

St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish

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

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Roque Concepcion – *Pastor* (stmark.kitchener@gmail.com)

Rev. Mr. Philip Fernandez – *Deacon*

Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Parish Secretary* (stmark@rogers.com)

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00 PM

Monthly Filipino Mass: *Third* Saturday 7:00 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday - Friday 12:00 NOON

First Saturday 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

Wednesdays & *First* Fridays 11:00 - 11:45 AM

Saturdays 4:15 - 4:45 PM or by appointment

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 – Infant 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. A date for baptism can be confirmed by the parish office after you have met with Father and started the preparation process.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) – Adults seeking conversion to the Catholic faith are invited to inquire with the parish priest. This program begins each Fall and runs until Easter.

MARRIAGE – At least 6 months' notice is required. Please introduce yourselves to Father after Mass to start the process.

ANOIDING OF THE SICK / HOSPITAL VISIT

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.

PARISH SCHOOLS

St. Dominic Elementary 3 Westforest Trail 519-576-5503

St. Mark Elementary 240 Autumn Hill Cres. 519-743-4682

Resurrection Secondary 455 University Ave. W. 519-741-1990



“... The seed is sprouting and growing ...” (Mark 4:27)

REQUESTING A MASS INTENTION

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 drop it in the mail. Your intention and your name will appear in the bulletin, and will be announced during Mass. **If you require a Mass Card**, please make your request in-person at the parish office during business hours.

The offering (stipend) for a Mass Intention is \$10 per Mass.

Number of Masses requested: _____ Offering enclosed: \$_____

Name of person(s)
to be remembered: _____

☐ LIVING ☐ DECEASED

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

☐ The date of the Mass does not matter.

OR

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

** Please note: Requests for specific dates (birthday, anniversary of death or wedding) should be submitted several months in advance to avoid disappointment. Sunday Masses may only be requested twice per year. All other requests will be satisfied on a weekday. We will attempt to contact you if we are unable to accommodate your request.*

LIGHTING A SANCTUARY LAMP

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. Names will be published in the bulletin at the beginning of that week.

Please light the
Sanctuary Lamp(s) for: _____

☐ LIVING ☐ DECEASED

Offering enclosed: \$_____

REQUESTED BY _____

DAYTIME PHONE # OR EMAIL _____

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Mass Intentions for the Week

January 8 – 14, 2024

Monday	(FEAST – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD)
★ 9:00 am	† Arnold, Ella, Helen, Ronald & Marie Blanchard
Tuesday	(FERIAL - ORDINARY TIME BEGINS)
12 Noon	† Blandura Amaro & Antonio Costa – <i>Salome Costa</i>
Wednesday	(FERIAL)
12 Noon	† Lusía Pereira & Souls in Purgatory – <i>J. Costa</i> † Robert & Jean Harvey – <i>J. Petrovich</i> † Marie Voisin – <i>Faye & Harold</i>
Thursday	(FERIAL)
12 Noon	† Luis Borges & family – <i>Salome Costa</i>
Friday	(MEMORIAL – ST. MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS)
12 Noon	† Joyce Sanvido – <i>Olinski Family</i>
2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Jan. 13/14	
<i>1 Sam. 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Cor. 6:13c-15a, 17-20; John 1:35-42</i>	
SAT. 5:00 PM	† Jordan Scherer – <i>Garry & Cindy Mahn</i> † Julito Penaverde † Claire Proulx – <i>Frank & Yvette Tully</i>
SUN. 9:30 am	† Alipio Gomes – <i>Victor & Family</i>
11:30 am	– Int. of Parishioners of St. Mark



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!
The Sanctuary Lamps burn this week for:
The Intentions of Duc Nguyen



Diocesan Prayer Calendar ✕ This week let us pray for...

Jan. 8	Jan. 9	Jan. 10	Jan. 11	Jan. 12
Baptism of the Lord	Rev. David Reilander	Sisters of St. John the Baptist (C.S.J.B.)	Rev. Franjo Sprajc	Rev. Matthew Durham

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.

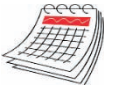
Children's Liturgy of the Word
Sundays at the 9:30 a.m. Mass
for children in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3.

Bible Study resumes January 12th... Join us 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 bkkriqner@rogers.com.



Join us for Alpha 2024...
Thursday evenings, Feb. 22 to May 2
St. Mark's Parish Hall
Alpha is an 11-week program that brings adults together for conversations about life, faith and Jesus. Plan to join us – all are welcome! To learn more, please contact Denise Case at stmarkalpha@gmail.com.

Meetings & Events This Week ...



DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
Mon. Jan. 8	6:30 pm	(CH)	11:30 Choir practice
	8:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
Tue. Jan. 9	7:00 pm	ZOOM	Knights' Executive meeting
Wed. Jan. 10	6:15 pm	(CH)	9:30 Choir practice
Thu. Jan. 11	7:00 pm	(CH)	5pm Choir practice
Fri. Jan. 12	7:00 pm	(J)	Bible Study
Sat. Jan. 6	7:15 am	(H)	<i>That Man Is You!</i> Men's Group

In this first week of **Ordinary Time**, we might find ourselves feeling a little let-down after the Christmas season, especially in parts of the world where it seems cold and dark most days. This is where we can ask for the grace to let the stories of the gospels come alive in our hearts.



The vivid narratives of this week's gospel are packed with stories of Jesus' entering into the lives of real people and touching them in extraordinary ways. These are not far away stories, but ones that have a real meaning for us. This is a week of invitation from Jesus to us, with two invitations for us to ponder in our hearts this week.

Jesus encounters Levi, a Jewish tax collector. Because of his profession, he was probably wealthy but he had humiliated his family and made himself a pariah to most of those around him. Jesus' response to this "outcast" was to invite him to be one of his closest disciples – and to dine at his house.

In our own lives we may find a loneliness or separation from people in our family or others in our lives. We have parts of our lives that are dark and embarrassing and seem unchangeable. It is into this very darkness and discomfort that Jesus extends the same invitation to us – "Follow me." This clear and personal call to us is from Jesus who already knows us and our failings and yet asks us to be with him. We can hear this invitation more clearly if we can be touched with awareness of our own failings and understand more deeply how much we need a savior in our lives. It is then that our hearts open to accept this invitation.

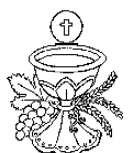
This week Jesus invites us to follow him, as friends and disciples. This is a good week for us to contemplate with Jesus, what we are looking for and how much we want to turn and follow him. We can pray to Jesus for the strength to leave the patterns and habits of our lives that so often turn us away from him and ask for the grace to make a new beginning in our lives. If we can sit with our hands open in humility, we can accept that we can't do this on our own, but know in our hearts that with the help of God, nothing is impossible.

~ Used with permission by Online Ministries, Creighton University

2024 Preparation for First Communion

If you have not yet enrolled your child, please contact the office no later than Jan. 9th. **Preparation Sessions** begin Jan. 17th on **Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. on Jan. 17, Feb. 7, Feb. 28, March 20, and April 10.**

First Communion celebrations are scheduled for:
Sunday, April 28th at 2 pm (with St. Dominic students)
& **Sunday, May 5th** at 2 pm (with St. Mark students)



Liturgical Ministers

JAN. 13-14	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
Altar Servers:	J./P./V. Miller	E. Burkholder A. Jacobs, J. Taer	C. Chacon J./S. Garrucho
Commentator:	M. Comido	J. Deneau	R. Vergel de Dios
Readers:	N. Comido	V. DeVries	B. Prila
Ushers:	P. Smith A. Beckner	V. Chen M. Walser	J./S./J. Posada
Eucharistic Ministers:	C. Weber J. Fernandez	P. Enticott T. Lee	E. Weiss A. Joseph

Offertory Report

Christmas 2023	General	Mortgage
Envelope offerings	\$ 5,910.25	\$ 100.00
Loose offerings	\$ 2,056.80	\$ --
Totals	\$ 7,967.05	\$ 100.00

Dec. 30/31, 2023	General	Mortgage
Envelope offerings	\$ 1,885.00	\$ 120.00
Pre-Authorized	\$ 1,504.04	\$ 363.81
Loose offerings	\$ 334.90	\$ --
Totals	\$ 2,723.94	\$ 483.81

New Year's 2023-24	General	Mortgage
Envelope offerings	\$ 1,397.00	\$ 25.00
Loose offerings	\$ 470.20	\$ --
Totals	\$ 1,867.20	\$ 25.00



Attention All Envelope Users

Boxed Offertory Envelopes for 2024 are still available for pick up, and are arranged alphabetically by surname. Please retrieve your box promptly, and **DISCARD ALL ENVELOPES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS.** I.D. numbers are reassigned every year, which means old envelopes from previous years are no longer linked to your name in our computer. Using envelopes from previous years causes problems in the office and causes your donation to be credited to someone else.

If you have looked and cannot find your name among the 2024 boxes, please call the parish office, and we will gladly prepare a box for you.

If you don't currently use envelopes and would like to start, please fill out a parish registration form, and drop it in the collection.

If you would like to enroll in our Pre-Authorized Debit Plan, please fill out a "Pre-Authorized Giving" pamphlet, include a void cheque (or equivalent details), and drop it in the collection in a plain envelope marked "OFFICE".

ADULT FAITH FORMATION THROUGH VLCFF – The Diocese of Hamilton is proud to partner with Dayton University's Virtual Learning Community for Adult Faith Formation (VLCFF) to offer certificate programs for ministry and enrichment for adult faith formation. **Three and five week e-seminars are available at a discounted rate for all adults in the Diocese looking to further their learning.** For more info about our programs, and how to register, visit us at www.hamiltondioceselearns.com.

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD – The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (January 21, 2024) marks the celebration of **Bible Sunday** in the Diocese of Hamilton. At the conclusion of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis encouraged every Christian community to choose one Sunday a year to renew its efforts to make the Sacred Scriptures better known and widely diffused. Our celebration of Bible Sunday is a call to listen to how **#TheBibleSpeaks** in our hearts and within our communities of faith. The Pastoral Offices of the Diocese of Hamilton have prepared a wide variety of resources for youth and adults in celebration of Bible Sunday 2024. Visit our website: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/thebiblespeaks>.

IMPORTANT notice for all C.W.L. Members!

Nominations are open until Jan. 15/24 for candidates for your next parish **Executive Council!**

WE is a reflection of our collective ME!

We encourage you to participate by nominating members, *including yourself*, who are willing to employ their God-given talents in service to the League and our members. **Nomination forms will be available and on the CWL table in the Narthex or by emailing kim.a.montag@gmail.com.** Completed forms must be signed and dropped in the box, also on the table. Use as many forms and make as many nominations as you like! **Elections will be held at our General Meeting January 25, 2024...Please plan to attend!!**



**WE
ME**



Attention All Ladies!

C.W.L. Membership Drive continues... Do you yearn to be part of a women's movement that believes in growing in your faith, believes in service, and in social justice? Please help us to grow our council by joining St. Mark's C.W.L.. We invite all ladies 16 years of age and over to join. Membership for 2024 is \$40. Please call Sue Sawchuck, Organization Chair, at 519-277-1898 or email stmarkcwl@gmail.com for further information.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE TIMELINE STUDY:

Salvation Story Made Clear ... Starting in mid January at **St. Louis Parish** (53 Allen St. East, Waterloo). The Bible Timeline® Study Program is a guided journey through salvation history. Presenter Jeff Cavins shows how 14 of the Bible's narrative books tell the biblical story from beginning to end and gives the keys to understand the amazing story woven through Scripture. Unique colour-coded chart helps to learn about the people, places, and events of the Bible and reveals the remarkable story of our Faith. Offered **Sundays at 12:30pm starting Jan. 14th OR Monday nights at 7:30pm starting Jan. 15th** (no sessions on long weekends etc.) 12 sessions during Winter/Spring 2024 and 12 sessions during the Fall of 2024. To sign up contact St. Louis Parish Office, 519-743-4101 / stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com. Course is free. Free materials provided, or purchase a workbook for all 24 sessions.

REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL kicks off the 2024 season on **Jan. 25th** from 7 – 9 p.m. with the film **Gather**, an intimate portrait of the movement among Indigenous communities to reclaim their spiritual, political, and cultural identities through food sovereignty. The dynamic duo of **Kitty R Lynn Lickers** and **Dr. Adrienne Xavier** from McMaster University's Indigenous Studies Department will be guest speakers for the evening. Educators in Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Food Sovereignty, they also managed the *Our Sustenance* program, a sustainability and food sovereignty program in their community of Six Nations. **The screening and discussion will be hosted online via Zoom.** Register and view our full schedule of events at:

<https://reeljustice.hamiltondiocese.com/>

A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the Reel Justice Film Festival shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustices.

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT - Saturday, February 3rd in Waterloo

Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of Adoration, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:00pm), praise night and vocations testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on Saturday, February 3rd at **St. Michael's Catholic Church** (80 University Avenue West, Waterloo, ON). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com.



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