

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 – *Secretary*

The Parish Office is open by appointment only.

Please call or email ahead to schedule your visit.

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

Wednesday 12:00 NOON

followed by Adoration and Benediction

CONFESSIONS

Saturday at 4:15 PM or by appointment.

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION CHAPEL

Closed until further notice.

PANDEMIC PROTOCOL

Seating capacity in the church is restricted to 30%. Doors open 30 minutes before Mass. Seating will be first come, first served. Under the Ontario guidelines, we ask that:

- all who are not feeling well, or have an elevated temperature, please stay home.
- when you visit the church you wear a face covering over your nose, mouth, and chin. Required by the Face Covering By-law 20-035.
- you practice generous social distancing (minimum 6 ft.) and follow the signs and ushers' directions.
- that you use your washroom before coming to church.

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. Dates for preparation and the 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 set up an appointment.

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.



"... 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 be printed in the bulletin and announced at Mass.

If you require a Mass card please call 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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions for the Week



December 7 – 13, 2020

Church doors are open 30 minutes before the start of Mass, and seating is restricted to 30% capacity (first come first seated) until further notice.

Tuesday, Dec. 8 (Solemnity – Immaculate Conception of the Bl. V. Mary)
7:00 PM + Joseph Singleton – *Flood family*

Wednesday, Dec. 9 (FERIAL)
12 noon + Francis Xavier Zapanta Leonidas – *Baxter family*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Dec. 12/13

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sat. 5:00 PM – Intentions of Parishioners of St. Mark

Sun. 9:30 am + Joaquin Vaz & Francisca Goncalves – *M. Silva*

11:30 am + Maria Silvestre – *Joao*



SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

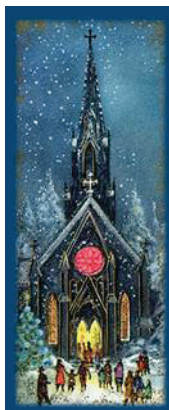
On December 8th 1854, Pope Pius IX solemnly defined as a truth of Catholic faith the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In doing so, he gave expression to the voice of Catholic tradition and devotion which had always honoured this privilege of the Blessed Virgin. By her Immaculate Conception, 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.

Meetings This Week:

Mon. Dec. 7 8:00 pm Hall Alcoholics Anonymous
Sat. Dec. 12 7:15 am Hall That Man Is You! (last session)



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

6:00 PM ♦ 8:00 PM ♦ 10:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30 AM ♦ 11:30 AM

All parishioners are encouraged to **RESERVE SEATS**
by emailing Pam at stmark@rogers.com.
Please include your name, preferred Mass time,
and number of seats required.

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark.

Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus. ■

Please note that there will be NO ANGEL TREE this year, as our Christmas hamper and gift programs have had to be revamped due to pandemic restrictions. We hope to resume this always well-received program next year. Thank you for your past support!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

Thank you to everyone who packed Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. This year 90 shoeboxes were sent to the Calgary Processing Centre. Children in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Sierra Leone will be blessed eternally. Thank you for your generosity!

2021 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES
will be available in the narthex in mid-December

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Donations toward Christmas Flowers for the Church

Please use a plain envelope from home (not an offertory envelope). Write the names of your deceased loved ones on the back of the envelope, or include them inside with your donation. Then drop the envelope in the gift box on the table in the narthex. All names will be included on a special insert in the Christmas bulletin (online), and Mass on Christmas morning will be celebrated for the Repose of their Souls.



DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

This week let us pray for...

DEC. 7	DEC. 8	DEC. 9	DEC. 10	DEC. 11	DEC. 12
Rev. Adam Wroblewicz, C.R.	Rev. Kevin D'Souza	Order of Preachers (Dominican) (O.P.)	Rev. Peter Ciallella	Rev. Roshan D'Souza, C.S.C.	Rev. Francis Salasiar, C.S.C.

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.

Are you troubled? Do you need spiritual support?

**The Sisters of the Carmel of Saint Joseph
will pray for you during the
NOVENA TO INFANT JESUS
December 16th to December 25th, 2020**

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

Dear friends of the Herb Wittich Depot, Canadian Food for Children, We are writing to inform you of a decision that we regretfully have had to make. As you are aware, the infections of Covid19 are rapidly rising, and restrictions on our day to day activities are becoming more strict.

In order to protect the well-being of our volunteers and all of you who have contact with us, THE DEPOT WILL BE CLOSED IMMEDIATELY. We are hopeful that this closure will be temporary but it is impossible to estimate when we may re-open.

PLEASE DO NOT bring any donations of goods to the Depot until further notice. We also ask you to pray for safety for all as we approach the Christmas season. Please stay safe and stay healthy.

- Your friends at the Depot

Advent Liturgy of the Word

We are pleased to announce that the Diocese of Hamilton will host an online Advent Liturgy of the Word at on **Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 PM using Zoom.** The themes are Light and Annunciation.

The Very Reverend Monsignor Murray J. Kroetsch, Vicar General of our Diocese, will preside and there will be music as well as contributions by different parishes in the Diocese during the Liturgy of the Word.

[Register for the Online Advent Liturgy of the Word here.](#)

Unable to tune in live? This event will be recorded and made available on the Diocesan website following the event.



MASKS:

**A note from Bishop Crosby's
October 7th letter:**



"Those who are unable to wear a mask because of an underlying medical condition which inhibits their ability to wear a mask, are to be admitted to the church, and are to be seated in a designated area at least four metres away from others. They may not come forward to receive Communion with others; the priest or extraordinary minister will bring them Communion where they are seated."
Read the full letter [here](#).

A REMINDER ABOUT LEAVING AT THE END OF MASS: When Mass is over, kindly remain in your seats until Father has made his way to the narthex. Those sitting in the back pews should leave the church first, and people at the front should leave last. Thank you for helping us to maintain social distancing for everyone.

**Fr. McGivney
Beatification Celebration!**

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Questions? Please call PGK John Deneau at 519-741-0434

Journey through Advent

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCBB), has a new **online weekly video series** created to help Canadian Catholic faithful to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Entitled *Journey through Advent*, the series serves as an introduction to the liturgical Season and present reflections on the Gospel readings for each Sunday in Advent. The Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., Bishop of Hamilton and the Most Reverend Pierre Goudreault, Bishop of Saint-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, provide spiritual and pastoral guidance on the readings that illustrate the true meaning of Christmas.

[Access this video series on the Diocesan website here.](#)





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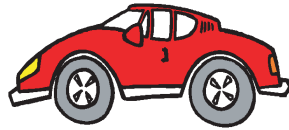
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