

St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish

55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3A2 • 519-571-9200 • www.stmarkcatholicparish.org

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Roque Concepcion – *Pastor* (stmark.kitchener@gmail.com)

Rev. Mr. Philip Fernandez – *Deacon*

Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Parish Secretary* (stmark@rogers.com)

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00 PM

Monthly Filipino Mass: *Third* Saturday 7:00 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday - Friday 12:00 NOON

First Saturday 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

Wednesdays & *First* Fridays 11:00 - 11:45 AM

Saturdays 4:15 - 4:45 PM or by appointment

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 – Infant 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. A date for baptism can be confirmed by the parish office after you have met with Father and started the preparation process.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) – Adults seeking conversion to the Catholic faith are invited to inquire with the parish priest. This program begins each Fall and runs until Easter.

MARRIAGE – At least 6 months' notice is required. Please introduce yourselves to Father after Mass to start the process.

ANOIDING OF THE SICK / HOSPITAL VISIT

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.

PARISH SCHOOLS

St. Dominic Elementary 3 Westforest Trail 519-576-5503

St. Mark Elementary 240 Autumn Hill Cres. 519-743-4682

Resurrection Secondary 455 University Ave. W. 519-741-1990



“... The seed is sprouting and growing ...” (Mark 4:27)

REQUESTING A MASS INTENTION

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 and your name will appear in the bulletin, and will be announced during Mass. **If you require a Mass Card**, please make your request in-person at the parish office during business hours.

The offering (stipend) for a Mass Intention is \$10 per Mass.

Number of Masses requested: _____ Offering enclosed: \$_____

Name of person(s)
to be remembered: _____

☐ LIVING ☐ DECEASED

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 note: Requests for specific dates (birthday, anniversary of death or wedding) should be submitted several months in advance to avoid disappointment. Sunday Masses may only be requested twice per year. All other requests will be satisfied on a weekday. We will attempt to contact you if we are unable to accommodate your request.*

LIGHTING A SANCTUARY LAMP

You may request to have one or both lamps burn for a special intention or for the repose of someone's soul. Cost is \$5 per candle, per week. Simply drop a plain envelope marked “Sanctuary Lamp” into the collection and include the stipend and the name of the person(s) you wish to remember. Names will be published in the bulletin at the beginning of that week.

Please light the
Sanctuary Lamp(s) for: _____

☐ LIVING ☐ DECEASED

Offering enclosed: \$_____

REQUESTED BY _____

DAYTIME PHONE # OR EMAIL _____

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Mass Intentions for the Week

January 13 - 19, 2025

Mon. Jan. 13 ★ NO MASS

Tues. Jan. 14 ★ NO MASS

Wed. Jan. 15 ★ NO MASS

Thur. Jan. 16 ★ NO MASS

Fri. Jan. 17 ★ NO MASS

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - January 18/19

Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-12

Sat. 5:00 PM † Alipio Gomes – Victor Gomes & Family
† Helen Joseph – Joseph Family

7:00 PM - MONTHLY FILIPINO MASS

Sun. 9:30 am † Gerry Kraft – Larry & Sharon Koehler

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



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!
The Sanctuary Lamps burn this week for:
The Intentions of Salome Da Costa



Meetings & Events This Week ...



DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
Mon. Jan. 13	8:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
Tue. Jan. 14	7:00 pm	ZOOM	Knights of Columbus Executive meeting
	7:00 pm	(L)	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting
Wed. Jan. 15	6:00 pm	(L)	Baptism Preparation Session
	6:15 pm	(CH)	9:30 Choir practice
Thur. Jan. 16	7:00 pm	(CH)	5 o'clock Choir practice
Sat. Jan. 18	7:15 am	(H)	<i>That Man Is You!</i> Men's Group
Sun. Jan. 19	9:30 am	(L)	Children's Liturgy of the Word
	1:00 pm	(H)	Confirmation Preparation Session #1

MEETING ROOMS: B - Basement CH - Church H - Hall J - St. John Room
L - St. Luke Boardroom M - St. Matthew Room

Today we celebrate the **Baptism of the Lord**. We hear the Lord say in the first reading from Isaiah, "Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit." Those words are echoed in the reading from Luke's Gospel, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."



This feast marks the end of the Christmas season and on Monday we begin Ordinary Time on the Church calendar. The term Ordinary doesn't mean that the life of the Church is ordinary but that it is ordinal or "counted." We mark our liturgical year by counting 34 weeks of Ordinary Time, interrupted only by the Lent/Easter seasons. When the liturgical year ends in November with the 34th Week in Ordinary Time, it is followed by the First Week in Advent.

In this first week of Ordinary Time, we might find ourselves feeling a little let-down after the Christmas season, especially in parts of the world where it seems cold and dark most days. This is where we can ask for the grace to let the stories of the gospels come alive in our hearts.

The stories from Mark's gospel offer a vivid look into the life of Jesus and his followers on such a human level. Many are stories of healing and the week begins and ends with invitations from Jesus to us -- and to his disciples. To Simon Peter and Andrew, Jesus invites, "Come after me." To the tax collector Levi he beckons, "Follow me."

The invitation to healing we are offered can be a part of our own reflection as we begin a new year and want to somehow "fix" what is broken in us. The healing happens if we allow Jesus into our hearts and lives.

As we look at our lives we may find a loneliness or separation from people in our family or others. We have parts of our lives that are dark and embarrassing and seem unchangeable. It is into this very darkness and discomfort that Jesus is moved with pity for us, stretches out his healing hand to us and says, "I do will it. Be made clean."

We can hear the summons to follow him as a clear and personal call to us from Jesus, the one who already knows us and our failings and yet asks us to be with him. We can hear this invitation more clearly if we can be touched with awareness of our own failings and understand more deeply how much we need a savior in our lives. It is then that our hearts are open to accept this invitation.

We can pray to Jesus this week for the strength to be healed of the patterns and habits of our lives that so often turn us away from him and ask for the grace to make a new beginning in our lives. If we can sit with our hands open in humility, we can accept that we can't do this on our own, but know in our hearts that with the help of God, nothing is impossible.

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

Jan. 13	Jan. 14	Jan. 15	Jan. 16	Jan. 17	Jan. 18
Rev. Allen Varlaki	Rev. Rajesh Dsouza, O.C.D.	Sisters of St. John the Baptist, C.S.J.B.	Rev. Jerzy Tomon	Rev. Peter Tuyen Nguyen	Rev. Pierre Luc, S.J.

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

Baptism of the Lord

As John the Baptist introduced the people of his time to Jesus, a voice from heaven said, "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased." If you think God is calling you to do the same in our time -- as a priest, deacon or religious -- contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.

vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

hamiltondiocese.com/vocations

Please take note of some seasonal breaks

12 noon Mass ♦ DISCONTINUED until February 6
Bible Study ♦ Resumes in February

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass

SAVE THE DATE!

If you are celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2025, then you are cordially invited to join Bishop Crosby and couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on **Sunday, June 1, 2025**, at the **Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King** in Hamilton at **1:30 pm**. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only -- those married 60 years or more may bring one guest if you need assistance). **Registration is available online at:**

<https://hamiltondiocese.com/office/pastoral-offices/family-ministry/supports-for-marriage/wedding-anniversary-mass/>



Liturgical Ministers

Jan. 18/19	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
Altar Servers:	V./P./J. Miller	R. Alayoku, A. Jacobs R. Alayoku	S. Cainoy, T. John F. Zumot
Commentator:	G. Mahn	N. Ngo	Javier Posada
Readers:	J. Deneau	T. Morgan	Juan Posada
Ushers:	E. Miller C. Weber	J./K. Snyder	B./C. Voisin
Eucharistic Ministers:	W. D'Mello H. Psutka	T./K. Boettger P. Enticott	I./F. Kangaloo A. Joseph



Weekly Offertory Report

January 4/5, 2025	General	Mortgage
Envelope offerings	\$ 3,412.00	\$ 580.00
Loose offerings	\$ 658.00	\$ --
Pre-Authorized	\$ 1,514.42	\$ 384.69
Totals	\$ 5,584.42	\$ 1,264.69

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:

STARTS NEXT SUNDAY 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. Dominic students

4:30 pm with St. Mark students

Alpha returns to St. Mark's in February!

Thursday evenings | Feb. 20 - May 1 | 6:30 - 9:15 pm

Alpha is an 11-week program that brings adults together for conversations about life, faith and Jesus. It's an opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting. We start each session with a delicious home-made meal. After dinner, we watch a video and then break into small groups to ask questions, share thoughts and explore answers. All are welcome!

For more information or to sign up, visit the Alpha table in the narthex or contact Ron Denomme at stmarkalpha@gmail.com or 226-748-3210.



The Knights of Columbus would sincerely like to thank all those who donated to the **Winter Clothing Drive** as well as the **Toy Drive**. All of your donations were so gratefully received. Again a Big Thank-You!!

ST. AGNES EDUCATION CAFE

Our Families: Signs of Hope Amid the Challenges

Sunday, January 26th | 2:00-3:30pm | St. Agnes Parish, Waterloo

Families today can be faced with many challenges: mental health, addiction, division, financial stress and beyond. Even the strongest of families can suffer under the pressure. How can we draw on our faith to persevere with unshakeable hope despite the struggles? Join us for the next St. Agnes Education Café session with Teresa Hartnett, Director of Family Ministry, Diocese of Hamilton.

C.W.L. News...

Join us to shake off those winter blues at our **C.W.L. Potluck!**

★ **ALL LADIES WELCOME** ★

Thursday, January 23rd at 7 p.m.

Please bring a favorite dish or one that represents your heritage to share. We will also be revealing your Secret Prayer Sister and selecting a new one during the event. Come and See! Let's have Fun, Fellowship, and Food!



Jubilee: A Journey of Hope

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

At the start of His ministry in the synagogue of Nazareth, Jesus embraced the concept of the Jubilee and gave it new and ultimate meaning. He revealed Himself as the face of God on earth, sent to redeem the poor, free captives, and manifest the Father's compassion for the wounded, the fallen, and the hopeless. Jesus came to free humanity from every form of bondage, to open the eyes of the blind, and to set the oppressed free (cf. Lk 4:18-19). His messianic mission expanded the Jubilee's significance, addressing all forms of human oppression. It became a moment of grace, offering freedom to those imprisoned by sin, resignation, and despair. It also served as an invitation to heal inner blindness that prevents us from encountering God and recognising others. Above all, it revived the joy of meeting the Lord, enabling people to resume life's journey with renewed hope.



The Diocese of Hamilton joins the celebration of the Global Church in this Ordinary Jubilee Year, 2025, as "Pilgrims of Hope!" All invited to journey through this year drawing closer to God through prayer, service and experiences of renewal. Six churches have been designated as pilgrimage sites across the Diocese, welcoming you as a visitor over the course of the Jubilee to come and pray. Resources, information and locations of the pilgrimage sites are all available on the Diocesan Website:

www.hamiltondiocese.com.

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT – Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of prayer, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:00pm), praise night with vocations testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm). **Saturday, February 1st at St. Michael's Church** (80 University Avenue West, Waterloo). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/> For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

RESTART: Refresh, Renew, Revive – Struggling after divorce or separation? Join us for learning, support and fun on the **2nd & 3rd Friday evenings of each month**. These get-togethers offer continual support and insights for people as they journey through the divorce/separation process and beyond. Join **in-person** (700 King St. West, Hamilton), or by **ZOOM**. Register for the sessions here: <https://sites.google.com/view/hamilton-restart/home>, or contact Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249 or familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com. We look forward to seeing you!

SUPPORT FOR YOUR MARRIAGE – Does your marriage feel like it is more trouble than joy, does it feel stagnant or disconnected? Is it causing you constant stress? The solution is Retrouvaille – whose one purpose is to help couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. This is a practical program, where sharing is not required except between the couple themselves. It is designed to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect. For struggling couples, including those who may be considering separation or divorce. The next Retrouvaille weekend is **March 7-9, 2025**. For more information call 905-664-5212 or email 1013r@helpourmarriage.org.



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