

# Christ is Born



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*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests.  
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,  
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.*

*Isaiah 9:5*

*Liturgy Readings for the Week*

**Saturday, December 25-The Nativity of the Lord**  
 Is 9:1-6  
 8:30 a.m. The Parishioners of St. Mark Parish and St. Mel Parish  
 11:30 a.m. Maggie Willmitch

**Sunday, December 26-The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**  
 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28  
 8:30 a.m. Luke McGraw  
 11:30 a.m. Dolly Tinnirello

**Monday, December 27-St. John**  
 8:30 a.m. Madeline McMahon  
 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Tuesday, December 28-The Holy Innocents**  
 8:30 a.m. Mildred Hagan  
 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18

**Wednesday, December 29**  
 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35

**Thursday, December 30-Sixth Day Within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**  
 8:30 a.m. Ed Toth  
 Jn 2:12-17 Lk 2:36-40

**Friday, December 31-Seventh Day Within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**  
 8:30 a.m. Lew Zahara  
 Jn 2:18-21 Jn 1:1-18

**Saturday, January 1**  
 4:00 p.m. Lew Zahara  
 Nm 6:22-27 Lk 2:16-21

**Sunday, January 2-The Epiphany of the Lord**  
 Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12  
 8:30 a.m. Grace Stefancin  
 11:30 a.m. The Parishioners of St. Mark Parish and St. Mel Parish

*Luke McGraw Memorial Candles*  
**Weekly Intention**  
**December 26**  
 Lew Zahara

*In Memoriam*

May the peace of our Lord be with  
 Fr. Donald Cozzens  
 Deacon Thomas Long  
 and may God grant comfort to their family and friends.



**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!

**Pope's Intention December:** Catechists. Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Pope's Intention January:** For true human fraternity. We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

**Please Pray for Our Sick**



William Adams	Irene Gurchensky	William Schmitz
Gianna Andolina	David Kurth	Mildred Schmitz
Sam Auble	Catherine Kutsick	Sr. Mary Ann Spangler
Katy Brent	Loree Leasure-Poirier	Mary Stark
Ann Eames	Mary Maloney	Nancy Stinson
Margaret Fadrowski	Jim McIlwee	Nora Sudetic
Michael Ferris	Mary Miller	George Surovec
Nicole Foerstner	Maisie Nowlin	Herb Tippie
Helen Forlini	Sr. Josette Obodzinski	Joe Wantz
Mary Frantz	Ryan Puzziello Jr.	Charlotte Whiting
Cecilia Frischauf	Bill Retzer	Lillian Zahara
		Mary Zavatchen
		Thomas Zavatchen

*Liturgical Ministers January 1 & 2*

Saturday, January 1 @ 4:00pm

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Michelle Biggins, Katie McAdams, Lou Toth

**Lector:** Carole Iseli

**Altar Servers:** Madeline Gompf, Mary Kugler-Blayne, Cristian Trump

**Cantor:**

Sunday, January 2 @ 8:30am

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Michael Garvin, Terry Henning, Laura Skonce

**Lector:** Tim Mohr

**Altar Servers:** Albert McGervey, Anthony McGervey

**Cantor:**

Sunday, January 2 @ 11:30am

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Cari White, Mary Ruminski, Deborah Roscoe

**Lector:** Michael Garvin

**Altar Servers:** Owen Goggin, Ethan Ruminski, Bill Sonby

**Cantor:**

*Sunday & Christmas Collections*

Thank you for your support and generosity of St. Mark Parish during this past year. Please see the January 9th bulletin for the Sunday & Christmas collections.

# *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

Join us in prayer and worship during

## The Christmas Season

### Christmas Eve

Fri Dec 24<sup>th</sup>

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

### Christmas Day

Sat Dec 25<sup>th</sup>

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

There will be no Saturday Vigil Masses on Christmas Day

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 not a holy day of obligation this year, due to its proximity to Sunday.

### The Holy Family

Sun Dec 26<sup>th</sup>

### The Epiphany

Sun Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>

### The Baptism of the Lord

Sun Jan 9<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



Every year on the Third Sunday of Advent here at St. Mark, Giving Tree gifts are returned so they can be sorted and bagged for delivery to the organizations. The pink candle that is lit on the Third Sunday signifies joy, and joy truly overflowed as the thoughtful gifts were returned and sorted for delivery to the organizations we serve! It's always a flurry of joy-filled activity that has the St. Mark touch!

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who makes this ministry possible! Whether it was writing out the ornaments, purchasing gifts, making a monetary or gift card donation, checking in and sorting the gifts, delivering gifts to the organizations or praying for those we serve, we are grateful to you! Recipients of the gifts included: St. Mark School families, St. Mark Outreach, St. Thomas Aquinas School, St. Francis School, Fatima Family Center, May Dugan, and University Settlement. Thank you for helping spread the joy of Christmas throughout our community!



### Prayer Chain

One of the most powerful things we can do for one another is to pray. There are always prayers being requested for people who are ill, facing surgery or even those who have died. For those people who are at home or have no computer, please consider joining our Phone Prayer Chain. If you are interested in being a part of the Phone Prayer Chain, please contact Kathy O'Malley at (216-390-8591)



## PARISH LISTENING SESSION

January 12th at 7 pm in the Social Hall



Synod on Synodality is a coming together to hear one another, to share our experiences, challenges and our hopes for the Church. It is an opportunity to listen, to discern, and to be strengthened as a family of faith.



# The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



"Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family and its beauty in God's plan."

—Amoris Laetitia, 325

## Prayer for Family Commitment

Dear God our Father, you have called all Christian families to be a sign of your love to the world.

Help us to be generous with the gifts of life and love that you have showered on our family. May we share them so that our homes become true signs of unitive and fruitful love.

Let us never forget to thank you each day for all that sustains us and to look to Christ, who comes to us in the events of family life, in the sacraments of the Church, and in service to the poor.

In all of this, our family becomes a living expression of your Church, a hallowed home of life and love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may all of us—spouses, parents, and children—share, as members of his Body, in Jesus' mission to build a civilization of love. Father, we ask this in Jesus' name in union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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## THE WEEK AHEAD IN OUR PARISH

<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>December 25</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
11:30 am	Mass	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>December 26</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
9:30 am	Rosary	CH
11:30 am	Mass	
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>December 27</b>	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	
8:30 am	Mass	
4:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Tourn.	G
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>December 28</b>	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
8:30 am	Mass	
4:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Tourn.	G
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>December 29</b>	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
4:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Tourn.	G
<b>Thursday,</b>	<b>December 30</b>	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
8:30 am	Mass	
4:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Tourn.	G
9:00 pm	HS Basketball Prac.	G
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>December 31</b>	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	
8:30 a.m.	Mass	
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>January 1</b>	
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>January 2</b>	
8:30 am	Mass	
9:30 am	Rosary	CH
11:30 am	Mass	

**Note: (LS)=Livestreamed**

### Parish Office Schedule

**Friday, December 24th - Closed**

**Monday, December 27th - Closed**

**Friday, December 31st - Closed**

**Monday, January 3rd - Closed**

*Merry Christmas and many blessings  
in the New Year!*



PRINCIPAL NEWS

Last week, in my article, I briefly told you about a few of the things we have been up to. I wanted to provide you with a few more details about what a wonderful week it truly was! St. Nick made a special visit on his feast day, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The children all placed their shoes out in the hallway, and when I no longer heard the familiar “Ho, Ho, Ho,” I told the children that I thought it was a good time to check things out. There was so much excitement heard in the hallways, and the children could not wait to show me what was in their shoes. In addition, St. Nicholas scheduled a virtual visit with the students in Pre-K- Gr. 3. I had the opportunity to be in the classroom during some of his virtual visits. He spoke to the children about kindness and how our world needs them to show others how to be kind. He sees it here at St. Mark every day! He told them about his life as a little boy and how he learned at a very young age how important it was to help others. He spent his whole life doing this. He allowed the children to ask him some questions, including who was his favorite reindeer? His answer? He loves them all the same! The children were very curious about his elves and all the work they need to do. In some of the classrooms, he had the children singing Christmas carols, including *Silent Night*. St. Nicholas was very generous with the students this year. Enjoy some of the photos below....

Speaking of Christmas carols, our 1<sup>st</sup> grade students went on a journey through the school singing some Christmas favorites. They had been practicing for weeks and could not wait for their big day. Dressed in holiday colors, they sang *Jingle Bells*, *Silent Night*, and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade elves and their parents did an outstanding job with Breakfast with Santa this year. Because of Covid, we early-on decided that the traditional sit-down breakfast in a large group setting would not be a healthy option. So after tossing a few ideas around, the planning committee decided to host a visit with Santa, have a few simple games and activities for the attendees, serve hot cocoa from our parent volunteer baristas, sponsor a bake sale, and provide a box of Krispie Kreme donuts for each family to take home. Families were assigned a fifteen-minute slot to avoid a large group gathering. The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade elves were outstanding! Even though the day was longer because the groups were staggered, families were able to see Santa in a safe environment. Before Santa left to return to the North Pole, he complimented the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade on how well organized everything was, and he thanked the elves and their parents and teachers for being so Covid-conscious. A special thanks goes out to all our volunteers who made last Saturday so magical!

Finally, last week, we collected the donations for our Kindness Project. Families were asked to volunteer to donate a pair of socks for a boy or girl attending one of our inner-city Catholic schools. The socks were to be filled with things a boy or girl their age would like, not to exceed \$5.00. The children had also gotten together with their Prayer Partners to create and decorate boxes that were then filled with candy for each of these children. I am so happy to let you know that all 265 children received a new pair of socks filled with special items as well as a beautifully decorated box of candy. When the folks at this school came by to pick up the items, they could not believe their eyes. They were so incredibly appreciative of what our families did for their families. What a gift our students received by their kindness and generosity. God is so good to us.

Have a blessed week!  
Mrs. Cocita



# The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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 Stiegelmeier, Edward Thomas, Joseph Toole, Jacob Trefney, Jonah Treible, Lukas Whitney.



God Bless them all!

Kathy O'Malley womalfam@sbcglobal.net for any updates.



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