

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**



*"To you is born this day in the city of David
a Saviour, who is the Christ, the Lord."*

LUKE 2:11

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions for the Week

Dec. 25 – Jan. 1, 2024

SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Dec. 24/25)

Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25

Christmas Eve – Sunday, Dec. 24

6:00 PM † George Brezina – Marjorie & Family

8:00 PM – Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark

10:00 PM † Irene Baptista – Nick & Julie Muza

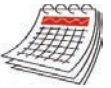
Christmas Day – Monday, Dec. 25

10:00 am † All those in whose memory donations were made toward Christmas Flowers



Meetings & Events This Week ...

DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
Mon. Dec. 25	8:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
Wed. Dec. 27	6:15 pm	(CH)	9:30 Choir practice
Thu. Dec. 28	7:00 pm	(CH)	5pm Choir practice
Sat. Dec. 30	7:15 am	(H)	That Man Is You! Men's Group



Sunday is the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**, we read Luke's Gospel of the Annunciation, the moment when a troubled Mary is told she has found favor with God and she will conceive and bear a son. She questions: "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" Then declaring herself the handmaiden of the Lord, she accepts: "May it be done to me according to your word."



Monday is **Christmas Day**. The first celebration of The Nativity of the Lord is the Mass at Midnight. The first reading is from Isaiah: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwell in the land of gloom a light has shone." This powerful reading deserves a slow contemplation. The Gospel is from Luke: the journey to Bethlehem, the birth, the angels announce the birth to the shepherds. The second celebration of The Nativity of the Lord is the Mass at Dawn. The Gospel is also from Luke: the shepherds visit the newborn child. "And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." The third celebration of The Nativity of the Lord is the Mass during the Day. Here the Gospel is from the beginning of John's Gospel: "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." ~ Used with permission by Online Ministries, Creighton University

Tuesday, Dec. 26 ★ NO MASS / PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, Dec. 27 ★ NO MASS / PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, Dec. 28 ★ NO MASS / PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, Dec. 29 ★ NO MASS / PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (Dec. 30/31)

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40

Sat. 5:00 PM † Dominic Nguyen – Tuyen Nguyen

† Stella Szpak – Marjorie Brezina

† Robert & Joan Harvey – Jane Petrovich

Sun. 9:30 am † Sr. Dorothea Pereira – Mervyn & Theresa Lee

11:30 am – Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD (Dec. 31/Jan. 1)

Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

New Year's Eve – Sunday, Dec. 31

5:00 PM † Lida Borges & family – Salome Costa

New Year's Day – Monday, January 1st 2024

10:00 am † Joyce Sanvido – Brian & Marie Lynch



Tuesday, Jan. 2nd ★ NO MASS

Regular Weekday Mass schedule resumes January 3rd.



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

The Sanctuary Lamps burn this week for:

A Private Intention



Diocesan Prayer Calendar ☒ This week let us pray for...

Dec. 26	Dec. 27	Dec. 28	Dec. 29	Dec. 30
Chancery Staff	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Anne	The Holy Innocents	Rev. Edward Hinsperger	Rev. Phillip Cook

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.

Weekly Offertory Report

The report for December 16/17, 2023 was not available at time of printing.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sundays at the 9:30 a.m. Mass

for children in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3.

Join us for Alpha 2024

Thursday evenings, Feb. 22 to May 2, here at St. Mark's Parish Hall.

Alpha is an 11-week program that brings adults together for conversations about life, faith and Jesus. Plan to join us – all are welcome! To learn more, please contact Denise Case at stmarkalpha@gmail.com.

From the Pastor's Desk ...

2023 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"For a CHILD IS BORN to us and a son is given to us." ISAIAH 9:6

Indeed, every Christmas Season we remember this most wonderful gift of God to us: Our salvation through the Child! Our God whom heavens cannot contain was conceived in the womb of a Woman.

The Almighty God became incarnate as a Child who needed a family's care and protection. May we also find Christ all year long in the lives of the poorest of the poor and in our own families and communities including our Parish community.

May our care and concern for each other be a living testament that indeed Christmas is true and that God truly lives amongst us.

A very Merry and Blessed Christmas!

Faternally in Christ,

Fr. Roque S. Concepcion



VOCATION SEEDS – Fourth Sunday of Advent

From the angel Gabriel, Mary heard God's plan for her life and she said "Yes!"...and so the Saviour came into the world. Pray to know God's Will for your life, so as to help bring Jesus to our world.


If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr.

Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.

vocations@hamiltondiocese.com | www.hamiltondiocese.com/vocations.

Liturgical Ministers

DEC. 30-31	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
Altar Servers:	J./P./V. Miller	E. Burkholder R./R. Jerold	C. Chacon J./S. Garrucho
Commentator:	V. DeVries	M. Drohan	I. Kangaloo
Readers:	C. Stanley	T. Lee	D. DeSousa
Ushers:	A. Beckner E. Miller	J. Kelly T. Mendonca	B./E. Prila
Eucharistic Ministers:	J./D. Fernandez	T./K. Boettger	K. Dignam D. Seymour-Weber

 All liturgical ministers are asked to please sign-up in the narthex for New Year's Masses. Thank you!

2024 Offertory Envelopes & Pre-Authorized Debit Plan

If you would like to begin using envelopes, please fill out a parish registration form. To enroll in the monthly debit plan please pick up a Pre-Authorized Giving form, or contact Pam at the office to have one emailed to you. Both forms can be found on the information wall in the narthex.

**Those who use our pre-authorized debit plan will still receive a box of envelopes in order to donate toward special causes (Christmas, Good Friday, World Missions, St. Vincent de Paul, etc.). Please be sure to pick up your box when it is ready.

2024 Sacramental Preparation Sessions

FIRST COMMUNION

5 Preparation Sessions:

WEDNESDAYS at 5:45 PM
January 17,
February 7, February 28
March 20, April 10

Celebration of the Sacrament:

Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 2 pm
with St. Dominic students

Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 2 pm
with St. Mark students

CONFIRMATION

3 Preparation Sessions:

SUNDAYS at 1:00 PM
February 25
March 24
April 21

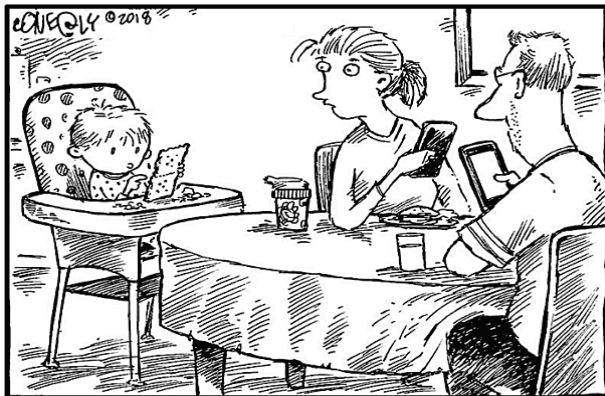
Celebration of the Sacrament:

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 7 pm
with St. Mark students

** Friday, May 31, 2024 at 7 pm
with St. Dominic students

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

** St. Dominic students please note: There has been a date change for Confirmation – originally scheduled for May 29th, the date is now May 31st, as noted above.



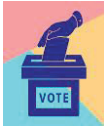
"MAYBE WE SHOULD PUT AWAY OUR PHONES - SHE'S TRYING TO TEXT ON A CRACKER."

IMPORTANT notice for all C.W.L. Members!

Nominations are open until Jan. 15/24 for candidates for your next parish Executive Council!

WE is a reflection of our collective ME!

We encourage you to participate by nominating members, including yourself, who are willing to employ their God-given talents in service to the League and our members. **Nomination forms will be available and on the CWL table in the Narthex or by emailing kim.a.montag@gmail.com.** Completed forms must be signed and dropped in the box, also on the table. Use as many forms and make as many nominations as you like! **Elections will be held at our General Meeting January 25, 2024...Please plan to attend!!**



Attention All Ladies! C.W.L. Membership Drive continues ...

Do you yearn to be part of a women's movement that believes in growing in your faith, believes in service, and in social justice? Please help us to grow our council by joining St. Mark's C.W.L.. We invite all ladies 16 years of age and over to join. Membership for 2024 is \$40. Please call Sue Sawchuck, Organization Chair, at 519-277-1898 or email stmarkcwl@gmail.com for further information.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Do you have a loved one who is sick or nearing the end of life at home, in hospice, or in hospital? Please pick up one of the informative pamphlets available on the information wall in the church narthex (main lobby), "*The Catholic Church's Pastoral Care to the Sick and Dying*" and "*Ministry to Catholic Patients in Hospital*." In these you will find guidelines on how and when it is appropriate to call on a priest to confer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, as well as Communion, Confession, or Viaticum (Final Communion). Ideally, a call to your parish priest should be made as soon as a serious illness becomes known, before circumstances become dire – doing so can afford the patient the opportunity to be comforted mentally, emotionally and spiritually by being able to make a good confession, receive communion (if they are physically able) and be anointed.



VOCATIONS MASS AND YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT

Friday, January 5th at Annunciation of Our Lord Parish (280 Limeridge Rd. West, Hamilton). The Serra Club of Hamilton invites you to attend a Mass for vocations at 6:00pm. Following Mass, Fr. Mark Morley invites young adults to attend a night of Adoration, fellowship and praise music in celebration of the Christmas Season. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30-7:30pm), social with food (7:30-8:30pm), praise night and vocations talk (8:00-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm). Co-sponsored by the Serra Club of Hamilton and the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com.

The Great Adventure Bible Timeline Study: Salvation Story Made Clear

Starting in mid January at **St. Louis Parish** (53 Allen St. East, Waterloo). The Bible Timeline® Study Program is a guided journey through salvation history. Presenter Jeff Cavins shows how 14 of the Bible's narrative books tell the biblical story from beginning to end and gives the keys to understand the amazing story woven through Scripture. Unique colour-coded chart helps to learn about the people, places, and events of the Bible and reveals the remarkable story of our Faith. Offered **Sundays at 12:30pm starting Jan. 14th OR Monday nights at 7:30pm starting Jan. 15th** (no sessions on long weekends etc.) 12 sessions during Winter/Spring 2024 and 12 sessions during the Fall of 2024. To sign up contact St. Louis Parish Office, 519-743-4101 / stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com. Course is free. Free materials provided, or purchase a workbook for all 24 sessions.



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