



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-

On behalf of myself and the entire Parish Staff here at St. Mark's, Happy 4th Sunday of Advent, and MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

I am ever grateful for the spirit of 'warmth and love' that is so prevalent in our community! From the welcoming environment you bring to ALL who enter our doors... to the engaging and joy-filled worship that we celebrate together week after week... to the tremendous outreach of prayers and resources to those in need... I see the message of Christmas proclaimed loud and clear from our parish here in Londonderry!

"The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom
a light has shone."

Nothing we do here is for ourselves, but rather, to 'Praise and Glorify our God' who has blessed us with so much. Even amid the 'stuff' of life, we look at the eternal promise made to us by our Messiah and King, who is indeed "God with us." Christ is born!! Our Savior has come to earth!! He indeed is the light to show us the way... may we not be distracted by so many of the false lights out there. The false lights that lead to emptiness... always leading us to just wanting more... never being satisfied.

[The Angel said] "Do not be afraid;
for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy
that will be for all the people.
For today in the city of David
a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.
And this will be a sign for you:
you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes
and lying in a manger."
And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel,
praising God and saying:
"Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

God has indeed come FOR ALL PEOPLE. May He be the One that brings us eternal joy... May He be the One that refreshes our soul. Our hearts yearn for Him always. May we never be distracted by the false lights out there. He yearns for us!! He proved that by coming to earth as a baby. He always desires to be in our hearts and in our lives at all times. Merry Christmas.

Always in Christ,
Fr Mike

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!

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

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Monday, January 1, is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God! Normally this a Holy Day of Obligation, but as it falls on a Monday this year, the precept is abrogated. However, we will be celebrating this solemn occasion at 7 PM Monday evening here at St. Mark's. *Please not that there will be NO 9 AM Mass on that day.*

Religious Education News

*There will be NO Religious Education classes held on *Tuesday, December 26*, nor on *Tuesday, January 2*. Classes will resume on January 9. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

*A friendly reminder that when Londonderry Schools are closed due to inclement weather, Religious Education classes are likewise cancelled.

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 24:

- 2:00PM Children's Choir Practice (Church)
- 4:00 PM Christmas Mass (Church)
- 4:00 PM Christmas Mass (Hall)
- 7:00 PM Christmas Mass (Church)

Monday, December 25:

- 12:00 AM Midnight Mass (Church)
- 10:00 AM Christmas Mass (Church)

Tuesday, December 26:

- 6 AM- 11 PM Eucharistic Adoration (Chapel)

Saturday, December 30:

- 9:30 AM Al Anon (Room 209)

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**

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!

Day of Fasting & Prayer

Please join our St. Mark's family and members of our neighboring parishes in prayer and penance in reparation for the offenses of our society against the Culture of Life. This period of fasting will begin on ***Sunday evening, January 21*** with Eucharistic Adoration and recitation of the Rosary at 7:00 PM in St. Bridget's Chapel here at St. Mark's. The fast will conclude the following day, ***Monday, January 22*** with Benediction at 7 PM. Life issues are the core of Catholic social teaching, and this conscious effort of prayer and penance is a poignant witness to our Faith. If you are available to attend these services, please consider participating in the fast and prayer at home and work. The power of prayer is exceptional, and each one of us can make a difference!

As the Blessed Sacrament must always be accompanied when exposed, please sign-up for Adoration by contacting John Matuszewski at 434-4098, or at matu19@comcast.net. A light reception will follow Benediction on Monday evening. This event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

Women's Ministry

All women of the parish are invited to join us, ***Thursday, January 18*** in the lounge to discuss the current book we are reading: *Awakening Your Soul to the Presence of God* by Kilian J. Healy. (Participants are responsible to provide their own books). Our discussion will start at 7:00 PM and you are welcome to come a few minutes early to socialize if you'd like. We'd love to have you join us! Questions can be directed to Susanne at Live4Him@myfairpoint.net

Mass Intentions for Dec. 23 - Dec. 30

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

12/25 Monday Midnight (12 AM):

Dominique Coloun by Robert & Lucille Lemay

12/25 Monday 10:00AM

Joseph Niemaszyk by Mark and Monique Niemaszyk

12/26 Tuesday, 9 AM:

Max McCarthy by Thomas & Deborah Murray

12/27 Wednesday, 9 AM:

No weekday Mass

12/28 Thursday, 9 AM:

No weekday Mass

12/30 Saturday, 5 PM

Gloria M. Ciccolo by Roy and Marie Bouchard

12/31 Sunday, 8 AM:

Mary Salerno and her son Paul by the family

12/31 Sunday, 9:30 AM:

Holy Souls in Purgatory by Phyllis Fernald

12/31 Sunday, 11 AM:

People of the Parish

Sacrificial Giving (Dec. 16 - 17)

Operating Funds

Offertory Envelopes (195)	\$5,855.00
Loose Cash & Checks	\$2,242.00
Electronic Giving	\$705.00
WeShare	\$1,883.00
Flowers (31)	\$591.00
Fuel (49)	\$3,280.00
Social	\$30.00
General Donations	\$527.00
Mass Donations	\$20.00
Total	\$15,133.00

Designated Funds

Capital Development (6)	\$137.00
Special Collection (Holy Days)	\$63.00
Diocesan (Religious Retirement)	\$406.00
Total	\$606.00

Grand Total **\$15,739.00**

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
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