



# 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.

August 24, 2025

## 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"People will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." - Lk 13:29-30

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

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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.

# LITURGY AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

## Papal Intention

**August:** For mutual coexistence. Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons.

## Liturgy Schedule

Scripture readings can be found online at:  
[bible.usccb.org](http://bible.usccb.org)

### Monday, August 25

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

### Tuesday, August 26

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

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

### Wednesday, August 27-St. Monica

### Thursday, August 28-St. Augustine

8:30am Mass ..... Luke McGraw

### Friday, August 29-The Passion of St. John the Baptist

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

### Saturday, August 30

1:00pm Wedding

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, August 31-22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass..... Ellen Moran

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass ..... Marion Gallagher

## Pray for the Sick

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

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

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

Luke McGraw

### Wedding Banns

Thomas Rastatter & Mallory Allen ///

Frank Kasmerski & Kathryn Ferris //

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
<b>Saturday, August 30 @ 4:00pm</b>	Lou Toth Erin Fitzpatrick Shirlee Toth	R.V. Threadgill	Nolan Lentz William Lentz
<b>Sunday, August 31 @ 8:30am</b>	Bridget Blayney Kathy O'Malley Karen Cocita	Mary Lewis Monica Svetz	Michael Doyle Adlee Rave
<b>Sunday, August 31 @ 11:30am</b>	Jeff Joecken Cari Foster Rosanne Kelley	Eliza Kratt NOT FILLED	Lukas Horton Reese Reichel

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection (past weekend) .....\$ 2,313.00  
Faith Direct (past month's weekly total) ....\$ 5,006.00  
Thank you for your generosity!

### Parish News

Friends,

I'm excited to tell you that we will have another seminarian intern with us for the upcoming academic year. Joshua Stecz will arrive on Friday, August 29th and be with us until the end of April. Like the now Fr. Michael Garvin when he did his internship, Josh has been in seminary formation for roughly six years and is a few years away from being ordained a priest. The purpose of the internship year is for him to have a practical experience of living at a parish and engaging in ministry full time. Most priests, myself included, will tell you that the internship year is one of the best parts of formation with many fond memories of the first community that we were sent to in a role of service.

What I need from you firstly is to include Josh in your prayers. He is not a priest yet, and is still in the process of discernment and considering if the choice before him is genuinely a calling from God. While he is being \*sent\* to us to experience parish ministry, he is also being \*entrusted\* to us, and we should take up that task in prayer before anything else.

Secondly, and critically, I need you all to be good to Josh. Talk with him, get to know him, listen to him, ask him things, invite him into your homes and into your life. He is on a path of sacrificing much to give his life to Christ and to the People of God, and we will be his first full experience of what the People of God give to their priests in return. I want his days here to be an encouraging time leading him to the priestly life, God willing.

Josh will be introducing himself at the masses at St. Mark on August 30/31, and the masses at St. Mel on September 6/7.

In Christ,  
Fr. Adam



### 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

### 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 - 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.

### 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 October 2025-January 2026. 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 Monday, September 8th by 4:30pm to [cbirchfield@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:cbirchfield@stmarkcleveland.com). Please be mindful of holidays and vacations. Thank you for your help.



### Parish News

#### St. Mark PSR Program 2025 – 2026

**A reminder that the St. Mark PSR Program's first class will be Monday September 8th.** You must be registered before the first class.

Our St. Mark PSR program is on Monday, evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 in the school building. We serve students in Grades 1 – 8. Students in grades 2 and 8 are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist (Grade 2) and Confirmation (Grade 8), as part of our curriculum. **For a student to receive these Sacraments they MUST be enrolled and attend PSR the previous year.**

**To register for the 2025 – 2026 school year:**

1. The materials can be downloaded from the St. Mark Church website [www.stmarkcleveland.com](http://www.stmarkcleveland.com), under heading FAMILIES (at the top of the page) and by clicking the PSR tab.
2. Registration materials can also be picked up at the Parish Office.

Registration forms and payment can be mailed to or dropped off at the Parish Office or put in the Sunday collection, marked to the attention of PSR.

For any questions or additional information, you can contact Jeannette Puckett at the Parish Office at 216-226-7577 or through email at [jpuckettpsr@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:jpuckettpsr@stmarkcleveland.com).

#### Make-A-Will

Make an impact rooted in faith

August is National Make-A-Will Month, and there's no better time to create or update your will. Catholic Community Foundation offers a free resource through FreeWill, a simple online tool that can help you plan ahead in about 20 minutes. Your will reflects your values—caring for your loved ones and strengthening faith based stewardship for generations to come.

Visit [FreeWill.com/CatholicCommunity](http://FreeWill.com/CatholicCommunity) to put your faith into action.

### Reminders and Regular Events

#### MarkersMels50+

We're having a picnic!

Come join us on Saturday, September 13th, after the 4:00pm Mass, at the St. Mark's pavilion! Good food (hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, beverages provided), a lot of fun and great fellowship! Sides and/or desserts to share are always enjoyed and appreciated!

To RSVP, please text or call Mary Kay at 216-402-8570 by Monday, September 8th.

Hope to see you there!

#### St. Mark Sunday School 2025-2026

Registration Information

Register now to save your child's space in Sunday School for the 2025-2026 year! Sunday School is open to children ages 3-6 and takes place during the 8:30am Sunday Mass. In-person registration will take place in the school hallway on Saturday/Sunday August 30th & 31st after all masses. Forms are available at all Church entrances. You can also drop off registration forms to the parish office. Classes begin September 7th. Any questions, please contact: Molly Stottner at [mollystottner@hotmail.com](mailto:mollystottner@hotmail.com)

#### St. Mark Sunday School Volunteers

We are currently seeking volunteers to assist in teaching Sunday School for the 2025-2026 school year! High school students are welcome to assist. Adults 18 and over must be Virtus compliant to volunteer. Classes begin September 7th, and meet during the 8:30am Sunday mass. Please contact Molly Stottner at the above email address.

#### 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](mailto:mkay@stmarkcleveland.com)

Upcoming Date: September 6th & 7th

# NEWS AND EVENTS

## 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. 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](mailto: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 David at: [bciancibello@gmail.com](mailto:bciancibello@gmail.com)

Upcoming Dates: September 14th

### 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.

### 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

<b>Saturday,</b> 9:00am-2:00pm 3:00 pm 4:00 pm	<b>August 23</b> CYO Volleyball Games Confessions Mass	G/FR
<b>Sunday,</b> 8:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am	<b>Food Sunday</b> <b>August 24</b> Mass Rosary Mass LS	
<b>Monday,</b> 8:30 am 5:00 pm 6:30 pm	<b>August 25</b> <b>First Day of School</b> Mass Volleyball Prac. PSR Catechist Mtg.	 G SH
<b>Tuesday,</b> 8:30 am 5:00 pm 5:30 pm	<b>August 26</b> Mass w/All School Volleyball Prac. Cheerleading Prac.	 G PP
<b>Wednesday,</b> 5:00 pm	<b>August 27</b> Volleyball Prac.	G
<b>Thursday,</b> 8:30 am 5:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	<b>August 28</b> Mass Volleyball Prac. Pack #268 Recruiting Mtg. Troop #293	 G PP SH/PP
<b>Friday,</b> 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	<b>August 29</b> <b>School Closed</b> Volleyball Prac. Rehearsal	 G CH
<b>Saturday,</b> 9:00am-2:00pm 3:00 pm 4:00 pm	<b>August 30</b> CYO Volleyball Games Confessions Mass	G/FR
<b>Sunday,</b> 8:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am	<b>Sunday School Registration</b> <b>August 31</b> Mass Rosary Mass LS	

## Jubilee Audience of Pope Leo XIV, on 13 August 2025

**Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. III. The Passover of Jesus. 2. The betrayal. “Surely it is not I?” (Mk 14,19)**

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

Let us continue our journey in the school of the Gospel, following Jesus’ steps in the final days of his life. Today we will pause at an intimate, dramatic, yet also profoundly true scene: the moment at which, during the Passover supper, Jesus reveals that one of the Twelve is about to betray him: “Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me” (Mk 14:18).

Strong words. Jesus does not utter them to condemn, but to show how love, when it is true, cannot do without the truth. The room on the upper floor, where shortly beforehand everything was carefully prepared, suddenly fills with a painful silence, made up of questions, suspicions, vulnerability. It is a pain we too know well, when the shadow of betrayal is cast over the closest relationships.

And yet, the way in which Jesus speaks about what is about to happen is surprising. He does not raise his voice, nor point his finger, nor utter the name of Judas. He speaks in such a way that each one can ask himself the question. And this is exactly what happens. Saint Mark tells us: “They began to be distressed and to say to him, one by one, ‘Surely it is not I?’” (Mk 14:19).

Dear friends, this question – “Surely it is not I?” – is perhaps among the sincerest that we can ask ourselves. It is not the question of the innocent, but of the disciple who discovers himself to be fragile. It is not the cry of the guilty, but the whisper of him who, while wanting to love, is aware of being able to do harm. It is in this awareness that the journey of salvation begins.

Jesus does not denounce in order to humiliate. He tells the truth because he wants to save. And in order to be saved, it is necessary to feel: to feel that one is involved, to feel that one is beloved despite everything, to feel that evil is real but that it does not have the last word. Only those who have known the truth of a deep love can also accept the wound of betrayal.

The disciples’ reaction is not anger, but sadness. They are not indignant, they are sorrowful. It is a pain that arises from the real possibility of being involved. And precisely this sorrow, if welcomed with sincerity, becomes a place for conversion. The Gospel does not teach us to deny evil, but to recognize it as a painful opportunity for rebirth.

Jesus then adds a phrase that troubles us and makes us think. “But woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born” (Mk 14:21). They are harsh words, certainly, but they must be understood well: it is not a curse, but rather a cry of pain. In Greek, that “woe” sounds like a lamentation, an “alas”, an exclamation of sincere and deep compassion.

We are used to judging. Instead, God accepts suffering. When he sees evil, he does not avenge it, but grieves. And that “better if he had never been born” is not a condemnation imposed *a priori*, but a truth that any of us can recognize: if we deny the love that has generated us, if by betraying we become unfaithful to ourselves, then we truly lose the meaning of our coming into the world, and we exclude ourselves from salvation.

And yet, precisely there, at the darkest point, the light is not extinguished. On the contrary, it starts to shine. Because if we recognize our limit, if we let ourselves be touched by the pain of Christ, then we can finally be born again. Faith does not spare us from the possibility of sin, but it always offers us a way out of it: that of mercy.

Jesus is not scandalized by our fragility. He knows well that no friendship is immune from the risk of betrayal. But Jesus continues to trust. He continues to sit at the table with his followers. He does not give up breaking bread, even for those who will betray him. This is the silent power of God: he never abandons the table of love, even when he knows he will be left alone.

Dear brothers and sisters, we too can ask ourselves today, with sincerity: “Surely it is not I?”. Not to feel accused, but to open a space for truth in our hearts. Salvation begins here: with the awareness that we may be the ones who break our trust in God, but that we can also be the ones who gather it, protect it and renew it.

Ultimately, this is hope: knowing that even if we fail, God will never fail us. Even if we betray him, he never stops loving us. And if we allow ourselves to be touched by this love – humble, wounded, but always faithful – then we can truly be reborn. And we can begin to live no longer as traitors, but as children who are always loved.

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

I know their works and their thoughts,  
and I come to gather nations of every language;  
they shall come and see my glory. (Is 66:18)

### Psalm:

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News. (Ps 117)

### Second Reading:

So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees.  
Make straight paths for your feet,  
that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.  
(Heb 12:12-13)

### Gospel:

For behold, some are last who will be first,  
and some are first who will be last." (Lk 13:30)

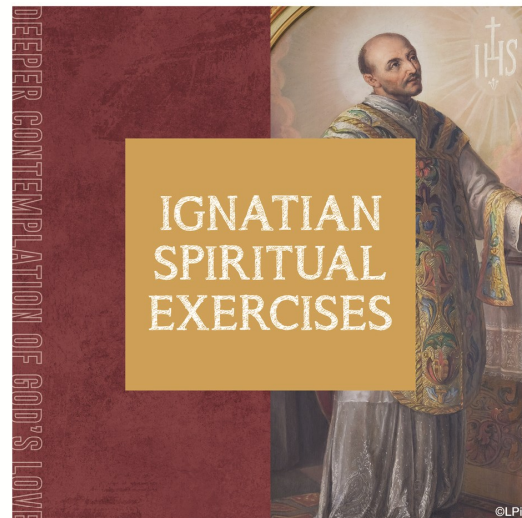
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate,"  
Jesus tells us. "Many will attempt...but will  
not be strong enough." So let us never be  
so foolish that we rely on our own strength.  
Narrow does not mean unpassable — not if  
we ask for help.

## Observances for the week of August 24, 2025

- Sunday:** 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**Monday:** St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz,  
Priest  
**Wednesday:** St. Monica  
**Wednesday:** St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor  
of the Church  
**Friday:** The Passion of St. John the Baptist  
**Next Sunday:** 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Devotions, Explained!

The Ignatian Spiritual Exercises  
are prayers and meditations  
which are meant to accompany  
souls on a journey toward  
deeper contemplation of God's  
love and a more meaningful  
understanding of His call to  
discipleship.

## Prayer for Holiness

Good Shepherd,  
Guide me through the  
narrow gate. Remove from  
me anything that distracts  
me from You, Your love, Your  
invitation, Your mission. Keep  
me close to You, familiar at  
every step.  
Amen.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025 | 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME