

## 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.



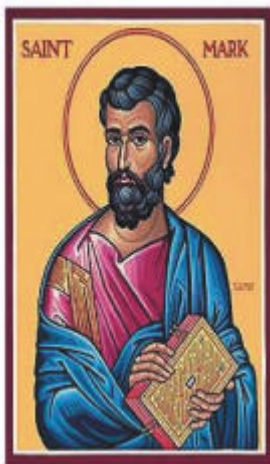
# SAINT MARK ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME January 23, 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

**Saturday, January 22, 2022 thru  
Sunday, January 30, 2022  
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday**

8:00 Collective Mass  
5:00 Robert Appleby  
RB Mr. and Mrs. John Falzone

**Sunday**

7:30 Alexander and Edna Strollo  
RB James McNally  
9:00 Mary Krafcik  
RB Marian Krafcik  
10:30 Louise Trapasso  
RB Trapasso Family  
12:00 Eileen Babinski  
RB Mary Ann and Bob Buckley

**Monday**

8:00 Luke Delzell  
RB Mike Capasso

**Tuesday**

8:00 Luke Delzell  
RB Mike Capasso

**Wednesday**

8:00 Francesca Hayes  
RB Anne Hart

**Thursday**

8:00 Patricia Wines  
RB George and Patricia Ross

**Friday**

8:00 Judy McGovern  
RB George and Patricia Ross

**Saturday**

8:00 Mary Murphy  
RB Francesca Hayes  
5:00 Sally Ciccia  
RB Angie McKelvey

**Sunday**

7:30 Renkowsky and Tanguay Families  
RB Alex and Pam Renkowsky  
9:00 Nettleton and Rea families  
RB Family  
10:30 Joan A. Gorlo  
RB Stanley Gorlo  
12:00 Judy McGovern  
RB St. Mark Ladies Guild

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Jan 23 Listening Session  
Feb 4 First Friday Holy Hour  
Feb 5 Bottle and Cans Pickup

**READER SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, January 29, 2022**

5:00 Mark Szczepanski

**Sunday, January 30, 2022**

7:30 Theresa and Keith Cavoto  
9:00 Janet Distasio  
10:30 Nancy Lou Maco  
12:00 Ryan Donovan

**Readings for this Sunday may be found in the  
Breaking Bread Missalette:  
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Page 64**

**FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR FEBRUARY 4, 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.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT:** Just a reminder to write your envelope number in the memo section of your check when sending your donation by mail. And don't forget to write the year 2022 when writing a check. You know how it is when a new year rolls around....everyone forgets to write the new year !!!

**COVID:** With the surge in positive covid-19 and variant cases across the country, I am asking parishioners, vaccinated or not, to voluntarily resume wearing masks at Mass. This is for the safety of all of us. Thank you! Father B

**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.**

**BOTTLES AND CANS:** Next collection is February 5, in front of the Parish Center, 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

**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.

**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.

**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. 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!

**HANDS TO HEARTS:** The February meeting schedule is as follows: February 2 and 16 in the Upper Room at 1:00 p.m.

**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 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

## ***Saint Mark on Stewardship...***

*I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. (Phil.1:3-5).*

My Dear Parish Family:

In the midst of COVID-19, as we begin yet another New Year, I take this opportunity to write this pastor's annual letter inviting you to participate in the Annual Collection of Saint Mark Parish 2022. This gives me the opportunity to share with you the joys, successes, sorrows, and needs of St. Mark Parish. This is truly a loving faith community where so many of you give so generously your time, talent, and treasure, and I am deeply grateful for your continued support of the mission of our parish in preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. 2021 was the second year in a row when the whole world continued to be devastated by COVID-19. As a result, we couldn't plan out many of the activities we normally do in the parish.

This past year the parish family has seen the joy of 23 Infant Baptisms, 5 Minor Baptisms, 2 received into the full Communion with Catholic Church, 38 First Communions, 51 Confirmations, 5 marriages, and 24 new parish registrations. On a sad note, the Sacrament of the Sick was administered to 55 patients, and we celebrated 66 funerals.

Many parishioners assist parish administration by serving as Parish Trustees, on the Parish Advisory and Finance Councils, Building & Grounds Committee, and Parish Pastoral Planning Team. The parish participated in the Annual Catholic Appeal of the Bridgeport Diocese and exceeded our goal of \$110,000. The final amount of our Annual Catholic Appeal was \$114,000.00, from 318 donors. Programs for adult parishioners continue with Divine Mercy Cenacles, Seven Sisters, Bereavement Group, First Friday Holy Hour, First Saturday Devotion, Contemplative prayer groups, and Scripture Study groups. Saint Mark Knights of Columbus Saint John Paul II Council 8 led the parish in praying the Rosary in the months of May and October. They also volunteered to help out at our food drives which benefitted Blessed Sacrament parish food pantry, and also collected food for the needy in our community during Advent Season. Despite the global pandemic, activities for giving and helping those in need in our communities continues, which includes Merton House, Lord's Kitchen, Feed the Hungry, Bridgeport Rescue Mission, Sterling House Food Pantry, Blessed Sacrament, Saint Charles, and other parishes in Bridgeport area, "Project from the Heart," the Annual Thanksgiving turkey collection, Christmas Giving Tree, the ongoing Gift Card and weekly food collection, Families Helping Families, and Hands to Hearts. All Programs are coordinated by our priests, deacons, and many dedicated volunteers. Your generosity in the form of gift cards and food donations, which were the most needed items this year, is greatly appreciated.

The Committee for Social Events couldn't organize too many programs last year due to COVID-19. However, we did have the Blessing of the Animals by Fr. Russ on the occasion of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Annual Parish picnic, and Parish Family Fun and Friends Night. Thank you Mrs. Joyce Baran and Social Events Committee members for a job well done. The Welcome Committee continues to mail "Welcome" packets to all newly registered families, and follows-up with families to ensure their baptism, funeral Mass, and other needs have been met with excellence by the parish. Thank you, Mrs. Paula Mollica and team for a job well done. Deacon Andy Dzujna continues to work with the adults in the RCIA program and new parents in our pre-baptismal class. St. Mark adult choir could not fully operate due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, Mr. Don Brelsford was able to put together a beautiful choir for Christmas which was amazing. Programs for children and teens include our Religious Education classes, Youth Ministry groups, and St. Mark School. Despite COVID-19, it was so good to have in-person classes and activities for St. Mark school, religious education children, and the youth group. Thank you, Mrs. Patricia Nettleton and Mr. Jared Forcier and team members for all your hard work.

The purpose of Annual Collection is to supplement our weekly and monthly collection for some unexpected expenses. Last year St. Mark Annual Collection brought in \$40,379.00, which was used for repair of the part of the parking lot which was in a bad shape. This year we intend to use Annual Collection monies to purchase a new boiler for the priests' residence. Due to the global pandemic many families continue to face many hardships of all kinds, which include financial stress due to loss of job or business closure. Therefore, not everyone is in a position to contribute toward annual collection. I absolutely understand that. But to those of you whose resources allow, I humbly request that you prayerfully consider a donation of \$100 per individual and \$200 per family. If you are in a position to make a donation greater than the recommended amount, that is greatly appreciated. If not, whatever you can afford will be gratefully accepted and greatly appreciated.

As we continue our lives amidst pandemic, let us to pray for each other and for our families; especially those we lost last year and those suffering from COVID-19, that God may protect us and keep us safe and healthy in this New Year.

Finally, heartfelt thank you dear parishioners for your love of St. Mark parish and stewardship shown through financial support which helps continue our ministry in bringing people closer to God. May God bless you and keep you safe!

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Father Birendra,*  
Pastor





**ST. MARK SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE – Sunday January 30, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon, 500 Wigwam Lane, Stratford – EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE!**

On Sunday, January 30, 2022, from 10 a.m. till 12:00 noon, St. Mark School will host private school tours for prospective families. Visit our classrooms, meet our teachers and school community, and hear about how we have safely welcomed students to school, in-person and 5 days a week since fall 2020. Tuition assistance available.

Limited school tours are available by reservation only. Visit [www.stmarkschool.org](http://www.stmarkschool.org) to reserve your tour today!

We follow social distancing best practices. Prior, throughout, and after the event, surfaces will be sanitized, and masks are required. For more information, contact us at (203) 375-4291 or [contactus@stmarkschool.org](mailto:contactus@stmarkschool.org) or [www.stmarkschool.org](http://www.stmarkschool.org).

St. Mark is proud to be a 2009 Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School and a New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accredited school.



# ST. MARK SCHOOL

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE



PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8

## OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 | 10 AM - 12 PM

**seek<sup>22</sup>**  
February 4-6

focus

SEEK is for everyone. That means you.

This **February 4 – 6**, gather with others at St. Pius X in Fairfield, CT for SEEK22. This conference draws in 25,000+ attendees and this year it can be attended locally! Encounter the Source of all your heart's desires and find the true place of the Gospel in your everyday life. You will be empowered, encouraged, and equipped to experience the hope of Jesus Christ. Dive deep into the heart of the Gospel message with some of the world's best speakers!

Pray, share meals, hear inspiring talks, partake in relevant discussions, and enjoy holy leisure together. **What if you said yes?**

For details, schedule, and registration visit [www.bit.ly/spx-seek2022](http://www.bit.ly/spx-seek2022)

Contact Person: Paola Peña [ppena@st-pius.org](mailto:ppena@st-pius.org)



Ladies, do you desire to live in greater freedom? Are you longing for an authentic encounter with your true feminine identity? Join us for the **Undone Women's Conference** where you will experience a weekend of truth, beauty and transformation, as the knots of Eve's disobedience are "undone" through Mary's model of radical receptivity.

Bring yourself, your mother, your sister, your adult daughters and friends. This is a weekend you won't want to miss!

**Undone: Freedom for the Feminine Heart** will be held at St. Pius X Parish in Fairfield, CT March 31 – April 2, 2022. This event is being offered in person OR virtually via livestream! Register online for either experience at [www.jpilhealingcenter.org](http://www.jpilhealingcenter.org). Scholarships, student and missionary discounts available. Contact [JPIIRetreatFairfieldCT@gmail.com](mailto:JPIIRetreatFairfieldCT@gmail.com) for more information.

# Time alent reasure

## 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 January 16, 2022

Friday/Saturday/Sunday Mass Offerings:	\$ 5,382.00
Mass offerings mailed to the Office:	\$ 1,550.00
On-Line Giving:	\$ 2,489.00

### Readings for the Week of January 23, 2022

Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/  
Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21  
Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30  
Tuesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117: 1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18  
Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20  
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/  
Mk 4:21-25  
Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34  
Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41  
Next Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17 [cf. 15ab]/1 Cor 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30



### 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

*"Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared..." NEHEMIAH 8:10*

Ezra's instructions to the people show us that God does not forbid us from enjoying the good things in life. He wants us to be happy! However, God expects us to be grateful for all that He has given us and to generously share our blessings with those who are in need. Now here's the hard part - to share all we have without expecting anything in return.



**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 Koegler, 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 Smelaglno, 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 Majsja, Roselyn Bagley, Paul Bortnick, Daniel Krekoska, Robin Florio, Sandra Carpenter, Dorothy Moscato, Catherine Hmurcik, Audrey Pepin, Ronnie Christiano, Jimmy Bortnick, David Goldstein, Kristen Broedlin, Michael Hostetter, Jr., Eileen Kreutz, Ana Bordieri, Michael Rotunno, Cassie Roux, 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, Margaret Mohyde, Elaine Kera, Jo Peschell, Robbie Carpenter, Katie Macauly, Dennis Festa, Shawn Rice, Caragh Dougherty.



Barbara Hansing  
Nancy Saksa





**LISTENING SESSION:** Pope Francis wants to know what's on your mind! As part of the global Catholic church, YOU are invited to a listening session to gather input for the 2021-2023 Synod on Synodality. A team from St. Mark will be compiling comments from our community into a report to be submitted to the Diocese. If you know of Catholics who are no longer practicing, please spread the word and let them know they are invited to the listening session as well. Our listening session will take place on Sunday, January 23, 2022, at 1:00pm in the Church. We hope to see you there!

For the week of January 22, 2022 to January 29, 2022  
The Sanctuary Lamp Glows for All the Sick of  
St. Mark Parish



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, ST. JOHN PAUL II, COUNCIL #8:**

The Brothers of Saint John Paul II Council # 8 of the Knights of Columbus will be conducting a Pro-Life Novena along with the Rosary and Litany of the Blessed Mother. The Knights will be conducting the Novena from Wednesday January 19 through and including Thursday, January 27, 2022, at the following times and places:

Weeknights will start at 7:00pm in the church.

Saturday, January 22, after the 5:00pm mass at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the church.

Sunday, January 23, after the noon mass at approximately 1:00 p.m. in the church.

(If there are any baptisms on Sunday the upper room will be used instead of the church.)

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**KURT M. AHLBERG    CARL A. GLAD**

Attorney At Law                      Attorney At Law

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