

St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish

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

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Roque Concepcion – *Pastor*
Rev. Mr. Philip Fernandez – *Deacon*
Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Parish Secretary*

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM
Monthly Filipino Mass: Third Saturday 7:00 PM

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday - Friday 12:00 NOON
First Saturday 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

Wednesdays & First Fridays 11:00 - 11:45 AM
Saturdays 4:15 - 4:45 PM or by appointment

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. A date for 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 start the process.

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.

PARISH SCHOOLS

St. Dominic Savio Catholic Elementary School
3 Westforest Trail 519-576-5503

St. Mark Catholic Elementary School
240 Autumn Hill Crescent 519-743-4682

Resurrection Catholic Secondary School
455 University Avenue West 519-741-1990



“... 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 and your name will appear in the bulletin, and will be announced during Mass.

If you require a Mass card, please make your request in-person at the parish office during business hours.

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*: _____

* **Requests for specific dates (birthday, anniversary of death or wedding) must be submitted several weeks/months in advance to avoid disappointment.**

* **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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass Intentions for the Week



Feb. 27 – Mar. 5, 2023

Tuesday (FERIAL)

11:30 am - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

12 Noon + Thomas Drohan – Gerald & Doreen Yarascavitch

2:30 pm - Mass at Lanark Village

Wednesday (FERIAL) (NO NOON MASS)

(In the morning Father will be attending the Priests' Day of Reconciliation in Waterloo.)

* 4:00 pm - CONFESSIONS

* 4:30 pm - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

* 5:00 pm + Linda Hopf – Steve Germann

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – March 4/5

Genesis 12:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9

Sat. 5:00 PM – Int. of Parishioners of St. Mark

Sun. 9:30 am + Gilbert, Shirley, Linda, Joseph & Laura Schneider

11:30 am + Joe Arruda – Darah & Gaby

* **PLEASE NOTE:** There will be **NO** weekday Masses from March 2nd to 7th while Father is away on Retreat. In Father's absence, our Sunday Masses on March 4 & 5 will be celebrated by Father's nephew, Fr. Arpee Urquico, from St. Margaret Mary Parish in Hamilton. Please offer Fr. Arpee your gratitude and a warm welcome.



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

The Sanctuary Lamps burn this week for:

The Intentions of Duc & Tam



Pancake Supper CANCELLED

TICKET REFUNDS AVAILABLE ON FEB. 25/26 & MARCH 4/5

Regrettably, due to very low ticket sales, we were forced to cancel this year's Pancake Supper. **Those who did purchase tickets, can bring them back after any of the weekend Masses on Feb. 25/26 or March 4/5, where a member of the Knights will be available in the narthex to issue a full refund for the return of your original ticket(s).** We are hopeful for, and look forward to, a much better turn-out next year. ~ St. Mark Knights of Columbus



DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR ✕ This week let us pray for...

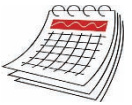
FEB. 27	FEB. 28	MAR. 1	MAR. 2	MAR. 3	MAR. 4
Rev. Jim Valk, C.R.	Rev. Adam Wroblewicz, C.R.	Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (R.S.J.C.)	Rev. Sutherland MacDonald, C.R.	Rev. Philip Reilly, C.R.	Very Rev. Aleksander Mazur, S.A.C.

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.



POTATO BLITZ – Bring your spuds to the Church during the month of February and the Knights of Columbus will deliver them to the House of Friendship for their annual Potato Blitz.

Meetings & Events This Week ...



DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
Mon. Feb. 27	8:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
Tue. Feb. 28	7:00 pm	(M)	Knights General Meeting
	7:00 pm	(B)	R.C.I.A. (moved from Wednesday)
	7:00 pm	(J)	Women's Bible Study
Thu. Mar. 2	6:45 pm	(H)	Alpha (ALL ROOMS)
	7:00 pm	(CH)	5 o'clock Choir Practice
Sat. Mar. 4	7:30 am	(H)	That Man Is You!

MEETING ROOMS: B - Basement CH - Church H - Hall J - St. John Room L - St. Luke Boardroom M - St. Matthew Room

On the **First Sunday of Lent**, we begin our Lenten journey, remembering how God re-established the covenant, after the flood, and we reflect on how Jesus began his public ministry with a retreat of forty days - led to the desert by the Spirit.



~ Used with permission by Online Ministries, Creighton University

R.C.I.A. ... *DATE CHANGE* ... Meeting this week on TUESDAY, Feb. 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Basement (instead of Wednesday).

BIBLE STUDY ... *BREAK* ... Due to the busy Lenten schedule there will be **no Friday Night Bible Study during Lent**. We will resume after Easter.

Next Sacramental Preparation Meetings...

CONFIRMATION: Sunday, Feb. 26 at 1:00 p.m. (TODAY!)

FIRST COMMUNION: Wed. March 8 at 5:45 p.m.

Earthquake Relief

On February 6th, parts of Turkey and Syria experienced a devastating earthquake. It is estimated that over 46,000 people have lost their lives and tens of thousands more reported injured. The earthquake has left both countries in a state of crisis that is made worse by exposure to aftershocks and winter storms.

THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON HAS DECIDED TO TAKE UP A COLLECTION IN ALL PARISHES ON THE WEEKENDS OF MARCH 4/5 AND MARCH 11/12.

Special envelopes are available in the narthex.

If donating by cheque, please make payable to "St. Mark Parish."

Alternatively, those wishing to support the relief effort are encouraged to contribute to one of the following Catholic entities currently mounting humanitarian responses on the ground:

CNEWA Catholic Near East Welfare Association:

<https://cnewa.org/ca/work/emergency-syria/>

Caritas International: <https://www.caritas.org/>

Catholic Relief Services:

<https://support.crs.org/donate/earthquakes?ms=agicrs2023eqk00her00&ga=2.58454440.387174977.1675953053%20-1953421407.1675953052>

ACN: <https://acn-canada.square.site/>

Let us continue to pray for the suffering communities in Turkey and Syria and to commend the dead to God's mercy.



MAR. 4-5	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
Altar Servers:	C. Perkovic J./P./V. Miller	A./D./D. Jacobs	C. Chacon J./S. Garrucho
Commentator:	A. Fernandez	J. Flanigan	D. DeSousa
Reader:	D. Behl	T. Fernandes	I. Kangaloo
Ushers:	E. Miller C. Weber	P. Drohan J. Kelly	B./C. Voisin
Eucharistic Ministers:	J. Fernandez H. Psutka	A. Joseph T. Lee	I./F. Kangaloo

SEASON OF LENT: JOURNEY OF PENANCE

What is Lent?

Lent is a yearly celebration of the Church in preparation for Easter. **Lent has two major purposes:** It recalls or prepares for Baptism, and emphasizes a spirit of penance. Through forty days of closer attention to God's Word and of more fervent prayer, we are prepared to celebrate the Paschal Mystery.

During Lent, the reminder of baptism already received, as well as the theme of repentance, renew the entire community along with those being prepared to celebrate the paschal mystery, in which each of the elect will share through the sacraments of initiation.

For those already baptized Lent is a time of preparation to celebrate the paschal mystery through reminders of our baptism and penitential practices.

Lent is a privileged time for **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**. This season provides an opportunity to renew and deepen our relationship with Jesus, and to renew the choices we make, so that we might live as He taught.

When is Lent?

Lent began on **Ash Wednesday** (Feb. 22, 2023) and continues until the beginning of the **Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening**, (April 6, 2023). These forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin His ministry.



Lenten Penance and the Synodal Journey

In his [message for Lent 2023](#), Pope Francis reminds us that "*Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross.*"

"May the Holy Spirit inspire and sustain us this Lent in our ascent with Jesus, so that we may experience his divine splendour and thus, confirmed in faith, persevere in our journey together with him, glory of his people and light of the nations."

Marriage Tip of the Month...

A fundamental principle of our Catholic faith is that mercy must be part of our lived experience. Practicing forgiveness in all areas of our lives is important, but it is especially necessary in marriage. The intimate relationship of marriage means there will be hurt, anger and resentment between us at times and in these moments we must both seek and provide forgiveness. When we live with a merciful heart, instead of becoming hardened to the goodness in our spouse, we see the good, the joyful and the love that they carry for us.

Submitted by Teresa Hartnett, Diocesan Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250



St. Mark's C.W.L. warmly invites

All Ladies of the Parish

for a **LENTEN RETREAT**

Saturday, March 25th

beginning with Mass at 9:00 a.m.

Light breakfast items and refreshments will be available as Fr. Roque leads us to a deeper understanding of the parts of the Mass. We will wrap up in fellowship with lunch of a selection of homemade soups and rolls. **Please help us plan by signing up at the table in the Narthex.** No cost to register. A free-will collection will be taken up.

Let's see your smiling face!

For our 2023 Photo Directory!

We invite ALL PARISHIONERS to participate in our Parish Family Photo Directory for 2023!

★ **TIME IS RUNNING OUT!** If you have not yet signed up for a sitting time, please check the sign-up table after Mass this weekend to book your free session!

Each participating family will receive a FREE 30-minute sitting and FREE photo directory (at no cost to you or the parish) as well as an opportunity (but not an obligation) to purchase studio quality portraits at less than studio prices. All photography and viewing of photos is done in one convenient appointment at the church.

Also! ... **If you have snapshots of parish events from the past**, and are willing to submit them for possible inclusion in the directory, please email the parish office (stmark@rogers.com).



Women's Bible Study – Please join us for a look at the culture and society in the first century in the Middle East. In this captivating study, *Jesus and Women* by Kristi McLelland, we will be transported back to when Jesus was with us in the flesh. This study (feast) will begin with a time to chat about the homework that we completed throughout the week, an hour-long teaching video and then a chance to unpack the video. This 7-week program runs from **Feb. 28 to April 11** (Tuesday evenings) from 7 to 9 pm in the St. John Room. Please email Denise Case at debestgramma64@gmail.com if you are interested in joining. Study manual can be purchased through Amazon for \$35:

https://www.amazon.ca/Jesus-Women-Bible-Access-Century-dp-1087773954/dp/1087773954/ref=dp_ob_title_bk. If you experience difficulties purchasing online, please let Denise know.

To view a sample of the study guide and video, please visit:

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product-family/jesus-and-women-bible-study?intcmp=lw:jesusandwomen:smerch>

Parenting Tip of the Month...

Family is the most powerful influencer in any person's life. What we learn from our family has lifetime implications, influencing how we act, see ourselves and feel about others. As parents, it is important that we do not treat our children as mini-adults, but instead view them as a child of a certain age. There are normal patterns to children's brain development and when we understand those stages, we can more fully understand how to love, teach, discipline and support our children throughout their lives. Family and faith provide a solid foundation for each child when parents take the time to learn about their child's developmental age and ability.

Submitted by Teresa Hartnett, Diocesan Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250



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