

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. Basil Markides – *Deacon*
Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Secretary*

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday at 5:00 PM
Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 7:00 PM
Wed., Thur., Fri. 7:00 AM *
Saturday 9:00 AM
(*First Friday 7:00 PM followed by Benediction)

CONFESSIONS

Saturday following 9:00 AM Mass
and 4:15–4:30 PM or by appointment.

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION CHAPEL

Perpetual Adoration – Spots available,
see chapel bulletin board
Divine Mercy – Fridays 3:00 PM
Our Lady's Rosary – First Saturday at 10 AM

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 – 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 Mass.

If you require a Mass card please make your request in person at the parish office during business hours, or call the office to make pick-up arrangements.

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 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:

☐ 7:00 AM on any weekday ☐ 5:00 PM on any Saturday

☐ 7:00 PM on any Tuesday ☐ 9:30 AM on any Sunday

☐ 9:00 AM on any Saturday ☐ 11:30 AM on any 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 several months in advance.*

Requested by: _____

Daytime Phone # or email: _____

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

December 3 – 9, 2018

Monday - NO MASS

Tuesday (FERIAL)

7:00 PM - Int. of Eric Kubica - Rosemary

Wednesday (FERIAL)

7:00 am + Louise Murphy - John & Carmel Van Brussel

Thursday (FERIAL)

7:00 am + Souls in Purgatory - Fonseca family

Friday (FEAST - ST. AMBROSE)

*** 7:00 PM** + Amy Murphy - Family

Saturday (SOLEMNITY - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BL. V. MARY)

9:00 am + Con & Margaret Murrin

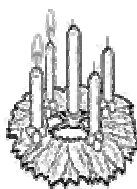
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6

Sat. 5:00 PM + Jack Soares - Maria

Sun. 9:30 am + Clairia Fuhrman - Donna Lienhardt

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



St. Nicholas – The great veneration with which St. Nicholas has been honored for many ages and the number of altars and churches all over the world that are dedicated in his memory are testimonials to his wonderful holiness and the glory he enjoys with God. As an episcopal see, and his childhood church falling vacant, the holy Nicholas was chosen bishop, and in that station became famous by his extraordinary piety and zeal and by his many astonishing miracles.

St. Ambrose (340-397) was born at Treves in Gaul, a territory which embraced modern France, Britain, Spain, and part of Africa. He studied in Rome and later became governor of Liguria and Aemelia with residence at Milan. While supervising the election of a new bishop of Milan in 374, he himself was suddenly acclaimed the bishop. He was only a catechumen at the time and was ordained a priest and consecrated a bishop on Dec. 7. He wrote much on the Scriptures and Fathers, preached a homily every Sunday, resisted the interference of the secular powers with the rights of the Church, opposed the heretics, and was instrumental in bringing about the conversion of St. Augustine. He composed many hymns, promoted sacred chant, and took a great interest in the Liturgy.

Immaculate Conception – In the Constitution Ineffabilis Deus of December 8, 1854, Pius IX pronounced and defined that the Blessed Virgin Mary "in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin."



Prayer to the Immaculate Conception

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.



We offer our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of **Bernie Burns**, husband of Caroline. "Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen."

Meetings & Events This Week:

DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
<u>Mon. Dec. 3</u>	8:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
<u>Tue. Dec. 4</u>	7:00 pm	(M)	11:30 Choir practice
<u>Wed. Dec. 5</u>	6:30 pm	(CH)	9:30 Choir practice
	7:00 pm	(B)	Women's Prayer Group
	7:15 pm	(M)	"The One Thing is Three" DVD series
<u>Thur. Dec. 6</u>	6:15 pm	(M)	Legion of Mary
	7:30 pm	(CH)	5:00 Choir practice
	7:00 pm	(CH)	C.W.L. Retreat with Deacon Basil
<u>Fri. Dec. 7</u>	6:00 am	(L)	Men's group
	7:00 pm	(L)	Writers' Group
<u>Sat. Dec. 8</u>	10:30 am	(L)	Writers' Group

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world. ■

Advent has a two-fold nature ... It prepares us for Christmas, when we recall Christ's first coming among us, and it is also a time when we look forward to his second coming at the end of the ages. Advent is a season of joyful expectation. During Advent, each Sunday's Gospel reading has a specific focus. The Old Testament readings, especially those taken from Isaiah, are prophecies about the Messiah and messianic times. The selections from the writings of the Apostles present exhortations and instructions on different themes of this season. In keeping with the penitential character of the season, the Church refrains from singing the Gloria during Mass until Christmas.



Ministers, please check your email for the Dec. schedule.

DEC. 8 - 9	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
Altar Servers:	V./P./J. Miller G./S. Morgan	E./T./T. Morgan	N./A. Gallagher R. Robin
Commentator:	J. Deneau	T. Boettger	M. Monte
Lectors:	K. Friesen	V. DeVries J. Flanigan	M. Oram B. Starr
Ushers:	L. Macedo I. Cimermancic	I./D. Culley B. Coutinho	C. Dignam
Gift Bearers:		Cerantola	Coe
Eucharistic Ministers:	C. Dokis K. Friesen G. MacNeil	H. Kress S. Sawchuk T./K. Boettger	C./K. Dignam I./F. Kangaloo

★ ANGEL TREE GIFTS DUE TODAY ★

Offertory Collection

Nov. 24/25, 2018

Sunday envelopes	\$ 2,123.40
Sunday pre-authorized debits (MONTHLY AMOUNTS x12÷52)	\$ 1,200.46
Loose monies	\$ 543.20
TOTAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS	\$ 3,867.06

Mortgage envelopes	\$ 252.00
Mortgage pre-authorized debits (MONTHLY AMOUNTS x12÷52)	\$ 254.88
TOTAL MORTGAGE OFFERINGS	\$ 506.88

Accessible Door Fund	\$ 250.00
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~ Thank you for your generosity ~

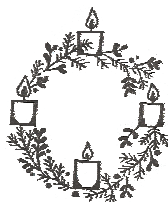
A BIG THANK YOU to our St. Mark parish family for your kind generosity. Last weekend's second collection amounted to a total of **\$3,746.05!** Thank you to all our parishioners for their gift donations for our Christmas hamper / gift program. Such wonderful responses allow St. Vincent de Paul to share your generosity with those in need of assistance this Christmas. May God's blessings be upon each family this Advent and Christmas season. - St. Mark's Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Origins of the Advent Wreath

In the middle ages, the Germanic peoples began incorporating a lighted wreath into the Christian season of Advent. It didn't gain widespread popularity until the 1800s and it wasn't until the 1900s that German immigrants brought the tradition to America.

The Advent Wreath is very symbolic. The evergreens used for the wreath itself are a reminder of continuous life. The shaping of them into a circle reinforces that meaning. The circle is also a sign of everlasting life as well as the eternity of God.

The four candles used, three purple and one pink, mark the Sundays of Advent before Christmas. The purple candles are reminders that this should be a time of prayer and penance as we prepare to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity. On the third Sunday, the pink candle is lit to announce *Gaudete* Sunday, a Sunday of rejoicing for Christ is coming near. The Advent Wreath serves as a powerful visual reminder of the holiness of the season. The light of the candles invites us to quiet ourselves during this busy time and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Whether at home or at Church, it provides an invitation to wait and pray in hopeful anticipation for the coming of Christ. We are called to welcome the light of Christ into our lives.



C.W.L. Corner



♦ **JOIN US!! for an Advent Mini-Retreat: Thursday, December 6th at 7 p.m. in the church.** Facilitated by Deacon Basil with a distinct *Marian perspective* as we think of Mary and her anticipation as she awaited the birth of Our Savior. We will begin with Benediction followed by recitation of the Rosary turning our minds and hearts to the Joyous Mysteries. After each decade Deacon Basil will lead discussion on the corresponding mystery suggesting points for meditation. Later there will be an opportunity to talk about our own relationship with the Blessed Mother, her role in our spiritual lives and her impact as a role model in our relationships with others.

♦ **Nominations for your 2019/2020 Executive Council open December 1st!** Please pick up nomination forms from the CWL mail slot on the wall in the Narthex or print as many copies as needed from the email sent to members the first week of December. Nominate as many ladies as you like, including yourself! Completed nomination forms can be dropped in the labelled slot in the large wood cabinet in the Narthex by Dec. 28th.

♦ **Next Mass for CWL Intentions:** Wed. Dec. 26th at 7:00 a.m.



6" Red Poinsettias

ON SALE FOR ONE WEEKEND ONLY

December 8 & 9 \$10 each (6-inch pot)
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

Parish Council Elections – 10 people have been nominated for Parish Council. **Ballot forms are now available in the narthex.** Please submit your choice of 4 people, no later than Sunday, December 16th. Thank you.

40th ANNUAL ADVENT NOVENA: **Dec. 7-15**

An Invitation to Prepare Well for Christmas

Nine daily Masses at 6:30AM at St. Agnes Church, Waterloo
Friday, Dec. 7th to Saturday, Dec. 15th.

(Note exception: On Sunday, Dec. 9th you are welcome to attend your OWN CHURCH (or St. Agnes at 9 AM or 11 AM.)

Make this Advent a special time of preparation for Christmas by joining your Twin-City friends who have been keeping this Advent tradition for many years. Bring along a friend! Everyone is welcome! Plenty of time to get to work or school afterwards! A free will offering will be taken for St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers. Daily coffee and fellowship after each Mass. Breakfast in the Parish Centre after Mass on Sat. Dec. 15 only.



Advent Reconciliation Services

(Multiple priests available for confession)



Mon. Dec. 3	7:30 pm	St Louis Church, Waterloo
Tue. Dec. 4	7:30 pm	St. Agnes Church, Waterloo
Wed. Dec. 5	7:30 pm	St. Michael's Church, Waterloo
Thur. Dec. 6	7:30 pm	Our Lady of Lourdes, Waterloo
Sun. Dec. 9	1:00 pm	St. Jerome's University, Waterloo
Thur. Dec. 13	7:00 pm	St. Mark's Church, Kitchener

Watch for more penitential service dates next week....

Our apologies for a mix up with last week's bulletin. An error occurred at the printing facility where approximately half of our bulletins were printed with the pages from another church on the inside, leaving us short last weekend. Please visit our website if you would like to read last week's bulletin.

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