

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 23, 2009

4:00pm Father Jim

Sunday, May 24, 2009

8:30am For the Parish

11:00am Rusty Elswick

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

6:00pm Ann Chase

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

6:00pm Etta Merrified

Thursday, May 28, 2009

6:00pm Edith Ceraso

Saturday, May 30, 2009

4:00pm For the parish

Sunday, May 31, 2009

8:30am James Gilbert

11:00am Edith Ceraso



OUR LADY OF
GUADALUPE CANDLE
IN MEMORY OF
JOHN GOLDEN



ROSARY

The Rosary will be recited
each Sunday at 8:10 am
before 8:30 Mass.

WHAT TO DO IF...

You want to baptize your baby:

Baptisms are on the third weekend of the month during Saturday and Sunday Mass. Call Cathy Cornett at 623-2989, prompt 5, ext. 3203 about the preparation program.

You want to join the parish:

To register as a member, visit the Welcome Committee desk in the gathering space.

You want to get married:

Please arrange an appointment with the priest at least six months before the date you would like to be married. You must be registered in the parish.

You want to make your First Communion or be Confirmed:

If you are an adult, call Terry Culross at 623-6847 or Linda Clark at 623-0925. If you are in grades 1-8, call Cathy Cornett, 623-2989, prompt 5, ext. 2005.

You have a prayer concern:

Please call Connie Wason at 623-1703 or Rose Mansfield at 623-0971, who are members of the Praying Hands Prayer Group, by Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

You would like to arrange a Mass Intention:

Come to the parish office and ask for the secretary.

You want to put something in the bulletin:

Instructions for getting announcements in the bulletin can be obtained by calling the parish office at 623-2989 and speaking with the secretary. **BULLETIN DEADLINE IS 12:00 PM ON TUESDAY.**

You would like more information about Knights of Columbus:

Please call Otto Rieck at 582-4112.

You want to register your child in St. Mark School: Call the school at 623-2989, prompt 4.

You need a ride or can offer a ride to or from Church: Call the parish office at 623-2989, prompt 5, ext. 2001.

You wish to have an announcement read at Mass:

Anyone wishing to have an announcement said before Mass must bring the announcement in to the Parish office for the pastor's approval by Thursday before the scheduled mass. Announcement can be emailed to: saintmarkcatholicchurch.net.

You would like the parish priest or parishioner to visit someone who is sick:

Please call the parish office at 623-2989, prompt 5, ext 2002, if there is an emergency (imminent death or need of sacrament, prompt 3) or if you or a loved one are about to have surgery, are in a hospital or nursing home, or have become homebound. The priest is ready to visit, administer the Sacrament of the Sick and Holy Communion.

Please provide the location and phone number of the person to be visited, and the time that is most convenient for the visit.

You want to change your name or address in the Parish records OR are leaving the parish:

Call the parish office at 623-2989, prompt 5, ext. 2001.

You want to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Reconciliation is offered immediately after all of the weekend masses.

You would like more information about the Catholic Daughters of the Americas:

Call Tricia Davis at 623-9184 or Laure Schadler at 624-9316.

PASTOR'S PAGE

Notes from the Pastor:

First and foremost, I wish to thank all those who turned out for our FIRST Parish Town Hall meeting where we discussed pressing issues with the financial situation of our school. It was an opportunity for all of us to gather as one and not separate entities -- we remind ourselves that we, as a parish that has many ministries, are ONE Body of Christ under the faithful watch of the Pastor and ultimately the Diocesan Bishop.

For those who were not able to be with us, I have enclosed in our Bulletin this weekend a summary of the items that were discussed and information that was shared. I will also place these on our website as well (www.saintmarkcatholicchurch.net). Our NEXT Parish Town Hall meeting will be held on Sunday, July 12th immediately after the 11 a.m. Mass. I am asking that ALL members of the Finance Council, Parish Council and School Board be present. At this meeting, we will give an update on our School and the progress that has been made thus far.

Also enclosed today is a letter from me in which I provide an overview of the financial picture: where we have been and where we are presently. This is NOT my normal "End of the Fiscal Year" letter with spreadsheet attached, which you all have received for the past five years.

I am very grateful for Mr. and Mrs. Phil Morgaman from Florida who provided our parish with a donation of \$25,000. If you remember, several years ago I informed you that Mr. Morgaman had pledged \$25,000 to our parish; however, several months after his pledge was made, he wrote me a letter stating that he could not fulfill his pledge due to various unexpected personal which he faced. However, he stated that he would "not forget about St. Mark." I remember writing him back sharing that we all face our own individual crosses in our life and just as he would not forget about St. Mark, we would not forget about him. Needless to say, I was not shocked, but extremely grateful when his \$25,000 check was given to me personally by Mr. Morgaman this week.

It is important for us to remember that we, as Church, are not a BUSINESS. Yes, there are business aspects of the Church, but our first and foremost duty lies in the Eucharist, the Mass. For without the Eucharist, the Mass, Prayer etc., we are nothing. Therefore, beginning next weekend at ALL of the Masses and continuing for the near future, we will end ALL OF OUR LITURGIES on our KNEES praying to St. Thomas Aquinas for His intercessions as we move FORWARD and POSITIVELY with our SCHOOL MINISTRY. The prayer will be found in the back cover of our Missalettes.

Mat Getsi, who is the music minister for our 11 a.m. Mass, is taking a "personal leave" for an undisclosed time. I am grateful for Betty Reister and those who will "fill in" and help us in our music ministry in Mat's absence. We are grateful for Mat's service to our parish, and we will keep him in our prayers during his personal leave.

This Saturday, May 23rd, I celebrate my 11th Anniversary to Ordained Ministry. I am grateful for you, the people of St. Mark who have helped me grow in this special ministry, especially these past 5 years. I spent this day in the morning in Philadelphia with the Kasitz family as I buried their mother and the evening will be spent with my Mother and sister, Thereze. Sydney and I look forward to being back with you all, bright and early Tuesday!

Please do not forget that THIS WEDNESDAY, May 27th we will have our END OF THE YEAR MASS and 8th grade Graduation at 6 p.m. This would be a great opportunity to celebrate our School and all that it has to offer.

As usual, let me remind you that I am available to you in my office via email at FatherJim.Sichko@SaintMarkCatholicChurch.net or, in cases of an emergency (i.e., death or imminent need of the Sacraments), by phone at 859-623-2989, prompt #3.

See you in Church,
Fr. Jim

Dear St. Mark Parish Community,

Two weeks ago, I had the difficult task of sharing with all of you the challenges faced by our ministry of St. Mark School. On May 16, a parish meeting was held to discuss the current situation and to develop a plan for the future. I was very encouraged to see the parish lay leadership (Finance Council, Parish Council and School Council), along with Principal Paul Doty, myself and the diocesan CFO and Superintendent of Schools work together for the sake of our parish and its important ministry of Catholic education. It will be important for us to continue to BE POSITIVE as we look to the future and not focus on the past, and to continue to WORK TOGETHER, putting aside agendas and differences, for the sake of the parish, of which the school is an important ministry. This positive attitude and willingness to work together must extend to all of us in the parish and school community to ensure the long-term success of the school.

This is a parish school and we are all accountable to see that it succeeds. For the past several years, the School has run on a deficit budget. All of the parish leadership, especially myself as your pastor, accept our share of the responsibility leading to this current challenge. The deficit budget is the result of three causes:

1. Unpaid tuition by parents of enrolled students;
2. A decrease in the parish contribution as a result of the shortfall in parish financial stewardship; and
3. Inability to meet our projected enrollment for the school.

Our short-term need is to develop a balanced budget. For the 2009-2010 school year, the following budget has been approved:

- Revenue: \$821,650
 - Projected school enrollment of 130 (current enrollment is 116 students)
 - 20% increase in tuition for grades K-8
 - 25% increase in tuition for pre-K
 - Parish contribution of 20% of Sunday collections
 - 6 out of 9 Sunday second collections earmarked for the School
- Expenses: \$818,305
 - Combined middle school (grades 6-8)
 - Combined 4th/5th grade
 - Retention of programs in art, music, technology, and physical education

Additionally, a new policy with associated procedures will be put into place to collect the outstanding tuition of approximately \$80,000 in addition to ensuring better receivables in the future.

Our long-term goal is to increase enrollment so that all grades from pre-K through 8th grade are at capacity, and to ensure the financial integrity of the school. The entire parish community must work toward this goal if we are to achieve it. One of the areas where every member of St. Mark Catholic Church can help is through weekly financial giving. The contribution that the parish provides to the school is based on a percentage of overall financial giving using your stewardship envelopes. For the current fiscal year, the parish has a shortfall of \$17,000 in parish giving. Additionally, on weekends that

include a second collection, a majority of parish families split their normal weekly giving between the weekly collection and the second collection rather than providing additional financial giving through the second collection. This adds to the shortfall in parish contributions to the school, even on those weekends in which the second collection is earmarked for the school, because the regular weekly collections are decreased. The math is simple:

More financial giving to the parish = more revenue for the school

A new communication structure will be set in place to ensure a better and more collaborative working relationship between the three advisory bodies, the pastor, and the principal. The chairs of the three advisory bodies will meet with the pastor monthly, and the entire membership of the advisory bodies will meet four times annually. Additionally, the leadership will communicate with the entire parish community in the following ways:

- The Finance Council will include the School in its bulletin reports beginning in August 2009;
- Detailed financial information will be shared with the parish community and parents quarterly;
- Enrollment progress will be communicated monthly, and parents will be notified of enrollment shortfalls so that fundraising goals can be adjusted accordingly;
- Similar "town hall meetings" will be scheduled to keep the parish informed (next scheduled meeting is July 12 after the 11 a.m. Mass).

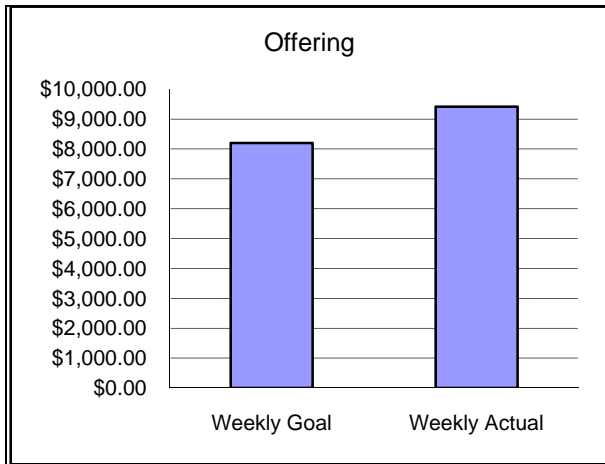
Together, we can build the ministry of Catholic education. It takes each of us in the parish to ensure the success of the School. When we talk about the School with other parishioners and members of the Madison County community, we need to be positive and to highlight the great gifts that Catholic education and St. Mark School are to our community. We need to share our gifts with the School: spiritually through prayers for the School; financially by using our stewardship envelopes and meeting our financial responsibility to the entire parish, as well as being generous with giving for second collections; and through service by volunteering to share our unique talents with the School.

As always, let us continue to pray for one another, that we may be good stewards of the resources of which we have been blessed and supporters of the ministries to which we have been called.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. James W. Sichko

STEWARDSHIP



OUR WEEKLY GOAL: \$ 8,200.00

ENVELOPES: \$6,740.00
LOOSE CASH: \$1,122.00
LOOSE COIN: \$ 3.86
LOOSE CHECKS \$1,550.00
TOTAL \$9,415.86

Over for the week + \$1,215.86

BISHOPS ANNUAL APPEAL

GOAL: \$23,000

PLEDGED TO DATE: \$10,962.12

Remember: It is not WHAT you give, but THAT you give!

FINANCE COUNCIL UPDATES AND NOTES:

The St. Mark Finance Council meets on a monthly basis. During these meetings we discuss various aspects of the financial condition of the Parish. We want to share with the parishioners items of interest:

Collection revenues from July 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009 are now only \$17,000 under budget. Way to go!

Fr. Jim's preaching travels to Vandergrift, Pennsylvania during March brought in donations totaling \$2,800 for a total of \$18,000 so far this year!

As we close out St. Mark's Annual Parish Appeal we want to thank those who contributed for their generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

July	Home Meals Delivery - \$1,244.44
August	Families in Need - \$1,326.12
September	St. Mark School - \$1,105.55
October	Altar Society - \$719.07
November	Home Meals Delivery - \$1,379.23
December	Altar Society - \$1,009.38
January	St. Mark School - \$2,030.98
February	Families in Need - \$1,473.82
March	Home Meals Delivery \$1,212.95
May	Catholic Communication \$915.33

MINISTRIES

Linens: Debbie Pandaru

	Ministry			
Mass	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Altar Servers	Welcome Desk
4:00PM Saturday May 30	Bob Geiger Jean Price	Karen Mayo Darren Norton Jean Price Mary Lou Remaley Laure Schadler Jill Silver Phil VonMann	Scott Dieckmann Haley Marks	Betty Rush
8:30AM Sunday, May 31	Kathy Hatton Angie Wright	Mary Rose Bauer Barbara Cain Terry Culross Emma Esker Kathy Hall Patty Holly Sr. Mary Thomas	BJ Shacreaw Brittany Hendricks	Liane Hinch
11:00am Sunday, May 31	Brad Wood Lois Scott	Donna Meek Minh Nguyen Jenny Rieck Lois Scott Bill Spalding Caryn Vazzana Erin Sullivan	Matt Taylor Alley Rowland Vivian Nguyen	Donna Meek

****A Reminder to all Ministers – Please be mindful of Dress Code. No Tennis shoes and Gentlemen must have shirt with collar.**

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO VOLUNTEER ONE SATURDAY MORNING A MONTH TO HELP CLEAN THE CHURCH, PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE GATHERING SPACE OR CALL THE PARISH OFFICE!!!!

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday	Seventh Sunday of Easter Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; Ps 103; 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 17:11b-19
Monday	Saints Bede the Venerable, priest, doctor; Gregory VII, pope; Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi, virgin Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68; Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday	Saint Philip Neri, priest Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68; Jn 17:1-11a
Wednesday	Saint Augustine of Canterbury, bishop Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68; Jn 17:11b-19
Thursday	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16; Jn 17:20-26
Friday	Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103; Jn 21:15-19
Saturday	Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11; Jn 21:20-25 Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39
Sunday	Pentecost Sunday Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Gal 5:16-25; Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

**NEWMAN CENTER NOTES**

NO NEWMAN CENTER 5:00pm Masses UNTIL
SCHOOL RESUMES in the FALL

**KNIGHT'S CORNER**

Elections for 2009-2010 officers will be held at our June meetings. Nominations have been made but are still open. Please call Dave Bonn (4th Degree) at 893-3488 or Gail King (Third Degree) at 626-9103 if you have someone you would like to nominate.

Our 4th Degree June meeting has been changed from Sunday, June 21st to Sunday, June 14th, due to Father's Day. Please note this change on your calendar.

Meeting Reminders:

-Monthly Third Degree meetings are held on the **First Thursday** of each month at the Newman Center.

-Monthly Fourth Degree meetings are held on the **Third Sunday** of each month at St. Clare Community Building in Berea.



Next High School Youth Group will meet Wednesday, May 27th. This will be the final meeting for the school year.

6:00 Mass
6:30 Dinner and Meeting

Any questions contact Mike Reister
mbreister@att.com.

CHOIR NEWS

Choir practices for the 8:30 a.m. liturgies are held each Wednesday evening from 7-8:30 in the Church. Questions? Call Betty Reister at 623-2573. We look forward to seeing some new faces.



Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA):

The next monthly meeting of The Catholic Daughters will be Tuesday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. (Liane, this will be revised for future weekends as soon as we get our June program topic/speaker set.)

Thanks to Arlene Mattingly for her presentation on breast cancer at our May meeting.

MANY THANKS

Dear Fr. Jim, Deacon Bennett and St. Mark Homebound Ministry,

Cheryl appreciated your thoughtfulness in sending the beautiful Easter Lilies which came for Easter. I am sorry for the tardiness in sending this note. Cheryl also appreciates the many visits by Father Jim and Deacon Jim Bennett and Dot.

Thank you,
Bob Geiger

Dear Father Sichko,

My walk committee and I would like to thank you so much for being a part of our 2009 Let's Move Together Arthritis Walk.

Your being a part of our event by blessing the dogs is always a big hit. Although the weather forecast probably kept a lot of people at home; those who were there had a good time.

Thanks again for helping us with our cause. We can only hope for a future for those living with Arthritis to be one without pain.

Warmest regards,

Susan Feher
Director, Lexington Branch
Arthritis Foundation

June 19-20, 2009 6pm-8am
 Church on the Rock Berea, KY
 Contact Nola Newman at 200-5235

Dear St. Mark Parish,

We want to thank Father Jim and the members of St. Mark Church and School for all of your prayers and kindness following the tornado damage to our house. We are overwhelmed by your generosity.

Joining the Knights of Columbus and becoming members of the church and school communities has blessed us beyond belief. The Knights helped save our house. Your prayers and calls helped save our spirits during a difficult time.

We feel truly blessed to be a part of this community.

Thank you,

Otto, Jenny, Rebecca and Rachel Rieck

COMMUNITY NEWS

PENTECOST CELEBRATION

Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Lexington is sponsoring a day of prayer and reflection ending with a Pentecost vigil Mass.

- **Saturday May 30**
- **St. Clare Catholic Church, Berea KY**
- **Registration begins at 9:30 AM**
- **Led by Father Charles Howell diocesan charismatic representative, Lexington KY**

American Cancer Society Relay for Life

VBS NEWS

What: Vacation Bible School (VBS)
 Where: St. Mark School
 When: Sunday, June 7 - Thursday, June 11
 from 6:00 - 8:00pm
 Who: Any child currently in Pre-K through 5th
 Grade is invited to participate

NEEDED: at least 30 people age 11 - 111 who
 would like to help out during the
 week

ALSO NEEDED: Snacks - please see signup
 sheet in gathering space

CONTACT:

cathy.cornett@saintmarkcatholicchurch.net or
 call the church office @ 623-2989 prompt 5
 ext. 2005



There is still time to memorialize a loved one, or have your family name a permanent part of St. Mark history by having a name inscribed on the new Chalice. Please call the Parish office for more information. Fourteen openings remaining.

RCIA

Wednesday, May 27 6:30-8:00pm St. Mark
 Gym. This will be the last meeting this
 session. Watch the Bulletin for future dates.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Information of Adults)

For more information, contact Terry, 623-6847/ email: towen44@bellsouth.net; or Linda, 623-0925 /email: ljclcsw@yahoo.com.

ST MARK SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL REGISTRATION UPDATE FOR 2009/2010 SCHOOL YEAR

ENROLLMENT GOAL: 130

CURRENT ENROLLMENT: 82

OUTSTANDING BALANCE FOR TUITION: \$82,662.15

NUMBER OF PARENTS WITH OUTSTANDING BALANCES: 34

30 days or less: 4

31-60 days: 5

61-90 days: 3

91 and over: 22

**NOVENA TO ST. THOMAS AQUINAS FOR INCREASE IN
ENROLLMENT AT ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL**



When we are not sure what else we can do, we can pray! Please join us beginning on Sunday May 24th at 9:30pm in a prayer novena for St. Mark School. We each commit to saying these prayers every day at the same time for nine days.

For the text of the prayer we will be saying please go to:

<http://home.pacifier.com/~belisle/forms/novena.pdf>

For those without internet, please call Angel King at 582-0563 for a copy of the prayers.

An Evening Among Friends Encore Series

St. Mark Catholic Church
608 West Main Street
Richmond, KY 40475
December 19, 2009
7:00 p.m.

- Valet Parking
- Only 500 tickets available
- Reception with hors d'oeuvres prior to the performance
- Performance by Patti LaBelle
- Desserts and aperitifs after performance



An Evening Among Friends: The Encore Series Reservation Form

I would like to reserve _____ ticket (s) or _____ pew (s) to
Ring in Christmas with Patti LaBelle at the following level:

- General Admission: \$175 per person**
- Meet and Greet with Patti LaBelle: \$500 per person**
Limited to 50 tickets
Includes special pre-performance reception with Ms. LaBelle in the St. Mark Church gathering space, personalized photo with Ms. LaBelle and Preferred Reserved Seating
- Group Seating: \$2500 per pew for 8 guests**
Includes Preferred Reserved Seating and Patti LaBelle memorabilia for each guest (please list below)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Tickets may be purchased by cash, check, or credit card in one payment or in installment payments at a minimum deposit of \$50 per ticket, with the entire cost paid **prior to October 19, 2009.**

*Checks should be made payable to
St. Mark Catholic Church.*

Enclosed is my entire payment of \$_____.

Enclosed is my first installment of \$_____.

For credit card orders, please complete the back of this form.

To submit your reservation, complete this form and then mail the form to the parish office, place it in the collection basket at Mass, or drop it by the parish office.