

## 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

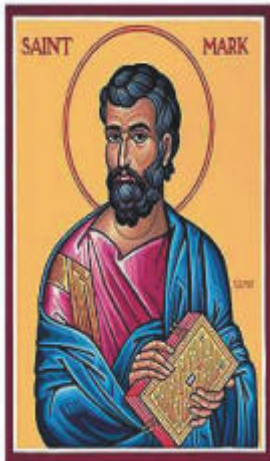
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Rectory Phone: 203-377-0444 / Fax 203-386-8071 - Parish Website: [www.saintmarkchurchstratford.org](http://www.saintmarkchurchstratford.org)

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

## SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD AND THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 1 and 2, 2022



### 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

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR JANUARY 7, 2022

**Saturday, January 1, 2022 thru  
Sunday, January 9, 2022  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Epiphany of the Lord**

**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!

**PROJECT FROM THE HEART** would like to send special

thanks to the St. Mark Ladies Guild for once again donating to our Project from the Heart program. The money and items were delivered to Shirley Sambrook, who has been in charge of this project since 9/11. They expressed their personal thanks to St. Mark Parish for our ongoing support. Christmas blessings to all-our Divine Mercy Cenacle Ladies.

**Saturday - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

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

**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

**Monday**

- 8:00 All parishioners Living and Deceased

**Tuesday**

- 8:00 Collective Mass

**Wednesday**

- 8:00 All Holy Souls in Purgatory  
RB Joe DiPronio

**Thursday**

- 8:00 A Special Intention for Good Health and God's Blessing for Alicia Lachowska  
RB Irena Bezyk

**Friday**

- 8:00 Special Intention  
RB Family

**Saturday**

- 8:00 Eileen White  
RB St. Mark Parish Family of Faith
- 5:00 Lena and Louis DiStassio and Robert Sanchioni  
RB Family

**Sunday - Baptism of the Lord**

- 7:30 John, Matilda, and Donald Raus  
RB Family
- 9:00 Vincent Kornacki  
RB Krekoska Family
- 10:30 Brandon DeFilippo  
RB Family
- 12:00 OPEN



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Jan 8: Bottles and Cans Pick Up Parish Center

**READER SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, January 8, 2022**

5:00 Kaitlyn Szczepanski

**Sunday, January 9, 2022**

7:30: Angie McKelvey  
9:00 Joyce Baran  
10:30 Nancy Lou Macp  
12:00 Deacon

Readings for this Sunday may be found in the Missalette:  
Solemnity of Mary page 55  
Epiphany of the Lord page 57

For the week of January 1, 2022 to January 8, 2022  
 The Sanctuary Lamp Glows for the Special Intention of  
 Barbara and Theresa  
 RB Family



**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.

**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.

**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.



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.



**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**

**JANUARY 2022 COLLECTION ENVELOPES**

Jan 1:	Solemnity of Mary
Jan 2:	Weekly Offering
Jan 9:	Weekly Offering
Jan 9:	Extraordinary Expenses
Jan 16:	Weekly Offering
Jan 23:	Weekly Offering
Jan 30:	Weekly Offering
Jan 30:	Support Church in Latin America

**Week ending December 19, 2021**

Saturday/Sunday Mass Offerings:	\$ 6,256.00
Mass offerings mailed to the Office:	\$ 2,447.00
On-Line Giving:	\$ 3,451.00
Extraordinary Expenses:	\$ 2,960.00

**Week ending December 26, 2021**

Friday/Saturday/Sunday Mass Offerings:	\$
Mass offerings mailed to the Office:	\$
On-Line Giving:	\$

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

*"...They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." MATTHEW 2:11*

What gifts do you give to the Lord? Pope St. Gregory said that these three gifts represent what we should give God every day. Gold - we should reflect Christ's wisdom in all our relationships. Frankincense - represents our daily prayer and adoration to God. Myrrh - is a symbol of our daily sacrifices that we unite with Jesus for the sake of others.



**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 Larracuenta, 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 Majs, 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.

**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

*Happy New Year! Welcome 2022!*

Dear Saint Mark Parish Family and Friends:

By the grace of God we start yet another year - 2022! Traditionally people all over the world welcome the New Year with big parties and celebrations, hoping for a better year for the entire world community. January comes from the Roman mythology god Janus, who was two-faced. As we begin a new year and look back on the passing year, we are reminded of many challenges the church, our nation, and the world are facing. This is the second New Year we are starting amid COVID-19 and we don't know what 2022 holds for us. But as we begin a New Year amid these trials, we place our trust in God and hope for a better year and pray that 2022 will see the end of COVID and all its variants. The year 2022 by itself can't be a better year. That is why we take New Year resolutions. As weak and human as we are, there are some areas of our lives where we need to make some improvements. With God, not only every year, but every day and every moment, is a new beginning. God never promised a trouble-free life and we cannot expect this year also to be a year of smooth sailing. But we are people of hope and pray that with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph at our side, year 2022 is a year of hope, peace, good health, and of many blessings.

On behalf of Fr. Russ, Deacons Emmet, Paul, Andy, and the rectory staff, and my own behalf, heartfelt thanks for your Christmas and New Year Greetings, prayers, lovely cards, delicious cookies, and thoughtful and kind gifts.

Happy New Year and May God bless each and every one of you and your loved ones and keep you healthy and happy in the New Year. May Blessed Virgin Mary, our mother and mother of the church hold our hands and continue to guide, protect, and keep us always in her loving embrace!

Fr. Birendra



***NEW YEAR PRAYER:***

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.

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