



London North Central  
Catholic Family of Parishes

# Holy Matters

CHRISTMAS 2022

NUMBER 1

*Serving the communities of St. Josephine Bakhita African & Caribbean Catholic Community,  
St. Michael's Parish and St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica*

# Celebrating Our Family of Parishes





# Report from our new Parish Pastoral Council

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council, I would like to welcome you to the first issue of our new Family of Parishes publication. Through this report the Pastoral Council will share valuable information that will help you to better understand our role and responsibilities in parish life. We hope to build a powerful sense of community by keeping you updated on our work, priorities and opportunities to be involved in our Family of Parishes.

The Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body that advises and assists the Pastor and Pastoral Team in making the St. Josephine Bakhita African & Caribbean Catholic Community, St. Michael's Parish and St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica vibrant faith communities. We are also a visioning body that investigates, develops and makes recommendations in the pastoral planning of our parishes in accordance with the Diocesan Pastoral Plan and other Diocesan initiatives.

Although the Parish Pastoral Council is the voice of the people, we do not function as a management board and do not involve ourselves with staffing matters. The members are volunteers that have been humbly recognized for their ability to accomplish the main task of the Council -- the work of investigating, considering and recommending practical solutions. Council members are baptized Catholics in good standing with the Church and have varied experience in volunteering within a parish.

Our Parish Pastoral Council consists of 12 members. Membership is staggered and the term of office is three years with a maximum of two consecutive terms. The Pastoral Team are "ex-officio" members and are in addition to the parishioners who are selected members. The selection happens through the Discernment Process and is outlined in the *Norms for Parish Pastoral Councils* document. The Pastoral Council meets once a month between September and June.

We are delighted to welcome three young people to the Parish Pastoral Council: Alfred Benny, Andrew Benny and Abel Gereziher. These young men are faith leaders within our community. It is our responsibility to support and encourage them as they grow in their faith, share their knowledge in our schools and contribute to parish life.

Our priority this term will be the development of the **London North Central Catholic Family of Parishes Pastoral Plan**. This document will define key priorities that will inspire us and focus the energies of the whole Family of Parishes. We will follow the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, which is entitled "*Embracing a Future Full of Hope*," to guide us through this process. The Pastoral Plan will be a living document that will be continually updated by the Council.

We are grateful that Council member Brian Dunne will lead this initiative. Your perspective is important, and we strongly

encourage you to consider participating in this process. You will meet new people, contribute to the direction and accomplishments of our Family of Parishes, and have fun! The first meeting will take place in February 2023. If you are interested, please email Brian at [briand@phsscommunity.com](mailto:briand@phsscommunity.com).

As we strive to develop our new Family of Parishes, the support and involvement of each individual parishioner is necessary to sustain the life of our community. All of us have a place here, and all of us have a role to fill in the life of the parishes as we live our lives as disciples of Christ. There are many opportunities for you to become involved in parish life. By using your time and talents to help others and our congregations, we will ensure that we accomplish more together, as the London North Central Catholic Family of Parishes. Please refer to our website [www.lncc.dol.ca](http://www.lncc.dol.ca) and the weekly Parish Bulletin for information on ways for you to become involved in parish life.

Our heartfelt appreciation is extended to the team responsible for our new publication, **Holy Matters**. This team has dedicated a significant amount of time and energy to this project, and it is wonderful to see it come to life! We hope the stories you read will inspire you to use your time and talents through service to parish ministries.

It is hard to believe that the London North Central Catholic Family of Parishes was initiated only six months ago. So much has been accomplished during this brief time. This transition has required everyone to adapt to significant change, work and pray together and continually grow. The behind-the-scenes work that has taken place to make this transition successful is due to the leadership of Father Daniel Bombardier. The dedication, challenging work and flexibility of the Administrative and Custodial Staff along with the Pastoral Team are appreciated. Many parishioners also served on the Transition Team as well as different committees during the past year. We are incredibly grateful for the time and support they provided.

Thank you for the prayers you have offered during the transition period. God is with us on this journey and through His grace and support, our Family will continue to bloom in a faith-filled way.

Your comments are always welcome; please contact me at [theresaoleary62@gmail.com](mailto:theresaoleary62@gmail.com).

During this season of Advent, we wait in joy and hope for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Just like Mary, we are called upon to wait with openness and trust that God will define our lives and bring light, joy and peace into our hearts. On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council, we wish you a very joyful and blessed Christmas.

**Theresa O'Leary**  
*Chair, Parish Pastoral Council*



**Front row (from left): Cathy Frada, Deacon Rudy Pflanzner, Rev. Sekar Raj, Rev. Daniel Bombardier, Rev. Chris Pietraszko, Leigh Duckworth, Tammy Bernardo**  
**Back row (from left): Alfred Benny, Amedeo Awai, Camille Riggs, Theresa O'Leary, Julie Sans, Keith Rodrigues**  
**Other Members: Andrew Benny, John DePas, Brian Dunne, Abel Gereziher, Cathryn Hall, Terensio Ituara, Debbie Walsh**



Introducing our Business Manger, Lori Clark

In September, Lori Clark began a new chapter in her career in the newly-created position of Business Manager, London North Central Catholic Family of Parishes. She stepped through the doors on her first day into an environment that was undergoing a transition from solo parishes to a family, with the challenge of bringing us all together under one umbrella while still maintaining our individual identities.

I sat down with Lori recently to talk about the challenges and positives that she is experiencing in her new role.

When asked what it was that attracted her to the role at the LNCCFP, she responded, "I am excited to be a part of the transition and sustainment to the Family of Parishes." She continued, "this is an important time for our parishes and I'm looking forward to being able to contribute to our future." Lori also indicated that the role offers a lot of variety: "I have done similar roles in the past, both at Six Nations Polytechnic, Brantford and Enbridge Gas, London-Toronto, and no day is the same."

Lori feels that one of her greatest challenges is initiating change. In general, change can be difficult, and transition requires change. However, challenges present themselves as great opportunities. Lori feels "there are opportunities to use the best practices of the parishes to move forward together as a family. I am excited to be a part of this process."

Joan Bolt -- "The Other Half"

On October 26, I attended a talk "The Other Half" given by educator Joan Bolt at St. Michael's about the role of women in Sacred Scripture.

Having known Joan for a few years, I knew that her research is always very thorough. She has earned several academic degrees and also has led 56 trips to the Holy Land plus a dozen journeys in the footsteps of St. Paul to Greece and Turkey.

Joan reminded the audience that history is written mainly by men (especially in the Bible), so as a result, women and their role in society often get overlooked or else get a very tiny byline. We often have to read between the lines to catch a glimpse of the woman in the middle or, more often, behind the event. Furthermore, in earlier times women were mostly denied an education and therefore could not write. Instead they did very well with oral traditions. Often the women served as deaconesses and organized services at their homes or in hidden spaces.

Joan outlined the important roles in our Salvation History played by five key women in the Old Testament and also five in the New, including St. Mary Magdalene, the "Apostle to the Apostles" who was the first person to see the risen Christ on Easter morning. Simply put, it was an inspirational, fact-filled talk that certainly inspired me and several people at my table to go home and reread the Bible.

Ina Pakkert

I asked Lori about coming into the role, essentially in a vacuum where both parishes' business managers had moved on before her arrival. She said that moving into the role wasn't as difficult as expected because of all the support she has received. She continued, "The pastoral team, support staff and parishioners are passionate, caring and committed to ensuring the Family reaches the full potential for the Family of Parishes. I am amazed by all the talented people of LNCCFP and how they offer to lend a hand. A lot of great work has been done, and I am confident will continue, as we move forward in this journey."

Lori outlined her short-term goals for the new Family. "The first goal is to establish our Family of Parishes office at 511 Cheapside. This includes the relocation of staff and ensuring consistent processes are developed.

The second goal is to build on our plan for Operating, Maintenance and Capital work, both our annual plan as well as future forecasts."

When asked what long-term goals she had for the next year, she replied, "I would like to continue to build on our plan and sustain the changes that have been implemented, establish goals for my team, and measure and celebrate our successes along the way."

Dawn Munday



Two accomplished Catholic educators: Joan Bolt (left) and Mary Cahalan. See page 5 for Mary's "Christmas Reflection."

# Holy Matters

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Christmas Message from our Pastor

Dear Friends,  
Every Christmas is marvelous and special. For us, this Christmas has a very special significance as it is our first opportunity to celebrate the birth of our Saviour as the London North Central Catholic Family of Parishes (LNCCFP).

In many ways our situation is not unlike that of Joseph, Mary and Jesus as a new Family embarking on an uncertain future. The Gospel of St. Matthew recounts, "After the wise men had left, an Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt and remain there until I tell you...'" And the Holy Family embarked on a difficult journey to an uncertain destination, for an uncertain period of time, guided by their faith in a loving God and their concern for each other's welfare.

At this Christmas season our Family is in the midst of a somewhat similar journey. Our destination is still unclear, our challenges and opportunities still uncertain, and we are still developing a clear map to guide our path. I like to think of our situation as one of Holy "Fluxuation." But like the Holy Family, we are People of Faith and People of the Promise. We can rely on a loving God to guide us through whatever happens during the coming months.

We need to embrace change, for change brings growth and opportunity. As we affirm in our Family Prayer, we are "Three communities strengthening one another through shared prayer and gifts." I am confident that like the Holy Family years ago, we will arrive safely at our destination and grow as a flourishing faith-driven Family of Parishes.

As we journey, it is important to be mindful of the less fortunate and marginalized. In some cases, they are literally on our doorstep and need our help. In the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta, "It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you."

On behalf of the Pastoral Team and Staff, I wish you and your family a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

In the Shepherd Lord,  
Father Daniel Bombardier

Our Family of Parishes -- Pastoral Team and Staff



Front Row (from left): Deacon Len Hughes; Fr. Sekar Raj, Associate Pastor; Fr. Daniel Bombardier, Pastor; Fr. Chris Pietraszko, Associate Pastor; Deacon Rudy Pflanzner  
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Back Row (from left): RoseMary Cleary, Financial Secretary, St. Peter's; Mary Cole, Reception/Secretary; Laszlo Molnar, Custodian, St. Michael's; Lori Clark, Business Manager  
Insets: Left--Deacon Gaston Mabaya Right--Peter Greff, custodian, St. Peter's



As the National President Elect moves into the President position, a new National theme is introduced for a two-year period. It takes time, deliberation, discernment and collaboration to develop this theme. In January of 2022, our National President, Fran Lucas, introduced “Catholic and Living It!” The major goals of this theme are to build or rebuild relationships, strengthen our membership by using the new resources available, and to bring more women of faith along with us to know and enjoy the sisterhood.

This is the prayer to accompany and guide the new theme:

*Loving Father, open our hearts to your infinite love for all people, and to your presence with us wherever we go in your name.*

*Lord Jesus, deepen the spiritual life of the Catholic Women’s League. Strengthen the faith and good works of our members, building-up life in the world by being Catholic and Living It! May we imitate you with works of mercy, welcoming the forgotten, suffering or vulnerable wherever we encounter them.*

*Holy Spirit, strengthen us to live our faith, witnessing to life, peace and social justice daily wherever we are in Canada.*

*Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, may we be joyful and responsive to our Christian calling, by truly being Catholic and Living It!*

*We make this prayer through Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.*

How did the women of St. Peter’s CWL fulfill this theme in 2022? Let us reflect on our actions and prayers over the past year.

**Love for all people** - through acts of kindness, donations of material items and money to those in need, for example Children’s Aid Society, the Ukraine and the St. Paul’s Food Bank. St. Peter’s CWL was involved and attended World Day of Prayer service, 40 Days for Life, Rosary Rally and Earth Day.



**The Keebler Elves have nothing on us!!**  
CWL members with the Christmas Treat Tray project that raised almost \$1,000



**Christmas Hamper/ Quilt Draw –**  
Teresa Eldridge, Val Grant, Irene Kennedy



**Richmond Street entrance at the CWL Bazaar on Nov. 19 –**  
Chris Murphy, Julie Sans



**Religious Table –**  
Cathy Frada, Teresita Oliveros



**Bake Table –**  
Kimberly and Sharon Rowley, Jackie Millman



**Nearly New Table –**  
Janice Vollmer, Sophia Tacak, Ruth Barrett

**Deepen spiritual life** - taking the opportunity to spend the day in prayer at Merlin in June, and in addition CWL meetings at all levels provided spiritual reflections and programs for both the Lent and Advent season.

**Works of mercy, the forgotten, the suffering or vulnerable** - 250 breakfast bags for Ark Aid, socks and toiletries for 519 Pursuit, making blankets for those living on the street, supporting St. Joseph’s Hospice and organizing 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, praying together weekly the rosary and volunteering at the organizations that provide meals and comfort.

**Witnessing to life, peace and social justice** - members attended/ viewed the videos on the Diocesan website to learn about the CWL Legislation and Resolutions process. Resolutions are an active part of the mission and advocacy of the League. As a collective use of our voices, we speak out, write letters and petition our constituents and support legislation that protects our earth, the sick, the elderly and the unborn.

The challenge now is to find opportunities to engage all members as every member is needed and has a valued role to play.

St. Peter’s CWL is recruiting Catholic women of faith, perseverance and blessed with a “can-do” attitude to join and journey in a sisterhood of faith, fun and fulfillment. If that describes you, please contact Jo Guth by email, [jguth@execulink.com](mailto:jguth@execulink.com) or by phone at 519 672-7479 or come to our next meeting on Saturday, January 7 at 11:00 am in Room 105.

**Julie Sans, President**  
**on behalf of the St. Peter’s CWL Council**



*“Because you are precious in my eyes... I love you”*  
*(Isaiah 43:4)*

Lights are popping up around us, doors and windows are decorated with red and green and there is a sense of busyness everywhere. Yes, Advent (meaning “coming”) is at hand and excitement is stirring in our hearts as we anticipate the celebration of the greatest Birthday of all, that of the Christ Child at Christmas.

Preparation signs are ongoing. Traditions of the Advent season are visible. Wreaths appear on doors and in our churches. Christmas candles are prepared. Children open a window daily on their Advent calendars. Special prayers are said as we await and prepare to celebrate the Messiah with a joy-filled spirit of reflection and love.

I recall my childhood, in the final days of Advent preparation, when my Dad brought home from the grocer the reserved empty plywood tea chest to be the manger in the family Crib. The excitement was palpable as eight siblings gathered around to help Dad place straw from our farm in the box, pine branches and a star on top, and completed with the empty little manger for the baby Jesus, surrounded by shepherds, sheep, angels, Mary and Joseph and the wise men with their camels.

Mom was at the kitchen table making the trifle, and ensuring that the plum pudding and Christmas cake were all ready for Christmas day dinner. Christmas stockings were in place. Finally, lighted candles were placed on window sills to join the community in celebration and neighbours set out walking to midnight Mass echoing “Happy Christmas” as others joined in. All were feeling precious and conscious of the One that loves best was surely with us. If you, reading this, are reminded of a special time in your past, I invite you to share it with a family member, friend or neighbour.

With Advent preparation period at a close, the awaited celebration of the Birthday of Jesus creates a prayer of joy in our hearts. “Christmas is the feast of love incarnate,” Pope Francis reminds us and because of God’s love, He became one among us. An awesome thought! Emmanuel: God with us. More striking as we reflect deeply is that the baby Son of the Creator God came as a baby to be wrapped in “swaddling clothes” and placed in a manger as a humble human child. Heaven indeed touched our world.

The Christmas Story is an extraordinary story of wonder and love. In the town of Nazareth, a young woman, Mary, engaged to marry Joseph, was visited by an angel, Gabriel, who greeted her and told her that she would conceive a son and must name him Jesus.

The angel told Mary that she must not be afraid and assured her that God was with her. Can you imagine the young virgin’s confusion as she ran to tell her cousin Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist? I wonder what Joseph said when he heard the news.

Soon it was time to register for census-taking in Bethlehem. It was time, too, for Mary to give birth. Since all the rooming houses were full, Mary and Joseph found a stable, and Jesus was born as a poor, vulnerable, homeless child. Wow! It is indeed, for us, a concept that provides the soul with a deep and profound spiritual sense of gratitude.

The news spread quickly. The dark night sky lit up over shepherds in the fields watching their flocks that cold winter night as angels brought them the word. They would go to adore the baby, frightened and wondering. A lamb would be a gift for the precious child. It was a silent, Holy Night. Later, Wise Men from the east were led by a star and travelled to worship “the king of the Jews” (Matt. 2:1-2), bearing Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Today, Christmas continues to be celebrated throughout the world as a time of gratitude, grace-filled togetherness, renewal, forgiveness and hearts of love. Christmas music, songs and stories fill the air. Magic and mystery abound as the realization of the Incarnation arouses grateful and prayerful hearts brought together in churches and homes. Songs of praise and joy are sung at midnight on Christmas Eve as communities gather to celebrate the Eucharist. *Alleluia!*

As we reflect in quiet time this Christmas, imagine being Mary, Joseph, a shepherd, or a wise man journeying along the dark roads at midnight seeking the newborn Christ Child. How did you feel when you found the Holy Family? Prayer and trust keep us hopeful as we retell the story of salvation. Sadly, at present there is a restlessness felt in our world. But as a parish family we will gather once again on Christmas night and morning to rejoice in the first coming of our Lord to live among us, and in anticipation of His second coming.

We pray for each other in the Parish Family; we pray for peace among nations; we pray for all those who have no stable to be in from the cold; we pray for all who need help in any way especially those who have suffered and endure abuse in any way; and we pray in gratitude for a God who sees each of us as precious and promises to be with us. Indeed, there IS no need to be afraid!

*May the blessings of Jesus, Our Lord, be with us throughout this Holy Season, and always.*

**Mary Cahalan**



*Some of the Christmas decorations at the St. Joseph Altar in St. Peter’s Cathedral, December 2019.*



# Music Ministry at St. Michael's – Christmas Carols

“It was a beautiful night in Bethlehem.  
There were many shepherds gathered together and a group of  
angels descended down from the heavens and sung them a song.  
They sung how Christ was born and may peace  
be to men of good will.  
This was the first known carol – or least that’s what legend says.”

This excerpt from Ron Clancy’s book, *Best Loved Christmas Carols*, gives us a stunning illustration that depicts the importance of music during the Advent and Christmas seasons. With Advent being a time of preparation, music, and specifically carols, help achieve this. Have you ever wondered why we sing certain Advent and Christmas songs? Is there a deeper meaning to the texts we sing?

*The Oxford Book of Carols* describes carols as a “song of religious impulse that is simple, popular and modern.” Carols differ from hymns and their ballad-like style. Carols tend to include purely fanciful references and nonsensical syllables, for example in *Deck the Halls* – Fa la la la la. The text and melody of these pieces are incredibly descriptive and beautiful, for example in *The Holly and the Ivy*, “The Rising of the Sun and the running of the deer, the Playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.” This text is very detailed, and the melody increases in pitch with the “rising of the sun.” The tempo is quick, which mimics the running of the deer.

Carols will also at times have a theme of nature such as mistletoe and ivy, which was thought to help ward off unkind things. Some of the oldest carols tend to be lullabies and pastorals. Carols will often be macaronic which means to have text half in Latin and half in vernacular. Example of this are *In Dulci Jubilo* (*Good Christian Men/Friends Rejoice*) or *Angels we have Heard on High*.

St. Francis of Assisi, who is most famous for his song *Prayer of St. Francis*, should also be equally well-known for his introduction of carols in the first Nativity Story re-enactment. In 1223, in the small Italian village of Greccio, St. Francis helped lead in the re-enactment of Christ’s birth as well as the singing of Nativity carols. The crèche (manger) was an important feature to the Nativity scene and certain carols would always be sung at the crèche. This re-enactment of the Nativity Story would become a staple for every Christmas to come, including this year’s celebration.

Have you ever wondered why we sing *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*? The text “Veni, Veni Emmanuel” is based on the “O” antiphons that are sung at Vespers on the days leading up to Christmas. This song version dates back to around the 13th century and appears to be of French origin. This carol is probably the oldest of our “well known” carols and I’m amazed that today, in 2022, we still sing a piece of music composed so long ago.

Though most of the Christmas music sung during Mass has



Holly Langhor (front row, far right) and members of the St. Michael's Choir

been composed many years ago, there are a few carols written more recently, most notably *Go Tell it on the Mountain* (1909).

Another modern carol that has touched the hearts of many and is performed every year on Christmas Eve at St. Michael’s Parish is *Night of Silence*, written by American composer Daniel Kantor in 1981. It has a simple, calm and shimmering melody that not only showcases the text but illustrates the scene in which the text for the carol was inspired.

Joseph Mohr thought of the poem when he got word that a child was born in the village one night. The Reverend travelled to give blessings to the family and on his way was moved by the utter silence in the snow. When he saw the baby in the cradle, he was reminded of the birth of Jesus. On Christmas Eve in Austria in 1818, organist Franz Gruber had to change his planned music when the organ broke down. Reverend Mohr had this beautiful poem in need of music and thus *Silent Night* was born. It was written for two solo voices, a chorus and guitar. On Christmas Eve during Mass, listen for *Night of Silence* as it tells this story and eventually transforms into *Silent Night*.

The choirs and music ministry at St. Michael’s offer a wide variety of musical styles and ensembles. You will hear Gregorian Chant from the Middle Ages, traditional carols, carols with a contemporary spin and modern praise and worship music. So, when you listen and sing the Christmas carols and hymns during mass, remember that they were carefully and thoughtfully composed with the intent of preparing and ultimately celebrating the birth of Jesus.

If you are interested in joining any of the choirs at St. Michael’s, please contact Holly, Tom, Nando, Mark or Josh. We are always accepting new members and no experience is required.

Holly Langhor

## St. Josephine Bakhita African & Caribbean Community Choir

St. Josephine Bakhita African & Caribbean Catholic Community choir is made up of individuals who love to praise God in song.

The choir members are a close-knit group supporting one another along their faith journey and discipleship.



Director Terensio Ituara (back row top middle) and members of the St. Josephine Bakhita African & Caribbean Catholic Community Choir



Stephanie Campos conducts the choir on November 27.

New members are always welcome. If you love to sing and/or play an instrument, please join us.

Practices are Saturdays at St. Michael’s Parish from 12:30p.m.--1:30p.m.

Choir Director(s): Terensio Ituara ([lomejatyang@yahoo.ca](mailto:lomejatyang@yahoo.ca)), assisted by Eleanor Attard and Stephanie Campos.

# St. Peter's Cathedral Choirs -- We're Back Singing!

The past two years have been an interesting and new experience for all of us, to say the least. With Covid restrictions somewhat lifted, singing in person resumed as of Easter 2022.

The **Cathedral Singers** are back in full swing and happy to be back. We recently sung a beautiful liturgy with the diocesan choir on November 19 for the Diaconate Ordination.

Our regular rehearsals are Thursday nights at 7 p.m. in the parish centre and we sing at the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass, seasonal celebrations and diocesan liturgies.

We welcome new members at any time, so if you are willing to share your voice in committed music ministry feel free to contact Gloria Gassi for a brief meeting to assess what part you would sing and your music-reading ability.



A recent rehearsal of the St. Peter's Cathedral Singers

There are times when visiting choirs sing at the 11 a.m. Mass, such as the Catholic Central and St. Mary’s Choirs. These music programs do a unit on liturgical singing, so they come to St. Peter’s and other parishes to gain experience and to share their talents.

We have resumed our **Children’s Choir** and had our first rehearsal December 1 with 11 registered participants. The children were very happy to get back singing after the Covid hiatus. They will be joining the Cathedral Singers for the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. The children’s choir is a wonderful training ground for future music ministry.

Contact Gloria at [stpetersmusicdirector@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersmusicdirector@gmail.com) for both the Cathedral Singers and Children’s Choir, or phone 519-641-1384.



## A Snapshot Profile of the St. Josephine Bakhita African & Caribbean Catholic Community

St Josephine Bakhita African & Caribbean Catholic Community worships at St Michael’s Parish every 4th Sunday in the month at 2:30pm. It is a community that is very welcoming to everyone who could not make it to Mass in the morning at their various Parishes. Many who are neither Africans nor Caribbeans have found the community Masses inspiring and full of life because of the music and the instruments (including drums) used at the celebration. We also have hymns and songs and the parts of Mass in various languages.

It is a growing community that is facing the impact of the pandemic, as many of our members have yet to return. Some leaders in the community, along with Deacon Gaston Mayaba, have been visiting the members in their homes to invite them back to the community gathering.

Before the pandemic, we gathered for socials after Mass every other month. We are gradually returning to our schedule as we pray for a healthy world. At the social gatherings we get to meet and get acquainted with one another, sharing experiences, offering some support and giving direction appropriately to those who may be new into the country.

We see ourselves as one large family and always there for one another in times of sorrow and joy. It is the desire of the community to see itself growing with more members and more activities outside the monthly Masses to strengthen us in our faith and oneness.

We would like to use this opportunity to invite the Africans and Caribbeans in the London North Central Catholic Family of Parishes and other Family of Parishes in London to celebrate with us. We extend our hands of fellowship to you all to come along with your God-given talents to improve the life of the community in various ministries.

May the Lord bless his Church as he enriches our faith with gifts of language and culture. Amen.

Rev. Augustine Ogundele, Chaplain ([aogundele@dol.ca](mailto:aogundele@dol.ca))



Rev. Augustine Ogundele





# St. Michael's Parish Bazaar

*People working together, helping people, serving people, reaching out to help others.  
It truly all happens at St. Michael's Christmas Bazaar.*

The Christmas Bazaar is an incredible opportunity for our parish family, including children, to work together, sharing their treasures, skills and talents, creating beautiful handicrafts and donating them to sell.

Volunteering as a parish community is the cornerstone of how our Christmas Bazaar resonates with each of us to find ways to support economically vulnerable adults and children through social outreach programs. Following a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, our people responded overwhelmingly to ensure its success. Such parish community spirit! More than 400 people visited the Bazaar, our sixth, raising over \$11,000. Since 2015, total Bazaar profits have exceeded \$53,000.

The Planning & Set Up Committee was coordinated by Karen Owens and with her vision/goals, the team was motivated! She set the agendas, contacted key people, and wrote formal letters to businesses seeking and organizing donations. Karen followed up with thank you notes, managed finances and oversaw the activities and roles of committee members. In June, our committee members, parish staff and volunteers eagerly started working collaboratively to ensure we were ready to open the doors on November 19.



**Bazaar committee members Corrie Gicante (left), Karen Owens and Anita Rodrigues.**

Committee members worked tirelessly, dedicating their time to Bazaar preparations: Lynda Ducharme (Kids to Kids Korner), Corrie Gicante & Joanne Tremblay (Advertising, 50/50 Draw), Jean Hishon (Bake & Candy Table assisted by Marilyn Marcotte), Margaret Hutton (Donations & Silent Auction), Gil Owens (Planning, Draw Tickets), Anita Rodrigues (Ticket Sales, Donor Thank You, Angel Tree, Sewing Group & Draw Table donations), Linda Round (Organize & list prizes, preserves table), Michelle Specht (50/50 Draw, Bazaar promotion), Joanne Zwolski (Organize crafts & volunteers). Dan & Claire Vickery set up the Silent Auction Display. Geoff Hutton picked up donations, loaded cars, sold tickets, and assisted with clean up.

In September, LNCC family elementary, secondary schools and the Diocese posted Bazaar information on websites and in newsletters. Parish staff posted flyers at church entrances, uploaded ads on TV screens, messages on the outdoor mobile sign and updated weekly bulletins. LFP, Libraries, Hospitality North Churches, St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospice, Twitter, Kijiji and Rogers TV also publicized information.

St. Michael's Parish artisans, including knitters and crocheters, woodworkers, sewers, quilters, wreath makers, bakers and volunteers, fully embraced the return of the Bazaar. **Kids to Kids Korner**, new this year, raised over \$500. Student parishioners responded to the call to get involved in this recycling project. Thank you for donating your gently used treasures: toys, books, games for ages 1-14 so our little people shoppers could buy Christmas items at great prices for themselves or for another. Now the seeds are planted for their future engagement in church activities. "A sign of hope in our church and world."

Generous businesses and parishioners donated 63 items for the Silent Auction and 100+ for the Draw Table. Seven vendors rented tables displaying a wide variety of products. Over 60 calls to bakers resulted in donations of delicious items, beautifully prepared and packaged. Many volunteers assisted at the Bake/Candy Tables. The Preserves Table featured an excellent variety of jams, jellies, salsa and pickles. A frequent visitor, who attends other local bazaars, mentioned how impressed he was with the quantity and quality of all items: "St. Michael's Bazaar is definitely one of the best in London."

Visitors enjoyed a delicious lunch and social time. For set up, preparation, sales and clean up, we thank Howie & Judy Wright, Dan & Claire Vickery, Donna & Mark Thompson, Grace Wren, Wayne Wolanski. Thank you also to 25+ parish volunteers, spouses, and students who signed up for multiple roles: organizing tickets, setting up the hall, assisting at various tables. Morris Lamont, thank you for capturing photos of our parish in action. New volunteers also responded to the call. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the many people not mentioned, who contributed to the success of the Bazaar. Thank you for being part of our team.

The Christmas Bazaar has become a parish event of active and supportive faith in action because everyone can get involved, use their talents, donate and volunteer. We are grateful to our parishioners and community who responded in so many ways. Together, we can live out our mission.

*Corrie Gicante*



**The popular Kids to Kids Korner**

# Scenes of the Parish Bazaar



*Photos by Corrie Gicante, Morris Lamont and Keith Rodrigues*

# Hospitality North

**"Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place." - Henri Nouwen**

In 1997, four churches - Colborne Street United, New St. James Presbyterian, Trinity Lutheran and St. Michael's Parish - started serving a weekly meal and providing a warm, friendly place for the less fortunate in the community. Each church would offer a different menu and provide the volunteers who served the meal on a regular rotating basis at the host church. The meal was hosted initially by Trinity Lutheran, then New St. James and in 2014 hosting migrated to St. Michael's Parish.

Prior to the move the Pastoral Council was asked if there was any opposition to hosting the meal. The Pastoral Council discerned that we were open but there were many questions that needed to be resolved. Questions were raised through prayer and input from various groups in the parish and we were able to make a final decision with regards to when and how the meal could be served at St. Michael's. It was a beautiful example of the Parish Council through discernment and communication coming to the answer as directed by God.

Since the meal has been held at St. Michael's, we have grown in appreciation of our Christian brothers and sisters at Trinity Lutheran, New St. James Presbyterian and Colborne Street United Church. We have prayed together and enjoyed meals in ecumenical gatherings.

St. Michael's is blessed with an abundance of volunteers, as we have had and continue to have more than we need so we have generously shared volunteers with the other faith communities. Young people in the Confirmation program have shared their time by helping out with the meal. They have grown in appreciation of the needs of the hungry and learned to accept the guests as they are and to be not afraid.

In 2016 we opened our doors at 3:00 p.m. to serve coffee, offering a safe warm place for the guests to socialize. This allowed them to escape the cold and wet weather, and to be treated with the dignity and respect that belongs to every human being. By doing this, an opportunity was created for the guests and volunteers to get to know each other and become friends. We discovered that for some guests the opportunity to socialize was almost as important as the actual meal and we would frequently have 40 to 50 guests in the parish hall by 3:30 PM with the meal served between 5:30 and 6:30.

Our then-Pastor, Rev. Murray Sample, later commented, "I was touched by the story of one guest who came regularly and was without work. He found a job and when he got his first cheque he returned to eat with his friends. But also to return in thanks and offered a donation to say how grateful he was."

During the pandemic the Diocese allowed us to serve take-out meals, subject to the pandemic safety regulations. With a few dedicated volunteers the weekly meal continued. In September, 2022 we started to offer both indoor (seated) and take-out meals depending on the preference of the guest. Attendance is continuing to increase but has not reached pre-pandemic levels. The volunteers from all four churches are very happy to see a return to sit down meals where they can serve their guests.

Offering the meal has provided the Parish an opportunity to be a warm, welcoming Eucharistic Community, reaching out to all. We have put flesh to the Gospel, "When I was hungry, you fed me."

I am certain the following quote reflects St. Michael's Parish and Hospitality North: "The greatness of a community is most accurately described by the compassionate actions of its members." - Coretta Scott King

*Howie Wright*

## PARISH INVOLVEMENT

JOIN A MINISTRY
Be a VOLUNTEER

Check out our ministries at [www.lncc.dol.ca](http://www.lncc.dol.ca)

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES  
SOCIAL & OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Or call your parish  
ST. MICHAEL'S 519-433-6689  
ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL 519-432-3475

## Let's CONNECT!

**NEW IN THE COMMUNITY?**  
Register at one of our parishes by visiting [www.lncc.dol.ca/join-our-family](http://www.lncc.dol.ca/join-our-family) or asking for a Registration Form from our parish staff or Hospitality volunteers.

**PROFILE INFO CHANGE?**  
Help us keep your email, mailing address or phone # accurate! Connect with us to update your records in our parish database.  
ST. MICHAEL'S—[stmichlon@dol.ca](mailto:stmichlon@dol.ca)  
ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL—[basilica@dol.ca](mailto:basilica@dol.ca)



# Intentional Disciples

**Intentional Discipleship is loving people with purpose, teaching them the Word of God, helping them grow in spiritual disciplines, and leading them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.**

**An Intentional Disciple is someone who not only listens and learns, but also chooses to follow the teacher and apply what he teaches. He or she intends to practice what is taught.**

## Why Catholicism and Why St. Peter's? -- Doug Adams

During a recent conversation with a parishioner, I was asked if I was new to St. Peter's. I had to admit, yes, and relatively new to the Catholic faith as well. This led to the obvious question: why Catholicism, and why St. Peter's?

I was brought up in Toronto. My Mother was a devout Anglican, so of course I was a "cradle Anglican." Mom served on the Chancel Guild, an organization that, on Saturday mornings, prepared the church for the Sunday services. I was in the church assisting. I learned to replace candles, place flowers, change linens, align hymn books, decanter wine, count hosts, change light bulbs and a myriad of other duties, too many to mention. Looking back now I can fully understand why I have a certain comfort level in a church surrounding.

I married a staunch Catholic girl who came through the Toronto Catholic school system. We married in a joint Anglican/Catholic ceremony in a Catholic church.

At the time I was working for 3M in Toronto. This resulted in a move to London. We settled in Byron, raised two kids, and from day one, attended the Catholic Church in Byron. Through all this I remained an Anglican in a Catholic environment. Even though I could not participate in Holy Communion, I felt religiously fulfilled.

Things changed in 2013. A new priest, Fr. John Jasica, and a new catechist, Mary Catherine Bishop, arrived in Byron. Fr. John was a teacher, not a preacher, and for the first time I felt the time was right to make the switch. Looking back now, he also set the standard for a priest that I could look up to and sustain my awareness of my new religion. And full marks here to Mary Catherine, who never tired of my many questions as I updated my old Anglican traditions.

Fast forward to 2019 and my life changed forever. My

wife died of cancer, and later in that year a new scourge, COVID. Through these two years my religion was there to make the road forward a little easier. A great bereavement course from Sharon Hunt literally saved my soul. That was my cue to give back and even through the pandemic, we were able to comfort and assist others who had lost loved ones.

The latest twist in my life came with the new Family of Parishes program. With priests moving all over, it signaled a time to search out a new location to continue my faith. As weekend Masses reopened, Saturday evening at St. Peter's became my service of choice.

I've been part of many churches in my day. But the environment I experienced at St. Peter's is difficult to explain. When seeking a new church, you look for a warm reception, a welcoming environment, a Mass conducted by a knowledgeable and relatable priest and a homily that is teaching, not preaching. In St. Peter's, I found a church that met, and exceeded, every element that I thought I had lost.

In summary, a huge "shout out" to all at St. Peter's who provide a perfect environment for a relatively new parishioner and a relatively new Catholic.

**Doug Adams**

*Reprinted with permission from the October Newsletter, St. Peter's Knights of Columbus.*



## Findings Ways to Serve -- Akithmi Buultjens

Akithmi is a Grade 11 student at John Paul II High School and regularly serves as a Minister of Hospitality at the Sunday noon mass at St. Michael's.

Her family relocated to London in the summer of 2022 from Scarborough, where they were members of St. Barnabas Roman Catholic Church. While at St. Barnabas, Akithmi was actively involved in parish life and the community - a participant in the Youth Ministry, volunteer in the Confirmation preparation program and a member of LifeTeen. LifeTeen is a Catholic high school youth ministry program made for students in grades 9-12. It provides a safe fun place for youth to find a solid Catholic community, to get answers to their questions about faith, and, most importantly, to experience Jesus in a profound and personal way. As a LifeTeen member she attended the LifeTeen camp in August 2022 prior to relocating to St. Michael's.

Upon arriving in London she immediately contacted Debbie Walsh and became engaged in volunteer activities and ministries to continue her Intentional Disciple journey. As a Hospitality Minister she most enjoys greeting and welcoming parishioners both before and after mass. She also sees the ministry as a learning experience, and her engagements with

her ministry peers and parishioners have strengthened her love for God and her desire to serve God. She has found St. Michael's to be a very welcoming and supportive community and strives to emulate this in all her activities. She is motivated by, "We are standing on a red carpet and Jesus is drawing us closer to Him."

As Akithmi continues on her faith journey she hopes to become active in the St. Michael's Youth Ministry just as she was at St. Barnabas and is looking at other ministries and faith groups at St. Michael's in which to serve. She is strongly supported by her family, one that is steeped in faith, devotion and service. They pray the family rosary on a weekly basis and her younger brother Aseka is an altar server at the Sunday noon mass.

**Carmen Gicante**



# Intentional Disciples

## Living their Faith -- Cora and Gerry Garber

Cora and Gerry Garber are a familiar couple at St. Michael's, in particular at the Sunday noon mass at which Cora serves as a Eucharist Minister while Gerry is a Hospitality Minister and greeter.

Gerry has been a long-time parishioner at St. Michael's (40-plus years) and Cora began her St. Michael's Journey six years ago, after relocating to London from Windsor (St. Alphonsus Church). Gerry and Cora, both widowed, met in November 2016, on a Faith Journey to the Holy Land.

There was an immediate personal and faith connection. Fr. Murray Sample, who was also on the trip, celebrated their subsequent wedding ceremony at St. Michael's (which was followed by a second ceremony in Cora's native Philippines).

Since then both Cora and Gerry have been actively involved and engaged in the St. Michael's community.

Cora began as a Eucharistic minister six years ago following a request from Fr. Murray to share her faith, devotion and commitment to God. Cora also delivers the Eucharist weekly to a 93-year-old parishioner who is no longer able to attend Mass in person. While at St. Alphonsus, Cora was an active member of the Catholic Women's League and was dedicated to the mission of growing in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service. She

continues in her CWL mission at St. Michael's as part of the CWL auxiliary.

Like many Filipino Catholics, Cora has strong devotion to Mary, whom she holds dear in her heart as Mother, Queen, and Teacher.

Annually, the Statue of Mary, provided by the Legion of Mary is delivered to their family home and Gerry and Cora welcome and are appreciative of the opportunity to host the prayer gathering, along with a number of their friends.

Gerry has been very active in parish life during his many years at St. Michael's. He has assisted in the weekly collection of donations and also as a counter of the donations. Serving as a greeter and participating in the Ministry of Hospitality have allowed him to contribute to the welcoming and supportive community that is St. Michael's.

Cora and Gerry are extremely thankful and appreciative to have the opportunities to serve our St. Michael's parish community, with many parishioners becoming close friends.

**Carmen Gicante**



## Opportunities to Serve -- Camille Riggs

I first came to London to attend Western University in 1983 and after completing my university studies, I settled here in 1991. I was a parishioner at St. Michael's throughout the 1990s and later found my way to St. Peter's Cathedral. Regrettably, over the years, I drifted away. I still kept coming back, but only sporadically.

In 2018 I made my first true attempt at returning to the church, but before too long I was pushed back by COVID, and I was gone again. Beginning in 2021 I was drawn to watch the Masses that were livestreamed and that led to other online Catholic resources. As Advent approached, there was repeated programming about making a good confession. This was when I woke up to the desire to change.

One idea that resonates with me is that being Catholic means behaving in a certain way. This is perhaps the most compelling internal change that I have consciously made on my recent journey back to a more meaningful life of faith. I had long convinced myself that being a good and decent person was enough. I became aware of the call to be so much more. Even being a good Catholic is not "enough." I discovered that being holy, and striving to be a saint, is the goal. How is that even possible?!

I like the quote from Oscar Wilde, "Every saint has a past. Every sinner has a future." It gives me hope. I came to learn that, when we answer the call to attend Mass, when we make an effort to make a good confession, these are examples of being holy. It was a moving discovery.

Meanwhile, we were still in the throes of COVID, and it was not always easy to get to Mass. Not only was I attending Mass at St. Peter's, I was also going to St. Michael's and Holy Family parishes. I was knocking, but it required patience. I needed to listen. One day at St. Peter's, I made just the smallest of connections with Hospitality volunteers - one outside on the cold plaza and one inside on the registration desk. Two people, same day, called me by name. I know it seems like such a small thing. When Jesus was at the well with the Samaritan woman, he knew her name and everything about her. She was moved and believed Jesus to be Messiah.



Fr. Chris recently described Hospitality as "an encounter with Christ." That would explain why my encounters that day were so profound and continue to be a source of spiritual encouragement. Being able to hear God's voice in this noisy world is not an easy thing.

It was not long before I asked to join the Hospitality Ministry. Every week I look forward to seeing parishioners I have come to know and love, and to meet new ones as well. It is so meaningful to me and, maybe, I can be that encounter that someone else needs, just as others had been for me. I continue to grow my involvement in the parish.

Pastoral Minister Cathryn Hall has entrusted me to co-ordinate the Hospitality Ministry at St. Peter's, which has really broadened my reach with other volunteers and parishioners at all of the Masses. I am so blessed to have these relationships in our parish community. It brings me much joy to be involved, making connections that matter and building faith relationships.


Most recently, I am grateful to have new opportunities to serve - as a member of the Confirmation Preparation team and the LNCCFP Parish Pastoral Council.

My journey at St. Peter's has allowed me to grow and enrich my faith, and what a blessing it would be if I may have helped someone else along the way.

**Camille Riggs**



# One Service, Many Angels



The fish is the symbol of Christianity and, in this case, represents the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. The eye of the fish is the vigilant eye of God seeking to help the poor in our midst. The crossing at the tail or the tie-knot represents unity and oneness among members and also the union with the poor. The circle bounding the logo signifies the global or worldwide stature of the SSVP, an international Society. The words *serviens in spe* mean *to serve in hope*, the hope that comes from Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Beautifully decorated fir trees symbolize so many things to those who observe the Christmas season -- generosity, sharing, celebration and communal joy.

In past years, St. Michael's and St. Peter's hosted real Angel Trees in nave and narthex, where real gifts could be placed for donation to neighbours in need. Now in 2022, the Angel Trees have become virtual treasuries, a means by which we can give cash or gift cards to support the work of our two Societies of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP). Both Societies -- known as conferences -- have found their own best way to help people in need at Christmastime.

St. Michael's SSVP prefers cash donations for its "Angel Tree" program, which are then transformed into gift cards. Each family registered on the Christmas list will receive a \$50 super market card plus a \$30 Walmart gift card per child. The conference expects upward of 90 families will be on their Christmas register this year, including a possible 220 children. Thus the "Angel Tree" gifts may be valued at \$10,000 this year. Neighbours visited the parish hall on December 10 to receive their gifts and a special donation of teddy bears.

At St. Peter's, the SSVP asks for either donations of cash or gift cards from Shoppers Drug Mart, Giant Tiger, Walmart or the Dollar Stores. Most of the people served through the Cathedral "Angel Tree" program are adults rather than families with children, and the SSVP expected 10 teams to make over 200 visits on December 10, distributing grocery and gift cards with an estimated value of \$18,000 when they substitute for St. Nicholas.

Although many pastoral ministries are now being shared in the London North Central Catholic Family of Parishes, several activities continue to be delivered at the original parish level. One of these is the charitable work of the two SSVP conferences. Through their outreach, the suffering of many individuals and families is alleviated with timely donations of vouchers for food, clothing and furniture.

Their "Angel Tree" programs are quite similar, but this contrasts with how our conferences manage their regular programs of assistance throughout the rest of the year. Both operate within their own parish boundaries but organize their services in different ways to suit their particular volunteer capacities and the needs of the multi-faith neighbours being served.

Each conference has an "intake coordinator" who interviews neighbours to determine what help is needed. At St. Michael's, a pair of volunteers then arranges an immediate first visit. This approach means that emergency needs can be addressed very promptly; volunteers are usually available at short notice. At this visit, conference volunteers pass on gift cards from a supermarket (\$60 for the first family member and \$10 for each additional member up to \$120) as well as vouchers for the SSVP store on York Street for furniture, clothing and household items, and sometimes beds.

Since Covid radically changed the way we humans meet each other, visits now usually take place outside places of residence. Once on the St. Michael's list, families can receive support every three



Mary McGuigan , Jan Carter-Mcleod and Kathy Kinsella



Members of the St. Peter's SSVP gather at the Cathedral before visiting their clients

to four months depending on need. In some cases, depending on individual circumstances, a family will require assistance only once.

The Cathedral conference more often provides help on a "regular" rather than an "emergency" basis. Teams of two make around 70 visits a month, either on Tuesdays or on one Saturday per month after the "intake coordinator" determines needs with a telephone call. Again, Covid has changed the way these meetings take place, and supermarket gift cards, bus tickets and SSVP store vouchers are passed on to neighbours outside of their homes. The vouchers provide needed clothing, housewares, linens and small kitchen items at no charge, and the conference pays for furniture when necessary.

Neighbours can access services from St. Peter's every three months. SSVP volunteers come to know the neighbours they are visiting on such a regular basis, and their faithful presence demonstrates the care that the wider community shares with its donations to the SSVP store and to parish coffers.

"Through the grace of God, prayers and donations, we are able to meet all the needs. We have never said 'No' to anyone." This was said by one SSVP volunteer interviewed for this article, in a voice expressing both relief and wistfulness. Her relief expressed the achievement that all SSVP conferences feel when they have met the urgent and immediate needs of a growing population base; the wistfulness is a recognition that volunteers are sometimes hard to find, train and retain, and that while donations rise steadily, demands and prices escalate.

Both St. Michael's and St. Peter's conferences work closely with other parish groups to foster generosity at both Christmas and at other times of giving. The St. Michael's Knights of Columbus often donate snowsuits for children. Many of St. Michael's SSVP members also assist at the Hospitality North dinners hosted at the parish. At St. Peter's, a Winter Welcome Lunch involves SSVP, CWL and the KofC in providing a festive meal and small gifts to a large gathering of inner-city neighbours. The first one scheduled since the two-year Covid disruption will be held on January 21, 2023.

All neighbours served by these two conferences are housed: they have municipal addresses and can make arrangements for SSVP visits by telephone. Secure housing is a crucial factor when assessing poverty and its impact upon the human condition. But some SSVP volunteers also donate their time to the comparatively new outreach organization to the homeless, 519 Pursuit. One goal of that group in 2022-23 is to donate 100,000 pairs of socks to those they serve. For more information, visit <https://519pursuit.ca/>.

Both conferences are grateful for and dependent upon the regular financial contributions from parishioners to support their outreach. St. Michael's holds a special SSVP collection on the second Sunday of each month, while the Cathedral appeals for funds in May and November. Appeals for the "Angel Tree" programs are in addition to these fundraising efforts.

Two conferences, two approaches, one goal: to help Londoners in need to keep alive the spirit of giving exemplified in the life of St. Vincent de Paul. May we all offer our SSVP parish volunteers generous measures of time, talent, and treasure this season and all year long. They are the face and hands of our Church's social teaching in the modern world.

Hilary Neary

# Consumerism and Catholic Teaching

At this time of year, we are encouraged everywhere to "buy, buy, buy" in a frenzy of "consumerism" to demonstrate our love and affection for family and friends. In a recent homily, Fr. Chris Pietraszko talked about the pitfalls of consumerism, particularly as it relates to Catholic teachings and our relationship with God.

## What is Consumerism?

Simply put, consumerism is a style of life directed towards "having" rather than "being." It is a "web of false and superficial gratifications" (Pope St. John Paul II, 41). Catholic social teaching on consumerism tells us that it is not wrong to want to live better; we stray when this becomes a lifestyle where wanting to have more and the accumulation becomes an end in itself.

Pope Francis tells us to ask ourselves, "Do I really need all of these material things and complicated recipes for living? Can I manage without all these unnecessary extras and live a life of greater simplicity?"

Fr. Chris offered some insights on questions about Catholic consumerism.

## • How does consumerism harm the individual and their relationship with each other?

When the acquisition of goods is confused with how we view relationships it becomes a problem. Relationships are not products/commodities to be used or sold. As consumers, the danger is that we treat the sacraments as goods rather than signs of God's grace. Faith is something much bigger -- it is about our relationship with God and our community.

It is important that we take individual responsibility to make our faith community represent our vision, rather than simply complaining. We can complain, but we need to be part of the solution.

To avoid this trap, perhaps we need to get back to the Apostolic Church where things, buildings, etc. were unavailable, but the foundation of the Church was the Holy Spirit and the love of God. The Church is more than a building and community is more

than assembling for liturgy.

## • How does consumerism affect our relationship with God?

Think about how we view our "neighbours." If we use people as disposable commodities, then we are likely to "use" God. God has given us many gifts -- love, prosperity, family, forgiveness ... A consumerist views God as a "wish machine" and bargains with God for gifts/requests. Remember that Jesus was born into poverty, and came into the world with nothing. He gave us Himself as the ultimate gift. Ask yourself, "Am I using God or do I love Him for who He is?"

## • Any takeaways for the celebration of Advent and Christmas?

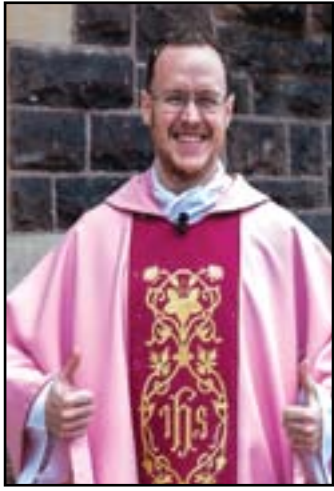
Advent should be a time to reflect on spiritual poverty where we think about the spiritual changes we need to make and strive for greater intimacy with God, and look to deepen our relationship in caring for those with no one to take care of them. We should reflect on how we need to be saved and seek freedom from attachments to things. Look to the model of the shepherd.

There is nothing wrong with giving gifts, but we need to find a way to communicate love and not miss out on the deeper relationship.

As we go about our preparations for this season, remember to look at the trappings of the holidays as just that. It is timely to consider the advice from Pope Francis, and don't let consumerism "prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment."

The 'answer' to consumerism is found in faith because: "Once Jesus dwells in our heart, the center of life is no longer my ravenous and selfish ego, but the One who is born and lives in love." (Pope Francis)

Interview by Dawn Munday



# What Are You Reading?

What Are You Reading? will be a regular column in our family of parishes newsletter, especially if YOU read and then write about your choices. These choices can certainly include diverse media such as films, websites, podcasts, etc. With my thanks in advance, please submit them to Hilary Neary at [nearyh@gmail.com](mailto:nearyh@gmail.com)

## A THIRD TESTAMENT, by Malcolm Muggeridge

In every age, including our own, both individuals and society, as a whole have asked the questions, "Who am I, and why am I here?" Quite often, these questions are not in the foreground, being pre-empted by daily concerns, the pursuit of pleasure, or by simply refusing to take them seriously.

In *A Third Testament*, Malcolm Muggeridge reviews the life and thoughts of seven individuals who have devoted much of their life to examining the mystery of our existence and have written perceptively and eloquently about it. The bulk of this book is the script of a series originally aired on BBC and then on CBC.

The seven individuals are St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430), Blaise Pascal (1623-1662), William Blake (1757-1827), Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855), Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821-1881), Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910) and Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945).

Even though these seven all lived in different eras, and have distinct temperaments and backgrounds, they all conclude that happiness and meaning in our life can come only through functioning in the world according to the precepts of the Gospel. They neither want to withdraw from the world, nor to rise above it, but want to participate through practising love and God, and love of God through love of neighbour.

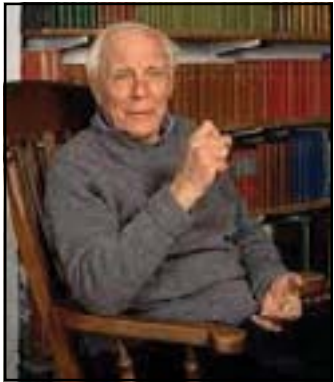
Muggeridge provides a brief sketch of their life, and introduces their thoughts through brief quotes and trenchant commentary. What is striking about all of them is that each takes issue with prevailing trends both in their own society and the society

in which we live. For example, Kierkegaard writes, "In our time, the greatest menace comes from natural science. Psychology will ultimately encompass ethics," while Pascal says, "Man is great insofar as he realizes himself to be wretched." Yet, the final conclusion each reaches is full of hope, for even though they see that the present world is unable to meet our deepest needs, a profound satisfaction with our lot is attained upon recognizing that each of us is loved by God, and that we are meant to love Him through love of neighbour.

Muggeridge himself, while outlining with a keen wit the lives of these seven individuals, reveals quite a bit about his own views and beliefs. He was clearly aware of how the world works, having been a distinguished journalist, a spy during WWII, rector of Edinburgh University and the author of a book that revealed St. Theresa's work in Calcutta. His own spiritual journey took him from agnosticism to a commitment to Christ, and finally to admission to the Catholic Church at the age of 80.

Reading Muggeridge's account of the lives of this diverse, appealing group of pilgrims provokes one's curiosity. It is an inducement to read such classics as St. Augustine's *Confessions* to Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov*, as well as other titles by Muggeridge himself.

*This review is from the keyboard of a regular, but anonymous Cathedral parishioner. Unusually, A Third Testament is not available either at the London Public Library or in the Western University Library system. But both new and second-hand copies can be acquired through the Amazon website. The original edition was published in 1976 by Little, Brown, and a new edition by Orbis Books appeared in 2004. You can also view the BBC series on YouTube.*



Malcolm Muggeridge



# FALL EVENTS

## AT ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL

### St. André Bessette

The Major Reliquary of Canada's St. André Bessette visited St. Peter's Cathedral on October 31 as part of a tour across our Diocese. More than 300 people visited the relics, a day that included personal veneration, the Rosary, Mass, and concluded with the Divine Mercy Chaplet. On October 17, 2010, St. André Bessette became the first saint of the Congregation of Holy Cross when he was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI. On this day, the Church recognized that God chose a very simple man for a remarkable life of service to the Church. During his life, St. André visited different locations in our Diocese, including St. Peter Parish in St. Joseph and St. Anne Parish in Tecumseh.



### Amabile Choirs returned on November 6



After an almost three-year absence, London's celebrated Amabile Boys & Men's Choirs returned to St. Peter's Cathedral on November 6 for a much-anticipated concert: "In Remembrance - Longing for Home." This well-attended event has become an important aspect of annual Remembrance Day programs

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

A warm welcome to all those who knit or crochet. The St. Peter's Prayer Shawl Ministry invites you to join them for a time of sharing and prayerfully creating shawls for the lonely or grieving or elderly brothers and sisters in London. The shawls are donated to organizations such as My Sister's Place, Victoria Hospital, Parkwood or other charities. For information, please contact Janice Vollmer at [janice.vollmer.on@gmail.com](mailto:janice.vollmer.on@gmail.com) or phone 519-690-0802.



Co-ordinator Janice Vollmer (middle) and other volunteers in the Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Diaconate Ordination



On November 19 Bishop Ronald Fabbro presided at the ordination of Frederick Douglas Eade (left) and Jacques Gerard (Jim) Vandersanden (right) to the Permanent Diaconate

# FALL EVENTS

## AT ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

### Lifestraws



Veronica Solis,  
Anita Renders,  
Megan Young,  
Lucie Sollazzo,  
Teresa Johnston,  
Mary Maxwell



Stephanie McIntyre,  
Darlene Charette,  
Mary Maxwell,  
Teresa Johnston,  
Jane McIver,  
Joan Lobsinger

(For more on "Lifestraws," see the CWL article on page 17.)

### Save a Family



Marisa Thorburn, executive director of Save A Family Plan, and her colleague, Dave Shiller, spoke to the St. Michael's CWL on November 7 about their organization's aid programs in India.

### Knights and CWL Trivia Night



It was worth the two-year wait, as the St. Michael's Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's League organized the always-popular "Trivia Fun Night and Social" in the parish hall on November 26. Participants matched wits and knowledge, with good times all round!



# St. Michael's Knights of Columbus -- My Journey

**BE NOT AFRAID**  
Thus read the license plate of my first car, complete with the iconic Knights of Columbus symbol!  
I couldn't believe that not only was this nameplate not already taken, but that the KofC as a license plate graphic was an option. Except ... I was not even a member of the Knights! With my teaching hours I was never able to make a single meeting, let alone make a single event like those I had so much fun attending when I was a child.

Then I met my beautiful wife Carolyn and moved to London. God's plan, just have a listen! Suddenly there was a smidgen of time, and the amazing St. Michael's council managed to get me into the very last "old-school" initiation meeting I was always so curious about, which made the nerd in me go next-level! The rest is history.

Now it's quicker and easier than ever to become a Knight, whether online or in-person: all it takes is the simple will and you are suddenly a defender of the faith in action. Seriously! It is both the perfect and easiest way to put our faith into action as men, with an overflowing helping of fun on top.



If you're not the nerdy type, not to worry as all those cool yet more secretive ways of the past are now made public and welcoming for all to participate in the Christ-centered ceremonies. Not unlike in its vision to the beautiful Sacrament of Confirmation, this is truly the best way to welcome everyone - for all to be able to

participate in its beauty.

From the time I was a little child, the way the Knights were so full of smiles and fun, warm and devout in welcoming my family into our Parish, welcoming my Dad into eventually being a lifelong Knight, to now myself being a member of the executive and getting to experience first-hand how they somehow make it all work.

The Knights are one of the most special things to see alive and bright around the entire world that is so desperately in need.

What could be better than hanging out with the guys, dressing up together in honoured regalia to honour loved ones, drinking a beer (or three), learning to cook in a panic rush and messing up, talking sports or the newest Knights Catholic film with Mark Wahlberg, or St. Mother Theresa, watching the public give so abundantly that you need both extra muscle and extra tissues, all for the sake of our beloved community and the most needy. This is what it means to be a Knight, shining with the armor of Christ and Our Lady at the centre of it all.

Be Not Afraid. God has called us all to action, and we are strongest with you. Now let's have some fun already! Are you interested? If so, please contact our Grand Knight, Marty McAllister, at [mfmcallister63@gmail.com](mailto:mfmcallister63@gmail.com)



Christopher Miranda

Christopher Miranda

## Scenes from the Knights Parish Breakfast, October 16



PARISH

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St. Peter's Cathedral 519.432.3475

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196 Dufferin Ave.

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# A Busy Fall for the St. Michael's CWL

The last few months have been busy for our St. Michael's CWL. Meetings and events have been well-attended, and it's clear that everyone is delighted with the return of in-person activities.

The September Welcome Back Social invited members to gather in faith and friendship to hear plans for the upcoming months and enjoy the opportunity to socialize after the summer break. One very successful new idea was to collect donations to purchase LifeStraws (personal water filtration devices) for Ukraine. The straws would be given to the London Ukrainian Centre to help those experiencing water insecurity due to the ongoing conflict. Thanks to generous donations, over \$650 was collected for the purchase of 56 individual LifeStraws, as tangible support for the people of Ukraine.

November was jam-packed with the return of our favourite activities, starting with a special guest speaker at our monthly meeting. Members and guests filled the room to hear Dave Schiller, a long-time supporter of the Save A Family Plan, with a presentation on his life-changing trip to India. Our CWL council has been sponsoring families with SAFF for many years and we were eager to hear this first-hand account. Dave and SAFF Executive Director Marisa Thorburn shared stories of the families they have visited and how the program supports the families, especially women, with skills training and resources to become self-supporting and successful.

Later in the month members gathered in the parish kitchen

## London Region Advent Tea, Nov. 26



St. Michael's CWL Members Joan Lobsinger, Dorothy Solomon and Joan Roffey enjoying their tea



The SMUGlees performing at the Advent Tea



to make pies for our bake sale, hosted the CWL London Region Advent Tea, and partnered with the Knights of Columbus for our annual Trivia Night. The Advent Tea was a special event organized by Dianne Kehoe, London Region Chairperson, and brought together women from the 20 CWL councils in our region. The morning opened with a spiritual reflection and Advent hymns led by the SMUGlees, the St. Michael's ukulele group, followed by special treats, tea and conversation.

New this year, our annual Christmas Party and Birthright Shower was held December 3 but during the morning rather than on our usual Monday night. Members enjoyed hot chocolate, a gift exchange and carol singing, all without having to drive at night, and a plentiful assortment of baby items was collected to help support women facing unplanned pregnancies. Following the party, cakes and cookies were the order of the day as the action moved down to the parish kitchen to prepare for our annual Festive Fall Bake Sale being held that weekend.

Membership in the Catholic Women's League is a blessing to the individual member and the organization as a whole. Some members are fully active, participating in all activities and volunteering as executive members or on committees. Some members may be unable to attend functions, but can help when needed, perhaps with donations of baked goods or help with funeral lunches.

Financially supportive members pay dues to support the national and local councils and may become more involved as life circumstances change. Some members pay dues and take part spiritually as prayer partners, sometimes with a specific person in mind or generally for all members.

If you choose to participate in the League, you will experience enjoyment, laughter and happiness - gifts we miss in our hectic lives. Your place is with us. We meet at 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday of the month in the St. John Paul II Room at St. Michael's Church. Contact us at [cwlstmichlon@gmail.com](mailto:cwlstmichlon@gmail.com)

Gail Brown

## A smiling group of Pie Makers -- showing how it's done



Front row (from left): Marilyn Morgan, Lucie Sollazzo, Marilyn Marcotte  
Back row (from left): Darlene Charette, Joan Roffey, Joan Lobsinger, Cheryl Brydges, Stephanie McIntyre, Jane McIver, Gail Brown, Jean Hishon





# To Know Scripture is To Know Christ

Do you feel intimidated to pick up the Bible and read it by yourself? Do you feel like it is too hard to decipher what Mother Church calls “the most precious source of doctrine of faith and morals?” (Pius XII). If your answer is yes, you are not alone.

However, if you do want to encounter the Lord at a deeper level, it is worthwhile to open up your Bible and enter into this library of the Word of God, this “heaven-sent treasure.” Pope Pius XII explains that “it is the serious duty of the faithful...to make free and holy use of this treasure,” since it will “instruct us to salvation, by the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (*Divino Afflante Spiritu: On Promoting Biblical Studies, Sept 30, 1943*)

There are many different ways to undertake this “serious duty” of reading the Bible. Many people around the world enjoy listening to the daily podcast found on Youtube (and other sites) called “Bible in a Year” with Fr. Michael Schmitz. Another practice is *Lectio Divina* where, after reading a Scriptural passage, we meditate and pray on a word or phrase that speaks to us. Still another good habit is to read ahead of time the passages that will be proclaimed at Sunday Mass.

Pope Francis wrote in his Apostolic Letter *Scripturae Sacrae Affectus: Devotion to Sacred Scripture* that “efforts should ... be made to provide all the faithful with resources needed to be able to open the sacred book and draw from it priceless fruits of wisdom, hope and life.” Efforts at the LNCC Family of Parishes include gatherings for Bible Study -- this fall the Book of Revelation was studied weekly from October through December. Two groups met by Zoom, one in the afternoon and another in the evening, while another met in person at St. Michael’s Hall.

The groups used a workbook from Ascension Press as well as corresponding videos of theologian Jeff Cavins explaining the passages discussed each week. There was about an hour and half of work at home involving reading the Scripture and answering questions in the workbook. At the gathering (two hours long) answers, questions, and reflections were discussed in small groups, followed by viewing the video.

St. Michael’s Parish has led at least seven Bible Studies in the past few years. Many people have been there since the beginning and each year we are delighted that new people join, especially from our Family of Parishes. Several participants have commented that the current study of Revelation is the most challenging so far, but also the one in which they are experiencing the most “aha!” moments.

Revelation is about a series of visions by the Gospel writer John. The book is written with highly symbolic meanings that would have been known by people of the time, but the images, numbers, colours and creatures described are unfamiliar to modern



readers. Fortunately, once we know the code that unlocks the symbols, things begin to make sense. For example, the number 7 in the Bible means completeness, whereas number 6 indicates something is incomplete. Crowns mean “authority” and beasts mean “foreign nations opposed to God’s people.” Colours have meanings, too: red is “violence” and pale green is “impending death.”

Our study focused on three themes relevant for modern-day Catholics. First, Revelation is a “book of liturgy,” that is, a book about worship. We encounter the heavenly liturgy of elders, angels, and martyrs in heaven. Second, Revelation is a “handbook of discipleship,” explaining what it means to fully follow Christ and how to live as a disciple in a world hostile to our faith. Third, Revelation is the “final exodus of the people of God.” John uses allusions to events in the book of Exodus -plagues and the manifestation of God on Sinai - to prepare us for our final judgment. (*Revelation: the Kingdom Yet to Come*, Jeff Cavins and Thomas Smith).

Pope Francis seems to express what may be the reason many parishioners keep coming back for Bible Study, “the Word of God, infused with the Holy Spirit, when it is received with an open heart, does not leave things as they were before; never. Something changes, and this is the grace and the strength of the Word of God.” (Weekly Wednesday audience, January 27, 2021). What changes? We are graced with a deeper understanding of Scriptures, of the Mass, of the Catechism, of ourselves, and a profound encounter with God through his Holy Word.

Are you ready for change? Consider joining our next Bible Study. As St. Jerome explains, “to ignore Scripture is to ignore Christ,” and therefore, to know Scripture is to know Christ.

Check the Parish Bulletin for information on our next program.

**Gerarda Smith-Hillier**

# Marriage Prep Weekend comes to St. Michael’s in 2023

After a successful launch at St. Peter’s Cathedral in October, the next LNCCFP Marriage Preparation Weekend will be held in the St. Michael’s Parish Hall on March 4-5, 2023.

Developed several years ago at St. Peter’s, the program is among the largest in the diocese. A team of volunteer married couples present insights based on their personal life experiences. Among the topics covered are preparing for marriage, communications, giving and receiving love, resolving conflict and finances. Fr. Chris Pietraszko delivers the opening talk on “Marriage in the Church, the Community of Faith” and Deacon Rudy Pflanzner gives the concluding presentation, “Living Out your Vows.”

In addition to the presentations, participating engaged couples explore topics related to Christian marriage through interactive exercises and some group discussion. A hot lunch is served on Saturday and food allergies are accommodated.

The program has consistently received high praise from the participants. One commented: “I found all topics helpful and how the workshop allowed me and my fiancé to have conversations that we haven’t had before. Our knowledge of the true meaning of marriage has broadened. I also enjoyed how interactive the program was.”

The interactive *Perspectives* workbook also received some positive feedback: “I really enjoyed the workbook. I found it really

well balanced. It was very good at phrasing questions and providing direction as to where to go with our discussion in the future. We will definitely be continuing with the workbook on our own time.”

Registration is now available for the March weekend, as well as for the Fall 2023 program, expected to be held October 28-29, also at St. Michael’s.

Interested couples should contact Pastoral Minister Cathryn Hall at [chall@dol.ca](mailto:chall@dol.ca)



**Couples and team members at the October 29-30 Marriage Preparation Workshop**

# St. Peter’s Knights of Columbus: Ready to Serve

It is hard to believe that our St. Peter’s Cathedral Knights of Columbus council is quickly approaching our 20th anniversary. It was way back in 2003 when a small group of men stepped forward at their initiation to help form our council and many of these founding-members are still active with us today. Next year will be a special year when we mark this milestone.

During COVID, we still held our meetings virtually, trying to respond to requests for assistance from the parish and in the community. Our first in-person project took place in May with an Electronics Recycling campaign. In May, we collected more than two tons of electronics in a successful Electronics Recycling project and we hope to hold this campaign again in the springtime. So, please hang on to your metal and electronics!

Congratulations to the men who stepped forward to form our current Executive. They will serve as the backbone to our council that will direct our activities and efforts to support the parish and the community.

## Knights of Columbus - 2022-2023 Executive



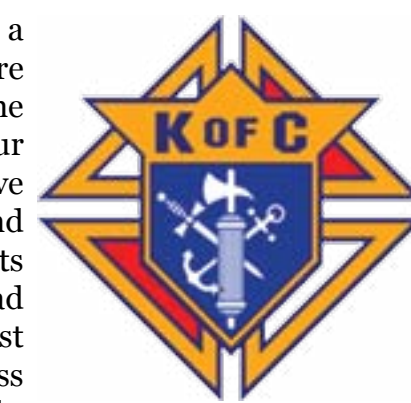
**From Left: Michael Wojtak, Tony Zylstra, James Vollmer, John Bulsza, Roger Khouri, District Deputy Gary Masters, Matt Duffy**

In support of the efforts of the London and Area Food Bank, our Knights were in full-force at a local grocery store. Thanks to the generosity of customers, we were able to collect a record number of filled bags that will go a long way in helping feed families who are struggling.

A staple for our council is the annual Elimination Draw usually held in November to support our military veterans at St. Joseph’s Hospital at the Parkwood Institute. However, we decided it was not the right time to host an event of this magnitude at this time. Yet, please pencil it in, tentatively, for November of 2023.



**Food Drive Volunteer Knight John Jiang**



On a smaller scale, we held a parish breakfast in November--more than just flipping pancakes, the breakfast helped to gather up our parish community. These events serve to strengthen a sense of belonging and build up a sense of family. Participants have often commented that they had shared a table at a parish breakfast with someone they had seen at Mass but never chatted with. So, the breakfast is a spark that allowed folks to get to know one another. Not to mention, everyone left filled with a full tummy, too!

We’re planning to hold another breakfast in January, so watch the Bulletin for details. If you’ve never attended, please give it a try. You’ll see something that is rarely seen --- that is, men doing the cooking and cleaning. LOL!

Thank you to all the Knights, their wives and families, and our entire parish, who continue to support our activities. Without you, we could not succeed. Merry Christmas and I wish you the very best for 2023!

**Roger Khouri, Grand Knight**

## Knights First Parish Breakfast, November 13



**Gerry Rucchin, John Vitez and John Bulsza**



**Two former Grand Knights: Martin Healy and Lawrence Jardine**

## Knights First Parish Breakfast, November 13



**One big hungry family**



**Peter So and Michael Butler**



# LNCC Family of Parishes Information

## THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS 2022/2023

### St. Josephine Bakhita African & Caribbean Catholic Community

#### Christmas Mass:

Sunday, December 18  
2:30 p.m. (St. Michael's)

### St. Michael's Parish

#### The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve/Christmas Day):

Saturday, December 24  
4:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m., 12:00 a.m.  
Sunday, December 25  
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.

#### Daily Mass:

Thursday, December 29 8:00 a.m.  
Friday, December 30 8:00 a.m.  
(Feast of the Holy Family)

#### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:

Saturday, December 31 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, January 1  
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.

#### Daily Mass:

Tuesday-Friday, January 3-6 8:00 a.m.

#### The Epiphany of the Lord:

Saturday, January 7 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, January 8  
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.

#### Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:

Monday, January 9 12:00 p.m.  
(celebration at St. Peter's Cathedral)

### St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica

#### The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve/Christmas Day):

Saturday, December 24  
5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m. (Livestreamed)  
Sunday, December 25  
9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

#### Daily Mass:

Wednesday, December 28  
7:00 p.m. (Feast of the Holy Innocents)  
Thursday, December 29 12:00 p.m.  
Friday, December 30 12:00 p.m.  
(Feast of the Holy Family)

#### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:

Saturday, December 31 5:00 p.m. (Livestreamed)  
Sunday, January 1 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

#### Daily Mass:

Tuesday-Friday, January 3-6 12:00 p.m.

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Sunday, January 8 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

#### Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:

Monday January 9 12:00 p.m.

## MASS SCHEDULE

### Weekdays

**St. Michael's Parish:** Tuesday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.

**St. Peter's Cathedral:** Tuesday-Friday: Noon

### Weekends

**St. Michael's Parish:**

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.

**St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica:**

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. (Livestreamed)

Sunday: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

**St. Josephine Bakhita:**

4th Sunday of the month, 2:30 p.m. (St. Michael's)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

**St. Michael's:** Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**St. Peter's:** Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

*Or contact one of our priests for an appointment.*

## PARISH STAFF

### Pastor

Fr. Daniel Bombardier | [dbombardier@dol.ca](mailto:dbombardier@dol.ca)

### Associate Pastors

Fr. Christopher Pietraszko | [cpietraszko@dol.ca](mailto:cpietraszko@dol.ca)

Fr. Sekar Raj | [sraj@dol.ca](mailto:sraj@dol.ca)

### Permanent Deacons

Dcn. Len Hughes | [lhughes@dol.ca](mailto:lhughes@dol.ca)

Dcn. Gaston Mabaya | [gmabaya@dol.ca](mailto:gmabaya@dol.ca)

Dcn. Rudy Pflanzner | [rpflanzner@dol.ca](mailto:rpflanzner@dol.ca)

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### Reception/Secretary

Mary Cole | [stmichlon@dol.ca](mailto:stmichlon@dol.ca)

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Jolanda Squire | [jsquire@dol.ca](mailto:jsquire@dol.ca)

## CONTACT US

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Contact: Tel./Fax **519-433-6689** | [stmichlon@dol.ca](mailto:stmichlon@dol.ca)

### St. Josephine Bakhita

**African & Caribbean Catholic Community**

c/o St. Michael's Parish | Contact: Amedeo Awai

[stjosephinebakhita2020@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephinebakhita2020@gmail.com)

### St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica

Location: 196 Dufferin Avenue, London, Ontario N6A 1K8

Contact: Tel. **519-432-3475** | [basilica@dol.ca](mailto:basilica@dol.ca)

### Offices and Mailing Address of Parishes:

511 Cheapside Street, London, Ontario N5Y 3X5

### Business Hours:

Mondays to Fridays, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.