

# 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.

Medicare is something I will be applying for as part of my retirement next June, which led me to reflect on the costs of care today. The article by Edward Hays below speaks on our current medical realities, comparing them to the ultimate cure.

**“Millionaire Medicine**

The leader in the ever-skyrocketing cost of contemporary life is medicine. The cost of curing an affliction today, other than a mild headache, can be staggering. But there have also been other times when medical care has been very expensive.

For example, in 1534, Pope Clement VII, who was the patron of Michelangelo, Raphael, and many other great artists of the Renaissance, became seriously ill. His physicians prescribed a very costly cure that may have actually been the death of him. Over a period of fourteen days, the ailing Pope Clement swallowed over three million dollars' worth of precious stones, including one very large diamond! The “practicing” physicians, however, were unable to save their papal patient.

The Renaissance was a time of expensive art and medicine. The most popular medicines were concoctions made up of crushed jewels. Indeed, the more expensive or rare the remedy, as with Clément's last pill, the more effective it was believed to be.

We are in the midst of a season that is meant to remind us just how truly expensive was that cure called salvation. And we are preparing to celebrate the feast that honors the most expensive and rarest of all medicines, our cure for selfishness. We sing carols rejoicing in the coming of our Savior, who is the source of the salvation of the world. The same mother-word that gives us savior also gives us salve, which means healing. As Native Americans would say, “Jesus is good medicine.” In fact, he is the cure. And perhaps no more expensive and rare a jewel could be found than “he who was crushed for our sins” (Is.53:5), as Isaiah said. But Emmanuel is no pill. Emmanuel is therapy, a healing activity.

Most of us would prefer to pop a pill that would cure our tension, pains, physical-mental suffering and even being overweight. We want something fast, effortless and cheap. But Emmanuel therapy requires that we become part of an expensive cure, for we cannot simply swallow a savior. True healing comes from an active communion with our Cure. Indeed, our salvation is in Jesus, but we must engage ourselves in the daily therapy of giving away our body and blood, our very selves. The divine “good medicine” prescription is very clear; “Do this in memory of me” (Lk.22:19). This is not simply a recipe for a ritual but rather for the reality of becoming a part of the salvation of the world.

Christmas is the feast of joyfully giving gifts to one another. This act is a symbol for how the world will be cured of its sickness of selfishness, war, discrimination and exploitation. We give gifts because it is the feast of the Divine Gift. In each of us the Son of God, the Cosmic Divine Diamond, the Healing Salve, is waiting eagerly to become Emmanuel, “God-among-us” again. The birth of Emanuel within us is the only effective medicine for our terminal illness.

May the gifts we give this Christmas become part of an addictive therapy that will lead us to the point of giving away all of ourselves as a gift. As Jesus said at the Last Supper, “This is my blood, which shall be shed for you and for all” (Mk. 14:24). And a merry medical Christmas to you!”

Peace,

**MONDAY, December 25 – Office Closed**

10:30 a.m. – Christmas Day Mass: +Mark Totten / The Totten & Wood Families

**TUESDAY, December 26**

6:30 p.m. – Word & Eucharist

**WEDNESDAY, December 27**

8:30 a.m. – Mass: 10 Year Pastoral Plan / Parish

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

10:00 a.m. – AA – Room 1 & 2

**THURSDAY, December 28**

7:00 p.m. – Choir practice

6:00 p.m. – Youth Group Jump-Fun-Games Night

**FRIDAY, December 29****Hospital Visits**

8:30 a.m. – North End Soup Kitchen

**SATURDAY, December 30**

4:30–5:15 p.m. – Confessions – Church

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

**SUNDAY, December 31**

8:00 a.m. – Mass: Family Life / Parish

9:30 a.m. – Mass: Parish Families / Parish

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

10:30 a.m. – New Year's Eve Mass: New Year's Resolutions / 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, 12/25: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29;

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

During the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13;

Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12;

Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6;

Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Tue, 12/26: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59;

Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

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

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

Fri, 12/29: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Sat, 12/30: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Sun, 12/31: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:

1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or

Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

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

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



## Fourth Sunday of Advent GOD'S PROMISE

The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and overall. When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined.

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### PARISH STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE

December 16 & 17

Weekly Collection.....	\$3,429.00
Online Giving.....	\$2,665.00
Children.....	\$ 4.55
Youth.....	\$ 0.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$ 1,366.00



### 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 in the Gathering Space. 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.

### Epiphany REF Luncheon – Jan. 7

The Epiphany Luncheon is Sunday, Jan. 7 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. 9

During the CCW meeting in January CCW will also be making No Sew Blankets to donate to Catholic Charities and Heartbeat. All are welcome to participate in helping make blankets. Come join them on Jan. 9 at 7:00 p.m.

### Calling all snowbirds!

If you plan to spend the winter away, please let the Parish Office know your alternate address so we can keep in touch through mailings.

## 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 favorite Christmas hymns has always been "The First Noel." I love the story that is told through this song. The Angels came to the shepherds and announced the Incarnation, the birth of Jesus, to "poor shepherds". Not the elite of their community. Not the powerful of their community. Not the holiest of their community. The Angels announced the coming of the Messiah, the Savior, the Emmanuel to the common people.

Biblical scholars have believed that this is a remarkable statement about who Jesus was and what he was about. He came not just for a few, but for all people. God became man in Jesus for the young and the not so young, the rich and the poor, the owners and the workers, the women and the men, your race and their race, those who are heterosexual and those who are homosexual; all people. God's gift of his Son is like no other. Take time today to say yes once again, because God gave this gift to you and me and all those that believe in what can happen when Christ lives in our hearts! God is with us, all of us, today! Walk the Talk! Be Peace! – Deacon Ron

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

• 1/7 REF (K-5, 6-12) Epiphany Celebration  
St. Mark Youth Group

- **Youth Group JUMP-FUN-GAMES:** Thursday, Dec. 28th, 6pm-10pm. All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us. We will meet at St. Mark at 6pm, head to Urban Air in Oxford and then back to St. Mark for some Fun, Food and Games. Cost \$20. Contact Dcn. Ron to register.
- **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

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

In Memory of:

*Al and Cassie Peocinik  
Russel Foerster  
Eleanor L. Foster  
Timothy Wisniewski  
Tousignant and Ellis  
Families  
Roxanne George  
Amos Family Members  
Colleen Roesner  
Fran, Ed Kern, Auntie  
Mary and Uncle Bill  
Nancy Klumpp,  
Jerry Misiak*

*Richard Daly  
Doris Phipps  
Julie Tait  
John and Irene Dollhopf  
Lillian, Fred & Dan Sefa  
James Rengers  
Alice Koskodan  
Spencer and Joyce  
Alford  
Serowik & McFarlane  
Families*

### Christmas Crèche Display in Parish Center

Next weekend, as part of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, there will be a display of International Christmas Crèches for Holy Family Sunday. If you would like to display yours, please bring it in this week to the Parish Office.