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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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.



January 8 - 14, 2018

- Monday NO MASS (FEAST BAPTISM OF THE LORD)
- (FERIAL) **Tuesday** 2:00 PM - Mass at Lanark Heights Long Term Care 7:00 PM + Patrick Dignam - Colm & Kay Wednesday (FERIAL) 7:00 am + John Barnes - Bernard & the Burkholder family Thursday (FERIAL)
- 7:00 am + Betty Germann John Donovan 3:00 PM - Mass at Forest Heights Long Term Care
- (MEMORIAL ST. MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS) **Friday** 7:00 am - Int. of Anna Pham Thi Le - Phuong Nguyen
- **Saturday** (FERIAL) 9:00 am + Derek Lloyd - Mark & Eleanor Lawlor

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20; John 1:35-42 **Sat. 5:00 PM** + Francesca Rebol – the Cimermancic family Sun. 9:30 am - Int. of the Parishioners of St. Mark's **11:30 am** + Patrick Dignam - Knights of Columbus

The Baptism of the Christ (or the Baptism of Christ) is the feast day commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. Originally the baptism of Christ was celebrated on Epiphany, which commemorates the coming of the Magi, the baptism of Christ, and the wedding at Cana.

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys was the French founder of the Congregation of Notre Dame of Montreal in the colony of New France, now part of Québec. She lived in Fort Ville-Marie (now Montreal) as of 1653, educating young girls, the poor, and natives until her death at the turn of the 18th century. She is also significant for developing one of the first un-cloistered religious communities in the Catholic Church. Marguerite had an exceptional and practical love of God and neighbour. She had a great desire to serve the Church in its most local form, the parish. She exhorted her extern congregation of educators to be "daughters of the parish" - to worship with the people and use the local church as a source of spiritual nourishment.

All envelope users are reminded to PLEASE DISCARD any unused 2017 envelopes.

Your I.D. number changes every year, so the number on last year's envelopes now belongs to someone else, and they could easily get credit for your donation this year. Thank you for your assistance.

Pre-Authorized Debit Plan

New enrollments are always welcome! Enrollment forms are available year-round on the wall in the narthex. Withdrawals take place once per month. Thank you to all who have signed up for this plan so far (66 families currently). Don't forget to continue using the special (coloured) envelopes in your offertory box, for donating toward special collections (i.e. diocesan, Christmas, Easter, St. Vincent de Paul, etc.) - these collections are not covered by your automatic withdrawals. White Sunday envelopes and green Mortgage envelopes can also still be used for those times when you may wish to augment your automatic monthly contribution.

Questions? Please feel free to contact Pam at the parish office, by phone 519-571-9200 or email, stmark@rogers.com.

Meetings & Events This Week:

DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
<u>Mon. Jan. 8</u>	8:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
<u>Tue. Jan. 9</u>	6:30 pm	(J)	Search & Rescue
	7:30 pm	(M)	Knights of Columbus
<u>Wed. Jan. 10</u>	7:15 pm	(CH)	9:30 choir practice
	7:30 pm	(B)	Women's Prayer Group
<u>Thur. Jan. 11</u>	6:15 pm	(M)	Legion of Mary
	7:30 pm	(CH)	5:00 Choir practice
<u>Fri. Jan. 12</u>	6:00 am	(L)	Men's Group
Meeting Rooms:	B = Basement	CH =	Church \mathbf{H} = Hall $\mathbf{*}$ = Offsite

J = St. John Room L = St. Luke Room M = St. Matthew Room

Candidates Preparing for the Sacraments of First Eucharist or Confirmation

A reminder to families of children in Grade 2 or Grade 7 that Sacramental Preparation begins this month on Wed. Jan. 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the church. See below for a full list of dates. If your child missed attending one of the Enrolment Masses on Dec. 2/3 and has not yet handed in their form, please bring it to Fr. Steve after Mass as soon as possible. If you require a blank form, please contact the parish office at stmark@rogers.com.

FIRST EUCHARIST (Grade 2)

Preparation Meetings:

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Wednesday, Jan. 17	7:00 pm	for Pare
Wednesday, Jan. 31	7:00 pm	for Canc
Wednesday, Feb. 21	7:00 pm	for Pare
Wednesday, March 21	7:00 pm	for Canc
Wednesday, April 18	7:00 pm	for Pare

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CONFIRMATION (Grade 7):

Preparation Meetings:

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Wednesday, Jan. 17	7:00 pm	for Parents
Sunday, Jan. 28	after 11:30 Mass	for Candidates
Sunday, Feb. 25	after 11:30 Mass	for Parents
Sunday, March 18	after 11:30 Mass	for Candidates
Sunday, April 15	after 11:30 Mass	for Parents

Wanted: Adult Funeral Servers

St. Mark's would like to form a team of adult altar servers who are usually free during the day (e.g. those who are retired or working only part-time) who could be called upon with a day or two's notice to serve for funerals in the church. Training will be provided. If you are interested, please leave your name and phone number at the parish office, 519-571-9200 or stmark@rogers.com.



Knights of Columbus Upcoming Events...

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Sun. Jan. 21	1:00 pm	K of C – First Degree
Sat. Jan. 27	7:00 pm	K of C – Wine Tasting
Sun. Feb. 11	5:00 pm	K of C – Pancake Supper

JAN. 13 & 14	Sat. 5:00PM	Sun. 9:30 AM	Sun. 11:30 AM
Altar Servers:	G./S. Morgan, N. D'Souza	Can you help?	C. Chacon
Commentator:	J. Deneau	V. DeVries	M. Oram
Lectors:	K. Friesen, M. Dufresne	P. Enticott; J. Flanigan	B. Starr; I. Kangaloo
Ushers:	K. Friesen; A. Bendia	J. DeSousa; P. Drohan	M. Monte
Gift Bearers:		Seaward	Chacon
Eucharistic Ministers:	L. Macedo; K. Smith; F./Y. Tully	S. Cerantola; B. Coutinho; A. Joseph	R./L. Masbad; A. Monte

Liturgical Ministers

Do you have a New Year's Resolution? READ THE WHOLE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Would you like to read the whole Bible in a year? And maybe the Catechism too? Here is a website where you can download a daily schedule of readings: www.chnetwork.org/readguide04.pdf

Lighthouse Catholic Media CD's (Available in the Narthex for \$5/each or \$20/five.)

We are sure these CD's will be a blessing to you and your family. These CD's make excellent gifts for family and friends, and can fit easily into a card. Also, as CD's are often passed on, you never know who might end up listening to them and how the faith may be spread.

HOMELESSNESS ... In Our Area? How Can I Help?

Wednesday, January 10th at **St. Francis Parish Hall**, 49 Blueridge Avenue, Kitchener. 7:00 p.m. Mass; 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Rev. Michael Hackbusch, Spiritual Director, House of Friendship. ALL ARE WELCOME. Hosted by St. Francis of Assisi C.W.L.

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass

Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2018? If so, you are cordially invited to join couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on **Sunday**, **June 10**, **2018** at the **Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King** in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only – those married 60 years or more may bring 1 guest if you require assistance). To register, please visit www.hamiltondiocese.com.

Vocation Reflection... www.HamiltonVocations.com

The Son of God was first manifested to the world through the visit of the magi. Today, God's Son is brought into the world and is present to the world through His Church. If you think that God is calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon, contact Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 ext. 2246 or email: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com.

Catholic Women's League News

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year at the **Potluck on January 18th at 7:00 p.m.**



Join us during our weekly Chapel Hour on Sundays from 4-5 p.m.

Today's feast celebrates the epiphany (manifestation) of Christ to the Gentiles, symbolized by Christ's being revealed to the Magi (Wise Men). The feast originally was more closely connected to Jesus' baptism, the primary theme of the feast in Eastern Churches to this day. In addition, other manifestations of Christ were often commemorated during Epiphany, including the miracle at the wedding at Cana. In fact, some theologians throughout history have asserted that the Baptism of the Lord, the adoration of the infant Jesus by the Magi, and the miracle at Cana all historically occurred on January 6. This is unlikely, but either way, the Epiphany solemnity is celebrated on January 6, which falls within Christmastide. In some Catholic regions, the feast is translated to a Sunday. The Eastern Churches often call the holiday Theophany, which means "manifestation of God." Eastern Christians also refer to the Epiphany as "Holy Lights" because they baptize on this day, and baptism brings about illumination.

Traditionally, Epiphany marked the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas. The story of the Magi traveling from the East to see the Christ child appears only in the Gospel According to St. Matthew. The word Magi, in Greek magoi, comes from the Latin word meaning "sage." These particular sages were possibly Zoroastrian astrologers from Persia. Upon seeing a star rising in the East (the Star of Bethlehem), they realized it was a sign that the king of the Jews had been born. According to St. Ignatius of Antioch (d. AD 107), the star shone with an inexpressible brilliance, and the sun, moon, and other stars all formed a chorus around the special star (Letter to the Ephesians, 19). The wise men followed the star to Bethlehem of Judea, and to Jesus' dwelling there. Having arrived, they worshipped the infant Jesus, and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

There have been numerous traditions that have grown up about the Wise Men. Typically, we think of there being three wise men because of the number of gifts, but Matthew doesn't tell us the exact number. Since the 3rd century, Christian writers have referred to them as kings, even though Matthew doesn't specifically tell us that they were royalty. Their names in the West, Gaspar (or Caspar), Melchior, and Balthasar date to the 6th century. The names mean: Master-of-Treasure, King, and Protect-the-King, respectively. The Syrian Church has given them the following Persian names: Larvandad, Hormisdas, and Gushnasaph.

St. Bede the Venerable fills in a few gaps, providing colorful details about the Magi: The first was called Melchior. He was an old man, with white hair and a long beard; he offered gold to the Lord as to his King. The second, Gaspar by name, young, beardless, of ruddy hue, offered to Jesus his gift of incense, the homage due to Divinity. The third, of black complexion, with heavy beard, was middle-aged and called Balthasar. The myrrh he held in his hand prefigured the death of the son of Man.

St. Bede hints that the magi represent different races, an idea that was further developed around the 14th century, in which the wise men were said to represent the three known races of the time: European, Asian, and African. According to another legend, St. Thomas the Apostle visited the Magi, and after catechizing them, he initiated them into the Christian faith. Eventually the Wise Men were ordained priests and then bishops. Near the end of their lives, the Christmas Star revisited them, this time bringing them together for a final reunion. The information provided by Bede, and this legend, are interesting but historically unreliable.

