

# St. Mark Catholic Parish

55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3A2

519-571-9200

[www.stmarkcatholicparish.org](http://www.stmarkcatholicparish.org)



*May the Blessings of this  
Holy Season be with you Always.*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### CONFESSIONS ~ Last opportunities before Christmas

**Mon. Dec. 21:** 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
**Tue. Dec. 22:** 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. and 7:45 – 8:45 p.m.  
**Wed. Dec. 23:** 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Also at St. Joseph's Parish on Dec. 22:** 9 a.m. – 12 noon & 1– 7 p.m.

### Worship This Week

Dec. 21 – 27, 2015

#### Monday, Dec. 21

7:00 am - Int. of Ron & Catherine Robinson – *Jeanne R.*

#### Tuesday, Dec. 22

7:00 pm - In Thanksgiving – *Arsha B. Joseph*

#### Wednesday, Dec. 23

7:00 am + Phyllis McCoy – *Mark & Eleanor Lawlor*

### SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

#### Thursday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve)

5:00 pm + Mikolaj Winnicki – *Helen Schell*

8:00 pm + Lorie Feeney – *Mark & Eleanor Lawlor*

12 Midnight - Int. of Peter & Sharon McFadden – *J./L. Deneau*

#### Friday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Day)

9:30 am + Ed Fecca – *Brian & Marie Lynch*

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

★ NO EVENING MASS



#### Saturday, Dec. 26 (FEAST – ST. STEPHEN)

★ NO MORNING MASS OR CONFESSIONS

#### Dec. 27/28 - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

*Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52*

**Sat. 5:00 pm** - Int. of the Parishioners of St. Mark's

**Sun. 9:30 am** + Joyce Blake – *Ron & Kathy Bumstead*

11:30 am + David Baggey – *the Baggey family*

### New Year's Mass Times

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE

Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

• 5:00 PM

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY

Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

• 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM

### Offertory Collections

**Dec. 12/13, 2015**

Sunday envelopes.....	\$ 4,787.00
Sunday pre-authorized debits (MONTHLY AMOUNTS x 12 ÷ 52).....	\$ 1,255.96
Loose monies .....	\$ 536.55
<b>TOTAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS.....</b>	<b>\$ 6,579.51</b>
Mortgage envelopes.....	\$ 220.00
Mortgage pre-authorized debits (MONTHLY AMOUNTS x 12 ÷ 52).....	\$ 294.23
<b>TOTAL MORTGAGE OFFERINGS.....</b>	<b>\$514.23</b>

*Thank you for your generosity!!*

### LITURGICAL ROLES

DEC. 26 & 27	Sat. 5:00PM	Sun. 9:30 AM	Sun. 11:30 AM
Altar Servers:	Z./J. Riddell	E. Chang R. Vezsenyi	A. Arruda C. Chacon
Commentator:	K. Friesen	P. Enticott	T. Boettger
Lector:	K. Smith	D. Bristol	R. Bonilla
Ushers:	L. Macedo R. Groothuis	B. Cutting B. Coutinho P. Drohan	B. Voisin M. Schimus
Gift Bearers:	Weber	Cerantola	DaSilva
Eucharistic Ministers	C. Dokis K./N. Higgins G./G. Jans K. Smith	P./B. Enticott M./L. Fernando S. Cerantola	C./K. Dignam R./P. Masbad B. Starr

All ministers are asked to sign up if you are available for Christmas or New Year's Masses. Sheets are posted on the blackboard in the narthex.

### Fr. Don's Christmas Message...

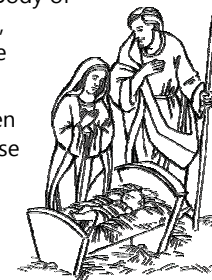
It is true to say that Christmas includes the notion of giving. First of all, God has given to us His Son, our Divine Saviour, Jesus Christ. God has lavished His love upon us in great measure. So, if you are up to your eyeballs in debt because you have given to loved ones, let me ease your guilt – you have been as generous as you can and your loved ones are worth it. Most of you have also shared your bounty with those that you do not even know. God bless you, and in particular our St. Vincent de Paul Society – for day in and day out keeping before us the obligations of Christian charity – themselves by doing the work of charity in and out of season.

I wish to express my gratitude to all our parishioners who worship here, support their parish, and come to the plate, so to speak, in the service of us all spiritually, liturgically and in social action. Above all, we thank our Lord for uniting us to the Mystical Body of Christ. We are not a perfect lot void of problems, squabbles and, yes, human sinfulness. But we are united to God in faith, hope and love.

So, praise be to God almighty. A Saviour has been born to us, and we get to receive Him and be close to Him at every CHRISTmas.

Merry Christmas everyone,

*Fr. Don Sanvido*



### Televised Christmas Midnight Mass

His Excellency, Bishop Douglas Crosby will celebrate Midnight Mass in the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. The Mass is preceded by Carols from the Cathedral beginning at **11:30 p.m.** on December 24<sup>th</sup>. The Carols and the Midnight Mass will be televised on **CHCH-TV** and re-broadcast at 8:00 a.m. on Christmas morning. Our thanks to CHCH-TV and the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton for this presentation of Christmas Midnight Mass.

### Calling for Altar Servers

All those who have received their First Holy Communion are eligible to serve at the altar. It is a wonderful experience – it is a 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. We will contact you in the New Year for training.



**SPIRIT CREW**

*St. Mark's Ministry for Youth (Grade 6 and Up)*

#### ■ MILK BAG MATTRESS CRAFTING AFTERNOON

We will be having a Milk Bag Mattress Crafting Afternoon on **Wednesday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:30 p.m. at the Church.** Bring along your favorite Christmas CD to play while we are crafting and enjoying some Hot Chocolate. Remember ... this event qualifies you for some community service hours!



**BISHOP'S MESSAGE  
FOR CHRISTMAS 2015**

Dear friends,  
Goodness abounds!

This Christmas, as a counterpoint to the destructive forces of misery and terror that we have witnessed these past months, we must not forget that **goodness abounds!** More than not forgetting, let us be ready to point it out when we see it.

A few weeks ago, I was invited to join a small group of people who help at the *Out of the Cold* breakfast program in Hamilton. These very good folk agreed in the autumn to get up early every Thursday morning from November through March to make their way to a small kitchen outlet to prepare a hot breakfast for over 120 men and women. The volunteers are part of about 400 remarkable and generous people who make the program work. They arrived in the quiet early morning hours and were spirited as they took up their duties, each one pitching in to assure that everything was ready for the arrival of the guests.

Steve showed me how to whip up pancake batter and how to cook the pancakes. Not too difficult – we worked together. Two hundred pancakes later, I was asked to help Karen and Frank serve the breakfast: pancakes, sausages, cereal, fruit, juice and the prerequisite coffee or tea. Morning greetings were friendly and sincere; the guests were known and called by name. As the serving line thinned out, I moved again, now to help with the washing of dishes. It gave me a chance to chat with Rob, who had done everything, including picking me up, to make the experience pleasant for me. The time passed quickly and, even before I left, I knew that I had participated in something good, something beautiful, something sacred!

The same thing happens every day in many communities in our country and around the world. Terrorists may get front page media coverage, but quiet unassuming goodness such as I experienced that morning wins hearts and souls! It won mine, and I know it won the guests'. Goodness abounds!

This Christmas we have begun the *Year of Mercy* called by Pope Francis. Feeding the hungry is one of the seven traditional *corporal works of mercy*. Many good people feed the hungry every day – often against great odds. When I think of the single unemployed parent worrying about how the three children will be fed that day, I know that my problems are small in comparison.

Recently, I was reminded that before original sin, there was original good. The biblical story of creation reminds us that God considered the created world to be “good”. And the human was “very good”! Original good came *before* original sin – and in Jesus Christ, the first born, that goodness is restored.

Christmas is a time to remember that in spite of the horrors of evil, good abounds. This Christmas, let us look for the goodness of others, and allow the good in us to shine – so that God’s compassionate mercy might be revealed through simple, everyday kindness. And when we see the good deeds of the other, acknowledge them and affirm them. A simple “thank you” is easy enough, and is actually quite effective.

Thank YOU ... and Merry Christmas to you, your families and your loved ones!

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI  
Bishop of Hamilton

**FIRST COMMUNION and CONFIRMATION  
Attention Parents of students in Gr. 2 or Gr. 7...**

If you have not yet registered your child for First Communion (gr. 2) or Confirmation (gr. 7) at St. Mark’s Parish, please be sure to do so as soon as possible. Registration forms and handouts from missed meetings can be found on the information wall in the narthex, or call the parish office with your questions (519-571-9200).

**Gr. 2 FIRST COMMUNION ~ 2016 Catechism Program**

Optional but highly recommended for all Grade 2 students preparing to receive First Holy Communion at St. Mark’s Parish in 2015 (*for all schools but especially for public school students*).

The Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate will lead an excellent **8-week program** for First Communion & First Reconciliation here at St. Mark’s Parish on **Tuesday evenings starting in March**. The program also includes one Saturday afternoon retreat. If you have not yet registered your child for these classes, please call the parish office or pick up a First Communion handout from the information wall in the narthex.

**Classes take place Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	
<b>March 1:</b>	Reconciliation	<i>First session starts at 6:00 p.m.</i>
<b>March 8:</b>	Reconciliation	
<i>No Class on March 15 due to March Break</i>		
<b>March 22:</b>	Reconciliation	
<b>March 29:</b>	Reconciliation	
<b>April 5:</b>	Communion	
<b>April 12:</b>	Communion	
<b>April 19:</b>	Communion	
<b>April 26:</b>	Communion	
<b>May 7:</b>	<b>Retreat Day</b>	<b>Saturday 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.</b>

**Gr. 7 CONFIRMATION ~ 2016 Preparation Sessions**

Required for all Grade 7 students preparing to be confirmed at St. Mark’s Parish in 2015 (*regardless of school affiliation*)

As part of the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, Fr. Don will hold 6 Sunday sessions for candidates, sponsors (if possible) and parents following the 11:30 Masses (*take a 10-minute break after Mass and reassemble in the church for 12:45 p.m. – this way, you can come to Mass without having to return to the church during the week for these sessions*). Remember to be present at Mass each and every Sunday as well as for these sessions.

These mandatory sessions provide an opportunity to learn more about our faith so that Confirmation itself will be a truly meaningful celebration of the sacrament. Listed below are the dates, times and topics to be covered:

**Sessions take place Sunday Afternoons from 12:45 to 1:30 pm:**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
<b>JAN. 24:</b>	Who is Jesus Christ?
<b>FEB. 7:</b>	The Meaning of Baptism
<b>FEB. 21:</b>	The Sacrament of Confirmation
<b>MAR. 28:</b>	The Mass and the Eucharist
<b>MAR. 6:</b>	The Call to Holiness (The 10 Commandments)
<i>(3-week break for March Break and Easter)</i>	
<b>APR. 3:</b>	The Sacrament of God’s Mercy

**Save the Date! Wed. Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Winter Games Night!**

Hosted by St. Mark’s Parish Fundraising Committee. Join us for an evening of cards or bring your favourite board game! Doors Open at 6:00 p.m. Admission \$8 (includes sandwiches, desserts, drinks). To volunteer or donate a prize please call Edwina at 519-954-5669.

**New Saint Joseph Sunday Missals for 2015**

Still a few left for purchase in the narthex - \$5 each

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