

St. Mark Catholic Parish

55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3A2

519-571-9200

www.stmarkcatholicparish.org

Pastor: Fr. Don Sanvido

Deacon: Mr. Basil Markides

Secretary: Mrs. Pam Olinski

May the
Spirit of God
Lead You Through
the New Year



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Worship This Week:

January 2 – 8, 2017

★ NO MASS ON MONDAY

Tuesday

7:00 PM - Int. of the Women's Prayer Group

Wednesday (CROWNING OF MARY AT 7:00 P.M. MASS)

7:00 am - For healing for all the sick in the parish

Thursday

7:00 am - Special Intention – *Kathy Smith*

2:00 PM - Mass at **Bankside Terrace**

Friday

7:00 am + Francisco De Sousa – *Brigida*

Saturday (MEMORIAL – ST. ANDRE BESSETTE)

9:00 am - Int. of the Gonsalves Family – *Jeanne Robinson*

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

SAT. 5:00 PM + Jack Soares - *Maria*

SUN. 9:30 am - Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark's

11:30 am - Int. of Tibor Kerekes – *Viorica Kerekes*

PARISH OFFICE – HOLIDAY HOURS

Mon. Jan. 2: CLOSED (in lieu of Jan. 1)

Jan. 3, 4, 5, 6: Open until 12 noon
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Christmas Season Dinner

Sunday, January 8, 2017

5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

For the third year in a row, our own Ernie Miller is hosting a FULL TURKEY DINNER here in the parish hall for those living in our immediate area who might not otherwise have the good fortune to enjoy a good Christmas dinner.

THIS YEAR, Ernie and Fr. Don would like to further extend the invitation to include the members of St. Mark's parish, to come out and gather together, to enjoy each other's company, as well as a delicious meal.

There is NO CHARGE for this night. We do, however, ask that you please let us know if you are coming, so that we can make sure there is enough for all to enjoy. Simply call or email the parish office **BEFORE JAN. 2nd** and leave your name and the number of people in your group (adults and children). 519-571-9200 / stmark@rogers.com.

We do hope you will join us!

Men of our parish meet
on the first Sunday of each month for
Benediction and Holy Hour
to pray for our families and our community.
All men are welcome to attend.

LITURGICAL ROLES

Jan. 7 & 8	Sat. 5:00PM	Sun. 9:30 AM	Sun. 11:30 AM
Altar Servers:	B./C. Morgan	<i>Can you help?</i>	N./A. Gallagher
Commentator:	B. Burns	J. Germann	T. Lee
Lector:	M. Serschen	D. Bristol	C. Mackid
Ushers:	L. Macedo R. Phillips	B. Coutinho K./J. Culley-Snyder	B. Voisin M. Monte
Gift Bearers:	Weber	Rye	<i>Can you help?</i>
Eucharistic Ministers:	K. Friesen L. Macedo C. Dokis	A. Joseph H. Kress M. Lynch	K./T. Boettger A. Monte

Wishing you a happy, healthy and Blessed New Year!



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.



Looking for more Altar Servers!

Any interested children in Grade 3 or up who have received their First Holy Communion are eligible to serve at the altar. It is a wonderful experience, and a beautiful service to the Lord.



If you are interested in joining this ministry, please pick up a "New Altar Server" sign-up form from the information wall in the lobby, fill it out and drop it in the collection basket during Mass.

★ **TRAINING, PIZZA & MOVIE!** There will be a Training Night for all **NEW** and **CURRENT** Altar Servers (to go over a couple of new things) **this Friday, January 6th** at 5:00 p.m., then, from 6:00 to 8:30 you are invited to stay for Pizza and a Movie! **Please sign up for the training/pizza night on the sheet posted on the Altar Servers' closet in the sacristy, or, email Pam at the office** (stmark@rogers.com) to let us know you're coming.

Don't forget to pick up your 2017 Offertory Envelopes!

Pre-Authorized Debit Plan members also have a box to pick up. If you do not currently use envelopes, but would like to start, or would like to enroll in the debit plan, please contact Pam at the office at stmark@rogers.com or 519-571-9200.

FIRST COMMUNION and CONFIRMATION
Attention Parents of students in Gr. 2 or Gr. 7

If you have not yet registered your child for First Communion (gr. 2) or Confirmation (gr. 7) at St. Mark's Parish, please be sure to do so as soon as possible. Registration forms and handouts from missed meetings can be found on the information wall in the narthex, or call the parish office with your questions (519-571-9200).

Gr. 2 FIRST COMMUNION ~ 2017 Catechism Program

Optional but highly recommended for all Grade 2 students preparing to receive First Holy Communion at St. Mark's Parish in 2015 (*for all schools but especially for public school students*).

The Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate will lead an excellent 8-week program for First Communion & First Reconciliation here at St. Mark's Parish on Tuesday evenings starting in March. The program also includes one Saturday afternoon retreat. If you have not yet registered your child for these classes, please call the parish office or pick up a First Communion handout from the information wall in the narthex. Classes take place from **6:00 to 7:30 pm** on the following **Tuesday evenings: March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 25, May 2, 9, 16.**

Other important dates:

Tuesday, April 18: Sacrament of First Reconciliation (6:30pm)

Saturday, May 27: Retreat Day (12:30 – 4:30 p.m.)

Gr. 7 CONFIRMATION ~ 2017 Preparation Sessions

Required for all Grade 7 students preparing to be confirmed at St. Mark's Parish in 2015 (*regardless of school affiliation*)

As part of the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, Fr. Don will hold 6 Sunday sessions for candidates, sponsors (if possible) and parents following the 11:30 Masses (*take a 10-minute break after Mass and reassemble in the church for 12:45 p.m. – this way, you can come to Mass without having to return to the church during the week for these sessions*). Remember to be present at Mass each and every Sunday as well as for these sessions. These mandatory sessions provide an opportunity to learn more about our faith so that Confirmation itself will be a truly meaningful celebration of the sacrament.

Sessions take place on the following Sunday Afternoons from 12:45 to 1:30 pm: Feb. 5, 19, March 5, 19, April 2, 23

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH

At Christmas it is easy for children to get so wrapped up in what they want that they forget the reason for the season: the birth of Christ. Jesus came to offer a great sacrifice – his life so our sins could be forgiven. He taught us to look toward others; to feed the hungry, care of the sick and so much more. The greatest gift we can give our children is the ability to look outward toward what others need, as opposed to looking inward to what "I" want. When we teach our children what Christmas really represents and why we celebrate, it helps them know God loves them and to spread his love to others.

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH

Pope Francis, in *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love), challenges married couples to understand that their love is a call to sacrificial love. He invites each spouse to see their married love as love that must be first and foremost self-giving. When a person in a relationship understands this, it helps them to reach beyond themselves and indeed grow. When we take the time to discern our vision of married life and then reach into ourselves to make it happen, both spouses benefit. The Pope is reminding us that love may not be perfect, but it is love and when we nurture it from within, we strengthen and build a deep bond between us.

Tips submitted by Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250

C.W.L. Corner

As the 2-year term of your current executive comes to a close, it is time to consider who should lead our council for the next 2 years. If you know someone who would be an enthusiastic and committed member of a like-minded group of ladies please consider submitting a 'no-obligation' nomination! Maybe that someone is YOU ... It is perfectly acceptable to nominate yourself! Our council needs ladies to answer the call to serve and bring their experiences and talents to the group. Please take a nomination form from the C.W.L. table in the narthex with position descriptions attached. Think and pray about your nominations and drop the completed form in the nominations box – **TODAY is the deadline!**



LAUDATO SI IS A CALL TO CONVERSION

Come and spend an evening exploring Pope Francis' encyclical on The Environment and Human Ecology with Fr. Tom Rosica, CSB, CEO of Salt and Light Television. "Past popes have written on the importance of protecting the environment, but [Laudato Si] is a major piece of work, and an ardent call from one of our world's major leaders for us to work together to address this existential problem. ... To use religious language, what the Pope is calling for is conversion." (Fr. Tom Rosica, CSB) Join us **Wed. Jan. 11th** at 7pm, St. Francis of Assisi Church, 49 Blueridge Ave. Kitchener. Sponsored by the Catholic Women's League.

STOP CENSORSHIP TOUR sponsored by K-W Right to Life

Saturday, January 14th. *Why Abortion Statistics Matter* featuring Mike Schouten from WeNeedALaw.ca and John Sikkema, lawyer at ARPA Canada. **Knights of Columbus Centre**, 145 Dearborn Place Waterloo. Social at 4:30pm; Fish & Chip Dinner at 5:00pm (\$10); Speakers at 6:00pm with Silent Auction. All proceeds go the STOP CENSORSHIP Initiative. Call 519-746-5433 or email jane@kwrtl.ca to reserve your place or table.

SEMINAR OF HOPE

How to Pray For Your Sons, Daughters & Loved Ones

Free live seminar by Vernon Robertson, as seen on EWTN. As parents do you suffer because of the spiritual condition of your children? Have your loved ones stopped practicing the faith? Do they no longer believe in God? Then this seminar is for you. **Fri. Jan. 20th** from 7-9 p.m. and **Sat. Jan. 21st** from 9am to 4pm at **St. Anthony Daniel Church**, 29 Midland Drive, Kitchener. Bring a bag lunch. Freewill offering will be taken. FREE participant manual will be given at the Seminar. View promo video at www.seminarofhope.org. For more info or to register contact Pat or Rita at 519-748-5548 or paddy@golden.net.

STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

Come join some 2000 other high school youth at **Canada's largest Catholic youth conference!** An amazing weekend to encounter Jesus and your Catholic faith in a whole new way; a time full of fun, music, and inspiring talks. Open to all youth completing grades 8-12. **July 28-30, 2017**, Cost: \$300/youth (pre-fundraising). For more info please visit: www.steubenvilletoronto.com or contact Jonathan Reitzel, Seminarian for Hamilton Diocese at j_reitzel@outlook.com. **Registrations forms available in the narthex.** Anyone 21+ who would be interested in being chaperones for this conference, please contact Jonathan.

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