

St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish

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

The SOLEMNITY of MARY, the HOLY MOTHER of GOD

1st January 2024



Happy New Year!

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Mass Intentions for the Week

January 1 – 7, 2024

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD (Dec. 31/Jan. 1)

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

New Year's Eve – Sunday, Dec. 31

5:00 PM † Lida Borges & family – Salome Costa

New Year's Day – Monday, January 1st 2024

10:00 am † Joyce Sanvido – Brian & Marie Lynch

Tuesday, Jan. 2nd ★ NO MASS

Wednesday (FERIAL)

12 Noon † Maria Silvestre – Joao

† Souls in Purgatory – Tuyen Nguyen
– In Thanksgiving – Tuyen Nguyen

Thursday (FERIAL)

12 Noon † Denis and family – Salome Costa

First Friday (FERIAL)

12 Noon † John McNally

First Saturday (FERIAL)

9:00 am † Pablo Del Monte – Aida and family

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – Jan. 6/7

Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2.1-12

SAT. 5:00 PM † Jack Soares – Lurdes

† Larry Hofheinz – Anna Hofheinz

† Lauren McLeod

SUN. 9:30 am † Gary Lewington – Pam

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



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!
The Sanctuary Lamps burn this week for:
A Private Intention



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

Jan. 2	Jan. 3	Jan. 4	Jan. 5	Jan. 6
Most Rev. Douglas Crosby, O.M.I.	Diocesan Priests	Rev. Jason Kuntz	Rev. Gabriel M. Catarino	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

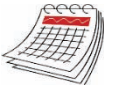
The report for December 23/24/25, 2023 was not available at time of printing.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sundays at the 9:30 a.m. Mass
for children in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3.

Bible Study resumes January 12th... Join us Fridays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the St. John Room. All are welcome! Please bring your bible and paper and pen. Questions? Please contact Karen at bkkriqner@rogers.com.

Meetings & Events This Week ...



DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
Mon. Jan. 1	8:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
Wed. Jan. 3	6:15 pm	(CH)	9:30 Choir practice
Thu. Jan. 4	7:00 pm	(CH)	5pm Choir practice
Sat. Jan. 6	7:15 am	(H)	That Man Is You! Men's Group

Monday, January 1st – New Year's Day – is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

In addition, it is a celebration of the World Day of Prayer for Peace.

This second week of the Christmas Season can be a great help for our daily connections with our Lord. We have the full and wonderful Solemnity in honor of Mary, in her role as "Mother of God." We can ask her to be our guide all week as we desire to grow closer to her Son. We can read Pope Francis' words for the World Day of Prayer for Peace and ponder them from time to time this week.

As we go through our daily, and often very busy lives in these days after Christmas, we can continue a sense of this brief season by continuing to ask that our Lord come to us in the ways we still need light and healing and peace. For some of us, this will be an easy prayer this week. Waiting faithfully can continue into the Christmas Season.

A special grace to ask for this week would be the gift of celebrating our Lord's presence with us. We can ask for it every morning, as we get going and we can enter into brief conversations with our Lord, in the background, as we encounter some of the places in our life in which we can see more hope, more of an opportunity for peace. This week, we might hold up each member of our family, close friends and neighbors, and those we might work with, seeing and celebrating how our Lord is manifest in them. For some of us, there may be real epiphany moments, when we see what we haven't been seeing, feel what we haven't been feeling or experience a call we haven't felt before. Being watchful for and open to these special post-Christmas moments of grace is very important.

For those of us in the Northern Hemisphere, these days are short and darkness comes early. Perhaps we can light a candle every evening this week at dinner just to celebrate the Light of Jesus that comes into the darkness of our lives.

~ Used with permission by Online Ministries, Creighton University

Join us for Alpha 2024... Thursday evenings, Feb. 22 to May 2, here at St. Mark's Parish Hall.

Alpha is an 11-week program that brings adults together for conversations about life, faith and Jesus. Plan to join us – all are welcome! To learn more, please contact Denise Case at stmarkalpha@gmail.com.



Prayer for the New Year - 2024


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! *



Liturgical Ministers

JAN. 6-7	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:	J. Flanigan	T. Boettger	D. DeSousa
Readers:	S. Benner	P. Enticott	B. Norte
Ushers:	B. Benner C. Weber	P./M. Drohan	P. Abalos M. Schimus
Eucharistic Ministers:	A. Bendia H. Psutka	M. Lynch M. Walser	I./F. Kangaloo
 All liturgical ministers are asked to please sign-up in the narthex for New Year's Masses. Thank you!			

VOCATION SEEDS – Ponder in your heart...

We celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the birth of our Lord into their hearts. If Christ lives in your heart and you would like to help others discover the Lord, you may be called to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon. 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. Mary treasured all that God had done for her and pondered these things in her heart. Do you treasure God's gifts and ponder what He wants from you? You may have a vocation to a life in the Church serving Christ.

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.

Attention All Envelope Users

Boxed Offertory Envelopes for 2024 are available for pick up, and are arranged alphabetically by surname. Please retrieve your box promptly, and **DISCARD ALL ENVELOPES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS**. I.D. numbers are reassigned every year, so as of January 1st, your old envelopes are no longer linked to your name in our computer – using envelopes from previous years causes problems in the office and causes your donation to be credited to someone else.

If you have looked and cannot find your name among the 2024 boxes, please call the parish office, and a box will be prepared for you.

If you don't currently use envelopes and would like to start, please fill out a parish registration form, and drop it in the collection.

If you would like to enroll in our Pre-Authorized Debit Plan, please fill out a "Pre-Authorized Giving" pamphlet, include a void cheque (or equivalent details), and drop it in the collection in a plain envelope marked "OFFICE".

2024 Sacramental Preparation Sessions

FIRST COMMUNION

5 Preparation Sessions:

WEDNESDAYS at 5:45 PM

January 17,

February 7, February 28

March 20, April 10

Celebration of the Sacrament:

Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 2 pm
with St. Dominic students

Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 2 pm
with St. Mark students

CONFIRMATION

3 Preparation Sessions:

SUNDAYS at 1:00 PM

February 25

March 24

April 21

Celebration of the Sacrament:

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 7 pm
with St. Mark students

** Friday, May 31, 2024 at 7 pm
with St. Dominic students

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

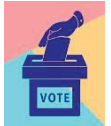
** St. Dominic students please note: There has been a date change for Confirmation – originally scheduled for May 29th, the date is now May 31st, as noted above.

IMPORTANT notice for all C.W.L. Members!

Nominations are open until Jan. 15/24 for candidates for your next parish Executive Council!

WE is a reflection of our collective ME!

We encourage you to participate by nominating members, including yourself, who are willing to employ their God-given talents in service to the League and our members. **Nomination forms will be available and on the CWL table in the Narthex or by emailing kim.a.montag@gmail.com.** Completed forms must be signed and dropped in the box, also on the table. Use as many forms and make as many nominations as you like! **Elections will be held at our General Meeting January 25, 2024...Please plan to attend!!**



Attention All Ladies! 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.

VOCATIONS MASS AND YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT

Friday, January 5th at Annunciation of Our Lord Parish (280 Limeridge Rd. West, Hamilton). The Serra Club of Hamilton invites you to attend a Mass for vocations at 6:00pm. Following Mass, Fr. Mark Morley invites young adults to attend a night of Adoration, fellowship and praise music in celebration of the Christmas Season. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30-7:30pm), social with food (7:30-8:30pm), praise night and vocations talk (8:00-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm). Co-sponsored by the Serra Club of Hamilton and the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com.

The Great Adventure Bible Timeline Study: Salvation Story Made Clear

Starting in mid January at **St. Louis Parish** (53 Allen St. East, Waterloo). The Bible Timeline® Study Program is a guided journey through salvation history. Presenter Jeff Cavins shows how 14 of the Bible's narrative books tell the biblical story from beginning to end and gives the keys to understand the amazing story woven through Scripture. Unique colour-coded chart helps to learn about the people, places, and events of the Bible and reveals the remarkable story of our Faith. Offered **Sundays at 12:30pm starting Jan. 14th OR Monday nights at 7:30pm starting Jan. 15th** (no sessions on long weekends etc.) 12 sessions during Winter/Spring 2024 and 12 sessions during the Fall of 2024. To sign up contact St. Louis Parish Office, 519-743-4101 / stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com. Course is free. Free materials provided, or purchase a workbook for all 24 sessions.



World Day of Peace – January 1st

The World Day of Peace was established by Pope Paul VI in 1968 who asked that "every year, this commemoration be repeated as a hope and as a promise, at the beginning of the calendar which measures and outlines the path of human life in time, that Peace with its just and beneficent equilibrium may dominate the development of events to come."

Each year has a specific theme, chosen by the Holy Father. To read the Pope's message for 2024, you can view it on Vatican.va here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc8xc8fp>



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