

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

Mrs. Pam Olinski – *Parish Secretary*

✉ stmark@rogers.com

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

Monthly Filipino Mass: Third Saturday 7:00 PM

Monthly Igbo Mass: Last Sunday 3:30 PM

CONFESSION

Wednesday and First Friday 11:00 - 11:45 AM

Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 PM or by appointment

DAILY MASS

Tuesday to Friday 12:00 NOON

First Saturday 9:00 AM

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Our Adoration Chapel is open to the public,

Tuesday to Friday 1:00 - 8:00 PM

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 your home blessed.

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 pre-authorized debit plan. 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 runs from the Fall until Easter.

MARRIAGE – A minimum of 6 months' notice is required. Please introduce yourselves to Father after Mass to start the process.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK or HOSPITAL VISIT

Whenever possible, Anointing of the Sick should be requested before the need becomes dire. In any case, contact the parish office to request this sacrament.

PARISH SCHOOLS

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

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

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



REQUESTING A MASS INTENTION

To have a Mass celebrated for a loved one (living or deceased), please fill out this request form, place it in a plain envelope marked "Mass Intention," and drop it in the Sunday collection. 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 the week.

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

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

Name of person(s)

to be remembered: _____

Please check if this person is: ☐ **LIVING** or ☐ **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: We can only accept requests for specific dates if they are a birthday, death anniversary or wedding anniversary. Since dates fill up quickly, your request 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 satisfy 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: _____

Please check if this person is: ☐ **LIVING** or ☐ **DECEASED**

Offering enclosed: \$_____

REQUESTED BY _____

DAYTIME PHONE or EMAIL _____

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions for the Week

December 1 – 7, 2025

Join us for recitation of the **ROSARY**, 20 minutes before weekday Mass.

Tuesday (FERIAL)
12 Noon - Special Intention

WEDNESDAY ★ **NO MASS TODAY** (Due to Clergy's Day of Prayer)

Thursday (FERIAL)
12 noon † Fatima & Armerinda Costa — *Salome Costa*
† Peter Nguyen — *Melissa*
† Theresa Nguyen — *Melissa*

First Friday (FERIAL)
12 Noon † Marlene Denomme — *Brian & Marie Lynch*

First Saturday (FERIAL)
9:00 am - Int. of Beno Yeyanathirasa

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 6/7

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

Sat. 5:00 PM † Garry Groothuis — *Pat & Margaret Drohan*
† Gerry Mainguy — *Daniel, Colette & Goerge*
† Joseph & Adeline Dias — *Agnelo & Dolorosa Dias*
Sun. 9:30 am - Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark
11:30 am † Jose Alves — *Gloria Alves*



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

The Sanctuary Lamps burn this week for:
The Repose of the Soul of Marinha & Cincinatus Coutinho



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

Dec. 1	Dec. 2	Dec. 3	Dec. 4	Dec. 5	Dec. 6
Most Rev. Wayne Lobsinger	Very Rev. Msgr. Cornelius O'Mahony	Order of Preachers, O.P.	Rev. Pawel Stankiewicz	Rev. Bill Foote	Rev. Malcolm Katzenberger

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

First Sunday of Advent

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." 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

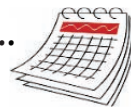


Nov. 22/23, 2025	General	Mortgage
Envelope offerings:	\$ 2,354.00	\$ 15.00
Loose offerings:	\$ 960.60	\$ --
Pre-Authorized:	\$ 1,575.58	\$ 407.77
Totals:	\$ 4,890.18	\$ 422.77

Advent Confessions at School

Dec. 4 – St. Mark School

Meetings & Events This Week ...



DEC.	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
Mon 1	8:00 PM	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
	7:00 PM	(CH)	11:30 Choir practice
Wed 3	6:15 PM	(CH)	9:30 Choir practice
Thu 4	7:00 PM	(L)	C.W.L. Executive Meeting
Fri 5	7:00 PM	(H)	B.C.B.P.
Sat 6	7:15 am	(H/J)	<i>That Man is You!</i> - Men's Group
	9:30 am	(H)	C.W.L. Advent Retreat
	6:00 PM	(H)	B.C.B.P.
Sun 7	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

Let Us Put On the Armour of Light

As we begin a new liturgical year with the season of Advent, we wish one another a spiritually fruitful New Year! The new liturgical year is an opportunity for us to rediscover the richness of this well-planned series of liturgical events and celebrations, intended for our sanctification.

As we start our remote preparation for Christmas, St. Paul exhorts us to get rid of the "deeds of darkness" and to clothe ourselves with the splendor of Christ's grace. This should motivate all Christians to begin this holy season with a clear plan of action and the determination to carry it out faithfully.

Today's First and Second readings offer an encouraging roadmap for a fruitful observance of this year of hope and commitment that is aligned with the exhortations of the Apostle Paul.

Source: Euchalette, Word & Life Publications



Enrollment for First Communion and Confirmation

Parents, if you did not receive the letter and Enrollment form sent by the parish through your child's school (St. Mark's or St. Dominic's), or if your Catholic child attends a different school (public, other Catholic, homeschooled), or missed a sacrament in a previous year, please contact the parish office this week. Extra blank forms are available in the narthex on the information wall. Preparation classes begin in the New Year.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Thank you to everyone who packed a shoebox ... we collected a total of 118 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes from our parish. All of the boxes sent from Canada will be going to El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Cape Verde, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Ukraine and the Philippines. For many children, these boxes will be the first gift they have ever received and will know the love of Jesus. Thank you for helping this worthy cause!

Journey Through Advent 2025

Each Advent the National Office for Evangelization and Catechesis produces a **4-week series on the Sunday Gospels throughout Advent** with reflections from one of our Canadian Bishops. This year, our very own Auxiliary, His Excellency, Bishop Wayne Lobsinger provides the video series for us. These reflections on the Gospel of Matthew can be found here: <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-advent>

Liturgical Ministers

Dec. 6/7	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
Altar Servers:	V./P./J. Miller S. Cainoy	J. Taer, X. Taguinod J./J. Woodhouse	C. Chacon, T. John K. Garces
Commentator:	Sean Morgan	P. Enticott	D. DeSousa
Readers:	C. Stanley	M. John	R. Miranda
Ushers:	E. Miller A. Beckner	L. Koehler F. Seaward	B. Prila E. Delena
Eucharistic Ministers:	P./K. Nezny	M. Lynch, T. Lee A. Joseph	B./C. Voisin
Liturgical Ministers are asked to please sign up in the narthex for <u>Christmas & New Year's</u> Masses. <i>Thank you!</i>			

Keep Them In Your Prayers...

■ In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of **Mrs. Natalie Crosby** (mother of Bishop Douglas Crosby), and **Mr. Lawrence Lobsinger** (father of Bishop Wayne Lobsinger), who both died last Sunday, November 23rd, that may they enjoy the blessedness of eternal life, and for their families, that they may be strengthened in their grief with the consolation of our faith. *"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen."*

■ We also pray for a full recovery for **Bishop Douglas Crosby** who suffered a small stroke on November 17th that has affected his speech. Bishop Crosby has now begun treatment for the effects of the stroke at the Regional Rehabilitation Centre. We pray for his full recovery! You can read Bishop Crosby's message in his latest newsletter here: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/heart-to-heart/2025/11/heart-to-heart-issue-594/>



Seasonal opportunities to help the needy...

Christmas Toy Drive

Our Knights have again joined other councils in the Christmas Toy Drive. **Those who wish may drop donations of UNWRAPPED children's gifts into the brown bin in the church narthex.** All toys will be distributed to needy families. Thank you.



Angel Tree ... This Christmas our St. Vincent de Paul Society will assist several families in our area. **Please drop off all gifts unwrapped by Dec. 7th. If donating clothing items, please include the receipt.** Thank you for putting a smile on a child's face this Christmas!

SHE's back!

She Shall Be Called Woman (SHE) - Part 2
"The Ten Virtues of Mary"
 Wednesday evenings, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
 January 7 - March 4, 2026

Attention Ladies! Part 2 of SHE begins January 7th and you're invited! SHE is a program designed to support women's spiritual growth. Join us for engaging speakers, discussions and prayer, all meant to encourage a deepening of faith. **Space is limited so register early. Scan the QR code on the poster in the narthex or email fkangaloo@gmail.com.**



C.W.L. News...

C.W.L. Lenten Retreat - Saturday, Dec. 6 at 9:30 a.m.

Be part of our Advent retreat, where we will come alongside Mary as she experiences the formation of "The Only Gift That Matters."

Please bring a baby gift of: new baby toys, new baby clothes (newborn size, or 3-6 months), diapers, wipes. These items will be delivered to Marillac Place. Don't miss this opportunity for reflection and inspiration!

Cheese Balls - Friday, Dec. 12th at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun time making the famous "Original Parish Cheese Balls." Enjoy plenty of laughs and good company as we create these tasty treats together. We can't wait to see you there!

2026 Memberships Due Please check your 2025 church offertory envelope box for the blue envelope labelled "C.W.L. Annual Membership." The cost for 2026 remains \$40. If you have any questions, please contact Anna at stmarkcwl@gmail.com or 519-577-8519.



6" Poinsettia Plants - \$15 each NEXT WEEKEND ONLY!

December 13 & 14 after all Masses
 Sold by our Knights of Columbus
 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

Christmas Flowers for the Church

For those who wish to donate toward the cost of Christmas flowers, you will find special envelopes in the narthex. Please write the names of your deceased loved ones on the back of the envelope, or include them inside with your donation, then place the envelope in the gift box in the narthex. Mass on Christmas morning will be celebrated for the Repose of the Souls of your deceased loved ones.



St. Mary's Truth & ReconciliACTION Circle

A vigil Mass for the Feast of the Our Lady of Guadalupe will be held on **Thursday, Dec. 11th** at 5:00 p.m. at **St. Mary's Church**, 56 Duke Street West, Kitchener. The story of St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe will be shared before the Eucharistic celebration. Following Mass, hospitality will be provided in the parish hall: 3 Sisters soup & Bannock. All are welcome!

"Forgiving Each Other - and Ourselves"

We all sin. In that, we separate ourselves from God. Yet, in our human weakness, our loving and merciful God meets us in our sin and struggle. We may fight a spiritual battle within, resistant to forgive those who have offended us - *we may also struggle to forgive ourselves* - even after God has forgiven us. Join us at the **St. Agnes Education Cafe** for this timely Advent talk on **Forgiveness & the Sacrament of Reconciliation**, with Fr. Francisco Cruz (Pastor of St. John's Parish, and Missionary of Mercy, appointed by Pope Francis) on **Wednesday, Dec. 3rd** from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at **St. Agnes Parish, Waterloo.**

Heartache to Healing - This monthly, informal, drop-in grief support group provides companionship on the long journey through the grief process, following the process developed by Dr. Bill Webster, an experienced leader in grief counselling. All who have suffered a loss are welcome, regardless of how much time has passed since your loss. Join us at **St. Michael Parish, Waterloo** on the **2nd Wednesday of the month**; 7 pm in the Parish Resource Centre/Library.



528 Victoria St. N., beside Weston's Bakery
519-745-6136

ERB & GOOD
FAMILY FUNERAL HOME
Exceeding Expectations Since 1946
Paula Heimpel & Rebecca Hlavac
(nee Henhoeffler)
Funeral Directors & Owners
171 King Street South Waterloo
519-745-8445 | www.erbgood.com



**2M
Taylor**

Alterations & Tailoring
for men, women & children
Custom Tailoring

519.578.6054
milicabojo@hotmail.com



Frank Marinelli 519-489-0621 • frank@thebig.ca

We ♥ our
Residents
Lanark Village



Independent & Assisted Living
519-743-0121

44 Lanark Cres Kitchener

Join Today!



**Westmount Memorial
Celebration Centre**
1001 Ottawa St. S.
519-743-8900



**Trusted
COMPANION**

Caregiver Services:

- Companionship
- Leisure Activities
- Respite Care
- Transportation
- Grocery
- Meal Preparation
- Light Cleaning

www.trustedcompanion.ca
1-877-777-4415



**Shopping
Locally
Saves Gas**

**THE PERFECT SPOT
TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS!**



**TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE PLEASE CALL
1-800-268-2637**



AN INDEPENDENT FAMILY -
OWNED FUNERAL HOME
507 FREDERICK ST. (at expressway)
519-749-8467

Remember...
Let our advertisers know
you saw their ad here.

