



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.



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct.”
- Mt 16:26-27

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

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.

15800 MONTROSE AVENUE | CLEVELAND, OH 44111 | 216-226-7577 | STMARKCLEVELAND.COM

Papal Intention

September: For people living on the margins. We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday September 4

8:30am MassEoin Doherty

Tuesday September 5

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

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

Wednesday September 6

Thursday September 7

8:30am MassMarianne Stetar

Friday September 8-The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Saturday September 9-St. Peter Claver

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass.....Rose Chihil

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday September 10-Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am MassMichael & Angela Chakan

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am MassBob Fischer

Liturgical Ministers September 9 & 10

Saturday, September 9 @ 4:00pm

Eucharistic Ministers: Shirlee Toth, Michelle Biggins, NOT FILLED

Lector: Lisa Braun

Altar Servers: Aidan Gompf, Madeline Gompf, Cristian Trump

Sunday, September 10 @ 8:30am

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Stamper, Michael Kay, NOT FILLED

Lector: Al Abel, Michael Grathwol

Altar Servers: Julia McNulty, Fiona Stock, Lillian Stock

Sunday, September 10 @ 11:30am

Eucharistic Ministers: Rosanne Kelley, Annamaria Masterson, Deirdre Mueller

Lector: Cari Foster, Deborah Roscoe

Altar Servers: Ian McCoy, Patrick Mueller, Eoin Mueller

Luke McGraw
Memorial Candles
Weekly Intention
September 3
Charlie Sunyak

The Parish Office will be closed
Monday, September 4th

Join in praying the Rosary in Church every Sunday after the 8:30am Mass
 Livestreamed the 3rd Sunday of the month.



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	Diana Gassaway	Ryan Puzzitiello Jr.
Gianna Andolina	Irene Gurchensky	Bill Retzer
Carol Behnke	Gerri Joecken	Sr. Mary Ann Spangler
Jack Behnke	David Kurth	Mary Stark
Katy Brent	Catherine Kutsick	Nora Sudetic
Henry Buehner	Loree Leasure-Poirier	Lena Sunyak
James Coyne	Jim McIlwee	George Surovec
Margaret Fadrowski	Mary Miller	Herb Tippie
Nicole Foerstner	Betty Minotas	Joe Wantz
Helen Forlini	Maisie Nowlin	Charlotte Whiting
Mary Frantz	Sr. Josette Obodzinski	Lillian Zahara
Theresa Fridrich		Joseph Zavatchen Jr.

New Church Pews

It is very exciting to be getting closer to having our new church pews installed! This is an extensive project that will require time, physical labor and patience. The current pews will be removed - the floors repaired, cleaned and polished - new pews will be installed - and the entire church will receive a very good cleaning. The expected timeframe will be 3 weeks, hopefully there will be no issues that would extend the project.

The following schedule will be in place for the removal of the current pews and installation of the new ones:

Week of September 11 - Current pew removal & floor preparation
WEEKDAY masses in the Social Hall September 11 - September 29
WEEKEND September 16 / 17 mass in Social Hall
Week of September 18 - New pew installation
WEEKEND September 23 / 24 mass in social hall
Week of September 25 - Church cleaning

We will need volunteers to help remove the current pews from the church building and get them into the dumpster. If you are interested in helping the week of September 11, please call the parish office! If anyone would like to take one of the current pews, you are welcome to them. Please call the parish office and let us know how many you would like! We will set them aside for you; however, it will be your responsibility to transport them to your house. Free will donations would be greatly appreciated!

All masses will be held in the St. Mark Social Hall during the construction timeframe.

All funerals will be held at St. Mel church.

We are all looking forward to celebrating mass with our beautiful new pews!



The parishioner-led Prayer Group will meet on Thursday, September 7th 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. The group will pray for these requests. Feel free to share answered prayers here also. Please join us! There is no need to sign up.

Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Altar Servers

Please notify in writing or by email of any dates that you are not available to serve for the next schedule, which will be from October 2023 - January 2024. We need this information so that all Ministers are available to fulfill their schedule Mass times. We appreciate your continued service. The deadline to submit dates is Friday, September 15th by 4:30pm to cbirchfield@stmarkcleveland.com. Please be mindful of holidays and vacations. Thank you for your help.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Register now to save your child's space in Sunday School for the 2023-2024 year! Sunday School is open to children ages 3-5 and takes place during the 11:30am Mass. In-person registration will take place in the School Hallway on Saturday/Sunday September 2-3. Forms are available at all entrances to the Church. You can also drop off registration forms to the Parish Office. Classes begin September 10th. Please contact Moly Stottner @ mollystottner@hotmail.com with any questions.

VOLUNTEER!

We are currently seeking volunteers to assist in teaching Sunday Preschool for the 2023-24 school year!

*Classes begin September 10th
Classes meet each week during the
11:30 am Sunday Mass*

*Please contact Molly Stottner (see above)
to find out how you can help!*

Markers 50+ St. Mark & St. Mel

Join us for a picnic and general meeting on Saturday, September 9th, after the 4pm Mass in the St. Mark pavilion.

Hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share.

Please RSVP to Cheryl at the St. Mark Parish Office at 216-226-7577.

A Unique Program to Strengthen and Heal Your Marriage September 22-24, 2023

The Retrouvaille program is designed to help married couples develop improved ways of communicating and relating to each other in order to overcome challenges which have left them feeling frustrated, hurt, distant, or even hopeless.

Retrouvaille, which means rediscovery, is supported by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, but is open to couples of all faiths. This program consists of a weekend experience and six follow up sessions. For more information concerning the program, or to register, visit www.helpourmarriage.org or call Shelly or Rob at 216.509.0301 or 440.836.4810.

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

A LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Our Lady of Angels Prayer Group will offer a "Life in the Spirit Seminar" this Fall on eight consecutive Tuesdays, September 5th through October 24th from 7:30-9:00pm. Our most recent Popes, Paul VI to Pope Francis, have given both their approval and their support for these seminars. If you desire more for your life, this seminar can be the beginning of a "renewal" of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Join us in the Primary school building (behind Linus Hall, there will be signs). For more information and to register please contact Verna at 216-251-3560 or Tom at 216-536-6495. There is no charge for this seminar.



Share God's Love

St. Mark Faith Build 2023

St. Mark Faith Build Update!

Two volunteer days remain for the 2023 St. Mark Faith Build:

- Saturday, September 9 (Neighborhood Spruce Up Day)
- Thursday, September 21 (Build Day)

Sign up at www.clevelandhabitat.volunteerhub.com. New to Habitat? Enter the Join Code MARK to set up an account. Must be at least 16 years old.

St. Mark will have a second collection for the Faith Build at all masses the weekend of September 9-10. Envelopes for donations will also be available at the church entrances starting September 2. Please continue to pray for the Faith Build!

Questions? Email Amy Asseff: aasseff@aol.com

Join Fr. Rob Ramser on a trip of a lifetime to the Holy Land from November 20th - 29th, 2024. We will visit Caesarea, Mount Carmel, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the Jordan Valley and much more! Masses held daily in the places where Christ was born, taught, healed, was Crucified and rose triumphant for our Salvation. Price person is \$4,487 which includes round trip flights, double occupancy hotels, certified tour guide, tips, daily breakfasts and dinners and two lunches. Come find a new dimension in understanding Christian history and the life and continuing mission of Christ. Contact Jerusalem Tours (www.JerusalemTours.com), Fr. Rob Ramser (216-252-2332 or rramser@olangles.org) or go to <https://form.jotform.com/230694659784474> for more information.

THE WEEK AHEAD IN OUR PARISH

Saturday, September 2		
10:00 am	CYO Volleyball Games	G
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
<i>Social & Donut Weekend</i>		
<i>Sunday School Registration</i>		
Sunday, September 3		
8:30 am	Mass	
9:30 am	Rosary	CH
11:30 am	Mass (LS)	
1:30 pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G
Monday, September 4		
<i>School Closed</i>		
<i>Parish Office Closed</i>		
8:30 am	Mass	
Tuesday, September 5		
<i>First Day of PreSchool</i>		
8:30 am	Mass w/2nd Floor	
4:30 pm	RCIC	CC
4:00-6:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
6:00 pm	Cheerleading Prac.	PP
Wednesday, September 6		
4:00-7:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
5:30pm	Scout Pack #268	PP
Thursday, September 7		
8:30 am	Mass	
4:00-7:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
7:00 pm	Prayer Group	CC/PP
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH/PP
Friday, September 8		
Saturday, September 9		
10:00 am	CYO Volleyball Games	G
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:00 pm	Marker's Picnic	PP
<i>Habitat Second Collection</i>		
Sunday, September 10		
8:30 am	Mass	
9:30 am	Rosary	CH
9:30 am	Young Families	PP
11:30 am	Mass (LS)	
11:30 am	Sunday Pre-School	CR

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."

Psalms 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.



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 all on-line bulletins**
- Read and sign **Policy for Protecting Children Revised 2016 (turn into Parish Office)**
- Read and sign **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 current 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.
- Complete 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.

Sunday Contributions

Sunday Envelopes.....\$ 2,562.00
Faith Direct Sunday.....\$ 5,615.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

We're BACK! It was a long summer but having the students back was met with great enthusiasm from the faculty, the students, and I must say, most especially with the parents! This past week during "Drop-in Day," I saw some huge smiles from parents as they were dropping their children's supplies off, and then once the first day of school drop-off was complete, even bigger smiles! The children themselves were so excited to return. There was LOTS of hugging from the children as they saw Fr. Adam, Mrs. Gunn, and me standing outside awaiting their arrival.

There have been some changes in the building which included new carpeting in the offices (coming soon), a reading room connected to our library providing comfortable seating for children to enjoy their new books, additional new flooring on some of the stairs will be going in soon, new gym locker rooms, an art room and library relocation, new computers in the computer lab featuring a rainbow of color, and coming very soon- new church pews. A special note of thanks to the entire maintenance crew for all the hard work this summer. They made magic happen through their hard work! Unfortunately with the rains that came just prior to the start of school, our entire campus experienced some flooding, but I have to tell you, sleeves were rolled up and clean-up began immediately. Even my husband came up to help because I am sure he heard a little frustration in my voice! Many of you experienced that same flooding, but once put into perspective with what occurred most recently in Maui, this was minimal.

As I walked the hallways this week, I cannot tell you how great it was to hear happy teachers and students once again! The beginning of the school year always creates excitement for teachers and students, but I find myself always a little more excited than they!

The theme for this school year is, "Make Every Day Count." As I visited classroom teachers working in their classrooms these past two weeks, fresh from summer vacation, it was interesting to see how this theme is displayed in their classrooms. Throughout the year, as a faculty and as a school, we will be examining the many ways each one of us can achieve this as we extend our hands in service to others.

All of us are called to become examples of faith to one another, and in St. Mark Catholic School, the leadership roles that Fr. Adam, Mrs. Gunn, and I have, in addition to parents as primary educators, are essential in bringing others to Christ. Weekly Mass or prayer services are planned, so that our children are each provided with opportunities to develop a personal relationship with Christ. Classroom involvement with Mass is being enhanced thanks to Mrs. Wallace, our Music Director. Our entire teaching staff recognizes that as a Catholic school, our first priority is to further develop the faith in each of our children, following in the footsteps of their parents. We begin and end every day in prayer, taking time to remember all those who are most in need of our prayers. Religion is taught every day- both as instruction and as a way of life, because as Fr. Adam reminded the faculty at our opening retreat, our faith should encompass all that we are.

Sr. Theresa Aletheia Nobel in her book, *The Prodigal You Love*, addresses the importance of the role of witness for Christ: "Faith is not a private affair between God and me. The process of growing in union with God happens most clearly and surely in a sacramental faith community. The more we accept and understand this, the more clearly we communicate it to our loved ones, not necessarily with words, but always with the joyous brilliant light that comes from our own relationship with God, tended and cared for in the community of the Church." This quote certainly captures the importance of our witness to one another as we discover different ways to "Make Every Day Count".

A lion's roar goes out in welcome to both our new faculty members and our new children and their families joining St. Mark this year in grades 1-8, as well as all our Kindergarten and PreK families. New faculty members include: Mrs. Melissa Gonzalez (Gr. 2), Miss Bridget Wazevich (Gr. 6-8 English), Miss Abby Gaudreau (Gr. 6-8 Science), Mr. Scott Troyan (P.E.), and Mr. Weston Kincade (Computer). They are all wonderful additions to our TEAM! The energy and positive atmosphere felt from the entire faculty would energize anyone. What a great team I have in place! They are a true blessing to everyone involved. I watched this week as our veteran teachers took time to assist our new teachers, making sure their questions were answered and needs met. Teachers assisted one another in getting classrooms together, and were just "present" to help. Their positivity and excitement continued to grow as the first day of school neared- and the first day did not disappoint!

It is going to be a fantastic year- it already has been!

Have a great week!

Mrs. Cocita



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Whenever I speak, I must cry out,
violence and outrage is my message;
the word of the LORD has brought me
derision and reproach all the day. (Jer 20:8)

Psalm:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. (Ps 63)

Second Reading:

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.
(Rom 12:1)

Gospel:

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me.
For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."
(Mt 16:24-25)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

A love of suffering does not come naturally to us as humans. We have no instinct to throw our arms around a rough and heavy cross — no, we shy away from it. But as adopted children of God, crafted lovingly in His image, our inheritance is the grace to do what feels so impossible.

Observances for the week of September 3, 2023

- Sunday:** 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Labor Day
Friday: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday: St. Peter Claver, Priest
Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Grandparents' Day



Saint of the week

Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik became known as Chicago's Apostle of Mercy due to her work in the late 1800's and the early 1900's serving the poor and abandoned. She founded the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago — the first women's religious congregation in Chicago.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, you inflamed the compassionate heart of Mother Mary Theresa with the heroic virtues of charity and mercy. If it is your will, may she be declared Blessed for your honor and glory and may she inspire others to imitate her love for the needy, poor, and suffering of our world. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://mothertheresadudzik.com/prayers.html>)

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 | 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

