

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

January 19, 2020 ~ Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saturday, January 18

5:30 pm For Spencer Vespole by *Westrick Family*

Sunday, January 19

9:00 am For John Stewart

11:00 am For Jrena Wasowska by *granddaughters*

Monday, January 20

8:45 am For Joseph Wejnerowski by *Fr. Marcin*

Tuesday, January 21

8:45 am For Antoni Bala by *Fr. Marcin*

Wednesday, January 22

8:45 am

Thursday, January 23

8:45 am For

Saturday, January 25

5:30 pm For Dennis Schaffer by *Lennon Family*

Sunday, January 26

9:00 am For Milton Myon Sowiak by *The Schwints*

11:00 am For Theresa Dobbings by *McDermott Family*

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

January 25, 26, 2019

Saturday, 5:30 pm

Lector	Euch. Ministers	Gift Bearers	Altar Servers
Tom & Sarah Hanifin	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed

Sunday, 9:00 am

Lector	Euch. Ministers	Gift Bearers	Altar Servers
Jim Scott	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed

Sunday, 11:00 am

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

FOOD PANTRY....CHRISTMAS PASSED – WINTER IS AHEAD.

Many thanks to those who donated food items or gift cards to the Food Pantry for Thanksgiving and Christmas! You certainly brightened the season for many families right here in Long Valley. Now we're in the midst of the critical winter season. There's still time to 'play Santa' by giving much-needed food items to the Food Pantry. Hearty soups, hot cereal, baby food, pasta/sauce, etc. are especially needed. As always, anything you can donate will be appreciated. And you might even feel a little warmer!

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Monday, January 20

Parish Office Closed in observance of *Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

8:45 am Mass

No CEC classes

7:30 pm.....Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 21

8:45 am.....Mass

No CEC

7:00 pm.....Boy Scout Eagle Review

Wednesday, January 22

8:45 am..... Mass

6:00 pm..... "Sarah's Fight for Life Bunco Night" in Parish Hall

Thursday, January 23

8:45 am ----- Mass

Friday, January 24

Parish Office Closed

Antioch Retreat

Saturday, January 25

8:00 am.....Men's Bible Study

5:30 pmMass

Antioch Retreat

Sunday, January 26

9:00Mass

11:00 am.....Closing Mass for Retreat and Rite of Inscription for 10th grade



WEEKLY COLLECTION

Current Year	Last Year 2018
January 12, 2020: \$2,041	January 13, 2019: \$2,473
Supermarket Gift Cards January 12, 2020 Sales.....\$2,025 Profit:..... \$101.25 YTD Profit..... \$271.25 # of Families.....9	
St. Mark's Faith Direct Church Code is NJ484	

FAITH DIRECT...

With the dawn of the New Year, we continue to rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior. I am blessed and thankful for all the gracious gifts that you provided to our parish in the past year. Your prayers, support, and monetary gifts allow us to continue to spread the Gospel and share God's message of love and peace. Faith Direct will automatically process donations to the offertory or any second collections of your choosing. To enroll in online giving, visit faith.direct/NJ484. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God Bless you



For the month of January

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

Mass Candles: In loving memory of Dorothy Totin Donohue and Marion Chambers by *Stokes family*

Altar Breads & Wine: Special Intention for *Skoczylas Family*

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Welcome back in Ordinary Time, Christmas Season unfortunately is over but I hope you had a very nice, happy and blessed Christmas Season, now is a time proclaim God's Kingdom to others!

Today in the liturgy of the church we celebrate 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. When John the Baptist saw Jesus he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" Today's Gospel is a testimony of what John has come to know about who Jesus is. Lamb of God. One who forgives sins. One who baptize with the Holy Spirit. Son of God. John the Baptist found his reason for existence. He was to point out the Lamb of God to the world. His mission is not different from the mission of every Christian.

Like John the Baptist, we simply need to open our eyes to recognize and respond to opportunities to carry forth Jesus' mission to others. Our own testimony to Jesus' presence and our own understanding of who he is becomes known through the good we do for others. John the Baptist looked at Jesus and said, "Behold the Lamb of God." We have been called to do the same.

Build your life on Jesus, let Jesus be the foundation of your life. He is the lamb who will take away your sins. Psychologists will help us get an insight into the human causes of our problems, counselors will help us deal with our guilt, but only Jesus the Lamb of God can take that guilt away.

In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, we see the liturgy of heaven and Jesus in heaven is called the Lamb. So when we call Jesus the Lamb of God during Mass it reminds us that we have heaven on earth. Jesus says to us, "This is my Body which will be given up for you", "This is the chalice of my blood...It will be shed for you and for many so that sins may be forgiven." Happy are we who are called to his supper.

As we begin our discipleship journey through Ordinary Time, we offer ourselves to God as obedient servants. We set out to find Jesus in every aspect of life.

Today's gospel helps us be more open to the presence of Jesus in every moment of our life. Like Paul in today's second reading we are all called to be holy. There is nothing greater that any of us can do in our lives than point Christ out to others.

Jesus, Lamb of God, we thank you for dying for us and shedding your blood to take away our sins. May we live as your faithful followers. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us.

.WEDNESDAY – JANUARY 22 – DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN.

47 YEARS AGO SUPREME COURT MADE ABORTION LEGAL IN OUR COUNTRY

Modern medical science has clearly shown us that human life begins at conception. At conception a new human being begins, complete with his or her own unique set of DNA, which is present from the first day of life. The new little person's sex is also determined from the beginning. Eighteen days after conception the baby's heart is beating.

The beautiful thing about this life is that it is created by God. Let us kneel before the God who made us. Because it is God who made us we have great respect for human life. The right to life is the most fundamental of all rights.

Life is the greatest gift from God. Human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. That image cannot be destroyed!!!

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – MOTHER OF GOD – PRAY FOR US AND HELP US TO BE PRO-LIFE AND PROTECT LIFE FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH.

TOGETHER, WE MARCH FOR LIFE

Washington, D.C. January 24, 2020

Will you be going?

Abortion is the most significant human rights abuse of our time. Will you take a stand? JOIN US FOR THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE. The right to life is a human right. Our defense of that right is a joyful witness to the beauty and dignity of every human person.

The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful. Vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country, every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capitol Hill on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. It's the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. But this is not just a protest... TOGETHER, WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE LIFE.

The coach will leave on January 24 from St Luke's at 7am, and return after 8pm, depending on traffic and any rest break. Parishioners wishing to reserve a seat can do so by contacting Mike Lennon at: mike.lennon@comcast.net, (908)246-3188

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

(January 18-15)

Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated between 18-25 January, between the feasts of St Peter and St. Paul.

The 2020 theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been selected. "They Showed Us Unusual Kindness" (Acts 28:2).

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Churches of all faiths are called together to form a vibrant and prayerful witness for Christian Unity by heeding Jesus's prayer "that they all may be one."

Eternal Father,

we praise you for sending your Son
to be one of us and to save us.

Look upon your people with mercy,
for we are divided in so many ways,

and give us the Spirit of Jesus to make us one in love.

We ask this gift, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Next weekend Jan 25, 26 we will have a special collection for "Parish Winter Maintenance" As you know every winter our heating, snow, and ice removal costs go up and this winter is no exception. In today's bulletin we have inserted a special "winter maintenance" envelope for your convenience. Your support of St. Mark's as always, is greatly appreciated.

2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS...

If you would like to receive an end of the year statement of your contributions to St. Mark's you can email our Bookkeeper joanne.stm@comcast.net

Religious Education News

ANTIOCH RETREAT...

This coming weekend our Confirmation Candidates, Peers and Adult Team will be attending the Antioch Retreat. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their preparation for Confirmation

FROM FR. JAVIER...

TEACHING FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH - The Sacrament of Holy Orders

The effects of The Sacrament of Holy Orders

My dear brothers and sisters, according with our tradition and with our *catechism* this sacrament configures the recipient to Christ by a special grace of the Holy Spirit, so that he may serve as Christ's instrument for his Church. By ordination one is enabled to act as a representative of Christ, Head of the Church.

"As in the case of Baptism and Confirmation this share in Christ's office is granted once for all. The sacrament of Holy Orders, like the other two, confers an indelible spiritual character and cannot be repeated or conferred temporarily".

It is true that someone validly ordained can, for grave reasons, be discharged from the obligations and functions linked to ordination, or can be forbidden to exercise them; but he cannot become a layman again in the strict sense, because the character imprinted by ordination is forever. *The vocation and mission received on the day of his ordination mark him permanently.*

Since it is ultimately Christ who acts and effects salvation through the ordained minister, the unworthiness of the latter does not prevent Christ from acting. St. Augustine states this forcefully: *"As for the proud minister, he is to be ranked with the devil. Christ's gift is not thereby profaned: what flows through him keeps its purity, and what passes through him remains dear and reaches the fertile earth. . . . The spiritual power of the sacrament is indeed comparable to light: those to be enlightened receive it in its purity, and if it should pass through defiled beings, it is not itself defiled".* God bless you.

LECTOR MINISTRY...

My new friends,

Have you ever felt a desire to feel more connected to your St Mark's Church community? Have you ever felt the slightest nudge, "I wonder what it would be like to stand up there and Proclaim His Word?" Well maybe you can, and maybe those desires to be a stronger part of the Community, and to read His amazing Word, are from the Holy Spirit. Act on those desires! Sign up to lector after Mass this and next weekend. We are a welcoming bunch who will train and support you. Your commitment amounts to about one Saturday or Sunday a month. Bring your questions to the table at the back of church, or to any lector. Please feel free to call, text or email me with any questions. We are growing His team. We need you! Blessings, Maryann Hobbie 973-570-0701 Hobbie@icloud.com



JOIN THE MUSIC MINISTRY! NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

The Music Ministry is actively seeking new members to join its ministry. All parishioners are invited to join regardless of experience including children and teens in Grades 6 and up. Instrumentalists are also welcome. You do not need to commit to singing/playing weekly. Rehearsals are held on Monday night at 7:30 in the church. Please contact Melissa Heike mheike6@gmail.com 201-874-2503



Together with St. Luke and OLM, the Knights are sponsoring a bus to the March for Life in Washington, DC on January 24, 2020. To reserve a seat or obtain more information, email mike.lennon@comcast.net

Reflection for the Week

However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results.

Winston Churchill

We are looking for a few Good Knights! You don't have to attend every meeting and participate in every charitable or Church event. Considered the "right arm of the Catholic Church," the Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic fraternal, family service organization in the world! Help those in need and grow in your faith. We are an active council and have a lot to offer.

Become a Knight! www.lvkofc.org

USED BOOK SALE... St. Mark's Fundraising Group will be holding a Used Book Sale on March 7/8. We will be collecting books and DVD's (children's and adult's) from now thru Feb. 20. Books/DVD's can be dropped off in the collection bin located in the gathering space as well as at the front entrance. Please do not leave text books, encyclopedias, magazines or VCR tapes. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE! FUNDRAISER AT PANERA BREAD...

St. Mark's will be having a fundraiser at Panera Bread on Route 57 in Hackettstown on **Tuesday, January 28 from 4:00-8:00 pm**. Bring or show an electronic version of the flyer to the cashier or if ordering online enter "PRFUND" as your Promo Code and Panera will donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchase to St. Mark's. The flyer can be found on St. Mark's website.

LONG VALLEY COLUMBIETTES... will be collecting PJs and Books on the weekend of January 18/19 and 25 /26. Newborn to teen size PJs and new/used books will be donated to the Pajama Program which gives new pajamas and new books to children all across the country in support of their right to a loving bedtime and good night. A box will be provided in the gathering space for these donations.

ST. LUKE CATHOLIC PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE...

For the upcoming 2020-2021 School year. January 24, 9:30 to 10:30 am please join us for bagels and coffee and tour our preschool classrooms and campus. Meet our wonderful and loving staff. Registration for New Families begins on Monday, January 27.

VALENTINES DAY ROSE SALE....

The Long Valley First Aid Squad Auxiliary is hosting our First Annual Valentine's Day Rose Sale happening on February 13th from 12pm-7pm and 14th from 12pm-6pm at the LV First Aid Squad building on East Mill Rd. We are selling 1 Dozen Red Roses for \$30, 2 Dozen Non-Red Roses for \$35, and 1 Dozen Non-Red \$25. We are accepting pre-orders through our website www.store.lvfass.org now through Feb. 9th and also accepting walk-ins on February 13th from 12pm-7pm and 14th from 12pm-6pm. All Roses will be for pick-up at the Long Valley First Aid Squad building at 70 East Mill Rd in Long Valley. Our fundraising helps us Support the LV. First Aid Squad with new equipment.