



THE HOLY FAMILY



The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

Papal Intention

January: For the gift of diversity in the Church. We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday, January 1-Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

8:30am Mass.....Dolly Tinnirello
10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

Tuesday, January 2-Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

Wednesday, January 3

Thursday, January 4-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:30am Mass.....Sheila & Thomas McGuire Living & Deceased

Friday, January 5-St. John Neumann

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Saturday, January 6

3:00pm Confessions
3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel
4:00pm Mass...For The Parishioners of St. Mark Parish and St. Mel Parish
4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, January 7-The Epiphany of the Lord

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel
8:30am Mass.....Joseph Spicuzza
10:00am Mass @ St. Mel
11:30am Mass.....Maggie Willmitch

Liturgical Ministers January 6 & 7

Saturday, January 6 @ 4:00pm

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Price, John Levis, NOT FILLED

Lector: Carle Iseli

Altar Server: Declan Fitzpatrick, Charlie Greulich, William Lentz

Sunday, January 7 @ 8:30am

Eucharistic Ministers: Jessica Hanes, Kathy O'Malley, Mary Stamper

Lector: Michael Grathwol, Laura Skonce

Altar Server: Bob LoPresti, Clare Stock, Fiona Stock

Sunday, January 7 @ 11:30am

Eucharistic Ministers: Lisa Ditzel, Rosanne Kelley, NOT FILLED

Lector: Cari Foster, NOT FILLED

Altar Server: Jack Koch, Andrew Koch, Dominic Sutcliff

Luke McGraw Memorial Candles

Weekly Intention

December 31

Dolly Tinnirello

HAVE A BLESSED
new year

©LPI

Parish Office Schedule

Friday, December 29th - Closed

Monday, January 1st - Closed

IN MEMORIAM

*May the peace of our Lord be with
Helen Forlini, Mother of Kathy Riley
Molly Heinrich, Sister of Nora Sudetic
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!

Please Pray for Our Sick

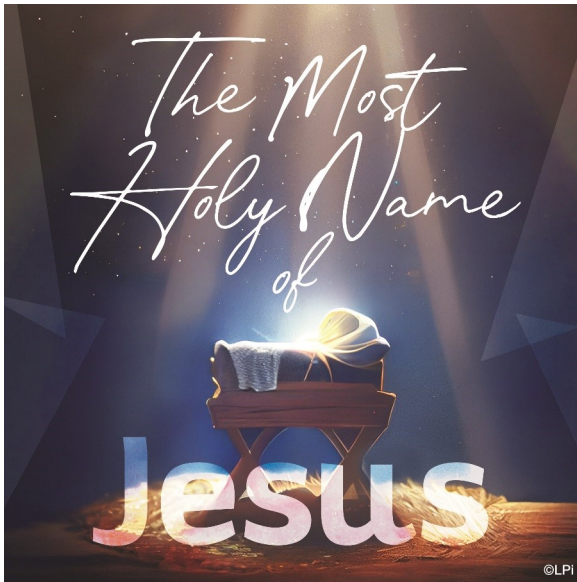



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|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| William Adams | Lisa Groh | Bill Retzer |
| Gianna Andolina | Irene Gurchensky | Sr. Mary Ann Spangler |
| Carol Behnke | Gerri Joecken | Mary Stark |
| Jack Behnke | David Kurth | Nora Sudetic |
| Katy Brent | Catherine Kutsick | Lena Sunyak |
| Henry Buehner | Loree Leasure-Poirier | George Surovec |
| James Coyne | Cheryl McArthur | Herb Tippie |
| Margaret Fadrowski | Jim McIlwee | Georgieann Treible |
| Nicole Foerstner | Mary Miller | Joe Wantz |
| Mary Frantz | Maisie Nowlin | Charlotte Whiting |
| Theresa Fridrich | Sr. Josette Obodzinski | Lillian Zahara |
| | | Joseph Zavatchen Jr. |

Weekly Collections

Sunday Envelopes (12/17).....\$ 3,114.00
Faith Direct:.....\$ 5,513.00

Thank you for your generosity!





A huge THANK YOU to everyone who made the Giving Tree ministry a wonderful success! Whether you donated, shopped for a gift, wrote out ornaments, sorted and checked in the gifts, delivered gifts or said a prayer for the people we serve - we could not do it without YOU! More than 400 gifts were collected this year and the organizations and individuals we serve are so very appreciative!! From pajamas and baby dolls to kitchen supplies and games, so many Christmas wishes came true because of the collective effort of our community which lasts long after the gifts are unwrapped. Merry Christmas!

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, January 5th from 3:30pm-7:00pm. Please come to spend some time in prayer and thanksgiving before the Lord. If you would like to sign up for a specific 1/2 hour of prayer, please contact the Parish Office 216-226-7577.

Birthright Baby Bottle Donations


We are sponsoring a fundraiser for Birthright, a pregnancy crisis and counseling center. Baby bottles will be available to pick up at all Church entrances January 6 & 7. If you are able, please pick up a baby bottle, fill it with spare change to 'help make a change in a young woman's life'. Please return the filled bottles the weekend of January 13 & 14 and January 20 & 21. Bottles may also be returned to the Parish Office.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Family Holy Hour

Children of all ages are invited with their families to come adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament! The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available.

There will be singing, reading, and age appropriate contemplation. Consider bringing crayons, books, or a children's Bible.



Friday, Jan 6
4-5
St. Mark Church

Sunday & Christmas Collection

Thank you for your support and generosity of St. Mark Parish during this past year. Please see the January 7th bulletin for the Sunday & Christmas collections.

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 February 2024 - May 2024. We need this information so that all Ministers are available to fulfill their scheduled Mass times. We appreciate your continued service. The deadline to submit dates is Friday, January 12th by 4:30pm to cbirchfield@stmarkcleveland.com. Please be mindful of holidays and vacations. Thank you for your help.

If you are interested in becoming a Minister please contact the Parish Office at 216-226-7577.



The parishioner-led Prayer Group will meet on Thursday, January 4th 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. These will receive prayer by this group. Feel free to share answered prayers here also. Please join us! There is no need to sign up.



Ohioans can receive a 100% tax credit against Ohio income tax liability for cash contributions to certified organizations that grant scholarships to students, including those attending Catholic schools. The maximum credit amount is currently \$750. If you are filing a joint return and both you and your spouse make eligible donations, each of you can claim this credit (up to \$1,500 total). St. Mark School can be designated when making contributions!

You can find detailed information on the Catholic Community Center website:
Catholiccommunity.org/angel

You're invited to join

The Living Stations of the Cross

Join youth from St. Mark, St. Chris, and OLA to learn more about bringing this powerful prayer to life this Lent. All students in Grades 8 to 12 are welcome!

Monday, January 8th - 6:30pm-8:00pm
St. Mark Church
15800 Montrose Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44111
Contact Michael Kay at mkay@stmarkcleveland.com or 216-904-4774 with any questions.

St. Mark Holy Name Society

A Blessed and Happy New Year to Everyone!

Welcome all Parishioners
18 and Older

We meet the second Tuesday of the Month at
6:00pm in the Social Hall

Interested? Email
jimcocita@gmail.com

***Please remember Deacon Dave
in your Prayers***



THE WEEK AHEAD IN OUR PARISH

Saturday,	December 30	
9:00 am	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	December 31	
8:30 am	Mass	
11:30 am	Mass (LS)	
Monday,	January 1	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	
8:30 am	Mass	
Tuesday,	January 2	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
	No Mass	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
Wednesday,	January 3	
	<i>School Closed</i>	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
Thursday,	January 4	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
7:00 pm	Prayer Group	SS
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
Friday,	January 5	
9:00 am	School Adoration	CH
3:30 pm	Parish Adoration	CH
5:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
Saturday,	January 6	
9:00 am	Basketball Tournament	FR/G
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	January 7	
8:30 am	Mass	
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass (LS)	
12:30 pm	Arts & Environment	CH
4:00 pm	Living Stations	CH

Note: (LS)=Livestreamed



www.faithdirect.net

St. Mark Church # OH274

If you are using Faith Direct for eGiving...please access the website, log in and verify that all of your information is correct. You may need to update bank account or credit card numbers. If you forgot your user name or password follow the directions on the login screen. If you have questions about Faith Direct go to the FAQ section of the website for answers.

*Thank you for supporting
St. Mark Church!*

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.

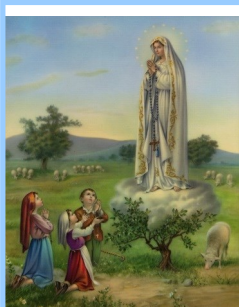
Jason Bochert, James Boone, Jr., Elijah Brolly, Kurt Brown, Nathan Chomoa, Jeremy Cole, Matthew Craven, Josh Dunleavy, T.J. Finucan, Martin Hartsel, Joe Isabella, John Kester, Randy Kloos, Stephanie Lasch, Adam Lemmerman, Torrey Lynch, Ron McDough, Andrew J. McGinty, Owen McGrew, Jake North, Jon Novak, Danny O'Malley, Sean P. O'Reilly, Nick Ortiz, Steven Podhradsky, Nico Russo, Tom Sarko, Matthew Shirley, Brady Smith, Montana Stieglmeyer, Edward Thomas, Joseph Toole, Jacob Trefney, Jonah Treible, Lukas Whitney.

God Bless them all!

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



**The 2024 Calendars are
available at all Church
entrances**



Please come to pray WITH Mary, Our Blessed Mother, in this beautiful devotion, The Rosary. We are living in troubled times and so much in need of peace within our souls and for the world. We ask Mary, Our Mother, to intercede and lead us contemplating the mysteries of Jesus. "The Family that Prays together, Stays together"...Fr. Patrick Peyton
Every Sunday following the 8:30am Mass

**A Unique Program to Strengthen and Heal Your Marriage -
Beginning January 26, 2024**

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, and 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.

Principal News

With the meaning of Christmas still very much a part of us as we neared Christmas vacation, it was a true joy to listen to our PreK-2nd Grade students share their beautiful voices as they performed *The Tiniest Christmas Angel Choir*. *There is something so special about hearing the voices of ones so young singing their hearts out!*

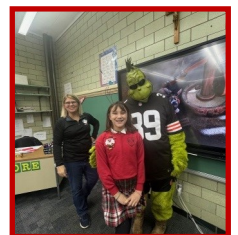
The last two days of school were jampacked with a flurry of activity- including real flurries! The children were all hoping for a snow day on our last day, but I was happy to have them for one more day. There was a variety of activity planned for that last day including the celebration of Mass with our Prayer Partners, exchanging of cards, hot chocolate bars, reindeer ears, pj's for our PreK and Kindergarten students, and *The Polar Express*. *Our morning broadcast featured our regular news team, and then we showed video footage of our 8th Grade students in one of their very first St. Mark productions when they were the youngest in the school! So much fun was had- and the Grinch himself even stopped by for a special visit! It was a magical end to 2023 for all of us.*

I want to leave you with a few suggestions of ideas as we bring in the year 2024. Try choosing one or two and see if it makes a difference in your life:

- Start a Gratitude Journal
- Create a cleaning schedule
- Spend more time with family and less time on your phone
- Get more sleep
- Be more active- work out to feel good, not to be thinner
- Improve your mental health, even by just walking
- Spread positivity, not gossip
- Give one compliment a day
- Do Random Acts of Kindness, and observe how recipients respond if you can
- Read a book every month
- Go someplace you have never been

On behalf of all of us at St. Mark School, I want to wish all of you once again, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May you have a blessed 2024!

Mrs. Cocita



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Your own issue shall be your heir."
The Lord took Abram outside and said,
"Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.
Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be."
(Gn 3:4-5)

Psalm:

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. (Ps 105)

Second Reading:

By faith he received power to generate,
even though he was past the normal age
—and Sarah herself was sterile. (Heb 11:11)

Gospel:

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. (Lk 2:40)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God's timing is not always our timing. Sometimes, we have to wait years for the answer to our prayer. Never despair. Remember that God keeps His word.

Observances for the week of December 31, 2023

- Sunday:** The Holy Family; New Year's Eve
Monday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace
Tuesday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Wednesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Thursday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
Friday: St. John Neumann, Bishop
Saturday: St. André Bessette, Religious
Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord



Saint of the week

Venerable Mary Elizabeth Lange was a trailblazing black Catholic who founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first congregation of black religious sisters in the USA. Her faith and perseverance helped break down barriers and create new opportunities for black Catholics.

Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, You granted Mother Mary Lange extraordinary trust in Your providence. You endow her with humility, courage, holiness, and an extraordinary sense of service to the poor and the sick. You enabled her to fund the Oblate Sisters of Providence and provided educational, social, and spiritual ministry especially to the African American community. Mother Lange's love for all enabled her to see Christ in each person, and the pain of prejudice and racial hatred never blurred that vision.

Deign to raise her to the highest honors of the altar in order that, through her intercession, more souls may come to a deeper understanding and more fervent love of You.

Heavenly Father, glorify Your heart by granting also this favor (state your request) which we ask through the intercession of Your faithful servant, Mother Mary Lange.

Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://nolacatholic.org/news/black-catholic-history-month-mother-mary-lange#:~:text=Prayer,the%20poor%20and%20the%20sick.>)