

Saint Mark Roman Catholic Church

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St Mark on Stewardship

Do we possess our possessions or do our possessions possess us? Maturing stewards seek to use all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.

My Dear People,

I look forward to writing to you each year, inviting you to participate in The Annual Collection because it gives me the opportunity to share with you the joys, sorrows and needs of St. Mark Parish. This is truly a loving parish where so many have given so much of their time, talent and treasure.

Our sacramental life is flourishing at St. Mark Church. Joyfully, we have celebrated forty-one Baptisms, eighty-six First Communions, fifty-nine Confirmations, and seven Weddings. Sadly, we had fifty-two funerals. We also administered the Sacrament of the Sick seventy-one times.

Spiritually we were blessed with having Fr. Clement this summer with his humor as he enlightened us about his native Nigeria. Additionally, we have an active Devine Mercy Cenacle. Bible study groups, and the always appreciated Deacon Andy's teaching at the children's mass. Both the day school and religious education enrollments have increased. The Adoration Chapel has continued to be a focal point of individual prayer. It was a record year for the Giving Tree with over four hundred gifts from the our parishioners. The Feed the Hungry group has prepared meals every month for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission.

As a family we enjoyed the Annual Bazaar, and second parish family dinner which brought together the young and the old for an evening of entertainment and fellowship.

I want to extend a special thanks to all you who so willingly came forward with financial help when the old organ gave its last note. The church can now enjoy the liturgy not only in word but in song as well.

St. Mark's still has many needs. Like the rest of the nation, our families are suffering financial difficulties, and this is reflected in our weekly envelopes. Collections have been below budget requirements, and as a result, we have taken every measure available to contain costs. As a result of these controls, I am happy to report that this is the second year we are in the black.

The Men's League has been a great help to St. Mark's. With their own money and volunteer hours they have taken care of the many ongoing repairs that exist. We all owe them a great debt of gratitude.

As I did last year, I am suggesting a donation of \$75.00 per individual or \$150.00 per family, if your means allow. If not, whatever you can afford will be appreciated

My special thanks to each of you for your ongoing love and support.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Donald A. Guglielmi, Pastor