

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.

**Simplicity - Enoughness and Contentment –
A reflection for Christmas Day and Beyond!**

Below is an article written by Fr. Richard Rohr for the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4th.

"We live in a society that places great importance upon external signs of success. We have to assure ourselves and others that we are valuable and important—because we inherently doubt that we are! Thus we are often preoccupied with "one-upping" others. I am afraid that most lose inside of such a "winner-takes-all" society. We have great difficulty finding our inherent value with such a world view. Few have deep conviction about their own soul or the Indwelling Holy Spirit.

People living under capitalism find it almost unnatural to know their own center. Dignity must always be "acquired" and earned. We live in an affluent society that's always expecting more, wanting more, and believes it even deserves more. But the more we own, ironically enough, the less we enjoy. This is the paradox of materialism. The more we project our soul's longing onto things, the more things disappoint us. Happiness is an inside job. When we expect to find happiness outside of ourselves, we are always disappointed. We then seek a "higher" or more stimulating experience and the spiral of addiction and consumption continues. Francis of Assisi, whose feast we celebrate today, experienced radical participation in God's very life. Such practical knowing of his value and identity allowed Francis to let go of status, privilege, and wealth. Francis knew he was part of God's plan, connected to creation and other beings, inherently in communion and in love. Francis taught his followers to own nothing so they would not be owned by their possessions.

If you don't live from within your own center of connection and communion, you'll go spinning around things. The true goal of all religion is to lead you back to the place where everything is one, to the experience of radical unity with all of humanity, and hence to the experience of unity with God.

When you live in pure consciousness, letting the naked being of all reality touch your own naked being, you experience foundational participation. Out of that plenitude—a sense of satisfaction and inner enoughness, a worldview of abundance—you find it much easier to live simply. You realize you don't "need" as much. You've found your satisfaction at an inner place, at a deeper level inside you. You're able to draw from this abundance and share it freely with others. And you stop trying to decide who is worthy of it, because you now know that you are not "worthy" either. It is one hundred percent pure gift!"

Since reading this article in October, I am often reminded of the importance of living a life of simplicity – not only during the Christmas season – but throughout the year. Christmas reminds us of the life of Jesus and how we can use His model for ourselves. I hope and pray that our families and friends make choices that reflect the simplicity of lifestyle of the Christ child.

Merry Christmas!

MONDAY, December 26**Parish Office Closed**

6:00 p.m. – Pizza with Padre – Parish Center

TUESDAY, December 27

6:30 p.m. – Word & Eucharist

WEDNESDAY, December 28

8:30 a.m. – Mass: +Alice Ward 1st Anniversary / Parish

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

10:00 a.m. – AA – Room 1 & 2

THURSDAY, December 29**FRIDAY, December 30****Hospital Visits**

8:30 a.m. – North End Soup Kitchen

SATURDAY, December 31**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

4:30 p.m. – Mass: +Katharine Bickley / Mary Bickley

SUNDAY, January 1**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

10:30 a.m. – Mass: World Peace / 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 or 248-410-2286.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon, 12/26: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Tue, 12/27: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12;
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wed, 12/28: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Thur, 12/29: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:36-40

Fri, 12/30: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 [12-17];
Ps 128:1-5; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Sat, 12/31: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Sun, 1/1: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7;
Lk 2:16-21

Pizza with Padre – Dec. 26

Fr. Mike invites all young adults that are home from college, military, or work to Pizza in the Parish Center on Dec. 26 at 6:00 p.m. Please come it's not too late to stop by on Monday.

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

Friday, 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.

New Year's Mass Schedule

+ **New Year's Eve** at 4:30 p.m.

+ **New Year's Day** at 10:30 a.m.

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD

On this day of gifts and gift-giving, it seems appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on the great gift of God's Word. Because it is creative, God's Word always points to its author, always calls us to respond. Because it is powerful, God's Word can link the sublime with the ridiculous, the transcendent with the immanent, the divine with the human. Because it is graceful, God's Word establishes a relationship of deep intimacy between us and God.

At the heart of God's Word lies a tantalizing tension between the mysterious and the mundane. In our liturgical celebration, this unresolved tension both reveals the meaning of life for us and calls us to respond, to act upon that meaning.

Once accepted and opened, the gift of God's Word is a gift that keeps on giving and keeps on calling us to give in return. It dares us to be like the gift-giver and to become gifts for others, not only at Christmas, but at every moment of life.

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PARISH STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE

December 17 and 18

Weekly Collection.....	\$ 4,539.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,998.00
Children	\$ 10.09
Youth.....	\$ 1.00



First Friday Adoration – Jan. 6

Start 2017 right by spending an hour with Our Lord during the First Friday Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, Jan. 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sign up for an hour of prayer. We need one or more individuals an hour.

Epiphany Potluck Dinner – Jan. 7

Mark your calendars for the Epiphany Potluck Dinner on Saturday, Jan. 7. after mass. We will be celebrating the Epiphany by sharing our favorite ethnic food and recipes with each other. Please plan to join us in the Parish Center. Warmers to keep hot dishes at the right temperature during Mass are available.

Epiphany REF Luncheon – Jan. 8

The Epiphany Luncheon is Sunday, Jan. 8 at Noon. The REF children will enjoy a kid friendly lunch in celebration of the Three Wise Men's visit to the Christ Child and the return of REF sessions.

CCW Blanket Making – Jan. 10

During the CCW meeting in January CCW will be making No Sew Blankets to donate to Catholic Charities and Heartbeat. All are welcome to participate in helping make these blankets. Come join them on Jan. 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Marriage Enrichment – Feb. 4

SAVE THE DATE! St. Mark will be hosting a Marriage Enrichment event on Saturday, February 4, 2017 from 1:00 pm - 5:15 pm, followed by Mass at 5:30 pm. Be sure to block off this time NOW to focus on your relationship with your spouse and God. More information will be forthcoming, so keep an eye out for bulletin announcements about this wonderful opportunity.

FAITH FORMATION

Deacon Ron Kenney, Director of Faith Formation
Tel: 810-636-2216 E-mail: stmarkdff@hotmail.com

I always seem a bit humbled when I think of what we celebrate on this day of Christmas. The story tells us, "They called him Emmanuel, God with-US." How awesome is that thought, that our creator, our God, loves us so much that he came into this world to be like one of us and to be with us.

It makes me reflect on the stories about Jesus, the God with-US and what he taught us, meant to us, did for us and how his life was about making our lives better. This day makes me think about my responsibility as a believer in the God with-US, and how I need to be for others what he was for us. It reminds me that in my relationships I need to make peace where there is none. It reminds me that I need to think of others a little more than myself. It reminds me that I need to try harder to love my family, my friends, my co-workers, the stranger on the street, my neighbor. It reminds me that I need to seek God, see God, speak God, a little bit more in all that I am and do. It reminds me that I need to find more ways to be Christ-like to others. It reminds me that without this moment in time, this Emmanuel, the God with-US, our lives and world would not know God as we do and have the joy and love that he shared with us in our everyday lives. Merry Christmas To ALL!!!

Walk the talk. Be Peace! – Deacon Ron

REF Children and Youth

- 12/25 and 1/1 – NO REF (K-5)(Middle School YG)

Adult Faith Formation

- **Men's Fellowship:** Next Fellowship Jan. 7th. 7-8am
- **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 or through the Faith Formation Office.

Thank you to all that helped support the St. Mark Youth Group through our Poinsettia Sale. The following were donations to help decorate the Church for this Christmas Season in Memory of:

<i>Joyce Alford</i>	<i>Bruce Mackey</i>
<i>Germaine Boehme</i>	<i>Doris Phipps</i>
<i>Emerson & Leona Ellis</i>	<i>Julie Tait</i>
<i>Russel Foerster</i>	<i>August & Mary Tousighant</i>
<i>Roxanne George</i>	<i>Norman Warren</i>
<i>Don Kelley</i>	<i>Timothy Wisniewski</i>
<i>Henry Klopman</i>	

Capital Campaign – Witness to Hope

Since July our parish has been participating in a diocesan wide capital campaign called Witness to Hope. The purpose is to address important pastoral needs at both the parish and diocesan level. We have already met the diocesan goal. The pledges we receive now go exclusively for our parish projects which are: replacement of parking lot and interior upgrades in the church, ceiling, lighting and sound system. St. Mark to date has 157 pledges totaling \$644,675. Pledge cards are available in church and can be turned in at the parish office or sacristy at Mass.