

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



“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us ...”

JOHN 1:14

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Mass Intentions for the Week



Dec. 26 – Jan. 1, 2022

Tuesday * NO MASS

Wednesday * NO MASS

Thursday (FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY)
12 Noon + Linda Hopf – *Annette Hauck*

Friday (FEAST – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH)
12 Noon - Int. of Colette Dokis – *Luiz Macedo*

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD – Dec.31/Jan.1

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

Sat. 5:00 PM + Leando & Domenica Bendia – *P. Olinski*

Sun. 9:30 am + Thomas Drohan – *Colm & Kay Dignam*

11:30 am – Int. of Parishioners of St. Mark



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

The Sanctuary Lamps burn this week for:

A Private Intention

You may request to have one or both lamps burn for a special intention or for the repose of someone's soul. Cost is \$5 per candle, per week. Simply drop a plain envelope marked "Sanctuary Lamp" into the collection and include the stipend and the name of the person(s) you wish to remember.

Parish

Office Hours

This Week

Mon. Dec. 26 – CLOSED

Tues. Dec. 27 – CLOSED

Wed. Dec. 28 – CLOSED

Thur. Dec. 29 – OPEN (9:30-12:30)

Fri. Dec. 30 – OPEN (9:30-12:30)

* DONATION DEADLINE FOR 2022

Please note that all donations must be **received by the parish office no later than 4pm on Wednesday, Dec. 28** if you wish them to be reflected on your 2022 Tax Receipt.

All donations received after this date, including those made on December 31, will be put toward your 2023 Tax Receipt.

2023 Offertory Envelopes & Pre-Authorized Debits

ENVELOPES: A reminder – **Please DO NOT use your 2023 envelopes in 2022, and vice versa.** Your I.D. number is different every year, and is only linked to you for that specific year. Please discard any unused 2022 envelopes in the New Year.

MONTHLY DEBIT PLAN: If you are enrolled in our pre-authorized debit plan, you will also still receive a box of envelopes in order to donate toward special causes (Christmas, Good Friday, World Missions, St. Vincent de Paul, etc.). Please pick up your box in the lobby.

If you would like to start using envelopes or enroll in the monthly debit plan (or wish more information) please pick up a form from the information wall in the narthex, or contact Pam at the office to have one emailed to you.

MASKING / FACE COVERING: Please note that Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health is strongly recommending that Ontarians wear masks in indoor areas of public settings during the current surge in viral illnesses. While there is no mask mandate in the province at this time, we kindly ask everyone to please be considerate of everyone's personal choice.



Christmas falls on a Sunday this year. Whether we are alone or with a community full of joy, this is a special day to get close to the manger and to renew our sense of gratitude, not only that our Savior has come, but how he has come – to be with us in such lowliness.

~ Used with permission by Online Ministries, Creighton University

Christmas 2022

Peace!

The Nativity scene reminds us of the humility and the vulnerability of our Savior, who has stripped off His divinity and has immersed Himself in our human condition. He decisively desired to visit and live among us. But His contemporary's indifferent response to His generosity has brought Him to a stable because there was no room for Him. He was an unwelcome guest.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us open our hearts and homes for the Lord and give Him room to consecrate our family with the scent of His presence. If Christ is the center of our home and is not overshadowed by consumerism, we will certainly be graced with a meaningful Christmas celebration.

May you have a delightful Christmas with abundant blessings.

United with you in prayers,

Fr. Roque S. Conception

Parish Priest



2023 Sacramental Preparation Sessions

FIRST COMMUNION

Preparation Sessions:

WEDNESDAYS at 5:45 PM

January 18,

February 1, February 15

March 8, March 29

Celebration of the Sacrament:

Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 2 pm
with St. Dominic students

Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 2 pm
with St. Mark students

CONFIRMATION

Preparation Sessions:

SUNDAYS at 1:00 PM

February 26

March 26

April 23

Celebration of the Sacrament:

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7 pm
with St. Dominic students

Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 7 pm
with St. Mark students

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

Liturgical Ministers

Liturgical ministers are asked to please sign up in the narthex for New Year's Masses. Thank you! A new schedule will begin January 7th and will be sent out before the end of December.

COMING SOON: ALPHA 2023

Right here at St. Mark's ... and you're invited!

Alpha is back! This 11-week program brings people together for conversations about life, faith and Jesus, helping to answer questions like:

Who is Jesus? Why and how do I pray? Does God heal today?
More information to come.

In the meantime, tell your friends and mark your calendar:
Thursday evenings, February 16 to April 27
6:45 to 9:15 p.m.

C.W.L. News...

Our Membership Drive continues! Do you wish you were part of a group that fed mind, body and soul? Do you yearn for a way to 'right' some of the 'wrongs' in today's world? All that and so much more awaits for only \$40 with a membership in the St Mark Catholic Women's League! Gift memberships are also available for a special woman in your life. For more info, please contact Sue Sawchuk, Organization Chair at 519-277-1898 or email stmarkcwl@gmail.com.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Currently we are taking a break and will RESUME on Jan. 11th.

Bible Study ... will RESUME on Jan. 13th.

Winter Clothing Drive ... The Knights are collecting winter coats, hats, mitts, scarves for the Salvation Army to distribute to those in need. Donations of gently used items can be placed in the bin in the narthex.

Parenting Tip of the Month

Christmas is an exciting and busy time of year, a time when it is vital for parents to counter the secular side of the holiday, so heavily promoted, by helping their children understand the real 'reason for the season.' Ensuring you have a nativity set and Advent wreath in your home are important reminders that it is Christ we celebrate. Attending Mass, placing Jesus in the manger before opening presents on Christmas morning, giving to charity and reminding your children that Baptism calls all of you to do so, are ways to give a place of importance to the birth of Jesus. If Christmas becomes only about Santa, it is a real loss for your children and their faith.

Marriage Tip of the Month

As we move toward the end of the year, take some time as a couple to reflect on your last twelve months together. Ask yourselves what you did well and what you might do better, both for each other and for your marriage. Check in to see if you spent enough time together, if you remembered to compliment each other, showed gratitude for the gifts your spouse brings to your life and whether you felt joy more often than not. If your relationship needs strengthening, commit to finding the help you need to make it strong; if you feel good after your assessment, celebrate your love and thank God for his never-ending support.

* Tips submitted by the Diocesan Family Ministry Office

Bishop Crosby's Christmas Message for 2022



BISHOP OF HAMILTON

Christmas 2022

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke, Chapter 2

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a time of familiarity. We sing familiar songs, share familiar greetings, we pray and gather and celebrate in all those ways to which we are accustomed. Yet does this familiarity numb us to the awe-inspiring reality of the Lord's Nativity? Look into the Christmas creche: what do we see here? The King of the Universe – lying helpless in a manger. The Lord God Almighty – wrapped in swaddling clothes. The Eternal Word – an infant, unable even to speak!

The Creator of Heaven and Earth is held in the arms of one he has created, and upon opening his eyes *looks up at his mother* – and so looks up at each of us. God so loves us that he comes to us, he lowers himself for us, he refuses to be distanced from us and so becomes one of us – taking on the frailty of the human form, yet losing nothing of the greatness of his Divine power.

May we never grow tired of discovering anew these jarring truths, which turn upside-down our expectations of power, greatness, kingship, and so much else. May we renew with fervour our adoration of the God who has become a child, who for love of each one of us has inserted his very self into our human story. This is the blessing of Christmas — may it fill our hearts during these holy days!

*May God, who by the Incarnation
brought together the earthly and heavenly realm,
fill you with the gift of his peace and favor
and make you sharers with the Church in heaven!*
(FROM THE SOLEMN BLESSING OF MIDNIGHT MASS)

Merry Christmas!

+ *Douglas Crosby*, OMI

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

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS

Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton

His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will celebrate Christmas Midnight Mass on Sunday, December 25th at 12:00 a.m. The celebration will also be livestreamed on the Cathedral's website – www.ctkbasilica.ca.

EVENINGS WITH HIS EXCELLENCY – Auxiliary Bishop Wayne Lobsinger invites everyone to join him for an opportunity to learn more about our Catholic Faith based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Class is the **2nd Friday of each month** from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at **St. Ann Parish in Ancaster**. No cost, no homework, just an opportunity to learn about our faith. All are welcome. Sessions are **also available online** on St. Ann's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@StAnnCatholicParishAncaster/streams>



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