

St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish

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

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Roque Concepcion – *Pastor*
Rev. Mr. Philip Fernandez – *Deacon*
Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Parish Secretary*

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday - Friday 12:00 NOON
First Saturday of the Month 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 – 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 will be confirmed by the parish office only after you have met with Father.

MARRIAGE

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

ANointing OF THE SICK / HOSPITAL VISITATION

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.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Call 519-571-8485 for information on food distribution.

PARISH SCHOOLS

St. Dominic Savio Catholic Elementary School

Principal: Marilyn Dawson
3 Westforest Trail 519-576-5503

St. Mark Catholic Elementary School

Principal: Gary Lankowski
240 Autumn Hill Crescent 519-743-4682

Resurrection Catholic Secondary School

Principal: Marisa Munroe
455 University Avenue West 519-741-1990



“... 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 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 call or email the parish office to make pick-up arrangements.

The offering (stipend) for a Mass Intention 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 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 submit requests several weeks in advance to reserve preferred dates.**
Sunday Masses may only be requested twice per year.
All other requests will be satisfied on weekdays.

Requested by: _____

Daytime Phone # or email: _____

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions for the Week

Dec. 5 – 11, 2022

Tuesday (FERIAL)
12 Noon ★ **Liturgy of the Word with Communion** (NO MASS)

Wednesday (MEMORIAL – ST. AMBROSE)
12 Noon ★ **Liturgy of the Word with Communion** (NO MASS)

Thursday (SOLEMNITY – Immaculate Conception of the Bl. V. Mary)
12 Noon ★ **Liturgy of the Word with Communion** (NO MASS)
7:00 PM - C.W.L. Mass & Retreat
- Int. of Francesca Norte – *Sugar & Boyet Norte*

Friday (FERIAL)
12 Noon ★ **Liturgy of the Word with Communion** (NO MASS)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Dec. 10/11

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Sat. 5:00 PM + Antonio Claro – *Ilda*

Sun. 9:30 am – Int. of Parishioners of St. Mark

11:30 am + Custodia Barbosa Pires – *Agostinho Barbosa & family*



Masses this weekend are celebrated by **Fr. Ray Reitzel, C.R.** Please offer Fr. Ray your gratitude and a warm welcome. Also, please remember Fr. Roque and his family in your prayers while he is visiting the Philippines on compassionate leave. Fr. Roque will return next weekend.

Sacramental Enrollment for First Communion and Confirmation

If your family missed the Sacramental Enrollment Mass last month, please plan to attend one of the Masses on the weekend of **Dec. 17-18**, when Father Roque will welcome the children in grades 2 and 7 who missed the opportunity to submit their enrollment form last month. 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. Please check your inbox. If you did not receive one, or have children in another school, please contact the parish office a.s.a.p. or pick up a letter and form in the church lobby (on the info wall).



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.



In the **Second Sunday of Advent** we hear **Isaiah** write of peace and prosperity that will come when the "root of Jesse" blossoms. "Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them." **Matthew's Gospel** brings us the famous Advent reading of John the Baptist serving as a voice of one crying out in the desert, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

We focus on the first readings from the Prophet **Isaiah** this week. With the Babylonian Captivity, the temple was destroyed, the leaders of the people were taken away to Babylon and a remnant was left behind. A life-threatening desert separated the people. In this context, Isaiah proclaims God's vindication of the people in exile. The desert will be reborn. A highway will bring their liberation. And the signs will be that there is healing and peace. "Comfort, give comfort to my people," says the Lord. The valleys will be filled in, the mountains leveled - every obstacle will be overcome - to build a highway for our God to come and save us. The people can hardly believe the good news. They are weak and weary of their captivity. Isaiah proclaims, "They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles' wings." He offers support: "I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand; It is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'" The people have been at a distance from the Lord for some time and were not obeying the commandments. The Lord says, "I, the LORD, your God, teach you what is for your good, and lead you on the way you should go." The final first reading this week is a piece from the book of **Sirach** in which the prophet Elijah is praised. Elijah, who was destined to come again to restore order before the day of the Lord, is seen in the reading from **Matthew's Gospel** to be John the Baptist.

The gospels this week, taken from various evangelists, show Jesus as the fulfillment of the liberation promised. Jesus heals the paralytic. He tends to the lost sheep of his flock. He comforts us who labor and are burdened. Jesus teaches a true wisdom.

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Christmas Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE

(SATURDAY, DEC. 24)

6:00 PM

8:00 PM

10:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

(SUNDAY, DEC. 25)

9:30 AM

11:30 AM

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

Ladies' Advent Retreat

All ladies are warmly invited to an Advent Retreat this **Thursday, December 8th starting with Mass at 7 p.m.** for the FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

Guest celebrant **Fr. Edward Henhoeffter** will lead us on a **journey through the Christmas account according to the Gospel of Luke.**

Take part with Mary and Joseph and the C.W.L. as we make this journey!



Liturgical Ministers

Dec. 10-11	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
Altar Servers:	J./P./V. Miller	R. Jerold P./T. Pereira	C. Chacon J./S. Garrucho
Commentator:	S. Rellinger	V. DeVries	I. Kangaloo
Reader:	S. Benner	P. Enticott	M. Oram
Ushers:	C. Weber P. Smith	P. Drohan J. Kelly	C. Dignam
Eucharistic Ministers:	P. Fernandez C. Weber	M. Walser A. Joseph	E. Weiss K. Dignam
Liturgical ministers are asked to please sign up in the narthex for Christmas & New Year's Masses. Thank you!			

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.



COMING SOON: ALPHA 2023

Right here at St. Mark's ... and you're invited!

Alpha is back! This 11-week program 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?
More information to come.

In the meantime, tell your friends and mark your calendar:
Thursday evenings, February 16 to April 27
6:45 to 9:15 p.m.

Advent Reconciliation Services

DATE	TIME	CHURCH
Dec. 6	6:00 p.m.	Our Lady of Lourdes, Waterloo
Dec. 7	7:00 p.m.	St. Anne
Dec. 13	7:00 p.m.	St. Joseph
Dec. 14	6:00 p.m.	St. Aloysius
Dec. 14	7:00 p.m.	St. Boniface, Maryhill
Dec. 15	7:00 p.m.	St. Mark
Dec. 15	7:00 p.m.	St. Mary's
Dec. 17	4:00 p.m.	St. Teresa of Avila, Kit.
Dec. 18	3:00 p.m.	Sacred Heart
Dec. 20	8 AM - 8 PM	St. Michael's, Waterloo
Dec. 21	7:00 p.m.	St. Anthony Daniel
Dec. 22	7:00 p.m.	Blessed Sacrament

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) (AND CATHOLIC FAITH REFRESHER COURSE)

RCIA is a program and faith journey for Adult Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion. We meet on **Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the St. John Room**. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, please fill out an RCIA form in the foyer or call Fr. Roque at 519-571-9200 for more details. This is also open to anyone who would like to have a refresher course on the Catholic Faith – **all are welcome!**



C.W.L. News... Our Membership Drive continues!

Do you wish you were part of a group that fed mind, body and soul? Do you yearn for a way to 'right' some of the 'wrongs' in today's world? All that and so much more awaits for only \$40 with a membership in the St Mark Catholic Women's League! Gift memberships are also available for a special woman in your life. For more info, please contact Sue Sawchuk, Organization Chair at 519-277-1898 or email stmarkcwl@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDY... Fridays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the St. John

Room – All are welcome! Please bring your bible and paper and pen. Masks are optional. Questions? Please contact Karen at bkkrieger@rogers.com.

St. Agatha Christmas Concert

On **Sunday, December 4th** at 3:00 pm the Heart Cry Choir, composed of 42 Mennonite youth singers, will be at **St. Agatha Church in St. Agatha** (1839 Notre Dame Drive) to give a Christmas performance! All are invited to come enjoy their acapella choral stylings in 4 and 8-part harmony! They will be singing many Advent and Christmas favourites and more. There is no cost to attend.

St. Teresa's C.W.L. Online Auction

AUCTION ENDS Sunday, Dec. 4th at 5:00 PM

<https://www.32auctions.com/StTeresaCWL Auction2022>.

Proceeds go to support the ongoing endeavours of St. Teresa's Catholic Women's League.

Open House and Christmas Market

Saturday, Dec. 10th, 10 am to 4 pm at **Mount Mary Immaculate Retreat Centre** (437 Wilson St. East, **Ancaster**). Guests are welcome to tour the grounds and buildings, enjoy some refreshments and do some Christmas shopping. Free admission, all are welcome! More info: www.mountmary.ca.

Evenings with His Excellency – Auxiliary Bishop Wayne Lobsinger invites everyone to join him for an opportunity to learn more about our Catholic Faith based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Class is the **2nd Friday of each month** from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Ann Parish in Ancaster. **It is also available ONLINE on St. Ann's YouTube channel**. No cost, no homework, just an opportunity to learn about our faith. All are welcome.

RESTART: Refresh, Renew Revive – A gathering for **separated and divorced** individuals offering learning, support and fun! These get-togethers offer continual support and insights for people on their journey through the divorce/separation process and beyond. **Held on the 2nd & 3rd Fridays of each month**, you can join **in-person** (700 King St. West, Hamilton), or by **ZOOM**. No registration required. For ZOOM link contact Sarah at familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com, or 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

MASKING / FACE COVERING: Please note that Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health is strongly recommending that Ontarians wear masks in indoor areas of public settings during the current surge in viral illnesses. While there is no mask mandate in the province at this time, we kindly ask everyone to please be considerate of everyone's personal choice.



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