St. Mark Catholic Parish

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

PASTOR: Fr. Steve Murrin **DEACON:** Rev. Mr. Basil Markides **SECRETARY:** Mrs. Pam Olinski

LORD'S DAY MASSES Saturday at 5:00 PM Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

WEEKDAY MASSES Tuesday at 7:00 PM Wed., Thur., Fri. at 7:00 AM Saturday at 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

Saturday following 9:00 AM Mass and 4:00-4:30 PM or by appointment.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

First Tuesday evening of the month at the 7:00 p.m. Mass. No prior notice necessary.

ADORATION CHAPEL

Perpetual Adoration: Spots open – see Chapel bulletin board Divine Mercy: Fridays 3:00 PM Our Lady's Rosary: 1st Saturday at 10 AM Benediction: 1st Sunday at 7:00 PM

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We invite you to register. Please fill out a form from the church lobby and drop it off at the parish office. Please call if you would like Father to bless your home.

BAPTISM

Infant baptism is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM. A Preparation Meeting is held on the Wednesday evening preceding the baptism. Please fill out a form from the church lobby and drop it off at the parish office at least 6 weeks in advance.

HOSPITAL VISITATION

Please advise the office of area hospital admissions to request a pastoral visit or the Sacrament of the Sick.

FIRST FRIDAY VISITS

Father will bring Communion to the sick on the 1st Friday of the month. Please call the office to schedule a visit.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

White Box Collection on the last Sunday of the month. 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 slip it under the door of the parish office if it is closed. Your intention will be printed in the bulletin and announced at the beginning of Mass.

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

The offering for a Mass (for living or deceased) is \$10 per Mass.

I would like to have $\frac{1}{1000 \text{ MANY?}}$ Mass(es) celebrated for

☐ the intentions of *(living)* **OR** ☐ the repose of the soul of *(deceased)*

NAME OF LIVING OR DECEASED PERSON(S)

Please check ✓ your preferred way of setting the date for this Mass:

The date of the Mass does not matter.

OR

The exact date does not matter, but I would prefer one of the following:



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0 AM on a Weekday	
0 рм on a Tuesday	
0 AM on a Saturday	

ould prefer one of the fo
5:00 PM on a Saturday
9:30 AM on a Sunday
11:30 AM on a Sunday

OR

I would like the Mass to be on this specific date*: ____

* Please keep in mind that our ability to accommodate a request for a specific date (especially for a weekend) can be difficult without sufficient notice. For this reason, we recommend submitting requests for weekend Masses a few months in advance.

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	<u>Feb. 12 – 18, 2018</u>

Monday - NO MASS (FERIAL)

(FFRIAL)

<u>Tuesda</u> y	(FERIAL)
2:00 PM	 Mass at Lanark Heights Long Term Care
7:00 PM	- Int. of the Dignam Family - Jim & Joan O'Doherty

Ash Wednesday (SEASON OF LENT BEGINS)

7:00 am + Rita Kieffer - Eric & Rosemary 9:00 am - Ash Wednesday Service at St. Mark School 11:00 am - Ash Wednesday Service at St. Dominic Schoo **12 Noon** + Robert Crawley – Marilyn Dufresne

7:30 PM + Molly & George Schreiber - Helen Simpson

(FERIAL) Thursday

7:00 am + Cathy Grimwood - Marilyn Dufresne

Friday

★ 7:00 PM + Adelaide Dias - Monique Smith

Saturday (FERIAL

(FERIAL

9:00 am - Int. of Fr. Bob Love – the Flood family

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 9:8-12	5; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15
<u>Sat</u> . 5:00 PM	+ Paddy Dignam – Pat & Margaret Drohan
<u>Sun</u> . 9:30 am	- Int. of the Parishioners of St. Mark's
11:30 am	+ Jose Almeida & Anuciacao Costa – B. Ferreira

During Lent, Mass on Fridays will be celebrated

at 7:00 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross. This will begin Friday, February 16th.



is the yearly celebration by the Church of its corporate conversion in Jesus Christ. During Lent, the liturgy prepares catechumens to celebrate the Paschal Mystery by the various stages of Christian Initiation. It also prepares the faithful for Easter as they recall their Baptism and do penance in preparation for the greatest Feast of the year. 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, believers are prepared to celebrate the Paschal Mystery. Lenten instructions stress these baptismal and penitential themes. During Lent, it is important to teach the social consequences of sin as well as the fact that the heart of the virtue of penance is hatred of sin as an offence against God. The Church encourages penitential practices that are external and social, reflecting the circumstances of individuals and communities, as we pray and do penance for sinners.

Offertory Collections	Feb. 3/4, 2018
Sunday envelopes	\$ 2,299.53
Sunday pre-authorized debits (MONTHLY AMOUNTS x12÷52)\$ 1,204.15
Loose monies	<u>\$ 634.05</u>
TOTAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS	\$ 4,137.73
Mortgage envelopes	\$ 727.00
Mortgage pre-authorized debits (MONTHLY AMOUNTS x12-	
TOTAL MORTGAGE OFFERINGS	\$ 986.50
Seminary Education	\$ 260.00
Thank you for your generosity	

Meetings & Events This Week:

DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT	
<u>Mon. Feb. 12</u>	8:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous	
<u>Tue. Feb. 13</u>	6:30 pm	(J)	Search & Rescue	
	7:00 pm (B) Keys to Lov		Keys to Loving Relationships	
	7:00 pm	(M)	Knights of Columbus	
<u>Wed. Feb. 14</u>	7:15 pm	(CH)	9:30 choir practice	
	7:30 pm	(B)	Women's Prayer Group	
<u> Thur. Feb. 15</u>	6:15 pm	(M)	Legion of Mary	
	7:00 pm	(H)	C.W.L. general meeting	
	7:30 pm	(CH)	5:00 Choir practice	
<u>Fri. Feb. 16</u>	6:00 am	(L)	Men's Group	
	7:00 pm	(L)	Writers' Group	
<u>Sat. Feb. 17</u>	9:45 am	(CH)	Workshop for Lectors & Commentators	
	10:30 am	(L)	Writers' Group	
Meeting Rooms:	B = Basemer J = St. John		= Church H = Hall * = Offsite L = St. Luke Room M = St. Matthew Room	

In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by many social and religious taboos throughout history. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified. We now know that leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection. Although it is infectious, modern medical studies have shown that transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been available, and the patient no longer needs to be isolated once long-term treatment has begun.

In Jesus' time, however, religious and social taboos dictated the behavior of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community. If the sores of leprosy healed, the Law of Moses provided a purification rite that permitted the person to return to the community.

In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses.

Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honor. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his guick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honors the Law of Moses.

Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

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Liturgical Ministers

★ NEW SCHEDULES AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX ★

Feb. 17 & 18	В. 17 & 18 Sat. 5:00рм		Sun. 11:30 AM
Altar Servers:	V./P./J. Miller	E./T./T. Morgan	N./A. Gallagher C. Chacon
Commentator:	K. Friesen	J. Germann	M. Oram
Lectors:	B. Burns B. Crawley	T. Germann B. Sawarna	B. Starr I. Kangaloo
Ushers:	L. Macedo I. Cimermancic	J. DeSousa P. Drohan	C. Dignam
Gift Bearers:	Can you help?	Cerantola	Masbad
Eucharistic Ministers:	A. Bendia C. Dokis K. Friesen	T. Angel K./T. Boettger	B. Starr B./C. Voisin

WORKSHOP FOR ALL LECTORS & COMMENTATORS

If you <u>currently belong</u> or <u>wish to join</u> this ministry, please mark your calendar and plan to attend this 1-hour workshop: **Sat. Feb. 17th at 9:45 a.m. in the Church**. Thanks, Fr. Steve

Next Sacramental Preparation Meetings:

FIRST COMMUNION: Wed. Feb. 21 at 7:00 pm for Parents CONFIRMATION: Sunday, Feb. 25 after 11:30 Mass for Parents

PASSION PLAY - Good Friday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the

Parish Hall. Open invitation to those wishing to participate. Please call Julio & Sonia Chacon at 519-954-2062 for more info.

The One Thing Is Three: How the Most Holy Trinity Explains Everything

****** *Please note date change.* With humor and ease, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, unlocks the key to the Church's wisdom, the greatest mystery of the Catholic faith, the Most Holy Trinity. This **8-part DVD series** explains the wonders of the Most Holy Trinity by making deep theology accessible to every-day Catholics. It makes even what you know, appear in a way that's new and exciting. Join and find out why we are here, and where we are headed. Discover what it means to be transformed by Grace and live the life you are meant to live. Facilitated by Deacon Basil Markides, **Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. here at St. Mark's, from **Feb. 21st to April 11th** (sessions are 40 minutes with discussion). For more info, call Deacon Basil at 226-929-4803 or just show up to the first session. All who have the time and interest are most welcome.

LENTEN RETREAT Thursday, February 22 • Mass at 6:00 p.m.

This retreat is open to the entire parish and this is one event you won't want to miss ... We're pleased to have **Fr. Adrian Lee** as our special guest facilitator. Fr. Adrian will celebrate Mass at 6pm, then we will retire to the hall with time for refreshments and socializing with the retreat to begin shortly thereafter. **Please sign up on the CWL table in the narthex, to help us in our planning.** More details to come. SAVE THE DATE!



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.

Catholic Women's League News

Thur. Feb. 22nd – Lenten Retreat - SAVE THE DATE and plan to attend. This event is open to the entire parish and this is one event you won't want to miss... The rumour you heard is true ... we're excited to have Fr. Adrian Lee as our special guest facilitator!



Thank you... To the many parishioners who offered their concern, prayerful support and Mass cards during the illness and recent death of my sister, Cathy Grimwood, I send my sincere thanks and appreciation. Wishing you God's blessings,

Fr. Don Sanvido St. John Brebeuf Parish, Erin, Ont.

Save the date • Reserve your bus seat • Get your tickets! **26th Annual Lift Jesus Higher Rally** Join 3000+ voices in praise and Lifting Jesus Higher **Saturday, March 3rd • Metro Toronto Convention Centre** <u>BUS leaves St. Mark's Church parking lot at 6:50 AM</u> Bus tickets \$15 per seat (includes snacks, bus driver gratuity, laughter, and prayers). Rally tickets \$25 per Adult, \$15 per Youth. For more

information call Anna Joseph at 519-577-8519. Don't be disappointed ... Reserve your bus seat early!

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. To prepare for Lent, it dates from the custom of Christians to go to confession on the Tuesday preceding Lent to be "shriven" from their sins. The custom of eating pancakes was an opportunity for households to deplete any eggs, milk, butter, or fat in their homes to observe the Lenten fast and abstain from flesh, meat, and from all things that come from flesh, as milk, cheese, and eggs." Today, meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles and shellfish are permitted, as are animal-derived products such as gelatin, butter, cheese and eggs.

Ash Wednesday – A Day of Fasting and Abstinence

The Church has specified certain forms of penance, both to ensure that the Catholic will do something, as required by divine law, while making it easy for Catholics to fulfill the obligation. Thus, the 1983 Code of Canon Law specifies the obligations of Latin Rite Catholics.

<u>ABSTINENCE</u> - Refraining from eating meat or another type of food. In Canada, it is permitted to substitute the law of abstinence with an act of charity. <u>Days of Abstinence</u> (*people 14 years of age or older*): As Catholics, we are to refrain from eating meat on <u>Ash Wednesday</u>, <u>Good</u> <u>Friday</u>, and <u>Fridays</u>, especially during Lent.

<u>FASTING</u> - Eating only one full meal that day. (The total amount of food consumed in the other meals must not exceed the main meal). <u>Days of</u> <u>Fasting (people under the age of 60)</u>: Catholics are required to Fast on Ash Wednesday AND Good Friday.

The custom of wearing ashes on Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance. Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. Even non-Christians and the excommunicated are welcome to receive the ashes. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass.

