

St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish

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

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Roque Concepcion – *Pastor* (stmark.kitchener@gmail.com)

Rev. Mr. Philip Fernandez – *Deacon*

Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Parish Secretary* (stmark@rogers.com)

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00 PM

Monthly Filipino Mass: *Third* Saturday 7:00 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday - Friday 12:00 NOON

First Saturday 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

Wednesdays & *First* Fridays 11:00 - 11:45 AM

Saturdays 4:15 - 4:45 PM or by appointment

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS – We invite you to become a registered parishioner. Please fill out a form from the church lobby and drop it in the collection basket or at the parish office. Please call if you would like Father to bless your home.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES / PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT

To receive an annual tax receipt for your donations you are encouraged to use offertory envelopes and/or to enroll in our monthly debit plan. Offertory envelopes can be requested by filling out a parish registration form, or if you are already registered, simply call the office to request a box. Debit plan enrollment forms are available in the church lobby.

BAPTISM – Infant baptisms are celebrated during Sunday Mass. Two months' notice is required. Please pick up a baptism form in the church lobby, introduce yourself to Father after Mass and give him your completed form at that time. A date for baptism can be confirmed by the parish office after you have met with Father and started the preparation process.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) – Adults seeking conversion to the Catholic faith are invited to inquire with the parish priest. This program begins each Fall and runs until Easter.

MARRIAGE – At least 6 months' notice is required. Please introduce yourselves to Father after Mass to start the process.

ANOIDING OF THE SICK / HOSPITAL VISIT

If you or someone you know is in need of the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the parish office or see Father after Mass. Please advise the office of hospital admissions to request Anointing or a pastoral visit.

PARISH SCHOOLS

St. Dominic Elementary	3 Westforest Trail	519-576-5503
St. Mark Elementary	240 Autumn Hill Cres.	519-743-4682
Resurrection Secondary	455 University Ave. W.	519-741-1990



“... The seed is sprouting and growing ...” (Mark 4:27)

REQUESTING A MASS INTENTION

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 drop it in the mail. Your intention and your name will appear in the bulletin, and will be announced during Mass. **If you require a Mass Card**, please make your request in-person at the parish office during business hours.

The offering (stipend) for a Mass Intention is \$10 per Mass.

Number of Masses requested: _____ Offering enclosed: \$_____

Name of person(s)
to be remembered: _____

☐ LIVING ☐ DECEASED

Please choose your preferred way of setting the date for this Mass:

☐ The date of the Mass does not matter.

OR

☐ I would like the Mass to be on this specific date*: _____

* *Please note: Requests for specific dates (birthday, anniversary of death or wedding) should be submitted several months in advance to avoid disappointment. Sunday Masses may only be requested twice per year. All other requests will be satisfied on a weekday. We will attempt to contact you if we are unable to accommodate your request.*

LIGHTING A SANCTUARY LAMP

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. Names will be published in the bulletin at the beginning of that week.

Please light the
Sanctuary Lamp(s) for: _____

☐ LIVING ☐ DECEASED

Offering enclosed: \$_____

REQUESTED BY _____

DAYTIME PHONE # OR EMAIL _____

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions for the Week

December 4 – 10, 2023

Tuesday (FERIAL)

12 Noon - Int. of Eric Kubica – Rosemary

Wednesday (FERIAL) (NO NOON MASS TODAY)

★ **9:00 am** † Joaquim Clemente – *Leonor Fonseca*
 † Stella Szpak – *Annelies, Penny & Wendy*
 † Herb, Sadie & Ron Eagle – *Gerry & Judy Kraft*

Thursday (MEMORIAL – ST. AMBROSE) (NO NOON MASS TODAY)

★ **6:30 PM** † Maria Silvestre – *Joao*

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

12 Noon † Aurele Houle – *Caroline Houle*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 9/10

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

Sat. 5:00 PM † Francis Xavier Leonidas – *family*
 † Pete O'Neill – *Ron & Kathy Bumstead*
 † John Harris – *Jim & Rose Groothuis*

Sun. 9:30 am † Lusía Pereira & Souls in Purgatory – *J. Costa*
11:30 am – Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark

★ Please note the TIME CHANGE on Wed. and Thurs. of this week.



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

The Sanctuary Lamps burn this week for:

The Repose of the Souls of Jose Alves & Gracinda Branco



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

Dec. 4	Dec. 5	Dec. 6	Dec. 7	Dec. 8	Dec. 9
Rev. Pierre Caouette, L.C.	Grand-parents & Elderly	Order of Preachers (Dominican, O.P.)	Rev. Donald Sanvido	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Rev. David Perrin

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

November 25/26, 2023	General	Mortgage
Envelope offerings	\$ 2,050.80	\$ 0.00
Pre-Authorized	\$ 1,515.58	\$ 375.35
Loose offerings	\$ 512.25	\$ --
Totals	\$ 4,078.63	\$ 375.35

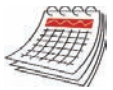
Good News! Children's Liturgy of the Word is back!

Starting **Sunday, December 3rd** at the **9:30 a.m. Mass** for children in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)



Meetings & Events This Week ...



DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
Mon. Dec. 4	8:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
	6:30 pm	(CH)	11:30 Choir practice
Tue. Dec. 5	6:45 pm	(H/J)	Alpha Marriage Course
Wed. Dec. 6	6:15 pm	(CH)	9:30 Choir practice
Thu. Dec. 7	7:00 pm	(CH)	5pm Choir practice
	7:00 pm	(H)	Ladies' Christmas Potluck
Sat. Dec. 9	7:15 am	(H)	<i>That Man Is You!</i> Men's Group

MEETING ROOMS: B - Basement CH - Church H - Hall J - St. John Room
 L - St. Luke Boardroom M - St. Matthew Room

Sunday is the beginning of a new liturgical year with the **First Sunday of Advent**. The first reading from the Prophet Isaiah as the people repent before God: "Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways!" Mark's gospel offers the image of the master who leaves his servants in charge while he is away. Be watchful! Be alert!



~ Used with permission by Online Ministries, Creighton University

Preparation for First Communion or Confirmation

Children who wish to receive the Sacrament of [First Holy Communion](#) (grade 2 or above) or [Confirmation](#) (grade 7 or above) who have NOT YET submitted their Enrollment Form, are asked to please do so as soon as possible – please come to ANY MASS, and have your son/daughter give their form to Father Roque after Mass. All children must be enrolled before the end of the year. Blank forms along with a letter from Fr. Roque were sent to families of children in grades 2 and 7 via email through the parish schools. If you did not receive that email, or have children in another school, please pick up an Enrollment Form in the narthex (church lobby).



School Masses for Advent

Dec. 12 – St. Dominic School (at the school)
Dec. 14 – St. Mark School (at the church)

Christmas Toy Drive

Our K of C council is joining other councils in the Christmas Toy Drive. **Those who wish may drop donations of UNWRAPPED children's gifts into the brown bin in the church narthex.** All toys will be distributed to needy families. Thank you.



6" Poinsettia Plants

ON SALE NEXT WEEKEND ONLY!

December 9 & 10 after all Masses

Minimum donation of \$10 each (6-inch pot)

Sold by our Knights of Columbus

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

COMING SOON: ALPHA 2024

Here at St. Mark's ... and you're invited!

Alpha is back! This 11-week program (**Feb. to April**) 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?

WATCH THE BULLETIN FOR FURTHER DETAILS!

Liturgical Ministers

DEC. 9-10	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
Altar Servers:	J./P./V. Miller S. Silva	R./R. Jerold A. Jacobs	J./K. Palafox F. Zumot
Commentator:	M. Comidoy	P. Enticott	B. Norte
Readers:	N. Comidoy	M. Drohan	R. Vergel de Dios
Ushers:	P. Smith, E. Miller	F. Seaward K. Ogili	B./C. Voisin
Eucharistic Ministers:	C. Weber J. Fernandez	A. Joseph M. Lynch	I./F. Kangaloo
Liturgical ministers are asked to please sign up in the narthex for Christmas & New Year's Masses. <i>Thank you!</i>			

Christmas Flowers for the Church

For those who wish to donate toward the cost of Christmas flowers, you will find special envelopes in the narthex. Please write the names of your deceased loved ones on the back of the envelope, or include them inside with your donation, then place the envelope in the gift box in the narthex. Mass on Christmas morning will be celebrated for the Repose of the Souls of your deceased loved ones.



Christmas Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY, DEC. 24

6:00 PM

8:00 PM

10:00 PM

MONDAY, DEC. 25

10:00 AM

*No evening Mass
on Christmas Day*

Liturgical Ministers are reminded to please sign-up in the narthex for Christmas & New Year's. Thank you!

Advent Reconciliation Services

DATE	TIME	CHURCH
Dec. 5	6:00 p.m.	Our Lady of Lourdes, Waterloo
Dec. 12	2:00 p.m.	St. Francis of Assisi
Dec. 12	7:00 p.m.	St. Joseph
Dec. 13	7:00 p.m.	St. Aloysius
Dec. 14	7:00 p.m.	St. Mark
Dec. 18	6:00 p.m.	St. Joseph
Dec. 18	6:00 p.m.	St. Anne
Dec. 19	1:00 p.m.	St. Anne
Dec. 20	8 AM - 8 PM	St. Michael's, Waterloo
Dec. 20	7:00 p.m.	St. Anthony Daniel
Dec. 22	11:00 a.m.	St. Mary's
Dec. 22	7:00 p.m.	Blessed Sacrament
Dec. 23	11:00 a.m.	St. Joseph
Dec. 23	1:00 p.m.	St. Anne



All C.W.L. members and ANY interested
Ladies are warmly invited!!

Christmas Potluck Dinner!



Thursday, December 7th
starting with
Mass at 6:30pm



We're making a list and checking it twice...to make the evening extra nice!

- ✓ Bring a friend!
- ✓ Don your 'ugly' Christmas sweater
- ✓ Share the story behind a special ornament or tradition in your family
- ✓ Enjoy a relaxed, casual and fun social event among friends.
- ✓ Questions? Please contact Anna 519-577-8519 stmarkcwl@gmail.com

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.

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL ... Time to jingle all the way into the Christmas season! Join us for festive cheer on **Sunday, December 3rd** from 1:00-4:00pm at **Mount Mary Immaculate Retreat Centre** (437 Wilson St. E., Ancaster). Free admission and free event, everyone welcome! Fun includes: Music, Hot cocoa, Cookie decorating, Magic show, Face painting, Balloon animals, Local artisans (cash only), Visit from Santa, Walk our beautiful grounds, Crock-a-doodle Christmas ornament painting. The Diocese of Hamilton invites you to extend this invitation to your family and friends. Come celebrate with us! *Donations of cash and/or non-perishable food items will be collected for beneficiaries of the Bishop's Charities. If you are able, we appreciate your support! For more info 905.528.7988 ext. 2251.*

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS MUSIC with JOHN B. MILLER AND FRIENDS

Hosted by Knights of Columbus Council 8192 on **December 8th** at 7:00 p.m. at **St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Elmira** (19 Flamingo Drive). A perfect way to kick off the Advent/Christmas Season. Reception to follow in the Church Hall. No tickets are needed, freewill offering.

MINI RETREAT: WAITING IN HOPE

Please join School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sister Celeste Reinhart and Sister Barbara Paleczny, for a mini-retreat on **Sunday, December 10th** from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at **St. Anne's Parish Hall** (268 East Avenue, Kitchener). The theme, "Waiting in Hope", will explore Mary's life in the Gospel of Luke, with special emphasis on Luke 1:46-55. It is the hope that we are able to build a deeper relationship between ourselves and Mary, Holy Mother of God. Refreshments will be provided. To register, please contact St. Anne Parish at 519-745-5302 or stannekitchener@hamiltondiocese.com.

ADVENT EVENING OF REFLECTION at **St. Michael's Church, Waterloo** (80 University Ave.) **Friday, December 15th** with Mass at 7:00 p.m. followed by Reflection led by Fr. Thomas Rosica, CSB ... "Emmanuel: The Plea and the Promise". Please register by calling St. Michael's at 519-884-9311.

VOCATION SEEDS - First Sunday of Advent

The season of Advent calls us to be vigilant in anticipation of the Master's return so that we live each day according to the teachings of Christ. Could God's "particular task" for you be a call to a Church vocation? 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



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