

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass Intentions for the Week



March 22 – 28, 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 24 (FERIAL)

12 Noon + Marcella Schnarr – Marilyn Dufresne

12:30 PM - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

1:00 PM - CONFESSIONS (parish hall)

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – March 27/28

Mark 11:1-10; Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1—15:47

Sat. 5:00 PM + Gerald Kurtz – Madeline Kuepfer

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

11:30 am + Judy Van Ooteghem – Dignam family



EASTER DUTY

The Easter Duty requires all the faithful to Receive Holy Communion once a year during the Easter Season. It does not require the reception of Penance once a year unless a person is in grave sin (CCC 1457, 2042).

During the present pandemic it may not be possible for people to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Penance. In this case, they should be reassured that a perfect Act of Contrition, and the resolve to confess their sins (even mortal sins) as soon as it is possible in the Sacrament of Reconciliation suffices to assure them of God's forgiveness.

The Church does not require the impossible. Therefore, those who are unable to receive Holy Communion either because they cannot attend church or because of a delicate conscience relative to receiving Communion in the hand, are dispensed from the Easter Duty obligation this year.



His Excellency Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI, by virtue of a Decree, dispenses the faithful of the Diocese of Hamilton from the Easter Duty this year, 2021.

Easter Flowers

Contributions toward the purchase of Easter Flowers may be made in memory of a loved one; Mass on Easter Sunday morning will be offered for the repose of their souls. Look for the pink box in the narthex with envelopes for donations.



REGISTRATION for Good Friday & Easter Sunday Mass

Parishioners are kindly asked to call or email the parish office (stmark@rogers.com) to reserve seats for Good Friday (3:00 PM) and/or Easter Sunday Mass (9:30 or 11:30 AM). Please provide your name and the number of seats you require. Ushers will be confirming names at the door. This reservation is for numbers only, not to assign specific seats.

Please note that registration is not required to attend on Holy Thursday or Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil).



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.

Lent



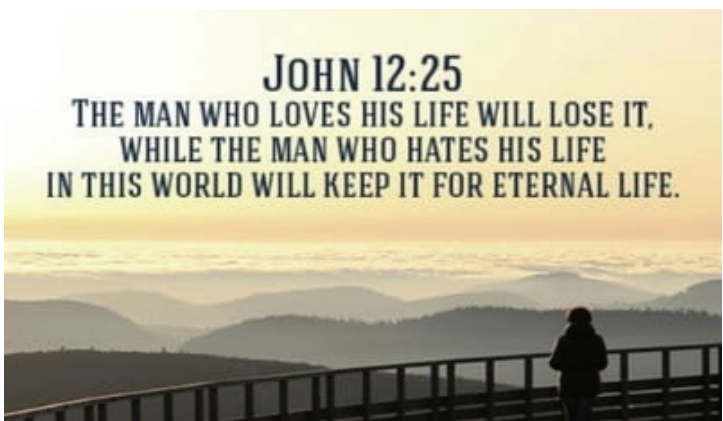
Today's Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John.

We are reading much further into John's Gospel than we have for the past two weeks. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead—an important sign in John's Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.

Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus' anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him.

In today's Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world. ■





Attention Ushers, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers:

Please check your email inbox for the schedules for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. If you are unable to fulfill your assigned role(s), please email the parish office as soon as possible. Thank you! ☺

Pre-Authorized Giving... Since the Fall of 2015, our Parish has been offering pre-authorized giving as an option to parishioners. If you are unfamiliar with this method of giving, it affords parishioners the opportunity to have their offering contributed directly to the parish through pre-authorized monthly bank transfers. Pre-authorized giving encourages a model of giving that is intentional, faithful, and sacrificial, and helps to ensure that our parish continues to receive dependable contributions. For more information or to enroll, please pick up a brochure from the narthex, or contact the parish office.

C.W.L. News

The Toronto Diocesan Council of the C.W.L. of Canada invites all members to a **VIRTUAL PRESENTATION, Vaccines: Faith and Science Working Together** presented by Dr. Moira McQueen, Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute on **Tuesday, March 23rd from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** **PLEASE REGISTER** by March 21st to Shaila D'Souza at shailaflavy@gmail.com. **Submit questions** in advance to Iris McNulty at IrisMcNultyCWL@hotmail.com.



VIRTUAL CHAT: 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.

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.

Next month, April 25th observes the feast day of our patron, Saint Mark. But just who is our patron saint?



Not many FACTS are known about St. Mark, the Evangelist, but we can turn to him in some ways as an historian. Roman Catholics rely on the four Gospels to tell the stories of Holy Week. However, only two of the evangelists were actually apostles who lived with Jesus during His three year public ministry. St. Luke and St. Mark were not apostles but learned of the Gospel stories they tell from other reliable witnesses. It is thought that St. Luke spent a great deal of time before and after the Resurrection with Mary, Jesus' mother, learning about the nativity stories and some of Mary's 'pondered' thoughts that none of the other three writers relate.

But, scholars agree that St. Mark, although not an apostle, was probably among the disciples following Jesus through much of His later life. As 'proof' of this conclusion, they point out that in his recounting of the events in the Garden of Gethsemane only Mark mentions that among the apostles was a 'young man [who] followed Him [Jesus] wearing nothing but a linen cloth about his body.' When the apostles, fleeing in frenzy from the soldiers, deserted Jesus, this young man was 'seized' but 'he left the cloth behind and ran off naked.' [Mk. 14:51]

Such details strongly suggest that Mark was indeed present for these events, experienced them first-hand, and had enough 'nerve' to tell of them publicly.

The traditional location of the Last Supper is an 'upper room' of a sympathetic home somewhere in Jerusalem. Mark describes the preparations for this Passover in Chapter 14:12. *"On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He sent two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, "The Teacher says 'Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there." The disciples then went off, entered the city and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover."*

This account, straight from the mouth of St. Mark, can be regarded as history. But some things about the culture of first century Israel ought to be considered. The task of drawing water from a communal well was the work of women, yet Jesus plainly says that the disciples will meet a man carrying a jar of water. The disciples must have thought the message strange.

We know that Jesus and His company often spent time in Jerusalem when they travelled to the Temple probably at the home of a committed follower where they would not have to pay for their lodging. Legend has it that Mark's mother was such a follower and that Mark, still living with his mother, was considerably younger than the apostles, many of whom were married men.

Also, the home to which they were invited that night had an *upper room*. Only the wealthy could afford a home with an upper floor and such a home would likely be serviced by servants. Jesus and His company were expected, so some female servant would have been sent to fetch extra water for the guests. Possibly a gracious Jewish host, so as not to embarrass the male guests by forcing them to speak to a servant woman in the street, might have given that task to the boy/man, Mark, instead.

MORE TO COME NEXT WEEK!



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