

St. Michael's Parish Newsletter

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



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.

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

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 of John, 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 better, the Living Lord finds her. We may find ourselves disillusioned with life or sometimes filled with fear or shame, but 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 and to stop sitting at the tomb in our life - to 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 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.

Fr. Murray

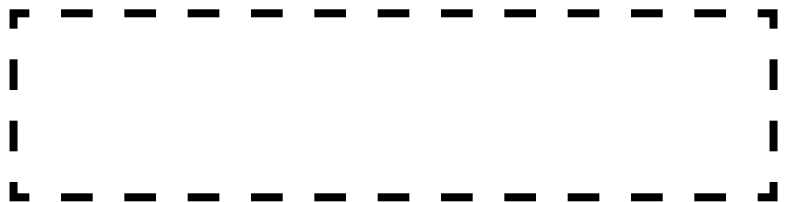
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Christ is Risen..... Alleluia !

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday – March 31st & April 1st

March 31st at 5:00pm

April 1st at 8:30am; 10:30am; 12:30pm

April 1st at 7:00pm – Evening of Taizé Prayer

Mass of Chrism – April 2nd

7:00pm – St. Peter's Cathedral

Sacred Triduum (3 Days)

Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday

Holy Thursday – April 5th

Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30pm

8:30pm Adoration of the Eucharist until 12:00
midnight

Night Prayer at Midnight

Good Friday – April 6th

10:00am – Stations of the Cross Lead by the Youth
3:00pm – Divine Liturgy

Holy Saturday – April 7th

9:00am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Blessing of Easter Food (Tradition of
many Europeans)

Easter Vigil – April 7th

7:30pm - Culmination of the Triduum.

We listen to Sacred Scripture; we renew our
Baptismal Faith;

We Feast on the Body and Blood of Christ, that feeds
us to be the Body of Christ

Easter Sunday – April 8th

8:30am; 10:30am; 12:30pm

(at the 10:30 am mass there will be a second mass
celebrated in the Parish Hall for the overflow crowd)
Please show courtesy in the Parking lot and on the
streets. Please do not block driveways.

Sacrament of Penance

Wednesday, March 21st (All Day Confessions)

8:30am – 8:30pm

Tuesday, March 27th - 10:00am-11:00am; 3:00pm-
4:00pm; 7:00pm-8:00pm

Wednesday, March 28th - 10:00am-11:00am;
3:00pm-4:00pm; 7:00pm-8:00pm

(No confessions heard during the Sacred Triduum)

Our **Newsletter Team** members are Michelle and John Cavaliere, Carmen Gicante, Terry McBride, Lorne Plooard, Keith Rodrigues, Nic Snary, and Paul Tremblay

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It brings us great pleasure once again to introduce another series of articles by our sisters and brothers in the parish as we start the next 100 years at St. Michael's. Father Murray introduces the newsletter with the great message of Hope at Easter: "Mary!"

In this issue we begin a series on the Sacraments. In Crossing the Threshold of Hope, Pope John Paul II writes "The action of the word becomes the action of the sacraments. What else are the sacraments (all of them!), if not the action of Christ in the Holy Spirit?" Lorne Plooard begins the series with the sacrament of the Eucharist. Natalie MacKay asked students who will be confirmed this year to reflect on their 20 hours of service to our parish family and the wider community. See how our young parishioners were inspired by this activity. Deacon Gaston Mabaya writes about how he became a deacon and his role at St. Michael's. We also learn about Fr. Biju's journey, the charitable society Magnificata that he founded, and his work with parishioners who need support to learn English. Sr. Kathy describes the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program and reflections from the candidates.

Hopefully none of us will ever see bombs explode in our neighbourhood. Unfortunately some members of our parish have had that tragic experience. Mary Ann Colihan writes about such a family – our Iraqi refugee family. May they find the peace they deserve in our great community.

As we enter into the next 100 years of the St. Michael parish we include two presentations made during last year's mission with Father Fragomeni. Scott Veenliet reflects on the words spoken during Mass and how the Mass is a celebration of God's Holy Word. Dorothy Solomon ponders the next 100 years at St. Michael's Parish and what it means to go in peace to glorify the Lord.

As always, we invite our readers to send us their comments about the newsletter, including suggestions for future articles. We also invite anyone interested in writing an article to contact the editors. And we are always looking forward to welcome new members to the Newsletter team, not only to write but also to help with the collection of articles.



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The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults — RCIA 2011 by Sister Kathy O'Keefe



Since Wednesday, October 5th, 2011, a group of people have been gathering together weekly in our parish to pray, learn more about the Roman Catholic faith, and to share their life experiences with one another. This journey is known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or R.C.I.A. This pastoral year Jonathan Hudson, Jennifer Johnson, Donah Mageto, Nicole McLean and Erika Ouellette are seeking Baptism. At the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 7th, they will be receiving the sacraments of Initiation — Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Mwaimba Chileshe and Lee Doyle have been baptized in the Anglican faith tradition and wish to be in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. They will be receiving the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. James Kim was baptized in the Roman Catholic Church as an infant and he desires to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. These sacraments will all be celebrated at the Easter Vigil, the highlight of our Church year. Shannon Dewan, from St. Patrick's Parish in Lucan, ON has joined us this year for the R.C.I.A. process in order that she may have a group of people with whom to interact. Shannon will celebrate her sacraments at her home parish of St. Patrick's. Our parishioners who have been supporting our catechumens and candidates are Bill Dika, Mark Sumarah, James Giir, Jeff Placzek, Sarah Plooard, Paul Theriault, Deacon Gaston Mabaya, Greg Smith-Windsor, and Cheri Roy.

After the homily on Sundays at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, the catechumens and candidates have been dismissed in order that I can lead them in Breaking Open God's Word. During this time together, we engage the Scriptures for that particular Sunday by reflecting, discussing and applying the Word of God to our lives. Some of the R.C.I.A. candidates have also been involved in preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage and the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist for their children. This is a very rich year of blessings for them!

On the First Sunday of Lent, February 26, 2012, our candidates and their sponsors participated in the

Rite of Calling to Lenten Renewal at the 10:30 a.m. Mass with Fr. Murray Sample presiding. That same day, in the afternoon, Bishop Fabbro invited all of the catechumens and their godparents to join him at St. Peter's Cathedral for the Rite of Election. This rite includes the Enrollment of Names in the Book of the Elect, which means that our catechumens are now known as the Elect. This event was a wonderful diocesan celebration!

As our Parish Director of the RCIA process, I find it a delight to accompany this group as we all try to draw closer to our loving God. I am grateful for such an opportunity. I asked the participating candidates to reflect on their experience so far this year. These are some of their comments:

"This path I have taken is one of joy and happiness."

"Every Wednesday and Sunday are always the highlights of my week."

"Each session has been a joy because I have learned something new and felt the presence of God."

"... good place to bring questions and have discussions."

"I have enjoyed meeting other hopeful seekers of the Word of God and feel comfort that I am not alone in my journey."

"R.C.I.A. has opened my mind and brought me closer to others that have the same values and questions regarding God and the Catholic faith. I feel that, as we learn and pray together, we become closer and thus feel a belonging similar to a family."

"I feel that I have come to better know myself and the goals I want in life."

"Hearing all of the different stories inspires me to be a better person and to carry out God's words."

"Having the Breaking Open of the Word during Mass has helped me understand what the Scriptures mean and how I can bring it into my life."

Servant Leaders: Reflections from Confirmation Candidates

by Natalie MacKay

The Sacrament of Confirmation calls us to be servant leaders like Jesus. This year, our Confirmation candidates were asked to share 20 hours of their time and talents with our parish community and the wider community. Here are some reflections on how these hours of service has impacted their faith life and why service is an important part of life of a being Catholic.

Natalie MacKay



Emily Devito (Blessed Kateri). At the Christmas Concert and at the 10:30am Christmas Day mass I greeted people, handed out programs/

bulletins, and helped with the collection. I was an altar server at the Confirmation retreat mass. I decorated place mats and sometimes I help out at the Welcome Desk. During the Christmas holidays my family and I spent time helping out at the London food bank sorting non-perishable items and then boxing them. I, along with many other students, went to St. Peter's Seminary to scrub the chapel pews with lemon oil. There we had fun and learned more about God and some of the saints.

Alyssa Pascual (Mother Theresa). I participated in different services; my favorite is being a greeter. I always feel happy when someone comes in and I would be holding the door for them and they would smile and say "Thank you" or "Hello." I feel happy about this simple gesture that I make a point to hold a door for someone and maybe see them smile. For me these services will become a daily habit. When I progress in life it will be a part of me and I will be helping in my own simple way.

Jake Beukeboom (St. Michael's). I have assisted the elderly with yard work, helping for a fund-raising dance, and polishing wood at St. Peter's Seminary; as well as continuing with my altar-serving duties. My most memorable experience was going to the seminary and polishing the chapel. I think service is an important part of being a young Catholic because we are called to help others through the sharing of our gifts and talents. By doing the service hours, I was

more able to understand the impact of helping others on both me and those I served.

Alecia (Lord Roberts French Immersion Public School). I have participated in services such as making hampers for the homeless and volunteering at the food bank. Throughout this process, I have learned that there are people in our community that need service more than others, and it felt really good knowing that I was helping someone that truly needed my help. This has helped me prepare for my confirmation because it helped me to restore my faith within me.



Aurene Pascual (Mother Theresa). I have been a volunteer for the Sports Sundays of St. Michael's, and so far I am enjoying the time I spend with kids. I was also a greeter in church. As a Catholic I was given the gift of faith, and through these activities in which I participated, I was given the opportunity to interact with people who were blessed with the same gift as mine. Sharing it is one way of thanking God for His

gift. Seeing people smile gives me a feeling of contentment too. Doing service has helped me realize how valuable our God-given gifts are.

Adam Fisher (St. Michael's).

I have greeted people at the mission, helped set up the children's Christmas party, helped set up my school's family dance and some other things. They have showed me how much fun it can be to help out at church. You always have time to help others and you don't have to be an adult to contribute to your community. My service hours have affected my life by getting me to look for ways to help out and get me to help out more. I will still try to help out now that this has got me started.

Nathanya Jayasooriya (St. Michael's). I drew place mats for the Northern Hospitality Collaboration for their social gathering for Valentine's Day. I spent lot of time drawing as I want to convey the message of "LOVE." I wrote "When we are hungry, Love will keep us alive." I wanted to connect these messages from Valentine's



to Jesus's love. I expected readers to come to understand that even though there are times we feel sad, there will always be someone who cares for us. During my service at St. Peter's Cathedral I experienced love, caring and acceptance. Even though I am new to this community I wasn't excluded.

Chloe Williams (St. Catherine

of Siena). I have done crafts with little ones or just "played" with them. I also went to St. Peter's helping to stuff envelopes for the St. Peter's Seminary Foundation. I also have earned some hours at Boler Mountain doing track 3 and teaching people with disabilities how to ski. Doing these hours has helped me see life in a different way. It shows that I can help even by doing one little thing. Service hours are the stepping stone for the rest of our lives.

Timothy Rebelo (St. Catherine of Siena). I have been an alter server. These hours have affected my view on life because I have realized that helping others is what truly makes us holy, and it does not empty us but only fills us with the feeling of kindness. I think that it helps me as a young Catholic because we can tend to lose sight of what God wants us to do. These service hours have helped me back on track with what God wants us to do.



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The Journey and Mission of a Priest

by Father Biju John and Paul Tremblay

Lent is a time for us to reflect with ardent faith to change ourselves to become one with Jesus so that we can give ourselves to receive life from Christ. The mission of Christ is to give life to us. He became the obedient son unto his death. Jesus was unwavering in his mission. When we change those habits from our lives which prevent us from absorbing the image of Christ into our lives, we become Christ like.

Fr. Biju in one of his earlier written reflections on the message of lent



Fr. Biju was ordained as a priest in 1998 at Lourde Forane Church, Trivandrum, Kerala, India. He served about two years in the diocese of Changanacherry. In 2001, he pursued graduate studies in information technology in London England and assisted at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Arnos Grove, London. He completed his doctorate degree in Information Technology from Kingston University in London England.

At the end of last year, Fr. Biju started a support group with a few volunteers at St. Michael's for people learning English. This group now meets Monday evenings at 7 P.M for supportive activities to help new members of the community make friends and develop their English skills.



One of Fr. Biju's projects is perhaps connected to two young saints that have inspired him: St. Thérèse of Lisieux and St. Dominic Savio. In 2000, Fr. Biju started a hospice, Magnificata, and a charitable society that focuses on education and health care in developing countries. He was inspired to develop Magnificata while visiting Kerala and coming face to face with the sufferings of terminally ill children and their caregivers. He set out to organise emergency relief to meet the material and spiritual needs of the poor and the needy.

The Magnificata Hospice, located in Trivandrum, Kerala, India, is a home to sick children and their families who have to travel to Trivandrum for medical treatment. Magnificata provides a welcome, supportive and secure environment to out-of-town families of seriously ill or injured children who are in Trivandrum receiving medical treatment.

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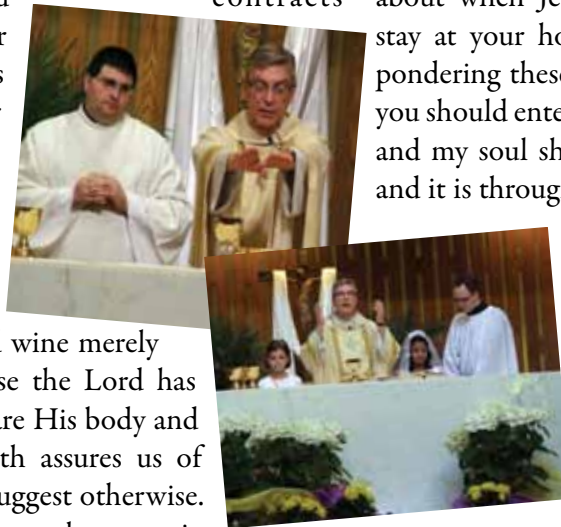
I once had the privilege of listening to Cardinal Thomas Collins give a spectacular homily about the Eucharist. He described the Eucharist as the genuine heart of his relationship with Jesus. Cardinal Collins spoke about the natural rhythm at which the heart beats. The heart is meant to beat regularly. From this steady and constant rhythm life is given to the body. This is his point: the Eucharist is the life giving organ for our relationship with Jesus. Like a heart, the Eucharist expands and contracts

to draw us ever deeper into the life of Jesus and to animate our relationship with Him. If the Eucharist was merely bread and wine it could not accomplish this. Therefore, do not see in the bread and wine merely natural elements, because the Lord has expressly said that they are His body and His blood, and our faith assures us of this, though our senses suggest otherwise. The bread and the wine no longer exist after consecration and, from that moment on, are really before us the adorable Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus.

The Eucharist is not only about the change of bread and wine but equally the change that occurs within us. In every mass, the Eucharist becomes for us an experience of a radically new direction for our lives. Let me explain: there is a natural yearning in every person to respond to Jesus' ministry in a way that alters their whole life much like the story of Zacchaeus (Lk. 19:1-10). After welcoming Jesus into his home, the tax collector is completely transformed, and his

encounter with Jesus sends him in a new direction. He decides to give half of his possessions to the poor and to repay fourfold those whom he had defrauded. Imagine this joy-filled discovery of giving to the poor and building bonds of reconciliation. Zacchaeus was different after he welcomed Jesus into his house. What was he thinking about when Jesus said to him, "Zacchaeus I must stay at your house today?" Perhaps Zacchaeus was pondering these words, "Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof but only say the word and my soul shall be healed." The Eucharist is Jesus and it is through this sacrament that Jesus enters into our lives to give us a radically new direction.

I know we do not naturally associate Easter with the most Holy Eucharist. But we should. The Eucharist is intimately tethered to Holy Week and the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus signified his death that was to come on the Cross as He said, "This is my body, this is my blood given for you." In showing a division between his body and his blood through the consecration of bread that is separate from the consecration of wine Jesus indicates the separation of his blood from his own body that would occur on the cross. The next day, Jesus did give his body and he shed his blood as he was crucified, and in death his blood was separated from his body. The Eucharist is a sacred memorial of the events of Easter, and every time we partake of the Eucharist, we fulfill the sacred command of Christ, "Do this in remembrance of me."





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Deacon Gaston NK Mabaya's short story

by Deacon Gaston



Deacon Gaston NK Mabaya (Gaston) was born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC, Africa), and came to Canada in June 1999 with his family. Married to Wivine Masamba, Gaston has eight children (4 boys and 4 girls) and six grand-children. After

high school in a Catholic school, Gaston graduated from University of Kinshasa (DRC) as an Electrical Engineer and from University of Ghent (Belgium) with a Ph.D. in Telecommunications, specialized in Fiber Optics. He grew up in Congo and Belgium where he taught at the university level. His career in Canada includes a teaching position at Humber College (Toronto) and an Engineering position at 3M Canada in London, Ontario. Currently, Gaston is the Executive Director of the French Canadian Association of Ontario (ACFO: Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario) in London Ontario.

Right after his arrival in London in 2001, after two years in Mississauga, Gaston became involved in various activities at Mary Immaculate Parish. A member of the Prayer Group of that Parish, Gaston was usher during Masses, and became a Knight of Columbus at Marian

Council 9607. As Knight, Gaston was Outside Guard, Inside Guard, Trustee and finally Director of vocations. Deeply involved in the Parish life, Gaston got the call to become a Permanent Deacon in 2005, and applied for it in 2006. After selection, he was admitted to the Formation Program in 2007 and was ordained Permanent Deacon on November 5, 2011.

Bishop Fabbro assigned Deacon Gaston to St Michael's Parish and St Josephine Bakhita African Caribbean Catholic Community where he spent his pastoral year (2010-2011). Deacon Gaston is appointed to the ministries of Charity in the nursing homes associated with St. Michael's Parish and outreach to the poor of St Josephine Bakhita Catholic Community both in London. Deacon Gaston is called also to exercise the ministry of Word and the ministry of Sacrament within these faith communities. Therefore, he is assigned to these two faith communities with all the faculties, duties and rights given to a permanent deacon by the norms of the Church law.

Since his assignment at St Michael's Parish, Deacon Gaston is part of the Parish Team and a member of the Parish Pastoral Council. He is also a member of the Social-Justice Committee.



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The Most Significant Part of the Mass

by Scott Veenliet

While I was growing up my family went to a small Baptist church that taught the importance of the Bible. I learned about all the books of the Bible, the first covenant, the prophets, the gospels, the letters to the churches, and the roadmap to the future: Revelation. As kids we were rewarded with stickers and treats for memorizing portions of scripture. I became a star pupil, eager to please my parents and learn about the Bible. Later in life God chose to draw me to the Catholic Church, and I was drawn into the Church largely because of how grounded in scripture the Mass is. So when Father Richard Fragomeni asked me what the most significant parts of the Mass were for me, I quickly answered that it is the fact that almost all the words of Mass are grounded firmly in the Word of God.

The Mass is a celebration of God's Holy Word, from start to finish. Let me read you some scripture, and see if you can identify where in the Mass you might hear them: 2 Corinthians 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all," Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!," Isaiah 6:3 "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." Mark 11:9-10 "And those who went before and those who followed cried out, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Hosanna in the highest!'" John 1:29 "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" Matthew 8:8 "But the centurion answered him, 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof: but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.'"

Each time I speak a response in Mass I know I am speaking the Word of God, which is truth and life. As it says in John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." So not only is Jesus really present in the Eucharist, He is really present in the very words we speak in Mass, as we speak and pray together the Holy Word of God.



If I had to choose which one of the many scripture passages is the most significant to me of all the parts I enjoy so much during the mass, it would have to be the one from Matthew 8:8. Each time I gaze at the representation of Christ, and echo the words of the faithful centurion, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof: but only say the word, and I shall be healed." I am struck by his faith and I know that if I can truly believe what I am asking, then Jesus too will respond to me as he did to the centurion. Matthew chapter eight continues with "When Jesus heard him, he marvelled, and said to those who followed him, 'Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.' And the servant was healed at that very moment." I know with the promise of scripture that when I pray those words with the centurion during Mass, Jesus smiles at my faith and says "let it be done for you as you have believed" and I am healed at that very moment.

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A Reflection presented by Dorothy Solomon at the St. Michael's Parish Mission

by Dorothy Solomon

Fr. Richard Fragomeni asked me to share a reflection on the command we hear at the end of each Eucharistic Liturgy. "Go in peace to glorify the Lord with your lives." We may be more familiar with the phrase, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." The second part he asked me to consider was, "What will that mean for us as a parish for the next 100 years?"

We glorify the Lord with our lives by being spiritually well. Fr. Richard reminded us on Sunday that one hour of our spiritual nourishment here at Mass is not enough to sustain us through the week. We need to attend a mission, pray grace with our families, pray the rosary, meditate; in other words – pray always.

My drive from home to St. Michaels takes two minutes. During that drive I pass three supermarkets, four different medical offices, beer store, bookstore, hardware store, restaurants, gyms and other consumer services. There's lots of competition out there beckoning for our attention. This tells me that, as a society, we are obsessed with looking after ourselves and our wants; trying to fill a place in our lives that only Jesus can satisfy. What about our spiritual wellness? "Go in

peace and glorify the Lord with your lives." We glorify the Lord when our actions flow from an intimate communion with Him. We are commanded to go in peace which can only come about when we pause, remember who we are as God's children, act, celebrate and believe. We must be spiritually healthy to live in this world but not be caught in the net of consumerism.

What does this mean for the next 100 years as the parish of St. Michael's? If we want real change, we need to talk to God about that. Society will continue to pressure us to consume to fill the void; it will continue to make us feel rushed. However, I'm even more convinced that St. Michael's will remain an oasis of tranquility, a place to slow down and meet God. This I believe because you and I are here every weekend to celebrate the Eucharist: we pour out our concerns and petitions to God, we are fed by His Word and Body and Blood. Then we hear God say to us "Go in peace to glorify Me with your life." You and I serve in over 50 ministries here in St. Michael's, and many serve

the needs of the community and the world in other organizations outside the parish. In my thirty three years as a parishioner I have been involved in various ministries and each one involves planning, sharing, praying, acting and evaluating. The next 100 years will not be much different; what sustains us will sustain the next generations. We glorify the Lord with our lives when we are spiritually well.





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Welcome our Iraqi Refugee Family

By Mary Ann Colihan

Mary Mrkhaael was just leaving church with her cousins and friends in 2004 when the bombs exploded. Her parish, St. Elias in Baghdad, was under siege from militant Islamic groups.

In Baghdad, militants had made it violently clear that one of the world's oldest Christian populations - most of whom are Chaldeans, Eastern-rite Catholics who are autonomous from Rome but recognize the Pope's authority, and Assyrians - were no longer welcome in Iraq.

Refugees like the Mrkhaael family fled to Syria which borders Iraq on the north.

Many Catholics in Canada, including Father Murray Sample, became increasingly alarmed about the attacks on Iraqi Christians and the growing refugee crisis.

As always, Sister Maria Van Leeuwen was ready to act. With support from the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Social Justice Committee and generous parishioners like Mike Whelan, she has sponsored families from around the globe.

Once the assurance of raising the necessary funds was in place, Sister Maria worked quickly to find an Iraqi refugee family.

Enter the Mrkhaael family. Hazni Mrkhaael, with his sister Mary, his mother Raheel Shamoon and father Yousif Hanna, came to London as our sponsored family. The Mrkhaaels have two married children here, members of St. Joseph's parish, who were desperate to be re-united with their parents and siblings. "We arrived to Canada on November 30, 2011 from Syria. The reason we came from Syria is because we had to flee. While we were in Iraq, we were threatened and all Christians were in constant danger. Five churches were bombed and destroyed. We had to flee to Syria."

After two years in Syria they had exhausted all their money. In Iraq, Yousif Hanna had run a supermarket and liquor store. "Employment was denied to Iraqis and even some specific foods. There was no political stability and safety," says Mrkhaael.



Fortunately they escaped before the situation in Syria exploded. The family feels deep gratitude to Canada for this opportunity and to the parish that has embraced them. "On my behalf and my family, we can't thank you enough and be grateful for all the help," says Mrkhaael.

His words are echoed by the youngest generation of the Merkhail family (yes the name changed slightly through the immigration process) already here in London. "Thank you the community of St. Michael's Church for your help bringing my grandparents to Canada. Thanks to you, last year's Christmas was the best ever. My mom and dad have not seen them in over 15 years. For me and my brothers it was the first time we ever saw them....and thank you Jesus Christ to make them safe here in Canada," says Josh and Jack Merkhail.

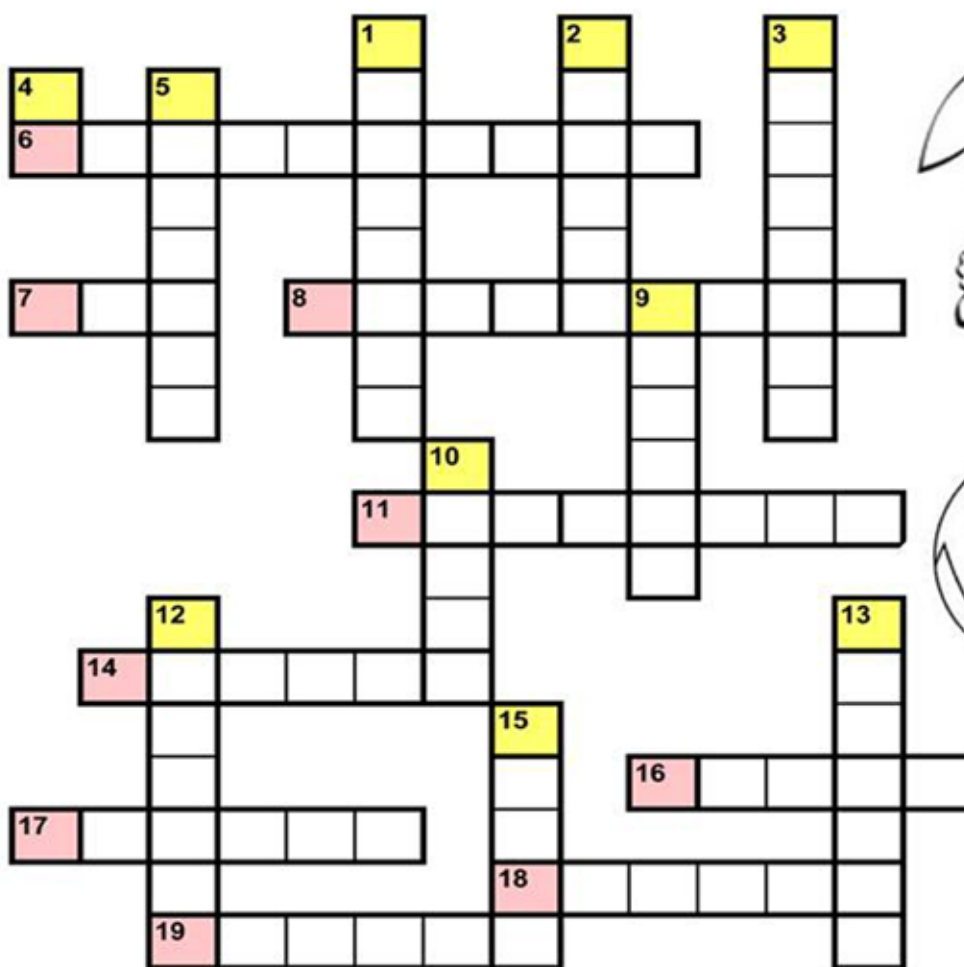
Another son, Shukri Merkhail, had not seen his parents or brother and sister for seven years. "Thank you so much especially to Sister Maria," he says. "She did her best to help us and make us happy."

Now, Mary Mrkhaael can take English classes in peace and says she likes the humanity of Canadians. "It's fantastic that Canadians see the same opportunity for men and women and don't put men first," she says. "You can be equal."





FUN With NUMBERS



Across	
6	<u>Fifty</u> more than <u>Fifty</u>
7	<u>Five</u> plus <u>Five</u>
8	<u>One</u> less than <u>Eighteen</u>
11	<u>Nine</u> doubled
14	<u>Five</u> more than <u>Seventy-Five</u>
16	<u>Twenty</u> doubled
17	Two <u>Tens</u> equals this
18	<u>Six</u> doubled
19	<u>One</u> more than <u>Eighty-Nine</u>

Down	
1	<u>One</u> less than <u>Twenty</u>
2	<u>One</u> more than <u>Ten</u>
3	<u>Ten</u> plus <u>Three</u>
4	<u>Seven</u> doubled
5	<u>Two</u> more than <u>Sixty-Eight</u>
9	<u>One</u> more than <u>Twenty-Nine</u>
10	<u>One</u> less than <u>Sixty-One</u>
12	<u>Five</u> and <u>Five</u> and <u>Five</u>
13	<u>One</u> more than <u>Fifteen</u>
15	Half of <u>One Hundred</u>

Please Ask Mom or Dad to Verify Your Answers.

Information

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 8:30a.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 (St. Josephine Bakhita)

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

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

The route . . .

9:50 64 Wyndham

Blackwater east of Adelaide - Bus Stop

Grenfell just east of Blackwater

Fanshawe/Trossacks - Bust Stop on Corner

770 Fanshawe - East of Fremont (Bus Stop)

Fanshawe - west of Fremont

Adelaide/Fanshawe - Bus stop south of
Fanshawe

Kipps/Lane Adelaide - Bus Shelter just east
of Adelaide

Kipps/Lane Barker

Kipps Lane - Bus Stop east of Barker

Kipps Lane/Kenmore Place - Bus Stop

295 Briarhill

Cheapside/Boullee

Huron/Wedgesood - Bus Stop east of
Wedgewood

10:15 Royal Oak Apartments - 3 Stops

Go To 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

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Father John Sharp, Weekend Ministry

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Sr. Kathy O'Keefe

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Lorne Plooard, Pastoral Minister

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Natalie Simek, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

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Staff

Pat Estabrooks, Receptionist / Secretary

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ext. 201

Jolanda Squire, Financial Secretary

jsquire@dol.ca

ext. 200

Sid Wocks, Hall Coordinator

swocks@dol.ca

ext. 210

Parish Council Chairperson

Cherylann Grace

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

Calendar of Events

Palm Sunday March 31 & April 1

Holy Thursday April 5

Good Friday April 6

Holy Saturday April 7

Easter Sunday April 8

First Confirmation April 21/22 - April 28/29

May 5/6 - May 12 /13

Confirmation Tues. May 1 & Wed. May 2

Pentecost Sunda May 27 & May 28

St. Michael's School Centennial June 10