

# St. Mark's Church Announcements and Updates

## January 6, 2021

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

- Fr. Marijan's Farewell Message and Fr. Michael's Return
- Sunday Masses live-streamed on our YouTube channel
- Sunday Communion Services (ticket required)
- Church open for Personal Prayer only -Tuesday to Friday (no in-person Masses at this time)
- Church Office
- 2021 Sunday Missals
- Pre-Authorized Giving and Offertory Envelopes
- Knights of Columbus – "That Man is You" program
- Links to stay connected to St. Mark's Parish

### **Fr. Marijan's Farewell and Fr. Michael's Return**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Mark's, friends,

I hope that the joy of Christmas is still yours, at the beginning of 2021.

As I am leaving this week, I just want to say 'thank you' to each of you for welcoming me so warmly, especially you whom I encountered, those among us who have been able to participate at Mass or communion services, or in any other way.

When I arrived in August 2020 to substitute for Fr. Michael during his sabbatical, I felt encouraged as I encountered a welcoming and loving community where one can grow as a person, as a Catholic Christian. During this time, I've come to appreciate the closeness of the Lord together with the uniquely loving and supportive persons of St. Mark's Parish. God has blessed St Mark's indeed. I hope that the lockdown will end soon and that everyone will be able to return to the Eucharistic celebration without PPE, physical distancing, or self-isolation. That sounds attractive to me, especially because most of you I have never seen without a mask!

Fr. Michael will return soon, and I pray that all will return to normal, for me at Corpus Christi, and for you here at St. Mark's. In the meantime, even though we are separated by a physical distance, we still may continue to grow spiritually more united to Christ and His Church. Please continue to reach out to each other, especially to those who are more lonely than other people.

My desire for this year is that the Lord will help me to say even a small prayer for whomever I remember, such as, 'God bless him,' 'Jesus help her,' or similar. I invite you to ask the Lord to help you to do the same and so help yourself and others. If we pray for each other, we will not think badly or sin against another person. Prayer will help us to forgive if needed and be united in love and truth with God and each other.

Beloved sons and daughters of God, may the peace be yours, and may God bless you and your family all the days of your life!

Fr Marijan

\* Fr. Michael is expected to return to St. Mark's in mid January.  
He will remain in quarantine for two weeks. Please pray for his safe return. \*

## **Sunday Masses Live-streamed 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. However, our recently acquired technology enables “live-streaming” of the Mass. This means that we will record and stream it ‘live’, as it happens, on the internet. Even though it is not the same as attending in person, when you participate in the Mass at home, we are still made one in the Lord.

Until further notice, all St. Mark’s Masses will be live-streamed only on Sundays at 9 am. To see the livestream of our Sunday 9 am Mass, please go to our new YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/StMarkYouTube>.

We are thankful to our visiting Priests, Fr. Terry McKenna and Fr. Matthew McCarthy, who will celebrate the Sunday Masses for our parish community until Fr. Michael’s return.

Please note: All weekday Mass intentions that have been booked from January 11<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> will be offered in private Masses celebrated by Fr. Michael.

## **Sunday Communion Services (In-person – ticket required)**

Cardinal Collins has distributed a memo informing parishes that we have permission to continue having in-person Communion Services during the lockdown as long as we do not exceed the 10-person limit in the building. In order to continue to bring our Lord sacramentally in the Eucharist to as many parishioners as we can, St. Mark’s will be scheduling Communion Services each Sunday. However, a very limited number of tickets will be available and services may fill up quickly.

We ask that if you would like to attend one of the upcoming Sunday Communion Services, please register for a ticket for each family member (including children). Registration will open each Thursday at 7 pm. Spots can be reserved by using the registration link on the home page of our website at [www.stmarkstouffville.ca](http://www.stmarkstouffville.ca). We ask you to please remain standing during the service and sit only if necessary.

**The Communion Service times will be as follows:**

10:30 am, 10:45 am, 11:00 am, 11:15 am, 11:30 am, 11:45 am, 12:00 pm, 12:15 pm, 12:30 pm

## **Church Open for Personal Prayer**

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 Friday from 9:15 AM to 3:30 PM.

When you arrive, please ring the doorbell and check-in at the office. When you leave, please sanitize the spot where you were seated. There is a limit of 10 people in the building at any 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).

## **2021 Sunday Missals**

We have received our shipment of 2021 Missals. In order to purchase one for \$5, please call the Church Office at 905-640-6954 ext. 101 and we will arrange a pickup time.

# **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.

## **Knights of Columbus News**

Join *That Man Is You!* Spring Session begins Jan 16, 2020 on Zoom:

That Man is You! is an interactive men's program that combines the latest findings of modern science with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints to develop authentic male leaders capable of transforming themselves, their families and greater society. Join us for fellowship and faith on Saturdays beginning at 8am on Zoom. All men are welcome. Learn more at [www.tmiy.org](http://www.tmiy.org). To register, please visit [www.stmarkstouffville.ca](http://www.stmarkstouffville.ca). Watch a preview here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mT35KvINvM&t=22s>.

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

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

**St. Mark YouTube Channel Livestream of Sunday 9 am Mass** 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>.