may have wanted to leave too, but out of fear or duty he stayed there, in that relationship. When you adapt unwillingly, however, you begin to harbour anger within you, and sooner or later this anger explodes. Paradoxically, it is precisely the eldest son who in the end risks being left out, because he does not share his father's joy.

The father goes towards him too. He does not reproach him or call him to duty. He wants only that he feels his love. He invites him to enter and to leave the door open. That door remains open for us too. Indeed, this is the reason for hope: we are able to hope because we know that the Father is waiting for us, He sees us from afar, and He always leaves the door open.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us ask ourselves, then, where we are in this wonderful tale. And let us ask God the Father for the grace that we too can find our way back home.



# PARISH GRADE SCHOOL

The week prior to Easter break, we took some time to celebrate our former P.E. teacher, Mr. Dave Adams, who had passed away quite suddenly. In his memory, the faculty and students all wore their Dave Adams St. Baldrick's shirts or their P.E. uniform to school. Mr. Adams was a husband, son, parishioner, teacher, mentor, coach, and friend to so many. We wanted to remember Mr. Adams, whose wisdom, kindness, and unwavering dedication touched the lives of all who were fortunate enough to be called his students, his colleagues, or his friends. Mr. Adams not only taught physical education (never calling it gym), but more importantly, he imparted many life lessons on perseverance and how important it is to have compassion for others. There is a plaque now hanging in the gym to honor his memory. At the dedication ceremony, I shared some thoughts with our children on who this simple man was. It was not uncommon for Mr. Adams to be coaching a sport's team because if a coach was needed, he stepped up. He coached basketball, baseball, and golf. He helped my husband coach our sons in baseball and then would attend their hockey games. He would travel to watch games being played because he cared about how our kids were doing- all our kids. The school children remembered the corny jokes he would tell them throughout the day- whether it was during recess, in line to exchange classes, or in the drop-off line in the mornings. I shared with the children that his faith in God was most important to him. He and his wife Pam would take frequent vacations with my husband and me and some other friends. There was never a trip that did not involve us attending Mass, visiting grottos, or other historically beautiful shrines. I remember seeing his face as we walked into St. Peter's Basilica, glancing to our right and seeing the Pieta. He was dedicated in helping his school students set goals and work to achieve them. He spent his entire life doing this. The simple plaque hanging in the gym (ironically near the hand sanitizer because he always sanitized his hands) reads: "In Memory of Dave Adams: Teacher, Coach, and Friend." Following my words, we showed the students a video of the many events in which Mr. Adams was involved. Field Days, Halloween, DJ work at dances, Eucharistic Minister, usher, and Yoga instructor all come to mind. His passion for teaching inspired us, his guidance and wisdom helped to shape us, and his gentle encouragement helped us all to grow. The video closed with: "Forever in our Hearts-" a place he will always be!

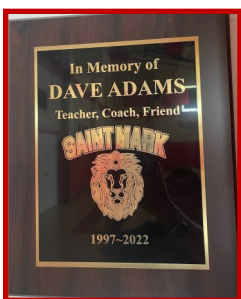
We also had the good fortune of hosting Dr. David Clifford, who spoke to our children in Gr. 1-8 about missionary work and Fair Trade he is personally involved in doing. Dr. Clifford is a parishioner and his children went through St. Mark School. He and his team have been very instrumental in building a simple school house to provide for education. There is no electricity or running water, but they were able to successfully provide internet for one computer at a time. He shared stories of how far children and their families have to walk to retrieve river water to take back home. We are hoping to connect our Walking for Water event in May with the school that he visits regularly that needs help obtaining clean water. Following his visit, I asked the students to reflect on his words and share their thoughts. Here are a few I want to share with you:

- Jase (Gr. 3)- I liked the story about the child who never saw himself his whole life until Dr. Clifford took a picture of him from a camera and showed it to him.
- Ken (Gr. 3)- It was amazing that a 14 year old kid could carve such beautiful pictures from wood.
- Gr. 4- I learned that people in the Honduras live without lean water. On top of that, they have to walk up a huge mountain in the hot sun, just to get polluted water from a river. They have a lot of tooth decay because they do not have anything to clean their teeth with or dentists. They don't have much food, some die from starvation.
- Nora (Gr. 4)- They have to grow the food they want to eat because there are very few stores and no money to buy things.
- Nate (Gr. 4)- A young girl by the name of Elsy made an egg farm and eventually could afford college because of it.
- Ben (Gr. 6)- One of the things I took away was how dedicated Dr. Clifford and his students from John Carroll were by helping these people. The building of schools in Honduras will help tremendously in getting out of poverty. I just want to say "Thank you" to Dr. Clifford and John Carroll University for helping.
- Ian (Gr. 6)- It made me feel bad that we have all that we really need, and they cannot get supplies or clean water.
- Zora (Gr. 6)- It made me feel more appreciative for the things I have. Someday I would like to go and help
- Helen (Gr. 6)- Learning about the Honduras was very empowering and humbling. It made me really think about how fortunate I am to be living in Cleveland. I would love to help people in the Honduras when I am older to make a difference for someone.
- Griffin (Gr. 1)- Dr. Clifford is helping Hondurans get clean water, not water that is germly water.
- Atley (Gr. 1)- Dr. Clifford gave a kid a wood carving set to carve our 1<sup>st</sup> Station of the Cross we have in St. Mark Church.
- Emily (Gr. 7)- One thing that spoke to me was when Dr. Clifford shared food with a girl on a bus. The girl had not eaten in days and even though Dr. Clifford could have kept his food, he shared. He continued to help this girl on bus with building a job for herself and getting an education. I hope I become as selfless and caring one day.
- Aine (Gr. 7)- I loved the connection to our church with the young boy who carved the Stations of the Cross in our church and the Last Supper carving which hangs between the church and school doors. I want to go on a mission trip when I am in high school or college.

Thank you, Dr. Clifford, for sharing your experiences with our children. We are looking forward to creating a partnership and assisting in bringing clean water with our upcoming project. May God bless you and your team for the good work that you do.

The water walk will not only raise funds for the water project in the Honduras but also raise awareness of the greater global need and the purpose behind Fair Trade. We have studied about Fair Trade, hosted speakers from Habitat for Humanity, and read children's books such as *Beatrice's Goat* with our children. Our school's chosen Catholicity Goal for State Accreditation is, "Students will grow in understanding and practice of the Catholic Social Justice Teaching of Call to Family, Community, and Participation." We are well underway in achieving this.

Mrs. Cocita



*With Gratitude to the St. Mark Community:*

*Thank you for continuing to share your memories of Mr. Adams and your on-going prayers, love and support. You have blessed me in countless ways. I am so grateful.  
Peace - Pam Adams*

