



Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is almost here! This coming Tuesday is Christmas Eve. You will note the Mass schedule. Certainly, we are also very close to the New Year. It is definitely a time to reconsider all that has happened and all that is happening around us and specifically around our communities all around us.

Our Beloved Pope Francis said in one of his interviews at the Vatican: “Christmas is an encounter between God and His people. Christmas”, the Pope said, “speaks to us about tenderness and hope. It is an invitation to all Christians not to be a “cold Church that doesn’t know where it’s going, a church that is tied up in ideologies, in worldly attitudes.”

I think we can identify so closely to these words from the Pope when suggesting that Christmas should be an encounter with God; a mystery of consolation and hope and not to conform to the unfriendliness and carelessness of the secular world. Rather, encourages us to be prepared with warm hearts to the message of the newborn Jesus.

We identify with this message because, we immersed in the reality of this world with the many ideologies and temptations that every day are lavishly presented. In the face of these multitude of voices; we are driven to discern what comes from God and what belongs to this world. In the intertwined mesh of secular invitations, we are called to encounter God as Pope Francis suggests, search to act in tenderness, hope and with the fire of goodness in our hearts.

Unquestionably we don’t want to be a cold church. We want the spirit of God within each one of us from the youngest to the oldest. We know where we want to go. We want to go where we are one church, the people of God, who work together for the same goal, that is, to build the kingdom of God especially here with the people of St Mark’s, that is composed of different languages, cultures, social status, and backgrounds. The birth of Christ brought all people together to be the family of Jesus. Again, here we are, your family sweet Jesus.

I continue giving thanks to God for all of you in the parish. To me it is always heartwarming to see you in the mornings before mass, at the stores when doing errands, and when driving around town. It is a loving family with the realities and challenges that occasionally families have.

Finally, be reassured by what Pope Francis once said “We are in an encounter with Christ in Christmas.” The Newborn King is in the midst of all of us as one church. We search to be filled with hope, always in the midst of our uncertainties there is Christ. Living in the presence of the Messiah, we are a church alive with the fire of the Spirit, never a cold church.

*On behalf of Fr. Miguel Virella SVD, Fr. Miguel Valle and the staff of St. Marks Parish;
With my warmest feelings of hope, Merry Christmas to all my beloved parishioners.*

*In Christ Jesus
Your Pastor,
Fr. Miguel Virella, SVD*

A stylized illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, a manger is silhouetted against a bright blue light. Inside the manger, the infant Jesus lies in a manger, with Mary kneeling in prayer to the left and Joseph standing to the right holding a staff. To the left of the manger, a donkey and a camel are silhouetted. To the right, an ox and a donkey are silhouetted. In the background, three camels are silhouetted against a dark blue sky with a bright star and a comet. Palm trees and mountains are also silhouetted.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

4 PM Children's Mass and Nativity Play

Celebrant: Fr. Miguel

Reader: Connie Duffy

Eucharistic Ministers: Anthony Granato, Pat Holt, Lynn Jelliff

6 PM

Celebrant: Fr. Valle

Reader: Lori Savino

Eucharistic Ministers: Richard Norris, Lori Savino, Jim Sheridan

8 PM Spanish

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

8 AM

Celebrant: Fr. Valle

Reader: Robert Cavazini

Eucharistic Ministers: Gary & Pat Cademartori, Pat Scatuorchio

10 AM

Celebrant: Fr. Miguel

Reader: Peggy Hardiman

Eucharistic Ministers: Jay Lorenzo, Richard Norris, Jim Sheridan

12 NOON

Celebrant: Fr. Valle

Reader: Sue Hannon

Eucharistic Ministers: Debbie Dunn, Helen Hopkins, Minister Needed

2PM SPANISH

St. Mark's Church
Fr. Miguel Virella, SVD, Pastor
Fr. Miguel Valle, Parochial Vicar
Dr. Joseph V. Stillo, Deacon
Michael Keary, Deacon

Rectory Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:30 PM

Sunday 8 AM, 10 AM, and 12 Noon
 5PM in Spanish

Daily Masses

Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet after Daily Masses

Monday-Friday at 7:30 AM and 11 AM

Saturday 7:30 AM Only (No 11 AM Mass on Saturdays)

Devotions and Novenas

Miraculous Medal Novena after daily Masses on Wednesdays

Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays after 7:30 AM Mass.

Benediction at 10:45 AM

1st Fridays Spanish Adoration

beginning at 7 PM.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:30 PM to 4:15 PM and

Thursdays after the 7:30 AM and
 11 AM Masses

Rectory Office 732-449-6364

Bulletin	Ext. 114
Religious Education	Ext. 105
Social Concerns	Ext. 108
Spanish Ministry	Ext. 104 or Ext. 105
Weddings	Ext. 100

Ministries

Altar Rosary Society	732-528-6948
Bereavement Ministry	718-637-1162
CYO	732-685-6011
Music Ministry	908-415-0212
Rosary Makers	732-245-8405

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

December 22, 23, 24
No CCD Classes.

December 24
Christmas Nativity Play at 4pm Mass.

December 24, 25, 26
Rectory Office Closed. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

December 31 & January 1
Rectory Office Closed. HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Please pray for our sick: Marilyn Woerner, Barbara Peter, Ann Lehberger Joan Trutneff, Kevin Motzenbecker, Tom Ort, Kenneth Thorne, Mary Bogan, Peggy O'Brien, Patty Accavallo, Donna Brundage, Daniel DeSeno, Thomas Weeks, Jan Soriano, Nadine Piccolo, Patti & John Hillenbrand, Raymond Burghart, Joan Langlois, Robert Czech, Janet Thomas, Bruce Bogan, Sr.

Please Note: Names will remain on the sick list read at mass for 4 weeks and then removed unless the requester calls to remain on the list for another 4 weeks. To ensure the consent of the person whose name appears here, the pastor's policy requires that only they or a family member may request a name be added to this list. Names will remain in the bulletin until the person or family request it be removed.

Because of an early deadline for printing, we did not have the collection data for the weekend of December 15, 2024. This data will be reflected in next weekend's bulletin.



St. Mark's Church is wheelchair accessible. There is a ramp on the north side, and an elevator on the south side of the church. Handicapped parking is located in the driveway, the south side of the church, and in front of the church.

THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to its own policies and guidelines in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors.

If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan **ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965** or e-mail abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org.



The Knights of Columbus Council #3231 (St Marks/St Denis) wishes to thank all who participated in our Annual Charity 50/50 Cash Raffle. First Prize winner, #985 will receive \$1822.50, second prize winner, #1190 will receive \$1093.50 and third prize, #1003 will receive \$729. All winners are local and wish to remain anonymous. The remaining balance will be deposited into our Charity account. Again, thank you for helping us provide good cheer this holy Christmas season.



† This Week's Mass Intentions

Monday, December 23

7:30 AM

- † Ted Zeller by Estate
- † Danielle Tacenton by Tages Family
- † Rose Marie Fox by Eisabeth Scwhwinn

11:00 AM

- † Emory C. Smith by Betsy Smith
- † Robert Weeks by Family
- † Lane Family by Margaret Cunningham

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24

7:30 AM

- † Deceased Members of the Passalaqua Family by Family

4:00 PM

- † Cathy Mulvaney by Judy & Gene Mulvaney
- † Stephen J. Bohacik by Bohacik Family
- † Antonio Oliveira by Longo Family

6:00 PM

- † Tom Critchley by Family
- 8:00 PM (Spanish)

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25

8:00 AM

- † Bob Phillips by Pat Phillips
- † Jack & Dolores Rosa by Linda Rosa

10:00 AM

- † James F. Bogan, Jr. by Mary Lou Lytle
 - † Ellen & Peter O'Day by Patrice O'Day
- Private Intention

12:00 Noon

- † Suzanne Smith by Carol Rizzi
 - James F. Bogan, Jr. by Family
- Private Intention
- 2:00 PM (Spanish)

Thursday, December 26

7:30 AM

- † Julia Buonocore by Family
- † Carol Treger by Estate

11:AM

- † Marilyn Hatienko by Margaret Cunningham
- † Erin & Richard O'Day by Patrice O'Day
- † Robert Coogan by St. Marks Parish Family

Friday, December 27

7:30 AM

- † Dorothy Wright by Family
- † Colette Casey by Estate
- † Joseph and Margaret Azzarella by Margaret Azzarella

11:00 AM

- † Mary C. Flynn by Jerry Flynn

Saturday, December 28

7:30 AM

- † Barbara Toscano by Judy Cerami
- † Lawrence Keary by Deacon Mike & Sandra Keary
- † Deceased Members of the Pauls & Blaha Family by Ed & Judy Blaha

4:30 PM

People of the Parish

Sunday, December 29

8:00 AM

- † Private intention

10:00 AM

- † Marilyn Leonard by Jim & Marianne Sheridan
- † Robert Coogan by St. Mark's Religious Education Program

12 Noon

- † Humphries Family by Jerry Flynn

5:00 PM

Lorenza Rito by Juana Zaragoza



**Next Weekend's Ministry Schedule
December 28/29, 2025**

	Celebrant	Deacon	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Usher
Saturday, 4:30 PM	Fr. Miguel		Pat Wright	Connie Duffy Jack Wright Marianne Schobel	Anthony Granato Walter Henry Joe Walsh
Sunday, 8:00 AM	Fr. Miguel		Marie Behnken	Dan Crimmins Rose Crimmins Linda Parisi	Pat Ahern Leo Hurley Bob O'Neill Glenn Skola
Sunday, 10:00 AM	Fr. Valle		Robert Cavazini	Robert Cavazini Jay Lorenzo Kelly Uliano	Jim Sheridan Rich Siderko
Sunday, 12:00 PM	Fr. Miguel		Molly McCauley	Helen Hopkins Minister Needed Minister Needed	Richard DeGroote Howard Flood

Volunteers
MAKE GREAT THINGS HAPPEN!
©JPPC

St. Mark's is forming a hospitality team to assist with event setup, organization, and serving. If you're interested in joining, please call Linda at the Rectory at 732-449-6364.



Readings for the Week
December 22, 2024

Monday Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 Lk 1:57-66
Tuesday Morning 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 Lk 1:67-79
Wednesday Vigil Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Wednesday Night Is 9:1-6 Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14
Wednesday Dawn Is 62:11-12 Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12 Ti 3:4-7 Lk 2:15-20
Wednesday Day Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Thursday Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 Mt 10:17-22
Friday 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Saturday 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 Mt 2:13-18
Sunday Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 Lk 2:41-52.

The Rectory Office will be closed on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Mass schedules are as follows:

Tuesday, December 31, 2024
New Year's Eve
7:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Wednesday, January 1, 2025
New Year's Day
7:30 AM and 11 AM

Christmas Flower Memorial envelopes are available at church entrances. Envelopes can be placed in the collection basket, the box on the side altar or the rectory mail slot.

It's a beautiful way to celebrate the birth of our Savior and remember loved ones during Christmas!

Intercessions for Life
December 22, 2024

For all parents awaiting the birth of their child:
 May they look to the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph and follow their example of cherishing and protecting human life,
let us pray to the Lord.

Social Concerns Christmas and Gift Wrapping Party on Tuesday, December 10, 2024



Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Christmas is all about connections. When you stop and think about it there are many. There are the personal ones, of course. And then there are the biblical ones. The latter come from God the Holy Spirit, and they complete the picture.

The personal connections, I trust, are those happy memories of past Christmases, when we were “young and foolish” as the song says. Perhaps it was our first encounter with Santa, when we walked nervously toward the smiling gentleman with our list of wants and desires lined up in memory. Usually, a photo was taken of that event, which found its way into the family album. Today’s photos likely wind up on a phone collection.

Or maybe it was that Christmas when the one toy we really wanted stayed hidden for a while until Mom or Dad prompted us to look behind the tree.

Or maybe it was the Christmas eve you proposed to the girl of your dreams and offered her a ring that sparkled almost as much as her eyes when she said “Yes!”

I must give a nod here to the strong possibility of a possibly unhappy Christmas memory because the big day came too close to the funeral of a beloved parent. That one happened to my beloved Mom when she was a little girl.

The biblical Christmas connections are those annual scenes and memorable words that come around each year, often enriched with our personal meanings. For example, there is that visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth which highlights the Blessed Mother’s charity and concern. Something we have come to depend on also as our life moves on.

Underneath that obvious one is the deeper Scriptural message about the two baby boys awaiting their birth. These cousins will be connected more powerfully than usual. John the Baptist is connected spiritually with all the great prophets who preceded him in the Old Covenant times. John is the last of their kind, and he connects the New Covenant with the Old. John will also be the precursor of Jesus when both reach maturity.

Admittedly it can be a struggle at this time of year to stay focused on the spiritual. So many secular accumulations have come along over the centuries to our celebration of Christmas, either from our nationalities or those special family traditions that we must maintain our faith connection with the story. Our personal connection with Christ remains the ultimate reason for our joy at this holy time.

Perhaps the best help is one attributed to Stephen Covey. He said, “Always remember that the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.”

A blessed Christmas to you and yours!

Iglesia de "San Marcos" Apostolado Hispano Misa Dominical: Domingo 5:00 p.m.

Adoración al Santísimo: Primer Viernes de cada mes a las 7:00 p.m. en la Iglesia.

Padre Miguel Valle, Vicario Parroquial

frvalle@stmarkseagirt.com

Teléfono: (732) 449-6364 ext. 116 or 122.

Directora del Ministerio de Religión

Diana Zuna

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Teléfono: (732) 449-6364 ext. 105

Ministerio Hispano

Patty D'Andrea


Spanishministry@stmarkseagirt.com

Teléfono: (732) 449-6364 ext. 104

	Noche Buena Martes, Diciembre 24 Misa 6:00 p.m.	Natividad del Señor Miércoles, Diciembre 25 Misa 2:00 p.m.
Celebrante	Padre Valle	Padre Miguel
Lectores	Edgar García Felipe Oseguera	Felipe Oseguera Edgar García
Ministros de Eucaristía	Rosario Ramirez Javier Ramirez Maria Sanchez	Carlos Zuna Margarita Zuna Lidet Cartagena
Ujieres	Jose Reyes Benito Santiago Catarino Hernandez Edgar Juárez	Isabel Lopez Leodegaria Lopez Brigeet Luna Florina Ramirez
Monaguillos	Caroline Molina Aurora Garcia	Madeline Jimenez Audrina Sanchez

Calendario de Ministerios Domingo, Diciembre 29 Misa 5:00 p.m.	
Celebrante	Padre Valle
Lectores	Juan Gonzalez Adeline Cruz
Ministros de Eucaristía	Javier Ramirez Carlos Zuna Clever Heredia
Ujieres	Bertín Ángel Filemón Jose Roberto Luna Jose Luis Munoz
Monaguillos	Caroline Molina Aurora Garcia Robert Luna Sophia Sanchez Audrina Sanchez Melyssa Reyes





Mis queridos Hermanos, ¡La Navidad ya está muy cerca! El próximo martes es la víspera de Navidad. EL horario de las misas ya está disponible en el boletín. Ciertamente, también estamos muy cerca del Año Nuevo. Definitivamente es un momento para mirar con ojos de la fe todo lo que ha sucedido y todo lo que está sucediendo a nuestro alrededor. Así, implantar y dar significado en cada evento la presencia del Dios Vivo.

Nuestro Amado Papa Francisco dijo en una de sus entrevistas en el Vaticano: "La Navidad nos da la oportunidad de tener un nuevo encuentro con Dios. La Navidad - dijo el Papa- nos habla de ternura y de esperanza. Es una invitación a todos los cristianos a no ser una "Iglesia fría que no sabe a dónde va porque está atada a ideologías, y actitudes terrenales". Creo que podemos identificarnos muy estrechamente con estas palabras del Papa. Claramente buscamos tener ese encuentro con Dios especialmente en esta temporada de la Navidad donde se nos presenta una vez más esta proposición de optar por lo que es verdadero. Honorable, lo justo, todo lo puro y todo lo bello, así nos dice San Pablo a los Filipenses 4:6-19.

Dios nos llama a no conformarnos con la hostilidad y el descuido del mundo secular. Más bien, nos anima a estar preparados con corazones cálidos para el mensaje del Jesús recién nacido. Este mensaje está cerca de nuestra experiencia humana. Nos identificamos con este mensaje porque, nos sumergimos en la realidad de este mundo con las muchas ideologías y tentaciones que ofrece profusamente. Frente a esta multitud de voces; somos impulsados a discernir lo que viene de Dios y lo que pertenece a este mundo. En medio de estas redes de voces y mensajes, estamos destinados a escudriñar lo que es de Dios. De una manera sencilla el Papa Francisco, lo expresa, a " buscar actuar con ternura, esperanza y bondad en nuestros corazones." Incuestionablemente no queremos ser una iglesia fría. Queremos el espíritu de Dios dentro de cada uno de nosotros, desde el más pequeño hasta el más anciano.

Sabemos a dónde queremos ir. Queremos ir a donde seamos una iglesia unida que se llame pueblo de Dios, que trabaje por el mismo objetivo, es decir, construir el reino de Dios en el mundo y aquí en San Marcos especialmente. Esta Iglesia que está compuesta por diferentes idiomas, culturas, estatus social y orígenes. Este es parte de nuestro encuentro divino con Dios, cuando reverentemente nos encontramos unos con otros.

Continúo dando gracias a Dios por todos ustedes en la parroquia. Para mí siempre es de mucha alegría verlos en nuestras celebraciones, en ocasiones sus casas, en las tiendas cuando haces mandados o cuando conduces por la ciudad. Es una familia amorosa con las realidades y los desafíos que ocasionalmente tienen todas las familias. Viviendo en la presencia del Mesías, somos una iglesia viva con el fuego del Espíritu, nunca una iglesia fría.

En nombre del P. Miguel Virella SVD, el P. Miguel Valle y el personal de la parroquia de San Marcos; Con mis más cálidos sentimientos de esperanza, Feliz Navidad a todos mis queridos feligreses. En Cristo Jesús Su Pastor, P. Miguel Virella, SVD



Horario de Misas para Diciembre y Enero

Martes, Diciembre 24 **8:00 PM**

▪ Misa de Noche Buena & Pastorela por los niños(as)

Miércoles, Diciembre 25 **2:00 PM**

▪ Solemnidad de la Natividad del Señor- Misa del Día.

Miércoles, Enero 1 **2:00 PM**

▪ Solemnidad de Santa María Madre de Dios y
Misa de Año Nuevo.

**Para más información llamar a la oficina
(732) 449-6364 ext. 105.**