Dear “Companions on the Journey”

These few words from a hymn we sing at Mass are a reminder that we are together in this journey of faith. The reality of parish life is that we are called to give ourselves in service to our brothers and sisters. The foundation of Stewardship is the realization that we are all called to “ministry”; from altar serving, to creating a lunch for families who are mourning, to participating as a sponsor in the RCIA program. Each and every minister is not a volunteer, as there are no volunteers here at St. Michael’s, but rather, all of us fulfilling God’s invitation of service to one another.

Here is an invitation to each member of the Parish. Whether you are a young child or an elder in the midst of the Parish, each of you is needed to make us the Body of Christ serving the community. If you are interested in one of the ministries, please call and we will make the connection for you. If you are interested in talking about the ministries, contact the Parish office and we will be glad to spend time with you.

We are “Companions on the Journey, breaking bread and sharing life. The love we bear is the hope we share, for we believe in the love of our God.”

In Christ,

Parish Mission: The Eucharist

Fr. Philip Chircop, S. J.  November 23 - 26 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Pope Benedict asked the Universal Church to meditate on the Eucharist throughout 2008. We have invited Fr. Philip Chircop, a Jesuit, to preach on this great gift. Fr. Chircop considers himself a seeker, always looking for fresh and creative ways to proclaim the Good News, hopefully helping “fellow pilgrims on the way” to embrace real and radical changes that lead to transformation in Christ Jesus.

Fr. Chircop has preached missions all over the world. He has a great sense of humour and understands the human condition. He will preach from the heart. Each evening we will gather at 7:00 p.m. for a presentation, praise and prayer. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place throughout each day of the Mission. Please join us.

The Parish Picnic

You are invited to St. Michael’s Parish Picnic

3rd annual gathering to celebrate the Feast of St. Michael

Sunday, September 28, 2008 from 1:30 till 5:00 p.m. at St. Michael’s School Grounds
World Youth Day 2008

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witness.” (Acts 1:8)

As I reflect on my journey to Australia, this theme of World Youth Day (WYD) 2008 truly represents my feelings. The Holy Spirit was present for the entire pilgrimage, and for that itself I am truly grateful.

In April I was asked by the WYD 2008 organizing committee to be a volunteer of the International Liturgy Group (ILG) Team. With nine other leaders, my responsibilities would include welcoming 130 ILG members to Sydney, attending and organizing rehearsals for WYD events, leading small and large group activities, and supporting daily catechesis, prayer and adoration.

Throughout the week, I had the opportunity to meet the Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal George Pell as I took part in the unveiling of the painting of Our Lady of The Southern Cross in St. Mary’s Cathedral. As well, I was honoured to listen to Father Tom Rosica speak to the ILG about WYD 2002 in Toronto. As two great leaders in their vocations, both men spoke of youth as the future of the Catholic Church, which was a confidence booster for the very busy WYD schedule.

As a part of the ILG, we were fortunate to have front row seats at the opening Mass, papal welcome and evening vigil. I was able to see Pope Benedict XVI up close, which made his presence with us more real. He is truly an inspiring and humble human being. One of my favourite WYD experiences was the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the evening vigil. Thousands of youth and the Holy Father knelt and prayed before the Lord – all at the same level, equal and united as one. Even the Holy Father was equal to us all before the Eucharist. It was truly moving for me and showed me how important prayer in our lives really is.

The Holy Father challenged us to build our lives on firm foundations to allow room for the Holy Spirit in a world that wants us to forget and reject our God. We have the power to use the gifts we have received through our confirmation to make a difference in generations to come. My hope is that everyone will take those words and encourage each other on our mission to welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives and be disciples.

I was truly blessed with every experience and challenge I faced at WYD. With new friends from around the world, a deepened trust in the Holy Spirit, and a strengthened faith in the Lord, I can say I was honoured and fortunate to be part of WYD 2008. Thank you all for your support. The opportunity to travel to Australia is a blessing I will never forget. I look forward to continuing to share my experiences with you all.

continued on page 10
The love and faith demonstrated by St. Michael's parishioners is emphasized by the generosity of Gordon Osbaldeston and his four children Steve, Dave, Rob and Cathy. They decided to donate the new baptismal font completed at the front of our church earlier this year.

When Gordon's wife, Gerry, passed away in December of 2006, he and his four children began to consider doing something special to commemorate her unique life.

As a registered nurse, Gerry developed a particular concern for the care of children. She worked in paediatric care at Toronto Sick Children's Hospital and London's Victoria Hospital. As members of the Canadian Foreign Service their first posting was to Sao Paulo, Brazil where Gerry readily volunteered at a local children's hospital. This volunteer work was particularly difficult because at that time the facilities at the hospital were not of the same standards that she had become used to while in Canada. But Gerry carried on with her work because “the children needed some help.”

Gordon says “as a mother of four young children, far away from family, Gerry was always our shepherd as we moved from city to city. It was she who bore the brunt of the work to re-establish our lives from one move to the next. And the first step was always to begin anew our life in the local church. There, she was a ready volunteer – in the Catholic Women's League and the scout movement. The church and children, her own and those of others, formed the foundation of her life.”

After retiring to London, Gerry and Gordon were warmly welcomed into St. Michael's Parish by Fr. Jim Mockler and Fr. Murray Sample. “It quickly became our community – our spiritual home – where we constantly found comfort especially in our most challenging times.”

So Gordon and his children decided that Fr. Sample's suggestion of a new baptismal font would celebrate Gerry’s life in a very special way. Fr. Murray remembers how deeply touched Gerry was by the number of children at Mass each Sunday. Throughout her life Gerry had joyfully woven together the two strong threads of children and church. “We thought ‘perfect’ since the sacrament of Baptism reflects Gerry’s concern for children and the importance of faith in one’s life.” How fitting that these young people become Children of God through the waters of Baptism at a font donated in her memory.
One of the joys of my ministry is to meet with young couples in their homes to help them prepare for their child’s Baptism. It is wonderful to see the love they have for their child and their deep desire to provide the very best in life for their precious little one. Oftentimes they will tell me how the birth of their baby has given them a totally new perspective on life. They feel God is calling them into a deeper relationship with Him. They see this birth as a privileged moment of spiritual renewal and they are very open to hearing about the love that God has for them and for their child.

When they marvel at the perfect detail of their baby, they are deeply touched by the mystery of God. They are also uniquely aware of their responsibilities as parents. They see their child as part of God’s wonderful creation and they recognize themselves as co-creators with God. They understand that they have cooperated with God in giving physical life to their child and now they have the responsibility of helping their child to grow in spiritual life.

As their child’s first teachers in the ways of faith, they will be primarily responsible for sharing their faith and for bringing their child into the light of God. Their decision to have their child baptized is a very important one and that is why the Church asks parents to prepare for the sacrament by taking time to deepen their own understanding of just what that decision entails.

So what does the Church teach about Baptism? Baptism is the first step in our journey of faith. In Baptism we are welcomed into the Christian community and given new life in Christ. Baptism frees us from the power of darkness and incorporates us into the Body of Christ.

The ritual for Baptism tells us that through water and the Spirit, we become a new creation, we become children of God. Since we are children of God and brothers and sisters in Christ, Baptism is not a private act but a public expression of the Church’s faith. The ritual emphasizes the active participation of the community. The whole community, represented by the godparents, welcomes the one to be baptized and promises its love and support. Celebrating Baptism on a Sunday is an ancient tradition recalling that Sunday is the Lord’s Day, the day when Jesus rose from the dead and when his followers gathered together as a Christian community.

The sacrament of Baptism is rich with symbols. At the beginning of the celebration we trace the sign of the cross on the child’s forehead as a sign that we are claiming this child for Christ. Oil is an important symbol and the Church uses two different oils during the celebration. The Oil of Catechumens is used to anoint the child’s chest to symbolize strength. The child is strengthened for life in Christ. The Oil of Chrism is used to anoint the head of the child and symbolizes the sealing of the child with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Water is used because of its cleansing and life-giving properties. The child is washed clean of Original Sin and given new life in Christ. A white garment symbolizes innocence and purity and is the outward sign that the child has now “put on Christ.” The Easter candle symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World, and is lit throughout the celebration. The parents are given a light from the Easter candle to symbolize the handing on of the flame of faith to their child. It is their responsibility to keep that flame
of faith alive and to communicate that faith to their child as the child grows.

At the conclusion of my home visit I thank the parents, on behalf of the parish, for asking to have their child baptized. The very fact that they have asked to celebrate the sacrament of Baptism is a sure sign that they recognize the importance of God in their own lives. As their parish family we all have a role in ensuring that they will have the support they need to help their child grow in faith. We have all heard the phrase “It takes a village to raise a child.” I believe “it takes a parish community to raise a Christian.” Our faith does not grow in isolation but is nurtured and strengthened by the love and support of the entire Christian community.

Frequently Asked Questions About Baptism

When does the Baptism take place?

Parents can choose to have their child baptized either during Sunday Mass or at a Baptismal Liturgy outside of Mass. If the child is baptized during Mass, the celebration can take place at any of our four masses on the weekend of choice. If parents choose to have their child baptized outside of Mass, the celebration takes place at 2:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month.

Does the family need to be registered as parishioners?

Yes. We expect all families to register with the parish prior to the Baptism. Registration forms are available in the foyer of the church or at the parish office. If parents are members of another parish but wish to have their child baptized at St. Michael’s, they will need written permission from their pastor.

Is Baptism preparation required?

Yes. The Baptism of a child can be a time of great spiritual renewal. God has given the parents the gift of faith and now they have the privilege and responsibility of passing that faith on to their child. They are the child’s first teachers in the ways of faith. The preparation session takes place in their home. Our Pastoral Minister, Mary Taylor, will call to arrange a time that is convenient for them.

What about godparents?

Godparents represent the Christian community into which the child is baptized and are called to be role models of faith for their godchild. They are to assist the parents in their role as Christian parents. The Catholic Church requires only one godparent. This person must be at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacrament of Confirmation and be practicing their faith. Most families, however, choose two godparents for their child. Since only one godparent is required, the second godparent can be a baptized, practicing Christian provided they are willing to make the same commitment as the Catholic godparent.

I am not married. May I have my child baptized?

Yes. You and your child have a right to the parish’s support just as all families do. Your child’s faith is independent of your marital status.

Does it matter that the child is not a baby?

The Church strongly encourages parents to baptize their children as soon as possible since Baptism is the greatest gift a child can be given, the gift of God Himself. However the Church also appreciates that in spite of their best intentions parents sometimes have to postpone their child’s Baptism until a later time.

To arrange for the Baptism of your child, please call Mary Taylor, Pastoral Minister, at 519-433-6689 x 203 or email her at mtaylor@rcec.london.on.ca

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The Contemporary Choir

“I will sing hymns to your name, Most High”
Psalms 9:3

Choir director, Mark David has a unique approach to the sacred music that you hear during the 10:30 a.m. mass. St. Michael’s contemporary choir specializes in music that is either newly composed, within the last forty years, or older music that is arranged in a manner that is more “modern.” Guitar, tambourines, piano, flute and violin enhance the singing.

The choir was started 17 years ago in October 1991 by Mark and his wife Fiona. It was felt at that time that the choir had “exhausted,” through repetition, the traditional musical scores that had been sung during Mass. A new approach was taken to bring the Word of God to the parishioners through music. It was, and still is, very important for the music to support the Liturgy of the Word and effort is taken to ensure that both components – the music and the readings, blend in theme, and often in word, in a mutually complimentary manner. Where necessary, Mark also writes the musical settings to the official psalms texts.

Several members, including Sid and Pat Wocks and Dorothy Solomon have been with the choir since the beginning. Sid plays both guitar and bass, and Pat sings alto. Others bring a wealth of experience. David Ross and Diane Campbell play guitar and both have directed choirs; Diane at St. John the Divine and Holy Rosary parishes, David for over 25 years at St. Martin’s. The choir’s newest member, Erin Newburn was involved with choirs at a Protestant faith community in London for several years before joining the choir last fall.

Also in the choir is Joan Roffey, Carolyn Barbon, Bunny Harris, Heidi Plank, Sharon White, Mary Anne DiLullo, and Christina, Stephanie and Alexandra DeVincenzo. Instrumentalists include Heather David, daughter of David and Fiona, who plays the flute, Vanessa Chan on the violin and Tamara Navarrete on the trumpet.

The singing comes from the heart and a sincere desire to be a support to the worship of all parishioners.
It is with great joy that I introduce myself as the new Coordinator of Youth Ministry. Some of you may recognize me, as I have been a life long parishioner at St. Michael’s. You may also have known me as Natalie MacKay, which was my maiden name before getting married to my wonderful husband Jamie last September.

A parishioner recently asked me how a young woman like me would end up as a Youth Coordinator. I told her that this vocation started years ago thanks to my parents and the many positive mentors who taught me about our Catholic faith, encouraged me as a child to share my personal gifts with my parish, and demonstrated a passion for serving others.

It was through the continual invitation by adults and other young people to put my faith into action, that I became involved with campus ministry when I was a student at CCH and King’s College. During university, I had many transforming faith experiences such as awareness trips to the Dominican Republic and Mexico, time spent at L’Arche Cape Breton as a volunteer, involvement in planning for World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto, and a journey to the North West Territories to witness the Church in the north.

After much discernment, I entered St. Peter’s Seminary as a lay student where I continued to be formed academically and spiritually in the Master of Divinity program.

Most recently, I served as a high school chaplain at St. Joseph’s in St. Thomas, a position that brought me great joy.

St. Michael’s is a parish of much diversity, and many people with different gifts to share. This diversity causes me to reflect on the title “Coordinator” of Youth Ministry. Coordinator emphasizes that I am not the only youth minister. We have so many qualified and capable parishioners who have a passion for youth ministry and we need your leadership. I encourage all of the young people and their families to get involved in the parish. We need your enthusiasm, energy and creativity!

A vision that I have for this fall is the formation of a Youth Commission. This commission is a body of parish representatives, both adults and youth, which will help to evaluate and respond to the needs of youth and their families. My hope is that it will set a good foundation for future youth ministry in our parish.

I am blessed to be working in a vibrant parish and with an excellent pastoral team. I ask for your prayers as I take this next part of my journey and be assured of my prayers for the parish.

If you have any questions concerning youth ministry at St. Michael’s, please contact Natalie at 519-433-6689 ext. 206 or at nsimek@recc.london.on.ca.
Several months ago, a Colombian man contacted our parish requesting help. This man came to Canada as a refugee claimant several years ago. His wife and children were eventually able to join him. They are members of the St. Francis of Assisi Hispanic Catholic Community based at St. Martin of Tours Parish. He is employed and, despite his limited income and family commitments, manages to send money to his family still in Colombia.

The man is requesting help in sponsoring his brother, sister, brother-in-law and their son to come to Canada. Their situation is dire. They are currently ‘in hiding’ after being targeted by a member of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a guerilla force that opposes the Government. Names are not being provided here as a safety precaution for all family members still in Colombia.

The situation that brought about this problem is typical and all too common in Colombia. Some time ago, the brother-in-law was called to make a delivery with his taxi. The package seemed suspect and he refused to make the delivery. At this point, he was threatened with a revolver, beaten, bound hand and foot, blindfolded and dumped outside the city limits. His taxi, money, cell phone and, most importantly, personal documentation were stolen. The taxi was eventually retrieved but the personal papers gave FARC access to the family. This led to extortion attempts and threats of personal harm. It was then the family went into hiding and, simultaneously, lost their means of income.

If the sponsorship application is approved, the family here in London, will take care of them initially, connecting them with community and services as far as they are able. Their monthly net expenditures are estimated at $2,200 and there will be some initial set-up costs. The monthly grant from the parish will take into account any income that they earn. The maximum funding required for the sponsorship is estimated at $28,000. The parish currently has $12,000 in the St. Michael’s Refugee Fund. Our Social Justice Ministry reviewed the sponsorship request in detail and determined that this would be a worthy family to sponsor. The sponsorship period would be one year and, during this time, the parish would provide support for the family: mostly financial, but also emotional, as well as help in learning English and in finding employment.

The Social Justice Ministry, with the support of the Finance Committee, made a recommendation to the Parish Council and Fr. Murray to sponsor this family. Sponsorship was approved. The Diocese of London has also given its approval. The application was recently submitted to the local office of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). It needs to be approved by both the local office of CIC and their Visa Office in Colombia. If these approvals are given, it is anticipated that the family would arrive in London within the next year.

We expect the application will proceed and thus, the parish will have a special collection for the Refugee Fund in the fall. However, parishioners may donate to the Fund at any time. Using this option, please label the envelope and the cheque St. Michael’s Parish – Refugee Fund. Later on, we will be seeking help to gather all the necessities required to set up an apartment. If you would like to assist the Refugee Committee in helping with the settlement of this family, please contact Sr. Maria van Leeuwen through the Parish Office.
Reflections from some of our pilgrims

Being with young people representing so many nations has refreshed and rejuvenated my spirit and made me willing to bring this same Spirit back to Canada. This contagious Spirit will allow me to embrace differences, reach out to others and celebrate life more fully. I was completely surprised by how Pope Benedict’s presence affected me and made me realize how important each of us is to the present and future of the world. He communicated a deep need to live in communion with one another. His opening address expressed gratitude to our parents and grandparents for passing on their faith. Seeing the many priests and religious at the gatherings taught me the need for vocations and broadened my understanding of God’s calling. There were habits in as many colours as there were national flags. Each habit brings with it a different collection of gifts, both spiritual and material, for the service of God. Thank you Sydney. Thank you Pope Benedict. Thank you my friends. I am strengthened in faith, hope and love, by sharing this week with you.

Tamara Navarrete

The warm sun, chilly wind and a thousand different smiles displayed the message “Every Nation, Every Tribe” and came together as one to worship God. Unforgettable friendships were formed through nights of bonfires, dances and meeting pilgrims from all over the world. On July 19th we set out on a 4 km trek to reach Randwick stadium. Here all pilgrims would sleep under the stars for the overnight vigil. When night came, Pope Benedict and people from all over the world addressed the crowd in different languages. Every pilgrim held a candle... The presence of the Holy Spirit was very strong among us. In the morning, the Pope conducted the final Mass. He was down to earth - he laughed, coughed, and maintained a positive attitude throughout. Walking back to the school from Randwick was surreal, with endless smiles and lifted spirits floating freely among youth from all walks of life and countries. Meeting and sharing this common foundation of faith was both incredible and faith inspiring. I only hope that many more from this parish can join us, the “experienced” pilgrims, in Madrid, Spain in 2011. Thank you for your support and prayers. May God bless you! Cassandra Rodenhurst

G’day Mate! After a long flight and a few obstacles we landed at the Sydney Airport, and on the second night we woke up with frost on our tents. We were later told it was the coldest night in 10 years. We were very fortunate to have great people taking care of us, supplying us with extra warm blankets. The Masses held by the people of Tokelau and Cook Islands were full of energy and spirit and were a favourite. On July 14 we moved into Sydney where we slept indoors in classrooms. We were out each day at nine for Catechism and a Mass and then
Reflections
from
by Terry McBride

St. Mi-
a bus and train to Darling Harbour for WYD events. Dan was able to get some VIP passes and I was fortunate to be only two meters from Pope Benedict XVI in the Popemobile. The evening vigil and final Mass were beautiful with so many different countries and people to share faith with. It was wonderful and I am very thankful to have met such fantastic people and shared this experience with them! I hope to see them all in Madrid 2011! Michelle Stranges

At WYD I fully understood the true meaning of the phrase “it’s a small world.” Young people from all over gathered to experience Jesus in a real way as shown through our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. My experience was prayerful and meaningful because of the atmosphere and the people. A major theme of WYD was the Holy Spirit, which formed the basis for three catechesis sessions. The Bishops who gave these talks taught that we have to be open to change and to move where the Spirit wants us to go... The presence of the Pope was so moving because of his humble manner and meaningful teachings. The Stations of the Cross were powerful because they helped me to understand the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, which should still be remembered 2,000 years later, and for all of eternity. The kindness shown to our group from St. Michael’s in Australia was overwhelming. The Holy Spirit was truly present at WYD and now, back in Canada, I am called to be God’s witness to the world. Lauren MacKay

Participating in World Youth Day has been the best experience of my life. Not only being on the opposite side of the world, but also being able to share my faith with half a million people from around the world. Many new and exciting experiences were enjoyed though this trip. First off, being able to tent outdoors, especially in the cool Australian winter. … The overnight vigil, where we slept under the stars, was beautiful. Having so many youth in one place at once was amazing. Being part of the crowd for the papal arrival, Stations of the Cross and Mass was moving. Through this trip I believe that I have deepened my faith and I am so lucky to be able to share this experience with our group and the rest of the world. Julianna Arese

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God’s Perspective Enriches Our Life

by Randy Kissack

First, an exhortation: the next time we have a parish mission and your schedule permits, go. Seriously, go! You will likely find it enriching – and in ways which will be unique to you.

Our Lenten Mission was led by Monsignor Patrick Stilla, the Rector of St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Thunder Bay. Each evening was comprised of a liturgy featuring a themed homily, and a teaching conducted in the parish hall. The teachings were on practical matters: marriage annulments and why some marriages fail; different ways of viewing how parishes can “vision” themselves; and an outline of a method for making good moral decisions.

The first evening began with Msgr. Pat telling us what the mission was about: “to be born again.” But this requires a proper perspective on our life and reading scripture as well as trying to understand God’s perspective on our actions. He illustrated this with the story of the Good Samaritan, which we think we know so well. But for Jews hearing the story 2,000 years ago, the perspective was totally different. The Priest and the Levite were not allowed by the Law to touch the attacked man because of the presence of blood. To do so could have meant the end of their careers. The hero of the story, the Samaritan, is from a group of people utterly despised by the Jews. He knew nothing of the law about blood; he followed his heart. Knowing all this puts a completely new slant on the story. Indeed, adapting this story to the present gives us a new understanding of God’s perspective on the meaning of “neighbour” and “go and do likewise.”

On the second evening, Msgr. Pat discussed the power of evil – “a force that is all around us.” It is deceptive and often subtle, leading us to think we are doing good when we are doing the contrary. It also makes us lose perspective.

On the third evening, the focus shifted to our perception of God. The Greeks and Romans feared their gods and tried to appease them; over the centuries, similar thinking has crept into Christianity. Yet “Fear of the Lord” should mean reverence for God, not that we should be terrified of Him! In the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin, Jesus corrects this perception. God is the shepherd who searches for us when we are lost, and carries us on his shoulders when we are found! Or again: God is the woman who rejoices at the finding of a lost coin and celebrates by throwing a party!

On the final evening, Msgr. Pat used an example from the movie The Agony and the Ecstasy to illustrate God’s perspective on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Michelangelo was looking at a slab of marble and said “I see an angel in that stone; it is my job to set it free.” For us, God is the Master Artist, and the marble is our sin. He wants to set us free.
I am a member of the Social Committee here at St. Michael’s. Every four months the committee organizes a Sunday Brunch for all the newcomers in our parish. Last May I was asked to give a talk at the brunch about my family’s experience as newcomers.

I moved to London about eight years ago after the death of my first husband. I moved from a very small community where everybody knew everybody else, and we had always been an active part of our community and our parish. That’s just the way it was, and I was extremely happy and fulfilled with the roles I played.

After I moved to London, I met and married a most wonderful man, Alex, and it was time that we felt we needed to belong to a parish family. We live quite central to both St. Michael’s and a nearby parish, so we became members at both. For about four years, we actually church-hopped from one parish to another. However, we never felt that sense of belonging at either parish.

So two years ago when we attended the Ministry Fair here at St. Michael’s, we were amazed at the numerous ministries we could actually get involved with. In our eagerness, we joined four different ministries: the Social Committee, Prayer Line, the Rosary Guild and the Altar Guild.

Now being a part of the Altar Guild means you are expected to dust the altar and wash the sacred vessels, and your turn usually comes up about once a month. Alex and I were scheduled for Holy Thursday. Since I was just getting over the flu, and I had to work in the afternoon, I questioned why I was even doing this. However, I did find myself humming and singing as I was performing my duties, and I was enjoying it. And WOW, was I ever rewarded! That same evening at Holy Thursday Mass, I was sitting in the front row with other members of my family. As I was praying, I finally felt that sense of belonging. I felt like I was at home. I belonged here at last!

I guess my message to you is... I can understand how difficult it is sometimes to be the “new kid on the block,” especially in a parish this size. So I just wanted to share with you the initiative Alex and I took to solve that problem. We can now say that we honestly and truly feel fulfilled and blessed to belong to this community of faith. So along with the other members of the Social Committee... A BIG WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU!
CLOSE UPS
These are close up of things you would have seen at the 2007 Parish Picnic - can you identify each?

DIFFERENCES
Here is Fr. Murray at the Parish Picnic last year. Can you spot the 9 differences between these two photos?

DECIPHER
Can you decipher the code and answer the question? Each group of symbols in a box stands for a single letter of the alphabet. Add up the numbers represented by each set of symbols. For example, the first letter is W. The first square equals 10, the second equals 10 and the three circles are 1 each, this adds up to a total of 23, and W is the 23rd letter of the alphabet. Continue in this way to break the code and then answer the question.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

W

Answers: CLOSE UPS: A grass, B shoe, C pin, D guitar. DIFFERENCES: Ketchup on bun, purple mustard, man's pants are brown, boy's hair is darker, vent on Church wall, building in background, red ball cap, Fr. Murray's glasses, missing buttons on Fr. Murray's shirt.
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Please consider joining. For information call Steve Dietrich 519-660-1354
Knights of Columbus St. Michael’s Parish

MAY-McCONVILLE
INSURANCE BROKERS LIMITED
Quotes 24\7
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Saturday and evening appointments
Parish Information

St. Michael’s Parish, 511 Cheapside St., London, ON N5Y 3X5
Phone: 519-433-6689        Fax: 519-433-2301
E-mail: stmichlon@rcec.london.on.ca  www.stmichaels.dioceseoflondon.ca
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Pastoral Team
Father Murray Sample, Pastor
msample@rcec.london.on.ca  ext. 202
Father John Sharp, Associate Pastor
jsharp@rcec.london.on.ca  ext. 205
Mary Taylor, Pastoral Minister
mtaylor@rcec.london.on.ca  ext. 203
Natalie Simek, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
nsimek@rcec.london.on.ca  ext. 206

Staff
Pat Estabrooks, Receptionist/Secretary
stmichlon@rcec.london.on.ca  ext. 201
Jolanda Squire, Financial Secretary
jsquire@rcec.london.on.ca  ext. 200
Sid Wocks, Hall Coordinator
ext. 210

Parish Council Chairperson
Mark Van Den Bossche

Sunday Masses
Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Thursday: 12:00 noon
Wednesday & Friday: 8:00 a.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m.

Ministries to Children
8:30 Mass & 10:30 Mass - September to June
10:30 Mass - July & August
Liturgy of the Word: Grades 2, 3 and 4
Sunday School: Aged 3 to Grade 1
Baby sitting: Infants to age 3

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. & 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Free Bus Service to 10:30 a.m. Mass
The route . . .
9:50 Richmond & Windemere
770 Fanshawe Park Rd. east of Fremont
10:00 Adelaide St. & Fanshawe Park Rd. bus stop south
Adelaide/Kipps Lane 1st bus stop
Kipps Lane/Barker St. bus stop west
McNay/Huron St.
Huron St. bus stop east of Wedgewood Dr.
10:15 Royal Oak Apartments 1136 Adelaide St.
St. Michael’s Church
The bus will stop at regular bus stops or wherever it is hailed along the route.

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Calendar of Events
Parent Meeting Confirmation    September 16
Parish Picnic                   September 28
Inquiry Process for New Catholics starts (R.C.I.A.)    October 1
Mass of Healing                October 23
Mass of Remembrance            November 10
Parish Mission                 November 23-26
1st Sunday of Advent           November 30

New Parishioners? Moving?
We invite all new parishioners to register with the Parish. The registration form is available at the Welcome Desk or parish office. If you have recently changed your address or phone number, please advise the parish office. Thank you.