

St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish

55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3A2 • 519-571-9200 • www.stmarkcatholicparish.org

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Stephen Murrin – *Pastor*

Rev. Mr. Philip Fernandez – *Deacon*

Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Secretary*

The Parish Office is open by appointment only.

Please call or email ahead to schedule your visit.

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

No Children's Liturgy of the Word until further notice.

WEEKDAY MASS

Wednesday 12:00 NOON

followed by Adoration and Benediction

CONFESSIONS

Saturday at 4:15 PM or by appointment.

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION CHAPEL

Closed until further notice.

PANDEMIC PROTOCOL

Seating capacity in the church is restricted to 30%. Doors open 30 minutes before Mass. Seating will be first come, first served. Under the Ontario guidelines, we ask that:

- all who are not feeling well, or have an elevated temperature, please stay home.
- when you visit the church you wear a face covering over your nose, mouth, and chin. Required by the Face Covering By-law 20-035.
- you practice generous social distancing (minimum 6 ft.) and follow the signs and ushers' directions.
- that you use your washroom before coming to church.

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 SOCIETY

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 drop it in the mail. Your intention will be printed in the bulletin and announced at Mass.

If you require a Mass card please call the parish office to make pick-up arrangements.

The offering (stipend) for a Mass Intention 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

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.

**Mass Intentions
for the Week**



February 22 – 28, 2021

Church doors are open 30 minutes before the start of Mass, and seating is restricted to 30% capacity (first come first seated) until further notice.

Wednesday, Feb. 24 (FERIAL)

12 noon + Roland Dufresne – Marilyn Dufresne

12:30 PM - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

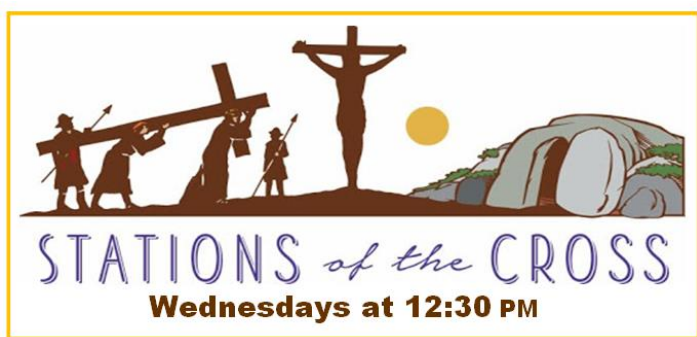
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10

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

Sun. 9:30 am + Bill Klos – Marilyn Dufresne

11:30 am + Ralph Esposito – Domenic Mammoli



Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation

A letter and enrollment form has been sent, through the schools, to the parents of children in Grade 2 for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion and of children in Grade 7 for the Sacrament of Confirmation (and also to any in grades 3 and 8 who missed in 2020).

All parents of candidates for the sacraments are asked to register their child for the sacraments by **returning completed enrollment forms directly to the parish at stmark@rogers.com no later than Feb. 28th**. Dates for the Sacraments are as follows:

Sacrament of First Eucharist

with St. Mark School: Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 2:00 pm
with St. Dominic School: Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 2:00 pm

Sacrament of Confirmation

Saturday, May 29, 2021 at 9:30 am, 11:00 am and 1:30 pm

If you have not received a letter from the parish, or you have a child not attending one of the above parish schools, you may access the letter and form on our parish home page in the right hand column.

Lent



On the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading in each Lectionary cycle is about Jesus' temptation in the desert. This event in the life of Jesus is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels – Matthew, Mark, and Luke – but it is not found in John's Gospel. This year we read Mark's account of this event.

Compared to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the details throughout Mark's narrative are sparse. This is evident in Mark's account of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Mark tells us only that Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and that for 40 days he was tempted by Satan. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke explain that Jesus fasted while in the desert, that Satan presented him with three temptations, and that Jesus refused each one, quoting Scripture. Only the Gospels of Matthew and Mark report that angels ministered to Jesus at the end of his time in the desert.

In each of the Synoptic Gospels, the temptation of Jesus follows his baptism by John the Baptist. In Mark's Gospel, we are told that Jesus went into the desert immediately after his baptism, led by the Spirit. Jesus' public ministry in Galilee begins after his temptation in the desert. Mark's Gospel makes a connection between the arrest of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom of God is in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist, but it is also something new. As Jesus announces it, the Kingdom of God is beginning; the time of the fulfillment of God's promises is here.

The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was also attended to by an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we also set aside 40 days for the season of Lent.

In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross. ■



ARE YOU ON OUR E-MAILING LIST?

If you are not already receiving emails from the parish and would like to, please send an email to stmark@rogers.com with the subject line "ADD ME" and we will do just that!



FEB. 27 / 28	5:00 PM	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Reader:	M. Dufresne	T. Lee	L. Gimenez
Ushers:	P. Fernandez, E. Miller, S./J. G. Morgan	I./D. Culley, V. Chen, T. Germann, M. Murchie	T./K. Boettger, E. Weiss J. Smith, C. Dignam
Eucharistic Ministers:	A. Bendia, C. Weber	T. Angel, A. Joseph	D. S-Weber, F. Kagaloo



THE BATTLE OVER THE BRIDE

The St. Mark Men's Group hasn't let the pandemic slow us down!

***That Man is You!* resumes Saturday mornings January 23rd - April 24th at 8:15 AM on Zoom.**

That Man is You! honestly addresses the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. The program harmonizes current social and medical science with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of man fully alive! Visit www.tmiy.org for more info.

Until we return to our breakfast meeting format, men watch a 30-minute video during the week, then meet to discuss via Zoom on Saturdays

Contact ian.kangaloo@gmail.com with your questions and to receive the weekly email with the Zoom link and access to the videos.



St. Mark's Knights of Columbus (Council 9276) is extending an invitation to all men of the parish (18 yrs. of age and older) to join their Fraternity. **Membership is free until June 30, 2021.**

If you are interested, please contact John Deneau at jdeneau@sympatico.ca or by text at 226-789-1094. This is a good opportunity to boost their membership and join a good cause for the parish and community.

2019-2020 Parish Financial Report

Because of the pandemic, the 2019 financial statement was never presented, so in an email this week to those on our mailing list, we distributed a combined financial statement for 2019 and 2020 with a forecast to 2021. As is shown in the report, the pandemic has had a negative effect on our parish income which has decreased by \$40,000 or 16%. If you would like a copy of the report, please contact Pam at smark@rogers.com.

2020 TAX RECEIPTS HAVE BEEN MAILED

Please note that donations made to the One Heart, One Soul campaign, as well as any donations made to St. Mark's through the Diocesan website, are receipted directly by the Diocese, not by the parish.

One Heart, One Soul Campaign

Our first capital campaign project has begun.



We took advantage of the shutdown and during that time the back wall of the sanctuary and brick has been painted a gray color. Water damage on the ceiling over the sanctuary was also repaired and painted. The work to the floor of the sanctuary began this week and is expected to take at least 4 weeks. Therefore, we will have to work around the mess as we celebrate Mass. Also, part of this work will be the relocating of the large crucifix that is currently in the chapel to the center of the sanctuary window in the church.

Committee members are Marilyn Dufresne, Colette Dokis, Larry Koehler, Paul Enticott and Fr. Steve. For the flooring of the sanctuary, it was decided to go with a polished white porcelain tile with gray marbling.

We Can and Must Do Much Better



Important Information on Bill C-7

Bill C-7, which will expand the eligibility criteria for **euthanasia** and **assisted suicide**, has passed in the Legislature and was sent to the Senate for approval. In the Senate further changes were made that would allow MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying) to occur more often by removing the "reasonable foreseeability of natural death" criterion currently in the Criminal Code. It will also allow MAID for those who are suffering from mental illness. Senator Batters spoke quite eloquently this week as the third reading of the Bill was occurring in the Senate. Please take the time to listen to her words as she lays out her thoughts and passionately defends the vulnerable in our country:

[Click here to watch Senator Batters' Senate Chamber Speech](#)

While it will be challenging to stop the proposed changes now, it is not too late for Catholics to make a difference. Parishioners are encouraged to contact their Member of Parliament and let them know that the changes proposed to Bill C-7 go too far, beyond what the courts called for and now put at risk all persons suffering from mental health or disabilities – the very people we should most want to protect.

The above video will provide you with some great insights for sharing this topic with others. Timelines are very tight on this Bill – we must act now if we will have an impact.

Teresa Hartnett

Director, Family Ministry Office
Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton



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