

# St. Mark Catholic Parish

55 Driftwood Drive

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Fax (519) 745 8259



*May the Blessings of this  
Holy Season be with you Always.*

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## CONFESSIONS: Last opportunity before Christmas

Monday, Dec. 23: 10:30 – 11:30 AM

Tuesday, Dec. 24: 10:30 – 11:30 AM

## Worship This Week

December 23 – 29, 2013

### Monday

7:00 am - Int. of Jenny

### FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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

5:00 pm - Int. of the Parishioners of St. Mark's

8:00 pm + Elena Pestritu – *Dorin Pestritu & Family*

12 Midnight - Int. of Fr. Adrian Lee – *Smith / Blanchard / McCullough*

Starting an 1/2 hour before Midnight Mass, the 11:30 choir will be singing Christmas Carols – all are welcome to join in!

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

9:30 am - Int. of the Parishioners of St. Mark's

11:30 am + George Ward – *Jan & Louis Cote*

★ NO EVENING MASS



#### Thursday (feast – St. Stephen)

★ NO MASSES TODAY

#### Friday (feast – St. John the Apostle)

★ 7:00 pm Riley Cormier – *Patricia McCullough*

#### Saturday (feast – The Holy Innocents)

9:00 am + James Bissonette – *Gayle Cunningham*

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

*Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23*

Sat. 5:00 pm + Herbert Waechter – *Daniel Bartlett*

Sun. 9:30 am - Int. of the Parishioners of St. Mark's

11:30 am + Elizabeth Lennox – *Irene Baptista*

## Midnight Mass Televised

CHCH-TV Channel 11 (Hamilton) will broadcast Christmas Midnight Mass, live from the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton, on December 24 starting with Carols at 11:30 p.m. followed by Midnight Mass celebrated by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., D.D., Bishop of Hamilton. This is the 59th year that CHCH-TV has televised the Midnight Mass, which is broadcast live and then repeated at 8:00 a.m. on Christmas morning. The televising of this celebration is made possible by the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton.



**Parish Office Closed: Dec. 25, 26**

## Dec. 29: No Children's Liturgy Program

Dear Families, please note that there will be NO Children's Liturgy of the Word Program on Sunday, December 29 at the 11:30 am Mass.

We wish you and your families a very blessed Christmas season!

Best wishes ... *The Children's Liturgy Volunteers*

## ★ Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> Bulletin Submission Deadline

If you plan on submitting an item for the Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> bulletin, please submit it to the parish office before Friday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

Please note: the Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> bulletin has already gone to print.

## LITURGICAL ROLES

Dec. 28 & 29	Sat. 5:00 PM	Sun. 9:30 AM	Sun. 11:30 AM
Altar Servers:	Z./J. Riddell	C./M. Haid E. Chang	T./K. Shea S. Silvester
Commentator:	M. Dufresne	H. Chang	O. Sirju
Lector:	J. Simone	J. Deneau	M. McCullough
Ushers:	L. Macedo K. Friesen	B. Coutinho T./J. Germann	C. Dignam M. Monte
Gift Bearers:	Buchanan	Cerantola	Masbad
Eucharistic Ministers:	C. Dokis F./Y. Tully K. Smith	S. Sawchuk A. Simoes M. Walser M.E. McCullough	J. McCullough D. Henri B./S. Markides A. Monte

## 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!



## Coffee Sundays at St. Mark's

In the past, Coffee Sundays were a monthly event at St. Mark's Parish. This community-focused event was a great way to get to know fellow parishioners. **We would like to resurrect Coffee Sundays**, but our co-ordinator cannot do it alone! This event requires approx. 2 volunteers per Mass (6 people per month). **If you are interested in helping out, please contact Denise Case at 519-744-1368 or sdcase@rogers.com** and provide your contact information, best Mass time, and mention any weekends that you may not be available. Denise will then create a volunteer list and contact you with your assigned weekend and Mass time.



## Catechism Compendium

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a wonderful resource to learn more about Christianity and our Catholic faith. Join Fr. Don twice a month on Friday evenings for an opportunity to dig into our catechism using the shorter, concise compendium. Each evening we will begin with a traditional Catholic prayer taken from the Catechism, followed by a 45-minute presentation, questions, and a closing prayer taken from the Catechism.

**All are welcome – come to one, some, or all:**

### Remaining Sessions:

Friday, Jan. 10	7:00 pm	I Believe in Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God
Friday, Jan. 24	7:00 pm	I Believe in the Holy Spirit
Friday, Feb. 7	7:00 pm	The Sacramental Economy, and the Liturgy
Friday, Feb. 21	7:00 pm	The Seven Sacraments
Friday, March 7	7:30 pm	Dignity of the Human Person
Friday, March 21	7:30 pm	The Human Community
Friday, April 4	7:30 pm	The 10 Commandments
Friday, April 25	7:00 pm	The Last 7 Commandments
Friday, May 9	7:00 pm	Prayer in the Christian Life
Friday, May 23	7:00 pm	The Lord's Prayer

## New Year's Mass Times

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>  
• 5:00 PM

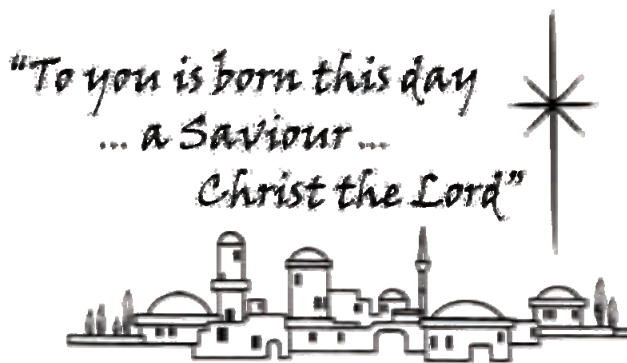
**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014  
• 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM

**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 do so as soon as possible. Registration forms and info can be found in the narthex.

If your child does NOT attend St. Mark or St. Dominic Schools, please check the parish website ([www.stmarkcatholicparish.org](http://www.stmarkcatholicparish.org)) regarding dates for sacramental preparation and details regarding sign-up.

**Grade 2 Parents Please Note:** Dates for Catechism Classes run by the Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate have been changed from Tuesday nights to MONDAY nights. Please see the updated schedule on the parish website.



**BISHOP'S MESSAGE  
FOR CHRISTMAS 2013**

Dear friends in Christ,

"May your days be merry and bright, and may all your Christmases be white!" Many years ago another Crosby (Bing) sang these words, written by Irving Berlin, in the song, *White Christmas*. In the Diocese of Hamilton we cannot be sure that this Christmas will be white, but we must do everything we can to assure that it will be *merry and bright*, for ourselves and our loved ones certainly, but even more for those who may be overwhelmed by darkness!

Late last month the Holy Father, Pope Francis, wrote an Apostolic Exhortation entitled *Evangelii Gaudium*, the Gospel of Joy. The Gospel is GOOD News – bringing JOY to a world where the misery and horror of war, natural disaster and other challenges to human life threaten to overwhelm us all! The Pope wants us all to proclaim the Gospel of JOY by our words and works.

Advent is a time of "JOYFUL hope" – a time to prepare with anticipation and excitement for the coming of the Lord. Christmas is the quintessential celebration of JOY – the birth of a Child – a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord! It is all about JOY – this Child is born anew for us, to heal us, to free us, to save us. We rejoice – and we share that JOY with family, friends and the world.

Be JOYFUL this Christmas! Jesus Christ – our Light, the Light of the world – is born for us! Celebrate this Good News with your families and friends, in your homes and in your parishes. Merry Christmas! "May your days be merry and bright ...!"

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

**Handing On Christmas...**

The reality that we are connected to our past never seems more true than at Christmas. The old folks present at the Christmas celebrations remind me of the two greatest things we possess: **faith and family**, largely due to their efforts.

True, Christmas is for many of us a time of joyful mayhem, noise and confusion with all the comings and goings. We were not always as charitable as we could have been (when discussing how boring Father's sermon was this year). Our *Grace Before Meals* was not always as reverent as it should have been (often interrupted with a few "shut-up's!") to try to keep the children quiet). But in the midst of our imperfect holiness there was always evident the Christmas manger scene along with all the holy pictures on the wall. These were clear reminders that at the centre of all this was Christ whose birth brought us together. There lay our deepest joy and hope.

Katherine Hepburn stated in one of her movies that every family has its ups and downs. One of the incredible aspects of the Incarnation – God becoming one of us – is that we must cooperate in the working out of our salvation. It is possible to reject the good things that have been handed down to us, no matter how hard those who have gone before us worked to preserve family and faith, so we must do the same if it is to continue. I hope and pray that those who come after us will also know the abundance of God's goodness.

May our Christmas blessings also be a sacred trust to secure for future generations.

Many thanks to all of you for the support that you give to your parish in so many ways throughout the year.

**God bless, and Merry Christmas,**  
*Fr. Don*

**STUDY THE GOSPELS IN A YEAR:** [www.flocknote.com/gospel](http://www.flocknote.com/gospel)

A short, daily Gospel reading (and commentary) sent straight to your inbox. Read that little bit each day and you'll have studied all four gospels of the Holy Bible in a year.

*Gospels in a Year is powered by Flocknote and uses the Ignatius Study Bible for both the scripture translation and the commentary. This is done in partnership with Lighthouse Catholic Media, Ignatius Press and Flocknote.*

**STUDY THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR:** [www.flocknote.com/catechism](http://www.flocknote.com/catechism)

A daily tidbit about the Catholic faith sent straight to your inbox. Read that little bit each day and you'll have covered the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in a year. It's free, safe, and you can unsubscribe anytime.

*Catechism in a Year is powered by Flocknote and uses the YOUCAT – a more accessible, official Catechism of the Catholic Church in Q&A format. This is done in partnership with Lighthouse Catholic Media, Ignatius Press, Flocknote and Catholic Cross Reference.*

**CARMELITE CHRISTMAS SALE** – Homemade jams, jellies, baked fruit loaves, at the Monastery, 1127 Carmel-Koch Road in St Agatha. **Sale on every day from First Sunday of Advent until Christmas Eve**, from 8am until 8pm.

**ANNUAL CARD PARTY** – The **St. Louis** Catholic Women's League is holding their Annual Card Party on **January 29, 2014** 53 Allen Street East, Waterloo (enter off Willow Street) at 7:00 p.m. Light lunch and refreshments will be served. Door prizes. Admission \$8.00 (please bring your own cards).

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