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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 live Christ's commandment: "Love one another, as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

DECEMBER 12, 2021
Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.
Luke 3:11
THIRD Sunday OF Advent

PARISH PASTORAL MINISTERS:
Administrative Pastor, Rev. Joseph Krupp frjoe@hfgb.org
Sacramental Minister Rev. David Howell dfrhowell@gmail.com
Parish Administration and Ministry Director, Deacon Ronald Kenney rkenney@stmarkgoodrich.org
Director of Music Ministry, Michael Goetz mfjgoetz@gmail.com
PARISH SUPPORT STAFF:
Administrative Assistant, Joanne Salvati jsalvati@stmarkgoodrich.org
Business Manager, Sue Griffith sgriffith@stmarkgoodrich.org
Liturgical Ministries Coordinator, Colleen Seymour cseymour@stmarkgoodrich.org
PRAYER MINISTRY REQUESTS, Joan Turner
joanturner38@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, December 13
9:30 a.m. - Mass - Lee Barker/Karen Marie Barker
7:00 p.m. - Faith Chat - In person or Conference Call
TUESDAY, December 14
6:30 p.m. - Mass - Joseph Sonerant/Janice Hennen
7:00 p.m. - CCW Get Together/Parish Center
7:00 p.m. - St. Mark Book Club/Parish Center
WEDNESDAY, December 15
9:00 a.m. - Bob's Morning Devotions/Conference Call
10:00 a.m. - AA
THURSDAY, December 16
7:00 p.m. - Choir
FRIDAY, December 17
8:30 a.m. - Mass - James Lilburn/Nancy & Jim Ellis
SATURDAY, December 18
4:30 p.m. - Confessions
5:30 p.m. - Mass - Evan Saturnino/Linda Saturnino
SUNDAY, December 19
9:30 a.m. - Mass - Larry Turner/Joan Turner
10:30 a.m. - Hospitality
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Family Faith Formation
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Youth Group

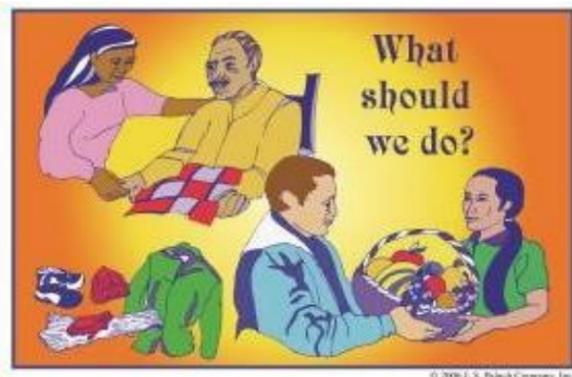
Ron's Thoughts...

"What should we do?" the people ask John the Baptist in today's Gospel. They were coming to John, this really radical guy, and seeking answers for how to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. They asked and he told them to treat others with kindness, conduct business fairly and to love unconditionally.

Not anything out of the ordinary, we hear it all the time, but are we really doing it? This is our challenge, to live as "doers" in the kingdom of God. If you are reading this, you have been chosen to be a part of the building of that kingdom. It begins with us, the baptized. As the song says, "We are called, we are chosen, to be Christ to one another." What a great Advent challenge and mission, Be Christ to one another. The challenge is to let it continue, don't just put on the happy face during this season, let it become our way of life.

Paul tells us in the 2nd reading, "REJOICE in the Lord always. I say it again, REJOICE." He must know where to begin the challenge, think about it. Advent continues... Walk the talk.

Be Peace! D-Ron (rkenney@stmarkgoodrich.org)



Faith Formation Schedule

- 12/19—Family Faith Formation (Pre-K-5th) 11-12:30pm (Church/Parish Center)
- 12/19—Youth Group (6th-12th) 5-6:30pm (Parish Center)

Faith Chat Mondays! Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles with Fr. Dave

- Fr. Dave will be leading an introduction to the Acts of the Apostles Mondays 7-8pm. These will be both on our Conference Line (Dial in at 1-971-224-6612 enter code 452784) and also in person in the Parish Center.

Advent Adventures with Fr. Dave and Deacon Ron

The PROMISE OF ADVENT: Preparing for a season of hope. Join us as we journey together through the season of Advent preparing us for the celebration of the Coming of the Lord! The short video reflections can be viewed each day on our Website: stmarkgoodrich.org, Facebook: St. Mark Goodrich Catholic Church, Youtube: St. Mark Goodrich and Instagram: [stmarkgoodrich](https://www.instagram.com/stmarkgoodrich). Go to any one of those sites Monday through Saturday and watch our daily reflection for Advent.

Rejoice

The prophetic writings we hear in today's scriptures call us to rejoice and celebrate the goodness of God. Zephaniah, Isaiah, Saint Paul, and John the Baptist in Luke's Gospel all follow the rich tradition of the Biblical prophets, a tradition that reaches full expression in Jesus. The prophets warn that human failings have truly disastrous consequences. All are summoned to repent, and to change their lives. Today we hear the Good News that God's gracious love exceeds and overcomes all human corruption. God has not given up on us. Indeed, God keeps pursuing us, and eagerly seeks to reconcile with us. God's initiative to set the world aright culminates with Jesus, whose coming John the Baptist announces. John's prophetic message summons us to join in God's reconciling work, by living generously and justly in our daily lives. As we rejoice in God's grace, we then extend the fruits of this grace to all.

Please Offer Prayers for those preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony!

Marriage Banns:
 Weil/Wilmering

Oplatki for Christmas

Each year, St. Mark makes Oplatki, an Eastern European tradition, available to parishioners. They are unleavened wafers, identical to altar bread but not consecrated, and embossed with Christmas images. Before the family Christmas meal, everyone gathers at the table. The eldest member takes the wafer and breaks off a piece and passes it to another member while everyone prays the prayer for loved ones that accompanies the Oplatki. The wafer is passed around the family, each taking a piece, until everyone has one. Only then does everyone eat their piece in silent prayer. Oplatki will be available in the weeks before Christmas in the Gathering Space.

2021 Christmas Mass Schedule

Friday, December 24—Christmas Eve
 4:30 pm Children's Mass
 10:30 pm with Music beginning at 10:00 pm
Saturday, December 25—Christmas Day
 10:30 am Mass
Sunday, December 26—Feast of the Holy Family
 Mass 9:30 am
Friday, December 31—New Year's Eve
 Blessed Virgin, Mary, Mother of God—4:30 pm
Saturday, January 1—New Year's Day
 Blessed Virgin, Mary, Mother of God— 10:30 am
Sunday, January 2— The Epiphany of the Lord
 Mass—9:30 am



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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 if not fully vaccinated or have compromised health, wash hands, don't come to church if you are feeling sick.

CCW Christmas Get Together—Dec. 14

The Council of Catholic Women will be hosting a night in with appetizers and Christmas cheer. All women of the parish are invited to come and bring their favorite appetizer or dessert. We would also invite you to bring an item for Hope in a Box as a charitable donation. We will begin with the celebration of Mass at 6:30 p.m.

CCW and Fleece Blankets

Every year in January the CCW makes tied fleece blankets for Catholic Charities and Heartbeat. We invite all women to join us on Jan. 11 after the 6:30 Mass. We are looking for donations of fleece as well as workers to tie the blankets. If you are interested in picking up fabric, look for sales at JoAnn's. We need 1 1/2 yards at 60" long of two matching colors to make one blanket. Call the Parish Office for more information.

Nativity and Christmas Pictures

Please send in your Nativity and Christmas pictures for our Nativity Presentation. We will have a special viewing of these during the Christmas Season. All pictures need to be received by December 17th to be included in the presentations. Please email all pictures to Colleen at cseymour@stmarkgoodrich.org

AN ADVENT PRAYER

May the God of peace make us completely holy.
 May God keep us blameless in spirit, soul and body
 for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 Forever faithful is the One who calls us—God our Father!
 Expectant, let us live in joyful hope
 for the revelation of the glory
 of our God and Savior, Christ Jesus!
 To him be glory forever!
 Come, Lord Jesus! Your grace be with us all.

Week December 13th—December 19th

Mon: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 1:23-27, **Tue:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32, **Wed:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23, **Thu:** Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30, **Fri:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17, **Sat:** Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25, **Sun:** Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

AFTERWORD....Fr. Dave Howell

SO, WHY ROSE?... The actual birthday of Jesus is unknown, but in the 4th century, the Church chose December 25 to celebrate it. That date meant that Christmas fell right after the winter solstice when those who practiced the old religion of Rome celebrated the rebirth of the sun. So both those who worshiped the old gods of Rome and those who worshiped the Risen Lord had reason to celebrate. As I mentioned on the First Sunday of Advent, the Advent Wreath was created by German Lutherans near the end of the 16th century. Much of Europe was still using the calendar created by Julius Caesar in the first century BC (called the Julian Calendar). Unfortunately, that calendar didn't calculate leap years correctly and after 1600 years it was out of sync with the cycles of the sun by almost 11 days. As a result, the winter solstice fell during the second week of Advent, so the German Lutherans called the third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday. To distinguish "Joyful Sunday" from the other three Sundays of Advent, the third candle and the vestment worn were pink or rose.

By the time German Lutherans adopted the Gregorian Calendar (published by Pope Gregory XIII in 1562) and the Catholic Church began to use Advent Wreaths, the third Sunday of Advent had been called Gaudete for so long with the pink or rose candle & vestments – everyone just kept it that way.

ADVENT – PART 2.... This week, on December 17 we move into the second part of Advent. For the first three weeks, the Liturgies urged us to prepare for the return of Christ. Now, for the last seven days of the season we turn our attention to how Jesus once came to share our humanity. The first reading will share stories of miraculous births that are found in the Old Testament. The Gospels will tell us of the events that led up to Jesus' miraculous birth. But our preparation for Christmas is not meant to be an exercise of nostalgia. The events that led up to Jesus' birth remind us why he was born. Every year during Advent I ponder the wisdom of St. Irenaeus, a bishop and theologian of the second century. When asked, "Why did Jesus come to share our humanity?" He responded, "God became human in Christ Jesus so humans might become like God!" (I hope you will find his wisdom worth pondering these closing days of Advent.)

MONDAY'S FAITH CHAT... will finish up the introduction to the Acts of the Apostles, connecting Acts with the Gospel of Luke. The session will be available on Conference Call or in person, in the parish center beginning at 7 pm on Monday. My plan is that the last Monday before Christmas we will use to share Christmas stories on the conference line.

Fr. Dave Howell

For Peace; for Women/Men in the Military Service

SSG J Gillett; Maj. S Halleaux; Maj. C Kaighen; S/Sgt. D Kendall; Cpl Greg Misiak, ATAN Daniel P. Wood