

# St. Mark Catholic Parish

55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3A2 • 519-571-9200 • www.stmarkcatholicparish.org

**PASTOR:** Fr. Steve Murrin  
**DEACON:** Rev. Mr. Basil Markides  
**SECRETARY:** Mrs. Pam Olinski

**LORD'S DAY MASSES**  
Saturday at 5:00 PM  
Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

**WEEKDAY MASSES**  
Tuesday at 7:00 PM  
Wed., Thur., Fri. at 7:00 AM  
Saturday at 9:00 AM

**CONFESSIONS**  
Saturday following 9:00 AM Mass  
and 4:00–4:30 PM or by appointment.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK**  
First Tuesday evening of the month at the  
7:00 p.m. Mass. No prior notice necessary.

**ADORATION CHAPEL**  
**Perpetual Adoration:** Spots open – see  
Chapel bulletin board  
**Divine Mercy:** Fridays 3:00 PM  
**Our Lady's Rosary:** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 10 AM  
**Benediction:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at 7:00 PM

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**  
We invite you to register. Please fill out a  
form from the church lobby and drop it off  
at the parish office. Please call if you would  
like Father to bless your home.

**BAPTISM**  
Infant baptism is celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM. A  
Preparation Meeting is held on the  
Wednesday evening preceding the baptism.  
Please fill out a form from the church lobby  
and drop it off at the parish office at least 6  
weeks in advance.

**HOSPITAL VISITATION**  
Please advise the office of area hospital  
admissions to request a pastoral visit or the  
Sacrament of the Sick.

**FIRST FRIDAY VISITS**  
Father will bring Communion to the sick on  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month. Please call the  
office to schedule a visit.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**  
White Box Collection on the last Sunday of  
the month. 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 slip it under the door of the parish office if it is closed. Your intention will be printed in the bulletin and announced at the beginning of Mass.

If you require a **Mass card** please make your request in person at the parish office during business hours.

The offering for a Mass (for living or deceased) 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 check ✓ your preferred way of setting the date for this Mass:**

The date of the Mass does not matter.

**OR**

The exact date does not matter, but I would prefer one of the following:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7:00 AM on a Weekday  | <input type="checkbox"/> 5:00 PM on a Saturday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7:00 PM on a Tuesday  | <input type="checkbox"/> 9:30 AM on a Sunday   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9:00 AM on a Saturday | <input type="checkbox"/> 11:30 AM on a Sunday  |

**OR**

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

\* Please keep in mind that our ability to accommodate a request for a specific date (especially for a weekend) can be difficult without sufficient notice. For this reason, we recommend submitting requests for weekend Masses a few months in advance.

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone # or email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Mass Intentions for the Week

Dec. 4 – 10, 2017

### Monday - NO MASS

### Tuesday (FERIAL)

6:30 PM - Int. of Eric & Rosemary Kubica – *Estella Correia*

### Wednesday (FEAST – ST. NICHOLAS)

7:00 am - Int. of Marilyn Dufresne

1:30 PM - **Confessions at St. Dominic School**

### Thursday (MEMORIAL – ST. AMBROSE)

7:00 am + George Sehl – *Kathleen Sehl*

### Friday (SOLEMNITY – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BL. V. MARY)

\* 7:00 PM + Marc Verhoeve – *Marilyn Dufresne*

### Saturday (FERIAL)

9:00 am + Teodulo Estrada, Sr. – *Cora Reyes*

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

Sat. 5:00 PM + Ginny Jans - *the Grads of 1956*

Sun. 9:30 am - Int. of the Parishioners of St. Mark's

11:30 am + Aldo Antonio Canas – *Patricia Castillo*



\* Please note that Mass on **Friday, December 8** for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated at **7:00 p.m.** There will be no 7:00 a.m. Mass that day.

Offertory Collection	Nov. 25/26, 2017
Sunday envelopes .....	\$ 3,391.80
Sunday loose .....	\$395.00
Sunday pre-authorized debits (MONTHLY AMOUNT x12+52) .....	\$ 1,223.77
<b>TOTAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS .....</b>	<b>\$ 5,010.57</b>
Mortgage envelopes.....	\$ 205.00
Mortgage pre-authorized debits (MONTHLY AMOUNT x12+52) .....	\$ 264.12
<b>TOTAL MORTGAGE OFFERINGS .....</b>	<b>\$ 469.12</b>
<i>Thank you for your generosity.</i>	

**St. Nicholas** – The great veneration with which St. Nicholas has been honored for many ages and the number of altars and churches all over the world that are dedicated in his memory are testimonials to his wonderful holiness and the glory he enjoys with God. According to other traditions St. Nicholas was not only there during the Council of Nicaea in 325, but so far forgot himself as to give the heresiarch Arius (against the divinity of Christ) a slap in the face. He showed great generosity to children and, for example, he is said to have provided dowries for three girls who would have been sold into slavery if they could not make good marriages.

**St. Ambrose** was a wealthy, successful lawyer and governor who called for peace at the time of the Arian controversy (heresy) that denied the divinity of Christ. For this plea the people called him to be bishop. Not even baptized, Ambrose reluctantly accepted the demands and was forced into becoming the Bishop of Milan. According to legend, when Ambrose was a baby, a swarm of bees settled on his mouth, an omen that he would be a great orator. St. Ambrose is the patron of beekeepers, bees, candle makers, domestic animals, learning, Milan Italy, and students.

**Immaculate Conception** – In the Constitution Ineffabilis Deus of December 8, 1854, Pius IX pronounced and defined that the Blessed Virgin Mary "in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin."

## Meetings & Events This Week:

DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
<b>Mon. Dec. 4</b>	7:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
<b>Tue. Dec. 5</b>	7:00 pm	(M)	11:30 Choir practice
	7:00 pm	(B)	SVDP year-end meeting
<b>Wed. Dec. 6</b>	7:15 pm	(CH)	9:30 choir practice
	7:30 pm	(B)	Women's Prayer Group
<b>Thur. Dec. 7</b>	6:15 pm	(M)	Legion of Mary
	7:00 pm	(J)	C.W.L. Executive meeting
<b>Fri. Dec. 8</b>	7:30 pm	(CH)	5:00 Choir practice
	6:00 am	(L)	Men's Group
<b>Sat. Dec. 9</b>	7:00 pm	(L)	Writers' Group
	10:30 am	(L)	Writers' Group

**Meeting Rooms:** B = Basement CH = Church H = Hall \* = Offsite  
J = St. John Room L = St. Luke Room M = St. Matthew Room

The word 'Advent' is from the Latin 'Adventus,' which means 'coming' and it signals the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. The season encompasses the span of time from the fourth Sunday before Christmas, until the Nativity of Our Lord is celebrated. The liturgical color for this season is purple. Although Lent and Advent are both penitential seasons, the penitential natures differ and this is signified in Advent being represented by a deep purple color, whereas the purple used during Lent is more a red-violet color. The purpose of Advent is two-fold. It prepares us for Christmas, when we recall Christ's first coming among us, and it is also a time when we look forward to his second coming at the end of the ages. Advent is a season of joyful expectation.

During Advent, each Sunday's Gospel reading has a specific focus. The Old Testament readings, especially those taken from Isaiah, are prophecies about the Messiah and messianic times. The exact time when the season of Advent came to be celebrated is not precisely known, but surmised to have developed in the 5th century. The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, meaning Rejoice.

Advent also begins a new season in the Church year and the readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel: Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples, Peter, James, John, and Andrew, who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face. The passage also comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.



DEC. 9 & 10	Sat. 5:00PM	Sun. 9:30 AM	Sun. 11:30 AM
Altar Servers:	V./P./J. Miller	T./T. Morgan	C. Chacon N. D'Souza
Commentator:	M. Dufresne	B. Sawarna	I. Kangaloo
Lector:	J. Deneau	P. Enticott	M. Monte
Ushers:	<i>Can you help?</i>	L. Koehler I./D. Culley	<i>Can you help?</i>
Gift Bearers:	Montag	Rye	Masbad
Eucharistic Ministers:	A. Bendia G. Jans C. Dokis	M./L. Fernando D. Henri	B./C. Voisin E. Weiss



The Advent Wreath is a popular tradition, and wreaths are typically present in both the parish church and in the home. It is a more recent tradition, with the modern Advent wreath emerging in Germany and spreading throughout Europe and beyond in the 1930's. It is often circular, representing God's eternity, and it includes 4 candles – one for each Sunday of Advent.

### Donations to purchase Christmas Flowers for the Church

may be placed in the container on the table set up in the narthex. To make a donation in memory of a departed loved one, you may use one of the envelopes provided on the table, and their names will be included on a special insert in the Christmas bulletin. Mass on Christmas morning will be celebrated for the Repose of their Souls.



### School Liturgies coming up ...

Wed. Dec. 6 1:00 PM Advent Confessions at St. Dominic School  
 Fri. Dec. 15 9:30 AM Advent Mass with St. Mark School (*church*)  
 Wed. Dec. 20 10:00 AM Advent Mass with St. Dominic School (*church*)

**Toasty Toes 2017 Campaign ... THANK YOU** to all who dropped off new socks for our 2nd Toasty Toes campaign. Socks are the most requested item at shelters, and the LEAST donated. **We collected 484 pairs of socks** – 46 more pairs than last year! Thank you for helping to fulfill a great need in our community!

### Novena to the Infant of Jesus

The Sisters of the Carmel of Saint Joseph will pray for you during the Novena to Infant Jesus, **Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>**. Are you troubled? Do you need spiritual support? You can participate in the Novena by sending your prayer intention slip with your name and address to: *Carmel of Saint Joseph, 1127 Carmel-Koch Road, R.R. #1 St. Agatha, ON N0B 2L0*

### Come join us to find the "Keys to Loving Relationships"

"Keys" is a 9-week video-based program meant for anyone (married or single) who is looking for a more meaningful relationship with a spouse, family member or friend. Learn how to become a better "me" in all your relationships! The program runs **Tuesday evenings** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. **starting January 23<sup>rd</sup> here at St. Mark's Parish**. The cost is \$45.00. To register or for more information, please call the Family Ministry Office at (905) 528-7988 ext. 2249.

**Today (Dec. 3) is the deadline to bring unwrapped gifts for the Angel Tree.** Thank you for your generosity and support!

**A BIG THANK YOU** to our St. Mark parish family for your kind generosity. Last weekend's White Box and blue envelope collections amounted to a total of **\$3,953.65!** This will allow us to share your generosity with those in need through a food hamper and Christmas gifts. It also will carry us into 2018, allowing us to purchase perishable items of meat, cheese, milk and eggs. May God's blessings be upon each family this Advent and Christmas season. - *St. Mark's Society of St. Vincent de Paul*



### 6" Red Poinsettias

ON SALE FOR ONE WEEKEND ONLY  
**December 9 & 10** ..... \$10 each (6-inch pot)  
 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!



### Advent Reconciliation Services

(Multiple priests available for confession)



Mon. Dec. 4	7:30 pm	St Louis Church, Waterloo
Tue. Dec. 5	7:30 pm	St. Agnes Church, Waterloo
Wed. Dec. 6	7:30 pm	St. Michael's Church, Waterloo
Thur. Dec. 7	7:00 pm	St. Clement's Church, St. Clements
	7:30 pm	Our Lady of Lourdes, Waterloo
Sun. Dec. 10	1:00 pm	St. Jerome's University, Waterloo
Mon. Dec. 11	7:00 pm	St. Mary's Church, Kitchener
Tue. Dec. 12	1:00 pm	St. Francis Church, Kitchener
Wed. Dec. 13	7:00 pm	St. Joseph's Church, Kitchener
	7:00 pm	St. Aloysius Church, Kitchener
Thur. Dec. 14	7:00 pm	<b>St. Mark's Church, Kitchener</b>
Mon. Dec. 18	7:00 pm	St. Anne's Church, Kitchener
Tue. Dec. 19	7:00 pm	St. Teresa of Avila Church, Elmira
	7:00 pm	Blessed Sacrament, Kitchener

### LONGEST NIGHT PRAYER SERVICE

If you are grieving, lonely or sad for any reason as the Christmas Season approaches, please consider attending this ecumenical service, **Thurs. Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. at **St. Francis of Assisi Parish**, Kitchener. This will be an evening of scripture, reflective music and prayer. A time of fellowship will follow.

**INTERNAL AUDITORS (Part-time Casual)** – The Diocese of Hamilton is looking for part-time Auditors to perform financial and administrative reviews of our Parishes and Cemeteries. The hours of work will vary depending on the number of reviews and the complexity of the reviews, but on average an Auditor can expect to work between 7 to 15 days per year. Remuneration will be based on the number of audits performed. **Duties include:** Review and critique of the current audit program; Responsible for planning and execution of 5 to 10 audits per year; Prepare and present audit reports for review; Work with Parishes and Cemeteries to correct the audit findings; Some travel will be required. **Qualifications:** Professional designation in accounting is required; Strong communication and presentation skills with ability to comfortably communicate at all levels. If this is a position that would interest you, please submit a resume to: [carrers@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:carrers@hamiltondiocese.com). Applications accepted until Dec. 15.



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