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St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Community
Address: 7296 Gale Rd. – Grand Blanc, MI 48439 – Parish Office phone: (810) 636-2216
Website: <http://www.stmarkgoodrich.org> – Facebook: St. Mark Goodrich Catholic Church
Our mission: St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Community is a growing community of faith which strives to help its members follow Christ's commandment: "Love one another, as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

First SUNDAY of Advent
November 29, 2020
Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old.
Isaiah 63:19b; 64:2-3

PARISH PASTORAL MINISTERS:
Administrative Pastor, Rev. Joseph Krupp
frjoe@hfgb.org
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dfrhowell@gmail.com
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joanturrer38@sbcglobal.net or 248-410-2286.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Welcome! Individuals who actively participate with us are asked to register by contacting the Parish Office.

BAPTISM, MATRIMONY, ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please contact the Parish Office.

What's happening at St. Mark this week
MONDAY, November 30
9:30 a.m. Mass —+Erin Modrzynski/Deacon Larry and Linda Blondin
7:00 p.m.—Faith Chat Conference Call
TUESDAY, December 1
6:30 p.m.— Mass—Living Birthday of Laura Vasquez/Harvey and Ann Marie Yee
7:00 p.m.—Men's Club Meeting
7:00 p.m.—10 year Plan Committee Meeting
WEDNESDAY, December 2
9:00 a.m.—Morning Devotions with Bob Totten /Conference Call
THURSDAY, December 3
No Parish Activities
FRIDAY, December 4
8:30 a.m.—Mass—+Lillian Carter/Charles & Lana Abraham
9:00 a.m.—Confession
9:00 a.m.—First Friday Eucharistic Adoration
SATURDAY, December 5
7:00 a.m.—Men's Fellowship
4:30–5:00 p.m.—Confession
5:30 p.m.—Mass—+William Seymour/Bennett Family
SUNDAY, December 6
9:30 a.m.—Mass—+Bobby Kellett/Harvey & Ann Marie Yee
10:40–11:00—Drive Up Communion

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION / AVAILABILITY CALL PARISH OFFICE 810-636-2216

Ron's Thoughts...

"Come on God. Why did you let me get into this mess?" Okay, be honest, have you ever felt that way? Well, today's reading from Isaiah 63, caught my attention. The prophet expresses the complaints of the Hebrew people against God. They know that they sinned and caused their own suffering, but they complain to God: "Why do you let us wander from your ways?" This really makes me think about my own choices and guilt. I see the destruction of sin, my own and that of others, and sometimes I get angry with God for allowing me and others to sin. Maybe we have complained, "Why, Lord, did you let me go there? Why, Lord, did you let me be so hypocritical? Why, Lord, did you let me destroy my life and the lives of others?"

So think about this, a person has an affair, gets caught, and then sees their marriage come to an abrupt end, they complain to God, "Why did you let me do this?" Or the young person who did their best to avoid bad behaviors, but then falls for the lie that they are missing a lot of good times by not trying drugs, or getting drunk, or having sex. They give in and their lives are changed because of this destructive life style. They complain to God, "How did you let me get into this mess? Why didn't you stop me? Sadly, in some ways, we can relate to the cheating spouse or the fallen teen. And, like the people that we are, we blame God for letting us wander from Him. Of course, we try to blame God to lessen our own guilt. We have to blame someone other than ourselves; so we blame God. "Why do you let us wander from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we no longer fear you, O God?" the passage from Isaiah says.

But then Isaiah tells us that God will come to free us from the destruction of our lives. We have to wait for Him. This is the theme of the First Sunday of Advent. We have to trust in God, hope in God, and he will set us free from the mess; whether this mess is the mess of humankind who continually chooses hatred and sin over love and virtue, or the messes created by every person who choose selfishness over sacrifice. Think about it. Our Advent journey continues ...Walk the talk. Be Peace! D-Ron (rkenney@stmarkgoodrich.org)

St. Mark Faith Formation and Youth Group Schedule

- All in person Faith Formation will be suspended until further notice. We will be distributing take home Family Packets for K-5 Family Formation on our scheduled sessions.
- High School and Middle School Youth Group will be using a virtual meet format. Please look for communications on the scheduled dates.
- 12/6—11 am PICK UP Family Faith Formation (K-5) Family Packets in the Parish Center
- 12/6—5 pm Youth Group Virtual Meet – Look for communication

Sacrament Prep

- 12/12—Reconciliation/Eucharist Mini Session (2nd Graders) Virtual Session 10am-11am - Look for Communication
- 12/13—Confirmation Mini Session (9th Graders) Virtual Session 2pm-3pm—Look for Communication

COVID! Please, during these days of increased spread of the virus, let us remember to be diligent in thinking about others and doing OUR PART TO DECREASE THE SPREAD. WEAR MASKS, WASH HANDS, DON'T COME TO CHURCH IF YOU ARE FEELING SICK AND LET'S KEEP UP OUR SOCIAL DISTANCING.

**St. Mark Advent Adventures**

St. Mark Advent Adventures with Fr. Dave and Dcn. Ron begins the first Monday of Advent (November 30th). These daily reflections will help us all journey together through the season of Advent preparing us for the celebration of the Coming of the Lord! They can be viewed each day on our **Website:** stmark-goodrich.org, our **Facebook:** St. Mark Goodrich Catholic Church, and our **YouTube:** St Mark the Evangelist Catholic Community. Go to any of these sites Monday thru Friday and watch for our daily Advent Adventure reflections.

Memorial Poinsettias

The St. Mark Youth Group is sponsoring Memorial Poinsettias for Christmas. You may purchase a Poinsettia in memory of a loved one and those Poinsettias will help to decorate our Church for the Christmas Season. Orders will be taken Nov. 28th – December 13th. Proceeds go to help support summer Youth Mission Trip.

December Hope In the Box—Socks, Towels, Toiletries & New Toys**This Week's Challenge...**

God's Faithfulness... God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:9)

- **Prayer for the return of God's favor**—Isaiah 63:16b-16, 19b; 64:2-7
- **Thanksgiving**—1 Corinthians 1:3-9
- **Need for Watchfulness**—Mark 13:33-37



- **Adults:** How do you know when you're following Christ and living his teachings faithfully?



- **Kids:** What good thing might God be asking you to do right now?

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ST MARK FAITH CHAT CALL—ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join Fr. Dave, Dcn. Ron and other parishioners connecting and talking about Faith and Life. This call takes place on Monday's at 6:50 pm. Dial from any phone **1-971-224-6612**, enter the code **452784** and announce yourself in.

Giving Tree

Please visit the Giving Tree and choose an ornament with a gift request. We only have 25 tags left. Return the gift, following the instructions on the back of the tag, along with the tag to the tree by Dec. 13th.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception—Dec. 8

Masses for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be Tuesday, December 8th at 9:30 am and 6:30 pm.

**All I want for Christmas is...YOU!**

Give her what she really wants for Christmas – better communication, more romance, stronger faith, and YOU! AND in your own home! Apply today for a Virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend at www.me.org Jan. 29-31, 2021 – Greater Michigan - Contact Chris & Darla at 269-953-8287

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! As a parish, we raised money to support those on the margins who are living in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.

Weekly Readings: November 30 – December 6

Monday: Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22, **Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10; 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24, **Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37, **Thursday:** Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27, **Friday:** Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31, **Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8, **Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Mk 1:1-8

AFTERWORD....Fr. Dave Howell

ADVENT... This Saturday, at "the stroke of 4 pm we began the new Liturgical Year of 2021. The special chants for the culmination of the last Church year are put away, along with the fancy chalice & special vestments. Now the color will be violet (as opposed to royal purple which is the color of Lent). The most notable change will be reading the Gospel of Mark on most Sundays. This past Liturgical Year we read from the Gospel of Matthew. Some find Matthew to be a slower read, for even though Matthew follows the same story line as Mark, Matthew divides Jesus' teaching into five sermons. The addition of other material in Matthew makes it the longest of the four Gospels. In contrast, Mark is the shortest of four, so we will read more from John's Gospel over the course of the year. The reason why Mark's Gospel is the shortest is because Matthew, Luke & John had material about Jesus, that Mark didn't. Moreover, there is an urgency in his Gospel that is different as well. Mark presents Jesus as the Messianic prophet who is ushering in "new age". So Mark tells the story of Jesus whose mission is so urgent, that it seems as if Jesus rushes from place to place proclaiming the coming of God's Kingdom, a kingdom that will be established through Jesus' death and resurrection. The color of vestments will change to purple and we will count off the 4 weeks of Advent by lighting four candles on the Advent Wreath: a circle of evergreens, symbolizing God, the eternal who lives forever. The four candles lit are two purple, then the pink and finally the last purple. From the fifth until well into the 20th century, Advent was observed as a season of special prayer, fasting and doing good works, much like Lent. It was meant not so much to prepare us for Christmas, but to prepare us for the coming of Christ. Perhaps this year, more than ever, we can find the hope, promise and joy that is meant to characterize the Season of Advent. Happy New (Church) Year!

THE TUNNEL OF LOVE ...By the time you read this, it may already be in the parking lot. Rather than have people get out of their cars and come into church to receive Communion we will continue to have drive through. Communicants will be asked to drive through the new vinyl tent & the deacon and I will be on either side to give you Communion. The new tent will give us a little more protection from the elements and hopefully make it easier for those receiving the Eucharist as well. When Ron, showed me what he had in mind, I couldn't resist naming it "The Tunnel of Love!"

Fr. Dave Howell

