

St. Mark Catholic Parish

55 Driftwood Drive
Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3A2
(519) 571 9200 Fax (519) 745 8259

Father Adrian Lee, Pastor
Basil Markides, Deacon
Penny Laurette, Bookkeeper



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Last opportunity for Confession before Christmas:

Monday, December 24th from 9:30-10:30 am

In the confessional in the chapel. Enter door nearest Driftwood Drive.

Worship This Week

December 24-30, 2012

Feast of the Nativity of the Lord

Monday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

5:00 PM + All Deceased Parishioners of St. Mark's

8:00 PM - Int. of Kathleen & Mike Dineen

12:00 MID - Int. of the Parishioners of St. Mark's

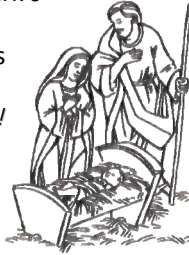
Starting an ½ hour before Midnight Mass, our 11:30 choir will be singing Christmas Carols – all are welcome to join in!

Tuesday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

9:30 AM + Adelaide Dias

11:30 AM - Int. of Ron Blanchard

★ NO EVENING MASS



Wednesday (feast – St. Stephen)

★ NO MASS

Thursday (feast – St. John)

★ NO MASS

Friday (feast – Holy Innocents)

7:00 AM - Int. of Ron Blanchard - Kathleen

Saturday

9:00 AM - Int. of Vera & William Sheehan – Mark & Eleanor Lawlor

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52

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

SUN. 9:30 AM + Souls in Purgatory – Ylanda Ioannidis

11:30 AM + Jose Medeiros – Maria

Mass Times for New Year's

NEW YEAR'S EVE:

Monday, December 31st

• 5:00 pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY:

Tuesday, January 1st, 2013

• 9:30 am • 11:30 am



Parish Office Closed This Week

December 24-28, 2012

St. Mark's Spirit Crew

Our Parish's Ministry for Youth ~ Grade 6 and Up

■ MOVIE NIGHT!!

Friday, December 28th from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the church.

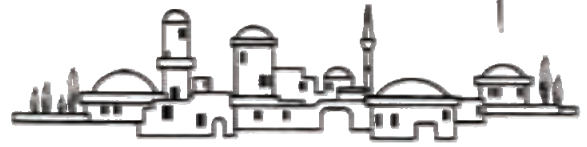
Please come and join us for an evening of film, fun and fellowship. Let's end 2012 by having another great evening together. Bring a friend along to enjoy this time as well. A free-will offering for the snack that will be provided will be accepted.

■ NEXT FAITH SHARING

Friday, January 11th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the church.

Come and learn more about our Faith, while allowing yours to grow, in a fun and safe environment. Bring your bible, a journal and your enthusiasm! A free will offering for the snack that is provided is graciously accepted. Please let us know you are coming by emailing: the.boettgers@sympatico.ca. See you in the New Year!

"To you is born this day
... a Saviour ...
Christ the Lord"



Midnight Mass Televised

CHCH-TV Channel 11 (Hamilton) will broadcast Christmas Midnight Mass, live from the Cathedral of Christ the King, on Monday, Dec. 24 starting with Carols at 11:30 p.m. The Mass will be celebrated by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., D.D., Bishop of Hamilton. The Mass will be repeated on CHTV on Christmas Day at 8:00 a.m.



★ Jan. 6th Bulletin Submission Deadline

If you plan on submitting an item for the Jan. 6th bulletin, please submit it to the parish office before Friday, Dec. 28th. Thank you! Please note: the Dec. 30th bulletin has already gone to print.

The Virtues – Channels of God's Grace

Our Catholic Faith is a 13-week series offered on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. by Fr. Don for the parishioners of St. Mark's. It began Dec. 6th with an explanation of the Mass.

This series is intended to set aside time during our busy lives to be with the Lord in a deeper way and to learn about our Catholic faith. Each evening begins with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and continues with a reading from scripture or catechism; a 10-15 min. talk about that week's featured Virtue; silent prayer; petitions or litany; blessing and Benediction. All are welcome!

Upcoming Topics:

Jan. 3:	Hope	Feb. 7:	Fortitude
Jan. 10:	Charity	Feb. 14:	Humility
Jan. 17:	Justice	Feb. 21:	Chastity, Modesty & Self Control
Jan. 24:	Wisdom	Feb. 28:	Fidelity
Jan. 31:	Temperance	Mar. 7:	The Meaning of Fasting & Abstinence

Winterlude 2013

10th ANNUAL DINNER, SILENT AUCTION & DANCE
Saturday, January 26th, 2013

The Winterlude 2013 Team is soliciting items, from members of our parish, to be bid on and sold at the Silent Auction during Winterlude 2013. All proceeds from this event assist St. Mark's Parish Mortgage Fund and St. Mark's Knights of Columbus Charities. If you wish to donate items, please contact John Deneau before January 20th at jdeneau@sympatico.ca.



Dear People of God – friends at St. Mark’s,
 Merry Christmas to you all. This is a wonderful parish with a true spirit of service in the Lord. Keep up the good work!
 Thank you for the care you bring to others through your ministries, your prayers and your sacrifices. Most especially, continue to bring hope and joy to all who suffer – God’s poor.
 Our Nativity scene pretty much sums up what God thinks of the poor. God bless all who make it their business to bring God’s love and peace in Jesus Christ to their neighbour.

My Most Memorable Christmas

... was many years ago when I was helping a sick priest in a country parish. A severe snow storm hit the area Christmas eve. It was only minutes before midnight mass and not a soul was to be found, not even that mouse mentioned in the Christmas rhyme. So I locked everything up. There would be mass in the morning.

Out of the blue, as we say, a car pulled up outside the main doors of the church. It was a taxi. “Where,” I thought, “does one find a taxi in Proton, Ontario?” I was stunned to see an old lady hobble out of the cab. She paid the cabbie, sent him on his way, then asked if Mass was going to begin soon. My mind turned to some unholy thoughts – “Are you crazy, lady, to come out in this? Am I going to be your cabbie to take you back home? Will my life come to an end this evening on these treacherous roads with you?”

Well, something from above settled my mind and I gave consideration to the fact that this old lady braved the horrible elements to adore her Lord on His birthday. Besides, I thought, if I denied her Mass and ended up dying this morning, I would most assuredly go straight to hell.

So, we had midnight Mass together. In my short homily I told her (“Elsie”) that God did this all for her. That made her happy. When she received Holy Communion you would have thought she saw the face of God Himself. I guess she did. The point of all the above is this: I hope all of us, after we receive Holy Communion will be able to say, in the quiet recesses of our soul, “just for me.”

Anyhow, I got Elsie home, and myself safely back to the rectory. To date, that trip has been the greatest miracle in my life. When we think about it, Christmas does not have to be sweet, or perfect, or comfortable in order for it to be joyful. Thank the Lord for that.

Merry Christmas,
Fr. Don

25th Anniversary Photo Directory

As part of our 25th Anniversary events in 2013, we are planning a 25th anniversary photo directory. We want all parishioners to be included in this special edition. Schedules for photo-taking are being planned for February 2013. This is going to be something special! Watch for more details in upcoming bulletins as well as on our parish website.



C.W.L. Corner ...

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada is a national organization rooted in gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God.



■ **EXECUTIVE ELECTION: Tuesday, January 22nd**

Nominations are now open and will close January 7, 2013.

Please pray for robust nominations and ladies willing to 'take that seat!' Pray that you will answer the call when you are nominated! Forms and the box to submit them in, are on the table in the narthex.

■ **SECRET PRAYER SISTERS**

You can still participate in this great activity! Forms are on the table in the narthex. Complete it and drop it in the nomination box and you will be contacted with your Sister's information.



**BISHOP’S MESSAGE
 FOR CHRISTMAS 2012**

Dear Friends:

“I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary” We say these words Sunday after Sunday, and whenever we profess the Apostles’ Creed.

Christmas is about Christ – His birth in Bethlehem, His encounter with the shepherds, with the Magi, and with Anna and Simeon – and our personal encounter with Him! During this Year of Faith, we reflect more intensely on that encounter, so that we might Rediscover the Joy of what it means for our lives.

A child – born for us! Life! Light! Joy! Peace! These are the images we treasure during this holy season. Yet, as He lies in the wooden manger, we can already foresee the impending suffering of the wood of the Cross with the senseless slaughter of the Holy Innocents to appease the vanity of Herod.

Our lives are a mix of good and evil, of joy and sorrow, of hope and despair, of happiness and pain. As we look upon this Child with awe, we are only too aware of the death of children who never get a chance! This Child causes us to fall down in worship, praise and thanksgiving; the holy innocents of our own time cause us to question the values of a world where one person’s choice trumps another person’s life!

Christmas is a time to rejoice and give thanks for the gift and blessings of life. It is also a time to be generous toward others who may not be so blessed – so that the life of each one and of all might be nurtured and supported – and together we might turn to the Author of Life and give profound thanks.

Merry Christmas and blessings throughout 2013!

+ *Douglas*, OMI

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

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