St. Mark Catholic Church

4220 Ripa Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63125
Office: 314-743-8600, Fax: 314-743-8618
www.stmarkstl.com

December 23, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass Schedule
Sundays—7:00, 9:00, & 11:00 am
Monday—Friday—6:30 & 8:00 am
Saturdays—8:00 am & 5:00 pm
Holy Day—midnight, 8:00 & 10:00 am

Confessions
12/20: 6:00-7:00 pm & 12/21: 4:00-5:00 pm

Sacraments
Call 743-8620 or 743-8600 to make an appointment with one of the Priests.

Prayer Hotline
Dolores Bollwerk @ 631-5108
Rose Duane @ 631-0202

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesday after 8:00 am Mass to 9:00 pm

Bulletin Announcements
Deadline is Monday at noon
BULLETIN—dianelittle@archstl.org
WEB—www.stmarkstl.com

Clergy

Rev. Msgr. Patrick K. Hambrough
Pastor
phambrough@archstl.org
314-743-8609—church
314-743-8620—rectory

Rev. Ted Vitali, CP
Non-Resident, Associate
vitalit@slu.edu 314-729-7572

Deacon Richard Rosenkoetter
RichardRosenkoetter@archstl.org

Administrative Staff: Parish

4200 Ripa Ave., St. Louis, MO 63125

Diane Little—*Secretary*
743-8602 dianelittle@archstl.org

Alice Wilcox—*Bookkeeper*
743-8603 alicewilcox@archstl.org

Christina Sanders, Ph.D.
Pastoral Associate
743-8604 christinasanders@archstl.org

Rose Masidonski—*Music Director*
743-8605 rosiemaz@hotmail.com

Loretta Gutting—*Webmaster*
922-6838 loretta5@swbell.net

Administrative Staff: School

4220 Ripa Ave., St. Louis, MO 63125
Fax: 314-743-8690

Julie Bingham—*Principal*
743-8643 principal@stmarkstl.com

Mary Althage—*Secretary*
743-8640 malthage@stmarkstl.com

Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 23, 2018

An article in the magazine *The Living Pulpit* from 1997 contained these thoughts on maternity:

One thing pregnancy means is being taken over, becoming profoundly and overwhelmingly *NOT* in charge.

A mother-to-be once said that she felt as if she had been invaded by a foreign yet quite intimate being. At first she felt almost resentful that she seemed to have so little say in what was happening. But finally she realized that surrender was her only route. Although she was the host for this new life, she knew that she hadn't created it. She couldn't will it to be a boy or girl. She couldn't decide when it would cause her to have a craving. She couldn't control her burgeoning body or morning sickness or hormonal rushes.

But she *could* surrender. She could accept the event fully, embrace it and let it start defining who she was at this time in her life.

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, and just two days from celebrating the Birth of Our Lord, we hear of two expectant mothers in the Gospel. Elizabeth, thought to be barren, and Mary, told by St. Gabriel that she would bear the world its Savior, meet amidst an atmosphere of joy. Preceding the thoughts above, they concluded that surrender was their only route. These babies were on the way and these two blessed women were willing to embrace what lay before them. In their acceptance of God's design for salvation they experienced a surge of the Holy Spirit which prompted them to cry out with joy. Today we admire their faith!

The task falls to us at the conclusion of Advent and on the threshold of Christmas to commit again to letting a baby define who we are. The baby John helps define us as a people who decrease so that Christ may increase. The baby Jesus calls us to be defined by our discipleship, to be followers of Christ wherever He may go. We can't always determine the circumstances around us but, like the women above, we can surrender. In doing so we will discover, during Christmas, and always, much joy and many blessings.

I recently read Matthew Kelly's "The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity" and I am pleased to announce that we will be sharing copies of it this week. It's not a very long book but it contains beautiful stories of faith which have inspired me in my relationship with God and will, I believe, inspire you. Please pick up a copy, read it, and share it with family and friends.

Finally, a couple of Christmas quotes:

"He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree." ~ Rev. Roy L. Smith

"Unless we make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won't make it 'white'." ~ Bing Crosby

May God bless all of you.
Father Hambrough

Please note that **Tuesday, January 1,** is a holyday of obligation, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. Masses to celebrate this Feast and the start of 2019 will be:

Monday, December 31—5:00 pm
Tuesday, January 1—8:00 & 10:00 am

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, January 1.

Masses
Monday, December 24—8:00 am & 5:00 pm
Tuesday, December 25—midnight, 8:00 & 10:00 am
Wednesday, December 26—8:00 am

Confessions
Thursday, December 20—6:00-7:00 pm
Friday, December 21—4:00-5:00 pm

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed Monday, December 24, and Wednesday, December 26.

2019 SOUP KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS

If you are a St. Peter/Paul Soup Kitchen cook, baker or server and will ***NOT*** be able to continue in 2019, please let Barb Haaser know asap at 845-8986. New schedules will be mailed the beginning of January. Thank you.

Mass Intentions For The Week

December 23—30

Sunday	
7:00	Ginny Weber
9:00	People of the Parish
11:00	Dale Rees
Monday	
8:00	The Mall Family
5:00 pm	Lorenzo & Letitia Gianfrancesco
Tuesday	
Midnight	John & Rose Mana
8:00	People of the Parish
10:00	Msgr. Charles Forst
Wednesday	
8:00	John Winecoff
Thursday	
6:30	Lou Fuchs
8:00	Long Nguyen
Friday	
6:30	James Hieger Sr.
8:00	Vito Cognata
Saturday	
8:00	Special Intention-A.M.
5:00	Fr. Patrick Ryan-healing
Sunday	
7:00	Gieseppe Lordo
9:00	People of the Parish
11:00	Joann Handte

We are getting ready to empty out the ***Lost & Found*** box located in the Cry Room of church. Please check to see if anything is yours if you have lost something in the past few months.

Attention: Lectors, Eucharistic & Hospitality Ministers

Lector Workbooks and printed Ministry Schedules for those without email are now available in the Sacristy.

Early Bulletin Deadlines

With Christmas approaching I want to be sure all groups/organizations are aware of the early bulletin submission deadlines. **All notices are due to the parish office on the following dates:**

January 6 bulletin—December 24

Thank you for understanding!

Liturgical Roles

December 24—Christmas Vigil

5:00	**Lectors:**	J. White, E. Schneider
	Ministers:	C. DeRomero, B. Terry, M. White, J. Preisack
	Hospitality:	H. Bulliner, J. & L. Guillot, D. Benz
Midnight	**Lectors:**	K. Goersch
	Ministers:	K. Goersch, M. Cass, T. & S. Bast
	Hospitality:	K. Griebenow, H., T. & J. Bast

December 25—The Nativity of the Lord

8:00	**Lectors**:	M. Griffin
	Ministers:	S. Chambers, C. Fleming, J. Johnson, D. Stanger, L. Wells
	Hospitality:	D. Webb, T. Wright, C. Gay
10:00	**Lectors:**	A. Bast, M. Wobbe
	Ministers:	K. Vaughn, E. & L. Waugh, M. Wobbe
	Hospitality:	P. Ebel, R. McCloskey, F. Stephens

December 29 & 30

5:00	**Lectors:**	E. Schneider
	Ministers:	M. & P. Bierman, M. Cass, M. DeHekker, B. Terry
	Hospitality:	M. Paur, R. Chinnici, C. Micciche, R. Flynn
7:00	**Lectors:**	M. Griffin
	Ministers:	S. Chambers, C. Fleming, J. Johnson, C. Oberbeck, D. Stanger, L. Wells
	Hospitality:	D. Webb, T. Wright
9:00	**Lectors**:	K. Kraus, S. Landro
	Ministers:	J. Langevin, M. Mallette, L. Malone, M. Terhaar
	Hospitality:	K. Griebenow, D. Little, M. Hogrebe, M. Kramper
11:00	**Lectors:**	D. Smedra
	Ministers:	K. Gillman, S. Hentz, L. Schneider, M. Diethelm
	Hospitality:	J. & C. Snethen, M. & B. Fischer

ALTAR ANGELS

December 31 & January 4—June Bocquillon & Susan Metherd
January 7 & 11—Kathy Kraus & Mary Snodderley
January 14 & 18—Dianne Benz & Debbie Kopff
January 21 & 25—Marge Diethelm & Theresa Reilly
January 28 & February 1—Mary Boehm & Mary Ann Kroener

Please pick up your new 2019 schedule in the sacristy with your name on it. May God bless you for your efforts.

December 24—30

Monday
5:00 pm J. Smedra, D. Davis

Tuesday
Midnight K. Goersch, H. Bast
8:00 H. Cordell, R. Grebing
10:00 M. & H. Lotspeich

Wednesday
8:00 J. Bast

Thursday
6:30 **Server needed**
8:00 B. Stocking

Friday
6:30 M. Dozier
8:00 S. Lenhart

Saturday
8:00 **Server needed**
5:00 H. Cordell, **Server needed**

Sunday
7:00 **Servers needed**
9:00 M. Lee, L. Maloney
11:00 J. Smedra, A. Bernardino

Schedule of Events

December 24—30

Tuesday	**Merry Christmas!** **Masses at midnight, 8:00 & 10:00 am**
Wednesday	5:30 pm—Basketball—Parish Center
Thursday	5:30 pm—Basketball—Parish Center 6:30 pm—Choir Christmas party—cafeteria 7 pm—St. Vincent de Paul mtg.—Parish Office
Friday	5:30 pm—Basketball—Parish Center
Saturday	12 pm—Private Party—cafeteria

Liturgical Environment Volunteers Needed

The Liturgical Environment group decorates our liturgical space … sanctuary and, at times, the larger vestibule (aka: School Cafeteria) … to enhance our worship for special celebrations (such as, but not limited to, Advent, Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter). This group is seeking new members … there are no regular meetings, we gather in Church when needed.

For more information and/or to join the group, please contact Christina Sanders (Pastoral Associate) at 314.743.8604 or christinasanders@archstl.org.

A Kid's Prayer for Advent

My little Lord Jesus, I love you and thank you for this Advent season. Please help me to understand all that You have done for me. Your loving Mother held You in her heart and brought You into this world. Help me to do the same. *Amen.*

Dear St. Mark parishioners,

As we journey through the last few days of the Advent season, please know you are in our prayers. We pray that during the Christmas season and into the New Year the peace of the Infant Jesus and the joy of His Blessed Mother be with you and those you hold dear.

From the Parish School of Religion (PSR) students, catechists (religion teachers) and Dr. Christina Sanders (PSR Coordinator)

Since you're already here at Mass....Please consider joining one of the Mass ministries!

We are seeking:

~ ***Hospitality Ministers*** to welcome the people, help visitors before Mass & distribute bulletins after Mass.
~ ***Eucharistic Ministers*** to help distribute the Blessed Body & Blood.
~ ***Lectors*** to read & proclaim the Readings.

To join or get more information please call the Parish office at 314-743-8600 or Ed Schneider at 314-894-6079.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

December 24—30

Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Tuesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

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

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Friday: 1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

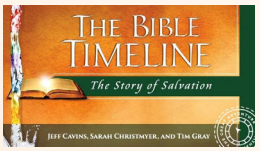
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

PSR News

Parish School of Religion (PSR) is accepting registrations from new 1st-7th grade **students** to begin classes on January 7th. PSR is a program that teaches religion to those children who go public school. PSR meets on Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. For more information and to register, please contact Christina Sanders (PSR coordinator) at christinasanders@archstl.org or 314.743.8604.

Parish School of Religion (PSR) is looking for **adults** to share their faith by teaching and/or substitute teaching children who attend 1st-8th grade public school. If you are interested and/or want more information, please contact Christina Sanders (PSR coordinator) at christinasanders@archstl.org or 314.743.8604.

ON-LINE



The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation is a Catholic Bible study that can help *anyone* to make sense of the Bible and experience the life-changing power of God's Word. The study takes you on a journey through the entire Bible and brings you deep into each period of salvation history, so that you can discover the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture. *The Bible Timeline* has helped hundreds of thousands of people to have a better understand the Bible and a deeper relationship with Christ, and it will help you too.

This Bible study includes a series of twenty-four videos presented by Jeff Cavins. Each video may be viewed on-line. Anyone wanting to participate on-line will receive a color-coded *Bible Timeline* Chart as well as a *The Bible Timeline* Study Kit; the total cost for both is $30.00.

For more information and/or to register for this Bible study contact Christina Sanders at 314.743.8604 or christinasanders@archstl.org.

Please keep in your prayers those who are suffering during this Advent Season:

Peggy Matye
Marie McCloskey
Joyce Rohrbach

Medical Equipment

If anyone is interested in any of the following pieces of medical equipment free of charge, you can contact Ken Reichert at 314-803-2078.

*Hospital Bed
*Wheelchair
*Walker
*Bedside Commode

50+ CLUB

We will close for the months of January and February.

Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

Rosary Box

We will once again be putting out the box to collect broken or unwanted rosaries from parishioners. We have found another person to repair them and another group to donate them to. Thank you!

SUNDAY OFFERING

The contribution figures for Sunday, December 16 were not available at the time this bulletin went to print. They will be published in next weekend's bulletin. As always, we appreciate your support of St. Mark Parish!

Lifetouch

The following parishioners have a FREE 8x10 photo from Lifetouch at the Parish Office. They are available for pick up Monday-Thursday from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.

James Boulicault
Tom Buescher
Miguel Cancel
Rosa Cognata
Jack Dedeke
Duane Dormeier
David Feegle
Ken Griebenow
Mike Grush
Eva G'Sell
Joseph Halbauer
Marty Hanak
Frank Ladek
Bob Major
Ruth Schaper
Peter Soderquist
Jeffrey Vollet
Bill Wilton
Art Wulff

Ladies' Guild

Next meeting on **January 17** (*please note this is a Thursday*) at 7:00 pm in the cafeteria. This will be a food-tasting event and promises to be a fun and enlightening evening.

We will also be having a Bake Sale on January 26 & 27.

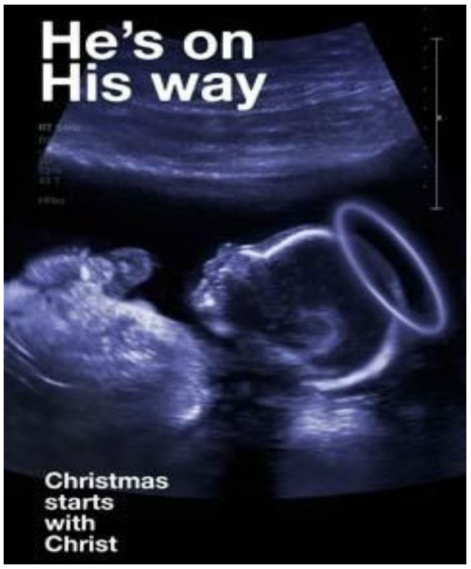
If you are interested in becoming Catholic or were Baptized Catholic and have not received one or more of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation please join us on Wednesday nights to journey in faith. Contact Christina Sanders, St. Mark Pastoral Associate, for more information: 314.743.8604 or christinasanders@archstl.org.

WE WILL RETURN TO THE COMMUNITY ON EPIPHANY AND HOPE TO FIND JOY IN THE JOURNEY AS THE WISE MEN DID.

For more information, please contact: Lynn Kersting, Director 314.609.3251 or lynnkersting@gmail.com; Tina Tlapek, Co-Director, 314.753.8097 or tlapekmmt@gmail.com; Denise Gantner, Co-Director, 314.591.2203 or westerdenise@yahoo.com; or Kathy Orf, Spiritual Companion, 314.740.7256, or knocallig@sbcglobal.net.

Registration forms are available in the back of church.

All of the women of St. John Paul II are invited to join us for thenext women's ACTS retreat Jan 3-6, 2019 at LaSalle Retreat Center.



POTPOURRI

HIGHSCHOOLERS!—What's your new year's resolution? Perhaps you want to make new friends. Perhaps you want to get closer to God. You can do both by joining St. Louis Lifeteen on most Wednesdays from 7:00-9:00 pm at Bishop DuBourg High School (please use Clifton Ave. entrance). We will be continuing with our "Search" series and looking at what it means to ask God the big questions. Go to saintlouislifeteen.org for more information.

Blue Christmas—A service of hope and healing. For those experiencing grief and sorrow during the Christmas season, this introspective service of devotion uses music, scripture and prayer to offer hope and bring light into the darkness of one's soul. Join us on **Thursday, December 27** at 3:00 pm at Eden United Church of Christ, 8920 Eden Ave., Affton, MO 63123. Call 314-631-8930 or visit edenucc.org for more information.

New Year's Eve Dinner Dance—Join us at St. Matthias Parish Center, 800 Buckley Rd., St. Louis, MO 63125 for the 7th annual dinner dance on **Monday, December 31.** Doors open at 6:30 pm, dinner served at 7:30 pm. From 8:30 pm-12:30 am listen to the music of The Scott Laytham and Karl "Trickee" Holmes Duo. Cost is $30 per person which includes dinner, favors, snacks, set-ups & champagne toast. BYOB or beer and wine available at $2.00 per drink. For tickets or further info call Sandy at 314-544-2162 after 3:00 pm or the Parish Office at 314-892-7500. Or email smaevents2017@yahoo.com.

Navigating White Water: Resilience Series—January 13, February 10, March 3, & April 7 from 1:30 - 3:45 p.m. This series of 4 interactive workshops will explore how spirituality and research based Psychology can be used to enhance resilience at home and at work. You may attend any or all of the sessions. Facilitated by Dr. Tom Wagner, PhD. For more information, please visit http://www.mercycenterstl.org.

Great Adult Education Opportunity—Paul VI Institute of Catechetical and Pastoral Studies offers courses to adults seeking a greater understanding of the Catholic faith. Classes are offered online and in classrooms at various locations around the Archdiocese. A few of the courses this spring are: **CLASSROOM:** LT101 Catechism II: Catholic Sacramental & Liturgical Theology; RE 174 Teaching Religion to Children; ST 115 Theology of Suffering, Death and Afterlife; CH 111 Church in the Age of Persecution. **ONLINE:** ST 101 Catechism I: Basic Catholic Doctrine; MT 101 Catechism III: Foundations of Catholic Morality; LT 139 The Spirit of the Liturgy; ST 128 Mary in Catholic Doctrine and Devotional Practices. For information visit our website: www.archstl.org/paul6 or call Paul VI 314-792-7454. **Registration deadline is February 1, 2019.**

St. Mark Trivia Luau

Saturday Jan. 26
Doors open at 6PM
Trivia starts at 7PM

$200 a table or
$25 a person

Snacks, beer, wine & soda included

Raffles, 50/50, & silent auction

Reservation Form:

Send in through school to Jaime Gast or call (314) 686-1583

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

# of guests: _____ # of tables: _____

Limit 8 per table

$ enclosed _____

Make all checks payable to St. Mark (please do not send cash)