



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.

September 21, 2025



25th Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

"If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth?" - Lk 16:11

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Adam Zajac
Pastor

Mrs. Christine Gunn
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.

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

LITURGY AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Papal Intention

September: For our relationship with all of creation. Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday, September 22

8:30am Mass Irene Gurchensky

Tuesday, September 23-St. Pius of Pietrelcina

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass Virginia Lai

Wednesday, September 24

Thursday, September 25

8:30am Mass Frank Gallagher

Friday, September 26

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Saturday, September 27-St. Vincent de Paul

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass Catherine Campbell

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, September 28-26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

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

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass John & Sharon Vertal

Pray for the Sick

We commend to your personal prayers parishioners who have asked to be prayed for:

William Adams
 Gianna Andolina
 Alex Brugh
 Henry Buehner
 James Coyne
 Matthew Craven
 Nicole Foerstner
 Mary Frantz
 Theresa Fridrich
 Amy Glazier

David Kurth
 Tom Lembach
 Gerald McArthur
 Jim McIlwee
 Judy McIntyre
 Mary Miller
 Jack Mohar
 Maisie Nowlin
 Sr. Josette Obodzinski
 Mary Stark

Aimee Roscoe
 Nora Sudetic
 George Surovec
 Barbara Thiel
 Herb Tippie
 Michele Vollmer
 Joe Wantz
 Lillian Zahara
 Lew Zahara Jr.
 Joseph Zavatchen Sr.
 Joseph Zavatchen Jr.

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Special Intention

Baptized This Week

Vera Swartz

Luca Basile

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, September 27 @ 4:00pm	R.V. Threadgill Erin Fitzpatrick Shirlee Toth	Al Abel	Declan Fitzpatrick Mary Kugler-Blayney
Sunday, September 28 @ 8:30am	Bridget Blayney Kathy O'Malley Karen Cocita	Michael Grathwol Laura Skonce	Adlee Rave Colin Weaver
Sunday, September 28 @ 11:30am	Annamaria Masterson Deirdre Mueller Jeff Joecken	Cari Foster Eliza Kratt	Gianna Andolina Joseph Andolina

NEWS AND EVENTS

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past weekend)\$ 4,239.00
Faith Direct (past month's weekly total)\$ 4,626.00
Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Schedule for September-December

Children who are in PreK and above but have not yet received their First Communion will be invited to process into the sacristy during 8:30am 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 Children's Liturgy dates are:

September 28
October 12
October 26
November 9
December 21
December 28

Food Sunday

September 28th

Lakewood Community Service Center serves over 600 households each month. For their clients, they have requested PBJ (plastic jars only), spaghetti sauce in cans, any food items in cans, and kids cereals, ravioli and spaghettios, granola bars, paper towels, toilet paper. Individual or family sizes, but not bulk size, and no glass please. They could also use toothpaste & toothbrushes and shampoo. These specific items will help fill the gaps in what they can offer people.

They appreciate everything that you donate. Thank you! May God bless all!

Faith Direct is Becoming ParishSOFT

Exciting Update:

We're excited to share that Faith Direct will soon be upgrading to ParishSOFT Giving - our new, secure giving platform. This upgrade will happen automatically and securely. No action is required from you - your gift schedules and payment details will carry over seamlessly.

What's new about ParishSOFT Giving?

- Weekly Giving: If you selected weekly giving, your gifts will now be deducted each week instead of in one monthly batch.
- More Flexibility: Adjust your giving schedule to any date that works for you - not just the 4th or 15th.
- More Ways to Give: Now you can donate using PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay or Google Pay.

We're committed to making this a smooth transition. You'll receive more information as we get closer to launch.



Share God's Love

St. Mark/St. Mel Faith Build

Neighborhood Spruce Up!

The 2025 St. Mark/ St. Mel Faith Build season is coming to a close, but it's not too late to participate. The Habitat Neighborhood Spruce Up day is scheduled for Saturday, September 27th. If yardwork or light maintenance is in your wheelhouse, consider giving some time to "spruce up" the Faith Build neighborhood. If you want to register or have questions, please contact:

Amy Asseff
aasseff@aol.com

Reminders and Regular Events

Sunday Rosary

A devotion to enrich your prayer life

Please come to pray with Mary, Our Blessed Mother, in this beautiful devotion. Parishioners gather in the church to pray the rosary after the 8:30am mass every Sunday. Contemplating the mysteries of the life of Christ, we pray for peace and grace in the world.

Reminders and Regular Events

Holy Name Society Meetings

Men's Sock and Underwear Drive

New men's sock and underwear in any size for the homeless and needy. Cash donations will be used to purchase socks and underwear. Collection box's will be located in all Church Vestibules. This year recipients will be Holy Name Parish on Broadway and La Sagrada Familia on Detroit Ave. Please be generous to this very needed drive. Call or email Jim Cocita at 216-470-3643 or jimcocita@gmail.com

Football Fun'd Crazz

It's that time of year again!

Football Crazz'r is a ticket with ten chances to win over ten weeks. Cost is \$10. Winners: "Highest" and "Lowest" points across all sweepstakes entries win a prize each week for that 10-week professional football season. \$1,000 in prizes will be awarded weekly for 10 weeks, for a total of \$10,000. For more information and tickets, email Jim Cocita at jimcocita@gmail.com

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: October 4 & 5

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 David at: bciancibello@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates: October 12

Military

Please pray for our military presently serving.

Josh Dunleavy, Nick Hupka, John Kazanowski, Randy Kloos, Sean O'Reilly, Nico Russo, Matthew Shirley

General Parish Calendar

Saturday,	September 20	
10:00am-2:00pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	September 21	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday Preschool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS	
1:30 pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR
6:00 pm	Youth Group	CC
Monday,	September 22	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
5:30 pm	Football Mtg.	SH
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
Tuesday,	September 23	
8:30 am	Mass w/2nd Floor	
4:30 pm	OCIA	CC
5:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
5:30 pm	Cheerleading Prac.	PP
7:00 pm	Choir Prac.	CH
Wednesday,	September 24	
5:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
5:30 pm	Brownie Troop #70996	SH
Thursday,	September 25	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
7:00 pm	Confirmation Parent/Student Mtg.	CH
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH/PP
Friday,	September 26	
6:00 pm	Volleyball Prac.	G
Saturday,	September 27	
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:00 pm	Scout Pack #268 Campout	PP/CC/SH
	Food Sunday	
Sunday,	September 28	
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	
1:30 pm	CYO Volleyball Games	G/FR

Jubilee Audience of Pope Leo XIV, on 10 September 2025

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. III. The Passover of Jesus. 6. Death. "Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last" (Mk 15:37).

Dear brothers and sisters,

Good morning, and thank you for your presence: a beautiful witness!

Today we will contemplate the culmination of Jesus' life in this world: his death on the cross. The Gospels attest to a very precious detail, which is worthy of contemplation with the intelligence of faith. On the cross, Jesus does not die in silence. He does not fade away gradually, like a light that burns out, but rather he leaves life with a cry: *"Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last" (Mk 15:37)*. That cry contains everything: pain, abandonment, faith, offering. It is not only the voice of a body giving way, but the final sign of a life being surrendered.

The cry of Jesus is preceded by a question, one of the most heart-rending that could be uttered: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?". It is the first verse of Psalm 22, but on Jesus' lips it assumes a singular weight. The Son, who always lived in intimate communion with the Father, now experiences silence, absence, the abyss. It is not a crisis of faith, but the final stage of a love that is given up to the very end. Jesus' cry is not desperation, but sincerity, truth taken to the limit, trust that endures even when all is silent.

At that moment, the sky darkens and the veil of the temple is torn (cf. Mk 15:33,38). As if creation itself was participating in that pain, and at the same time revealing something new. God no longer dwells behind a veil – his face is now fully visible in the Crucified One. It is there, in that broken man, that the greatest love manifests itself. It is there that we can recognize a God who does not remain distant, but who traverses our pain to the very end.

The centurion, a pagan, understands this. Not because he has listened to a speech, but because he saw Jesus die in that way: *"Truly this man was the Son of God!" (Mk 15:39)*. It is the first confession of faith after the death of Jesus. It is the fruit of a cry that did not vanish in the wind, but touched a heart. At times, what we are unable to say in words, we express with the voice. When the heart is full, it cries. And this is not always a sign of weakness; it can be a profound act of humanity.

We are accustomed to thinking of crying out as something disorderly, to be repressed. The Gospel confers an immense value to our cry, reminding us that it can be an invocation, a protest, a desire, a surrender. It can even be the extreme form of prayer, when there are no words left. In that cry, Jesus gave all that he had left: all his love, all his hope.

Yes, because there is this too, in crying out: a hope that is not resigned. One cries out when one believes that someone can still hear. One cries not out of desperation, but out of desire. Jesus did not cry out *against* the Father, but to him. Even in silence, he was convinced that the Father was there. And, in this way, he showed us that our hope can cry out, even when all seems lost.

To cry out therefore becomes a spiritual gesture. It is not only the first act of our birth, when we come into the world crying: it is also a way of staying alive. One cries when one suffers, but also when one loves, one calls, one invokes. To cry out is saying who we are, that we do not want to fade away in silence, that we still have something to offer.

In the journey of life, there are moments in which keeping something inside can slowly consume us. Jesus teaches us not to be afraid to cry out, as long as it is sincere, humble, addressed to the Father. A cry is never pointless, if it is born of love. And it is never ignored, if it is delivered to God. It is a way to not give in to cynicism, to continue to believe that another world is possible.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us learn this too from the Lord Jesus: let us learn the cry of hope when the hour of extreme trial comes. Not to hurt, but to entrust ourselves. Not to shout at someone, but to open our hearts. If our cry is genuine, it can be the threshold of a new light, of a new birth. As with Jesus: when everything seemed to be over, in reality salvation was about to begin. If it is made manifest with the trust and freedom of the children of God, the suffering voice of our humanity, united with the voice of Christ, can become a source of hope for us and for those around us.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Never will I forget a thing they have done! (Am 8:7)

Psalms:

Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor. (Ps 113)

Second Reading:

There is also one mediator between God and men,
the man Christ Jesus,
who gave himself as ransom for all. (1 Tm 2:5-6)

Gospel:

"No servant can serve two masters.
He will either hate one and love the other,
or be devoted to one and despise the other.
You cannot serve both God and mammon." (Lk 16:13)

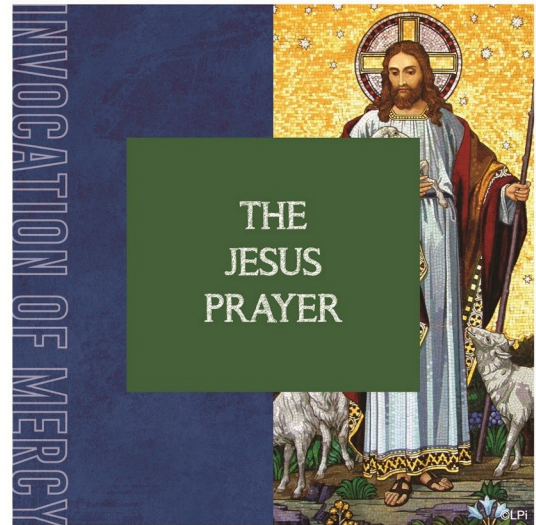
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

No servant can serve two masters, and in his goodness, God gives us the ability to choose. Will we serve mammon, the riches of this world? Or will we seek true wealth, the kind that cannot be hoarded or wasted, but only given freely away?

Observances for the week of September 21, 2025

Sunday:	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday
Monday:	National Migration Week
Tuesday:	St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Friday:	Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs
Saturday:	St. Vincent de Paul, Priest
Next Sunday:	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday



Devotions, *Explained!*

The Jesus Prayer is a short invocation of mercy in the name of Jesus: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Often attributed to the tradition of Eastern Christianity, its short form makes it ideal for meditative prayer.

Prayer for Trust

Jesus,
With your gentle mercy, build
my trust. Help me to believe you
when you say you want good
for me. In every season, give
me grace. In every need, be my
answer.
Amen.

The school year is fully underway, and our students and staff have settled into a strong rhythm of learning and growth. Classrooms are alive with academic engagement, faith formation, and joyful collaboration. We are encouraged by the many ways our school community is living out our ROAR theme to Respect Others, Own Your Actions, Act Safely and Rise to the Challenge! From academics to faith formation to extracurricular activities, our school year is already off to a strong start!

The Celebrating Art Contest is a national competition sponsored by Dick Blick Art Materials that showcases outstanding student artwork from across the country. Last fall, our Art teacher, Mrs. Hanna submitted 45 student entries, and we were thrilled that 20 of those pieces were accepted for publication in the contest's Fall edition. This past summer, Mrs. Hanna submitted artwork from 17 students, and 7 of those entries (pictured below) were selected to be published in an upcoming *Celebrating Art* book. Congratulations to those students whose artwork will be published: Frankie, Foster, Adelaide, Brynn, Penelope, Jack and recent St. Mark graduate, Gianna! Having student work chosen for this publication is a significant honor, as only a fraction of entries are accepted.

We are so proud of our talented student artists, and grateful for Mrs. Hanna's dedication in providing opportunities for students to express their God-given creativity and share their gifts with a wider audience. Their artwork reminds us that creativity is one of the many ways we reflect the beauty of our Creator.

Along with core academic classes and faith formation, co-curricular classes such as art play an important role in shaping the whole child. Opportunities to create, imagine, and express themselves help students discover their God-given gifts and build confidence in sharing them with others. We are grateful to be able to provide our students with different opportunities for creativity, reminding them that education is not just about knowledge, but also about nurturing imagination, joy, and the unique talents each child brings to our community.

Have a fantastic week!

Mrs. Gunn

