

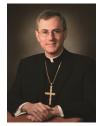
PARISH BULLETIN

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

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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 12, 2023



Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B. Bishop of London

PARISH STAFF

Pastor Fr. Daniel Bombardier

ext 222 • dbombardier@dol.ca Associate Pastors

Fr. Christopher Pietraszko ext 225 • cpietraszko@dol.ca

Fr. Sekar Raj ext 224 • sraj@dol.ca

Permanent Deacons

Dcn. Len Hughes ext 235 • lhughes@dol.ca Dcn. Gaston Mabaya ext 237 • gmabaya@dol.ca Dcn. Rudy Pflanzner ext 236 • rpflanzner@dol.ca

Pastoral Ministers Cathryn Hall ext 226 • chall@dol.ca Debbie Walsh ext 227 • dwalsh@dol.ca

Family & Youth Minister Leigh Duckworth

ext 229 • Iduckworth@dol.ca

Business Manager Lori Clark ext 240 • Iclark@dol.ca

Communications Coordinator Vianca Kmet ext 201 • vkmet@dol.ca

Reception/Secretary Mary Cole ext 200 • stmichlon@dol.ca

Financial Secretaries

RoseMary Cleary ext 242 • rcleary@dol.ca Jolanda Squire ext 241 • jsquire@dol.ca "The first Christians were all Jews. In the beginning, they continued to observe many of their traditional customs e.g. about circumcision, about clean and unclean food. As well, they went to the Temple in Jerusalem to pray. But very soon, non-Jews (Gentiles) also became Christians, and these did not have to observe some of the traditions of the Jews. But the Jewish Christians felt uncomfortable about this. When they became Christians did they have to abandon traditions, which were so much part of both their religious and social life? It became a very serious issue in the Apostolic Church.

Living the Laws and Commandments with Love

Matthew's gospel, from which today's passage comes, was written primarily for Jewish Christians and today's reading – and indeed the whole of this gospel – can be seen as words of encouragement for them. Throughout his gospel, Matthew constantly uses the Old Testament to show that the life of Jesus is not a breakaway from past Jewish traditions, but that it is a continuation of all that was foretold by the prophecies of the Hebrew Testament. The life and teaching of Jesus is not to be seen as a new religion; Jesus' life is the natural development of the story of salvation. And Jesus is the climax of that story, because Jesus is the Messiah king and saviour for whom the Jews had been waiting for such a long time (in that sense, our Bible – Old and New Testaments – is really only one book).

So in today's Gospel Matthew emphasises the relation between Jewish Law and the teaching of Jesus. Matthew reassures his readers that Jesus has not come to abolish the Law and the prophets, but to bring them to completion. So, in a sense, the Law still has force. On the other hand, there is much in Jesus' teaching that is completely new. He did not abolish the Law, but he introduced a completely new way of thinking. He did not abolish or change the Law, but went far beyond its literal requirements. For Jesus, just to keep the Law externally is not enough. To be a disciple of Christ, the foundation of our lives must go deeper - to a mutual love. To keep the Law without love is like having a body without a soul. Literally to keep the Law of God and of the Church is not the same as being a good disciple of Jesus.

The Scribes and the Pharisees kept the Law and the Commandments very carefully. But Jesus would say that, though they observed the external requirements of the Law, they did not have the spirit which is the foundation of the Law: to love God and to love the neighbour as oneself. Clearly, this teaching would have made much more impact on a Jewish audience but, even in our Christian lives, it is possible for people to have a very mechanical notion of what is good behaviour. This is revealed often in the way we "go to confession".

To help us understand his meaning Jesus gives six striking examples and, in today's Gospel, we have four of them. In these four examples, Jesus helps us to understand that, to be one of his disciples, it is not enough simply to keep what the Law tells us to do. We do not keep the Law through our behaviour, but through our basic attitudes, our basic values.

When the Pharisees kept the Law, they wanted to obey God, but very often they neglected the needs of others. It was their own "perfection" they were mainly concerned about (just as we can be exclusively concerned about being in a "state of grace"). Even now, some people in confession are sorry because their sins offend God or are instances of personal failure, but often they show little awareness of how their sins hurt other people. For Jesus, we cannot separate our relationship with God and our relationship with people. If we cannot find God in our brothers and sisters, we cannot say that we really love God.

There are not a few Catholics who feel that if they just keep the Commandments they are good Catholics. They often like to ask, "Is this a sin?", that is, is it against the law? Is it a mortal sin or is it a venial sin? If it is "only" a venial sin, then I can do it. But true Christians do not ask whether something is legal or illegal. They love God, they love Jesus, they love their brothers and sisters. Their only concern is how they can serve and love them more and more. They want to work with Jesus and with his brothers and sisters to build the Kingdom of God. No matter how much they do, they know they can still love more and do more and be more.

It is not then a question of law; it is not a question of what I have to do. It is a question of how much more I can do, how much more I want to do. The requirements of the law are way behind."



Prayer Shawl–St. Peter's

The February meeting will be on the 16th from 7pm 'til 8:30pm in room 105 at St Peter's Parish Centre. Hoping to see everyone. New members would be welcomed with open arms.



St. Peter's Knights of Columbus

CATHOLIC MEN! Feeling the call to live out your Catholic Faith in service to the Church and your community? Come find out about the Knights of Columbus! As a Knight you would be part of the largest Catholic fraternity in the world. As you grow in faith, you are supported by a true brotherhood built on shared values---and on a shared desire to be the men God has called you to be. Being a Knight lets you get support from Catholic men in your own neighbourhood. Additionally, as a Knight you will have the opportunity to engage in Charitable activities, faith formation activities and social activities within the parish community. An information table will be in the Narthex following each Mass on the weekends of February 11-12 and February 25-26. Stop by for a chat!

Discernment Retreats-St. Peter's Seminary

St. Peter's Seminary invites you to a virtual discernment retreat for men 17 years old and older considering a call to the priesthood. This virtual experience offers firsthand knowledge of the life of a seminarian, provides spiritual help for discernment and offers the opportunity for prayer and reflection. Saturday, February 18 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact Fr. Danny Santos at vocations@dol.ca for more information or to register.

St. Peter's Seminary is also hosting an in-person discernment retreat for men 17 years old and older that are considering a call to the priesthood. This weekend offers a firsthand experience of the life of a seminarian, provides spiritual help for discernment and offers the opportunity to meet current seminarians and faculty of St. Peter's Seminary. Friday, March 17th to Sunday, March 19th, at St. Peter's Seminary. Contact Fr. Danny Santos at vocations@dol.ca for more information. To register, visit our website at www.dolpriest.ca/registration.

Rediscovering the Liturgy

"Each Sunday the community gathers to offer praise and thanks to God for the great act of reconciling love made available to us through Christ Jesus. We gather because God continues to call us into relationship, has given us new life in the waters of baptism, anointed us in the Spirt and drawn us to feast at the Eucharistic banquet. God makes us into one body, the body of Christ. In return we enter into the celebration of Mass, joining ourselves to the offering of Christ in his sacrifice unto death. The liturgy enables us to call ourselves Christ's disciples, transforms us into faithful stewards and challenges us to be Christ's living Words made visible in our daily life.

We participate in the liturgy both inwardly and outwardly. Our interior participation opens us to receive within, what we hear, touch, taste, and see exteriorly. Our outward participation expresses the depth of union with God. Inward participation requires silence, reflective thought, and adoration. Outward participation show through participation in song, word, gesture, and movement."

Excerpt from Things You Need to Know About the Roman Missal, July 2011 prepared by the Diocese of London, Committee for the Implementation of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 2011



Our Journey in Lent

Lent begins in a few short weeks. Masses for our Family of Parishes for Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023 are:

St. Michael's

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8:00 a.m.
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10:00 a.m. with St. Michael's Catholic Elementary School 7:00 p.m.

St. Peter's Cathedral

9:00 a.m. with Catholic Central High School 12:00 p.m. (live-streamed)

7:00 p.m.

Ashes will be imposed on the forehead, as in pre-pandemic times. Those imposing ashes will wear a mask.

Stations of the Cross-Fridays during Lent St. Michael's: 7:00 p.m. 12:45 p.m. St. Peter's:

Lenten Reflection Books are available at all entrances

of the church.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Our LNCCFP Knights of Columbus Councils are hosting a Parish Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 21st from 5-7 pm. This event is happening at

both locations. Tag along your family and friends.

St. Michael's

Venue: Parish Hall | Cost: only \$5 per person (Pancakes, sausages, tea, coffee, and juice for the kids will be available.)

St. Peter's Cathedral

Venue: Parish Centre Gym | Cost: Freewill offering

All proceeds will support the good works of the Knights.



CWL Lenten Lunches-St. Peter's

St. Peter's CWL will host Lenten lunches on Wednesdays after the noon Mass. The lunches will start Wednesday, February 22nd through to

Wednesday, March 29th. Please enter off of the south parking lot entrance into the gym of the Parish Centre. Cost: Freewill donation.

Diocesan CWL Lenten Retreat–St. Michael's Parish Hall

St. Michael's council is hosting the London Diocesan CWL Lenten Retreat on Saturday, February 25th from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. Fr. Jim Mockler is the facilitator. Cost for lunch is \$15.00 and is payable by cheque or cash on the day of the Retreat. If you are paying by cheque, the cheque should be made payable to St. Michael's CWL. Please inform Dorothy if you plan to attend. Email dorothysolomon41@gmail.com or call 519-204-2931 by February 18th.



Journey with the Cross Lenten Parish Mission

The London North Central Catholic Family of Parishes will be having a Lenten Mission this year with Catholic speaker and musician Chris Bray. Join us as we rediscover the beauty of the

Gospel, God's transformative grace, and joyfully witness our faith to the world.

> Sunday, March 26-Tuesday, March 28 St. Peter's Cathedral at 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

That We May Walk Together

Through a series of pastoral letters to the People of God in Canada, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) affirmed its ongoing commitment to renewing and strengthening relations with Indigenous Peoples at the national, regional, and especially the local level.

Each of the distinct pastoral letters in this series, entitled That We May Walk Together, is the fruit of many months of listening, dialogue, and encounter with Indigenous Peoples, especially through Listening Circles held in dioceses across the country, the Indigenous Delegation to the Vatican in April 2022, and Pope Francis' Apostolic Voyage to Canada in July of the same year.

Having heard from Indigenous Survivors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Youth, and inspired by the witness of Pope Francis during his "penitential pilgrimage" in Canada, who encouraged Canada's Bishops to continue walking with Indigenous People's along the path of truth, justice, healing, reconciliation and hope, these letters present a framework for local engagement by Bishops with Indigenous Peoples in their dioceses/eparchies, including:

- Continuing to dialogue and discern the most effective mechanism by which respectful and fruitful collaboration can continue at the national, regional and local levels;
- Fulfilling a pledge, made at the 2021 CCCB Plenary Assembly, to undertake fundraising to support locallydiscerned projects through the Indigenous **Reconciliation** Fund (which has raised over \$9 million so far and is on track to meet its five-year, \$30-million commitment);
- Supporting opportunities to make Indigenous culture

Support the People of Syria & Turkey

On Monday morning, February 6, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 struck southern Turkey and northern Syria. The death toll has risen steadily to more than 10,000 and thousands injured, not to mention those who are now homeless. In addition, the cold and snow slow down the search for survivors.

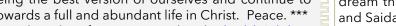
Development and Peace - Caritas Canada is mobilizing to provide emergency assistance to affected populations. More than 15 million people will need humanitarian assistance and support. The organization has released \$50,000 to quickly support emergency relief in the field. If you are looking to support the people of Syria and Turkey, please consider donating. Thank you for your generosity! Donate here or contact info@devp.org / 514 257-8711.

Spiritual Pondering

The Law of the Lord... Matthew 5:17-37

One of the greatest gifts God has given us is our freewill. Sometimes it is also the most costly gift. Jesus gave us the great invitation to, "come and follow". This weekend's readings remind us of what it takes to follow the way of Christ. The Commandments clearly direct us on the 'how to' live the life of a Christian. As disciples we do our best to follow in the footsteps of Jesus yet as human beings, we are not always successful.

Consider how you follow each of the Commandments... Which Commandments do you find most difficult to follow? The deeper question is why is that? When we can name the 'why' we can address what is holding us back from being the best version of ourselves and continue to move towards a full and abundant life in Christ. Peace. *** Share your thoughts, if you are so inclined - dwalsh@dol.ca





more widely known, including by working with Catholic educational institutions, seminaries, religious houses, and programs of pastoral formation;

- Accompanying Indigenous Peoples in the pursuit of justice, according to the spirit of the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as well as Catholic Social Teaching;
- Working together with local community leaders to address social challenges, including addictions, suicide, violence, poverty, and incarceration;
- Celebrating the great role that women play in many Indigenous faith communities; and
- Identifying new forms of responsibility within dioceses/ eparchies to which Indigenous Elders could be invited to share their spiritual wisdom.

In addition, in the Pastoral Letter to the People of God, the Catholic faithful are invited to join their Bishops, in a spirit of love and service, as the local churches take tangible steps toward reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in view of a new era of encounter and dialogue.

The 4 letters can be found on the diocesan website at this link. If you would like a printed copy, please contact the office.



Resources for LNCC Kids are available in the narthex at St. Michael's and St. Peter's Cathedral. An electronic copy of the Kids' Bulletin can be found here. For inquiries and feedback, please contact our Family & Youth Minister, Leigh

Duckworth at 519-433-6689 or email lduckworth@dol.ca.



Celebrating Black History Month

Every February, people across Canada are invited to participate in Black History Month events and festivities that honour the legacy of Black Canadians and their

communities. The 2023 theme for Black History Month in London is: "Reflections of Black London: 1820's-2020's". The London Black History Coordinating Committee has several events planned throughout the month of February. This coming week, one of the events is the Fugitive Slave Chapel Documentary Screening at The London Public Library on Saturday, February 18 at 2:00 p.m. The event calendar for Black History Month can be found at <u>https://lbhcc.ca/events</u>.

Road to Freedom-The Dream

The London based choir, the Karen Schuessler Singers presents Road to Freedom-The Dream on Saturday February 25, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at Wesley-Knox United Church. The road to freedom began with a dream. The quest for equality is fueled by a dream. This concert seeks to honour that dream through song and story, with vocalists Denise Pelley and Saidat, narrators, choir, and band. For more information click here to view the poster.

REQUESTED MASS INTENTIONS

200

Tuesday, February 14 <u>St. Michael's at 8:00 AM</u> Marion Kenny requested by Mary Cole Michael Keenan requested by Wilf & Rosemary Myers James Aaron Bow requested by Jennifer Bow

> <u>St. Peter's Cathedral at 12 Noon</u> Lolita Albornoz Caalim Paul Pustai Ville Marvin Magbuhos

Wednesday, February 15

<u>St. Michael's at 8:00 AM</u> Francisco Furtado requested by Michelle Nordstrom Alison Twohey requested by Burke & Twohey Families Deceased & Living Family & Friends of Solis/Reyes Family requested by Vernonica Solis

> <u>St. Peter's Cathedral at 12 Noon</u> Joe Beaudoin Rogelio Azores Bernadeth Fernando

Thursday, February 16

<u>St. Michael's at 8:00 AM</u> Fr. Stephen Bodnar requested by Julianna Bodnar Carlos Jose Ardila-Barrera requested by Carlos Ardila & Martha Barrera Roger Boudreau requested by Lucy & Jerry Sollazzo

> <u>St. Peter's Cathedral at 12 Noon</u> Matthew Naudi Jose A. Garcia Justin Durocher

Friday, February 17

<u>St. Michael's at 8:00 AM</u> Marco Mazariegos requested by Patricia Mazariegos Bob Peckham requested by Al & Louise Murphy Spencer Cornelis requested by Stephanie Gasparotto

> <u>St. Peter's Cathedral at 12 Noon</u> Ceferino Porquez, Jr. Valerie Cox & Deceased Family Members Intentions of Charmaine Iormetti

We remember in prayer all those who are sick. We also pray for those who have died including Thomas Kennedy, brother of Pat Kennedy; Joanne Carruthers; Uleen Callaghan; and Jackie Pouget; and comfort those who mourn.

We pray for those serving in pastoral ministry throughout our diocese:

Christine Toffolon, Pastoral Minister; Rev. Glen Ball; Deacon Anthony Rebkowec; Rev. Philip Joseph; Rev. Clare Coleman; Christian McConnell, Director of Liturgy, Music and Faith Formation; Deacon Jose Viveiras



READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 19, 2023 SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading - Leviticus 19.1-2, 17-18 Responsorial - Ps 103.1-2, 3-4, 8+10, 12-13 *R. The Lord is merciful and gracious.* Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 3.16-23 Gospel - Matthew 5.38-48

MASS TIMES

Weekdays

St. Michael's Parish:

Tuesday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.

St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica:

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

St. Josephine Bakhita:

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

Livestreamed Mass: Saturdays at 5:00 p.m., St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica

200

Sacrament of Reconciliation

St. Michael's: Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.St. Peter's Cathedral: Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Or contact one of our priests for an appointment.

CONTACT US

St. Michael's Parish

Location: 511 Cheapside Street, London, Ontario N5Y 3X5 Contact: Tel./Fax 519-433-6689 | <u>stmichlon@dol.ca</u>

St. Josephine Bakhita African Caribbean Catholic Community

c/o St. Michael's Parish | Contact Amedeo Awai stjosephinebakhita2020@gmail.com

St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica

Location: 196 Dufferin Avenue, London, Ontario N6A 1K8 Contact: Tel. 519-432-3475 | <u>basilica@dol.ca</u>

Offices and Mailing Address of Parishes:

511 Cheapside Street, London, Ontario N5Y 3X5

Office Hours

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

Visit our website! <mark>www.lncc.dol.ca</mark>





