

# 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**

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 do not pretend to be holier than those who are not 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 finds the living Lord, or 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.

*Fr. Murray*

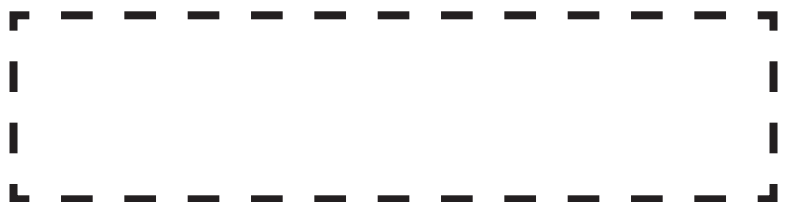
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# Christ is Risen.....Alleluia! Holy Week Schedule

## **Palm Sunday – March 23rd & March 24th**

March 23rd at 5:00pm

March 24th at 8:30am;

10:30am; 12:30pm

## **Mass of Chrism – March 25th**

7:00pm - St. Peter's Cathedral

## **Sacred Triduum (3 Days)**

Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday

## **Holy Thursday – March 28th**

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

8:30pm - Adoration of the Eucharist until

12:00midnight

Night Prayer at Midnight

## **Good Friday – March 29th**

10:00am - Stations of the Cross lead by the Youth

3:00pm - Divine Liturgy

## **Holy Saturday – March 30th**

9:00am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Blessing of Easter Food

(Tradition of many Europeans)

## **Easter Vigil – March 30th 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 – March 31st**

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

(10:30am mass there will be a 2nd 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 6th (All Day Confessions) -

8:30am-8:30pm

Tuesday, March 26th

10:00am-11:00am; 3:00pm-4:00pm;

7:00pm-8:00pm

Wednesday, March 27th

10:00am-11:00am; 3:00pm-4:00pm;

7:00pm-8:00pm

(No confessions heard during the Sacred Triduum)

## To Our Readers

Keith Rodrigues and Paul Tremblay, Editors

The spirit of the Year of Faith and Easter is among us, and we have received an influx of articles for Easter. In order to save space we simply thank all who contributed to the success on this Newsletter and hope that you will continue to write in the future.

Our **Newsletter Team** members are Carmen Gicante, Terry McBride, Keith Rodrigues, Paul Tremblay, Joanne Tremblay, Louanne Henderson and Nicholas Snary



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**“I have come to light a fire on the earth...”**

Luke 12:49



As I write this article, preparations are underway at St. Michael's to present Fr. Robert Barron's acclaimed documentary series on Catholicism. The first five episodes of this ten-part video series are presented during the five Wednesdays of lent from February 20th to March 20th. Each episode will be shown in the morning at 10:00 am and in the evening at 7:30 pm and will be followed by group discussions and social time. I hope that many will attend because, from my own experience viewing this series, I think this masterpiece has the power to inspire, to transform, to rekindle, and to make many Catholics want to thank their ancestors for preserving and passing along this faith of ours. I could tell you more about the series and about Fr. Barron but hopefully you will have attended this event by the time this newsletter reaches you. Whether or not you have heard of Fr. Barron or the Catholicism series, I invite you to view many more of his amazing projects at the Word on Fire website at [www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org). To add to the fire, I learned recently that Fr. Barron is finishing a second series called The New Evangelization. The Catholicism series seems like a tough act to follow but the film trailer of the sequel looks very promising.

Let me focus on one of Fr. Barron's many outstanding projects on the website and point out that he is

also a movie critic who writes reviews tailored for Catholics and Christians, young and old. On the website, you can find over 200 video commentaries, 40 of which are movie reviews. In these reviews, he goes straight to any archetypes or themes of Christianity or Catholicism. You would be surprised by the number of movies with underlying themes of Christ as the sacrificial lamb, stories of redemption, evil as the rejection of the Good, and the story of Job. I doubt that Hollywood always does this intentionally; the restless heart that Augustine speaks about seems to include even those that are not aware of it.



**“You would be surprised by the number of movies with underlying themes of Christ...”**

If your children have seen The Dark Knight Rises, The Amazing Spider Man, The Hobbit, Bully, The Hunger Games, Avatar, The Matrix, Lord of the Rings or any movie involving vampires, watch Fr. Barron's movie reviews with them. It will be the easiest way to engage your children in discussion about the meaning and relevance of our faith today. If you are a young adult, high school, college or university student, watch the video commentaries on the hookup culture, on sexuality, and on love, and discover a different kind of freedom. If you are considering the priesthood, there are a number of video commentaries to help you discern your vocation, such as the one discussing the qualities of a new evangelist. If you have difficulty reconciling your faith with the knowledge you are discovering in your studies in sciences or other disciplines, you are not alone. Watch the many video commentaries on faith and reason and learn to see a different reality with new eyes.

New video commentaries on contemporary events, movies, and religious topics are usually added weekly to the website. And once you run out of the movie reviews and other video commentaries, be sure to listen to his 631 sermons!



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Imagine waking up every day and living your life with passion and purpose. In this age of consumerism it is easy to lose sense of what we have been called to do with our individual talents. As one author points out, there is a very important and timely message in Proverbs: "Where there is no vision, the people will perish." (Proverbs 29:18). Let us live by the opposite of this insight: Where there is vision, the people will flourish. Many Catholics are disillusioned, are questioning their faith, and are filled with doubts about the relevance of Catholicism in a modern world. This Easter, the St. Michael's Parish family would like you to join them on a life-changing journey. We want to ignite your faith in a new way and help you live your life with passion and purpose. We will explore our lives and faith more deeply and take you on an adventure of life-changing proportions.

Have you found happiness, a happiness that is not dependent on pleasure but rather on the virtues of faith, hope and love?

- Are you living an authentic life, a life where you are not fooling yourself about the Truth?
- In what direction is the road you travel pointing?
- How would you like your life to change?
- What is God's will for your life?
- Why have so many people rejected Catholicism?
- What does it mean to walk with God in the modern world?
- Do the saints have anything to offer you that our heroes on television, in stadiums, and in Hollywood do not?
- Is Jesus still relevant; if He showed up on your street tomorrow, would you recognize Him?

- Can the ancient traditions of Catholicism help us deal with the modern challenges of our lives?

**"We want to ignite your faith in a new way and help you live your life with passion and purpose."**

Are you puzzled about what is fact and what is myth in Catholicism? Is Catholicism just a lifeless set of rules, regulations, and rituals that have no bearing on how we should live our lives, or does it hold timeless truths that can connect to our restless hearts? If there is a genius in Catholicism, as an author suggested, should we not take the time to discover it? Can each one of us be part of the solution to any problem that exists in Catholicism?

During this Year of Faith, we encourage you take a step closer to God. We want to rekindle the fire and the wind that remind us where we come from and where we are meant to go. Please join us at Mass this Easter weekend at St. Michael's to relive the most powerful event in history. As part of this Year of Faith we will share with you a free family gift to help you journey on a path to become a better version of yourself.



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# SYNC Teen Nights

by Scott Veenliet



Have you ever wondered what goes on at the church late on Sunday evenings? Well my friends, let me try to enlighten you.

Since the beginning of September on every other Sunday night, many of the youth of St. Michael's have been gathering at the Church hall for SYNC Teen Nights<sup>1</sup>. If you were to peek your head in the door during an average SYNC Teen Night you might find teens racing through a hairpin corner while driving plasma cars around an indoor race-track, or jumping to make a spectacular catch for a touchdown while playing indoor ultimate-Frisbee. You might also find our talented youth playing piano or singing a solo during a "coffee house" night, or watch us flying down the icy hill at Doidge Park on sleds (sometimes with spectacular snow filled crashes at the end). You

**"many of the youth of St. Michael's have been gathering at the Church hall for SYNC Teen Nights"**

<sup>1</sup> SYNC is the new call-sign we are using to describe events that are youth focused at St. Michael's, and it stands for Serving Youth iN Christ.

<sup>2</sup> Unless of course you want to volunteer your time and help out. In that case adults are more than welcome to come! And the "too old" thing was really just for dramatic effect, everyone is exactly the age they are supposed to be.

could also scratch your head as you try to understand the rules of "Rock, Scissors, Paper, Lizard, Spock", or you might witness (and attempt to discern why) people throwing Cheetos at a teammate's head that is covered in shaving cream... (don't worry, I still haven't figured that one out yet, and I organized the game). At some point you would probably see the teens flipping madly through a Bible, racing to find a scripture verse first and win a prize (the pink treasure chest is an eclectic trove of candy, chocolate, Christian music CDs, powdered gravy, funky sunglasses, and canned fish), or see them listening to a talk about something like the Armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) or the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Finally, near the end of the night, you'd probably see the teens in small groups talking about what they have just learned about their faith, discussing how to be a young Catholic Christian in today's difficult world, and learning to pray for each other.

In order to really understand what SYNC Teen Nights are all about, you'd have to come and join in... But sorry adults, you're too old<sup>2</sup>. You have to be of high-school age in order to do so.

SYNC Teen Nights normally happen on the first and third Sunday of each month, from 7:30 to 9:00 in the Church Hall. To keep informed about what is going on with various SYNC events (including teen nights) I suggest you "like" us on Facebook) and also follow us on Twitter (@syncstm).

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**Here are all the new ways to stay up to date with all Youth Ministry events at St. Michael's Parish**

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 [sync.stm@gmail.com](mailto:sync.stm@gmail.com)

**Find SYNC on Facebook**



Natalie completed a Master of Divinity at St. Peter's Seminary and studies in Clinical Pastoral Education after obtaining her BA in Religious Studies and French at King's University College. She worked as a chaplain at St. Joseph Secondary School in St. Thomas and part time in the parish office before joining the pastoral team at St. Michael's. Natalie is a proud lifetime member of the St. Michael's Parish. After five years as Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Natalie can recount many enriching experiences.

Let's start with the Sacrament of Confirmation. Each year, from September to May, Natalie prepares approximately 150 candidates from the four primary schools associated with our parish and additional students from public schools. This program involves teaching, organizing a retreat, and coordinating the 20-hour community services for confirmation candidates. Another major project that Natalie initiated in February 2009 was the Youth Commission. This is an amazing ministry that collects information about the needs of youth in the parish, initiates, oversees, and conducts activities for youth. I can say as a member of this ministry that Natalie has been largely influential in its success. The Youth Commission is now flourishing with regular activities such as Teen Nights and family events. Natalie is committed to a very clear purpose of helping youth understand that Jesus and the Church loves them more than they could imagine. I'm sure all my colleagues on the Youth Commission feel blessed to work with her.

Natalie was also involved in preparing and assisting the youth group that went to World Youth Day in Madrid in 2011. Last year she worked with other parishes on the Christ in Others Retreat (COR) retreat program. Another retreat is planned for later this year with Mary Immaculate Parish. Some of her other activities include participating in monthly Mass at the four primary schools and assisting the Chaplain at Mother Teresa in regular Mass and other events. She coordinates the beautiful staging by Youth of the Stations of the Cross and a yearly retreat for students in grades five to eight at St. Michael's

**"Imagine an encounter in which you look into the eyes of Pope JP II and see the love of God that he so often talked about."**

church. Natalie serves on a number of committees and groups in the parish and in collaboration with other parishes. For example, she serves on the vocations committee with Fr. John Pirt.

What about the future; what can we do as part of the New Evangelization? Natalie proposes that although the Youth Commission has done a lot so far especially for teens, we need to also reach out even further to the grade five to grade eight students. As part of this vision, she points out that it is important to help young people discern the gifts that God has given them and help them recognize relationships that are authentic. It is not the first time that I hear Natalie say that faith is "caught" in relationships. One message that she leaves for young people is "Be not afraid to be followers of Jesus; you will never regret it!"

And then there is the photo of Natalie holding a photo of a young girl meeting Blessed Pope John Paul II on Palm Sunday 2001, one year before World Youth Day in Toronto. A group of youth were receiving the cross to bring back to Canada for WYD. Imagine an encounter in which you look into the eyes of Pope JP II and see the love of God that he so often talked about. That young girl was Natalie.



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# Easter Triduum “Three Days Celebrated as One” by Father Murray

## Holy Thursday-Mass of the Lord's Supper

March 28th at 7:30pm



This is the day when Christians everywhere celebrate the gift of the Eucharist as our nourishment and our salvation. The Mass of the Lord's Supper begins with this proclamation: “We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life, and resurrection; through him we are saved and made free.”

These are important words, basic to our belief that glory and suffering, cross and resurrection go hand in hand.

Three stories weave together this evening: the Passover, St. Paul's account of the Last Supper, and John's account of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. The Gospel makes startlingly clear what the other readings imply: we are to hand ourselves over to others. To help us live out this Gospel call, each year we wash feet in this ceremony and celebrate the Eucharist with renewed commitment to serve one another.

While blessings and dismissals normally close our liturgies, tonight is notably different. After his supper with his disciples, Jesus went to Gethsemane to pray. He struggled with what was to come: “Acceptance of God's will” was his prayer. After communion, a solemn procession leads from the sanctuary to the chapel of reservation, but no closing prayer exists. All are welcome to remain and pray for a while as we, too, struggle with our own wants and needs and what God would have us do. We do not end on Thursday night, but rather, break for a time to gather to tell more of the story of salvation on Friday.

## Good Friday

March 29th at 3:00pm



The celebration of the Lord's Passion picks up where the Mass of the Lord's Supper left off. We begin in silence, and the presider leads us in the humble act of prostration before the altar. The first two readings are powerful texts, followed by John's account of the Passion. The Passion is a hard story to hear each year, yet its retelling helps us focus on Jesus' love and sacrifice for us and how great the victory and triumph. The cross is an instrument of torture and death: yet we claim it, in light of

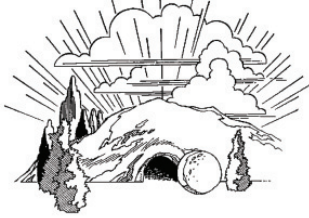
the resurrection, as a symbol of glory. After the reading of the Passion, we venerate the cross—often a truly tender moment. As we reverence the wood of the cross with a touch or a kiss, we also express gratitude, awe, wonder, and a recommitment of our own lives to self-emptying service. Today we know triumphant destiny in the midst of tragedy. We remember a humiliating death that leads to the glorious victory of life. We claim the cross as the wood of salvation rather than a means of torture. Good Friday is truly a good day.





# Easter Triduum "Three Days Celebrated as One" cont'd...

## ***Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!***



## **Easter Sunday Vigil**

March 30th on Saturday at 7:30pm

This longing for new life is fulfilled at the Easter Vigil celebration, in which we begin a vigil of prayer in darkness and retell the story of salvation from creation to the resurrection. We light the Easter candle from the new fire, lit and blessed in our midst. We sing of our salvation in the Exulted and then retell the story of salvation from creation, to the Exodus of the Israelites through the Red Sea, to the words of the prophets. We hear Paul's words, reassuring us of our share in salvation and sing, for the first time in forty days, our "Alleluias." We tell the amazing story of Christ's rising from the dead. We bless water, baptize adults and children, receive new members into our midst, and call the Holy Spirit to confirm them in faith. We bless and break bread with our newest members and celebrate with the most joyous music we can muster.

The Vigil is the holiest night of the year! Here is the entire story, in one powerful, inspiring evening. All the ministers involved, from choir to presider to servers to catechumens, have prepared for weeks to celebrate this event. If you have never attended, or if it has been several years since you attended a Vigil mass, plan to come this year.

## **Easter Sunday Morning**

March 31st at 8:30am, 10:30am & 12:30am

At last, our "Alleluias" burst forth like the spring flowers that surround us! After forty days of fasting, we begin our fifty days of feasting! We hear the Gospel account of Christ's resurrection and recognize him risen in our midst. Droplets of baptismal water touch us after recommitting ourselves to our baptismal promises. We feast at the table of the Lord and bless food to share with our families at a feast in our individual homes. We welcome guests and visitors as members of our parish family as we scoot closer together in the pews to make room for all who wish to come.



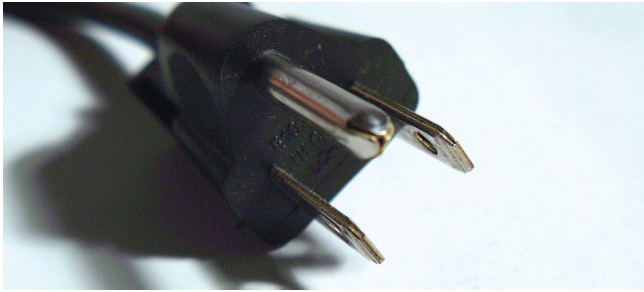
**The Lord is Risen!  
Alleluia!**



# Photo Page







On a cold winter day, it is hard for many of us to imagine going through the day without electricity and gas to keep our house warm.

Many of us do not know that there are nearly a hundred families each month who have no electricity and/or gas in their homes. The London Free Press (September 2012) reported that the recession of 2008-09 hammered London very hard and thousands of jobs disappeared, leaving the city with one of the highest jobless rate in Canada. This situation has not improved.

So what does this mean to us as a faith community? For years, the Social Justice Ministry has been working towards raising awareness and understanding of the social situations affecting the most disadvantaged who are often marginalized and have little voice. In conjunction with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, it has supported "The Heat and Warmth" (THAW) program, which is a social program that provides emergency financial relief to cover the cost of utility bill arrears for families in order to avoid disconnection.

The THAW program is now in its 13th year. It receives funding from the City of London, Ontario Energy Emergency Funds, London Hydro, Union Gas, and community donors, such as Sisters of St. Joseph and St. Michael's Parish. Our parish has responded generously for several years to provide donations to this program. In February 2012, we raised \$1,831 to support the THAW program. Thank you all for your generous donation and support to this program this year and in the past years. We are grateful for your donations and our parish has received letters of appreciation from those who have received support from the program.

In 2012, the THAW program assisted a total of 1,176 families. About 13% (153 households) of recipients were living in the St. Michael's parish area, and 33% of all applicants were employed. The major

reasons for families requiring assistance included high utility cost, unexpected expenses, job loss and variable income.

In the words of one of its recipients:

*"I would like to send you great big thanks for all the work you do and all the people you help. May God forever bless you and keep you happy. Forever thankful"*

Families in need of assistance can apply directly to the THAW program at the Salvation Army Centre of Hope or through some London Public Library branches once every two years. Applicants must meet income criteria, have received a final or disconnection notice, and have paid at least \$50 in the past 4 months towards their bills.

As we are grateful for the many blessings and grace that God has given us, let us also think of the teaching of Christ "Love your neighbour as yourself" and continue to remember those less fortunate by showing support to our community social programs.

**"The London Free Press (September 2012) reported that the recession of 2008-09 hammered London very hard and thousands of jobs disappeared, leaving the city with one of the highest jobless rate in Canada."**





# A Pre-Lenten Retreat for Busy People

by Sister Kathy  
Pastoral Minister

**“Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.”**

Mark 6:31

**“The Retreat made me slow down and feel the breath of God within me. Helped me make quiet time.”**

Life is hectic! It can seem so difficult to squeeze all of one's commitments and responsibilities into the 24 hours given each day. Keeping in mind this daily reality, do you wonder how you could possibly find the *time* to participate in a Directed Retreat? Some parishioners did manage to take the time because the retreat was built around their individual availability. For the second year in a row, a *Retreat For Busy People*, sponsored by St. Michael's Parish, in collaboration with the Spiritual Ministries Network of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates, was offered here at the parish from Sunday, February 3rd to Friday, February 8th, 2013.

Just what is a *Directed Retreat*? For our parish retreat, there is an opening and closing session for everyone involved. Each participant commits to 15-20 minutes of daily prayer. Over the course of the week, there are three 50 minute interviews with a *Retreat Director*. Spiritual/Retreat Directors, with the necessary training and formation, act as prayer guides to persons seeking to deepen their relationship with God. All that is shared with a Spiritual Director is held in confidence.

The *Retreat goals* are to (1) Offer people a taste of a retreat experience; (2) Growth in their relationship with God through personal prayer; (3) Learn how to balance a busy and hectic life and include prayer.

Here is what some of the participants had to say about the retreat:

*The Retreat made me “slow down and feel the breath of God within me. Helped me make quiet time.*

*The meetings with my Spiritual Director were helpful, inspiring and uplifting. The chance to experience a retreat in the midst of our busy lives was invaluable and non-intimidating.*

*I would recommend a program like this to a friend ... because good experiences should be shared with fellow travelers.*

Our Roman Catholic faith has a rich tradition of spiritual direction to help persons in their prayer life and discernment about major life decisions. Spiritual direction is available for any person who seeks it. During this Year of Faith, it may be a good time for you to consider meeting with a Spiritual Director. You come as you are to prayer and to spiritual direction. With your Spiritual Director, you will agree on a convenient location and time for meeting, usually once a month for an hour. Many Spiritual Directors request a fee; however, often a sliding scale is offered so that these sessions are affordable.

For more information go to The Spiritual Ministries Network at the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph web site: [www.csj.london.on.ca/about-the-network](http://www.csj.london.on.ca/about-the-network) or email: [networkministries@csj.london.on.ca](mailto:networkministries@csj.london.on.ca) or phone 519-432-3781 Ext. # 567.

It can be challenging to find time in our busy lives to stop and be mindful of God in our midst. There are so many distractions. If we are stressed persons, can we afford not to make the time to acknowledge God's place in our lives? If we live by the Spirit, we will experience the fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control (Galatians 5:22).



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What is it and why is it so important? A Legacy Gift is much more than just making a donation or financial gift to the church. Primarily through the ongoing financial generosity of the parishioners of St. Michael's, our Parish is able to fulfil its mission as a warm and welcoming community, not only meeting the spiritual needs of our community, but also maintaining our beautiful place of worship. As we embark on the next century as a Parish Family, our financial needs are real and certain, especially when it comes to the ongoing maintenance costs at the church.

An audit of our parish facilities over the last year identified specific projects that will need to be undertaken to ensure a safe and viable building. Our parish community currently has a capital construction debt of approximately \$270,000. We also know through the audit process, that over the next 5 to 10 years, there will be repairs that will total an additional \$1,100,000. These projects are necessary to ensure that our church is well maintained and safe. Donation envelopes for the Capital Fund are available at the back of the church for anyone wishing to contribute directly to these costs on an ongoing basis. Thank you to the many parishioners who are taking advantage of this way of giving a little extra. It is both needed and greatly appreciated.

There is another method of giving that is emerging as a viable option for those who wish to provide a long term and sustainable gift to the parish beyond their own lifetime— Legacy Gifts. A legacy gift is a great way to make a positive impact on the parish for years to come, a way to create a visible and inspirational

statement of faith and a way of supporting your church.

**"Primarily through the ongoing financial generosity of the parishioners of St. Michael's, our Parish is able to fulfil its mission as a warm and welcoming community..."**

A Legacy Gift as part of your Will can be done in a variety of ways including a general bequest, a specific bequest, and a restricted bequest. As an example, a donor/benefactor may wish to provide a specific bequest to the Capital Fund of the Parish. The simple language in a Will might say something like, "I give to St. Michael's Parish in the City of London (511 Cheapside Street) the sum of [dollars] to be applied directly to the Capital Fund of the Parish." There are many ways that you can choose to direct a legacy gift, and you can be specific about this in your Will. Father Murray would be pleased to discuss with you, the kinds of options that are available when considering a legacy gift.

We encourage you to consider a living legacy in one of its many forms when you do your estate planning. What a wonderful and truly blessed way to passionately express not only your support for a specific need within the Parish but also to help ensure its future existence and growth! Legacy Gift giving has the potential to ensure that St. Michael's Parish will be well maintained and available to our families and our future generations. And, your contribution would truly be your living legacy to the future of St. Michael's Church!

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# Stations of the Resurrection

By Dorothy Solomon

We are familiar with the Stations of the Cross which end with the burial of Jesus, but we know that is not the end. Let us reflect on what happened after by contemplating Stations of the Resurrection.

I. The stone has been moved away. (Luke 24: 2). We're going about our business, then life happens: a major trial, a huge boulder in our path, or a challenge we're not sure how to deal with. Lord, so many times I doubt your goodness and power to help me. Give me courage with your grace to carry on.

II. But when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord. (Luke 24: 3). There are many rhythms and sequences in life. When our routine is interrupted by something drastically different, we need a friend by our side to help carry us on. Lord, at those times when my heart is heavy with sorrow, be my companion and send another to walk with me.

III. The women were terrified, "Why do you look for him among the dead?" (Luke 24: 5). The obvious answer seems to be "Because this is where we last saw him!" We are no different really, only believing what we have seen, heard or touched. In this Year of Faith, let us renew our commitment despite not knowing fully what God will ask of us. We only know that it is He who asks.

IV. Mary stood outside the tomb weeping, Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' (John 20: 11 & 16). Jesus calls me every day to follow him. Do I recognize his voice? In this Year of Faith, broaden my vision and steady my longing for definition and direction. Open my heart to change and revelation of your glory.

V. Mary went and told the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord!' (John 20: 18). There must have been a great variety of emotions and responses to this news. Lord, teach me to tell your story with truth



and love and not try to control the outcome.

VI. Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. (Luke 24: 12). Teamwork - Jesus sent them out in pairs on their missions. Sometimes when we hear someone's story, we don't believe them; we need to experience it for ourselves. Lord of all wisdom, sow in us a deep longing to discover the truth of your love.

VII. Peter got up and went right into the tomb, bent down and saw the burial clothes alone; then he went home amazed at what happened. (Luke 24: 12). To be amazed is to be filled with surprise or wonder. Peter perhaps finally realized that Jesus/God could not be held by death. When doubts come to me, remain with me, oh Comforter.

VIII. The other disciple went in, he saw and he believed. (John 20: 8). Sometimes we wait for someone else to take the lead; we follow the other whom we trust, and we see for ourselves and come to believe. Until this time they had failed to understand scripture - that he must die and rise again from the dead. Lord, help me when I try to skip over the rough times of life; give me hope to cope with those events.

"By his Ascension into heaven, Jesus has opened the way for us to follow and join in the Alleluia chorus with the angels and the saints."

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## Stations of the Resurrection continued

IX. The walk to Emmaus. What are you discussing as you walk along? (Luke 24: 17). We naturally discuss major events in our lives with family and friends. Our narrow thinking can prevent us from seeing possibilities. Jesus you stand beside me, I feel it in my heart, yet I do not always acknowledge you.

X. He sat at table with them, took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them. (Luke 24: 30). Every time we do something according to the Lord's will, we are given another chance to break bread with God himself. Give me courage to draw on your ever present grace oh Lord.

XI. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. (Luke 24: 31). As adults we still play hide and seek, but with our values. We are blind to our true worth and to what we really hold dear. We can so easily go on for days and months without checking our blind spots. We lose sight of the treasure. God of mercy, give me again the heart of one who seeks you alone.

XII. They returned to Jerusalem and talked among all the disciples. As they were talking Jesus himself stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." (Luke 24: 33 & 36). Here he is in their very midst offering peace that the world cannot offer. When I rise, I ask the risen Jesus to bless my rising, that going forth in His name to serve the world, I may carry the Easter Alleluia to all I meet.

XIII. Jesus appears to his disciples. "As the father has sent me so I send you." (John 20: 19 & 21). Throughout our lives we meet Jesus, and we are sent to be his letter of love to others. We bear messages by our lives, about what we know and believe about Jesus resurrected. Jesus to know you, I need to pray daily for your guidance.

XIV. Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands I will not believe; Put your finger here and see my hands. "My Lord and my God." (John 20: 25 & 27). We can all relate to Thomas' experience. Jesus guides Thomas by the hand to show that it is indeed Him, the Lord. Look with kindness and understanding on me Lord; when I doubt, lead me by the hand to your side once again.

XV. Simon son of John, do you love me more than these? (John 21: 15). What is my response when Jesus asks me this? Jesus asks only to live in our hearts. Jesus, master of my heart, send your Spirit of love to dwell within my being, and as you journey with me, let me be the love you are.

XVI. The Ascension. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. (Luke 24: 51) By his Ascension into heaven, Jesus has opened the way for us to follow and join in the Alleluia chorus with the angels and the saints. May he find us worthy, through his mercy, to partake in the heavenly banquet of the Kingdom.



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## Our New Ministry Scheduler: Just a Click of a Button & it's Done!

By Helen Green

We now have a new computer program called **Ministry Scheduler Pro**. This helpful tool is meant to alleviate some of the stresses of scheduling for our liturgical ministries.

In order for it to work efficiently, we need to have your name, the ministry and Mass time in which you serve, as well as an email address.

**“We will plan on adding to the Scheduler special Masses such as Christmas, Easter and Ash Wednesday. That will eliminate the need for sign-up sheets in the lobby.”**

Once the schedule is ready, it will be emailed to you. You will receive a link that has a host of information including your password. You will find your profile that gives us all the information that we need to process requests, your schedule which gives all the dates and times when you are scheduled to serve, and the full schedule which shows all those who will be ministers at a particular Mass. If you need someone to substitute for you at a particular mass, you can go to the Scheduler and simply click on “request sub”, and an email request for a volunteer will go out to all those in your particular ministry. Once the request has been filled, no one else will be able to sign up for your time slot.

If you do not use the Internet, there will be a paper copy for you on the welcome desk. If you need a substitute for your time, please contact Helen Green at 519-433-6689 ext. 215 so that she can make the request for you.

For this program to really work well, we need to keep up-to-date our lists of the names and other information for people who serve in each of the liturgical ministries. Also, we need a specific number of people to sign up for each Mass. At the present time, we need ushers for the Saturday 5 pm Mass, and the Sunday 8:30 am and 10:30 am Masses. If you attend any of these Masses and are willing to help with ushering, please call the parish office and

speak with Pat Estabrooks at 519-433-6689 ext. 201.

Once we get all the “bugs” worked out and the system working efficiently, we will plan on adding to the Scheduler special Masses such as Christmas, Easter and Ash Wednesday. That will eliminate the need for sign-up sheets in the lobby.

We are working hard to make this program work for all of us, and it will require some patience on everyone's part. Thank you to all who have made the changes needed so that places for people at their preferred Mass are filled.

If you are not currently receiving any information about ministry schedules by email, then we do not have your information on the computer. Please notify the office and that will be rectified immediately.

Computers and computer programs are wonderful if we get all the correct information. The old adage “garbage in, garbage out” really works here!

Thank you to Father J. Pirt, Director of Vocations, for introducing us to this wonderful tool!

Easter blessings to all as we celebrate the Resurrection! Alleluia!



# 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](mailto:stmichlon@dol.ca)

[www.stmichaels.dioceseoflondon.ca](http://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



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Fanshawe/Trossacks - Bust Stop on Corner  
770 Fanshawe - East of Fremont (Bus Stop)

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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

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## Pastoral Team

Father Murray Sample, Pastor

[msample@dol.ca](mailto:msample@dol.ca)

ext. 202

Father Peter Amszej, Associate Pastor

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ext. 205

Father John Sharp, Weekend Ministry

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ext. 215

Natalie MacKay, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

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## Staff

Pat Estabrooks, Receptionist / Secretary

[stmichlon@dol.ca](mailto:stmichlon@dol.ca)

ext. 201

Jolanda Squire, Financial Secretary

[jsquire@dol.ca](mailto:jsquire@dol.ca)

ext. 208

Sid Wocks, Hall Coordinator

[swocks@dol.ca](mailto:swocks@dol.ca)

ext. 210

## Parish Council Chairperson

Ozzie Buhrmann

## 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 24

Holy Thursday March 28

Good Friday March 29

Holy Saturday March 30

Easter Vigil / Sunday March 30/31

First Communion April 14/21/28 & May 5

Confirmation April 30 & May 1

Pentecost Sunday May 19

Parish Mission May 19 - May 22

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