Yana Adkinson
Pastoral Minister
St. Michael's Parish

Yana was born and raised in Kazakhstan (part of the former Soviet Union) and converted to Catholicism during collapse of the Soviet Union, which happened when she was a teenager.

Her bishop sent her to the Franciscan University of Steubenville's Language and Catechetical Institute in Austria, where she studied Theology and English. She was then offered a scholarship to study at the Franciscan University of Steubenville campus in Ohio, where she met her husband, Mark.

After graduating with a degree in Theology and a Religious Education Concentration, she lived in the Washington, DC area for a number of years, teaching at a private elementary school.

In 2008 Yana and her family moved to Canada and settled here in London, where her husband Mark was born and raised, as he was offered a position at the Diocesan Centre. Four years later Yana became a Canadian citizen.

Yana and her husband Mark and their three children joined St. Michael's parish in 2010. Yana has been involved in a number of Children's ministries as well as St. Michael's Moms group. Yana and her family have been delighted to belong to such a vibrant and dynamic parish with so many different ministries and volunteers.

Yana is very happy to be a part of St. Michael's Pastoral Team and serve St. Michael's Community as a Pastoral Minister. Her responsibilities include but not limited to: coordinating and assisting in the Sacramental Preparation of children, especially First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion; coordinating Children's Ministries on Sundays and supporting the liturgical life of the parish; facilitating and leading RCIA process (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) as well as other pastoral services.

Yana may be contacted at 519-433-6689 x203 or yadkinson@dol.ca.

Yana Adkinson's Introductory Speech To St. Michael's Catholic Church Parishioners

Good evening!
My name is Yana Adkinson and I'm the new pastoral minister at St. Michael's Parish. I am grateful to take over from Helen, who is retiring after many years of serving this community with a solid faith, amazing passion and unwavering presence.

Just a few words about myself. I was born and raised in Kazakhstan, which at one point was part of former Soviet Union. No, I am not a spy, despite what some movies would have you believe.

Growing up in a Communist country meant many things, one of which was that people could not practice their faith freely and, therefore, no one in my family believed in God. I converted to Catholicism during collapse of the Soviet Union when I was 16.

A year later, my bishop sent me to the Franciscan University of Steubenville's Language and catechetical Institute in Austria, where I studied theology and English. I was then offered a scholarship to study at the Steubenville campus in Ohio, where I met my husband, Mark.

We both graduated from Franciscan University, myself with a degree in theology and a religious education concentration. We lived in the Washington, DC area for a number of years, where I taught at a private elementary school and Mark worked for the Archdiocese of Washington.

Seven years ago, we moved to Canada and settled here in London, where Mark was born and raised, as he was offered a position at the Diocese. I am also very proud to have become a Canadian citizen a couple of years ago.

We have three beautiful children, Katya, Nick and Lexi, who are 10, 8 and nearly 7. Now that they are all of school-age I'm looking forward to this new challenge of serving this amazing community of faith.

We joined this parish about 5 years ago and I have been involved in a number of children's ministries as well as our moms group. My family and I have been very happy to belong to such a vibrant and dynamic parish with so many different ministries and volunteers.

I'm very much excited to be your new pastoral minister I humbly ask for your prayers and your support as I embark on this journey

Thank you!