

St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish

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

*The SOLEMNITY of MARY,
the HOLY MOTHER of GOD*

1st January 2023



Happy New Year!

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Mass Intentions for the Week



January 2 – 8, 2022

- Tuesday** (FERIAL)
12 Noon + David Grzesiak – *Pauline*
- Wednesday** (FERIAL)
12 Noon + Tue Nguyen – *Tien Nguyen*
- Thursday** (FERIAL)
12 Noon + Jack Soares & family – *Maria*
- First Friday** (FERIAL)
12 Noon + Sim Do – *Tien Nguyen*
- First Saturday** (MEMORIAL – ST. ANDRE BESSETTE)
9:00 am + Peter Vu – *Tuyen Nguyen*

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – Jan. 7-8

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

- Sat. 5:00 PM – Int. of Parishioners of St. Mark
- Sun. 9:30 am + Leando & Domenica Bendia – *C./K. Dignam*
- 11:30 am + Gary Lewington – *Pam*



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

The Sanctuary Lamps burn this week for:

A Private Intention

You may request to have one or both lamps burn for a special intention or for the repose of someone's soul. Cost is \$5 per candle, per week. Simply drop a plain envelope marked "Sanctuary Lamp" into the collection and include the stipend and the name of the person(s) you wish to remember.

Parish Office Hours This Week

- Mon. Jan. 2 – CLOSED**
- Tue. Jan. 3 – OPEN (9:30-12:30)
- Wed. Jan. 4 – OPEN (9:30-12:30)
- Thu. Jan. 5 – OPEN (9:30-12:30)
- Fri. Jan. 6 – CLOSED**

2023 Offertory Envelopes & Pre-Authorized Debits

ENVELOPES: A friendly reminder – **Please do not use your 2023 envelopes in 2022, and vice versa.** Your I.D. number is different every year, and is only linked to you for that specific year. Please discard any unused 2022 envelopes.

MONTHLY DEBIT PLAN: If you are enrolled in our pre-authorized debit plan, you will still receive a box of envelopes in order to donate toward special causes (, Good Friday, World Missions, St. Vincent de Paul, etc.). Please find your box in the narthex.

If you would like to start using envelopes or enroll in the monthly debit plan (or wish more information) please pick up a form from the information wall in the narthex, or contact Pam at the office to have one emailed to you.

Prayer for the New Year - 2023



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.



** A Happy & Blessed *
* New Year to All! **

Sunday, January 1st – New Year's Day – is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. In addition, it is a celebration of the World Day of Prayer for Peace.



This second week of the Christmas Season can be a great help for our daily connections with our Lord. We have the full and wonderful Solemnity in honor of Mary, in her role as "Mother of God." We can ask her to be our guide all week as we desire to grow closer to her Son. We can read Pope Francis' words for the World Day of Prayer for Peace and ponder them from time to time this week.

As we go through our daily, and often very busy lives in these days after Christmas, we can continue a sense of this brief season by continuing to ask that our Lord come to us in the ways we still need light and healing and peace. For some of us, this will be an easy prayer this week. Waiting faithfully can continue into the Christmas Season.

A special grace to ask for this week would be the gift of celebrating our Lord's presence with us. We can ask for it every morning, as we get going and we can enter into brief conversations with our Lord, in the background, as we encounter some of the places in our life in which we can see more hope, more of an opportunity for peace. This week, we might hold up each member of our family, close friends and neighbors, and those we might work with, seeing and celebrating how our Lord is manifest in them. For some of us, there may be real epiphany moments, when we see what we haven't been seeing, feel what we haven't been feeling or experience a call we haven't felt before. Being watchful for and open to these special post-Christmas moments of grace is very important.

For those of us in the Northern Hemisphere, these days are short and darkness comes early. Perhaps we can light a candle every evening this week at dinner just to celebrate the Light of Jesus that comes into the darkness of our lives.

~ Used with permission by Online Ministries, Creighton University

REFLECTION FOR THE NEW YEAR...

The Divine Word of Hope

The small child of Bethlehem, the unknown young man of Nazareth, the rejected preacher, the naked man on the cross, he asks for my full attention. The work of our salvation takes place in the midst of a world that continues to shout, scream, and overwhelm us with its claims and promises. But the promise is hidden in the shoot that sprouts from the stump, a shoot that hardly anyone notices.

I remember seeing a film on the human misery and devastation brought by the bomb on Hiroshima. Among all the scenes of terror and despair emerged one image of a man quietly writing a word in calligraphy. All his attention was directed to writing that one word. That image made this gruesome film a hopeful film. Isn't that what God is doing? Writing the divine word of hope in the midst of our dark world? - *Henri Neuwen*

World Day of Peace – January 1 – The World Day of Peace was established by Pope Paul VI in 1968 who asked that "every year, this commemoration be repeated as a hope and as a promise, at the beginning of the calendar which measures and outlines the path of human life in time, that Peace with its just and beneficent equilibrium may dominate the development of events to come."

Each year has a specific theme, chosen by the Holy Father. To read the Pope's message for 2023, you can view it on VaticanNews.va here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4nfvnthf>



| JAN. 7-8 | 5:00 PM Mass | 9:30 AM Mass | 11:30 AM Mass |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Altar Servers: | C. Perkovic, J./P./V. Miller | R. Jerold P./T. Pereira | C. Chacon J./S. Garrucho |
| Commentator: | D. Behl | T. Pereira | M. Oram |
| Reader: | R. St. Cartier | P. Pereira | D. DeSousa |
| Ushers: | B. Benner C. Weber | T. Germann M. Walser | B./C. Voisin |
| Eucharistic Ministers: | G. Kubisewsky A. Bendia | T. Lee M. Walser | D. Seymour-Weber E. Weiss |

2023 Sacramental Preparation Sessions

FIRST COMMUNION

Preparation Sessions:

WEDNESDAYS at 5:45 PM
January 18,
February 1, February 15
March 8, March 29

Celebration of the Sacrament:

Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 2 pm
with St. Dominic students

Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 2 pm
with St. Mark students

CONFIRMATION

Preparation Sessions:

SUNDAYS at 1:00 PM
February 26
March 26
April 23

Celebration of the Sacrament:

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7 pm
with St. Dominic students

Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 7 pm
with St. Mark students

If you missed the Enrollment Mass and have not submitted your child's enrollment form to start the preparation process, please contact the parish office before the end of this week.

COMING SOON: ALPHA 2023

Right here at St. Mark's ... and you're invited!



Alpha is back! This 11-week program brings people together for conversations about life, faith and Jesus, helping to answer questions like: **Who is Jesus? Why and how do I pray? Does God heal today?** More information to come. In the meantime, tell your friends and mark your calendar: **Thursday evenings, February 16 - April 27 from 6:45 to 9:15 p.m.**

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

We are currently breaking for the holidays and will RESUME on Jan. 11th. RCIA is a program and faith journey for Adult Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion. We meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the St. John Room. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, please fill out an RCIA form in the foyer or call Fr. Roque at 519-571-9200 for more details. This is also open to anyone who would like to have a refresher course on the Catholic Faith – all are welcome!

BIBLE STUDY... We are currently breaking for the holidays

and will RESUME on Jan. 13th. Fridays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the St. John Room – *All are welcome!* Please bring your bible and paper and pen. Questions? Please contact Karen at bkkrieger@rogers.com.

C.W.L. News...

Our Membership Drive continues! Do you wish you were part of a group that fed mind, body and soul? Do you yearn for a way to 'right' some of the 'wrongs' in today's world? All that and so much more awaits for only \$40 with a membership in the St Mark Catholic Women's League! Gift memberships are also available for a special woman in your life. For more info, please contact Sue Sawchuk, Organization Chair at 519-277-1898 or email stmarkcwl@gmail.com.



2023 Catholic Faith Calendars

ON SALE IN THE NARTHEX

\$5.00 minimum (greater donations appreciated!)

All proceeds help St. Mark's C.W.L.

Winter Clothing Drive ... The Knights are collecting winter coats, hats, mitts, scarves for the Salvation Army to distribute to those in need. Donations of gently used items can be placed in the bin in the narthex.

Evenings With His Excellency – Auxiliary Bishop Wayne Lobsinger invites everyone to join him for an opportunity to learn more about our Catholic Faith based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Class is the **2nd Friday of each month** from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at **St. Ann Parish in Ancaster**. No cost, no homework, just an opportunity to learn about our faith. All are welcome. Sessions are **also available online** on St. Ann's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@StAnnCatholicParishAncaster/streams>

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR | *This week let us pray for...*

| JAN. 2 | JAN. 3 | JAN. 4 | JAN. 5 | JAN. 6 | JAN. 7 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Most Rev. Douglas Crosby, O.M.I. | Rev. Piotr Machnacki, S.A.C. | Diocesan Priests | Rev. Ranjan D'Sa, O.C.D. | Rev. Joseph Ahilan, C.R.S.P. | Rev. Louis Lenssen, C.R.S.P. |

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.



Vocation Seeds...

Mary, Mother of God - January 1, 2023

Mary treasured all that God had done for her and pondered these things in her heart. Do you treasure God and ponder what He wants from you? You may have a vocation to a life in the Church serving Christ. If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister or consecrated virgin, contact **Fr. Mark Morley**, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton, at 905-528-7988. vocations@hamiltondiocese.com | www.hamiltondiocese.com/vocations

COMING SOON!! Watch the bulletin for news about a **NEW Parish Photo Directory for 2023!** Registered parishioners will be receiving a phone call sometime in January/February to book an appointment for a photo sitting sometime in February or May. If you are interested in helping out behind the scenes, please speak to Father or contact the parish office.



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