

# St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish

55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3A2 • 519-571-9200 • [www.stmarkcatholicparish.org](http://www.stmarkcatholicparish.org)

## **PARISH STAFF**

Rev. Stephen Murrin – *Pastor*  
Rev. Mr. Basil Markides – *Deacon*  
Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Secretary*

## **LORD'S DAY MASSES**

Saturday at 5:00 PM  
Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

## **WEEKDAY MASSES**

Tuesday 7:00 PM  
Wednesday 12:00 NOON  
Thursday, Friday 7:00 AM \*  
Saturday 9:00 AM  
(\*First Friday 7:00 PM followed by Benediction)

## **CONFESSIONS**

Saturday following 9:00 AM Mass  
and 4:15–4:30 PM or by appointment.

## **BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION CHAPEL**

Perpetual Adoration – Spots available, please  
see chapel bulletin board

Divine Mercy – Sundays 3:00 PM  
Our Lady's Rosary – First Saturday at 10 AM

**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** – White Box Collection on the last Sunday of the month. 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 slip it under the door of the parish office if it is closed. Your intention will be printed in the bulletin and announced at Mass.

**If you require a Mass card** please make your request in person at the parish office during business hours, or call the office to make pick-up arrangements.

The offering for a Mass (for living or deceased) 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**

The exact date does not matter, but I would prefer it to be on any:

☐ Tues. 7 PM ☐ Wed. 12 NOON ☐ Thur. 7 AM ☐ Fri. 7 AM ☐ Sat. 9 AM  
☐ Sat. 5:00 PM ☐ Sunday 9:30 AM ☐ Sunday 11:30 AM

**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 9 – 15, 2019

**Monday** (SOLEMNITY – Immaculate Conception of the Bl. Virgin Mary)  
**\* 7:00 PM** + Ronald Ferguson Mackenzie – Yvonne McIsaac

**Tuesday** (FERIAL)  
**2:00 PM** – Mass at Lanark Heights Long Term Care  
**7:00 PM** + Teodulo Estrada, Sr. – Cora Reyes

**Wednesday** – **NO PARISH MASS**  
**8:25 am** – School Advent Mass at Resurrection CSS  
**9:45 am** – School Advent Mass at Resurrection CSS

**Thursday** (FEAST – OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE)  
**7:00 am** – Int. of Paul Krevs – Krista Krevs  
**9:30 am** – **SCHOOL ADVENT MASS with St. Mark School**

**Friday** (MEMORIAL – ST. LUCY)  
**7:00 am** + Sarah Naguib – Magda, Rosemary & Eric

**Saturday** (MEMORIAL – ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS)  
**9:00 am** + Antero Correia – Correia family

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

**Sat. 5:00 PM** – Int. of the Parishioners of St. Mark

**Sun. 9:30 am** + Ron Eagle – Frank & Beth Seaward  
**11:30 am** + Margaret Nightingale – Morton family



\* This year, December 8<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday, therefore **The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** will be celebrated on **Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** with evening Mass at 7:00 p.m.

The feast in honor of **Our Lady of Guadalupe** goes back to the 16th century. A poor Indian named Juan Diego, 57 and a widower, on Saturday morning December 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honor of Our Lady. On his way a radiant cloud appeared, and within it stood an Indian maiden. The lady sent him to the bishop of Mexico, and told him that a chapel was to be built in the place where the lady appeared. Eventually the bishop told Juan to have the lady give him a sign. Although winter, on December 12, when Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, roses fell to the ground, and the bishop sank to his knees.

**St. Lucy** (283-304) was born in Syracuse, Sicily, where she also died. She was of a noble Greek family, and was brought up as a Christian by her mother, who was miraculously cured at the shrine of St. Agatha in Catania. Lucy made a vow of virginity and distributed her wealth to the poor. This generosity stirred the wrath of the unworthy youth to whom she had been unwillingly betrothed and who denounced her to Paschasius, the governor of Sicily. When it was decided to violate her virginity in a place of shame, Lucy, with the help of the Holy Spirit, stood immovable. A fire was then built around her, but again God protected her. She was finally put to death by the sword. Her name appears in the second list in the Canon.

**St. John of the Cross** was born in Spain in 1542, and he learned the importance of self-sacrificing love from his parents. His life of poverty and persecution could have produced a bitter cynic. Instead it gave birth to a compassionate mystic, who lived by the beliefs that "Who has ever seen people persuaded to love God by harshness?" and "Where there is no love, put love -- and you will find love." John left us many books of practical advice on spiritual growth and prayer that are just as relevant today as they were then. These books include: *Ascent of Mount Carmel*, *Dark Night of the Soul*, and *A Spiritual Canticle of the Soul and the Bridegroom Christ*. Since joy comes only from God, John believed that someone who seeks happiness in the world is like "a famished person who opens his mouth to satisfy himself with air." He taught that only by breaking the rope of our desires could we fly up to God. Above all, he was concerned for those who suffered dryness or depression in their spiritual life and offered encouragement that God loved them and was leading them deeper into faith.

### Meetings & Events This Week:

DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
<u>Mon. Dec. 9</u>	8:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
<u>Tue. Dec. 10</u>	6:30 pm	(B)	Search & Rescue
	7:30 pm	(M)	Knights of Columbus Exec. meeting
<u>Wed. Dec. 11</u>	6:30 pm	(CH)	9:30 Choir practice
	7:30 pm	(B)	Women's Prayer Group
<u>Thur. Dec. 12</u>	6:15 pm	(M)	Legion of Mary
	7:30 pm	(CH)	5:00 Choir practice
<u>Fri. Dec. 13</u>	6:00 am	(M)	Men's group
<u>Sat. Dec. 14</u>	7:15 am	(H)	That Man Is You! ( <i>last session</i> )
<u>Sun. Dec. 15</u>	2:00 pm	(H)	Potluck Christmas Social (all ages!)

**Meeting Rooms:** B = Basement CH = Church H = Hall \* = Offsite  
J = St. John Room L = St. Luke Room M = St. Matthew Room

**In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's**, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance ... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: "...the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

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 in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord. ■

### Weekly Offertory Report for Nov.30/Dec.1, 2019

	THIS WEEK	YTD - WEEK 48
Offertory Collection:	\$ 2,669.45	\$ 152,799.44
Pre-Authorized Debits:	\$ 1,425.35	\$ 62,452.00
<b>Total Offerings:</b>	<b>\$ 4,094.80</b>	<b>\$ 215,251.44</b>
<i>Budget:</i>	<i>\$ 5,200.00</i>	<i>\$ 249,600.00</i>
<i>Under Budget:</i>	<i>(\$1105.20)</i>	<i>(\$34,348.56)</i>
<b>Mortgage Offerings to date this year:</b>	<b>\$ 26,466.50</b>	



★ All Liturgical Ministers are reminded to **sign-up for Christmas and New Year's Masses** in the binder on the table in the narthex.

Dec. 14/15	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
Altar Servers:	V./P./J. Miller N./J. DeSouza	D./D. Jacobs	C. Chacon B. Starr; R. Robin
Commentator:	G. Balm	B. Sawarna	D. DeSouza
1 <sup>st</sup> Reader: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader:	K. Krigner	T. Angel T. Boettger	I. Kangaloo B. Starr
Ushers:	A. Montag	P. Drohan I./D. Culley	B. Voisin
Gift Bearers:		<i>Children's Liturgy Kids</i>	Chacon
Eucharistic Ministers:	K. Smith F./Y. Tully	B. Coutinho P./B. Enticott	E. Weiss A. Monte F. Kangaloo



## POTLUCK Christmas Social

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**2:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**St. Mark Parish Hall**  
★ ALL AGES ★

**LIVE MUSIC / CAROLING,  
FACE-PAINTING FOR THE KIDS  
and SANTA COMES AT 3:00 PM!**

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT**

Bring the kids! Bring a dish!  
Bring a friend!

Sign-up in the narthex if you plan to attend.



## Missed the Enrollment Mass? (for Gr. 2's and Gr. 7's)

If you and your child were unable to attend the Enrollment Mass for **First Communion** and **Confirmation** last Sunday, please be sure to have your child submit their enrollment form (along with a photocopy of their baptism certificate) personally to Fr. Steve after any Mass during the month of December. All forms must be submitted to Fr. Steve no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Diocesan Prayer Calendar

This week, let us pray for...

Dec. 9 - Very Rev. Con O'Mahony  
Dec. 10 - Rev. Felix Nwatu  
Dec. 11 - Srs. of St. John the Baptist (CSJB)  
Dec. 12 - Rev. Czeslaw Kolasa, S.A.C.  
Dec. 13 - Rev. Ranjan D'Sa, O.C.D.  
Dec. 14 - Rev. Louis Lenssen, C.R.S.P.

## 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.*

## Donations to purchase Christmas Flowers for the Church

Please use one of the envelopes provided on the table in the narthex. Write the names of your deceased loved ones on the back of the envelope, or insert them inside, and place 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, and Mass on Christmas morning will be celebrated for the Repose of their Souls.



## C.W.L. Membership Dues

Please look for the blue envelope for 2020 membership fees in your December envelopes. All councils have been asked to submit membership renewals as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 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.** Come out to any General Meeting, talk to members in the Narthex during our membership drive or contact Kim Montag (519) 500-1964 or [kim.a.montag@gmail.com](mailto:kim.a.montag@gmail.com) for more information.

## One Heart, One Soul Diocesan Campaign Update

Congratulations are in order! As a parish we have surpassed our goal of \$295,000: as of November 29<sup>th</sup>, we have received 133 pledges so far, resulting in a total of **\$317,241.44** ... a 44% participation rate. Your dedicated support is greatly appreciated. We will continue to bring you updates as the campaign progresses further.

## Thank you to everyone who packed Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

We took 110 boxes to the Collection Centre in Kitchener. Many children in eight different countries will be blessed through your generosity.

## SIGN-UP FOR NEW LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Please see the list of volunteer positions in the narthex. Most needed at this time are Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist and Altar Servers. Any questions, please see Fr. Steve.

## Children's Liturgy of the Word Program

Every Sunday during the 9:30 Mass for children aged 5 to grade 3. No registration is necessary, just bring your children to Mass.

**Please note: No Children's Liturgy on Dec. 29 nor Jan. 5.**



## 6" Red Poinsettias

ON SALE NEXT WEEKEND ONLY!

**December 14 & 15** ..... \$10 each (6-inch pot)  
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!



## Advent Reconciliation Services

(Multiple priests available for confession)



Mon. Dec. 9	7:30 pm	St. Louis Church, Waterloo
Tue. Dec. 10	7:00 pm	St. Agatha Church, St. Agatha
	7:30 pm	St. Agnes Church, Waterloo
Wed. Dec. 11	6:30 pm	St. Aloysius Church, Kitchener
	7:00 pm	St. Mary's Church, Kitchener
	7:00 pm	St. Joseph Church, Kitchener
Thur. Dec. 12	7:30 pm	Our Lady of Lourdes, Waterloo
Wed. Dec. 18	7:00 pm	St. Teresa Church, Elmira
	7:00 pm	St. Anne Church, Kitchener
	7:00 pm	Blessed Sacrament Church, Kitchener

## Extra Confession Times at St. Mark's

Wednesday, Dec. 18: 12:30 – 1:30 PM & 6:00 – 7:00 PM  
Thursday, Dec. 19: 7:00 – 8:00 PM

## Christmas Mass Times at St. Mark's

Christmas Eve - 6:00 PM & 11:00 PM      Christmas Day - 10:00 AM

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board is currently accepting applications for **Occasional Teachers**. Please visit their website for job details and application criteria: [www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca).





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