

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Saturday, December 22

5:30 pm For Thomas Korpanty by Solecki Family

Sunday, December 23

9:00 am Parents of Charlotte & Stanley Skoczylas by Skoczylas Family and In Thanksgiving for prayers answered

11:00 am For Francesco Giovanna Patruno and Antonio & Serafina Pirello by Maria & Mario Pirrello

Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve

4:30 pm For Marilyn & Colin O'Connor by Frank & Kelly Roehrig

6:30 pm For Arthur Rice by Fania Family

10:00 pm For Elvira & James Griffin by Labue Family

Tuesday December 25 Christmas Day

9:00 am For Parishioners of St. Marks

11:00 am For Parishioners of St. Marks

Wednesday, December 26

8:45 am For Elizabeth Feldhusen by Parishioners of St. Marks

Thursday, December 27

8:45 am For

Saturday, December 29

5:30 pm For

Sunday, December 30

9:00 am For Guendolyn Delong by Tomczyk Family

11:00 am for Pasqualina Carbone by Maureen DelGuercio & Family

REMEMBRANCE MEMORIALS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Altar Breads & Wine: In loving memory of Aeneas and Genevieve Corry by Corry/Benardone family

Sanctuary Lamp: In loving memory of Vito and Marie Benardone by Corry/Benardone family

Mass Candles:

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 29, 30, 2018

Saturday, 5:30 pm

Celebrant: Fr. Javier Bareno

Lector: Rhianna Smith

Eucharistic Ministers: Joanne Lee

Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday, 9:00 am

Celebrant: Fr. Javier Bareno

Lector: Tony Cretella

Eucharistic Ministers: Gina & Paul Tupaczewski

Altar Servers: Help Needed

11:00 am

Celebrant: Fr. Javier Bareno

Lector: Sharon Donovan

Eucharistic Ministers: Eileen Labue, Trish Mitchell

Altar Server: Help Need

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Monday, December 24

8:45 am Mass

Christmas Eve Masses 4:30, 6:30 and 10:00 pm

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day Masses: 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Wednesday, December 26

Parish Office Closed

8:45 am Mass

Thursday, December 27

8:45 am Mass

Friday, December 28

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, December 29

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

5:30 pm Mass

Sunday, December 30

9:00 am & 11:00 am Mass

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Current Year	Last Year 2017
December 16, 2018: \$2,159 Extended Catholic Obligations: \$450	December 17, 2017: \$3,692 Extended Catholic Obligations: \$589
Supermarket Gift Cards: December 16, 2018 Sales: \$3,450 Profit \$172.50 2018 YTD Profit \$6,295.00 2017 YTD Profit: \$8,362.50 # Families 13	St. Mark's Faith Direct Church Code is NJ484

FAITH DIRECT...

In this season of Advent, we are continuously preparing ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth. Why not help our own parish prepare for the coming New Year by signing up with Faith Direct? By supporting St. Mark the Evangelist, both you and our parish can save some time and peace of mind this holiday season.

Signing up is easy! Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: **NJ484**, or **text the word ENROLL** to (Text-to-Give Phone Number).

Already using Faith Direct? Log in to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account, or text a dollar amount to (Text-to-Give Phone Number) to make a one-time gift today!

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.
God Bless You, Fr. Marcin

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

In our gathering to celebrate Sunday, the Lord's Day, we come to the final days of Advent and mark its Fourth Sunday. The Advent Wreath is ablaze with light signaling the closeness of the Solemnity of Our Lord's Holy Nativity. Do you recognize the indwelling presence of the Lord Jesus in your life? Blessed are you if you see and recognize the Lord with the "eyes of faith". The word "blessed" literally means "happiness" or "beatitude". It describes a kind of joy which is serene and untouchable, self-contained, and independent from chance and changing circumstances of life.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent belongs to Mary. We look at Mary and we see in her simplicity and in her obedience to God's will a wonderful model for our own lives. During Advent but especially today on the fourth Sunday of Advent we have been thinking of Mary and her son Jesus in her womb. Every time we say "Amen" to God, we conceive Jesus in faith as Mary did. Then when we act on Jesus' words, we bring Jesus into the world as Mary did. Let us say "Amen" to God and bring Jesus into the world this Christmas. All we have to do is say "Yes" to God and God will do the rest. Let us tell God that we will not worry about our weaknesses and limitations but that we will trust in him and find our reassurance in him. We are all, called to be disciples and followers of Jesus. Mary is our model. Let us ask Mary to help us be good disciples of Jesus, that like her we may be a servant of the Lord, so that the Word may become flesh and dwell among us this Christmas.



Many things these days are trying to discourage Catholics from attending Christmas Mass and regular participation in worship. Believers must be strong and courageous in offering witness that the Church is our Mother, purchased by the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is the door to eternal life.

I am asking you to assist me in extending an invitation to your family, neighbors and friends to join us at Saint Mark's for the celebration of Our Lord's Birth by coming to Mass. Your presence and prayers will help strengthen us to fight against the evil forces which are among us and trying to destroy us.

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

God gave us the greatest gift of all that first Christmas, his Son Jesus. Jesus waits for you to give him a gift in return, the gift of your heart, the gift of you making room in the inn of your heart for him not just at Christmas or Easter but every day, and especially to worship him at Mass every Sunday. Jesus has done everything for you, can you do something for Jesus? Open your heart to Jesus.

"Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace". Baby Jesus, help us to be people of peace and to spread peace everywhere we go.

I look forward to seeing you all in church again for Christmas. Please do not forget, invite someone with you for Holy Mass. It may change their life!



Parish staff, priests and all employees of St. Mark's Church wish you all the best. May the peace and Joy of Christ be with you this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

*Peace and joy of our Lord Jesus be with all of you!
The Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of Jesus – pray for us...
St. Mark our great patron – pray for us...
Merry Christmas!!! Do not be afraid to say it...
MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!
Fr. Marcin*

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE...

Monday, December 24th Christmas Eve – 4:30, 6:30 and 10:00 pm
Tuesday, December 25th Christmas Day – 9:00 and 11:00 am

Monday, December 31st New Year's Eve – Vigil Mass 5:00 pm
Tuesday, January 1st - Solemnity of Mary, (Holy Day of Obligation).
9:30 am mass

FROM FR. SLAWOMIR...

St. Stephen-December 26

Martyr (ca. 34)

St. Stephen, whose story is recounted in the Act of the Apostles, is remembered as the Proto-Martyr of the church, the first disciple to shed his blood in witness to Christ. As such, his example became a model for subsequent accounts of Christian martyrdom. A Hellenistic Jew, described as "a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit", Stephen was one of the first seven men selected by the Church in Jerusalem to distribute food to the poor. Nothing is told of his early life or conversion, but evidently he liked to engage his fellow Jews in public disputations about the teachings of Christ. For this he was denounced before the Jewish Sanhedrin. Charged with blasphemy, he delivered a long sermon chronicling the history of God's covenant with his servants Abraham and Moses before rising to a shocking climax in which he turned the accusation of blasphemy against his accusers. His audience responded with predictable outrage. Stephen was driven from the city and stoned to death. His death marked a new turn for the early church; Jesus proclamation of the reign of God had given way to the proclamation of Jesus himself. But the continuity was underlined in the fact that the disciple met the same fate as his Master. "While they were stoning him Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them". When he had said this, he fell asleep". Acts 7:59-60

SAVE THE DATE!

St. Mark's Annual Potluck Lunch will take place on January 13th after the 11:00 am mass. (Snow Date: January 20th) Signup in the gathering space.

TEACHING FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

The Sacrament of the Eucharist

The Sacramental Sacrifice Thanksgiving, Memorial, Presence

My dear brothers and sisters the mode of Christ's presence under the Eucharistic species is unique. It raises the Eucharist above all the sacraments as *"the perfection of the spiritual life and the end to which all the sacraments tend."* In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist *"the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained."* *"This presence is called 'real' - by which is not intended to exclude the other types of presence as if they could not be 'real' too, but because it is presence in the fullest sense: that is to say, it is a substantial presence by which Christ, God and man, makes himself wholly and entirely present."*

It is by the conversion of the bread and wine into Christ's body and blood that Christ becomes present in this sacrament. The Church Fathers strongly affirmed the faith of the Church in the efficacy of the Word of Christ and of the action of the Holy Spirit to bring about this conversion. Thus St. John Chrysostom declares:

It is not man that causes the things offered to become the Body and Blood of Christ, but he who was crucified for us, Christ himself. The priest, in the role of Christ, pronounces these words, but their power and grace are God's. This is my body, he says. This word transforms the things offered.

God bless you.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF OR IN /HONOR OF:

Lennon and Onorevole Families, Joseph Callaremi Sr., Cho Family, Hntz & Hayko Families, Deceased members of Grieve & Totin Families and Claudia Harrington, The Guzek Family, The Lefebure Family, Bill & Mary Kuhl, Johnny & Margaret Burke, Hanifin & Lynch Families, Dave Woeste, John and Letha Bell, Orville and Helen McCarver, Frank & Pauline Pagnani, John, Pat & Chris Grace, Frank & Claire Lankford, Walier & Anna Skoczylas, Jan & Amelia Krzywosz, Rev. Marcin, Rev. Slawomi, Rev. Javier, Bertha Vansicikle, Hannah Magistro, Miriam Bennett, Christopher Wright, Theresa Michonski, Thomas & Julia Dugan, Patricia Barone, Anthony and Anna Monteverde



PARISH FUNDRAISING EVENTS

AMAZON SMILES-YOU SHOP AMAZON DONATES...

Buy your gifts and essentials at smile.amazon.com during the Christmas season and all year round! You shop. Amazon donates. Here's how: Visit smile.amazon.com to complete your Christmas and year round shopping. Type in "St. Mark the Evangelist Church Long Valley, NJ" under "Select a Charity". 0.5% of your purchase goes to St. Mark's at no cost to you!

NEW YEARS DAY 5K RUN...

There is still time to join us on January 1 for the New Year's Day 5K. Come on out and support St. Mark's!! Online registration will be open until December 27 at runsignup.com with a fee of \$30 per runner. We are accepting day of registrations on January 1 at the race starting at 9:30 am with a cost of \$35 per runner (payment by cash or check). Not a walker or runner? – come out and join the fun as a volunteer. Email Kim at fkdunn@comcast.net to sign up or fill out the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space

GOLD'S GYM – NOURISH YOUR MIND, BODY & SPIRIT...

Join the Gold's Family this December and 50% of enrollment fee will be donated to St. Mark's. Call today for more information Hackettstown Gym (908) 852-4141, Flanders Gym (973) 584-5656. Kids Club, Group Exercise Classes, Personal Training & more.



All- powerful and ever-living God the lasting health of all who believe in you, hear us as we ask your loving help for the sick; restore their health, that they may again offer joyful thanks in your church.

Randi Alloway, Richard Alvarez, Tony Atkins, Matthew Augustine, Kenneth Bernisky, Paul Buckley, John Callaghan, Emily Condit, Naalia Danilczuk, Jerry Devine, Krish Dharra, Catherine DiPasquale, Neil Donohue, Elizabeth, Connie Elliott, Larry Fine, Tracey F, Elaina Grace Gaffin, Ann Geary, Jerry Green, Barbara Gotterdam, David Guemond,, Helen Greenly, Harper Lynn Granito, Regina Hague, William Heimsly, Bob Hodiern, Maria Dougherty Jante, Donna Jennings, Laurel Jilek, Joey, Jim Karpinski, Dana Karpinski, John, Kevin Kay, Russell H. Keller, Mary Koenig, Jean Koenig, Rocky Labato, Mara Lak, Christina Lanaris, Maryann Litori, Anthony Marino, Norman Milz, Marie Molloy, Madelyn Maruggi, , Jonathon McClelland, Anna McFarland, Harold & Mary McKay, Edward Michonski Sr., Kathy Minichini, Faith Morelli, Robert Neilson, Sr., Maryanne & Jack Newell, Girard Nolte, Jr., Josh Olsen, Jim Owens, Arlene Parikh, Nicky Pilosi, Laurie Pitcock, Clifford Reynolds, Jim Robinson, Ryan, Jillian Elizabeth Sayer, Donald Schmitt, Jeff Schpiner, Ann Sentfinger, George Sentfinger,, Bill Siegrist, Rhonda Soto, Special Intention, Judy Stone, Cindy Sullivan, William Thompson, Mary Travisano, Debbie Trepkau,, Patricia Villano, Anne Walsh

