

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 _____

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass Intentions for the Week



February 20 – 25, 2024

Monday, February 19th is Family Day
PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

Tuesday (FERIAL)

12 Noon † Peter Nickl and all deceased family members of Albert & Lucy Lorentz – *Judy Nickl*

Wednesday (FERIAL) * NO NOON MASS TODAY (THIS WEEK ONLY)

*** 9:00 am** † Brigida De Sousa – *M. Soares and family*
- Int. of Jude Whittle – *Soundara Jaya*
- Int. of Donnie

Thursday (FEAST – CHAIR OF ST. PETER)

12 Noon † Mary Howe – *Ron & Kathleen*

Friday (FERIAL)

5:40 PM - ROSARY
*** 6:00 PM** † Beverly Hiller – *Marilyn Dufresne*
6:30 PM - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – February 24/25

Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-35, 37+; Mark 9:2-10

SAT. 5:00 PM † Caroline Toscano – *Anthony Toscano & family*
† Jerry Dufresne – *Marilyn*
† Derek Keough & Int. of Connie – *Joseph Family*

SUN. 9:30 am – Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark
11:30 am – A Special Intention

*** Mass this Wednesday has been moved to 9:00 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 † Matt Maich

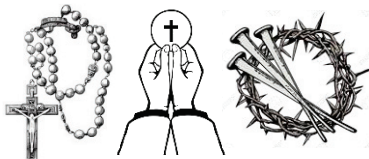


Fridays During Lent

5:40 pm - Rosary

6:00 pm - Mass

6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross



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

Feb. 19	Feb. 20	Feb. 21	Feb. 22	Feb. 23	Feb. 24
Rev. Robert Bulbrook	Rev. Ron Cote	Discalced Carmelite Sisters (O.C.D.)	Rev. William Foote	Rev. Michael Isabelle	Consecrated Virgin Candidates

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.

MEDITATIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

“Stations in Song”

Friday, March 8th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Featuring LIVE music provided by the band **Laurelin** (featuring members of the 9:30 choir). The evening will feature prayers and meditations for the Stations of the Cross (in keeping with the more traditional format of the Stations), followed by musical reflections to conclude each Station.

We look forward to praying with you!

Meetings & Events This Week ...



DATE	TIME	ROOM	EVENT
Mon. Feb. 19	6:30 pm	(CH)	11:30 Choir practice
	8:00 pm	(H)	Alcoholics Anonymous
Wed. Feb. 21	6:30 pm	(CH)	9:30 Choir practice
Thu. Feb. 22	6:45 pm	multi	Alpha
	7:00 pm	(CH)	5pm Choir practice
Fri. Feb. 23	7:00 pm	(J)	Bible Study
Sat. Feb. 24	7:15 am	(H)	<i>That Man Is You!</i> Men's Group
Sun. Feb. 25	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** we begin our Lenten journey, remembering how God re-established the covenant after the flood, and reflecting on how Jesus began his public ministry with a retreat of forty days – driven to the desert by the Spirit.



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Pancake & Sausage Supper 50/50 Draw Winner

Feb. 13, 2024 – The winner of the 50/50 draw was Margo Schimus (\$87.00). Congratulations Margo, and thanks to all who bought tickets in support of the Food Bank.



Potato Blitz – Bring Bring your spuds to the Church over the next month and the Knights of Columbus will deliver them to the House of Friendship for their annual Potato Blitz.

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).



A Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse

Next Sunday, February 25th at 3:00 p.m.

Liturgy of the Word followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome.

School Confessions for Lent

Father Roque and multiple other priests will be offering to hear confessions in the parish schools on the following dates:

- Tuesday, March 5 (AM) at St. Dominic School
- Thursday, March 7 (PM) at St. Mark School

Parenting Tip of the Month

Children love Valentine's Day because of the exchange of cards and little parties at school. It is a great time to talk to them about what real love is: giving, receiving, caring, thinking of the other before self and putting others needs above your own. Your children will develop deeper and healthier relationships with this understanding. They will especially know what to look for when they grow up and find someone to love in their future. Do not forget to remind them that God loves them completely and unconditionally, so they can and should pray and talk to him about their life anytime.

 *Liturgical Ministers*

FEB. 24-25	5:00 PM Mass	9:30 AM Mass	11:30 AM Mass
Altar Servers:	J./P./V. Miller	R. Alayoku E. Burkholder A. Jacobs	C. Chacon J./S. Garrucho
Commentator:	J. Flanigan	T. Boettger	N. Comido
Readers:	C. Stanley	P. Enticott	S. Comido
Ushers:	P. Smith A. Beckner	J./K. Snyder	J./S./J. Posada
Eucharistic Ministers:	C. Weber A. Bendia	M. Walser M. Lynch	I./F. Kangaloo

Weekly Offertory Report



February 10/11, 2024	General	Mortgage
Envelope offerings	\$ 2,383.00	\$ 90.00
Loose offerings	\$ 557.90	\$ --
Pre-Authorized	\$ 1,558.96	\$ 385.73
Totals	\$ 4,499.86	\$ 475.73
Seminary Education	\$ 105.00	

Last chance 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. Sign-up table in the narthex.**



Next Sacramental Preparation Meetings

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

WDP Palestinian Christian Women's Committee
"I Beg You ... Bear With One Another in Love"
(EPHESIANS 4:1-3)

Friday, March 1st at 11:00 a.m.

St. George's of Forest Hill Anglican Church
321 Fischer-Hallman Road, Kitchener
Reception to follow.

Livestream Link: <https://livestream.com/accounts/4258512>

SPEAKING OUR TRUTH AS CATHOLICS: The Truth Will Set You Free

St. Agnes Parish, Waterloo – Sunday, March 3rd at 1:30 p.m.

Do you ever wonder how God is at work in your life? Sometimes we struggle to see it, to hear his voice – or to find the "right words" to confidently share the truths of our faith with love, especially in challenging situations. Attend the "St. Agnes Education Cafe" talk: *"Speaking our Truth as Catholics: The Truth Will Set You Free."* Special guests are Bishop Wayne Lobsinger and Teresa Hartnett, Director of Family Ministry.

Marriage Tip of the Month... The month of February, known as the month of love, can sometimes create unrealistic expectations for couples. "Real" love supports their spouse when they have had a bad day, creates ways to spend time together, offers help without asking and is self-giving, not selfish. This month, take the time to look for ways to support the one you love and you will experience a deeper, more connected relationship.

C.W.L. News...



■ **LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY – Saturday, March 2nd** at the Toronto Convention Centre. THE FIRST BUS IS SOLD OUT!! We are collecting names to fill the second bus, if you are interested, please call Anna Joseph at 519-577-8519, no later than February 19th.

■ **LENTE RETREAT**

To all St. Mark C.W.L. Members... Please save the date! Saturday, March 23rd from 9 am to 12 noon in the Parish Hall.

"Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"

Join us for a day of creating, meditating, and praying away the stone that might be in your life. Each participant will create an Easter arrangement (a sample will soon be displayed on the C.W.L. table in the narthex). Please fill out the sign-up sheet found at the C.W.L. table. A fee for supplies will be collected from all participants. For more info please call Sue Sawchuk at (519) 277-1898.



■ **Any lady who has not yet joined the C.W.L. (or who has not renewed her membership) is encouraged to contact Anna Joseph at 519-577-8519 ASAP. Don't miss out on the opportunity to join our Lenten retreat!!!**

■ **MAID for Mental Illness Legislation**

Eligibility for medical assistance in dying for persons suffering solely from mental illness has been extended to March 17, 2024. The C.W.L. has cards on its table for you to fill out, requesting that Legislation allowing mental illness as a sole condition for MAiD must be REVOKED! **Please fill out the card and place it in the basket provided.** Thank you for supporting this very important cause!

Journey Through Lent ...

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops presents "Journey through Lent" with the Most Rev. Stephen Hero, Bishop of Prince Albert, and the Most Rev. Mark Hagemoen, Bishop of Saskatoon. Join us as we reflect on the Scriptures for the Sundays of Lent 2024:

<https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-lent/> (Visit this link for a new message each week).

Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom

In his message for Lent 2024, Pope Francis invites us: *"Let us welcome Lent as the great season in which he reminds us: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (Ex 20:2). Lent is a season of conversion, a time of freedom. Jesus himself, as we recall each year on the first Sunday of Lent, was driven into the desert by the Spirit in order to be tempted in freedom. For forty days, he will stand before us and with us: the incarnate Son. Unlike Pharaoh, God does not want subjects, but sons and daughters. The desert is the place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery. In Lent, we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken."* **Read the Pope's full message here:**

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/len/documents/20231203-messaggio-quaresima2024.html>



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 right, or click or enter this link in your browser: <http://tinyurl.com/ysc27jyf>



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