



# 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.

**DECEMBER 18, 2022**

## Fourth Sunday of ADVENT



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### PASTORAL STAFF

**Rev. Adam Zajac**

*Pastor*

**Deacon Dave Lundeen**

*Business Manager, Pastoral Associate*

**Mrs. Karen Cocita**

*Principal*

**Mrs. Meghan McCarthy-Silver**

*Pastoral Minister*

**Mr. Lawrence 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**

## Liturgy Readings for the Week

<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>December 17</b>	
4:00 p.m.	Gn 49:2, 8-10	Mt 1:1-17
	Spiritual Bouquet Laura DiGeronimo & Connor Sideri	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>December 18-Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	
8:30 a.m.	Is 7:10-14	Rom 1:1-7
11:30 a.m.	Lew Zahara	Mt 1:18-24
	Lucy Hauck	
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>December 19</b>	
8:30 a.m.	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a	Lk 1:5-25
	Tom Pickett	
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>December 20</b>	
8:30 a.m.	Is 7:10-14	Lk 1:26-38
	George & Marilyn Toth	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 21</b>	
	Sg 2:8-14	Lk 1:39-45
<b>Thursday,</b>	<b>December 22</b>	
8:30 a.m.	Sm 1:24-28	Lk 1:46-56
	<b>Presider's Intention</b>	
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>December 23</b>	
8:30 a.m.	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24	Lk 1:57-66
	Maureen Gale	
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>December 24-Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord</b>	
4:00 p.m.	Is 62: 1-5	Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
10:00 p.m.	Maggie Willmitch	Mt 1:1-25
	Dolly Tinnirello	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>December 25-The Nativity of the Lord</b>	
8:30 a.m.	For the Parishioners of St. Mark Parish & St. Mel Parish	
11:30 a.m.	Luke McGraw	

**Pope's Intention December:** For volunteer not-for-profit organizations. We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

## Christmas Liturgies

### Saturday, December 24 @ 4:00pm

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

**Lector:** Carole Iseli

**Altar Servers:** Mary Kugler-Blayney

### Saturday, December 24 @ 10:00pm

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Deacon Dave, Gloria Morin

**Lector:** Gary Morin

**Altar Servers:**

### Sunday, December 25 @ 8:30am

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Laura Skonce

**Lector:** Lisa Mullins, Barbara Paynter

**Altar Servers:**

### Sunday, December 25 @ 11:30am

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Deacon Dave, Sue Chillemi

**Lector:**

**Altar Servers:**

Luke McGraw  
Memorial Candles  
Weekly Intention  
December 18  
Lew Zahara

## Liturgical Ministers

Please stop in the sacristy to sign up for Christmas Liturgies.

Thank you for your continued service!

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



May the peace of our Lord be with  
Charlotte Marvin, Mother of Denise Luster  
and may God grant comfort to her family and friends.





Join us in prayer and worship during

# The Christmas Season

## Christmas Eve

Sat Dec 24<sup>th</sup>

4:00pm St. Mark \*  
4:30pm St. Mel  
7:00pm St. Mel  
10:00pm St. Mark \*

## Christmas Day

Sun Dec 25<sup>th</sup>

8:30am St. Mark \*  
10:00am St. Mel  
11:30am St. Mark \*

\* Overflow seating available at St. Mark in the Social Hall

The Christmas season continues with Masses at their regular times. The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God on January 1<sup>st</sup> is a holy day of obligation but also falls on Sunday this year.

## Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Sun Jan 1<sup>st</sup>

## The Epiphany

Sun Jan 8<sup>th</sup>

Christmas is a ray of light for all, because it reveals to us God's love and makes us feel the presence of Jesus with everyone, especially with those who are suffering. Just for this reason Jesus willed to be born in poverty and in the abandonment of a cave and to be laid in a manger.

Saint Pope John Paul II, *Address to Young People*, 1978

Background: Peter Paul Rubens, *Adoration of the Magi*, 1633

Friends,

*I wish to give a sincere thank you to everyone who contributed to the We Give Catholic fundraiser. We raised over \$11,000 to go to the new pews and won a bonus \$500 for being one of the top, medium-sized parishes. The voting on everyone's preference on pew style from a few weekends ago was very close, with only twenty more votes going to the straight lined style. The lighter stain also won. Right now we are waiting for the diocese to review and approve the contract for their purchase and installation, so hopefully soon I will know when in the summer we can expect them to get here. Also, I was very pleased with the men's and women's retreats that took place the last two weekends. Each had about a dozen people attend, and everyone seemed to be very appreciative of the experience. I hope that we can get back into the pattern of this being an annual event for the parish, and a great opportunity for people to set aside time for prayer and reflection for many years to come.*

*In Christ,*



Fr. Adam



## OVER THE BACK FENCE

### *Mary's Christmas Dream*

I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our Son. I think that was what it was all about. The people had been preparing for it for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought elaborate gifts. It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren't for our Son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right in their house. They'd decorated the tree also. The branches were full of glowing balls and sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on top of the tree. It looked like an angel might look. Oh, it was beautiful. Everyone was laughing and happy. They were all excited about the gifts. They gave the gifts to each other. Joseph, not to our Son. I don't think they even knew Him. They never mentioned His name. Doesn't it seem odd for people to go to all that trouble to celebrate someone's birthday if they don't know Him? I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration He would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful, Joseph, and everyone so gay, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus--not to be wanted at His own birthday party. I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, it is had been real.

-author unknown



*Be vigilant at all times*

LUKE 21:36

### **Communal Penance**

**Join us on Thursday, December 22nd for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

**There will be multiple priests available starting at 7:00pm to celebrate this healing Sacrament. Come and let us prepare our hearts for the Birth of the Savior.**

**The service will take place in the main church of Our Lady of Angels.**



### THE WEEK AHEAD IN OUR PARISH

Saturday, December 17		
12:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday, December 18		
8:30 am	Mass	
9:30 am	Rosary	CH
11:30 am	Mass (LS)	
11:30 am	Sunday Preschool	CR
1:30-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G
6:30 pm	YG Christmas Party	SH
Monday, December 19		
8:30 am	Mass	
9:30 -12:00pm	School Confessions	CH
2:45 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsals	CH
3:30 pm	Confirmation Group Cleaning	CH
5:00-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
6:30 pm	Bible Study	SH
Tuesday, December 20		
8:30 am	Mass w/1st Floor	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G
Wednesday, December 21		
	<i>School Closed</i>	
5:00-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G
Thursday, December 22		
	<i>School Closed</i>	
8:30 am	Mass	
3:00 pm	A & E Decorating	CH
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G
7:00 pm	Communal Penance at Our Lady of Angels	
Friday, December 23		
	<i>School Closed</i>	
	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G
Saturday, December 24		
4:00 pm	Mass w/Children's Choir	
10:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday, December 25		
8:30 am	Mass	
9:30 am	Rosary	CH
11:30 am	Mass (LS)	

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.



St. Mark Youth Group  
Fall-Winter 2022

**Sunday, December 4**      **Mass Meet-Up 11:30am**  
**Front - St. Joseph's Side**  
**6:30pm-8:00pm Mtg. - CC**

**Sunday, December 18**      **Christmas Party**  
**6:30pm-8:30pm-Social Hall**

\*\*\*A joint Advent event with St. Christopher Youth Group is being planned for a date TBD in December. Please stay tuned for updates via text and email for details on this event.\*\*\*

PLEASE BE SURE TO PICK UP  
YOUR 2023 PARISH CALENDAR,  
AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH  
ENTRANCES

### Last Week's Collection

Sunday Envelopes	\$ 5,915.00
Faith Direct	\$ 5,405.00
Total Sunday Contributions	\$11,320.00

Faith Direct ~ Number of Donors = 260

Thank you for your generosity!

## PRINCIPAL NEWS

"Sometimes when you least expect it, a significant moment happens as a parent that you know you will remember forever."

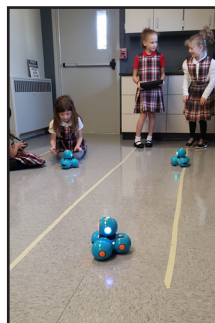
On December 2nd, we held our Snowflake Ball, our Father (Special Person)/ Daughter Dance. It is always a magical night for us, and it is certainly one of my most favorite events held here. As the night began and our couples arrived, they were greeted at the door by some of our mom who volunteered to help me with the event. Each girl received a pair of light-up sunglasses and a light-up bracelet. As the evening went on, the dance floor was lit up by these favors. The girls looked adorable, very much like princesses. So many of them wore tiny wrist corsages that matched their dresses. While many pieces of flowers were swept up off the gym floor following the dance, it was heartwarming to see the girls swept up off their feet and into the arms of their kings. These are those moments that take your breath away- until the fast music starts and the dads step away to let the girls take over the dance floor with their friends!

The following week, we had a special visitor on St. Nicholas Day. The children and their teachers all left one shoe outside their classrooms following morning announcements, and before anyone knew it, St. Nick had those shoes filled with some tasty treats and gifts. But St. Nick was not finished. He made a surprise visit from the North Pole via Zoom! He spoke to all of our PreK-Gr. 3 students in individual classroom visits. It was very touching when our children, one class after the other, invited him to pray with them. And St. Nicholas did just that- he prayed, he laughed with them, and he reminded all of them that Christmas was just around the corner. (And we all know what that means- Santa is watching!) This was yet another wonderful memory!

Our STREAM Lab has been very busy in our Innovation and Early Learning Center.. Children in K-Gr. 4 started coding with Dots and Dash robots. These little robots were programmed by the children to perform special tasks. The students LOVE these little blue machines! Students in Gr. 5-6 created LED Christmas cards. I have one hanging on my office door. It lights up! Very cool! Gr. 7 and 8 used Tinkercad to create 3D keychains and ornaments. Every day, students are in the STREAM Lab doing something fun and challenging. I hear laughter mixed with 'Let's try this to see what happens...' And that is exactly why we have a STREAM Lab!

Finally, don't forget about the Cleveland Reads Citywide Reading Challenge! The belief that a city that reads together grows together is the purpose behind this initiative, which is sponsored by the office of Mayor Bibb, Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland Teachers Union, CMSD and nearly 30 other community organizations. The goal is for the entire city to collectively read one million books and/or one million minutes in 2023. They are encouraging all city residents to sign up online at [clevelandreads.com](http://clevelandreads.com) and use the website throughout 2023 to log your books and the minutes you spend reading. Readers can win prizes and a lifetime of positive results. In addition, a Cleveland Reads Kickoff Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, December 17th from 12:00-3:00 PM at Public Auditorium, 500 Lakeside Ave. East in downtown Cleveland. Everyone is invited for free books, reading resources, entertainment, family activities and more! Help spread the word about the Cleveland Reads Citywide Reading Challenge and grab a good book!

Have a great week!  
Mrs. Cocita





# WEEKLY PRAYER

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 18, 2022

**Sunday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

**Monday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

**Tuesday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

**Friday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

**Saturday:** Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/  
Lk 1:67-79

**Next Sunday:** *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/  
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 *Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti  
2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/  
Lk 2:15-20 *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3])/Heb 1:1-6/Jn  
1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 18, 2022

**Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent

**Wednesday:** St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

**Friday:** St. John of Kanty, Priest

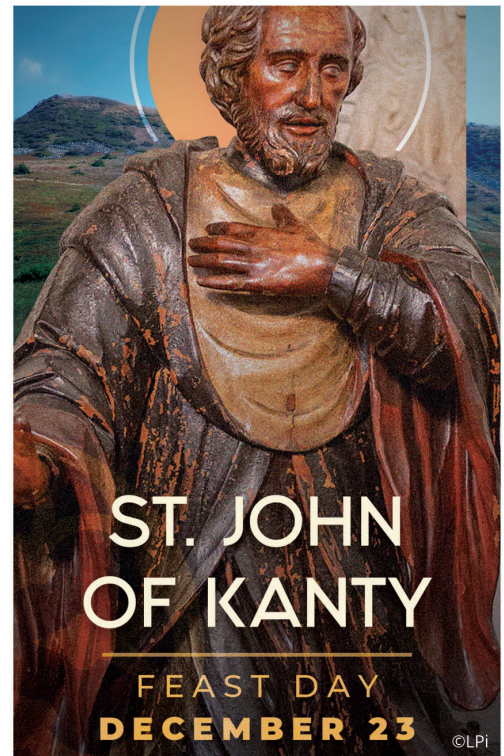
**Saturday:** Christmas Eve

**Next Sunday:** The Nativity of the Lord

## LIVE THE LITURGY

### Inspiration for the week

"God is with us." This is the one constant in the unpredictability of life. The particulars of our lives can change, not only instantly but dramatically. People experiencing a time of peace can easily find themselves at war. Times of prosperity can rapidly become times of want. Our vision for the future can be destroyed, and our securities placed in jeopardy. These final days of Advent allow us to make final preparations. The true safety and security we seek can only come from God. The rest, harmony, and peacefulness we desire are found in God alone. How do we know this to be true? God Himself gave us a sign: Emmanuel, God with us. Do not be afraid, and do not be unbelieving. Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. All we need to do is make sure that our hearts are in the proper place and seeking the right things!



## SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint John, sometimes called John Cantius, was born in the Polish town of Kanty in 1390. Not much is recorded about his early life, however, he was a bright young man who did well in his studies at the university in Krakow. He earned his doctorate in philosophy and went on to be ordained and earn a doctorate in theology as well.

He began teaching at the university immediately following the conferring of his doctorate in philosophy. Unfortunately, his popularity worked against him, and he was dismissed from his post on false charges. Saint John was reassigned to a post as a parish priest in the town of Olkusz, Bohemia. His parishioners did not receive him with open arms, and he was unsettled in his new position. But John did not give up, his honest care for the people of his parish eventually endeared him to them.

After a time, he was invited back to the university and he returned to teaching, filling leadership roles in the philosophy and theological areas until the end of his long life. Saint John deeply cared for the poor, giving everything but only what he needed to survive away. He lived an aesthetic life but was such an engaging man that he often dined with nobility.

Saint John of Kanty died on December 24, 1473. He was canonized in 1767, by Pope Clement XIII. In 1998, a new religious community chose the saint for their patron and the Canons Regular of Saint John Cantius, was formed in Chicago, Illinois.

