

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

December 8, 2019 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

  
**MASS INTENTIONS**  
 OF THE WEEK

**Saturday, December 7**

5:30 pm For Julia Dugan *by Monteverde Family*

**Sunday, December 8**

9:00 am For Joanna Grieco  
*by Marianne & Richard Nyman*  
 10:45 am Mass at Heath Village Health Care Ctr.  
 11:00 am Phyllis April *by Woelfel Family*

**Monday, December 9**

8:45 am For Elizabeth Feldhusen

**Tuesday, December 10**

8:45 am For Deceased priests who served St. Marks parish

**Wednesday, December 11**

8:45 am For

**Thursday, December 12**

8:45 am For

**Saturday, December 14**

5:30 pm For Stephen Nichols *by Paula Field*

**Sunday, December 15**

9:00 am For Lillie Banks *by Dave Donlon*  
 11:00 am For Julia Ramiza *by Woelfel Family*  
 For Robert DiClemente  
*by Jean DiClemente*  
 For Grazia Marchesani *by Cresci Family*

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

*December 14,15, 2019*

*Saturday, 5:30 pm*

Lector	Euch. Ministers	Gift Bearers	Altar Servers
Tom Morley	Barbara Burke	Help Needed	Help Needed

*Sunday, 9:00 am*

Lector	Euch. Ministers	Gift Bearers	Altar Servers
Tony Cretella	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed

*Sunday, 11:00 am*

Lector	Euch. Ministers	Gift Bearers	Altar Servers
Dina Carmelengo	Ed Michonski	Help Needed	Help Needed

**THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S**

**Monday, December 9**

8:45 am -----Mass  
 4:30 pm ----- K-5 CEC classes  
 7:30 pm ----- Boy Scout Meeting

**Tuesday, December 10**

8:45 am -----Mass  
 6:15 pm ----- Family Faith Formation  
 8:00 pm -----Knights of Columbus Meeting

**Wednesday, December 11**

8:45 am -----Mass  
 9:30 am -----Women's Bible Study

**Thursday, December 12**

8:45 am ----- Mass

**Friday, December 13**

Parish Office Closed

**Saturday, December 14**

8:00 am ----- Men's Bible Study  
 5:30 -----Mass  
 K of C Raffle Ticket Sale  
 Columbiette Cookie Sale

**Sunday, December 15**

9:00 am and 11:00 am  
 SYM - K-10 Family Faith at 11:00 am  
 Mass  
 K of C Raffle Ticket Sale  
 Columbiette Cookie Sale  
 4:00 pm St. Mark Christmas Concert

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Current Year	Last Year 2018
<b>November 24, 2019:</b> \$2,661.76 Online for November -- \$6,156 Figures for Dec. 1, not available	<b>November 25, 2018:</b> \$1,648.75 Online for November----\$9,060
<b>Supermarket Gift Cards            December 1, 2019            Figures not available</b> Sales ----- Profit----- YTD 2019 ----- Number of families -----	St. Mark's Faith Direct Church Code is <b>NJ484</b>

**GIFT CARD SELLERS NEEDED...** Gift Card Sellers needed for the Saturday, 5:30 pm and Sunday, 11:00 am mass. This is a good way to become involved with the St. Mark's community without a huge commitment. It would entail spending 20 minutes selling gift cards after one mass a month. Training will be provided at your convenience. Please email Mary Hanifin at markhanifin@yahoo.com if you are interested.

**FAITH DIRECT...** Thank you for all the gracious gifts that you provided to our parish so far this year. Your prayers, support, and monetary gifts allow St. Mark the Evangelist to spread the Gospel and share God's message of love and peace with others. This fall, I prayerfully ask that you consider using our secure and easy-to-use electronic giving program, Faith Direct. Faith Direct will automatically process any offertory or second collections donation of your choosing. To enroll in online giving visit [faith.direct/NJ484](http://faith.direct/NJ484). Thank you.



*For the month of December*

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

**Altar Breads & Wine:** In loving memory of Jan and Amelia Krzywosz, and Wladyslaw and Anna Skoczylas *by Skoczylas Family*

**Mass Candles:**

## MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

We are in the season of Advent (already 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday) the season of waiting and hoping, waiting and hoping for God, waiting and hoping for the Second Coming of Jesus. As much as we are waiting and hoping for God, can you imagine how much more God is waiting and hoping for each of us, waiting and hoping that we will turn to him during this season of grace, Advent? We have heard so often of God's love. Do you ever think about God's love searching for you, longing for you, wanting no burden or obstacle between you and him?

This season of Advent is a time of grace for us. It is a time of grace given to us to prepare our hearts so that we are ready to receive Christ at Christmas. That is what Christmas is all about, Jesus. We do not want to get lost in the frenzy of the run up to Christmas and forget what Christmas is all about. Advent is a time of grace to remind us that Jesus is the reason for Christmas.

John the Baptist was preaching in the desert which did not have the distractions or comforts of civilization so it was the best place to hear God speak. Jesus will come to us this Advent and Christmas if we make room for him in the inn of our hearts, if we create a desert in our lives, if we carve out a place of peace and quiet in the busyness of our lives to give space and time to Jesus every day. Advent is a grace-filled season to spend more time with Jesus to allow him to answer our needs and problems and desires. John the Baptist helped people to "Prepare the way of the Lord."

During this season of Advent, let us ask ourselves is there anything keeping us and God apart? Is any sin of any kind in our lives keeping us separated from God? During this season of waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus, can we also look into our hearts and turn from sin to God asking forgiveness? We may say we have no sins and when we go to Confession we have to make up sins to tell the priest. Are we really that holy? There were only two people on this earth who had no sin, Jesus and Our Lady. If we say we have no sin are we expected to think that you are Jesus or Our Lady? If we say we have no sin do we not mean that we have allowed our consciences to go dead so that now we sin but are not even aware of it?

**"PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS."**

**"REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND!"**

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE WILL BE ON TUESDAY DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>  
AT 7:30PM

During this Advent let us prepare our hearts for Christ by turning away from sin and evil and giving ourselves completely to God so that when Christ comes, or when we are called from this life, we are ready and prepared. What better way of doing this than making a very good confession receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

**DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> --- THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Patronal Feast day of the United States of America).**

**ADDITIONAL MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 7PM AT OLM CHURCH.**

Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed on December 8, 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human

race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin." — *Catechism of the Catholic Church.*

Mary was Immaculate because she had to be the Mother of God. She, herself has received the original grace of purity and the final state of the blessed life that we also, by collaborating with Divine Grace, hope one day to receive. The Immaculate, full of grace, will always be Mother and Queen for that elect part of the Church that we hope one day to join, that will one day joyfully sing before the Almighty.

### **2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal**

#### **"For I Was Hungry..."**

As the year comes fast to an end, and many are planning on how to make a final year-end charitable contribution that has the most impact, please consider the many lives that are helped because of the support given to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. These are your neighbors, your friends, our senior priests and seminarians and urban school students. All of us can play a part in the Bishop's Annual Appeal – as either a contributor to the cause or as a recipient of its mission – and all are blessed as a result. Please make the Bishop's Annual Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. [Gifts can be made by check, credit cards, through gifts of securities or on-line at www.2019appeal.org.](http://www.2019appeal.org)

**I would like to bring to your attention that many companies offer free gift matching for non-profit organizations. It is great idea to use it for our Annual Bishop Appeal. Whatever employee donates for Annual Bishop Appeal, company donate the same amount. I would like to encourage you to ask if your company offer gift matching and if they do ask for paperwork and send to Tim Potter, Director of Development Office of Paterson Diocese at [tpotter@patersondiocese.org](mailto:tpotter@patersondiocese.org) with note that this matching gift needs to be credited to St. Mark's Church in Long Valley, NJ.**

Due to recent tax law changes, if you are age 70 1/2 or older and are required to withdraw a 'required minimum distribution' (RMD) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) you can request a donation be made directly to St. Mark's Church which will reduce the taxable amount of your RMD regardless if you itemize or take the standard deduction. These are called Qualified Charitable Donations and they must come directly from your IRA to the parish (see IRS Publication 590-B for complete details)

### **Religious Education News**

Our Angel Tree is up. If you would like to donate a Christmas gift for a child who is currently in the Morris County Foster Child program. Please take an angel, write the number and name of the child and return your **unwrapped** gift by **Monday, December 16**. Thank you.

## FROM FR. SLAWOMIR...

These past three years at Our Lady of the Mountain and St. Mark's parish, were extraordinary years of my priesthood ministry. These years were marked by many experiences, but above all, it was a joyful time, filled with the warmth of the parish community that undoubtedly prevails here.

Once again, I would like to thank the priests with whom I had a great honor and privilege of working with – Father Marcin and Father Javier. It was God's great grace that I could fulfill His Will in these two Parishes with you.

Beloved parishioners, thank you once again for welcoming me to your parish family. Thank you for your prayers, for even those smallest expressions of your care and goodness. With gratitude, I would like to thank all those who prepared the farewell party for me especially Lorraine Fleming.

With all my heart, God bless each and every one of you for coming to my last Mass, for all your kindness, and for your constant prayers. May God look after all of you. Fr. Slawomir

## FROM FR. JAVIER...

### TEACHING FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH - The Sacrament of Holy Orders

The Three Degrees of the Sacrament of Holy Orders

#### 2. The ordination of priests - co-workers of the bishops

My dear brothers and sisters, *"Christ, whom the Father hallowed and sent into the world, has, through his apostles, made their successors, the bishops namely, sharers in his consecration and mission; and these, in their turn, duly entrusted in varying degrees various members of the Church with the office of their ministry."*  
*"The function of the bishops' ministry was handed over in a subordinate degree to priests so that they might be appointed in the order of the priesthood and be co-workers of the episcopal order for the proper fulfillment of the apostolic mission that had been entrusted to it by Christ."*

Because it is joined with the episcopal order the office of priests shares in the authority by which Christ himself builds up and sanctifies and rules his Body. Hence the priesthood of priests, while presupposing the sacraments of initiation, is nevertheless conferred by its own particular sacrament. Through that sacrament priests by the anointing of the Holy Spirit are signed with a special character and so are configured to Christ the priest in such a way that they are able to act in the person of Christ the head.

*"Whilst not having the supreme degree of the pontifical office, and notwithstanding the fact that they depend on the bishops in the exercise of their own proper power, the priests are for all that associated with them by reason of their sacerdotal dignity; and in virtue of the sacrament of Holy Orders, after the image of Christ, the supreme and eternal priest, they are consecrated in order to preach the Gospel and shepherd the faithful as well as to celebrate divine worship as true priests of the New Testament."*

Through the sacrament of Holy Orders priests share in the universal dimensions of the mission that Christ entrusted to the apostles. The spiritual gift they have received in ordination prepares them, not for a limited and restricted mission, *"but for the fullest, in fact the universal mission of salvation 'to the end of the earth,'"* *"prepared in spirit to preach the Gospel everywhere."* God Bless You!



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

2019 Thanksgiving Food Drive results:

Total Bags filled: 444

Total Turkeys Donated: 112

Total Cash Contributions: \$1,176

Organizations Served:

31 Local Area Families in Need

35 Robert E. Cole Sr. Housing Unit residents

LV Interfaith Community Assistance Program

Our Lady of the Mountain Food Pantry

The Children's Home of Easton, PA.

Market Street Mission, Morristown, NJ

Thank you Mike Rec – and to all those who donated.

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#### Reflection for the Week

*United in the same mind and the same purpose.*

*1 Corinthians 1:10*

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**Become a Knight!** [www.lvkofc.org](http://www.lvkofc.org)



**save the date**

St. Mark's Christmas Concert will be held next Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 pm. This year the St. Mark Music Ministry will be joined by choirs from Our Lady of the Mountain and West Morris Central. Please join us for a wonderful afternoon of music, and holiday cheer. The concert will be followed by a short fellowship and light refreshments. A free will offering will be taken to offset the cost of the concert.

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#### ST. MARK'S NEW YEAR'S DAY 5K

Attention runners and walkers – it is time to start thinking about signing up for the St. Mark's New Year's Day 5K. Please see [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com) to complete your registration. Hope to see you in 2020.



Remember to shop at [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com) and support St. Mark the Evangelist Church. Buy your gifts and essentials at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). Type in St. Mark the Evangelist Church Long Valley, NJ under "Select a Charity" Amazon donates 0.5% of your purchase to St. Mark's at no cost to you. Thank you for your support.

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#### CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE...

The Long Valley Columbiettes will be selling delicious, homemade Christmas cookies after all masses in the gathering space for the weekend of December 14/15. Thanking you in advance for your support which will benefit many others, such as veterans, VBS, local food pantries, high school scholarships. Merry Christmas



**Second Sunday  
of Advent**