John 15:14-15

“You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.”

“I have called you friends.” These words from St. John’s Gospel were read on the fifth Sunday of Easter. These words have been in my prayers since then and have filled me with great peace. These words of Jesus reminded me of a passage in the Book of Sirach 6:14-16: “Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter: whoever finds one has found a treasure. Faithful friends are beyond price; no amount can balance their worth. Faithful friends are life-saving medicine.” Jesus is saying to each of us that we are that treasure – that we are beyond price and no amount can balance their worth. Wow! That is spoken of you and me.

When you think of the twelve apostles they were very different. Each and every one of them had unique qualities. But Jesus inspired confidence in them. He asked them to do something for Him and I am sure they felt it was beyond their ability. They showed reluctance and they doubted that they could complete the task. Jesus showed such confidence in them, that once they were gifted with the Pentecost moment, they began to preach and witness to Jesus in spite of the fear and doubt.

These fishermen from Galilee were common ordinary men. Jesus can transform common persons and make them remarkable. When Jesus found the disciples they were doing what they did every day. Some of them were fishermen, some worked for the Roman government. Jesus invites Simon and Andrew to leave everything and come follow Him. Something about Jesus’ invitation made them feel the urgency of the Kingdom of God. This also happened to James, John and Matthew. They responded “immediately” as St. Mark tells us. There is an urgent call to be disciples.

Jesus calls each one of us to know Him and to serve Him in a way that is unique for each and every one of us. When Jesus called the first disciples they did not know where He would lead them or what would be asked of them. They set out on an adventure far beyond anything they had ever experienced and far beyond their expected abilities. In calling His disciples, Jesus called ordinary people to follow Him.

God wants each and every one of us to be His witnesses and servants in the world today, no matter how well-educated or how dedicated we may be. God’s call will challenge us and shake us to our core. It is a call to bring us out of our complacency and into action. It may be as dramatic as it was for the first disciples. It may take months or years. But God calls each and every one of us to be servants to others as Jesus was a servant. He will form us into His disciples who are capable of making a difference in the world.

Jesus calls us friends – His rare treasure, called as friends to reveal to our world the love of God. Each of us is so necessary for the building up of the Kingdom. As we launch into this year let all of us in great and small ways give ourselves in service to God for the building up of the Kingdom.

Fr. Murray Sample Pastor
Here is an opportunity to meet our new custodian/hall manager Laszlo Molnar. Laszlo started his tenure here at St. Michael’s on March 1st of this year. He was born in Budapest, Hungary and has one sister. Laszlo came to Canada in March of 1988. He decided that he wanted to leave Budapest because of the socialist nature of the country and the lack of many prospects for a career. He used all the money he had to take a bus trip to Austria. Upon disembarking, he and his friend looked for the refugee camp. On arrival at the camp, they were required to hand over their documents to the police and were placed into segregated detention for two or three weeks for a criminal background check. Once cleared, he remained in the camp for 13 months doing some odd jobs for local Austrians. When he was making his decision as to which country he was going to immigrate to, he decided to interview for Canada and the United States. His interest in Canada was piqued after he found a book written by a Hungarian doctor that he had read as a younger man. The way that Canada was portrayed in the book gave him the desire to live here.

He flew into Toronto and was bussed directly to London. In Austria, when he saw his plane ticket, he initially panicked as he said he did not want to go to London, England! He arrived alone in London and lived in a rented room in a house on Dundas Street. A Hungarian priest in the area helped him with opening a bank account, but soon left him alone again. The church was the biggest supporter of Hungarian immigrants and Fr. Molnar (no relation) was instrumental in helping Laszlo to learn English and become part of the community. Through this small community, he was able to make a Hungarian friend.

Laszlo met his wife Sarolta through written correspondence. His friend in London had a sister back home who had a friend. Laszlo was encouraged to write to her. During his first time back home to visit his family in 1990, he met Sarolta in person for the first time. During his three-week stay they got to know more about each other and then married in a civil ceremony in her native Romania. They later had a church wedding in Hungary. The tremendous amount of paperwork for her application to Canada was completed before he left, and he returned to Canada without her. Within four months they were together in Canada. They have two sons, Robert and Gregory, who are well-educated and accomplished in their own right.

Laszlo’s work career began when he enrolled in a bricklaying course at Fanshawe college in 1989. He began working on houses. He was then approached and encouraged to join the bricklayers union. After this, he began working on much bigger projects around the city at hospitals, schools, and the University. When the economy became difficult in the 1990s he took on some independent work to supplement his income. It became difficult for Laszlo to continue his career after he suffered a thumb injury. Laszlo saw our job posting on the Internet and applied, not fully understanding the complexity of the role. He enjoys working at St. Michael’s and finds the work to be much more than he had expected. He likes the fact that he can work independently and make decisions on his own. He enjoys the parish, the people and especially how friendly everyone is. He appreciates the compliments that he has received from everyone about how they feel he is taking very good care of the parish. One of the nicest things that Laszlo has expressed is that he truly feels that this is much more than a job and he genuinely feels that he is part of a community. Thankfully Laszlo says that he plans on being here until at least retirement age. He wishes to thank the people who have made him feel so welcome and appreciates everyone’s patience while he continues to work on learning our names. I think that we have been gifted by the Holy Spirit in having Laszlo here as part of our team.
This spring, we, as a parish, were blessed to celebrate a very rare but wonderful event. We celebrated the ordination to the priesthood of one of the members of our parish family, Fr. Paul Kim. This kind of event has always been a rare moment in the life of any parish throughout the Church’s history, and it is a reflection upon the parish itself and the devotion and faith of the people who form it. It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child. It takes the full effort of a parish to raise one of its own to become a priest.

Having taken a similar journey to the one that Fr. Paul took, only a little over a year ago, I will try and describe what takes place during the ordination and first Mass. The liturgy of ordination is a fairly elaborate ritual, but it is full of very ancient and deeply meaningful moments through which God speaks not only to the man being ordained, but also to those who are witnessing to it.

The Mass of Ordination begins as any other Mass does – with a procession. A number of priests are present for this celebration as they are there not only to welcome the newest member of their order but also to be present to pray for him. The candidate to be ordained is at the front of this procession vested in alb and stole, but the stole is still worn as a deacon wears it – from the left shoulder crossed over to the right side. That will change soon.

The candidate does not go into the sanctuary with the other priests and deacons at this time, but instead sits with his family. After the Gospel, he is called from among God’s people and it is declared before God that he has been found worthy of serving as a priest. The people of God then show a sign of consent and joy as well. It is important that the people of God should be present at an ordination, as they play an important role of witnessing to this important decision.

The bishop then preaches an instruction to the man being ordained and to the people that have come together. When he has finished preaching, he calls the candidate(s) to come before him at the altar. Every man being ordained is then asked a series of questions. He is asked if he is prepared to give his life in service to God and to his people and to live a life modeled after Jesus Christ. That last question requires that the candidate place his hands in the bishop’s and promise to be obedient to him and his successors. An interesting note here – Fr. Paul did not make the promise of celibacy at his priestly ordination, as he made that promise when he was ordained as a transitional deacon, and his celibacy continues from there.

What follows is possibly one of the most ancient rituals in the Church. The bishop invites the congregation to pray as the Litany of Saints is sung and the candidate lies prostrate before the altar. This is a very ancient custom which shows that complete submission is given to God. The prayers of the bishop and the people are gathered together for the man to be ordained.

The candidate then gets up and kneels before the bishop, who lays his hands
on the candidate’s head. Every other priest present then follows and does the same in silence as a sign of the ministry that the candidate will share with all the priests. After all the other priests have done this, the bishop says the prayer of consecration and, as we witnessed this April, at this moment, Deacon Paul became Father Paul. To show this change, Fr. Paul’s stole is rearranged over both shoulders and the chasuble, the vestment worn by a priest when he celebrates Mass, is placed on him as a psalm of celebration is sung.

The newly ordained priest then again goes before the bishop and kneels while the bishop pours the oil of chrism on his hands, anointing them so that they may carry out the Eucharistic Sacrifice. Fr. Paul wiped his hands with a special cloth called a maniturgium that is traditionally given to the mother as a sign that she has given her son for service in the Church.

As he dries his hands from the Chrism, the chalice and paten are prepared with bread and wine. The bishop then takes these and hands them to the priest telling him that he is to offer the Eucharistic Sacrifice for God’s people. The bishop then gives what is called the Kiss of Peace, essentially a hug that welcomes the newly ordained. Every priest present does the same. With all that completed, Fr. Paul then technically celebrates his first Mass with the bishop and other priests together. On the following day, Fr. Paul would celebrate his first Mass as the presider, but his Ordination Mass is the first time he will celebrate the Eucharist as a priest.

Fr. Paul celebrated as the presiding priest. A newly ordained priest usually celebrates this Mass in the parish that he considers to be his home and it is in a way a gift to that parish as a way of thanking the people of that parish for all they have done to help the priest on his journey to ordination.

Many of Fr. Paul’s brother priests joined him for this celebration as a sign of support and welcome to the priesthood. Many parishioners and friends of Fr. Paul’s also came out to celebrate, not just with Fr. Paul, but also with God who has given to His Church, the great gift of the sacrament of holy orders.

Any time a priest is ordained it is a cause for celebration throughout a diocese but especially in his home parish. St. Michael’s Parish has every reason to be proud and to celebrate with Fr. Paul and his family, that we have come together to raise up one of our own parish family members to be able to serve both God and His people as a priest.

On the Sunday immediately after Fr. Paul’s ordination, he celebrated what is called the First Mass of Thanksgiving here at St. Michael’s. This is the first Mass that
St. Michael’s Parish Hall Report

by Walt Spence

Your Property and Building Maintenance Committee has been working on much-needed improvements to the existing hall. Progress may seem slow, but investigations continue. We are assessing vital details and available options. Firstly, we are looking at the air exchange system, which provides ventilation, heating and cooling to the hall and kitchen areas. Secondly, we will be deciding how to best improve the wall surfaces to suit the various uses of the hall. It is important to make the right choices from all available information at hand.

The original building site consisted of the church, the parish hall, the rectory and the garage, all of which were constructed in 1970. In 2000, a two-story parish office addition, complete with a basement, was incorporated into the north wall of the existing hall. The actual floor area of the hall is 3800 square feet. An air handling unit located in the mechanical / boiler room is used to ventilate, heat and cool the hall and kitchen. The original air handling unit was modified in 1996 with the addition of condensers located outside the south wall of the hall to add a cooling function.

All of the physical infrastructure is already in place, however, the functions of the air handling unit rely on control technology that is over 50 years old and for which parts are no longer available. This issue surfaced earlier this year when a component of the heating system failed due to an extended period of cold weather. The issue comes down to 50-year-old technology and 22-year-old technology working together to accommodate the various needs and uses of the hall, and having to use two control thermostats to get it right. One can imagine how difficult this situation would be to understand and to use in one’s own home. The internal mechanical components are working beyond their normal life cycle and are prone to unexpected breakdown. Building standards and environmental standards have evolved over the years, and these standards impact the way routine annual maintenance can be done by our contractors.

From an energy perspective, we as a committee are seeking the best efficiency from the replacement components. Hopefully, through the best available technology that allows control of all three functions: ventilation, heating and cooling, we will easily be able to meet the needs of everyone who makes use of the hall.

The visible issue of paint flaking has been with us for some time, since before Father Murray came to St. Michael’s. Years of trying different paints and solutions has left us with three layers of paint over a primer in some places. The visible cracks give rise to structural concerns and we have all four walls in different stages of deterioration. The crack located in the north-west corner above the header for the doors could be from the addition done in 2000. The cracking found in the east wall, (the only outside wall) may be attributed to settlement of the foundation over the years. The cracks in the south wall are likely due to it being an un-reinforced block wall, along with thermal changes over 50 years. Whatever primers and paints have been used in the past do not stand up to the hall’s environment.

The challenge for our committee is deciding whether to try a paint solution again, or to put up drywall and then paint.

This project is our priority and we hope to have the required work completed prior to next heating season. We will be working around the needs of those using the hall.

Depending on the cost, the speed to approval stage from the other parish committees and the diocese will vary. As a committee, we must satisfy the issues at hand prior to any recommendations to the Finance Committee. As fellow parishioners, we as committee members share the concerns with all who use the hall on a regular basis. We will keep you updated as plans are finalized.

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
Pope Francis' second encyclical letter was published in 2015 and is entitled Laudato Si’ (“Praise be to You”), with the subtitle, “On the Care of Our Common Home.” Its goal is to help us “acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge we face” with the present environmental crisis. It is now added to the body of the Church’s social teaching, and so is relevant to all Catholics. It’s almost 200 pages long and can be borrowed from our church library, purchased from The Mustard Seed or viewed online at https://laudatosi.com.

What Does the Environment Have to do with Spirituality

The Pope writes in the encyclical, “Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork, is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.” He draws our attention to biblical references about caring for nature and creation.

The Cause of Climate Change

The Pope writes, “…a number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases…released mainly as a result of human activity.” He calls on all of us to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption to combat global warming.

The Poorest Suffer the Most from Climate Change

Why should we care about climate change? There are many reasons, but the Pope tells us, “…the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest.” He notes their potential lack of access to clean water, exposure to atmospheric pollutants, and needing to migrate due to changes in local ecology (including rising sea levels and drought).

10 Ways We Can Make a Difference

The encyclical draws attention to habits, such as wastefulness, that can lead to environmental decline. However, because effective action steps to heal the planet vary by region, the Pope encourages a global dialogue. The US-based Catholic Climate Covenant, whose mission is to inspire and equip people to care for creation and for the poor, developed this list to help guide us:

1. Be energy efficient
2. Calculate our carbon footprint
3. Adjust the thermostat
4. Adjust our driving routine
5. Go meatless on Fridays
6. Recycle more
7. Use less water
8. Petition policy makers
9. Write to our local newspaper
10. Form a study or action group at church

Pope Francis writes that “climate change ... represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.” Let’s respond to his plea for ecological conversion and call on God’s love to motivate us forward. Our choices matter. We can make a difference.

The Encyclical in Action at St. Michael’s Parish

Howie and Judy Wright, volunteers at The London Food Coalition:

“Howie and Judy Wright, volunteers at The London Food Coalition:

“Patriarch Bartholomew I (head of the Eastern Orthodox Church) is quoted in the encyclical: ‘...replace...wastefulness with a spirit of sharing...' which we believe best describes what The London Food Coalition is doing. It is an ecumenical collective of 20+ organizations including St. Michael’s Parish that rescues each month over 10,000 pounds of fresh high-quality food destined for the landfill and redistributes to school children, vulnerable individuals and families in various London neighbourhoods.”

Mark and Donna Thompson:

“We believe that improving the global environment can begin within the home, by being good stewards over the use of our own resources. We try to minimize the use of our utilities; we recycle regularly; we collect rainwater for gardening purposes and we compost, to name a few activities. In Laudato Si, it states, ‘in the family... we are taught the proper use of things, order and cleanliness, respect for local ecosystems and care for all creatures.’”

St. Michael’s Social Justice Committee:

“We believe that improving the global environment can begin within the home, by being good stewards over the use of our own resources. We try to minimize the use of our utilities; we recycle regularly; we collect rainwater for gardening purposes and we compost, to name a few activities. In Laudato Si, it states, ‘in the family... we are taught the proper use of things, order and cleanliness, respect for local ecosystems and care for all creatures.’”

Out of concern for the environment, the committee’s bi-annual potlucks have become mostly vegan (no animal products). The lead researcher of a recently published study conducted at the University of Oxford stated, “A vegan diet is probably the single biggest way to reduce your impact on planet Earth, not just greenhouse gases, but global acidification, eutrophication, land use and water use.”
I took part in the RCIA program here at St. Michael's, which began last October and ended this April a few weeks after Easter. My journey began with taking a look at my family: my wife Sarah has been a Catholic her entire life and my two daughters were baptized when they were babies. I was never baptized and I never really knew any different, but once my wife and I started to go to church before we were married, I started to understand what her faith meant to her, and realized that I should become Catholic - not only for her, but for my family. I didn't want to have that separation between my family and myself.

After every RCIA session I found myself thinking more deeply about what we had discussed and talking about it with my wife. I found myself singing or humming hymns to my kids at night while trying to put them to sleep and thinking about the meaning of the songs. The RCIA team was diverse and everyone had their own experiences. They all were welcoming and would always make everyone feel included.

I highly recommend that anyone who is thinking about becoming Catholic sign up for the RCIA program and come and experience what God has to offer. Yana and the rest of the RCIA team are there for you and are always understanding. They walked with me along my journey. Let them walk with you.
The beauty of the rosary is in its contemplativeness, its peacefulness, and its simplicity. We are able to enter into the calm repetition of these ancient prayers. This is a powerful antidote to the busyness of our complex world. The rosary takes us into the stillness of our hearts and allows us to grow in virtue and in our personal relationship with Jesus.

There are three ways to focus during the prayer. One is to reflect upon the mysteries associated with each decade. We can use the visualization technique of trying to place ourselves at the scene and tap into the emotions of those present. In so doing, we become participants in the events of Jesus’ life and grow closer to Him. This gives us a window into the life of Jesus and helps us to make connections to our own lives and to how Jesus may be trying to guide us. We grow in virtue through this practice. The next is to focus on the words of the prayers themselves. The rosary is based on three of the most beloved, yet simple prayers of our faith. A third technique is to focus our attention on a person or situation for which the prayers are being offered. It is a powerful and time-honoured practice to offer our rosary prayers for those in need, within our own circle or in the global community. When we tell others that we are offering a rosary for them, they feel supported within the arms of Mary herself. Saint Teresa of Calcutta prayed the rosary daily and offered each decade for the poor and suffering in each of the world’s continents. When we offer the rosary for intentions or situations which concern us in our complicated world, we invite God’s response into the situation and we give ourselves the gift of God’s peace as we navigate our messy world.

The rosary is a calming and tactile prayer. We handle the beads, we pray, whisper or speak the words repetitively. We slow down, we breathe, and we rest in prayer with God. Sometimes we pray alone, sometimes while walking or driving. Often the rosary is offered with others. There is a particular awe to praying the rosary with a group. Families are encouraged to pray the rosary together, perhaps after dinner, perhaps one decade at a session. Children often enjoy the idea of a Living Rosary, where each child stands or steps forward to represent a bead. This helps them to become engaged and to pray with their whole bodies. Rosary beads come in a variety of forms and colours. Some families have beautiful beads that have been passed from generation to generation. Children are often given a rosary to mark their First Communion. You can even wear a rosary ring, containing ten tiny “bumps” which make it easy to say the rosary while on the go. Another option is to use an online site to guide the prayer.

In our parish the Rosary Guild has been meeting bi-monthly for a dozen years. The members create handmade rosaries which they distribute through the missions all over the world. They also make them available for sale in our parish, and will create special rosaries upon request, for special occasions. The members enjoy working together and sharing their faith and their love for this prayer practice. It is a labour of love for them. Through their efforts they hope to encourage many others to pray the rosary regularly. Similarly, the Living Rosary group goes out to our parish schools to teach the rosary to young students. It is a beautiful experience to pray the rosary with children.

In our Catholic tradition, the month of May is dedicated to Mary. The month of October is dedicated to the rosary. As October approaches, this could be the perfect time to rediscover the simple, peaceful practice of praying the rosary. As we establish our autumn routines, this could be the ideal time to introduce the rosary to your children or to join in communal rosary prayer at our Parish (Saturday mornings after the 9:00 Mass). In the words of St. John Paul II, “To pray the rosary is to hand over our burdens to the merciful hearts of Christ and His mother.”
Parents’ lives can be compared to a juggling act. We are constantly trying to keep all of the balls up in the air: dinners, carpools, our work, our kid’s homework and housework, not to mention endless sports and activities that our children attend. At the same time, we worry about their well-being and character: Are they safe? Do they have good friends? Do they listen to their teachers? Am I raising them to be kind, honest, responsible, hard-working, etc.? Am I passing my faith to my kids? Am I praying enough for them?

Fortunately, as people of faith, even though we cannot control everything in our child’s life, we can bring all these concerns to our Heavenly Father in prayer. He loves our kids more than we can ever imagine and desires the very best for them. Most parents don’t have hours to spend in prayer. So here are 10 short prayers based on the Scripture verses that I like to use when praying for my children.

1. Prayer for Faith
I pray that my children will love the Lord with all of their heart, soul and mind and that they would love their neighbour as themselves.

Luke 10:27 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

2. Prayer for Safety
I pray that God will protect my children physically and emotionally from harm and disaster and watch over them day and night. I pray that God will command his angels to guard my son/daughter in all his/her ways.

Psalm 91:11 “For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.”

3. Prayer for Friendships
I pray that God will surround my child with wonderful, faith-filled friends that love at all times, even through adversity. I pray that He will bless my child with friends, who will be a positive influence and will help him/her become “the best version of him/herself.”

Proverbs 17:17 “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”

Proverbs 12:26 “The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.”

4. Prayer for Character
I pray that God will teach my son/daughter to be loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, gentle, faithful, and self-controlled.

Galatians 5:22 “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

5. Prayer for Strength Against Temptations
I pray for my child to be alert and discerning, able to resist temptation, standing firm and confident in his/her faith. I pray that my son/daughter will resist negative peer pressure and think before acting.

1 Corinthians 16:13 “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.”

6. Prayer for Humility and Obedience
I pray that my son/daughter will be humble and listen to his/her parents, teachers and coaches. I pray that God will keep him/her from rebellious thoughts and ways.

Ephesians 6:1 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”

7. Prayer for Growth and Joy in Learning
I pray that my child will grow in wisdom and discover and develop his/her gifts and talents. I pray he/she will find joy in learning.

1 Peter 4:10 “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

8. Prayer for Joy and Peace
I pray that the light of God’s face will shine down on my son/daughter and fill his/her heart with joy. I pray that my child will not be anxious about anything, but have the peace of God in his/her heart.

Philippians 4:6-7 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

9. Prayer for a Future
I pray that God will lead my son/daughter toward the special plan He has for his/her life; a plan for a future of hope and prosperity. I pray that God will do immeasurably more in my child’s life now, and in the future, than we could ever ask or imagine.

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

10. Prayer for Purity and Honesty
Lord, please keep my children pure in thought and deed. Give them strength to resist lying and the courage to speak the truth in all situations.

Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”
A Glimpse into Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation

“Gaudete et Exsultate,” Rejoice and Be Glad, is the exhortation unveiled on April 9th of this year by the Holy Father, Pope Francis. Subtitled “On the call to holiness in the contemporary world,” this is our Pope’s third exhortation written during his papacy. Much of the exhortation expands on the call to holiness by reflecting on the Beatitudes and recalling that “happy” or “blessed” is a synonym for “holy.” A full 44 pages, the overall message of this document is “to see the entirety of your life as a mission.” This universal call to holiness has been a recurring message from Pope Francis, and with this papal document he again offers practical suggestions on how we can honour this call to holiness, as we are gifted with sanctity -- and thereby called to sainthood.

The following summary of the exhortation offers some practical suggestions of how to apply the principles in this papal document to our own lives.

1. **Compassion.** Regardless of your life “status,” you can demonstrate holiness through your relationships and through small gestures. Are you caring for children, looking after an elderly parent, or ministering to a suffering friend? Pope Francis sees holiness in those individuals who dutifully honour the needs of others. “A person who sees things as they truly are and sympathizes with pain and sorrow is capable of touching life’s depths and finding authentic happiness. Such persons are unafraid to share in the suffering of others; they do not flee from painful situations.”

2. **Trials.** Are you facing spiritual battles requiring prayer, perseverance and faith? These battles could involve illness, poverty, a broken relationship, a loss of employment. Pope Francis encourages us to face these battles with the powerful weapons God has given us: prayer, meditation on God’s Word, celebration of Mass, Eucharistic adoration, reconciliation, works of charity, community life, and missionary outreach.

3. **Discernment.** The process of discernment is an important and daily commitment that is undertaken by continually asking the Spirit what Jesus is expecting from you every moment and in every decision you make. Do you set aside time each day to quietly place yourself in God’s presence, reading His Word and listening for His guidance, allowing Him to direct your heart?

4. **Worldliness.** Do online habits, social networking, or the pursuit of wealth interfere with your relationships including that with God? The Pope warns us that if so, we are risking not only wasting time, but becoming indifferent to those who are suffering in the world. He says “We are overwhelmed by words, by superficial pleasures and by an increasing din. How can we fail to realize the need to stop this rat race and to recover the personal space needed to carry on a heartfelt dialogue with God?”

5. **Women.** Are you a woman witnessing for Christ in your family, your church or the community? You may feel relatively anonymous to the world for what you do, but Pope Francis reminds women that although they may be “ignored or overlooked,” the “genius” of women is an essential means of reflecting God’s holiness. The love, care and commitment you show every day for your family and community through everything from cooking to laundry to praying over them, are but a few examples of this call to holiness.

6. **Forgiveness.** We are an “army of the forgiven”, and through offering compassion to others we demonstrate this humility. In this document, Pope Francis says “Here I am not speaking only about stark situations of martyrdom, but about the daily humiliations of those who keep silent to save their families, who prefer to praise others rather than boast about themselves, or who choose the less welcome tasks, at times even choosing to bear an injustice so as to offer it to the Lord.”
7. **Evangelization.** The Pope encourages us to be passionate missionaries, to pray for the “apostolic courage” to share the Gospel with others and to stop trying to make our Christian life a “museum of memories.”

8. **Peace.** “Christ says: ‘Learn from me; for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls.’ (Mt 11:29).” The Pope bids us to be patient with others, regard their faults with a view to “evangelical peace” and warns us that impatience with others who are difficult or different can leave us weary.

9. **Joy.** We are encouraged that no matter what the trial, we should remain resilient and imitate Saint Paul: “I have learned to be content with what I have.” (Phil 4:11). Saint Francis of Assisi lived by this same principle; he could be overcome with gratitude when offered a piece of hardened bread, or joyfully praise God simply for the breeze that embraced his face.

Let us pray for our parishes, that they not be simple offices, but that animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.

Pope Francis, Sept 2017

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90th Anniversary St. Michael’s CWL

On March 20th, the St. Michael’s council of the Catholic Women’s League celebrated its 90th anniversary of service to the parish. To honour the occasion we hosted a parish Coffee Sunday in March, and in May our diocesan past president Angela Pellerin presented us with commemorative anniversary certificates from the national, provincial and diocesan councils. Our celebrations culminated with a special meeting and catered dinner in June, which were attended by a record number of members and past presidents. At each occasion we displayed our memorabilia and enjoyed camaraderie with our members and parishioners.
St. Michael’s is blessed to have many committed volunteers who assist the parish year-round. This season we would like to highlight two key volunteers: Megan Young and Margaret Kelly, who have contributed their time to better our parish community.

**Megan Young** has been a long-time member of the St. Michael’s community, since she attended St. Michael’s elementary school. Her passion to serve and her love of children has helped her flourish in her child care service career, specifically with infants. Three years ago, Megan stepped out of her comfort zone and volunteered as an assistant for Sunday school. Megan’s enthusiasm and kind nature has helped her attain the role of Sunday school leader; a role she is well-equipped for. As a Sunday school leader, Megan admits to an increase in responsibility, specifically with planning and interpreting the Gospel. However, this new role in Sunday school has been rewarding and has helped her grow in her faith. One of Megan’s most memorable moments was during this past Advent season. Megan recalls all of the young children being eager to participate in the lighting of the candles, however, not all could be a part of it. Megan reassured one young boy he could help with blowing out the candles. She says she will always remember the look on his face when she told him that.

Megan adores teaching children and helping them grow in their faith, which in return helps her strengthen her relationship with God as well. Megan is greatly appreciated in the parish community and we are looking forward to hearing more from her.

**Margaret Kelly** has been an all around volunteer in the parish community since Father Sample moved to the parish. She has volunteered for CWL events, Northern Hospitality, as a sacristan and has now taken on the role of linen care. Margaret’s call to serve and love of helping others originates from her work as a Registered Nurse. She recalls her busy work life in the operating room and in general duty, but most importantly being taught by the Sisters who have helped her recognize the need to serve.

Margaret has been a part of the parish community for almost twenty years, since she moved from North Bay with her husband in 1999. She takes pride in her work and enjoys having a clean parish with neatly pressed linen. Her oldest memory of helping with linen dates back to her early years in England. Margaret recollects on how she would climb fences in order to iron her neighbour’s hung-up hankies.

Margaret strongly believes in a minimalist lifestyle; focusing on giving rather than receiving. In the upcoming years, Margaret hopes to see the youth participate more in the parish community and take over these volunteer positions that have served our parish so well for decades.

Volunteers (Elves) needed for Christmas Bazaar! Can you knit, crochet or sew? Do you bake or make preserves or candy? Are you crafter or woodworker? Want to help on the day? Contact Karen Owens at owensk@rogers.com for further information.

Please join us in the parish hall for St. Michael’s Christmas Bazaar Saturday, November 17th from 9:30am-3:00 pm. You’ll find a wonderful selection of Christmas gifts, crafts and baking. Help support St. Michael’s Social Outreach Programs.
The Social Committee is comprised of about 13 members (and many of their spouses!). This dynamic group serves many roles within our parish. Our primary role, however, is to provide opportunities for parishioners to get together for fellowship while enjoying refreshments. Just like the kitchen table in your home, these events bring us together. Although other groups in the parish provide similar opportunities, it is the Social Committee that offers these events about once a season after every Mass.

Commitment and creativity are the driving forces propelling the committee to shop, decorate, prepare, serve and clean up for these events, which serve roughly 400 to 500 parishioners at each Coffee Social. Can you imagine serving that many people over a weekend? It is not unusual to serve about 40 pounds of cookies and 30 pans of squares or 7 large cakes with 15 bricks of ice cream as well as lots of coffee and juice! One of the best times for our children (and many adults!) is when cake and ice cream sundaes are served. The children certainly enjoy building their own sundaes covered in sprinkles, marshmallows and sauce. What a special treat for them!

In the spring, our committee works very hard at preparing for the Volunteer Appreciation Event to honour all the volunteers in our parish. The hall is transformed into a beautiful reception hall. The event is hosted on a Friday night and has become quite the feast with special finger foods and refreshments. Each year we try to add new food to the menu which delights the volunteers. Our committee really enjoys working together and creating these culinary specialties. It is our pleasure to honour the many volunteers who have given countless hours of service to our parish in so many ways. If you are a volunteer and have not attended one of these events, we encourage you to come out and enjoy this evening of camaraderie and of course, great food! The Social Committee is also a group of volunteers and at the end of the year we get together as a team for our own celebration.

In February, we celebrate special wedding anniversaries. This tradition is unique to St. Michael’s and began during the Parish’s 100th Anniversary year. It is certainly a testament of love, commitment and joy when we honour those couples who are celebrating their special anniversaries. Milestone anniversaries are usually commemorated, but we encourage any couple who wishes to be honoured for any number of years to complete the questionnaire and celebrate with us. We particularly like to honour couples celebrating 50 years or more every year as this is such a beautiful sacrament to be recognized. Father Murray and Father Glen give married couples a very special blessing during the Mass.

Our Social Committee is available for “pop up” events during the year. Over the years these receptions have included farewells to priests and staff members, Fr. Paul Kim’s first Mass, the profession of faith for a new Sister of the Precious Blood, Father Murray’s 40th Anniversary, Unity Soup Dinners, Missions, the Give to Grow Celebration, and 100th Anniversary monthly events, just to mention a few. Many of the committee members are also very busy helping with the annual Christmas Bazaar which is on Nov. 17th this year.

At this time, we are updating our list of parishioners who are willing to donate their homemade baked goods for some of these events. We greatly appreciate this commitment which may require up to three donations per year. These delicious goodies are always very much appreciated by all parishioners! If you have not been contacted and would like to be on our “baking list,” please leave your name with the parish secretary or email Karen at owensk@rogers.com.

Mark your calendar for the events of the new year. If you have not been to one of these events, please do come and join us.

Sept. 29/30  Feast of St. Michael  
Oct. 13/14  Ministry Fair  
Nov. 17  Christmas Bazaar  
Feb. 9/10  Celebration of Wedding Anniversaries  
May 10  Volunteer Appreciation Event  
June 22/23  Year End Social  

New members to the Social Committee are always welcome.
From a Capital Campaign perspective to this article, an update in the progress of our campaign might be helpful. Do the date of the writing of this article nearly every campaign pledge made in 2015 continues to be fulfilled. Even though we have had a few of our pledges be unfulfilled due to various circumstances; there has been little effect on our overall collection rate and pace to repay our loan. It is a real benefit that we continue to see both new donations to the campaign as well as contributions from people over and above their original pledge. This shows a real love and commitment to parish as well as an appreciation of the work that we have done so far.

Specifically in terms of numbers, the loan from the Diocese currently sits at $248,000. We have some $75,595 remaining to be received in 2018, $106,948 due in 2019 and $11,451 due in 2020. These figures are amounts remaining of pledges that have been made from the inception of Give to Grow. While this reveals a shortfall of $54,000, we believe it will be covered by both new and additional donations. The interest that is due on this loan is paid twice a year to the Diocese and carries a rate of 3.5%. The sooner that we receive pledged funds as well as any new support, the less interest we will ultimately be paying.

We thank all of our parishioners who have made their original pledge to support Give to Grow. We thank those who have completed their pledge, we thank those who have completed their pledge and continue to support the fund and we thank those who become new supporters and invest in the facility of their parish home. Please keep your support coming! Donations can be made from the donation of shares, by using a Give to Grow envelope at offertory, signing up for PAG to Capital through the office or parish website, and of course single donations can be made from the website as well. Please visit www.stmichaelslondon.ca and scroll to the bottom to show your support of Give to Grow – Foundations for our Future.

Thank you and God Bless you!

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, Rétroville
- 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 Information

St. Michael’s Parish, 511 Cheapside St., London, ON N5Y 3X5
Phone: 519-433-6689  •  Fax: 519-433-2301
E-mail: stmichlon@dol.ca  •  www.stmichaelslondon.ca
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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.

Pastoral Team
Father Murray Sample, Pastor
msample@dol.ca   ext. 202
Father Glen Ball, Parochial Vicar
gball@dol.ca   ext. 306
Deacon Gaston Mabaya, Deacon
gmabaya@dol.ca
Yana Adkinson, Pastoral Minister
yadkinson@dol.ca   ext. 203
Sylvain Patry, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
spatry@dol.ca   ext. 206

Staff
Doug Manners, Business Administrator
dmanners@dol.ca   ext. 205
Mary Egan, Parish Secretary
stmichlon@dol.ca   ext. 201
Jolanda Squire, Administrative Assistant
jsquire@dol.ca   ext. 208
Laszlo Molnar, Custodian/Hall Manager
lmolnar@dol.ca   ext. 210

Parish Council Chairperson
Wayne Wolanski

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/Boulee
• 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.

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
Confirmation Parent Meeting  Sept. 26th
Feast of St. Michael  Sept. 29th & 30th
Thanksgiving Mass - 10am  Oct. 8th
First Reconciliation Parent Meeting - 7pm  Oct. 10th
Mass of Healing - 12:00 noon  Oct. 11th
Ministry Fair Weekend  Oct. 13rd & 14th
Christmas Bazaar  Nov. 17th
All Day Confessions - 8:30 am - 7:00 pm  Dec. 19th