

# St. Mark Catholic Parish

**55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3A2**

**519-571-9200**

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



## *Feast of the Holy Family*

## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

### Worship This Week

Dec. 28 – Jan. 3, 2016

**Monday** (FEAST – THE HOLY INNOCENTS)

★ NO MORNING MASS

**Tuesday**

7:00 pm - Intentions of Maria

**Wednesday**

7:00 am + Maureen Cross – *Mark & Eleanor Lawlor*

#### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

**Thursday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>** (New Year's Eve)

5:00 pm + Jack Vandenhoff – *Marg & Bernie White*

**Friday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>** (New Year's Day)

9:30 am + K. S. Joseph – *K. O. Baby & family*

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

★ NO EVENING MASS



**Saturday** (MEMORIAL – ST. BASIL THE GREAT & ST. GREGORY NAZIANZEN)

★ NO MORNING MASS or CONFESSIONS

#### EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

*Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12*

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

**Sun. 9:30 am** + Francisco De Sousa – *Brigida*

11:30 am + Jose Medeiros – *Maria*

### LITURGICAL ROLES

JAN. 2 & 3	Sat. 5:00PM	Sun. 9:30 AM	Sun. 11:30 AM
Altar Servers:	C./B./T./G. Morgan	M. Haid M. McCullough	T. Shea N. Gallagher
Commentator:	M. Dufresne	B. Sawarna	K. Phillips
Lector:	M. Serschen	J. Flanigan	O. Sirju
Ushers:	<i>Vacant: Can you help?</i>	M. Walser L. Koehler J. McCullough	<i>Vacant: Can you help?</i>
Gift Bearers:	Buchanan	Germann	Chacon
Eucharistic Ministers	C. Dokis F./Y. Tully K. Friesen	L. Reidel P./ME. McCullough A. Joseph S. Sawchuk B. Coutinho	B./C. Voisin E. Weiss D. S.-Weber B. Denomme

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

### Prayer for the New Year



Oh Thou, who art ever the same,  
Grant us so to pass through  
the coming year with faithful hearts,  
that we may be able in all things  
to please Thy loving eyes.  
Amen.

**Wishing you a happy, healthy  
and Blessed New Year!**

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:  
Monday, Dec. 28 and Friday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>



#### 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!



#### 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.

**Today is White Box Sunday** – The St. Vincent de Paul Society has placed a White Box in the narthex this weekend (Dec. 26-27) for anyone wishing to make a donation.

**Coffee Sundays** ... Are resuming on the second weekend of each month starting in January. If you are interested in helping out please contact **Denise Case** at [sdcase@rogers.com](mailto:sdcase@rogers.com) or 519-501-8370 (email preferred).



**Newly Baptized...** With joyful hearts St. Mark's Parish congratulates and welcomes into the Roman Catholic Church these newly baptized children of God: **Henley, Lauren, Kendall, Lexie, Oliver, Valentina, Keira, Everly, Derek, Ayaka, Thomas, Zachary and Grayson.**

*God has saved us by living water which gives our lives a fresh beginning, and He put his Spirit in us, so that healed by His grace, we may share His life and hope to live forever. (TITUS 3:5,7)*

#### St. Mark's Pre-Authorized Debit Plan

Thank you to all who signed up so far for this new plan (58 families)! Withdrawals take place once per month on the 15<sup>th</sup> day (or next business day) of every month. New enrollments are always welcome! Enrollment forms are available year-round on the mail table in the narthex.

Don't forget to use the special (coloured) envelopes in your offertory box, for donating toward special collections (i.e. diocesan, Christmas, Easter, St. Vincent de Paul, etc.) – these collections are not covered by your automatic withdrawals.

White Sunday envelopes and green Mortgage envelopes can also still be used for those times when you may wish to augment your automatic monthly contribution.

**Questions?** Please feel free to contact Pam at the parish office, by phone 519-571-9200 or email, [stmark@rogers.com](mailto:stmark@rogers.com).

## 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:**

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

#### 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:**

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

### New Saint Joseph Sunday Missals for 2015

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

### C.W.L. Corner

Our popular **"Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets** are being sold after Mass -- \$5 each. Come visit our C.W.L. today in the Narthex. Don't delay ... the magnets went very quickly last year.



#### PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH

*Tip #88* – Children thrive on routine because it gives them a sense of control and security in their lives. As parents we can offer great benefits to our children by providing routines, setting limits and ensuring there is structure to our family commitments and obligations. When we model these actions to our children they learn organizational skills that will help them as they move into adulthood and take control of their own lives.

#### MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH

*Tip #68* – Life sometimes throws so much "stuff" at us that we feel we are running on a treadmill that just won't stop. Down time seems non-existent, and experts tell us that most adults are not at their best because they are constantly sleep deprived. If you see yourself in that statement, then it is time to stop for a moment and ask how this busy life is impacting your married relationship. Do you make your spouse a priority, or do they get the leftovers, of which there are often none? Do you find yourself impatient with the one you love because you are stressed and tired? Marriage is a commitment to the other made in love – are you putting your spouse first, or last? It is an important question to resolve if you want a connected, loving, joyful marriage.

*Tips submitted by the Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250*

### "Thinking of You" ...

#### Cards for our Parishioners

If you know of someone in St. Mark's Parish who has lost a loved one or is ill, the parish would like to send a card to express our prayerful thoughts. Please contact Marie or Betty with the **name, address and postal code** of the intended recipient, and a card will be sent on behalf of the parish. Information can be emailed to **Marie** at [marie\\_brian@rogers.com](mailto:marie_brian@rogers.com) or **Betty** at [bpenticott@rogers.com](mailto:bpenticott@rogers.com).



#### 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.

#### HOLY YEAR PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY – Join Father Wayne Lobsinger

for a Holy Year Pilgrimage to Italy, **May 19-31, 2016**. We will visit Assisi and pray for peace in the world. In Rome we will pass through the Holy Door at the Vatican and attend the Wednesday Papal audience. We will visit the shrine to St. Padre Pio and spend a few days touring in Sicily. Mass will be celebrated each day. For further information and/or registration, please contact Claire Waxman at Talk of the Town Travel 1-800-414-6538 or [claire@talkofthetowntravel.com](mailto:claire@talkofthetowntravel.com). An **information meeting** will be held at **St. Thomas the Apostle Parish**, 715 Centre Road, Waterdown, on **January 10<sup>th</sup>** at 3pm.



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jerome.freiburger@investorsgroup.com

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