

4th Sunday OF ADVENT



ST. MARK PARISH



ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

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Advent and Christmas 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)**

Mass, Dec. 23 at 9:30 am and 7 pm

**Dec. 24, Christmas Vigil Mass, 4 pm and 9 pm
Christmas Day Mass, 11 am**

**Dec. 26/27, Holy Family
Mass at 4 pm, 8:30 am and 11 am**

**Jan. 1, Holy Mother of God
Mass at 11 am**

**Jan. 2/3, Epiphany of the Lord
Mass at 4 pm, 8:30 am and 11 am**

**Jan. 9/10, Baptism of the Lord
Mass at 4 pm, 8:30 am and 11 am**

**Vicariate Reconciliation services
visit: www.cmvic.net**

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)



DECEMBER 20, 2020

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

The Journey

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, “Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?” I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn’t go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

4th Sunday of Advent

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.

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What brings our St. Mark Parishioners Joy?

The JOY I have during the Christmas Season is attending midnight mass and listening to the beautiful singing and donating to the less fortunate people in the world. Also, gathering with family and friends for a Christmas Dinner and thanking God for the blessings we have received throughout the year and pray for those who have gone to their heavenly home before us. Christine

Family brings me joy! Seeing the faces of my family, even if it is over video chat, and hearing their laughter, makes my day and brings me so much joy. Amanda

I am blessed to see my family in a safe way. I am blessed to attend my church and see my church family. Last, I am blessed to have God help me with food and housing. Thank you Lord. Julie

I am joyful for all of the prayers, kind words and support I received during my cancer treatment. My family, friends, parish, co-workers and healthcare team gave me more support than I even knew to ask for. All of this in the midst of a global pandemic. I feel so blessed! Yvette

I am alone without family mainly alone all my life. I look to the word and recently found when Jesus told Simon Peter "get behind me and I'll tell you who my family and friends are". Peter denied knowledge of Jesus three times. I thank Jesus for my suffering like His. I devote myself to spiritual warfare and bible reading with prayers. I light a candle to remember God's light. Debora

Essentially, I experience deep and lasting joy by cultivating a personal and lively relationship with God, and having the friendship of caring and loving family members and friends. "I rejoice heartily, in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul" (Isaiah 61:10) It gives me great joy to see how our Pastoral Team members and parishioners encourage and support one another. I rejoice to hear inspiring stories of living faith. A widower from our parish, upon awakening on Sunday mornings, gives a little "nudge" to his beloved wife who is now in heaven, and says to her, "It is time to get up and go to church for Mass." Fr. Stanley

Jesus – My everlasting hope is joy! He is the source of my healing and peace. Gwen

So many blessings!! I babysit my four-year old grandson. I am blessed to see things through His eyes. It makes me look at things differently. We pass St. Anne's church on the way to my home. "Gamera, there's an X!" he said. I wondered what he was talking about. Then I realized he meant the cross on the ground by the school. I told him it was a cross. "No it's an 'X' and that means there's treasure there!!" I thought about how to answer. Then I realized he was right. It's the greatest treasure of all! I pray we can all see things with the eyes of wonder and innocence of a child!! Elizabeth

My joys include unexpected smiles, offers of help, a "thank you" wave when letting something into a lane of traffic, the sounds of happiness from children, and the sweet gestures of the elderly. Being able to experience worship in a special way! Most of all sharing the love and laughter of friends who have become family. Mary Jo

During this holiday season, I am truly grateful for my family and friends who bless my life with their love and support every day. Steve

Share what brings you joy by emailing the parish office.



THE WORD

Readings for the week of December 20, 2020

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/
Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Friday: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Col 3:12-21/Lk 2:22-40



Saturday, December 19

4:00 pm Agnes & Raymond Grimski
Frances Szpont

Sunday, December 20

8:30 am Anthony Weiss

11:00 am Christine Mixen

Ray Kusza
Earl Parrish

Wednesday, December 23

The People of St. Mark

Thursday, December 24

4:00 pm Henry Gambrell
Greg & Mary Elliott
Patricia Sikora
Wally Sikora
Barbara Wojcik

9:00 pm John & Nancy Peterson
John Taylor
Karen Taylor

Friday, December 25

Henry & Alexandria Ark
Danny Sypniewski
Irene & Thomas Twardecki
Earl Parrish

Saturday, December 26

4:00 pm Edward Pelc
Greg Romanowski
Frances Szpont

Sunday, December 27

8:30 am Jim & MaryAnn Stevens
Dick Szaal
11:00 am Henry & Mary Naguszewski
Ray Kusza
Earl Parrish

ST. MARK OUTREACH



THANK YOU EVERYONE.

**"I CAN SHARE THE HARVEST"
WAS A
BLESSFUL AND BOUNTIFUL
SUCCESS!!!**

**GOD BLESS YOU!
STAY SAFE!
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

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:

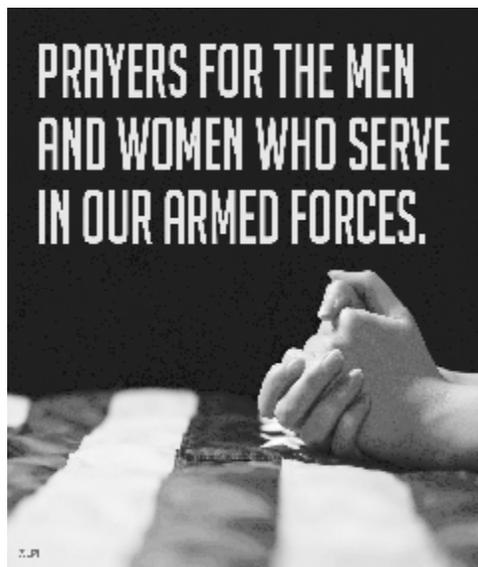
Today's Gospel reading records the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of the upcoming birth of Christ. Mary's acceptance of God's will for her life ("May it be done to me according to your word.") models for all of us unconditional faith. How can we encourage others to embrace such faith?
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PRAYER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



Joan Edem
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.

LIVE THE LITURGY

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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POPE TWEETS

"#Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return."

- Pope Francis

@Pontifex Twitter (December 14, 2020)

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Outreach: 586-759-3026

Parish Fax: 586-759-3024

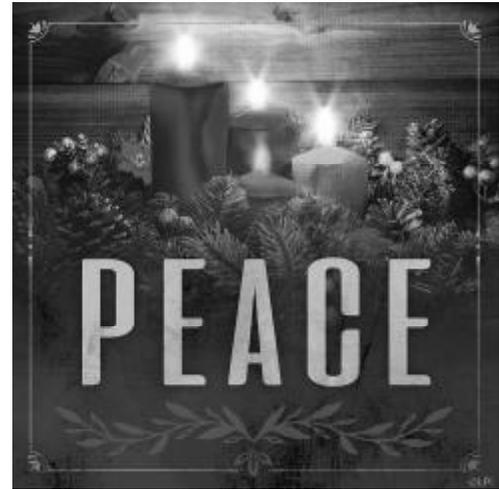
E-mail: parishcenter@stmarkparishwarren.org

WEBSITES

Parish: www.stmarkparishwarren.com

Central Macomb Vicariate: www.cmvic.net

Archdiocese of Detroit: www.aod.org



STAFF LISTING

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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
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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