



GLORY
TO GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST
AND ON
EARTH
PEACE TO
THOSE
ON WHOM
HIS FAVOR
RESTS.

LUKE 2:14

ST. MARK PARISH



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Our Pastoral Team wishes everyone a blessed Christmas Season, and a happy and healthy New Year! We extend a warm welcome to our parishioners and guests who are able to join us for the celebration of Holy Mass. From the altar of our Eucharistic Offering, we send Christmas greetings to our beloved homebound, and those who are away from our parish family. We pray for and reach out to our brothers and sisters who are alone and need our encouragement and support. We are all united in the spirit of joy, faith, hope, and charity, as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior. Jesus is Emmanuel – God with us, who desires to find a “manger” in our hearts, families, community of faith, and the world. The Holy Scripture declares: **“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us”** (John 1:14). The reality of Jesus’ Incarnation reveals God’s very life, love, and redeeming grace – extended to every person and all creation!

In the fourth century, St. Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria in Egypt, wrote on the Incarnation of Jesus: “The Lord did not come to make a display – to appear and dazzle the beholders. He came to heal and to teach suffering men and women. For Him, the way was not merely to dwell here, but to put Himself at the disposal of those who needed Him.” In the simplicity of His glorious Nativity, the Holy Infant teaches us about the ever present providential care of God – watching over our individual lives and guiding the course of human history. More than ever, in spite of the most advanced medical and scientific discoveries, the suffering, broken, and confused world needs Jesus – our true Teacher, Healer, and Savior! In Jesus Christ – there is light in every darkness and hope in every situation. **“Turn to me and be safe, all you ends of the earth, for I am God; there is no other!”** (Isaiah 45:22).

In Christ’s abundant Life,
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)

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)

Holy Family

Mass Saturday, December 26th at 4 pm,
Sunday, December 27th at 8:30 am & 11 am

Holy Mother of God

Mass Friday, January 1st at 11 am

Epiphany of the Lord

Mass Saturday, January 2nd at 4 pm,
Sunday, January 3rd at 8:30 am & 11 am

Baptism of the Lord

Mass Saturday, January 9th at 4 pm,
Sunday, January 10th at 8:30 am & 11 am

DECEMBER 27, 2020

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

The Gift of Family

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, “people need people.”

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Nativity of the Lord

If the salutation, “Merry Christmas,” is more than just the expected greeting we use today, then what is the “more” really all about? Today is a sacred day and the birth of Christ has changed not only history but how human beings perceive and relate with God. God has become one with humanity in the Person of Jesus Christ. All of these truths remain just pious sentiments unless they take flesh in the heart and soul of each one of us. We need to absorb and immerse ourselves in what is meant by these truths so that we can be changed by them. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!

A woman once recounted her journey with poverty and how she went from “doing” for the poor to “being with” the poor. It's transforming and life changing. It's easy to simply give alms to those in need, and yet another thing to be with them in their poverty and become poor ourselves. A change of the axis from vertical to horizon puts a whole new twist on things. Our souls understand the experience in ways that our minds simply cannot. Christmas requires this same change of axis.

It is one thing to sing out the words, “Joy to the World,” and quite another to experience that joy ourselves. Many have not experienced the full impact of that first Holy Night because they choose to keep the manager at a distance rather than make a home with the Holy One who resides there. The birth of Christ levels the playing field of life and we have to allow ourselves to be leveled. There is no way to truly be human unless we understand that God is with us and blesses every fiber of the human experience. We cannot be truly human unless we listen to the words of the Word Made Flesh and work so that justice and peace can be realized by all, and God's sacred earth cared for and nurtured.

The axis of Christmas begins to shift when we realize it's not about, “I and me,” but, “we and us,” and there's an order and purpose to how God fashions and sustains things. The world hasn't really given Christ a full shot yet to understand that Truth has been born in our midst. We pick and choose what suits us in the message and leave the rest behind.

What needs to change about you so that Christ can truly be born in you?

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Dear Parish Family,

As we prepare the final preparation for Christmas, we want to thank the many people who comprise St. Mark Parish.

One of my favorite treasures of St Mark is the beautiful Fontanini Crèche that will be displayed during the Christmas season. Our Safety Committee members will be helping to adorn the church with trees and angels. A special thank you to these men for their help! They are “on duty” whenever they are in church and fulfill so many roles. Our sincere thanks To these gentlemen!

Another temporary casualty of COVID, was not being able to share clothing from Helen’s Closet. This wonderful outreach entity has been in existence for so many years, beginning with Helen Herzig. At this time, clothing has been taken to the Franciscan Center in Detroit for distribution. It was decided to “clean house” and start anew when we are able to help our local community again. We all understand how closets need to be cleaned every once in a while! A huge thank you to Helen Derwa and Sandy Hill for their great contribution.

Catholic Charities have been generous and provided assistance to two of our parish families for which we are most grateful.

Many of you continue to provide food and funds for our Food Pantry. What a blessing to share with others!

Here at St Mark, *everyone* participates in their own way. We are blessed to have *you* as part of our parish family! As Fr. Stanley often reiterates, “whether you are homebound, away from home, unable to be here physically, we are still a family.”

Deacon Brian writes: Let me start by saying what gives me pleasure, that’s easy – a dish of ice cream with chocolate sauce. What gives me a lift, is when I draw back the curtains in the morning and see it isn’t raining and the sky is blue. What brings me joy? I call that a Jesus hug. I never know when it is going to arrive and I wish I could make them happen, but I can’t. When I get one it is an overwhelming sense that no matter how bad things seem, or how dark the skies, there is a sense that everything is OK. I am loved beyond measure, held in the arms of a loving and forgiving God.

We hope many of you will be able to attend Mass and share in the Joyful celebration of our Lord’s birth.

Mary Jo

A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported *Making Spirits Bright*. We reached our goal and went beyond. We sent care packages filled with goodies and kindness to the Pope Francis Center and to a women’s shelter. Both center’s were beyond grateful for the generosity of our St. Mark Parishioners.

Thank you again to all who participated.

One of the trips to deliver our special packages....



THE WORD

Readings for the week of December 27, 2020

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

Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/
Mt 2:1-12



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
Leon & Dolores
Kozemcheck

Friday, December 25

Henry & Alexandria Ark
Danny Sypniewski
Irene & Thomas Twardecki
Robert 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

Friday, January 1

11:00 am Earl Parrish
Elliott Family
Dick Szaal

Saturday, January 2

4:00 pm Frances Szpont

Sunday, January 3

8:30 am Robert Grigg
11:00 am Christine Mixen
Ray Kusza
Robert Brewer
James & Lisa Lafferty

ST. MARK OUTREACH



Thank you everyone!

“I can share the harvest” was a blissful and bountiful success!!

God Bless You!
Stay Safe!
Happy Holidays!

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK
December 27, 2020

First Reading:
The story of Abram and Sarah and their struggle to have a family centers on Abram’s faith in the Lord. When have you needed to rely on faith when it comes to your family?

Second Reading:
The author of Hebrews holds up Abraham as a model for the faith. When have you had to unconditionally trust in the Lord?

Gospel:
Only Luke records the presentation in the Temple of the baby Jesus. Simeon reveals to Mary and Joseph insights into Jesus and his destiny. How do you imagine Mary and Joseph understood Simeon’s words?

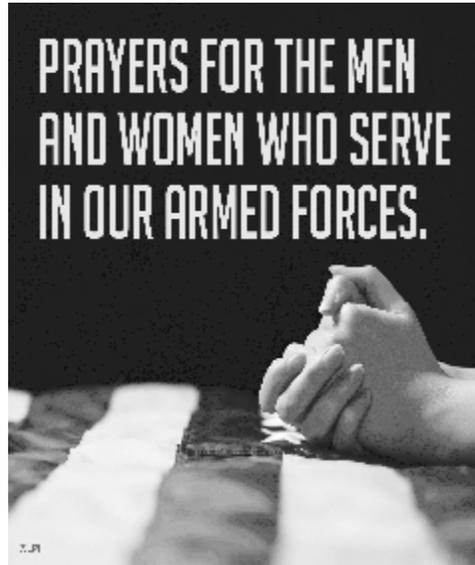
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PRAYER INTENTIONS



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

While families come in all shapes and sizes and no two are the same, they all need a common focus and grounding. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with a proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. In addition to all of these things, the axis of every family has to be centered on faith. It is here that we can learn about the virtues and discover the windows to God Himself in His gifts of faith, hope, and love. We can learn, modeling our experience after the Holy Family, how to use these as anchors in our lives so that we can live out the other virtues with greater integrity. Because our human families struggle with weakness and sin, we have to come back to the Holy Family often for inspiration and guidance. In the bond of love that they shared, they clung to the anchor of God Himself and endured challenges far greater than many we will ever face.

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POPE TWEETS

"Our soul waits for the Lord: he is our help and shield. Yes, our heart is glad in him' (Ps 33:20-21). The confident expectation of the Lord allows us to find comfort and courage in the dark moments of our lives.
#Advent"

- Pope Francis

@Pontifex Twitter (December 17, 2020)

4401 BART AVE. | WARREN, MICHIGAN 48091

Parish Phone: 586-759-3020

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

PASTORAL TEAM

Father Stanley Obloj, Pastor

fatherobloj@stmarkparishwarren.org

Deacon Brian Carroll, Deacon

deaconbrian1941@gmail.com

Deacon George Posavetz, (Deacon Emeritus)

Gwen Aikens, Outreach Coordinator

GAikens@stmarkparishwarren.org

Amanda Brewer, Religious Formation / Bulletin Editor

abrewer@stmarkparishwarren.org

Ron Jenkins, Social Media

Steve Martin, Maintenance Supervisor

parishcenter@stmarkparishwarren.org

Mary Jo Ruebelman,

Office Manager / Worship Coordinator

parishcenter@stmarkparishwarren.org

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Chris Bailey

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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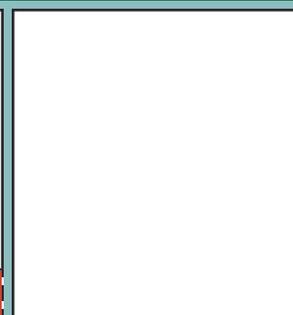
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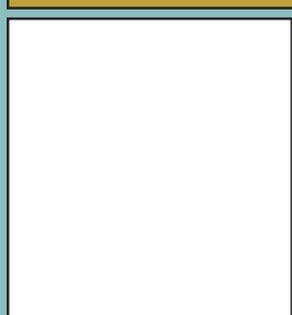
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