

# 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, Caitie Essenmacher  
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.)  
AA Hotline (810) 234-0815

Catholic Charities (810) 232-9950

Council of Catholic Women (810) 344-9859  
Mary McFarlane

Powers Catholic High School (810) 591-4741

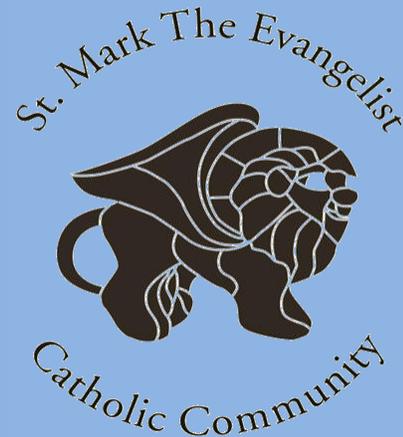
**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

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.



**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 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.  
followed by Eucharistic adoration from  
9:00 a.m. to 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.

**THE MEANING**

Below is an excerpt from the 2018 Sourcebook, an Almanac for Pastoral Liturgy. Enjoy your Advent reflection.

“O come, O Come, Emmanuel!” Our sanctuaries and our homes ring with these ancient words of invitation and welcome as we embrace the season of Advent. Quieting ourselves, much as the coming of winter stills and quiets the natural world, we seek to prepare a place for Christ to come again and to be born anew-for his coming or “advent”-in our hearts and in our world. We remember his entry into human life as a vulnerable newborn, and remembering the Paschal Mystery, we also affirm when he will return in glory at the Parousia, the fulfillment of salvation history.

The coming of the Messiah was a source of hope and anticipation in the life of the people of Israel. Frequently subjugated and often enslaved, they looked to the coming of the savior of the Jewish people as a horizon of promise. In these weeks of Advent, we hear many stories of the covenant that God has entered into with his chosen people.

We also hear of the expansion of God’s call to the entire human family through his Son, Jesus Christ. We believe that the Messiah sent to save Israel is, in fact, the Savior of all people. All are called to come to God’s holy mountain.

The invitation is not passive. We hear the voice of John the Baptist crying out from the wilderness, inviting all who would seek repentance to the waters of baptism. John does not sit silently, hoping that people will somehow find him, however much that might be to their benefit. His invitation to us is active. Similarly, Jesus reminds us to “be alert” (Mark 13:33) for the signs that redemption is at hand. The story of the Virgin Mary, who trusted and said yes to bearing God into human form, reminds us that when we hear God calling, our response should be trust and affirmation.

It is ironic that in our age, what should be a season of stillness, listening, and waiting becomes a season of frenetic busyness. In the bustle of “making” Christmas-decorating, buying gifts, preparing food, and entertaining-we can find ourselves exhausted and depleted. This can be true in our parishes as well as in our homes, where seasonal programs and special liturgies increase staff and volunteer workload. With the focus on the expectations of community members for certain types of Advent experiences, we can lose track of the richness of this season for evangelization and welcome.

Advent is an ideal time to encourage community members to reach out and include people in the life of our parishes. This can be challenging for Catholics. While members may know of people who are rooted in the Catholic tradition, they may feel hesitant to invite them to join us at Mass, afraid that they’ll be perceived as pushy or, even worse, holy rollers. We need to actively help people remember that we are inviting people to experience something wonderful and extraordinary when we bring them to the Eucharist: a relationship with a God so intimate that he chose to become one with the human family by taking on human form.”

Peace,

**MONDAY, December 4**

7:00 p.m. – Advent Awakening Adult Bible Study

**TUESDAY, December 5**

10:00 a.m. – Shawl Ministry

6:30 p.m. – Mass: 10 Year Pastoral Plan / Parish

7:00 p.m. – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, December 6**

8:30 a.m. – Mass: Victims of Violence / Parish

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

10:00 a.m. – AA – Room 1 & 2

6:00 p.m. – RCIA

**THURSDAY, December 7**

12:00-5:45 p.m. – Blood Drive @ Goodrich United Methodist Church

7:00 p.m. – Choir practice

**FRIDAY, December 8 – Immaculate Conception**

**Hospital Visits**

8:30 a.m. – Mass: Deceased Religious / Parish

6:30 p.m. – Mass: People of the Parish / Parish

**SATURDAY, December 9 – Youth Group Bottle Drive**

10:00 a.m. – First Penance

4:30–5:15 p.m. – Confessions – Church

5:30 p.m. – Mass: +Joe Schmitt / Mike & Ruth Petroski

**SUNDAY, December 10 – Youth Group Bottle Drive**

8:00 a.m. – Mass: World Peace / Parish

9:30 a.m. – Mass: +Patricia Martin / Pamela Hildebrand

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

10:30 a.m. – Hospitality Hour

10:30 a.m. – Bell Choir practice

11:00 a.m. – REF: Gr K-5

2:00-5:00 p.m. – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Mini Session #3

6:00 p.m. – REF: Gr 6-12

**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, 12/4: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tue, 12/5: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wed, 12/6: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thu, 12/7: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Fri, 12/8: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Sat, 12/9: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sun, 12/10: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

**Stewardship Cards Now Online!**

On our parish homepage, stmarkgoodrich.org, there is a link under Time, Talent and Treasure where you can access and fill out your online Stewardship card! Don't forget to hit submit when you are done.

## First Sunday of Advent GOD HAS A DIFFERENT PLAN

We begin the season of Advent with a heartfelt call for our own repentance. We remember God's faithful love for us, and call upon God to help us to turn back. For "behold, you are angry, and we are sinful" (Isaiah 64:4). In the first reading and in the psalm, we recall God's promises and lament our unfaithfulness and our guilt. We call upon God's might and power in order to save us. With Isaiah, we ask God to "rend the heavens and come down, / with the mountains quaking before you" (Isaiah 63:19).

Yes, God is faithful to us, because we are the work of God's hands. God is the potter, we are the clay. And yet, our concept of how God will come to save us is rooted in our own expectations of a warrior God who crushes mountains and thunders into our lives with great noise and glory. But God has a different plan: the Incarnation.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### PARISH STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE

November 25 & 26

Weekly Collection.....	\$3,189.00
Online Giving.....	\$1,005.00
Children.....	\$ 5.50
Youth.....	\$ 0.00



### National Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious

Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders!

### Giving Tree

Share hope and joy by taking a tag off the Giving Tree in the Gathering Space. Return the gift, following the instructions on the back of the tag, along with tag, to the tree by Dec. 17.

### Alternative Giving Weekends – Dec 2/3 & 9/10

Christmas is a time of giving and we want to remember those in need. We have information in the gathering space for an alternative to wrapped gifts, a gift that shares with those less fortunate well beyond the Christmas season!

### Immaculate Conception – Dec. 8 Holy Day

There will be Masses for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

### CCW Dinner – Dec. 12

All women of the parish are members of CCW and are invited to dinner with the CCW on Dec. 12. We go to 6:30 p.m. Mass and then to dinner at Sam's in Rankin. Feel free to bring along a friend. Please RSVP to Joan Turner at joanturner38@sbcglobal.net.

### Communal Penance Service – Dec. 17

Plan to attend the Advent Communal Penance Service on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3:00 p.m. in the church. This is a great sacrament to receive in preparation for Christmas.

### Parish Breakfast – Dec. 17

Come to the next Parish Breakfast, to be held on Sunday, Dec. 17, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Please join your Parish family for a special meal!

## FAITH FORMATION

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

I wish I could sit here and share with you that I have never received a moving violation from our wonderful officers of the law. But, I can't. And unfortunately it has been more than once. And most of the time it has been the result of being in a hurry. The anxiety of "whatever" created a heavy foot. No excuses, believe me, I was wrong and I got caught. I let myself become distracted and by doing so found myself making a wrong choice.

That's part of the message of this First Sunday of Advent. Jesus tells us, "Be Watchful! Be Alert!" He challenges us to live each day by being alert and watchful for "whatever" might take us away from living as he wants us to live. You see, by letting myself become distracted with the "things" of life, I wasn't watchful and I wasn't alert. Now don't get me wrong, I am not saying, "Be watchful for that sitting officer waiting to give you a ticket, because it's only wrong if you get caught." No. I am saying don't let the distractions in life take you away from doing the right thing.

Advent is a time to reflect on those distractions that take us away from living as Jesus wants us to live. Spend some time thinking about what you need to do. Make YOUR ADVENT a time to come closer to the God who wants YOU to get to know him. Why would he have come into this world to walk amongst us if he didn't? Be Watchful and Be Alert my friends! The Advent journey continues .... Walk the Talk! Be Peace! – Deacon Ron

### **Religious Education Formation (REF) Serve One Another Through Love – Galatians 5:13**

- 12/4 Advent Awakenings (7-8:30 p.m.)
- 12/10 REF (k-5, 6-12)
- 12/10 Confirmation Mini Session #3 (2-5 p.m.)
- 12/17 Children's Christmas Pageant Practice (11-12:30 p.m.)

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

- All children, 4yrs of age on up, are invited to take part in the story of the Birth of Jesus at the beginning of the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Liturgy. Sign up at REF or by contacting Dcn. Ron. Practice is Sunday, **Dec. 17th, 11am-12:30 p.m.**

### **St. Mark Youth Group**

- **Regional Catholic High School Lock-in:** Friday, Dec. 15th (8 p.m.-6 a.m.) at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church. Fun, Food, Music, Games, Friends, Faith and staying up all night! Cost is \$10. Sign up at Sunday Youth Group. All High School Youth and their friends invited.
- **High School Subiaco Retreat (For all 10th-12th Graders):** Friday, Jan. 5th, 8 p.m. to Sunday, Jan. 7th, 1 p.m. A great weekend to get away and spend some time reflecting on LIFE, GOD and YOURSELF. Contact Dcn. Ron to register. Cost: \$110

### **Advent Resource List**

The Advent Resource List is available in the Gathering Space for your spiritual reflection.

### **Stewardship Envelopes**

Stewardship envelopes for 2018 are in the Gathering Space. Please stop by after Mass and pick up your new box! These will be available throughout the Christmas season.