St. Mark *the* Evangelist
Catholic Church

Our Mission

To invite all
on our journey to:

Learn
Orar (Pray)
Gi**V**e
Evangelize

All Are Welcome!

If you are a visitor,
we hope you will find our bulletin
to be a reflection of
our vibrant and
spirit filled parish,
and that you will consider
becoming part of our family!

To join us,
please register online at
www.stmarktampa.org/join
or call the Parish Office at
813-907-7746.

For more information,
visit our website at
www.stmarktampa.org

THIS CHRISTMAS, WE RECEIVE THE BEST GIFT OF ALL...

December 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 25th, 2020 Christmas ~ The Nativity of the Lord

Mass Schedule
(Pre-Post COVID-19 Schedule)

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM
Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 5:30 PM
Sunday in Spanish: 12:30 PM
Monday* & Thursday: Noon

**Mondays that fall on a holiday: 8:30 AM*
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 8:30 AM

Reconciliation
Saturdays 3 PM - 3:45 PM (or by appt.)

Rosary
Every weekday half hour before Mass

Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Every weekday after Mass

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Open during Parish Hours

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
First Wednesday of Month: 9 AM - 7 PM
Closes with Benediction at 7 PM

Hearing Assist Receivers Available
Sign-Out Required in AV Room

Pastor

Rev. Richard Jankowski
FrRichard@stmarktampa.org

Assisting Deacons
Deacon Moises Gutierrez
DeaconMoises@stmarktampa.org

Deacon Jose Moronta
DeaconJMoronta@stmarktampa.org

Deacon Scott Paine
DeaconScott@stmarktampa.org

Deacon Hector Rios
DeaconHector@stmarktampa.org

Parish Hours
(Pre-Post COVID-19 Schedule)

Monday & Tuesday: 9 AM - 5 PM
Wednesday & Thursday: 9 AM - 9 PM
Friday: 9 AM - Noon
(changes on holidays - please call)
Phone: (813) 907-7746
Fax: (813) 907-7556
9724 Cross Creek Blvd
Tampa, FL 33647.
Website: www.stmarktampa.org
Email: info@stmarktampa.org
Venetian Rental Info: (813) 995-7480

Events Calendar and Tickets
www.stmarktampa.org/events

Bulletin Submissions
Bulletin@stmarktampa.org
Weekly deadline: Wednesday by 5 PM
the week prior to publication,
earlier holiday deadlines TBA

Big Screen Submissions
Bigscreens@stmarktampa.org
Per Ministry Guidelines

Ministry Contacts

To find out more information about our many ministries
or to contact the ministry leader visit our website:
www.stmarktampa.org/ministries
Or contact our Ministry Coordinator at
mstrickland@stmarktampa.org

Sign Up Now! www.FORMED.org

Enjoy Catholic content (like Netflix!) all in one place!
Go to **https://formed.org/** - Choose "I'm a Parishioner of a Parish"
next type in our name: "St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church"
and then out of the many St. Mark the Evangelist parishes...
choose the one with our address
(9724 Cross Creek Blvd, Tampa, FL 33647).

That's all there is to it!

Download on the App Store

Deanery Events

For more information about our Deanery and their events,
visit our website:
www.stmarktampa.org/our-deanery.

www.facebook.com/stmarktampa

www.instagram.com/StMarkLOVE
www.instagram.com/WeAreStMark
Kyle Howell

www.pinterest.com/StMarkLOVE

* No Ph

www.twitter.com/@StMarkTampa

Sacramental Preparation

Baptism
Please call (813) 907-7746 to sign up
for required pre-baptism classes.
Brochures, forms, and sponsor letters can
be found online at: stmarktampa.org/baptism.

Marriage
Couples planning their marriage should call
(813) 907-7746 ext. 317 at least six months
prior to their wedding date in order to complete
their pre-marital assessment, discernment,
and marriage preparation enrichment.
For info go to: stmarktampa.org/marriage.

RCIA
Adults, older children, or teens who have not
been baptized, or have been baptized in another
Christian Community, who desire to enter into
full communion with the Catholic Church,
please call (813) 907-7746 ext. 317.
For info go to: stmarktampa.org/RCIA

First Communion & Confirmation
Adults who have been baptized, but have not
received their First Communion and/or Confirmation,
should call (813) 907-7746 ext. 317.
Children and Teens: Students must attend
two consecutive years. Preparation in the parish
is necessary for the sacraments
(even for those at parochial schools).
Brochures and forms can be picked up at the
Parish Office or found online at:
stmarktampa.org/communion or
stmarktampa.org/confirmation-1

St. Mark *the* Evangelist Catholic Church
Christmas Schedule

Share the Good News!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

9724 Cross Creek Blvd in New Tampa 813-508-2735

Christmas Eve Masses - Thursday, December 24th
4:00PM
6:30PM
Drive-thru Communion will begin at 7:45pm - after our 6:30pm Mass
Midnight Mass 12:00AM

Christmas Day Masses - Friday, December 25th
8:30AM
10:30AM
12:30PM Spanish

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Vigil Mass
(Holy Day of Obligation)
Thursday, December 31st
4:00PMVigil Mass - Bilingual
Friday, January 1st
10:00AM

PLEASE WEAR YOUR MASK!

ALL OF THE ABOVE WILL BE LIVESTREAMED

Connect with Us:
www.stmarktampa.org
Facebook - www.facebook.com/StMarkTampa
Instagram - www.instagram.com/StMarkLOVE

TODAY &
EVERYDAY
WE CAN
GIVE
THE BEST GIFT
OF ALL...
JESUS

It is fitting toward our mission to invite all on our journey to

L.O.V.E.

during Christmas
because this beautiful holiday has a way of bringing
individuals and families to Church,
who for various reasons, have not been to Mass
...sometimes for months or years.

What a wonderful and grace-filled opportunity for us
to welcome them to our family
to begin a new relationship with the Lord
and His Church community here at St. Mark.

At Christmas, we are all blessed with God's gift to the world
as we celebrate the love of God the Father
manifested to us in the wonderful gift of His Son,

JESUS.

This is the best gift we could possibly receive
and also the best gift we can possibly give.

So...our special prayer is that YOU
RECEIVE & GIVE

JESUS FOR CHRISTMAS

(in whatever way God speaks to you)
and make this your best Christmas ever!

Please be assured that Father Richard prays
for your intentions and remembrances
and lifts them up at each of our Masses
through this Christmas season and throughout the New Year!

Merry Christmas & God Bless You All!

L.O.V.E. from Father Richard & your St. Mark Staff

Learn ~ Aprender

Teachings for the 4th Sunday of Advent Liturgy - Deacon Jose Moronta

We remember today when God was incarnate and became a human person

Of the four gospels only two contain what are known as the infancy narratives of Jesus. Matthew brings information about how Joseph was informed that Mary had conceived a baby and also about the trips of the Holy Family first to Bethlehem and later to Egypt. Luke's infancy narrative includes the story of the Annunciation which is proclaimed in today's Liturgy of the Word..

It's good to have in mind that at the time of the annunciation, Nazareth was an obscure little town of some 150 people, and Mary was an ordinary girl, not expecting more in her life than having a good husband and children. Considering these facts, it's not surprising Mary's reaction when an angel of God talks to her and let her know that she has been chosen by God to give birth to the Messiah.

Mary was told that God is with her, and most importantly, that she is full of grace. As far as she is concerned, she has done nothing spectacular which would warrant a visit from an angel with this sort of greeting. She is puzzled.

«The angel Gabriel…said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son…»

The angel has said "you will conceive" not "you have conceived," it is future tense. Mary is espoused to Joseph. If a "normal" married life was planned, the question makes no sense. If she, on the other hand was a consecrated virgin, then "normal" marital relations were not planned and the question becomes reasonable. There is an apocryphal book, 'The Gospel of the Birth of Mary'. Although not considered inspired, it possibly brings some historical and useful information. It says that Mary entered the Temple at the age of three and lived with other virgins in the apartments of the Temple until the age of fourteen. "At that time the high priest made a public order. That all the virgins who had public settlements in the temple, and were come to this age, should return home, and, as they were now of a proper maturity, should, according to the custom of their country, endeavor to be married. To which command, though all the other virgins readily yielded obedience, Mary the Virgin of the Lord alone answered she could not comply with it. Assigning these reasons, that both she and her parents had devoted her to the service of the Lord; and besides, that she had vowed virginity to the Lord, which vow she was resolved never to break through by lying with a man."

But still, even while in shock she answered to the angel her most famous words,

«...Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word…»

This is a differential form of the word used in the Lord's Prayer: "Thy will be done."

…and the rest is history. Her response split the history of humankind in two parts, before and after God's Incarnation. The Messiah was expected for centuries and came. We're not celebrating Advent because Jesus will be born. This happened already 2000 years ago. However, since Jesus' Ascension, 40 days after his resurrection, we are awaiting for his Second Coming ("the Parousia"). In other words, the Church has been living since her foundation a long Advent, which will end on the day the Lord comes again in glory.

Anticipation and preparedness are the watchwords for Advent. Anticipation of the celebration of the birth of our Lord some 2000 years ago and the festivities, gifts, parties and family get-togethers which accompany that celebration. Preparedness because we are reminded that Jesus will come at the end of the world (the parousia) and all will be judged – not just on whether they believed or not, but how they have lived out their belief. Are the end times near? No one knows but the Father. We must always be ready because our personal parousia can come at any time.

Learn ~ Aprender

Teachings for The Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Liturgy - Deacon Jose

Happy Christmas… and more about why we celebrate it on December 25th

The period of advent is now completed and we celebrate the birth of our Lord some 2,000 years ago. Jesus, the Messiah, is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. During the Advent season we heard some of these prophecies and today we hear another. This one, by Isaiah, the greatest of the Old Testament prophets is the prelude to the prophecy of the coming of Christ.

Many scholars believe that Christmas came to be placed on December 25th in order to counteract a pagan celebration called the Birth of the Unconquered Sun. This feast of the Roman religion was established on December 25th by the Roman Emperor Aurelian in A.D. 274. December 25th was also observed as the date of the winter solstice, the year's shortest day, after which the days began to lengthen again. Just when the darkness of night seemed about to suppress the light of day, the sun began to regain strength. This victory was cause for rejoicing.

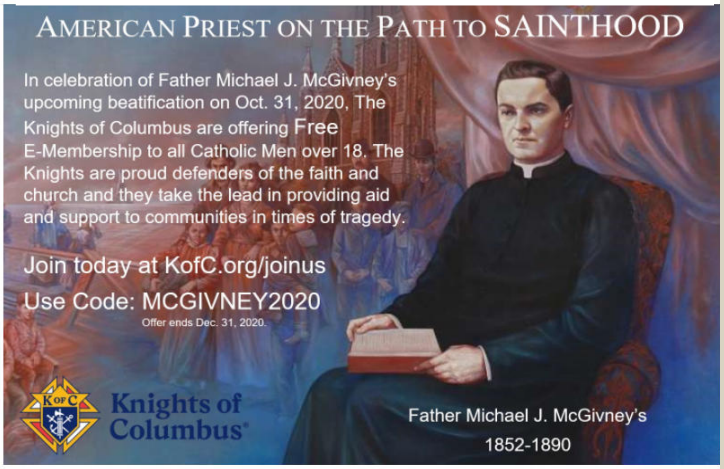
Christians chose this day because Jesus is the true Son who conquers the power of darkness. Since the 18th century this theory of the origin of Christmas has been widely taught. Recently, another possibility has been suggested by some scholars. This theory of the origin of Christmas relies on the Bible itself to give us clues to the date of Christ's birth. These scholars begin with the appearance of the angel to Zachariah in the temple to announce the conception of John the Baptist. This appearance occurred when Zachariah was serving in the temple. If this service was for the feast of Yom Kippur, that would place it near the autumn equinox, around September 25th. Figuring nine months from conception to birth, puts John's birth around June 25th. We celebrate the feast of his birth on June 24th. In appearing to Mary at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel told her that Elizabeth was already in her 6th month of pregnancy. That puts the Annunciation at the spring equinox, around March 25th (which is when we celebrate that feast). Adding nine months to that date brings us to December 25th as the date of Christ's birth. This also meshes with an opinion common in the early Church that Christ died on the same date (the 25th) he was conceived.

As we celebrate the incarnation of the Word of God this Christmas, we must make a conscious effort to remember that Jesus is always with us in the Eucharist, and to share our joy with others. Christmas is a season that lasts for 12 days, concluding on Epiphany (12th night, if celebrated on January 6th) which should remind us to continue to share our joy of the coming of the Messiah some 2,000 years ago and again at the Parousia for which we all pray in every Mass when we say "When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory."

Mass Intentions

MASS INTENTIONS: Mon., December 21 – Sunday, December 27

Mon., Dec. 21	Noon	Cris & Ross Hermano (l) by Cris Hermano
Tues., Dec. 22	8:30 am	Ashley Herderson (d) by Wayne & Marleny Henderson
Wed., Dec. 23	8:30 am	Vocations
Thurs. Dec 24	8:30 am	Jeff Chmura (d)
Christmas Eve		by Fran Chmura
	4:00 pm	Sister Mary Gratia (d) by the Spencer Ffamily
	AND	Diane Bivona (d) by Carl Bivona
	6:30 pm	Terecita Carillo Mendoza (d) by the Mendoza Family
Fri., Dec. 25	Midnight	Joe Curtis (d)
Christmas Day		by Dennie & Eva Alvarez, JrSS
	8:30 am	The Parishioners of St. Mark
	10:30 am	Fr. Frank Yavarone, OMV (l) by Emily Donaire
	12:30 pm	Roberto Nunez (d) by Carmen Nunez
Sat, Dec. 26	4:00 pm	John Carlo III (d) by Grandma & Grandpa Carlo
Sun. Dec. 27	8:30 am	Marc Dodson (d) by the DePiero Family
	10:30 am	Carl & Beverly Estell (d) by Ann Pianka
	12:30 pm	Maria Yessenia Montalvo (d) by the Montalvo Family
	5:30 pm	Parishioners of St. Mark



Your State Membership Team AND MEMBERS OF ST. MARK PARISH.

A Great Gift Idea
PLUS a Reminder
to Say A Prayer
before your Morning Coffee!!

St. Mark Winged Lion

(as shown on front)

L.O.V.E

(on the back)

30oz Tumblers
(Yeti-like Insulation)

on sale now in the Gift Shop
or at the Parish Office

$25 each

Holiday Parish Office Hours:

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th - Closed
Christmas Day , Dec. 25th - Closed

December 28,29,& 30th - 9am-4pm
New Year's Eve, Dec. 31st - 9am -N
New Year's Day, Jan. 1st - Closed

Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!

Orar ~ Pray

Pray for Our Heroes

Kyle Novac

* No Photo

Brian Artienda
Ulio & Francisco Arocho
Morgan Boruty
*Stephen Brown
Tanya Buckley
*Ron Caputo
Neal Cheramie
Ryan Clisset
Adrian A. Cruz
Tyler Emerick
*Jorge Farchakh
Christopher A. Garcia
*Ian Garia
Andrew Gephart
Kevin Howell
Kyle Howell
*Bryan Hunt
*Ryan Irwin
Mark Kieweg
Harold La Rock
Jason Larson
Robert Letzeisen Jr.
*Antonio Lopez
Jack Manning
Jacob Meier
Yerandy Molina
Merridith Morrison
Brandon Nidasio
Kyle Novac
Ismael A. Olivo-Alvarez
Anthony Orcajo
Christopher Parkes
Jorge A. Perez III
James Phillips
Paul Pita
Pedro Rico
Daniel Sabarese
*Cory Singleton
*Justin Singleton
Maura Stepanski
Nicholas Stiegler
Tiffany Stiegler
Bobby Thomas
Ana Maria Vargas
*Camilo Andres Vargas
Disney Velez
Khiry White
Daniel Woodard

Get Well Prayers

Casey Maclear Aída Hernández

Maria Cotto & family Lindsey Mathiasmeier

David Johnson Nick K & Nicole H

Pam Ahlf Juliana Snyder Louis Zulli Jr.

George Andrew Davis, Jr.

Olga Piedad Hurtado Celeita

Please send your request to Prayers@stmarktampa.org

Dearly Departed

Joshua Miller
Amanda Mahon
Jim Depinet

Learn, Orar, giVe & Evangelize (& Engage!)

Message from the

Faith Formation And Youth Ministry

St. Mark Website:

For Children: Does your child miss those Weekly Gospel booklets that they normally get at Mass. Here is the link so you can print and they can work on them at home: https://stmarktampa.org/weekly-gospel-worksheets

For Adults: Weekly Reflection by Deacon Jose: If you would like to reflect on the Sunday Gospel yourself here is a link to Deacon Jose's reflections: https://stmarktampa.org/weekly-lectionary-reflection-by-deacon-jose

Sacrament Preparation 2020-2021: If your intention is for your child to receive Sacrament in the upcoming year you will need to have your child registered for faith formation and make a separate meeting with Laura Rivera to receive the sacrament request form. Go to misslaura.youcanbook.me to schedule your sacrament meeting ONLY.

Have you felt the desire to become Catholic? or Do you know someone that would like to become Catholic? If you answered, Yes. Please contact our Director of Sacrament Prep, Laura Rivera. Meetings can be done in person or via Zoom. contact information: lrivera@stmarktampa.org

Registration continues. At this time we are only accepting registration for our home base program. Please come in and register as soon as possible. Visit ffymregistration.youcanbook.me to make your appointment to register.

Adult Formation: Join us for our Advent Reflection series *REJOICE!*

† St. Vincent de Paul Society of Neighbors helping neighbors®

Our Food Pantry Is open for those in need!

Drive-up open on 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month from 1pm-4pm

Please help stock our Food Pantry!

Mac & Cheese

drop off at the wagon inside our Social Narthex
by our Information Desk during the week
or
outside during Weekend Mass Hours..

Drop off times will coincide with our church hours:
Monday -Thursday 9-3
Friday 9-noon
&
at all Masses

Thank you for your continued support!

If you would like to volunteer to help distribute food at our food pantry please go to: **www.stmarktampa.org/FoodPantrySchedule** to check the schedule for vacant dates & send an email to: **smpantry@gmail.com** with the vacant date(s) you would like to volunteer.

Svdp Thrift Store: 12310 N. Nebraska Ave in Tampa. (813) 977-7057.

DID YOU KNOW?

*Hearing Assistance Devices are available!
Stop at the AV booth in the back of the Nave
*Low gluten hosts are available
(0.001% gluten)
See Luther Ferris

Remember to Update Your Info!

ConnectNow My Own Church

Go to our website to update your personal information & receive contribution statements electronically.

Attention Online Shoppers:

Click on the black Amazon link box located on our website **www.stmarktampa.org** to support St. Mark while you do your online shopping.

We get a percentage of all sales purchased through the link our site.
It's a great way to support St. Mark at no cost to you!

Search New and Used amazon.com.

Drive-Thru Communion

Please note that our Christmas Drive-Thru Communion will be on 12/24 at 7:45pm - right after our 6:30pm Christmas Mass

Who: For all parishioners unable to attend due to COVID-19 concerns.
What: A Drive Thru Communion to receive the Precious Body of Christ
When: On Saturdays from 5:15pm - 5:30pm
Where: Drive up & Drive Thru around our Belltower Circle
Why: Because we know you have missed receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist AND we miss you!!!

How: Here are some more very important details for your safety & the safety of our Clergy & Ushers:

1. You must wear your mask.
2. You must stay in your car & follow the directions of the Ushers.
3. You must receive in the hand.
4. You must consume the Precious Body of Christ before you drive away.

Thank you in advance for following these guidelines which allows us to offer the Sacrament!

You will most likely be receiving Communion
from Father Richard or one of our Deacons
until possibly our Eucharistic Ministers are asked to assist.

A Guide to our Virtual Church

www.stmarktampa.org

Everything listed can be found on the lower right side of our website homepage www.stmarktampa.org

Sunday Masses:
Our Saturday 4pm Vigil & Sunday 12:30pm (Spanish) Masses will be Livestreamed onto our Facebook Page or our YouTube Channel.
To view the Livestream Mass, on Facebook: type www.facebook.com/stmarktampa into your URL. You do not have to be a Facebook user to view the Mass.
Or - go to YouTube.com and type in St. Mark Tampa and look for our Gold Winged Lion in a circle and click to open and choose the Mass video.

Ways to Give:
The various ways to donate to St. Mark are available here.
Our ***Text To Give*** # & ***Donate Now*** button are there for your convenience as well as our address to mail in your donations or add to St. Mark to your Personal Bank Online Bill Pay. If you'd like to set up recurring donations so that you don't need to login each week or month please email our Business Manager, Joe at jphillips@stmarktampa.org and let him know the dollar amount, the fund collection (Offertory, Building Fund, APA) & how often you'd like your donation to recur.

Deacon Jose's weekly ***Bilingual Liturgical Reflections.***

A link to Deacon Scott's Facebook page where he shares videos to join him each day during his ***Morning & Evening Prayers***.

A link to St. Leo Abbey's Facebook page where you can join Abbot Isaac & the Benedictine Monks celebrating their ***LIVESTREAMED Daily Mass at noon each weekday***.

Connecting info to join Deacon Hector each evening at 8pm for a ***LIVE Rosary*** via Zoom.

Enjoy 30 minutes with our Lord in ***Adoration*** during a virtual ***Exposition.***

Pray **The Divine Mercy Chaplet.**

The scheduled day & time for ***Confession with Father Richard***.

A link to our ***Weekly Bulletin.***

A link to ALL our wonderful ***Family Resources*** brought to you by our Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Department.

And last - a link to our FREE Catholic "Netflix-type" resource: ***FORMED.org***

Sanctuary Candle

Stop by the Parish Office to request your Sanctuary Candle.
In order to accommodate the requests of our many parishioners, we limit 1 Candle per family.
The cost is $25.
Requests are on a first come availability basis.

Our Mass Intention Book is Here!

Stop by the Parish Office to request your Mass Intentions for 2021.
In order to accommodate the requests of our many parishioners, only four Mass Intentions per family will be allowed and only one of those can be a weekend mass.
The Mass Stipend is $20.
Requests are on a first come availability basis.

Please consider joining our
St. Mark the Evangelist Legacy Society

To remember St. Mark in your will or trust, please ask your attorney to use the following terminology:

I give, devise, bequeath (amount, article, stock, property, etc.) to
St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church
9724 Cross Creek Blvd,
Tampa, FL 33647

For more information, please contact Val anytime at 813-907-7746 x 333 or vmainguy@stmarktampa.org

The Venetian Event Center

http://thevenetiantampa.com

- **Over 11,000 sq ft Event Space**
- **Seats Up to 880 Banquet Style**
- **Seats Over 1,000 Theatre Style**
- **Wet Bar / Cafe & Reception Area**
- **Piano Available**
- **Adjustable Lighting and Room Darkening Shades**
- **Tables and Chairs Included**
- **Floating 16 ft x 9 ft HDMI Projection Screen**
- **Shure Clear Audio and Components**
- **Your Choice of Caterers & Vendors**
- **Catering Staging Area**

Wedding Receptions ~ Anniversary Parties
Banquets ~ Quinceañeras
Birthdays ~ Concerts

For rental information call 813-995-7480
Events@The VenetianTampa.com

Many parishioners enjoy the ease of our quick new

Donatestmark.org

If you'd like to set up recurring donations so that you don't need to login each week or month please email our Business Manager, Joe at jphillips@stmarktampa.org and let him know the dollar amount, the fund collection (Offertory, Building Fund, APA) & how often you'd like your donation to recur.

OR

Text To Give - via Smartphone - just **TEXT 813-296-5116.**

The first time you do this,
please text your donation amount, (ex: 25 which will result in a $25 donation).
A return text will be sent back to you immediately requesting you to set up your giving info.
Once complete, you will receive a confirmation text stating, " Successful Registration and Donation".

For future Text To Give donations,

you only need to text the dollar amount you wish to donate and

the name of the fund you wish to donate.

Examples of what you would text: 10 offertory or 5 capital campaign

After texting your donation amount & fund name, you will receive a confirmation text stating "Your giving was successful".

OR

Simply use your own bank's electronic Bill Pay

to schedule your weekly offertory contribution
by setting up a weekly or monthly payment by adding St. Mark as a payee

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church
9724 Cross Creek Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33647

Note either Offertory, APA, Capital Campaign in the FOR or MEMO field.

OR

Sign up on our traditional Online Giving platform at
www.stmarktampa.org/donate

All of our options are simple and secure ways to make and track your parish giving.

As always, THANK YOU for your continued support of St. Mark!

Our Monthly St. Mark Financial Information can always be found on our website at

https://stmarktampa.org/finances

or

Go to our homepage www.stmarktampa.org > About Us > Financial Summary

Thank you ALL for your continual generosity!

Please note that all END OF THE YEAR contributions must be postmarked on or before Thursday, December 31st or hand delivered to the Parish Office before NOON on Thursday, December 31st.

God Bless!