

St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish

55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3A2 • 519-571-9200 • www.stmarkcatholicparish.org

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Stephen Murrin – *Pastor*

Rev. Mr. Philip Fernandez – *Deacon*

Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Secretary*

The Parish Office is open by appointment only.

Please call or email ahead to schedule your visit.

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

No Children's Liturgy of the Word until further notice.

WEEKDAY MASS

Wednesday 12:00 NOON

followed by Adoration and Benediction

CONFESSIONS

Saturday at 4:15 PM or by appointment.

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION CHAPEL

Closed until further notice.

PANDEMIC PROTOCOL

Seating capacity in the church is restricted to 30%. Doors open 30 minutes before Mass. Seating will be first come, first served. Under the Ontario guidelines, we ask that:

- all who are not feeling well, or have an elevated temperature, please stay home.
- when you visit the church you wear a face covering over your nose, mouth, and chin. Required by the Face Covering By-law 20-035.
- you practice generous social distancing (minimum 6 ft.) and follow the signs and ushers' directions.
- that you use your washroom before coming to church.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We invite you to become a registered parishioner. Please fill out a form from the church lobby and drop it in the collection basket or at the parish office. Please call if you would like Father to bless your home.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES / PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT

To receive an annual tax receipt for your donations you are encouraged to use offertory envelopes and/or to enroll in our monthly debit plan. Offertory envelopes can be requested by filling out a parish registration form, or if you are already registered, simply call the office to request a box. Debit plan enrollment forms are available in the church lobby.

BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated during Sunday Mass. Two months' notice is required. Please pick up a baptism form in the church lobby, introduce yourself to Father after Mass and give him your completed form at that time. Dates for preparation and the baptism will be confirmed by the parish office only after you have met with Father.

MARRIAGE

At least 6 months' notice is required. Please introduce yourselves to Father after Mass to set up an appointment.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK / HOSPITAL VISITATION

If you or someone you know is in need of the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the parish office or see Father after Mass. Please advise the office of hospital admissions to request Anointing or a pastoral visit.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Call 519-571-8485 for information on food distribution.



"... The seed is sprouting and growing ..." (Mark 4:27)

MASS INTENTION REQUEST FORM

To have a Mass celebrated for a living or deceased loved one, please fill out this request form, place it in a plain envelope marked "Mass Intention," and drop it in the Sunday collection, or drop it in the mail. Your intention will be printed in the bulletin and announced at Mass.

If you require a Mass card please call the parish office to make pick-up arrangements.

The offering (stipend) for a Mass Intention is \$10 per Mass.

I would like to have _____ Mass(es) celebrated for
HOW MANY?

the intentions of (living) **OR** the repose of the soul of (deceased)

NAME OF LIVING OR DECEASED PERSON(S)

Please choose your preferred way of setting the date for this Mass:

The date of the Mass does not matter.

OR

I would like the Mass to be on this specific date*: _____

**Please submit requests as far in advance as possible to reserve preferred dates.*

Sunday Masses may only be requested twice per year.

All other requests will be satisfied on weekdays.

Requested by: _____

Daytime Phone # or email: _____

We will attempt to contact you if we are unable to accommodate your request.

Mass Intentions for the Week



April 5 - 11, 2021

Church doors are open 30 minutes before the start of Mass, and seating is restricted to 30% capacity (first come first seated) until further notice.

Wednesday, April 7

12 Noon + Maria Silvestre - Joao

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER) April 10/11

Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31

Sat. 5:00 PM + Patrick Weber - Carol

Sun. 9:30 am + Judy Van Ooteghem - St. Mark Knights of Columbus

11:30 am - Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark



Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection.

Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit. ■



EASTER DUTY

The Easter Duty requires all the faithful to Receive Holy Communion once a year during the Easter Season. It does not require the reception of Penance once a year unless a person is in grave sin (CCC 1457, 2042).

During the present pandemic it may not be possible for people to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Penance. In this case, they should be reassured that a perfect Act of Contrition, and the resolve to confess their sins (even mortal sins) as soon as it is possible in the Sacrament of Reconciliation suffices to assure them of God's forgiveness.

The Church does not require the impossible. Therefore, those who are unable to receive Holy Communion either because they cannot attend church or because of a delicate conscience relative to receiving Communion in the hand, are dispensed from the Easter Duty obligation this year.



His Excellency Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI, by virtue of a Decree, dispenses the faithful of the Diocese of Hamilton from the Easter Duty this year, 2021.

THE EASTER SEASON

The seven weeks from Easter to Pentecost are celebrated as one great Feast Day. St. Athanasius called them 'the great Sunday.' Christians sing the "Alleluia" during these days in their rejoicing. In particular, all Masses within the octave of Easter are celebrated as solemnities.



“SURREXIT DOMINUS VERE, ALLELUIA!” THE LORD IS RISEN, INDEED. ALLELUIA.

Liturgical Ministers

April 10-11	5:00 PM	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Reader:	M. Dufresne	J. Flanigan	M. Smith
Ushers:	B. Benner, S./J./G. Morgan	I./D. Culley, V. Chen, T. Germann	T./K. Boettger, J. Smith, D. Feick
Eucharistic Ministers:	A. Bendia, K. Smith	M. Walsler, T. Angel	B./C. Voisin

C.W.L. News

MEMBERSHIP DUES: If you haven't had the opportunity to submit your membership dues for 2021, there is still time. You can either drop it into the collection basket at the church, or mail it to the church. No change to the cost from last year (\$30) and cheques can be made to St. Mark's C.W.L. Cash is also accepted.



Sacramental Preparation

Those who have registered their child to receive their **First Communion** should have received an email this past week concerning the preparation and celebration of the sacraments. If you did not receive it, please contact the parish office. Those who have registered for the sacrament of **Confirmation** will receive an email within the next couple of weeks concerning the same.



QUEEN OF HEAVEN (REGINA CAELI)

- V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia.
 R. For He, whom thou wast worthy to bear. Alleluia.
 V. Has risen as He said. Alleluia.
 R. Pray for us to God. Alleluia.
 V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia.
 R. Because the Lord is truly risen, Alleluia.

Let us pray: O God, Who by the Resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, hast been pleased to give joy to the whole world, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may attain the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Thank you to everyone who performed a ministry during the Easter Triduum Liturgies, and to Colette, Judy and Helen who prepared the church for the celebrations.
A special thank you to the altar servers and the 11:30 choir for being able to assist at all the Triduum celebrations.

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May the joy and peace of the Risen Lord shine forth in us and in those we love, and may we all experience the special grace of this holy and sacred season.

*Happy Easter to everyone ...
 Fr. Steve & Nicholas*

Next month, April 25th observes the feast day of our patron, Saint Mark. But just who is our patron saint?

Third installment – More of St. Mark...



After the Resurrection, Mark became a disciple of St. Peter, travelling with him to Rome. Later he travelled with St. Paul and Barnabas in Asia Minor. Mark recorded both Petrine and Pauline messages with a sensitivity to the culture of the hearers. He sometimes provided an Aramaic translation. For example he records that when Jesus was healing Jarius' daughter, "He took the child by the hand and said to her: 'Talitha koum' which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise". [Mk. 5:41]. On another occasion when the Pharisees complained that Jesus' followers did not wash their hands before eating, Mark explains the complaint for non-Jewish hearers: "The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders." [Mk. 7:3] ... and from Isaiah: "This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts." [Mk. 7:6-7]

After these travels, taking the gospel he himself composed, Mark travelled to Alexandria, Egypt. There he formed 'a church so admirable in doctrine and continence of living that all the local followers of Christ imitated him.' * Eventually, he became the first Bishop of Alexandria. The dominant faith in the area, however, was Islam and he was martyred there in the eighth year of Nero's reign by being dragged through the city. The date usually given for St. Mark's death is 65 CE and for his writings, between 65 – 75 CE. **

Of the four Gospels familiar to Christians, those of St. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are often referred to as the 'synoptic' gospels since these three share stories and parables from the same general point-of-view offering a 'synopsis' of the events of Jesus' life though they may be presented in different sequence. St. Mark's Gospel was traditionally listed as the second one, the opinion originally being that in his writing St. Mark 'borrowed' some stories and incidents from Matthew and Luke. [You remember that St. Mark was not an original 'eye-witness' apostle so, perhaps his gospel was considered less accurate.] However, since the 19th century, scholars have altered their position to assert that St. Mark's gospel is the oldest and that Matthew and Luke relied on Mark's compact account to verify some of the incidents they recorded in greater detail. This theory is called the Theory of Markan Priority.

* National Catholic Register Apr. 23/13

** NB: BC Before Christ; AD Anno Domine – year of the Lord; CE Common Era dates are equivalent to AD.

MORE TO COME NEXT WEEK!



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