



GLORY  
TO GOD  
IN THE  
HIGHEST  
AND ON  
EARTH  
PEACE TO  
THOSE  
ON WHOM  
HIS FAVOR  
RESTS.

LUKE 2:14



# ST. MARK PARISH



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Our Pastoral Team wishes everyone God's abundant blessing during the Christmas Season and in the New Year! We extend a warm welcome to our parishioners and guests who are able to join us for the celebration of Holy Mass. From the altar of our Eucharistic Offering, we send Christmas blessings to our beloved homebound, and those who are away from our parish family. We pray for and reach out to our brothers and sisters who are feeling alone and need our encouragement and support. We are all united in the spirit of joy, faith, hope, and charity, as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior. Jesus is Emmanuel – God with us, who desires to find a "manger" in our hearts, families, community of faith, and the world. The Holy Scripture declares: **"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us"** (John 1:14). The reality of Jesus' Incarnation reveals God's very life, love, abiding presence, and redeeming grace – extended to every person and all creation!

God is born human. Bog stal sie czlowiekiem. Puer natus est. Creator, a creature. Eternity, time. Infinitely present in the universe, laying in a manger. "For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary" (The Creed). In the fourth century, St. Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria in Egypt, wrote on the Incarnation of Jesus: "The Lord did not come to make a display – to appear and dazzle the beholders. He came to heal and to teach suffering men and women. For Him, the way was not merely to dwell here, but to put Himself at the disposal of those who needed Him." In the simplicity of His glorious Nativity, the Holy Infant teaches us about the providential care of God – watching over our individual lives, our families, and guiding the course of human history. More than ever, in spite of the most advanced medical and scientific discoveries, the suffering, broken, and confused world needs Jesus – our true Teacher, Healer, and Savior! In Jesus Christ – there is light in every darkness and hope in every situation. **"Turn to me and be safe, all you ends of the earth, for I am God; there is no other!"** (Isaiah 45:22).

In Christ's abundant Life,  
Fr. Stanley

Christmas

Spiritual Journey

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

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 25, 2022

Dear Parish Family,

Silent Night! Holy Night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
'round yon virgin mother and child  
Holy infant so tender and mild;  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Wouldn't it be the most exquisite dream to sleep in heavenly peace? This beautiful song was a favorite of a very special lady and one that she requested be sung at her funeral. In the middle of summer, we heard the wonderful melody and beautiful words. This took on new meaning as we think of our impending Christmas.

Often, we picture the navy blue night sky, filled with glistening stars, and the gild of the precious creche of our Lord, the Blessed Mother and St Joseph. The lyrics of this carol were composed in 1816 by a young priest, Fr Joseph Mohr in a small town near Salzburg Germany. He asked Franz Gruber to compose the melody and it was performed for the first time on Christmas Eve in St Nicholas Church in 1818. The inspiration for this was for peace to come in a time marked by war, hunger, and natural disasters. The biblical inspiration of the Silent Night Lyrics came from (Luke 2: 7-9) "And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them at the inn. In the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear."

And from Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and he shall be called Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

Especially during this Christmas season, this carol speaks to us that we be filled with peace and surrounded with God's love. Now as we remember that first holy Christmas night, may our lives be filled with joy and the Star of Bethlehem keep shining in your heart.

Mary Jo

Dear Parish Family,

## GBM

As you know, Generous Beyond Measure is our lifeline for our budget. Please consider donating to GBM. This method of supporting the parish gives the greatest amount of revenue directly to the parish.

## ENVELOPES

Our envelopes were finally shipped last Saturday. Yes, thanks to Bernadette Broski, we were on top of getting the necessary information to the company in July, for delivery in November. Apparently, their printing press needed repair and they also were short on labor – so the story goes. Envelopes will be available in the gathering space for pick up. Thank you for your patience. Mine has been stretched a bit.

## CALENDARS

Mandziuk Funeral home has been the sponsor for our church calendars for many years. We are most appreciative of their generosity. The company that was always used went out of business and failed to notify them. Proofs have been sent to a new company and they will be available to you as soon as we get them.

## PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed from Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, and will reopen Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Calls will be monitored for funerals.

## IMAGE OF GOD

Thank you for the generous outpouring of gifts to the mothers and children Helped through this ministry. They were so appreciative of all your gifts.

Blessings,  
Mary Jo

# REFLECTION

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

### Being the Sign

I think the real challenge of evangelization in the modern age is the reality that pretty much everyone has already heard of Jesus Christ — or, at least, they think they have.

To our 21st-century eyes, the angel who shared news of the birth of Jesus with the shepherds had an easy job. All he had to do was announce it.

Our baptism compels us to do the same — to announce the coming of Christ over and over again, always and everywhere. But our audience is not a group of illiterate shepherds in ancient Judea. Our audience is a world that has heard so much about Jesus they often claim weariness of his name. So how do we do it? If we walk into a crowd of strangers and tell them we want to talk about Jesus, their reaction will probably be either “I already know about Jesus, thanks,” or “I’ve heard of him, and based on the behavior of those who claim to follow him, I’m really not interested in hearing more.”

Because in the end, our very lives are how we “announce his salvation” in the present day. We announce it in our actions to strangers. We announce it in our treatment of people who have wronged us. We announce it in our interactions with those who disagree with us.

How long had the coming of the Messiah been foretold to the Israelites? So long that, no doubt, many of them despaired of his coming altogether. So, God had to give them a sign: “You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

Now we are the sign.

The world has heard of Christ by now. But have they all seen him? It’s our job to show them.

— *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS* ©LPi



## LIVE THE LITURGY

The true meaning of Christmas is not found in the twinkling lights, the beautifully adorned trees, or the exchanged gifts. It is revealed when we find God along the way of our lives, especially when we feel displaced, desperate, and alone. Fleeing from their home, Joseph and Mary cautiously made their way through the uncertain, complex, and dark paths to a longed-for place of safety and welcome. Not sure where to lay their heads, they created makeshift preparations for the birth of their child, the Son of God. God, who always was, is, and will be, without beginning or end is the one constant in life who sees us through difficult and scary times. Jesus is the light, which enlightens everyone, and comes into the world to show us the truth. It is joyful good news that calms our fears and allows us to go forth into the nighttime of our lives, courageously. This is the meaning of Christmas. We are never lost or alone. God is with us, loving us and leading us where we need to be.

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## Christmas Day

### Entrance Song – O Come All Ye Faithful

1. O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him, born the King of angels; O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him. Christ the Lord!
2. Adeste fideles laeti triumphantes, Venite, venite in Bethlehem. Natum videte regem angelorum. Venite adoremas, venite adoremas, venite adoremas Do minum

**Psalm** – All the ends of the earth have seen the power of God.

### Presentation Song—O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie? Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above. While mortals sleep, and angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

### Communion Song – Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1. Infant Holy, Infant Lowly for his bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, Noels ringing, tidings bringing; Christ the babe is Lord of all.
2. Flocks were sleeping shepherds keeping vigil til the morning new. Saw the glory, heard the story . Tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing free from sorrow, praising voicing greet the morrow; Christ the babe was born for you.

### Sending Forth Song – Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King: Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing and heaven and nature sing and heaven and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! The Savior reigns; Let us our songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

# NEWS & EVENTS

## THE WORD

### Readings for the week of December 25, 2022

Sunday: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

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

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

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Next Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

## ST. MARK OUTREACH



Thank you for your donations.



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, December 24

4:00 pm Edward Pelc

Henry Gambrell

Robert Twardecki

Thomas & Irene Twardecki

Nettie Szczepankowski

Frances Szpont

Wally Sikora

Patricia Sikora

Barbara Wojcik

9:00 pm Tom Taylor

Karen Taylor

John & Nancy Peterson

Edward Cherney

Chris Mixen

Greg & Mary Elliott

### Sunday, December 25

11:00 am Chris Mixen

Michael Kusza

Elliott Family

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

### First Reading:

Isaiah prophesied of God's promise to send "a child to us" who will be "a great light" and bring us "abundant joy and great rejoicing." How will you show to others today your joy at the birth of Jesus?

### Second Reading:

Paul teaches Titus that Jesus is "the grace of God" who has come to save all people. In response, we believers are called "to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age." What makes this challenging to do in our time?

### Gospel:

We hear Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. Luke tells us how the message of the angel of the Lord frightened the shepherds. In response, the angel said, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people ..." How will your family celebrate today the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Messiah?

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## THE WORD

### Readings for the week of January 1, 2023

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a, and 9b/Jn 2:1-11

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

## ST. MARK OUTREACH

# DONATE

TO THE FOOD DRIVE



Thank you for your donations.



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, December 31

4:00 pm Mark Hannis  
Theresa Doar  
Frances Szpont

### Saturday, January 7

4:00 pm Frances Szpont

### Sunday, January 8

8:30 am Joan Ozimek

### Sunday, January 1

11:00 am Karen Henry  
Dan Henry  
Henry & Mary Naguszewski  
Ray Wisniewski  
Steven Gura

11:00 am James & Lisa Lafferty

### Wednesday, January 4

9:30 am The People of St. Mark

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

### First Reading:

This priestly prayer was originally for the ancient Israelites who dedicated themselves to the Lord in the time of Moses. The prayer is filled with the hope of God's blessing, generosity, kindness, and peace. Which part of this prayer (God's blessing, generosity, kindness, or peace) do you most need this week?

### Second Reading:

Paul teaches "the fullness of time had come" in Mary's birth of Jesus in that all believers are now "heir" (adopted sons and daughters) to God's promises made to Israel. Have you ever been "heir" to something from your family?

### Gospel:

Luke teaches us that Mary — even as a young woman — reflected in her heart the events she was experiencing with her newborn son, Jesus. How often do you pray and reflect on events within your own life or in the life of others?

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# REFLECTION

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## Mary, The Holy Mother of God

We hide ourselves and our secrets from God because we are afraid. Even Mary can seem too perfect to approach. The shepherds find the strength to speak to Mary and Joseph *at the moment they see the child in the manger*. They open their hearts and share what they've experienced. Saint Luke writes of the shepherds, **"When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child."**

When I was a college student, I visited Rome. Beggars often approached and said, "*Mangia? Mangia?*" I didn't speak Italian and thought, "Why are they speaking about the Christmas nativity scene?" My friend said, "*Mangia* means eat. They're hungry." That's when I realized more deeply than ever before that Mary puts her baby in a place designed for hungry animals to eat.

See that baby in the manger in your heart. Imagine Mary kneeling nearby looking at you with love. She doesn't cling to God for herself. In that cave, from the beginning, she quietly offers her son to hungry souls. The manger means vulnerable self-offering love. That's the sign. This week that same manger opens our hearts to tell Mary about our lives, too.

— Father John Muir

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## She Kept All of These Things in Her Heart

"What was my first word? Who was there when I was born? When did I start to walk? Which toys did I play with? What made me cry when I was a baby?"

My oldest has reached the age where she has started to ask questions like this. As she grows up, she is realizing that, in order to understand the world around her, she must first understand herself. This makes her insatiably curious about her own identity, her history — her "origin story," as they say in the movies.

I've got most of it documented either in writing or in photos, but even if it's a detail that wasn't scribbled in a baby book or saved to my digital cloud, it's a memory that I can quickly summon and make real for her as we snuggle and talk about who she was, who she is, and who she may become.

I'm the mom. I have kept all of these things in my heart.

The Blessed Mother knew more about God before opening a book than most of us could discover after a lifetime of study and prayer. There is no one whose knowledge of Christ was so intimate, so deep, so simultaneously ordinary and extraordinary, as the human woman who bore him, birthed him, nursed him, raised him and eventually gave him up.

In the way that I can tell my daughter everything there is to know about the part of her life she cannot recall, Mary can tell us everything we need to know about Christ. All we have to do is ask.

*Mary kept all of these things in her heart. — Luke 2:19*

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## Solemnity of Mary

### Entrance Song - Sing a New Song

Refrain : Sing a new song unto the Lord; let your song be sung from mountains high. Sing a new song unto the Lord singing Alleluia

1. Shout with gladness! Dance for Joy! O come before the Lord and play for God on glad tambourines, and your trumpet sound. *Refrain*
2. Rise, O children, from your sleep; your Savior now has come. He has turned your sorrow to joy and filled your soul with song. *Refrain*

**Psalm** - All the ends of the earth have seen the power of God.

### Presentation Song - Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

Refrain: Gentle woman quiet light morning star so strong and bright gentle Mother peaceful dove teach us wisdom; teach us love.

INTRO: Hail Mary full of grace, blessed are you among women and blest is the fruit of your womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death Amen.

1. You were chosen by the Father you were chosen for the Son. You were chosen from all women and for woman shining one. *Refrain*
2. Blessed are you among women, blest in turn all woman too. Blessed they with peaceful spirits. Blessed they with gentle hearts, *Refrain*

### Communion - Christ, Be Our Light

Refrain: Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness, longing for truth we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. *Refrain*
2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

### Communion Song - Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1. Infant Holy, Infant Lowly for his bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, Noels ringing, tidings bringing; Christ the babe is Lord of all.
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1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King: Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing and heaven and nature sing and heaven and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! The Savior reigns; Let us our songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

## PRAYER INTENTIONS



Jeannette Campbell  
Cathy Gambrell  
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

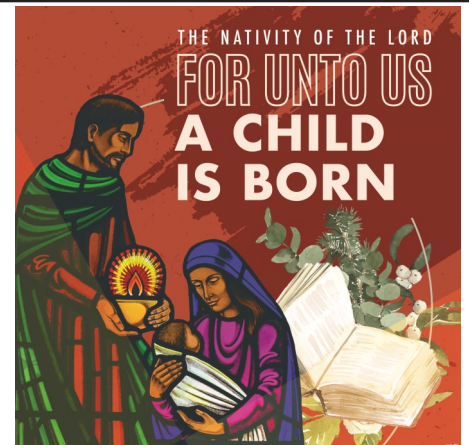
Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To thee do we come. Before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful.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

#### POPE TWEETS

"God is faithful to His promises and guides our steps in the way of #peace. He guides the steps of those who journey on Earth with their gaze toward Heaven."

- Pope Francis

@Pontifex Twitter (December 16, 2022)



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Outreach: 586-759-3026

St. Vincent de Paul: 586-759-3026

Parish Fax: 586-759-3024

E-mail: [parishcenter@stmarkparishwarren.org](mailto:parishcenter@stmarkparishwarren.org)

### WEBSITES

Parish: [www.stmarkparishwarren.com](http://www.stmarkparishwarren.com)

Central Macomb Vicariate: [www.cmvc.net](http://www.cmvc.net)

Archdiocese of Detroit: [www.aod.org](http://www.aod.org)



## STAFF LISTING

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### 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](http://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.