

St. Mark Catholic Parish

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

PASTOR: Fr. Steve Murrin
DEACON: Rev. Mr. Basil Markides
SECRETARY: Mrs. Pam Olinski

LORD'S DAY MASSES
Saturday at 5:00 PM
Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

WEEKDAY MASSES
Tuesday at 7:00 PM
Wed., Thur., Fri. at 7:00 AM
Saturday at 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS
Saturday following 9:00 AM Mass
and 4:00–4:30 PM or by appointment.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK
First Tuesday evening of the month at the
7:00 p.m. Mass. No prior notice necessary.

ADORATION CHAPEL
Perpetual Adoration: Spots open – see
Chapel bulletin board
Divine Mercy: Fridays 3:00 PM
Our Lady's Rosary: 1st Saturday at 10 AM
Benediction: 1st Sunday at 7:00 PM

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
We invite you to register. Please fill out a
form from the church lobby and drop it off
at the parish office. Please call if you would
like Father to bless your home.

BAPTISM
Infant baptism is celebrated on the 2nd
Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM. A
Preparation Meeting is held on the
Wednesday evening preceding the baptism.
Please fill out a form from the church lobby
and drop it off at the parish office at least 6
weeks in advance.

HOSPITAL VISITATION
Please advise the office of area hospital
admissions to request a pastoral visit or the
Sacrament of the Sick.

FIRST FRIDAY VISITS
Father will bring Communion to the sick on
the 1st Friday of the month. Please call the
office to schedule a visit.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
White Box Collection on the last Sunday of
the month. 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 slip it under the door of the parish office if it is closed. Your intention will be printed in the bulletin and announced at the beginning of Mass.

If you require a **Mass card** please make your request in person at the parish office during business hours.

The offering for a Mass (for living or deceased) 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 check ✓ your preferred way of setting the date for this Mass:

The date of the Mass does not matter.

OR

The exact date does not matter, but I would prefer one of the following:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7:00 AM on a Weekday | <input type="checkbox"/> 5:00 PM on a Saturday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7:00 PM on a Tuesday | <input type="checkbox"/> 9:30 AM on a Sunday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9:00 AM on a Saturday | <input type="checkbox"/> 11:30 AM on a Sunday |

OR

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

* Please keep in mind that our ability to accommodate a request for a specific date (especially for a weekend) can be difficult without sufficient notice. For this reason, we recommend submitting requests for weekend Masses a few months in advance.

Requested by: _____

Daytime Phone # or email: _____

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions for the Week

Dec. 11 – 17, 2017

Monday - * NO MASS (FERIAL)

Tuesday - * NO MASS (FEAST – OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE)

Wednesday (MEMORIAL – ST. LUCY)

7:00 am + Clare Gunsch – *John & Elaine Kelly*

Thursday (MEMORIAL – ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS)

7:00 am + Adeline Dias – *Legion of Mary*

3:00 PM – **Mass at Forest Heights Long Term Care**

7:00 PM – **Advent Penitential Service** *with multiple priests*

Friday (FERIAL)

7:00 am + Colette McPhee – *Katherine & Garry Cox*

9:30 am – **Advent Mass with St. Mark's School**

Saturday (FERIAL)

9:00 am + Elena Pestritu – *Dorin Pestritu*

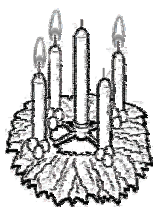
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thess. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sat. 5:00 PM + Ginny Jans – *the Grads of 1956*

Sun. 9:30 am – Int. of the Parishioners of St. Mark's

11:30 am + Olivia Baptista – *Jose Baptista*



Offertory Collection

Dec. 2/3, 2017

Sunday envelopes.....	\$ 3,104.60
Sunday loose	\$987.95
Sunday pre-authorized debits (MONTHLY AMOUNT x12+52)	<u>\$ 1,223.77</u>
TOTAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS	\$ 5,316.32
Mortgage envelopes.....	\$ 1,068.00
Mortgage pre-authorized debits (MONTHLY AMOUNT x12+52)	<u>\$ 264.12</u>
TOTAL MORTGAGE OFFERINGS	\$ 1,332.12

Thank you for your generosity.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, also known as the Virgin of Guadalupe, is a title of the Blessed Virgin Mary associated with a venerated image enshrined within the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The basilica is the most visited Catholic pilgrimage site in the world, and the world's third most-visited sacred site. Pope Leo XIII granted the venerated image a Canonical Coronation on 12 October 1895.

St. Lucy's history has been lost and all we really know for certain is that this brave woman who lived in Syracuse lost her life during the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Her veneration spread to Rome so that by the sixth century the whole Church recognized her courage in defense of the faith. "Saint Lucy, you did not hide your light under a basket, but let it shine for the whole world, for all the centuries to see. We may not suffer torture in our lives the way you did, but we are still called to let the light of our Christianity illuminate our daily lives. Please help us to have the courage to bring our Christianity into our work, our recreation, our relationships, our conversation -- every corner of our day. Amen."

St. John of the Cross was born in Spain in 1542, and he learned the importance of self-sacrificing love from his parents. His life of poverty and persecution could have produced a bitter cynic. Instead it gave birth to a compassionate mystic, who lived by the beliefs that "Who has ever seen people persuaded to love God by harshness?" and "Where there is no love, put love -- and you will find love." John left us many books of practical advice on spiritual growth and prayer that are just as relevant today as they were then. These books include: *Ascent of Mount Carmel*, *Dark Night of the Soul*, and *A Spiritual Canticle of the Soul and the Bridegroom Christ*. Since joy comes only from God, John believed that someone who seeks happiness in the world is like "a famished person who opens his mouth to satisfy himself with air." He taught that only by breaking the rope of our desires could we fly up to God. Above all, he was concerned for those who suffered dryness or depression in their spiritual life and offered encouragement that God loved them and was leading them deeper into faith.

Meetings & Events This Week:

DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
Mon. Dec. 11	7:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
Tue. Dec. 12	7:30 pm	(M)	Knights of Columbus executive
Wed. Dec. 13	7:15 pm	(CH)	9:30 choir practice
	7:30 pm	(B)	Women's Prayer Group
Thur. Dec. 14	6:15 pm	(M)	Legion of Mary
	7:30 pm	(CH)	5:00 Choir practice
Fri. Dec. 15	6:00 am	(L)	Men's Group

Meeting Rooms: B = Basement CH = Church H = Hall * = Offsite
J = St. John Room L = St. Luke Room M = St. Matthew Room

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

6" Red Poinsettias

ON SALE THIS WEEKEND ONLY
DEC. 9 & 10 ... \$10 each (6-inch pot)
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!





All Liturgical Ministers are reminded to **sign-up** for Christmas and New Year's Masses, in the binder on the table in the narthex.

DEC. 16 & 17	Sat. 5:00PM	Sun. 9:30 AM	Sun. 11:30 AM
Altar Servers:	G. Johnston T.T. Morgan	A.J. Rye	N./B./B. Starr
Commentator:	B. Burns	J. Flanigan	T. Boettger
Lector:	K. Smith	V. DeVries	O. Sirju
Ushers:	K./S./T. Friesen	F./B. Seaward P. Drohan	C. Dignam F. Sawaya M. Schimus
Gift Bearers:	Weber	Seaward	Chacon
Eucharistic Ministers:	K. Friesen D. Weber C. Dokis	A. Joseph H. Kress M. Lynch	B./S. Markides F. Kangaloo

Donations to purchase Christmas Flowers for the Church

may be placed in the container on the table set up in the narthex. To make a donation in memory of a departed loved one, you may use one of the envelopes provided on the table, and their names will be included on a special insert in the Christmas bulletin. Mass on Christmas morning will be celebrated for the Repose of their Souls.



School Advent Masses

Fri. Dec. 15 9:30 AM Advent Mass with St. Mark School (church)
Wed. Dec. 20 10:00 AM Advent Mass with St. Dominic School (church)

*** Bulletin Submission Deadlines for Dec./Jan.**

Please email articles to the parish office no later than:	For inclusion in the bulletin that will be distributed on:
Mon. Dec. 11 (tomorrow!)	Sun. Dec. 17
Wed. Dec. 13	Christmas
Mon. Dec. 18	New Year's

Come join us to find the "Keys to Loving Relationships"

"Keys" is a 9-week video-based program meant for anyone (married or single) who is looking for a more meaningful relationship with a spouse, family member or friend. Learn how to become a better "me" in all your relationships! The program runs **Tuesday evenings** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. **starting January 23rd here at St. Mark's Parish.** The cost is \$45.00. To register or for more information, please call the Family Ministry Office at (905) 528-7988 ext. 2249.

Novena to the Infant of Jesus

The Sisters of the Carmel of Saint Joseph will pray for you during the Novena to Infant Jesus, **Dec. 16th to 25th.** Are you troubled? Do you need spiritual support? You can participate in the Novena by sending your prayer intention slip with your name and address to: *Carmel of Saint Joseph, 1127 Carmel-Koch Road, R.R. #1 St. Agatha, ON N0B 2L0*



We offer our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of **Mary Petrovich**, mother of Jane Petrovich and grandmother of Ben Hartwell.

"Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen."

The Month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

All honor to you, Mary!
From you arose the Sun of Justice,
Christ our God.



The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of December 2017:

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

Angel Tree... Tomorrow (Dec. 11) is the absolute last day that angel tree gifts can be dropped off at the church, unwrapped with the angel attached. Also, any donations of extra wrapping paper or gift bags are always appreciated. Thank you for your ongoing support!
- St. Mark's Society of St. Vincent de Paul

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS PARTY

After the success of last year, Catholic Young Adults groups across the Diocese of Hamilton and beyond are coming together for one big Christmas party! We want to invite all young Catholic adults (ages 19-39) near and far, to come out and meet other young Catholic adults. Join us for an awesome pre-Christmas dinner and dance! **Saturday, Dec. 16th**, schedule as follows: 5:00 Mass; 6:00 Cocktail Social; 6:45 Catered Dinner with Wine, as well as Live Entertainment, music, Photobooth, Doorprizes, Cash Bar, and more! \$20 donation (\$45 value) at the door, **St. Thomas the Apostle Church** (715 Centre Rd., Waterdown). Please RSVP before Dec. 14. Contact: Justin Peter at jpeter@hamiltondiocese.com or call 905 689 4857 ext. 8. Search "The Biggest Catholic Young Adults Christmas Party Ever 2!" on Facebook.



LONGEST NIGHT PRAYER SERVICE

If you are grieving, lonely or sad for any reason as the Christmas Season approaches, please consider attending this ecumenical service, **Thurs. Dec. 21st** at 7:00 p.m. at **St. Francis of Assisi Parish**, Kitchener. This will be an evening of scripture, reflective music and prayer. A time of fellowship will follow.

INTERNAL AUDITORS (Part-time Casual) – The Diocese of Hamilton is looking for part-time Auditors to perform financial and administrative reviews of our Parishes and Cemeteries. The hours of work will vary depending on the number of reviews and the complexity of the reviews, but on average an Auditor can expect to work between 7 to 15 days per year. Remuneration will be based on the number of audits performed. Duties include: Review and critique of the current audit program; Responsible for planning and execution of 5 to 10 audits per year; Prepare and present audit reports for review; Work with Parishes and Cemeteries to correct the audit findings; Some travel will be required. Qualifications: Professional designation in accounting is required; Strong communication and presentation skills with ability to comfortably communicate at all levels. If this is a position that would interest you, please submit a resume to: carrers@hamiltondiocese.com. Applications accepted until Dec. 15.

WANTED: Personal Support Workers

Marian Residence Catholic Retirement Home (Cambridge) is looking for one P.S.W. for the night shift, and one for the day shift, starting immediately. The home is owned and operated by the Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate. Please send your resume to marianresidence@bellnet.ca.

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