

St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish

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

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Stephen Murrin – *Pastor*
Rev. Mr. Philip Fernandez – *Deacon*
Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Parish Secretary*

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday at 5:00 PM
Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM
No Children's Liturgy of the Word until further notice.

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday through Friday at 12:00 NOON
First Saturday of the Month at 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

Saturday at 4:15 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: Pat Runstedler
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 will appear in the bulletin.

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 as far in advance as possible 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.

Mass Intentions for the Week



December 6 – 12, 2021

Seating is restricted by physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) between households, until further notice. Masks are mandatory. Please stay home if you are feeling unwell.

Tuesday (MEMORIAL – ST. AMBROSE)

12 Noon – Int. of Colette Dokis – Luiz Macedo

Wednesday (SOLEMNITY – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BL. V. MARY)

12 Noon + Mary Quinlan – Christine & Bruce Cutting

*** FOLLOWED BY BENEDICTION**

Thursday (FERIAL)

12 Noon + Francis Xavier Zapanta Leonidas – Baxter family

Friday (FERIAL)

12 Noon + Ron Eby – Gerry & Judy Kraft

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Dec. 11-12

Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

Sat. 5:00 PM + Patrick Weber – Carol & family

Sun. 9:30 am – Int. of Luiz Macedo – Colette Dokis

11:30 am – Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark



St. Ambrose (340-397) was born at Treves in Gaul, a territory which embraced modern France, Britain, Spain, and part of Africa. He studied in Rome and later became governor of Liguria and Aemelia with residence at Milan. While supervising the election of a new bishop of Milan in 374, he himself was suddenly acclaimed the bishop. He was only a catechumen at the time and was ordained a priest and consecrated a bishop on Dec. 7. He wrote much on the Scriptures and Fathers, preached a homily every Sunday, resisted the interference of the secular powers with the rights of the Church, opposed the heretics, and was instrumental in bringing about the conversion of St. Augustine. He composed many hymns, promoted sacred chant, and took a great interest in the Liturgy.



SOLEMNITY of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On **December 8th** 1854, Pope Pius IX solemnly defined as a truth of Catholic faith the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In doing so, he gave expression to the voice of Catholic tradition and devotion which had always honoured this privilege of the Blessed Virgin. By her Immaculate Conception, Mary was preserved from all stain of original sin from the first moment of her conception and so was

prepared for the surpassing dignity of Mother of God. The various portions of the Mass illustrate this great glory of Mary.

Collect (opening prayer) for the Feast of Immaculate Conception

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that, as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*** Mass will be immediately followed by Benediction.**

Sunday Missals for 2021-2022

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE NARTHEX ~ \$5 EACH

ADVENT RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES – The Diocesan Offices for Liturgy, Youth Ministry and Evangelization and Catechesis are happy to provide a resource for families to encourage prayer and celebration in the home during the Advent Season. For suggestions, videos and a prayer to be prayed around the wreath each Sunday of Advent, please visit: www.hamiltondiocese.com/advent2021. We invite you to share this resource with those in your communities who may benefit.



This week and next, our Gospel readings invite us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. To affirm this, Luke quotes at length from the prophet Isaiah. John baptizes for repentance and for forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God's salvation.

The three Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke—attest to the importance of the baptism of John in preparing for Jesus. Only the Gospel of Luke, however, extends the connection between these two men to their birth. The first two chapters of Luke's Gospel contain the Infancy Narrative, which tells about the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. These stories set the stage for the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in chapter 3.

The evangelist Luke is the author of the Gospel that bears his name, and he also wrote the Acts of the Apostles as a continuation of the story of Jesus and the Church. In these two works, Luke's sense of time and history emerges. He identifies three epochs of salvation history: the time before Christ, the time of Christ, and the time of the Church and the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel reading, as elsewhere, John the Baptist is presented as the figure who bridges the time before Christ and prepares the way for Christ's own ministry.

In today's Gospel we also note Luke's attention to political and historical detail. Luke shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. Therefore, Luke lists the political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did. ■



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for:

The intentions of St. Mark's Prayer Network



You may request to have one or both lamps burn for a special intention or for the repose of someone's soul. Public intentions will be published in the bulletin and on our website; private intentions will not. 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.

Donations toward Christmas Flowers for the Church

In the narthex you will find special envelopes and a box to deposit them. 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. All names will be included on a special insert in the Christmas bulletin, and Mass on Christmas morning will be celebrated for the Repose of their Souls.



Liturgical Ministers

Dec. 11-12	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
Reader:	S. Rellinger	T. Angel	I. Kangaloo
Ushers:	C. Weber P. Fernandez	V. Chen P. Drohan	B./C. Voisin
Eucharistic Ministers:	A. Bendia H. Psutka	A. Joseph M. Walser	F. Kangaloo E. Weiss



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE
♦ 6:00 PM ♦ 8:00 PM ♦ 10:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY
♦ 9:30 AM ♦ 11:30 AM

SEATING: ♦ No reservations; First come, first seated
♦ MASKS REQUIRED
♦ Proof of vaccination NOT required
♦ Physical distancing (6ft.) between households

2022 Offertory Envelopes & Pre-Authorized Debits

ENVELOPES: Boxes of Offertory Envelopes will be ready for pick up in mid-December. If your address or phone needs updating, please contact Pam at the parish office this week.

MONTHLY DEBIT PLAN: If you are enrolled in our pre-authorized debit plan, you will also still receive a box of envelopes in order to donate toward special causes (Christmas, Good Friday, World Missions, St. Vincent de Paul, etc.) so please look for your box in the lobby in mid-December.

If you would like to start using envelopes or enroll in the monthly debit plan (or wish more information) please pick up a form from the information wall in the narthex, or contact Pam at the office to have one emailed to you.

Are you troubled? Do you need spiritual support?

The Sisters of the Carmel of Saint Joseph will pray for you during the NOVENA TO THE INFANT JESUS: December 16th to 24th

You can participate in the Novena to Infant Jesus 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

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR | This week let us pray for...

DEC. 6	DEC. 7	DEC. 8	DEC. 9	DEC. 10	DEC. 11
Rev. Lajos Angyal	Rev. Joseph Durkacz	Order of Preachers (Dominican) (O.P.)	Rev. Emmanuel Azike, O.P.	Rev. Thomas Manninezhath, C.M.I.	Rev. Zygmunt Baranowski

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.

VOCATION SEEDS ♦ 2nd Sunday of Advent ♦ December 5, 2021 ... Could God be calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother, or sister to help our world of today to truly "prepare the way of the Lord"? Contact Bishop Wayne Lobsinger, Director of Vocations and Priestly Formation, Diocese of Hamilton (905-528-7988). vocations@hamiltondiocese.com | www.hamiltondiocese.com/vocations

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEW TOYS FOR NEEDY KIDS



For 25 years, the Waterloo Knights of Columbus have been collecting new toys for needy children at Christmas and throughout the year. It is the largest Toy Drive in Waterloo Region and has collected and distributed more than \$5,000,000 in toys and donations to date. Multiple volunteers work tirelessly to make sure every child in need receives a gift at Christmas and other special times.

Since St. Mark's is unable to have an Angel Tree this year, our Knights have decided to collect toys to augment the already successful Waterloo toy drive. **Those interested in contributing may place new, unwrapped toys in the designated bin in the narthex between now and Christmas.** Our Knights will then deliver them to the Waterloo Knights to be sorted and distributed. Thank you for your consideration.

2021 Ontario Charities 50-50 Online Raffle

Early Bird Draw Dec. 1, 2021 ~ Jackpot Draw Dec. 31, 2021



To purchase tickets:

- visit: <https://www.kofcontario5050.com>
- click the "Buy Tickets Now" button
- select your number of tickets and click the "Checkout" button
- fill in your Billing Information, and
 - under "Organization" select "Kitchener St. Mark's 9276"
 - then click "Continue"
- fill in your Payment Information and click "Submit Order"
- **You will then receive an email from KofC Ontario with your Order Confirmation ... this is your OFFICIAL TICKET** and must be presented if you win, so keep it in a safe place. You will not receive any physical tickets.

C.W.L. Membership Dues ... Please look for the blue envelope for 2022 membership fees in your December envelopes. All councils have been asked to submit membership renewals as of December 31st each year. This will help National office have an accurate snapshot of our membership at Parish, Diocesan, Provincial and National levels. It will also ensure that The League Magazine will continue to be sent to you, uninterrupted. New members are always welcome.



AN UPDATE FROM...

St. Mark's Society of St. Vincent de Paul

It's been well over a year since we have been able to provide families in need with food hampers from the portable at St. Mark's. Various groups have worked together to provide other distribution options during this difficult period.

Recently, we joined with the Food Bank and used the majority of our remaining funds to support the 'Christmas Bureau' in Waterloo Region. During the Christmas season this project will provide families in our community with gifts for their children and food for a Holiday meal.

As we move beyond the Christmas Season, we do not know if or when we will get back to providing food hampers from our portable as we had in the past. But we do know many families continue to need our help.

As in the past, you will find blue SVDP envelopes in your offertory box in the months of November and March. If you are able to provide any financial support it is greatly appreciated. Please know that your generosity will continue to be used in some way to support those in our community who need our assistance the most. Thank you for your continued support.



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