

# St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish

55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3A2 • 519-571-9200 • [www.stmarkcatholicparish.org](http://www.stmarkcatholicparish.org)

## PARISH STAFF

Rev. Roque Concepcion – *Pastor* ([stmark.kitchener@gmail.com](mailto:stmark.kitchener@gmail.com))

Rev. Mr. Philip Fernandez – *Deacon*

Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Parish Secretary* ([stmark@rogers.com](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Mass Intentions for the Week

December 18 – 24, 2023

#### Tuesday (FERIAL)

**12 Noon** - Int. of Pat Dankowsky – Marilyn Dufresne

#### Wednesday (FERIAL)

**12 Noon** † Joaquim Clemente – Leonor Fonseca  
† Stella Szpak – Ron & Kathy Bumstead  
† Chris Sellner – Marjorie Brezina

#### Thursday (FERIAL)

**12 Noon** † Antonio Claro – Ilda

#### Friday (FERIAL)

**12 Noon** † Marie Voisin – Brian & Marie Lynch

### 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 L & D. Dufresne – Marilyn  
- Int. of Yauder Family – Violeta Yauder  
† Pablo Del Monte – Aida Del Monte-Padoni & family

**Sun. 9:30 am** † Maria Campos – Campos family

**11:30 am** – Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark

### SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Dec. 24/25)

Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25

#### Christmas Eve – Sunday, Dec. 24

**6:00 PM** † George Brezina – Marjorie & Family  
**8:00 PM** – Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark  
**10:00 PM** † Irene Baptista – Nick & Julie Muza

#### Christmas Day – Monday, Dec. 25

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



### Meetings & Events This Week ...

DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
<b>Mon. Dec. 18</b>	6:30 pm	(CH)	11:30 Choir practice
	8:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
<b>Wed. Dec. 20</b>	6:00 pm	(J)	Baptism Preparation Meeting
	6:15 pm	(CH)	9:30 Choir practice
<b>Thu. Dec. 21</b>	7:00 pm	(CH)	5pm Choir practice
<b>Sat. Dec. 23</b>	7:15 am	(H)	That Man Is You! Men's Group
<b>MEETING ROOMS:</b> B - Basement CH - Church H - Hall J - St. John Room L - St. Luke Boardroom M - St. Matthew Room			

The **Third Sunday of Advent** offers us more of the promise. The words used by the prophet Isaiah to describe God's vindication are the ones Jesus points to as describing his own mission: "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God."

~ 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](mailto:stmarkalpha@gmail.com).

### Christmas Toy Drive – FINAL WEEK

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.

### 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
<b>Dec. 19</b>	7 pm	St. Anne
<b>Dec. 20</b>	8 to 8	St. Michael's, Waterloo
<b>Dec. 20</b>	7 pm	St. Anthony Daniel
<b>Dec. 22</b>	11 am	St. Mary's
<b>Dec. 22</b>	7 pm	Blessed Sacrament

### Weekly Offertory Report

The report for December 9/10, 2023  
was not available at time of printing.

### Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sundays at the 9:30 a.m. Mass  
for children in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3.



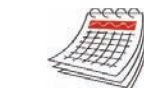
**LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!**  
*The Sanctuary Lamps burn this week for:*  
**A Private Intention**




### Diocesan Prayer Calendar ✕ This week let us pray for...

Dec. 18	Dec. 19	Dec. 20	Dec. 21	Dec. 22	Dec. 23
Rev. Msgr. Theodore Slaman	Single Catholics	Voluntas Dei Institute (i.v.Dei.)	Rev. Gabriel Morais Catarino	Rev. Ronald Hodara	Rev. Donald Wilhelm

**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.





DEC. 23-24	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
<b>Altar Servers:</b>	J./P./V. Miller S. Silva	E. Burkholder A. Jacobs, J. Taer	J./K. Palafox T. John
<b>Commentator:</b>	A. Fernandez	J. Flanigan	B. Prila
<b>Readers:</b>	D. Behl	J. Deneau	N. Ngo
<b>Ushers:</b>	B. Benner P. Smith	J./K. Snyder	M. Feick J. Vu
<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	H. Psutka C. Weber	T. Lee A. Joseph	B./C. Voisin
 Liturgical ministers are asked to please sign-up in the narthex for Christmas & New Year's Masses. Thank you!			

### ❄ Bulletin Submission Deadlines for the Holidays:

The Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> bulletin has already gone to print. To make a submission for the Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> bulletin, please have copy emailed to the parish office by Mon. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> (tomorrow!). Many thanks!



## Mass for New Year's

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
(SUNDAY, DEC. 31)  
5:00 PM

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
(MONDAY, JANUARY 1)  
10:00 AM

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES across the Diocese

Last year the Diocese of Hamilton launched a 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>

### VOCATION SEEDS - Third Sunday of Advent

There was a man named John, sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is it possible God could be calling your name to witness to the Light of Christ in our day?

*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](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com) | [www.hamiltondiocese.com/vocations](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com/vocations).

### 2024 Offertory Envelopes & Pre-Authorized Debit Offertory Boxes for 2024 have not yet arrived, but will be available soon.

If you would like to start using envelopes, please fill out a parish registration form. To enroll in the monthly debit plan please pick up a Pre-Authorized Giving form, or contact Pam at the office to have one emailed to you. Both forms can be found on the information wall in the narthex.

**\*\*Those who use our pre-authorized debit plan will still receive a box of envelopes in order to donate toward special causes (Christmas, Good Friday, World Missions, St. Vincent de Paul, etc.). Please be sure to pick up your box when it is ready.**



### Newly Baptized

With joyful hearts St. Mark's Parish congratulates and welcomes into the Roman Catholic Church these newly baptized children of God:

**Jayden, Kristina and Adam**

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

Nominations are open until 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



### 2024 Sacramental Preparation Sessions

#### FIRST COMMUNION

**Preparation Sessions:**

WEDNESDAYS at 5:45 PM

January 17,  
February 7, February 28  
March 20, April 10

#### Celebration of the Sacrament:

**Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 2 pm**  
with St. Dominic students

**Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 2 pm**  
with St. Mark students

#### CONFIRMATION

**Preparation Sessions:**

SUNDAYS at 1:00 PM

February 25  
March 24  
April 21

#### Celebration of the Sacrament:

**Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 7 pm**  
with St. Mark students

**\*\*Friday, May 31, 2024 at 7 pm**  
with St. Dominic students

**If you missed the Enrollment Mass and have not yet submitted your child's enrollment form to begin the preparation process, please contact the parish office before the end of December.**

**\*\*St. Dominic students please note: There has been a date change for Confirmation – originally scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>, the date is now May 31<sup>st</sup>, as noted above.**





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