



Issue 29

Easter 2016

St. Michael's Parish Newsletter

A welcoming Eucharistic community, sharing Faith and reaching out to all...

Easter 2016

"At daybreak on the first day of the week the women who had come from Galilee with Jesus took spices they had prepared and went to the tomb." Luke 24:1



The Gospel noted above will be used at the Easter Vigil on March 26th at 7:30 pm. The Easter Vigil is truly the most beautiful celebration of the entire year. We gather in the dark, symbolic of death and sadness, to be the first children of God to look into the empty tomb and know that Jesus has conquered death and darkness. At the Easter Vigil we will be the first people to sing the Easter Victory song "Alleluia! Alleluia!" As we listen to the Gospel we probably will hear it differently this year. Where we are on our own journey in life affects what we hear and how we hear it. The words of the angel resonate with us with different meanings as we move and change through our lives.

If you are celebrating the safe return of a son or daughter, the empty tomb is the assurance of God's protection during the dark nights of worry. If you are mourning the death of a spouse, child, or dear friend, the angel's question about "seeking the living among the dead" may be the first light of hope. The promise is that the Risen Christ has lovingly taken your loved one to a dwelling place to be with his Father. If you have lost your job or if you and your family are struggling financially, the rolling back of the rock is a sign of God extending his hand to lift you out of your despair and to help you see the gifts you have to live your life with meaning. The loving women who came to anoint the body of their beloved teacher (who came to the tomb having no idea how they would move the stone), and who are the first to hear the news, are God's living presence of mercy.

And in the midst of all of us is the Risen One himself, who takes up our cross with us, who opens up the tombs that entrap us, who walks among us in every experience of mercy and peace. Every Easter a different piece or player of the Easter story speaks to our hearts and spirits, our fears and anxieties, depending on the circumstances we are dealing with at the time. Our individual hearts respond to specific elements of the story; our spirits rise to many implications of what has taken place. But if we are willing to hear, if we are willing to see, God speaks to us in the words of the angel, in the open grave, in the kindness of the women who bring myrrh to anoint His dead body.

Whatever road you are travelling this Easter Sunday, whatever burial clothes you are struggling to free yourself from, whatever cross you are struggling to carry, may you find reason to HOPE – may that hope free you to re-create your life in Easter joy and peace.



Come join your brothers and sisters in hearing the story anew and singing the Easter chant "Alleluia, Alleluia."

I look forward to seeing you and celebrating the conquering love of Christ.

Fr. Murray Sample

Fr. Murray Sample
Pastor



Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday – March 19th & 20th, 2016

March 19th at 5:00pm

March 20th at 8:30am; 10:30am; 12:30pm

Mass of Chrism – March 21st

7:00pm - St. Peter's Cathedral

Sacred Triduum (3 Days)

Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday

Holy Thursday – March 24th

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

8:30pm - Adoration of the Eucharist
until 11:00pm

Night Prayer at 11:00pm

Good Friday – March 25th

10:00am - Stations of the Cross

Led by the Youth

3:00pm - Divine Liturgy

Holy Saturday – March 26th

9:00am - Morning Prayer

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

Easter Vigil – March 26th

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 27th

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

Please show courtesy in the parking lot
and on the streets.

Please do not block driveways.

Sacrament of Penance

Wednesday, March 9th

(All Day Confessions) - 8:30am-8:30pm

Friday, March 18th

10:00-11:00am; 3:00-4:00pm; 7:00-8:00pm

Tuesday, March 22nd

10:00-11:00am; 3:00-4:00pm; 7:00-8:00pm

(No confessions heard during the Sacred Triduum)

Our **Newsletter Team**: Carmen Gicante,
Keith Rodrigues, Louanne Henderson,
Angela Townend, Giacomo Barone, Paul
Tremblay and Doug Manners.

Newsletter Design: Joanne Tremblay



KROWN
Protect. Maintain. Save.

DID YOU KNOW?
Only KROWN provides a product in the market today that does not contain any solvents and is non-toxic. **THIS MAKES KROWN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY!**
Only KROWN can be effectively sprayed in ANY type of WEATHER and in ANY season.

www.krown.com
Book your next appointment at
555 Glasgow Street
519-432-3337

 Recommended





CONTACT
CREATIVE SERVICES INC.

1180 Wilton Grove Rd.
London, ON N6N 1C8

 **519.668.1712**
 519.643.1405
 1.800.361.1672
 mail@contactcreative.com

Ordination: One Year Perspective

by Father Don
Pumputis



"Our hearts were made for You, O lord, and they are restless until they rest in you" St. Augustine

Happy Easter everyone. It's been a year since I was ordained and since I began active ministry. Thank you again to the parishioners of St. Michael's for your prayers, and all your support and charity during this first year. It will never be forgotten.



St. Augustine's quote from the 4th century rings as true today as it did in the past, and when I entered St Peter's to study it became a reality. A year later and involved in active ministry, I can feel its effects within me as I become more involved working as a Diocesan priest in the vineyard for Jesus Christ.

When a person follows the true vocation that they have been called to, they can then see and feel the words inscribed on every human heart by Christ. As I write this I can't think of, nor could I have asked for, a better first placement than St Michael's.

This parish is alive and a joy to serve in, from the smiling faces of the parishioners coming into Mass and the welcoming faces of the greeters, to the various groups that meet here every evening of the week. There is a template for parish renewal here, and I believe we don't need to go far, look elsewhere, or re-invent the wheel.

Fr. Murray is a wonderful faith filled pastor who loves his flock, and has offered no less than his time, his wisdom, and his experience to a junior priest. He is a prime mentor for a newly ordained man such as myself, and I look forward to a long friendship, and the sharing of priestly ministry with him.



During my time here I have been asked "Fr. Don, what does a Parochial Vicar mean?" Well, it is a Church term or title, and I quote, "A Parochial Vicar, also called an associate pastor or curate, is a priest who assists the pastor in the pastoral ministry of a parish." (can.545). So here it is, the big secret is out, remember to tell everyone! Most priests have started out, or will start out as associates in ministry before being made pastors.

Time is surely flying by, and every day brings new joy and challenges to me as a priest, but with your help, prayers, and support there is nothing that is insurmountable.

The Holy Spirit is alive and doing wonders here. Thank you and may God Bless each of you and your families this Easter Season.



In Christ, Fr. Don Pumputis



London Massage Therapy Centre

Serving London Over 28 Years

Why Choose Us?

- ✓ We Provide Effective Treatment for All Ages
- ✓ We Provide Direct Billing Options
- ✓ Open 7 Days Per Week - By Appointment
- ✓ Dedicated Staff of Experienced Registered Massage Therapists
- ✓ Gift Certificates
- ✓ Ample Free Parking in Paved Lot
- ✓ We Accept Most Debit and Credit Cards

VISA  

Joanne E.M. Buchanan, B.A., R.M.T. & Associates

www.londonrmtcentre.com

Therapeutic & Relaxation Massage

Insurance Claims, Chronic Pain

797 Adelaide St. N.
Just North of Oxford St.

519 **673-3007**





NEW BUILDING, SAME GREAT SERVICE AND FRIENDLY FACES.

You've got a friend at
MacMaster Chevrolet!

1350 DRIVER LN, LONDON 519-455-6200



Westview Funeral Chapel

Paul R. Needham Funeral Homes Ltd.

CARING - RESPECT - DIGNITY
THE HALLMARKS OF WESTVIEW FUNERAL CHAPEL

709 WENLAND ROAD NORTH, LONDON, ONTARIO N6H 4L1
PH: (519) 641-1793 FAX: (519) 641-3166



Celebrate Baptism In the Holy Year of Mercy

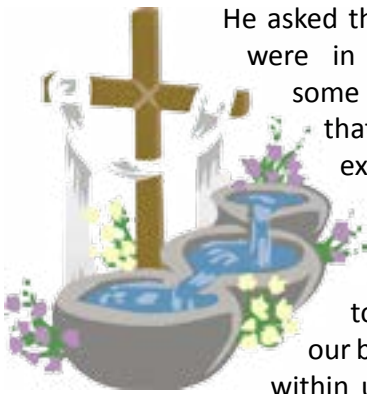
by Angela Townend

"We constantly need to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace.

Our salvation depends on it." Pope Francis

This past year you no doubt celebrated your birthday. Whether it was a quiet affair or a jubilant time spent with family and friends, this day in most cultures is a time to honour one's arrival on earth. But what about your baptismal day? Do you celebrate that day? Do you even know when that day is? Is this day in some ways even more spiritually significant than your birthday? Our most Holy Father Pope Francis would say yes, it's a day of great significance for all Christians.

In this, the Extraordinary Jubilee Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis, on Jan 10th, while celebrating the Baptism of our Lord, gave those in attendance some homework.



He asked them to find out when they were in baptized, assuming that some would not even know that date. As the Holy Father explained, this is the date of our "rebirth" as the children of God and with this comes a responsibility to follow Jesus. Moreover, our baptism in Christ reproduces within us Christlike traits, such as

meekness, humility and tenderness. In this Holy Year of Mercy it seems only fitting then that Pope Francis is encouraging us to focus on this day and not just the date of our physical birth. The year's motto, "Merciful like the Father" reminds us that this process of becoming like Christ begins with our baptism and continues as we mature and understand that mercy is in fact at the core of all Jesus' teachings.

To be merciful means to respond with compassion that is authentic, courageous, and generous in spirit. When we show mercy to others, we are responding as God responds. It is an opportune time for this celebration says Pope Francis in his new book "The Name of God is Mercy." He says, *"This is a time for mercy. The church is showing her maternal side, her motherly face, to a humanity that is wounded."* The state of Syria and its refugees, now referred to as the world's worst humanitarian crisis of our lifetime, is perhaps the greatest example reflecting our Holy Father's concern and subsequent call to us as Catholics to demonstrate mercy in the lives of others.

To better understand what mercy looks like we can turn to scripture for many different examples but there is likely no better known parable than that of the prodigal son. As we read of the son's recognition of his sins and ultimate return home, we witness his father display a critical aspect of God's character, His abundant mercy given freely to those who atone for their sins. The father does not rebuke or abandon his son despite the mistakes and choices he made. He graciously accepts him back, forgives him, clothes and feeds him. He shows his love for his disobedient son and in fact demonstrates both Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy upon his return. These Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are actions we can perform that offer God's compassion and mercy to those in need.

The Corporal Works of Mercy are those acts by which we help others with their material and physical needs and can include:

- ✚ feeding the hungry
- ✚ giving drink to the thirsty
- ✚ clothing the naked
- ✚ sheltering the homeless
- ✚ visiting the sick or imprisoned

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion as we help others with emotional and spiritual needs and may include:

- ✚ counselling the doubtful
- ✚ comforting the afflicted
- ✚ forgiving offenses
- ✚ bearing wrongs patiently
- ✚ pray for the living and the dead

We are not only guided by scripture and the church's teachings on Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. We can also be guided by our own personal experiences in receiving God's mercy. Do you recall what was offered to you? Friendship, a job, comfort during a loss? Were you



MAY McCONVILLE OMNI
insurance brokers ltd.

Celebrate Baptism in Holy Year of Mercy continued



healed of an illness, forgiven for a wrongdoing, or has God simply shown mercy through His patience as He watches you struggle in your journey to grow spiritually? And finally, how have your experiences of God's merciful nature helped you to show the same towards others? For some of us, this Lenten season is a perfect opportunity to expand our relationship with merciful acts and be more intentional about offering such to those whom we encounter: family, friends, strangers, co-workers and neighbors. We do not have to look very far to find those who are in need of our compassion but we do have to commit to offering it.

The motto *Merciful like the Father* is an invitation to follow the examples of our Father to be instruments of kindness, generosity and forgiveness as we ourselves have received those from Him. While we can teach others about God's mercy, to demonstrate it for them personally allows us to grow in our own faith, to deepen our relationship with Christ and to truly embody what He has instructed us to do:

...And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

As we continue in this the Holy Year of Mercy, task yourself with finding out your date of baptism and encourage others to do the same. Let it be a time for celebration and a time to acknowledge that you are a child of God, worthy of His mercy and compassion. Commit to being someone who looks for every opportunity to show mercy to others in your life. Celebrate God's invitation for you to share that same love and concern for others that was bestowed upon you on your baptismal day.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3)

Communications Committee Report

by John
Mombourquette



One of the actions for Goal VI of the Parish Strategic Plan is to "enhance transparent communication and accountability." This is the mission of the Parish Communications Committee, but it goes beyond the volunteers that support our Parish newsletter and website. Communications is central to the overall mission of St. Michael's Parish, to support "a welcoming Eucharistic community, sharing faith and reaching out to all." Timely communication through a clear message is absolutely essential and cuts across all of the committees throughout our parish – if people don't know about it, how can they participate?

The Communications Committee started out 2015-2016 with a planning meeting in August. Our present volunteers are Carmen Gicante, Terry McBride, John Mombourquette, Kristie Cresswell, Paul Theriault, and Louise Jackman, under the leadership of Father Murray and supported by Doug Manners. We are always looking for more members, and certainly want to hear from the parish on how we can improve communication wherever we can.

At the recent Ministry Fair, several parishioners particularly noted how much they appreciated and

enjoyed the quarterly Parish newsletter. Believe it or not, this edition marks our ninth anniversary. As we approach the decade mark, please consider how you can make a contribution to the committee, either by submitting articles or stories, or by helping with the editing and publishing process. For further information, please contact Carmen Gicante at cgicante@yahoo.com

2016 also marks the tenth anniversary of the first discussions around the creation of a Parish website. The website, which was officially launched in 2007, supplies information that is both current and helpful in entering and maintaining a dynamic and active relationship within our parish community. Given the growth of social media since 2007, we are initiating a study to research the effectiveness of the website in its current form, to develop a plan to modify its appearance, content, uses, etc. in a way that aligns with today's technology and with the expectations of all those we hope to serve and engage at St. Michael's Parish.

Please review our website:

www.stmichaels.dioceseoflondon.ca,

and send your thoughts and ideas to the web administrator at: stmichlon@dol.ca.





Transitioning into my new role, as Coordinator for Youth Ministry, has been quite exciting. I'm getting to know all the programs, ministry committees and many of the parents and students in our parish and schools. We definitely have a lot going on in our parish and I am really excited to be a part of it!

School Visits and Retreats: I've been regularly visiting our schools - St Michael's, St Mark, St Kateri, St Catherine of Sienna, (Grades 5 to 8) and Catholic Central High and Mother Theresa High Schools. I have been working alongside principals, teachers and chaplains, enabling and supporting them in providing quality and relevant Catholic resources. It has been truly rewarding to see faculty, students and parents expressing more and more interest in their faith.

I am also assisting both Fr. Murray and Fr. Don with all monthly school masses and recently assisted Fr. Murray with the blessing of the students' bibles at St. Catherine of Sienna. There have also been a number of high school retreats here at St Michael's that I was a part of.

Hockeyall Tournament for Teens: This well attended event was hosted by Joel Whelan and myself in St Michael's School yard. Sponsors Tim Hortons, Home Hardware, and Herm's Sports, all provided great prizes. Everyone enjoyed the snacks and hot chocolate and every participant received a prize. We

also had a couple of seminarians volunteer as referees. Every one said they would love to do it again.

Coffee House Talent Show: Another success due in part to many people including our volunteers Nathan Durand, Madelaine David, special guest Mathew Kupferschmidt as Praise and Worship leader, and Joel Whelan & Josh Rosedale, two DJs who donated their talent and put on an amazing

sound and light show. We are all looking forward to the next one in May.

Christmas Caroling: This year's event was led by Scott Veenvliet, our Teen Night coordinator. Both Youth Groups, their parents and our volunteers (Holly Grandy, Veronica Solis, Louise Scheid and Chantal Denomme) sang for our neighbourhood friends, who were overwhelmed with joy! The night ended with hot beverages and Christmas snacks.

Confirmation: A generous parish family donated funds to provide all of our confirmation candidates with a workbook journal. This was a keepsake from the Decision Point confirmation program from Dynamic Catholic with Mathew Kelly. Our confirmation retreat, led by 10 young adults from NET (National Evangelization Team) was held in January, and attended by over 140 participants. What was most captivating for candidates were the drama skits and of course everyone loved the music.

Classroom visits and public workshops have regularly involved games, videos, skits and Scripture in order to prepare them for the confirmation celebration in May.

Altar Server Training Day: This training experience with Fr. Don and Syl was a great day. Twenty-four young people volunteered to be trained in serving our weekend masses. We ended the day

with refreshments and pizza!

Helping Grade 8 students from St Michael's with their Bake Sale to raise funds for their grad trip was fun but hard on the waistline.

Youth Groups: Both YOUNITE and TEEN Night are continuing to grow in popularity, with new volunteers, initiatives and ideas from the Youth Commission and the



Youth Ministry Update continued



youth group leaders. We're providing meaningful ways to connect with teens and parents. A new initiative to post daily prayers, event details, and pictures for students and parents is proving to be successful.

Our Youth group page on Facebook: www.facebook/sync.stm has seen an increase in traffic and Likes as of last October. There is also a new link to follow me, (Syl) CYM, on Instagram: **STMICHAELSYM**, to all the events I attend, to keep you in the know.

This Easter season, especially with the Year of Mercy, I want to recognise the need to meet every person where they are in life through Spiritual and Corporal works of Mercy. I'm very thankful for all our volunteers, our pastoral team, and I am enthusiastic about creating new opportunities for all to encounter Christ. I am looking forward to some summer Youth Group trips and next year's vision.

Sylvain Patry, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
519-433-6689x206 • spatry@dol.ca

Welcome to the Children's Liturgy

by Darlene Durand
& Justine Patry



We offer two Sunday programs for young children; a Sunday School program for age 3 to Grade 1, and for the slightly older kids we have a special Children's Liturgy.

Our Sunday School program is run by an amazing group of volunteers, who each week share their time and love of the faith during the 10:30am Mass. After the children receive a blessing from the priest, they leave Mass to gather as a group in



the Church Hall. Each lesson begins with singing songs about our faith to engage the children. Music is an integral part of this ministry and the children enjoy jumping, clapping and singing together each week. The lessons are presented in various formats, from storytelling and role-playing, to question/answer sessions, always rooted in the weekly Gospel reading. Through songs, crafts, games and prayer experiences, the children learn tangible, age appropriate ways that they can live out their Faith in their own lives throughout the week.

The Sunday School Program at St. Michael's is designed to help nurture the faith of our children.

We aim to provide them with the experience of belonging to the Church. It is our intent to help the children begin



to appreciate that our wonderful abilities are gifts from a loving God who made us in His own image and likeness. A growing sense of self-worth and community is encouraged in each child as they reflect on how much they have learned about God. We help to build and strengthen the foundation upon which the child's faith can grow. If you feel called to be part of this Ministry as a volunteer leader or assistant, feel free to come out to see what it is all about.

For the older kids, the Children's Liturgy uncovers the readings of the day in a way that the young ones can understand and enjoy. We enrich this with discussions, prayers, songs, crafts and more. We also try to raise awareness of God's love, the forgiveness and mercy of Jesus, the Seasons of the Church, and the understanding of symbols and colours used at Mass.

Our goal is to make the children's experience at Mass a rich, meaningful and enjoyable one which allows them to grow and develop and continue to become active and participating members of our church family.

Our group meets upstairs on Sundays during the 10:30am Mass. We welcome children from Grades 2 to 4. Children at this age are very inquisitive, always willing participants in faith activities, and keen to learn more about God. We invite you to come and enjoy one of our classes with us and maybe even join our volunteer team.



For more information, please contact Justine Patry,
justinempatry@gmail.com



Reaching Out - Making Connections

by The Refugee Committee

There are 60 million people who are considered refugees by The United Nations High Commission on Refugees. This does not account for millions of people who are displaced from their homeland but are not yet registered as refugees. The Refugee Committee at St. Michael's Parish strives to answer the Pope's call for mercy, to help these asylum seekers find a safe home. We do this by providing a private sponsorship to settle one family at a time within our community. We are a sub-committee of the Social Justice Committee at St. Michael's. Our sponsorship group works within the Diocese of London, which is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder with the Government of Canada. The Refugee Committee is comprised of about 10 active members who come with a variety of gifts and experiences.

The committee has hosted several events over the last year. We are fortunate that for several years Mike Whelan and refugee team members have organized and sponsored an Annual Euchre and Bridge Tournament with a dinner. This event, headed by Carole Orchard, was held again this past February with record turnout. In November 2015, we hosted an Information Night with speakers from The Cross Cultural Learner's Centre in London and our Committee. During the program, participants were able to meet the three families we have sponsored since 2006.

We have also been blessed with the generosity and support of those in our community. A special thanks to donors from the Parish, the students of Mother Teresa Secondary School, and the Mayor's office who provided donations to the Refugee Fund. Envelopes for donations to the St. Michael's Parish Refugee Fund have been available at the back of the church since October 2015.

How do we sponsor a refugee family?

The first step to sponsorship is to raise funds for settlement costs such as accommodation, food, transportation, and other essentials for their first year in

our community. This is done through fundraising events and donations. The Refugee Committee is pleased to announce that we have now raised all the money for settlement costs for a year for a Private Sponsorship of a Karen family with four children from Burma. The committee is now responding to the call to aid refugees displaced by regional crises in the world, including the Syrian crisis. We have raised the final funds for settlement costs for this latest Sponsorship known as a Blended Visa Office Referral (BVOR). This means that Citizenship Immigration Canada (CIC) will provide up to 40% of the settlement costs for the intended family and our team will provide 60% of the settlement costs and all of the settlement responsibilities for one year.

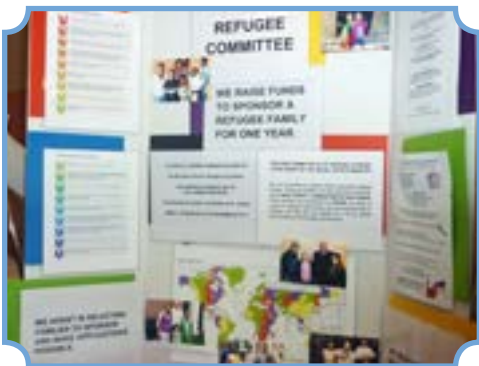
The second step in the sponsorship process is to make the application to the government through the CIC so that visas may be issued and the family is cleared to travel. In the case of our Karen refugee family, the application may require up to a year before the family is cleared to travel to London. In the case of the BVOR Sponsorship, the family will have been preapproved for travel. The family's name is made available from the Visa Office to the London Diocese Refugee Office. Our Refugee Committee will be given names of those refugees who are on that government list. We then choose a family from that list and make an application. Once the application is accepted, the Refugee Committee will receive word of the travel date for the family. This family will be welcomed to our community within months of our BVOR application. We will notify the parish once we confirm the family's arrival date.

The third step for sponsorship is fulfilling the settlement responsibilities. Through the donation of items and your time and services as outlined below, the family will be welcomed into our community. The whole parish will be involved with these activities by assisting the committee!

How can you help?

Rental accommodation is selected based on the size of the family. We do not yet know the size of our BVOR family. We will also need accommodation for our Karen family (six members) sometime in the next year. If you have information on rental accommodation with reasonable rents, please notify us.

A list of items needed to furnish the household will be provided through the church bulletin and posters in the



Refugee Committee Report continued



foyer. We are in need of a dry, heated storage space for furniture, small appliances, bedding, clothing, etc. for both sponsorships. If you have any information or contacts that you can share, please email us or contact the parish office.

When the date of arrival is known, the accommodation is made ready for the newcomers. Furniture is moved in and all the rooms are set up. Again, we require assistance from the Parish in these preparations. The committee picks up the newcomers at the airport and drives them to their accommodation in London. Over the initial weeks, arrangements are made for clothing needs, school registration, interpreting, ESL classes, health checkups, dental care, orientation to bus routes, shopping, transportation to appointments, etc. Each person who works with our refugee family will require a Police Background Check. This can be attained through the London Police website. If you want to assist in the settlement responsibilities, please contact us.

The next years will be exciting for St. Michael's Parish as we work towards welcoming two refugee families into the safety and peace of our community. Our email address is refugeeteam.stmichaels@gmail.com

Meeting Rooms Dedicated to Saints

by Louanne Henderson



Every week at St. Michael's a wide variety of meetings, activities, study groups and prayer groups meet to do the work of building up the kingdom of God. We are blessed to have not only a large worship space, but also an auditorium, library, offices and a number of meeting rooms. In this way, we accommodate small discussion groups, large active groups and people who have gathered to celebrate through food shared in community. The weekly bulletin has a 'week at a glance' section and it is clear that every space in our parish is put to good use.

As part of our Give to Grow campaign, we saw an opportunity to be more creative in the naming of our rooms. We decided to invite parishioners to name each of our meeting rooms, through a special donation earmarked for this purpose. This served a threefold purpose – to give the parishioners an opportunity to name a room after a particular favourite saint, to give the rooms a more church-focussed, interesting name, and to highlight and be inspired by some of the beloved saints in our Catholic tradition.

During the Give to Grow campaign gifting levels were established which allowed donors who participated at these levels to select a room to name and to choose the saint name. The saints selected by our fellow parishioners are St. Anthony of Padua, St. John Paul II, St. Josemaria Escriva, St. Francis and St. Wilfrid.

St. John Paul described St. Josemaria Escriva, a modern day saint of the ordinary, in these words: "He never

stopped inviting his spiritual children to invoke the Holy Spirit to ensure that their interior life, namely their life of relationship with God, and their family, professional, and social life, totally made up of small earthly realities, would not be separated but would form one life that was Holy and full of God". What an apt role model for us, the everyday Catholics, who strive to do God's work at St. Michael's.

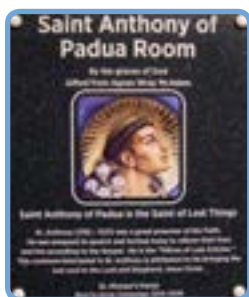
Some of the other rooms in our building will be named for two Canadian saints, whose names and stories resonate with our faith community, particularly our young people: St. Andre and St. Kateri.

And lastly, our Music Room has been named the St. Cecilia room. St. Cecilia is the patron saint of music. When St. Cecilia married and the musicians played it is written that she "sang in her heart to the Lord." The talented and dedicated musicians at St. Michael's lead us in this songful prayer, for to sing is to pray twice.

We are grateful for the generous donors who have dedicated our meeting rooms and we are inspired by the lives of the saints who will be highlighted in our meeting spaces.

The words of St. John Paul II, which greet us as we enter the large meeting room, offer us encouragement as we work together for God's kingdom:

"I plead with you—never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid" St. John Paul II





Sacramental Preparation

by Yana Adkinson

When I was a 15-year old teenager in the Soviet Union, I encountered Christ and became a Protestant Christian. However, the more I learned about Christian faith and the more I read the Bible, I couldn't help feeling that something was missing. I attended a number of different churches but it wasn't until a year later when I walked into a Catholic Church and heard the priest talk about Sacraments that I found what I had been missing all along in the Protestant tradition.

I fell in love with the Catholic faith, with the Sacraments (tangible visible signs of God's love for us) and discovered the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Today, I am privileged to be able to help our younger parishioners prepare to receive two wonderful sacraments for the first time: First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

There is no questioning Jesus' love for children. When some parents wished to bring their children to Jesus *"in order that He might lay his hands on them and pray,"* his disciples spoke sternly and tried to keep them away. What did Jesus do? He rebuked his disciples and showed just how important children are to Him.

Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom*

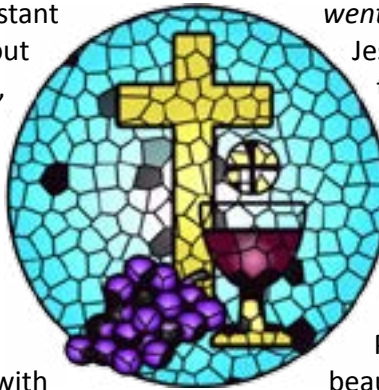
of heaven belongs. And he laid his hands on them and went on his way." (Matthew 19: 14-15). Today,

Jesus continues to welcome children through the sacraments. In Baptism, they are freed from original sin and become sons and daughters of God. When they reach the age of reason (seven years old), they receive the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Pope Francis has spoken often about the beauty of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and he has made it an important part of the celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy: *"Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the center once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace."* In a homily he reminded us that *"No one can be excluded from the mercy of God; everyone knows the way to access it and the Church is the house where everyone is welcomed and no one is rejected."*

I often ask parents to celebrate their child's First Reconciliation and to do something special with them afterwards. We always celebrate Baptism and First Communion but we don't always celebrate First Reconciliation. I want children to remember their First Reconciliation as something wonderful and special, as an encounter with God and His love for us, as *"an embrace of the Father and an experience of His unconditional love."*

When I visit the Grade 2 students in our schools and help prepare them for First Reconciliation, I make it a point to teach them the parable of the Prodigal Son, using props and "I wonder" questions about the parable. "I wonder how the father felt when the younger son took his part of the money and left home? I wonder how the younger son felt when he was in a foreign land, hungry, penniless



Family owned and operated since 1930.

A tradition of care,
compassion and professionalism
helping facilitate those experiencing
the loss of a loved one.

362 Waterloo Street
London, ON N6B 2N6

519-434-2708

website: donohuefuneralhome.ca



www.LegacyPartners.ca

Mike Whelan
B.Comm, CLU, Ch.F.C.
Chartered Financial Consultant

Mike@LegacyPartners.ca
Phone: (519) 518-2025 x22
240 - 633 Colborne St.
London ON N6B 2V3

Financial Planning for People with a Purpose!
Representing Freedom 55 Financial, a division of London Life Insurance Company

First Reconciliation & First Communion continued



and abandoned by his friends? I wonder how scared the younger son was when he was returning home and asking his father to forgive him? I wonder how he felt when he saw his father waiting for him, running to embrace him and celebrate his return with a great big feast? I wonder, do you see yourself as the younger son or the older son in this story?" After children answer "I wonder" questions I ask them to tell me how they think this parable is connected to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Who is the father in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Who is the younger son?

Sometimes I am asked why we celebrate First Reconciliation before First Communion. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that *"...we must prepare our hearts for so great and so holy a moment."* The way I



explain it to the children is that just as we clean and prepare our house when we have special guests coming, we need to clean and prepare our heart for receiving our most important guest, Jesus, in the First Communion.

When children receive their First Communion, they encounter Christ in a very unique and special way for the first time, they are nourished with the Body and Blood of the Lord. It begins a process of deepening their relationship with Christ and others. Our Holy Father stresses: *"It's important for children to properly prepare*

for their First Communion, so that there's no child without this Sacrament. The Eucharist is a firm step towards Jesus, along with Baptism and Confirmation." If children are not prepared for this encounter, they miss the gift of Christ's presence and the graces our Lord wants to bestow on us in this Sacrament. When Pope Francis speaks of Communion, he tells us that: *"The Eucharist is such a great gift. That's why going to Mass is so important. Going to Mass not just to pray, but to receive Communion, the Bread and Body of Christ. It saves us, forgives us and it makes us one with the Father. How beautiful!"*

What can families do to create an environment to help their child prepare for their First Communion and to continue the journey of faith? We know that faith is more "caught, rather than taught" and that parents are the primary educators of faith in their children's lives. Here are some of the things parents can do to help prepare their children for First Communion:

- ✚ Go to Sunday Mass with your children. Talk about what went on at Mass. Make Sunday Mass an important family experience, not just something "we have to do and get it over with."
- ✚ Pray a special prayer with your child daily as they prepare. For example: "Jesus, as I prepare for my First Communion, please help me love You more and do Your will."
- ✚ Come a few minutes earlier to Mass (or stay after) and pray together. Teach your child how to pray a short prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion.
- ✚ Talk about how God is working in your life and what the Eucharist means to you. Share your experience of your First Communion, including other relatives' experiences (grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.).
- ✚ Make it a priority to eat dinner together as a family. This helps them to understand more clearly how the Eucharist is the family meal of the Church and the food for our souls.

Hot & Fresh
pizza pizza



CALL, CLICK or COME IN...
(519) 667-11-11 | pizzapizza.ca



Dr. Maria Cernea
RESTORATIVE & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

1463 Adelaide St. North
London, ON N5X 1K3
www.guiltinanfamilydentistry.ca

Tel: 519.850.3888
Fax: 519.850.3898
drmaria@guiltinanfamilydentistry.ca



Market Place Bazaar Report

by Karen Owens



Everyone loves a fall bazaar! Last November a bazaar was held at our parish to raise funds for the School Breakfast Program and for feeding the hungry through our Hospitality North Program. It had been many years since there had been a traditional bazaar and it was welcomed by the community at large. Shoppers from throughout London and from surrounding areas such as St. Thomas visited our event. They commented that this bazaar was the best that they had attended, the Draw Table was incredible, the baking delicious and the crafts were of very high quality. Kudos to the Planning Committee: Lynda Ducharme and Susan Howard (Advertising), Margaret Hutton (Draw Table and Silent Auction), Judy Wright and Maria Pace (Craft Table), Joanne Zwolski (Bake Table), Theresa Levschuk (letters) and Karen Owens (Vendor Tables and Committee Chair).



By raising over \$5,000 we certainly supported the two programs as well as provided some seed monies for future bazaars. Well documented educational studies

show that children who eat a good breakfast do better academically. St. Michael's School principal and staff were thrilled with the generosity of our parishioners in helping to feed so many kids at the school each morning.

Advertising the event was a huge endeavor that required getting the word out into the community through letters, notices, bulletins, mobile signs, radio announcements and newspaper ads while trying to use as many free advertising venues as possible. The overwhelming number of people who visited our church was a testament to a job well done by Lynda Ducharme and Susan Howard.

As visitors arrived, they were welcomed by Joan Lobsinger and Maggie Magee. They had the opportunity to purchase tickets for the Lucky Number 50/50 Draw by choosing their own lucky numbers from a chart. The winner was Bryant McKillop who won \$285. This Lucky Draw was a new addition to the bazaar and was popular.

Community outreach within our church boundaries was a vital part of the bazaar. Last August, Margaret Hutton was instrumental in delivering close to one hundred letters to businesses, stores and companies in our area inviting them to support our fundraiser by donating to our Draw Table and Silent Auction. A follow up phone call and a visit to them ensured that they were given an opportunity to help. The response and gift donations were overwhelming and the ticket buyers were genuinely thrilled with the variety of articles and gift cards available to win. Ticket sales were excellent! All donors received a thank you letter from the committee and hopefully next year they will once again support the bazaar. This aspect of the fundraiser was the busiest and most time consuming, but it was unquestionably one of the main successes of



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
"RIGHT ARM OF THE CHURCH"

Dedication and Charity
offers
Hope and Support
to
the Less Fortunate

Come join us. Please contact Bud Jardine: 519-433-8850

Knights of Columbus St. Michael's Parish

Market Place Bazaar Report continued



the bazaar, raising about half the net profits. The quantity of items and the reasonable ticket prices made it popular. Thank you to Geoff Hutton, Howie Wright and Gil Owens for helping with the ticket sales throughout the day.

The Craft Table showcased the talents of our parishioners. Handcrafted items were beautifully created and included hats, mitts, scarves, sweaters, socks, kitchen towels, dishcloths, wooden boards, aprons, tote bags, Christmas wreaths, decorations, handmade cards, rosaries, baby clothes, afghans, artwork and more! What was even more remarkable was the “mushrooming” that began to occur as the event got closer and more and more parishioners began using their skills and talents to make and donate so many wonderful things! Judy Wright and her helpers, Vina Wang, Marinette Laureano, and Theresa Levschuk displayed the crafts beautifully and priced them affordably.

The Bake Table relied on the generosity of parishioners to bake goodies and sweets. Once again, this was a very popular table. Joanne Zwolski networked with the “volunteer bakers” in our parish who responded overwhelmingly. An added feature was the request for parishioners to donate their preserves - jellies and jams,



salsa, pickles, beets and relishes. The preserves sold out very quickly! Many parishioners showed their culinary talents and willingly shared these, adding another dimension to the success of the

bazaar. With help from Lynda Ducharme and Renee McKillop the goodies were set up and priced to sell.

The Kitchen Crew, Tommy and Vina Wang, Anita Rodrigues, Pat Galloway and Linda Round, made sure that the vendors, volunteers and shoppers could enjoy refreshments and food throughout the day.

The Vendor Tables offered our patrons different gifts to purchase that were not available in other areas of the bazaar. Tables were “rented” to the vendors and most of them also gave a donation to

our Draw Table. Although the vendors keep their profits from all their sales, the monies raised from renting the tables to them covered our costs of running the bazaar, including the mobile sign rental, printing.

The Friday Set Up Crew and the Saturday Clean Up Crew did an amazing job and worked many hours ensuring the tables and chairs were arranged properly. Early on



Saturday morning greeters assisted the vendors as they arrived. What a team effort on both days!! Thank you Geoff, Howie, Gil, Tommy, Doug and Sid along with the Planning Committee members.

When I reflect on the process of organizing a bazaar and following it through to such a successful finish, I have to thank all the people who were readily available and so willing to help and support the event. At this point, I am sure that I have forgotten to name a few, but you know who you are, perhaps a helper with the Planning Committee, a crafter or artist, a volunteer or salesperson, a local business partner, a shopper or visitor from the community or our parish, and the list goes on...Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone!

It was truly an amazing and rewarding experience to be part of such a large parish community working so closely together to not only reach our goal, but to surpass it. What a blessing! *(P.S. It looks like plans have already begun for the November 2016 Bazaar!)*

Home care designed especially for you
in the London area, please call
519.438.6313
1.877.438.6315

- Nursing
- Home Support
- Insurance Funding Investigations
- Nurse Supervised Staff
- Personal Care
- Companionship
- Free Assessments
- 24 Hour/7 Day Service

Bayshore HealthCare



St. Michael's Choir Music Selection

by Holly Langohr

Have you ever noticed as you are sitting in the pews singing from your hymnal that the lyrics reflect and expand upon the readings that week? You may not have stopped to think about it, but behind the scene, care is taken to ensure that the music for each mass is related to the theme of the week. Mark David, Nando Favaro, Tom Hart and myself, all work together to lead St. Michael's Parish in song, directing a total of six choirs including Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am and 12:30pm, as well as the Funeral Choir and the Youth Choir.

Each individual choir contributes a unique musical style and purpose to the Parish in order to appeal to the wide and diverse demographic that is the congregation. As Music Ministers, our goal is to choose hymns that best reflect the readings of the day, lead the choir and congregation in song during mass, and to foster a positive environment for singing praise to God.



Many of the songs in the three hymnals St. Michael's uses (The Catholic Book of Worship, Glory and Praise, and Celebrate in Song) include texts that are drawn from

the readings that we have grown to know. For example, in the Catholic Book of Worship, the hymn O Sons and Daughters describes the Resurrection and specifically Thomas' doubts that Christ did indeed rise from the dead. This hymn would be chosen specifically for the Sunday during the Easter season when that passage is read. We as a congregation have the opportunity to hear various music selections each weekend, as each choir has autonomy in selecting songs, based on its individual style. While some hymns might be wonderfully relevant to the readings, they may also be technically difficult to perform, and as such not suitable for every choir.

Typically, the Masses on Saturday at 5:00pm and Sunday at 8:30am are more traditional in musical style, while the Sunday 10:30am Mass and Youth Choir are more contemporary. What makes for a more "traditional" or "contemporary" hymn? Most traditional hymns have tunes that were written hundreds of years ago, for example Joyful Joyful We Adore You. Contemporary hymns are more recent and are perhaps more suited to

piano and guitar as opposed to the organ. While each style is unique, both offer a joyous music experience for the congregation. During the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, one hymn is selected as a "common" hymn. This common hymn is sung at all of the Masses during the entire season. This year during Lent the hymn Jesus Tempted in the Desert from Celebrate in Song was chosen as the common hymn. While the text is very appropriate during the Lenten season, the music itself evokes a slow, dark, contemplative journey.

The Youth Choir is a great opportunity for grades 5-12 to share their love of music with others. The music during the Mass is contemporary, upbeat and easy to learn. If singing is



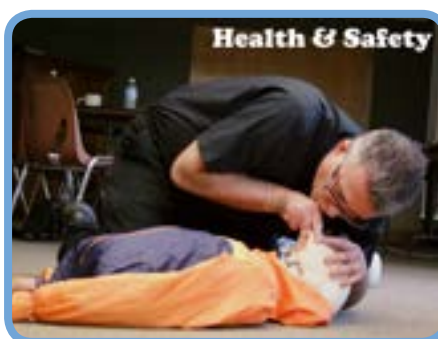
not your forte, we also need musicians: piano, guitar, flute or a stringed instrument would make a great addition to the choir. Music for instrumentalists can be chosen far in advance to allow for practice time at home or with a private instructor. Rehearsals for Youth Choir are on the first and second Saturdays of every month, and the Choir sings at Mass on the second weekend of the month on a rotating basis.

The Saturday 5:00pm choir rehearses every Tuesday night upstairs in the music room at 7:00pm and meets before Mass at 4:15pm on Saturdays. The Sunday 8:30am choir, as well as the Sunday 12:30pm choir, practice a half hour before Mass begins. The Contemporary Choir, which sings on Sunday at 10:30am, rehearses every Thursday night at 7:30pm in the church. The Funeral Choir meets a half hour before each funeral.

As always, the choirs at St. Michael's are actively accepting new members, and while many people think that they need to have a great voice to join, we are welcoming to voices of all ages and abilities. Each voice has its own place in the choir whether it be singing a solo, singing harmony or singing the melody - choir is a great place to connect with others, socialize and of course - sing!

If anyone is interested in joining any one of the choirs do not hesitate to speak to one of the Music Ministers after Mass.

Parish Photos



Parish 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 8:30 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 (St. Josephine Bakhita)

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. and 4:00 – 4:30 p.m.

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



The route . . .

9:50 a.m.

- 64 Wyndham
- Blackwater east of Adelaide - bus stop
- Grenfell just east of Blackwater
- Fanshawe/Trossacks - bus stop on corner
- 770 Fanshawe Park Rd east of Fremont - bus stop
- Fanshawe Park Road - 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 Street - bus stop east of Wedgewood Drive

10:15 a.m.

- 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

msample@dol.ca

ext. 202

Father Don Pumputis, Parochial Vicar

dpumputis@dol.ca

ext. 306

Yana Adkinson, Pastoral Minister

yadkinson@dol.ca

ext. 203

Sylvain Patry, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

spatry@dol.ca

ext. 206

Staff

Doug Manners, Business Administrator

dmanners@dol.ca

ext. 205

Mary Egan, Parish Secretary

stmichlon@dol.ca

ext. 201

Jolanda Squire, Financial Secretary

jsquire@dol.ca

ext. 208

Sid Wocks, Hall Coordinator

swocks@dol.ca

ext. 210

Parish Council Chairperson

Howie Wright

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 19 & 20
Holy Thursday	March 24
Good Friday	March 25
Holy Saturday	March 26
Easter Vigil/Sunday	March 26-27
Confirmation	April 14-15
First Communion	April 16-17 & April 30-May 1
	May 7-8
Knights of Columbus Yard Sale	May 7
Ascension	May 8
Pentecost	May 15