

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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions for the Week



Nov. 30 – Dec. 6, 2020

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, Dec. 2 (MEMORIAL – ST. FRANCIS XAVIER)

12 noon + Joaquin Vaz & Francisca Goncalves – M. Silva

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Dec. 5/6

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

Sat. 5:00 PM – Int. of Colette Dokis – Luiz Macedo

Sun. 9:30 am + Sadie, Herb & Ron Eagle – Gerry & Judy Kraft

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

Meetings This Week:

Mon. Nov. 30	8:00 pm	Hall	Alcoholics Anonymous
Sat. Dec. 5	7:15 am	Hall	That Man Is You!

MASKS:

A note from Bishop Crosby's October 7th letter:



“Those who are unable to wear a mask because of an underlying medical condition which inhibits their ability to wear a mask, are to be admitted to the church, and are to be seated in a designated area at least four metres away from others. They may not come forward to receive Communion with others; the priest or extraordinary minister will bring them Communion where they are seated.”


Read the full letter [here](#).

A REMINDER ABOUT LEAVING AT THE END OF MASS:

When Mass is over, kindly remain in your seats until Father has made his way to the narthex. Those sitting in the back pews should leave the church first, and people at the front should leave last. Thank you for helping us to maintain social distancing for everyone.

2021 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

will be available in the narthex in mid-December.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE
6:00 PM ♦ 8:00 PM ♦ 10:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY
9:30 AM ♦ 11:30 AM

All parishioners are encouraged to **RESERVE SEATS** by emailing Pam at stmark@rogers.com. Please include your **name**, preferred **Mass time**, and **number of seats required**.

Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man. ■

St. Francis Xavier – Ordained a priest in 1537, Xavier went on to Lisbon and from there sailed to the East Indies, landing at Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years he labored to bring the faith to such widely scattered peoples as the Hindus, the Malaysians, and the Japanese. He spent much of that time in India, and served as provincial of the newly established Jesuit province of India. Wherever he went, Xavier lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations. He spent countless hours ministering to the sick and the poor, particularly to lepers. Very often he had no time to sleep or even to say his breviary but, as we know from his letters, he was filled always with joy. His remains are enshrined in the Church of Good Jesus in Goa. He and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux were declared co-patrons of the missions in 1925.

Please note that there will be NO ANGEL TREE this year, as our Christmas hamper and gift programs have had to be revamped due to pandemic restrictions. We hope to resume this always well-received program next year. Thank you for your past support!

THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please call or email to schedule a visit: 519-571-9200 / stmark@rogers.com

Congratulations

St. Mark's Parish congratulates all those who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on November 24th & 26th.

Please pray with us, that the Holy Spirit will enlighten their minds and touch their hearts as they seek to understand more deeply their Baptismal Promises to live a life more closely united to Christ.

Prayer for Our Newly Confirmed
Father, pour out Your Spirit upon our newly confirmed. Grant them a new vision of Your glory, a new experience of Your power, a new faithfulness to Your Word, and a new consecration to Your service. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



A special thank-you to Kate, Tom and Terri for helping to prepare the confirmandi and making our celebrations run smoothly.

Novena of Masses for the Immaculate Conception

In its capacity as our Diocese's Shrine to the Blessed Mother, the **Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph** will be hosting a Novena of Masses leading up to the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This Novena will be seeking the intercession and protection of the Mother of God, and Mother of the Church, on our Diocese in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. **Novena Masses will be held at 7:00 p.m. from November 29 to December 7 inclusive. Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated by His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8.** All the faithful of the Diocese are welcome to take part in this Novena. Please note that all Diocesan covid protocols must be observed while at the Basilica. Even if you cannot come to the Basilica of Our Lady in person please join this Novena in prayer from your home. *Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception, Pray for Us.*

Coping with the Holidays ... when someone you love is gone
 When it does not feel like "Peace on Earth", know that you are not alone. Learn and share strategies for coping at Christmas. Know that your loss is not forgotten. The Diocese of Hamilton is offering an **Online Webinar on Zoom on Monday, Nov. 30 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm.** (Participants can join by computer or phone) Cost: Free of charge. Please call to register at 905-528-7988 (ext. 2249) or register online at www.hamiltondiocese.com.

WATERLOO ADVENT NOVENA CANCELLED

Due to COVID-19 the ever popular ADVENT NOVENA which has been attended by hundreds over the past 40+ years will **NOT** take place this year at St. Agnes Parish. God willing we will be able to resume this tradition in 2021. Blessings of peace, love and good health to all Who have supported and been a part of this beautiful tradition in preparation for Christmas in the past years. Hope to see you next year.
 -- Marg Weber

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

This week let us pray for...

NOV. 30	DEC. 1	DEC. 2	DEC. 3	DEC. 4	DEC. 5
Rev. Andrew Czarny	Rev. Florian Stasinski, C.R.	Discalced Carmelite Fathers (O.C.D.)	Rev. John Redmond	Rev. Phillip Cook	Very Rev. Lukasz Kopaniak, S.A.C.

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.

Are you troubled? Do you need spiritual support?

The Sisters of the Carmel of Saint Joseph will pray for you during the NOVENA TO INFANT JESUS December 16th to December 25th, 2020

You can participate in the Novena to Infant Jesus by sending your prayer intention slip with your name and address to:

Carmel of Saint Joseph
 1127 Carmel-Koch Road, R.R. #1
 St. Agatha, ON N0B 2L0

Dear friends of the Herb Wittich Depot, Canadian Food for Children, We are writing to inform you of a decision that we regretfully have had to make. As you are aware, the infections of Covid19 are rapidly rising, and restrictions on our day to day activities are becoming more strict. In order to protect the well-being of our volunteers and all of you who have contact with us, **THE DEPOT WILL BE CLOSED IMMEDIATELY.** We are hopeful that this closure will be temporary but it is impossible to estimate when we may re-open. PLEASE DO NOT bring any donations of goods to the Depot until further notice. We also ask you to pray for safety for all as we approach the Christmas season. Please stay safe and stay healthy.

- Your friends at the Depot

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Questions? Please call PGK John Deneau at 519-741-0434



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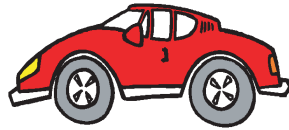
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