

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Community

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

Parish Office:

Phone (810) 636-2216

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

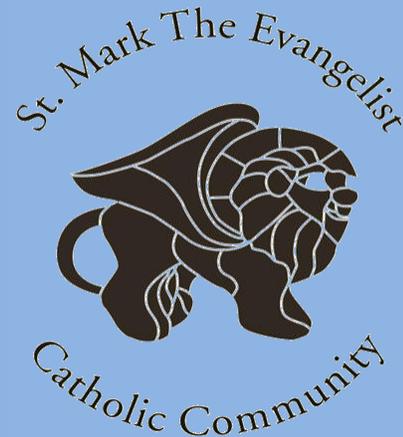
PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

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.

Padre's Portion

December 10, 2017

Weekly Calendar

Advent Season is very short this year with Christmas Eve being on the 4th Sunday of Advent. Last weekend the Men's breakfast went well with many talking about their past Advent experiences. Below is what I shared with the group:

"Each of us is raised in an era. Some of us were born before 1960 and others after. Like many of you, I was raised during the sixties, which included my grade school years. I served Latin Mass for one year and experienced the changes of Vatican II. This meant we had Mass in English, began reading the Bible, and were introduced to the Catholic symbols. As a family, we went to Confession once a week.

There are lots of things I remember from my Grade school years: an Advent Calendar on the kitchen table, praying the Rosary on Sunday night together as a family, putting up the Christmas tree on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, attending Mass daily at our Catholic school, and going to confession regularly during Advent season was the norm.

Junior high and high school years saw the introduction of the Advent wreath along with Christmas trees in the sanctuary of churches. Advent prayers were also being written for folks to use at home.

In my College and University years, there was a huge explosion of materials for reflection. The importance of symbols continued – advent wreaths at home/church, material banners with symbols/words, and Jesse trees explaining the connection to the Old Testament were common. The Giving Tree (a concept of Social Justice) was also introduced. As a family, we eventually decided to give gifts to only our parents and the grandchildren. The adults made a simple gift for each other for exchanging.

Today in many churches we have different colors for the penitential seasons – blue for Advent and purple for Lent. There are a variety of experiences for adults: Advent Tea, Men's Advent Breakfast, and small group adult reflection groups. Many families embracing the 'Domestic church' at home will use Advent calendars, prayers and wreaths. Scripture reading and reflection is encouraged.

During Advent, we focus on simplicity. Often I propose celebrating the days of Advent and then the days of the Christmas season. I try to leave Christmas gatherings until Christmas Eve Dec 24 – Epiphany Jan 6. I encourage people to avoid cramming everything in on one day. During my years as a priest, our family celebrated Christmas on Holy Family Sunday, which is between Christmas and New Year's. This allowed each family to celebrate their own individual Christmas and then also celebrate at the homes of other family and friends. In general, I suggest lessening the stresses of December days by taking some quiet and silent time alone for remembering the greatness of this season."

I would suggest you recall some of your own Advent experiences from childhood to adulthood. There are many traditions that we cherish and there are many that slip away. This is the perfect time of year to remember old traditions that perhaps we would like to rekindle with our families today.

Peace,

MONDAY, December 11

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

TUESDAY, December 12

6:30 p.m. – Mass: +Jose Manuel Medina / Fr. Mike Kuchar

7:00 p.m. – CCW Dinner

WEDNESDAY, December 13

8:30 a.m. – Mass: Victims of Natural Disasters

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

10:00 a.m. – AA – Room 1 & 2

10:45 a.m. – Communal Penance @ St. John Davison

6:00 p.m. – RCIA

THURSDAY, December 14

7:00 p.m. – Choir practice

FRIDAY, December 15

Hospital Visits

SATURDAY, December 16

4:30–5:15 p.m. – Confessions – Church

5:30 p.m. – Mass: +Peter Nagorski / Mary & Hugh McFarlane

SUNDAY, December 17

8:00 a.m. – Mass: People of the Parish / Parish

9:30 a.m. – Mass: +James Rengers / Zagone Family

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

10:30 a.m. – Parish breakfast

10:30 a.m. – Bell Choir practice

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

3:00 p.m. – Penance Service @ St. Mark

6:30 p.m. – Penance Service @ St. John Davison

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, 12/11: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tue, 12/12: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

Wed, 12/13: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thu, 12/14: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Fri, 12/15: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Sat, 12/16: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19;
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sun, 12/17: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54;
1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Christmas and New Year's Mass times

- + **Christmas Eve** at 4:30 p.m. (Children's Mass) and 10:30 p.m. (choral performance 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.

Welcome to our new parishioners!

Please welcome our new parishioners Jennifer Garner and her children.

Second Sunday of Advent NEWS OF COMFORT

In a time of preparation, much of it having to do with material things, it is good to hear the words of Isaiah, "Comfort, give comfort to my people, / says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). In a time of such stress and rush, when our usual burdens are augmented by piles of Christmas preparations, we can choose to slow down, take some time to heal, and appreciate the enormous gift we are about to receive. Christ, the Son of God, has become one of us, and knows our human limitations. Yet God, even now, is freeing us from the burdens that our inattentiveness to our God and to our deepest inner longings have heaped upon us. The Lord comes, not as a king with mighty armies, but as a shepherd leading the flocks with care and tenderness. Isaiah prophesies good news: our oppression is over, our sins forgiven. The savior we have awaited is coming, not the first time, but in the end times, as our salvation.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE

December 2 and 3

Weekly Collection.....	\$4,912.00
Online Giving.....	\$3,940.00
Children.....	\$ 8.62
Youth.....	\$ 0.00
Retired Religious Collection.....	\$ 1,146.00



National Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious

Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests across the country send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

CCW Dinner – Dec. 12 – CORRECTION

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

Alternative Giving Suggestions

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!

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

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

Art & Environment Help Needed – Dec. 20

Help is needed as our A & E team prepares our worship space for Christmas. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the church on Wednesday December 20. Come help us prepare our Parish Church and Center for celebrating Jesus' birth anew.

FAITH FORMATION

Deacon Ron Kenney, Director of Faith Formation

Tel: 810-636-2216 E-mail: stmarkdff@hotmail.com

When we look at the world, we all want change. If you are like me, you get frustrated with the way things are. You want it to change. The thing is, for change to take place, it's not just others who have to change, WE HAVE TO CHANGE.

If there is going to be no more war, then people need to stop hating others. If there is going to be charity and care for all, then people need to look inside their hearts and treat others the way they want to be treated. If there is going to be change, WE HAVE TO CHANGE.

We all want our country and our world to be better. We all want a cure for cancer and every ailment or condition that is killing people. We all want the poor to be cared for. We all want an end to violence; that which is carried out by terrorists and that which takes place in every town and city throughout the world. We all want peace. But what are we doing about it? The heart of John the Baptist's message today is that if we want change, if we really want the One who will reform the world and return humankind to God's original plan, WE HAVE TO CHANGE.

It is just so much easier to sit back and expect the government to change, the world to change, other people to change. But if we really want change we can believe in, WE HAVE TO CHANGE.

The Advent journey continues

Walk the Talk! Be Peace! – Deacon Ron

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

- 12/11 Advent Awakenings (7-8:30pm)
- 12/17 Children's Christmas Pageant Practice
- 12/17-1/1 NO REF

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 4:30pm Christmas Eve Liturgy. Sign up at REF or by contacting stmarkdff@hotmail.com Practice is Sunday, December 17th, 11am-12:30pm.

St. Mark Youth Group

- **Regional Catholic High School Lock-in:** Friday, Dec. 15th (8pm-6am) at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church. Fun, Food, Music, Games, Friends, Faith and staying up all night! Cost \$10 sign up at Sunday Youth Group. High School Youth of St. Mark and their friends invited.
- **High School Subiaco Retreat (For all 10th-12th Graders):** Friday, January 5th, 8pm to Sunday, January 7th, 1pm. 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.