



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.

January 28, 2024

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

His fame spread everywhere
throughout the whole
region of Galilee.
- Mk 1:28

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Adam Zajac
Pastor

Deacon Dave Lundeen
Permanent Deacon

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

January: For the gift of diversity in the Church. We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.
February: For the terminally ill. We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday, January 29

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

Tuesday, January 30

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

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

Wednesday, January 31-St. John Bosco

Thursday, February 1

8:30am Mass.....Una Kinsella

Friday, February 2-The Presentation of the Lord

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Saturday, February 3

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass.....Phillip Miller

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, February 4-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass.....Joseph Spicuzza

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass...For The Parishioners of St. Mark Parish and St. Mel Parish

Liturgical Ministers February 3 & 4

Saturday, February 3 @ 4:00pm

Eucharistic Ministers Shirlee Toth, Bridget Blayney, Gloria Morin

Lector: Gary Morin

Altar Server: Morgan Adkins, Houston Engle, William Lentz

Sunday, February 4 @ 8:30am

Eucharistic Ministers Karen Cocita, Jessica Hanes, NOT FILLED

Lector: Mary Lewis, NOT FILLED

Altar Server: Declan Fitzpatrick, Bob LoPresti, Kathleen Murray

Sunday, February 4 @ 11:30am

Eucharistic Ministers Michelle Eggers, Lisa Ditzel, NOT FILLED

Lector: Deborah Roscoe, Carole Iseli

Altar Server: Jack Koch, Andrew Koch, Ian McCoy

Luke McGraw Memorial Candles

Weekly Intention

January 28

Phillip Miller

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration on **Friday, February 2nd 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.

There will be a general blessing at all Masses next weekend for the Feast of St. Blaise



Please come to pray WITH Mary, Our Blessed Mother, in this beautiful devotion, The Rosary. We are living in troubled times and so much in need of peace within our souls and for the world. We ask Mary, Our Mother, to intercede and lead us contemplating the mysteries of Jesus. "The Family that Prays together, Stays together"...Fr. Patrick Peyton
Every Sunday following the 8:30am Mass

Please Pray for Our Sick



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

Lisa Groh
Irene Gurchensky
Gerri Joecken
David Kurth
Catherine Kutsick
Loree Leasure-Poirier
Cheryl McArthur
Jim McIlwee
Mary Miller
Maisie Nowlin
Sr. Josette Obodzinski

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 Zavatchen Jr.

Weekly Collections

Sunday Envelopes:.....\$ 3,543.00

Faith Direct:.....\$ 5,210.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Friends,

A few years ago I added the monthly papal intention to the bulletin, adjacent to the liturgy schedule, and if you come to daily mass you know that I typically include it in the universal prayers. The papal intentions are set for the entire year, months before the year actually begins. Praying with them is a personal devotion in my life that I've been happy to share with you, and for some time I have thought it would be nice to give a reflection at the end of each month.

January's intention was for the gift of diversity in the Church, that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church. Usually when we hear the word "diversity" in America we think of racial diversity, but this is more broadly about the different charisms (gifts/talents and the different traditions and rituals in our Church. Let's not forget that our Church spans the entire world, with brothers and sisters on every continent, speaking every language, and with beautiful cultures!

Over the month I have thought about the different charisms we have locally. First off in the diocese I think of the priests that I studied with and the lay people I have worked with in the parishes that are capable in so many ways that I am not. I hope I have learned something from them all, and I hope as a parish community that we see the blessings and strengths that come from each person around us.

I'm also grateful for the different traditions and rituals. Sometimes Roman Catholics forget or do not know that there are 24 Eastern Catholic churches within our Catholic Church (although you've heard of Byzantine Catholics, Maronite Catholics, etc.). I always enjoy learning the different things they do. Imagine during Easter time if we greeted each other not with "Hello" but with "Christ is risen!" and replying "Indeed, he is truly risen!"... or during a wedding mass crowning the bride and groom... or when a priest is invited to your home the first thing he says when he comes through the door is "Peace be with this house". And imagine our customs that are so regular to us that we take them for granted, but perhaps to an Eastern Catholic would be something very new and interesting.

Next month in February we will pray for the terminally ill. Consider joining in this intention from Pope Francis. You can hear more including a video from Pope Francis at popesprayerusa.net

In Christ,



Fr. Adam

"It was such a pleasure to celebrate Christmas masses with a robust music team. If you're interested in joining us for Easter, rehearsals begin on Tuesday, January 23rd, 7-8:30pm at St. Mark. Children's Choir rehearsal begin on Tuesday, February 20th from 5:30-6:30pm and run for six weeks. Vocalists & instrumentalists are happily welcome!"



EASTER CHOIR
MELS & MARKS
VOCALISTS & INSTRUMENTALISTS

Holy Week & Easter Mass Schedule
Holy Thursday @ St. Mark 7 PM
Good Friday @ St. Mark 3 PM
Holy Saturday @ St. Mel 9 PM
Easter morning @ St. Mark 8:30 AM
Easter morning @ St. Mel 10 AM

Easter morning @ St. Mark 11:30 AM CHILDREN'S CHOIR
group performance plans TBD @ first rehearsal

Choir Rehearsals
Easter Choir Rehearsals BEGIN Tuesday 1/23 @ 7PM, Marks
Bring a friend!
1/23 | 1/30 | 2/6 | 2/13 | 2/20 | 2/27 | 3/5 | 3/12 | 3/19 | 3/26
Note: We may add Thursday rehearsals in March if needed.

Instrumentalists
Contact Julia.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSALS
Tuesdays @ 5:30-6:30 PM Beginning 2/20

JWallace@StMarkCleveland.com



EASTER CHILDRENS CHOIR

ST. MARK & ST. MEL
CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Easter morning @ St. Mark 11:30 AM

Choir Rehearsals
During seasonal choir preparations,
K-8 Children's Choir will rehearse on Tuesday evenings.

Tuesday's 5:30-6:30 @ St. Mark
2/20 | 2/27 | 3/5 | 3/12 | 3/19 | 3/26

Saint Mark Youth Singers
(Paced for Grades 5-8)
Continue to rehearse on Mondays 2:30-3:00.
Schedule resumes on 1/22/2024

JWallace@StMarkCleveland.com

St. Mark Youth Group Tobogganing Night

When:
February 9th, 2024 | 5:30-9:30pm

Where:
Strongsville Toboggan Chutes and Chalet
16200 Valley Pkwy, Strongsville, OH 44136

Who:
Open to anyone in Grades 9th-12th

What:
Tobogganing in the Strongsville Metroparks!
Meet at St. Mark at 5:30pm to carpool. Depart
for tobogganing by 6:00pm. Return to St. Mark
for pick-up at 9:30pm.
The cost to toboggan is \$10 per person.

How:
Sign up by emailing Michael Kay at
mkay@stmarkcleveland.com or by calling
216-904-4774.



Share God's Love

St. Mark Faith Build

DONUT SOCIAL

St. Mark's Faith Build is back for 2024! Come to the February Donut and Coffee Socials (after masses Saturday, February 3 and Sunday, February 4) to learn more about the 2024 Faith Build, to sign up for more information, and to enjoy a donut.

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

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS



Welcome All Parishioners
18 and Older

We meet the second Tuesday of the Month at
6:00pm in the Social Hall

Interested?
Email Jim Cocita at jimcocita@gmail.com

Please remember Deacon Dave in your prayers!

SUPER BOWL LVIII

All are invited to the annual
St. Mark Super Bowl party
Sunday, February 11th

Admission
Free Will donation of \$10

Beer & soft drinks, pizza and snacks provided
Scoring squares and "game-question"
contests available
You may bring your own appetizers and games.
NO BYOB

Doors open at 5pm St. Mark Social Hall
Sponsored by The St. Mark Holy Name Society

Believeland Young Adult Retreat

APRIL 5 - 7TH
JESUIT RETREAT HOUSE

Young Adults 20s & 30s
\$40 Early Bird pricing
\$65 after January 6th
*confidential financial assistance available

Come to the quiet.
Find peace in the
Lord.

THE WEEK AHEAD IN OUR PARISH

Saturday,	January 27	
	Science Fair	SH
	Book Fair	SH
9:00 am	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	January 28	
	Catholic Schools Week	
	Foos Sunday	
	Science & Book Fair	SH
8:30 am	Mass w/Teachers	
9:30 am	School Open House	SCH/G
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass w/Youth Choir (LS)	
1:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
4:00 pm	Living Stations	CH
Monday,	January 29	
8:30 am	Mass	
2:30 pm	Youth Choir Prac.	CH
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
6:00 pm	Living Stations	CH
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
Tuesday,	January 30	
8:30 am	Mass 1st Floor	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
7:00 pm	Choir Prac.	CH
Wednesday,	January 31	
9:30 am	Spelling Bee	G
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
5:15 pm	Daisy Troop	SH
Thursday,	February 1	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
7:00 pm	Prayer Group	SS
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
Friday,	February 2	
9:00 am	School Adoration	CH
1:00 pm	Talent Show	G
3:30 pm	Eucharistic Adoration	CH
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
Saturday,	February 3	
9:00 am	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	Donut Social after all masses	
Sunday,	February 4	
8:30 am	Mass	
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass	
11:30 am	Sunday Pre-School	CR
1:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
4:00 pm	Living Stations	CH

Note: (LS)=Livestreamed

Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Altar Servers

The new Minister schedules for February 2024 - May 2024 are now available on 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.



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!*

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 Bochert, 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 for any updates.



REQUEST FOR 2023 CONTRIBUTION REPORT

Please send a request via email to dbroughton@stmarkcleveland.com or fill out this form and return it to the Parish Office.

Name (print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email report to: _____

Pick up at Parish Office _____ Mail to above address _____

“Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community,” the theme of this year’s Catholic Schools’ Week, are core values by which all of us are challenged to live. We are gifted with a faith in God, who loves each one of us individually. We should always strive for excellence, recognizing that it is sometimes in those moments of failure that we learn the most, and we are challenged to live a life of service as members of a greater community. So as we celebrate Catholic Schools’ Week 2024, it is important that as a Catholic school community, we demonstrate these values as we celebrate who we are!

As I tour interested families around our school, I always make my first stop in Church. Christ is the single most important reason why we are St. Mark School, so it is a very fitting stop. I tell parents that we are always doing something faith-filled- whether it is Mass, Eucharistic Adoration which has drawn families to pray together during the day, Stations of the Cross, the Living Rosary, or a grade level retreat. Our faith is what binds us to one another and allows us to carry one another in times of need. Time and time again throughout our school year, our school community joins together in joyful service to others on need.

Faith is powerfully transforming because if we live faith-filled lives, then we are living lives of service. Service is a very important component of discipleship. It allows us the opportunity to bring Christ to others in sometimes the gentlest of ways. I see examples of our children living lives of service every single day. During Catholic Schools’ Week, every family has been asked to donate a specific food item that will become part of larger gift bags and baskets which will be shared with others. Personal notes written by the students will accompany each bag or basket. This collaborative undertaking will make our students feel so good about themselves and what they were able to accomplish together. Every day I see examples of student service throughout our building. They LOVE holding doors for one another- especially at dismissal. I see great examples of kindness like inviting others to sit with them at lunch or play with them at recess, helping their teachers in their classrooms, or helping me when something needs delivered or carried elsewhere. (I am sure they like getting out of class, but they like being needed and helpful even more. That is what families do!)

Every year, I meet with the 8th Grade to have them create essays about what St. Mark means to them. This year, over and over again, the message came through of how leadership opportunities, service opportunities, and classroom expectations have formed them into confident young adults. Several of our students are sharing their essays this weekend at the Masses both here at St. Mark and at St. Mel. Here are a few ideas taken from their essays:

- Agnes: “I am changed because of my Catholic education. It is not easy to make a grade school so bright, so powerful that I will be telling stories to my grandchildren someday.”
- Joseph: “Earlier this year, our 8th Grade class went to Borromeo Seminary. It was an amazing hands-on experience, which gave me a glimpse onto what it is like to become a priest.”
- Fia: “The learning environment that we have been given here is so important when it comes to Christ being in our everyday lives.”
- Cami: “One of the most special teachers here to me is Mrs. Riordan, my mom. Not many people get to have their mom as their teacher, and I am so blessed that St. Mark gave me that opportunity.”
- Lauren: “This past year I have done many hands-on activities. I have held a real heart, learned about scientists, engineers, and nurses, and I got to watch a live-streamed surgery.”
- Gregory: “St. Mark has brought me closer to God. If I ever have a hard time in life, the first thing I do is pray to God, because I know there is a solution waiting.”
- Olivia: “Each day at school I am given the chance to strengthen my relationship with God. That is something very special. Going to school here has shown me how much more beautiful life can be when your faith is a priority.”

Since children are creators, builders, natural collaborators, and our engineers of tomorrow, it is important that we provide them with as many scientific and technological opportunities that we can. I am proud to say that our school is outfitted with some exceptional technology. One of the items on display in the Stream Lab are the 3D chess pieces students created for our Chess Club to use. It is not uncommon on my visits to the Stream lab to dodge robots that the students have programmed to perform pre-determined feats. Both creativity and laughter are evident- and that is what education is all about!

Hanging in the hallways throughout the school are family reflections on why St. Mark School is special. Families commented on how our teachers truly care about every single student. I see that every day. Other comments included things like: the undeniable sense of community, school pride, the fun-loving atmosphere, children are appreciated for their unique differences, and the opportunities to get involved, to name a few.

Our children are creatively involved in science and history fair projects. Their Science Fair projects are on display in the Social Hall today during our Open House. You are welcomed to view them. Also in the Social Hall is our Scholastic Book Fair. While touring the school, make sure you stop down by the Gym and enjoy a small ice cream treat on us! Ice cream is great at any time during the day!

Thanks to the support from our Parent Club, we are able to bring the Great Lakes Shakespeare Theater’s education department to St. Mark’s for students in Gr. 6-8. Each grade previously studies one of Shakespeare’s plays (*Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar*, *Romeo and Juliet*), and then sees live performances directly in front of them in their classrooms, role played, and discussed in depth. Our children have been to Playhouse Square seeing live theater at its best, the *Face to Face Holocaust* program, *Stem Goes Red for Girls* at the Great Lakes Science Center, and *Native American Star Stories*, with many more trips planned for the spring.

Catholic Education provides academic excellence in a faith-filled environment. Our children are expected to not only grow academically but to make contributions to our Church, our community, and our world. We are blessed to have a faculty who dedicates themselves to the successful growth of each individual child. They are a faith-filled group of professional men and women who work countless hours beyond the school day. We are blessed to have Fr. Adam, who supports our school and all my endeavors. I am personally blessed to have an assistant principal, Mrs. Christine Gunn, who goes above and beyond all expectations in helping me execute so many of my ideas! (I am pretty sure I drive her nuts at times!) And finally, we are also blessed to have support from you, our parish community. Your support allows us the opportunity to be a school “United in Faith and Community”. May God bless you and thank you for your unwavering support. Enjoy Catholic Schools’ Week 2024!

Mrs. Cocita

St. Mark School Registration for 2023-2024

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year will begin on Monday, January 29, 2024, for all returning families and returning families with new student(s) going into Pre-school or Kindergarten.

Registration will take place using your Digital Academy account. The Digital Academy link can also be found on the school website's main page. Priority registration concludes Sunday February 4, 2024.

Open registration for new families to St. Mark School entering K-8 will begin Monday February 5, 2024. Registration will take place through the Digital Academy link on the school website's main page. Interested families may arrange a private tour by contacting the school office at 216-524-4115.



St. Mark School Open House will take place on Sunday, January 28, 2024, between 9:30-11:30. Prospective new families will have the opportunity to tour the school and meet the classroom teachers.