

St. Mark's Church Announcements and Updates

March 17, 2021

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All Day Lenten Confessions

There will be visiting Priests at St. Mark's Church to help with all day Lenten Confessions on **Saturday, March 20th from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm**. This is a very important way to prepare ourselves for the great celebration of Easter. Also, Catholics are required to go to confession at least once every year, so you are encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for repentance and spiritual healing.

Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

There will be a Mass for the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord at 9 am on Thursday, March 25th. Tickets are not required.

Holy Week Mass Schedule (in-person and livestream)

Online Registration will open on Monday, March 29th for Masses on April 1st to April 4.

Tuesday, March 30 – Mass at 7 pm

Wednesday, March 31 – Mass at 9 am

Holy Thursday, April 1 – Mass at 8 pm (also livestreamed), online registration required

Good Friday, April 2 – Mass at 12 pm & 3 pm (3 pm will also be livestreamed), online registration required, Divine Mercy Novena at 7:15 pm, Station of the Cross at 7:30 pm. Reminder: this is a day of Fast and Abstinence

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass, April 3 – Blessing of Food at 2:30 pm, Divine Mercy Novena at 3 pm, Mass at 8 pm, online registration required (no morning Mass and no 5 pm Mass on Holy Saturday)

Easter Sunday, April 4 – Mass at 9 am (also livestreamed) and 11 am, online registration required, Divine Mercy Novena 15 minutes before all Masses

Easter Monday, April 5 – Mass at 9 am (registration not required)

* Please note: The Cardinal continues **to provide dispensation from Mass** for those who may not be able to attend for health/safety reasons or due to capacity restrictions.

Online Registration

Please register at www.stmarkstouffville.ca.

Reminders:

- The registration link to reserve your seat for Holy Week Masses will be made active on **Monday, March 29 at 7 pm**. Once you have clicked the link, you will be brought to an Eventbrite registration page.
- One registration form can be completed for a family who is attending together and who live in the same household.
- For one to two people attending together, choose 1 ticket. For three or more people attending together, choose 2 tickets. Only one person's name needs to be listed on the registration form.
- Once the registration form is completed, a ticket(s) will be emailed to you.
- Please only book a ticket if you are certain of attending; otherwise, you are taking away a chance for another parishioner to attend Mass.
- If the Mass you are trying to register for is at maximum capacity, the system will not allow you to complete the registration. Please check if there is another Mass that weekend that still has room and register for that one instead.
- If you do not have access to the internet, please call the church office at 905-640-6954 during office hours and a staff member will enter your registration for you.
- If you have mobility issues, please indicate this when registering.
- Online registration is not required for Divine Mercy Novena, Stations of the Cross, Confession, Eucharistic Adoration and Blessing of Food

Divine Mercy Novena Schedule

Good Friday, April 2, at 7:15 pm

Holy Saturday, April 3, at 3:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 4 - 15 minutes before all Sunday morning masses

Week of Easter Octave—after all masses

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11, 2021 - 15 minutes before all Sunday morning masses

Good Friday - Fast and Abstinence

Fasting: Anyone over the age of 18 and under the age of 59 is obliged to fast. Fasting, in the Latin Church, is the limitation of food and drink – typically to one main meal and two smaller meals, with no solid foods in between. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal.

Abstinence: Everyone over 14 years of age is bound to observe the law of abstinence. Abstaining, in this context, is the refraining from certain kinds of food or drink, typically meat. In lieu of fasting, one may substitute works of charity.

Sacrament of Confession Schedule

Fr. Michael will be available for the Sacrament of Confession **every Saturday (except Holy Saturday, April 3) following the morning Mass from 9:30 am to 10 am and again in the afternoon from 4 pm to 4:45 pm.** When you arrive, please sign in. You can also make an appointment to go to confession during the week by calling the church office at 905-640-6954 ext. 101.

Eucharistic Adoration – Fridays

We invite parishioners to come and spend some quiet time in Eucharistic Adoration. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place every Friday from 9:30 am to 12 noon (except on Good Friday) ending with Benediction. Online registration is not required to attend Adoration; however, we would like to ensure that there are **at least two people in the church each hour.** Please see the sign-up sheet at the back of the church. In the event of a funeral, Exposition will cease at 10:30 am.

Stations of the Cross- Lenten Fridays

The Stations of the Cross will be open to the public and livestreamed every Friday during Lent at 7:30 pm. Registration is not required if you are attending in-person, but we ask that you please sign in when you arrive. If viewing online, please go to our YouTube Channel: <https://bit.ly/StMarkYouTube>.

Church Open for Personal Prayer

The church will be open for personal prayer at the following times: Tuesday to Saturday from 9:30 AM 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. You are strongly encouraged to come to the Church for personal prayer time.

Church Office

The Church Office will be open Tuesdays from 9 am to 3:30 pm and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 12 noon. Please make an appointment if you need assistance by calling 905-640-6954 ext. 101 and leave a message or email stmarksoffice@bellnet.ca.

Treasure in Heaven Prayer Booklet

God wants to speak to you. He wants to tell you He loves you and much more.

When: Every Day for a few minutes

Where: at your convenience, preferably where it is quiet

How: Use the little prayer guide called “Treasure in Heaven” to help you pray!

These little booklets are **only \$1** and don't worry- there are no ‘long distance charges’!

Pick up a prayer guide today in the foyer of our church! *Answer the call to spend some time in prayer each day!*

St. Vincent de Paul Bundle Weekend – March 20/21

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul will have a Container Unit in our church parking lot on the weekend of **March 20th and 21st** accepting donations of clothing, footwear, bedding, drapery, towels, and toys (new or

nearly new). Please note they do not accept dishes, furniture, books, video/audio cassettes, construction materials or mattresses. Please bring your donations and help others in your community. Thank you!

Women's Ministry Online Zoom Meeting

The next Women's Ministry meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on March 29th at 7:30pm. *Let's pray the Stations of the Cross together on this Monday night of Holy Week. We're also going to talk about celebrating the Holy Triduum at home (with continued restrictions at Church). We'll also share about the Consecration to St. Joseph from those of us who are praying it right now to those who want to start it with their own family, on March 30th. No need to register, just meet us on ZOOM.*

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87093434937?pwd=a25Hd0wwTmt1a3ZhdFVoeTliVnlMQT09>
Meeting ID: 870 9343 4937 Passcode: 320172

Knight of Columbus Lenten Wheelchair Fundraiser

The St. Mark Knights of Columbus are holding a Lenten Wheelchair Fundraising Campaign to support the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation. Since 2003, the Knights of Columbus have sponsored the delivery of tens of thousands of wheelchairs to those in need around the world. During this Lenten Season, the Wheelchair Fundraiser is an opportunity to give independence, freedom, and hope through the gift of mobility. Our council is setting a goal of \$2000 so we can donate 10 wheelchairs to individuals in need in Panama and Paraguay. You can donate online at www.kofc10874.ca or donate in-person after mass. All donations are eligible to receive a tax receipt. Thank you sincerely for your support and God Bless.

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.

EDGE and High School Youth Programs

EDGE is online on April 16th - 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 March 26th - 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 or follow our Instagram account @stmarksyouthmin.

ShareLife

The 2021 ShareLife collection dates have been moved to the following weekends: **April 17-18, June 19-20, and October 2-3**. Please note the envelopes in your box will have different dates on them.

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. 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.

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>.