

ST. MARK

CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



FROM FR. JOE

I am pleased to present this annual report for fiscal year 2021-22. Inside you will find summaries of our financial position as well as reports from your staff and their ministry areas.

Some highlights from the past twelve months include:

The parish “re-opened” to activities and meetings. Online giving has increased, providing a more consistent cash flow. Attendance is returning to pre-pandemic numbers.

We gained a new refurbished church organ, thanks to insurance.

Two family-style Fish Fries were held during Lent, with more on the calendar next Lent.

A new HVAC computer program was installed. The parish center has a new audio-visual projector, a screen, and hardware.

A feasibility study was made of the parishes in the Independence deanery. St. Mark remains a stand-alone parish. (See page 2).

Small Wonder Preschool had an unexpected visitor in June. A deer crashed through a window and ran amok. Thankfully, no one was hurt other than the deer. Again, insurance came to our rescue.

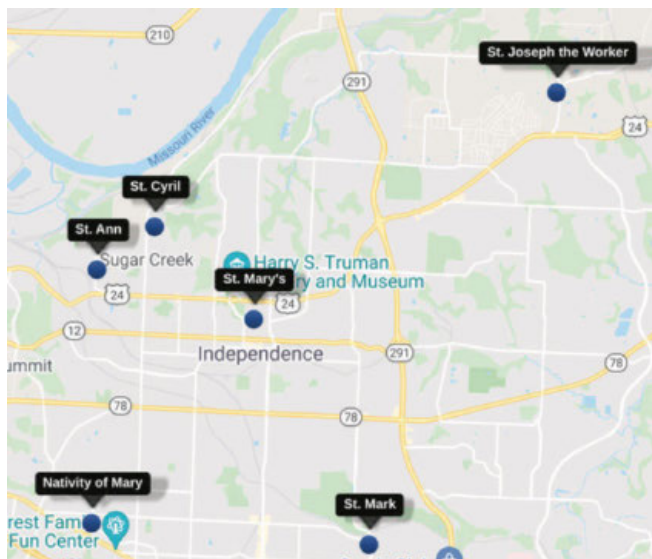
Some future plans include drafting a security plan and buying new security cameras, new phones for the offices, and improving the sound system in church.

Thank you for your outstanding gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

Sincerely,

Fr. Joe

STRATEGIC STUDY OF DEANERY II



DEANERY II REALIGNMENT

- * **St. Mark remains as a stand-alone parish.**
- * **Nativity of Mary remains clustered with St. Bernadette.**
- * **St. Ann and St. Cyril are clustered with St. Mary. Both parishes will close at the end of two years and be amalgamated with St. Mary.**
- * **St. Joseph the Worker will close October 9, 2022 and be amalgamated with St. Mary.**

Beginning in July 2021, the parishes of Deanery 11 were invited by the diocese to engage in a strategic study facilitated by a professional consulting firm. The parishes were St. Mark, St. Mary, St. Ann, St. Cyril, St. Joseph the Worker, and Nativity of Mary. The goal was to develop a strategy that would meet pastoral and sacramental needs thereby leading to greater vitality within the deanery. The final plan, was approved by Bishop Johnston on May 19, 2022. The new parish alignment can be seen in the left-hand column.

It is recommended that a combined pastoral council meeting be held at least annually to study and monitor pastoral activity in the Independence area. The other major recommendation encourages the deanery to focus on a common strategy to move the focus away from a “parish-only” mindset to a “Catholic community” one. In such a community, we see ourselves as one family participating in and attending shared events, educational opportunities, and other services in the other parishes while being an active member in one’s parish of registration. As in any family, each parish maintains its unique identity and history. We will explore areas where we can work in collaboration with one another: ministry areas, events, faith formation, prayer and worship, and more.

**Yesterday is gone.
Tomorrow has not yet come.
We have only today.
LET US BEGIN**

Mother Teresa

ST. MARK FINANCIAL POSITION 2021-2022

To be a Steward of God's gifts to us means we are managers of those gifts. Each year Parishioners receive an annual report of their gifts to St. Mark parish. This is one way that parish leadership is accountable on how these gifts were used to serve the community here and beyond this place.

St. Mark Year End Financial Report

Parish Income

Contribution-General, Online, IRA, Stocks, Holy Days, and more	\$1,129,073.29
Development/Fund Raising	\$10,940.81
Operational-Interest, Weddings/Funerals, Mass Stipends	\$10,190.01
Religious Education-PSR, Youth, and Adult Education	\$5,703.54
Ministry/Program-Pastoral Care, Missions, and Social Justice	\$15,082.69
*Extraordinary Income-2 nd SBA-PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$172,855.01
Total Parish Income	\$1,343,845.35

Parish Expenses

Personnel-Salaries and Benefits	\$650,884.80
Facilities-Utilities, Repairs and Maintenance	\$199,935.45
General/Operational-Diocesan Assessment, Liability Insurance , etc	\$277,466.08
Prayer/Worship-Liturgy and Music	\$21,804.40
Religious Education-PSR, Youth and Adult Education	\$5,310.78
Pastoral Ministry-Seniors, Missions and Social Justice	\$5,148.21
Extraordinary Expense-Roof Repair	\$35,483.00
Total Parish Expenses	\$1,196,032.72
Parish Net	\$147,812.63

Small Wonders Preschool Income

Gifts/Donations	\$1,000.00
Fund Raising	\$2,201.50
Tuition	\$88,773.99
Registration Fees	\$1,150.00
Total SWP Income	\$93,125.49

Small Wonders Preschool Expenses

Personnel	\$102,205.11
Facilities	\$6,567.96
General/Operational	\$3,123.49
Total SWP Expenses	\$111,896.56
Small Wonders Preschool Net	(\$18,771.07)
St. Mark Net	\$129,041.56



I invite you to carefully review this report and see what the mission of this parish community is and what priorities are revealed in this report. Our hope is that if any parishioner needs more information on why our resources were used in a particular way, they can contact us and we would be happy to provide such information.

Stewardship-Time, Talent, and Treasure

WAYS TO SHARE

* **Text to Give:**

No envelope to remember. Just text to give right from the Pew. Text give to: 816-578-8877 follow the directions for a one time set up.

* **Parish App:**

You can download our parish app from your App store on your smart phone.

* **IRA:**

If you are 70 1/2 you can give from your IRA. IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions are excluded from taxable income.

* **Securities or Stocks:** This can be a meaningful gift for your parish.

* **Envelopes:**

Envelopes will always be a way to share with your parish.

* **Bequest in a Will or Trust:**

Retain control of your assets during your lifetime and reduce potential estate taxes for your heirs.

* **Volunteer:**

Call the parish office for the many ways to get involved.

QUOTES TO LIVE BY AS A CATHOLIC

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" 1 Peter 4:10

"...everything has its origin in God's love, everything is shaped by it, everything is directed towards it. Love is God's greatest gift to humanity, it is his promise and our hope. "Caritas in Veritate" Pope Benedict XVI

"when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Luke 14:1,7-14

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COUNCIL



Dear Friends,

Please reference the Annual Financial Report for St Mark Parish. In spite of sacrifices, difficulties and challenging times the past two years, St Mark Parish has been fortunate to sustain its operations within its Fiscal Year Budgets. We are grateful of this accomplishment as a result of successful and diligent expense oversight and controls exhibited by St. Mark Parish administration and staff and blessed through the faithful support and generosity from loyal St Mark parishioners.

As the parish migrates to another Fiscal Year, we all pray to attain normalcy, including the return of all St Mark parishioners to in-person Mass and the Eucharist to pre-pandemic levels.

Conclusion of the dispensation of our Sunday Mass obligation was announced by Bishop Johnston in June, 2021. At this post-pandemic moment, it's worthy to reflect on being responsible stewards of the many blessings with which all have been given and the sharing of time, talent and treasure.

Respectfully,

Jim Riesselman

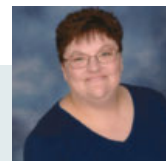
GIVING ONLINE IS EASY

Online Giving a fast, CONVENIENT and secure way for you to give one-time gifts or recurring donations by credit card or debit card or ACH/eCheck (Automatic Clearing House) and Google Pay. (Apple Pay coming soon)

Scan the QR code to get started now.

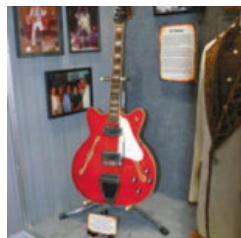


SENIOR GROUPS



THE REMARKABLES

We took one trip last year to Memphis - Home of the Blues, Soul & Rock n Roll. We had 39 travelers that went. Everyone had a great time! Some of the highlights were Memphis Rock n Soul Museum, Graceland, home of Elvis Presley, free time on Beale Street and wonderful tasting food. Please watch our bulletin to see where our next trip will be this Spring!



**A SOCIAL MINISTRY FOR ADULTS
DESIGNED TO PROMOTE FUN AND
FELLOWSHIP. WE MEET ON THE FIRST
WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 11:30 AM TO
3:00 PM IN MEETING ROOM 1 OF THE PARISH
CENTER. BRING A SNACK TO SHARE AND ENJOY
QUARTERLY POTLUCKS.
ALL ADULTS ARE WELCOME!**

PASTORAL CARE

**TO SERVE THE POOR, ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND, SICK AND GRIEVING. BY PROVIDING CORPORAL
WORKS OF MERCY AND GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE.**

11 Care Ministers

**Bringing communion to over
1,500 Catholic patients a year
at Centerpoint Hospital.**

**Serving 3 nursing homes and 1
Senior Apartments Complex,
bringing weekly communion to
Catholic residents.**

**Taking weekly communion to
21 Homebound.**

**3 Blood Drives with 91
units collected.
Thank you to everyone
who donated and helped!**

***Knights of Columbus*
11,325 Hours of Service
\$17,000 Donated to the parishes**

***Ladies' Auxiliary Knights*
8305 Hours of Service**

Sacraments and Rites

47 Baptisms

17 First Communions

24 Confirmations

5 Marriages

51 Funerals

70 Prayer Chain Warriors,
praying daily for those
requesting prayers.

If you would like to become a
prayer chain warrior, please
email Betsy at
bward@stmarksparish.com

Ambassadors for Christ

**In fulfilling our mission, the Ambassadors for Christ members have
been able to serve those in need or those who have requested
assistance in the past fiscal year.**

Home Visits: Over 90 visits to various parishioners.

Care Baskets: 8 care baskets were delivered over the year.

Cards-Over 600 various cards were sent out.

Adopted Families: Adopted a family of 7 for Christmas.

Helped a family of 3 for Thanksgiving and school supplies.

**If you would like to be a member or get more information,
please contact Mary Meyer at (816) 591-8395**

HISPANIC MINISTRY



Hispanic Ministry

Our new ministry, Coffee with Jesus, for adults and Chocolate milk with Jesus for children, reflects on scriptures & engages small groups in discussions while sipping on coffee or chocolate milk in a relaxed atmosphere! It's been a great hit with families!

Come hear our Spanish Choir (Coro Sinai) at the 7:30 pm mass on Saturdays. They sang with the English Choir for Christmas in July! Our Dance group (Matachines) will be ready to perform in December for you!



Hispanic Fiesta on September 25th in the parish center starting at 12 noon. See you There!!

Celebration for Our Lady of Guadalupe-December 10th at 6 pm.



St. Vincent de Paul Ministry

The ministry is hard at work assisting those in need of essentials to keep going. St. Joseph Table donated \$19K to assist in these efforts for our community. The Green Envelope is essential to our work in helping the most vulnerable. Thank you for your kind donations!

Hillcrest Ministry!!

After a long two years of waiting for Covid to settle down, the ministry was able to host the Annual Chili Dinner and Horse races that turned out fantastic. We had the largest turn out we've had and cleared the \$5000 needed for the sponsored apartment. It was a great time and we can't wait to host it again this year. Please mark your calendars:

November 12th at 6 pm in the parish center!!

Our Mayor Rory Rowland will be our MC for the evening!



Casa de la Cruz at Anapra turns 30 this year!

So many memories and so many wonderful volunteers have come and gone in more than 30 years of it's creation.

The mission is fully operational now. Students have returned to classes & our Food for Love program is serving the elderly and single mothers. The Blue envelope in your bi-monthly packet helps us to keep it going so that we can serve the needs of this community. Thank you for your support!



Small Wonders Grow Here!

This is an exciting time of year for preschool! We welcome over 60 children back to school for the 2022-23 school year.

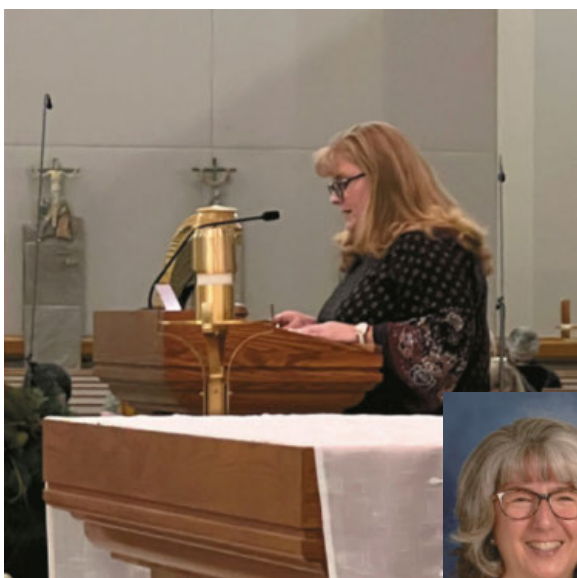
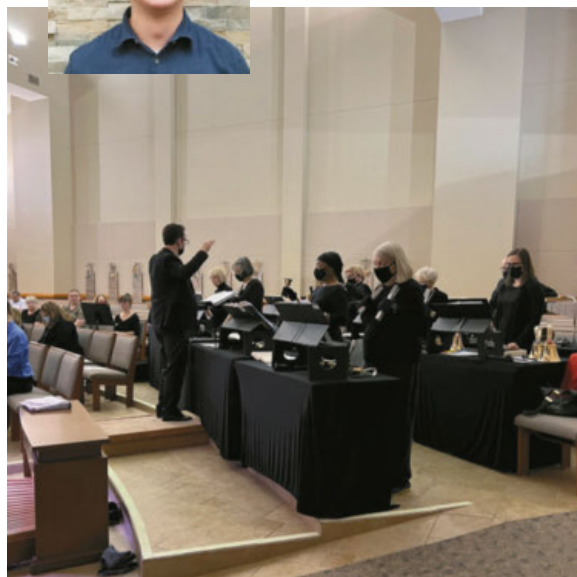
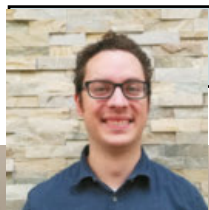
This year we are also reopening our Mother's Day Out Program. It was closed temporarily due to the Pandemic. There is a huge need in the community for this service and we are pleased to once again offer it to area families.

In addition to the learning and fun that happens each day in our classrooms, we plan special events each month. In October, our students love the visits we receive from the Independence Fire Department. We get to see the truck and also learn about fire safety. Another fun activity planned for October is our Halloween costume parade and indoor Trunk-or-Treat.

Our school is nationally accredited and has served the community for 52 years. Many of our alumni are sending their children (and some are sending their grandchildren) to our school. We are honored to be part of their families. If you would like to learn more about our school, please contact Charlotte Davis at 816-285-8368 or email at smallwonderpreschool@stmarksparish.com.



Are You Being Called?



Heavenly Father,
pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire me with
words from Holy Scripture.

Stir in my soul the desire to renew my faith
and deepen my relationship with your Son, our Lord
Jesus Christ so that I might truly believe in and live
the Good News.

Open my heart to hear the Gospel
and grant me the confidence to proclaim the Good
News to

others. Pour out your Spirit, so that I might be
strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in
my everyday life through my words and actions.

In moments of hesitation, remind me:

If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel?

If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?

If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I
proclaim?

God, our Father, I pray that through the Holy Spirit
I might hear the call of the New Evangelization to
deepen my faith, grow in confidence to proclaim the
Gospel

and boldly witness to the saving grace of your Son,
Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

usccb.org

These past couple of years have taken a toll on all of
us. We have had many volunteers step away.
However, things are changing! We have been blessed
with concerts by our choirs and friends. The organ
dedication, Lessons and Carols, and Christmas in July
concerts were wonderful. Also, both the bell choir and
adult choir have added several new members this
year. We are seeing more people come back to
Liturgical Ministry too! In fact, we have a training
coming up at the end of September if you are
interested.

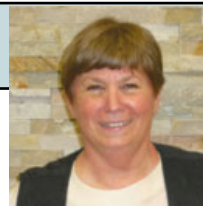
We all feel the Lord speaking to us. Do you long to
proclaim the words of the Holy Scripture? Do you
have a desire to renew your faith through song? Do
you want to deepen your relationship with Christ
through service to the church?

We are always looking for new Liturgical Ministers
(Readers/Lectors, Communion Ministers,
Ushers/Greeters) and choir members, cantors and
musicians. Come answer the Lord's call!

Contact Jacob Hofeling, Director of Liturgy and Music,
at jhofeling@stmarksparish.com or 816-285-8375, or

Chris Masuch, Administrative Assistant, at
cmasuch@stmarksparish.com or 816-373-2600.

Parish School of Religion (PSR) 2021-2022



Our theme for 2021-22 was **ALL GOOD GIFTS COME FROM GOD**. Our goal was and is :

TO HELP FAMILIES PASS ON THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Curriculum for families with children grades 1-5 will include:

TEACHING THE TRUTHS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH as prescribed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church which includes a family page that helps families consciously, intentionally and deliberately look at how their faith affects how they live their lives, how it affects the choices they make.

INSPIRING families to be awesome stewards of all God has given them through study, prayer, service and celebration.

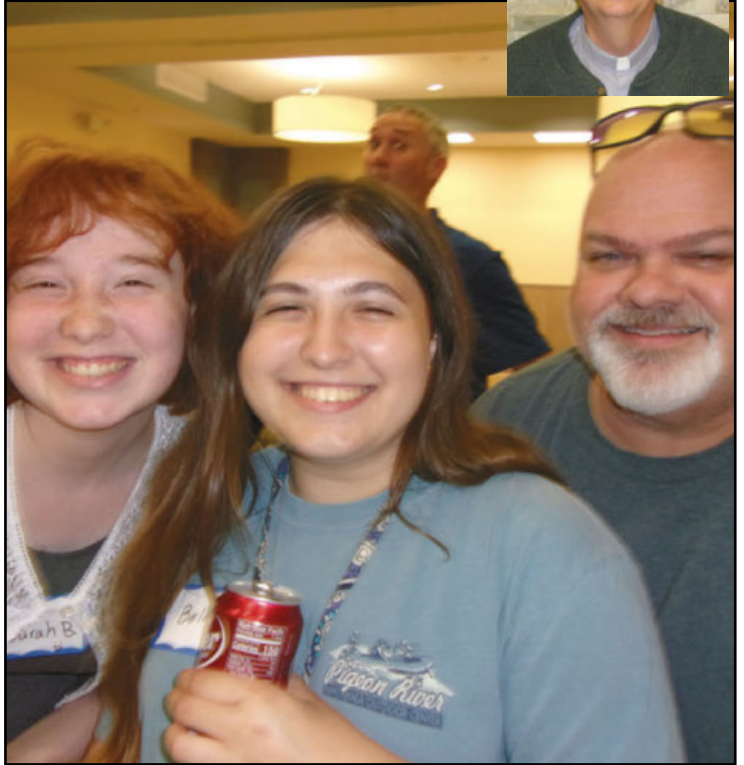
ENCOURAGING families to weekly reflect on Mass and participate more actively.



Parish Youth Ministry!!!



OUR PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY STRIVES TO CREATE A RICH COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE WITHIN WHICH YOUTH CAN RAISE THE QUESTIONS OF THEIR HEARTS REGARDING THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD, OTHERS, AND THE CHURCH. OUR YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVES YOUTH FROM SIXTH GRADE THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE. YOUTH MAY JOIN IN ANYTIME OF THE YEAR.

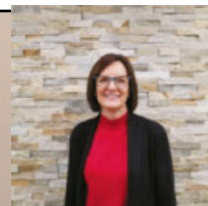


Youth are at their best when they are ministering to and with one another.

Three Key Aspects

Our Youth Ministry is comprised of three parts: community, catechesis, and service. Those are intermingled a number of ways, including through High School Faith Formation, Middle School Faith Formation, sacramental preparation, Search Retreat, social activities such as a hayride, movies, Escape Room, etc...and service projects such as our monthly trips to Harvesters warehouse. Many of our high schoolers also serve as Peer Ministers, using their gifts to provide ministry for others.





I COME TO DO YOUR WILL

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

COUNCILS

Finance-Pastoral-Safety

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Eucharist Ministers-Lectors-Cantors-Ushers-
Hospitality-Rosary-Eucharistic Adoration

FAITH FORMATION

Men's Prayer & Share-Sacrament Preparation-
First Sacraments-Catechumenate-Family Ties-
First Years-Growing in Faith-PSR-At Home-
VBS-Preschool-Mother's Day Out-Peer Ministry

FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNITY

Bingo-Blood Drive-Knights of Columbus-Ladies
Auxiliary-Knit Wits-Adult & Senior Ministry-Scouts

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CARE MINISTRY

Prayer Chain-Hillcrest-Hispanic Ministry-Just
Faith-Missions-St. Joseph Table-Food Pantry-St.
Vincent de Paul

CHURCH CLEANING-OFFICE & MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS

ALL ARE WELCOME AT ST. MARK PARISH

Parish Staff and Information

Rev. Joseph Powers x353 Pastor

jpowers@stmarksparish.com

Deacon Ken Fuenfhausen x361 Dir. Youth Ministry

kfuenfhausen@stmarksparish.com

Sue Nichols x355 Business/Operations Mgr.

snichols@stmarksparish.com

Joyce Arthur x362 Director Religious Ed

jarthur@stmarksparish.com

Hilda Beck x358 Director of Missions

hbeck@stmarksparish.com

**Charlotte Davis x368/360 Dir.,
Preschool/Youth Admin.**

cdavis@stmarksparish.com

Jacob Hofeling x375 Dir., Music and Liturgy

jhofeling@stmarksparish.com

Betsy Ward-Gales 357 Dir., Pastoral Care

bward@stmarksparish.com

Chris Masuch x 351 Admin Asst.

cmasuch@stmarksparish.com

Jeannie Scalise x354 Bookkeeper

jscalise@stmarksparish.com

Ann Falkenberg x356 Sacristan

afalkenberg@stmarksparish.com

Dave Beck x365 Maintenance Mgr.

dbeck@stmarksparish.com

Francis Jonas x365 Maintenance

3736 S. Lee's Summit Road

Independence, MO 64055

(816) 373-2600 • (816) 373-3816 FAX

www.stmarksparish.com

**Office Hours: M-Th. 8:30am-4:00pm & Fri.
8:30am-2:30pm**

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday:

M, W, F. 9:00am

Communion Service: T & Th. 9:00am

Weekend:

Sat. 4:30pm (English) 7:30pm (Spanish)

Sun. 8:00am & 10:00am

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:30-4:00pm

Or by appointment

ADORATION

Thursdays 9:30-10:30am

Our Mission Statement

Our Mission is to be a vibrant, prayerful and welcoming Catholic family, guided by the teaching of Jesus Christ, committed to justice, charity, peace, lifelong education and faith formation.

**Please contact the parish office if you
have registered at a different parish,
816-373-2600 or
snichols@stmarksparish.com.**

**Remember you are always welcome
home at St. Mark parish!**