

# St. Mark's Church Announcements and Updates

## February 4, 2021

### Included in this edition of the St. Mark's email blast:

- [New](#) YouTube Livestream Mass Schedule
- Weekend Communion Services (resuming February 13, registration required)
- [New](#) Reconciliation Schedule
- Ash Wednesday – Extended Schedule for combined Distribution of Ashes and Communion Services (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday)
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent
- Church Open for Personal Prayer only -Tuesday to Sunday (no in-person Masses at this time)
- Church Office
- Lenten Faith Formation Programs
- St. Padre Pio's Pandemic Advice
- Women's Ministry Online Lenten Prayer Retreat
- St. Mark Squire Circle
- EDGE and High School Youth programs
- Pre-Authorized Giving and Offertory Envelopes
- 2020 Tax Receipts
- Links to stay connected to St. Mark's Parish
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## New Livestream Mass Schedule on YouTube

At this time, we are unable to offer Mass to the public on weekdays and weekends as a result of the 10-person limit in the building. Until further notice, all St. Mark's Masses will be livestreamed on our new YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/StMarkYouTube>.

### **Livestream Mass Schedule**

Tuesday 7 pm, Wednesday 9 am, Thursday 9 am, Friday 9 am, Saturday 9 am, Sunday 9 am

## Weekend Communion Services Resuming

**Beginning February 13, Communion Services will be held each Saturday and Sunday.**

The Communion Services will be short, so we ask those attending to remain standing throughout and avoid touching the pews or sitting. If you need to be seated, please take a sticky note to place on the handrail in front of the spot where you sit. As an added safety measure, we ask that people from different bubbles stand 3 metres/10 feet apart. We hope this will allow more of our parishioners to be able to come to the Church on weekends to hear the Word of God proclaimed in the Gospel and receive the Body and Blood of Christ. As a preparation for the service, we ask you to watch the Mass online.

### **Communion Service Schedule**

<b>Saturdays</b>	5 pm, 5:20 pm, 5:40 pm
<b>Sundays</b>	11 am, 11:20 am, 11:40 am, 12 pm

### **Online Registration**

Please register at [www.stmarkstouffville.ca](http://www.stmarkstouffville.ca). Registration will open each Wednesday at 7 pm.

#### **Reminders:**

- Registration is required to attend a Communion Service.
- Each attendee must have a ticket (max 8 people in the church at one time).

- We are unable to accommodate walk-ins.
- If you are registering for a ticket for someone else, please put their name on the ticket not yours.
- Children receiving Communion also need tickets. Those not receiving Communion should not attend.
- Please be on time as this service is only 10 minutes.

## **New Reconciliation Schedule**

Fr. Michael will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation **every Saturday following the livestream of morning Mass from 9:30 am to 10 am and again in the afternoon from 4 pm to 5 pm.** When you arrive, please sign in and ensure there are no more than 10 people in the church at one time. You can also make an appointment to go to confession during the week by calling the church office at 905-640-6954 ext. 101.

## **Ash Wednesday**

This is a universal day of fasting and abstinence from meat. The law of abstinence from meat binds those who are 14 and older; the law of fasting binds those from 18 – 59 years of age. Parents and educators are reminded of their duty to introduce children gradually to the understanding and practice of penance.

**Ash Wednesday Livestreamed Mass** will be broadcast on our YouTube channel <https://bit.ly/StMarkYouTube> on Wednesday, February 17th at 9 am.

### **Extended Ash Wednesday Schedule for Ashes and Communion (Registration required)**

Online Registration for all Ash Wednesday Communion Services will open on Wednesday, February 10th at 7 pm at: [www.stmarkstouffville.ca](http://www.stmarkstouffville.ca)

#### **Wednesday February 17th: 13 Services**

Ashes and Communion

9:40am, 10am, 10:20am, 12pm, 12:20pm, 12:40pm, 3pm, 3:20pm, 3:40pm, 7pm, 7:20pm, 7:40pm, 8pm

#### **Thursday, February 18th- 9 Services**

Ashes and Communion

9:30am, 9:50am, 10:10am, 12pm, 12:20pm, 12:40pm, 7pm, 7:20pm, 7:40pm

#### **Friday February 19th- 3 Services**

Ashes and Communion

12pm, 12:20pm, 12:40pm

## **Eucharistic Adoration – Friday Morning February 19<sup>th</sup>**

We invite parishioners to come and spend some quiet time in Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 9:30 am and end with Benediction at 11:50 am. Registration is not required for Adoration but if you want to attend one of the afternoon Communion Services on February 19<sup>th</sup>, please register on our website.

## **Stations of the Cross- Lenten Fridays**

The Stations of the Cross will be livestreamed every Friday during Lent at 7:30 pm on our YouTube Channel: <https://bit.ly/StMarkYouTube>

## **Church Open for Personal Prayer – New Schedule**

There will be no in-person Masses during the lockdown, but the church will be open for personal prayer at the following times: Tuesday to Saturday from 9:30 AM to 4 PM and Sunday from 10 AM to 11 AM and 1 PM to 4

PM. The **door will be left open**, so you do not need to use the buzzer but **please sign in** and mark the spot where you are seated with a yellow post-it note sticker. When you leave, please sanitize the spot where you were seated. There is a limit of 10 people in the building at one time. You are strongly encouraged to come to the Church for personal prayer time.

## Church Office

The Church Office is currently closed to the public. However, if you need assistance, please call 905-640-6954 ext. 101 and leave a message or email [stmarksoffice@bellnet.ca](mailto:stmarksoffice@bellnet.ca).

## Online Lenten Faith Formation Programs

**The Saint Augustine Institute Show:** Join Dr. Tim Gray and special guest, Curtis Martin, Founder & CEO of FOCUS, for a Special One-Hour Episode of The Augustine Institute Show!

PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR LENT - Tuesday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. EST.

This special episode will be broadcast live for all to watch on [www.FORMED.org](http://www.FORMED.org).

**Journey Through Scripture - Parousia – The Bible and the Mass:** In our latest Journey Through Scripture study, get ready to join host Scott Hahn to uncover how and why all of God's action, in creation and redemption, is ordered to the Mass. Sign up to watch all 10 episodes for free at <https://stpaulcenter.com/studies-tools/journey-through-scripture/parousia-the-bible-and-the-mass/>.

## St. Padre Pio's Powerful Words during a Pandemic in Italy

During the summer of 1918, Italy was hit hard by the Spanish flu, **forcing schools to close down and local businesses to halt**. It was a scary time to be alive, as everyone appeared to get infected by this wild virus. **Many were frightened** by this sudden turn of events, and in Italy **they turned to Padre Pio**.

In the biography *Padre Pio: The True Story, published by Our Sunday Visitor*, the mystic saint's response to this **worldwide pandemic** is recorded, with the powerful words of advice he gave to one of his spiritual daughters. *By September, everyone in San Giovanni Rotondo seemed to be ill, the schools were closed, and what little commerce there was in town was brought to a halt. In the next couple months, two hundred people from a population of ten thousand would perish. Padre Pio's spiritual daughters came to him terrified, begging him to save them. "Never fear," he assured Nina Campanile. "Put yourself under the protection of the Virgin, do not sin, and the sickness will not overcome you." Although some of the "daughters" fell ill, none of them died.*

He also responded to tragedy that surrounded him by **offering himself as a victim for the world**. *Padre Pio had already offered himself as a victim for the cessation of the war. He also offered himself as a victim for the boys of the "Seraphic College," of which he was now serving as principal. And on September 17, he offered himself as a victim for the end of the influenza.*

Shortly thereafter **Padre Pio received the stigmata of the Lord**, visible signs of Christ's Passion on his body. Whatever may happen in our own lives, Padre Pio reminds us to trust in the Lord, not to fear and to put ourselves under the protection of the Virgin Mary.

## Women's Ministry Online Lenten Prayer Retreat

The ladies of our parish are invited to an ONLINE Evening Prayer Retreat on **Tuesday, February 16th at 7:30 pm via ZOOM**. Please register for this event, so that we can prepare the materials and deliver them to your door! The Evening Prayer Retreat is based on Monica McConkey's book Prompt Me to Pray available for purchase along with this Retreat Companion booklet to help make this ONLINE retreat feel like it's IN PERSON! Prayer Retreat Bundle (\$15) or Retreat Companion (\$5)

Register at:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwwaKA5ahdBZJsAivTzOww2cIZ1uXHZ69hGwTlepQPT03GUA/v  
iewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwwaKA5ahdBZJsAivTzOww2cIZ1uXHZ69hGwTlepQPT03GUA/viewform)

## **St. Mark Squire Circle 5486**

The members of St. Mark's Squire Circle are boys who are 10 to 18 years of age. Currently, they meet virtually on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm via Zoom. They are involved in 4 pillars of activity. **Spiritual** which involves them in their Faith, **Service** which is to help our neighbors in need like those helped by the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Rose of Sharon, the Tree of Life, and the Giving Tree at St. Brigid School during Advent, **Circle** fun activities which will resume once the pandemic is over, and **Membership** when others are invited to join in these activities. For more information or to join, please contact Bob Tabone, St. Mark's Knights of Columbus or email [GK10874@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:GK10874@ontariokofc.ca).

## **EDGE and High School Youth Programs**

**EDGE is online on February 5<sup>th</sup>** - Students in grades 5-8 are invited to register and participate. To register go to: <https://bit.ly/34fJ145>

**High School Youth group is online on February 12<sup>th</sup>** - High school students are invited to register and participate online. To register go to: <https://bit.ly/3igrnSK>

For further details, or to volunteer, email Camille at [stmarksyouthmin@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksyouthmin@gmail.com) or follow our Instagram account @stmarksyouthmin.

## **Pre-Authorized Giving Program and Offertory Envelopes**

Now more than ever, we need your support. We ask that you please continue to bring your offertory envelopes to the church and place them in the secure drop box located on the wall to the right of the front door entrance (this box is emptied each day).

Preferably, we ask that you consider signing up to give your donations through our pre-authorized giving program (PAG) to help cover the parishes many expenses and salaries. You can donate to our church from the comfort of your own home by signing up for Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG). For more information, please visit our parish website here: [stmarkstouffville.ca/contact/donations](http://stmarkstouffville.ca/contact/donations). Complete the form and attach a void cheque which can be dropped off at the church office or put in the drop box. If you already give to the Parish via PAG, please consider increasing your donation if possible. Thank you for your generosity.

## **2020 Tax Receipts**

Tax Receipts for 2020 will be handled by an Archdiocesan sanctioned outside company. We have been informed that tax receipts are scheduled to be mailed via Canada Post in mid-February. There is no need to pick them up.

## **Stay Connected to St. Mark's Parish**

**St. Mark's Website** link <https://stmarkstouffville.ca/>.

**St. Mark YouTube Channel - Livestream of Masses** link <https://bit.ly/StMarkYouTube>.

**St. Mark's Public Facebook Page** link <https://www.facebook.com/stmarkstouffville>. Please remember to Like and Share this page with fellow parishioners so more people become aware of its existence.

**St. Mark's Community Facebook Page** link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmarkschurchcommunity>. This page is used to share information between parishioners and ask for prayers when needed.

**St. Mark's Bulletin** link <https://stmarkstouffville.ca/downloads/bulletins>.

# **LifeSite News Article**

**Spanish cardinal orders more Masses, faith in God, amid COVID restrictions**

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/spanish-cardinal-orders-more-masses-faith-in-god-amid-covid-restrictions>