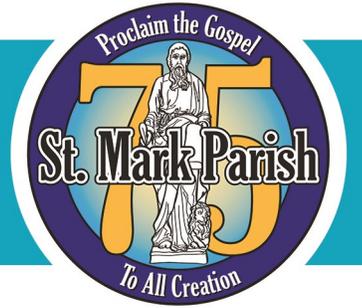


ST. MARK PARISH



3rd Sunday of Advent

Life can leave us feeling dark and desolate. Sandy was just twenty-eight when her husband, Rob, died, leaving her to raise their two young children. She was without paid employment. Rob went to work one morning and never returned home. Sandy, though, had faith and trusted that somehow God would help her through, even though most days brought deafening, piercing loneliness. She persevered, and the darkness gave way to light. Remarking one day to a friend hesitant to commit to a relationship, Sandy shared her wisdom. Even if she knew the outcome would be the same, she would marry Rob again. She assured her friend that she would even do this if eight years could only be eight minutes. We are being led by God and God transforms the darkness into light.

"Be strong, fear not!" Those are easy words to say. Putting them into practice is the challenge. When our paths are dark and life's roads become treacherous, we can easily complain about life's unfinished nature. When will the pain go away? Will the loneliness ever cease? Will I experience happiness again? As the farmer needs to exercise patience with the soil, we need to do the same with our lives. We have to wait for the early and late rains to come, properly tend to our gardens, and ensure that the rich nutrients of God's merciful and tender presence continue to enrich us. God is not done. God has only just begun his work in us.

We cannot allow life to hold us captive. The systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, expectations, and unfinished business can distract us from what it means to be God's child. Life can leave us feeling cheated, negative, and parched. All times and seasons of our spiritual and liturgical lives lead us to three virtues: faith, hope and love. Stop complaining about what is wrong and look to what God can make right! Joy that flows from the Baptist's message: in Jesus, the one mightier than he, are found healing, reconciliation, and freedom. Christ will save us from life's distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Do you believe this?

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Advent and Christmas

Spiritual Journey

"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord" (Psalm 122)

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

Individual Confessions every
Saturday at 3 pm

Dec. 24, Christmas Vigil
Mass at 4 pm and 9 pm

Dec. 25, Christmas Day
Mass at 11 am

Dec. 31, New Year's Eve
Mass at 4 pm

Jan. 1, New Year's Day
Mass at 11 am

Jan. 7/8, Epiphany of the Lord
Mass at 4 pm, 8:30 am and 11 am

"You must be prepared. The Son of Man is coming at the time you least expect" (Matthew 24:44)

DECEMBER 11, 2022

Dear Parish Family,

Those of us that are blessed to have family and friends close by, however, many are not as fortunate. This is the time to lift each other up through a note, card, phone call, even a text, but better yet a personal visit. I am probably dating myself, by remembering the envelopes I sealed or cent stamps that had to be affixed to the many Christmas cards my parents sent each year. It seemed such a chore and yet it was a beautiful way to stay in touch. Of course, the result was receiving the stack of cards each day in the mail. Mother always looked forward to the "Christmas Letters", which she decided would be a great idea one year until the rest of the family cast a veto. How many times do we say "We must do this again soon" after a most enjoyable lunch, dinner or coffee, and yet it doesn't happen? We all can do just a little bit better by reaching out. Think how it makes you feel when someone gives you that lift. When something is unexpected - it always brings joy. In prayer we, can ask God to help someone else.

Although Advent is the season of hope, some people need a little boost. Often people suffering from depression or loneliness, find this time of year exacerbates this. (Peter 5:7) "Cast all your worries upon him, because he cares for you." In a perfect world, those in need would reach out to family and friends for encouragement. Often this is not the case. There is a newly established Suicide and Crisis hotline which is free and confidential. These trained professionals can give much needed care for mental health. You can call 988 - 24 hours, 7 days a week for help and support. This was established to help reduce critical situations in families and communities. In difficult times, God wants us to draw near to Him. "Do not fear, I am with you, do not be anxious; I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you with my victorious right hand." (Isiah 41:10)

We can challenge ourselves to bring more love and compassion and include the spirit of the season which is peace, the blessing which is hope and the joy of Christ to all. "As we draw nearer to Christ, He will draw near to you." (James 4:8)

Mary Jo

This and That

THANK YOU

We are sure that you enjoyed "A SAINT AND D HIS FIDDLE" last evening! How happy we were to see the great response from the people of St Mark, but also, for those who came from other parishes. We also want to thank Fr Denet, Fr Michael, Brothers Michael & Mike for showing their support for this incredible musical. The film crew from Diakonia filming were amazing! Can't wait to see the finished product which will be used to promote this musical throughout the area. To our good friend Mike for taking photographs, which we will share with all of you in the bulletin.

REQUEST for SAFETY - SCAM

It is very pervasive right now that people are targeting churches for money! If asked, **PLEASE DO NOT GIVE ANY MONEY TO ANYONE.** We all want to help our brothers & sisters, but this is not the right channel to do so. Let me set the scenario for you: a woman came into church and says "she needs cash or a gas card because she ran out of gas in the parking lot." Only for safety to look out the door and see the car running with a male driver. Word spreads quickly amongst this segment of our population who perpetrate scams. We also ask for your safety and that of others, please do not engage these people. We do not know what might occur. The proper response is "I am sorry - I am unable to help you -if you need food, please call the parish office."

GENEROUS BEYOND MEASURE

Thank you to everyone who have already contributed to GBM. We greatly appreciate your donation. If you have not yet contributed, please help with this much needed assistance to our budget.

Have a blessed day!

Mary Jo

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

The Season That Gives Back

I don't have anything left to give.

You can't pour from an empty cup.

All I do is give. Who is giving to me?

Raise your hand if these thoughts have ever run through your head. I'm sure they occur to all of us from time to time. We can become so easily depleted by the fast pace of life and whatever vocation God has called us to, whether that's parenthood, a demanding professional career or the caretaking of friends and family (or as so often happens, a hybrid of all three). Many of us also undergo certain seasons – seasons of the year, but also seasons of life – that seem to sap us of energy and leave us totally empty.

In these times, it seems impossible to continue in the spirituality of Everyday Stewardship. Graciousness, mindfulness, prayerfulness, gratitude, accountability – maintaining some semblance of these characteristics in our daily life feels not only overly optimistic, but totally impossible.

The Church gives us certain liturgical seasons that are meant to fill us up, almost like spiritual pit stops. Advent is one such season, and the Scriptural passages we reflect on at Mass during these four weeks are filled with images of nature defied. We see the dry steppe blooming. We see the weak made firm. We see the frightened made strong. We see the lame walk. We see the Virgin give birth.

If you think you don't have anything left to give this Advent, think again. This is the season of miracles when what we thought was depleted brings new life.

– Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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St. Louise de Marillac Parish

CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

St. Louise de Marillac Parish will be hosting a Cookie Walk this year!

Let us help with your Christmas baking! All are invited to come "walk around" and choose from an assortment of delicious cookies, cakes, and candies for their holiday dessert tables – if they make it that long! Take home a little or a lot! We will provide the boxes.

Cookies will be available to purchase for \$10 per pound. Cakes and candies will be priced as is.

Cookie Walk Dates

Saturday, December 17 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Sunday, December 18 10:30 am – 2:00 pm

(or until the cookies are gone)

If you would like to donate your favorite homemade holiday cookie, cake, or candy – donations will be accepted on: Friday, December 16 (10am–2pm); Saturday, December 17 (12pm – 6pm); and Sunday, December 18 (8:30am–10 am).

Please contact Marsha Wisniewski at 586-751-3340 extension 305 or marshawisniewski@stldm.org for additional information.

THE WORD

Readings for the week of December 11, 2022

- Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
- Monday: Zec 2:14-17 /Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38
- Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday: Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 7:18b-23
- Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Lk 7:24-30
- Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Jn 5:33-36
- Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
- Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 /Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

ST. MARK OUTREACH



Thank you for your donations.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 10

4:00 pm Gene Selasky
Rochon Family

Sunday, December 11

8:30 am Earl & Marilyn Parrish
Robert Biess

11:00 am Raymond Bross

Wednesday, December 14

9:30 am Bernadine Corbeill
7:00 pm The People of St. Mark

Saturday, December 17

4:00 pm Rose Kovaleck
Agnes & Raymond Grimski
Robert Brewer

Jane Farrugia

Sarah Sobeck

Sunday, December 18

8:30 am Jenny Reid

11:00 am Keri Price

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading:

Isaiah encouraged his community to "be strong, do not fear!" since God has planned a future restoration of both the land and the people. Who in your life needs to hear words of encouragement and support right now?

Second Reading:

James urges his community to be patient and non-judgmental with each other as we wait for the coming of the Lord. In what ways is this a challenge for you this Advent season?

Gospel:

In today's reading, Matthew offers a glimpse into the personal relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. Jesus has great respect for John yet counts him "least" in the kingdom of heaven. What do you think this tells us about those in the kingdom of heaven?

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LITURGICAL MUSIC

Third Sunday of Advent

Entrance Song - O Come, O Come Emmanuel

1. O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Psalm - Lord come and save us

Presentation Song - God Beyond All Names

Refrain: All around us we have known you, all creation lives to hold you, in our living and our dying we are bringing you to birth.

1. God beyond all dreams, you have stirred in us a memory you have placed your powerful spirit in the in the hearts of humankind. *Refrain*
2. God beyond all names, you have made us in your image; we are like you we reflect you; we are woman, we are man. *Refrain*

Communion Song - Eat this Bread

Refrain: Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry. Eat this bread. Drink this cup trust in me and you will not thirst.

1. I am the bread of life, the true bread sent from the Father. *Refrain*
2. Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, but this is the bread come down from heaven. *Refrain*
3. Eat my flesh and drink my blood, and I will raise you up on the last day. *Refrain*

Sending Forth Song - People Look East

1. People look East the time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able. Trim the hearth and set the table. People look East and sing today; Love the Guest is on the way.
2. Furrows be glad, though earth is bare. One more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that is course the flower may flourish. People look East And sing today Love the Rose is on the way.

PRAYER INTENTIONS



Jeannette Campbell
Cathy Gambrell
Denise Parrish
Marilyn Parrish
Blanche Sobieralski
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:

Master 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

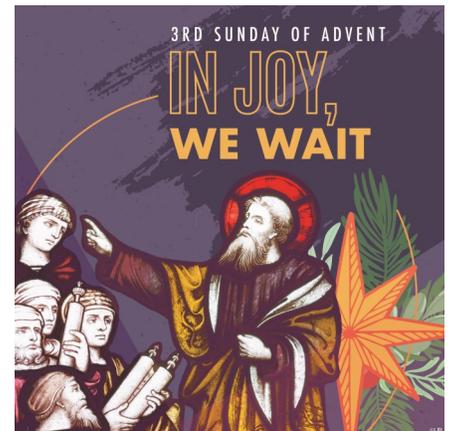
Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To thee do we come. Before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful.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

POPE TWEETS

"The #WordofGod plunges us into daily life and calls us to listen to the cry of the poor and heed the violence and injustice that wound our world. It challenges Christians not to be indifferent, but to be active, creative and prophetic."

- Pope Francis

@Pontifex Twitter (December 5, 2022)



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St. Vincent de Paul: 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



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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.