

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.

Posadas are an important part of Mexican Christmas traditions. These community celebrations take place on each of the nine nights leading up to Christmas, from December 16 to 24th. The word *posada* means "inn" or "shelter" in Spanish, and in this tradition, Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and their search for a place to stay is re-enacted. Posadas are held in neighborhoods across Mexico and are also becoming popular in the United States.

The celebration begins with a procession in which the participants hold candles and sing Christmas carols. Sometimes there will be individuals who play the parts of Mary and Joseph who lead the way, or occasionally images representing them are carried. The procession will make its way to a particular home (a different one each night), where a special song (*La Cancion Para Pedir Posada*) is sung.

Asking For Shelter

There are two parts to the traditional posada song. Those outside the house sing the part of Joseph asking for shelter and the family inside responds by singing the part of the innkeeper saying that there is no room. The song switches back and forth a few times until finally, the innkeeper decides to let them in. The hosts open the door and everyone goes inside.

Celebration

Once inside the house, there is a celebration which can vary from a very big fancy party to a small get-together among friends. Often the festivities begin with a short Bible reading and prayer. Then the hosts give the guests food, usually tamales and a hot drink such as ponche or atole. Then the guests break piñatas and the children are given candy. The nine nights of posadas leading up to Christmas are said to represent the nine months that Jesus spent in Mary's womb, or alternatively, to represent the nine days journey to Bethlehem.

History of the Posadas

Now a widely-celebrated tradition throughout Latin America, posadas originated in colonial Mexico. The Augustinian friars of San Agustin de Acolman near Mexico City are believed to have celebrated the first posadas. In 1586, Friar Diego de Soria, the Augustinian prior, obtained a papal bull from Pope Sixtus V to celebrate what was called *misas de aguinaldo* "Christmas gift masses" from December 16 and 24.

The Aztecs had a tradition of honoring their god Huitzilopochtli at the same time of year (coinciding with the winter solstice), and they would have special meals in which the guests were given small figures of idols made from a paste that consisted of ground toasted corn and agave syrup. The Friars took advantage of the coincidence and the two celebrations were combined.

The celebrations were originally held in the church, but the custom spread and later was celebrated in haciendas, and then in family homes, gradually taking the form of the celebration as it is now practiced by the 19th century.

Today is a good day to ask ourselves how we are making room for the baby Jesus in our daily life and routines.

Peace,

MONDAY, December 18

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

TUESDAY, December 19

10:00 a.m. – Shawl Ministry

6:30 p.m. – Mass: World Peace / Parish

WEDNESDAY, December 20

8:30 a.m. – Mass: Evangelization, Grow + Go / Parish

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

10:00 a.m. – AA – Room 1 & 2

6:00 p.m. – RCIA

6:30 p.m. – A&E Christmas Set-Up

THURSDAY, December 21

7:00 p.m. – Choir practice

FRIDAY, December 22 – Hospital Visits

SATURDAY, December 23

4:30–5:15 p.m. – Confessions – Church

5:30 p.m. – Mass: +Alice Ward / Parish

SUNDAY, December 24

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

9:30 a.m. – Mass: Deceased benefactors / Parish

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

4:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve Mass: +George Yancho/
Yancho Family

10:30 p.m. – Midnight Mass: Refugee Families / 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, 12/18: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19;

Mt 1:18-25

Tue, 12/19: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17;

Lk 1:5-25

Wed, 12/20: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Thu, 12/21: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Fri, 12/22: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd;
Lk 1:46-56

Sat, 12/23: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14;
Lk 1:57-66

Sun, 12/24: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

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.

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.

Third Sunday of Advent REJOICE

Isaiah proclaims truly good news to us! God's coming brings not sadness, guilt, fear, wrath, or condemnation. No, God's coming is a source of comfort and joy. Saying it once is not enough, for today's readings are full of joy. Mary's Magnificat substitutes for our psalm today, and our second reading encourages us to rejoice, to give thanks and praise. This is the root meaning of the Greek word for Eucharist. We are urged to rejoice and give thanks, because the coming of the Lord brings joy, healing, liberty, release, vindication. It makes the very earth spring up with new life! Good tidings!

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PARISH STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE

December 9 & 10

Weekly Collection.....	\$3,829.00
Online Giving.....	\$2,800.00
Children.....	\$ 1.50
Youth.....	\$ 1.00
Christian Service.....	\$ 977.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$ 526.00



Giving Tree

We will be distributing the gifts on Sunday Dec. 17. This is the last weekend to turn in the gifts. On behalf of the families that are able to receive gifts this Christmas, thank you for your generous hearts. Your awareness and response to the Giving Tree is wonderful to experience.

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.

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 for Jesus' birth.

St. Mark @ North End Soup Kitchen – Dec. 29

Friday, Dec. 29 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.

First Friday Adoration – Jan. 5

Start 2018 right by spending an hour with Our Lord during the First Friday Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, Jan. 5 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. 6

Mark your calendars for the Epiphany Potluck Dinner on Saturday, Jan. 6 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.

Welcome to our new parishioners!

Please welcome our new parishioners William and Sally Himmelspach.

FAITH FORMATION

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

This is not a political commentary. At the heart of who I try to be is respect for the opinions and beliefs of others. But a dear friend sent me a "Re-Tweet" of 4 pictures that appeared on Twitter. They are signs that hang outside a Christian Church here in America. The pictures depict a saddened portrait of Jesus followed by words of frustration coming from our Lord. They say: "What is it with America and guns? I never said I hated anyone. Yes, science is real. The President said what?"

I saw these and it made me think about what Jesus might really think about the world that we live in and the culture we find ourselves a part of today. Then I began to think, what do WE think about the world and culture we find ourselves a part of and what are WE doing to make sure that Christ and his Gospel are at the heart of this world and culture?

When we are baptized, we are sent. We are sent to bring joy to the world. We are to bring glad tidings to the poor, news that God knows their difficulty and will care for them through us; His people here on earth, the Church. When we know others are mourning the loss of a loved one, they need to hear that the Lord has conquered death and brought us to eternal life. When hearts are broken by events beyond a person's control, the loss of a job, the loss of a marriage, or any series of events that make them feel abandoned by the world and alone in society, they need to know that Jesus CAN heal a broken heart. When people are held captive by others, or perhaps by their own addictions, they need to know that Jesus is a path to freedom. They do not have to spend the rest of their lives as victims of society. It is up to us to lead people to the victory of Jesus Christ. We can reflect on the thought, "What would Jesus think?" But even more so, what do we think and what are we doing to make the Gospel REAL in our lives and in the world around us. The Advent journey continues

Walk the Talk! Be Peace! – Deacon Ron

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

- 12/18 Advent Awakenings (7-8:30pm)
- 12/17-1/1 NO REF

St. Mark Youth Group

- **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

Congratulations to those who received their first Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, Dec. 9th:

Stefan Baier	Ashlyn Potter	Rowan Mullane
Alayna Garner	Ian Shoemaker	Aidan Kimosh
Breydan Green	Angel Oudman	Brady Rivette
Jacob Helton		

Calendars for 2018

2018 Calendars will soon be available in the Gathering Space. Please pick yours up after Mass! Each month features a beloved Saint.