

# St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Community

Address: 7296 Gale Rd. – Grand Blanc, MI 48439

**Parish Office:**

Phone (810) 636-2216 – Fax (810) 636-3221

Website: <http://www.stmarkgoodrich.org>

 Facebook: Goodrich Saint Mark

**PARISH PASTORAL MINISTERS:**

Pastor, Rev. Michael W. Kuchar  
stmarkpastor@hotmail.com

Director of Faith Formation, Deacon Ronald Kenney  
stmarkdff@hotmail.com

Director of RCIA, Pamela Bachner  
stmarkrcia@hotmail.com

Director of Music Ministry, Michael Goetz  
stmarkmm@hotmail.com

**PARISH SUPPORT STAFF:**

Administrative Assistant, Bonnie Wade  
stmarkparish1@hotmail.com

Business Manager, Sue Griffith  
stmarkparish2@hotmail.com

Time & Talent Coordinator, Sharon Roberts  
stmarktt@hotmail.com

**PARISH COUNCILS:**

Pastoral Council: stmarkpc@hotmail.com

Finance Council: stmarkfc@hotmail.com

**PARISH – VICARIATE MINISTRIES:**

AA Meetings (Wed., 10:00 a.m.)  
Ken (810) 636-7677

Catholic Charities (810) 232-9950

Council of Catholic Women  
Sue Griffith (248) 627-3100

Powers Catholic High School (810) 591-4741

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Monday – Thursday 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**NEW PARISHIONERS:**

Welcome! Individuals who actively participate with us are asked to register by contacting the Parish Office.



Facebook: Goodrich Saint Mark

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*St. Mark the Evangelist Parish is  
a growing community of faith which strives  
to help its members follow Christ's commandment:  
"Love one another, as I have loved you."  
John 15:12*

**SACRAMENTAL LIFE:**

**Weekend Liturgies:**

Saturday 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

**Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day:**

Saturday 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

**Weekday Liturgies:**

Tuesday 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday 8:30 a.m.  
First Friday of the month 8:30 a.m.  
Eucharistic adoration 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Christmas, Easter, and Holy Days: see bulletin

Penance Saturday, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Infant Baptism Contact Parish Office

Matrimony Contact Parish Office  
(9 months in advance)

Anointing of the Sick Contact Parish Office  
(After Masses, at home, or in hospital)

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Monday Noon

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

If you move, have a seasonal address, or change of address, phone or e-mail, please contact the Parish Office.

**Advent Season** is a good time to wonder and have less worry, but it seems in our culture the bombardment of advertising is always days and weeks ahead of the holiday forthcoming. A friend of mine who likes quick thoughtful reminders shared this with me recently. Read and reflect on each, finding the deeper meaning and see what a difference this could make in your choices. I hope each of us can focus more on the simplicity of living and diminish the complexity!

- 1). PRAYER is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout life.
- 2). Why is a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future, so look ahead and move on.
- 3). FRIENDSHIP is like a book. It takes a few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
- 4). All THINGS in life are temporary. If they are going well, enjoy them, they will not last forever. If they are going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.
- 5). Old FRIENDS are gold! New friends are diamonds! If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold! To hold a diamond, you always need a base of gold.
- 6). Often when WE LOSE HOPE and THINK this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax, it's just a bend, not the end!"
- 7). When GOD SOLVES your PROBLEMS, you have faith in his abilities; when God doesn't solve your problems, God has faith in your abilities.
- 8). A BLIND PERSON asked God: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" God replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"
- 9). When YOU PRAY for OTHERS, God listens to you and blesses them and sometimes when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
- 10). WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's troubles; it takes away today's Peace.

**Advent Blue Books** are offering daily reflections, I was especially struck by December 4's Finding Joy at Christmas: "We often feel Christmas should be a 'sugar plumb' day with no touch of sadness. We feel we mustn't let the sad parts of our lives into this special day. Suffering spoils it. Let only gladness fill the air. But consider another approach; instead of avoiding all the sadness and trying to create a Hallmark Christmas, savor the richness of a savior born into a broken world, for broken hearts, to bring healing. The Joy of Christmas is that light overcomes darkness. It's the good news of the angel to the shepherds; today a savior has been born for you...for all that is happy in you, and all that is sad in you. Don't hide the sad feelings. For some, it is the first Christmas with a newborn child or a grandchild. For others, it is the first Christmas without their mother, father, husband, wife, child, close friend. For all of us it is Christmas celebrated in imperfect lives in an imperfect world."

Peace

**MONDAY, December 12**

7:00 p.m. – Advent Awakenings – Rooms 1 & 2

**TUESDAY, December 13**

6:30 p.m. – Word & Eucharist

7:00 p.m. – CCW Dinner – Macphee's Restaurant

**WEDNESDAY, December 14**

8:30 a.m. – Word & Eucharist

9:00 a.m. – St. Joseph Guild – Parish Center

10:00 a.m. – AA – Room 1 & 2

6:00 p.m. – RCIA – Room 6

**THURSDAY, December 15**

7:00 p.m. – Choir Practice – Church

**FRIDAY, December 16**

**Hospital Visits**

**SATURDAY, December 17**

**Final Giving Tree Weekend**

8:00 a.m. – Advent Men's Breakfast – Parish Center

4:30 – 5:15 p.m. – Confessions – Church

5:30 p.m. – Mass: +Cal Story / Margie Wells

**SUNDAY, December 18**

**Final Giving Tree Weekend**

9:30 a.m. – Mass: +Shawn Fatheree /Linda Kramer

9:30 a.m. – Children's Liturgy of the Word

10:30 a.m. – Parish Breakfast – Parish Center

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Children's Christmas Pageant Practice

5:30 p.m. – Mass: People of the Parish / Parish

**LET US PRAY:****For Peace; for Women/Men in the Military Service:**

SSG J Gillett; Maj. S Halleaux; Maj. C Kaighen; SPC T Kenney; S/Sgt. D Kendall; CPL M Zagone

**For Our Sick:** Those who are homebound, in the hospital or another healthcare facility.

**For Prayer Ministry Requests:** Contact Joan Turner, [joanturner38@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joanturner38@sbcglobal.net) or 248-410-2286.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon, 12/12: Zec 2:14-17; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38

Tues, 12/13: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wed, 12/14: Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23

Thur, 12/15: Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30

Fri, 12/16: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Jn 5:33-36

Sat, 12/17: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Sun, 12/18: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

**Communal Penance Services – Dec. 11, 14 and 18**

Plan to attend a communal Penance service this Advent: **St. Mark on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3:00 p.m.**, St. John Davison on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 10:30 a.m. and St. John Davison on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. This is a great sacrament to receive in preparation for Christmas.

**Giving Tree**

Share hope and joy by taking a tag off the Giving Tree in the Gathering Space. Return the wrapped gift, with tag, to the tree **by Dec. 18.**

## Third Sunday of Advent A SEASON OF HOPE

Today we can bask in the imagery that the Mass readings offer us. In particular, Isaiah's vision of a parched land that blooms with abundant flowers holds a message for each of us. Too often we are just like that parched land. We can allow ourselves to become absorbed in the waves of consumerism that grip so many. We look for fulfillment in the things that money can buy. Unfortunately, this leaves us like parched land, thirsting for something that money can't buy. This holy season has much to offer to quench our thirsts. In a word, this season offers hope. We are told that those who are ransomed by God will know joy and gladness. For them, sorrow and mourning will be no more. Let us place our hope in these promises.

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### PARISH STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE

December 3 and 4

Weekly Collection.....	\$ 4,240.25
Online Giving .....	\$ 3,105.00
Children .....	\$ 4.50
Retired Religious.....	\$ 937.00



### Alternative Giving Weekend – Dec. 10/11

We have information in the gathering space for an alternative to wrapped gifts, that shares with those less fortunate beyond the Christmas season! Please make checks out to St. Mark and put the organization in the Memo line.

### Land of Peace – Holy Land Dec. 10 & 11

Land of Peace will be here this weekend after all masses selling religious articles from the Holy Land. Help this mission and the Christians in the Holy Land. The goal is to build a charity hospital in the Holy Land.

### Pizza with Padre – Dec. 26

Fr. Mike invites the young adults to Pizza on Dec. 26 at 6:00 p.m. Parents, please extend this invite to those planning on being home for the Christmas Season from either: college, university, military or work. RSVP with the Parish Office.

### St. Mark @ North End Soup Kitchen – Dec. 30

Fri. Dec. 30 is our parish's day to serve lunch at the North End Soup Kitchen. To volunteer, call the Parish Office; we gather at 8:30 a.m. by the Parish Office entrance in the parking lot for carpooling.

### Capital Campaign - Witness to Hope

We have 135 commitments with a total of \$614,976. Many parishioners have made their 3 to 5 year pledges for our Capital Campaign. Anyone who has their pledge card is asked to conclude their prayerful decision. Please turn your pledge in at the parish office or at Mass.

### Retirement Fund for Religious – Thank you

Thank you for your support. Your kindness helps the elderly sisters to ensure their comfort, security, and joy of living out their remaining years. You truly honor their many years of service by your generosity. Religious across the U.S. offer sincere thanks for your generosity to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

## FAITH FORMATION

**Deacon Ron Kenney, Director of Faith Formation**  
Tel: 810-636-2216 E-mail: [stmarkdff@hotmail.com](mailto:stmarkdff@hotmail.com)

One of my mentors in ministry once said to me, "Ronald, there are no problems, just opportunities." I have always tried to take that to heart when I approach the trials and tribulations that I face in my life. It is an attitude of hope and trying to look for the positives to help me move forward and overcome an obstacle that lies in front of me. All of us have battle stories. But when we focus on the negatives, we overlook the beauties and wonders of God's blessings that we have been called to share. We forget that we have people we love. We forget that we are loved, both by other people, and particularly, by the Lord. I don't deny that there are many struggles that seem impossible. Sickness, financial problems, questions about the future, struggles within our families, can cause people to see the bleak picture.

Today, in Isaiah, the prophet says, "say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God!" We are called to be people who bring JOY to a fearful world. The basic attitude of a Christian needs to be JOY. The prophet is telling us, we must BE that JOY to others, because that is what being a Christian is all about. That JOY changes us, changes others and changes our world .... Remember there no problems, just opportunities. Have you taken your 10 minutes yet today to be silent with God?

The Advent Journey continues.....Walk the talk. Be Peace!  
– Deacon Ron

### **REF Children and Youth**

- 12/18 - NO REF - Children's Christmas Pageant Practice (11-12:30pm- Church)
- 12/21 - High School Youth Group (7-9pm)

### **Adult Faith Formation**

- Advent Awakenings: Mondays, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 7pm in Rooms 1 & 2
- Advent Men's Breakfast: Saturday, December 17th, 8-9:30am, join other men in the parish as we reflect on the Advent Season. Sign up in Gathering Space.

### **Children's Christmas Eve Pageant**

- All Children, ages 4-11 are invited to be a part of the Christmas Story that takes place at the 4:30pm Christmas Eve Liturgy. Sign up forms at REF or Parish Office. Practice is on Sunday, Dec. 18, 11am-12:30pm.

### **St. Mark High School Youth Group Retreat**

- January 6-8, 2017, Subiaco Retreat Center Oxford. All High School Youth 10th-12th grade are invited to spend a fun and faith-filled weekend together reflecting on Life and Faith. We will be joining together with St. John Davison. Permission Forms available at Youth Group.

### **Parish Breakfast – Dec. 18**

Plan on attending the next Parish Breakfast, to be held on Sunday, Dec. 18, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Please join your Parish family for a special meal!

### **Christmas and New Year's Mass times**

- + **Christmas Eve** at 4:30 p.m. (Children's Mass) and 10:30 p.m. (singing begins at 10:00 p.m.)
- + **Christmas Day** at 10:30 a.m.
- + **New Year's Eve** at 4:30 p.m.
- + **New Year's Day** at 10:30 a.m.