

# I love you, Lord, my strength.

**November 4, 2018**

**Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**



**Saturday, November 3**

5:30 pm For Millie Ewing by McDermott Family

**Sunday, November 4**

9:00 am For

11:00 am For Anthony Fania and Donald Higgins by Fania Family

**Monday, November 5**

8:45 am For

10:45 am Mass at Heath Village – Faith Chapel

**Tuesday, November 6**

8:45 am For Elizabeth Feldhusen by Parishioners of St. Marks

**Wednesday, November 7**

8:45 am For

**Thursday, November 8**

8:45 am For Thomas Tell by Parishioners of St. Marks

**Saturday, November 10**

5:30 pm For Ralph Bozza by Regan Family

**Sunday, November 11**

9:00 am For Bernie Cho by Cho Family

10:45 am Mass at Heath Village – Health Care Center

11:00 am Knights of Columbus Memorial Mass by Long Valley

Knights of Columbus

**REMEMBRANCE MEMORIALS  
FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER**

**Altar Breads & Wine:** In loving memory of Aeneas and Genevieve Corry by Corry/Benardone family

**Sanctuary Lamp:** In loving memory of Vito and Marie Benardone by Corry/Benardone family

**Mass Candles:**

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE  
September November 10, 11, 2018**

**Saturday, 5:30 pm**

Celebrant: Fr. Slawomir Tomaszewski

Lector: Fred McQuaid

Eucharistic Ministers: Joanne Lee, Barbara Burke

Altar Servers: Jared Bermeo

**Sunday, 9:00 am**

Celebrant: Fr. Slawomir Tomaszewski

Lector: Jim Scott

Eucharistic Ministers: Mark Vetterl, Carmen Veras

Altar Servers: Hannah & Sarah Tupaczewski

**11:00 am**

Celebrant: Fr. Slawomir Tomaszewski

Lector: Dina Carmelengo

Eucharistic Ministers: Ed Michonski, Lorraine Fleming

Altar Server: Piper Heike

**FAITH DIRECT...**

Fall into eGiving through Faith Direct, which is the most convenient and secure way for you to make your weekly offering to St. Mark the Evangelist. Your automatic contributions through Faith Direct will save valuable time for both you and our parish staff. Visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and use our church code: NJ484.

**THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S**

**Monday, November 5**

8:45 am Mass

4:30 pm CEC K-5

7:30 pm Boy Scouts

**Tuesday, November 6**

8:45 am Mass

6:15 pm JYM Class

8:00 pm K of C Meeting

**Wednesday, November 7**

8:45 am Mass

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

**Thursday, November 8**

8:45 am Mass

**Friday, November 9**

Parish Office Closed

**Saturday, November 10**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

5:30 pm Mass

7:30 pm Scott Miller Benefit Concert 7:30 pm.

K of C 50/50 Raffle Ticket Sale

**Sunday, November 11**

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass – New Altar Server Installation

K of C 50/50 Raffle Ticket Sale

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Current Year	Last Year 2017
October 28, 2018: \$2,360	October 29, 2017: \$2,208
Supermarket Gift Cards: October 28, 2018 Sales: \$2,175 Profit: \$108.75 2018 YTD Profit: \$5,307.50 2017 YTD Profit: \$6,648.50 # of families: 9	St. Mark's Faith Direct Church Code is NJ484

**THANKSGIVING...**

Yes, it's early to be thinking about Thanksgiving!

However, if you have something to be thankful for (and don't we all?), here's a great way to show your appreciation. Go to the supermarket gift card table in the Gathering Space and donate gift cards (or cash) for the Thanksgiving Baskets to be distributed by the Long Valley Food Pantry. These donations will be collected after all weekend masses from October 13<sup>th</sup> through November 4<sup>th</sup> (or in the office any time during normal office hours). Even though it seems early, the Food Pantry volunteers need time to do the shopping and to distribute the baskets in time for holiday cooking. Non-perishable items can also be placed in the Food Pantry wagon as usual (canned yams, pie filling, flour, sugar, stuffing mix – or other traditional items). With the holidays coming up, you know you need supermarket gift cards for yourself, so as long as you're there anyway...

As always, thank you for your continued generosity.

**MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,**

In our celebration of the Lord's Day we mark the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time. In the Gospel today Jesus summarized everything into two great commandments: 1<sup>st</sup> - You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength and 2<sup>nd</sup> - You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

What is the purpose of God's law or commandments? To direct us all our lives to love God with our heart soul and mind, God has given us guidelines, the Ten Commandments. The Commandments are not meant to restrict us, not meant to make life less enjoyable for us, but are meant to make life more enjoyable for us because they save us from the potholes that we could fall into going through life. **The Commandments are not to restrict our behavior but show us the values in life to love, the qualities in our personalities to develop for happiness in life.**

What does God require of us? Simply that we love as he loves! God is love and everything he does flows from his love for us. God loved us first and our love for him is a response to his exceeding grace and kindness towards us. The love of God comes first and the love of neighbor is firmly grounded in the love of God. The more we know of God's love and truth the more we love what he loves and reject what is hateful and contrary to his will.

What makes our love for God and his commands grow in us? Faith in God and hope in his promises strengthens us in the love of God. They are essential for a good relationship with God, for being united with him. The more we know of God the more we love him and the more we love him the greater we believe and hope in his promises. The Lord, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, gives us a new freedom to love as he loves. Do we allow anything to keep us from the love of God and the joy of serving others with a generous heart? Paul the Apostle says: *hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.*

How much does Jesus love us? This much (stretching out arms), he stretched out his arms on the cross and died for us. Let us never be afraid to turn to Jesus for mercy after sinning, he is always waiting to forgive us and restore us again. Let us resolve during this Mass to love Jesus by keeping his commandments so that the love of Jesus and the Father and the Spirit may be in our hearts and we may have Jesus in our hearts.

#### **NOVEMBER – MONTH OF ALL SOULS**

The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Church commemorates all her faithful children who have departed from this life, but have not yet attained the joys of heaven.

Purgatory is a place of great joy. Purgatory is full of hope. Those in Purgatory have won the victory and they are being prepared for heaven. Purgatory is not punishment but God's mercy. **The most beautiful explanation of Purgatory I have found is "a hospital where we learn how to love and forgive."**

The Church has always taught us to pray for those who have gone into eternity. Even in the Old Testament prayers and alms were offered for the souls of the dead by those who thought "well and religiously concerning the resurrection."

**Having Mass offered for the soul of a departed loved one is the greatest help we can give them because Mass, being the sacrifice of Jesus offered to the Father, is the greatest prayer.**

#### **ELECTION 2018 – ELECTION DAY – THURSDAY – NOVEMBER 6**

As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates' promises and actions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world. The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34). In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to any political party or interest group.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues and should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest"

Church does not tell Catholics how to vote; the responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience, aided by prudence. This exercise of conscience begins with always opposing policies that violate human life or weaken its protection.

**At this time, we the Christians must unite to pray for our country. We all know that Christianity is what this country was founded upon. "Good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern." - Pope Francis, 9/16/13**

**Cemetery visitation with prayer service – Sunday, November 4 at 1:15pm (OLM Cemetery). Please join us for this special service as we pray for our faithful departed especially our parishioners, family members and friends. May they rest in peace may God give them eternal life.**

*ST. MARK – PRAY FOR US...*

*OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAIN PRAY FOR US...*

*FR. MARCIN*

#### **2018 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL**

##### **Here I Am, Lord!**

When you give to a charitable organization, it is important to be confident that the funds are used wisely. Please know that your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal supports the following causes: our Catholic Charities agencies, seminarian education, our urban elementary schools and our priests' retirement residence and priests' extraordinary healthcare needs. In addition, 50% of all funds received over a parish's goal is returned to the parish directly for its own needs. Appeal funds are used for no other purpose and serve only those who live in Morris, Passaic and Sussex counties. You can make a pledge with confidence when you give or pledge at [www.2018appeal.org](http://www.2018appeal.org). Thank you!

**FROM FR. SLAWOMIR Saints Zechariah and Elizabeth – November 5**

Parents of John the Baptist

The first chapter of the Gospel of Luke relates the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, an elderly and childless couple who would become the parents of St. John the Baptist. Elizabeth was a kinswoman of Mary, while Zechariah was a priest. One day while serving in the Temple, Zechariah was astonished by the appearance of an angel who announced that he and his wife would have a son named John, who would be filled with the Holy Spirit, even in his mother's womb. Zechariah questioned how this could be, whereupon the angel struck him dumb.

Later, when Mary was told by the same angel that she would bear a son by the Holy Spirit, she too asked how this could be and was told, by way of a sign that her kinswoman Elizabeth was at that very moment with child. Mary hastened to visit Elizabeth. Upon Mary's arrival, Elizabeth felt her child leap within her womb.

In time Elizabeth did indeed bear a son, and Zechariah - still speechless wrote - on a tablet: "His name is John." At that moment his tongue was loosed, and he praised God, exclaiming, "And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him." "*Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.*" St. Elizabeth

**FROM FR. JAVIER...  
TEACHING FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH  
The Sacrament of the Eucharist**

*"Do this in memory of me"*

My dear brothers and sisters the command of Jesus to repeat his actions and words "until he comes" does not only ask us to remember Jesus and what he did. It is directed at the liturgical celebration, by the apostles and their successors, of the memorial of Christ, of his life, of his death, of his Resurrection, and of his intercession in the presence of the Father.

From the beginning the Church has been faithful to the Lord's command. Of the Church of Jerusalem it is written: "*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.... Day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts*"

It was above all on "*the first day of the week,*" Sunday, the day of Jesus' resurrection that the Christians met "to break bread." From that time on down to our own day the celebration of the Eucharist has been continued so that today we encounter it everywhere in the Church with the same fundamental structure. It remains the center of the Church's life. May God bless you

**PARISH FUNDRAISING EVENTS...**

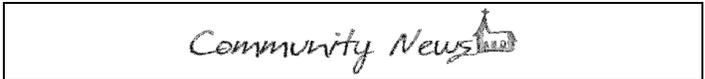
- On November 11<sup>th</sup> the Fundraising Committee will be hosting "**COFFEE AND**" after both the 9 and 11 am masses in the Parish Hall.
- St. Mark's will be having two days in November when **Mama's Pizza and Café Baci** will donate 10% of your lunch or dinner check,

dine-in or take-out to the church. If you are available, please bring the small flyer with you to Mama's on **November 12 & 13.**

- **NEW YEARS DAY 5K RUN...**As much as January 1 seems to be a long way off, it will soon be 2019. As a great way to welcome in the New Year, St. Mark's Church is once again hosting our New Year's Day 5K. Last year this event raised over \$4,000 for St. Marks. This year we hope to double that amount and have made some upgrades to this wonderful 5K on January 1 - USATF certification and a professional timing system. So as you begin to make your holiday plans, please consider participating in St. Mark's New Year's Day 5K. Thank you

**NEW FLAG POLE...**

Thank you to parishioner Reese Ronceray who as his Eagle Scout service project put up the flagpole with an American flag and worked on some landscaping around the church grounds. Congratulations Reese!



**BENEFIT CONCERT AT ST. MARKS...**

Scott Miller, a talented drum and percussion teacher for The Music Den, suffered a massive stroke earlier this year while finishing a performance with Captains of Leisure which left him paralyzed on his right side. Scott spent the following 4 weeks at UMDNJ before moving to Kessler for another 4 weeks. He has gradually made some recovery but continues PT and OT several times a week while he resides with his father. Unfortunately, the medical bills incurred are quite enormous.

On **Saturday November 10 at 7:30pm** a benefit concert will be held at St. Mark's Parish in Long Valley. This concert organized by his bandmate Rich Ortiz brings together some of the finest musicians and recording artists from the area who are all donating their talents to help a fellow musician. Admission is \$30 per person, and all proceeds from this event will be to help alleviate the general financial burden that will be placed on Scott as he strives to return to full recovery. Scott has been teaching for at least 18 years, and has been a tremendous mentor for budding musicians of all ages. If you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation at <https://www.gofundme.com/help-scott-miller> . Thank you.

**K OF C RAFFLE TICKETS...**

The Augustus J. Rampone Assembly K of C is hold their annual 50/50 Christmas Raffle. This Assembly is comprised of Knights who have completed their fourth Degree and are members of the Long Valley Council. Which includes the 3 Long Valley parishes. Tickets are \$5 each and will be sold next weekend at all masses. Proceeds from the raffle will allow the Knights to continue supporting Veteran organizations. Thank you for your support.

**EXPERIENCE ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL...**

On Friday, November 9, prospective students in grades Kindergarten thru 7<sup>th</sup> grade and their parents are invited to spend the day at St. Joseph School in Mendham. Attend classes & meet our staff. To register, call 973-543-7474, ext. 7. Visit [www.sjsmendham.org](http://www.sjsmendham.org) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram at sjsmendhamnj.