



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.

November 17, 2024



33rd SUNDAY *in ordinary time*

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." - Mk 13:31

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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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.

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

LITURGY AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Papal Intention

November: For anyone who has lost a child. We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

Liturgy Schedule

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

Monday, November 18

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

Tuesday, November 19

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass Deborah Miller

Wednesday, November 20

Thursday, November 21-The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30am Mass..... Anita Frey

Friday, November 22-St. Cecilia

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Saturday, November 23

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm Mass Living Intention Charlie Sunyak

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, November 24-Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass..... Mike & Maureen Gale

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass Stephen & Irene Blasko

Pray for the Sick

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

William Adams	Irene Gurchensky	Nora Sudetic
Gianna Andolina	David Kurth	Lena Sunyak
Carol Behnke	Catherine Kutsick	George Surovec
Jack Behnke	Pat McAndrew	Herb Tippie
Katy Brent	Jim McIlwee	Georgieann Treible
Henry Buehner	Mary Miller	Joe Wantz
James Coyne	Maisie Nowlin	Charlotte Whiting
Matthew Craven	Bill Retzer	Lillian Zahara
Margaret Fadrowski	Mary Stark	Lew Zahara Jr.
Nicole Foerstner	Sr. Josette Obodzinski	Joseph Zavatchen Jr.
Mary Frantz		
Theresa Fridrich		

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Deborah Miller

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, November 23 @ 4:00pm	John Levis Gloria Morin Bridget Blayney	Gary Morin	Houston Engle Owen Glazier Grant Glazier
Sunday, November 24 @ 8:30am	Michael Kay Mary Stamper NOT FILLED	Laura Skonce Monica Svetz	Fiona Stock Clare Stock Joe Svetz
Sunday, November 24 @ 11:30am	Eileen Andrews Annamaria Masterson NOT FILLED	Cari Foster Eliza Kratt	Owen Goggin Kiera Laurent Bill Sonby

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past Sunday).....\$ 3,781.00

Faith Direct (past month total)\$ 5,331.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

St. Mark Giving Tree

Preparations are underway for our St. Mark Giving Tree ministry! We will be serving the following organizations: May Dugan Center, Fatima Family Center, St. Thomas School, University Settlement Adult, University Settlement Youth, St. Francis School and St. Mark Parish and School. Ornaments will be placed on the Giving Tree located at the front of the church beginning the weekend of November 30 and December.

If you take an ornament to purchase a gift, please remember to attach the tag to the outside of the wrapped gift or gift bag as the gifts are sorted by organization and checked that each gift has been returned prior to delivery. Please note that if multiple gift ideas are listed on the ornament, you need not purchase every item listed. Or, if you are unable to find a requested item, it is no problem to purchase a similar item or gift card.

If you are ordering gifts online, please be mindful of delivery dates and possible shipping delays. Please return all wrapped gifts under the Giving Tree by Noon on Sunday, December 15. At that time, the gifts are prepared for delivery.

So many people make this ministry a huge success every year and we could not make it all happen without many helping hands. Thank you for your generous support and making Christmas wishes come true for so many people in our community.

Military Service

If you know of any parishioners that are in active military service, please contact the parish office with their name. At cbirchfield@stmarkcleveland.com or call 216-226-7577.

St. Mark CYO Site Supervisor

Part-time Position

We are looking for an adult over the age of 21 to fill an open Site Supervisor position at St. Mark.

The Site Supervisor must be fully Virtus compliant and able to work evenings during the week and day/evening hours on the weekends. The position is paid and would be 3 to 4 days per week.

The responsibilities include, but are not limited to, opening and closing the gym, monitoring the practices or games and handling payments for the student workers.

If you are interested, please contact Teresa Purenciu-Winans at twinans@stmarkcleveland.com or 216-226-7577 for detailed information.

Reminders and Regular Events

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. If you would like to know more, contact Jim Cocita at:

jimcocita@gmail.com

**We will be sponsoring coffee and donuts after the 8:30am Mass on Thanksgiving Day. Please join us for a little gathering before you start out for your Thanksgiving Day with Family and Friends.
Happy Thanksgiving!**

NEWS AND EVENTS

Reminders and Regular Events

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 Date: November 17th

St. Mark Youth Group

November & December Schedule

Sunday, November 24th 5-8pm-Social Hall
Sunday, December 1st 6-8pm-Social Hall
Sunday, December 15th 6-8pm-Social Hall

Open to all 9th-12th Grade students! Contact Michael Kay at mkay@stmarkcleveland.com or 216-904-4774 with any questions and to RSVP.

BSA Troop 293 Christmas Tree Sale

Freshly Cut Frasier-Fir Christmas Trees

Friday, December 6th - 5-9pm

Saturday, December 7th - 10:30am - 7pm

Sunday, December 8th - 12pm-3pm

St. Mark Pavilion. Cash and check accepted. Bring the bulletin for \$5 off!

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: December 7 & 8

General Parish Calendar

Saturday,	November 16	
11:30 am	Wedding	CH
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	November 17	
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	
Monday,	November 18	
8:30 am	Mass	
2:00 pm	Youth Choir Prac.	CH
4:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Prac.	G
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
Tuesday,	November 19	
8:30 am	Mass w/All School	
2:30 pm	Children's Choir Prac.	CH
4:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Prac.	G
4:30 pm	RCIC	CC
7:00 pm	Parent Club	SH
7:00 pm	Bereavement	FR
Wednesday,	November 20	
2:45 pm	Rosary Club	CH
4:00 pm	RCIA	CC
4:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Prac.	G
5:30 pm	Baptism Class	CC
Thursday,	November 21	
8:30 am	Mass	
3:00 pm	Faculty Mtg.	SH
4:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Prac.	G
6:00 pm	Scout Pack #268 Den Mtg.	SH
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
Friday,	November 22	
4:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Prac.	G
Saturday,	November 23	
10:00 am	First Reconciliation	CH
3:00 pm	Confessions	
4:00 pm	Mass	
Sunday,	November 24	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS w/Children's Choir	
5:00 pm	Youth Group	SH

Note: (LS)=Livestreamed

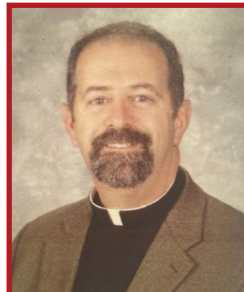
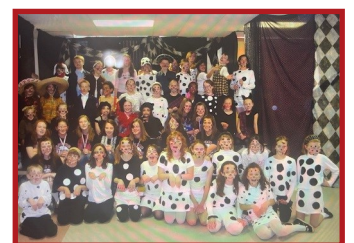
As we moved into the 2000's,

- The uniforms were the same as today.
- The computer lab was updated many times
- Some electives: Student Council, Math Contest, Classroom of Champions, Mediation, Safety Patrol, Future Teachers
- The school practiced fire, tornado, and lock-down drills.
- The school offered the same sports as today.
- The school had the magazine drive and the basketball tournament.
- The school had the 6th grade Camp Chris trip.
- The school had the 8th grade Washington D.C. trip.
- The school had Breakfast with Santa.
- Dr. Marilyn Kurnath was still principal
- In 2006, Fr. John Miceli became pastor of St. Mark
- *Run for the Arts was a great neighborhood fundraiser*
- Drama Club became quite popular
- Students still went home for lunch everyday in the early 2000's

Here are a few memories from Missy Bichl Sturgis:

- Hot dog day! It was such a treat to eat lunch with friends in the Social Hall Those lovely rubbery cylinders of questionable meat with a bag of chips on the side. Then heading out to the blacktop - our outdoor gym — for a brutal game of dodgeball.
- Standing in line at the lockers for our supplies. I remember when we had those bright yellow book bags to carry our books home. I can still smell the plastic! Oh my gosh and the pencils cases! I wanted a new one so badly but had to "wait until next year" as one of six.
- I remember winning a silver dollar in the 5th grade in the spelling bee and I beat Mike Humphrey. That was quite a feat on its own. I remember him being so smart (RIP Mike).
- Remember the classrooms on the second floor - in the corners? I remember a bunch of windows and for some reason I am remembering them having a curved wall. I guess I felt like I was in a castle. "Princess Missy"
- The school library! I remember loving library day and once someone in our class checked out a book and it had one of those stickers in the front in memory of my brother Kenny. They asked me if I had seen that....I had not. I was so young when he died. Kenny and I were the bookends. It still hits me all these years later.
- Walking to "The Little Store" after school!!
- Playing on the snow piles after they cleared the school parking lot.
- When we girls got to feel so fancy and special when we made it to the second floor (6th grade?) and we got to replace our jumpers with SKIRTS and a VEST over our white blouse.
- Field day with the Murray's. I felt like such an Olympian doing the long jump and the 50 yard dash. That's when I realized athletics would take a back seat to theatrics.

Thank you, Missy, for such great memories!



PARISH GRADE SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

As a school, we celebrated Veterans Day a few days early so that our Veterans in attendance could attend other events on Veterans Day. Our Student Council orchestrated the prayer service and flag ceremony. Parishioner Gary Schuld reflected on this very special day:

"On Thursday November 7th, St. Mark Catholic School in Cleveland's Westpark neighborhood again invited veterans and guests to their annual Veterans Day celebration.

It was a beautiful ceremony attended by young and older veterans, representing all branches of our military.

The ceremony was filled with heart felt emotional speeches honoring veterans, from students and faculty.

Several 8th grade students then read essays on what Veterans Day means to them, and shared about their family members who served.

All the attending veterans were called up on the church steps where the student body and faculty prayed for all, and then presented them with a thank you card and lapel pin.

Then came a special surprise Resolution of Recognition from the City Council of Cleveland, for a female soldier acknowledging her accomplishments in the United States Army Reserve, and the fact that she recently put country before herself, by re-enlisting, to be with her fellow soldiers.

This year St. Mark School was recognized by our Armed Forces.

The United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard awarded St. Mark Catholic School commendations for honoring our veterans and military men and women with a plaque, certificates and letters.

The next events are that of which touches every veteran and guests soul.

The American Flag is carried up the center aisle by students while Veterans stand at attention and present arms.

The students then fold the flag while explaining the meaning of each fold.

The flag was then presented to soldier honoree, received by a salute and carried outside to be raised on the school flagpole, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

As always the celebration was followed by a coffee and pastry social.

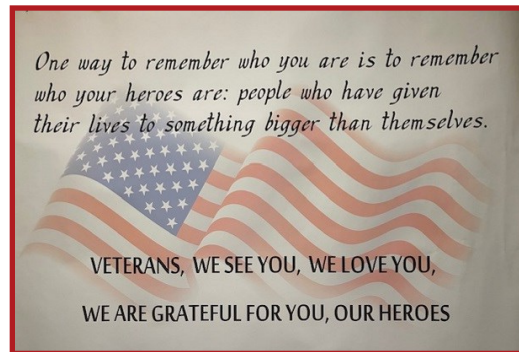
Each table was patriotically decorated with the placemats that reflect the Veterans Creed.

Thank you, St. Mark School, from all those who have proudly and honorably served.

Well done, Students and faculty."

Gary is our very Special Friend, and the love and respect Gary has for our country as a veteran is heartfelt. There were 43 Veterans in attendance. It was an honor to have them present. I think what most touches me every year is watching the respect our children have for all that Veterans Day stands for. Their perfectly quiet attention, their prayer over our Veterans, their silent transition to the outdoors to recite the Pledge of Allegiance after the Flag Raising Ceremony instills such great hope for the future.

Mrs. Cocita



General Audience of Pope Francis, on 6 November 2024

Cycle of Catechesis. The Spirit and the Bride. The Holy Spirit guides the people of God towards Jesus our hope 12. "The Spirit intercedes for us". The Holy Spirit and Christian prayer

The sanctifying action of the Holy Spirit, in addition to the Word of God and the Sacraments, is expressed in prayer, and it is to this that we wish to dedicate today's reflection: prayer. The Holy Spirit is both the subject and object of Christian prayer. That is, he is the One who gives prayer and he is the One who is given by prayer. We pray to receive the Holy Spirit, and we receive the Holy Spirit in order to truly pray, that is, as children of God, not as slaves. Let us think a little about this: pray as children of God, not as slaves. One should always pray with freedom. "Today I have to pray for this, this and this, because I promised this, this and this. Otherwise, I will go to hell". No, that is not prayer! Prayer is free. You pray when the Spirit helps you to pray. You pray when you feel the need to pray in your heart, and when you do not feel anything, stop and ask yourself: "Why do I not feel like praying? What is happening in my life?". But spontaneity in prayer is what always helps us the most. This means praying as sons and daughters, not as slaves.

First of all, we must pray to receive the Holy Spirit. In this regard, Jesus has a very precise word in the Gospel: "If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit" to those who ask him?" (Lk 11:13). Everyone, each one of us, knows how to give good gifts to little children, whether they are our children, our grandchildren or our friends. The little ones always receive good gifts from us. And will the Father not give the Spirit to us? This gives us courage and we can move forward. In the New Testament, we see the Holy Spirit always descend during prayer. He descends upon Jesus in the baptism in the Jordan, while he "was praying" (Lk 3:21), and he descends at Pentecost upon the disciples, while they "devoted themselves with one accord to prayer" (Acts 1:14).

It is the only "power" we have over the Spirit of God. The power of prayer: He cannot resist prayer. We pray, and he comes. On Mount Carmel, the false prophets of Baal — remember that passage from the Bible — were frantic about invoking fire from heaven on their sacrifice, but nothing happened because they were idolators. They worshipped a god that does not exist. Elijah began to pray, and the fire descended and consumed the offering (cf. 1 Kings 18:20-38). The Church follows this example faithfully: Every time she turns to the Holy Spirit, she implores, "Come, Come". Come! And she does this especially at Mass, so that he may descend like dew and sanctify the bread and wine for the Eucharistic sacrifice.

But there is another aspect, which is the most important and encouraging for us: the Holy Spirit is he who gives us true prayer. Saint Paul affirms this: "the Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness because we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will" (cf. Rom 8:26-27).

It is true, we do not know how to pray, we do not know. We have to learn every day. The reason for this weakness in our prayer was expressed in the past with just one word, used in three different ways: as an adjective, as a noun and as an adverb. It is easy to remember, even for those who do not know Latin, and it is worth keeping in mind, because it contains an entire treatise in itself. We human beings, according to the saying, "*mali, mala, male petimus*", which means, being bad (*mali*), we ask for the wrong things

(*mala*) and in the wrong way (*male*). Jesus says, "Seek first his kingdom... and all these things shall be yours as well" (Mt 6:33). Instead, we seek the extra, namely, our interests — many times — and we completely forget to ask for the kingdom of God. Let us ask the Lord for the kingdom, and everything comes with him.

Yes, the Holy Spirit comes to aid us in our weakness. He does something more important still: He testifies to us that we are children of God and puts on our lips the cry: "Father!" (Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6). We cannot say "Father, Abba" without the strength of the Holy Spirit. Christian prayer is not man at one end of the telephone, speaking to God on the other end; no, it is God who prays in us! We pray to God through God. To pray means to place oneself inside God, so that God enters into us.

It is precisely in prayer that the Holy Spirit is revealed as the "Paraclete", that is, advocate and defender. He does not accuse us before the Father, but defends us. Yes, he defends us. He convinces us of the fact that we are sinners (cf. Jn 16:8), but he does so in order to make us able to savour the joy of the Father's mercy, not to destroy us with fruitless feelings of guilt. Even when our heart reproaches us for something, he reminds us that "God is greater than our hearts" (1 Jn 3:20). God is greater than our sin. We are all sinners, but think: perhaps some of you — I don't know — are very afraid because of the things they have done, afraid of being reproached by God, afraid of many things and unable to find peace. Pray, call to the Holy Spirit, and he will teach you how to ask for forgiveness. And do you know something? God does not know much grammar, and when we ask for forgiveness, he does not let us finish! "For..." and there, he does not let us finish saying the word *forgiveness*. He forgives us first, he always forgives, and he is always beside us to forgive us, even before we complete the word *forgiveness*. We say "for..." and the Father always forgives us.

The Holy Spirit intercedes and he also teaches us how to intercede, in turn, for our brothers and sisters — he intercedes for us and teaches us how to intercede for others. He teaches us the prayer of *intercession*: praying for this person, praying for that sick person, for the one who is in prison, praying... even praying for one's mother-in-law! And pray, always. Always. This prayer is particularly pleasing to God because it is the most gratuitous and altruistic. When someone prays for everyone — as Saint Ambrose used to say — everyone prays for someone; prayer multiplies (*De Cain et Abel*, I, 39.). This is how prayer is. This is a task that is so precious and necessary in the Church, particularly during this time of preparation for the Jubilee: to unite ourselves to the Paraclete who "intercedes for all of us according to God's plans".

But do not pray like parrots, please! Do not say, "Blah, blah, blah...". No. Say, "Lord", but say it with your heart. "Help me, Lord", "I love you, Lord". And when you pray the Lord's Prayer, pray "Father, You are my Father". Pray with the heart, not the lips; don't be like parrots.

May the Holy Spirit help us in prayer, which we need so much. Thank you.