



## Liturgy Schedule

### Saturday Vigil:

5:00 p.m.,  
7:00 p.m. (Spanish)

### Sunday:

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,  
11:30 a.m.,  
4:00 p.m. (Lifeteen)

### Daily Mass:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 7:30 a.m.;  
Wed, 12 p.m. (noon)

### Adoration:

Mon-Thu. 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

### Confessions:

Sat, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

## The Finance Council

### *Being Good Stewards of Our Financial Resources*

As a stewardship parish, it is important that we responsibly allocate and utilize parish resources — working to ensure that parish operations run smoothly, better enabling us to meet the spiritual needs of parishioners, guests and the wider community. Naturally, as the leader of our parish, this role rests first and foremost on our pastor, Fr. George. That's why parishioner Kim Bonfield feels so blessed to be able to use her own

personal gifts through St. Mark's Finance Council.

"As members of the Finance Council, we are there to help Fr. George with the financial details of the parish," says Kim, the Council Chairwoman.

With roughly 30 years of experience as a Chief Financial Officer in commercial real estate, Kim is an expert when it comes to numbers and finances. So when she was offered the opportunity

*continued on page 2*



Members of St. Mark's Finance Council — (from left) Terri Manis, Kim Bonfield, Trish Dutton, Mark Whyhlen and Andy Gilliard

# *The Finance Council* continued from front cover

years ago to become involved in this council, she leapt at it, eager to put her professional expertise toward a higher cause.

“We each have to use the gifts that God gave us and I feel like that this ministry truly allows me to use mine,” Kim says. “As chairwoman, I’m always working to make sure we are all on the same page, moving forward together, and that myself and my fellow council members properly understand stewardship so that we can truly be good stewards of our parish’s means.”

Finance Council members are tasked with guiding and overseeing fiscal responsibilities. This includes reviewing parish financial statements, looking at trends in parish collections and cash balance, and examining and evaluating parish budget variances. The Council also regularly reviews operational expenses, oversees and works on major parish fundraisers, and discusses ongoing capital and building campaigns, as well as new and existing ministries. This is all done in close collaboration with Fr. George, parish business manager Kim Harbert, and parish bookkeeper Kathy Christoferson, providing insight and accountability when it comes to parish funds.

“We feel it’s important to make sure that the parishioners’ finances are used responsibly,” Kim says. “We want to make sure always that we are being good stewards of the funds entrusted to us by the parish.”

Of course, Kim says, this would not be possible were it not for the continuous generosity of St. Mark’s parishioners. Over the years, Kim has grown increasingly appreciative of her parish community who so generously give of their treasure in support of the church. Their continued generosity makes her job easy as she and her fellow Finance Council members work to ensure the stability of St. Mark’s Parish for many years to come.

“We as a Finance Council are blessed to have such a generous parish,” Kim says. “It really makes our job easy. A lot of other finance councils have to worry about eliminating personnel and expenses because they don’t have enough money coming in, whereas our parishioners are so incredibly generous that it makes our job easy in figuring out how to continue managing funds. Our hope is to make sure that this church is successful and can continue on in the future — that our church is always there to provide sacraments and fulfill the spiritual needs of this area.”

If you would like more information about St. Mark’s Finance Council, please contact Kim Bonfield at [kbonfield229@gmail.com](mailto:kbonfield229@gmail.com).

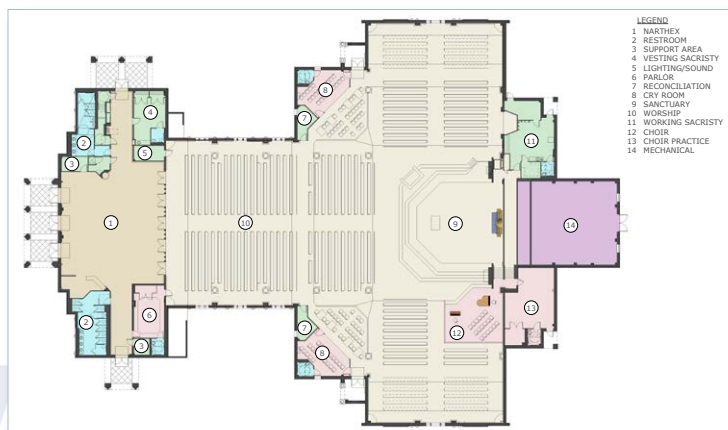
## *Living Out Stewardship as We Ring Out the Year 2019* End-of-Year Giving and Our New Church Fund

**T**his December, as we celebrate our fifth year at this location, we look forward to our next and biggest phase — the construction of our church. Before we can start, we must raise 65 percent of the estimated cost of the project.

Last year — with a goal of raising \$600,000 — we were able to raise \$765,124. We thank all of the 839 families that donated last year.

As this year’s calendar comes to an end, we once again ask everyone to prayerfully consider adding this construction project to your end of year giving plans and help us raise another \$600,000 towards our future church. Each family should have received a donation card in the mail, if you did not receive one, or have misplaced your card, there are extras available in the narthex.

Thank you for your generous contributions to the future of our church, and for sharing the stewardship journey with us as members of St. Mark’s!





# *A Month Filled with Gratitude*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**T**he month of November of course brings to mind thoughts of thanksgiving. These aren't just thoughts about Thanksgiving Day — although I look forward to it with happy anticipation — but thoughts regarding the many reasons we should be thankful.

We begin the month with a Holy Day of Obligation, the Solemnity of All Saints, on Nov. 1. It is a stewardship feast in so many ways, instituted to honor all saints, known and unknown. The communion of saints — the sharing of spiritual goods by those in heaven to us who are still in our pilgrimage — is a great cause for thanksgiving. We read about the lives of the saints to be encouraged and inspired by their examples. Plus, we are strengthened by their fellowship in the Body of Christ, and their prayers aid us.

We follow All Saints' Day with All Souls Day on Nov. 2 so we can honor and commemorate all those others who may have been "saints" in our lives. It may have been a mother or father, sister or brother, son or daughter, next-door neighbor, good friend, grandparent, uncle or aunt, cousin, teacher, or student — the list is endless. We have been blessed in our lives with people who have shown us what it means to be a good Christian, what it means to be a good steward. During this month of November, we need to thank God for those people in our lives. In fact, we need to thank God period, which is another important element of this month.

Toward the end of the month we celebrate what is mainly a secular holiday, Thanksgiving, but this national holiday is so grounded in our Christian stewardship tradition. This



year is the 156th anniversary of the first official Thanksgiving in the U.S., as proclaimed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, during the horrors of the Civil War. In the beginning of that proclamation, President Lincoln stated, *"To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God."* Lincoln takes great care to recognize God's presence in all of the "thanks."

Couldn't we say those words of Lincoln about our lives, about the life of our parish this year?

In fact, we could say it every month. Stewardship is the appreciation of our many, many blessings, both personally and as a faith family.

From the beginning of the month, when we thank God for the example of the saints and for the example of the "saints" in our lives, to the end of the month, when we thank God for basically everything we have and everything we are, November is a time to remember and to approach the Lord with a grateful heart. That is what stewardship really is — approaching God; approaching each day; approaching all those with whom we come in contact — with grateful and loving hearts.

In Christ,

Fr. George  
Pastor





# *This Year's* Oktoberfest

*We thank all those who joined us for Oktoberfest on Oct. 6, and we extend our **utmost gratitude** to those who served to make the event possible!*





# *a Resounding Success!*

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# The Sign of the Cross:

## *A Powerful Prayer Tradition in the Catholic Church*



Since we say and make the Sign of the Cross so often, it may easily become a rote, perhaps even thoughtless, action. However, it is important to remember that the Sign of the Cross is much more than a simple gesture. Even in its most basic form, the Sign of the Cross — accompanied by the spoken or unspoken words “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” — is a prayer, a creed stating our belief in the Holy Trinity, the dual nature of Jesus Christ, and the dependence of our salvation on His crucifixion and resurrection.

In addition, making the Sign of the Cross is an indication of a willingness to take up our own cross and suffering for the sake of Christ. The prayer is considered one of the greatest weapons against Satan and all demons, and an added strength against the temptations of the flesh.

In the Roman Catholic Church today, the Sign of the Cross is typically made with either three fingers or an open hand touching first the forehead, then the chest, followed by the left shoulder and then the right (in the Eastern Church, the right shoulder is touched before the left). The concept of making a sign, or “setting a seal,” upon the forehead of those who place their faith in the Lord appears in both the

Old and New Testaments of the Bible — see Ezek. 9:4 and Rev. 7:3, 9:4, and 14:1.

Early versions of the Sign of the Cross were traced on just the forehead, using the thumb and forefinger held together in the shape of a tiny cross. We still see this version of the blessing performed during Baptisms (with the cross traced on the infant’s forehead) and on Ash Wednesday (with the cross traced in ashes on the foreheads of the faithful). Similarly, when the Gospel is read during the Liturgy of the Word, the priest or deacon leads the congregation in forming this small cross on the forehead, mouth, and chest, indicating a willingness to keep the Word of the Lord in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

There is no doubt that our early Church fathers were strong believers in the sanctifying power of the Sign of the Cross. A second-century ecclesiastical scholar, Tertullian, and a third century saint, St. Cyril of Jerusalem, both wrote about the necessity of performing the Sign of the Cross at one’s waking and one’s lying down, at entering and leaving a room, at mealtimes, and more. St. Augustine also referenced the importance of marking the cross on the faithful’s forehead during the administration of the sacraments.

It is likely that the sign transformed from the tiny cross on the forehead to the larger, full-body cross used today sometime in the fifth century, when heretics began questioning both the dual nature of Jesus Christ — fully human and fully divine — and the unity of the Holy Trinity. Believers in these crucial Church doctrines began forming the cross with three extended fingers (representing the Trinity), keeping the ring finger and little finger pressed down into the palm (representing Christ’s dual nature), and tracing a cross on their entire upper body so there could be no mistaking the gesture.

Today, the Sign of the Cross still figures predominantly in our prayer life as Roman Catholics. We commonly perform it upon entering a church; at the beginning and end of the Catholic Mass, a Benediction, or the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; when opening and closing our personal prayers; at mealtimes; and when passing by a Catholic Church (in recognition of Christ, present in the tabernacle). As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, the frequent, intentional use of the Sign of the Cross can help the faithful dedicate each day to the glory of God and provide strength in the face of trial and temptation (2157).

# Tom and Cathy Fedor:

## Servants After God's Own Heart

*“Mass is the best prayer of all — the best way we have to be near to God on earth. When we go to Mass, we have the opportunity to receive His presence into our heart and soul. If we listen closely to Him in the Eucharist, He will speak to us and we will know what we are supposed to do with our lives. When we come to Mass, we receive the King of Kings who loves us so much He died for us. Who would not run to go see the most important person in their life?” — Cathy Fedor*

All it takes is one conversation with Tom and Cathy Fedor to grow in your love for God, prayer and stewardship.

“Stewardship isn’t just about giving your time, talent and treasure, but it is also about giving in exactly the way God wants you to,” Cathy says. “It is really about living His will as He wants us to live it. God is the one in charge, and He owns everything that we have. Before Tom and I commit to anything, we really pray about it and discern if it is what God is asking of us. It isn’t about what we want. It is about what He wants in our lives.”

Stewardship is important to Tom and Cathy, and they have loved living it out in the vocation of marriage, as well as in the midst of our parish family.

“One of the Scriptures that guides us most in our marriage is Ecclesiastes 4:12, ‘Where one alone may be overcome, two together can resist. A three-ply cord is not easily broken,’” Cathy says. “Tom is one strand, I am the second, and God is the third. He is the strand that keeps

a marriage together and makes it unbreakable. Without God in the center of your marriage, you are on shaky, sandy ground.”

In order to be faithful parents to their two children and loving grandparents to nine, Tom and Cathy have learned to rely on God to keep their priorities straight.

“As we grow older and our family grows bigger, we recognize all of the responsibilities we have as parents and grandparents, and even as aunts and uncles,” Tom says. “We see that our job is to get these kids to heaven. Although we need to care for their physical needs, our most important duty is to care for them spiritually.”

Furthermore, Tom and Cathy have a deep commitment to our parish family as well. They especially enjoy helping with St. Mark’s Music Ministry, in which they first became involved after experiencing a convincing “nudge” of the Holy Spirit.

“I have a background in music, and we both really enjoy singing,” Tom says. “One Easter Sunday about 11 years ago, we arrived at Mass and the church



*Tom and Cathy Fedor singing God’s praises at Pentecost. To God be the glory.*

was so crowded that there was nowhere to sit except behind the choir,” he says. “So that is where we sat, and I just sang as I normally do. After Mass, the Choir Director came up to me and told me I needed to be in the choir! I believe it was God ‘tapping me on the shoulder’ and telling me we both needed to join.” Tom and Cathy have found that singing in the choir gives them a powerful way to share their love for Our Lord with our parish family. “Our purpose in being at St. Mark’s is to serve God with all of

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# Saint Mark

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## **Tom and Cathy Fedor**

*continued from page 7*

our being,” Cathy says. “By being in the choir, we have the opportunity to praise Him and love Him through the music that is connected with the liturgy. By sharing the gift of music, we are able to draw the hearts of all those attending Mass closer to God who loves each of us individually beyond words.” Overall, the Fedors find that the abundant graces and blessings they receive through the Sacrifice of the Mass is the foundation to the personal relationship we want with Him and He wants with us. “Mass is the best prayer of all — the best way we have to be near to God on earth,” Cathy says. “When we go to Mass, we have the opportunity to receive His presence into our heart and soul. If we listen closely to Him in the Eucharist, He will speak to us and we will know what we are supposed to do with our lives. When we come to Mass, we receive the King of Kings who loves us so much He died for us. Who would not run to go see the most important person in their life?”

## *Christmas Schedule*

**Dec. 16 — Advent Reconciliation Service**  
7 p.m.

**Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve**  
4 p.m.  
8 p.m.  
11 p.m.

**Dec. 25 — Christmas Day**  
8 a.m.  
10 a.m.  
12 p.m. (Spanish)



# Saint