

*St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish*

55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3A2  
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FEAST  
of THE  
Holy Family

JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

# HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

## Mass Intentions for the Week

Dec. 31 – Jan. 6, 2018

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

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

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

5:00 PM + Anna & Stephen Strauss & family – Lamers

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

10:00 am - Int. of the Parishioners of St. Mark's

#### Wednesday – NO MASS (MEMORIAL – ST. BASIL THE GREAT)

#### Thursday (FERIAL CHRISTMAS)

7:00 am - Int. of Marcella Tomlinson – Flood family

#### First Friday (FERIAL CHRISTMAS)

7:00 PM + Amy Murphy – Ron & Barb Denomme

#### Saturday (FERIAL CHRISTMAS)

9:00 am - Int. of Hugh Flood – Flood family

### SOLEMNITY OF THE 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 + Louise Murphy – Margaret Simas & Leona Frank

In 374, Basil was made bishop of Caesarea. The Church called on him to refute the Arian heresy, which claimed that Jesus was not God (Arianism). He continued to write for the Church and to clarify the doctrines of the Trinity and the Incarnation. When one town was falling away from the faith, Basil ordained Gregory bishop and sent him there. Gregory went unhappily because he disliked conflict. The two friends were later reconciled. For 30 years, Constantinople had been under the leadership of supporters of the Arian movement. The bishops of the surrounding areas begged Gregory to come and restore the faith, and again he went, dreading the task. Gregory made his house a church and preached on the Trinity. The people called him "the theologian." Basil died at age 49. Gregory resigned from Constantinople because of opposition and spent his last years reading, writing his autobiography, and enjoying his gardens.

### 2018 Donation Deadline

Any offerings that you wish to have included on your 2018 tax receipt **must be received by the parish no later than the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> (that's today!)**. Any donations received after that time must be put toward your 2019 tax receipt.



### \* Bulletin Submission Deadline for Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>

The New Year's (Dec. 30) bulletin has already gone to print. If you wish to include something in the January 6<sup>th</sup> bulletin, copy must be emailed to Pam no later than Mon. Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> by 10 a.m. Thanks!

2019 Sunday Missals – \$5 each

2019 Catholic Faith Calendars – Free will offering

Church Bulletin Advertising: Liturgical Publications will begin setting up the advertisements that support the printing of our church bulletin for the coming year. Please consider lending your support by advertising your business weekly on the back cover of our bulletin. Call Liturgical Publications at 1-800-268-2637. Ads will begin running in February 2019.

## Meetings & Events This Week:

DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
Mon. Dec. 31	8:00 pm	(M)	Alcoholics Anonymous
Wed. Jan. 2	6:30 pm	(CH)	9:30 Choir practice
	7:00 pm	(B)	Women's Prayer Group
Thur. Jan. 3	6:15 pm	(M)	Legion of Mary
	7:00 pm	(J)	C.W.L. Executive meeting
	7:30 pm	(CH)	5:00 Choir practice
Fri. Jan. 4	6:00 am	(L)	Men's group
	7:00 pm	(L)	Writers' group
Sat. Jan. 5	10:30 am	(L)	Writers' group

## Feast of the Holy Family

*Celebrated the First Sunday after Christmas Day*

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast is part of the Christmas season, and we should place today's Gospel in the context of what Luke's Gospel tells us about the birth of Jesus. Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel reading continues this theme. It has no parallel in the other Gospels and is the conclusion of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends. When Jesus is found, Luke describes him as seated in the Temple in the midst of the Jewish teachers. Although he is young, Jesus seems not to need teaching about his Jewish tradition. In his dialogue with these learned teachers, Jesus astounds them with his insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God.

The dialogue between Mary and Jesus contains many references to family relationships. In fact, in this Gospel reading Mary and Joseph are never identified by name. Instead they are referred to by their relationship to Jesus. Ultimately, this emphasizes Luke's point about the identity of Jesus. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple, they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies in words that many have thought to be disrespectful. Jesus says that he was never lost; he was at home. Jesus is God's Son, and he is in his Father's house. Luke will continue to suggest that faith in Jesus establishes new family relationships as he describes Jesus' public ministry.

In Luke's Gospel, Mary's importance is even greater than her role as Jesus' mother. Mary is the first disciple and will be present with Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection at Pentecost. ■

## PARISH OFFICE – HOLIDAY HOURS

Mon. Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> – CLOSED for New Year's

Dec. 31, Jan. 2, 3, 4 – Open until 12 noon



## 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.

*A Happy & Blessed  
New Year to All!*



There are still spots to fill for the **New Year's Masses** in the white binder in the narthex. Kindly sign up if you are able. Thank you.

Please check your email inbox for the January schedule. Limited hard copies are available in the narthex for those who do not have email.

### Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

January 1<sup>st</sup>, New Year's Day

Today's reading is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at midnight. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. In their visit to the manger, the shepherds find things just as the angel had said. The shepherds' visit, therefore, is a moment of fulfillment, manifestation, and the beginning of the salvation we receive through Christ.

In the context of today's Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother. First, Mary is described as a reflective person, keeping the reports of the shepherds in her heart. Second, we are reminded of how obedient Mary was to God when she named the baby *Jesus* as the angel Gabriel had directed. Third, this reading shows Mary and Joseph faithfully observing their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised.

Mary's faithfulness to God is evident in all three of these things. Her reflection upon the events in her life indicates that she was a person of prayer. This prayer made possible her obedience to God and God's will, even if the outcome was not clear. Finally, her faithfulness to a community of faith grounded her relationship with God and enabled her to participate in God's plan of salvation.

Because of Mary's faithfulness to God, she was able to receive the gift of God's Son and accept her role in God's plan for salvation. By doing so, she models for us the path of discipleship and is also called Mother of the Church.

Our call to discipleship also includes these three aspects. First, discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives. Second, discipleship means obedience to God and God's will. Third, discipleship includes fidelity to a community of faith. ■

*Please be mindful that January 1<sup>st</sup> is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning that all Catholics should attend Mass on this Day.*

The Diocese of Hamilton is conducting the *One Heart, One Soul* campaign to raise money for every Parish in the Diocese and for shared ministries. A compilation of "Frequently Asked Questions" are available throughout the campaign at [www.oneheartonesoul.ca](http://www.oneheartonesoul.ca).

**Vocation Seeds** – By Baptism we are God's holy family. Pray today for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained or consecrated person. If you think God is calling you to be a priest, contact Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 or email [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com).

C.W.L. Corner

♦ **"Keep Christ in Christmas" CAR MAGNETS** - \$5 each in the narthex.

♦ **Next Mass for CWL Intentions:** Sat. Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm



### Reflection of Mary, the Mother of God

To call Mary the *Theotokos*, the "God-Bearer," is to celebrate the unique role that she has played—and continues to play—in God's plan of salvation. And as we honour the *Theotokos* in our celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on January 1, we also celebrate the Octave Day of Christmas, recalling the circumcision and naming of Jesus on the eighth day after his birth (cf. Luke 2:21).

The iconic Christmas image of Mary holding her infant Son embodies the mystery of the Lord's birth, as it brings together the human and divine elements of the Incarnation. And yet, in honouring Mary as the Mother of God, we are also invited to consider another image: the Mother cradling the body of her murdered Son. The same arms which held the Prince of Peace in a stable in Bethlehem, received body of the crucified Saviour of the world on a hill outside of Jerusalem. The Son of this Mother is the true source of peace among nations, within families and communities, and in the deepest recesses of our hearts.

As we celebrate this great feast of the Mother of God, we are ultimately being asked to join Mary in contemplating the gift of her Son and allowing the grace of these holy days to change us, so that the Prince of Peace may reign in our hearts and in our world. Happy New Year to everyone and we pray that our Blessed Mother accompany us in this journey and may it be filled with peace and joy. — Fr. Steve

### Candidates Preparing for the Sacraments of First Eucharist or Confirmation

A reminder to families of children in Grade 2 or Grade 7 that Sacramental Preparation begins this month with a **Parents' Meeting on Wed. Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the church.** See below for a full list of dates.

**If your child missed attending one of the Enrolment Masses on Dec. 1/2 and has not yet handed in their form,** please bring it to Fr. Steve after Mass as soon as possible. If you require a blank form, please contact the parish office at [stmark@rogers.com](mailto:stmark@rogers.com).

#### FIRST EUCHARIST (Grade 2)

##### Preparation Meetings at the church:

Wednesday, January 9	6:30-7:30 pm	Parents only
Wednesday, January 30	6:30-7:30 pm	Candidates only
Wednesday, February 20	6:30-7:30 pm	Candidates & Parents
Wednesday, April 3	6:30-7:30 pm	Candidates only
Wednesday, April 24	6:30-7:30 pm	Candidates & Parents



#### CONFIRMATION (Grade 7):

##### Preparation Meetings at the church:

Wednesday, January 9	6:30-7:30 pm	Parents only
Sunday, January 20	following 11:30 Mass	Candidates only
Sunday, February 3	following 11:30 Mass	Candidates & Parents
Sunday, February 17	following 11:30 Mass	Candidates only
Sunday, March 3	following 11:30 Mass	Candidates & Parents





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