Mass Schedule

Christmas
Christmas Eve: Wednesday, December 24
5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m. 12:00 (midnight)
Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25
10:00 a.m. (Children’s Christmas Pageant) 12:00 (noon)

Feast of Mary, Mother of God
New Year’s Eve: Wednesday, December 31
5:00 p.m.
New Year’s Day: Thursday, January 1
10:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Tuesday, December 16
10:00 - 11:00 a.m. 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 17
10:00 - 11:00 a.m. 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Friday, December 19
All day 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

There are two Masses at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, one in the church and one in the parish hall.

Please park carefully in the parking lot so that we can get as many cars in as possible, and be patient!

If you are parking in the neighbourhood, please avoid blocking the driveways of our neighbours.

Thank you.
To Our Readers

As we head into the Christmas season, we look forward to a year from now when the parish will be on the eve of its 100th anniversary. Several joyous occasions, from celebrating wedding anniversaries, to a parish trip and a gala dinner event are being planned by the anniversary committee. Through our journey of celebration we are reminded of our need to communicate with God and the importance of prayer in our lives. We, at St. Michael’s are blessed in that we have our choice of several ways in which to express ourselves through prayer and meditation. Dorothy Solomon describes the various prayer programs that are available in our parish.

In the midst of these troubled recession threatened times, Mary Taylor reminds us of the strength, wisdom and quiet submission to the Lord’s will that Our Lady showed in her own life experiences. January 1st is a day set aside in the church calendar to honour Mary, the Mother of God.

We continue to introduce you to the schools of our parish, and in this issue we feature St. Catherine of Siena, our parish’s newest elementary school. Continuing in the educational vein, we are happy to offer our readers the chance to get to know our very own seminarians, who were able to take some time from their active outreach roles in our community to tell us a bit about themselves.

Our Youth Ministry is growing and flourishing with activities, and some of our young parishioners report their reactions to the many experiences that they have enjoyed. All these programs and ministries would not be possible without the participation of the many volunteers who make it all work. In this issue we take the opportunity to say a big thank you to all these volunteers, and to remind our readers that we have many ministries that could use your time and talents.

In a special way we thank Gail Brown who has ably served as co-editor of this Newsletter since the inaugural issue in December of 2006. Her eye for detail, organizational skills, and equanimity in meeting often shifting deadlines will be missed. Gail has decided to step down from these duties and pass the torch to Keith Rodrigues and Paul Tremblay who are eager to assist in the editorial role.

Easter 2009 Issue. The Newsletter welcomes your contributions. If you have an idea for an article please contact us before February 15, 2010. Email to keith@therods.net or ptrembla@uwo.ca

The publication and distribution of the St. Michael’s Newsletter is made possible by the generous support of our advertisers. Please give them your support.

Our Newsletter Team members are John & Michelle Cavaliere, Terry Dollard, Paul Evans, Carmen Gicante, Terry McBride, Keith Rodrigues, Dorothy Solomon, Vincent Taylor, Frances Theilade and Paul Tremblay.
What a Milestone for St. Michael’s!

We formed the Anniversary Steering Committee in the spring and have been meeting monthly to determine how, as a parish, we should celebrate our 100th Anniversary in 2011. The planning is well underway for such a blessed and exciting year. The committee’s creativity, energy and enthusiasm will make 2011 a year to remember as various events, activities and memorabilia are built into the planning and unfold over the course of our anniversary year.

At this time plans for 2011 include a Parish Mission in January, a wedding anniversary celebration in February, a family day in May, and a parish trip. Bishop Fabbro will celebrate our Feast Day at St. Michael’s in September, and we have planned a gala dinner event with entertainment in November. We even have plans for an old fashioned tea party for our elderly parishioners. Other projects include a heritage cookbook (a collection of recipes from our parishioners), a parish family directory/photo album, various banners and logos, and other memorabilia depicting pictures and events over the past 100 years. A 100th anniversary prayer and a special anniversary edition of the newsletter are also in the works. To date, the Anniversary Steering Committee has distributed two surveys (on the parish trip and the gala event) to determine areas of interests for our celebrations. This is a very important component in celebrating as a parish family. We invite your input and ideas at any time! In the coming weeks the Committee will continue to distribute surveys in order to provide all parishioners with an opportunity to volunteer in some way and to offer suggestions.

At this point in the planning process, the Steering Committee has begun to create subcommittees to assist with specific tasks or events that will unfold over the centennial year. We will need many people from our parish to share their talents and their time in the planning of the activities to make 2011 a most memorable year for all of us. If you think you can help, please contact any member of the Steering Committee or leave a note at the parish office. Karen Owens, co chairperson, Louise Watt, co chairperson, Paul Evans, Hans Beretta, Brenda Callaghan, Mike and Michele Specht, Joanne Zwolski, Father Murray, Pat Coderre, Carole Murphy, Penny Yip and Maria DeLuca.

Let’s all do our part to make this historical year an event to remember!

100 Years!

by Anniversary Steering Committee
On behalf of the Social Justice Committee, thank you for your generous donations of coffee on Coffee Sunday weekend, Saturday, November 15th and Sunday, November 16th. As you may know this committee initiative, organized by Charles Scollard, was to collect coffee for the St. Joseph’s Hospitality Centre at 707 Dundas Street East.

The inspiration behind the creation of the St. Joseph’s Hospitality Centre by the Sisters of St. Joseph was provided by Sister Mary Jean Klatt. The spark for establishing a drop-in centre is rooted in the Sisters contemplative spirituality which leads them to promote systemic justice in our community. The goal was to create a haven for those battered by the recession in the early 1980s. The centre continues to this day because the need persists. While the day to day operations of the centre are run by professional staff, the Sisters of St. Joseph still provide the necessary oversight of the facility. As many as ten Sisters continue to volunteer weekly at the centre.

The centre continues to provide a location for people who are suffering during this difficult economic environment to meet and socialize and get a breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday. Guests at the centre are expected to pay a fee for their food. A referral service to shelters and clothing resources is also available.

I had the opportunity to visit the centre recently and was very impressed with the ambience of hospitality and friendship. I noticed a strong sense of community and respect for everyone, whether they were a guest or volunteer. Bill Payne, the Centre’s Coordinator, advised me that the welcoming feeling I sensed was one of the primary goals of the centre because many of the guests are as lonely as they are hungry.

As Catholics, we are challenged to see Jesus in our everyday life. During my brief visit to St. Joseph’s Hospitality Centre, I felt Jesus’ presence and love among the guests and the volunteers.

There are 120 people that volunteer their time at St. Joseph’s Hospitality Centre. However the centre is always in need of new recruits. The Centre serves over 300 meals daily on average, which work out to 1500 meals weekly. One can volunteer for as little as 3 hours per week. If you have any interest in donating some of your time, please contact Bill Payne at 519-850-3783. Based on my observation, it is truly a ministry that one would get more out of than what one would give.

Sister Marcelline Janisse, who ran the Centre for 13 years and still volunteers twice a week, extended a welcome invitation to anyone in the parish who wants to visit the Centre. I personally plan to take her up on that invitation.
The dictionary defines a “volunteer” as a person who willingly offers to do a service without pay. While that definition seems to conform to our common value system, it says very little about the volunteers themselves, the services they perform, and the reasons why they might volunteer in the first place. This definition also includes “without pay”; however, this part of the definition is open to interpretation. I challenge you to think carefully about this because a volunteer often receives some form of personal reward. When I asked Gail Brown to explain her reasons for volunteering she replied: “The main reason I volunteer in the parish is because it’s fun! I enjoy the camaraderie of my fellow volunteers, the friendships that develop, and being able to nod a greeting to a newly familiar face in the large crowd of parishioners at a weekend mass. I find it extremely rewarding to be able to make use of my hobbies or workplace skills to contribute to the parish. For example, I love to read, write, and edit text – activities considered boring by many people. But when St. Michael’s decided to start a parish newsletter, I couldn’t have been happier! It doesn’t take a lot of skill or time to make a valuable contribution to parish life. Chances are the things you already enjoy doing are exactly the things that need doing at St. Michael’s. And you can have a lot of fun at the same time.”

In a recent homily, Father Murray said that by giving and doing ordinary things to help others, we are “allowing the light of Christ to shine through us.” This is truly embracing a Christ-centered way of living which makes us good stewards of our parish and the broader communities in which we live. All St. Michael’s parishioners are strongly encouraged to volunteer in one or more of the many parish ministries. This sharing of the God-given resources entrusted to you enriches the community at large and will provide you the opportunity to work with and get to know others involved in parish work as well as the opportunity for fulfillment and joy and, ultimately, to love and be loved. Our parish, including the pastoral team, wholeheartedly appreciates the efforts of all 714 St. Michael’s volunteers in making our parish a welcoming Eucharistic community and encourages everyone to get involved.
The architectural design of St. Peter’s Seminary lends itself perfectly to the development of small communities of seminarians within the one large community. Formation Group A consists of eight seminarians from as far West as Saskatchewan, and as far East as Newfoundland. This year, Group A has a special relationship with St. Michael’s Parish and will have an ongoing visible presence within the parish community. One weekend each month, the members of the Group will participate in the parish’s Sunday celebrations of Eucharist. In September, they joyfully took part in the Parish Feast Day, and will facilitate two parish Days of Prayer. The first of these days was held on the Feast of Christ the King (Sun., Nov. 22nd). The second (a Day of Discernment and Prayer for Vocations) will take place on Sunday Jan. 31st. In addition to their weekend involvement in the life of the parish, seminarians in the Formation Group are involved during the week in works of service in the parish. Group members are involved in visiting St. Michael’s parish schools, working with the parish R.C.I.A. process, and our Group Deacon will preach the homily at a number of Sunday celebrations throughout the year.

Here is some information about each of these seminarians in Group A, to help you know who they are and where they come from. Deacon Mark Morley, in his final year of formation, is studying for the Diocese of Hamilton. He will be ordained to the priesthood in May. Ben Huyge, from the city of Delhi in the Diocese of London, is in his fourth year of theology, having returned in September from his pastoral year (a year of full immersion in parish ministry.) John Redmond is presently engaged in his pastoral year in a parish in the Diocese of Hamilton. He’ll be back at the seminary in September 2010 for his last two years of study. Chris Marentette, from Belle River in the London Diocese, is in his first year of theology. Peter Melanson, from the Diocese of St. John, Newfoundland, is also in this class of first year theologians. Andrew White, a third member of this first year theology class, is studying for the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador, Newfoundland. The final two members of the Formation Group are newcomers to St. Peter’s Seminary this year. David Johnston is studying in the second year of the seminary’s philosophy program. Dave comes from Port Lambton in the London Diocese. Matthew Orlowski, from the Diocese of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, is in the pre-theology year, having entered the seminary with a degree in linguistics. Each of these eight group members brings their own special gifts and enthusiasm to the seminary and to St. Michael’s Parish.

Here are some reflections from three seminarians engaged in ministry in the schools attached to St. Michael’s Parish (Christopher Marentette, Peter Melanson, and Andrew White):

“We are very happy to be working with the children, and ministering to them through the Seminary outreach to the various schools. We hope that we can add to their religious formation as much as they add to our pastoral formation. Our experiences so far have been wonderful, and we look forward to many more in the coming year.”

The seminarians in the group have been overwhelmed by the welcome and kindness that has been extended to them by members of the parish. Please pray for all of us. The needs of all the parishioners and pastoral staff of St. Michael’s Parish are in our personal prayers and in our communal prayer of the Eucharist. We look forward to our year of working and praying together.
Parish Photo Page

Celebrate

Peace

Joy
Welcome to St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School, located at 2140 Quarrier Road in London, Ontario. Home to over 400 students and 30 staff, St. Catherine of Siena school is a great place to be! Our patron saint, St. Catherine of Siena, was born in Siena, Italy in 1347. At an early age she joined the Third Order of Saint Dominic in which she gained a reputation for great sanctity. Recognizing her holiness and wisdom, many followed her leadership in her devotion to the poor. She worked hard for the unity of the Church and was a devoted champion of the Papacy. She died in Rome in 1380 and was canonized in 1461. Her feast day is April 29. Our school community embraces her life as a worthy model for our young children. Indeed, St. Catherine’s strong intellectual skills, her devotion to her faith, her commitment to her church and her compassion for those less fortunate make her an ideal role model for our students.

St. Catherine of Siena School opened in September of 2004. Committed to Catholic education, our students thrive in an environment that stresses tolerance and acceptance of one another. Our commitment to our Catholic faith provides a learning environment where together we daily model our Gospel values and teachings. Parents, staff and students work together to ensure a strong Catholic education. Our monthly masses, sacramental celebrations, classroom liturgical celebrations, the Living Rosary and our special seasonal masses at St. Michael’s church enrich our faith life.

Our staff strives to provide a strong academic program moulded by our Catholic Graduate Expectations and the Ontario Curriculum. Extra help and resources are readily available to those students who need it, and we have many volunteers, such as parents and student teachers, who lend a hand in supporting both the teachers and the students. We are also very fortunate in that we have technology readily available to students in the form of laptops, communication software, the Internet and other web-based information to enhance their learning experiences in the classroom.

In conjunction with our academic programs, we have a strong co-curricular program. With the commitment of our staff and our volunteers we have active school choirs (last year a group had the opportunity to sing with Kenny Rogers at the JLC!), school theatre productions, environment clubs, mission support, social justice activities, and our annual yearbook. And of course we have our sports programs: volleyball, basketball, hockey, cross country, gymnastics, dance fest, track and field and house leagues in football and floor hockey. There is something for everyone at St. Catherine of Siena!

Our Catholic School Council, led this year by Margaret Ryan, is a very dedicated group of parents, grandparents and staff who provide advice and counsel to the Administration team at the School. Through their hard work with fundraising campaigns, we are able to offer visits by artists, opportunities for chess lessons, outdoor
reading and education centres, evenings for literacy and math sessions for parents and students. A partnership with ReForest London has provided for the planting of many new trees on site which will someday provide lots of shade for outdoor play.

We also have a great Student Parliament led by our intermediate students. They demonstrate strong leadership throughout the school with their well organized events that provide a variety of social events for the year. Highlights of these events are our Turkey Bingo afternoon in true Thanksgiving spirit and Christmas door decorating contests.

Our spirit is truly alive in what we do for others. Our outreach programs at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Lent/Easter provide many opportunities for our children to reach out and help those who are less fortunate. The willingness to support families in our parish at Christmas, the involvement of our classes in Lenten projects, supporting the United Way, running in Terry Fox runs, supporting the Holy Childhood Association are strong indicators that our faith in living the Gospel message is alive and well in the hearts of our children.

With the support of Father Sample, Father Sharpe and the Parish Team at St. Michael’s, we are proud of what we have to offer our families at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School – a learning environment that encourages faith expression, academic excellence, leadership and the celebration of our individual gifts.
The Pastoral Team recently met with candidates preparing to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. These young people are being called to reflect on their faith as adults in the church and to discern where they could use their gifts to continue Christ’s mission in the world. This year they had the opportunity to choose a Confirmation name. They are being asked to research their chosen saint’s name and to write a short essay on the life of that saint.

One young woman chose Mary as her Confirmation name. I asked why she had chosen Mary, and her answer was inspiring. She explained that at the time of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38), Mary would have been about the same age as she is now, about thirteen. She found it amazing that someone so young could have such courage in the face of so great a call. She had researched the cultural norms under which Mary was living and the implications for someone found to be pregnant outside of marriage. Death by stoning was the usual penalty. Yet Mary trusted in God. When the angel told her that she was the one chosen to be the mother of Jesus, she was able to respond “Let it be done unto me according to your word.” The young Confirmation candidate poignantly declared, “One of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit is courage. I pray that like Mary, I can have the courage to live my faith by responding to God’s call in my life.” A powerful witness from a twenty first century disciple!

On January 1st the secular world celebrates New Year’s Day. In the Church’s calendar, January 1st is set aside to honour Mary, the Mother of God. It is a Holy Day of Obligation, a day when the church asks us to gather as a community to celebrate the Eucharist and to ponder the life of Mary, who allowed herself to be the instrument through which God took on human flesh and became man. Mary listened in faith to what was being asked of her, and she responded accordingly. Mary’s faith serves as a model for our own faith. She is regarded as the first and the greatest disciple and by reflecting on her faith we can deepen our own faith.

At first glance the Scriptures don’t appear to say much about Mary, yet in every scene where Mary appears, we find in her a wonderful model of faith. We’ve already seen her complete openness to God’s will at the Annunciation. We cannot imagine what she must have been thinking as she listened to the angel’s message, yet her response was one of total acceptance and surrender. Her faith and trust in God were what allowed her to say “yes” to His call. We too have been
given the gift of faith. As Mary was favoured by God, so too are we favoured. The Lord is with us just as He was with Mary and in her “yes” we can find a model for our response to Him.

The gift of faith that we have received is strengthened by living it out. Mary’s life was characterized by faithfulness to God and humble service in His name. As soon she heard that her cousin Elizabeth was to have a child, Mary “set off in haste” to visit her. She undertook what would have been a difficult and dangerous journey. The Judean hills would be enough to test the stamina of the shepherds accustomed to their harsh terrain. Imagine how a young and vulnerable girl might have felt. Yet when she and Elizabeth meet we don’t hear complaints, we hear only joy and hope as Mary “proclaims the greatness of the Lord” and “rejoices in God my Saviour” (Luke 1:39-56).

If the rugged Judean hills posed a challenge they were nothing compared to the bedlam of Bethlehem. Imagine that scene. Thousands of people converging for the census, streets thronged with visitors all looking for lodgings, the discomfort that comes with being nine months pregnant and the frustration of finding nowhere to stay. Into all of this Mary and Joseph welcome Jesus with love (Luke 2:1-21). Scriptures tells of Mary pondering in her heart the words of the shepherds and a little later on the words of the prophet Simeon who tells her a sword will pierce her heart, no doubt a reference to Jesus’ suffering and death that she will later witness. Mary’s journey of faith from the crib to the cross was not an easy one and yet, because of her trust in God, she was able to risk all to remain faithful to Him.

We take a risk when we step out in faith because we don’t know what lies ahead. But neither did Mary. She just said “yes” and left the rest to God. What about us? Can we trust enough to do the same? The gift of faith that we have received is not a gift to be kept to ourselves. God expects us to share it with others. At one point in his ministry Jesus tells the disciples that they wouldn’t hide a light under a bushel basket, rather they would put it on a lamp stand so the light could be seen.

At the wedding feast of Cana Mary shows us what can happen when faith is shared. (John 2:1-11) She noticed that the wine had run out and in order to spare the host embarrassment she brought the matter to Jesus’ attention. She then turned to the servants and said “Do whatever he tells you.” She was confident that Jesus would take care of the situation. By publicly sharing her faith in Jesus, many people came to believe in Him. “Do whatever he tells you” was the message Mary gave the waiters at the wedding feast at Cana and it’s the same message she gives us today. If we seek to do the will of God in all things we will be rewarded with the grace of knowing Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Mary’s role in the church is to lead us to her Son, Jesus. On January 1st we begin a new year. None of us knows what the coming year has in store for us. What we do know is that whatever challenges lie ahead of us, we don’t have to face them alone. God is with us, and His Blessed Mother is interceding on our behalf.

Mary, our Mother of God, pray for us.
Wow, the faith of young people in our parish is alive. Thanks to the feedback from the parish youth ministry surveys and the hard work of the Youth Commission, youth ministry opportunities for those in grades 5-12 continue to grow. Below, you will hear from youth who have been impacted by their involvement in the parish this fall. The Youth Ministry looks forward in the New Year to more sports nights, a coffee house night for high school students, the Stations of the Cross led by youth, and a family skating party. We give thanks to God for the energy and enthusiasm of our youth and encourage them in all they do!

Natalie Simek, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
St. Michael’s Parish Feast Day: A special fall memory!
I cannot wait for the next Feast Day. I had such a great time this year and last year as well. When Natalie told me about the Feast Day I was excited to volunteer. We planned games for the younger children and the high school students. There were seventeen teens volunteering, and some parents helped too. The feast day included hamburgers and hot dogs, music, face painting and games set up in the parish hall and outside.

One of my best memories was the relay race where the boys got to wear the girls’ clothes, and the girls got to wear boys’ clothes. It was hilarious watching them running into each other!

My brothers and sister were also part of the relay race.

I am a person who likes to get involved in many things because I like to meet new people from other cultures, and it has really helped me improve my English. For all of my volunteering in the parish, I was given the St. Michael’s Parish student award this year at CCH. I was not expecting it, but I felt very honoured.

Jacqueline Mboko
Sacred Movement on Thanksgiving Weekend
This Thanksgiving my sister and I were given the opportunity to thank God in a very different and personal way. We participated in Sacred Movement. This form of prayer was new and fun to us, and after we learned all the dance steps, we were struck by how beautifully the song and dance came together. We had two full practices and a mini practice before the 10:30 a.m. mass. The woman who directed the Sacred Movement, and her two daughters, gave us confidence to seek other ways to participate at St. Michael’s Parish. We look forward to participating in another Sacred Movement in the future, and we hope to see many more youth out there!

Madelaine and Emma Coelho
Confirmation Retreat Led by the National Evangelization Team
On October 18, my family welcomed two people from the NET team (Mike and Sean). NET stands for National Evangelization Team, whose members travel across Canada teaching intermediate grades about Confirmation, one of the seven sacraments. Mike and Sean stayed with us for two nights while on their journey. They were fun, polite, and friendly. One night they entertained us with their musical talents. We played lots of fun games including shuffle your buns and the penny stealing game. We also prayed in the church and watched funny skits put on by the NET team. In small groups of about seven people we talked about different things such as the seven sacraments.
What I liked the most about the retreat was feeling closer to God because I learned more about Him, sang songs and prayed. Having the NET team pray with me was better than praying alone because it felt like God was with me. I learned that you have to focus when you pray. It was a good day, and I'm glad I went.

Riley Hoddinott
Top Music Countdown Group at Mother Teresa High School

In the first week of October, I attended the Top Music Countdown Program at Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School along with several other people. We observed and studied music videos and the lyrics of selected songs to see what those songs meant to us and how they give us a good image of society today. For someone who enjoys music as I do, it really opened my eyes to what the messages in the music that I listen to really tell me. That is what this program is really about. In my opinion, those who enjoy listening to music and like to listen to the lyrics of songs would enjoy this club which runs every second Tuesday of the month from October to May, 2:15-3:30 in Room 207.

Dylan Westlake
High School Sports Nights

The first high school sports night was on October 18th in the gym at St. Michael’s Elementary School, and that night, we were joined by the NET team. This team of caring and outgoing individuals made the first sports night a blast as they shared their experiences and were not afraid to show us their competitive side. There was a great turnout as many students of different ages and from different schools participated in the sports that night. The night began with a prayer and was followed by volleyball, basketball and soccer. I am very excited about the many other sport nights to come, and I hope to see more and more students there!

Danielle Clewlow
At first, just like every new experience, we were unsure of what to expect. However, when we entered the gym, we were greeted with nothing but welcoming smiles and friendly people. We began with a group prayer and introduced ourselves. In what seemed like no time at all, we were all well acquainted with one another, and we were ready to have some fun. Two hours flew by, and before we knew it, it was already nine o’clock.

A few weeks prior to this event, we had been invited to attend Sports Night by Natalie while volunteering at the St. Michael’s Feast Day celebration. Just like Sports Night, we enjoyed ourselves while being involved in a faith-filled event within the parish community. We learned that participating in youth activities was both a rewarding and fun experience when we took part in the Stations of the Cross tableau on Good Friday of this year. This celebration expressed the passion of Jesus Christ and His love during the last few hours of His life. Attending these youth events throughout the year was not only an exciting new experience but also faith enriching as we grow within our parish community.

Eddy Avila & Danny Avila

Given the success of High School Sports Nights that were held from October to December this past year, the Youth Commission intends to organize more Sports Nights for High School students and for students in Grades 5-8 in the new year. Watch for announcements in the bulletin in January.
Being a Catholic Christian is not something we do for an hour each Sunday – it is a way of life. Prayer and Christian life are inseparable, and there are many expressions of prayer at St. Michael’s. Let’s explore these.

The First Friday Adoration provides an opportunity to spend time in church to pray specifically for vocations to priesthood and religious life. Following the 8:00 a.m. mass on the first Friday of each month, the Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar in the monstrance, a special holder which looks like the sun and is a home for the Consecrated Host. All are invited to spend an hour there in veneration because Adoration is our acknowledgement that we are mere creatures before the Great Creator. At 5:00 p.m. we pray the Divine Praises, and the Host is returned to the tabernacle in the chapel.

Divine Mercy Holy Hour is prayed each Friday in the Chapel of Reservation from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. by parishioners who desire to unite themselves more closely to Jesus through His Mother Mary. The Chaplet of Mercy is primarily prayed for the dying and includes opening prayers, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Apostle’s Creed. This is followed by a brief period of silence and the Rosary.

The Meditation Group meets every Wednesday from 4:15 to 5:00 p.m. in the upstairs room and uses the John Mains method. Christian meditation is often referred to as the “prayer of the heart” or the deep centre, the core of our being, the place of unity where the body, mind and spirit are one. We enter into this type of prayer through repetition of a prayer word or “mantra”.

The Stations of the Cross are frequently celebrated during Lent as a way to live with Jesus through His last three days on earth. Prayers commemorating the Passion bring us to a greater appreciation of what He did for us on that Calvary journey. These may be prayed at any time on one’s own, walking the Stations at St. Peter’s Cemetery or within our own church.

Small Faith Sharing Groups offer opportunities for ordinary Catholics to help each other connect everyday life and faith. These groups present a specific, clear, and workable plan for bringing people together to reinforce each other as Catholic Christians struggling to live a Gospel lifestyle. There are two resources currently being used by these small groups: Celebrating the Word and Praying Alone and Together.

Celebrating the Word allows people of faith to make meaningful connections between their ordinary life stories and the Gospel story.

In this reflective interaction, it is the common experience of group participants that the Sunday readings become alive and are actually experienced as Spirit filled. No formal training is required as each person simply reflects and shares on the three Sunday scripture readings and how they relate to their successes, failures, hopes and dreams.

When we come together to pray, we not only support each other but we form a bond. I believe this is what Jesus promised us as He said, “When two or three are gathered in my name there I am with you.” My small faith sharing groups have been one of my most important parts of my faith journey. We are there to support and challenge our faith and teach each other what it means to be Christian in all areas of our lives. I do not really have the words to express what the group means except it is the power of the Holy Spirit coming alive. Penny Yip

Praying Alone and Together is a resource to encourage praying as a regular practice. It enables people to recognize God communicating with them through their life’s experiences, to begin to talk to God in a personal way and to voice a prayer response in a group setting. Groups of seven to eight people meet in each others’ homes and practice listening, responding to God, and praying with imagination. Sessions include What is Prayer? Who is God? Relating Faith and Prayer, Listening Skills, Centering Prayer, Difficulties in Prayer, Prayer of Petition and Using Scripture in Prayer. A line from a hymn we sing at Mass, Bread of Life – “Lives broken open, stories shared aloud, become a banquet, a shelter for the world” profoundly expresses the meaning of our faith sharing.

If interested in any of these forms of prayer contact Dorothy Solomon at 519-659-8242 or dorothysolomon@saintly.com
**Children’s Corner**

**SUDOKU**
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**Missing Numbers**
Figure out the pattern to fill in the missing numbers.

4 8 16 □ □ 64
10 □ 25 40 60
100 85 70 □ 40
57 50 □ 36 29
□ 13 21 □ □
□ □ □ 2.25 3.38 5.07 7.6

**Vintage Stamps**
Can you spot the 6 differences between these two stamps?

Answers: Missing numbers: 32, 15, 55, 43, 8, 1.5. Stamp differences: year, yellow star, red balls, CN Tower, missing tree, Toronto Canada.
Pastoral Team
Father Murray Sample, Pastor
msample@rcec.london.on.ca  ext. 202
Father John Sharp, Associate Pastor
jsarp@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
Gerry Bezzina

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.

African Caribbean Catholic Community Mass
4th Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m.

Children’s Ministries
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Mass
Liturgy of the Word: Grades 2, 3 and 4
Sunday School: Aged 3 to Grade 1
Babysitting: Infants to age 3

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday: 10:00 - 11 a.m. and 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
Christmas Day  December 25
Feast of Mary, Mother of God  January 1
Parent Meeting-First Eucharist  January 12
Pancake Supper  February 16
Ash Wednesday  February 17
Parish Mission  March 14 -17
Palm Sunday  March 28
Holy Thursday  April 1
Good Friday  April 2
Holy Saturday  April 3
Easter Sunday  April 4

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.