

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 – *Parish Secretary*

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

Tuesday through Friday at 12:00 NOON

First Saturday of the Month at 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

Saturday at 4:15 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 – 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 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 start the process..

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.

PARISH SCHOOLS

St. Dominic Savio Catholic Elementary School

Principal: Pat Runstedler

3 Westforest Trail

519-576-5503

St. Mark Catholic Elementary School

Principal: Gary Lankowski

240 Autumn Hill Crescent

519-743-4682

Resurrection Catholic Secondary School

Principal: Marisa Munroe

455 University Avenue West

519-741-1990



"...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 appear in the bulletin.

If you require a Mass card please call or email 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



December 13 – 19, 2021

Seating is restricted by physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) between households, until further notice. Masks are mandatory. Please stay home if you are feeling unwell.

Tuesday (MEMORIAL – ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS)

12 Noon + Macedo family – Luiz

Wednesday (FERIAL)

12 Noon – Int. of Luiz Macedo

Thursday (FERIAL)

12 Noon + Joan Bedford – Bruce, Michelle, Laura & Colleen

Friday (FERIAL)

12 Noon + Terry Winklermaier – Brian & Marie Lynch

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Dec. 18-19

Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Sat. 5:00 PM + Loyola Durkin – Helen

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

11:30 am + Les Gyurits – Bruce, Michelle, Laura & Colleen



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.

Sunday Missals for 2021-2022

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE NARTHEX ~ \$5 EACH

ADVENT RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES - The Diocesan Offices for Liturgy, Youth Ministry and Evangelization and Catechesis are happy to provide a resource for families to encourage prayer and celebration in the home during the Advent Season. For suggestions, videos and a prayer to be prayed around the wreath each Sunday of Advent, please visit:

www.hamiltondiocese.com/advent2021. We invite you to share this resource with those in your communities who may benefit.

Donations toward Christmas Flowers for the Church

In the narthex you will find special envelopes and a box to deposit them. 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. All names will be included on a special insert in the Christmas bulletin, and Mass on Christmas morning will be celebrated for the Repose of their Souls.



"Keep Christ in Christmas"
CAR MAGNETS

\$5 each in the narthex

PROCEEDS TO THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE



This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ.

Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. Some people mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand. ■



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for:


The intentions of Maria D. N.



You may request to have one or both lamps burn for a special intention or for the repose of someone's soul. Public intentions will be published in the bulletin and on our website; private intentions will not. 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.

Liturgical Ministers

Dec. 18-19	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
Reader:	D. Behl	T. Germann	M. Oram
Ushers:	B. Benner E. Miller	I./D. Culley	T./K. Boettger
Eucharistic Ministers:	P. Fernandez C. Weber	P. Fernandez M. Lynch	P. Fernandez K. Dignam



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

◆ 6:00 PM ◆ 8:00 PM ◆ 10:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

◆ 9:30 AM ◆ 11:30 AM

SEATING: ◆ No reservations; First come, first seated
◆ MASKS REQUIRED
◆ Proof of vaccination NOT required
◆ Physical distancing (6ft.) between households

2022 Offertory Envelopes & Pre-Authorized Debits

ENVELOPES: Boxes of Offertory Envelopes will be ready for pick up next week. If you address needs updating, please contact Pam at the office. **Please DO NOT use your 2022 envelopes until January**, as you will have a new I.D. number that isn't linked to you until then. Thank you.

MONTHLY DEBIT PLAN: If you are enrolled in our pre-authorized debit plan, you will also still receive a box of envelopes in order to donate toward special causes (Christmas, Good Friday, World Missions, St. Vincent de Paul, etc.) so please look for your box in the lobby next week.

If you would like to start using envelopes or enroll in the monthly debit plan (or wish more information) please pick up a form from the information wall in the narthex, or contact Pam at the office to have one emailed to you.

Are you troubled? Do you need spiritual support?

The Sisters of the Carmel of Saint Joseph will pray for you during the **NOVENA TO THE INFANT JESUS: December 16th to 24th**

You can participate in the Novena to Infant Jesus 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*

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR | This week let us pray for...

DEC. 13	DEC. 14	DEC. 15	DEC. 16	DEC. 17	DEC. 18
Rev. Sam Restivo, C.R.	Rev. David Perrin	Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (C.Ss.R.)	Rev. Robert Bulbrook	Rev. Timothy Higgins	Rev. Lawrence Parent

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.

VOCATION SEEDS • 3rd Sunday of Advent • December 12, 2021 ... Could God be calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother, or sister and announce the Good News to His People as John the Baptist did? Contact Bishop Wayne Lobsinger, Director of Vocations and Priestly Formation, Diocese of Hamilton ... 905-528-7988 | vocations@hamiltondiocese.com | www.hamiltondiocese.com/vocations

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEW TOYS FOR NEEDY KIDS



For 25 years, the Waterloo Knights of Columbus have been collecting new toys for needy children at Christmas and throughout the year. It is the largest Toy Drive in Waterloo Region and has collected and distributed more than \$5,000,000 in toys and donations to date. Multiple volunteers work tirelessly to make sure every child in need receives a gift at Christmas and other special times.

Since St. Mark's is unable to have an Angel Tree this year, our Knights have decided to collect toys to augment the already successful Waterloo toy drive. **Those interested in contributing may place new, unwrapped toys in the designated bin in the narthex between now and Christmas.** Our Knights will then deliver them to the Waterloo Knights to be sorted and distributed. Thank you for your consideration.

2021 Ontario Charities 50-50 Online Raffle

Early Bird Draw Dec. 1, 2021 ~ Jackpot Draw Dec. 31, 2021



To purchase tickets:

- visit: <https://www.kofcontario5050.com>
- click the "Buy Tickets Now" button
- select your number of tickets and click the "Checkout" button
- fill in your Billing Information, and
 - under "Organization" select "Kitchener St. Mark's 9276"
 - then click "Continue"
- fill in your Payment Information and click "Submit Order"
- **You will then receive an email from KofC Ontario with your Order Confirmation ... this is your OFFICIAL TICKET** and must be presented if you win, so keep it in a safe place. You will not receive any physical tickets.

C.W.L. Membership Dues ...

Please look for the blue envelope for 2022 membership fees in your December envelopes. All councils have been asked to submit membership renewals as of December 31st each year. This will help National office have an accurate snapshot of our membership at Parish, Diocesan, Provincial and National levels. It will also ensure that The League Magazine will continue to be sent to you, uninterrupted. New members are always welcome.



AN UPDATE FROM...

St. Mark's Society of St. Vincent de Paul

It's been well over a year since we have been able to provide families in need with food hampers from the portable at St. Mark's. Various groups have worked together to provide other distribution options during this difficult period.

Recently, we joined with the Food Bank and used the majority of our remaining funds to support the 'Christmas Bureau' in Waterloo Region. During the Christmas season this project will provide families in our community with gifts for their children and food for a Holiday meal.

As we move beyond the Christmas Season, we do not know if or when we will get back to providing food hampers from our portable as we had in the past. But we do know many families continue to need our help.

As in the past, you will find blue SVDP envelopes in your offertory box in the months of November and March. If you are able to provide any financial support it is greatly appreciated. Please know that your generosity will continue to be used in some way to support those in our community who need our assistance the most. Thank you for your continued support.



528 Victoria St. N., beside Weston's Bakery
519-745-6136

Call
1-800-268-2637
for this space

J **Jane Petrovich**
B.Sc. M.Sc. B.Ed. OCT
Professional
Online
Tutoring Services
All Grades: JK-12
All subjects & including Special
Education & Essay/Report Writing
226-220-7993

 **2M Taylor**
Alterations & Tailoring
for men, women & children
Custom Tailoring
519.578.6054
milicabojo@hotmail.com



Shopping Locally Saves Gas!

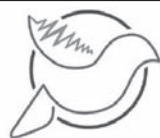

BON APATREAT
SWEETS BAKE SHOP
Open 7 days a week!
Come by for a treat or
call to place your order
450 Westheights Dr
519-497-3351
www.BonApatreat.shop

We ♥ our Residents
Lanark Village

**We're Here for You
Through Everything**

Independent & Assisted Living.
Call us today for an in-person
or virtual tour.

44 Lanark Cres. ♥
519-743-0121



**DISCOVER HEARING
CENTRE**

Call us Today to Schedule a
FREE Hearing Test
519-208-HEAR (4327)

Why Does
Everyone Always
Mumble?

- Hearing Testing
- Tinnitus Management
- Earwax Removal
- Hearing Aid Trials
- Hearing Aid Repair
- Custom Protection

Independently Owned! Address: Unit 9-450 Westheights Dr.



Order Online
Pickup Or Delivery
Everyday 8am-9pm
Breakfast Special
\$3.95
8am-2pm

875 Highland Rd W
519-208-2999
www.halibuthouse.ca

ERB & GOOD

FAMILY FUNERAL HOME
Family Owned Since 1946
171 King St. S. Waterloo
519.745.8445
www.erbgood.com

Remember...

Let our advertisers know
you saw their ad here.



**Shop LOCAL • Spend LOCAL
Eat LOCAL • Enjoy LOCAL**

*and support the local businesses
that support your parish*

 **Henry Walser**
FUNERAL HOME LTD.

AN INDEPENDENT FAMILY -
OWNED FUNERAL HOME

507 FREDERICK ST. (at expressway)
519-749-8467



REITZEL HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

665 Superior Drive, Waterloo, Ont N2V 2C8 **519-884-3510**

- Commercial
- Industrial
- Residential
- Radiant Heaters
- Gas Furnaces
- Air Conditioning