

St. Mark Catholic Parish

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

PASTOR: Fr. Don Sanvido
DEACON: 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
Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. at 7:00 AM
Tuesday at 7:00 PM
Saturday at 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS
Saturday 9:30–10:30 AM & 3:45–4:45 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
Divine Mercy: Fridays 3:00 PM
Our Lady's Rosary: 1st Saturday at 10:00 AM
Benediction: 1st 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 2nd 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 one month in advance. You will then be contacted by a member of the Baptism team.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD
October through May at the 11:30 AM Mass.
Two separate drop-in programs for K-1 & Gr. 2-3. No need to register.

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 1st Friday of the month. Please call the office to schedule a visit.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING:
Instructions by appointment. Call 519-742-3979 or nfp@golden.net.

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.

Mass cards are available at the parish office during office hours, or you can find them already signed in the church lobby and in the adoration chapel.

If you prefer to make arrangements in person, you may do so during office hours, or over the phone. There is no charge for Mass intentions. The Bishop suggests an offering of \$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

☐ 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 Number: _____

We will attempt to contact you by phone if we are unable to accommodate your request.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship This Week

Dec. 19 – 25, 2016

Monday

7:00 am - Int. of the Stoltz Family

Tuesday

★ 7:00 am - Int. of Brian Flood – *Flood family*

7:00 PM - **Advent Penitential Service** (with several priests)

Wednesday

7:00 am - Int. of Brendan Flood – *Flood family*

Thursday

7:00 am - Int. of Fr. Bill Trusz

Friday

7:00 am - Int. of Fr. Don Sanvido

★ **No Saturday morning Mass or Confessions**

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Saturday, Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve)

5:00 PM + Veronica & Alfred Broderick – *Gloria Kubisewsky*

8:00 PM - Int. of Fr. Lee, Dan Cyr and Fr. Kuzma

12 Midnight - Int. of all the sick and homebound of our parish

Sunday, Dec. 25th (Christmas Day)

9:30 am + Dalton & Seaward Families – *Frank & Beth Seaward*

11:30 am - Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark's



Offertory Collections

Dec. 10/11, 2016

Sunday envelopes.....	\$ 5,041.25
Sunday pre-authorized debits (MONTHLY AMOUNT x12÷52).....	\$ 1,298.65
Loose monies	\$ 280.85
TOTAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS	\$ 6,620.75

Mortgage envelopes.....	\$ 740.00
Sunday pre-authorized debits (MONTHLY AMOUNT x12÷52).....	\$ 256.15
TOTAL MORTGAGE OFFERINGS	\$ 996.15

Thank you for your generosity!

2016 Income Tax Receipts for Church Offerings

An annual reminder that you must have 2016 Offerings to the church **no later than 12 noon on Thur. Dec. 29th** if you wish it to be reflected in your 2016 Tax Receipt. Donations received after this date will be put towards your 2017 Tax Receipt. Thank you.

PARISH OFFICE – HOLIDAY HOURS

Fri. Dec. 23: Open until 12 noon

Mon. Dec. 26: **CLOSED** (in lieu of Dec. 25)

Tues. Dec. 27: **CLOSED** (in lieu of Dec. 26)

Dec. 28, 29, 30: Open until 12 noon

Mon. Jan. 2: **CLOSED** (in lieu of Jan. 1)

Jan. 3, 4, 5, 6: Open until 12 noon

✱ Bulletin Submission Deadline for Jan. 1st

Anyone wanting to submit an item for the January 1st bulletin must have it to the office via email no later than **Mon. Dec. 19th at noon**. The Dec. 25th Christmas bulletin has already gone to print.

LITURGICAL ROLES

Christmas Ministry Sign-Up... All **altar servers, readers, ushers, gift bearers** and **Eucharistic ministers** are asked to please consider signing up for Christmas and/or New Year's Masses as you are available. Sheets are posted on the courtyard window in the narthex. Thanks to all who have signed up so far.

USHERS NEEDED: The 5:00 and 11:30 Masses are short on ushers. If you would like to join the rotation, please contact Colm Dignam at 519-570-3973 or email the parish office at stmark@rogers.com.

COMMENTATORS NEEDED: If you would like to commentate at the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass on any of the following dates, please email Pam at stmark@rogers.com (or call the office): Mar. 11, Apr. 1, Apr. 29, May 20, June 10, July 1. The Commentator's role includes an opening greeting, announcing the hymns, and reading the final announcements at the end of Mass.

Looking for more Altar Servers

Any interested children in Grade 3 or up who have received their First Holy Communion are eligible to serve at the altar. It is a wonderful experience, and a beautiful service to the Lord. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please pick up a "New Altar Server" sign-up form from the information wall in the lobby, fill it out and drop it in the collection basket during Mass.



★ **There will be a Training Session for all NEW and CURRENT Altar Servers** (to go over a couple of new things) on **Friday, January 6th** at 5:00 p.m., then, from 6:00 to 8:30 you are invited to stay for Pizza and a Movie. **Please sign up for the training/pizza night on the sheet posted on the Altar Servers' closet in the sacristy, or, email Pam at the office** (stmark@rogers.com) to let us know you're coming.

Advent Penitential Service

Tuesday, Dec. 20th at 7:00 p.m. followed by individual confessions with 6 priests available in the church.

Extra Confession Times Before Christmas (IN THE CHAPEL)

Wed. Dec. 21: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Thur. Dec. 22: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Fri. Dec. 23: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

NO CONFESSIONS ON SATURDAY (CHRISTMAS EVE)

Christmas Carolling

St. Mark's Young Catholic Adults invites friends of all ages to join them for an evening of Advent/Christmas music and Gospel readings to prepare for the celebration of Christmas! **Friday, December 16th from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. in the Church.** Come and sing, or simply enjoy listening to a selection of favourite hymns and carols anticipating and celebrating the birth of Christ. Bring a friend and take a break from the hustle and bustle of the season. We hope to see you there. *Anyone interested in assisting with music ministry is invited to contact the coordinators at stmarksyoungcatholicadults@gmail.com or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/StMarksYoungCatholicAdults](https://www.facebook.com/StMarksYoungCatholicAdults).*

New Saint Joseph Sunday Missals for 2017

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



Children's Christmas Mass

Attention all children of the parish! We will be having a special Children's Mass on Christmas Day. The children of St. Mark's will participate in every aspect of our Holy Mass – from readings, to ushering, to commentating, to bearing gifts and more. We would love to see as many children as possible participating in this great celebration of Jesus' birth. Our Children's Mass will be on **Sunday, December 25th at 9:30 a.m.** Please see the blackboard at the back of the church to sign up, or call Jessica Heine at 519-496-2328. **Practice is this Friday, Dec. 23rd at 5pm.**

The Daily TV Mass

Now available Monday-Saturday,
anytime from anyplace.



Take a moment to visit their new website at www.dailytvmass.com to watch the Daily TV Mass and to find out more about how to stay connected with our faith. Please feel free to call the NCBC (National Catholic Broadcasting Council) at 1-888-383-6277 for more info.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Thank you to everyone who packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We delivered an **AMAZING** 200 boxes to the Processing Centre in Kitchener! Boxes will be going to needy children in several corners of the world including Senegal, Haiti and the Ukraine.



LONGEST NIGHT PRAYER SERVICE

If Christmas is a sad time for you because you of the loss of a loved one, please consider attending this ecumenical service, **Wed. Dec. 21st at 7:00pm at St. Francis of Assisi Parish**, Kitchener. This will be an evening of prayerful reflection in solidarity with all who have gone home to Jesus and those who grieve their loss. A reception will follow. If you have any questions please call 519-745-7301.

LAUDATO SI' IS A CALL TO CONVERSION

Come and spend an evening exploring Pope Francis' encyclical on The Environment and Human Ecology with Fr. Tom Rosica, CSB, CEO of Salth and Light Television. "Past popes have written on the importance of protecting the environment, but [Laudato Si'] is a major piece of work, and an ardent call from one of our world's major leaders for us to work together to address this existential problem. ... To use religious language, what the Pope is calling for is conversion." (Fr. Tom Rosica, CSB) Join us **Wed. Jan. 11th at 7pm**, St. Francis of Assisi Church, 49 Blueridge Ave. Kitchener. Sponsored by the Catholic Women's League.



Come join some 2000 other high school youth at **Canada's largest Catholic youth conference!** An amazing weekend to encounter Jesus and your Catholic faith in a whole new way; a time full of fun, music, and inspiring talks. Open to all youth completing grades 8-12. **July 28-30, 2017**, Cost: \$300/youth (pre-fundraising). For more info please visit: www.steubenvilletoronto.com or contact Jonathan Reitzel, Seminararian for Hamilton Diocese at j.reitzel@outlook.com. **Registrations forms will be available Dec. 18th.** Anyone 21+ who would be interested in being chaperones for this conference, please contact Jonathan.

C.W.L. Corner

As the 2-year term of your current executive comes to a close, it is time to consider who should lead our council for the next 2 years. If you know someone who would be an enthusiastic and committed member of a like-minded group of ladies please consider submitting a 'no-obligation' nomination! Maybe that someone is YOU ... It is perfectly acceptable to nominate yourself! Our council needs ladies to answer the call to serve and bring their experiences and talents to the group. Please take a nomination form from the C.W.L. table in the narthex with position descriptions attached. Think and pray about your nominations and drop the completed form in the nominations box on the table on or before Dec 31st.



"Keep Christ in Christmas" CAR MAGNETS

These popular items are being sold after Mass for \$5 each. Come visit our C.W.L. today in the Narthex. Don't delay ... the magnets went very quickly last year.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT – Mags, a 3-time Canadian Gospel Music Association nominee, invites you to join her for an evening of Christmas Joy, **Tuesday, Dec. 20th at 7 p.m.** at **Hope Fellowship**, 25 Benjamin Rd, Waterloo (2nd floor of the outlet mall). Admission \$10.

EMBRACING THE WISDOM OF MONKS & MYSTICS

A Senior Adult Workshop Series, 6 Wednesday afternoons, **starting Jan. 11th from 1:30- 3:30pm** at the **Chancery Office**, 700 King St. W., Hamilton. This 6-part workshop/study session will explore the lives of twelve great monks and mystics from the Christian tradition in new and creative ways. This course will be facilitated by Sr. Mary Heather MacKinnon, S.S.N.D. Cost \$35 includes the text, *Illuminating the Way*, by Christine Valters-Paintner. **Please register by Dec. 22nd.** For more information contact Monica at mverin@hamiltondiocese.com or 905-528-7988 ext. 2238 or visit www.hamiltondiocese.com.

STOP CENSORSHIP TOUR sponsored by K-W Right to Life

Saturday, January 14th. *Why Abortion Statistics Matter* featuring Mike Schouten from WeNeedaLaw.ca and John Sikkema, lawyer at ARPA Canada. **Knights of Columbus Centre**, 145 Dearborn Place Waterloo. Social at 4:30pm; Fish & Chip Dinner at 5:00pm (\$10); Speakers at 6:00pm with Silent Auction. All proceeds go the STOP CENSORSHIP Initiative. Call 519-746-5433 or email jane@kwrtl.ca to reserve your place or table.

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH – As a member of a couple it is important to decide which is more important to you: being right or being connected. When it comes to conflict, which exists in every relationship, it is important to see the other's view, decide where compromises are possible and together come up with a solution that works for both of you. With a "we" attitude in all you do, including conflict resolution, you can feel more deeply connected and content.

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH - Most parents want their children to be happy and thus spend a great deal of their energies trying to ensure this is the case for their children. A new study released by the World Leisure Journal suggests that it may be much simpler than we believe. A variety of leisure activities, including hiking, board games and visiting local tourist attractions, can be combined with time spent at home undertaking activities as a family. Being together produces feelings of satisfaction and happiness. Simple undertakings can be the best way to bond as a family and feel connected to each other. Combine activity with attending weekly Mass and praying together each day and your children will benefit in numerous ways!

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