

St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish

55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3A2
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FEAST
of THE
Holy Family

JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Mass Intentions for the Week

Dec. 30 – Jan. 5, 2019

Monday 30th – NO MASS

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Tuesday 31st New Year's Eve

5:00 PM – In Thanksgiving – Luiz Macedo

Wednesday 1st New Year's Day

10:00 am – Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark's

Thursday 2nd – NO MASS

Friday 3rd – NO MASS

Saturday 4th (FERIAL)

9:00 am + Jack Soares – Maria

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (JAN. 4/5)

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

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

Sun. 9:30 am + John, Beatriz & Joe Coelho – Da Costa Family

11:30 am + Francisco De Sousa – Brigida

PARISH OFFICE – HOLIDAY HOURS

Dec. 30, 31, Jan. 2, 3 – OPEN until 12 noon

Wed. Jan. 1 – CLOSED for New Year's Day



Prayer for the New Year



Oh Thou, who art ever the same,
grant us so to pass through the coming year with faithful hearts,
that we may be able in all things to please Thy loving eyes.
Amen.

*A Happy & Blessed
New Year to All!*

Diocesan Prayer Calendar

This week, let us pray for...

Dec. 30 - Rev. Mark Morley

Dec. 31 - Rev. Jason Kuntz

Jan. 1 - Diocesan Priests

Jan. 2 - Rev. Mark Sullivan

Jan. 3 - Very Rev. Wayne Lobsinger

Jan. 4 - Rev. Gregory Merkley

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.

Meetings & Events This Week:

DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
Mon. Dec. 30	8:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
Thur. Jan. 2	6:15 pm	(M)	Legion of Mary
	7:00 pm	(J)	C.W.L. Executive meeting
	7:30 pm	(CH)	5:00 Choir practice
Fri. Jan. 3	6:00 am	(M)	Men's group

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As we do so, our Gospel invites us to consider Joseph's protection of Jesus in the face of danger. Just as in the announcement of Jesus' birth, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel warns him of Herod's plans to harm Jesus. Joseph follows the command of the angel and takes Joseph and Mary to Egypt, returning only after receiving word in another dream that it was safe to do so.

This feast is part of the Christmas season, so we should look at today's Gospel in the context of what Scripture tells us about Jesus' birth. Today's reading is found in the Gospel of Matthew, following the story of the visit of the Magi. Recall that Matthew's story about the birth of Jesus makes Joseph the primary character. Among Matthew's themes in this infancy narrative is Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the messiah. Indeed, the story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt recalls the story of Moses in the Book of Exodus.

It should also be noted that today's reading omits the verses that recount Herod's order of the massacre of the infant boys in and around Bethlehem. We mark this event on the Feast of the Holy Innocents on December 28.

These events remind us of the difficult reality of Jesus' birth. While the story of the Magi's visit will be recalled in our liturgy on the Feast of the Epiphany, our Christmas celebration is made more sober by the recollection that not everyone received Christ's birth with joy or obedience. Herod's jealousy and malice contrast with Joseph's obedience to the words of the angel. The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and the massacre that Jesus is saved from remind us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's salvation. ■

FINANCIAL DONATIONS TO ST. MARK'S FOR THE 2019 CALENDAR YEAR must reach the parish office before 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31st in order to be included on your 2019 tax receipt. Any donations received after 10 a.m. will be receipted in 2020.

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.



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

Jan. 4 / 5	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
Altar Servers:	V./P./J. Miller G./S. Morgan	E./T./T. Morgan	N./J. D'Souza N./A. Gallagher
Commentator:	B. Crawley	J. Germann	R. Kubica
1 st Reader: 2 nd Reader:	K. Krigner	J. Deneau T. Germann	M. Smith M. Oram
Ushers:	A. Montag	J./K. Snyder B. Coutinho	B. Voisin
Gift Bearers:		<i>Children's Liturgy Kids</i>	Kubica
Eucharistic Ministers:	A. Bendia C. Dokis G. MacNeil	B. Seaward M. Walser T. Angel	B./C. Voisin E. Weiss

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Day – January 1st 2020

Today's reading is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at midnight. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. In their visit to the manger, the shepherds find things just as the angel had said. The shepherds' visit, therefore, is a moment of fulfillment, manifestation, and the beginning of the salvation we receive through Christ.

In the context of today's Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother. First, Mary is described as a reflective person, keeping the reports of the shepherds in her heart. Second, we are reminded of how obedient Mary was to God when she named the baby *Jesus* as the angel Gabriel had directed. Third, this reading shows Mary and Joseph faithfully observing their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised.

Mary's faithfulness to God is evident in all three of these things. Her reflection upon the events in her life indicates that she was a person of prayer. This prayer made possible her obedience to God and God's will, even if the outcome was not clear. Finally, her faithfulness to a community of faith grounded her relationship with God and enabled her to participate in God's plan of salvation.

Because of Mary's faithfulness to God, she was able to receive the gift of God's Son and accept her role in God's plan for salvation. By doing so, she models for us the path of discipleship and is also called Mother of the Church.

Our call to discipleship also includes these three aspects. First, discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives. Second, discipleship means obedience to God and God's will. Third, discipleship includes fidelity to a community of faith. ■

Please be mindful that January 1st is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning that all Catholics should attend Mass on this Day.

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 31st 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 for more information.

Missed the Enrollment Mass? (Gr. 2's & Gr. 7's)

If you and your child were unable to attend the Enrollment Mass for **First Communion** and **Confirmation** on Dec. 1st, 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 1st. If you require a blank form, please contact the parish office at stmark@rogers.com.

Candidates Preparing for the Sacraments of First Eucharist or Confirmation

A reminder to families of children in Grade 2 or Grade 7 that Sacramental Preparation begins this month with a **Parents' Meeting on Sun. Jan. 12th after the 11:30 Mass in the church.** See below for a full list of dates.

FIRST EUCHARIST (Grade 2)

Preparation Meetings at the church:

- Sunday, January 12 after 11:30 Mass Parents only 
- Sunday, January 26 after 11:30 Mass Candidates
- Sunday, February 2 after 11:30 Mass Candidates (& Parents w/ Fr. Steve)
- Sunday, February 9 after 11:30 Mass Candidates
- Sunday, February 23 after 11:30 Mass Candidates (& Parents w/ Fr. Steve)

CONFIRMATION (Grade 7):

Preparation Meetings at the church:

- Sunday, January 12 after 11:30 Mass Parents only 
- Sunday, March 29 after 11:30 Mass Candidates
- Sunday, April 19 after 11:30 Mass Candidates (& Parents w/ Fr. Steve)
- Sunday, May 3 after 11:30 Mass Candidates
- Sunday, May 17 after 11:30 Mass Candidates (& Parents w/ Fr. Steve)

✳ **Bulletin Submission Deadline for Jan. 5th**

If you wish to include something in the January 6th bulletin, copy must be emailed to Pam no later than Mon. Dec. 31st by 10 a.m. Thanks!

Church Bulletin Advertising: Liturgical Publications will begin setting up the advertisements that support the printing of our church bulletin for the coming year. Please consider lending your support by advertising your business weekly on the back cover of our bulletin. Call **Liturgical Publications** at 1-800-268-2637. Ads will begin running in February 2020.



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