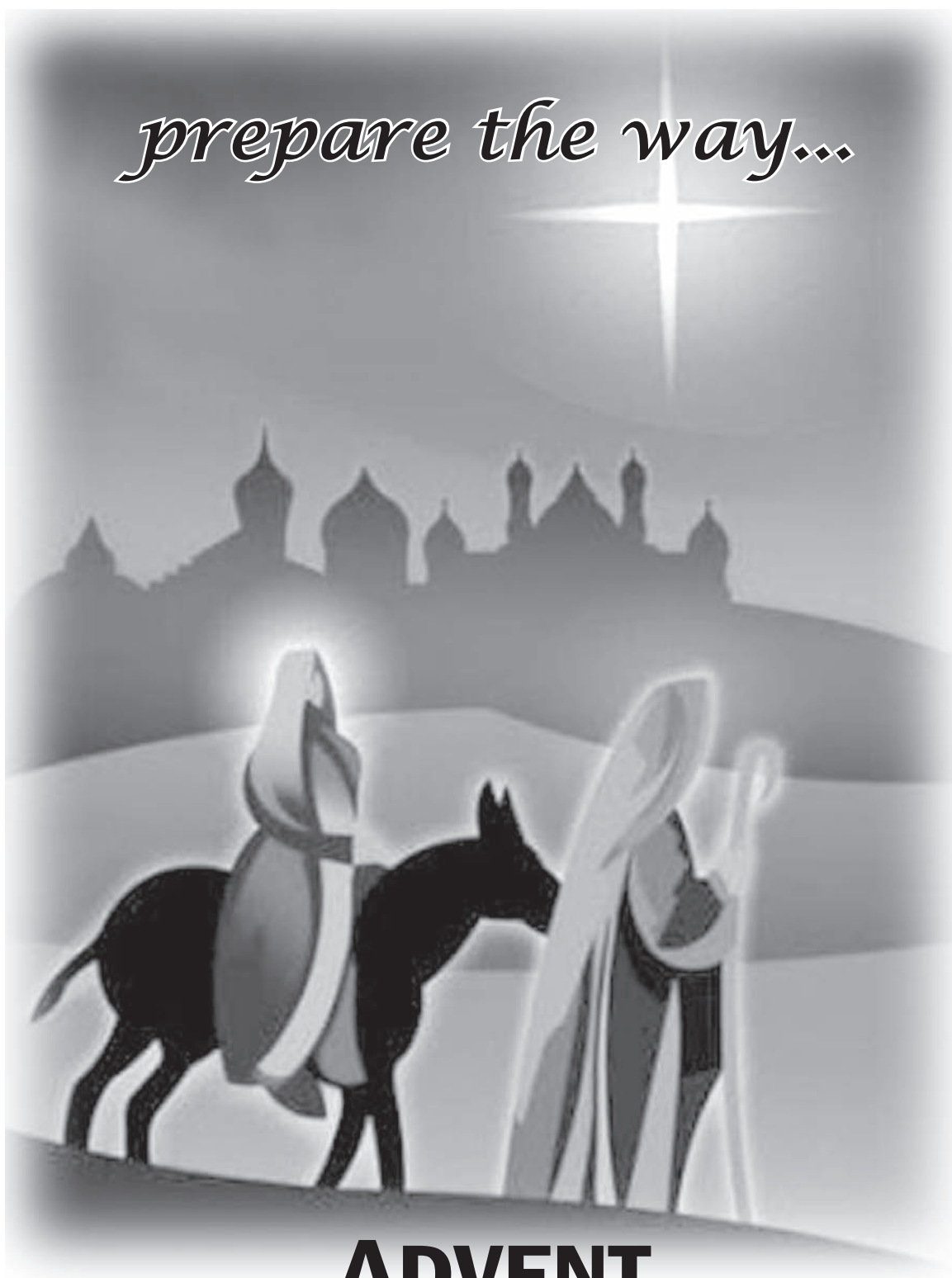


# St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish

55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3A2 519-571-9200

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*prepare the way...*



## ADVENT

# Mass Intentions for the Week

Dec. 23 – 29, 2024

Monday, Dec. 23 ★ NO MASS / Parish Office OPEN ★

## SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Dec. 24/25)

Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25

### Tuesday, Dec. 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

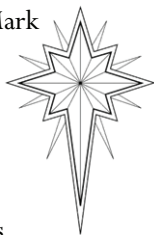
6:00 PM – Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark

8:00 PM † Gerry Kraft – Judy Swartz

10:00 PM † Irene Baptista – The Joseph Family

### Wednesday, Dec. 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am † Maria Campos – The Campos Family

† All those in whose memory donations  
were made toward Christmas Flowers

Thursday, Dec. 26  
and Friday, Dec. 27 ★ NO MASS / Parish Office CLOSED ★

## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (Dec. 28/29)

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52

Sat. 5:00 PM † Aileen Leddy – Dennis

† Anselem Cabral – Ryan &amp; Florinda

- Int. of Paul Reczek – Pam

Sun. 9:30 am † Modesta Manderico – St. Mark's Filipino Community

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



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

*The Sanctuary Lamps burn this week for:*

The intentions of Duc &amp; Tam



## Vocations Prayer Calendar ✕ This week let us pray for...

Dec. 23	Dec. 24	Dec. 25	Dec. 26	Dec. 27	Dec. 28
Rev. Jerek Scherber, L.C.	Rev. Adam Zettel, L.C.	<b>Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord</b>	Rev. Jerry Punnassery, C.M.I.	Rev. Rijo Jose, C.M.I.	<b>The Holy Innocents</b>

**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 married couples, priests, consecrated virgins, sisters, brothers, and lay ministers. Make me an instrument to encourage others to give of themselves and challenge me to do the same. Amen.

## VOCATION SEEDS

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Are you called to follow in the footsteps of Mary as a priest, deacon or religious to carry the Good News of God's great Love? Contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.

[vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)
[hamiltondiocese.com/vocations](http://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations)

## Temporary Holidays ...

- ◆ Adoration Chapel is **CLOSED** from Dec. 21 to Jan. 6.
- ◆ Parish Office is **CLOSED** Dec. 24-27
- ◆ Children's Liturgy will resume on Jan. 5.
- ◆ 12 noon Mass is discontinued until February.
- ◆ Friday Night Bible Study will resume in February.



The **Fourth Sunday of Advent** begins a brief, three-day final week of Advent. The reading from Micah reminds us that from the seemingly unimportant town of Bethlehem, "from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel." Luke's gospel offers again the story of Mary's going to visit her cousin. Elizabeth understands immediately Mary's situation and praises God saying, "How does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy."

On Wednesday, **Christmas Day**, we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and read the stories of the birth of Jesus.

*Used with permission by Online Ministries, Creighton University*

## Christmas 2024

Peace!



The Nativity scene brings to mind the humility and the vulnerability of our Savior, who has stripped off His divinity and has immersed Himself in our human condition. He decisively desired to visit and live among us. But His contemporary's indifferent response to His generosity has brought Him to a stable because there was no room for Him. He was an unwelcome guest.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us open our hearts and homes for the Lord and give Him room to consecrate our family with the scent of His presence. If Christ is the center of our home and is not overshadowed by consumerism, we will certainly be graced with a meaningful Christmas celebration.

May you have a delightful Christmas with abundant blessings.

United with you in prayers,

**Fr. Roque S. Concepcion**

Pastor



## BULLETIN DEADLINE:

The Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> bulletin has already gone to print.

**Deadline for submissions to the Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> bulletin must be emailed to the parish office no later than Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>.**

Thank you!

## Liturgical Ministers

Dec. 28/29	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
Altar Servers:	J./P./V. Miller S. Silva	J. Taer, A. Jacobs R. Alayoku	S. Cainoy, T. John F. Zumot
Commentator:	R. Kubica	J. Deneau	C. Chacon
Readers:	R. Vergel de Dios	R. Jerold	B. Norte
Ushers:	E. Miller B./S. Benner	I./D. Culley	M. Schimus, J. Vu
Eucharistic Ministers:	W. D'Mello H. Psutka	T. Lee, M. Lynch M. Walser	I./F. Kangaloo K. Dignam
Liturgical Ministers are asked to please sign up in the narthex for Christmas & New Year's Masses. Thank you!			

### Weekly Offertory Report



Dec. 14/15, 2024	General	Mortgage
Envelope offerings	\$ 6,875.00	\$ 810.00
Loose offerings	\$ 622.00	\$ --
Pre-Authorized	\$ 1,537.50	\$ 393.92
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 9,034.50</b>	<b>\$ 1,203.92</b>

### ★ Deadline for 2024 Donations

PLEASE NOTE: The last opportunity to make donations that will be included on your 2024 tax receipt will be **Sunday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>**. Any donations received after this date will be processed in 2025. Many thanks for your continued generosity!

### Christmas Mass Times across the Diocese:

The Diocese of Hamilton has launched a wonderfully convenient webpage which shows the times of Christmas Masses and events in each parish across the diocese – a truly useful tool, especially if you will be visiting another city for the holidays, or know of someone who would like to return to Mass.

Visit here: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/comehome/> and click on "FIND YOUR LOCAL MASS TIMES"

### Alpha returns to St. Mark's in February!

Thursday evenings from February 20 to May 1

Alpha is an 11-week program that brings adults together for conversations about life, faith and Jesus. All are welcome! Plan to join us.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Ron Denomme at [stmarkalpha@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkalpha@gmail.com) or 226-748-3210.



## 2025 Sacramental Preparation Sessions

### FIRST COMMUNION

Preparation Sessions:

**WEDNESDAYS at 5:45 PM**

February 12, February 26  
March 19, April 9, April 23

**Celebration of the Sacrament:**

**Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 2 pm**  
with St. Dominic students

**Sunday, May 25, 2025 at 2 pm**  
with St. Mark students

### CONFIRMATION

Preparation Sessions:

**SUNDAYS at 1:00 PM**

January 19, February 23, March 23,  
April 6, April 27, May 24 (2pm)

**Celebration of the Sacrament:**

**Sunday, June 1, 2025**  
**1:30 pm** with St. Mark students  
**4:30 pm** with St. Dominic students

If you missed the Enrollment Mass and have not yet submitted your child's enrollment form, please contact the parish office before the end of December.

### C.W.L. News...

#### ◆ 2025 MEMBERSHIPS DUE!

Please check your 2024 box of church offertory envelopes for the **blue envelope** marked "C.W.L. Annual Membership" – you'll find it at the back of the box with the December envelopes.



#### What is a Jubilee Year?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

#### What is the Biblical background for the Jubilee Year?

The word Jubilee comes from the Hebrew word *yobel*, which is a ram's horn. This wind instrument is blown to mark the start of a Jubilee year in the Bible (Leviticus 25:9).

In the Bible the Jubilee Year occurred every 50 years and involved the cancelling of debts, a period of rest for people and the earth, and land being restored to the landless.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus makes clear his own mission is to bring Jubilee. In the synagogue at Nazareth he reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour:

The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the Lord's year of favour." (Luke 4:18-19)

After reading, Jesus announces: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus shows us what God's Kingdom of justice, compassion and freedom looks like. He invites us join him in making it a reality.

**The Celebration of the Opening of the Jubilee Year 2025 in our parish will be on December 29, 2024 at the 9:30 am Mass.**

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

### Journey Through Advent 2024 (VIDEO SERIES)

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) presents *Journey through Advent* with the Most Rev. Frank Leo, Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto; a joint initiative of the National Liturgy Office and the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis. **Join us as we reflect on the Scriptures for the Sundays of Advent 2024.** Please share with those who would be interested: <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-advent/>

**Parenting Tip of the Month** - December is an exciting month for children and families with the coming of Christmas. December is also the month we prepare for Christmas during Advent! Advent, by definition, means we are preparing for something important, which is the coming of Jesus Christ. Celebrating with an Advent wreath allows us to light a candle each week, offering a chance to discuss, on four occasions, what Christ's coming to the world means to all of us. The candles (hope, faith, joy and peace) open up the opportunity to remind our children what each candle represents and, of course, the real meaning of the season. Santa comes one night per year, but Jesus is with us always and is a true gift in our lives. Remember to make Christ the reason for the season.

**Marriage Tip of the Month** - December can be a stressful month with all the preparation and planning that goes on before Christmas. This stress can cause us to lash out in ways we often would not, especially towards our spouses. This year, make a conscious decision to break the cycle. Set aside some quiet couple time: a shared coffee, a walk in your neighborhood, watching a movie, or a dinner out. At least once a week make the gift of the season time with each other because its impact will last much longer than any other material gift you might give.

Submitted by Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250





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