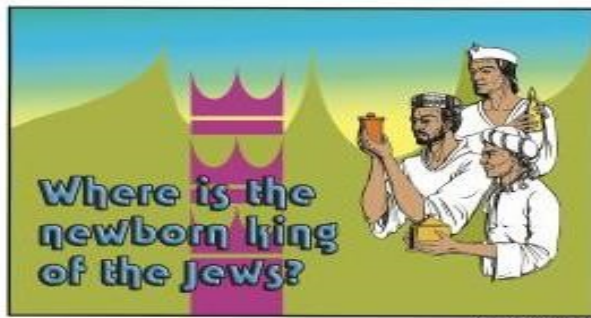


Ron's Thoughts...

With the beginning of 2022, the tradition of making New Year's Resolutions surrounds our thoughts and minds as we head into another year. As I head into 2022 here are a few resolutions that I am challenging myself with: Serve God and God's people with all my heart and soul. Be more forgiving. Look for ways to serve those that are marginalized in society, through action and effort. Be more patient. Live healthier in mind and body. Live a life of tolerance and acceptance of others by seeing similarities not differences. Be kind and loving. Speak kind words. Try to see the good in others first, rather than their faults and failings. Be generous. Seek justice and live what is good and right each day. Be humble. Make life more about others and not about ME. Be Joyful. Put my Faith more into action each day through prayer, Bible reading, church and spending more time with God in the sacraments. Be faith-filled and faithful. And, start each day saying... "TODAY I'M GOING TO PUT GOD FIRST!" Happy New Year! Walk the talk.

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

Thank You, to all those who shared a picture of their Nativity Scenes at home. It brightened our Christmas Liturgies and brought a little bit of our Parish Family to each other. And Thank you to all who in some way helped to make the Christmas Liturgies beautiful.



Faith Formation Schedule

- 1/8—First Rec/Euch Mini Session 9-11am (Parish Center)
- 1/9—Family Faith Formation (Pre-K-5th) 11-12:30pm (Church/Parish Center)
- 1/9—Youth Group (6th-12th) 5-6:30pm (Parish Center)
- 1/16—Confirmation Mini Session 2-4pm (Parish Center)

New Accessible Entrance

Our automatic door has been installed at the North/East entrance of our church building. We have added 2 accessible parking spaces along with a ramp leading up to the door. A handrail will be installed in the future. This will allow easier access to church for those who might need it.

Are you interested in REGISTERING to become a parishioner at St. Mark?

Call the parish office (810-636-2216) or contact D-Ron at rkenney@stmarkgoodrich.org

"Sock It To Me" - Jan 8-9 and Jan 15-16

The Social Justice Commission asks for your help once again. We would like to collect socks for Catholic Charities on the weekends of January 8-9 and 15-16. Socks are one of the greatest needs for their clients. Thank you in advance for all the support you show in helping others.

CCW and Fleece Blankets—Jan. 11

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.

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.

Journey Toward God

In our celebration of the Epiphany, two interwoven themes are present in the readings today. God is beginning something new, and God gathers all of humanity to participate. For Isaiah, God's bright light, manifested in the people of Israel, attracts and summons people from many nations to Jerusalem. In the letter to the Ephesians, God's grace makes the Gentiles co-heirs and co-partners in the gospel. Matthew tells the story of the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel through the birth of Jesus, and simultaneously leading foreigners to share in these same promises. With the birth of Jesus, God chose a particular people, in a particular time and place, to enter most directly into the human story. Today's readings teach that God did this in order to gather all people, all cultures, into unity with God. Like the magi, we are drawn into a journey toward God, becoming co-partners in God's work.

Caring for Creation—Ways to Help the Planet

Keep the Fireplace Damper Closed—If you are not using your fireplace at any given time, keep the damper closed. Having damper open is like having a forty-eight inch window open all the time! Image the hundreds of dollars you are wasting on heating air that then gets sucked up your chimney.

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

Reflection Question of the Week

What can I do this week to come to know God better?

PARISH STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE

December 24 & December 25, 2021

Weekly Collection.....	\$3,733.00
Online Giving.....	\$4,040.00
Christmas.....	\$8,558.00

Thank you to those who regularly and generously give of your treasure, time and talent.

Disciples Together on the Way

I want to invite you to join me as **Disciples Together on the Way**. What's that? Let me explain. In the Holy Gospels, Jesus Christ identifies himself as "the way". Indeed, the early Christians often referred to their new life as disciples of Christ as "the Way" (e.g., Acts 9:2). Last year, many of us spent time together reading through selected books of Sacred Scripture as part of our Year of the Bible. As we read the Bible, we were encountering the Word of God, that is, Jesus Christ himself. He was making us his disciples. We are his chosen. Now, he wants us to become even better disciples. He wants us to walk with him; to talk with him; to fall in love with him; and to learn from him. But how do we best respond to his loving invitation? That's where Disciples Together on the Way comes in. Starting in January 2022, I will send you a specific challenge focusing on a particular habit of authentic discipleship. Inspired and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, it will then be for each of us to live-out that habit over the subsequent seven days. Across the coming year, we will then attempt to acquire a different good habit each week in order to help you and me develop in four key areas of discipleship: prayer, catechesis, community and apostolate. Do you want to take up the Disciples Together on the Way challenge? If so, simply pick up your cellphone and text **ONTHEWAY to 84576** or click on [this link](#) to register. It's that easy! Remember, this life is a journey from God to God. He is our source and our destination. However, if we co-operate with God's grace we can make it and, even better, we can make it together. Assuring you of my prayers, Bishop Earl Boyea.

Calling all snowbirds

If you plan to be spend the winter away, please let the Parish Office know your alternate address so we can keep in touch through mailings.

National Collection: World Wide Evangelization Appeal

World Wide Evangelization Appeal is the weekend of January 22. This is an opportunity to fulfill dreams around the world. At home and abroad evangelization is paramount in fulfilling our mission as Roman Catholics.

Week January 3—January 9

Mon: 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25, **Tue:** 1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44, **Wed:** 1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52, **Thu:** 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Lk 4:14-22a, **Fri:** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16, **Sat:** 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30, **Sun:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Lk 3:15-16, 21-2

AFTERWORD....Fr. Dave Howell

THE EPIPHANY... This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, which is early this year. Traditionally, the Christmas season is celebrated for 12 days (as in the carol The Twelve Days of Christmas). It begins Christmas Eve and ends with the last and greatest celebration on the twelfth day -- Jan 6 -- Feast of the Epiphany. (Since it is an important holy day on the Church calendar, we have moved to the closest Sunday, so that we can all participate in Eucharist on this feast.) The word Epiphany comes from Greek, meaning revelation. The feast celebrates the revelation of God's presence among us in Christ Jesus. In the west, today we celebrate just the first epiphany of the Lord: when the magi who came from the east -- those wise ones who followed the star and found Christ! But there are actually many epiphanies of the Lord in the Gospels; each reveals a deeper truth. In the Eastern Churches, this feast is a celebration of the coming of the magi and two other epiphanies: the Baptism of the Lord Jesus and another epiphany: the first miracle of Jesus at the Wedding Feast at Cana. Jesus revealed the truth of who he truly was by changing the water into wine. And the Gospels tell us of other epiphanies: his birth, his life, his death, his resurrection & ascension. All of these revelations lead us to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and what he means to our lives and our world. The Eucharist is a special on-going epiphany of the Lord who comes to us in the form of bread to live within us. So that we, who receive him, will grow to become like him and thus become an epiphany -- a revelation of Christ to our sisters and brothers.

MANY THANKS... My parents considered writing thank you notes very important. As kids, we couldn't use a gift, until after we had written the thank you note. It's a practice I continue -- otherwise I am sure my parents would haunt me. So last week, I wrote as many thank you notes as I could. Unfortunately, tags & cards got separated from some, so I know there are some folks I won't be able to thank personally. But I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kindness! People were very kind to me. Every year I use the monetary gifts I received for something I need or want. This year, it's a set of new tires for my car.

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND... Covid has changed many plans along the way. Another of its victims is Spring's pilgrimage to the land of Abraham, Isaac, Israel, the prophets and the Lord Jesus. Given the rise of variants and infections, the Pilgrimage will be postponed from May to October of 2022. Since Israel has so many restrictions on travelers and pilgrims, I think it would be better to wait until they are lifted. The dates have not been finalized, but it does appear the prices will remain the same. If you are interested please contact me at dfrhowell@gmail.com and I can send you more information and a registration form.

Fr. Dave Howell