

# 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:** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 10 AM  
**Benediction:** 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>  
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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.*

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Mass Intentions for the Week

**Dec. 18 – 25, 2017**

**Monday - \* NO MASS** (FERIAL)

**Tuesday** (FERIAL)

**2:00 PM - Mass at Lanark Heights Long Term Care**

**\* NO EVENING MASS**

**Wednesday** (FERIAL)

**7:00 am + Graham Brownell – Katherine & Garry Cox**

**10:00 am - Advent Mass with St. Dominic's School**

**Thursday** (FERIAL)

**7:00 am + Joseph Dias – Agnelo & Dolorosa Dias**

**2:00 PM - Mass at Bankside Terrace**

**Friday** (FERIAL)

**7:00 am + Holy Souls in Purgatory – Leonor Fonseca**

**Saturday** (FERIAL)

**9:00 am - Int. of Mike Devine – Annette Hauck**

**\* FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Dec. 23/24)**

*2 Sam. 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom. 16:25-27; Lk. 1:26-38*

**Sat. 5:00 PM** - Int. of Gail O'Riley – *St. Vincent de Paul Society*

**Sun. 10:00 am** - Int. of the Parishioners of St. Mark's

**\* SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve)**

**6:00 PM + Robert Brydon – Arnie & Elaine Vandenhoff**

**11:00 PM + James Hansen – Bernard & the Burkholder family**



**Monday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Day)**

**10:00 am + All those in whose memory donations were made toward Christmas Flowers**

**\* Next weekend includes 2 Holy Days of Obligation...**

Please remember that the 4th Sunday of Advent and the Feast of Christmas (which, this year, happen to fall on the same weekend) are separate holy days of obligation, meaning that one cannot fulfill both obligations simultaneously at one Mass: *“When consecutive obligations occur on Saturday-Sunday or Sunday-Monday, the faithful must attend Mass twice to fulfill two separate obligations ... It would be hoped, of course, that Catholics foster a love for the sacred liturgy and hold a desire to celebrate the holy days as fully as is reasonably possible.”* (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship)

**Offertory Collection Dec. 9/10, 2017**

Sunday envelopes.....	\$ 2,131.88
Sunday loose .....	\$516.25
Sunday pre-authorized debits (MONTHLY AMOUNT x12÷52) .....	\$ 1,223.77
<b>TOTAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS .....</b>	<b>\$ 3,871.90</b>
Mortgage envelopes.....	\$ 535.00
Mortgage pre-authorized debits (MONTHLY AMOUNT x12÷52) .....	\$ 264.12
<b>TOTAL MORTGAGE OFFERINGS .....</b>	<b>\$ 799.12</b>

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**2017 Income Tax Receipts for Church Offerings**

REMINDER: Any offerings that you wish to have included on your 2017 tax receipt must be received by the office **no later than 12 noon on Thur. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>**. Donations received after this date must be put towards your 2018 Tax Receipt. Thank you.

**Meetings & Events This Week:**

DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
<b>Mon. Dec. 18</b>	7:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
<b>Tue. Dec. 19</b>	7:00 pm	(M)	11:30 choir practice
<b>Wed. Dec. 20</b>	7:15 pm	(CH)	9:30 choir practice
	7:30 pm	(B)	Women's Prayer Group
<b>Thur. Dec. 21</b>	6:15 pm	(M)	Legion of Mary
	7:30 pm	(CH)	5:00 Choir practice
<b>Fri. Dec. 22</b>	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

**The Third Sunday of Advent** is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning “rejoice.” This Sunday is so named because “Rejoice” is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today’s Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.” Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near as we more readily prepare for Christmas.

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.

**Wanted: Adult Funeral Servers**

St. Mark’s would like to form a team of adult altar servers who are usually free during the day (*e.g. those who are retired or working only part-time*) who could be called upon with a day or two’s notice to serve for funerals in the church. Training will be provided. If you are interested, please leave your name and phone number at the parish office, 519-571-9200 or stmark@rogers.com.





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. 23 & 24	Sat. 5:00PM	Sun. 10:00 AM
Altar Servers:	B./C. Morgan	T./T. Morgan
Commentator:	M. Dufresne	J. Germann
Lector:	K. Friesen	D. Bristol
Ushers:	L. Macedo R. Phillips	B. Coutinho J./K. Snyder
Gift Bearers:	Montag	Cerantola
Eucharistic Ministers:	K. Smith L. Macedo C. Dokis	G./T. MacNeil L. McCullough

Donations to purchase Christmas Flowers for the Church may be placed in the container on the table 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 (10am) will be celebrated for the Repose of their Souls.



**C.W.L. News**

“Keep Christ in Christmas” CAR MAGNETS Available in the narthex after Mass – for \$5 each



**Dec. 16/17** – Annual C.W.L. Membership Drive

**There will be no General Meeting in December**, so we look forward to seeing you in the New Year at the **Potluck on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

Join us during our **weekly Chapel Hour** on Sundays from 4-5 p.m.

**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.

**New Living With Christ Sunday Missals for 2018**

Still available for purchase in the narthex - \$5 each

CELEBRATE *the* SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

**Advent Penitential Services**

- Mon. Dec. 18 7:00 pm St. Anne's Church, Kitchener
- Tue. Dec. 19 7:00 pm St. Teresa of Avila Church, Elmira
- 7:00 pm Blessed Sacrament, Kitchener

Last opportunity for individual confession before Christmas at St. Mark's: Saturday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Chapel at 9:30 a.m. or 4:15 p.m.

❄ **Bulletin Submission Deadline for New Year's**

The Christmas bulletin has already gone to print. If you wish to include something in the New Year's bulletin, copy must be emailed to Pam no later than Mon. Dec. 18 (tomorrow!). Thanks!



A special thank you to **Benjamin Tree Farm** for the donation of a freshly cut Christmas tree, coordinated by the kindergarten class at St. Mark's School. We are grateful for the extra embellishment to our newly located Nativity scene by the main entrance to the church.

*O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
how sturdy God hath made thee!*

**Christmas Tree Blessing**

This prayer may be used to bless your Christmas Tree at home:

*God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.*

*R. Amen.*

PARISH OFFICE – HOLIDAY HOURS	
Mon. Dec. 25:	<b>CLOSED</b> for Christmas
Tue. Dec. 26:	<b>CLOSED</b> for Boxing Day
Dec. 27, 28, 29:	Open until 12 noon
Mon. Jan. 1:	<b>CLOSED</b> for New Year's
Jan. 2, 3, 4, 5:	Open until 12 noon

**ADVENT  
O ANTIPHONS**

The O Antiphons refer to the seven antiphons that are recited (or chanted) preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, Dec. 17-23, with Dec. 24 being Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening being for the Christmas Vigil.

The importance of O Antiphons is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), *O Adonai* (O Lord), *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun), *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), and *O Emmanuel*. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

- December 17* ~ O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!
- December 18* ~ O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!
- December 19* ~ O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!
- December 20* ~ O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!
- December 21* ~ O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.
- December 22* ~ O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!
- December 23* ~ O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!



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