

# St. Mark Catholic Parish

55 Driftwood Drive

Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3A2

(519) 571 9200

Fax (519) 745 8259

*Advent*



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### CONFESSIONS ~ Last opportunity before Christmas

**Monday, Dec. 22:** St. Joseph's Church 7:00 PM (communal)  
**Tuesday, Dec. 23:** 1:00–2:00 PM (in the Chapel)  
 7:30–8:30 PM (in the Chapel)

### Worship This Week

December 22 – 28, 2014

#### Monday

7:00 am + Kathleen Blanchard – *Carl & Agnes Santoni*

#### Tuesday

7:00 pm + May Murphy – *Bill & Delenda Wilson*

### FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

#### Wednesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve)

5:00 pm + Dave Walser – *Nick & Sharon Cerantola*

8:00 pm - Int. of Ann Kavanagh – *Kangaloo family*

12 Midnight + Owney Killoran - *Marie*

#### Thursday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Day)

9:30 am + Fred Dalton & Clara & Gerald Seaward

11:30 am - Int. of the Parishioners of St. Mark's

★ NO EVENING MASS



#### Friday (FEAST – ST. STEPHEN)

★ NO MASSES TODAY

#### Saturday (FEAST – ST. JOHN)

9:00 am + Mary McCotter – *Mark & Eleanor Lawlor*

★ NO MORNING CONFESSIONS

### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

*Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40*

**Sat. 5:00 pm** - Int. of the Catholic Women's League

**Sun. 9:30 am** - Int. of Father Adrian Lee – *Jeanne Robinson*

11:30 am - Int. of the Parishioners of St. Mark's

## New Year's Mass Times

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE

Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

• 5:00 PM

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY

Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015

• 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM

### Offertory Collections

**Dec. 13/14, 2014**

Envelope Users..... \$ 4,147.85

Loose monies..... \$ 454.57

**TOTAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS** ..... \$ **4,602.42**

Mortgage Fund ..... \$ 758.00

**Thank you for your generosity!**

### Televised Christmas Midnight Mass

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, OMI, DD, Bishop of Hamilton will celebrate Christmas Midnight Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. This is the 60<sup>th</sup> year that CHCH-TV Channel 11 (Hamilton) has televised the Midnight Mass which is broadcast live and then repeated at 8:00 a.m. on Christmas morning. A carol service will begin at 11:30 p.m. followed by Midnight Mass. The televising of this celebration is made possible by the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton.

### LITURGICAL ROLES

DEC. 27 - 28	Sat. 5:00 PM	Sun. 9:30 AM	Sun. 11:30 AM
Altar Servers:	C./B./T. Morgan	D. Bristol E. Chang R. Vezensenyi	M. McCullough P. Mortens
Commentator:	C. Baumtrog	B. Sawarna	O. Sirju
Lector:	K. Smith	D. Bristol	R. Dom.-Rey
Ushers:	L. Macedo K. Friesen	F./B. Seaward	M. Schimus M. Monte
Gift Bearers:	Buchanan	Cerantola	Masbad
Eucharistic Ministers:	C. Dokis F./Y. Tully P. Appelman R. Landgraff	B. Seaward A. Simoes B. Starr M. Walser	A. Monte B./C. Voisin E. Weiss

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S SIGN-UP

If you are available to serve on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve or New Year's Day, please sign up on the pages posted on the glass at the far end of the narthex. Thank you!

### A Christmas Message from Fr. Don...

Parishes are supposed to be a hotbed of Christian faith, hope and charity. Few parishes are at the "defcon 5" level, to be sure. What I do see here is a solid group of committed Catholics who want to serve the Lord, the Church and the needs of others. There is a love for the Eucharist, Mary, the poor, the Word of God, and there is the desire to grow in goodness and holiness. This is very evident to me.

I commend all of you in your efforts to be humble and faithful servants of the Lord. Deacon Basil is a great asset to all of us. Speaking for myself, I am deeply appreciative of his good work here, particularly for his preaching, teaching, witnessing and assistance at the altar of God at Holy Mass. As well, I am deeply indebted to Pam for her excellent service to the parish and to myself. As well, I cannot forget to mention Beth because she makes sure I am fed and live in a clean house. That would not be the case if she were not here.

Thank you for all for caring about God and His Church – and, for your patience with me. Though I have my quirks and short-comings, I believe you appreciate my efforts on your behalf.

I have three "hopes" for the future...

One is that those who do not go to Mass every Sunday will begin to do so. I'm sure people have their reasons – some valid (from a human point of view), some not so valid. Come, because the Lord calls you to be here. Come and join the rest of us sinners who need the Lord, His grace, His Body and Blood, and others to make the journey with us.

Secondly, I wish that everyone try to come to the Eucharistic sacrifice as often as they possibly can. Weekday Mass gives us a more reflective experience of the sacred mysteries.

Lastly, pray before the Lord in the chapel and let Him speak to you. This will lead all of us to the confessional and in turn to the mercy, grace and peace of the Lord.

If we believe that He was born in a stable – then we must believe He is present on the altar at every CHRISTmas – a miracle in our very midst.

**Merry Christmas to you all,**

*Fr. Don*



**Attention Parents of Students in Grades 2 or 7:**

If you have not yet registered your child for **First Communion** (gr. 2) or **Confirmation** (gr. 7) at St. Mark's Parish, please be sure to do so as soon as possible. Registration forms and handouts from missed meetings can be found on the information wall in the narthex.

**Gr. 2 FIRST COMMUNION ~ 2015 Catechism Program**

**Optional but highly recommended for all Grade 2 students preparing to receive First Holy Communion at St. Mark's Parish in 2015** (especially for public school students).

The Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate will lead an excellent **12-week First Communion & First Reconciliation program** here at St. Mark's Parish on **Tuesday evenings starting in February**. The program also includes one Saturday afternoon retreat. If you have not yet registered your child for these classes, please call the parish office or pick up a First Communion handout from the information wall in the narthex.

**Gr. 7 CONFIRMATION ~ 2015 Preparation Sessions**

**Required for all Grade 7 students preparing to be confirmed at St. Mark's Parish in 2015** (regardless of school affiliation)

As part of the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, Father Don will hold a few sessions for candidates, sponsors (if possible) and parents.

**Sessions will take place following the Sunday 11:30 Mass** (take a 10-minute break after Mass and reassemble in the church for 12:45 p.m. – in this way, you can come to Mass without having to return to the church during the week for these sessions).

Remember to be present at Mass each and every Sunday as well as for these sessions.

These mandatory sessions will provide an opportunity to learn more about our faith so that Confirmation itself will be a truly meaningful celebration of the sacrament. Listed below are the dates, times and topics to be covered:

**Sunday Afternoons from 12:45 – 1:30 PM at St. Mark's Church:**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
<b>JAN. 18</b>	– Who is Jesus Christ?
<b>FEB. 1</b>	– The Meaning of Baptism
<b>FEB. 15</b>	– The Sacrament of Confirmation
<b>MAR. 1</b>	– The Mass and the Eucharist
<b>MAR. 15</b>	– The Call to Holiness (The 10 Commandments)
<i>(3-week break due to Holy Week and Easter)</i>	
<b>APR. 19</b>	– The Sacrament of God's Mercy



**St. Paul School  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House**

St. Paul School turned 50 in September of this year. There will be an Open House at the school on **Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** from 11:00am - 1:30pm, and

Father Joseph de Viveiros, C.R. will bless the school. Following that, Mass will be celebrated at 2:00pm at St. Francis Church with a reception to follow in the church hall. January 25<sup>th</sup> is a fitting day for this celebration, as it the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul!

We encourage you to drop off any memorabilia or photos that you may have from your years as a St. Paul Panther, for display at the open house. To do so, please contact St. Paul School at 519-743-4401. If you would like to assist with this event, please contact the school or Donna Henri (519-579-9492).

**"Thinking of You" ... Cards for our Parishioners**

If you know of someone in St. Mark's Parish who has lost a loved one or is ill, the parish would like to send a card to express our prayerful thoughts. Please contact Marie or Betty with the **name, address and postal code** of the intended recipient, and a card will be sent on behalf of St. Mark's Parish.

Information can be emailed to either:

**Marie:** marie\_brian@sympatico.ca  
or **Betty:** bpenticott@rogers.com



**New Saint Joseph Sunday Missals for 2015**

A few still available for purchase in the narthex - \$5 each

**★ Jan. 4 Bulletin Submission Deadline:** If you plan on submitting an item for the Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> bulletin, **please email it to the parish by Friday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you! (The Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> bulletin has already gone to print.)

**Coffee Sundays** ... Are resuming on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of each month starting in January. If you are interested in helping out please contact **Denise Case** at **sdcase@rogers.com** or 519-744-1368 (email preferred).



**BISHOP'S MESSAGE  
FOR CHRISTMAS 2014**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy and peace. The birth of Christ in a manger is presented in soft and beautiful terms. The message and the music of angels announces the divine nature of the event. However, in human terms, the story of the birth of Jesus is filled with hardship, rejection and flight. The love of Mary, the determination of Joseph, and the devotion of the shepherds lessen the horror of homelessness and migration.

We have seen that horror most recently in the lives of too many people who have been forced to flee their homes because of decrees that have caused death, destruction, and despair. These people have left everything – their homes, their jobs, their belongings. But, despite threats they have clung to their faith in Jesus Christ – their sole hope!

This Christmas, remember these people – sisters and brothers in faith. Pray for them. One day they may be sitting beside you in your parish church praying in thanksgiving for the welcome they received and for the religious freedom we experience here.

We have many rich blessings – which must be protected and shared. Remain alert that they not be lost. Share them generously, so they may be enjoyed by others.

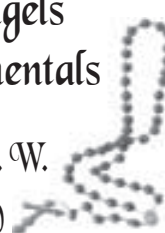
Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI  
Bishop of Hamilton

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