



Mass Schedule for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

No 8:00 am Mass

Anticipated Mass - 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Masses at 8:00 am and 5:30 pm



HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021 - CHRISTMAS EVE

No 8am Mass

Masses at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021 - CHRISTMAS DAY

Masses at 8:30 am 11:00 am

No 5:00 pm Mass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021 - Feast of the Holy Family

Masses at 8:30 am and 11:00 am



WEEKEND OF: Nov. 27-28, 2021

Parish Mission Statement:

**“St. Mark’s Roman Catholic
Church . . .
Called by God’s love to live the
life of Jesus in our world.”**

MASS TIMES

Monday Through Friday: Rosary begins at
7:30 am; Mass at 8:00 am

Weekend Masses:

Saturday at 5:00 pm

Sunday at 8:30 am & 11:00 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:30 pm till 4:30 pm

CHURCH ADDRESS

St. Mark’s Church

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CONTACT INFO

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Stewardship Corner

Recurring Gift Match Promotion:

For every first gift from a new recurring donor that is added between November 1 and December 31, 2021, WeShare will match that first gift, up to \$50, with a maximum match of \$1,000 per organization. To be eligible for the matching gift, more than one installment must be set-up and the first recurring gift must be processed through WeShare by 12/31/21

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<https://stmarksgreece.weshareonline.org>



Preparing the Manger

Where do you fall in the “Christmas-songs-in-November” debate — do you like them, tolerate them, or outright hate them? There’s no theological problem with Christmas songs in November outside of worship, even if it’s not everyone’s cup of tea. But there is a problem with getting so caught up in the baggage of the season — the trimmings, the gifts, the celebrations, all of which are marvelous in their own way — that you forget to prepare the manger.

Every good Catholic knows that Lent is a penitential season. It’s hard to miss that point — Lent doesn’t even have any fun songs you can groove to on the radio. We are pretty good at recognizing that Lent calls us to examine ourselves. To deny ourselves. To give of ourselves. And most of all, Lent calls us to prepare, as a good steward does, for the return of our master.

It’s harder for us to remember that with Advent, but Advent is just as much of an opportunity for penance, preparation, and reconciliation to God — and just as much reason, too. The very name of the season — “advent” — encourages us to focus on what is coming, not what is already here. Be on guard, the readings tell us today, “so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and (the coming of the Lord) catch you unexpectedly, like a trap.”

So let us not forget — our master’s advent is upon us. And let us ask ourselves: how can we prepare the manger?

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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The Family Zone

To enter the Family Zone, please visit our website at www.stmarksgreece.com.

Select the Growing in Faith Tab, and then the Family Zone



**American
Red Cross**

**Next Youth Ministry sponsored
blood drive:**

December 6, 2021

From 1pm - 6pm

**There are sign-up sheets in the
Narthex for appointment times.**



*FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT*

"THE DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD,
WHEN I WILL FULFILL THE PROMISE
I MADE TO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH."

—JEREMIAH 33:14

GOSPEL MEDITATION - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Life's demands have a way of zapping every last bit of energy out of us. When we are tired it affects us not only physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. All of our senses are dulled and diminished. We can overlook details, become disinterested, lethargic and apathetic, and detached. Getting sufficient physical rest only helps so much. We need to be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reenergized in other ways. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining our emotions and taxing our relationships. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the necessary "shot in the arm" to put us back in touch with God. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers. We not only are affected physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. In short, when we run out of gas the engine stops.

And yet, our Lord's directive is clear, "Be vigilant at all times." Even Jesus knew what "the anxieties of daily life" can do to us. One day pours into another and time quickly flies by. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful, creative opportunities we miss because there is always so much "stuff" to do and so little time to do it. Usually these are missed moments of love, and if we are missing love encounters we are also missing God. Sleepwalking through life, we check the boxes next to our list of "must and have to dos" and justify it all by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there'll be more time. It may surprise us, but tomorrow is here, and time is running out. While we may like to believe that we have an "eternity" of time to do all those things that require the focus, energy, and desire we do not currently have, we don't. We're on a limited ride and time is short.

Jesus is also clear on another point. "That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap." If we are going to be judged on love and so easily justify not having all that much time to do so, then it seems we must shift focus a bit. St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." Getting to this place doesn't "just happen." It requires vigilance and discipline both with a knowledge of what is really of importance and what really needs to be the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don't miss another opportunity to love.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, November 27

Sunday, November 28

9:30 am First Penance Retreat

11:00 am CLOW

Monday, November 29

Tuesday, November 30

6:15 am That Man is You

Wednesday, December 1

7:00 pm Finance Council

Thursday, December 2

12:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

1:00 pm Book Marks

7:00 pm First Penance

Friday, December 3

Saturday, December 4

Sunday, December 5

11:00 am CLOW



Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 27

5:00 pm *Michael J. McArdle by Diane McArdle*

Sunday, November 28 - First Sunday of Advent

8:30 am *Howard & Pauline Monnat by the Monnat family*

11:00 am *Jack Heine by Social Ministry*

Monday, November 29

8:00 am *Joseph Rodriguez by Celeste Arnais*

Tuesday, November 30

8:00 am *Bette Breen by Judy Gagnier*

Wednesday, December 1

8:00 am *Special Intention*

Thursday, December 2

8:00 am *Edward & Edna Gartz by Judy Gagnier*

Friday, December 3

8:00 am *Lucy Giardina by Connie Schmeer*

Saturday, December 4

5:00 pm *Jane Camiolo by Connie Schmeer & family*

Sunday, December 5 - Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 am *Luz Quiroga by Celeste Arnais*

11:00 am *Ronald Marang by Vincent & Betty Battaglia*

ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

The four traditional advent themes for the four advent Sundays are:

First Sunday - Candle of Hope - God's people
Hope is like a light shining in a dark place

Second Sunday - Candle of Peace - The old
testament prophets

Third Sunday - Candle of Love - John the Baptist

Fourth Sunday - Candle of Joy - Mary, the
Mother of Jesus

Pregnancy Support

Pregnant and in need of support? We're here for you!: optionline.org, Call 1-800-712-4357, Text: "HELPLINE" to 313131

Experiencing a prenatal diagnosis? You are not alone:

Be Not Afraid: www.benotafraid.net

Looking for hope and healing after abortion? Reach out today: supportafterabortion.com, call or text: 941-202-4030, email: help@supportafterabortion.com

*This Week
Sanctuary Lamp:*

For an end to the Covid-19 Pandemic



Prayer Requests

The following members and extended members of our Parish Family have had prayer requests made for them:

Gina Bach, Jeff Biss, Amy Brewer, Mary Camiolo

Steve Clar, Mya Colon, Sue Ellyn Coons

Rich Cyganovich, Ann DiStefano

Timothy Glasow,

Ann Gifford, Jane Gunzelmann,

Dawn Lamendola, Cara Mack, Lynne Mikel

Dr. Ronald Penna, Marie Pettrone, Kelly Reilly

Ken & Nathan Schultz, Michele Schulz,

Donna Sindon, Skylar, Ron Timmons,

Evelyn Tisa, Emma Webster, Bob Yanus

**The Daily Mass Book for 2022 is
open for intentions from
January 1 - July 31, 2022.**



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PICK OF THE WEEK

WATCH

BLESSED DUNS SCOTUS: DEFENDER OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The inspiring true story of the holy Franciscan priest and theologian who won a famous debate against the Dominicans in the thirteenth century, in which he defended Our Lady's great privilege of her Immaculate Conception. Filmed in beautiful ancient monastery locations in Europe, Scotus is revealed as a humble and courageous apostle of the Faith against the oppressive anti-Catholic government in power.



LEARN

FORMED NOW: CAN GOD HEAL HUMAN DIVISIONS?



A tragic consequence of sin is human division, something we all face in one way or another. In this video, Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn discuss how we can invite Christ into those situations of brokenness.

LISTEN

THE CONFESSIONS OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Actor Leonardo DeFilippis captures the poetry and passion of Saint Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430) in a performance that is accessible and deeply moving. The play is astonishingly relevant for our own times. Augustine struggled with promiscuity, fathered a child out-of-wedlock and dabbled in a "new age" style cult. You'll be amazed by his relentless pursuit of Truth and encouraged by the prayerful perseverance of his faithful mother, Saint Monica.



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ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

"COULD YOU NOT WATCH WITH ME ONE HOUR?"

-Matthew 14:37

This was the question of Jesus when He needed His followers the most - He longed for their company before His betrayal and passion. He continues to give the faithful, through His real presence in the Blessed Sacrament - a sacred time of intimacy with our God who welcomes and accepts us (*"I myself am the Living Bread come down from heaven"* John 6:35). It is more about Jesus' desire to be with us, than our desire to be with Him. Holy Hour is the chance of a lifetime to bask in the light of His love that never fails us. Imagine - if the pope himself invited you to the Vatican, who would turn it down? But Pope St. Paul VI wrote: *"The best time you spend on earth is with Jesus, your Best Friend, in the Blessed Sacrament. For there is nothing more consoling on earth, nothing more efficacious for advancing along the road of holiness."*

(Mysterium Fidei). Join us on the Thursdays before the first Fridays each month for one hour between 12 noon and 4:00 pm, followed by Benediction. In the words of our Lord - *"This is the will of My Father, that everyone who looks upon the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life. Him I will raise upon the last day. (John 6:40).*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

12:00 Noon to 4:00 pm
Benediction to follow

Come join us and
bring a friend.



Social Ministry Food Donations

St. Mark's Social Ministry Committee continues to collect food for those in need in our area served by the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf. There is a bin in the Narthex for you to put any non-perishable food items, paper products or personal care items you wish to donate. **Please make sure foods have not passed their expiration date.**

Food prices are high right now and the need is even more acute. The Food Shelf currently has a special need for canned peaches and chicken noodle soup. They are very thankful for the boxes of cereal you have been donating.



ADVENT GIVING TREE



As you prepare to celebrate this Christmas season with your family and friends, please keep in mind those in need. One way to brighten their holiday is to participate in the annual Advent Giving Tree project sponsored by St. Mark's Social Ministry Committee. This year the Committee will be collecting gifts for the Catholic Family Center

(helping clients from Children and Family Services) and the Women's Care Center (supporting mothers and babies in need).

There will be tables displayed in the Narthex beginning the weekend of November 20th.

Please take an ornament tag, choose a gift from the suggestions listed on the tag, attach the tag to the gift and return the gift unwrapped, no later than 12:00 PM Sunday, December 5. The tag assures that the gift will get to the intended child.

Some teens will request store Gift Cards. If you purchase a Gift Card please put the Gift Card and tag in an envelope marked Advent Giving Tree and put the envelope in the metal collection box in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

May God bless you during this holiday season. If you have any questions, please contact Susan McCoy at 585-441-9194. **THANK YOU!**

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT



WEEKLY CONTENT GUIDE 1st Sunday of Advent/ November 28, 2021

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. (Jer 33:15)

Psalm:

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. (Ps 25)

Second Reading:

Strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. (1 Thes. 3:13)

Gospel:

Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand. (Lk 21:28)

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WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of November 28, 2021

- Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/
Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
- Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5,
6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11
[10]/Mt 4:18-22
- Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5,
6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21,
25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/
Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4,
5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35
—10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
[3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

Observances for the week of November 28, 2021

- Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent
- Monday:
- Tuesday: St. Andrew, Apostle
- Wednesday:
- Thursday:
- Friday: St. Francis Xavier, Priest
- Saturday: St. John Damascene, Priest and
Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

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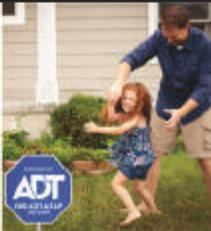
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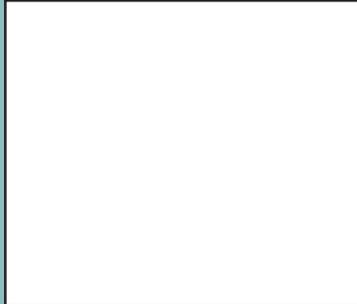
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