

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. Philip Fernandez – *Deacon*

Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Secretary*

The Parish Office is open by appointment only.

Please call or email ahead to schedule your visit.

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

No Children's Liturgy of the Word until further notice.

WEEKDAY MASS

Wednesday 12:00 NOON

followed by Adoration and Benediction

CONFESSIONS

Saturday at 4:15 PM or by appointment.

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION CHAPEL

Closed until further notice.

PANDEMIC PROTOCOL

Seating capacity in the church is restricted to 30%. Doors open 30 minutes before Mass. Seating will be first come, first served. Under the Ontario guidelines, we ask that:

- all who are not feeling well, or have an elevated temperature, please stay home.
- when you visit the church you wear a face covering over your nose, mouth, and chin. Required by the Face Covering By-law 20-035.
- you practice generous social distancing (minimum 6 ft.) and follow the signs and ushers' directions.
- that you use your washroom before coming to church.

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 SOCIETY

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 drop it in the mail. Your intention will be printed in the bulletin and announced at Mass.

If you require a Mass card please call the parish office to make pick-up arrangements.

The offering (stipend) for a Mass Intention 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

I would like the Mass to be on this specific date*: _____

**Please submit requests as far in advance as possible to reserve preferred dates.*

Sunday Masses may only be requested twice per year.

All other requests will be satisfied on weekdays.

Requested by: _____

Daytime Phone # or email: _____

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions for the Week



December 20 – 27, 2020

Church doors are open 30 minutes before the start of Mass, and seating is restricted to 30% capacity (first come first seated) until further notice.

Wednesday, Dec. 23 (FERIAL ADVENT)

12 noon – Intentions of Brendan Flood – *Flood Family*
1:00 PM – CONFESSIONS

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (DEC. 24/25)

Thursday 24th Christmas Eve

6:00 PM – Intentions of Parishioners of St. Mark
8:00 PM + Dr. Joseph Flood – *Flood Family*
10:00 PM + Cimermancic Family



Friday 25th Christmas Day

9:30 am + Larry Riedel – *Brian & Marie Lynch*
11:30 am + All those in whose memory donations were made toward Christmas Flowers

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (DEC. 27)

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19; Luke 2:22-40

SAT. DEC. 26 ★ NO SATURDAY EVENING MASS

Sun. 9:30 am – Intentions of Parishioners of St. Mark
11:30 am + Maria Silvestre – *Joao*

CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, Dec. 23 1:00 – 1:30 pm



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

6:00 PM ♦ 8:00 PM ♦ 10:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30 AM ♦ 11:30 AM

All parishioners are encouraged to
RESERVE SEATS

Please email Pam at stmark@rogers.com
with your name, preferred Mass time,
and number of seats required.



Manger Blessing

This prayer may be used to bless your Christmas Manger at home:

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Saviour was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Saviour of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus.



This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able to respond with obedience. ■

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

NEW YEAR'S EVE ♦ 5:00 PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY ♦ 10:00 AM

First come, first seated. No reservations.



FINANCIAL DONATIONS TO ST. MARK'S FOR THE 2020 CALENDAR YEAR must reach the parish by Sunday, Dec. 27th in order to be included on your 2020 tax receipt. Any donations received after Dec. 27th will be receipted in 2021.

THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please call or email to schedule a visit: 519-571-9200 / stmark@rogers.com

SOME IMPORTANT REMINDERS ABOUT COVID-19 PANDEMIC PROTOCOLS:

- Wearing of masks is MANDATORY.** If you have a legitimate medical reason for not wearing a mask, there is a designated area that you must sit in. The Bishop has granted all pastors the right to request medical documentation if they so choose.
"Those who are unable to wear a mask because of a legitimate, underlying medical condition which inhibits their ability to wear a mask, are to be admitted to the church, and are to be seated in a designated area at least four metres away from others. They may not come forward to receive Communion with others; the priest or extraordinary minister will bring them Communion where they are seated." [From Bishop Crosby's Oct. 7th letter – read the Bishop's full letter [here](#).]
- COMMUNION WILL ONLY BE DISTRIBUTED IN THE HAND.** Communicants may NOT receive on the tongue until further notice. This is for the protection of everyone: you, the minister of communion, and all the people behind you in line.
- HOW BEST TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION:** The new protocols are that you must keep your mask on as you receive communion in the hand. Then step aside, remove your mask, consume the host, replace your mask and return to your seat. Please watch this video to see the procedure in practice: [VIDEO](#)
- LEAVING AT THE END OF MASS:** When Mass is over, kindly remain in your seats until Father has made his way to the narthex. Those sitting in the back pews should leave the church first, and people at the front should leave last. Thank you for helping us to maintain social distancing for everyone.



His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will celebrate **Christmas Midnight Mass** from the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. The Midnight Mass will be preceded by a Carol Service beginning at 11:30 p.m. Both the Carol Service and the Midnight Mass will be broadcast on *Salt+Light Media* and shared with CHCH-TV. The Mass will be repeated on CHCH-TV at 8:00 a.m. on Christmas morning. *Due to COVID restrictions, all seating for Midnight Mass has already been reserved. Join us for the broadcast and share in the joy of this Christmas feast!*

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

This week let us pray for....

DEC. 21	DEC. 22	DEC. 23	DEC. 24	DEC. 25	DEC. 26
Rev. Janusz Roginski, S.A.C.	Rev. Robert Sims	Voluntas Dei Institute	Rev. Michael Downey	<i>Christmas Day</i>	Msgr. Martin Vallely

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.

Advent Liturgy of the Word

This month, the Diocese of Hamilton hosted an online Advent Liturgy of the Word, with the themes being Light and Annunciation. **This event was recorded and is now available on the Diocesan website: [here](#).** The Very Reverend Monsignor Murray J. Kroetsch, Vicar General of our Diocese, was presider and there was music as well as contributions by different parishes in the Diocese during the Liturgy of the Word.

Journey through Advent

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), has a new **online weekly video series** created to help Canadian Catholic faithful to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Entitled *Journey through Advent*, the series serves as an introduction to the liturgical Season and present reflections on the Gospel readings for each Sunday in Advent. The Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., Bishop of Hamilton and the Most Reverend Pierre Goudreault, Bishop of Saint-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, provide spiritual and pastoral guidance on the readings that illustrate the true meaning of Christmas. [Access this video series on the Diocesan website here.](#)

Blessing of the Christmas Tree

Lord our God,
we praise you for the light of creation:
the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.
We praise you for the light of Israel:
the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.
We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:
he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace,
who fills us with the wonder of your love.
Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we illumine this tree.
May the light and cheer it gives
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.
May all who delight in this tree
come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Thank you to everyone who donated toward flowers for the church, and to the many people who helped to decorate and prepare the church for Christmas!

Thank you!





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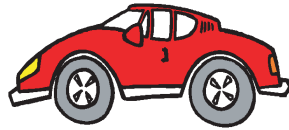
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