

## MASS SCHEDULE:

### Saturdays:

8:00am, 5:00pm - Vigil

### Sundays:

7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00 noon

**Weekdays:** 8:00am

**Holy Days:** 5:30pm - Vigil;

8:00am, 12:00 Noon & 7:00pm

### Confession Schedule:

Saturday 3:30pm - 4:30pm

### NEW PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME!

To be registered, please ask an Usher for a Census Card, fill it out, and return it in person, or by mail, to the rectory office.



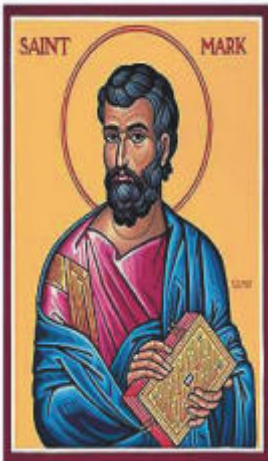
## SAINT MARK ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

500 Wigwam Lane, Stratford, Connecticut 06614

Rectory Phone: 203-377-0444 / Fax 203-386-8071 - Parish Website: [www.saintmarkchurchstratford.org](http://www.saintmarkchurchstratford.org)

Religious Education Phone: 475-988-7581 - School Phone 203-375-4291

## CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY/ HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH SUNDAY - December 24, 25, AND 26, 2021



### PASTOR

Rev. Birendra Soreng

### PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Russell Augustine

### DEACONS

Deacon Andrew Dzujna

Deacon F. Paul Kurmay

Deacon T. Emmet Murray

### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr. Donald Brelsford (203-414-9253)

### CANTOR

Maria Damianou (203-377-0444)

### DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Patricia Nettleton (475-988-7581)

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Mr. Jared Forcier (203-876-1621)

[www.stmarkyouthgroup.org](http://www.stmarkyouthgroup.org)

### PARISH BUSINESS MANAGER

Mrs. Joan Hurley (203-377-0444)

### PARISH SECRETARY

Mrs. Paula Mollica (203-377-0444)

### ST. MARK SCHOOL

Mrs. Melissa Warner, Principal (203-375-4291)

### PARISH TRUSTEES

Mr. Frank Bevacqua

Mr. Kevin Huben

### PARISH COUNCIL

Al Grassia, President (203-258-0668)

### PARISH FINANCE OFFICER

Mrs. Miriam Costa (203-380-8583)

### MATRIMONY

Arrangements must be made with one of the priests at least 8 months in advance of the date before social plans are made. If either party has gone through any form of civil or religious marriage with another person the priest is not permitted to set a date for the wedding until the Bishop's office has been consulted.

### PREBAPTISMAL CLASS

For those anticipating the birth and subsequent Baptism of their first children, class is held on the second Tuesday every other month. January, March, May, July, September, November at 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Room.

### ROSARY

Daily following the 8:00 a.m. Mass/Upper Room

### CHOIR

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

### ADORATION CHAPEL

Divine Mercy is open from Sunday 6:00 p.m. through 10:00 a.m. Saturday 24 hours per day. Additional Eucharistic Adorers are always welcome. Please consider volunteering an hour of your time and contact Gary Tennyson at 203-953-1200/email [tennysg@comcast.net](mailto:tennysg@comcast.net) or R. Scott Goodfellow at 203-394-2248 and email [rscttgoodfellow@aol.com](mailto:rscttgoodfellow@aol.com).

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



*Bequests to St. Mark are strongly encouraged and gratefully accepted. Suggestion: When a loved one dies, advise relatives & friends to make a donation to "St. Mark Bldg. Fund" in memory of the deceased, and include this wish in the obituary notice.*

# Mass Intentions for the Week

**Saturday, December 25, 2021 thru  
Sunday, January 2, 2022**  
**Nativity of the Lord and Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary, and Joseph Weekend**

**Saturday - Christmas Day**

- 9:00 John Burns  
RB Family
- 10:30 Frances Augustine  
RB Donald and Deborah Brelsford
- 12:00 Stephen Scherbeck  
RB Wife

**Sunday - Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

- 7:30 Special Intention for Barbara Hansing  
RB Family
- 9:00 Joseph and Anne Durica  
RB Tom and JoAnn Marticek
- 10:30 Maryanne Hyatt  
RB Joe and Ann Vecsey
- 12:00 Mary and Peter Baldyga  
RB Terry Baldyga

**Monday**

- 8:00 Judith Sampson  
RB Family

**Tuesday**

- 8:00 Nancy Murray  
RB St. Mark Ladies Guild

**Wednesday**

- 8:00 Special Intention for Barbara Hansing  
RB Family

**Thursday**

- 8:00 Michael Horne  
RB Family

**Friday - New Year's Eve**

- 8:00 All Parishioners Living and Deceased
- 5:30 Nancy Murray  
RB Michael, Janet, and Katie Collins

**Saturday - New Year's Day/Solemnity of Mary**

- 10:00 Edward J. Hart  
RB Wife
- 12:00 James and Delia Whelan  
RB Wife

**Sunday - Epiphany of the Lord**

- 7:30 Gabrielle Falsey  
RB Eleanor Dembowski
- 9:00 Bella and Angela Forti  
RB Kathy and Andy Dzujna and Family
- 10:30 Special Intention for the Sick on our Prayer List  
RB St. Mark Parish Family of Faith
- 12:00 All Parishioners Living and Deceased

**FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR JANUARY 7, 2022**

**FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR** has a new time. FFHH will now meet at 3:00 p.m. in the church, not at 5:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

**A REMINDER FROM OUR FINANCE DEPARTMENT:**

First of all, thank you for your dedication and financial support to Saint Mark parish through which we are able to continue our mission. Lately, because of Covid-19, some of you have been giving your donations for several weeks and months at a time. However, if your check is dated 2021, and you include your envelopes for 2022, you will get your credit this year (2021) and it will appear in your statement for this year (2021) and not in the coming year (2022). So, you might want to write a separate check for 2021 and another for 2022. Thank you!

**GIFT CARDS:** Deacon Paul thanks all of our parishioners for their generous response to the drive for grocery cards during this Thanksgiving/Christmas season. Nearly 100 cards were collected and have already been delivered to many of our local needy. The rest will continue to be distributed before and after Christmas. You have no idea what a difference a \$25 card means to so many of these families who have to decide which bills to pay and which not, often leaving food as the last item to be purchased. May the good Lord bless you in a very special way this Christmas, remembering that He told us that when we help the poor, we help Him. God bless you all!



“Every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings!” Aren’t these angels just beautiful!

**READER SCHEDULE**

**Friday: December 31, 2021—New Year's Eve**  
5:30 Dave Robertson

**Saturday, January 1, 2022—New Year's Day**  
10:00 Kelly Coble  
12:00 Deacon

**Sunday, January 2, 2022—Epiphany of the Lord**  
7:30 Theresa and Keith Cavoto  
9:00 Mike Antonini  
10:30 Don Kikta  
12:00 Ryan Donovan

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Jan 8: Bottles and Cans Pick Up Parish Center

**BOTTLES AND CANS:** Next collection is January 8, in front of the Parish Center, 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

**Readings for this Sunday may be found in the  
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sunday —  
Cycle C/Page 53**

For the week of December 25, 2021 to January 1, 2022  
 The Sanctuary Lamp Glows for the Special Intention of  
 Barbara and Theresa  
 RB Family



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AND CHRISTMAS!** The Knights are going to continue their tradition of conducting their annual Church Advent Food Drive, starting the weekend of Advent, which is November 27/28. The food drive will run until Christmas. Collection boxes will be set up at all the church entrances. As always, thank you for your help in helping our community in need.

**PROJECT FROM THE HEART:** Many thanks to all of our St. Mark parishioners who have so faithfully donated items to the "Project From The Heart" program sponsored by our Divine Mercy Cenacle. To update you: We heard from the chairman of this endeavor that they are still collecting, and that donations are now going to Africa where there is a large contingent of our CT National Guard Troops. In addition, these troops are also stationed in Kuwait, and Kosovo. Any and all items, as listed on the bulletin boards here at church, continue to be greatly appreciated and most certainly needed. **However, items specifically mentioned as needed are wipes, cold weather items such as hand warmers and foot warmers, body wash, shampoo, (in small travel sizes for ease in shipping please. They will donate large bottles to local centers but cannot ship large bottles) and tuna fish.** Thank you and God Bless one and all.

**CAN YOU SHARE YOUR HOME?** A St. Mark parishioner, 83 years young, is seeking a room rental. Non-smoker, great company, neat and tidy, excellent conversationalist, and much, much more! If you have a room to rent, please call Elaine Gallant at 203-375-8745.

**WE STAND WITH CHRIST CAMPAIGN:** We are two years into our *We Stand With Christ Campaign*. Below are our pledge statistics. To make a payment on your pledge please visit [GiveCentral.org/WSWC](http://GiveCentral.org/WSWC) or call 203-648-9050.

Saint Mark Parish	
<i>We Stand With Christ Campaign Redemption</i>	
Total Pledged	\$1,474,570
Total Collected (as at 11/1/2021)	\$904,955
Balance Due	\$569,815

**HANDS TO HEARTS:** The January meeting schedule is as follows: January 5 and 19 in the Upper Room at 1:00 p.m.

**SNOW BIRDS:** Please notify the rectory office if you are going away for the winter and the date of your return so we may adjust the mailing of your giving envelopes appropriately.

**Give the Gift of Membership this Season**

Invite a Catholic Man to become a Knight of Columbus

**FREE ONLINE MEMBERSHIP\***

For new online membership applications submitted the entire month of December

\*regular dues are \$30/year

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[www.ctstatecouncil.org](http://www.ctstatecouncil.org) Follow us at: [Facebook.com/ConnKofC](https://www.facebook.com/ConnKofC)

**Basketball Sponsorship Opportunities:** St. Mark Basketball is known in the community for its long legacy of developing young people into successful athletes and leaders on and off the court. The program is open to 3rd through 8th graders within the school and parish community and runs from October through March. The season culminates with an annual month-long basketball tournament which generates proceeds to support the following year's program.

The pandemic hit during the 2020 St. Mark Basketball Tournament, forcing us to cancel the event and resulting in a significant loss of revenue. Now, 18 months later, students are actively training and competing and excited to plan this year's long-awaited tournament.

**Please consider sponsoring our 2022 St. Mark Basketball Tournament which attracts hundreds of families in and around Fairfield and New Haven County.** The tournament is scheduled to take place from February 22 through March 19. Your support of this fun family event will make a great impact on our community, local youth sports, and will help cross-promote your own business.

We've created exciting sponsorship packages aimed at promoting local businesses in the school gym with banners and chair-back covers, with custom-designed branding.

**Your Name/Logo**

we create your full color customized banner

YOUR NAME / LOGO HERE

Please contact Athletic Director Michael Sciallo at [Michael.Sciallo@stmarkschool.org](mailto:Michael.Sciallo@stmarkschool.org) or 860.877.9188 for more information.

**GIFT CARDS NEEDED:** Deacon Paul has asked if we could collect food gift cards from Stop 'n Shop or ShopRite to help feed the needy of our community this holiday season. Most of you provide gift cards in denomination of \$25; however, any amount is most welcome! You may place the gift cards in an envelope marked "Deacon Paul" and place them in the collection baskets or drop them at the rectory office. Thank you!

Father Skip/Blessed Sacrament continue to be awed by the amount of food and sundry items that St. Mark provides each week to fill their food pantry. Father Skip constantly asks us to say "thank you, thank you, thank you" for the generosity shown by our parish. He asked that we convey how humbled he is by our continued support of his mission to feed the hungry in our community.

## NEW YEAR'S DAY PRAYER

Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color or creed. ... May the year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon all of us and bestow upon each of us a bright, healthy, and peaceful new year.



## St. Mark Catholic Church Christmas Mass Schedule 2021

### Sacrament of Penance Individual Confessions in Church Saturday, December 18th

11 a.m. – Noon  
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Christmas Eve  
Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
8:00 a.m. – Mass  
(Last Mass of Advent)

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve  
Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
4:00 p.m. Church  
4:00 p.m. Parish Center  
10:00 p.m. Church

**Christmas Day  
Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 Noon  
No Confession Schedule  
No 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

**Holy Family Sunday  
Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 noon

**Mary, Mother of God  
Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021**  
5:30 p.m. – Church  
(not a Holy Day of Obligation in 2022)

**Mary, Mother of God  
Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**  
10:00 a.m. and Noon  
(not a Holy Day of Obligation in 2022)  
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Confession  
5:00 p.m. – Vigil Mass



**Our Stewardship of Treasure**

**DECEMBER 2021 COLLECTION ENVELOPES**

Dec:	Christmas Flowers:
Dec 5:	Stewardship
Dec 8:	Immaculate Conception
Dec 12:	Stewardship
Dec 12:	Retired Religious Fund
Dec 19:	Stewardship
Dec 19:	Extraordinary Expenses
Dec 25:	Christmas Envelope
Dec 26:	Stewardship
Jan 1:	Solemnity of Mary

**Week ending December 12, 2021**

Saturday/Sunday Mass Offerings:	\$ 5,414.00
Mass offerings mailed to the Office:	\$ 2,307.00
On-Line Giving:	\$ 3,026.00
Religious Fund:	\$ 2,170.00

Immaculate Conception:	\$ 2,770.00
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**Week ending December 19, 2021**

Saturday/Sunday Mass Offerings:	\$
Mass offerings mailed to the Office:	\$
On-Line Giving:	\$
Retirement Fund for Priests:	\$

Due to early bulletin printing, numbers will be provided at next printing.

*“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and so we are.” 1 JOHN 3:1*

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received—being children of God! As God’s children, it’s in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like, or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.



**Pray for:** Marilyn Bedford, Stephanie Leko, Ava Christine Gallant, Peter Kiman, Jr., Jim Orlowe, Linda Bates, Janet Onze, Robert Haborak, Lillian Butler, Jason Swarbrick, John Hoffman, Eleanor Somma, Abigail Feehan, Lillian Koezler, Michael Petro, Rose Kovach, Christopher Rascoll, Mark Klizas, Jenna Strickland, Julia Leo, JoAnn Battistoni, Amanda LaPrade, Glenn Derbyshire, Helen Elias, Theresa Mollica, Liana Lowman, Richard Smith, Maurizio Marchese, Thomas and Loretta Foley, Kina Silva, Nicholas Genga, Robert Noonan, Will McKelvey, Samuel Mulford, Bill and Carolyn Novotny, Blaise Vitale, Dayna Reed, Ethan Ortega, Debbie Smelagln, John Hagus, Shirley Burr, Dolores Larracuente, Richard Silva, Robert Ligouri, Rosalina Staltaro, Carolyn Purchowicz, Christopher Hayes, Mike Nemeth, Margaret Wynne, John Pacheco, Danny, Antonia, Joe Vecsey, Mark Casagrande, Jr., Stephanie Galaburri, Ray Majsza, Roselyn Bagley, Paul Bortnick, Daniel Krekoska, Robin Florio, Sandra Carpenter, Dorothy Moscato, Catherine Hmurcik, Audrey Pepin, Ronnie Cristiano, Jimmy Bortnick, David Goldstein, Maryann Balog, Kristen Broedlin, Michael Hostetter, Jr., Eileen Kreutz, Ana Bordieri, Michael Rotunno, Cassie Roux, Barbara Hansing, Jay Sutay, Julie Bellitto, Ramon Garcia, Carol Roosevelt, Daniel O’Brien, the Golchin Family, Joseph Senigla, Joe Luroso, Stephen Colleran, Marian Rabel, Janet Roberts, Lorie Boveroux, Joe Crudo, Ralph DeLuca, Carlos Rosado, John Henchy, Judy McGovern, Margaret Mohyde, Elaine Kera, Jo Peschell, Robbie Carpenter, Katie Macaulay, Dennis Festa, Shawn Rice.

Frances V. Wignall

**Readings for the Week of December 26, 2021**

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or  
 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52  
 Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18  
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35  
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40  
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18  
 Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21  
 Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

**ADORATION CHAPEL/DECEMBER HOLIDAY HOURS:**

Please be advised that The Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel will be CLOSED for the Nativity of the Lord from Friday, December 24, at 9:00 a.m. until Monday, December 27, at 9:00 a.m., and from Friday, December 31, at 9:00 a.m., until Monday, January 3, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.



**Adoration Chapel Schedule**

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
12am	O	O	O	O	O	O	C
1am	O	O	O	O	O	O	C
2am	O	O	O	O	O	O	C
3am	O	O	O	O	O	O	C
4am	O	O	O	O	O	O	C
5am	1	O	O	O	O	1	C
6am	1	1	1	1	1	1	C
7am	1	1	1	1	1	1	C
8am	O	O	O	O	2	1	C
9am	1	O	O	1	1	1	C
10am	1	O	O	O	1	C	C
11am	O	O	O	O	1	C	C
12pm	1	1	O	O	O	C	C
1pm	O	O	O	O	O	C	C
2pm	O	O	O	O	O	C	C
3pm	O	1	O	O	1	C	C
4pm	2	1	O	1	2	C	C
5pm	O	O	1	O	1	C	C
6pm	1	O	1	1	O	C	O
7pm	1	1	1	1	O	C	1
8pm	2	O	1	1	1	C	1
9pm	1	1	O	1	O	C	O
10pm	O	O	O	O	O	C	O
11pm	O	O	O	O	O	C	O

**ADORERS NEEDED FOR ALL “O” HOURS!**  
 O = Chapel Open, NO Adores Scheduled  
 (1 = One Adorer Scheduled) (2 = 2 scheduled)  
 C = Chapel CLOSED (for now)  
**PLEASE call Scott Goodfellow @ 203-394-2248 or Email [rscottgoodfellow@aol.com](mailto:rscottgoodfellow@aol.com) if you wish to Volunteer, change your hour, see errors, or have any Questions or concerns.**  
 Partial Update: Nov 18, 2021

## Merry Christmas!

*"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing. ... For a child is born to us, a son is given us". (Isaiah: 9:1-2a, 5a).*

Dear St. Mark parishioners, friends, guests, and visitors:

For almost two years the whole world has been overshadowed by the covid-19 virus. Directly or indirectly, we all are affected by it and there is a darkness which covers the entire world. Besides the darkness of covid-19, there are darkness of human suffering caused by natural disaster, and division, sickness, and sin. As we find ourselves in these dark times, it is important to remind ourselves that in Israelite's history God came to His people not in ideal situations but in times of trouble and need. It is in this context God gives us the good news which was first delivered to the shepherds in that cold winter night:

*"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." (Luke 2:10-11).*

Born in a manger on a cold winter night, Jesus comes to us to share our pain and suffering. The birth of Christ brings us back to the source of all hope – God has come into the world, His light has shone in our darkness and no darkness can overcome this light, not even the darkness caused by covid-19. In the face of darkness and fear, which Jesus Himself experienced, we know that God walks with us every step of the way. Christmas is about the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives, especially in times of darkness of all kinds.

Therefore, do not be afraid dearly beloved! Behold your Savior! Behold Him in the manger with the eyes of faith. He loves you and is with you in your suffering and pain to bring you peace. God has become one of us. He is part of your family and mine. Welcome Him and let the One who didn't find a decent place to be born in His own creation, find a welcoming and warm heart to rest in yours. As you gather with your family at the dinner table and exchange presents, experience His presence among you. Behold the smile of Baby Jesus in the joyful smile of your children and grandchildren as they open their gifts. Hear Him speak to you through the beautiful Christmas music, the colorful lights and decorations. Welcome Him in your hearts and feel the warmth of His love.

For many families this is a very difficult time due to illness or loss of loved ones to covid-19 or any other illness. We are praying for you and your departed loved ones that the new-born Savior may give you peace and hope even in the dark moments of your lives!

As we look back to the passing year 2021, it is a time to be grateful to people who bring cheer in our lives. With joyful hearts as we count our blessings, I want to thank all of you, our parishioners, who despite your own hardships, continue to support our beloved Saint Mark parish and our mission with your time, talent, and treasure. I am humbled by your generosity and love for our parish and for the poor in our greater community.

We are very happy to have many new parishioners who joined our parish family in the year 2021. With open hearts we welcome you and thank you for being part of St. Mark faith community. I hope you will be strengthened in your spiritual journey in your new faith family!

With immense joy and gratitude, on behalf of Fr. Russell, Deacons Emmet, Paul, and Andy and our parish staff, I wish each and every one of you and those dearest to you, both near and far, **a very blessed, holy, and Merry Christmas!** All the clergy of the parish are holding you in our hearts and prayers this Christmas season, asking God to bless you with joy and peace!

May Mary, the Mother of Our Savior and our Mother, watch over you, and your families!

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2022!

With love and every blessing,  
Fr. Birendra



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