

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 _____

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass Intentions for the Week

March 10 – 16, 2025

Tuesday	(FERIAL)	
12 Noon	† Thomas Mulherne – Colm & Kay Dignam	
Wednesday	(FERIAL)	* NO NOON MASS TODAY (THIS WEEK ONLY)
★ 8:30 am	† Enrique Estavillo – Beth, Eryl and Inay	
	† Hung Nguyen – Phuong Nguyen	
	† Sandra Bergin – Brenda Pratt	
Thursday	(FERIAL)	
12 Noon	- Special Intention	
Friday	(FERIAL)	* NO NOON MASS ON FRIDAYS DURING LENT
★ 6:00 PM	- Int. of Charlotte & Gladys Lahey & family – Woodhouse	
6:30 PM	- STATIONS OF THE CROSS	

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – March 15/16

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28b-36

Sat. 5:00 PM	† Isabella & George Beckner – Paul & Angela
	† Enrique Estavillo – Beth, Eryl and Inay
	† Hung Nguyen – Phuong Nguyen
7:00 PM	- MONTHLY FILIPINO MASS
Sun. 9:30 am	- Int. of Betty & Paul Enticott – Woodhouse family
11:30 am	- Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark
★ Mass this Wednesday has been moved to 8:30 a.m. for this week only, due to the Lenten Day of Prayer for Priests in Waterloo.	



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

The Sanctuary Lamps burn this week for:

The repose of the soul of Hung Nguyen



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

Mar. 10	Mar. 11	Mar. 12	Mar. 13	Mar. 14	Mar. 15
Rev. Adam Voisin	Rev. Robert Bulbrook	Permanent Diaconate Candidates	Rev. Jeffery Oehring	Rev. Francesco Cucchi	Rev. Mark Gatto

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 the 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

First Sunday of Lent

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days of prayer and fasting. Are you open to being led by the Holy Spirit into the life-commitment God has prepared for you? If God is calling you, to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.

vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

hamiltondiocese.com/vocations

Weekly Offertory Report



March 1/2, 2025	General	Mortgage
Envelope offerings	\$ 3,410.00	\$ 750.00
Loose offerings	\$ 612.10	\$ --
Pre-Authorized	\$ 1,520.19	\$ 384.69
Totals	\$ 5,542.29	\$ 1,134.69

Meetings & Events This Week ...



DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
Mon. Mar. 10	8:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
Tue. Mar. 11	7:00 pm	Zoom	Knights of Columbus Executive meeting
Wed. Mar. 12	5:45 pm	(L)	First Communion TEAM meeting
	6:15 pm	(CH)	9:30 Choir practice
Thur. Mar. 13	6:30 pm	All rooms	Alpha
	7:00 pm	(CH)	5 o'clock Choir practice
Fri. Mar. 14	6:30 pm	(CH)	Stations of the Cross
Sat. Mar. 15	7:15 am	(H)	That Man Is You! Men's Group
Sun. Mar. 16	9:30 am	(L)	Children's Liturgy of the Word

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

On the **First Sunday of Lent**, as we begin our Lenten journey, we recall in the reading from the book of Deuteronomy how God was faithful to Israel, leading them out of Egypt to a land of "milk and honey." Luke's gospel gives us the temptation of Jesus when he was "led by the Spirit" into the desert. Jesus resists the devil. "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."



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Chalice Weekend at St. Mark's

RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH 15/16 (due to poor weather in February). Canada's largest Catholic Child Sponsorship organization can provide you the opportunity to begin a relationship with a child in the developing world through the benefits of Child Sponsorship. It is a powerful way to reveal God's love for those most in need. For more info about Chalice and its mission visit www.chalice.ca or watch the following videos:

<https://youtu.be/Hs-4oAtAQfY> & https://youtu.be/70fzxZoH_d8



Passion Play

ACTORS NEEDED! No speaking required.

Adults and children (aged 10 and up).

Our first meeting will be held next Sunday,

March 16th right after the 11:30 mass in the church hall.

If you are interested in participating, please email Sonia Chacon this week at soniachacon33@yahoo.ca.



Next Sacramental Preparation Sessions

FIRST COMMUNION: Wednesday, March 19th at 5:45 p.m.

CONFIRMATION: Sunday, March 23rd at 1:00 p.m.

Spring Food Drive: March 8th to April 20th in support of Ray of Hope.

This agency not only prepares hot meals daily, but assists with food hampers, offers showers, laundry, nursing care and outreach support. If you would like to contribute, the following non-perishables would be appreciated: **soup, dried pasta, pasta sauce, beans, peanut butter, canned salmon or tuna.**

Monthly White Box Sundays: We also wish to reinstate White Box Sunday on the first Sunday of each month, **beginning April 6/7.** An SVDP member will be at the church doors to receive donations to assist families in our area. We really appreciate your continuing support. Thank you!

~ St. Mark's Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Liturgical Ministers

Mar. 15/16	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
Altar Servers:	V./P./J. Miller S. Cainoy	R./R. Jerold A. DesGrosseilliers	C. Chacon, F. Zumot A.J. Divinagracia
Commentator:	D. Behl	T. Lee	D. Bouwman
Readers:	A. Fernandez	J. Deneau	B. Prila
Ushers:	E. Miller C./E. Cainoy	F. Sawaya C. Sgarbossa	J./S./J. Posada
Eucharistic Ministers:	A. Bendia C. Weber	T./K. Boettger P. Enticott	A. Joseph B./C. Voisin

The Season of Lent: Let us journey together in hope

What is Lent? Lent is a yearly celebration of the Church in preparation for Easter. Lent has two major purposes: It recalls or prepares for Baptism, and emphasizes a spirit of penance. Through forty days of closer attention to God's Word and of more fervent prayer, we are prepared to celebrate the Paschal Mystery.

During Lent, the reminder of baptism already received, as well as the theme of repentance, renew the entire community along with those being prepared to celebrate the paschal mystery, in which each of the elect will share through the sacraments of initiation. (RCIA 125, Ad gentes, 14)

For those already baptized Lent is a time of preparation to celebrate the paschal mystery through reminders of our baptism and penitential practices. (GNLYC 27)

Lent is a privileged time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This season provides an opportunity to renew and deepen our relationship with Jesus, and to renew the choices we make, so that we might live as he taught.

When is Lent? Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5, 2025) and continues until the beginning of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening (April 17, 2025). The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Our Annual Pilgrimage of Lent

In his message for Lent 2025, Pope Francis advises: *"This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs."*

"Let us all walk in the same direction, tending towards the same goal, attentive to one another in love and patience."



A Lenten Resource for Families

Visit the Diocese of Hamilton's website for tips and resources for how to celebrate the Lenten season. Scan the QR code at left, or click or enter this link in your browser: <http://tinyurl.com/ysc27jyf>

Cell Tower Update

Many may recall that some time ago the Diocese signed a contract to allow a cell tower to be built on St. Mark Parish property. Recently, we have been advised that construction will begin shortly, with work scheduled to begin on March 10th and the tower installation to be completed by April 12th. The cell tower will be installed just west of the portable building on the north side of the parking lot, behind the shopping plaza. We are continuing to communicate with the Diocese on this matter, and will advise of any updates as they are received.

C.W.L. News...



> C.W.L. KITCHENER REGIONAL MEETING

Hosted by St. Mark CWL Council on **Saturday, March 22nd** starting with Mass at 9:00 am. Join us to learn about what's happening in our diocese. Your involvement and support will be greatly appreciated. The meeting will end around 2 p.m.

> GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, March 25th at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening focused on mental health awareness and discussion. Cathy Voisin will facilitate an interactive conversation about the various challenges of mental health.

> LENTEN RETREAT: Saturday, April 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

All C.W.L. members are encouraged to attend. Join in a morning of creating, meditating, and praying with the Good Shepherd. Participants will create one large sign and one small sign from a selection of options. There is a \$15 fee for supplies. **Members who register (and pay the fee) before March 17th will be entered into an early bird draw.** See the display in the narthex for more details.



POTATO BLITZ REPORT: Thank you to all who donated bags of potatoes for our Knights of Columbus Annual Potato Blitz. **This year we collected 460 pounds of spuds for the House of Friendship.** Thank you for your generosity!

Journeys of Hope: Saturday Sessions in Lent

St. Anthony Daniel Parish (29 Midland Drive, Kitchener)

8:30 a.m. Mass; 9:15 to 10:00 a.m. Guest Speakers

March 15 – Fr. Michael King (Missionary of Mercy)

March 22 – Sr. Rosemary Howarth, SSND (SSND General Superior '98-'08)

March 29 – Sarah Mounstevan-Bertling (Parish Lay Pastoral Minister)

April 6th – Fr. Ed Henhoeffter (Pastor, St. Anthony Daniel Parish)

All are welcome.

LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY - Saturday, March 29th at the Toronto

Convention Center. A bus will be departing from the parking lot at Highway #6 and the 401 at 7:00 AM SHARP. Please note that space is limited and will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost for the bus and 1 adult ticket to the event is \$61.00. To book your spot, please call Anna Percic at 519-994-1040 or 519-824-8456.

SENIOR INFORMATION FAIR - Saturday, April 5th from 1 to 4 p.m. at St.

Louis Gym, 77 Willow Street, Waterloo (a barrier-free environment). This is a great opportunity to meet over 30 professionals from many areas impacting seniors' lives to ask questions about what is available. Admission and refreshments are free. Sponsored by St. Louis Ministry to the Elderly and St. Louis Catholic Women's League. For information contact StLouisSeniorFair2025@gmail.com or Cecilia at 519-572-5435.

The Carmel of St. Joseph Guild, founded in 1952, is dedicated to supporting the personal and household requirements of the Carmelite Nuns, and is instrumental in helping the Nuns preserve their life of prayer and service to the Church at the Carmel of St. Joseph (St. Agatha). They share in the spiritual benefits of the Community and help others to become sharers in these benefits. The Guild invites you to explore our webpage, read our 2025 Newsletter, purchase a 2025 Guild membership for yourself or a loved one, donate to the Chapel Fund, attend Special Events and Masses at the Carmel of St. Joseph, and consider becoming a member of the women's General Support Group and attend our meetings, and our Spiritual retreat on Saturday, May 24! Visit us at <https://www.thecarmel.ca>



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