Mission Statement
Open to the Holy Spirit, we, the parish family of St. Mark, are a sacramental community with the Eucharist at our center. We exist to love God and one another, to grow in our personal relationships in our Lord, and to share our enthusiasm for our faith with our community. We seek to support one another, reaching out to all, and are committed to spreading the Gospel and practicing our faith in our daily lives to achieve salvation in Christ.
ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Readings for the week
January 2 - 8

Mon. 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
Tues. 1 John 2:29—3:6; John 1:29-34
Wed. 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42
Thurs. 1 John 3:11-21; John 3:41-51
Fri. 1 John 5:5-13; Mark 1:7-11 or Luke 3:23-28 or 3:23,31-34,36,38
Sat. 1 John 5:14-21; John 2:1-11
Sun. Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

MASS INTENTIONS: (Daily Masses are in Our Lady’s Chapel - Ward Center)

Mon. January 2 Memorial of St. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors Of the Church
5:00 p.m. For the People of St. Mark Parish
Tues. January 3 Christmas Weekday
7:30 a.m. John Sellency - Kennedy Family
Wed. January 4 USA: Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
7:30 a.m. Dorothy Arnold (BIRTH ANNIVERSARY) - Fr. Dan
Thurs. January 5 USA: Memorial of St. John Newmann, Bishop
7:30 a.m. Susan Chase - Mom & Dad
Fri. January 6 Christmas Weekday
7:30 a.m. Special Intention

Liturgies for the weekend of January 7 /8 (Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of Liturgy</th>
<th>Intention</th>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
<th>Lector</th>
<th>Cantor</th>
<th>Eucharistic Ministers</th>
<th>Ushers</th>
<th>Offertory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>John Krisch</td>
<td>Agnes &amp; Children</td>
<td>Jared Anderson</td>
<td>Tucker Fabin</td>
<td>Stephanie Phillips</td>
<td>Edie Testa</td>
<td>Jeff Badach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C John Butine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Clark Hedlund</td>
<td>Nesselhauf Family</td>
<td>Barbara Gainer</td>
<td>Stephanie Phillips</td>
<td>Joe &amp; Rene McCoy</td>
<td>Mike Krahe</td>
<td>C Al Renshaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Need 2 Volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Virginia Linse</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Andrew Kightlinger</td>
<td>Samuel Kightlinger</td>
<td>Geri Smith</td>
<td>Joann Collins</td>
<td>C John Armstrong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jonathan Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE WEEK AHEAD
January 2 - 8

Altar Aides: Darcie Vargo & Emily Sanford
Hospital Visitors:
Hamot - Nancy Samick         St. Vincent - Michael Goetz

Tuesday January 3
Legion of Mary 8:15 am
SCC 10:00 am & 7:30 pm
Building Committee 5:15
Brownies
Religious Ed Kdg—5 3:45 - 5:00
Choir Practice 8:30

Wednesday January 4
Knights of Columbus 7:00 Rooms 1 & 2
SCC 7:00 pm

Thursday January 5
FIRST FRIDAY
Exposition following 7:30 Mass ending at 9 am
Ultreya 7:00 pm
EMMAUS Cakes

Friday January 6
SCC after 8 am Mass
Religious Ed 1—5 9:00 - 10:15
Gr. 6—8 Youth Event 11:30 - 2:30
Gr. 9 Home Session

Sunday January 8
Church Visitors:
USA: Memorial of St. John Newmann, Bishop
7:30 a.m. Susan Chase - Mom & Dad

MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP – December 2016 / Year-to-date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dec. 2016</th>
<th>YTD 6 mo.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offertory collection</td>
<td>$17,484.00</td>
<td>$102,101.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Needs</td>
<td>$19,600.00</td>
<td>$127,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Deficit)/Surplus</td>
<td>($2.116.00)</td>
<td>($25,299.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last week:
430 envelopes issued
136 envelopes returned
1058 parishioners
482 attended Mass

Thank you to all who give of their time, talent, and treasure to St. Mark’s.

OUR SANCTUARY LIGHT BURNS THIS WEEK
IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Many weeks are available for 2017.
Please call the office to have the Sanctuary Light burn in memory of your loved one. Thank you. 899-5000

Happy Birthday
January 2: Ann DePlatchett, Allison Gottschling, Katherine Hall, Debbie Reilly
January 3: Doug Abele
January 4: Charles DuShole, Bill Lutz, Daunice Scipione
January 6: Mark DiVecchio, Rachel Hiles, Tyler Vavreck, Angela Veshecco
January 7: Brandon Bernatowicz, Rica Meyer, Bridget Mullaney
Jan. 8: Margaret Goard, Denny Smith, Ben Sulkowski

Happy Anniversary
January 2: Bill & Bertha Dietrich
January 8: Jeff & Kathleen Pierce

Family Perspective:
The gospel tells us “Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.” We would do well to imitate Mary in our New Year’s resolution. Instead of criticizing let’s “keep it in our hearts.” Criticism isn’t productive or well received anyway!

Marriage Moments: Traditionally people make resolutions to improve themselves at the beginning of the year. In marriage, since you are united in love, what improves one spouse also improves the other. What marriage building practice do you want to start or continue during 2017? For ideas click here. http://www.susanvogt.net/EnrichmentEx.htm
A New Year’s Prayer

May God make your year a happy one! Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain, but by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes; not by making your path easy, but by making you sturdy to travel any path; not by taking hardships from you, but by taking fear from your heart; not by granting you unbroken sunshine, but by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows; not by making your life always pleasant, but by showing you when people and their causes need you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help. God’s love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

Pope Francis

Thought for the week…

“We are all children of one heavenly father, we belong to the same human family and we share a common destiny. This brings a responsibility for each to work so that the world becomes a community of brothers who respect each other, accept each other in one’s diversity, and takes care of one another.”

Pope Francis

ST MARK EVANGELIST MEMBERSHIP FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Name:</th>
<th>Phone:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address:</th>
<th>City/Zip:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHECK ONE: New Registration Change of Address Moving out of Parish Want Envelopes

Place in offertory basket, give to an usher or send to church office.

St. Mark’s Hats for the Homeless

The winter chill has set in and there is a great need for winter gear. You can help!

- Knit or Crochet hats or scarves
- Donate new or gently used hats, gloves and scarves
- Make a monetary donation to be used toward the purchase of gloves

Boxes for donations located at the doors of the Church.

Questions? Call Janet Smith @ 899-5495 or Pat Marshall @ 899-3000. Donations will be distributed through EMMAUS Ministries.

ST. MARK'S HAT FOR THE HOMELESS

695 Smithson Ave., Erie, PA 16511 – phone: 899-3000

Family Name: __________________________ Phone: __________________________

Address: __________________________________________ City/Zip: __________

CHECK ONE: New Registration Change of Address Moving out of Parish Want Envelopes

Place in offertory basket, give to an usher or send to church office.

MERCYHURST PREPATORY SCHOOL

Mercyhurst Preparatory School’s Performing Arts Department presents "The Miracle Worker.

The story is about a young blind, deaf and mute Helen Keller and her attempt to conquer the challenges of communication.

Performances will be held in the newly renovated Performing Arts Center on January 19, 20 and 21 at 7 p.m., and on Sunday, January 22 at 2 p.m.

Cost is $10 - adults, $7 - seniors and $6 for students.

Alumnus David Mitchell ’87 is directing the play. MPS is located at 538 East Grandview Blvd.

Are you a person with a disability and looking for more in your Faith Life? Are you someone with a disability or do you know someone with a disability who wants more out of their Faith Life? The Office of Disabilities and Deaf Ministry has a number of groups that will provide the faith-filled social interaction you’re looking for. Call Michele Inter at 814-824-1257 or email at d&dministry@erieRCD.org for more details. You can also learn more about our ministry on the diocesan website www.ErieRCD.org under Catholic Charities Disability Ministries.

Catholic's Divorce Healing Program: The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide (CDSG) 12-week group to help those who are separated or divorced begins on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Luke School Library in Erie (Cost - $15 for ages over 12, $7 for ages 3 to 12, and free for children under 3. Free childcare will be available. Payments can be mailed to People for Life; P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512. For more information or to pay by credit card, call (814) 882-1333 or go online to www.peop1eforlife.life/january2017.

Make an Investment in Your Future: A wedding is one day; but your marriage is for a lifetime! Invest in your marriage by attending Engagement Encounter. Spend a weekend away from the stress of planning for the wedding, and enjoy the special moments of creating your future marriage together. Call the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261 or familylife@erieRCD.org for more information. All couples are welcome; scholarships are available for those in need. The next EE weekend is scheduled for January 27th through 29th at St. Mark’s Catholic Center in Erie. To register online, please visit www.erieRCD.org/ee.htm.
For Next Week

Questions for the week:

Those of us baptized as infants did not have to seek the object of our faith. Our faith was given to us at baptism; we were brought up in a faith. Jerusalem is irresistible; it draws those who are far off as a light draws the moth. Everyone from vulnerable nursing mothers to the powerful kings moves toward Jerusalem. The city itself is urged simply to look up and behold that this is truly so.

The places Isaiah names are places where the Jewish people had scattered. The sons and daughters of Ishmael and Esau, first named in Genesis 25, are the first to come from Midian and Ephah and Sheba. An exotic picture is set before us. These royal and rich peoples come in caravans of camels. They come bearing gifts fit for royalty—gold and frankincense.

The second reading takes this great return one step further. It was Paul who first understood that God’s salvation in Jesus was available to Jews and Gentiles alike. Those who came to the new Jerusalem, the Church, came from the ends of the earth. One of the mysteries at the heart of God’s dealing with Israel was that salvation is meant for the whole world. Israel was to announce and bring salvation to the very ends of the earth. This was embedded in its Scriptures and made manifest in Jesus. Paul insists in his letter to the church at Ephesus that in Christ Jesus Jews and Gentiles together share the same body, possess the same inheritance, receive the same promise, and share in the good news.

Matthew takes great pains throughout this Gospel to connect the Old Testament with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The first two chapters of his Gospel are filled with allusions to the Jewish Scriptures. The genealogy that opens this Gospel reveals its intention to set forth a testament to Jesus as fulfillment of God’s promise. We learn he is born of a virgin; he is “God with us”; he is from Nazareth. Now, the magi focus on the prophecy from Micah, which identifies a great king from Bethlehem.

The magi, those great seekers, stand for all who come to faith in Christ Jesus. In the Near Orient, the star was a sign of some kind of divinity. The unique star sighted by the magi focused their attention and set them on their journey. The Greek word epiphaneia signifies the manifestation or appearance of a god or of divine intervention. The term also applied to the appearance of kings. The magi meant to find out about this new god or king. They began their arduous journey bearing rich gifts. They were in turn richly rewarded.

*Comment* The prophet Isaiah sings the song of Israel’s great return from exile. Jerusalem pulses with great and splendid light. Jerusalem is irresistible; it draws those who are far off as a light draws the moth. Everyone from vulnerable nursing mothers to the powerful kings moves toward Jerusalem. The city itself is urged simply to look up and behold that this is truly so.

The places Isaiah names are places where the Jewish people had scattered. The sons and daughters of Ishmael and Esau, first named in Genesis 25, are the first to come from Midian and Ephah and Sheba. An exotic picture is set before us. These royal and rich peoples come in caravans of camels. They come bearing gifts fit for royalty—gold and frankincense.

The second reading takes this great return one step further. It was Paul who first understood that God’s salvation in Jesus was available to Jews and Gentiles alike. Those who came to the new Jerusalem, the Church, came from the ends of the earth. One of the mysteries at the heart of God’s dealing with Israel was that salvation is meant for the whole world. Israel was to announce and bring salvation to the very ends of the earth. This was embedded in its Scriptures and made manifest in Jesus. Paul insists in his letter to the church at Ephesus that in Christ Jesus Jews and Gentiles together share the same body, possess the same inheritance, receive the same promise, and share in the good news.

Matthew takes great pains throughout this Gospel to connect the Old Testament with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The first two chapters of his Gospel are filled with allusions to the Jewish Scriptures. The genealogy that opens this Gospel reveals its intention to set forth a testament to Jesus as fulfillment of God’s promise. We learn he is born of a virgin; he is “God with us”; he is from Nazareth. Now, the magi focus on the prophecy from Micah, which identifies a great king from Bethlehem.

The magi, those great seekers, stand for all who come to faith in Christ Jesus. In the Near Orient, the star was a sign of some kind of divinity. The unique star sighted by the magi focused their attention and set them on their journey. The Greek word epiphaneia signifies the manifestation or appearance of a god or of divine intervention. The term also applied to the appearance of kings. The magi meant to find out about this new god or king. They began their arduous journey bearing rich gifts. They were in turn richly rewarded.

*Reflection* Pilgrims know they are in a geographical place and have a family and friends, a job, a collection of possessions. But they do not exactly feel at home. Something is missing; an itch needs scratching. So, pilgrims set out in search of what is missing. They do not necessarily wander the earth. They do not even have to leave home, actually. But they search, and they seek purposefully. They follow their lights—insight and the advice, guidance, and direction of those they trust.

The magi were pilgrims—traveling pilgrims. But another character in this story, Herod, was firmly ensconced in his home place. He liked his position of power and meant to keep it. He didn’t want any usurpers. He wanted only to know what was necessary to keep that power. He was not looking for anything else.

The magi, those pilgrims and seekers, finally descended from the East into a temperate valley and to the unlikely village of Bethlehem. They found their spiritual home there. When they entered the humble home of the Holy Family, they found their gift, their reward, their souls’ longing. They knew it and expressed it in their gifts befitting royalty—gold and frankincense—and the added gift that hinted at mortality, myrrh. They quietly slipped by the boundaries of the country and returned to their homeland by a new route. And their souls also knew a new way.

---

Givers and Receivers Today’s liturgy celebrates the marvelous magnanimity of God. We hear the familiar story of the child Jesus receiving gifts, but we are the ones who are gifted. For our part, we must be like the magi and not only be open to the gift but be willing to go after it, even in the dead of winter.

*Questions for the week:*

What is the most precious gift you have been given?

What is the most precious gift you have to give?