



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.

May 18, 2025

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

I give you a new
commandment:
love one another.”
- Jn 13:34a

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, May 19
8:30am Mass Vocations for Priesthood

Tuesday, May 20
8:30am Mass Geraldine Sturgis

Wednesday, May 21

Thursday, May 22
8:30am Mass Katie Burkhart

Friday, May 23

Saturday, May 24
3:00pm Confessions
3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel
4:00pm Mass Halina Fuhs
4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, May 25-6th Sunday of Easter
7:00am Mass @ St. Mel
8:30am Mass Living Intention for Mary Jane Miller
10:00am Mass @ St. Mel
11:30am Mass William Daley

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
Mindy Biggins

Baptized This Week
Veronica Toporowski

Wedding Banns
Nathan Basile & Alayna Tomaro

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, May 24 @ 4:00pm	Mary Price R.V. Threadgill Erin Fitzpatrick	John Levis	Declan Fitzpatrick Grant Glazier Lucas Sambrook
Sunday, May 25 @ 8:30am	Karen Cocita Rosanne Kelley Mary Stamper	Michael Grathwol Mary Lewis	Lillian Stock Clare Stock Fiona Stock
Sunday, May 25 @ 11:30am	Lisa Ditzel Deirdre Mueller NOT FILLED	Monica Svetz NOT FILLED	Kiera Laurent Reese Reichel Bill Sonby

NEWS AND EVENTS

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (May 4)\$ 4,378.00
In-Pew Collection (May 11)\$ 3,341.00
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

The Bible Timeline Video Study

Beginning Wednesday, June 4th at 7pm

The Bible Timeline is an in-depth bible study and video series that takes you through the whole story of salvation, from the Garden to the Early church. We will meet twice a month for a year, immersing ourselves in Scripture. This study is perfect for someone who has never really read the Bible before, because it will give a bird's-eye-view and walk you step by step through the narrative books, as well as for the seasoned Scripture reader, because it is rich with detail and expert perspective.

If you are interested in signing up or learning more, please contact Meaghan (msilver@stmarkcleveland.com, 216-226-7577 ext. 105). Even if you are not sure you will be able to attend every session, I encourage you to reach out or join us for our first session!

Our first session will be Wednesday, June 4th from 7-8:30pm in the St. Mark Community Center. Please RSVP by May 21st in order to receive your workbook on the first night. We will meet the first and third Wednesday of each month (a detailed schedule will also be passed out the first night).



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

Food Sunday

Weekend of May 24 & 25

The May Dugan Center has requested these items for their Clients next week:

Self-contained meals, stews, soups, oatmeal, cereal, pancake mix & syrup, dry milk, vegetable oil, rice and PBJ. Their clients could also use cleaning supplies, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, and hygienic items, toothpaste & toothbrushes, bar soap, dish soap, laundry detergent and toilet paper. They appreciate everything that you donate. May God bless all!

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!

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: May 17 & 18

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

NEWS AND EVENTS

School News

Run for the Arts 5K

Run or walk for a great cause - Saturday, May 31st

Join us on Saturday, May 31st for one of West Park's favorite community road races, supporting the incredible art, drama, and music programs at St. Mark School.

Whether you're a seasoned runner or just in it for the fun, this 1 Mile Fun Run & 5K is a great way to show your support and enjoy a community filled morning full of energy and creativity.

Want to make an even bigger impact? We're looking for corporate sponsors and family sponsorships to help make this event a success. Please email Sarah Beirne, hello@sarahbeirnephotography.com, for more information on how you can get involved! Forms at the Church doors.

Thank you for supporting the arts at St. Mark - we can't wait to see you at the starting line! Use the QR code to sign up!



Regional and Diocesan News and Events

Called by the Spirit Retreat

Saturday, June 7th

You are Gifted by the Holy Spirit: you were given spiritual gifts by God at your Baptism to use your entire life. You have been called as a disciple of Jesus Christ and to use these gifts to tell the story of what Jesus has done, is doing, and will do in heaven and earth. You are called to participate in the life of the Church and to use these gifts in communion with one another to build up the Kingdom of God, and to personally witness the love, mercy, and grace of Jesus Christ.

Come and discover or rediscover those spiritual gifts! Learn which ones are present in your life, and in the life of our Church. Join us for the Called by the Spirit Gift Discernment Retreat led by the Diocese of Cleveland's Director of Missionary Discipleship, Christy Cabaniss on Saturday, June 7th, in the St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish School Gymnasium, 10205 Lorain Ave., Cleveland 44111. Registration and Breakfast begin at 8:30am. The Retreat is from 9:00am until 3:30pm. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided. The retreat concludes with Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation from 3:30-4:30pm, and Mass at 5:00pm.

The cost of this event is \$10 per person. Registration is required. To register, please call the Parish Office at 216-251-0300, or email Development@sioaparish.org

General Parish Calendar

Saturday,	May 17	
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	Donut Social after all masses	
Sunday,	May 18	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
8:30 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	SS
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS w/Y&C Choir	
6:00 pm	Youth Group	CC/CH
Monday,	May 19	
8:30 am	Mass	
12:00 pm	Choir	CH
2:30 pm	Youth Choir Prac.	CH
Tuesday,	May 20	
8:30 am	Mass w/8th Gr.	
2:30 pm	Children's Choir Practice	CH
7:00 pm	Parent Club	SH
7:00 pm	Bereavement	FR
Wednesday,	May 21	
8:00 am	Field Day Gr. K-8	G/PL
4:00 pm	RCIA	CC
5:30 pm	Baptism Class	CC
6:30 pm	Pack #268 Awards Ceremony	SH
Thursday,	May 22	
8:30 am	Mass	
12:20-1:45 pm	5th Gr. Church Tour	CH
7:00 pm	Troop #293	CC
Friday,	May 23	
9:00 am	K Graduation	CH
7:00 pm	8th Gr. Graduation	CH
Saturday,	May 24	
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	Food Sunday	
Sunday,	May 25	
8:30 am	Mass	
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS	

ADDRESS OF THE HOLY FATHER LEO XIV TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA 12 May 2025

Good morning and thank you for this wonderful reception! They say when they clap at the beginning it does not matter much, if you are still awake at the end and you still want to applaud...thank you very much!

Brothers and sisters,

I welcome you, representatives of the media from around the world. Thank you for the work you have done and continue to do in these days, which is truly a time of grace for the Church.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus proclaimed: “Blessed are the peacemakers” (Mt 5:9). This is a Beatitude that challenges all of us, but it is particularly relevant to you, calling each one of you to strive for a different kind of communication, one that does not seek consensus at all costs, does not use aggressive words, does not follow the culture of competition and never separates the search for truth from the love with which we must humbly seek it. Peace begins with each one of us: in the way we look at others, listen to others and speak about others. In this sense, the way we communicate is of fundamental importance: we must say “no” to the war of words and images, we must reject the paradigm of war.

Let me, therefore, reiterate today the Church’s solidarity with journalists who are imprisoned for seeking to report the truth, and with these words I also ask for the release of these imprisoned journalists. The Church recognizes in these witnesses – I am thinking of those who report on war even at the cost of their lives – the courage of those who defend dignity, justice and the right of people to be informed, because only informed individuals can make free choices. The suffering of these imprisoned journalists challenges the conscience of nations and the international community, calling on all of us to safeguard the precious gift of free speech and of the press.

Thank you, dear friends, for your service to the truth. You have been in Rome these past few weeks to report on the Church, its diversity and, at the same time, its unity. You were present during the liturgies of Holy Week and then reported on the sorrow felt over the death of Pope Francis, which nevertheless took place in the light of Easter. That same Easter faith drew us into the spirit of the Conclave, during which you worked long and tiring days. Yet, even on this occasion, you managed to recount the beauty of Christ’s love that unites and makes us one people, guided by the Good Shepherd.

We are living in times that are both difficult to navigate and to recount. They present a challenge for all of us but it is one that we should not run away from. On the contrary, they demand that each one of us, in our different roles and services, never give in to mediocrity. The Church must face the

challenges posed by the times. In the same way, communication and journalism do not exist outside of time and history. Saint Augustine reminds of this when he said, “Let us live well and the times will be good. We are the times” (*Discourse 80.8*).

Thank you, therefore, for what you have done to move beyond stereotypes and clichés through which we often interpret Christian life and the life of the Church itself. Thank you because you have captured the essence of who we are and conveyed it to the whole world through every form of media possible.

Today, one of the most important challenges is to promote communication that can bring us out of the “Tower of Babel” in which we sometimes find ourselves, out of the confusion of loveless languages that are often ideological or partisan. Therefore, your service, with the words you use and the style you adopt, is crucial. As you know, communication is not only the transmission of information, but it is also the creation of a culture, of human and digital environments that become spaces for dialogue and discussion. In looking at how technology is developing, this mission becomes ever more necessary. I am thinking in particular of artificial intelligence, with its immense potential, which nevertheless requires responsibility and discernment in order to ensure that it can be used for the good of all, so that it can benefit all of humanity. This responsibility concerns everyone in proportion to his or her age and role in society.

Dear friends, we will get to know each other better over time. We have experienced – we can say together – truly special days. We have shared them through every form of media: TV, radio, internet, and social media. I sincerely hope that each of us can say that these days unveiled a little bit of the mystery of our humanity and left us with a desire for love and peace. For this reason, I repeat to you today the invitation made by Pope Francis in his [message for this year’s World Day of Social Communications](#): let us disarm communication of all prejudice and resentment, fanaticism and even hatred; let us free it from aggression. We do not need loud, forceful communication, but rather communication that is capable of listening and of gathering the voices of the weak who have no voice. Let us disarm words and we will help to disarm the world. Disarmed and disarming communication allows us to share a different view of the world and to act in a manner consistent with our human dignity.

You are at the forefront of reporting on conflicts and aspirations for peace, on situations of injustice and poverty, and on the silent work of so many people striving to create a better world. For this reason, I ask you to choose consciously and courageously the path of communication in favour of peace.

Thank you all and may God bless you!

PARISH GRADE SCHOOL

Last week, our PreK held a very special *Mommy Spa Day* for their moms just prior to Mother's Day. When Bishop Malesic was visiting a few weeks ago, the children had shared their special song for Spa Day with him and word got back to Kay C., Multimedia Senior Producer for the Diocese of Cleveland. She came out and spent Spa Day with our VIP guests while they were being pampered with massages, manicures, facials, hair extensions, hors d'oeuvres, and a glamour shot in the photo booth. The moms were great sports when being videotaped because it was such a special moment in time with each one of them with their child. As our PreK sang their special song to their moms, there were many tears being wiped, not from the children, but from some of the most important people in their lives. You can view this on our St. Mark School Facebook page or through the diocesan links:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BnKQDHXPu/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DJcbbG8lxGp/>

Events like these in our PreK are only made possible because of our dedicated and creative staff. Our PreK teacher, Mrs. Melvin-Marko, her aide, Mrs. Virginia Greuloch, and Mrs. Melvin-Marko's mom who came in after school to help her transform her classroom into a total spa experience, certainly made magic happen once again!

We also held our annual *Bike to School Day* last week. A Bike to School Day fosters a sense of independence and responsibility among students, while promoting community spirit as families, law enforcement, and local leaders come together to support safe and active transportation. Mr. and Mrs. Reichel once again hosted a donut and juice gathering, supported by many of our families, just prior to takeoff at the corner of W. 160th and Edgecliff. We had a record number of bike riders, namely 291 of them- and no crashes! This has become a huge community event as evidenced by the many neighbors and family members who came out to watch us ride to school. Leading off our ride was a Cleveland Fire Department hook and ladder. Along with CFD there was a police presence and Councilman Charles Slife on his bike. Mrs. Gunn and I led the ride, but we were quickly passed by many of our children on their bikes and scooters. Once they arrived on school property, our children walked their bikes to the back where members of Student Council and Roary were on hand to direct parking procedures. Dismissal went just as smoothly- all 291 bikes were accounted for! Ultimately, it was a fun and meaningful event for our community that helped to raise awareness about sustainable, healthy lifestyles (even with donuts). A special note of thanks to Cleveland Fire, Cleveland Police, Charlie Slife, Mr. and Mrs. Reichel and the many parents who contributed toward purchasing donuts and juice, and all our neighbors who were there for the enjoyment of watching Mrs. Gunn and I maneuver our way to school among 289 others! It was another great St. Mark memory.

The week of May 5th we celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week. Teaching today in our classrooms is harder than it has ever been. Teachers deserve both gratitude and respect because they have chosen to spend their lives teaching and guiding children through life sometimes with little recognition. Their hours are long and those summer months when they are "off" are often filled with professional development to not only stay up on new trends in education but also to maintain their teaching licenses. "The great teacher is not the man who supplies the most facts, but the one in whose presence we become different people."- Ralph Waldo Emerson If you know a teacher, take time to thank them for the gift of education you received in making you the successful person that you are! I am blessed to work with such fine educators here at St. Mark. They make my job easy!

Have a great week!

