



Welcome to the Catholic Community of

SAINT MARK

THE EVANGELIST

*A Catholic Community of Caring Since 1981
Serving Londonderry, Hudson & Windham - New Hampshire*

**Church and Parish Center (603) 432-8711
One South Road, Londonderry, NH 03053**

Fr. Mike Zgonc
Deacon Tom Lavallee
Cathy Kinnon
Brandon Sargent
Rebecca Nusbaum
Claudia Dominguez
Allan Fernald
Artie Carew
Richard Dussault

Pastor
Permanent Deacon
Religious Education Director
Evangelist/Youth Minister
RCIA Coordinator/Youth Minister
Director of First Impressions
Music Director
Music Director
Custodian

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday @ 5:00 PM

Sunday @ 8:00 AM 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Monday through Thursday @ 9:00 AM

**Welcome Home! We, as a Parish Family,
are so glad you are here!**

As sharers of the one baptism & the one Spirit of the Risen Christ, we have come together as the Parish Community of St. Mark the Evangelist to proclaim our identity as the People of God.

The Eucharist is the center of our life and work together. Through the one bread, we become the one body of Christ, a living sacrifice of praise. In our worship of God, the Author of life and holiness, we proclaim our hope in the life of Christ's Resurrection; we open our hearts and minds to the Spirit of God dwelling in our midst.

In our work, together, we seek...

to enable our children to grow in the wisdom and knowledge of God; to accompany our young sons and daughters on their journeys of discovery toward adulthood; to deepen our faith commitment through prayer & study; to be present to one another in the joys and sufferings, the victories and struggles of life; to give witness to the Gospel of justice and compassion to our hurting world.

We welcome to our parish family all who share our Catholic faith & traditions & our search for God in all things.

-Parish Mission Statement



Facebook: [stmarkslondonderry](https://www.facebook.com/stmarkslondonderry)
Twitter: [@stmarksnh](https://twitter.com/stmarksnh)
Website: www.stmarksnh.org

From your Parish Evangelist...

I am excited that my turn to write this column has fallen on this Second Sunday of Advent, because our Gospel centers on one of my favorite characters in Sacred Scripture: St. John the Baptist. John was the rogue cousin of Jesus - wandering in the desert, dressed like a wild-man, eating grasshoppers and wild honey, zealously proclaiming 'Repent! For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand' (Mt 3:2). He has always struck me as sort of a raving visionary crazy-person. That's probably why I've always liked him so much. John was the last of the Old Covenant Prophets, and he was the forerunner to the Messiah. He also lost his head for his efforts, as we read in Matthew chapter 14 and elsewhere.

To me, one of the more interesting features of St. John the Baptist is the perennial relevance of his message. In the immediate sense, he is preparing the 'people of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem' by proclaiming the coming of Christ and the need for the acknowledgment of their sins. Yet in a transcendent sense, John is still crying out to us. We Catholics profess every week in the Creed: 'He will come again to judge the living and the dead.' John's message is as relevant to us in 2017 as it was to his audience on the banks of the Jordan two millennia ago. Our Lord is coming again, and we must make straight His paths.

The Gospel tells us that John 'appeared in the desert' - a barren land where life struggles to survive. Do we live in a spiritual desert? A culture that seeks to suppress and deny the life-giving water of Christ (Jn 4:10-15)? Are our hearts arid with despair and hopelessness? John's voice echoes through these canyons in our souls and our society - 'Prepare the way of the Lord!' Seeking the inner purity of John's baptism opens the flood gates to the grace and spiritual cleansing of our Baptism in Christ Jesus.

John baptized in the Jordan River, the main waterway through Palestine. It was the Jordan that the Israelites crossed over to inherit the Promised Land (Josh 3:14-17). It was the Jordan where Naaman the Syrian (a Gentile) was healed of leprosy (2Kings 5:14). The symbolism of John's baptism in the Jordan River is indicative of the universality of salvation through Jesus Christ. Both Jew and Gentile are called to rebirth in the waters of Baptism. No less true is that universal call to holiness today, in a world seemingly consumed with confusion, relativism, and rejection of God. John's heraldry reminds all of us of our Lord's Great Commission: 'Go therefore and make disciples of ALL nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit' (Mt. 28:19).

The 'voice of one crying out in the desert' is audible, here and now. We should not only hear it, but we desperately need to repeat it! We are all called to be John the Baptist. As disciples of Christ, we are called to be the ones proclaiming His Truth and His Presence from our place here in the wilderness. As we hear St. Paul today: 'what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God.' It is all of our responsibilities to be men and woman of mission - boldly proclaiming the salvation won for us through Jesus Christ and leading others out of the wasteland to the shores of Life-giving Water.

This Advent Season, as much of the culture prepares for a dry, arid 'X-mas', let us all boldly proclaim the message of St. John the Baptist. Let us celebrate the Incarnation of the Author of all Creation, and let us prepare ourselves and others for His glorious return.

Peace be with you all,

Brandon Sargent

Evensong and Advent Faith Formation

Join us this Monday evening, **December 11 at 7:00 PM** for an Evensong prayer service in the Church. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 6:00 PM and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available until 6:50. Stay with us immediately following the service for Advent Faith Formation! Deacon Tom will be leading a lesson on the traditional and spiritual roles of all the characters in the Nativity story! What a wonderful opportunity for prayer and fellowship in this blessed season! Come join us!

The following week, on **Monday, December 18** will we gather again for evening prayer and an Advent presentation. That week, our Parish Evangelist Brandon Sargent will lead a discussion on the treasury of traditions that compose the wonderful celebration of our Lord's Nativity! If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 432-8711.

In Loving Memory....

This week our St. Mark community remembers in prayer all who have died... especially Dorothy Maxwell, wife of Bob Maxwell.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Men of St. Joseph News

All men are invited to join us here at St. Mark's next **Saturday, December 16 from 7:00 to 9:00 AM** for food, fellowship and prayer. We guarantee there will be no traffic – only a real warrior would be up at that hour on a Saturday. When you arrive you'll find bunch of guys who support and challenge each other to become better husbands, fathers, and men of God. You won't be asked to do any projects or sell anything. You will get to have breakfast and share fellowship with men who are trying to follow the model of St. Joseph as leaders of our families and our communities. So set the alarm clock for 6:00 AM and join us this coming Saturday morning - you'll be glad you did. For more information call Bill Donroe at 432-6066.

Religious Education News

*1st Grade families are reminded of their child's next class on **Thursday, December 14 from 4:30 - 5:45**. Chapter 10 should be completed by this time.

*9th Grade Confirmation students are reminded of their meeting this evening, **Sunday, December 10 from 6:30 - 8:00** in the Parish Hall.

Christmas Baskets

This is the last weekend to return food and wrapped gifts! If you have not returned your gift, **PLEASE, PLEASE**, go home and bring it back to church. Otherwise, a family's basket will be incomplete without it, and your special gift will not be delivered. We will be in the Parish Hall until noon. Thank you for your generous response and know that your gift, in whatever way you have shared it, is appreciated.

This Week @ St. Mark's!!!

Sunday, December 10:

- 8:00 AM Christmas Baskets (Hall)
- 10:30 AM RCIA (Lounge)
- 2:00 PM Confirmation (Church)
- 4:00 PM Children's Choir Practice (Church)
- 6:30 PM 9th Grade Confirmation (Hall)

Monday, December 11:

- 6:00 PM Adoration & Confessions (Church)
- 6:30 PM Outreach at St. Mark's (Room 104)
- 6:30 PM Christmas Baskets (Hall)
- 7:00 PM Evensong (Church)
- 7:30 PM Advent Faith Formation (Church)

Tuesday, December 12:

- 6 AM- 11 PM Eucharistic Adoration (Chapel)
- 4:30 PM Rel. Ed. Grades 2-5 (Rel. Ed Center)
- 7:00 PM Rel. Ed. Grades 6-8 (Rel. Ed Center)
- 7:00 PM St. Gianna's Directors (Room 201)
- 7:30 PM Choir Practice (Church)

Thursday, December 14:

- 4:30 PM Rel. Ed. Grade 1 (Rel. Ed. Center)

Saturday, December 16:

- 7:00 AM Men of St. Joseph (Church and Hall)
- 9:30 AM Al Anon (Room 209)
- 11:30 AM Christmas Baskets (Hall)

Praise Be to the Holy Spirit!!

Our St. Mark’s family is overjoyed to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation today with thirty-four young men and woman of our parish! Bishop Francis Christian will join us this afternoon to seal these disciples with the Holy Spirit. Please continue to keep these young adults in your prayers as they return to our community as fully initiated Catholic Christians! God be praised!

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|--------------------|---------------------|
| Brian Adie | Jocelyn Mayo |
| Jeffrey Andon | Erin McCaffrey |
| Brendan Bedell | Andrea McEvoy |
| Katelyn Bergeron | Jason McKearney |
| Joshua Berube | Noah McKearney |
| Jack Brown | Matthew Nutt |
| Rachel Cook | Megan Packard |
| Kaitlyn DePeron | Benjamin Palumbo |
| Abigail Follansbee | Samuel Palumbo |
| Julia Fothergill | Alexander Peters |
| Joshua Galluzzo | Austin Theriault |
| Dylan Giordano | Jack Thompson |
| Courtney Julian | Jessica Thrower |
| Darren Lawton | Olivia Thrower |
| Madelaine Lindsay | Louis Turcotte |
| John Madigan | Haley Vanagel |
| Michael Manella | Samantha Van Seters |

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten our minds to perceive the mysteries of the universe in relation to eternity. Spirit of right judgment and courage, guide us and make us firm in our baptismal decision to follow Jesus' way of love. Spirit of knowledge and reverence, help us to see the lasting value of justice and mercy in our everyday dealings with one another. May we respect life as we work to solve problems of family and nation, economy and ecology. Spirit of God, spark our faith, hope and love into new action each day. Fill our lives with wonder and awe in your presence which penetrates all creation. Amen.

Poor Box for December

Donations to the Poor Box this month will be used to support the St. Mark’s Christmas Basket program. This parish effort provides food and gifts to local families in need this Christmas season. As always, thank you for your generosity.

Restore, Renew, Proclaim!

Our diocese will be restoring the order in which the Sacraments of Initiation are celebrated: Baptism, Confirmation, First Holy Communion.

Over the next few years, the standard age of Confirmation is going to be third grade throughout the Diocese of Manchester, and Confirmation will be celebrated before, not after, First Communion. This practice restores Confirmation to its original place. Through this process, the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation return to the logical order in which they were designed to be received: first Baptism, then Confirmation, then Eucharist. It also restores the practice of administering the Sacraments of Christian Initiation to young children as early as possible.

For more information on the Lifelong Faith Formation and Restored Order of the Sacraments of Initiation, you can visit www.catholicnh.org/lifelong, or you can contact the Catholic Formation Offices at 669-3100.

Christmas Trees!! Won’t you join us?

St. Mark’s Knights of Columbus Council 10488 is hosting their annual Christmas Tree Sale! This is the Knight’s hallmark fund-raiser for the year, and the proceeds support the various service projects that these men provide for our parish family and the whole community! Please support them by purchasing a fresh, beautiful tree from the Knights! You can find them behind the BP Station on Route 102 and Mohawk Drive.

Have a teenager in your house getting ready to apply for college? Institutes of higher education LOVE to see community service projects on applications. The staff at St. Mark’s would gladly write such recommendations for college-bound students. The K of C Christmas Tree Sale is a fun and rewarding opportunity to acquire some of those service hours! Bring a friend and come on down to help spread some Christmas cheer! If you’re interested, stop by the Welcome Center, or call the Parish Office at 434-8711.

Christmas Flower Envelopes

Christmas Flower Envelopes for donations in remembrance of our loved ones are available in the gathering space and the Welcome Center.

Sacrificial Giving (Dec. 2 - 3)

Operating Funds

Offertory Envelopes (152)	\$4,636.00
Loose Cash & Checks	\$2,218.00
Electronic Giving	\$330.00
WeShare	\$3,728.00
Fuel (31)	\$2,060.00
Social	\$64.00
Total	\$13,036.00

Designated Funds

Capital Development (47)	\$760.00
Special Collection (Immaculate Conception)	\$20.00
Charitable	\$5.00
Poor Box (Christmas Baskets)	\$721.00
Total	\$1,506.00

Grand Total **\$14,542.00**

Mass Intentions for Dec. 9 - Dec. 17

12/9 Saturday, 5 PM:

Pat Trongo by Judy & Mike Palenchar

12/10 Sunday, 8 AM:

Frank Griffin by his family

12/10 Sunday, 9:30 AM:

Kathy Pond by the Giguere family

12/10 Sunday, 11 AM:

Daniel Patenaude by John & Suzanne Patenaude

12/11 Monday, 9 AM:

Theresa Beliveau by Judy Vining

12/12 Tuesday, 9 AM:

Kevin Driscoll by the Hoppe family

12/13 Wednesday, 9 AM:

Joan Bompastore by her family

12/14 Thursday 9 AM:

Chuck Keenan by Terry & Allan Fernald

12/16 Saturday, 5 PM:

Mary E. McDonald by the Laurence family

12/17 Sunday, 8 AM:

Wayne Fernald by Terry & Allan Fernald

12/17 Sunday, 9:30 AM:

Intentions of Sarah Townsend Phillips
by the Poirier family

12/17 Sunday, 11 AM:

Louise Wilson by John & Suzanne Patenaude

Parish Contact Information

Parish Office	(603) 432-8711
Religious Education Office FAX	(603) 434-5711
Parish Email	info@stmarksnh.org
Web Page	stmarksnh.org
Office Hours	Mon-Thurs 9 AM- 4 PM
Fr. Mike	frmike@stmarksnh.org
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Artie Carew	artie@stmarksnh.org
Claudia Dominguez	info@stmarksnh.org

Pastoral Council	Justin Paré
Finance Council	Kevin Cronin
Music	Allan Fernald (603) 434-9101
Outreach	Dianne Zdankiewicz (603) 434-7991
Knights of Columbus	Brian Roche (603) 889-3284
Men of St Joseph	Bill Donroe (603) 432-6066
Prayer Line	(603) 432-7425
Safe Environment	Claudia Dominguez (603) 432-8711
Al-Anon	Saturdays, 9:30- 11 AM
Birthright	(603) 434-3000
NH Catholic Charities, Windham	(603) 893-1971

Sacrament of Baptism

Parents are asked to participate in the baptismal catechesis program prior to their child's baptism.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30-4:30 PM or by appointment

Sacrament of Marriage

Couples should contact the parish office at least six months in advance and before making any other wedding arrangements.

Sacrament of the Sick

Please call us to request the Sacrament of the Sick or to receive communion in the home.

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesdays, 6:00 AM-11PM / First Fridays 8 PM-12 AM