

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. Basil Markides – *Deacon*
Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Secretary*

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday at 5:00 PM
Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 7:00 PM
Wednesday 12:00 NOON
Thursday, Friday 7:00 AM *
Saturday 9:00 AM
(*First Friday 7:00 PM followed by Benediction)

CONFESSIONS

Saturday following 9:00 AM Mass
and 4:15–4:30 PM or by appointment.

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION CHAPEL

Perpetual Adoration – Spots available, please
see chapel bulletin board
Divine Mercy – Sundays 3:00 PM
Our Lady's Rosary – First Saturday at 10 AM

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 – 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 Mass.

If you require a Mass card please make your request in person at the parish office during business hours, or call the office to make pick-up arrangements.

The offering for a Mass (for living or deceased) 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

The exact date does not matter, but I would prefer it to be on any:

Tues. 7 PM Wed. 12 NOON Thur. 7 AM Fri. 7 AM Sat. 9 AM
 Sat. 5:00 PM Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday 11:30 AM

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.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Mass Intentions for the Week

March 16 – 22, 2020

Monday – NO MASS

Tuesday – NO MASS

Wednesday – NO MASS

Thursday (SOLEMNITY – ST. JOSEPH – Husband of Blessed Virgin Mary, Principal Patron of Canada, Patron of the Universal Church)

7:00 am + Rosemary Singleton – Flood family

Friday (FERIAL)

*** 7:00 PM** + Joaquin Vaz & Francisca Goncalves – Maria Silva
- followed by **Stations of the Cross**

Saturday (FERIAL)

9:00 am - Int. of Charlotte Lahey – M. & M. Woodhouse & family

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Sat. 5:00 PM + Isabella & George Beckner – Paul & Angela Beckner

Sun. 9:30 am + Joan Chapeskie – Pat & Margaret Drohan

11:30 am - Intentions of Parishioners of St. Mark

Please note there will be no Masses on Tuesday and Wednesday as Fr. Steve will be attending a diocesan retreat.

Meetings & Events This Week:			
DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
Mon. Mar. 16	7:15 pm	(B)	A Quick Journey Through the Bible
	8:00 pm	(M/L)	Alcoholics Anonymous
Tue. Mar. 17	7:00 pm	(B)	Keys to Loving Relationships
	6:30 pm	(J)	Search & Rescue
Wed. Mar. 18	6:30 pm	(CH)	9:30 Choir practice
	7:00 pm	(M)	11:30 Choir practice
Thu. Mar. 19	6:15 pm	(M)	Legion of Mary
	6:30 pm	(H)	Alpha (<i>all rooms</i>)
	7:00 pm	(H)	C.W.L. General Meeting
	7:30 pm	(CH)	5:00 Choir practice
Fri. Mar. 20	6:00 am	(M)	Men's group
Sat. Mar. 21	7:15 am	(H)	That Man Is You!
	9:30 am	(H)	C.W.L. Regional Spring meeting
	6:00 pm	(H)	Chili Night Social

Meeting Rooms: B = Basement CH = Church H = Hall * = Offsite
J = St. John Room L = St. Luke Room M = St. Matthew Room

Liturgical Ministers

March 21 / 22	5:00PM Mass	9:30AM Mass	11:30AM Mass
Altar Servers:	V./P./J. Miller	D./D. Jacobs	C. Chacon B. Starr R. Robin
Commentator:	C. Dokis	J. Flanigan	D. DeSousa
1st Reader:	S. Benner	P. Enticott	L. Gimenez
2nd Reader:		V. DeVries	S. Roma
Ushers:	I. Cimermancic	J. Kelly T./J. Germann	M. Monte
Gift Bearers:		<i>Children's Liturgy Kids</i>	Coe
Eucharistic Ministers:	G. MacNeil H. Psutka C. Weber	B. Cutting S. Cerantola J. Swartz	B./C. Voisin F. Kangaloo



During Lent, Mass on Friday is celebrated at 7:00 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross.

Prayer to St. Joseph (MARCH 19)

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family,
defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;
O most loving father, ward off from us every
contagion of error and corrupting influence;

O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven
assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

The following are the steps that the parish has taken to respond to the current virus outbreak:



1. Two hand-sanitizing stations have been positioned at the main doors of the church. Please use them as you enter and leave the church.
2. Holy water has been removed from all the fonts in the church and chapel.
3. Communion under both forms has been suspended, and Eucharistic ministers at Mass will no longer receive from the chalice.
4. If you are sick, please stay home.
5. Please refrain from shaking hands at the Sign of Peace during Mass; a nod or other gesture is appropriate.
6. It is strongly recommended and encouraged to refrain from receiving communion on the tongue. This is for the benefit not only of the recipient, but also of the Eucharistic minister, as well as for the people who follow after you to receive communion.

Winter Saturday Socials! Mark your calendar!

◆ **SAT. MARCH 21 – FAMILY CHILI NIGHT ~ 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**
Free admission with a non-perishable food item. Join us after Mass for a hearty bowl of chili and fellowship with your parish family.

◆ **SAT. APRIL 25 – ADULT WINE & CHEESE ~ 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.**
This night is for Adults Only with a goodwill offering. Join us for a relaxing evening with great wine and charcuterie!

Kindly sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend!

EXTRA CONFESSION TIMES FOR LENT

Tues. March 24:	7:30 – 8:30 PM	Fr. Steve Murrin
Wed. March 25:	12:30 – 1:30 PM	Fr. Chris Buda, C.R.
Thurs. March 26:	3:00 – 4:00 PM	Fr. Stephen Gilbert

Meditative Stations of the Cross – Join us Friday, March 27th for a special Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm in the church. Wil Groleau & Mary-Emily McCullough will be providing musical accompaniment and meditations for each Station, and the evening will last between 45 minutes and an hour. We hope to see you there!

Cheeseballs are back!!! C.W.L. Cheeseballs are back by popular demand and just in time for EASTER! Order forms available in the narthex until March 29th. Cost is \$10 each or 2 for \$18. Please prepay at time of order with cash or cheque payable to St. Mark C.W.L. Cheeseballs will be available for pick-up April 4/5.



On this Sunday and the next two Sundays, we break from reading the Gospel of Matthew to read from John's Gospel.

The Gospel of John is the only Gospel not assigned to a particular liturgical year. Instead, readings from John's Gospel are interspersed throughout our three-year liturgical cycle.

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." With no running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have travelled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshiping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship. After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. Jesus is the living water for which we thirst and whom the Samaritan woman recognized. ■

C.W.L. News...

◆ **C.W.L. REGIONAL MEETING - Saturday, March 21st**

St. Mark's C.W.L. is hosting the regional meeting day **beginning with Mass at 9:00 a.m.** Socialize with your C.W.L. Sisters from the Hamilton Diocese and meet the executive team.

Find out about upcoming events for our 100th Anniversary celebration. We will not see another celebration like this for a long time. Looking forward to seeing you on this important day.

◆ **C.W.L. 200 FOR 2020 PROJECT**

St. Mark's C.W.L. is looking for assistance in supplying St. John's Kitchen with much needed items. **From Feb. 15th to March 30th** we will be collecting 200 (of each) gently used **coffee mugs, spoons** (coffee or soup), **forks**, gently used/new **tea towels**, and gently used/new **bath towels**. We have chosen St. John's Kitchen as our community project. They have been providing hot meals to over 300 people a day for the last 30 years, and recently provided a shower program, among other services. Please keep this organization in mind when you go through your cupboards and closets, and donate to this worthy, humanitarian cause.

History of Lent by Fr. William Saunders

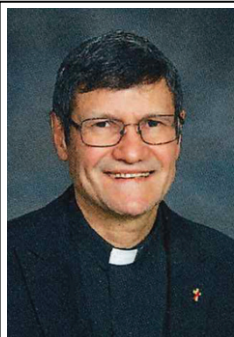
(...CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

Ash Wednesday still marks the beginning of Lent, which lasts for 40 days, not including Sundays. The present fasting and abstinence laws are very simple: On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, the faithful fast (having only one full meal a day and smaller snacks to keep up one's strength) and abstain from meat; on the other Fridays of Lent, the faithful abstain from meat. People are still encouraged "to give up something" for Lent as a sacrifice. (An interesting note is that technically on Sundays and solemnities like St. Joseph's Day (March 19) and the Annunciation (March 25), one is exempt and can partake of whatever has been offered up for Lent.

Moreover, an emphasis must also be placed on performing spiritual works, like attending the Stations of the Cross, attending Mass, making a weekly holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament, taking time for personal prayer and spiritual reading and, if necessary, making a good confession and receiving sacramental absolution. Although the practices may have evolved over the centuries, the focus remains the same: to repent of sin, to renew our faith and to prepare to celebrate joyfully the mysteries of our salvation in the Easter Triduum. ■

Communion to the Housebound

Do you have a Catholic family member or friend who is unable to come to Mass but would like to receive Holy Communion in their home? If so, please leave their name with Pam at the office (stmark@rogers.com) and we will arrange for someone to bring them communion.



Dear Parishioners of St. Mark Parish,

It is with a mixture of joy and sadness that I have been transferred to St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Elmira. Change is always hard, but it can be a blessing, in as much as it breaks old habits and encourages new ones. This weekend will be my last liturgical engagement at St. Mark.

I would like to thank everyone for all the help and friendship I have been blessed to receive during my 10 years as Deacon and my 15 years as a parishioner.

I wish you all God's blessings and love. I have been blessed to have been part of the growth we have seen over the last couple of years. Thanks to the great priests we have had.

Keep sprouting and growing... **Deacon Basil Markides**

Parishioners are invited to stay after Mass today for a time of fellowship and farewell with Basil (and of course, Sue).
Cake and light refreshments will be served in the narthex after all Masses.

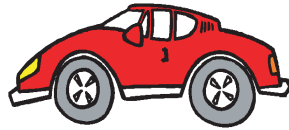


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