



London North Central
Catholic Family of Parishes

"Being a mission-oriented Church that forms disciples of Jesus"

PARISH BULLETIN

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



First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023



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

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Bringing Light and Life to God's World

"The Gospel is a section from Mark's lead-up to Christ's Passion. The entire chapter deals with the ending of things. For all the images of coming disasters possible, Jesus is exhorting His followers to states of readiness: "Be watchful. Be alert." "Watch!" These are strong words which catch the ear of His disciples. They are also words by which Jesus Himself has lived His personal mission of redeeming this world. Awareness can be a function of fear, but also of love. If being redeemed is our final end and if Jesus' mission was to redeem us and bring us all back to the Hands of the "potter" - the Creator - then fear of His coming is not the final disaster, but the final revelation of God's creative love.



Jesus uses a little image which is important, but can be easily overlooked. Jesus uses the image of a land owner who goes on a journey, but leaves his servants, "each with his own work" to do. The challenge is not just to stay awake, but awake so as to do the work of bringing light and life to God's world. Waiting and watching out of fear is passive and paralyzing. Waiting in faith is eager and exciting. We can wait expecting to be caught, or expecting to be caught up in our part in His coming into this world.

Before I need Christmas, I need a little emptiness, darkness and silence. These Advent days do get busier, packed, brighter and louder. What I need is an experience of being redeemed, recreated, renamed, and reborn. I would like to be more watchful and alert to how loved I am and how many ways there are to bring Christ to life in the world around me."

Excerpt from, Daily Reflection of Creighton University's Online Ministries, Fr. Nicky Santos, SJ
<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/120323.html>

Hallowed Highlights

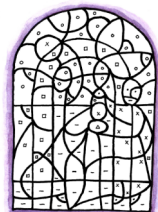
- Dec 7 Memorial of St. Ambrose
- Dec 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (see [page 3](#))

December 8th at our Family of Parishes

The Immaculate Conception is the principal Patron of the Diocese of London. The London North Central Catholic Family of Parishes will offer two Masses this day:
8:00 a.m. at St. Michael's
12:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Cathedral

The Kids' Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent
December 3rd, 2023



Advent is here!
Jesus is coming!



Click here
Brother Francis Daily Advent
Videos for Children

DRAWING
CLOSER TO
GOD
A CATHOLIC ART SHOW FOR KIDS

Journey through Advent
with the whole family!

These resources can be found online: [Formed.org](https://formed.org).
To sign up, go to: <https://formed.org/signup>. Enter our Family's name "London North Central...". at no cost to parishioners! Enjoy!



SSVP Angel Tree 2023 at LNCC FP

Join us in spreading the joy of giving this Christmas season! The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP)'s Angel Tree is taking place at our Family of Parishes— at both locations. We invite you to be part of this wonderful tradition of sharing and caring.

St. Peter's SSVP

Every year early in December, the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Peter's makes special deliveries of food and gifts to our poor and marginalized friends in the downtown area. Often, our visit with these gifts is the only real connection many have with the Christmas Season. These gifts all come from you - it is your generosity of financial donations that enables us to assist over 200 families and friends.

After each Mass this weekend, **December 2-3**, members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SSVP) will be at the doors of the church to receive your financial donations. Donations can be made through cash or cheque (envelopes are available in the narthex), online options through e-transfer to basilica@dol.ca or credit card through Pllenty on our parish website, www.lncc.dol.ca/donate-to-st-peters. Please indicate in the message/comment box, **"St. VdeP Angel Tree."**

On **December 16th**, 20 volunteers will hit the downtown streets to deliver your good cheer to the over 200 families & friends who live within our downtown parish area. Please be as generous as you are able.

May you all have a blessed Christmas.

For more information on the Angel Tree, click [here](#).

St. Michael's SSVP

Please find it in your hearts to make a monetary donation for an 'Angel Tree' child this Christmas. St. Vincent de Paul members will then purchase food and gift cards to distribute to families in need within our parish boundary. Cash or cheques may be placed in the envelope and dropped off in the SSVP baskets at both entrances of the church before and after each weekend Mass or at the parish office weekdays, or donate electronically through Pllenty by **December 3**. Tax receipts will be issued for cheque and electronic donations.

Your generous donations are so very much appreciated to lift the spirits of our children in need during this Christmas season.



St. Michael's Rosary Guild

Join the joy of creating Rosaries for Our Lady! We warmly invite new members to join our community. For more information or to start crafting, reach out to Monica at 519-666-0590. Your participation adds a special touch to this meaningful endeavor. Embrace the warmth of our community as we come together in this enriching experience.



2024 Offertory Envelopes

St. Michael's and St. Peter's Cathedral offertory envelopes are now available for pickup in the narthex or back of the church. We ask parishioners who use assigned boxed offertory envelopes to pick up their set to help offset the cost of mailing them. If you are unable to locate a box assigned to you and would like offertory envelopes, please call the parish office or contact Jolanda, jsquire@dol.ca for St. Michael's or RoseMary, rcleary@dol.ca for St. Peter's.

There is no envelope number assigned to parishioners who utilize Preauthorized Giving (PAG) or other donation methods. We appreciate your support!

Flowers for Christmas



We are collecting monetary donations to offset the cost of flowers for our Christmas celebrations. Donations may be made in the name of family or friends, deceased or living, for whom you may wish to pray. These names will be placed in the bulletin and remembered in prayer throughout the Season of Christmas.

To make a contribution, please seal donations in an envelope, along with your *name, address and phone number* as well as the *name of the person you are honouring* and drop it in the Sunday collection or mail in to the office.

Donations can also be made by e-transfer to either parish at stmichlon@dol.ca or basilica@dol.ca, memo line—**Flowers for Christmas**. Please indicate the same information as above in an email to the office. Thank you for your generosity.



St. Michael's KofC General Meeting

Our next general meeting will be on Tuesday, **December 5th at 7pm**. This will be our pre-Christmas kickoff with food and drinks available for all attending. The SVDP will be making a special presentation by Larry McKenzie regarding the progress and support of the Affordable Housing Project on the site of the St. Andrew the Apostle Church on Huron St. All are welcome to join us, see what we are about and maybe consider being a part of the St. Michael's Knights of Columbus.



St. Peter's CWL General Meeting

The next St. Peter's CWL General Meeting will be held on Saturday, **December 9th** at 11:00 am in the St. John Paul II room on level 2 (elevator available). As this is our last meeting in 2023, let's celebrate our accomplishments! Please plan to attend.

St. Michael's CWL Thank YOU!

St. Michael's CWL executive wishes to thank its members and our parishioners for their outstanding support at our Christmas Craft and Bake Sale last weekend. Thanks to your generosity; the sale raised approximately \$5,000. Funds raised will be used to help the many groups and organizations that count on the Catholic Women's League for their needs.

Members are reminded that there is no January meeting. Please watch the bulletin for February details.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary

"In 1854, Pope Pius IX's solemn declaration, *"Ineffabilis Deus,"* clarified with finality the long-held belief of the Church that Mary was conceived free from original sin. Mary was granted this extraordinary privilege because of Her unique role in history as the Mother of God. That is, she received the gift of salvation in Christ from the very moment of her conception.

Even though Mary is unique in all humanity for being born without sin, she is held up by the Church as a model for all humanity in Her holiness



and Her purity in her willingness to accept the Plan of God for her. Every person is called to recognize and respond to God's call to their own vocation in order to carry out God's plan for their life and fulfill the mission prepared for them since before the beginning of time.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a time to celebrate the great joy of God's gift to humanity in Mary, and to recognize with greater clarity, the truth that each and every human being has been created by God to fulfill a particular mission that he and only he can fulfill."

Catholic News Agency, 2022



Journey Through Advent 2023

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops presents the video series, Journey through Advent with the Most Rev. Bishop Jon Hansen, CSsR, Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith. The series reflects on the Scriptures for the Sundays of Advent 2023. This First Sunday, Bishop Hansen provides a reflection on waiting and waking up to the presence of God. Click [here](https://www.cccb.ca/) to view—<https://www.cccb.ca/>

Gaza Needs You Now!

With the Israel-Palestine conflict having already killed over 11,000 people, including 4,500+ children, and displaced about 1.6 million in Gaza, Development and Peace—Caritas Canada is asking the Canadian government to call for an immediate ceasefire and a secure humanitarian corridor. You can help by writing to your MP to support this demand and by donating to help our partners serve the wounded, bereaved, displaced and besieged people. To find out about the Gaza, go to devp.org/en/. The parish representative is Michael Loebach michaelfloebach@gmail.com / 519 671 6670 and the London Deanery representative is Gord Smith email gosmit@execulink.com / 519 672 2497.



First Reconciliation/Communion

Registrations Now Closed

Registrations for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion are now closed. Thank you to those who inquired and signed up. For further inquiries, contact our Family & Youth Minister, Leigh Duckworth, at lduckworth@dol.ca.

Please keep the parents/guardians and the candidates preparing to receive the sacrament in your prayers.



"Tap to Give" at the Cathedral

St. Peter's Cathedral has added another option for giving that is quick, simple and secure.

Donors can tap their debit or credit card or mobile wallet to make a difference.

Contributions of \$5, \$10, and \$20 allows giving with the same ease as paying for a coffee.

The Tap to Give stand is in the Narthex.

Please contact the office if you have any questions about using Tap to Give or the different [ways to donate](#) to your parish.



Construction Update: Cheapside Street Cycling Project

The City of London has improved the cycling facilities on Cheapside Street between Richmond and Adelaide Streets through a combination of in-boulevard, protected, and painted cycling lanes. The impact to St. Michael's is the loss of 4 angled parking spots in the front of the parish. Parking at the front of the parish is now limited to 2 parallel parking spots.

BEFORE CONSTRUCTION
4 Angled Parking Spots

AFTER CONSTRUCTION (NOW)
2 Parallel Parking Spots



Please **NEVER park or block** the driveway entrance in front of the parish.

SUNDAY COLLECTION: November 26, 2023

	St. Michael's	St. Peter's
Regular Offertory (Envelopes)	\$ 5,941.00	\$ 4,490.00
Regular Offertory (Loose)	\$ 1,687.00	\$ 1,721.25
Weekly Pre-Authorized Giving	\$ 3,914.00	\$ 3,115.00
TOTAL	\$ 11,542.00	\$ 9,326.25

Thank you for your support and generosity!
To make a donation or update your donation method, please call the office or visit www.lncc.dol.ca/donate.

REQUESTED MASS INTENTIONS



Tuesday, December 5

St. Michael's at 8:00 AM

Jerzy Ner

Cyril Petersen

Deceased & Living Family & Friends of the Solis-Reyes Family

St. Peter's Cathedral at 12 Noon

Anita Marie Renaud

Veronica Abrook

Intentions of Father Chris Pietraszko

Wednesday, December 6

St. Michael's at 8:00 AM

Fr. Stephen Bodnar

James Aaron Bow

Intentions of Gerry Cole

St. Peter's Cathedral at 12 Noon

Ong Su Que and Visitacion Mallari

Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Catholic Women's League

Intentions of Josephine Mallari

Thursday, December 7

St. Michael's at 8:00 AM

Pauline Geiger

Lawrence Hamilton

Deceased Members of the VanderVloet & Meeuwssen Families

St. Peter's Cathedral at 12 Noon

Joe Murphy

Angelita Bioco

Intentions of Isabelo Bioco

Friday, December 8—Immaculate Conception

St. Michael's at 8:00 AM

Marco Mazariegos

Joanna Laphorne

Deceased Members of the Morgan Family

St. Peter's Cathedral at 12 Noon

Johnny Boado

Nick Castrilli

Intentions of the Thomson Family

We remember in prayer all those who are sick. We also pray for those who have died including Mary Kay Butler, wife of Wilf; Felicia Galdamez; Julio Carvalho, husband of Maria; Donna Smith; Carmen Gicante, husband of Corrie; and comfort those who mourn.

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

Rev. Robert Champagne; Janet Loo, Liturgical Facilitator/ Director of Music; Rev. Dwayne Adam; Rev. Robert; Deacon Lyle Lalonge; Colleen Kean, Pastoral Minister

Offer a Mass for a loved one, or in thanksgiving. Contact the parish office or visit www.lncc.dol.ca/mass-prayer-requests.

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 10, 2023 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading - Isaiah 40.1-5, 9-11

Responsorial - Ps 85.8ab+9, 10-11, 12-13 (R.7)

R. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading - 2 Peter 3.8-14

Gospel - Mark 1.1-8

MASS & CONFESSION TIMES



Weekdays

St. Michael's: Tuesday–Friday 8 am

St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica: Tuesday–Friday 12 pm

Weekends

St. Michael's: Saturday 5 pm; Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 pm

St. Peter's Cathedral: Saturday 5 pm*; Sunday 9 am, 11 am

*Live-streamed Mass

St. Josephine Bakhita Community:

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



Sacrament of Reconciliation at both Parishes

Saturdays 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Or contact one of our priests for an appointment.



Are you new in the community? Register at www.lncc.dol.ca/join-our-family or get a parish registration form from our volunteers.

Profile info change? Connect with us!



Join a Ministry. Be a Volunteer!

Visit www.lncc.dol.ca > Click the tab, "Ministries & Social Groups"



ST. PETER'S QR CODE

PARISH Support
WAYS TO MAKE A DONATION
www.lncc.dol.ca/donate



ST. MICHAEL'S QR CODE

- Offertory Envelopes / Cheque
- Credit Card via Pllenty
- Interac E-Transfer
- Scan the QR Code & follow the prompts
- Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) Plan
- Canada Helps canadahelps.org

Your donations support the activities which enrich and nourish the spiritual life of the parish. The donations you give go to the collections of the specific parish that you select. Charitable tax receipts are issued in the new year following.

CONTACT US

St. Michael's Parish

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Contact: Tel./Fax 519-433-6689 | stmichlon@dol.ca

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 | basilica@dol.ca

Offices and Mailing Address of Parishes:

511 Cheapside Street,
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Office Hours

Mondays to Fridays 8:30 am–3:30 pm

We're online! www.lncc.dol.ca



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