



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 Pastor...

Brothers and Sisters-

'Rejoice'!! Yes, the days are much shorter... we had freezing rain and some snow this week... it seems that we have a million and one things to do before Christmas... but let us together pause on this Third Sunday of Advent and REJOICE!!!

Isaiah the prophet is again foreshadowing Christ... At the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus quotes exactly from our first reading today,

"Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
Because he has anointed me
To bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To let the oppressed go free,
And to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord"*

Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him.

He said to them, **"Today, this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing"**. And all were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth." (Luke 4: 17-23)

Jesus is the fulfillment of EVERYTHING that has been passed down through scriptures... Yes, we are waiting for Christmas, but WE KNOW by faith that the Messiah is INDEED already here, so we pause this Sunday to REJOICE!

When we get all anxious and concerned about so many things in our life, can we just pause and give thanks to God for all that He has already given us? We may be trying to plan the best and greatest Christmas party with the best food... and gifts... and guests... then the next day we are already concerned with work, or getting the kids where they need to go... and making sure to shovel and salt the driveway... Let us collectively as a parish community take some time this week to just REJOICE!!!

All the longings of our lives are fulfilled through Him and the many gifts that only come through Him! We already have the greatest gift... Himself... which promises peace, joy, and unconditional love for all eternity!!! It doesn't get any better than that.

Always in Christ,

Fr Mike

Evensong and Advent Faith Formation

Join us this Monday evening, **December 18 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! Our Parish Evangelist Brandon Sargent will lead a discussion on the treasury of traditions that compose the wonderful celebration of our Lord's Nativity! What a wonderful opportunity for prayer and fellowship in this blessed season!

If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 432-8711.

Oplatek: A Christmas Tradition!

Oplatek, or Christmas Wafers, is a Polish Christmas tradition that dates back to the 10th Century! The large wafer is imprinted with a Christmas scene, and is similar in texture and appearance to the bread we consecrate during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Before sitting down to the Christmas Eve meal, the family gathers around the table. The eldest member present holds the wafer and breaks of a piece to begin the ritual. The remaining wafer is passed around the table while prayers and blessings for loved ones are exchanged. When everyone has received a piece, the wafer is consumed by all in a silent prayer of thanksgiving.

This is a much loved tradition, not only in Eastern Europe, but throughout the world. Why not begin the tradition in your home? We are happy to have Oplatek available for \$2.00 each in the Gathering Space after Mass. They come in a handsome envelope with the history and tradition printed on the back. What a great opportunity for prayer and fellowship around your table this Christmas! They make great gifts for the office party, too! Stop by and get some while they last!

Christmas Liturgy Schedule

Sunday, December 24

- 4:00 PM** Mass in Church
- 4:00 PM** Mass in Parish Hall
- 7:00 PM** Mass in Church

Monday, December 25

- 12:00 AM** Midnight Mass
- 10:00 AM** Mass

Religious Education News

*A special 'thank you' to everyone who helped with our Confirmation Liturgy last Sunday: Mr. Garrett Adie, Mrs. Pam Casey, Mr. Larry Casey, Mrs. Sally Mitchell, Mrs. Nancy Vanagel, and Mrs. Diane Giordano.

A Friendly Reminder...

As Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, we offer a courteous reminder that attendance at a Christmas Liturgy on December 24 **DOES NOT** fulfill our Sunday obligation for the Fourth Week of Advent.

Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent will be celebrated at their normal times: Saturday at 5:00 PM, and Sunday morning at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 AM.

Christmas Flower Envelopes

Christmas Flower Envelopes for donations in remembrance of our loved ones are available in the gathering space and the Welcome Center. Thank you for your generosity as we decorate our sanctuary with beautiful flora in honor of our Lord's birth and in memorial of those closest to our hearts.

This Week @ St. Mark's!!!

Sunday, December 17:

- 10:30 AM RCIA (Lounge)
- 4:00 PM Children's Choir Practice (Church)
- 6:00 PM High School Youth Night (Lounge)

Monday, December 18:

- 6:00 PM Adoration & Confessions (Church)
- 7:00 PM Evensong (Church)
- 7:30 PM Advent Faith Formation (Lounge)

Tuesday, December 19:

- 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)
- 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Church)

Thursday, December 21:

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

Saturday, December 23:

- 9:30 AM Al Anon (Room 209)

The Blessings You Have Brought...

We give thanks to God for the incredible generosity of our St. Mark's family! This year's Christmas Basket Program has been a tremendous success once again! Your joyful donations of time, talent, treasure will bring Christmas joy to so many families in need this Christmas. Your works have brought the hope and love of our Lord's Nativity to the less fortunate in our community. Thank you.

A very special word of thanks to Karen Brouillette and the St. Mark's Outreach Team for all their hard work in making this project such a success. In the blessings you have given, you have truly blessed our parish. Thank you, and God be praised!

Vacation Bible School at St. Mark's!!

We are happy to announce that our St. Mark's family will be conducting Vacation Bible School in the Summer of 2018!! Next year's VBS theme is *Shipwrecked!*

Our kids will "venture onto an uncharted island where they are rescued by Jesus! They'll be anchored in the truth that Jesus carries them through every storm in life. They will learn to hold on to God's promises when they are lonely, they worry, they struggle, do wrong, and feel powerless."

We are in the initial planning stages of this event, and we'd love to have you 'on-board'! VBS is geared towards children Preschool to Grade 5. It is a vibrant, energetic week filled with games, activities, and a ridiculous amount of FUN! We would love to have you join us in planning, preparing, and putting on this event. Adults and teens are welcome! If you are interested, please call the Parish Office at 434-8711, or email info@stmarksnh.org! More information will be forthcoming, so stay tuned to the bulletin for more details!

High School Night Tonight!!

Tonight, **Sunday December 17**, is High School Night at 6:00 PM in the Parish Lounge! Come on down and join us for some Christmas cheer as we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus! This is the last High School Night of 2017!! You don't want to miss it - we'll have plenty of food and fun, as always. Haven't checked it out yet? Bring a friend and come on down!

Weekday Mass Schedule

On **Wednesday, December 27** and **Thursday, December 28**, there will be NO weekday Mass celebrated here at St. Mark's. We apologize for any inconvenience. Please visit one of our neighboring parishes on those days.

St. Thomas (Derry): 8:00 AM (Wednesday only)

St. Patrick (Pelham): 8:00 AM

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.

Mass Intentions for Dec. 16 - Dec. 24

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

12/18 Monday, 9 AM:

Lucille DiMartino by the Leone family

12/19 Tuesday, 9 AM:

Ed Dziergowski by Tim & Carol Lott

12/20 Wednesday, 9 AM:

Rev. Thomas Bresnahan by Sarah & Paul Mitchell

12/21 Thursday 9 AM:

Louisa Gendron by her loving husband

12/23 Saturday, 5 PM:

Pat Trongo by Julia Lavin

12/24 Sunday, 8 AM:

Gemma Perry by Earl & Mary Lou Bartlett

12/24 Sunday, 9:30 AM:

Joseph Decarolis by Allan & Terry Fernald

12/24 Sunday, 11 AM:

People of the Parish

12/24 Sunday, 4 PM:

Intentions of St. Mark's Religious Education Teachers

12/24 Sunday, 7 PM:

Adrian Pallone & Joan Bompastore
by their loving family

Sacrificial Giving (Dec. 9 - 10)

Operating Funds

Offertory Envelopes (129)	\$4,446.00
Loose Cash & Checks	\$1,978.00
WeShare	\$4,495.99
Fuel (48)	\$2,725.00
Social	\$25.00
General Donations	\$1,351.16
Religious Ed. (Confirmation Mass)	\$630.00
Mass Donations	\$225.00
Donations (wed/bap/fun)	\$150.00
Total	\$16,046.15

Designated Funds

Capital Development (6)	\$100.00
Special Collection (Immaculate Conception)	\$914.00
Diocesan (Religious Retirement)	\$1,485.00
Poor Box (Christmas Baskets)	\$158.00
Total	\$2,657.00
Grand Total	\$18,703.15

Christmas Extra Effort

We are so very grateful for the continued time, talent, and treasure given for the Mission our Church here at St. Mark's and all Churches... to Go and Teach All Nations!! We are very blessed as a community, and look forward to all that lies ahead!! At this time, we always ask for 'extra effort' during this time for our ministries... Would you consider being a 'Welcomer' or a 'LST member' for our Christmas liturgies?? Any extra help is greatly appreciated especially with how many guests we will be expecting!! Also, we spend so much time planning the perfect gift for our loved ones... Have we considered giving a 'gift' to our parish during this Season? As we did last year, anything we collect over budget for Easter and Christmas, we are able to put away in our Capital Development and Improvement funds for times when we may need it. If possible as means allow, if you are able to give an 'extra effort' gift to St. Mark's this Season, we would surely appreciate it! Thanks again for all your support and generosity!!!

Parking for Christmas Mass

Additional parking for the Christmas Eve 4 PM Mass will be available at Creative Little Angels Daycare located at 40 Mammoth Road Shuttle service will be provided before and after the Masses.

Parish Contact Information

Parish Office	(603) 432-8711
Parish Email	info@stmarksnh.org
Web Page	stmarksnh.org
Office Hours	Mon-Thurs 9 AM- 4 PM
Fr. Mike	frmike@stmarksnh.org
Deacon Tom	dctom@stmarksnh.org
Cathy Kinnon	cathy@stmarksnh.org
Brandon Sargent	brandon@stmarksnh.org
Beccah Nusbaum	beccah@stmarksnh.org
Allan Fernald	allan@stmarksnh.org
Artie Carew	artie@stmarksnh.org
Claudia Dominguez	info@stmarksnh.org
Pastoral Council	Justin Paré
Finance Council	Kevin Cronin
Music	Allan Fernald (603) 434-9101 Artie Carew (603) 546-5503
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
Birtheright	(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