



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.

March 9, 2025

*"YOU SHALL
WORSHIP THE LORD,
YOUR GOD,
AND HIM ALONE
SHALL YOU SERVE."
- LK 4:8*

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Adam Zajac
Pastor

Mrs. Karen Cocita
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.

LITURGY AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Papal Intention

March: For families in crisis. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday, March 10

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

Tuesday, March 11

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass..... Marty Gorman

Wednesday, March 12

Thursday, March 13

8:30am Mass..... Deacon Dave Lundeen

Friday, March 14

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

12:00pm Stations of the Cross @ St. Mel

Saturday, March 15

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass For the Parishioners of St. Mark Parish and the Parishioners of St. Mel Parish

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, March 16-2nd Sunday of Lent

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass..... Carol Behnke

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass Sean & Agnes Fox

12:30pm Baptism

Pray for the Sick

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

William Adams	Irene Gurchensky	Judy Reitz
Gianna Andolina	Carol Hughes	Aimee Roscoe
Jack Behnke	David Kurth	Nora Sudetic
Katy Brent	Gerald McArthur	George Surovec
Henry Buehner	Jim McIlwee	Herb Tippie
James Coyne	Mary Miller	Georgiann Treible
Matthew Craven	Maisie Nowlin	Joe Wantz
Nicole Foerstner	Bill Retzer	Charlotte Whiting
Mary Frantz	Mary Stark	Lillian Zahara
Theresa Fridrich	Sr. Josette Obodzinski	Lew Zahara Jr.
		Joseph Zavatchen Sr.

Pray for the Deceased

Bernadette Campbell, Sister of Mary Ellen English

Marcia Frank, Wife of Tom Frank

Lana Conroy, Mother of Debbie Broughton

May perpetual light shine upon them

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Deacon Dave Lundeen

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, March 15 @ 4:00pm	Lou Toth John Levis Shirlee Toth	Paul Gambon	Houston Engle Kathryn Sowul Patrick Sowul
Sunday, March 16 @ 8:30am	Mary Stamper Austin Tousley NOT FILLED	Monica Svetz NOT FILLED	Luke Meisterics Adlee Rave Joe Svetz
Sunday, March 16 @ 11:30am	Shawn Wroten Annamaria Masterson Michelle Biggins	Eileen Andrews Cari Foster	Reese Reichel Jackson Wroten Cormac Wroten

NEWS AND EVENTS

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past Sunday)\$ 3,710.00
Faith Direct (past month total)\$ 5,325.00
Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

No Greater Love Video Bible Series

Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26 April 2, 9 @ 7:00pm

In No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion, we are going to walk step-by-step with Jesus on his journey from his agony in the garden to his crucifixion on Calvary. Along the way, we will unpack the biblical background to these events, the prophecies, and most especially, the ways Jesus is inviting us to walk more closely with him today.

We will meet every week for prayer, fellowship, discussion and an engaging video presentation presented by Dr. Edward Sri, which was filmed on location in the Holy Land, so we can see the actual locations where Christ's passion occurred!

Please reach out to Meaghan with any questions at (msilver@stmarkcleveland.com)

Catholic Charities

Thanks again for your support of the **2025 Catholic Charities Appeal!** Your gift helps us to carry out the mission that Jesus entrusted to us: 'I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' and will change the lives of the nearly 400,000 people who are served each year in Northeast Ohio. Please pray for the success of the Appeal, which provides for essential programs and services in need throughout all eight counties of the Diocese of Cleveland. Visit www.catholiccommunity.org/impact to learn more about the channel of peace your gift has made!

Parish News

Lenten Family Retreat

March 15 from 1:30pm-3:15pm in the Social Hall

Families are invited for an afternoon of prayer and learning about the season of Lent. Take some time away from your busy schedule to spend with Jesus, and come away with practices you can incorporate into everyday family life. After the retreat, you are invited to stay for Confession and Mass.

Families of all sizes and ages are invited. You are encouraged to RSVP to Meaghan (msilver@stmarkcleveland.com), but it is not required to participate.

St. Mark Fish Fry

March 14, March 28 & April 11 - 5:00-7:00pm

Please join us for the St. Mark Fish Fry in the Social Hall. Fish, Shrimp, Pierogi or Mac & Cheese dinners or Pizza and Grilled Cheese for the kids... Pick your favorite and enjoy! All dinners come with two sides, roll, cookie and beverage. Please see the link on the St. Mark website at stmarkcleveland.com

St. Joseph Altar

March 15 & 16

- *Write petitions on papers found in a basket by the St. Joseph Statue
- *Be sure to take a fava bean, medal and prayer card

We will be collecting items for St. Edward High School Labre Ministry. The Labre ministry allows students, faculty & staff, alumni and friends of St. Edward to directly serve the immediate needs of the poor every Thursday through the entire year. The ministry immersion, named after St. Benedict Joseph Labre, the patron saint of the homeless, allows students to see and experience the struggles of our homeless friends on the streets. This ministry is powerful as our students help prepare the meal, meet, and serve our poor brothers and sisters by coming to them (i.e. under bridges, in vacant lots, woods, etc.).

Students hand-deliver food, clothing, hygiene kits, etc. to those we visit each week. This helps to instill in our students that every human being has dignity and that we should be preferential in charity to the poorest among us.

Any perishable items are appreciated.

Parish News

Music Ministry

Echoing Hymns:

Here is a call to consider serving our community as a singer!

Do you ever get snippets of a song echoing in your mind? Maybe a certain phrase comes back to you? How special! I encourage you to try and hold onto those ear worms. They are often quotes from scripture, and they may even be an invitation to lead!

Recently, the scriptures have included a theme of the Church as a unified community: many parts of one body; sharing of our gifts; calls to care for one another. If you are still looking for your way to serve, consider offering your voice to lead our music. It is a humbling and extremely rewarding experience. We have a small group of devoted cantors and choristers who you know & appreciate, a group of nearly 40 students who sing at school and weekend Masses, and we are ALWAYS welcoming more voices.

In whatever capacity you're comfortable with: *you are welcome and wanted.*

Take a moment to thank one of our loyal volunteers cantors: Mike Antonelli (Marks, Sat), John Cooney (Mels), Lilly & Noel (Marks), Patty Joyce (Marks), Tim Mohr (Marks), Angela Salazar (viola), Bill Todia (Marks), Diane Virostko (Mels), and the children's choir.

Sincerely,
Julia Wallace
Email: Jwallace@stmarkcleveland.com

Parish Outreach

Mark's Madness Fundraiser March 9th 6-8pm

This fundraising basketball game between 8th grade day school/PSR students and coaches/teachers of all sports supports our Parish Outreach program, which helps people in our parish.

There will be a Second Collection for our Parish Outreach program the weekend of March 8 & 9 at all Masses. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Reminders and Regular Events

Local Author Vince McKee

March 11th at 6:30pm in the Social Hall

All are invited. Holy Name Society is proud to have Vince come to St. Mark as a guest speaker. Vince is the Owner of KEE on Sports Media Group. A company built on the very best in sports coverage and broadcasts of High School Sports, Boxing, NPSL Soccer, and everything the sports fans of Northeast Ohio want to know about. He is the play by play man for Ohio Boxing, as well as Cleveland SC of the NPSL. Vince is also a 12x published author who has interviewed everyone from Jim Thome & Austin Carr to Bill Belichick and Frankie Edgar. This event is open to all parishioners and their guests.

Holy Name Society Meetings

Fellowship, prayer, and service for all parishioners

All men and women of the parish ages 18 and older are welcome to join the St. Mark Holy Name Society. Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in either the Picnic Pavilion or Social Hall. At these gatherings, we dine together and discuss what event we will be doing next to help the community of St. Mark. If you would like to know more, contact Jim Cocita at: jimcocita@gmail.com

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 Dave at: bciancibello@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates: March 16 and April 13

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.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Reminders and Regular Events

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: March 8 & 9

Regional and Diocesan News and Events

Respect Life

From March 5 - April 13 you are invited to join with other Christians for 40 Days for Life - 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. Additionally, you are invited to stand and peacefully pray anytime between 7am 59 7pm during the 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Pre-term - 1200 Shaker Blvd., Cleveland 44120.

<http://www.40daysforlife.com/cleveland>

REQUEST FOR 2024 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 _____

General Parish Calendar

Saturday,	March 8	
9:00 am	K-2 Basketball	G
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
	Donut Social all Masses	
	Outreach 2nd Collection all Masses	
Sunday,	March 9	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS w/HNS Corporate Comm.	
1:00 pm	K-2 Basketball	G
3:00 pm	Mark's Madness Set-up	CC/G
4:00 pm	Living Stations Prac.	CH
6:00 pm	Mark's Madness	CC/G
Monday,	March 10	
8:30 am	Mass	
2:30 pm	Youth Choir Prac.	CH
5:00 pm	Track Prac.	G
5:30 pm	Baptism Class	CC
6:00 pm	Living Stations	CH
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
6:30 pm	PSR Reconciliation Gr. 2-8	CH
Tuesday,	March 11	
8:30 am	Mass w/1st Floor	
2:30 pm	Children's Choir Prac.	CH
4:30 pm	RCIC	CC
6:00 pm	Holy Name Mtg.	SH
6:00 pm	Track Prac.	G
7:00 pm	Choir Prac.	CH
Wednesday,	March 12	
4:00 pm	RCIA	CC
5:30 pm	Daisy Troop Mtg.	SH
6:00 pm	Track Prac.	G
7:00 pm	Lenten Series	SH
Thursday,	March 13	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00 pm	Track Prac.	G
6:00 pm	Scout Pack #268 Den Mtg.	SH
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
Friday,	March 14	
	School Closed	
8:00 am	Teacher Inservice	SH
12:00 pm	Stations of the Cross @ St. Mel	
5:00 pm	Fish Fry	SH
Saturday,	March 15	
9:00 am	K-2 Basketball	G
1:30 pm	Family Retreat	CH/SH
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	March 16	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
9:30 am	Young Families	SH
11:30 am	Mass LS w/Y&C Choir	
1:00 pm	K-2 Basketball	G
4:00 pm	Living Stations Prac.	CH

General Audience of Pope Francis, on 26 February 2025

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. I. The Infancy of Jesus. 7. “My eyes have seen your salvation” (Lk 2:30). The presentation of Jesus at the Temple

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today we will contemplate the beauty of “Jesus Christ, our hope” (1 Tim 1:1), in the mystery of His presentation at the Temple.

In the *narratives of Jesus’ infancy*, the evangelist Luke shows us Mary and Joseph’s obedience to the Law of the Lord and to all its prescriptions. In reality, in Israel there was no obligation to present the child at the Temple, but those who lived listening to the Word of the Law and wished to conform to it, considered it a valuable practice. So did Hannah, the mother of the prophet Samuel, who was barren; God heard her prayer and she, having had her son, took him to the temple and offered him to the Lord forever (cf. 1 Sam 1:24-28).

Luke therefore recounts Jesus’ first act of worship, celebrated in the holy city, Jerusalem, which will be the destination of His entire itinerant ministry from the moment He makes the firm decision to go up there (cf. Lk 9:51), heading towards the fulfilment of His mission.

Mary and Joseph do not simply embed Jesus in a history of the family, the people, of the covenant with the Lord God. They take care of His growth, and introduce Him into the atmosphere of faith and worship. And they too gradually grow in their comprehension of a vocation that far surpasses them.

In the Temple, which is a “house of prayer” (Lk 19:46), the Holy Spirit breathes, speaks to the heart of an elderly man: Simeon, a member of the holy people of God schooled in expectation and hope, who nurtures the desire for the fulfilment of God’s promises to Israel by through the prophets. Simeon perceives in the Temple the presence of the Lord’s Anointed One, he sees the light that shines in the midst of the peoples plunged “in darkness” (cf. Is 9:1) and he goes to meet that child who, as Isaiah prophesies, “is born to us”, He is the son who “is given to us”, the “Prince of Peace” (Is 9:5). Simeon embraces that child who, small and helpless, rests in his arms; but it is he, in fact, who finds consolation and the fullness of his existence by holding Him to himself. He expresses this in a canticle full of heartfelt gratitude, which in the Church has become the prayer at the end of the day:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go
in peace, according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and glory for your people Israel” (Lk 2:29-32).

Simeon sings the joy of those who have seen Him, who have recognized Him and are able to transmit to others the encounter with the Saviour of Israel and of the peoples. He is a witness of faith received as a gift and communicated to others; he is a witness of the hope that does not disappoint; he is a witness of God’s love, which fills the heart of man with joy and peace. Filled with this spiritual consolation, the elderly Simeon sees death not as the end, but as fulfilment, fullness; he awaits it like a “sister” that does not annihilate but introduces to the true life that he has already foretasted and in which he believes.

On that day, Simeon is not the only one to see salvation made flesh in the child Jesus. The same also happens to Anna, a woman more than eighty years old, a widow, entirely devoted to service to the Temple and consecrated to prayer. Indeed, upon seeing the child, Anne celebrates the God of Israel, who has redeemed His people in that very child, and tells others about Him, generously spreading the prophetic word. The song of redemption of two elders thus emits the proclamation of the Jubilee for all the people and for the world. Hope is rekindled in hearts in the Temple of Jerusalem because Christ our hope has entered it.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us too imitate Simeon and Anna, these “pilgrims of hope” who have clear eyes capable of seeing beyond appearances, who are able to detect the presence of God in smallness, who know how to welcome God’s visit with joy and rekindle hope in the heart of brothers and sisters.

PARISH GRADE SCHOOL

We have had a great deal occur over these past few weeks!

Back in February, we celebrated Grandparents' Day or Special Person's Day. It is a day we set aside every year to celebrate some of the most important people in the world! We had over 400 visit us throughout the day this year in two separate sessions. We began both sessions of Grandparents' Day by having them join us in church with their grandchildren for Eucharistic Adoration. Prior to Adoration, Fr. Adam spoke to the assemblies about what would occur so they could fully participate. After participating in the opening of Adoration, there was a short time of quiet prayer, followed by the closing. It was a very beautiful and prayerful experience enjoyed by so many because it provided them an opportunity to pray with the important people in their lives. From there, our visitors traveled to the classrooms to experience what the teachers had planned for them. This is always one of my most favorite days because it allows us the opportunity to witness the love between grandparents and their grandchildren.

We had a very special presentation given to our 7th and 8th Grade students by Ms. Tanya Allen, one of our CMSD tutors whom we adore! She spoke to our students about the Civil Rights Movement and its effect on history. The students were very moved by her presentation, and many of them took the time to hug her and thank her before they left the Social Hall. For years, Ms. Allen has prepared presentations for our older children during the month of February, Black History Month. Knowledge is power, and Ms. Allen has certainly taught all of us some valuable lessons on the Dignity of the Human Person. Michele Pomerantz, Mayor Bibb's Chief of Education for the City of Cleveland, visited St. Mark just last week. She came out to meet with Miss Dunleavy's 1st Grade classroom to thank them personally for their cards they sent Mayor Bibb and his office staff during Catholic Schools' Week. She was a delight to have visit; it reminded her of her own experiences growing up in Catholic education, She remarked how beautiful the school was and how attentive and polite our children were. She read them a story and then gave the book to Miss Dunleavy's Star of the Week! After photos were taken, many of our children wanted to hug her, and she melted in delight! As I walked her to the doors of the school, she told me how she could feel the warmth and love in our school- feelings I get to experience every single day. I left her with an open invitation to come back any time!

Have a faith-filled week! Lent provides us with the opportunity to look into our own lives and make changes where we need to make them. Take that time, remembering that bishop Malesic has asked all of us to take 15 minutes out of our day, every day, to pray. Perhaps Lent can start you on this journey.

Mrs. Cocita

