

St. Mark Catholic Parish

55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3A2

519-571-9200

www.stmarkcatholicparish.org

Pastor: Fr. Don Sanvido

Deacon: Mr. Basil Markides

Secretary: Mrs. Pam Olinski



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Worship This Week

Dec. 26, 2016 – Jan. 1, 2017

Monday (FEAST – ST. STEPHEN)

★ 9:00 am - Int. of Catherine Mackid

Tuesday (FEAST – ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE)

7:00 PM + Shirley Stemmler – *Guy & Julie Burkholder*

Wednesday (FEAST – THE HOLY INNOCENTS)

7:00 am - In Thanksgiving – *Leonor Fonseca*

Thursday

7:00 am + Kay Donovan – *John*

Friday (FEAST – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH)

7:00 am - Int. of the Appelman Family

Saturday

9:00 am - Int. of the McCullough Family

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

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

Saturday, Dec. 31st (New Year's Eve)

5:00 PM + Kevin Tully – *the Tully family*

Sunday, Jan. 1st (New Year's Day)

9:30 am + Mary Ann Paolini – *Nick & Sharon Cerantola*

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



PARISH OFFICE – HOLIDAY HOURS

Mon. Dec. 26: **CLOSED** (in lieu of Dec. 25)

Tues. Dec. 27: **CLOSED** (in lieu of Dec. 26)

Dec. 28, 29, 30: Open until 12 noon

Mon. Jan. 2: **CLOSED** (in lieu of Jan. 1)

Jan. 3, 4, 5, 6: Open until 12 noon

Donation "Deadline" Reminder:

All donations that you wish to appear on your 2016 tax receipt must be received by the church **no later than 12 noon on Thur. Dec. 29th**. Donations received after this date will appear on your 2017 Tax Receipt. Thank you for your support!

Christmas Season Dinner

Sunday, January 8, 2017

5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

For the third year in a row, our own Ernie Miller is hosting a FULL TURKEY DINNER here in the parish hall for those living in our immediate area who might not otherwise have the good fortune to enjoy a good Christmas dinner.

THIS YEAR, Ernie and Fr. Don would like to further extend the invitation to include the members of St. Mark's parish, to come out and gather together, to enjoy each other's company, as well as a delicious meal.

There is NO CHARGE for this night. We do, however, ask that you please let us know if you are coming, so that we can make sure there is enough for all to enjoy. Simply call or email the parish office **BEFORE JAN. 2nd** and leave your name and the number of people in your group (adults and children). 519-571-9200 / stmark@rogers.com.

We do hope you will join us!

LITURGICAL ROLES

New Year's ... All altar servers, readers, ushers, gift bearers and Eucharistic ministers are asked to please consider signing up for New Year's Masses as you are available. Sheets are posted on the courtyard window in the narthex. Thanks to all who have signed up so far.

USHERS NEEDED: The 5:00 and 11:30 Masses are short on ushers. If you would like to join the rotation, please contact Colm Dignam at 519-570-3973 or email the parish office at stmark@rogers.com.

COMMENTATORS NEEDED: If you would like to commentate at the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass on any of the following dates, please email Pam at stmark@rogers.com (or call the office): Mar. 11, Apr. 1, Apr. 29, May 20, June 10, July 1. The Commentator's role includes an opening greeting, announcing the hymns, and reading the final announcements at the end of Mass.

Fr. Don's Christmas Message...

Dear People of St. Marks,

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy new year.

I personally thank all of you for your service to your parish and community at large. You do this in so many ways. What drives you to come to Mass, pray in the chapel, worship on Sunday and weekdays as well, help the poor and needy, teach people about God and our faith? What else, but your love for Christ, His Church, and His World. It is God who gives meaning and purpose to our life. So, as the old catechism taught us, remember that our purpose in life is to know, love and serve God in this world, so that we may be happy with Him forever in the next.

One thing I do wish to highlight is this: the charity of our people in helping a family that has suffered much strife, to find a new home and loving friends here in Kitchener, Ontario. Thank you all for making this possible – all of you. And thanks to those who, on an ongoing basis, support this family in so many ways. The Lord will be pleased with your efforts for He too, with Mary and Joseph, had to flee His home under the threat of an enemy and find welcoming people to lend a helping hand. It is no small thing to give people a chance at a new and more prosperous life.

If I had one prayer to ask God, it would simply be this – make me a better and holier person. Our Blessed Mother was at every moment of her life everything God wanted her to be. She was truly "full of grace" – certainly not the case in my life, and quite possibly not even in yours. I will send up a prayer to God for myself and for all who need to join me in this petition. It will be my new year's "resolution," so to speak.

"Lord, help this poor sinner.

May no one be less good

for having come within my influence;

no one less pure, less true, less kind, less noble

for having been a fellow pilgrim

on our journey toward eternal life."

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Fr. Don Sanvido

Looking for more Altar Servers!

Any interested children in Grade 3 or up who have received their First Holy Communion are eligible to serve at the altar. It is a wonderful experience, and a beautiful 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.



*** TRAINING, PIZZA & MOVIE!** There will be a Training Night for all NEW and CURRENT Altar Servers (to go over a couple of new things) on **Friday, January 6th** at 5:00 p.m., then, from 6:00 to 8:30 you are invited to stay for Pizza and a Movie! **Please sign up for the training/pizza night on the sheet posted on the Altar Servers' closet in the sacristy, or, email Pam at the office** (stmark@rogers.com) to let us know you're coming.

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 ~ 2017 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 from **6:00 to 7:30 pm** on the following **Tuesday evenings: March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 25, May 2, 9, 16.**

Other important dates:

Tuesday, April 18: Sacrament of First Reconciliation (6:30pm)

Saturday, May 27: Retreat Day (12:30 – 4:30 p.m.)

Gr. 7 CONFIRMATION ~ 2017 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.

Sessions take place on the following Sunday Afternoons from 12:45 to 1:30 pm: Feb. 5, 19, March 5, 19, April 2, 23

New Saint Joseph Sunday Missals for 2017

Some still available in the narthex - \$5 each

C.W.L. Corner

As the 2-year term of your current executive comes to a close, it is time to consider who should lead our council for the next 2 years. If you know someone who would be an enthusiastic and committed member of a like-minded group of ladies please consider submitting a 'no-obligation' nomination! Maybe that someone is YOU ... It is perfectly acceptable to nominate yourself! Our council needs ladies to answer the call to serve and bring their experiences and talents to the group. Please take a nomination form from the C.W.L. table in the narthex with position descriptions attached. Think and pray about your nominations and drop the completed form in the nominations box on the table on or before Dec 31st.



LAUDATO SI IS A CALL TO CONVERSION

Come and spend an evening exploring Pope Francis' encyclical on The Environment and Human Ecology with Fr. Tom Rosica, CSB, CEO of Salt and Light Television. "Past popes have written on the importance of protecting the environment, but [Laudato Si] is a major piece of work, and an ardent call from one of our world's major leaders for us to work together to address this existential problem. ... To use religious language, what the Pope is calling for is conversion." (Fr. Tom Rosica, CSB) Join us **Wed. Jan. 11th** at 7pm, St. Francis of Assisi Church, 49 Blueridge Ave. Kitchener. Sponsored by the Catholic Women's League.

STOP CENSORSHIP TOUR sponsored by K-W Right to Life

Saturday, January 14th. *Why Abortion Statistics Matter* featuring Mike Schouten from WeNeedALaw.ca and John Sikkema, lawyer at ARPA Canada. **Knights of Columbus Centre**, 145 Dearborn Place Waterloo. Social at 4:30pm; Fish & Chip Dinner at 5:00pm (\$10); Speakers at 6:00pm with Silent Auction. All proceeds go the STOP CENSORSHIP Initiative. Call 519-746-5433 or email jane@kwrtl.ca to reserve your place or table.

SEMINAR OF HOPE

How to Pray For Your Sons, Daughters & Loved Ones

Free live seminar by Vernon Robertson, as seen on EWTN. As parents do you suffer because of the spiritual condition of your children? Have your loved ones stopped practicing the faith? Do they no longer believe in God? Then this seminar is for you. **Fri. Jan. 20th** from 7-9 p.m. and **Sat. Jan. 21st** from 9am to 4pm at **St. Anthony Daniel Church**, 29 Midland Drive, Kitchener. Bring a bag lunch. Freewill offering will be taken. FREE participant manual will be given at the Seminar. View promo video at www.seminarofhope.org. For more info or to register contact Pat or Rita at 519-748-5548 or paddy@golden.net.

STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

Come join some 2000 other high school youth at **Canada's largest Catholic youth conference!** An amazing weekend to encounter Jesus and your Catholic faith in a whole new way; a time full of fun, music, and inspiring talks. Open to all youth completing grades 8-12. **July 28-30, 2017**, Cost: \$300/youth (pre-fundraising). For more info please visit: www.steubenvilletoronto.com or contact Jonathan Reitzel, Seminarian for Hamilton Diocese at j_reitzel@outlook.com.

Registrations forms available in the narthex. Anyone 21+ who would be interested in being chaperones for this conference, please contact Jonathan.

DR. GORDON K. W. LAM
Family Dentist
 Laurentian Hills Plaza
 (Westmount & Ottawa) 519-745-2333
NEW PATIENTS WELCOME

J Jane Petrovich
 B.Sc.M.Sc. B.Ed. OCT
 Professional
 Tutoring Services
 All Grades: JK-12
 All subjects including Math,
 Science, Language Arts
 519-886-0725 oceans@primus.ca

DAVE'S AUTO SERVICE
 Diagnostics • Service • Repairs
 To Most Makes & Models
 49 McIntyre Place, #18
 davesautoservice.co@gmail.com
519-896-6363
 Check our website for more info
www.davesautoservice.co

CONESTOGA Place
 & **Conestoga**
 Food Services Ltd.
 Delicious Food • Excellent Service
 Guaranteed Satisfaction
 Catering for all occasions for over 35 years.
Let us serve you today!
519-578-1030

STAEBLER
INSURANCE
 — Be Wise, Staeblerize. —
 E csgarbossa@staebler.com
 P 519.743.5228 ext. 265



TEAM LEADER/ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE, PERSONAL AND BUSINESS SOLUTIONS **Cristina Sgarbossa**

- 1-3 Referrals, \$25 Gift Card for Each.
- 4-4 Referrals, \$50 Gift Card for Each.
- 7-9 Referrals, \$75 Gift Card for Each.
- 10+ Referrals, Special Gift for Each.

A smarter way to give
 The Investors Group Charitable Giving Program allows you to shape and define your legacy. Whatever your interest or passion, you can make a difference. **Call today and let us help you create your legacy.**
 JeromeFreiburger CFP, CPCA, RRC, Division Director
 Investors Group Financial Services Inc.
 Tel: (519) 650-7250 | Jerome.Freiburger@investorsgroup.com

Insurance products and services distributed through I.G. Insurance Services Inc. Insurance license sponsored by The Great-West Life Assurance Company. The Investors Group Charitable Giving Program is offered together with the Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation, which operates independently from Investors Group. Donations are irrevocable and vest with the Foundation. This information is general in nature and not intended to be professional tax advice. Please read the Program Guide for complete details, including fees and expenses. Trademarks, including Investors Group, are owned by IGM Financial Inc. and licensed to its subsidiary corporations. MP1345 (07/2014)



SUPERIOR
MEMORIALS
 Established 1924
 528 Victoria St. N.
 beside Weston's Bakery
 519-745-6136

DR. WILLIAM SEHL
 Family & Implant Dentistry
 New Patients Welcome
 187 Erb St. W. at Dietz Ave.
(519) 884-2363

PATRICK J. KRAEMER, LAWYER
 Personal, Real Estate and Business Law
Duncan, Linton LLP
 45 Erb St. E. **519-404-5027**
 pkraemer@kwlaw.net

Jan Mielcarek
 Painting
 Drywall & Household Repairs
 Tel: 519 570 0986
 Cell: 519 505 0987
 jrmielcarek@rogers.com

RHD Paralegal Services
 • Highway Traffic Act
 • Small Claims
 • Provincial Offences
 • Landlord & Tenant
 • Personal Injury
 • Legal Research
226-600-2097
bobdoepel.doepel@gmail.com

THE PERFECT SPOT TO ADVERTISE
YOUR BUSINESS!

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE
PLEASE CALL
1-800-268-2637

HELP WANTED
 Liturgical Publications, your weekly bulletin printer has an opening for a **full time Sales Representative**.
Base Salary • Commission • Car Allowance • Travel Expenses
 If you have a drive to succeed and are self-motivated, email your resume to salesrep@parishbulletins.com

COLDWELL
BANKER
 PETER BENNINGER REALTY, Brokerage
 Independently Owned and Operated
HANNA LEPISZ
 Sales Representative
 Years of Experience
 Friendly Hassel Free Service
519-742-5800

ERB & GOOD
FAMILY FUNERAL HOME
 Family Owned Since 1946
 171 King St. S. Waterloo
 519.745.8445
 www.erbgood.com

PS PHARMASAVE
 Prescription Delivery • Medication Reviews
 Easy Prescription Transfers • Medication Compliance Packaging
10% Seniors Discount Everyday
 12-450 Westheights Dr. **519-584-7484**

Henry Walser
FUNERAL HOME LTD.
 AN INDEPENDENT FAMILY -
 OWNED FUNERAL HOME
 507 FREDERICK ST. (at expressway)
519-749-8467

turn to the experts
REITZEL HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
 665 Superior Drive, Waterloo Ont N2V 2C8
519-884-3510

- Commercial • Radiant Heaters
- Industrial • Gas Furnaces
- Residential • Air Conditioning