My Brothers and Sisters:

The Gospel of this Easter weekend speaks to us of a disciple of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, who came to the dark tomb that held the dead body of the one she loved. Suddenly the dark tomb was filled with light and life. To Mary belongs the glory of being the first person to see the risen Christ. The Gospel is filled with images of Mary’s love for Christ.

She had come to the tomb; she ran with the message to Peter and John...she was left behind when they raced to the tomb. By the time she got back to the tomb they were gone. So Mary stood there weeping. She saw Jesus but mistook him to be the gardener. The conversation she had with the person she thought was the gardener shows her love. Her one desire was to anoint His dead body, to show Him love and respect. Then Jesus says her name, “Mary”. She answers that familiar voice with “Master!” She did not recognize Jesus because of the tears. Her tears had blinded her eyes so that she did not recognize Him.

Mary also had difficulty recognizing Jesus because she was looking in the wrong direction. She had her eyes focused on the tomb. As followers of Jesus we are reminded that the tomb is never the end for us, for Christ conquered the tomb. Death no longer has power over Him or over us. Love has conquered the power of sin and darkness.

I invite you to come and celebrate the three Sacred Days of Easter as we gather on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday/Easter Sunday. My brothers and sisters, the Church powerfully reminds us of God’s love. The three days are celebrated as one day. The story does not end on Holy Thursday, or Good Friday or Holy Saturday. Each of the three days gives us just one small glimpse into God’s love which is culminated in the renewal of our Baptismal Commitment.

Holy Thursday reminds us that God has taken on the role of servant. Love invites us to be a servant just as Jesus becomes the servant. Good Friday powerfully tells us of His love for us. He willingly died for us so that we might live. Holy Saturday/Easter Sunday celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus. Love conquers the tomb. The three days celebrate God loving us. Now at the Easter celebrations we are so aware of God loving us that we must renew our commitment to be His children.

Come join your brothers and sisters this Holy Week. Renew your baptismal commitment to be His disciple, proclaiming God’s love to the world. Please consider coming to celebrate Holy Saturday evening.

This is the greatest of all the Easter celebrations.

Fr. Murray Sample
Pastor
Holy Week Schedule

**Palm Sunday – March 25th**
March 24th at 5:00pm
March 25th at 8:30am; 10:30am; 12:30pm

**Mass of Chrism – March 26th**
7:00pm - St. Peter’s Cathedral

**Sacred Triduum (3 Days)**
Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday

**Holy Thursday – March 29th**
7:30pm - Mass of the Lord’s Supper
8:30-11:00pm - Adoration of the Eucharist
11:00pm - Night Prayer

**Good Friday – March 30th**
10:00am - Stations of the Cross
(Led by the Youth)
3:00pm - Divine Liturgy

**Holy Saturday – March 31st**
10:00am - Blessing of Easter Food
(Tradition of many Europeans)

**Easter Vigil – March 31st**
7:30pm - Culmination of the Triduum
We listen to Sacred Scripture;
We renew our Baptismal Faith;
We feast on the Body and Blood of Christ, that feeds us to be the Body of Christ.

**Easter Sunday – April 1st**
8:30am; 10:30am; 12:30pm
(at the 10:30am Mass there will be a second Mass celebrated in the Parish Hall for the overflow crowd)

Please show courtesy in the parking lot and on the streets.
Please do not block driveways.

**Sacrament of Penance**
Wednesday, March 21st
(All Day Confessions) - 8:30am-8:00pm
*Friday, March 23rd*
10:00-11:00am; 3:00-4:00pm; 7:00-8:00pm
*Tuesday, March 27th*
10:00-11:00am; 3:00-4:00pm; 7:00-8:00pm
(No confessions heard during the Sacred Triduum)

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Easter Symbols

by Fr. Glen Ball & Angela Townend

The Catholic Church is well known for its use of symbols to draw us closer to Christ. Perhaps because of its visual nature the Catholic Church is often seen as a backdrop or plot device in Hollywood films.

We have these symbols, however, to help link what we think, believe, and see. The great Feast of Easter and the season of Lent are no different. Both are filled with symbols connecting us to the suffering of Christ during His passion and death, the glorious triumph of His Resurrection and the joy of knowing that we have been saved by His actions.

One of the most visible traditions of Lent is Ash Wednesday. The ashes marked on our foreheads are typically made by burning the palm branches from the previous year’s Palm Sunday. When Palm Sunday is celebrated, these branches are still green but over the year the green fades and the branch begins to dry up. Shortly before Lent begins, these branches are collected and burned until nothing is left but ashes.

It is perhaps fitting that one of the lines spoken as the ashes are placed is *Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return* (Roman Missal, 194). The life cycle of these palms reminds us of our own lives and that one day our bodies will return to the dust from which God created us.

The Palm branches distributed on the sixth Sunday of Lent are synonymous with what the crowds did when Jesus entered Jerusalem:

*The great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So, they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him...*(John 12.12-13)
Palm branches, symbols of victory in ancient traditions and often held as a sign of honour, are a reminder of Christ’s triumph over sin and death, and though they may fade over time, Christ’s victory never does.

The symbols surrounding Easter itself are numerous. Even the date Easter falls on is symbolic. Have you ever wondered why Easter moves around the calendar? It is not just to keep it on a Sunday. It has to do with the moon. From Sacred Scripture we know that Jesus’ Passion and death occurred during the festival of Passover, thus we generally celebrate Easter near that feast (although, due to some issues between the Gregorian and Hebrew calendar, this doesn’t always work out).

The date for Easter is calculated based on three factors: it is the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurs after the Spring Equinox. These last two factors determine the date of Passover. The Old Covenant of Moses was made through the Passover, which the Jewish people were required to commemorate every year. Christ’s death on the cross formed a new covenant for the forgiveness of sins and His Resurrection is a promise of eternal life.

During the celebrations of Palm Sunday and Good Friday, you may notice the priest’s vestments changing from Lenten purple to red. While purple is often associated with death and mourning, red reminds us of Christ’s blood shed for us and that our sorrow will soon be replaced with great joy when Christ rises from the dead.

There has also been some confusion as to whether Sunday was the third day. Some mistakenly believed that the third day should be Monday because that is how we would count it today. However, in ancient times, day one was Friday. The second day began at sunset on Friday and the third day began after sunset on Saturday. This explains why the Easter Vigil is celebrated after sunset on Saturday night. According to the ancient way of keeping track of days and the Church’s current way of marking Sundays, this would be when Sunday begins.

The Easter Vigil celebration is also marked by many symbols. The first is the Paschal candle, lit from a blessed fire at the Vigil celebration. The candle too is marked with symbols: a cross, the Greek letters Alpha and Omega indicating that Christ is the beginning and end, the current year and five nails to mark the five wounds of Christ. The flame of the candle represents the light of Christ.

At the Easter Vigil, everyone takes a light from this candle and illuminates the previously darkened church. The candle is lit at every Mass during the Easter season and takes a place of prominence near the altar. It remains there until after the Feast of Pentecost and then resumes its usual place beside the baptismal font.

Finally, the Easter lily with its pure white flowers is a symbol of the purity of Christ. Those who are newly baptized at the Easter Vigil will put on a white garment because after baptism their soul is made pure and clean.

The Easter season marks the greatest of all Christian feasts. Everything that takes place during this season is meant to remind us of not only the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross but also of the great joy and celebrations, for Jesus has risen from the tomb so that all of us who are baptized in faith will one day also rise again.
This Easter, I would like to introduce our community to the dedicated people to whom I am forever thankful for answering “Yes” to being an intentional disciple of Jesus, particularly in Youth Ministry, leading teens to Him. By intentional disciple or missionary disciple, I am referring to people who look to create an opportunity for others to experience an encounter with Christ, and to journey with them to a meaningful relationship with Him.

Scott Veenvliet: “My wife and I joined the Catholic Church (and St. Michael’s parish) in 2010 when we converted during the Easter Vigil. Our children are Casey (10), Emily (9), Liam (6), and Isaac (3). I was very excited to join in the organization of Youth Ministry as it was such an important part in the formation of my own faith during my youth. I’m happy to share that experience and excitement with the parish and am currently helping organize the EDGE program with many fantastic volunteers.”

Tom Majer: “I was baptized at St. Michael’s before moving to another part of London. I attended both a Catholic elementary and high school and I really enjoyed my Catholic educational experiences. Upon relocating back to London in 2014 from living and teaching abroad, I joined St. Michael’s as it was my area parish. I facilitated the First Eucharist and First Reconciliation Sunday sessions for three years before passing the baton and allowing others to experience the joy of teaching the Sacraments. I joined the Youth Ministry as I wanted to continue to support the youth and teens in the parish in their faith journey. Being part of the Youth Ministry team allows me to collaborate with other passionate faith-based parishioners in nurturing and enriching our faith and in inspiring the youth and teens of our parish through twenty-first century programs such as EDGE and LifeTeen.”

Jacob Quinlan: “I have been part of St. Michael’s parish for the last five years or so. For three of those years I was a seminarian at St. Peter’s Seminary, but I discerned that God was calling me to the vocation of marriage. I have been involved with the EDGE program since September and I think it is a wonderful opportunity to connect with teens and their families. I’m really looking forward to leading music ministry for the LifeTeen Mass and youth gatherings.”

Matteo Bortolussi: “I have been a part of the St. Michael’s family since I was a very young child. I am a grade 3 teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes school in Delaware. I am extremely thankful that EDGE gives me a chance to connect with local youth outside of school. My biggest hope is that by volunteering with EDGE, I can help the youth build and develop their own relationship with God and see that they can have fun with their peers while celebrating their faith.”

Cassandra MacEachern: “I’ve been involved in Youth Ministry for about four years and it’s something I’m passionate about. I’m in my first year at King’s in the Catholic Studies for Teachers program with hopes of teaching high school when I graduate. Being involved in Youth Ministry helped me make a connection and realize my potential and guided me to my career choice.”

Rossana Ambrosio Ungson: “When my family and I came to London in January 2012, St. Michael’s welcomed us and we have been parishioners and volunteers here ever since. I have been participating in different ministries, specifically in the Youth Ministry, since 2013. Being part of St. Mike’s community has been an incredible spiritual and social experience. For me, volunteering is the best opportunity to help and support our parish and give thanks to God for His many blessings. Working with our children and youth is also a blessing, since we have the chance of sharing and growing with them in God’s love.”

Michelle Flisar: “I was raised Catholic by my parents and started attending Mass at St. Michael’s Parish when I moved to London in 2014. I officially joined the parish in 2016. I joined Youth Ministry in 2016 to become more involved in parish life and to make friends at church. I have met wonderful families while volunteering for EDGE and now I feel more connected to the St. Michael’s community. Youth Ministry has taught me a lot and in the process, has deepened my faith in Christ.”
Veronica Solis: “I have been a part of St Michael’s since June 2014, when I moved from the Holy Family area. I believe in the message of Love and Mercy of Jesus and I would like to share that message with everyone. The more I volunteer, the more I get to know Jesus and so does my family! There are not enough words to express my gratitude for all the love and generosity of all the people that I have met in our parish community.”

Curtis McGill: “I’m a teacher with a local school board and married, with a two-year-old son. A member of Mary Immaculate Parish for the last three years, I joined the Youth Ministry at St. Michael’s in the Fall of 2016. The Youth Ministry has helped me deepen my relationship with God and the church community. Through my interactions with the youth I’ve been asked questions to explain our faith. By helping others understand the teachings of the Church and develop a relationship with God, I’ve come to know God better myself. Youth Ministry has also given me a community to lean on when I’m having a bad day. I enjoy the company while engaged in fun activities.”

Marinette Laureano: “I have been a member of St. Michael’s for several years. I enjoyed volunteering on Parish Council, Yarning with Love, the ukulele group [SMUGlees] and several others. Since then I have joined EDGE to be a positive presence for all the teens. I really enjoy witnessing their experiences.”

Taylor Humphrey: “I have been a parishioner of St. Michael’s since I was little, along with my brother, Matthew, my mom Kathy, my dad Dale and my grandparents. I chose to join the youth group to further my faith and become more involved with the parish community and its needs. I am relatively new to the Youth Ministry, but as a teacher, I am hoping that it will assist me in bringing more faith-based activities into my classroom each and every day.”

David Wydeven: “I have been a part of St. Michael’s my whole life. I decided to join the EDGE team to become closer to our parish community and my faith. EDGE has been a positive influence on my life and I look to share that same positivity with the youth.”

Rose Bredin: “I began attending St. Mike’s about a year ago, but because of school, I alternate between King’s and St. Michael’s. I joined Youth Ministry because I love working with children and teenagers, and sharing my experience of faith with them while also learning about theirs. My time as an EDGE leader at St. Mike’s has given me so many hilarious and wonderful memories.”

Emily Oshana: “I have been attending St. Michael’s with my family since I was six years old. My family consists of my mother Emma, my father Robert, and siblings Daniel and Sophie. I joined EDGE to connect with the parish community, form meaningful relationships with the teens and other volunteers and further strengthen my faith.”

St. Kateri’s F.I.A.T. (Faith in Action Team) are little people in blue T-shirts who help celebrate Mass once a month and who are witnesses in their families, schools and community. Their principal, Laurel Looby, says she is “thrilled and supportive of all the efforts they put in.”

I had an opportunity to speak with their teacher, Ms. Stephanie Jeffries, who said, “It’s a great opportunity for those who normally may not come to church, but can experience it through their child who is serving the community and making a connection between parish community, family and school.”

Alex - Joined because she wanted to have fun with other people who believe what she believes and her church family.

Nicoie - “It’s really fun to help with school and community activities that help poor.”

Noah - “Good way to help everyone in the community.”

Lexi - Likes to “get involved more in the church to know more about what’s going on.”

I truly believe in these times of busyness, turmoil, poverty and loneliness, there are so many blessings that come from getting involved in your parish community. All these people are available to care for the needs of our community in one way or shape, whether it’s through EDGE, LifeTeen or another ministry, because they have been open to the Holy Spirit. Some may have even said this prayer; “Lord, whatever you want me to do, I will do,” and have seen the light.

In the words of Pope Francis: “Drawn from the new fire, this light will slowly overcome the darkness and illuminate the liturgical assembly. May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds, and enable all of us to relive the experience of the disciples on the way to Emmaus. By listening to God’s word and drawing nourishment from the table of the Eucharist, may our hearts be ever more ardent in faith, hope and love.”

Over 350 men of all ages joined in unity to celebrate their common belief in Jesus Christ, learning about one another and growing in a deeper relationship with God.

John J, from St. John the Divine Parish in London, wrote: “The Men of Faith Conference of 2018 was an amazing experience with the Dynamic Deacon opening our eyes and minds to the beauty and awesomeness of our faith. His talks were engaging and captivating. He wanted more from men and with his enthusiasm and realism, I returned home wanting to give more to my faith. It is always a great reminder that men are not alone as I could look around the room and see so many who wanted to be better men. I would highly recommend this conference to Catholic men and I look forward to the next one.”

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, aka The Dynamic Deacon, is one of the most sought-after speakers in the Church, and men attending the conference now know why. With a passionate and powerful no-nonsense approach, Deacon Harold delivered three talks, on the subjects of Spiritual Fatherhood, Answering God’s Call, and Men Fully Alive.

Some points that he emphasized were:

- Many of us choose spiritual sloth, but what we need is passion and love for Christ with action, not just sweet words.

At 8:30 am, the conference started with a devotion to Mother Mary, praying the Rosary. Holy Mass followed, as we were led in worship by Father John Johnson. The choir was amazing again this year, as the young men from Catholic Central High School raised their voices in song.

Confessions were heard by numerous priests during the conference, with Deacon Harold suggesting that we empty out our sin to God and get full with life from God.

Social breaks, with coffee of course, brought old friends together and allowed this community of believers to meet like-minded new friends. Solidarity was alive and well as we gathered for a hot lunch around noon, sponsored by Donohue Funeral Home. We were fortunate that
St. Michael’s School allowed us to use their gym for an overflow dining space. Men under the age of 35 were directed to the gym for some food and fellowship while the rest stayed in the Parish hall.

Family Foundations Institute (www.famfi.ca) also presented a short video on the importance of family and the many resources in South Western Ontario to help families thrive...not just survive! Eucharistic Adoration followed lunch, as men meditated on the true presence of our Lord. This was a special part of the day for many as God entered our hearts and set our minds on a path towards knowing Him better.

One attendee commented: “Seeing this event continue to grow year after year, it’s easy to see that men are hungry for a lot more than our culture is offering. A beautiful opportunity for men to be encouraged and revitalized in their vocation, whether single or married...or contemplating the priesthood.”

As we were all Inspired and Challenged throughout the first three sessions with Deacon Harold, Father Patrick Beneteau came in to hit a home run in the closing inning. Our last talk focused on COMMITMENT! The final and most important message of the day was very clear: “A MEN OF FAITH CONFERENCE IS ONE DAY...A MEN OF FAITH COMMITMENT IS 365 DAYS, 24/7”.

We were all challenged to make just one new commitment that would help us grow closer in our relationship to our most loving and generous Lord.

Special thanks to Father Murray, Father Glen, Doug Manners and Mwaka for allowing and helping us to host the 6th Annual Men of Faith Conference at St. Michael’s.
As a Pastoral Minister, I spend time with the charming Grade 2 students in four schools and help prepare them for their First Communion. They eagerly learn about the various parts of the Mass and what each part means.

I love watching them as I explain that at Communion they will be able to hold God in their hands and to receive Him in their souls for the very first time. The same God who created galaxies, oceans, mountains and who made all of us. Their faces light up with such joy and excitement.

St. Jean Vianney once commented that “if we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy.” And yet, how often do we lose sight of what happens at Mass and feel that we are not getting much out of it? Do we sometimes feel distracted, distant, disinterested, and end up just going through the motions? Does this sound familiar? Some might feel tempted to stop going to Mass altogether, especially when so many urgent tasks and the busy-ness of life tend to take over what is important.

We live in a culture of social media, Netflix, video games and more; a constant stream of entertainment and information competing for our attention. It is only natural to feel that church and Mass should be entertaining and exciting, that there should be an amazing choir, the best worship music, dynamic homilies, and that we should feel excited after going to Mass.

But is Mass really all about the entertaining us? We should stop worrying about our feelings and stop trying to get more out of Mass. Instead, we should focus on what actually happens during Mass and what we are bringing to it. It is important to understand that what we feel and what happens on a deeper spiritual level are two different things.

My husband is a big hockey fan; he knows almost everything there is to know about his favourite team. I, on the other hand, did not grow up watching hockey. During the playoffs, I am typically bored, while he excitedly shouts at the screen and enjoys every minute. The difference between us? He understands the game; he appreciates the skills of the players, what challenges they’ve faced and how many goals they have scored.

What we get out of Mass depends on our understanding of what is happening during Mass. Imagine that you are standing at the foot of the Cross, witnessing Jesus’ suffering and death, and then later His resurrection. Imagine seeing every detail of the Crucifixion, seeing Him being willing to suffer all of that for you. That is what Mass is! Try to remember that next time you are at Mass and listen very carefully to the prayers, as if you are hearing them for the first time. Focus on Christ becoming truly present in the moment of Consecration.

So, what can we bring to Mass to change our experience?

† Become a fan. Know and understand what happens at Mass; look for God in every part of Mass.
† Listen to the readings and let them challenge you. What is God trying to tell you today? What is one nugget you can take away?
† Prepare your heart ahead of time; read Mass readings a couple of days ahead. (Available at usccb.org).
† Participate vocally: respond, pray and sing with gusto, even if you don’t sing perfectly! It will help your worship become more intentional.
† Offer your pain, sufferings, joys and prayers to God. Mass is the highest form of prayer and a perfect time to give our worries, doubts and needs over to the Lord.
† Remember that Mass is Thanksgiving. Did you know that Eucharist is the Greek word for Thanksgiving?
† When you receive Communion, remember that you are receiving God Himself. Spend some time in prayer right after receiving Eucharist. It is the closest you can be to God on this earth.
† Turn your distractions into prayers. If you find yourself distracted by a big project at work or a challenging relationship, ask God to step in. If you are worried about your child’s illness, say a prayer for them. If you find yourself planning this week’s menu, thank God for providing food for you and your family.
† Ask God to help you discover the graces, beauty and the richness of our Catholic Mass.

What Can We Bring to Mass? by Yana Adkinson
Psalm 100:2 - Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

The SMUGlees is a group of women who meet at 7:15 p.m. on the second Monday and fourth Wednesday of every month in the St. Michael’s library. Each of these women owns a ukulele and loves to sing.

The SMUGlees play hymns, pop standards, folk music, and new music. As the women gather and start tuning their ukuleles there is a tangible joy in the room: the joy of women meeting and sharing their love for music and singing; the joy of women who are not afraid to try something new in a safe, friendly and caring environment; and the joy of women who serve the Lord. Once the ukuleles are tuned, the strumming and singing begin. Anyone walking past stops to look and listen and unfailingly breaks into smiles. Such is the power of music.

The seed for the SMUGlees was planted at the 2016 CWL Christmas party by Joan Roffey and Marinette Laureano who brought ukuleles instead of guitars to accompany the singing. Neither had been playing the ukulele for very long, but their repertoire of carols was impressive. The response was enthusiastic at the end of the evening when Joan proposed her plan to start a St. Michael’s group for women wanting to do something different, learn a new skill, and enjoy some musical comradery in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. The timing was perfect; Christmas was coming! Several of the women put ukuleles on their Christmas wish lists. Ukuleles are not expensive.

On a cold, snowy afternoon in January 2017, a core group of women gathered in Marinette’s dining room to learn to play under Joan’s patient instruction. By February the group was brave enough to play a few songs at that month’s CWL meeting, and from then on there was no stopping the SMUGlees. Friends invited other friends to join, and before long the group was big enough to require a practice space in the church. The music binders grew and grew as new songs were added at each gathering. And, best of all, requests began to come in to play for others.

In May, the SMUGlees prepared and played a number of traditional sacred songs for the Crowning of Mary ceremony organized by the CWL, and it was surprising to hear how lovely these songs sounded on such a simple instrument. The group played again for the CWL sing-along at September’s Welcome Back Social, the 2017 CWL Christmas Party, and then for a Monday evening Hospitality North dinner in December. This performance was especially well-received, and prompted a lot of audience participation. The SMUGlees were then ready to take it on the road. They gathered their instruments, songbooks, music stands, donned their Christmas finery and headed to Kensington Village Long-Term Care for their final gathering of 2017.

New members are always welcome. The ukulele is easy to learn, Joan is a wonderful teacher, and everyone has fun learning together.
Parish Social

Last year, for the first time, the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women’s League joined forces to host a dinner and social for the members of St. Michael’s Parish. We were encouraged by Fr. Murray to provide an opportunity for our parishioners to come together to spend time in fellowship, to meet up with old friends and make some new ones. It was an experiment that proved to be very enjoyable for all, and so it was decided to make it an annual event.

On February 3, a very cold and blustery evening, we celebrated Saint Valentine’s Day with a dinner and dance in the parish hall. 150 of us gathered together, making a conscious decision not to think about the snow piling up outside and to enjoy a delicious chicken and pasta dinner, accompanied by good wine, good beer and good cheer. Dinner was followed by conversation, great music and dancing.

We were honored to have Fr. Murray, Fr. Glen, Deacon Gaston, and Fr. Joe Hardy with us for the evening. The music was outstanding with the DJs playing the right mix of tunes so that young and old could show their stuff on the dance floor.

In addition, there were door prizes, a Share the Wealth fundraiser, and a silent auction that offered some excellent items. These enabled the KofC and the CWL to cover the cost of hosting the event and, thanks to your involvement and generosity, to also raise money to support the many organizations in our parish and city community.

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus Council 12820 and the Catholic Women’s League, many thanks to all of you for coming out and supporting this event. Thank you for your company and for your generous contributions that enable us to meet our growing commitments to those who are in need in our community.

A big thank you to Fr. Murray and the pastoral team for their support and encouragement, to the many ladies of the CWL, and to the Knights who gladly offered their time, treasure and talent and made the evening a great success.

A special thank you to Maggie McGee and Janet Peckham from the CWL, and to George Rogister and Brian Moran from the Knights of Columbus for their hard work in planning and bringing the event to fruition.
St. Michael’s Parish is proud to honour our newest addition to the community, Kim McCarvell. January 2018 was the beginning of Kim’s breakout as the cook, however, this was not her first rodeo. Kim holds many family traditions up her sleeve and is eager to share them with us through her work in the kitchen.

Kim grew up in a large Catholic family, residing in Sault Ste Marie. She was very family-oriented, and this aspect of her life plays a role in her cooking abilities today. She was a competitive dancer at a young age but cut her dance career short to attend school in Waterloo.

After some time in Waterloo, she finished her academic career at UWO and decided to settle down in London with her husband and start their family. With three girls (12, 16 and 18) and one boy (15), she finds her teenager-filled home quite busy, but she is having a blast.

Kim owes her cooking skills to her Italian grandmother, who taught her the importance of using her senses while creating new dishes. Kim recollects that her cooking career began at age three when her grandmother would make some delicious bread and encourage Kim to sense what bread should feel like. Kim would then proceed to make her own in an attempt to match her grandmother’s. This beautiful memory has helped Kim succeed in cooking, and in her career as an artist.

In addition to Kim’s family recipes, she has acquired international skills from private chefs around the globe. Kim recalls that whenever she would travel, she would locate chefs who were willing to teach her a new and unique recipe that she could bring home to her Canadian kitchen. Some of her best experiences were in Japan and Paris, learning both creative and traditional recipes. It is not only Kim’s personal experiences that make her a superb cook; it is her love for art and serving others that makes her work truly rewarding.

Not only did Kim acquire her grandmother’s cooking techniques, but her grandmother also used to cook meals specifically for her home parish, Mount Carmel. Kim’s love for serving others and the genuine appreciation for her work has made her job so easy and enjoyable.

St. Michael’s parish has relished Kim’s arrival and will continue to praise her work as she grows with our community. Kim has many favourite recipes, such as curries and power bowls, and we hope to be able to taste them soon!

Stay informed and in touch! Subscribe to our newsletter online! Have it delivered to your email by clicking on the link or visiting us at: stmichaelslondon.ca/subscribe
Countless hours are dedicated, often behind the scenes, to many tasks through the extraordinary efforts of the volunteers here at St. Michael’s parish. One of those invaluable volunteers is Penny Yip.

Penny joined the parish in 2000 and the first ministry she became involved with was a daytime Bible Study where she met a number of warm and welcoming fellow parishioners.

In her eighteen years at St. Michael’s, Penny has also been involved in several other ministries: Funeral Mass server, babysitter for the Moms’ Group, Pastoral Council member, Finance Committee member, Lector, and currently, as a committee member with the very busy and popular Northern Hospitality program.

Penny has fond memories of her work with the Anniversary Committee. She met some wonderful people, together planning the events celebrating St. Michael’s Centennial Anniversary. Helping to organize and run a year of events to celebrate this anniversary was instrumental in helping Penny to feel a strong sense of community within the parish.

Another ministry that is especially endearing to Penny is Northern Hospitality, a collaboration between different churches to provide a dinner program to serve the needy.

It is through this particular ministry that Penny has been able to work with volunteers from four other churches and to meet “some really incredible people” who come as our parish’s guests to a weekly meal.

She believes Northern Hospitality has really opened her eyes and heart to people who have definitely experienced many challenges in life. Her work with the committee has blessed her also and led her to feel very grateful that St. Michael’s is part of a program that offers a warm and welcoming space to people who need both food and fellowship.

As with many of our volunteers, Penny shares that she has benefited personally from all her work with the various ministries at St. Michael’s. She recalls that when she went to that first Bible Study in 2000, she didn’t feel she even had the confidence to lead the group in praying a Hail Mary.

“I have grown personally and spiritually, thanks to the grace of God and all the wonderful people who I have come to know and love over the last eighteen years...I learned a lot about myself and our faithful God through the Eucharist and in the people, that manifest His loving Spirit. It’s been a joy to grow deep community roots at St Michael’s.”

Penny has indeed been blessed through her involvement in church ministry. St. Michael’s has also been fortunate to benefit from her many years of commitment and dedication and certainly by the humble servant’s heart through which she has ministered to those in need.

Thank you, Penny!
The Altar Guild

Ten years ago, Father Murray put out the call for a cleaning blitz and the Altar Guild was born. A group of generous parishioners answered the call to volunteer their time to clean the interior of the church. The word “guild” means an association of people in pursuit of a common goal.

This group shares the goal of maintaining a clean, well-kept worship space for the benefit of all. This certainly reflects their respect and reverence for our church. Participants have come and gone over the decade but two original members remain, and a new couple joined the guild a few years ago.

The current guild consists of Bev Arnold, Donna Miller, and husband and wife team Jim and Rita Thorne.

These volunteers take turns, once a month, to do the various cleaning jobs around the church. These tasks include dusting, cleaning the glass on the interior entry doors, cleaning the marble altar, windowsills, piano, organ, and music stands, dusting the Eucharistic Chapel and washing the sacred vessels.

Maintaining the large altar candles is a tough job, removing wax is tricky and must be done with care to protect the beautiful candle holders. The guild also maintains the votive candle stands by replacing spent candles and keeping the area clean.

It is clear that these generous volunteers undertake their tasks with a sense of pride and quiet dedication. How beautiful our worship space becomes when such care is given on an ongoing basis.

These volunteers enjoy getting out, making this contribution to our parish, as well as the sense of satisfaction they derive from a job well done. No doubt the time they contribute is a special part of the week for them as they are able to spend quiet time in the church while their hands are busy with these helpful tasks.

Next time we light a votive candle, listen to the piano or gaze at the altar candles during Sunday Mass, we can say a quiet word of thanks to our Altar Guild for maintaining our sacred space.

Volunteer Recognition
by Louanne Henderson
We are pleased to report that for the year 2017, the parish had an operating surplus of just over $45,200. This positive balance has allowed us to make a lump sum payment towards the Capital Loan debt. Specifically related to income, we have seen a considerable decline in the Thanksgiving Appeal, but have seen growth in offertory funds.

We continued to be attentive to expenditures in 2017; working to provide as much as we could at responsible costs. In terms of specific numbers, revenue was higher by $20,329 from 2016 and the expenditures were $31,211 lower. In 2017 our offertory total was some $64,600 more than 2016.

This surplus is of course welcomed but is not indicative of a future free of concern. Much of this increase can be attributed to two single generous donations. In contrast, the Thanksgiving Appeal was $54,418 lower than 2016. On a positive note, fulfillment of pledges by donors to the Give to Grow Capital Campaign continues. The washroom renovations were completed by the end of the year, and in 2018 we plan to focus on improvements to St. Michael’s parish hall.

The financial trends are concerning when we take a closer look at the number of parishioners we have in relation to the number of contributors. In 2017 our registered families in the parish totalled more than 2,970. We issued 1,327 tax receipts in 2017 which represents less than 50% of registered families. 819 families have requested envelopes in 2016 and on an average Sunday we receive 316 of those back in offertory.

We understand that not everyone can contribute financially. However, in order for us to be able to continue to do all that we have been doing and to deliver all that we want to, we require financial support. We also understand that there are many requests for donations throughout the year, but it is also important to note that only the Thanksgiving Appeal and the Christmas and Easter collections support the work of the parish directly.

To help put the need for continued donations in context, it is important to know and understand the services, programs and activities enjoyed by the parish and community that are paid for by your donations.

St. Michael’s in Action and Support

Listed below are some examples of the practical work and the real good your monetary contributions provide here at St. Michael’s. We operate 7 days a week and often for more than 12 hours per day. Simply stated, we cannot provide these services without your support.

- Sacramental preparation and support to 5 schools
- Spiritual support to 4 long-term care facilities
- Weekly meals for the economically vulnerable
- Facilities for service groups to meet (i.e. CWL & KofC)
- 8 Masses per week, baptisms, weddings, funerals
- R.C.I.A & R.C.I.C programs
- Conduct faith formation programs (Bible Study, Women of Grace, Oremus, Mom’s Group)
- Host Parish breakfasts, coffee Sundays, feast weekend, anniversary weekend, volunteer appreciation
- Marriage preparation weekend
- Sacramental preparation for non-separate school students
- Children’s liturgy, Sunday School, babysitting almost every weekend
- Facilities for monthly St. Josephine Bakhita Masses
- Host Men of Faith Conference
- Facility and support to seniors’ groups such as Seniors on the Move, Young at Heart
- Provide space for groups such as Art Club, Rosary Guild, Yarning with Love, Opus Dei, Jesu Caritas, Retravaille
- Provide support and space for Refugee Committee, Social Justice, St. Vincent de Paul, English learning, You are Not Alone, Development & Peace
- Conduct dynamic programs like Edge and Life Teen for youth
- Upkeep a diverse communications program including website, newsletter, video info boards
- Provide regular meeting spaces for the Diocese and Seminary faculty as well as the separate school board
- Parish Christmas Bazaar, Knight’s garage sale weekend,
- CWL bake and plant sales, Refugee Committee event
- Support St. Michael’s School breakfast program

Thank you for your continued support and for taking some time to consider how your household can continue to support the operations and programs, and to deliver care in our community.
Parish Photos

- Anniversary Sunday
  February 11, 2018

- Seniors on the Move
  November 2017

- Advent 2017

- Presentation by Paul Needham
  Westview Funeral Chapel

- F.I.A.T.
  Faith in Action Team
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
(St. Josephine Bakhita)
4th Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. and 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Free Bus Service to
10:30 a.m. Mass
The route . . .
9:35 a.m. (new time)
• 64 Wyndham
• Blackwater east of Adelaide - bus stop
• Grenfell just east of Blackwater
• Fanshawe/Trossacks - bus stop on corner
• 770 Fanshawe Park Rd east of Fremont - bus stop
• Fanshawe Park Road - west of Fremont
• Adelaide/Fanshawe - bus stop south of Fanshawe
• Kipps Lane/Adelaide - bus shelter just east of Adelaide
• Kipps Lane/Barker
• Kipps Lane - bus stop east of Barker
• Kipps Lane/Kenmore Place - bus stop
• 295 Briarhill
• Cheapside/Boullee
• Huron Street - bus stop east of Wedgewood Drive
10:15 a.m.
• Royal Oak Apartments - 3 stops
go to St. Michael's Church

The bus will stop at regular bus stops or wherever it is hailed along the route.

Pastoral Team
Father Murray Sample, Pastor
msample@dol.ca ext. 202
Father Glen Ball, Parochial Vicar
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Deacon Gaston Mabaya, Deacon
gmabaya@dol.ca
Yana Adkinson, Pastoral Minister
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Sylvain Patry, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
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Jolanda Squire, Administrative Assistant
jsquire@dol.ca ext. 208
Laszlo Molnar, Custodian/Hall Manager
lmolnar@dol.ca ext. 210

Parish Council Chairperson
Wayne Wolanski

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

Calendar of Events
Palm Sunday Mar 25
Holy Thursday Mar 29
Good Friday Mar 30
Holy Saturday Mar 31
Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday Mar 31 & Apr 1
First Communions Apr 28-29 & May 5-6
May 12-3 & May 19-20
Knights of Columbus Yard Sale May 5
Ascension May 13
Pentecost May 20
Confirmations May 22-23