



**Saint Mark**  
the Evangelist Catholic Church

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 17, 2017**  
**Volume XIX #51**

**Father Joseph Culotta, Pastor**



**Masses:**

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 P.M.  
Sunday: 7:45 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.  
Holy Days: 7:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.

**Confession:**

Saturday: 2:30-3:30 P.M. or by appointment

**Weekday Mass (Chapel):**

Wednesday: 6:00 P.M.  
Thursday and Friday: 8:30 A.M.  
First Saturday: 9:00 A.M.

**7340 Cahaba Valley Road**  
**Birmingham, AL 35242**  
**All mail to P.O. Box 380396**  
**Birmingham, AL 35238**

**Phone: (205) 980-1810**  
**Email: [stmarkrc@bellsouth.net](mailto:stmarkrc@bellsouth.net)**  
**Fax: (205) 980-9208**  
**Website: [www.stmarkrc.org](http://www.stmarkrc.org)**

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday through Friday: 8:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.  
The Church office closed on Monday.  
Emergency: Father Culotta: 980-1810 #2 or 408-2766

**Chapel Open for Prayer**

Monday through Thursday: 6:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.  
Friday: 6:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.  
Sunday: 12 Noon – 7:00 P.M.  
First Friday Exposition: 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

**Marriage Requirements at least six months in advance:**

Meet with Father Culotta @ 980-1810, ext. #2  
Visit wedding link on Website prior to meeting

**Baptism Requirements & Preparation Class:**

Contact Ashley and Nadder Fawaz at 706-3160 or [lafawaz@gmail.com](mailto:lafawaz@gmail.com)

**STAFF:**

Pastor:	Fr. Joe Culotta	980.1810 Ext. 2	<a href="mailto:stmarkpastor@bellsouth.net">stmarkpastor@bellsouth.net</a>
Deacon:	David Varner	352-804-1924	<a href="mailto:Dvarner11@att.net">Dvarner11@att.net</a>
Pastoral Associate:	Sr. Terry Bretthauer, MSBT	980-1810 Ext. 3	<a href="mailto:stmarkpa@bellsouth.net">stmarkpa@bellsouth.net</a>
Secretary:	JoAnne Rixey (Lindsay)	980-1810 Ext. 1	<a href="mailto:stmarkrc@bellsouth.net">stmarkrc@bellsouth.net</a>
Director Family, Children & Youth:	Mary Beth Crumly	980-1810 Ext. 5	<a href="mailto:stmarkfcy@bellsouth.net">stmarkfcy@bellsouth.net</a>
Bulletin:	Paola Garza	980-1810 Ext. 6	<a href="mailto:stmarkre@bellsouth.net">stmarkre@bellsouth.net</a>
Adult Ed, RCIA, Lectors & EM	Phil Boettcher	980-1810 Ext. 7	<a href="mailto:pfbboettcher@att.net">pfbboettcher@att.net</a>
Bookkeeper:	Tana Bisch	980-1810 Ext. 8	<a href="mailto:stmarkfi@bellsouth.net">stmarkfi@bellsouth.net</a>
Youth – Grade 9-12 JCREW:	Kathy Okrongley	980-1810 Ext. 4	<a href="mailto:stmarkyouth@bellsouth.net">stmarkyouth@bellsouth.net</a>
Youth – Grade 6-8 BLAST:	Tom Elie	843-345-5775	<a href="mailto:thomaseeie@aol.com">thomaseeie@aol.com</a>
Music:	Dave and Amy Hains	985-2976	<a href="mailto:amyhains@gmail.com">amyhains@gmail.com</a>
Youth Choir:	Raul Gomez	602-9626	<a href="mailto:raulc.gomez@gmail.com">raulc.gomez@gmail.com</a>
Nursery:	Nora Donnelly	516-458-9549	<a href="mailto:nwd946@aol.com">nwd946@aol.com</a>
Social Hall Rentals:	Bonnie Murphy	410-3494	<a href="mailto:bam01126@bellsouth.net">bam01126@bellsouth.net</a>

**MINISTRIES:**

Altar Servers:	Gail Sanson	919-4898	<a href="mailto:gailsanson@me.com">gailsanson@me.com</a>
Bereavement Ministry:	Darlene McCulloch	229-7134	<a href="mailto:jamesfmcclulloch@bellsouth.net">jamesfmcclulloch@bellsouth.net</a>
Feast of Saint Mark:	Vince Di Chiara	222-2777	<a href="mailto:dichiarav@bellsouth.net">dichiarav@bellsouth.net</a>
Finance Council:	Ann Penton	903-9073	<a href="mailto:ann.penton@icloud.com">ann.penton@icloud.com</a>
First Light:	Ken Reimann	229-9812	<a href="mailto:kreimann@bellsouth.net">kreimann@bellsouth.net</a>
Greene County Food:	Ruth Cook	991-1849	<a href="mailto:ruthcook@bellsouth.net">ruthcook@bellsouth.net</a>
Hospitality Committee:	Peter Bibbo	441-9889	<a href="mailto:michboru@gmail.com">michboru@gmail.com</a>
Knights of Columbus:	Jeanne Welsh	807-3968	<a href="mailto:j.bwelsh12@gmail.com">j.bwelsh12@gmail.com</a>
Liturgy Committee:	Brandon Moseley	919-7868	<a href="mailto:kofc13446@aol.com">kofc13446@aol.com</a>
Liturgy Committee:	Phil Boettcher	541-5625	<a href="mailto:pfbboettcher@att.net">pfbboettcher@att.net</a>
Liturgy Committee:	Lou Inzinna	991-8649	<a href="mailto:lcininna@bellsouth.net">lcininna@bellsouth.net</a>
Pastoral Council:	Paul Albano	991-8008	<a href="mailto:docpja1@aol.com">docpja1@aol.com</a>
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Linda Townsley	407-461-0265	<a href="mailto:ljtownsley@gmail.com">ljtownsley@gmail.com</a>
Property Management:	Ann Penton	903-9073	<a href="mailto:ann.penton@icloud.com">ann.penton@icloud.com</a>
Scouting:	Tom Elie	843-345-5775	<a href="mailto:thomaseeie@aol.com">thomaseeie@aol.com</a>
St. Vincent de Paul Society:	Janet Haines	616-5431	<a href="mailto:janetmhaines@bellsouth.net">janetmhaines@bellsouth.net</a>
Stewardship Committee:	Sammy Romano	862-9833	<a href="mailto:salvadorromano@me.com">salvadorromano@me.com</a>
Supper Club:	Cathy Johnson	266-9685	<a href="mailto:pilgrimmta@att.net">pilgrimmta@att.net</a>
Ushers:	Scott Riley	266-2882	<a href="mailto:elmeister1@gmail.com">elmeister1@gmail.com</a>
Welcome Committee:	Cricket Justice	968-3070	<a href="mailto:cricket.justice@gmail.com">cricket.justice@gmail.com</a>

# ✠ PRAYER LIST

Larry Angell Howard Bayless Virginia Bayless Jeff Benedict Mike Breipohl Norma Burrow Nolan Clagg Sam Culotta Paula Culotta Hope DeFalco Amanda Farrand Betty Frost Carol Gaffney Tim & Phyllis Gill Kevin Glandon Carlos Godinez Joseph Guenther Gary Haworth	Barbara Herman David Howard Kathy Hix George James Barbara Jones Greg Lanzi Kathy Lupenski Lisa Lupenski Kathy Matuszak Jim Meggs Bobbie Mitchim Marietta Molay Georgeann Moseley Elizabeth Anne Murphy Rosalie Nabiolo Mark Newton David Nguyen Jean Purner	Cecilia Ragusa Morgan Rhodes JoAnne Rixey Elena Sain Gertrude Sgroi Sue Schumacher Vita Stamba Don St. Denis Ernie Stump Kathy Taylor Jackie Tevendale Annie Tomburello Charles&Sharon Varano Santo Vizzina Jeanne Welsh Stephen Wilkens
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## Mass Intentions

- Mon. Dec 18- 10:30 A.M. - at Somerby Retirement*  
*Tue. Dec 19 - 12:00 Noon - Tim Roach*  
*Wed. Dec 20 - 6:00 P.M. - Tim Roach*  
*Thurs. Dec 21 - 8:30 A.M. - James F McCulloch*  
*Fri. Dec 22- 8:30 A.M. - Anne Renno*  
*Sat. Dec 23- 4:00 P.M. - Genny Congleton*  
*Sun. Dec 24- 7:45 A.M.-4:00 P.M.- 8:00 P.M. - CHRISTMAS EVE*  
*Mon. Dec 25- 10:30 A.M. - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD*  
*- People of the Parish*

## Weekly Readings

- 18 Mon** - Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25  
**19 Tue** - Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25  
**20 Wed** - Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38  
**21 Thu** - Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45  
**22 Fri** - 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56  
**23 Sat** - Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66  
**24 SUN** -2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a, 16  
           Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38  
**25 Mon THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**  
     Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25  
     Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

<b>Financial Information</b>	
	<i>Week of 12/10/17</i>
Weekly Offertory	\$ 24,050
Building Fund	\$ 27,033
Holy Days	\$ 1,701
	<b>\$ 52,784</b>
	<i>Year to Date</i>
Weekly Offertory	\$ 764,696
Building Fund	\$ 925,775
Holy Days	\$ 16,139
<b>Total Collected</b>	<b>\$ 1,706,610</b>
<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>\$ 1,603,608</b>

## ADVENT SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



Individual Confessions with  
Bishop David Foley and Fr. Joe

Sunday, Dec. 17  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Wednesday, Dec. 20  
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Saturday, Dec. 23  
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

### New Parish Life Center Memorial Gift

We invite all parishioners to prayerfully consider participating in the Parish Life Center Memorial Gift Fund by making a special memorial gift. Gifts may be made for various reasons, for example, in memory of loved ones, in honor of someone, in thanksgiving or for any other reason you may wish. With the upcoming Christmas season, a gift could be made in the name of that special person on your list that you have no idea what to give as a gift.

If you choose, gifts of \$250 and above may be recognized with a leaf on the Parish Giving Tree with personalized wording. Your gift may be submitted using the form you recently received in the mail. Should you need a form, additional copies are available on the Greeter's Desk in the Narthex. If you have any questions, you may contact Milton Davis, 205-937-9381, Alain Gallet, 205-541-7956, or the Parish Office.

The purpose of this Fund is to contribute to the financing of the new Parish Life Center being proposed to better serve our Parish and Youth. We are confident with your continued support and generosity, we can achieve the goal of \$250,000, and for this, we thank you.

## **TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE**



Wayne and Stacy Gwaltney will receive the Vocations Chalice at the 7:45 a.m. Mass this weekend. We thank them for hosting the Chalice in their home this week.

"And let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1

If you would like more information on the Vocations Chalice Program, please contact Kristin Sessions (205)529-6356 or [kprs205@hotmail.com](mailto:kprs205@hotmail.com)

## **CHRISTMAS HAMS, ARNONE'S ITALIAN SAUSAGE SALE TO BENEFIT OUR SAINT VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY**



The Knights of Columbus will be offering Christmas Hams and Arnone's Italian Sausage again this Advent. Smoked Ham for \$35 (approx. 9 lbs precooked) and 5 lb box of uncooked Italian Sausage for \$25.

Place your order at [KofC13446@aol.com](mailto:KofC13446@aol.com) or leave a voice message at 866-622-7865.

Be sure to provide your name, phone number, and your order.

And, be sure to receive a return eMail or phone call from us to confirm your order.

Deadline for orders is midnight Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, with pick up at the PLC on Fri. Dec. 22 between 4 – 6 pm.

Proceeds from this sale will benefit St. Mark's Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

### **Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop**

**Saturday, February 10, 9-2:30 St. Mark the Evangelist Church.**

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer. This workshop is for those new to the prayer practice or those who wish to renew their understanding of Centering Prayer. Diana Tschache, from Our Lady of the Valley, will be one of the presenters. She has practiced this prayer method for many years.

**Cost: \$30. (lunch included) Make Check to St Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church. Mail check to Sheila Roche, 1104 Haven Road, Birmingham, Al 35242 Sheila is on the Contemplative Leadership Team and a member of St. Mark. For questions call Sheila Roche at 301-752-1439.**

### **ANNUAL MLK Jr. Prayer Breakfast with Gospel Music and Speaker**

On behalf of Bishop Baker you are invited to the Annual Prayer Breakfast in Commemoration of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Prayer Breakfast will be held Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 10:00 am in the Cathedral of Saint Paul Parish Life Center.

The speaker will be Bishop Ferdinand Cheri III, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of New Orleans.

Sign up for tickets will begin after Christmas or you can contact the Parish office.

### **JOHN CARROLL HIGH NEWS**



### **John Carroll Preview Days**

Prospective parents and students are invited to visit John Carroll high school. Preview Days allow you to get a feel for John Carroll on a typical school day. Preview Days are from 10:00 a.m. - noon on 1/23, 2/13, 3/13, and 4/10. Visit [www.jcchs.org](http://www.jcchs.org) to register to attend!

## With Heartfelt Appreciation

*"It's an eye-opening experience to be with so many other teenagers practicing their faith, and helps you realize how far-spread and friendly the young Catholic church is."*, said **Mary Jordan** after attending the National Catholic Youth Conference.



The Youth Ministry team would like to take a moment to thank all those who helped support the trip to the conference through the recent **Pecan Sale** fundraiser and those families that participated in the two **Parents' Night Out** fundraisers. In addition, we would like to thank those who supported the **Labor Day Bar-B-Que** fundraiser sponsored by the Knights of Columbus held last fall.

*"It was amazing to see how many people are Catholics facing teenage struggles"* - **Amalia Trujillo**

With your generous patronage, we were able to cover over half of the cost of the trip for the six teens who attended NCCYC

this past November. Along with our JCREW Youth Minister, Kathy Okrongley, these teens traveled with over 100 other teens from the Birmingham diocese to Indianapolis, Indiana for this educational and inspirational event attended by over 20,000 Catholic students nationwide.

*"NCCYC was a great experience! It was really cool to see so many Catholic teens in one place and learn that they are going through the same things I am"* said **Abrianna Porco**. And **Caroline Belrose** stated that *"NCCYC was a wonderful experience I wouldn't trade."* Elizabeth Camp and David Trujillo also attended the conference.

NCCYC is a biennial event which will be held November 21 -23, 2019 in Washington DC.

Thank you again for your support.



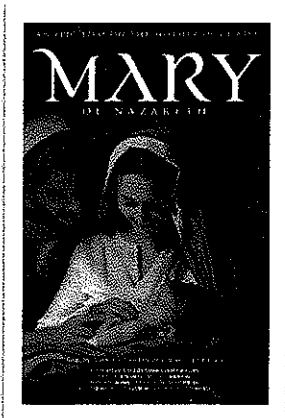
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*from Saint Mark the Evangelist*

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### FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

#### Mary of Nazareth

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Liturgical Schedule	Saturday Dec. 23, 2017 4:00 PM	Sunday Dec. 24, 2017 7:45 AM	Sunday Dec. 24, 2017 10:30 AM	Sunday Dec. 24, 2017 4:00 PM	Sunday Dec. 24, 2017 8:00 PM
<b>Extraordinary Minister of Communion</b>	Ruth Cook, Darlene McCulloch, Eva Shepherd, Theresa LoMonaco, Sandra Haralson, Leonard Mueninghoff, Cathy Johnson	Annamarie DiChiara, Lou Inzinna, Tony Inzinna, Theresa LoMonaco	Ana Hall, Theresa LoMonaco, Vincent Lovoy, Mary Beth Crumly, Keri Eitzen, Christopher Rohling, Geri Elkourie, John Elkourie, Bonnie Murphy	Paul Albano, Jenny Camp, Eva Shepherd, Darlene McCulloch, Joe Scotch, Sammy Romano, Theresa Romano, Jodie James, Steve Shoemaker, Katherine Rall, Sonny Jones, Sr. Terry Bretthauer	Annamarie DiChiara, Sharon Zaleski, Ginny Willis, Sandy McCarthy, Ruth Cook, Marsha Floyd, Tom Slonneger, Brenda Slonneger
<b>Ushers</b>	Mike Burns, Pam Griese, Connie Bailey, Ryan Christopher Campisi	Kurt Friend, Michael Rall, Francis Dsa	George Juneman, Paul Roche, Mary Grace Tucker, Jay Aycock	Scott Riley, Amos Mitchim, Bobbie Mitchim, Bill Webb, Kevin Camp, Milene Panzica	Wayne Gwaltney, Kurt Friend, Jim Smith
<b>Lector</b>	Fred Bisch - 1 Barbara Varner - 2	Milton Davis - 1 Phillip Boettcher - 2	Teresa Palmer - 1 Lisa Arrington - 2	Cathy Johnson - 1 Susan Webb - 2	Michael Matlock - 1 Marilyn Chiamonte - 2
<b>Mass Coordinator</b>	Leonard and Heidi Mueninghoff	Mike and Pat Kantaris	Tom and Mary Ann Stith	Phillip Boettcher	Mike and Pat Kantaris
<b>Altar Server</b>	Emma Zaiontz, Ella Sciara, Nicholas Foster, Levi Hardegree, Grant Rakers	Francesca Malensek, Paris Malensek, Laura Valderrama, Anna Fagan, Kim Pham	Paris Malensek, Chandler Perrigo, Anna Arrington, Julianna Perrigo, Mason Perrigo	Anja Trierweiler, Addison Miller, Ethan Lee, Emelia Mitchim, Mary Molay	Anna Arrington, Jonathon Porco, Troy Gwaltney, Elizabeth Zaleski, Jonathan Zaleski
<b>Greeters</b>	Ryan Christopher Campisi, Linda Grainger, Joe Hutchings, Janet Mareno	Anthony and Diane Cuicchi	Kate Seifert, Paul Roche		Denisse Perez
<b>Altar Linens</b>	Lou Inzinna				
<b>Cantors</b>	Kathryn Garaca	Allison Creel	John Floyd	Alex Slocum Susan Richards (PLC)	Kathryn Garaca

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St. Mark Parishioner



MLS

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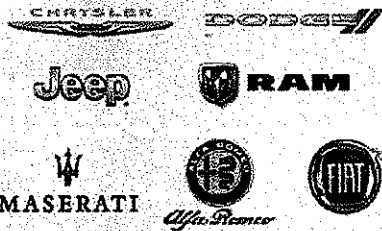
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Parishioner

December 15, 2017

Dear Parishioners,

Many of you might have heard the news that I will be leaving Saint Mark the Evangelist Parish at the end of June. My community, the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity, is beginning a new ministry in the rural areas of the Savannah Diocese. This new ministry is in response to Pope Francis' exhortation on evangelization and our community's charism "to develop a missionary spirit in the laity." The community is committing four sisters to this new venture, and I was asked to be one of them.

It is with great difficulty that I have said "yes" to this invitation. I have loved the past seven years that I have been here in ministry with all of you. I remember the first parishioner I met at Mass, the first parishioner I met in Publix over the fresh fruits, and the hundreds of adults, youth and children that I have been able to say hello to, work together with and come to know the Lord more because of them.

Fr. Joe has asked that I assist with the search committee in seeking my replacement. During the Spring I will continue to minister here at Saint Mark being present as much as I can at the Masses on Sunday, enjoying our Adult Education programs, working with St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Women's Group and doing whatever else I can.

A few people have expressed how sad they are that I am moving and wonder what will happen. As a "missionary", moving is always part of my life. So what will happen? I hope each of you will consider helping out with the programs that have meant so much to me: joining an Adult Education group on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings or Thursday mornings; participating in the St. Vincent de Paul Society by visiting our clients, praying for this ministry or making regular donations; signing up for the Women of Saint Mark Group and joining us at our next dinner or joining one of many small groups that we are beginning to form; being part of the Greene County Ministry as drivers for the monthly food delivery, a helper annually for the Angel Tree or sharing your skilled or unskilled labor during the summer program; or volunteering to assist in decorating the Church. Of course there is volunteering for Children's Liturgy and the Christmas Pageant and so many ways to reach out to our youngest members. I hope each of you will consider how you can continue this wonderful spirit here at Saint Mark.

Know that I will hold each of you in my heart and continue to pray for each of you. In closing I want to borrow the words of Lord Buckley.

"The flowers, the gorgeous, mystic, multi-colored flowers are not flowers of life but people, yes people, are the true flowers of life. And it has been a most precious pleasure to have strolled temporarily in your garden."



Let us pray for each other.  
Prayerfully in the Most Blessed Trinity,  
Sister Terry