

# 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. Basil Markides – *Deacon*  
Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Secretary*

## LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday at 5:00 PM  
Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

## WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 7:00 PM  
Wednesday 12:00 NOON  
Thursday, Friday 7:00 AM \*  
Saturday 9:00 AM  
(\*First Friday 7:00 PM followed by Benediction)

## CONFESSIONS

Saturday following 9:00 AM Mass  
and 4:15–4:30 PM or by appointment.

## BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION CHAPEL

Perpetual Adoration – Spots available, please  
see chapel bulletin board  
Divine Mercy – Sundays 3:00 PM  
Our Lady's Rosary – First Saturday at 10 AM

**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** – 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 Mass.

**If you require a Mass card** please make your request in person at the parish office during business hours, or call the office to make pick-up arrangements.

The offering for a Mass (for living or deceased) 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**

The exact date does not matter, but I would prefer it to be on any:

Tues. 7 PM  Wed. 12 NOON  Thur. 7 AM  Fri. 7 AM  Sat. 9 AM

Sat. 5:00 PM  Sunday 9:30 AM  Sunday 11:30 AM

**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** 

Feb. 24 – Mar. 1, 2020

**Monday – NO MASS**

**Tuesday – NO MASS**

**Ash Wednesday** (SEASON OF LENT BEGINS)

**7:00 am** - Int. of Stephanie Kolbas – *Flood family*

**12 noon** + Antero Correia – *Maria Soares*

**7:00 PM** + Manuel Carreiro & Lorete Correia

Today Deacon Phillip will distribute Holy Ashes at our parish schools:  
**9:00 am** at St. Mark School and **11:00 am** at St. Dominic School.



**Thursday** (FERIAL)

**7:00 am** + Deceased Members of Nicolina Correia's Family

**Friday** (FERIAL)

**\* 7:00 PM** + Indra Sirju – *Derek & Greta Dunlop*  
- followed by **Stations of the Cross**

**Saturday** (FERIAL)

**9:00 am** + Schreiber Family – *Simpson family*

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

*Genesis 2:7-9, 16-18, 25; 3:1:7+; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11*

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

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

**11:30 am** + Poznanska, Horodecka & Trzcinski Families

**\* During Lent, Mass on Fridays will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross, starting Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.**



**Lent** 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.

**Weekly Offertory Report for Feb. 15/16, 2020**

|                         | <b>THIS WEEK</b>   | <b>YTD - WEEK 7</b>  |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Offertory Collection:   | \$ 2,851.83        | \$ 23,107.45         |
| Pre-Authorized Debits:  | \$ 1,425.35        | \$ 6,176.50          |
| <b>Total Offerings:</b> | <b>\$ 4,277.18</b> | <b>\$ 29,283.95</b>  |
| <i>Budget:</i>          | <i>\$ 5,200.00</i> | <i>\$ 36,400.00</i>  |
| <i>Under Budget:</i>    | <i>(\$ 922.82)</i> | <i>(\$ 7,116.05)</i> |

**Mortgage Offerings to date this year: \$ 4,161.50**

**Meetings & Events This Week:**

| DATE                | TIME    | ROOM  | EVENT                             |
|---------------------|---------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Mon. Feb. 24</b> | 7:00 pm | (H)   | SVDP Particular Council meeting   |
|                     | 7:15 pm | (B)   | A Quick Journey Through the Bible |
|                     | 8:00 pm | (M/L) | Alcoholics Anonymous              |
| <b>Tue. Feb. 25</b> | 5:00 pm | (H)   | Annual Pancake Supper             |
|                     | 7:00 pm | (B)   | Keys to Loving Relationships      |
| <b>Wed. Feb. 26</b> | 7:00 pm | (B)   | Women's Prayer Group              |
| <b>Thu. Feb. 27</b> | 6:15 pm | (M)   | Legion of Mary                    |
|                     | 6:30 pm | (H)   | Alpha ( <i>all rooms</i> )        |
|                     | 7:30 pm | (CH)  | 5:00 Choir practice               |
| <b>Fri. Feb. 28</b> | 6:00 am | (M)   | Men's group                       |
| <b>Sat. Feb. 29</b> | 7:15 am | (H)   | That Man Is You!                  |
|                     | 9:30 am | (H)   | C.W.L. Regional Council meeting   |
|                     | 6:30 pm | (H)   | GAMES NIGHT!                      |

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

**The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies.** We should not look at "an eye for an eye" as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God's kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbor are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God's love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word telos, which is probably better translated here as "complete." We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness. ■



**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**.

**Lift Jesus Higher Rally 2020** – Come to be JOYFUL, Come to be HEALED, Come to GIVE THANKS! **Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>** at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Bus leaves St. Mark's at 7am / returns 7:30-ish. Rally Tickets: Adults \$25; Youth (13-18yrs) \$15. One Bus Seat \$18 (Includes bus driver gratuity, and treats). To reserve seats and order tickets please call Anna Joseph at 519-577-8519 or email [stmarkcwl@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkcwl@gmail.com).

**Today is White Box Sunday**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society has placed a White Box in the narthex this weekend (Feb. 22/23) for anyone wishing to make a donation.

**Liturgical Ministers**



| Feb.29/Mar.1            | 5:00PM Mass                         | 9:30AM Mass                          | 11:30AM Mass                       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Altar Servers:          | V./P./J. Miller<br>G./S. Morgan     | E./T./T. Morgan                      | N./A. Gallagher                    |
| Commentator:            | B. Crawley                          | J. Germann                           | R. Kubica                          |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Reader: | K. Smith                            | J. Deneau                            | M. Oram                            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader: |                                     | T. Germann                           | D. DeSousa                         |
| Ushers:                 | I. Cimermancic                      | F. Seaward<br>J./K. Snyder           | M. Monte                           |
| Gift Bearers:           |                                     | <i>Children's Liturgy Kids</i>       | Kubica                             |
| Eucharistic Ministers:  | A. Bendia<br>C. Dokis<br>G. MacNeil | M. Fernando<br>A. Joseph<br>H. Kress | A. Monte<br>F. Kagaloo<br>B. Starr |



**Annual Pancake & Sausage Supper**

**Shrove Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**  
5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Proudly presented by St. Mark Knights of Columbus.

Tickets on sale after all weekend Masses: Adults \$10; Youth (7-16) \$7; Kids (3-6) \$3; Family \$30. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door on the night of the supper. This year's proceeds will go to our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

**GAME NIGHT** A FREE night of FUN for ADULTS  
Saturday, February 29  
6:30 – 9:30 PM • St. Mark's Parish Hall

Snacks & Beverages provided.  
Bring your own games, cards, or try some of ours!  
★ Please sign-up in the narthex if you plan to attend! ★

**Diocesan Prayer Calendar**

This week, let us pray for...

- Feb. 24 - Rev. James Curtin
- Feb. 25 - Rev. Marijan Mihokovic
- Feb. 26 - *Ash Wednesday*
- Feb. 27 - Rev. Msgr. Victor McNamara
- Feb. 28 - Rev. Michael Bennett
- Feb. 29 - Rev. Mike Myroniuk

**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.



**MUSIC DURING LENT**

The highest point in the Church's year of prayer is the Sacred Paschal Triduum celebrating the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus. We prepare for this three-day period during the Season of Lent and prolong it for the great 50 days of the Easter Season ending with the Feast of Pentecost on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we refrain from singing the "Alleluia" (a rejoicing praise to God) until the believing community has undergone conversion and is ready to sing this chant with renewed meaning at the Easter Vigil. The "Glory to God in the highest" is also omitted and will not be sung again until Holy Thursday, the beginning of the Easter Triduum.

During Lent, the music setting for the Parts of the Mass will change to plainchant and the Penitential Rite at the beginning of Mass will be sung. At the Sunday 9:30 Mass, the 'Holy, Holy' and the "Lamb of God" will be sung in Latin.

**C.W.L. News...**

♦ **C.W.L. REGIONAL MEETING** – Saturday, Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>  
St. Mark's C.W.L. is excited to be hosting the regional meeting day, beginning with Mass at 9:00 a.m. Come out and socialize with your C.W.L. Sisters from the Hamilton Diocese and meet the executive team. Find out about the amazing events coming up for our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. We will not see another celebration like this for a long time. Looking forward to seeing you on this important day.

♦ **C.W.L. 200 FOR 2020 PROJECT**

St. Mark's C.W.L. is looking for assistance in supplying St. John's Kitchen with much needed items. From February 15<sup>th</sup> until March 30<sup>th</sup> we will be collecting 200 gently used coffee mugs, 200 spoons (coffee or soup), 200 forks, 200 gently used/new tea towels, and 200 gently used/new bath towels. We have chosen St. John's Kitchen as our community project. They have been providing hot meals to over 300 people a day for the last 30 years, and recently provided a shower program, among other services. Please keep this organization in mind when you go through your cupboards and closets, and donate to this worthy, humanitarian cause.

**First Communion Preparation**



**TODAY after 11:30am Mass (approx. 12:30)**

Today is our final preparation class. Candidates will meet in the Hall with the parish team and Parents will meet in the Church with Fr. Steve.

Please mark these important upcoming dates on your calendar:

- ♦ **Sacrament of First Reconciliation:** Thurs. April 16 *OR* Sat. April 18  
*(You can sign your child up for one of these dates at today's meeting.)*
- ♦ **Retreat / Rehearsal Day:** Thurs. April 23 (with St. Dominic's students) *OR* Wed. April 29 (with St. Mark's students)
- ♦ **Sacrament of First Holy Communion**  
Sunday, April 26 at 2:00 PM (with St. Dominic's students) *OR* Sunday, May 3 at 2:00 PM (with St. Mark's students)

**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.

**ABSTINENCE** - 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. **Days of Abstinence (14 yrs or older):** As Catholics, we are to refrain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and Fridays, especially during Lent.

**FASTING** - Eating only one full meal that day. (The total amount of food consumed in the other meals must not exceed the main meal). **Days of Fasting (under the age of 60):** 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.



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