

St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish

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

Solemnity of Christmas
the Nativity of the Lord



“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us ...”

JOHN 1:14

Mass Intentions for the Week

Dec. 19 – 25, 2022

- Tuesday** (FERIAL)
 12 Noon + Maria Campos – Campos family
- Wednesday** (FERIAL)
 12 Noon + Antonio Claro & family – Ilda
- Thursday** (FERIAL)
 12 Noon + Maria Silvestre – Joao
- Friday** (FERIAL)
 12 Noon + Ruth-Marie Braun – Marilyn Dufresne

SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

- Sat. 6:00 PM** + George Brezina – Marjorie
- 8:00 PM** + Terry Montag – Marjorie Brezina
- 10:00 PM** + Amelia Monte – Carlos & Altina Monte
- Sun. 9:30 am** + Repose of the souls in whose memory donations were made toward Christmas Flowers
- 11:30 am** – Int. of Parishioners of St. Mark



Matthew 1:18-24 • Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

On the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**, we read in **Matthew's Gospel** about Joseph and his decision to divorce the pregnant Mary. An angel comes to Joseph: "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her."

~ Used with permission by Online Ministries, Creighton University

Parish office will close at 12 noon on Friday, Dec. 23rd



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

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.

2023 Sacramental Preparation Sessions

FIRST COMMUNION

Preparation Sessions:

- WEDNESDAYS at 5:45 PM
 January 18,
 February 1, February 15
 March 8, March 29

Celebration of the Sacrament:

- Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 2 pm**
 with St. Dominic students
- Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 2 pm**
 with St. Mark students

CONFIRMATION

Preparation Sessions:

- SUNDAYS at 1:00 PM
 February 26
 March 26
 April 23

Celebration of the Sacrament:

- Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7 pm**
 with St. Dominic students
- Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 7 pm**
 with St. Mark students

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

HOW BIG IS GOD? A boy asked his father, "How big is God?" Then the father looked up to the sky and, seeing an airplane, asked the son, "What's the size of that airplane?" The boy answered, "It's very small. I can barely see it." So the father took his son to the airport, and as they approached an airplane, he asked, "And now, what is the size of this one?" The boy answered, "Wow, Daddy, this is huge!" Then the father told him: "God, is like this, His size depends on the distance between you and Him. The closer you are to Him, the greater He will be in your life!"
 How close are you to Him?



Christmas 2022

Peace!

The Nativity scene reminds us of the humility and the vulnerability of our Savior, who has stripped off His divinity and has immersed Himself in our human condition. He decisively desired to visit and live among us. But His contemporary's indifferent response to His generosity has brought Him to a stable because there was no room for Him. He was an unwelcome guest.



As we celebrate Christmas, let us open our hearts and homes for the Lord and give Him room to consecrate our family with the scent of His presence. If Christ is the center of our home and is not overshadowed by consumerism, we will certainly be graced with a meaningful Christmas celebration.

May you have a delightful Christmas with abundant blessings.

*United with you in prayers,
 Fr. Roque S. Concepcion
 Parish Priest*



Mass for New Year's

(OUR REGULAR WEEKEND SCHEDULE)

NEW YEAR'S EVE

(SATURDAY, DEC. 31)

5:00 PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY

(SUNDAY, JANUARY 1)

9:30 AM
 11:30 AM

Liturgical Ministers

Dec. 24-25	Christmas Eve – Saturday			Christmas Day – Sun.	
	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	10:00 pm	9:30 am	11:30 am
Commentator:	S. Rellinger			S. Benner	
Reader:	J. Deneau		J. Petrovich	V. DeVries	L. Gimenez
Ushers:	E. Miller P. Smith C. Weber	L. Koehler	_____	B. Benner V. Chen	_____
Eucharistic Ministers:	T. Boettger K. Boettger	A. Bendia	A. Joseph	M. Lynch P. Enticott	E. Weiss

Liturgical ministers are asked to please sign up in the narthex for Christmas & New Year's Masses – as you can see, we still have many spots to fill. Thank you! A new schedule will begin January 7th and will be sent out before the end of December.

Dec. 31 - Jan. 1	New Year's Eve		New Year's Day	
	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 9:30 am	Sun. 11:30 am	
Commentator:	M. Dufresne	T. Lee		
Reader:	T. Lee			I. Kangaloo
Ushers:	E. Miller P. Smith	_____	_____	_____
Eucharistic Ministers:	C. Weber	_____	_____	_____

Christmas Flowers for the Church

Last chance 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 SERVICES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH
Dec. 18	3:00 pm	Sacred Heart, Kitchener
Dec. 20	8 to 8	St. Michael, Waterloo
Dec. 21	7:00 pm	St. Anthony Daniel, Kitchener
Dec. 22	7:00 pm	Blessed Sacrament, Kitchener

2023 Offertory Envelopes & Pre-Authorized Debits

ENVELOPES: A reminder – Please **DO NOT** use your 2023 envelopes in 2022, and vice versa. Your I.D. number is different every year, and is only linked to you for that specific year. Please discard any unused 2022 envelopes in the New Year.

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.). Please pick up your box in the lobby.

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.

C.W.L. News...

Our Membership Drive continues! Do you wish you were part of a group that fed mind, body and soul? Do you yearn for a way to 'right' some of the 'wrongs' in today's world? All that and so much more awaits for only \$40 with a membership in the St Mark Catholic Women's League! Gift memberships are also available for a special woman in your life. For more info, please contact Sue Sawchuk, Organization Chair at 519-277-1898 or email stmarkcwl@gmail.com.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) (AND CATHOLIC FAITH REFRESHER COURSE)

RCIA is a program and faith journey for Adult Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion. We meet on **Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the St. John Room**. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, please fill out an RCIA form in the foyer or call Fr. Roque at 519-571-9200 for more details. This is also open to anyone who would like to have a refresher course on the Catholic Faith – **all are welcome!**

✪ Bulletin Submission Deadlines for the holidays:

The Dec. 25th bulletin has already gone to print. If you wish to include something in the Jan. 1st bulletin, you must email it to the parish office no later than Mon. Dec. 19 (that's tomorrow!). Thank you!

Christmas Toy Drive

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!



COMING SOON: ALPHA 2023

Alpha is back! This 11-week program brings people together for conversations about life, faith and Jesus, helping to answer questions like: Who is Jesus? Why and how do I pray? Does God heal today? More information to come. In the meantime, tell your friends and mark your calendar: **Thursday evenings, February 16 to April 27** from 6:45 to 9:15 p.m.

BIBLE STUDY... Fridays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the St. John Room -- All are welcome! Please bring your bible and paper and pen. Questions? Please contact Karen at bkkriagner@rogers.com.

Winter Clothing Drive ... The Knights are also collecting winter coats, hats, mitts, scarves for the Salvation Army to distribute to those in need. Donations of gently used items can be placed in the bin in the narthex.



Evenings with His Excellency – Auxiliary Bishop Wayne Lobsinger invites everyone to join him for an opportunity to learn more about our Catholic Faith based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Class is the **2nd Friday of each month** from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Ann Parish in Ancaster. **It is also available ONLINE on St. Ann's YouTube channel.** No cost, no homework, just an opportunity to learn about our faith. All are welcome.

MASKING / FACE COVERING: Please note that Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health is strongly recommending that Ontarians wear masks in indoor areas of public settings during the current surge in viral illnesses. While there is no mask mandate in the province at this time, we kindly ask everyone to please be considerate of everyone's personal choice.



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