2016-2017 has been another memorable and fulfilling year for the St. Michael’s Parish family. Some of the significant highlights are: The Give to Grow capital campaign continues and it is most outstanding that not only are we close to achieving our goal of $1.5 Million, noteworthy in itself, but our parish family continues to respond and many parishioners have donated more than their initial pledge. We are heartened to have such a caring and generous parish family. In the past year we have made two significant capital improvements - we have been able to replace and upgrade our aging and leaking roof. This new roof will last significantly longer. Secondly, the heating, air-conditioning and ventilation system has been upgraded and improved. The parish community is to be commended for accommodating the inconveniences and disruptions in the church during the renovations. Next on the list are renovations and upgrades to all the washrooms and repairing and repainting the parish hall.

We were extremely fortunate to have Fr. Don with us for a second year, a most pleasant surprise. As we all now know Fr. Don has recently been assigned to lead in the “Family of Parishes” initiative in Chatham Kent. We will certainly miss him and we wish him well in his new assignment. We have also journeyed with Fr. Glen Ball during his visits to St. Michael’s while completing his studies at St. Peter’s Seminary. Now our mutual journey continues as he joins us at St. Michael’s as a newly ordained Priest. This presents an awesome responsibility to the parish as the first year of a newly ordained priest is typically the formative year, setting the stage for the remainder of his vocation. We are most honoured to be part of this journey. We were also fortunate to witness the ordination of Paul Kim, a member of the St. Michael’s Parish family, to Deacon. This is the first such ordination from St. Michael’s in more than thirty years. Lastly, our pastoral team is leading a number of new spiritual and communal initiatives that you will be able to read about in more detail further on in this report.

Looking ahead, planning and dialogue will begin on the “Family of Parishes” which will include St. Michael’s, St. Peter’s, Christ the King Parish at Western University and St. Patrick’s in Lucan. This initiative will present us with numerous opportunities to look beyond our parish, learn from each other and build on our collective strengths and attributes. Fr. Glen Ball, as previously mentioned, will been joining us - a real blessing for our parish. Fr. Murray has had the privilege of working with Fr. Glen for the past six years during his assignment to St. Michael’s while he was a seminarian. Also, we eagerly anticipate the ordination to the priesthood of Deacon Paul Kim next spring. We also look forward to having Fr. John Sharpe spend more time with us at St. Michael’s as he transitions into retirement. We truly are fortunate. Lastly we expect that the majority of the capital improvement/renovation projects will be completed in the next few months. In my conversation with Fr. Murray in preparation for this article, he shared several of his personal aspirations for the parish. He would like to encourage the growth and expansion of our current outstanding music ministry with the formation of a soprano, tenor, alto, and bass choir that would lead the congregation in the singing of the more traditional hymns. Complementing this would be a group of young parishioners leading in the singing and playing of “Praise and Worship “ music bringing more contemporary hymns and music to parishioners. Along with this he would encourage more of our younger parishioners to be actively engaged as Altar Servers - an important role and of great service to our parish.

In conclusion, Fr. Murray is personally looking forward to participating in an extended retreat in Guelph for 8-10 days. He deems this an important opportunity for him to reflect on his priestly journey, both on a personal level and as the spiritual leader of St. Michael’s Parish.
The Pastoral Council is a consultative body to the Pastor who is primarily responsible for pastoral planning. Such planning ensures that the mission and vision of the Diocese and Parish guide the St. Michael’s community in the future. We do so by identifying, assessing and prioritizing pastoral needs, setting goals and developing objectives, and by recommending courses of action to Fr. Murray and the Pastoral Team.

The 2016-2017 Council consisted of Peter Valiquet (Chair), Howie Wright (Past Chair), Wayne Wolanski (Vice Chair), Donna Thompson (Recording Secretary), Lola Gualtieri, Marinette Laureano, Darlene MacKenzie, Larry McKenzie, Mark Thompson and Joanne Zwolski. During the past year the work of the Council was most ably assisted by members of the Pastoral Team, Fr. Don Pumputis (Parochial Vicar), Yana Adkinson (Pastoral Minister) and Sylvain Patry (Co-ordinator of Youth Ministry) under the competent guidance and leadership of Pastor Murray Sample.

Reflecting on the past ten months I am pleased to report numerous accomplishments, challenges and future initiatives that will engage the minds and hearts of those providing council to Fr. Murray. We have settled a refugee family, the Al Shblaks. The Ministry Fair will return in September as a one-time event offering volunteer opportunities in any one of forty-four Ministries.
Going forward, we can begin to contemplate what a Family of Parishes might look like with our partners St. Peter’s Basilica, Christ the King, and St. Patrick’s Parishes. We acknowledge that St. Michael’s has become more culturally diverse in recent years and we must address this reality more effectively.

Our revised parish website, www.stmichaelslondon.ca attempts to keep us better informed of the events in this faith community.

Opportunities for enrichment of our prayer life beyond the initiatives of Oremus, Women of Grace, Lenten Cross Prayer Cards and the Gospel Study is under review. Renewed emphasis on the involvement of our Pastoral Team in schools is lauded and encouraged. Expanding the dialogue around the issue of “Assisted Dying” and end of life issues, i.e. palliative care and elder abuse merit broader attention by our parishioners.

The Christian Unity initiative/dialogue and its response in London has gained enthusiastic support across this community and will continue. Successes in bringing new members to our faith community through RCIA and the addition of two to four families a week to our parish family are significant.

The potential for joining the London Food Coalition for a monthly fee of $75 and resolving some logistical issues provides some positive support for initiatives like the St. Michael’s School Breakfast Program and the Hospitality North outreach. While not an exhaustive list of items considered by this Council, it is evidence of how the leadership in this community is seeking to live out its Christian calling to serve our brothers and sisters.

On behalf of the council I wish to thank Joanne Zwolski and Howie Wright for their contributions to the Council and to the parish as a whole. You have given unselfishly of your time to many causes that have served to enrich both the physical and spiritual lives of those in our parish and beyond.

In a special way I wish to acknowledge the contributions that Fr. Don has made to St. Michael’s Parish in the first two years of his priestly vocation. He has had an enduring impact on our community by enriching the lives of students and everyone seeking a more meaningful faith life. While we will miss him we know that he will make a positive contribution wherever the Lord sends him.

Moving forward, we welcome new members Lucia Lehman, Dorothy Solomon and Daniel Yurkewich and look forward to their thoughtful contributions to the Council.

Serving this Council over the past three years and working together under the Pastorship of Father Murray and our Pastoral Team has given me hope and a renewed sense of the potential for our collective future. Seldom does one get the opportunity to work with people so committed and respectful of each other. It demonstrates that a consensual model of leadership can work and that the beneficiary is an engaged Faith and Eucharistic community where all are welcome.
St. Michael’s Parish

ANNUAL REPORT

St. Michael’s Youth Ministry 2016-2017 School Year

by Sylvain Patry, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Last September we implemented our new Youth group EDGE. Our Hawaiian theme launch party was a lot of fun and a huge success. If you’ve never been to an Edge night, you’re really missing out. When you arrive at an Edge night, you immediately feel the energy and excitement of the night. The room is almost always blacked out, music is pumping, leaders welcome you in and a crowd of teens have already started in on an ice-breaker game. The evening consists of games (with added comments or teachings on faith), some food and then a final prayer, at which time the adults are invited to join in.

It doesn’t always end there, either. I’ve had many conversations with grandparents and parents who say that they have started to see something different at home. Comments like “she asked us if we could pray before dinner,” or “he has been asking me a lot of questions about God or faith.” The ultimate goal for our Edge leaders is to Disciple and help families grow strength in faith!

Our presence at the Ministry Fair was great. It was wonderful to meet new people and invite them to change a young person’s life.

I enjoyed participating in school Masses with Fr. Don and Fr. Murray. Being there to answer any questions and develop relationships before and after Mass was great. Seeing the enthusiasm from students and faculty is always encouraging.

A large number of people joined us for our annual Christmas carolling. Our parish community continues to be welcoming and we started off the March Break with a free family skate. Over 40 families shared the ice pad for some fun skating with treats and hot chocolate. We had over 200 lbs of canned goods donated to the local food bank from that event alone!

Some of our Youth group leaders attended the Right to Life gala where there were beautiful testimonies and a great dinner.

Over 100 Confirmation Candidates participated with their families in our Confirmation program CHOSEN. Each family got together on a Saturday to watch some videos, hear personal stories, and catechesis in small groups while preparing for the Sacrament.

I had also the opportunity to visit our parish schools and spend time with students in Grades 5 to 8. Candidates generously volunteered many hours in our Youth group and other ministries in our parish. My hope was to provide support to parents and guardians as first educators and walk along in their journey too.

I’ve received a good deal of interest from individuals of every age, to volunteer for both youth groups starting this year: EDGE for grade 5-7 students in September and LIFETEEN for grades 8-12 in December. There are many events and opportunities planned so be sure to follow us on social media or on our parish website.
Coming soon in Youth Ministry:

**2017 September - 2018 August**
- Monthly class visits and Masses to our feeder schools
- Monthly Family Movie Nights
- Confirmation Enrollment weekend *(September 14 & 15, 2017)*
- Confirmation Parent/Candidate meeting *(September 27, 2017)*
- EDGE Youth Group Launch Party *(October 4, 2017)*
- EDGE Youth Group, Grade 5-7 (1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month)
- Altar Server training: Training, pizza lunch and ball hockey *(October 7, 2017)*
- Ministry Fair Youth Booth in the hall, after all Masses *(October 21 & 22, 2017)*
- Confirmation Retreat *(October 2017)*
- EDGE Youth Group Family Christmas Carolling *(December 2017)*
- Youth Stations of the Cross general meeting, Grades 8-12 *(December 2017)*
- Family Skating Party March Break *(Monday, March 12, 2018)*
- Catholic Education Week, Principals address all Masses *(May 7-11, 2018)*
- Confirmation Rehearsal *(May 15 & 16, 2018)*
- Sacrament of Confirmation *(May 22 & 23, 2018)*
- EDGE Summer Bash year end party *(June 20, 2018)*
- Catholic Summer Camps, Grades 7-12 *(July and August 2018)*

**Ongoing opportunities for Youth at our Parish**

Liturical ministries:
- Ushers, choir members, altar servers (Grade 5-12)
- Babysitting, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers (High School)
- Youth group leaders and assistants

**NEWS, UPDATES AND TWEETS**
For Youth Ministry updates, Catholic links and inspirational quotes check us out on our
Facebook: **STM EDGE**
Twitter: **SYL@STM**
Instagram: **Syl_STM**

For more information about Youth Ministry please contact
Sylvain Patry,
Coordinator of Youth Ministry,
at 519-433-6689 ext 206
or spatry@dol.ca
2016 Financial Summary & 2017 Six month Update

by Cherylann Grace, Chair, Financial Committee

On behalf of the Finance Committee, we are providing a financial update to the Parish for the 2016 fiscal year. There is also a brief update on the financial status of the Parish through to the end of June 2017. This is an update to the insert in the Parish Bulletin of the weekend of March 19, 2017.

OVERVIEW OF 2016: All financial data for this report is from the Diocese of London and is formatted according to their accounting practices. As reported by the Diocese in its Financial Statement for St. Michael’s Parish, our overall Operating Receipts for the 2016 year were lower than in 2015, at $878,694 or $15,036 less. At the same time, our overall Operating Expenditures for 2016 were higher at $885,040 or increased by $5,807 compared to 2015. The 2016 Operating Receipts compared to Operating Expenditures, were a total deficit of $6,346.

OPERATING RECEIPTS 2016: The regular Sunday offertory collection, when combined with Christmas and Easter collections, is the primary source of funds to cover the daily operating expenses of the parish. This resulted in a total of $633,966 compared to $645,289 in 2015. This is less by $11,323 or reduced overall by 1.75%. The Thanksgiving Appeal was $84,183, which is higher by $10,599 compared to 2015. The Thanksgiving Appeal is the only collection that does not count against the calculation of our Diocesan Assessment which was $106,096 in 2016.

Our Thanksgiving Appeal is a very important collection and is essential to producing a positive result for the annual Operating Costs. It should also be noted that the Special Collections which occur during the year, are not funds available for the use of our parish, as they are collected by the parish and then forwarded to the specific group designated by the Diocese. An example is the collection gathered for the Priests’ Pension Fund.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES 2016: The Parish Operating Expenditures for 2016 were up by $5,807 compared to 2015, for a total of $885,040. In overview, the Ministry and Education expenses were up by $6,689. Compensation costs were reduced by $17,102 in 2016. The St. Michael’s Parish Diocesan Assessment increased to $106,096 in 2016, and is paid directly to the Diocese on a monthly basis.
Six Month Financial Update (To June 2017): The first six months of 2017 saw the total Sunday offertory collection higher by $36,000 compared to the first six months of 2016. This increase can be mainly attributed to a single gift received this past spring. The Finance Committee continues to provide ongoing monitoring of the church’s financial activity.

Capital: The Capital Donations for 2016 were $309,301. This amount represents a mixture of one time donations as well as the pledges for the year from the Give to Grow-Foundations for Our Future Campaign. On behalf of the Finance Committee, we wish to thank all volunteers involved, with special thanks for their support and commitment, to our many parishioners whose generosity has led to the success of this campaign. It is truly a blessing that we were able to surpass our goal. Contributions to the capital work are still welcomed and encouraged. We thank those who continue to fulfill their pledges. The capital projects for the church these past two years have been significant. We have now successfully completed the replacement of the boiler in the Parish Hall, as well as the installation of a copper roof over the nave. In addition, the installation of a new, more efficient HVAC system for the nave and narthex was completed this past year, along with a monitored security system, and an improved sound system. Renovations of the washrooms are to begin this September.

Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG): The Finance Committee again would encourage parishioners to consider enrolling in the Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) program. This provides a predictable income to the parish which greatly assists in ongoing financial planning. This is a simple way for individuals or families to make a regular Sunday Offering to the Parish, and it helps with household budgeting. There are many benefits to this method of contributing: Firstly, you know that once a month a specific amount will be directed to the Parish. You won’t need to worry about envelopes, and you may use PAG Cards which are available to put into the collection basket every Sunday. Secondly, it reduces the need for the parish to purchase envelopes and is also more ecological. Finally, many parishioners are away on vacation in the summer months, but the costs and needs of the Parish continue throughout the whole year. In the summer we traditionally see a 6% to 7% decline in Sunday Offerings which results in cash flow concerns. The use of PAG by more parishioners would go a long way to ease these concerns. If desired, your contribution amount can be adjusted at any time. We have had an increase in the enrollment in PAG through 2016. We thank those who have enrolled and encourage others to consider this safe, easy option. Please contact the St. Michael’s Parish office to register.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of St. Michael’s Parish. Your ongoing devotion to this wonderful and special Parish, is so much appreciated. On behalf of your Finance Committee: Cherylann Grace (Chair), Fr. Murray Sample (Pastor), Doug Manners (Business Administrator), Jorge Arroyo-Boy, Dario Battel, Cheryl Brydges, Geoff Hutton, Kimberly Jorgie, Mark Thompson (PPC), Howie Wright, Penny Yip, and Rene Zwinkels.
The Celebration of the Sacraments
Jesus gave us the sacraments so that He could continue to touch us in our daily lives. Each sacrament has a particular way of drawing us into a closer relationship with God. For our part we have a duty to prepare ourselves to receive the sacraments worthily.

First Reconciliation
The Sacrament of Reconciliation speaks of God’s unconditional love for us. Given our human nature, we are sometimes tempted to sin, which weakens our relationship with God. The Sacrament of Reconciliation offers us the grace to admit our failures and to be reconciled with God. First Reconciliation is offered to children in Grade 2 as they prepare for their First Eucharist. Those who attend Catholic school receive catechesis at school and those children who attend public school are prepared at the parish. Classes for First Reconciliation start October 22, 2017 at 11:30am.

Registration for First Reconciliation is now CLOSED. If you missed the Registration deadline, please contact the Parish Office. Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation will be held in the Parish Hall on October 11, 2017 at 7:00pm. The dates of the celebration of First Reconciliation are December 5 and 7, 2017 at 6:30pm and Saturday December 9, 2017 at 11:00am. Contact person: Yana Adkinson, Pastoral Minister

First Eucharist
Each week we gather to celebrate the gift of Christ among us. We are fed by the Body and Blood of Christ and then sent out to be Jesus in our home, school, workplace and community. Children celebrate their First Eucharist in Grade 2. Those who attend Catholic school receive catechesis at school and those children who attend public school are prepared at the parish. Classes for First Eucharist begin February 25, 2018, at 11:30am.

Registration for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist is now CLOSED. If you have missed the Registration Deadline, please contact the Parish Office. Parent Meeting for First Eucharist will be held in the Parish Hall on February 6, 2018 at 7:00pm. The Sacrament of First Eucharist will take place during the following four weekends: April 28 & 29, May 5 & 6, May 12 & 13, May 19 & 20, 2018. Contact person: Yana Adkinson, Pastoral Minister

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process through which we welcome adults into the Church. The three sacraments of initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – are celebrated together at the Easter Vigil when the candidates are received into the Church. Sessions are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm from October 4, 2017 to April 25, 2018. RCIA adapted for Children (ages 7 and up) will take place on Mondays from 5:30-6:30pm and it will begin on October 16, 2017. Contact person: Yana Adkinson, Pastoral Minister

Confirmation
The Sacrament of Confirmation is the sealing of the Holy Spirit of all baptized Catholics. In Confirmation we are strengthened in our responsibilities of service, leadership and spreading the Word of God. A Parent/Candidate meeting will be held on Wed. September 27, 2017 from 7:00-9:00pm in the parish hall. Confirmation registration deadline is Friday October 6, 2017. Confirmation enrollment will take place on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at 5pm and Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 12:30pm. The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on Tuesday May 22, 2018 and on Wednesday May 23, 2018 at the 7:00pm Mass. Contact person: Sylvain Patry, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Marriage
In the Sacrament of Marriage God joins the lives of a man and woman so intimately that they become one flesh. Marriage gives a couple the grace and strength to continue to grow together in mutual acceptance and love and to become responsible and caring parents. Couples should contact the parish office at least six months in advance of their marriage to arrange an appointment with one of the priests. Contact person: Fr. Murray Sample and Fr. Glen Ball