

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.

ANOINTING 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 _____

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass Intentions for the Week



February 12 – 18, 2024

Tuesday (FERIAL)

12 Noon † Scott King – Catherine Sidle

✧ SEASON OF LENT BEGINS ✧

ASH WEDNESDAY

(A UNIVERSAL DAY OF FASTING & ABSTINENCE)

12 Noon † Jennifer McFadden – Garry & Cindy Mahn
 † Bernard Crawley – Marilyn Dufresne
 † Souls in Purgatory – Lurdes Soares

7:00 PM † Eleanor Jean Smith – Colette & Barry & Family



Thursday (FERIAL)

12 Noon † Jim Bryson – Bryson Family

Friday (FERIAL)

* NO NOON MASS ON FRIDAYS DURING LENT

★ 6:00 PM † Jozef Lonkovic – Brian & Marie Lynch

6:30 PM - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – February 17/18

Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

SAT. 5:00 PM † Teresa Viveiros – Viveiros Family
 † Betty MacMillan – Marilyn Dufresne
 - Int. of Colette Dokis – Luiz Macedo

7:00 PM - MONTHLY FILIPINO MASS

SUN. 9:30 am † Paul Costa – Colm & Kay Dignam

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

★ Please note Lenten changes to the liturgical schedule:

Friday 12 noon Mass is replaced with evening Mass at 6:00 p.m., followed by Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m.



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!
The Sanctuary Lamps burn this week for:
 The Intentions of Duc Nguyen



Diocesan Prayer Calendar ✧ This week let us pray for...

| Feb. 12 | Feb. 13 | Feb. 14 | Feb. 15 | Feb. 16 | Feb. 17 |
|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rev. Michael McHugh | Rev. Msgr. Theodore Slaman | ASH WEDNESDAY | Rev. William Trusz | Rev. Vincent Kim Van Toan | Rev. Msgr. Edward Sheridan |

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.

Parish-School events during Lent...

Ash Wednesday Liturgies

Feb. 14 9:00 am - Father Roque distributing Ashes at St. Mark School
 9:30 am - Deacon Philip distributing Ashes at St. Dominic School

Lenten Confessions

March 5 9:30 am - Confessions at St. Dominic School (multiple priests)
 March 7 1:15 pm - Confessions at St. Mark School (multiple priests)

Meetings & Events This Week ...



| DATE | TIME | ROOM | EVENT |
|---------------------|---------|------|-------------------------------------|
| Mon. Feb. 12 | 7:00 pm | (L) | Forward Together in Christ meeting |
| | 8:00 pm | (H) | Alcoholics Anonymous |
| Tue. Feb. 13 | 5:00 pm | (H) | PANCAKE SUPPER |
| Wed. Feb. 14 | 5:45 pm | (L) | Sacramental Team Meeting (F.C.) |
| | 6:30 pm | (CH) | 9:30 Choir practice |
| Thu. Feb. 15 | 7:00 pm | (CH) | 5pm Choir practice |
| Fri. Feb. 16 | 7:00 pm | (J) | Bible Study |
| Sat. Feb. 17 | 7:15 am | (H) | <i>That Man Is You!</i> Men's Group |
| Sun. Feb. 18 | 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 **Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time** we hear Matthew's Gospel. Jesus speaks to his followers about religious laws and also of our own relationships. Go to offer gifts to God at the altar, but first, Jesus says, "Leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift."
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St. Mark Knights of Columbus are pleased to host their annual

Pancake & Sausage Supper!



Shrove Tuesday, February 13th

5:00 to 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall

TICKETS ON SALE after all weekend Masses!

A limited number of tickets will also be available at the door.
Adults \$12 • Youth \$8 • Kids (3-6yrs) \$4 • Family \$35 • FREE under 3yrs
Proceeds will support the Waterloo Region Food Bank.



Lenten Practices...

Ash Wednesday: A day of fasting and abstinence

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in preparation for our celebrations of Easter, when Christ died and rose from the dead for our salvation. Ash Wednesday is also a day of fasting and abstinence.

There are two days of compulsory fasting and abstinence prescribed by the Church: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (Code of Canon Law #1251).

Fasting means eating less than normal. We are asked to eat one regular size meal and two smaller meals. Catholics between the ages of 16-60 are asked to abide by this discipline.

Abstinence means abstaining from eating meat on this day. Catholics older than 14 years of age are asked to abide by this discipline. Note: We are also encouraged to continue the traditional practice of abstaining from meat every Friday. As well, one should not engage in excessive entertainment throughout the Lenten Season, and most certainly not on Good Friday.



*Wishing our Grade 8's at St. Mark School a moving and spirit-filled retreat at **Mount Mary** this week!*



PASSION PLAY

ACTORS NEEDED! Adults and children (aged 10 and up). No speaking required. If we get enough actors, practices will be held on Sunday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. in the parish hall. If you are interested in participating, please email Sonia Chacon at soniachacon33@yahoo.ca. One play takes place Holy Thursday (Mar. 28) and the main play takes place Good Friday (Mar. 29).

 *Liturgical Ministers*

| FEB. 17-18 | 5:00 PM Mass | 9:30 AM Mass | 11:30 AM Mass |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Altar Servers: | J./P./V. Miller S. Silva | R./R. Jerold J. Taer | T. John J./K. Palafox |
| Commentator: | V. DeVries | M. Drohan | G. Tran |
| Readers: | S. Benner | T. Lee | R. Vergel de Dios |
| Ushers: | E. Miller C. Weber | F. Sawaya S. Roshell | B./C. Voisin |
| Eucharistic Ministers: | J./D. Fernandez | P. Enticott A. Joseph | D. Seymour-Weber K. Dignam |



Weekly Offertory Report

| February 3/4, 2024 | General | Mortgage |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Envelope offerings | \$ 2,053.00 | \$ 891.00 |
| Loose offerings | \$ 540.25 | \$ -- |
| Pre-Authorized | \$ 1,542.81 | \$ 378.81 |
| Totals | \$ 4,136.06 | \$ 1,269.81 |
| <i>Seminary Education</i> | <i>382.00</i> | |

There's still time to sign-up for Alpha!

Thursday evenings, February 22 to May 2, 6:45 to 9:15 p.m.
(starting with dinner) ST. MARK'S PARISH HALL

Alpha is an 11-week program that brings adults together for conversations about life, faith and Jesus. To sign up or learn more, contact Denise Case by email at stmarkalpha@gmail.com.



Next Sacramental Preparation Meetings

CONFIRMATION: Sunday, Feb. 25 at 1:00 p.m.
FIRST COMMUNION: Wed. Feb. 28 at 5:45 p.m.

A Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse

Sunday, February 25th at 3:00 p.m.
Liturgy of the Word followed by
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
All are welcome.

Today is World Day of the Sick – February 11th

The ministry of Jesus to the sick is central to the life of the Church. February 11 (Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes) highlights the healing ministry of the Church. It reminds us that service to the sick and suffering cannot be neglected. It recognizes the great efforts of doctors, nurses, health care institutions and pastoral care givers to restore health to those afflicted with illness and disease.

C.W.L. News...

LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY – Saturday, March 2nd
at the **Toronto Convention Centre**. There is a bus leaving from the Highway #6 and 401 parking lot. Total cost for bus and ticket for event is \$51 per person. Deadline for reserving ticket and bus is February 19th. No refunds. For further details please call Anna Joseph at 519-577-8519.



February 1, 2024

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent is upon us – a time to strengthen our relationship with Jesus Christ and seek inner transformation through fasting, prayer, and acts of generosity. The Church assists us by providing many supports. Throughout Lent we are invited to participate in community *celebration of the Holy Eucharist* – on Sundays and at daily Mass during the week. Reading and reflecting on the *Scripture passages of the day* is an excellent practice, as is *any reading* that guides you closer to the Lord.

Throughout Lent, the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* is offered in your Parishes. If you are unable to find a convenient time, contact your Parish Priest who will be happy to find a time suited to your schedule. Most Parishes pray the *Stations of the Cross* as a faith community. Or you can pray them privately at your Parish church. The *Holy Rosary* is always a prayer that promotes inner peace and closeness to the Lord.

The *Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace / Caritas Canada* provides a variety of ways to offer “alms” to brothers and sisters in need through the *Share Lent* campaign. *Create Hope* is the central theme of this campaign for the coming five years. The specific theme this year is *Reaping our Rights*, echoing Pope Francis’ recent reflections in *Laudate Deum*, “Everything is connected” and “no one is saved alone”! We are invited to uphold the rights of peasants, human rights, and environmental rights, ensuring respect for all.

The Cross traced on our forehead on Ash Wednesday reminds us that “*we are going to die*”! If we know we are going to die, we must decide “*how we choose to live*”! On Easter Sunday we renew our Baptismal Promises and are sprinkled with Easter water – washing away the ashes, and renewing the assurances of our faith! We choose to live by faith in Jesus Christ – who saves us and lifts us up!

We enter the Lenten Fast committed to make a difference in our own lives, in the lives of those we love, and in the lives of brothers and sisters in the Global South. Please be generous on *Solidarity Sunday*, March 17, 2024 – the Fifth Sunday of Lent. May God bless us all as we begin this sacred journey.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,
+Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton

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>





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