



Second Sunday of Easter and of Divine Mercy
April 23, 2017
Volume XIX #17

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

Father Joseph Culotta, Pastor

Phone: (205) 980-1810
Email: stmarkrc@bellsouth.net
Fax: (205) 980-9208
Website: www.stmarkrc.org

Sunday of Divine Mercy
Holy Hour 3 -4 PM Chapel

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.

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 Anne Hane 410-0692 or ahane@bellsouth.net

STAFF:

Pastor:	Fr. Joe Culotta	980.1810 Ext. 2	stmarkpastor@bellsouth.net
Deacon:	David Varner	352-804-1924	dvarner11@att.net
Pastoral Associate:	Sr. Terry Bretthauer, MSBT	980-1810 Ext. 3	stmarkpa@bellsouth.net
Secretary:	JoAnne Rixey	980-1810 Ext. 1	stmarkrc@bellsouth.net
Parish School of Religion:	Susan Webb	980-1810 Ext. 5	stmarkre@bellsouth.net
Parish School of Religion Asst.:	Paola Garza	980-1810 Ext. 6	stmarkre@bellsouth.net
Adult Ed, RCIA, Lectors & EMHC	Phil Boettcher	980-1810 Ext. 7	pfbboettcher@att.net
Bookkeeper:	Tana Bisch	980-1810 Ext. 8	stmarkfi@bellsouth.net
Music:	Dave and Amy Hains	985-2976	amyhains@gmail.com
Youth Choir:	Raul Gomez	602-9626	raulc.gomez@gmail.com
Nursery:	Nora Donnelly	516-458-9549	nwd946@aol.com
Social Hall Rentals:	Bonnie Murphy	410-3494	bam01126@bellsouth.net

MINISTRIES:

Altar Servers:	Dr. Gail Sanson	919-4898	gailsanson@me.com
Bereavement Ministry:	Darlene McCulloch	229-7134	jamesfmcculloch@bellsouth.net
Feast of Saint Mark:	Matt Scalci	229-9986	fosmchairman@gmail.com
Finance Council:	Ken Reimann	229-9812	kreimann@bellsouth.net
First Light:	Ruth Cook	991-1849	ruthcook@bellsouth.net
Greene County Food:	Peter Bibbo	441-9889	michboru@gmail.com
Hospitality Committee:	Jeanne Welsh	807-3968	j.bwelsh12@gmail.com
Knights of Columbus:			kofc13446@aol.com
Liturgy Committee:	Phil Boettcher	541-5625	pfbboettcher@att.net
Liturgy Committee:	Lou Inzinna	991-8649	lcinzinna@bellsouth.net
Pastoral Council:	Ken Lorek	995-1396	knlorek@gmail.com
Property Management:	Ann Penton	903-9073	ann.penton@icloud.com
Scouting:	Tom Elie	843-345-5775	thomaseelie@aol.com
St. Vincent de Paul Society:	Janet Haines	616-5431	janetmhaines@bellsouth.net
Stewardship Committee:	Sammy Romano	862-9833	salvadorromano@me.com
Supper Club:	Cathy Johnson	266-9685	cathyjohnson_2@hotmail.com
Ushers:	Scott Riley	266-2882	elmeister1@gmail.com
Welcome Committee:	Cricket Justice	968-3070	cricket.justice@gmail.com

✠ PRAYER LIST

Norma Burrow Hope DeFako Tim & Mary Jo Gill Carlos Godinez Joseph Guenther Gary Haworth David Howard Kathy Hix Kathy Matuszak	Jim Meggs Bobbie Mitchim Marietta Molay Georgeann Moseley Rosalie Nabiolo Mark Newton Guice Potter Jean Purner	Josephine Romano Elena Sain Gertrude Sgroi Vita Starba Don St. Denis Bill & Jackie Tevendale Charles & Sharon Varano Santo Vizzina Jeanne Welsh
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Mass Intentions

- Mon. Apr. 24- 10:30 A.M. - at Somerby Retirement*
Wed. Apr. 26 - 6:00 PM - Sharon Henderson
Thurs. Apr. 27- 8:30 A.M. - Jean Funk
Fri. Apr. 28 - 8:30 A.M. - Shirley Charles
Sat. Apr. 29- 4:00 P.M. - Cindy Troha
Sun. Apr. 30- 7:45 A.M. - David Wilson Sr.
Sun. Apr. 30- 10:30 A.M. - People of the Parish

Weekly Readings

- 24 Mon** - Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8
25 Tue - **Saint Mark the Evangelist**
 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Mk 16:15-20
26 Wed - Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21
27 Thu - Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36
28 Fri - Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15
29 Sat - Acts 6:1-7/Jn 6:16-21
30 SUN - Acts 2:14, 22-33/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

Financial Information

	Week of 4/16/17	Year to Date
Budgeted	\$ 29,168	\$ 505,700
Weekly Offertory	\$ 10,085	\$ 251,507
Building Fund	\$ 10,185	\$ 256,885
Holy Days	\$ 6,063	\$ 8,608
Collected	\$ 26,333	\$ 517,000
	Parish Debt \$1,418,593	

Sympathy

- Let us pray to the Lord for all who have died, especially**
 ...Jim Downey, Saint Mark parishioner
 ...Grant Blair, son of Steve and Kate Blair
 ...Sandra Kuralt, sister of Cathy Stewart

Fundraising Letter concerning Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School

Parishioners from Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church placed a fundraising letter on all of the cars in the parking lots of Our Lady of the Valley and Saint Mark the Evangelist Parishes during the Easter weekend Masses. Unfortunately, this fundraising letter was never approved by Bishop Baker, Pastor of O.L.F. - Fr. Ani, Msgr. Rohling, or me.

This Catholic school is scheduled to close at the end of May due to a variety of issues including finances. The Diocese is in conversation with Our Lady of Fatima Parish discerning the best use of the school building to continue ministry for the neighborhood community. It is possible that at some future date a new attempt will be made to reopen the school; however, at this time there are no plans to sustain the current school beyond the completion of this academic year.

Because of this reality, I cannot encourage you to support the fundraising letter that was distributed on Easter weekend. If you wish to assist Catholic Schools, please consider making a donation to Beacons of Hope, the Diocesan effort to advance Catholic Education in our diocese. Thank you for your understanding,

Fr. Joe Culotta

Flowers for Mary

We are inviting parishioners to put flowers in our Church in front of Mary from May to November.... Purchased arrangement, flowers from the store or your garden.

Select the weekend you wish by signing up at the table in the Narthex on the weekend April 22/23

Mass of Remembrance



Our May Quarterly Mass of Remembrance is the perfect time to honor our deceased mothers and fathers, and all others that are close to our hearts.

Please join us on Wednesday, May 3rd, in the Chapel at 6:00 pm.

PARISH WELCOMES DEACON DAVID VARNER

April 22, 2017

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

It is with great joy that I announce my return to Saint Mark the Evangelist Parish. I am a native of Birmingham and have lived in Birmingham most of my life. After being ordained a Deacon in the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama in December 2005, I was fortunate to be assigned to my home parish – Saint Mark. Following ordination, I served at Saint Mark for about 18 months at which time I retired from The Southern Company and took a job in Florida with Progress Energy. Due to the economy in Florida and most of the U.S., I only stayed in Florida for three years. I then moved to Pittsburgh, PA where I took a job with Westinghouse Electric where I remained until January 2017.

In conjunction with these moves, I was able to continue serving as a Deacon in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL and then in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, PA. Although I was very pleased and comfortable with Saint Mark and the Diocese of Birmingham, the move to two new dioceses helped me to better understand what God had in mind for me.

In Florida I was assigned by the Bishop to a small parish with a church that was capable of seating about 300 people. There was no youth group and only about 80 children in the PSR ("CCD") program for pre-K through high school. My wife, Barbara, and I started a youth group with the intent of bringing the children back into the parish. This was somewhat successful, but was a real challenge when my job responsibilities changed and I started traveling significantly. When it became obvious that the job in Florida was going to end soon, I decided to seek employment elsewhere.

My next job was in Pittsburgh where I remained for about seven years until my recent retirement. This was a great job and I had planned to work until 2018; however, God and my body had other plans. In mid-2016 it was discovered that I had multiple significant health issues. These health issues became worse as I had been traveling internationally about thirty weeks a year. As I could not continue at that pace, I decided to retire and move back home to be with my wife and family.

For those who have experienced retiring sooner than you had planned, you know how scary this is. Fortunately for me, with the kind consideration of Fr. Joe, I am returning to my original assignment here at Saint Mark. I know many of you from the early years of this parish. A positive surprise for me is the growth of the parish. There were only about 200 families at St. Mark when the church was consecrated. There are now more than 1,100 families. As we experienced some real challenges during the early stages of the parish, I think you will agree that the result is very impressive. Another measurement of your dedication to this Parish is the fact that the original debt in excess of \$7 million is now less than \$1.5 million.

On a personal note, the biggest challenge for me over that last seven years was being away from my family – especially my wife. Thanks to God's response to a lot of prayers, I am now back home with my wife of 46 years, our two sons and our two-year-old grandson.

Based on my experience in my most recent assignment in the Pittsburgh Diocese, I think I need to take just a moment to mention what the responsibilities of a deacon are. In the Pittsburgh Diocese, the percentage of Catholics was greater than 95%. Here in the Birmingham Diocese it is closer to 4%. Even with the difference in the percentage of Catholics (especially cradle Catholics), I was routinely asked about the authority of a deacon.

I will begin by stating that a Catholic Deacon cannot celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist or forgive sins (e.g., Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick and Dying). On the other hand, a Catholic Deacon has authority to read the Gospel at Mass and perform all the other parts of Mass assigned to the Deacon by the rites of Mass.

Catholic Deacons at ordination take a vow of obedience to the Bishop and his successors. For me that was Bishop Foley followed by Bishop Baker. I was then assigned to Saint Mark working with the Pastor. This original assignment was working at the pleasure of Fr. Pat Cullen and then Fr. Joe Culotta. More specifically, Fr. Joe has responsibility for the Parish and he can delegate certain responsibilities to the Deacon. Fr. Joe has done this over the last few weeks.

Responsibilities delegated to me by Fr. Joe include (by way of example):

- Participate at Mass,
- Preach at Mass,
- Visit the sick and homebound of the Parish (including bringing viaticum),
- Participate in Funeral Masses,
- Teaching classes for RCIA as needed,
- Teaching adult education as needed,
- Participate as an ex-officio member of the parish pastoral council,
- Organize Parish Communication Group
- Participate as a member of the liturgical committee and the bereavement committee, and other activities as needed within the Parish.

Finally, I look forward to serving the Parish of Saint Mark and in supporting Fr. Joe in all his needs.

May God Bless each of you,

Deacon Dave Varner

David M. Varner
(352) 804-1924
Dvarner11@att.net

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

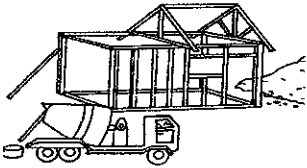


It is with heavy hearts that the Knights of Columbus learned of the passing of our Grand Knight – Jim Downey on Easter Sunday.

Jim transferred to our Council after moving to our Parish some 10 years ago, and has been instrumental in our success over those years. Jim served as our Treasurer for several years and previously chaired the Keep Christ in Christmas magnet campaign, among many other activities. He served as our Deputy Grand Knight before accepting the nomination to become our Grand Knight for the Fraternal Year 2016-2017, even though he had already received his cancer diagnosis. While certain he would win his battle, Jim valiantly served as our leader, keeping the Knights informed and our activities on course. Unfortunately, Jim lost his battle, and we will miss him dearly, as a leader and as a friend.

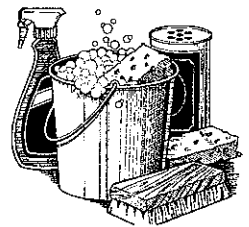
Our collective prayers go out to Jim's family and to his close friend Candi Hacker and her family.

Jim handpicked Brandon Moseley to serve as his Deputy Grand Knight. Brandon will now assume the duties of Grand Knight for the remainder of Jim's term. We are confident in Brandon's abilities and fully expect him to be elected as Grand Knight for our next Fraternal Year starting in July 2017.



Summer Mission Project with the Sisters in Greene County

Saturday, June 10th
Monday - Friday, June 12th - 16th



Doing what: Each building site leader gives out the tasks:
Some will paint (inside / out), clean, move furniture, etc.
Others will do construction, building, plumbing or electrical work.

You can sign up for **one day or more days.**

Lunches are provided
Volunteers return by dinner time.

Will you join with parishioners from Our Lady of the Valley, St. Aloysius, Cathedral of St. Paul, St. Stephen the Martyr and St. Thomas the Apostle, Montevallo and St. Aloysius, Bessemer

Registration in Narthex May 5 & 6 and May 13 & 14

It's beginning to look a lot like a Festival...

Only ONE week



Saint Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church welcomes you to "Via San Marco", an outdoor boulevard, for a new and exciting "strolling" food experience of about 15 food tents offering pasta, sausage, desserts and other Italian fare from local vendors. Chairman, Matt Scalici, invites you to, "Mark your calendar Saturday, April 29, for an outstanding 6th annual Feast of Saint Mark Italian Festival!!"

The celebration is held on the grounds of Saint Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, 7340 Cahaba Valley Road (entrance on Brook Highland Drive), Birmingham, AL 35242, 3:30 – 10:00 P.M., with Mass at 3:00 P.M. Parking will be available on the Church property and St. Vincent's One Nineteen with shuttle service to and from the Festival. After the success of the inaugural event in 2012, anticipation and excitement for each year's Festival has continued to grow for the sold-out event to 3,000 visitors!

Go to www.feastofstmark.com to purchase tickets, get directions, and for a complete line-up of main stage performances, restaurants and specialty foods. Ticket price includes admission and Italian Food Experience: \$25 Adults, \$10 Children ages 6-12, and ages 5 and under free. All entertainment and food on the "Via San Marco" are included in the entry price except beer, wine, and a few specialty items.

You are invited to enjoy the faith, family, food, and fun for all. Children can enjoy games, rides, face painting, Italian ice and more. Besides the children's activities, an excellent taste of delectable Italian foods with dining options both outside and inside, and a great Italian cultural area where you can purchase homemade Italian cookies, wine, and gifts; there is a fabulous entertainment line-up. In addition to a "Sinatra: The Ultimate Tribute Concert," there will be Italian opera, traditional dances performed by dancers from Fred Astaire Dance and Dance South, plus dancing continuing late into the night with music provided by Razz Ma Tazz Band and our very own Total A\$\$ets Band. Pastor, Fr. Joe Culotta, says that his favorite part is the incredible 8:45 P.M. fireworks display!!

Liturgical Schedule	Saturday April 29, 2017 3:00	Sunday April 30, 2017 7:45	Sunday, April 30, 2017 10:30
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion	Ana Hall, Beverly Huddleston, Tom Huddleston, Cathy Johnson, Sonny Jones, Darlene McCulloch, Eva Shepherd, Charles Varano,	Jodie James, Rosemary Johnson, Leonard Mueninghoff, Katherine Rall	Eleanora Castagnetta, Mary Beth Crumly, Jenny Camp, John Elkourie, Sarah Hebert, Teresa Palmer, Joe Scotch, Tom Slonneger
Ushers	Jim Smith, Connie Bailey, Ray Morin, Brandon Moseley	Kurt Friend, Wayne Gwaltney, Faye Valencia, Pat Kantaris	Larry Swetonic, Rachel Camp, Paul Jones, Vincent Lovoy, Mary Grace Tucker
Lectors	Barbara Varner - 1 Ree Morin - 2	Michael Matlock - 1 Ginny Willis - 2	Gerri Elkourie - 1 Martinique Waters - 2
Altar Servers	Brianna Braden, Levi Hardegree, Elizabeth Mitchim, Emelia Mitchim	Dominic Pautler, Tilly Gwaltney, Troy Gwaltney, Jacob Porco, Dolan Wilson	Elliot Marrero, Ella Sciarra, Emma Stephens, Delaine Coleman, Addison Miller
Mass Coordinators	Bill and Jeanne Welsh	Mike and Pat Kantaris	David and Eleanora Castagnetta
Greeters	Becky Green, Karen Kapp, Tom Lager, Pat Smith	Anthony Cuicchi, Diane Cuicchi	Peter Bibbo, Ercelle Burrus
Altar Linens	Linda Townsley		
Cantors	John Floyd	Kathryn Garaca	Kathryn Garaca

SAVE THE DATE!!

First Light's biggest fundraising event of the year will be on Saturday, May 6, 2017, at Haven in the Lakeview area of Birmingham.

There is plenty of free street parking and there will be valet parking as well.

Light up the Night has been chosen as the theme to celebrate how the evening will brighten the lives of the homeless women and children served at First Light. Don't miss the fun.

Make your reservations today at www.firstlightshelter.org or by calling 205-323-4277.

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of PARENTS think
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Less than **35%**
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Source: ABC News, Aug 2015

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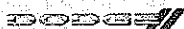
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-Terry Spitzer, President



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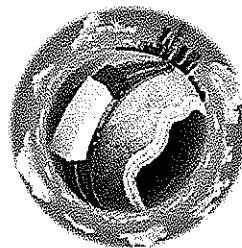
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