

St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish

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

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Roque Concepcion – *Pastor* (stmark.kitchener@gmail.com)

Rev. Mr. Philip Fernandez – *Deacon*

Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Parish Secretary* (stmark@rogers.com)

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00 PM

Monthly Filipino Mass: *Third* Saturday 7:00 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday - Friday 12:00 NOON

First Saturday 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

Wednesdays & *First* Fridays 11:00 - 11:45 AM

Saturdays 4:15 - 4:45 PM or by appointment

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 – Infant 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. A date for baptism can be confirmed by the parish office after you have met with Father and started the preparation process.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) – Adults seeking conversion to the Catholic faith are invited to inquire with the parish priest. This program begins each Fall and runs until Easter.

MARRIAGE – At least 6 months' notice is required. Please introduce yourselves to Father after Mass to start the process.

ANOIDING OF THE SICK / HOSPITAL VISIT

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.

PARISH SCHOOLS

St. Dominic Elementary 3 Westforest Trail 519-576-5503

St. Mark Elementary 240 Autumn Hill Cres. 519-743-4682

Resurrection Secondary 455 University Ave. W. 519-741-1990



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

REQUESTING A MASS INTENTION

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 and your name will appear in the bulletin, and will be announced during Mass. **If you require a Mass Card**, please make your request in-person at the parish office during business hours.

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

Number of Masses requested: _____ Offering enclosed: \$_____

Name of person(s)
to be remembered: _____

☐ LIVING ☐ DECEASED

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 note: Requests for specific dates (birthday, anniversary of death or wedding) should be submitted several months in advance to avoid disappointment. Sunday Masses may only be requested twice per year. All other requests will be satisfied on a weekday. We will attempt to contact you if we are unable to accommodate your request.*

LIGHTING A SANCTUARY LAMP

You may request to have one or both lamps burn for a special intention or for the repose of someone's soul. Cost is \$5 per candle, per week.

Simply drop a plain envelope marked “Sanctuary Lamp” into the collection and include the stipend and the name of the person(s) you wish to remember. Names will be published in the bulletin at the beginning of that week.

Please light the
Sanctuary Lamp(s) for: _____

☐ LIVING ☐ DECEASED

Offering enclosed: \$_____

REQUESTED BY _____

DAYTIME PHONE # OR EMAIL _____

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions for the Week

December 11 – 17, 2023

Tuesday (FEAST – OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE)

10:00 am - ADVENT MASS AT ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL

12 Noon † Guise Su Van Pham – Phuong Nguyen

Wednesday (MEMORIAL – ST. LUCY)

12 Noon † Stella Szpak – Pat & Margaret Drohan

† Mike Vandenhoff – Ron & Kathy Bumstead

† Maria Campos – Campos family

Thursday (MEMORIAL – ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS)

9:30 am - ADVENT MASS WITH ST. MARK SCHOOL

12 Noon - In Thanksgiving – Frank & Yvette Tully

7:00 PM - Advent Penitential Service (with 5 priests for Confession)

Friday (FERIAL)

12 Noon † Rita Faubert – Jerry & Helen Kieffer

7:00 PM - Filipino Traditional Mass Before Christmas (Simbang Gabi)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 16/17

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

Sat. 5:00 PM - Filipino Traditional Mass Before Christmas

† Peter Vu – Tuyen Nguyen

† Patricia Hughes – Colm & Kay Dignam

- Int. of Dianne Seymour-Weber – Marilyn Dufresne

Sun. 9:30 am – Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark

11:30 am † Jose Alves & Gracinda Branco – Lourdes & family

5:00 PM - Filipino Traditional Mass Before Christmas (Simbang Gabi)



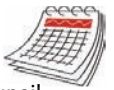
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

The Sanctuary Lamps burn this week for:

The Repose of the Souls of Jose Alves & Gracinda Branco



Meetings & Events This Week ...



DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
Mon. Dec. 11	7:00 pm	(L)	Finance & Parish Pastoral Council
	8:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
Tue. Dec. 12	6:45 pm	(H/J)	Alpha Marriage Course (final week)
	7:00 pm	Zoom	Knights' Executive meeting
Wed. Dec. 13	6:15 pm	(CH)	9:30 Choir practice
Thu. Dec. 14	7:00 pm	(CH)	5pm Choir practice
Sat. Dec. 16	7:15 am	(H)	That Man Is You! Men's Group

MEETING ROOMS: B - Basement CH - Church H - Hall J - St. John Room
L - St. Luke Boardroom M - St. Matthew Room

On the **Second Sunday of Advent** we hear Isaiah write of a voice that cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!" These lines from the prophet are repeated in the Mark's Gospel as we are introduced to John the Baptist who prepares the way for Jesus. John says, "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



~ Used with permission by Online Ministries, Creighton University

Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation begins in the New Year. If your child is not yet enrolled, please contact the parish office as soon as possible or pick up an Enrollment Form in the narthex (church lobby).

Join us for Alpha 2024

Thursday evenings, Feb. 22 to May 2, here at St. Mark's Parish Hall. Alpha is an 11-week program that brings adults together for conversations about life, faith and Jesus. Plan to join us – all are welcome! To learn more, please contact Denise Case at stmarkalpha@gmail.com.

Christmas Toy Drive

Our K of C council is joining other councils in the Christmas Toy Drive. **Those who wish may drop donations of UNWRAPPED children's gifts into the brown bin in the church narthex.** All toys will be distributed to needy families. Thank you.



6" Poinsettia Plants

THIS WEEKEND ONLY!

December 9 & 10 after all Masses

Minimum donation of \$10 each (6-inch pot)

Sold by our Knights of Columbus

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sundays at the 9:30 a.m. Mass

for children in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3.

Diocesan Prayer Calendar ☒ This week let us pray for...

Dec. 11	Dec. 12	Dec. 13	Dec. 14	Dec. 15	Dec. 16
Rev. Andrew Lopatniuk	Married Couples	Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (C.Ss.R.)	Rev. Wallace Metcalf	Rev. Charles Galea	Rev. Robert Kiffman

Prayer for Vocations ... God, the source of creation and love, You invite each of us to serve you through the life which is your gift. May your grace encourage men and women to heights of holiness through service to the Church as priests, sisters, brothers, and lay ministers. Make me an instrument to encourage others to give themselves and challenge me to do the same. Amen.



Weekly Offertory Report

December 2/3, 2023

	General	Mortgage
Envelope offerings	\$ 2,839.55	\$ 695.00
Pre-Authorized	\$ 1,504.04	\$ 363.81
Loose offerings	\$ 613.95	\$ --
Totals	\$ 4,957.54	\$ 1,058.81



IN MEMORIAM

We offer our condolences and prayers to the family and friends of the late **Aileen Leddy** (wife of Dennis).


We mourn the loss of those who have gone before us in death and continue with us in the Communion of Saints. "Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen."

PARKING ON FRI. DEC. 15TH – We will be assisting the House of Friendship with this year's Christmas program by providing the use of our parking lot on December 15th for food hamper pick-ups. **Entry to the parking lot may be hindered or delayed that day, so please plan accordingly if you plan to attend the 12noon Mass that day.**



Liturgical Ministers

DEC. 16-17	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
Altar Servers:	J./P./V. Miller	E. Burkholder R./R. Jerold	C. Chacon J./S. Garrucho
Commentator:	J. Flanigan	V. DeVries	N. Comido
Readers:	B. Norte	T. Boettger	M. Comido
Ushers:	A. Beckner C. Weber	F. Sawaya S. Roshell	C./S. Thiagarajah
Eucharistic Ministers:	D. Fernandez A. Bendia	M. Walser P. Enticott	E. Weiss A. Joseph

 Liturgical ministers are asked to please sign-up in the narthex for Christmas & New Year's Masses. Thank you!

Christmas Flowers for the Church

For those who wish to donate toward the cost of Christmas flowers, you will find special envelopes in the narthex. Please write the names of your deceased loved ones on the back of the envelope, or include them inside with your donation, then place the envelope in the gift box in the narthex. Mass on Christmas morning will be celebrated for the Repose of the Souls of your deceased loved ones.



ADVENT RECONCILIATION

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	DATE	TIME	CHURCH
Dec. 12	2 pm	St. Francis	Dec. 20	8 to 8	St. Michael's, Wloo
Dec. 12	7 pm	St. Joseph	Dec. 20	7 pm	St. Anthony Daniel
Dec. 13	7 pm	St. Aloysius	Dec. 22	11 am	St. Mary's
Dec. 14	7 pm	ST. MARK	Dec. 22	7 pm	Blessed Sacrament
Dec. 19	7 pm	St. Anne			

**** Please note some dates have been revised or eliminated since this schedule was first published last week.**



Christmas Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE - 6:00 PM / 8:00 PM / 10:00 PM
CHRISTMAS DAY - 10:00 AM

New Year's Mass Schedule

NEW YEAR'S EVE - 5:00 PM
NEW YEAR'S DAY - 10:00 AM



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES across the Diocese: The Diocese of Hamilton has launched a wonderfully convenient webpage which shows the times of Christmas Masses and events in each parish across the diocese – a truly useful tool, especially if you will be visiting another city for the holidays, or know of someone who would like to return to Mass. Visit here: <https://crm.hamiltondiocese.com/special-events>

✧ Bulletin Submission Deadlines for the Holidays:

Please email articles to the parish office no later than:	For inclusion in the bulletin that will be distributed on:
Mon. Dec. 11 (tomorrow! AM)	3 rd Sun. of Advent (Dec. 17)
Wed. Dec. 13	Christmas (Dec. 24)
Mon. Dec. 18	New Year's (Dec. 31)

IMPORTANT notice for all C.W.L. Members!

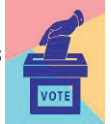
Nominations are open Dec. 7/23 – Jan. 15/24 for candidates for your next parish **Executive Council!**

WE is a reflection of our collective ME!

We encourage you to participate by nominating members, including yourself, who are willing to employ their God-given talents in service to the League and our members.

Nomination forms will be available and on the CWL table in the Narthex or by emailing kim.a.montag@gmail.com.

Completed forms must be signed and dropped in the box, also on the table. Use as many forms and make as many nominations as you like! **Elections will be held at our General Meeting January 25, 2024...Please plan to attend!!**



WE ME



Attention All Ladies! C.W.L. Membership Drive continues ...

Do you yearn to be part of a women's movement that believes in growing in your faith, believes in service, and in social justice? Please help us to grow our council by joining St. Mark's C.W.L.. We invite all ladies 16 years of age and over to join. Membership for 2024 is \$40. Please call Sue Sawchuck, Organization Chair, at 519-277-1898 or email stmarkcwl@gmail.com for further information.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Do you have a loved one who is sick or nearing the end of life at home, in hospice, or in hospital? Please pick up one of the informative pamphlets available on the information wall in the church narthex (main lobby), *"The Catholic Church's Pastoral Care to the Sick and Dying"* and *"Ministry to Catholic Patients in Hospital."* In these you will find guidelines on how and when it is appropriate to call on a priest to confer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, as well as Communion, Confession, or Viaticum (Final Communion). Ideally, a call to your parish priest should be made as soon as a serious illness becomes known, before circumstances become dire – doing so can afford the patient the opportunity to be comforted mentally, emotionally and spiritually by being able to make a good confession, receive communion (if they are physically able) and be anointed.



VOCATION SEEDS - Second Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist is sent by God to prepare the way for His Son. In our present time God sends priests, religious and deacons to prepare the people to receive His Son.

If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988. vocations@hamiltondiocese.com | www.hamiltondiocese.com/vocations.

ADVENT EDUCATION – Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Teresa of Avila Parish Hall, 44 Leonard St., Kitchener with Sister Eileen Schuller, O.S.U., who will speak to us on the psalms and Advent. We hope you will join us as Sister shares her wealth of knowledge with us!

ADVENT EVENING OF REFLECTION at St. Michael's Church, Waterloo (80 University Ave.) Friday, December 15th with Mass at 7:00 p.m. followed by Reflection led by Fr. Thomas Rosica, CSB ... "Emmanuel: The Plea and the Promise". Please register by calling St. Michael's at 519-884-9311.



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