



# St. Michael's Parish Newsletter

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

*"Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear."*

*Luke 2:8-9*



December 2016

Merry Christmas my dear Sisters & Brothers,

The shepherds of Luke's gospel are the first people to hear "the good news for all the people." The shepherds were not the gentle pastoral figures we see in our nativity settings. They were not as peaceful and gentle as the lambs they tended in the open fields.

In reality shepherds were tough, earthy characters who fearlessly swung their staffs against poachers and wild animals to protect their flocks. Shepherding was not a job for the faint of heart; they were required to confront the thieves, the wild animals and the worst weather. The Pharisees and the Scribes saw the shepherds as untrustworthy, considered them to be second class citizens with no legal standing in the courts of law.

But it is these simple shepherds rather than the powerful that God invites, "to behold the birth of the Saviour." It was to them that Jesus came as the Good Shepherd whose love for all of humanity would find no limitation. The shepherds are you and me. It is for us that the good news that Jesus, who is God, has taken on human nature. It is us who hope in God's goodness that receive the Good News.

My prayer is that we may possess the simple hearts of the Bethlehem shepherds, so that we may hear and embrace the good news of Jesus' birth. May we possess the spirit of humility that will enable us to rejoice in the wondrous love of God made visible to us once again at our Christmas celebrations this year. May we embrace what the shepherds did after they saw the child; they went back and shared the news with others.

*continued on page 2...*

## Christmas Celebrations

### *Christmas Reconciliation Schedule*

Friday, December 16th: 8:30am-7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 20th & Wednesday,

December 21st:

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

### *Christmas Day*

Sunday, December 25th:

8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm

### *Christmas Eve*

(Carols one half hour prior to each Mass)

Saturday, December 24th:

4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm

& 12:00 midnight

### *Feast of Mary, Mother of God*

*(Holy Day of Obligation)*

Saturday, December 31st:

5:00pm

Sunday, January 1st:

8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm





## Father Murray's Message continued...



I invite you to come to the Christmas celebrations. Join in the traditional songs of Christmas. Receive the gift of the Eucharist, the very body and blood of Jesus. The Masses this Christmas will be offered for you and your families. The Pastoral Team and Staff look forward to seeing you and celebrating the Eucharist. Please consider coming at midnight, that traditional hour for the Church to gather to remember the Light of the World has come to us.

*Fr. Murray Sample*

Fr. Murray Sample  
Pastor



## Meet Our New Hall Coordinator

by Louanne  
Henderson

The first thing you notice when you meet Rod Tramble is his ready smile and friendly manner! Rod is our new Hall Coordinator, and all-round maintenance and custodial manager at St. Michael's. Following a six week period of training and job shadowing, Rod took over the keys and his new role on June 20.

Rod is originally from Halifax and now enjoys life in London with his wife and daughter. While previously at another parish, he is now proud to be a member of St. Michael's Parish. You will also see Rod taking on the Usher role at 10:30am Mass.

Rod has a background in inventory control as a purchasing manager and has also worked in the funeral home sector. These experiences prepared him well for the varied roles he now has at St. Michael's.

Rod is very much involved in the day-to-day operations of a busy, active Parish. He coordinates the bookings of all the various meetings, celebrations and special events that take place on a weekly basis, and uses software to manage the bookings and to develop seating plans for the various groups' needs. These plans assist him greatly in allocating his time efficiently.

He is also responsible for cleaning, maintenance, troubleshooting and the overall care of our church building. Rod thrives on all these responsibilities. He enjoys the fast pace and the satisfaction derived from a job accomplished and done well. He likes to see results!

Rod is also very much a people person. He was attracted to the position by the opportunity to interact with many

different people and knows that he has something to add to the vibrant life at St. Michael's.

Arriving on the scene just in time for the construction project, he plays a key role in coordinating the interplay between the construction project

and the weekly parish activities. Contractors know they can approach Rod about daily plans that will help them move ahead with their tasks. While Rod admits that the construction has provided a degree of inconvenience to everyone, he is the first to state that it will pay great dividends in the long run!

Rod is enjoying getting to know the parishioners and wants everyone to know that he is here to help! His door is always open and he knows that it is important to address issues before they become problems.

He invites questions and feedback so that he can do his job well. In both his new position and his Parish involvement, Rod is thrilled to be a real part of something, and he's hoping to help make St. Michael's flourish.

Since his time here, Rod has observed the high level of involvement of parishioners. He recognizes how much people do and has been very impressed.

We wish Rod well and know that he is a great new addition to our St. Michael's Parish family.



Our **Newsletter Team**: Carmen Gicante, Keith Rodrigues, Louanne Henderson, Angela Townend, Giacomo Barone, Paul Tremblay, Doug Manners, Sonja Sawh and Rai Abraham.  
Newsletter Design: Joanne Tremblay



# Decorating Committee Report

by Louanne  
Henderson



The liturgical year of the Church begins with the first Sunday of Advent and concludes twelve months later at the Feast of Christ the King. Throughout the year we are drawn into the experience of the liturgy through concrete symbols – music, candles, incense, bread and wine - all of which help us to experience the Divine through our human senses. One very concrete activity at St. Michael's enhances our liturgy throughout the seasons – the decorating. The Decorating Committee, made up of a team of dedicated volunteers, works behind the scenes under Father Murray's leadership, to plan, change, design, store and refresh seasonal decorations.



Christmas is a very special time in our Church year and much effort is put into decorating the worship space so that parishioners and visitors alike will have their senses lifted to the joys of God's message as we celebrate the birth of His Son. The first decoration to come out of storage is the Advent Wreath, a symbol of the eternity and goodness of God. Each year the wreath is placed in front of the altar and four candles, three purple and one pink, are placed amongst the greenery. The candles call our attention to the four themes of the Advent Sundays – Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.

Bright red poinsettias and seasonal greenery are placed on the altar, around the ambo to highlight the Liturgy of the Word and in the chapel. Wreaths adorn the wall behind the altar and the back wall. At St. Michael's we have a beautiful manger scene of carved figures. They are carefully placed in front of the Baptismal Font, so that parishioners, especially those with small children, have access to visit and marvel at the Infant Jesus, his parents and the shepherds and Magi who are such a central part of the Nativity story. A special feature of the Christmas decorating is the Tree of Remembrance. Parishioners make a request to have a decoration created in memory of a loved one. Volunteers prepare the decorations and hang them on the tree for the duration of the Christmas season, at the end of which time family members take the decoration home. This year we were particularly fortunate to have some students join in the task as part

of their service project while journeying to Confirmation.

Decorations are minimal during the period of ordinary time and the season of Lent. When Easter, the most glorious moment in our Church year arrives, it is important to have our worship space burst forth in light and colour, as visual symbols of Christ's life giving actions. The volunteer team meets on Good Friday, after the solemn liturgy, to begin the transformation. A special hydraulic lift is rented so that billowing white banners can be hung from the altar to the ceiling, drawing our eyes in a dynamic movement from Earth to Heaven. White cloths also highlight the Baptismal Font, as we prepare to renew our Baptismal promises.

Similarly, a white cloth is draped over the crucifix on the altar and the Risen Christ in the foyer, to illustrate Christ's victory over death. Beautiful new plants and large arrangements of spring greenery arrive to adorn the altar and chapel. The Easter Season lasts 50 days, so the plants must remain beautiful throughout the season, in order to enhance our Masses and special celebrations of First Eucharist. New candles are set out, a fresh altar cloth is prepared and the Easter Candle is set in its holder.

Finally, we have the beautiful celebration of Thanksgiving. The altar is decorated with the many colours, flowers, fruits and vegetables which represent harvest blessings and our loving Father who provides for us. The Decorating Committee derives joy from preparing our worship space and hopes that through its efforts the parishioners of St. Michael's will have a deeper experience of the faith and Divine mystery which we share.

Finally, we have the beautiful celebration of Thanksgiving. The altar is decorated with the many colours, flowers, fruits and vegetables which represent harvest blessings and our loving Father who provides for us. The Decorating Committee derives joy from preparing our worship space and hopes that through its efforts the parishioners of St. Michael's will have a deeper experience of the faith and Divine mystery which we share.



**BRONNENCO  
CONSTRUCTION LTD.**

**BRUNO PORCIELLO, P.Q.S.**

[bporciello@bronnenco.com](mailto:bporciello@bronnenco.com)

- GENERAL CONSTRUCTION  
- CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS  
- DESIGN BUILD

5625 EGREMONT DR.  
RR#1  
ILDERTON, ON  
N0M 1A0

CELL (519) 640-9261





# Youth Ministry Report

by Sylvain Patry

As I reflected on the close of the Year of Mercy, it was apparent that we all struggle in our own ways, we all live busy lives volunteering or at work, school or church. Deep down, we are all longing for some kind of relationship with God while everything else is competing for our attention. This year we have seen an increase in young people wanting to serve God.



Our Alter Server training day included time with Fr. Don, Vivian Lee and myself learning how to help serve at Mass. We also enjoyed a game of ball hockey with Fr. Don as one of the goalies (the teens really loved that) and finished off with a pizza lunch.



We have a new vision in youth ministry this year, focusing on the Eucharist, Adoration and our Blessed Mother.

With wonderful support from our Pastoral team, and with Fr. Murray's blessings, I am pleased to present St. Michael's EDGE CORE Team:

From left to right Top Row: Michelle Flisar, Curtis McGill, Sylvain Patry (CYM) Veronica Solis, Jacob Patry, Michael Theriault, Chantal Denomme, Angele Patry.

Bottom row: Daphne Sucic, Scott Veenliet (Team Leader), Cassandra MacEachern, Josh Gubbels, Rossana Ungson.



These dedicated individuals are parents, young adults and teens. I am so excited to see people's openness to our mission and what God's plan is for them when they respond to His call to serve others.



Through prayer, discernment, and a solid catechesis in the EGDE program from LIFETEEN, it is really reassuring during this Advent season to see so many people come together to serve.

As we planned for our Youth group launch party,





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 has been enhancing the quality of life, dignity and independence of Canadians in their homes since 1966.

**BEST MANAGED COMPANIES**  
National member

ISO 9001  
Quality Management System  
Registered Company

**Bayshore HealthCare**

www.bayshore.ca



# Youth Ministry Report continued



the excitement in the schools and church was evident. Our Launch Party in October welcomed a record number of participants from Grade 5 to high school, parents and grandparents.



The night opened up with a Hawaiian style party, introduction of the CORE team, music and lights with a live DJ, challenging games, food and prizes. Adults enjoyed the opportunity to kick back and enjoy a cup of java while witnessing the laughter, the fun and small group talks.

Our program calls us to challenge our participants with physical, psychological, cognitive, spiritual and relational maturation. We experienced this through simple conversations and from meeting young people and their families and letting them know that we're here to walk with them no matter what. We closed the party with a prayer, joined by the CORE team members, participants and their families, giving thanks to our Father through His son Jesus and asking our Blessed Mother for her intercession.



We were overwhelmed by the response and by the many request for upcoming EDGE nights. Our Confirmation candidates have also responded to the call. Many teens have shown up, wanting to serve in many different ministries. Parents have appreciated the opportunity saying "it's great a way for them to develop

leadership skills, learn about our Catholic faith and hang out with other similar age teens that are on the same path. It's like they're part of the family."



This Advent, as humble as we can be, let us not close the door but always remember that Mercy invites us in at every opportunity. We have to rediscover the core, to return to what is the essence regardless of how busy we are. As Mary said, her "yes" is the key. St. Paul reminds us to awake from sleep.



For our Salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness (and) put on the armor of light (Romans 13:11-14). Let us reach out to others so that as a family, our focus can be the Eucharist, because that is what makes us Catholic.

PHOTOGRAPHY DIGITAL  
COLOUR SEPARATIONS  
COLOUR REPRODUCTION  
DIGITAL ASSEMBLY  
MULTICOLOUR  
LITHOGRAPHY

  
**CONTACT**  
CREATIVE SERVICES INC.

1180 Wilton Grove Rd.  
London, ON N6N 1C8

📞 519.668.1712  
📞 519.649.1405  
☎ 1.800.361.1672  
✉ mail@contactcreative.com



# The Twelve Gifts of Christmas

by Angela Townend

The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy began on December 8th, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The year ended on November 20th, the Solemnity of Christ the King, with the closing of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica.

This "year of the Lord's favour" was marked by Pope Francis' encouragement to "...live this Jubilee intensely, begging the Father to forgive our sins and to bathe us in His merciful indulgence." Our Holy Father further reminded us that this year's motto, *Be merciful just as your Father is merciful* (Luke 6:36) does not come without dedication and sacrifice.

Now, with Advent upon us and as the year is drawing to a close, we should reflect on those times we showed mercy towards others this past year and on ways we can continue to do this. The Gospels are full of examples of Jesus offering mercy to the suffering and can truly show us how to offer these gifts to others in need.

## The 12 Gifts of Mercy

- 1. God's Word:** We must meditate on God's word before we can clearly understand how to offer mercy to others. We can share the gift of God's promises with the doubtful, witnessing to others the importance of living by scripture, or simply giving the gift of God's word to someone at Christmas. Many are hungry for God's word.
- 2. Forgiveness:** Luke's gospel reminds us to bless those that curse us. Letting go of wrongs and forgiving others can be difficult, but the gift of forgiveness opens us up to our own healing and proves that love and compassion can overcome wrongs. What could be more powerful than Jesus' own words on the cross, *Father forgive them for they know not what they do*.
- 3. Prayer:** Prayer is a gift from God. Holding others in our prayer is a powerful gift and there are times when prayer is the only thing we can offer. Do we pray for the living and the dead? Do we pray for those who have asked us to pray? What a privilege to take to God in prayer our own needs and those of others too.
- 4. Time:** In an era of indulgence in technology and where time never seems to be enough, what a wonderful way to demonstrate our love and mercy for others. To visit, to call, or to send a card are just a few of the ways we can take our focus off our own lives and let someone else know that they matter to us. Remember, throughout the Gospel, Jesus was never in a hurry and always made time for those in need. *Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others* (Philippians 2:4).
- 5. Compassion and Comfort:** We can always seek out and help the poor, the hungry, the sick, and the lonely. Do we carefully watch those who may be in need of this gift...those who are silently suffering, alone, in pain or lost?
- 6. Non-Judgemental and Unfailing Love:** Do we criticize others out of jealousy, bitterness or for selfish gain? Instead of judging, we ask "what can I offer this person?" or "how can I humbly submit to God's word and be an instrument of spiritual guidance?"
- 7. Hope:** Our hope in the Lord renews our strength. The suffering of others is especially trying if they are without the hope and encouragement of others. Can we show our hope through words, prayers, actions, or simply being present through their trials? Can you share your story with someone, show how your hope and trust is not in this world but in God?
- 8. Patience:** God is infinitely patient with us. He took 80 years to shape Moses for his life's work. The biblical



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

Dedication and Charity  
offers  
Hope and Support  
to  
the Less Fortunate

Come join us. Please contact Bob Gauthier: 519-850-0600

Knights of Columbus St. Michael's Parish



# The Twelve Gifts of Christmas continued



term “long suffering” implies patience and St. Paul when asked to explain love (agape), listed patience as first among its works. Those who test our own endurance position us to offer the gift of our patience so we can role model God’s patience.

**9. Wise Counsel:** To give the gift of wise counsel, we must first apply our knowledge of God’s word. We can then pair this with the wisdom He grants us through enduring our own life experiences and hardships, lessons whose value is much greater when given away to others. What scripture can we refer to and what trials have we endured that we now can share to help others?

**10. Humility:** We are called to be humble and caring servants of God. Jesus washed the feet of His disciples; is there any task God lays at our feet that we are too prideful to undertake? Remember, *God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble* (James 4:6). Saying I’m sorry, I was wrong or finding a way to put another’s needs before ours are great examples of giving the gift of humility.

**11. Sacrifice:** God made the ultimate sacrifice through His Son. What is difficult for us to sacrifice and how and to whom can we offer it? Is it our time, money, resources, energy, commitment, knowledge? If it hurts a little to give because it’s something we need... then it’s probably a sacrifice.

**12. Steadfast love:** The Psalms are celebrations of God’s steadfast love. *O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!* (Psalm 118:1). Sometimes it is in our most challenging situations where we can show our faith and role model our own unending mercy and steadfast love. Can you help those who need this gift to understand God’s promise to never leave them or abandon them?

We know that New Year’s resolutions often fade away by February as our goals are too lofty or too many. Is it possible that a resolution to fulfill one act of mercy every day of the year could be successful? A word of encouragement to a grieving friend, a prayer for someone who is ill, a coffee for a struggling coworker, driving someone to church.

Like God’s love and mercy for us, the ways to give the gifts of mercy are unending. What better time than during Advent, a time of hope and joyful anticipation, to look for these opportunities.

*Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*  
Hebrews 4:16



[www.LegacyPartners.ca](http://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.





**MACMASTER**  
CHEVROLET Cadillac BUICK GMC

**NEW BUILDING,  
SAME GREAT SERVICE  
AND FRIENDLY FACES.**

**You’ve got a friend at  
MacMaster Chevrolet!**

**1350 DRIVER LN, LONDON 519-455-6200**



**London Massage  
Therapy Centre**

**Serving London Over 29 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

**Therapeutic & Relaxation Massage  
Insurance Claims,  
Chronic Pain**

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

**519 673-3007**

**Joanne E.M. Buchanan, B.A., R.M.T.  
& Associates**  
[www.londonrmtcentre.com](http://www.londonrmtcentre.com)





# Holiday Bazaar Report

by Karen Owens



This year's Holiday Market Place Bazaar was a huge success! With over \$6,200 raised, our School Breakfast Program, Hospitality North, the new refugee Karen family as well as other ministries within the parish will certainly benefit. On November 12th, the parish

hall was packed with shoppers determined to find that unique Christmas gift.

The first task was to recruit volunteers to the Planning Committee. Our dynamic team included Lynda Ducharme (Advertising), Margaret Hutton and Larry McKenzie (Draw Table and Silent Auction), Gil Owens (Tickets), Joanne Zwolski (Bake Table), Judy Wright (Craft Table), Tommy and Vina Wang (Food and Beverages) and Karen Owens (Vendors, Volunteers and Event Coordinator). The Event Coordinator was responsible for keeping everyone on track and ensuring that targets were met.

In August, an invitation letter was personally delivered to over 100 businesses and companies inviting them to support our fundraiser by making a donation to the Draw Table or Silent Auction. Although it is becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain prizes, more than 160 donations were received.

Lynda Ducharme was instrumental in getting the word out about the bazaar, with ads written for the London Free Press, The Londoner, Community News, the Diocese, our website, parish schools, radio stations, Rogers TV, CTV Community Channel, Kijiji and our weekly bulletin. Posters were placed in libraries and retirement homes and on our mobile sign and the church doors. Thank you to Terry McBride for helping with the graphics. With Rod Tramble's help, the parish hall looked festive and bright.

Visitors were greeted by Donna and Mark Thompson and later by Marilyn Morgan. The first 75 people received bags of products and information brochures. Theresa Levschuk helped make the date draw cards. Tickets were sold for the "Lucky Date Draw" and the winning date was June 27th for \$242. The variety of items on the Draw Table and Silent Auction was extraordinary. Margaret Hutton and Larry McKenzie set up, and Margaret Hutton, Gil Owens and Anita Rodrigues sold tickets for the event.

Thanks also to Geoff Hutton for his help.

At 3:00 pm, the lengthy task of drawing the winning tickets began. On Sunday morning, the winners were contacted. Smiles were everywhere that morning!

The Silent Auction was set up by Howie Wright and Wayne Wolanski. There was limited space this year but we did have about 20 items ranging from a spa package, gift baskets and rounds of golf, to a giant Jenga game.

The Craft Table and Preserves were very popular this year. Judy Wright did an amazing job pricing and displaying the knitting, crocheting, painting, woodworking, baby clothes, blankets, Christmas crafts, rosaries, hand painted magnets, handcrafted cards, woodworking, pickles, beets, relishes jams, jellies and sauces, beautiful gift sets, etc. Thank you to Linda Round, Renee McKillop, Vina and Karen for helping to set up.

Donations of recycled mason jars in the spring made it possible to redistribute these jars to parishioners who



made preserves of jams and jellies, beets and pickles, relishes and sauces, soup and granola mixes and snack food of nuts and bolts. Many volunteers helped out and thank you to Mary Herlick, Grace Wren, Cathie Gauthier, Florence Brady, Vina Wang, Penny Yip, Dan Vickery and Hayden Langlois.

Tommy and Vina Wang coordinated the food and refreshments for the day. Muffins and sandwiches were very popular along with Tommy's famous sweet potato pie!

Special thanks to Dan Vickery for helping in the kitchen on Friday and Saturday. Thanks also to Bev Arnold and Louise Jackman for their help. Baking is always popular at a bazaar and this year was no exception. Thank you to Joanne Zwolski for coordinating the table and to her helpers, Mary Herlick and Penny Yip.

A very big thank you to all the parishioners who donated their yummys. A special thank you goes out to the Grade 8 Confirmation students who used their volunteer hours to bake for the bazaar.

Lastly, a special thank you to the spouses who supported and helped us from start to finish. There are probably many others whom I have forgotten to thank, but please know that we sincerely appreciate all the work that happened behind the scenes.

And we mustn't forget those of you who shopped! People helping people and sharing their time, talents and treasures - that's what St. Michael's Parish is all about!





Henry Edward Dormer was born in Warwickshire, England, and after studies in Europe and in Ireland, made a retreat at age 19 under Father Rudolph Suffield, a Dominican friar, an event which changed his outlook on life. Stationed with the King's Regiment in London, Upper Canada, (now Ontario) in 1866 during the era of the Fenian Raids, Dormer is reputed to have led a life of selfless devotion to God, attending to the needs

of the poor, sick and elderly of the colonial garrison town. Dormer bestowed money, clothing, food and other necessities to those in need, and gave religious instruction to children and soldiers, while wrestling with the question of his own vocation to the priesthood.

Dormer contracted typhoid fever and died on 2 October 1866, the feast of the Guardian Angels, just as he had decided to enter the Dominican novitiate. As word of Dormer's death spread, newspapers reported that "the saint is dead." A plaque was installed in his honour at St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica in London, Ontario. He is held as a wonderful example of how growing in holiness assists us in the discernment of our vocation.

The Dormer house is a residence for Catholic men (18 yrs and older), who are seeking to discern their state of life vocation in a context of prayer, fraternity and service. The house is operated by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of London. The house is located on Regent Street, within walking distance of the University of Western Ontario, King's University College and St. Peter's Seminary. It can house up to four residents and includes a chapel for daily Mass and prayer. Residents can remain at the Dormer house for a period of one to two years in order to make an informed decision about their vocation,

during which they may be working full-time or studying at a post-secondary institution. A monthly fee covers room and board and other formational activities. Interested candidates should contact Fr. Patrick at 519-324-7531 or [vocations@dol.ca](mailto:vocations@dol.ca) for more information.

Fr. Patrick Beneteau has been an ordained priest for seven years, the last two as the vocations director for London Diocese. He grew up in River Canard, Ontario, which is close to Windsor, and his home parish was St. Joseph's. As vocations director Fr. Patrick has travelled to various conferences facilitated by the organization of National Vocations Directors. It was at these conferences that he heard of the idea of a vocation house for men discerning the priesthood, and its successes around North America.

Dormer house is tailored to the needs of the Diocese of London, as Fr. Patrick says, with an emphasis on Eucharistic piety, serving the poor, teaching the faith, along with daily Mass, community prayer, and community outreach. The house provides a stabilizing presence for the discerners, with a regimented routine, that gives the men a taste of formation at the seminary. Dormer house has capacity for three discerners, and I was able to talk to these men briefly.

Frank Fehervari is a 21 year old man who grew up with two brothers from the Rodney/Thamesville area, and his home parish is St. Paul's. Frank studied at Sacred Heart seminary in Detroit, but the Holy Spirit kept calling him to his home diocese. He is currently in the Arts program full-time at Western. He finds the community aspect of the discernment process very helpful, as the men all assist each other towards the same goal.

Adam Zanier, 19, has one sister, is from Holy Name of Jesus parish in Essex, and his pastor is Fr. Dave Boutette. Before entering Dormer House Adam spent a year in Net Ministries, and is currently working while also studying. He has been active in the C.O.R (Christ in Others Retreat) movement for young people and, being a musician, also leads the praise and worship services.

Mark Hartman is 25, with eight siblings from the parish of St. Boniface in Zurich and his pastor is Fr. Matt George. Mark served in Net Ministries two years ago, and is currently working full-time as a mechanical engineer as he discerns his vocational call. He has been actively involved with young people through the Pure Life Regional ministries group.

Please keep Fr. Patrick and these men in your prayers, and remember that, driven by the Holy Spirit, good things are happening in the Diocese of London.



**Dr. Maria Cernea**

RESTORATIVE & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

1463 Adelaide St. North  
London, ON N5X 1K3  
[www.guiltinanfamilydentistry.ca](http://www.guiltinanfamilydentistry.ca)

Tel: 519.850.3888  
Fax: 519.850.3898  
[drmaria@guiltinanfamilydentistry.ca](mailto:drmaria@guiltinanfamilydentistry.ca)



This is an ideal time for an update on the progress of the identified and major capital improvements to our parish home. This season of birth and hope is an even more exciting time this year as we celebrate the completion of the major work that comprised our Give to Grow – Foundations for Our Future Campaign! The campaign officially launched in early 2015 to raise funds for the completion of four identified works that would strengthen the physical ‘pillars’ of our Church.

This investment was to replace the original boiler that heats the parish hall and many common areas of the church, to install a copper roof over the nave, to replace the final portions of the flat roof system of the original building and to re-engineer and install a new HVAC system for the entire nave. The goal was ambitious, but with the



dedication of parish volunteers and the investment of you, the people of St. Michael's, we have achieved promised funding for each of these projects! What is sometimes not fully appreciated is the security of a bright future that you as donors have given to future generations of St. Michael's parishioners and the community at large.

As with most construction projects, there are usually

‘unforeseen’ surprises and occasional obstacles that appear. While most of the projects went off without a hitch, the HVAC work was not so lucky. When the floor was excavated to prepare for the trenches that would carry the new duct system, the transite pipes that should



have been easily removed were fully embedded in concrete (see photo).

Perhaps when the Church was built, they felt that more concrete would be better. This was

a major setback as the concrete had to be removed manually with hand tools as we got closer to the pipe. This was a result of asbestos being a component in nearly every building material in the 1970s. From a time and cost stand point, this was not great news. However, the workers prevailed and the installation has continued with exceptional quality.

In the nearly 5 months of the HVAC work, the people of St. Michael's have been incredibly understanding and wonderfully patient. Daily Masses were



moved up into the St. John Paul II Room, and judging by the numbers at Masses, this did not deter people from coming together to celebrate and give praise. Weekend Masses were also disrupted by large closed off areas that had some folks wondering if we were installing a bowling alley or a drive through! Then we had to contend with fewer pews, barricades, scaffolding and perhaps worst of all, dust! Through of all this, we continued to celebrate, to unite as a parish family, to look past the inconveniences and focus on the face of Christ.

Thank you everyone for realizing that this temporary disruption was going to pay off with a church that will be securely in place for a multitude of years. When we witness this commitment to investment, we know that St. Michael's will be here long after we are gone. It is that important to everyone. Bless you.

# M<sup>2</sup>O

**MAY McCONVILLE OMNI**  
insurance brokers ltd.



## Capital Corner continued



It is of great personal importance to Father Murray that the public washrooms are renovated. This is an assurance that regardless of the fact that the HVAC project cost more than was originally anticipated, the Diocese is backing the request from St. Michael's to go ahead with the washroom projects. This does mean that we will be experiencing more temporary disruption to our usual routine, but like the other work, we will be better off when all has been completed. Understanding that the process of dealing with architects, contractors and related specifics does take some time, we are planning on a summer 2017 project start time. The summer months here are quieter than during the school year, so it is the best time to undertake this next stage of construction.

Finally, the commitment to pledges and contributions to the Capital Fund have been exceptional. The multi-year pledges have nearly a 100% fulfillment rate to date and we believe that this trend will continue. The people of St. Michael's have a deep dedication to their parish and it shows. With all of the projects complete and the bills now having to be paid, we move into a 'loan' position with the Diocese and interest begins to become a part of our fiscal reality. In 2017 & 2018 we will need to devote significant operational funds to interest payments to the Diocese.

For this reason, we continue to encourage new gifts to the Give to Grow Campaign and the earlier in the year that pledges are fulfilled, the more we will save interest. Contributions to the Capital Fund are tax deductible and 100% of your donation can only be spent on Capital

expenses. Donations can be made by using a Give to Grow envelope or through the Parish website in the Donate section. Securities can also be donated and the savings on capital gains can be significant. For updates on the status of the Capital Fund, and the loan with the Diocese, please refer to the 2016 annual update in February and the semi-annual update in July. The video boards will also keep you up to date on pledges and funds received.

Having worked closely on the Give to Grow Campaign with the contractors, architect and Diocese on these projects, I wish to thank all of the people of St. Michael's for your involvement and investment in the security and future of our Parish home.

Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas Season.



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](http://donohuefuneralhome.ca)



**CALL, CLICK or COME IN...**  
**(519) 667-1111 | [pizzapizza.ca](http://pizzapizza.ca)**



# Walking in the Footsteps of Mary

by Tom Hart

Our Airbus lifted off from Toronto's Pearson Airport on a beautiful afternoon as we prepared ourselves for a twelve-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Trips to towns and villages surrounding the Sea of Galilee, trips to beautiful churches and historic monuments and the awakening of new spiritual discoveries! Our trip would culminate with the ascent to Jerusalem—the religious centre of three great faiths: Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

After an eleven hour flight, we landed at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. Upon collecting our luggage, we boarded a bus with Yaakov (our driver) and Chen (our Israeli escort), and proceeded to our first stop: Caesaria.

This town was built by King Herod to honour Augustus Caesar. The apostle Peter was summoned to Caesaria by a soldier captain named Cornelius. While here, Peter established that all people, whether Jew or Gentile, could be baptized. This was a decision that would change the Church forever. Father Murray read from Acts 10:35, *God is pleased with everyone who worships Him and does right, no matter what nation they come from.* A well-preserved amphitheatre and huge palace built out



Amphitheater in Caesaria

into the Mediterranean Sea with aquaducts to supply water from the hills were featured in this ancient town. The next day, we visited the Church of the Annunciation and went downstairs to view what is believed to be the Virgin Mary's home, where the angel Gabriel appeared and asked her to become the mother of Our Lord Jesus. *Mary, don't be afraid! God is pleased with you and you will have a son.*

*His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of God most high (Luke 1: 29-32).*

After visiting this church,

we went to the Mary International Centre where we viewed a beautiful presentation on Mary's life. We then celebrated Mass in the beautiful chapel there.

Leaving Nazareth, we traveled a short distance to Zippori, where tradition tells us Mary's parents St. Anne and St. Joachim lived. Here we admired magnificent mosaics on the floors of the marketplace in the lower city. After lunch, we celebrated Mass in the nearby town of Cana - the site of Christ's first miracle of changing water into wine at a wedding feast.

At this Mass, Father Murray renewed the wedding vows of all married couples on the trip and blessed those among us whose spouses are now in heaven. We began



The Wedding Church at Cana

our next day beside the waters of the Sea of Galilee, where we celebrated Mass. We then traveled to Capernaum to view the apostle Peter's house and synagogue. For lunch, we had St. Peter's fish (a cousin of the tilapia.) Then, we crossed the calm waters of the Sea of Galilee, boarded our bus and headed to the beautiful Church of the Beatitudes.



Church of the Beatitudes

Beatitudes.

Friday was set aside for us to celebrate the women of Scripture as we traveled to Migdal, where we visited a recently discovered synagogue that may have been the meeting place of Jesus and Mary Magdalene. Here we celebrated Mass

and then visited a museum housing a first-century fishing boat! Our last stop on this day was to the Jordan River, where we renewed our baptismal vows. After dinner, we spent time packing for the ascent to Jerusalem the following day.

Our drive south to Jerusalem included a view of the Rift Valley from the Crusader fortress of Belvoir (a possible



Mary's House in Nazareth



# Visit to the Holy Land continued



Migdal/Magdala street  
on the Gospel Trail

route traveled by Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem) and a brief stop at the ancient Greco-Roman city of Beit Shean. Entering Jerusalem we walked down the Mount of Olives and through the Garden of Gethsemane.

The next day, we entered the Old City to

the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where we visited the empty tomb of Jesus. After some shopping, we went to the Steps of the Temple (where Jesus would surely have walked) and the Wall.

On Tuesday, we drove to Mount Zion to celebrate Mass at the Church of the Last Supper. After Mass, we visited the Upper Room where Pope Francis recently celebrated a rare Mass followed by a visit to the lower chapel to see The Sleeping Virgin Mary in the Dormition Abbey.

Across the Kidron Valley, we made a stop at Mary's tomb before heading to the Dead Sea.

Along the way, we stopped at Qumran, the site of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

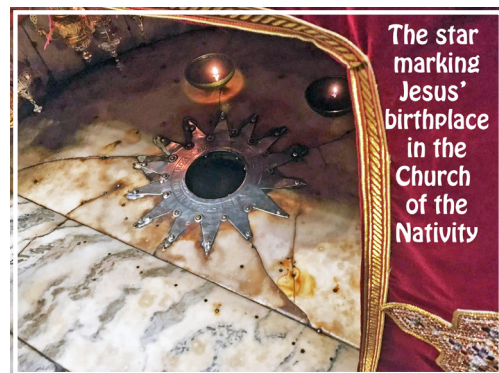
Later on, many of us waded into the Dead Sea to float in the lowest place on earth, a body of water that is 30% saline!



Caves at Qumran

Our last full day in the Holy Land was spent traveling to the museum called Yad Vashem, dedicated to the memory of millions of Jews who were killed during World War II.

We then visited the Church of the Nativity to pause by the star which marks the site of Christ's birth. The last stop of the day was to Shepherd's Field, where tradition tells us the angels appeared to shepherds to announce the birth of Jesus. *This very day in King David's hometown a Saviour was born for you. He is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11).*



The star  
marking  
Jesus'  
birthplace  
in the  
Church  
of the  
Nativity

All too quickly, our pilgrimage came to an end. This trip has touched our lives in numerous ways. We were encouraged to spread the news to others about this very special place.

It was truly a privilege to be allowed to walk in Mary's footsteps!

visit St. Anne's Church, also the site of the Pools of Bethesda. From here, we left for the village of Ein Karem, where Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth. Mary went into



The Garden of Gethsemane

*Zechariah's home, where she greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, her baby moved within her (Luke 1:40-41).* Our day ended with Mass at the Church of the Visitation.

Monday was our day to follow the traditional route of the Way of the Cross—the Via Dolorosa. The last of the Stations of the Cross took place within the walls of



**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  
565 Glasgow Street  
**519-432-3337**

\*KROWN will not void manufacturer's warranty.







**Westview Funeral Chapel**  
*Paul R. Needham Funeral Homes Ltd.*

**CARING - RESPECT - DIGNITY**  
THE HALLMARKS OF WESTVIEW FUNERAL CHAPEL

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



This year the Pastoral Team at St. Michael's Parish decided to do something different to help our parishioners grow in their faith. Our Parish has invested in an exciting new spiritual faith formation resource, a 24/7 web-based series called FORMED, produced by the Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press. This series is designed to help adults grow in their faith at all levels – how we think, how we pray, and how we live. Better yet, access is FREE to all parishioners and their families anywhere, anytime on computers, tablets, or phones.

Have you wanted to be able to share your faith with others but felt you were lacking in knowledge? Through this content you will be able to not only learn more about the Catholic faith but also go deeper and strengthen your own relationship with God. You will learn through beautiful videos and music, from notable Catholic speakers and educators and be able to read further through online links.

FORMED is a game-changer, a real immersion of Faith! To access FORMED follow the instructions below. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this excellent resource and learn more about your faith so that you not only live it out more deeply but also share it with others. We transform the world for Christ and His Church by first transforming and educating ourselves. May you find the light, movement, and calling of the Holy Spirit as you grow more fully in your faith.

For your FREE subscription to FORMED:

1. [Go to \*\*formed.org\*\*](http://Go to formed.org)
2. [Click on Register](#)
3. [Enter your Parish Code \*\*22K478\*\*](#)
4. [Create your account by entering your email address](#)

Our subscription includes the following for FREE:

- ✚ Movies and eBooks from Ignatius Press
- ✚ YDisciple (A 4-year Full Discipleship Group Youth Program)
- ✚ Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained (RCIA and Faith Formation for entire parish)
- ✚ Beloved: Finding Happiness in Marriage (Marriage Prep/Marriage Enrichment)
- ✚ Lectio: Peter and Prayer (Bible Studies with Dr. Tim Gray)
- ✚ Lectio: Eucharist (Bible study with Dr. Brant Pitre)
- ✚ Lectio: Evangelization (Bible Study with Dr. Mary Healy)
- ✚ Opening the Word (Weekly reflections on the Sunday Readings)
- ✚ Catholicism Series (Featuring Bishop Robert Barron)
- ✚ 33 Days to Morning Glory (Consecration Retreat featuring Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC)
- ✚ Footprints of God (Nine-Part Video by Steve Ray)
- ✚ Lighthouse Catholic Media Audio Presentations

(Numerous Topics)

- ✚ Unlimited downloads of accompanying study materials (leader & participant guides)

I asked one of our parishioners, Lydia Salmon, to give her personal opinion about FORMED. This is what Lydia said:

"St. Michael's has procured a media option for its parishioners. Thanks to those involved in the decision to purchase access to this great resource! At the end of the day, when the brain begs for something to help it unwind, try FORMED. At the beginning of the day, wanting to start right, try FORMED. Haven't yet heard of this resource? Here's a glimpse at what you will find in this website. There are books, recordings, video clips and full movies... all Catholic!

"Some of you may have listened to Lighthouse media recordings, or watched snippets of Symbolon, others may be preparing for a sacrament, or wanting to more deeply experience Advent. The Augustine Institute has all of these resources available at your fingertips. As a way to keep up with the daily readings, or explore the stories of the saints, this website does not disappoint.

"FORMED can help your spiritual growth. Listen to the readings with your family at breakfast, or watch the life of a saint on a Sunday afternoon, after mass. Explore the reasoning behind a church tradition in Symbolon, or look into God and Science. Do a guided Bible study, or explore a sacrament. These are just some of the ways to use FORMED.

"It could be said that the difference between believers and non-believers is in the choices we make. When we were children, trusted adults told us stories about how to be and how to make our way. We remember these stories when faced with decisions, but feel unsure. It seems that words that were without significance at the time they were spoken, logged themselves somehow for later, to be heard when needed. Remembering that the brain has an eloquence of its own, storing information for just the right moment can help to guide our choices.

"Choosing input and programming that supports your faith is important. The influence on our outlook and the guidance we can find from keeping the teachings of the Catholic Church in our minds is invaluable. Confronted with a colleague or family member facing difficulties, you may remember something that you heard or saw on FORMED, and be able to provide support in line with your faith. We can't all think of wisdom in the moment we need it, but you could start etching the grooves in the recording of your mind today. FORMED is a wonderful choice."



# Parish Photos



Ministry Fair 2016



K of C Officer Installation  
September 13, 2016



*Merry Christmas*



# 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](mailto:stmichlon@dol.ca) • [www.stmichaelslondon.ca](http://www.stmichaelslondon.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](mailto:msample@dol.ca)

ext. 202

Father Don Pumputis, Parochial Vicar

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

ext. 306

Yana Adkinson, Pastoral Minister

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

ext. 203

Sylvain Patry, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

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

ext. 206

## Staff

Doug Manners, Business Administrator

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

ext. 205

Mary Egan, Parish Secretary

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

ext. 201

Jolanda Squire, Administrative Assistant

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

ext. 208

Rod Tramble, Hall Coordinator

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

ext. 210

## Parish Council Chairperson

Peter Valiquet

## 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

Christmas Day	December 25
Feast of Mary Mother of God	January 1
Wedding Anniversary Celebration	February 11 & 12
Family Day	February 20
Marriage Prep Weekend	February 24-26
Pancake Supper	February 28
Easter Confessions - All Day	April 5
Mass of Chrism	April 10
Easter Sunday	April 16