

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Community

Address: 7296 Gale Rd. – Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Parish Office:

Phone (810) 636-2216

Website: <http://www.stmarkgoodrich.org>

 Facebook: Goodrich Saint Mark

PARISH PASTORAL MINISTERS:

Pastor, Rev. Michael W. Kuchar
stmarkpastor@hotmail.com

Director of Faith Formation, Deacon Ronald Kenney
stmarkdff@hotmail.com

Director of RCIA, Pamela Bachner
stmarkrcia@hotmail.com

Director of Music Ministry, Michael Goetz
stmarkmm@hotmail.com

PARISH SUPPORT STAFF:

Administrative Assistant, Caitie Essenmacher
stmarkparish1@hotmail.com

Business Manager, Sue Griffith
stmarkparish2@hotmail.com

Time & Talent Coordinator, Sharon Roberts
stmarktt@hotmail.com

PARISH COUNCILS:

Pastoral Council: stmarkpc@hotmail.com

Finance Council: stmarkfc@hotmail.com

PARISH – VICARIATE MINISTRIES:

AA Meetings (Wed., 10:00 a.m.)
AA Hotline (810) 234-0815

Catholic Charities (810) 232-9950

Council of Catholic Women (810) 344-9859
Mary McFarlane

Powers Catholic High School (810) 591-4741

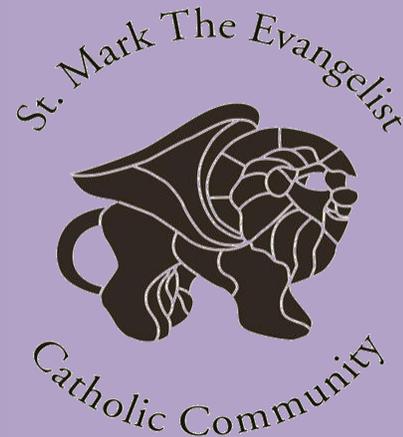
PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Monday – Thursday 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

NEW PARISHIONERS:

Welcome! Individuals who actively participate with us are asked to register by contacting the Parish Office.



MISSION STATEMENT

*St. Mark the Evangelist Parish is
a growing community of faith which strives
to help its members follow Christ's commandment:*

"Love one another, as I have loved you."

John 15:12

SACRAMENTAL LIFE:

Weekend Liturgies:

Saturday	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

Weekday Liturgies:

Tuesday	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.
First Friday of the month	8:30 a.m.
followed by Eucharistic adoration from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	

Christmas, Easter, and Holy Days: see bulletin

Penance Saturday, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Infant Baptism Contact Parish Office

Matrimony Contact Parish Office
(9 months in advance)

Anointing of the Sick Contact Parish Office
(after Masses, at home, or in hospital)

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Monday Noon

CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you move, have a seasonal address, or change of address, phone or e-mail, please contact the Parish Office.

Lent 2018 - The symbol for the Fourth Week of Lent is the **Cross**. The following excerpts are from the Liturgical Conference, From Ashes to Easter. The focus this week is **'Being Loved.'**

Being Loved: "Being loved is always a surprise. The love of another thrills and excites us. It supports us in all that we do. It enables us to value ourselves; and even when we recognize our own self-worth, being loved is still a startling experience. Are we worthy of this devotion? We wonder, even as we are continually re-created by the experience. The realization that we are really loved by God is difficult to grasp. Yet the signs of God's love are all around us. The incarnation, the becoming human of the Son, is the Father's fullest sign of his love for us. It is a startling sign. If we believe it, this sign should support, thrill, excite, and recreate us."

Symbol: Cross – "In ancient times the cross was an instrument of execution. It was used to punish slaves and non-Romans who had committed heinous crimes, such as murder or rebellion. The cross was a sign of infamy and treason. With Jesus' death on the cross, it has become a sign of contradiction. For Christians, it is no longer a sign of infamy, but a sign of the vulnerability of love. Loving and accepting love requires a death to self. But death is not the end. Jesus' death was followed by his resurrection. The cross as a death symbol is also a resurrection symbol. It is a symbol of love."

'Being loved' is often expressed in Sacred Scripture as *'beloved.'* Hopefully, we have heard this many times from our own loved ones as we hear from our God. It is always a treat for me as a priest to receive a colored picture for my refrigerator from one of the children. I believe it is such a simple expression that seems to be so natural for a child. Whatever age we are in this life's journey, we are called upon to give and receive kind expressions of *'being loved.'*

Our Parish Commissions (Education/Formation, Parish Life, Social Justice, and Spiritual Development) are meeting on Tuesday, March 20th as indicated on the March Calendar. We always begin by gathering together at the 6:30 p.m. Eucharist. Following up on my article a few weeks ago about *'not waiting to be called, but to call,'* I am grateful for those of you who responded. I have mentioned in my announcements at Eucharist about our various needs as well. I hope you will consider looking at how your "Time and Talent" skills could be added to our various ministries. There are a number of wonderful suggestions mentioned by many that will enhance our Parish life. Like all good things in life, each takes intention and participation to bring that to fruition. We are certainly reminded of this as we begin to think spring in our lives.

Catholic Relief Services national collection is always the 4th Sunday of Lent and helps people on the global and local level. Because of our Christian Service second collection, we moved the National collection to next weekend. We continue to have the opportunity to respond on the local level with **Catholic Charities** through "Hope in a Box." Items being collected this month are feminine products.

Communal Penance Service is Sunday, March 18th @ 3:00 p.m. It is an opportunity during Lent to examine one's life and receive God's compassionate forgiveness and love.

Peace,

MONDAY, March 12

7:00 p.m. – Live Lent

TUESDAY, March 13

6:30 p.m. – Mass: People of the Parish / Parish

7:00 p.m. – CCW

WEDNESDAY, March 14

8:30 a.m. – Mass: +Paul Marciscewski / St. Joseph Guild

9:00 a.m. – St. Joseph Guild – Parish Center

10:00 a.m. – AA – Room 1 & 2

6:30 p.m. – Soup, Stations and Substance

THURSDAY, March 15

6:00 p.m. – RCIA

7:00 p.m. – Choir practice

FRIDAY, March 16

Hospital Visits

SATURDAY, March 17 – National Collection: Catholic Relief Services

7:00 a.m. – Lenten Men's Fellowship

4:30–5:15 p.m. – Confessions – Church

5:30 p.m. – Mass: +Samuel Bickley / Bickley Family

SUNDAY, March 18 – National Collection: Catholic Relief Services

8:00 a.m. – Mass: People of the Parish / Parish

9:30 a.m. – Mass: +Jerome Kuchar / Fr. Mike Kuchar

9:30 a.m. – Children's Liturgy of the Word

9:30 a.m. – RCIA 3rd Scrutiny

10:30 a.m. – Parish Breakfast

10:30 a.m. – Bell Choir practice

11:00 a.m. – REF: Gr K-5

3:00 p.m. – Communal Penance Service, St. Mark

6:00 p.m. – REF: Gr 6-12

6:30 p.m. – Communal Penance Service, St. John Davison

LET US PRAY:

For Peace; for Women/Men in the Military Service:

SSG J Gillett; Maj. S Halleaux; Maj. C Kaighen; SPC T Kenney; S/Sgt. D Kendall; CPL M Zagone

For Our Sick: Those who are homebound, in the hospital or another healthcare facility.

For Prayer Ministry Requests: Contact Joan Turner, joanturner38@sbcglobal.net or 248-410-2286.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon, 3/12: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54

Tue, 3/13: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

Wed, 3/14: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30

Thu, 3/15: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

Fri, 3/16: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Sat, 3/17: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53

Sun, 3/18: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

Alternate readings (Year A):

Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11;

Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

**Fourth Sunday of Lent
COMMUNAL RESPONSIBILITY**

The people of God forgot the covenant and flouted God's laws. They did not listen to the prophets among them, who spoke for God in warning them. Prophets are sent from God to remind us why we are here, but they are often, even in our own time, mocked, disregarded, and mistreated rather than thanked and listened to.

The book of Chronicles tells the results of these sins: the destruction of the temple and all of Jerusalem, murder, mayhem, and finally exile to a foreign land. Why are these stories in the Bible? Just to inform us of what happened to our ancient forebears? What good would that be unless there were a message and a warning for us as well? Are we people who follow the teachings of God, who obey the words of Christ in the second covenant in his blood? Or do we continue to wreak works of darkness and violence? We are reminded by these readings that we will be judged as a people, not just as individuals.

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PARISH STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE	
March 3 & 4	
Weekly Collection.....	\$ 4,060.00
Online Giving.....	\$ 3,695.00
Children.....	\$ 16.00
Youth.....	\$ 0.00



Catholic Relief Services Collection – March 17 & 18

Next week, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC). Funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here at home and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the CRSC, and help **Jesus in disguise**. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Annual Easter Candy Sale – March 17 & 18

The Music Ministry will be selling Easter Candy after all Masses on March 17 & 18. Proceeds help fund the purchase of new music for our choir and church. Contact Deb Foerster at 810-694-5983 with any questions.

Parish Breakfast – March 18

Join us for our monthly Parish Breakfast after Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass on March 18th. Come hungry for: corned beef hash, eggs and fruit!

St. Francis Center Cursillo Retreats April 5-8, 12-15

Cursillo is an encounter with Christ. It promotes a spiritual revitalization of our world. By living a fully Christian life, we bring Christ to others, including members of our family, school, workplace, etc. Cursillo develops a consciousness that we are called to be leaders. Throughout the weekend the participants will pray together, attend daily Mass and have an opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. Men's Retreat: April 5-8, 2017, Women's Retreat: April 12-15, 2018. Visit <http://www.lansingcursillo.org/> for more information.

Catholic Women's Scholarship

The Daughters of Isabella, Regina Coeli Circle 1095 is offering (3) \$700.00 scholarships to any Catholic woman seeking a higher education. If interested, contact Sara St. Martin (810) 744-1948 or Marilyn Hancock (810) 691-9675.

FAITH FORMATION

Deacon Ron Kenney, Director of Faith Formation
Tel: 810-636-2216 E-mail: stmarkdff@hotmail.com

Reflecting upon John's Gospel about the healing of the blind man, I was taken back to a memory that I have of my Grandfather. It was the early 80's and my Grandpa, whose eye sight had been failing for quite some time, had surgery on his eyes. After the surgery, he spent the next several months unable to see anything at all; he was blind. After several weeks of recovery, treatment and being fitted with special glasses, his eyesight, though very limited, returned. What a moment it was when he was able to see for the first time in months. I will never forget the tears coming to his eyes, a big smile upon his face as he looked at my sister and said, "You are so beautiful." It was a special day around our house that day.

The words, "He was once blind, but now can see," are so real in my mind. Look around you today. There are many who are blind, and it isn't really physical blindness that this Gospel story is getting at. Many are spiritually blind, unable to see that God is present, that God is real, that God is working around us. They see, yet don't. I'll never forget the time I went to the Grand Canyon. It was sunrise and there I sat with about 30 other people staring out across this abyss of beauty, of wonder. Not a sound was made, no conversation, everyone was silent; we all just stared in awe of the presence of God. Sometimes it takes a little more work on our part to allow Christ to cure us of our blindness, so that God may be in our sights. I pray that those who are blind may one day recite my Grandpa's words when Christ heals their blindness, "You are so beautiful!" Our Lenten journey continues.....

Walk the Talk! Be Peace! ~ Deacon Ron

Adult Faith Formation

- **Lenten Men's Fellowship:** All Men of the Parish are invited. Lenten Saturdays, 7-8am Mar. 17, 24
- **Soup, Stations, Substance**
– Lenten Wednesdays, 6:30-8:15pm. Mar. 14: The Paschal Mystery, Mar. 21: The Last things?
- **Live Lent Series:** Be challenged in prayer, the Word and great discussions with your parish community. Lenten Mondays, 7-8:30pm Mar. 12, 19, 26

St. Mark Youth Group Mission Trip 2018

- Summer Youth Mission Trip will be **July 22-28, 2018** in Owensboro, Kentucky to build a house with Habitat for Humanity. For all High School Aged Youth.

Religious Education Formation (REF) Serve One Another Through Love – Galatians 5:13

- 3/18 REF (K-5: 11-12:30pm, 6-12: 6-7:30pm)
- 3/29 **CRS Lenten Rice Bowl** collection: Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) What is the role of the community?

The Community of the faithful provides an example as seasoned companions sharing the mission of the church with the catechumens and candidates, while renewing their own conversion (RCIA, 9). The faithful act as master teachers leading the apprenticeship of these candidates in the Christian way of life including personal and public prayer, apostolic witness, and formation in the Word of God (RCIA, 75). Let us continue to pray for our Candidates: Jennifer and David.