

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. Philip Fernandez – *Deacon*

Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Secretary*

The Parish Office is open by appointment only.

Please call or email ahead to schedule your visit.

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

No Children's Liturgy of the Word until further notice.

WEEKDAY MASS

Wednesday 12:00 NOON

followed by Adoration and Benediction

CONFESSIONS

Saturday at 4:15 PM or by appointment.

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION CHAPEL

Closed until further notice.

PANDEMIC PROTOCOL

Seating capacity in the church is restricted to 30%. Doors open 30 minutes before Mass. Seating will be first come, first served. Under the Ontario guidelines, we ask that:

- all who are not feeling well, or have an elevated temperature, please stay home.
- when you visit the church you wear a face covering over your nose, mouth, and chin. Required by the Face Covering By-law 20-035.
- you practice generous social distancing (minimum 6 ft.) and follow the signs and ushers' directions.
- that you use your washroom before coming to church.

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 SOCIETY

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 drop it in the mail. Your intention will be printed in the bulletin and announced at Mass.

If you require a Mass card please call the parish office to make pick-up arrangements.

The offering (stipend) for a Mass Intention 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

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass Intentions for the Week



March 15 – 21, 2021

Church doors are open 30 minutes before the start of Mass, and seating is restricted to 30% capacity (first come first seated) until further notice.

Wednesday, March 17 (MEMORIAL – ST. PATRICK)

12 noon + Stephen Lappin – Philip & Joan Fernandez

12:30 PM - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33

Sat. 5:00 PM + Jim Spicer – Marg Bryson

Sun. 9:30 am – Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark

11:30 am + Leonard Smith – St. Mark's Parish Community

St. Patrick – Not many facts are known about the life of St. Patrick. We know that he was born around 415 AD, and was a Roman Briton. When he was about 16, while he was tending his sheep some Irish raiders captured him and made him a slave. He eventually was able to escape and return to Britain. There he heard the call to return and bring Christianity to Ireland. He was ordained a priest, consecrated a bishop and came back to Ireland around 435 AD. Many legends are associated around St. Patrick: how he drove the snakes out of Ireland, and the use of the shamrock to teach the mystery of the Trinity. Whether or not the legends are true, St. Patrick succeeded in bringing Catholicism to Ireland, and in time, the whole country converted from their pagan gods to the one true God. Although a small country, Ireland has played a large role in saving and bringing Christianity throughout the world. During the early Dark Ages, the Irish monasteries preserved Western writings while Europe remained in darkness. But as the Catholic country remained solidly Catholic, the Irish spread the faith to all corners of the world.



Bring your SPUDS to the Church during the month of March and the Knights of Columbus will deliver them to the House of Friendship for their annual Potato Blitz.

Diocesan Anniversary Mass 2021 Registration

The Anniversary Mass scheduled for June of 2021 has been **cancelled** due to restrictions and concerns around COVID-19. We invite you to register your 25, 40, 50, 60 and 60 plus years of marriage on the Diocesan website at www.hamiltondiocese.com. The Anniversary Mass is listed on the home page – click on the icon and you can register your anniversary. We will send you the certificate you would have received from Bishop Crosby at the Mass.

Lent



The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means “rejoice.” Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy’s opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter.

Today’s Gospel reading is taken from John’s Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is the final sentence of Jesus’ reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in the questions he posed to Jesus.

In the part of the conversation with Nicodemus in today’s Gospel, Jesus referred to an incident reported in the Old Testament. When the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert, God sent venomous serpents to punish them for their complaints. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses’ prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked upon the bronze serpent were cured. By recalling this story, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be accomplished through his death and Resurrection.

The second part of today’s Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus’ words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative. The words of the Evangelist are in continuity with the words of the prologue to John’s Gospel. In these reflections, John elaborates on a number of themes that are found in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation.

In John’s reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives. ■





MAR. 20-21	5:00 PM	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Reader:	D. Behl	J. Flanigan	S. Roma
Ushers:	E. Miller, S.J./G. Morgan C. Weber	J./K. Snyder, T. Lee, M. Walsler, T. Germann	B./C. Voisin, E. Weiss, I. Kangaloo, J. Smith
Eucharistic Ministers:	A. Bendia, H. Psutka	T./K. Boettger	K. Dignam, D. Seymour-Weber

THAT MAN IS YOU! ... The Battle Over The Bride

The St. Mark Men's Group hasn't let the pandemic slow us down! We meet on **ZOOM on Saturday mornings, Jan. 23rd - April 24th at 8:15 AM.** *That Man is You!* honestly addresses the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. The program harmonizes current social and medical science with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of man fully alive! Visit www.tmiy.org for more info. Until we return to our breakfast meeting format, men watch a 30-minute video during the week, then meet to discuss via Zoom on Saturdays. Contact jan.kangaloo@gmail.com with your questions and to receive the weekly email with the Zoom link and access to the videos.

Mass of Chrism

His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will celebrate the Mass of Chrism on **Monday, March 29th** in the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. This year, due to COVID capacity limitations and social distancing requirements, attendance at the Chrism Mass will be **limited to Priests only.** Each year at the Mass of Chrism, the Bishop blesses the Oil of the Sick, and the Oil of Catechumens, and consecrates Sacred Chrism. The blessed and consecrated Oils are taken to the Parishes of the Diocese to be used in the celebration of the Sacraments for the coming year. The Priests serving in the Diocese, together with the Bishop, renew the promises of their Ordination in which they committed themselves to serve this local Church in imitation of Christ the Priest, Prophet and Shepherd. Let us pray for all who minister to God's holy people in our Diocese – our Bishops, Priests, Deacons, lay leaders, and all God's holy people.

Parenting Tip of the Month

The amount of time spent together as a family during COVID might be considered by some to be too much, but it may also be filling a real need. Past research has shown that children consistently identify a desire to spend more time with their parents and family. Time for them means direct, active engagement. The long-term benefits to family relationships are proven: children grow up healthier in mind, body and spirit. Enjoying quality time with their family's means children are more likely to turn to their family for love and support, keeping them healthy. So play with your kids, watch a movie together and discuss its message(s), pray together, be active together, cook together and/or clean together; the possibilities are endless. So remember, time with family is powerful when it is interactive, shared by all and fun!

Hello from St. Mark's C.W.L.

Fantastic news! The Diocesan Executive has decided to have a virtual chat with the councils.



All members are invited to a **ZOOM CHAT on Saturday, March 27th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.**

This will not be a regional meeting and, as such, will not require reports. We would like to hear your thoughts. Please also tell us about your councils (how you all have weathered the virus, etc.). This will be an information sharing gathering so that we will be able to stay informed and connected.

As it is a Zoom Chat, members are allowed to use the telephone instead of the computer if you prefer. If you are not able to be part of the Kitchener chat, you will be able to attend one of the others meetings.

Please email us (stmarkcwl@gmail.com) or call 519-577-8519 (Anna Joseph), before March 27th so that I will be able to send you the Zoom login and password. Looking forward to hearing from you!

MEMBERSHIP DUES: If you haven't had the opportunity to submit your membership dues for 2021, there is still time. You can either drop it into the collection basket at the church, or mail it to the church. No change to the cost from last year (\$30) and cheques can be made to St. Mark's C.W.L. Cash is also accepted.

St. Mark's Knights of Columbus (Council 9276)

invites to all men of the parish (18 yrs. of age and older) to join their Fraternity. **Membership is free until June 30, 2021.** If you are interested, please contact John Deneau at jdeneau@sympatico.ca or by text at 226-789-1094. This is a good opportunity to boost their membership and join a good cause for the parish and community.



CASH & CARS 50/50 DRAW: Due to Covid restrictions, the Ontario Knights of Columbus is no longer able to hold our annual Cash & Cars lottery ticket sale in person. To continue our support of local charities, we are holding a series of online 50/50 draws. There will be 4 draws per year (April 1, June 30, September 30 and December 31). Click this link [Kitchener 9276](http://Kitchener9276) to be directed to the ticket purchase site where credit card payments can be made. Kitchener9276 is the reference for our local Council number so that ticket sales can be directed to our local charities.

The prize amount depends on the number of tickets sold across the province. The estimated prize amount is indicated on the ticket purchase page. Tickets for the April 1 draw are available now. Thank you very much for your support. Full rules for the draw are available at www.ontariokofc.ca.

If you are interested in learning more about St. Mark's Knights of Columbus and our local activities, please visit our webpage at www.kofc9276.org.

Marriage Tip of the Month

At the heart of every relationship there needs to be a foundation of love and respect. When couples respect each other, including their differences, they continually build each other up and enjoy time together. When we respect the other in relationship, we can accept their desire to influence us with their understanding of what is true, good and beautiful. When we are open to our spouse's view of things, we not only grow, but we grow together. When we grow together, we cannot help but grow in love.



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