

PARISH BULLETIN

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

May 28, 2023

Pentecost Sunday



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. 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

Unity: The Gift of the Spirit

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit' (1 Cor 12:4), as the Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthians. He continues: 'There are different forms of service, but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone' (vv. 5-6). Diversity and unity: Saint Paul puts together two words that seem contradictory. He wants to tell us that the Holy Spirit is the one who brings together the many; and that the Church was born this way: we are all different, yet united by the same Holy Spirit.

Let us go back to the origin of the Church, to the day of Pentecost. Let us look at the Apostles: some of them were fishermen, simple people accustomed to living by the work of their hands, but there were also others, like Matthew, who was an educated tax collector. They were from different backgrounds and social contexts, and they had Hebrew and Greek names. In terms of character, some were meek and others were excitable; they all had different ideas and sensibilities. They were all different. Jesus did not change them; he did not make them into a set of pre-packaged models. No. He left their differences and now he unites them by anointing them with the Holy Spirit. With the anointing comes their union – union in diversity. At Pentecost, the Apostles understand the unifying power of the Spirit.

Let us now focus on ourselves, the Church of today. We can ask ourselves: "What is it that unites us, what is the basis of our unity?". We might think that what unites us are our beliefs and our morality. But there is much more: our principle of unity is the Holy Spirit. He reminds us that first of all we are God's beloved children; all equal, in this respect, and all different. The Spirit comes to us, in our differences and difficulties, to tell us that we have one Lord - Jesus - and one Father, and that for this reason we are brothers and sisters! Let us begin anew from here; let us look at the Church with the eyes of the Spirit and not as the world does. The world sees us only as on the right or left, with one ideology or the other; the Spirit sees us as sons and daughters of the Father and brothers and sisters of Jesus. The world sees conservatives and progressives; the Spirit sees children of God. A worldly gaze sees structures to be made more efficient; a spiritual gaze sees brothers and sisters pleading for mercy. The Spirit loves us and knows everyone's place in the grand scheme of things: for him, we are not bits of confetti blown about by the wind, rather we are irreplaceable fragments in his mosaic.

If we go back to the day of Pentecost, we discover that the first task of the Church is proclamation. Yet we also see that the Apostles devised no strategy; when they were locked in there, in the Upper Room, they were not strategizing, no, they were not drafting any pastoral plan. The Spirit does not want the memory of the Master to be cultivated in small groups locked in upper rooms where it is easy to "nest". This is a terrible disease that can also infect the Church: making her into a nest instead of a community, a family or a Mother. The Spirit himself opens doors and pushes us to press beyond what has already been said and done, beyond the precincts of a timid and wary faith. In the Church, however, the Spirit guarantees unity to those who proclaim the message. The Apostles set off: unprepared, yet putting their lives on the line. One thing kept them going: the desire to give what they received.

Here we come to understand what the secret of unity is, the secret of the Spirit. The secret of unity in the Church, the secret of the Spirit is gift. For the Spirit himself is gift: he lives by giving himself and in this way he keeps us together, making us sharers in the same gift. It is important to believe that God is gift, that he acts not by taking away, but by giving. Why is this important? Because our way of being believers depends on how we understand God. If we have in mind a God who takes away and who imposes himself, we too will want to take away and impose ourselves: occupying spaces, demanding recognition, seeking power. But if we have in our hearts a God who is gift, everything changes. If we realize that what we are is his gift, free and unmerited, then we too will want to make our lives a gift. By loving humbly, serving freely and joyfully, we will offer to the world the true image of God. The Spirit, the living memory of the Church, reminds us that we are born from a gift and that we grow by giving: not by holding on but by giving of ourselves.

Brothers and sisters, let us pray to him: Holy Spirit, memory of God, revive in us the memory of the gift received. Come, Holy Spirit: you are harmony; make us builders of unity. You always give yourself; grant us the courage to go out of ourselves, to love and help each other, in order to become one family. Amen."

Parish Pastoral Council

Since the Fall, our Parish Pastoral Council for the Family of Parishes has been meeting and growing in membership. This weekend, the PPC will be commissioned for the work they do in developing our pastoral plan and visioning for the future. The Commissioning will take place on May 27th at the 5pm Mass at St. Michael's and May 28th at the 9am Mass at St. Peter's. Thank you to our PPC members for discerning and accepting the invitation to assist our Family.

SSVP-St. Peter's Special Collection-THIS WEEKEND!

The extreme poverty of our downtown neighbours continues to rise! St. Peter's Saint Vincent de Paul will be holding a special collection this weekend, to ensure that we are able to provide the most basic needs of food and clothing during the summer months ahead. Volunteers will be at the back of the church following each Mass to accept your donation. Donations can also be made by etransfer to basilica@dol.ca, memo line St. Vincent de Paul. We are very grateful for your prayers and financial support.



Last Day to Register!

Don't miss out on the ultimate summer adventure! Register your

children for our Family's first ever Vacation Bible School happening on July 17-21 from 8:30 am–12:30 pm in St. Michael's Parish. *Last day to sign up is Thursday, June 1st!* Hurry, limited spots available! Head over to our parish webpage: www.lncc.dol.ca/vacationbibleschool for the registration form or grab a paper copy in the narthex today! For any questions, contact Leigh Duckworth at 519-433-6689 x 229 or duckworth@dol.ca.



St. Peter's CWL General Meeting

Our final meeting before St. Peter's CWL members recess for summer will be held on Saturday, **June**

3rd at 11:00 am. The room location is the John Paul II meeting room, Level 2 and an elevator is available.

St. Peter's CWL members will be receiving their long service pins and lunch will be catered in celebration. There will be a short business meeting prior to the social gathering. If you were not at the last meeting, Saturday, May 6th and plan to attend, contact Marian by calling: 519 872-5502 or email, mstrom55@gmail.com. We would love for you to come out!



St. Michael's K of C Annual Yard Sale

We will be holding our annual yard sale in the St. Michael's Parish Hall on Saturday, **June 17th** from 8am until 12pm. Donations will be accepted from

Wednesday, the 14th until Friday, the 16th at the back door of the hall from 10am until 3pm. If you require assistance with larger items please call Marty at (519)-870-1859.



St. Peter's Cathedral Parking

Please proceed with caution when entering the gated parking lot off Clarence Street. There are 2 cement curbs located on the north side of the

entrance. These curbs extend approximately 10 feet from the sidewalk and are positioned to ensure maximum parking spaces within the parking lot. Thank you!

Thank you, Debbie!



Dear Friends in Christ,

"To everything there is a season and a time for every matter under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). The time has come for me to retire from Pastoral

Ministry at LNCCFP (St. Michael's). I give thanks to God for inviting me to share my Baptismal gifts with you for the past four years. You have inspired me as I have loved and served God through our community. Thank you for the honor to enter into this sacred space. I promise to hold you in prayer as your journey of faith continues. May you continue to seek a deep and fruitful relationship with Our Lord, who loves each of you so very much.

Pope Francis recently wrote, "Each of us is precious to Jesus. Remember that no one can take your place in the history of the Church and the world. No one else can do what only you can do. So, let's help each other to believe that we are loved and precious, that we are made for great things!" Thank you for sharing the gift of you. May you continue to grow in the gifts of your baptism, always letting your Christ light shine for the world to see God's abiding love.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace" (Numbers 6: 24-26).

With Love, peace and gratitude in Christ, *Debbie Walsh*

Sacrament of Confirmation

Congratulations to the young people of the Family of Parishes celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation. Two celebrations were held this past week at St. Michael's, one this weekend at St. Peter's, and one last evening next week.



Since October the young people of our Family of Parishes have been gathering to prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. This year's process included sessions for youth, parents, and youth and parents together.

Please pray for our young people and their families as they complete their Sacraments of Initiation through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

St. Michael's Children's Liturgy





SUNDAY COLLECTION-May 21, 2023

	St. Michael's	St. Peter's
Regular Offertory (Envelopes)	\$ 4,055.00	\$ 4,053.00
Regular Offertory (Loose)	\$ 1,611.00	\$ 1,787.60
Weekly Pre- Authorized Giving	\$ 4,145.00	\$ 3,096.25

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

If you wish to make a donation or update your donation method, please call the office or visit www.lncc.dol.ca/donate

Come, Holy Spirit

The traditional prayer to the Holy Spirit can be a wonderful source of reflection.

Come, Holy Spirit

The first movement of this prayer is to ask for the Holy Spirit to come to us. A lot goes



into preparing our hearts to ask for the Holy Spirit to come, not the least of which is to acknowledge that there is a Holy Spirt and that we feel something missing without the presence of the Spirit in our lives. This is the Spirit Jesus promised to send us so that we would not feel orphaned. This is the Spirit that transformed the first disciples from people afraid and locked in to the upper room.

Fill the hearts of your faithful

This is a request for a heart filled with the Spirit. This isn't asking, "Give me a little bit of your Spirit." This is a bold request. We are asking that we might be filled - and therefore, transformed by the Spirit. No hesitation, no doubt, no fear, no judgment, now wrangling, no selfishness can remain. Fill us. Fill me.

Enkindle in them the fire of your love

Our prayer gets even more specific. We desire the love which only the Spirit can bring. We know it is a fire, and we ask for it. It is a purifying fire. It burns away all that is in the way. And, it warms whatever is cold. This fire brings a new vitality and courage. And, fire can be shared with others, without being diminished. Set our hearts on fire. Set my heart on fire.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created

Paul tells us, " So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. [2 Corinthians 5:17] We are asking the Spirit to make us a new creation. This is more than a new beginning or a fresh start. We are asking for a transforming renewal. Our lives can be new with the Spirit filling our hearts. Give us/me your Spirit and make us/me new.

And you shall renew the face of the earth

When we are on fire and renewed by the Spirit, we can become one with that Spirit's activity of renewing the whole world. We can be the fire that ignites other fires. We can work to bring reconciliation, healing, true justice and renewal for all the people on the face of the earth. Let me be part of your Spirit's fire for all God's creation.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful

We acknowledge before God that the work of the Spirit is alive among us, enlightening our minds and hearts, helping us listen and discern with growing freedom and courage.

Grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise and ever to rejoice in His consolation.

So, we conclude our prayer, asking that this same Spirit will allow us to be truly wise - with that discerning Spirit - and to give ourselves to enjoying - that is, being consoled by - what the Spirit gives us.

> Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to come to us and to our communities.

> > Adapted from Prayer to the Holy Spirit, Creighton Online Ministries

Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood

Beginning this weekend, Pentecost (May 28th, 2023) and running until next Pentecost (Sunday, May 19th, 2024), our Diocese will be celebrate a new prayer campaign: A Year of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood. This year's theme is titled The Priesthood: Not an Ordinary Life. Throughout the year there will be various events, activities, and resources to help support our parishes in this Year of Prayer.

Click <u>here</u> to see the recent letter on the Year of Prayer from Bishop Fabbro. A copy of the letter is posted in the narthex. If you would like a paper copy of the letter please contact the office.

Prayer of the Year of Prayer for **Vocations to the Priesthood**

Heavenly Father,

We come before you with hearts full of gratitude for the gift of the priesthood and the priests who serve us tirelessly. We ask you to bless our Church and Diocese with more vocations to the priesthood, men who are willing to dedicate their lives to your service.

We pray for all those who are discerning their vocation to the priesthood, that they may hear your voice calling them, and have the courage to respond with generosity and enthusiasm. Give them the wisdom to discern your will and the strength to follow it.

We ask you to bless our seminarians, that they may grow in holiness and knowledge of your truth, and be formed into holy priests who will lead your people to you. Grant them the grace to persevere in their studies and their discernment to become shepherds according to your own heart, and to remain faithful to your call throughout their lives.

We pray for our priests, that they may be strengthened in their ministry and continue to serve your people with love and devotion. Grant them the grace to be faithful to their vocation, to be holy examples for all to follow, and to be humble ministers of your mercy.

May your Holy Spirit guide and inspire us all to work together for the building up of your Kingdom, and may our prayers and sacrifices help to bring forth many more vocations to the priesthood.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Spiritual Pondering

Jesus Appears to His Disciples... John 20:19-23

"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me so I send you." This greeting of Jesus is a gift to us today. The Hebrew word for peace is Shalom which means, the well being and harmony of daily existence with God, ourselves and all of creation. Jesus breathes on us and gives us the Holy Spirit, in Hebrew - ruah, to be his missionary disciples. Ruah means wind, breath of God, the very presence of God. These are all ways of referring to God indwelling in our lives.

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REQUESTED MASS INTENTIONS



Tuesday, May 30

St. Michael's at 8:00 AM Fr. Stephen Bodnar Robert Moir Intentions of Mary Haley

St. Peter's Cathedral at 12 Noon

Maria De Sousa Charles & Alexina Foulem Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, May 31

St. Michael's at 8:00 AM Intentions of Teresa Bedard Rose Durand Cyril Petersen

St. Peter's Cathedral at 12 Noon

Asteria Lastima Octavian Kunzelmann Intentions of Leah Wright

Thursday, June 1

St. Michael's at 8:00 AM

Deceased & Living Family & Friends of Solis/Reyes Family Intentions of Quinton Zientara Gordon Johnston

St. Peter's Cathedral at 12 Noon

Valerie Cox & Deceased Members of the Family Intentions of Henry Naudi Intentions of the Thomson Family

Friday, June 2

St. Michael's at 8:00 AM Fr. Dunstan Massey, OSB Earl Miller Berfalia Tobar

St. Peter's Cathedral at 12 Noon

Tony Augustine Anthony & Mary Pinto Deceased & Living Members of St. Peter's CWL

We remember in prayer all those who are sick. We also pray for those who have died including Ilene Moir; Geoffrey Harold Jell, husband of (late) Pauline; Sister Mary Frances Dorschell, OSU; and comfort those who mourn.

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

Deacon Christopher Stoesser; Rev. Michael Prieur; Nick Fournier, Coordinator of Youth Ministry; Deacon David Robertson; Rev. Abraham Sebastian, C.S.T.; Deacon Rudy Terpstra

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 JUNE 4, 2023 SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

First Reading - Exodus 34.4b-6, 8-9 Responsorial - Ps 3.52, 53, 54, 55, 56 (R. 52) R. Glory and praise for ever! Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 13.11-13 Gospel - John 3.16-18

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 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. 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!

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- 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

Location: 511 Cheapside Street, London, Ontario N5Y 3X5 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, London, Ontario N5Y 3X5

Office Hours

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

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









