



# St. Mark Catholic Church

## Mission Statement

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 parishioners to participate in the shared responsibility of worship, prayer, study and service.

October 1, 2023

### 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you."  
- Mt 21:31

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

### PASTORAL STAFF

**Rev. Adam Zajac**  
Pastor

**Deacon Dave Lundeen**  
Business Manager, Pastoral Associate

**Mrs. Karen Cocita**  
Principal

**Mrs. Meaghan McCarthy-Silver**  
Pastoral Minister

**Mrs. Julia Wallace**  
Director of Music Ministry

**Mr. Michael Kay**  
Youth Minister

**Mrs. Jeannette Puckett**  
Parish School of Religion Director (PSR)

### SACRAMENTS

**The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:** The RCIA is open to all those interested in becoming Catholic. Contact the Parish Office 216-226-7577.

**Baptism:** Available at 12:30 p.m. the fourth Sunday of the month and at Masses by arrangement. Parents must attend a Pre-Baptism class and Godparents must have a sponsor certificate.

**Reconciliation:** Saturday, 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. or by appointment.

**Marriage:** Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance with a priest or deacon.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please call the Parish Office.

**Communion Calls:** If you are unable to participate in the celebration of Mass and would like to receive Communion, please contact the office.

**New Parishioners:** All are welcome to join us by calling the office or visiting the website to schedule an appointment.

**Bulletin Deadline:** Bulletin Articles and Copied Items need to be in the Parish Office by 11:00 a.m. on Friday the week before the bulletin to print.

### Papal Intention

**October:** For the Synod. We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the Peripheries of the world.

### Liturgy Schedule

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

#### Monday, October 2-The Holy Guardian Angels

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel  
8:30am Mass.....The White Family et al Living & Deceased

#### Tuesday, October 3

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel  
8:30am Mass (School).....Presider's Intention

#### Wednesday, October 4-St. Francis of Assisi

#### Thursday, October 5

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel  
8:30am Mass.....Ann Wilson

#### Friday, October 6

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

#### Saturday, October 7-Our Lady of the Rosary

3:00pm Confessions  
3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel  
4:00pm Mass.....Dan Sunyak  
4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

#### Sunday, October 8-Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel  
8:30am Mass.....Joseph Spicuzza  
10:00am Mass @ St. Mel  
11:30am Mass.....Timothy Geiger

### *Liturgical Ministers October 7 & 8*

#### Saturday, October 7 @ 4:00pm

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Shirlee Toth, NOT FILLED (2)

**Lector:** Eliza Kratt

**Altar Server:** Morgan Adkins, Declan Fitzpatrick, William Lentz

#### Sunday, October 8 @ 8:30am

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Karen Cocita, Laura Skonce, Tim Schnidt

**Lector:** Lisa Braun, Mary Lewis

**Altar Server:** Bob LoPresti, Kathleen Murray, Grace Schnidt

#### Sunday, October 8 @ 11:30am

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Annamaria Masterson, NOT FILLED (2)

**Lector:** Deborah Roscoe, NOT FILLED

**Altar Server:** Luke Hudak, Braidyn McKenna, Joseph Sonby

### *Luke McGraw Memorial Candles*

### **Weekly Intention**

**October 1**

**Lena Sunyak**



### **Banns of Marriage**

#### **Wedding Bann II**

Bryan O'Reilly & Melissa Kaleal

#### **Wedding Bann I**

David Griffiths & Emily Mills

## IN MEMORIAM

*May the peace of our Lord be with  
Adolfo Sanz, Father of Robert Sanz  
And may God grant comfort to his family and friends.*

### **PRAYER FOR THE SICK**

Heavenly Father, we lift up all those who are facing various illnesses. Give them the hope and courage they need today and every day. Comfort their pain, calm their fears, and surround them with Your peace. In Jesus' name, Amen!

### ***Please Pray for Our Sick***



William Adams  
Gianna Andolina  
Carol Behnke  
Jack Behnke  
Katy Brent  
Henry Buehner  
James Coyne  
Margaret Fadrowski  
Nicole Foerstner  
Helen Forlini  
Mary Frantz  
Theresa Fridrich

Irene Gurchensky  
Gerri Joecken  
David Kurth  
Catherine Kutsick  
Loree Leasure-Poirier  
Jim McIlwee  
Mary Miller  
Maisie Nowlin  
Sr. Josette Obodzinski  
Ryan Puzitiello Jr.  
Bill Retzer

Sr. Mary Ann Spangler  
Mary Stark  
Nora Sudetic  
Lena Sunyak  
George Surovec  
Herb Tippie  
Georgieann Treible  
Joe Wantz  
Charlotte Whiting  
Lillian Zahara  
Joseph Zaatchen Jr.

### *Last Week's Collection*

Sunday Envelopes:.....\$ 1,918.00  
Faith Direct:.....\$ 5,615.00

**Thank you for your generosity!**



**St. Mel Parish and St. Mark Parish Present**  
Marriage Enrichment Speaker Series



Join us on Saturday, October 14 for mass at 4:30pm  
(optional)  
Dinner at 5:30pm (optional)  
Speaker at 6:30pm in St. Mel Hall  
RSVP is required.

Nellie and Neil Krawczynski will speak on the relationship within your relationship: embracing holy intimacy and living marriage within the heart of the Trinity.  
Flyers at the entrances.

**Necrology Book**

The Necrology Book (or the Book of the Deceased) will be placed in the Church. Please feel free to add the names of your loved ones who have died. The Book will be left out for the entire month of October. During the month of November the Necrology Book will be presented during the Offertory procession at all Masses. Please remember to honor all our deceased loved ones by adding their names to the Necrology Book.

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, October 6th from 3:30pm-7:00pm. Please come to spend some time in prayer and thanksgiving before the Lord. If you would like to sign up for a specific 1/2 hour of prayer, please contact the Parish Office 216-226-7577.

**Family Holy Hour**

Children of all ages are invited with their families to come adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament! The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available.

There will be singing, reading, and age appropriate contemplation. Consider bringing crayons, books, or a children's Bible.



Friday, Oct 6  
4-5  
St. Mark Church

**St. Mark Prayer Group**



The parishioner-led Prayer Group will meet on Thursday, October 5th at 7pm in the Servers Sacristy. This is a great opportunity to relax, pray, grow in faith, and make a difference in our world. There is a book available near the Sacred Heart Statue in the Church for prayer requests. These will receive prayer by this group. Feel free to share answered prayers here also. Please join us! There is no need to sign up.

**Retreat**

As we anticipate this Advent Season, we are blest to be able to offer opportunities for the women and men of our parish to renew hope, belief and faith in God's promise of infinite good for us and for our loved ones.

We will be offering an opportunity to take some time for reflection and preparation for the season of Christmas. A weekend for women will be held on December 1st to the 3rd and for the men on December 8th to the 10th.. These weekends will be held at the Bethany Retreat Center in Chardon.

More details will be available in future bulletins.  
If you have any questions please contact the Parish Office at 216-226-7577.

**ST. MARK  
BEREAVEMENT**

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 the parish office to register 216-226-7577

**WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM**

Oct 4  
Oct 11  
Oct 25  
Nov 1  
Nov 8  
Nov 15

# St. Mark Small Faith Sharing Groups

Are you interested in joining a group of like-minded parishioners to dig into God's Word, share your faith journey, and make new friends? Join a small faith sharing group!

Groups will be formed based on preferred meeting times and similarities (gender, age range, etc.), as much as possible. Sign up if you would like to learn more - no need to fully commit at this time!

Call Meaghan at 216-226-7577 ex. 105, email [msilver@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:msilver@stmarkcleveland.com), or sign up in the school hallway

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, Say to the Lord,  
"My refuge and fortress, My God in whom I trust."

Psalm 91:1-2

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers all our military men and women presently serving and those who have returned home.

Jason Bochart, James Boone, Jr., Elijah Brolly, Kurt Brown, Nathan Chomoa, Jeremy Cole, Matthew Craven, Josh Dunleavy, T.J. Finucan, Martin Hartsel, Joe Isabella, John Kester, Randy Kloos, Stephanie Lasch, Adam Lemmerman, Torrey Lynch, Ron McDough, Andrew J. McGinty, Owen McGrew, Jake North, Jon Novak, Danny O'Malley, Sean P. O'Reilly, Nick Ortiz, Steven Podhradsky, Nico Russo, Tom Sarko, Matthew Shirley, Brady Smith, Montana Stiegelmeyer, Edward Thomas, Joseph Toole, Jacob Trefney, Jonah Treible, Lukas Whitney.

God Bless them all!

Kathy O'Malley [womalfam@sbcglobal.net](mailto:womalfam@sbcglobal.net) for any updates.



## Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Altar Servers

The new Minister schedules for October 2023 through January 2024 are now available on-line, the Church website and those that receive a hard copy, for pick-up in the Sacristy. Ministers that receive schedules on-line or the website need to pick-up a roster for their ministry in the Sacristy, if a substitute is needed.

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

## RESPECT LIFE

### Prayer for Radical Solidarity

O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own.

By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations.

Ask your Son to give us unfailing determination to witness to the profound dignity of every person, at every stage and in every circumstance.

In that first Eucharistic procession, you carried Jesus to Elizabeth in her time of need. Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid.

May our support help them to find hope and strength in the Lord. Amen.



## ST. MARK YOUTH GROUP OCTOBER

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 - 11:30AM-1PM**  
Mass Meetup and Donut Social @ St. Mark Church

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 - 6:30PM-8PM**  
Fireside Chat and S'mores @ Pavilion

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22 - 7PM-9PM**  
Halloween Party and Service Project @ Social Hall

Open to all 9th-12th Grade students!  
Contact Michael Kay at [mkay@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:mkay@stmarkcleveland.com) with any questions.





## THE WEEK AHEAD IN OUR PARISH

<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>September 30</b>	
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	<i><b>Saturday Social and Donut Sunday</b></i>	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>October 1</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	CH
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass w/Youth Group (LS)	
11:30 am	Sunday Preschool	CR
2:30 pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>October 2</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
4:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>October 3</b>	
8:30 am	Mass w/School	
4:00 pm	Volleyball Prac./Cheer Prac.	G
7:00 pm	Confirmation Leader Training	CC
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>October 4</b>	
3:15 pm	Parent/Teacher Conferences	CR
4:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
6:00 pm	Scout Pack #268	SH
7:00 pm	Bereavement	FR
<b>Thursday,</b>	<b>October 5</b>	
	<i><b>School Closed</b></i>	
8:00 am	Parent Teacher Conferences	CR
8:30 am	Mass	
4:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
7:00 pm	Prayer Group	SS
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH/PP
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>October 6</b>	
	<i><b>School Closed</b></i>	
8:00 am	Teacher In-Service	SH
3:30 pm	Eucharistic Adoration	CH
4:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>October 7</b>	
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>October 8</b>	
8:30 am	Mass w/HNS Corporate Comm.	
9:30 am	Rosary	CH
11:30 am	Mass (LS)	
11:30 am	Sunday Preschool	CR
6:30 pm	Youth Group Mtg.	CC

**Note: (LS)=Livestreamed**

## VIRTUS COMPLIANCY — IMPORTANT

The USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) will be doing on-site audits at parishes in the Diocese of Cleveland. It is imperative that prior to working with children - coaches, scout leaders and helpers, St. Mark Staff, catechists & teachers (PSR and DAY school), parent volunteers, etc. - are Virtus compliant. This means that one must be:

- Virtus trained (see below)
- **Current with reading on-line bulletins**
- Read and signed off on Policy for **Protecting Children Revised 2016 (turn into Parish Office)**
- Read and signed off on **Standards of Conduct Revised 2016 (turn into Parish Office)**
- **New Volunteers must complete a Background Check through Virtus.org.** In the Virtus website click on the "Toolbox" tab, click on the Selection.com tab and begin the process. Must have a credit card to complete.
- **Current Volunteers with a BCI Fingerprint/Background check must renew after 5 years through Virtus.org click on the "Toolbox" tab, click on the Selection.com tab and begin the process. Must have a credit card to complete.**
- Filled out a **St. Mark Volunteer Application (turn into Parish Office)**

All of the above-mentioned requirements are mandatory. (You can check your compliancy by going to "Virtus.org", signing in, and clicking on the green 'Training' tab.) If you are not sure of your compliancy, call Cheryl Birchfield at the Parish Office (216-226-7577) and your compliancy will be verified. If one is not Virtus compliant, **YOU MAY NOT WORK/VOLUNTEER WITH CHILDREN.**

**To see available Virtus training sessions please go to Virtusonline.org click on First Time Registrant, Begin Registration Process also available is List of Sessions, select the Cleveland Diocese. You MUST register to attend a session.**



[www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net)

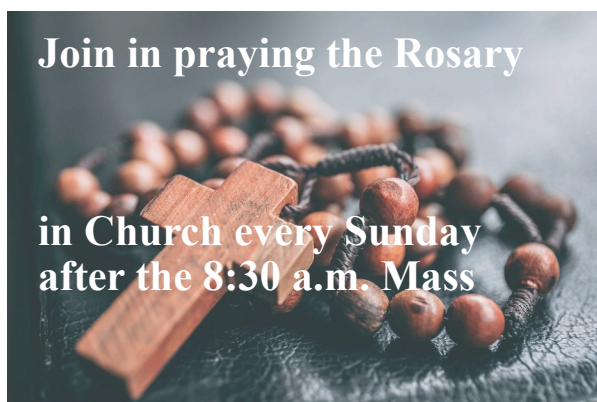
**St. Mark Church # OH274**

If you are using Faith Direct for eGiving....please access the website, log in and verify that all of your information is correct. You may need to update bank account or credit card numbers.

If you forgot your user name or password follow the directions on the login screen.

If you have questions about Faith Direct go to the FAQ section of the website for answers.

*Thank you for supporting  
St. Mark Church!*



## Principal News

It is so hard to believe we are nearing the end of September with a month of school already completed. Time passes so quickly, especially when busy. Here are a few things we have been up to over this month...

On September 11th, all 427 students and their teachers stood out front of the school, facing our peace pole, as we celebrated Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance. There was respectful silence. While that in itself is impressive, it truly is nothing short of an honor to be in the position I am in and witness moments like this. Many of our children led us in prayer. Patriot Day occurs on September 11th of each year in memory of the people killed in the September 11th attacks of the year 2001. As a school, we prayed for the First Responders- firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency workers and service members - who answered the call of duty. Many of these heroes have since passed away. We prayed for the victims and their families as well as for the civilians who rushed into action. And we prayed for peace- peace within ourselves, among family members, and throughout this world. It was interesting to note that while the prayer service was going on, several cars driving by slowed down, and I saw one gentleman stop his car and bless himself while another person walking her dog stop to pray with us. It was a great reminder that one small act of prayerful kindness can certainly have a rippling effect on others.

We also celebrated Heritage Day. Every grade was assigned a continent, and the students had to look at some of the countries found on that continent and decide which ones they wanted to explore. As a class, they researched items of interest found in those countries and then created postcards to send home about some of these discoveries, acting as if they were truly there visiting. The children decorated one of their classroom doors with these postcards and other drawings of items known to those countries. It was great fun to see the collaborative spirit in each classroom. Mrs. Hanna, our art teacher, even dressed the part as we celebrated Heritage Day 2023!

One of my favorite times during the day is recess because I can interact with the students on a different level. I have a whole group of hula hoopers, who have truly mastered walking, talking, and hula hooping all at the same time! I promised them that I would put their pictures in my next bulletin article- enjoy!

In Stephen Covey's book *The 8th Habit*, he states, "When we engage in work that taps our talents and fuels our passion, we find our voice, our calling, our soul's code." As I reflect on these words, I recognize the passion our faculty has for educating young minds. We hold the keys that enable our children to recognize the potentials they possess. It is our responsibility to assist your children in achieving their dreams for the future. I recognize the responsibility all of us have in bringing Christ into the lives of your children. Every day, there are opportunities for us to teach lessons of how important it is we live Christ's messages of love, respect, forgiveness, acceptance and kindness. These lessons are what instills Hope for our children as persons of faith. All of us are naturally energized by these young minds of tomorrow. Their smiles, their enthusiasm for learning, their acceptance of one another makes me want to make tomorrow better than today! Both Fr. Adam and I recognize the important responsibility we have in providing a safe and loving environment for our children, an environment that models our basic beliefs by promoting positive relationships, collaboration, strong communication, an energized climate, respect, and vision.

I am anxiously awaiting to see how our theme this year, *Make Every Day Count*, plays out in all that we do.

One final note, we sent a large "get well" photo from the school and rectory staff to Deacon Dave, wishing him a speedy recovery and lots of prayers. Here is his reply... He misses all of you!

Have a great week!  
Mrs. Cocita





# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed,  
he does what is right and just,  
he shall preserve his life. (Ez 18:27)

### Psalm:

Remember your mercies, O Lord. (Ps 25)

### Second Reading:

Have in you the same attitude  
that is also in Christ Jesus. (Phil 2:5)

### Gospel:

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you,  
tax collectors and prostitutes  
are entering the kingdom of God before you."  
(Mt 21:31)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God invites each of us to work in His vineyard,  
but it's our choice whether we "clock in" or stay  
home. Let's never fail to show up. It's the most  
important job we will ever have.

## Observances for the week of October 1, 2023

- Sunday:** 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
Respect Life Sunday
- Monday:** The Holy Guardian Angels
- Wednesday:** St. Francis of Assisi
- Thursday:** Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin; Bl.  
Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest
- Friday:** St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher,  
Virgin
- Saturday:** Our Lady of the Rosary
- Next Sunday:** 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Saint of the week

St. Theodora Guérin, a French immigrant to the United States, established a community of the Sisters of Providence at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. Her congregation went on to start numerous schools and institutions as well as orphanages and free pharmacies to care for the poor and sick.

## Prayer

Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, valiant woman of God, intercede for us in our needs. Implore for us through Jesus, the Christ, the gifts of a living faith, abiding hope and steadfast charity, so that through a life of prayer and service with others we may aid in promoting the Providence of God among all peoples. Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, pray for us.

Amen.

*(With Ecclesiastical Approval)*

*(Prayer Source: <https://spsmw.org/prayer/saint-mother-theodore-guerin-prayer/>)*