

St. Michael's Parish Newsletter

*A Welcoming Eucharistic Community,
Sharing Faith and Reaching Out to All.*



"Mary!" She turned and said to him, "Teacher" John. 20:1-18

My Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We gather during this Easter Triduum to celebrate the unexplainable mystery of our faith – that Jesus has crushed death forever.

By his resurrection, Jesus has destroyed the deadly effects of sin. He has done it, not by brute force and violence, but by being the Suffering Servant who willingly laid down his life so that every person loved into life by God, would have life forever.

Jesus has brought life back to the Garden – the Garden of Eden symbolizes the way God originally lived in joy, peace and intimacy with the whole of creation. In the Gospel quoted above, we read of another garden where Jesus finds Mary Magdalene, his beloved friend. Mary comes as a seeker, needing closure and proof of what seems unbelievable. She is desperately grieving and longing to see her lifetime friend, her Master, her Lord.

We have all experienced this dark part of the journey of life: We have experienced death. The Gospel of Easter tells us that Jesus and all of our loved ones who have died are still alive. Easter tells us that death is no longer to be feared, yet we forget this marvelous truth of our faith, and that is exactly why we gather on Easter Sunday. We don't pretend to be holier than those who aren't here; we come to remember! We gather each and every Sunday to remember. We retell the sacred stories and eat and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus.

The wonderful Easter discovery in the Gospel is that Mary was gazing directly at Jesus but she did not know him in his risen state until he called her name. Mary came to the tomb looking for the dead Jesus and through the miracle of Easter, she finds the living Lord, or even better, the Living Lord finds her. We may find ourselves disillusioned with life or filled with fear or shame about something in our life: God never stops calling us.

It is the loving and intimate voice of Jesus calling us each by name that shatters the old life and opens up a brand new future for us. Jesus calls us at Easter to stop grieving, stop sitting at the tomb in our life: Get on with proclaiming a new life.

Imagine for just a moment that you, like Mary, can say "I have seen the Lord"! We don't have to imagine because we do see the Lord at each and every Eucharist and in our brothers and sisters. Jesus is risen! He is the Lord of the living! May the Lord whom we have seen shine from our words and actions to light our world with LOVE!

I warmly welcome you to come and celebrate the power of being called by name.

Christ is Risen..... Alleluia !

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St. Michael's Parish

511 Cheapside St.

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To Our Readers

by Keith Rodrigues and Paul Tremblay, Editors

Preparation of this newsletter never fails to impress us with the talents, service and commitment of our parishioners. It is truly a joy for us to see the final product come together with new activities, events, and testimonials to share with you. Our aim is always to display the parish in action with the fruits of the young and the older pillars of our church.

With our 100th Anniversary well under way, Karen Owens reports on the successful activities that have already occurred and updates us on preparations for upcoming exciting anniversary events. One of these events was the parish mission with Father Chircop this past January; for those who missed it, Paul Tremblay recalls points of reflections that Fr. Chircop invited us to ponder.

In March, the students in grade eight from our parish celebrated their confirmation. As part of their preparation for this sacrament, students chose and reflected on the life and meaning of a saint; we present a few of their reflections in this issue. Sr. Kathy writes a touching

article on the importance of Joseph in her life; she also provides a rich historical description of the Sisters of St. Joseph from their foundation in 1650 in France to the work they do today in our parish. Other examples of our parish community in action are the work of the Catholic Women's League as described by Mary Maxwell and Joan Lobsinger and the Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound written by Dorothy Solomon. Terry Dollard, our passionate newsletter colleague, issues another challenge to parishioners who may harbour hidden writing talents. If you are wondering if you can write, you probably can; please do share your talent with us, and contribute to our newsletter!

As we reflect on this sacred season of Easter, we thank Father Murray for his poignant message that speaks to us in our own personal lives and guides us to experience the true meaning of Easter. We also take this opportunity to thank the entire pastoral team for their service and dedication to our church. We wish you a Blessed Easter.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday, April 6	8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. (All Day Confessions)		
Tuesday, April 19	10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 20	10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
(No confessions heard during the Sacred Triduum)			

Our **Newsletter Team** members are Bob Brown, John & Michelle Cavaliere, Terry Dollard, Carmen Gicante, Terry McBride, Keith Rodrigues, Dorothy Solomon, Vincent Taylor, and Paul Tremblay



Holy Week Schedule

Passion (Palm) Sunday

Saturday, April 16	5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, April 17	8:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. Mass
	7:00 p.m.	Evening of Taize Prayer
Monday, April 18	7:00 p.m.	Mass of Chrism at St. Peter's Cathedral

Easter Triduum

Throughout His Pascal mystery Jesus redeemed the human race and gave perfect glory to God. By dying, Christ destroyed our death; by rising, He restored our life.

Holy Thursday

We recall the Passover meal and the Lord's Supper. There is an emphasis on love and service. (John 13:1-15)

Thursday, April 21	7:30 p.m.	Mass of the Lord's Supper
	8:30 p.m.	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	Midnight	Night Prayer

Good Friday

We recall the familiar story of Jesus' Passion. (John 18:1-19:42) We fast and abstain today to honour the suffering and death of Jesus and to prepare to share more deeply in the joy of His resurrection.

Friday, April 22	10:00 a.m.	Stations of the Cross Lead by the Youth
	3:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy

Holy Saturday

We wait as a community before the tomb and look with hope toward the promise of resurrection. (Luke 24:1-12)

Saturday, April 23	9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	11:30 a.m.	Blessing of Easter Food
	9:00 p.m.	Celebration of the Easter Vigil

Culmination of the Triduum. We listen to Sacred Scripture; we renew our Baptismal Faith; We feast on the food that feeds us to be the Body of Christ

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 24	8:30 a.m.	Mass
	10:30 a.m.	Mass
	12:30 p.m.	Mass

There will be two Masses at 10:30 a.m., one in the church and one in the parish hall.

Please show courtesy in the Parking lot and on the streets.
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100th Anniversary Celebrations

by Karen Owens, Chairperson

BELIEVING † REMEMBERING † CELEBRATING

Our Mission with Father Philip Chircop provided us with a great start to our Anniversary Celebrations.

On a snowy January evening, forty parents and children who attended the Family Movie Night enjoyed the movie "Ice Age Dawn of Dinosaurs" while munching on freshly popped popcorn. Thank you to Michele and Michael Specht, Natalie Simek and Ram Venga for coordinating this event for our families.

In February, sixty couples received a special blessing during mass in celebration of their special Wedding Anniversary year. Each couple received a very beautiful certificate from Father Murray as well as a red carnation. It was wonderful to have so many family members and friends attend the celebration. Special thanks to Joanne Zwolski who coordinated the list of couples and created a beautiful setting with decorations and heritage displays. Members of the Anniversary Steering Committee adorned the Parish Hall with antiques such as wedding dresses, christening gowns, dolls, record players and old records, telephones, a typewriter, old toys, tools, and many other household items which provided all of us with a "walk down memory lane". For our youngsters, it was a fascinating insight into our rich heritage. Over 700 people attended the reception and enjoyed some goodies and refreshments. Thank you to all the people who lent their antiques for the displays. To all members who helped throughout the weekend, thank you for making this event so memorable for everyone.



Mrs. Lucier's Grade 8 class at St. Catherine of Siena School wrote a beautiful prayer which our committee adapted to reflect our church anniversary. Thank

you to these students for this, Our Centennial Prayer, which will be prayed at masses throughout the year.

100 Years of Believing, Remembering and Celebrating

*Thank you, God,
For St. Michael's Parish,
For being one with our Parish
For 100 years.*

*We believe
You are always with us*

*Thank you, God,
For giving us the call
To remember*

*The less fortunate, those who are suffering,
The lost and the lonely.*

*Let us gather in our celebrations this year
To remember*

*Our ancestors whose strength and faithfulness
Gave us our rich heritage.*

*Thank you, God, for the
Faithful who have gathered together
For over a century*

*To celebrate
And share at Your table.*

*Thank you, God,
May we be a warm,
Welcoming, Eucharistic community
Reaching out to all.*

*Thank you, God, for giving us
St. Michael to protect our parish family.
We believe, we remember and we celebrate.*

*Lord, may this jubilee year
Be a time to reflect
On the spirit of our pioneers
And the hopes of our youth
As we go forth into the next 100 years!*

AMEN



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1911 to 2011

Thanks to the leadership of Lynda Ducharme's committee, the Family Photo Directory will be ready in the late spring. Families who had their portrait taken will receive a free directory, and extra copies will be available for sale.

Our 'Heritage Cookbook' has been such a huge success that 200 additional copies have been printed. These are available through the church office for \$10 and make excellent Easter and Mother's Day gifts.

Upcoming events include the Celebration of Fr. John's 40th Anniversary in the priesthood on May 7 and 8, the Heritage Tea on June 1, and the Ticket sale for the November 5th Gala beginning May 1st.

As spring arrives, the Anniversary Steering Committee wishes our parish family a blessed Easter with many new beginnings.

As Easter people, "Hallelujah is our song!"



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The Catholic Women's League

by Mary Maxwell and Joan Lobsinger



Who can join the Catholic Women's League?

All women are welcome to join the Catholic Women's League of Canada. As a woman in our parish, you are eligible to join if you are age 16 and older. Whether you are single, married, separated, divorced or widowed, you can belong to the

League and are welcomed to participate in all activities.

Why should you join the Catholic Women's League?

The League has many opportunities and activities for faith development from which you will be able to choose. These include:

- Prayer reflections at meetings
- Speakers specializing in thoughts for the heart and soul
- Celebratory Masses
- Sharing the wonder of how God was there for you
- Celebrating the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation with a commemorative gift

Members have fun together, and sometimes the friendships that are developed last a lifetime! Activities also include:

- Laughing together while working on projects
- Carpooling to meetings
- Hosting social events such as a Christmas party or pot luck dinner
- Having camaraderie and conversation while sharing refreshments at meetings
- Having 'sleepovers' at conventions

Members discover personal fulfillment in activities such as:

- Taking the league's concerns to government asking them to effect change. i.e. White Ribbon Against Pornography
- Learning about managing various health concerns
- Assisting those in missions and developing countries i.e. Save A Family, Chalice, etc.
- Assisting various local charities i.e. St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre, Birthright, My Sister's Place, Women's Community House, etc.
- Supporting the bereavement ministry by providing funeral lunches

Don't have time to attend meetings?

That's okay, there are lots of things you could do from home to help the Catholic Women's League.

- You can offer up prayers for the Catholic Women's League organization that they will succeed in their endeavours.
- You could help out once or twice a year by sending baked goods for the bake sale.
- You can donate goods to the Birthright Shower in December or to the Women's Community House Shower in June.

Come join us as members walk together "For God and Canada." It doesn't cost much, and the rewards are priceless! We'd love you to join us in The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Watch your life change for the better!



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Do you like to Write?

by Terry Dollard

Do you enjoy writing letters, essays, articles, blogs, news reports etc.? Maybe you were one of the kids in your class whose writing talent stood out, but you have had no opportunity to exercise that ability now that you are out in the working world. If your answer to this question is "yes!" then St Michael's newsletter is the perfect place for you to exercise and share your creative side. You will experience a very satisfying outlet for your desire to create and, at the same time, you will enable your fellow parishioners to learn more about the happenings in St. Michael's Parish. There is a myriad of subjects to be covered in our future issues, and we would love to welcome a new diversity of talents.

We are always looking for new members to partici-



pate on the newsletter committee; however, it is not necessary to be on the committee to write for the newsletter. Also, if you have ideas for newsworthy topics related to our parish that would make good newsletter articles, we would love to hear from you. We welcome all suggestions.

Interested?

Then just contact the parish office at 519-433-6689 or one of the two Newsletter Editors: Keith Rodrigues keith@therods.net or Paul Tremblay paultremblay@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you soon – YOU can be an important part of our Newsletter's future.

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My Friend, Joseph

by Sr. Kathy, Pastoral Minister

*"Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter:
whoever finds one has found a treasure." Sirach 6: 14*

My whole life long I have been in relationship with a wonderful friend, who grows dearer through the years. His name is "Joseph." He is a loving, steadfast presence, a gentle, accepting man. Joseph is husband of Mary, father of Jesus, carpenter, supporter of workers, patron of the universal church, protector of our country, Canada, role model of parents, dreamer of dreams that changed his life. We are so grateful for his "yes" to God!

My grandmother had a deep devotion to St. Joseph. My father, Joseph, was named after him. When I was baptized, it was in a church named in his honour. My education was acquired in a learning environment in which a beautiful wooden carving of St. Joseph greeted me every day. As a child, I visited my aunt in various convents where this humble God-filled man was cherished. My love of music was developed under the careful eye of a Sister of St. Joseph, as she instructed me in how to master playing the piano. Once I moved to London, the huge house on the hill, on Richmond Street North, became a familiar vantage point. Mount St. Joseph was a place where I felt welcome and its exquisite chapel filled me with a sense of awe!

During a time of illness, I found refuge and experienced comfort as I was restored to a sense of well-being in a hospital named for this compassionate man, Joseph. The Sisters of St. Joseph were a caring presence in a time of need. As a struggling student, when my financial re-

sources were running low, Joseph came to my aid in the most surprising ways! At one point in my life, I was employed by the Sisters of St. Joseph in their Guest Wing, offering solace to families of patients in hospital and to persons anxiously awaiting transplants.

Over the years, I have come to respect, admire and love many women who have committed their lives to the service of "the dear neighbour," under the patronage of St. Joseph. I have benefitted tremendously from their generosity in sharing their gifts of time, talent, wisdom, and spiritual counsel, as well as their thirst for justice and joie de vivre.

Over twelve years ago, I began to share life with the Sisters of St. Joseph on a daily basis, as I first moved in with them in their Regional House in Edmonton, Alberta. My life, as a Sister of St. Joseph, has led me to reach out to countless persons and to receive abundant blessings in return. My deep affection for Joseph grew as I called upon him daily for intercession for persons in need, including myself. He is a reliable recourse, a trustworthy companion. Joseph has guided me safely on my journeys. As my own beloved father was on his journey home to God, I entrusted him to Joseph, patron of the dying.

As we celebrate the recent canonization of a Canadian, St André of Montreal, a man who with outstanding confidence turned to Joseph repeatedly, I urge you

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as well, in time of need, "Go to Joseph!" You will never find a truer friend!!! Traditionally, the month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. His feast days are March 19th and May 1st.

The Sisters of St. Joseph

Our roots, as Sisters of St. Joseph, are in LePuy, France. In 1650, Fr. Jean-Pierre Medaille, a Jesuit priest, gathered six courageous women to form a community who responded with active and inclusive love to the needs of persons who were marginalized. The Sisters were not cloistered and worked to support themselves, especially by making lace. From 1789 to 1794, during the French Revolution, many of the Sisters were imprisoned, some even guillotined. Other Sisters escaped by taking refuge in their family homes. Thirteen years later in 1807, at the request of the Bishop of Lyons, Mother St. John Fontbonne (one of the Sisters who had been imprisoned) gathered a community of former religious. Through Mother St. John and several other Sisters of St. Joseph, this new congregation continued the tradition of the first community founded by Fr. Medaille.

The membership continued to grow, and the Sisters quickly set up houses throughout France, and then in Europe and the Americas. In 1836, six Sisters of St. Joseph settled in St. Louis, Missouri in the United States. Many communities were founded throughout the United

States. Responding to yet another invitation, four Sisters set out from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and arrived in Toronto, Ontario in 1851. The London Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph was established in 1868 to meet the needs of education, the care of orphans, and ministry to the elderly and the infirm. At the present time, there are six Congregations which make up the Canadian Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. There is a world-wide network of Sisters of St. Joseph whose membership numbers approximately 14,000 in about fifty-four countries. The Associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph continue to increase in number and are a very vibrant part of our Congregations.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of London's connection with St. Michael's School is as principal, teacher or volunteer. At St. Michael's Parish, some of our Sisters and Associates are parishioners, some are involved in various ministries, and some have been or are presently Parish Pastoral Staff members. We are very grateful to God for our relationships with each and every one of you at St. Michael's. May God abundantly bless all of us during this our One Hundredth Anniversary Year !!!

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Ephesians 3: 20-21

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Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound

by Dorothy Solomon

Called by Jesus through Baptism into his passion, death and resurrection and anointed by the Spirit, we, the people of God in the Diocese of London, are to be living signs of Christ's presence in the world today.

Our Eucharistic Ministry to the homebound and those in nursing homes ensures that these parishioners who, for health reasons, are unable to attend Mass will still receive a visit and Communion once weekly. Eucharistic Ministers bring joy and strength on behalf of the Sunday assembly at Mass. The Ministry of Communion grants them the great privilege of looking a fellow Catholic Christian in the eye with comfort and reverence for they are members of the Body of Christ.

Eucharistic Ministers are confirmed Catholics who have been appointed by the Pastor for this service. When we celebrate the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Thanksgiving, we share in a sacred meal. Our Eucharistic Ministers bring a portion of this to the homebound and nursing home residents in the parish. St. Michael's has seven Eucharistic Ministers who visit homebound parishioners. They visit from one to three people each monthly, bi-weekly or weekly following the weekend Masses.

Katherine and Ken are a couple who typically visit one shut-in person at home and twelve at Masonville Manor. When I asked them what it meant to them to offer this great service, their heartfelt response was, "We are so blessed." Katherine said, "As a Eucharistic Minister to shut-ins, I'm truly privileged to be one of God's many messengers taking the Blessed Sacrament to the homes of our brothers and sisters. The experience of being in the company of these wonderful people whose faith and love of God is so strong is very inspirational and gratifying. Of all the ministries, this has to be the most satisfying. The shut-ins are so very thankful to be able to receive the Eucharist when they are unable to attend mass, and I consider myself blessed to meet this need."

Our Eucharistic Ministers are indeed fulfilling our call to be living signs of Jesus's presence

in the world, and their work brings comfort to families in the parish who have relatives who are house bound. A little known fact about the ministry to the shut-ins is that once a month, on Thursdays, Father Murray offers mass at Amica Retirement Home, Chateau Gardens Nursing Home, Masonville Place Retirement Home and McGarrell Place Nursing Home. Although our parish community spans a vast area, we try to ensure that it is well looked after spiritually.

To learn more about the Eucharistic Ministry or become involved, visit our website at www.stmichaels.dioceseoflondon.ca and click on Ministries, or call the Parish Office.



TALENTS NEEDED

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Confirmed in Our Faith, Called to Be Saints

All Confirmation candidates, in preparation for this Sacrament of Initiation, were invited to choose a saint and to reflect on that saint's life, their Christian example and ways in which that saint calls them to lead a life of holiness in their everyday living. Here are some of the candidates' reflections!



I chose St. Michael as my role model because he shows leadership by commanding God's army. I also chose him because he is loyal to God with his army of angels, and he was brave when he fought off the devil. I can use this in real life; for example I use leadership on my sports team and loyalty with my friends, and I know when I'm using good instead of evil.

Eric Bannister, St. Michael School

I am being confirmed with the name Mella. St. Mella was mother of two saints, Cannech and Tigernach. She lived in Connaught, Ireland and died c.780 of natural causes. Her feast day is April 25th. She was born in a rich family but left wealth and honour to live for the poor people and spread God's word.

Mella Kim, St. Catherine of Siena School

I am being confirmed with the name Joseph. We know Joseph was a carpenter and a compassionate man.

He was man of faith, obedient to whatever God asked of him without knowing the outcome. When the angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him the truth about the child Mary was carrying, Joseph im-



mediately and without question or concern for gossip, took Mary as his wife. When the angel came again to tell him that his family was in danger, he immediately left everything he owned, all his family and friends, and fled to a strange country with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt without question

until the angel told him it was safe to go back.

We know Joseph loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. Not only did he leave his home to protect Jesus, but he returned with his family and settled in the obscure town of Nazareth out of fear for their lives. When the young Jesus was in the Temple, we are told Joseph and Mary searched for him with great anxiety for three days.

Joseph told me many things on how to be a Christian. For one, we must always be caring, kind and be loyal to everyone we meet. He also spread the word of God and that helps others to know what Jesus and God have given us in this world in this lifetime!

Brandon Weir, St. Mary Choir School

I'm being confirmed with the name Catherine. St. Catherine of Alexandria lived c. 282-305 A.D. in Alexandria Egypt. She was a Christian leader because she

tried to stop the Roman Emperor Maxentius from persecuting all the Christians. She also converted the emperor's wife and many other people into Christianity. Because Maxentius hated all Christians, he sent Catherine to jail for converting people to Christianity. When people visited her in jail, she converted them, which made the emperor very



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angry and sent her to death. She was supposed to be put to death on the breaking wheel (a type of torture), but the wheel itself broke when she touched it. She was then sent to death by beheading. She taught me that no matter where you are (such as in prison) you can still spread the word of God to everyone. Even though things were rather tough, she never turned away from God. She always depended on Him and loved Him no matter what!

Kathleen Watkins, St. Catherine of Siena School

I would like to be confirmed with the name Joshua, not because it is my name, but because I think Joshua was a great role model and saint. Saint Joshua lived at the end of the fifteenth century BC. He was the central character in the Hebrew Bible Book of Joshua and became the leader of the Israelites, leading them into Canaan. Joshua taught me that having faith in God is all that you really need sometimes and that being a great leader can really help others.

Joshua Benoit, St. Mark School

I am being confirmed with the name St. Brigid of Ireland. She was born in Ireland in 451 or 452 and died on February 1, 525. Her feast day is February 1st. I was looking for a patron saint of the disabled, and I liked her story. St. Brigid came from a family with money, but her father sold her mother to be a slave and tried to sell her into slavery also. St. Brigid sold all of her gold and jewels so that she could free her mother and help others who were needy. She then asked God to make her ugly so she could love God alone and no one else would love her. Once she became a nun, God made her more beautiful than ever. She spent her life helping the poor and needy; the sick came to her to be cared for. She had an extraordinary spirituality, charity and compassion for those in need. St. Brigid founded many convents in Ireland, and she is known as a patron saint of Ireland like St. Patrick.



St. Brigid taught me that love, happiness and kindness to others are more important than beautiful jewels. I liked that she helped the sick (disabled) people because I am hearing impaired, and I know that it is good to get help when it is needed. I would like to help hearing-impaired children, in some way, when I grow up.

Megan Kogler, Blessed Kateri School

St. Rita lived in Italy from 1381 to 1457. St. Rita asked God to share His pain, and a thorn from the crown of a figure of the crucified Jesus fell on her forehead. St. Rita became a nun and a Christian leader serving others by doing a lot of charity work, because she had a strong love for others. She also served the sick, poor, and small communities. St. Rita spread the word of God by teaching younger nuns about the Gospel and preached to the others around her.

St. Rita teaches me that a Christian should have love and forgiveness for others, and that one should often pray to God because he is always waiting there above to listen to us. She teaches me that one needs to be devoted to their faith no matter what other people say or think whether it is family or friends and that one should always stick with their first instinct because, even though there are many obstacles through life, what your heart tells you is the right way to go.

Rachelle Eldik, St. Mary Choir School

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The Parish Mission with Father Chircop

Have you RSVP'd to the Great Banquet Yet?

Father Philip Chircop led another inspiring mission over three evenings at St. Michael's parish this past January. He preached on the themes of A Church that Rocks and Rolls, A Church on Fire, and A Church of Easter People. Allow me to reflect on a few poignant messages from the mission.

1. *Go, Build My Church.* We can look to St. Francis, who heard the voice of Christ: "Go, Build My Church," to understand what it really means to be part of Christ's Church. As Fr. Chircop points out, the Church is much more than a physical building. It is a movement that asks of us a lifetime commitment of mission, ministry, poverty and service.

2. *We were born for the road.* "We are pilgrims on a journey." What does Fr. Chircop mean here? The first image that appeared in my mind was of Jesus telling His disciples to leave their things and to follow Him on a mission that would involve a lot of walking. Our own journeys can also take many directions: business trips overseas, crossing the continent on a motorcycle to understand the death of a loved one, participating in a World Youth Day, cloistering oneself and exploring the depth of the mind, heart, and soul, or watching the journeys of our children.

3. *A house built on a solid foundation or shifting sand?* "and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love" (letter of Paul to the Ephesians 3-17). In Fr. Chircop's words: "Our building is on shifting sand when we are living a superficial life. Seeds can fall in deep fertile soil or shallow superficial ground. Take the plunge in the dark, moist and deep soil. Once rooted, you have nothing to fear." I am reminded that in our increasingly complex world, we are still responsible for the choices we make, and hopefully we develop the values and convictions to guide us onto the right path.

4. *Water, fire, and wind: three symbols of a movement.* It would be interesting to go through the Bible and identify

when, where and how many times these symbols appear. How peaceful were the waters on the day of the baptism of Jesus? How comforting was that charcoal fire and breakfast that Jesus prepared for seven disciples by the sea of Tiberias after His resurrection? How majestic was the wind on the day of the Pentecost?

5. *"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!" (Luke 12-49).* Father Chircop reminds us that kindling the flames of the Church is an ongoing process. He invites us to ask ourselves a few relevant questions: Is my heart burning within me? Does it need to be rekindled? How shall I catch the fire of passion, justice, and compassion? To this last question, he proposes that we find something to die for, that we dream and imagine, and that we pray for a simple grace to catch fire and to become prophets of bloom.

6. *We are invited to the great banquet of God.* The only requirement for the invitation according to Fr. Chircop is that we must be hungry. "Have we RSVP'd yet?" he asks. I did a bit of research on the definition of RSVP (répondez s'il vous plaît) and found that the etiquette to be followed when you receive a formal invitation is to reply promptly, **PREFERABLY THE SAME DAY**, because the host was nice enough to invite you, and it would be a courtesy to let the host know if you will be attending or not. I pray to Mary, Mother of God, to help us find our common sense to reply promptly rather than to delay or to even misplace our invitation in the pile of T4 slips, bills, or junk mail.

Appropriately, for this time of the year, Fr. Chircop ended his discourse with a reminder from St. Augustine: We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!



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St. Michael's Parish, 511 Cheapside St., London, ON N5Y 3X5

Phone: 519-433-6689

Fax: 519-433-2301

E-mail: stmichlon@dol.ca www.stmichaels.dioceseoflondon.ca

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.



Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Weekday Masses

Tuesday & Thursday: 12:00 noon

Wednesday & Friday: 8:00 a.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.

African Caribbean Catholic Community Mass

4th Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m.

Children's Ministries

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Mass

Liturgy of the Word: Grades 2, 3 and 4

Sunday School: Aged 3 to Grade 1

Babysitting: Infants to age 3

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 10:00 - 11 a.m. and 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Free Bus Service to 10:30 a.m. Mass

The route . . .

- 9:50 Richmond & Windemere
770 Fanshawe Park Rd. east of Fremont
- 10:00 Adelaide St. & Fanshawe Park Rd. bus stop
south
Adelaide/Kipps Lane 1st bus stop
Kipps Lane/Barker St. bus stop west
McNay/Huron St.
Huron St. bus stop east of Wedgewood Dr.
- 10:15 Royal Oak Apartments 1136 Adelaide St.
St. Michael's Church

*The bus will stop at regular bus stops or wherever it is hailed
along the route.*



Pastoral Team

Father Murray Sample, Pastor

msample@dol.ca

ext. 202

Father John Sharp, Associate Pastor

jsharp@dol.ca

ext. 205

Sr. Kathy O'Keefe

kokeefe@dol.ca

ext. 203

Natalie Simek, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

nsimek@dol.ca

ext. 206

Lorne Plooard, Pastoral Minister

lplooard@dol.ca

ext. 215

Staff

Pat Estabrooks, Receptionist/Secretary

stmichlon@dol.ca

ext. 201

Jolanda Squire, Financial Secretary

jsquire@dol.ca

ext. 200

Sid Wocks, Hall Coordinator

ext. 210

Parish Council Chairperson

John Coderre

Calendar of Events

Palm Sunday	April 17
Holy Thursday	April 21
Good Friday	April 22
Holy Saturday	April 23
Easter Sunday	April 24
First Communion	?????
Pentecost Sunday	June 12
Parish Picnic	?????

New Parishioners? Moving?

We invite all new parishioners to register with the Parish. The registration form is available at the Welcome Desk or parish office. If you have recently changed your address or phone number, please advise the parish office.