
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT:

*“PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,
MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS.*

EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED

AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW.”

—LUKE 3:4-5

ST. MARK PARISH



The Gospel according to St. Luke

During this Liturgical Year, we will hear and reflect upon the life and ministry of Jesus - as recorded by St. Luke. He writes in the prologue to the Gospel: "Many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events which have been fulfilled in our midst. I too have carefully traced the whole sequence of events, and have decided to set it in writing." According to Colossians 4:14, Luke was a physician. He was a gentile born in Antioch who accompanied Paul on various missionary journeys. The Gospel was written in Greek, and has many similarities with the two other synoptic Gospels, Mark and Matthew. One of the primary themes of Luke's Gospel (and The Acts of the Apostles) is that Jesus brought salvation not just to the Jews but also to the Gentiles: "A Savior has been born to you, the Messiah and Lord" (Lk 2:11).

Luke was a gifted writer and a man of great sensibility. One of the most inspiring features of Luke's narrative is his picture of the compassion of Jesus Christ toward the outcast and sinners. The author contrasts the Lord's tenderness for the lowly and the poor with His "severity" towards the proud and the powerful of this world. Luke addresses the Gospel particularly to non-Jewish readers, and uses the overarching theme of "Jesus' journey to Jerusalem." This theological framework allows him to set up the Holy City as the pre-ordained stage of the drama of salvation. "We must now go up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man is to come true" (Lk 18:31).

While confronting the evildoers, Jesus does not utter words of condemnation, but calls them to repentance and lavishly offers mercy and forgiveness. Spiritual growth requires a detachment from the passing things of this world: "Sell what you have and give alms. Get riches for yourselves that eternally endure" (Lk 12:33). St. Luke records the Lord's emphasis on the necessity of regular and fervent prayer: "Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you" (Lk 11:9). Luke the Evangelist gives the Holy Spirit the prominence we find in the Letters of St. Paul and in the Acts of the Apostles. Jesus rejoices in the power of the Holy Spirit as He discerns and proclaims the fulfillment of the Holy Scripture in His messianic mission of redemption: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore He has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and release to prisoners; to announce a year of favor from the Lord" (Lk 4:18-19).

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)

DECEMBER 5, 2021

December 5, 2021
2nd Sunday of Advent

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.

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Advent Spiritual Journey

"I have come to call not the self-righteous to a change of heart, but sinners"
Lk 5:32

Holy Mass every Wednesday
at 9:30 am and 7 pm

Individual Confessions every
Saturday at 3 pm

The Immaculate Conception,
December 8,
Holy Mass at 9:30 am and 7 pm

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus

God's Personal Assistants

If you have ever planned a large-scale event, whether it's a musical performance or a religious conference, you may have dealt with someone's personal assistant. Possibly this person would be a representative of the keynote speaker or the master of ceremonies for the local bishop; perhaps it's even the staffer of a local politician or the lackey of a well-known musical act.

Personal assistants are masters of stewardship – overseeing things in their boss' absence. They prepare the way. This person's job is to get everything ready for the person in charge, so that when he or she shows up – whoever he or she is – it's smooth sailing for them to do whatever it is they need to do: sing, speak, pray, mingle, what-have-you. It's usually a big job full of little things, a gig where attention to detail is key.

God is the guest of honor in our life, the keynote speaker, the main event. And what He wants – what He needs – to do is to change our hearts. Constantly, over, and over, and over again.

We are all His personal assistants in this endeavor. We need to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths. We need to make everything ready so that when He shows up – however He shows up, whether it's in the form of a neighbor in need or a burning bush right in front of us – everything is ready for Him to do His job.

– Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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"COATS FOR KIDS"

We are asking for donations of NEW coats for kids (Boys and Girls). Sizes 5 to 18 are needed. Kids only, no adult sizes. We are partnering with Great Oaks Academy to make sure all the children will have a new coat to keep them warm this winter.

We are also accepting NEW hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. Monetary donations are always accepted.

The drive will run through December 12th.

Bins will be in the gathering space to accept your donations.

Monetary donations can be put in the collection basket.

Please note on the envelope "Coats For Kids".

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." *2 Corinthians 9:7*



Celebration of Winter Solstice

All are invited to welcome the season of winter with a ritual, *Winter Solstice: A Sacred Time*. The virtual celebration, facilitated by Sister Ester Kennedy, OP, is from 3:30–4:30 p.m. EST on Sunday, December 19, 2021

The celebration includes reflection on our turning from darkness to light as the days begin to grow longer, and from the past to this new moment. We will cultivate our own capacity as beings of light to shine our light and love as fully as possible upon one another and our world.

A Dominica Sister of Adrian, Michigan, Sister Esther is a retreat leader and spiritual director who conducts a monthly *Day of Mindfulness* at Weber Center.

The celebration is free and open to all. Registration is not required. To participate, join the live stream at <https://webercenter.org/seasons>

THE WORD

Readings for the week of December 5, 2021

- Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
- Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18



Saturday, December 4

- 4:00 pm Aloysius Schwartz
- Steve Patrishkoff
- Frances Szpont
- Lois Kebbe

Sunday, December 5

- 8:30 am Anna Gavin
- Carmela Palamara
- Alyssa Domen
- Vince Roodbeen

- 11:00 am Irene Janiszewski
- Earl Parrish
- Stephanie Elliott
- Kurt Zinger
- Margaret Zinger

Wednesday, December 8

- 9:30 am Jim Wawrzyniak

Saturday, December 11

- 4:00 pm Herbert Dempz
- Isabelle McLaughlin
- Loretta Shaddon
- Eugene Selasky
- Karol Lipinski
- Angeline Lipinski
- Richard Lipinski
- Irene Lipinski
- Donald Krynski

Sunday, December 12

- 8:30 am Anna Gavin
- Carmela Palamara
- Sandra Rowland
- 11:00 am Linda Galindo
- Earl Parrish
- Sarah Sobek
- Todd Drewencke
- Tim Reiter
- Roman Skora
- Raymond & Madeline Bross

ST. MARK OUTREACH



The Pantry Needs:

Thank you for your food and monetary donations.

God Bless



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading:

Baruch offers the captive Israelites in Babylon a vision of hope in which their broken relationship with God will be fully restored. What aspects of your relationship with God are in need of restoration?

Second Reading:

Paul offers an opening prayer of joy for the believers in the city of Philippi. As the season of Advent continues, what brings joy to your life?

Gospel:

With Luke placing the preaching and activities of John the Baptist in its historical and political context, he communicates the idea that God is acting in real, human history. What do you see as the power of this assertion?

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PRAYER INTENTIONS



Sharon Deller
Cathy Gambrell
David Harrison
Richard Harrison
Joe Orlando
Dale Parrish
Marilyn Parrish
Grace Witt

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.

PRAYERS FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE IN OUR ARMED FORCES.



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.

Prayer Resources

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To thee do we come. Before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer us. Amen.

POPE TWEETS

"Our life becomes beautiful when we wait for a dear one or someone important. May this #Advent help us transform our hope into the certainty that He whom we await loves us and will never abandon us."

- Pope Francis

@Pontifex Twitter (November 28, 2021)



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

Gwen Aikens, Outreach Coordinator

GAikens@stmarkparishwarren.org

Amanda Brewer, Religious Formation / Bulletin Editor

abrewer@stmarkparishwarren.org

Steve Martin, Maintenance Supervisor

parishcenter@stmarkparishwarren.org

Mary Jo Ruebelman,

Office Manager / Worship Coordinator

parishcenter@stmarkparishwarren.org

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Chris Bailey

Cynthia Filipovich

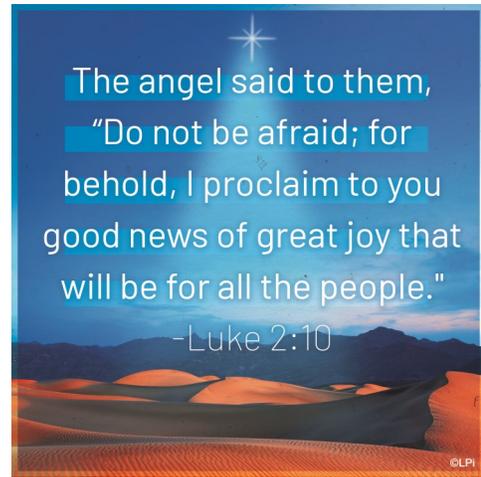
Diane Hamilton

Tom Harm

Phyllis Wisniewski (Christian Formation)

Karen Kowalski (Stewardship)

Michael Powell (Worship)



STEWARDSHIP



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.