

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions for the Week



December 14 – 20, 2020

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, Dec. 16 (FERIAL)

12 noon + Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Dec. 19/20

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16; Romans 26:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Sat. 5:00 PM + Harry Singleton – *Flood Family*

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

11:30 am + Francis Xavier Zapanta Leonidas – *Baxter family*

EXTRA CONFESSION TIMES DURING ADVENT

Wednesday, Dec. 16 1:00 – 1:30 PM
7:00 – 7:30 PM

Wednesday, Dec. 23 1:00 – 1:30 PM

Meetings This Week:

Mon. Dec. 14 8:00 pm Hall Alcoholics Anonymous

2021 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

will be available in the narthex later this month.

Please do not use your new envelopes until January.

Donations toward Christmas Flowers for the Church

Please use a plain envelope from home (not an offertory envelope). Write the names of your deceased loved ones on the back of the envelope, or include them inside with your donation. Then drop the envelope in the gift box on the table in the narthex. All names will be included on a special insert in the Christmas bulletin (online), and Mass on Christmas morning will be celebrated for the Repose of their Souls.




This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand. ■



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE
6:00 PM ♦ 8:00 PM ♦ 10:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY
9:30 AM ♦ 11:30 AM

**All parishioners are encouraged to
RESERVE SEATS**
by emailing Pam at stmark@rogers.com.
Please include your name, preferred Mass time,
and number of seats required.

THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please call or email to schedule a visit: 519-571-9200 / stmark@rogers.com

SOME IMPORTANT REMINDERS ABOUT COVID-19 PANDEMIC PROTOCOLS:

- Wearing of masks is MANDATORY.** If you have a legitimate medical reason for not wearing a mask, there is a designated area that you must sit in. The Bishop has granted all pastors the right to request medical documentation if they so choose.
“Those who are unable to wear a mask because of a legitimate, underlying medical condition which inhibits their ability to wear a mask, are to be admitted to the church, and are to be seated in a designated area at least four metres away from others. They may not come forward to receive Communion with others; the priest or extraordinary minister will bring them Communion where they are seated.” [From Bishop Crosby’s Oct. 7th letter – read the Bishop’s full letter [here](#).]
- COMMUNION WILL ONLY BE DISTRIBUTED IN THE HAND.** Communicants may NOT receive on the tongue until further notice. This is for the protection of everyone: you, the minister of communion, and all the people behind you in line.
- HOW BEST TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION:**
 The new protocols are that you must keep your mask on as you receive communion in the hand. Then step aside, remove your mask, consume the host, replace your mask and return to your seat. Please watch this video to see the procedure in practice: [VIDEO](#)
- LEAVING AT THE END OF MASS:** When Mass is over, kindly remain in your seats until Father has made his way to the narthex. Those sitting in the back pews should leave the church first, and people at the front should leave last. Thank you for helping us to maintain social distancing for everyone.

For much of the Church’s history, this Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, has a special name: “*Gaudete*” Sunday.



The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. “Gaudete Sunday” was the Advent counterpart to “Laetare Sunday,” which marks the midpoint in Lent.

On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, “The Lord is coming.” But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, “The Lord is near.” This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation. Liturgically, the colors lighten as well, and on this day, the third colour of the Advent wreath, which is pink or rose colored, is lit.

The word “Gaudete” is Latin for “Rejoice.” In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy. Today’s second reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, reflects this joy:“

*Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always.
 Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks,
 for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”*

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

This week let us pray for...

DEC. 14	DEC. 15	DEC. 16	DEC. 17	DEC. 18	DEC. 19
Rev. Godwin Pinto, O.C.D.	Rev. Ronald Hodara	Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (C.Ss.R.)	Rev. Edward Henhoeffer	Rev. John Schnurr	Rev. Jacek Kryn, S.A.C.

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.

Are you troubled? Do you need spiritual support?

**The Sisters of the Carmel of Saint Joseph
 will pray for you during the
 NOVENA TO INFANT JESUS
 December 16th to December 25th, 2020**

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

Advent Liturgy of the Word

This past Thursday, the Diocese of Hamilton hosted an online Advent Liturgy of the Word, with the themes being Light and Annunciation. **This event was recorded and is now available on the Diocesan website: www.hamiltondiocese.com.**

The Very Reverend Monsignor Murray J. Kroetsch, Vicar General of our Diocese, was presider and there was music as well as contributions by different parishes in the Diocese during the Liturgy of the Word.

Journey through Advent

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), has a new **online weekly video series** created to help Canadian Catholic faithful to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Entitled *Journey through Advent*, the series serves as an introduction to the liturgical Season and present reflections on the Gospel readings for each Sunday in Advent. The Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., Bishop of Hamilton and the Most Reverend Pierre Goudreault, Bishop of Saint-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, provide spiritual and pastoral guidance on the readings that illustrate the true meaning of Christmas.

[Access this video series on the Diocesan website here.](#)



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