



1st  
Sunday  
OF ADVENT

# ST. MARK PARISH



**Dear Parishioners and Friends:**

**Advent** (from Latin “adventus,” coming, arrival) is a four-week season of joyful expectation to prepare ourselves for Christmas (Jesus’ first coming), and to direct our minds and hearts to the “second coming” of Jesus Christ at the “end of time.” Advent marks the beginning of the Church’s entire liturgical year. In the mid-fourth century, some regions kept rather lengthy and penitential periods which emphasized Jesus’ glorious advent – coming as the Lord of history and judge of the universe. This aspect of the spiritual practice is now celebrated in the first period of our Advent journey. In Rome, the season evolved into a four-week preparation with an emphasis on the joyful celebration of the Lord’s Incarnation. We focus on this spiritual dimension during the last week of Advent Season.

The two-fold liturgical character of Advent evokes a third essential dimension – **a personal and communal encounter with Jesus Christ!** The inspired Word of God recorded by our patron exhorts us to **“reform our lives and believe in the Gospel”** (Mark 1:15). We are called to examine ourselves at the deepest personal and spiritual level in order to change and grow as committed disciples of Jesus. During these challenging times of global pandemic we pray for the “advent of God’s healing and liberating grace” – as we live in the spirit prudent vigilance, lively faith and joyful hope! One of the Advent prayers we offer at Mass says: “Keep us alert, we pray, O Lord our God, as we await the advent of Christ your Son, so that, when He comes and knocks, He may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in His praise.”

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!  
Fr. Stanley

## MISSION STATEMENT

As the Eucharistic family of St. Mark Parish, we are called to welcome, love and serve. We continue the mission of Jesus Christ: “to transform our lives and believe in the Good News.”  
(Mark 1:15)

### Advent Spiritual Journey

**“This is the time of fulfillment.  
The reign of God is at hand!  
Reform your lives and believe in the Gospel!”  
(Mark 1:15)**

**Holy Mass every Wednesday  
At 9:30 am and 7 pm**

**Individual Confessions every Saturday at 3 pm**

**The Immaculate Conception  
Holy Mass, Dec. 8, 9:30 am**

**Vicariate Reconciliation Services  
visit: [www.cmvic.net](http://www.cmvic.net)**

**NOVEMBER 29, 2020**

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

**In the Unexpected**

“What could happen next?” How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don’t seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.

No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, “God with us.” He is the expected in all things unexpected.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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**Prayer Resources****Act of Spiritual Communion**

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. Never permit me to be separated from you.  
Amen.

**Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To thee do we come. Before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer us.

Amen.

**LIVE THE LITURGY**

Be watchful! Be alert! The core message of Advent cannot be more direct or simple. As those who are postured in a spirit of readiness and anticipation, we must always be attentive and vigilant. We have to be ready not only for the anticipated arrival of our Lord, but watchful and attentive to the unexpected visit as well. While we know that the Christ is coming, we also do not know the exact time. Cultivating this expectant attitude is the purpose of this season. It is easy to grow slack, inattentive, and too self-assured. We can easily deaden ourselves to the wonder and surprise of God’s presence. We get so absorbed in so many other distractions that it can seem like Christ’s second coming, and even Christ’s coming in time are of lesser importance. When it finally dawns on us that we have wandered far away from where we need to be, and lost our attentiveness and focus, we will wonder how this all happened. We may even try to put the onus on God and blame God for a lack of involvement or presence. We are the ones, who through our own choice, put the distance in our relationship and lost touch. Now it’s time to come back and perk ourselves up a bit!

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## “I CAN SHARE THE HARVEST”

For when I was hungry, you gave me food.” Mt 23:35

As you know, St. Mark Parish provides food for many families on an emergency basis. Enough healthy food is provided for the number of household residents for a two week period.

This campaign is called “I CAN”! No matter what our economic circumstances, each of our parishioners from the very young to the “not so young,” are able to provide at least ONE nonperishable item for this worthy cause. Please bring your contribution to the Gathering Space between November 14<sup>th</sup> through November 29<sup>th</sup>, and place in the designated baskets. For those of you who wish to make a monetary contribution, you may place it in the Mass collection baskets marked I CAN!

### *What to bring:*

canned fruits, vegetables, soups, meats, broth, pasta sauce, pasta, dried peas or beans, rice, mac & cheese, boxed potatoes, tuna

Hunger is an ongoing need to our Brothers & Sisters of our community. As we continue to Unleash the Gospel, we are exhorted to do so in word and deed.

As Blessed Solanus Casey would often say “let’s thank God in advance.”

Thank you for your support and generosity to those in need.



THE WORD

Readings for the week of November 29, 2020

- Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/  
1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37
- Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22
- Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/  
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14/2 Pt 3:8-14/  
Mk 1:1-8



**Saturday, November 28**

- 4:00 pm Edward Pelc
- Frances Szpont
- Tony and Jenny Benicek
- Joseph and Anna Bittner
- Pauline Hamilton
- Marlene Bloom

**Sunday, November 29**

- 8:30 am Henry Root
- 11:00 am Henry & Mary  
Naguszewski
- Sharon Wagner
- Ray Kusza
- Loreto Gonzales

**Wednesday, December 2**

- 9:30 am St. Mark Parishioners

**Saturday, December 5**

- 4:00 pm Aloysius Schwartz
- Frances Szpont
- William Jod Way

**Sunday, December 6**

- 8:30 am Robert Grigg
- Vince Roodbeen
- Fran Dziamski
- 11:00 am Christine Mixen
- Ray Kusza
- Karol Lipinski
- Angeline Lipinski
- Richard Lipinski
- Donald Krynski
- Irene Lipinski

ST. MARK OUTREACH



**Thank you so much  
for your generous donations.**

**Food pantry needs:**

Paper bags

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

**First Reading:**

We hear today the prophet Isaiah's internal spiritual struggle as he questions God's ways and decries our human tendency to sin. What spiritual struggles do you need to confront as we enter into the season of Advent?

**Second Reading:**

In his opening words to the Corinthian Christians, Paul reminds the faithful of God's fidelity to those who believe in his Son. He then cites examples of the blessings they have received since coming to the faith. What are some blessings you have received in your faith journey?

**Gospel:**

Jesus instructs his disciples to be vigilant for the end times. How can you make this spiritual discipline a focus of your Advent season this year?

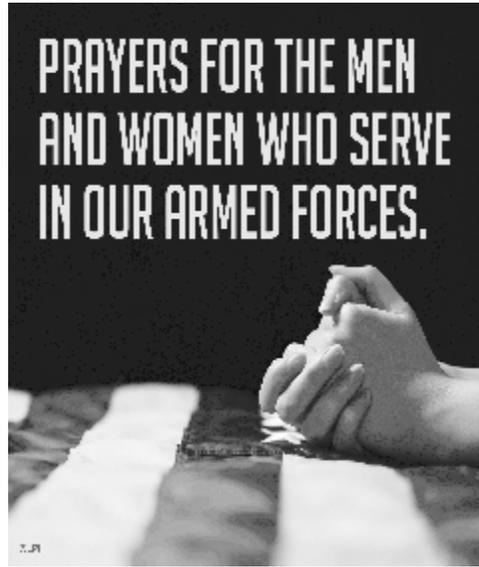
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PRAYER INTENTIONS



Millie Thomas  
Jason Idalski

Only immediate family members may request a 'prayers for the sick' listing. Call the Parish Center: 586-759-3020. Names remain on the list for 4 weeks.



WE PRAY FOR ALL OF OUR MILITARY, & PARTICULARLY:

- Sr. CPO Michael Brightman
- Lt. Commander Adam Craig
- LCPL Sarah J Page
- Sgt. Steven Parisi
- Major Michael F. Weigle

Family members who wish to have their loved ones prayed for may do so by submitting names to the parish office.



POPE TWEETS

“Dear young people, let us not give up on great dreams. The Lord does not want us to narrow our horizons or to remain parked on the roadside of life. He wants us to race boldly and joyfully towards lofty goals. #takeupthecross”

- Pope Francis  
@Pontifex Twitter (November 22, 2020)

3 EASY STEPS TO KEEPING YOURSELF & OTHERS HEALTHY!

-  WASH YOUR HANDS
-  DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE
-  KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

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Outreach: 586-759-3026

Parish Fax: 586-759-3024

E-mail: parishcenter@stmarkparishwarren.org

**WEBSITES**

Parish: www.stmarkparishwarren.com

Central Macomb Vicariate: www.cmvic.net

Archdiocese of Detroit: www.aod.org



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Cynthia Filipovich

Diane Hamilton

Tom Harm

Phyllis Wisniewski (Christian Formation)

Karen Kowalski (Stewardship)

Michael Powell (Worship)



OUR FINANCIAL SACRIFICE TO ST. MARK PARISH

We thank you for your generosity.

**SACRAMENTS**

**BAPTISMS**

Parents are asked to contact the Parish Center Office to arrange for Baptism instruction and a date for the Baptism.

**MARRIAGES**

Couples wishing to celebrate the sacrament of matrimony at St. Mark Parish are asked to allow at least six months to complete arrangements.

**RECONCILIATION**

Private Confessions: Saturday 3:00 PM.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

LAST Sunday of every month after all Masses.

View this bulletin online at [www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)

Photographs are taken at all public parish events for use on the St. Mark Parish website. For questions or concerns, please contact the Parish Center Office.

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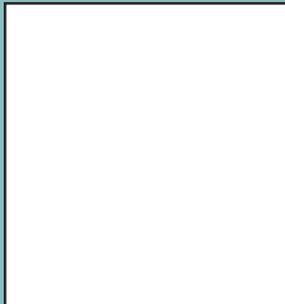
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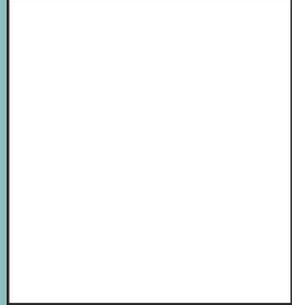
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