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4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY **DECEMBER 20, 2020**

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# JESUS



“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.”

LUKE 1:31





# PARISH INFORMATION



## WELCOME TO ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

2727 W. Tangerine Rd  
Oro Valley, AZ 85742

520.469.7835  
office@stmarkov.com  
www.stmarkov.com

### Mass Times

Streamed Online  
Mon-Sat 8:00 am

Sat. Vigil 4:00 pm

Sun. 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM

### DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

† = Deceased

#### Saturday, Vigil Mass & Sunday, December 20th

St. Mark Parishioners

†Sandy Sutherland

†Juliann Neurauter

†Jason McCutcheon

†Cecilia Bertha

Carmen Melton

#### Monday, December 21st - 8:00 am

Sandy Caputo & Family

†Florence DuCharme

#### Tuesday, December 22nd - 8:00 am

†Kavanaugh Family

#### Wednesday, December 23rd - 8:00 am

†Stanley Severyn

†Louise Cimino

#### Thursday, December 24th - All Masses

Carol Zamoida

†Jeremy Strasser

†Edward Kraft

†Theodore Mailloux

†Germain Manka

The Mazza Family

#### Friday, December 25th - All Masses

Bert & Claien Thurmond

The Allen Family

†Bernard & Rhema Prochazka

†Jason & Crystal McCutcheon

The Souls in Purgatory

#### Saturday, December 26th - 8:00 am

†Florence Scheuermann

#### Saturday, Vigil Mass & Sunday, December 27th

St. Mark Parishioners

†Juliann Neurauter

Lily Fimbres

†Louisa Moreno

Carmon Melton

Deceased members of the Bonaguro & DeSimone Fa.

#### Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there  
And unite myself wholly to you.



See page, 4

In observance of The Nativity of the Lord, the Parish Office will be closed December 24th & 25th

### OUR PRAYER LIST

Maureen St. Pierre  
Blanche T.  
Jacquie, Julie, Hugh G.  
Rita West and Family

Mary Ann Senna  
Vicki Moore  
†Ed Jenkins



ORO VALLEY CATHOLIC PODCAST is an outreach of St. Mark Catholic parish. Discussions about books and authors, current events affecting marriages and families, Catholic teaching, and other issues of topical interest are regularly addressed.

<https://stmarkov.com/oro-valley-catholic-podcast>

# SUNDAY'S READINGS

## FIRST READING:

"When your times comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will establish his kingdom firm." (2 Sm 12)

## PSALM:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 89)

## SECOND READING:

According to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God. (Rom 16:25b-26a)

## GOSPEL:

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High." (Lk 1:31-32a)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2020

- Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent
- Monday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Wednesday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
- Thursday: Christmas Eve
- Friday: The Nativity of the Lord (holy day of obligation)
- Saturday: St. Stephen, the First Martyr
- Next Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



## NEW TO OUR PARISH? STAY IN TOUCH

Join our Flocknote (*our email list*) to receive the latest updates and news from our parish!



Just scan this QR Code with your phone camera to join.

## REFLECT

### FIRST READING

Today's reading from Second Samuel narrates the context in which God establishes his covenantal promise to King David around the year 1000 B.C. In the birth of Jesus, God fulfills his covenant with David. What does this teach us about the idea of "salvation history?"

### SECOND READING

Paul concludes his letter to the Romans with a hymn of praise to God for the long-awaited revelation that all are saved and justified through faith in Christ. In what ways are you praising God during this season of Advent?

### GOSPEL READING

Today's Gospel reading records the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of the upcoming birth of Christ. Mary's acceptance of God's will for her life ("May it be done to me according to your word.") models for all of us unconditional faith. How can we encourage others to embrace such faith?

# Christmas Mass Schedule

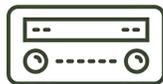
## CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS

12:00 PM  
2:00 PM  
4:00 PM  
6:00 PM  
8:00 PM

## CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Midnight  
7:30 AM  
9:30 AM  
11:30 AM

Occupancy is limited to 250 people.



### LISTEN...

to Mass from the parking lot. Tune your car radio to FM 87.5 to hear the Mass celebrated during any of the times listed above, and you may join us for Communion at the end of Mass.



### WATCH...

Mass at home. We will be streaming the 4:00 PM Vigil and the Midnight Mass LIVE. Watch on our website, Facebook page, or YouTube Channel. Scan the QR code with your phone camera to access our Mass online.



# LIVE THE LITURGY

## INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all of the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more, but not really sure what that "more" needs to be. Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain. The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior. We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals, and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. The world does not know how truly lost it is. Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within your grasp?



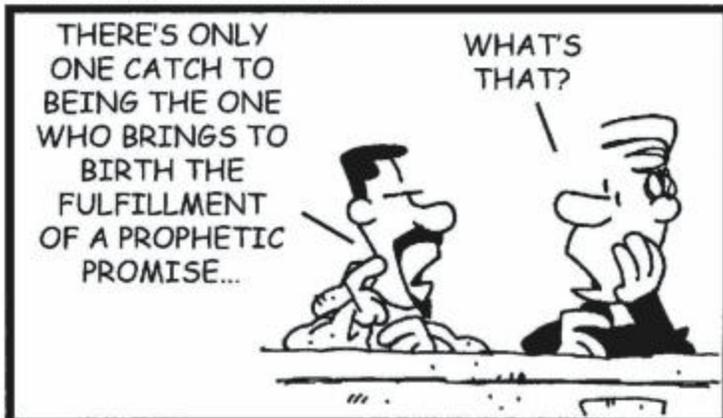
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### PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support at this time. Thank you!



### 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



*Thanks to your generosity  
St. Mark paid off the mortgage  
on our parish church in June.*

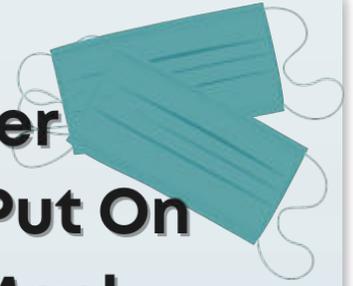
I hope you feel a sense of communal accomplishment. As we enter once more into the season where sharing our blessings is paramount in

our minds and hearts, we would like to ask you again to please consider making a special tax-deductible gift to St. Mark as one of your annual year-end holiday traditions for our building fund. This year has been so hard, but we still have to prepare for our parish's future. A new hall and classrooms are an important part of our planning. This parish will continue to grow and we need to invest in a hopeful future.

To do this you can give through online giving at [stmarkov.com](http://stmarkov.com), write a check with the notation "Building Fund" and place it in the basket at Mass, or mail that check to St. Mark Parish at P.O. Box 68650, Oro Valley, AZ 85737.



## A Prayer As I Put On My Mask



As I prepare to go into the world,  
Help me see the sacrament in  
wearing of this cloth,  
Let it be "an outward sign  
of an inward grace",  
A tangible and visible  
way of living,  
Love for my neighbors,  
as I love myself.

Christ,  
since my lips will be covered,  
uncover my heart,  
That people would see my smile in  
the crinkles around my eyes.  
Since my voice may be muffled, help  
me to speak clearly,  
Not only with my words,  
but with my actions.

Holy Spirit,  
As the elastic touches my ears,  
remind me to listen carefully -  
And full of care -  
to all those I meet.  
May this simple piece of cloth  
be shield and banner,  
And each breath that it holds,  
be filled with your love.  
In your name and in the name  
of love I pray.

May it be so.

May it be so.

by Sister Rose Marie Tresp, RSM

## Don't Miss Santa!

After each Mass on December 19th and 20th, Santa will be located under the tent with the Knights of Columbus collecting food for IMPACT.

For more information visit,  
[tinyurl.com/stmarkKOC](http://tinyurl.com/stmarkKOC)



Turn to the next page for a prayer asking for the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe to end the pandemic.

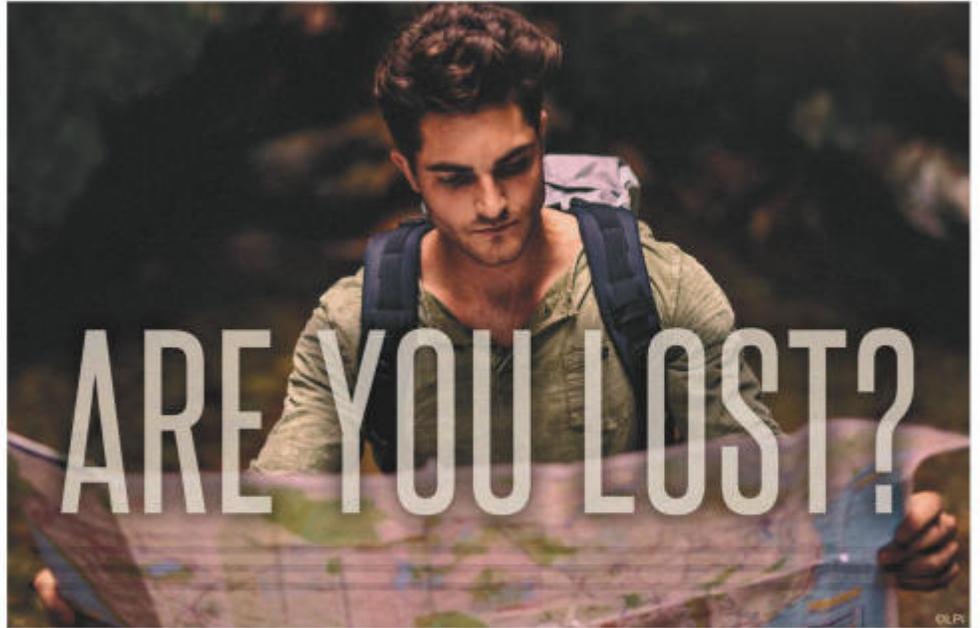
## GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE



In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.



The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.



**All are welcome!** Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is a process in which participants "undergo...conversion as they study the Gospel, profess faith in Jesus and the Catholic Church, and receive the sacraments...The RCIA process follows the ancient practice of the Church and was restored by the Second Vatican Council as the normal way adults prepare for baptism."

RCIA is a process of study, exploration, faith-sharing, and faith formation with specific liturgical rites for seekers and inquirers.

Seekers and inquirers are non-baptized adults who desire to be fully initiated into the Roman Catholic Church and/or baptized adult Christians who desire full communion in the Roman Catholic Church. Visit our website for more information: [stmarkov.com/rcia](http://stmarkov.com/rcia)



## WE HAVE GREAT NEWS

*The Individual Tax Credit limits have increased!*

The amount you can now contribute to Arizona's Catholic Tuition Support Organization (CTSO) has increased. If filing as a single taxpayer you can give up to \$1,183, and a married couple filing jointly can contribute up to \$2,365, and you, the donor can receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit off your Arizona tax liability. Visit [www.ctso-tucson.org](http://www.ctso-tucson.org) to make an online contribution.

## Year of St. Joseph

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.*



*Blessed Joseph,  
to us too,  
show yourself  
a father  
and guide us  
in the path of life.*

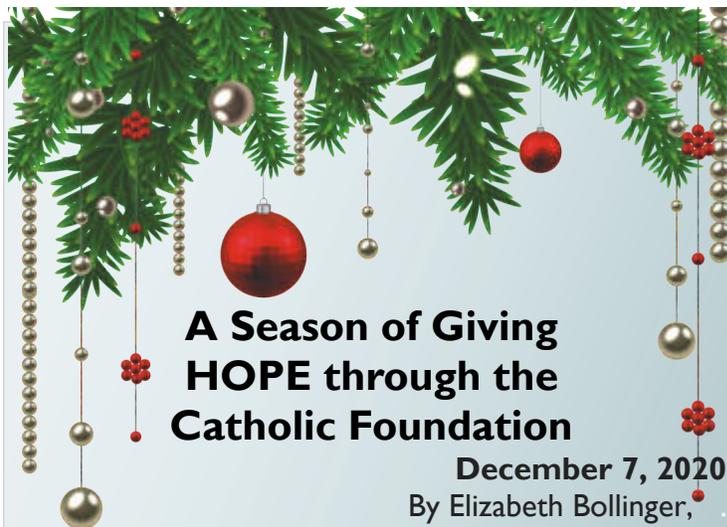
*Obtain for us grace,  
mercy and courage,  
and defend us from  
every evil.  
Amen.*

## New Outlook

Diocese of Tucson Online News

Visit our Diocesan News Page to stay up to date on the Diocese of Tucson, and Catholic News around the world.

Visit [news.diocesetucson.org](http://news.diocesetucson.org)



## A Season of Giving HOPE through the Catholic Foundation

December 7, 2020

By Elizabeth Bollinger,

*Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation*

We're all trying to figure out what the holidays look like this year. Whether that's keeping old traditions alive, finding new ways to celebrate or taking time to rest and reflect. For the Catholic Foundation we are focusing on making sure that every parish in our Diocese has access to Emergency grants and funding through our HOPE (Helping Our Parishes Endure) Campaign. To date \$154,486 has been disbursed to our parishes however, the need is so much greater.

As you reflect on your year end giving we encourage you to make a gift today to the HOPE Campaign by visiting [www.cathfdn.org/hope](http://www.cathfdn.org/hope) and help sustain our parishes during this pandemic. Immaculate Heart of Mary in Somerton has been one of the recipients of the Hope Campaign .

Your generosity helps  
with emergency  
funding for our  
poorest parishes.



<https://support.cathfdn.org/donate>



# PRAYER TO END THE PANDEMIC

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,  
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.  
We fly to you today as your beloved children.  
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,  
as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,  
and gain for our nation and world,  
and for all our families and loved ones,  
the protection of your holy angels,  
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,  
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.  
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,  
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,  
teach all of us in the Church to love one another  
and to be patient and kind.

Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land  
and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,  
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,  
health of the sick and cause of our joy.  
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,  
keep us in the embrace of your arms,  
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.



Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of the Rosary Council #13272, is your parish's Knights council. In support of furthering Catholic education, we have partnered with the Tucson office of the Arizona Catholic Tuition Support Organization (CTSO) and have created a referral program (RP) number donors can use when making their tax-free contributions to CTSO. With the referral number, the donations are held by CTSO in a special account that can only be directed by Council #13272.



Our goal is to support the parishioners of St Mark with financial assistance for their children to attend Catholic schools. In just three short years that we've begun this partnership, we've raised over \$90,000, supported 48 children which assisted 24 families.

When you are faced with an Arizona state tax obligation, and considering making that tax payment to the State of Arizona, consider redirecting that payment to AZ -CTSO for the benefit of the St Mark RP #1438. You could receive a tax credit of 100% of the money you donate. Please see your tax professional for specific guidance.

**Celebrate this holiday season with *Farm Fresh Citrus*, and help the Knights of Columbus support Casa Maria soup kitchen and the Ultrasound for Life initiative.**

For \$35.00

- Enjoy California Navel Oranges
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**Better still select both!**

Please order by December 31st, 2020. Personal delivery by a Knight of Columbus is expected by January 12th.

<https://tinyurl.com/BUY-FRUIT>



## Knights of Columbus Free One Year Membership

Become an Online Member for FREE!

Now through December 31, 2020 regular dues are \$30/year

To join online go to [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus)  
use code MICGIVNEY2020 and select Council 13272.

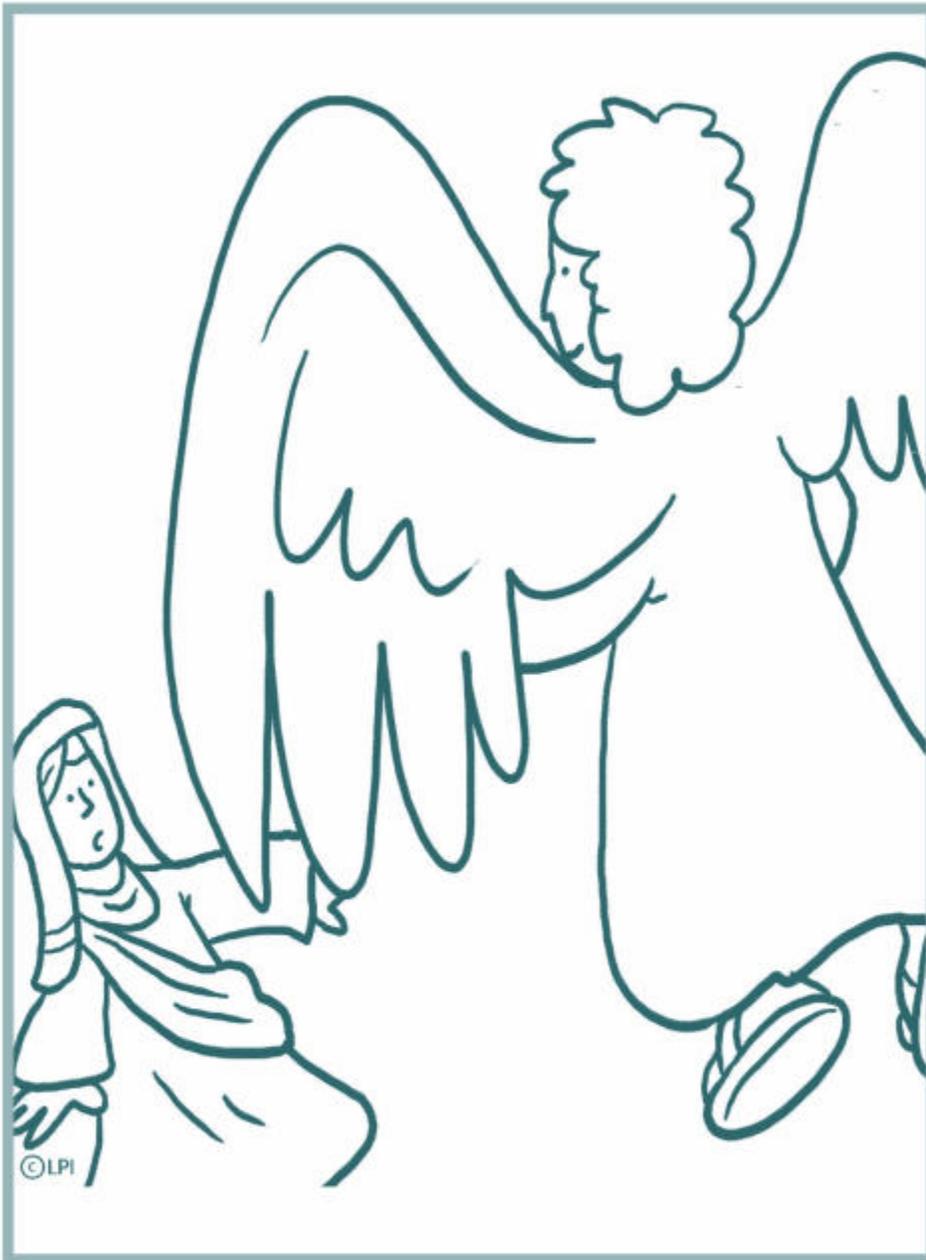
Or contact Membership Chair,  
George Vince. at  
520.444.3344



Blessed  
Fr. Michael J.  
McGivney

Knights of  
Columbus





Think of the people you trust. These are people you can count on, no matter what happens. Both Mary and Elizabeth were amazed to learn that they were pregnant. God had surprised each of them with a special miracle - a baby. God trusted them both to take care of their babies. Mary and Elizabeth trusted God to help them. You can trust God, too.

## PRAYER

God, help me to trust you like Mary and Elizabeth did.

## MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Name three reasons you can always trust God.

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