While they were there, the time came for Mary to deliver her child. She gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in cloths.” (Luke 2:6-7)  

December, 2018

My Brothers and Sisters,

“Ancient words ever true, changing me and changing you.
We have come with open hearts, Oh let the ancient words impart.”

These words are often sung by the young students at St. Michael’s School. The words of the hymn remind us that the ancient words of sacred Scripture, even though they are old, have an ability to be heard in every time and age and become new. They have power to change us.

The two thousand year old event that we celebrate on Christmas Eve involves many people but the center of the story is a baby, Jesus Christ. This baby is God and he takes on human flesh and shares the journey of every human person.

It is roughly 157 kilometers from Nazareth to Bethlehem. According to Google Maps, it would take about 4 days to travel the distance on foot. This does not account for the stops or the mauldering bandits, the flash floods that could wash out the roads or the fact that Mary is in full term pregnancy. But this is the journey that Joseph and Mary make – a journey that leads them to a cave where shepherds tend their sheep.

The journey is not a choice that Joseph and Mary make. It is Caesar Augustus who has spoken and, like it or not, they make the exhausting journey to fill out government forms. Joseph and Mary are like so many poor defenseless people of every place and time who are at the whim of whatever Caesar demands.

The irony is that while Joseph and Mary and their unborn child are headed to Bethlehem to be counted, the fact is, they do not count. They are faceless nobodies. They are just numbers in the files of an uncaring empire.

But their hope is not in Caesar, but in God. They are embraced not in the imposed Peace of Rome but in the peace of God. To God, they count.

continued on page 2...
On that first Christmas night, the little unimportant village of Bethlehem is the center of the world for all humanity. This little unimportant village, the city of David, is truly the place where heaven and earth meet. It is called “House of Bread” for the Bread of Life is born here in a cave. The one who created the universe, the one who is all powerful is found in a feeding trough.

God has become one of us, and because he has become human we realize the sacredness of our own humanity. We count. We who are often overwhelmed by feelings of nothingness really do matter. We who find ourselves dealing with discouragement have reason to hope because of Emmanuel, “God is with us.”

That first Christmas night changed the world and we come together to celebrate that silent, holy night for our Saviour is born in our midst. Because of Christ, we know that we count, we matter, we belong, we are holy.

Friends, think of those shepherds who do not matter on that silent, holy night. God spoke loud and clear that they really do matter. It was to them that the news of the Saviour was sung. It was not to the powerful, but to the ordinary hard-working people. It was to them that God announced that Emmanuel was among us.

As we gather to celebrate this Christmas, to listen to the ancient story, pray that we will hear it as a new story – how it has power to change each of us to see ourselves as sacred in the eyes of God. I pray that His light will illuminate our lives. May His presence bring us hope and joy even if our lives are messy. May we see His face in the faces of our spouses, our children, our friends, our fellow companions on the journey of life.

I look forward to listening to the ancient story that God is with us this Christmas. I do invite you to think about coming at midnight to celebrate the Light of God in the darkest part of the night. I look forward to singing with you, “Silent Night, Holy Night” – to celebrate that night when God spoke that each one of us matters.

Merry Christmas

Fr. Murray Sample
Pastor
St. Michael’s Parish is honoured to have so many parishioners answer their call to serve. This Christmas season, we would like to highlight Matthew MacEachern’s involvement in the parish community. Matthew is only thirteen years old and gifted in musical arts. He currently plays the cello and guitar, which he has done for many years. As a Grade 8 student, Matthew will soon receive the sacrament of confirmation, and go on to high school. He has already decided to attend Catholic Central High School to continue on his musical path, focusing on the cello. He is very excited to take this stepping stone in his life that will affect him both academically and musically.

Between Matthew’s busy schedule with school and Cadets, he still continues to serve the parish as an altar server at 10:30 Mass. Although Matthew is relatively new to this parish, he has been an active altar server for seven years and plans to continue doing this through high school. Matthew has found that by serving at Mass, he is able to better understand the readings and the messages God is trying to convey. It has helped him strengthen his relationship with his faith. He hopes to become a lector when he goes to high school.

In addition, Matthew also volunteers with Northern Hospitality once a month. He is grateful for this experience as he is able to serve those less fortunate while creating meaningful relationships with them. Matthew believes it is important to open your eyes, see what is going on around you, and make sure you answer your call to serve.

Matthew strongly attests to the importance of getting involved with your parish and taking time to meet your priests. Father Murray played an important role in helping Matthew volunteer in various ministries in the parish. He is a positive role model to all young people of St. Michael’s Parish. If you see Matthew at 10:30 mass, please thank him for his service. – By Emma Coelho
More and more, two words “New” and “Evangelization” are used in Catholic gatherings, preaching, exhortations, Bible Studies, etc. One may ask himself or herself, “What does that mean for me and for my spiritual growth?” Good question! And where is the answer? In this article, I will respond to this question based on the teachings of the Catholic Church, and on my own experience.

The Second Vatican Council brought to the Church’s attention the necessity of the universal call to holiness and the universal call to mission. St. John Paul II, having been present at the Council, proposed the new evangelization as central to the Church’s mission. Many encyclical letters and documents have been written by the popes (Paul VI, John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis) concerning evangelization as the Church’s central mission.

On the ground, the need to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ flourishes. In order to succeed with this mission, many dioceses all over the world tirelessly promote the initiative of moving from the Church of Maintenance to the Church of Mission. **Now, who is going to do the work?**

In the mind of many Catholic believers, the task of announcing the Good News is reserved for priests, permanent deacons, religious and well-trained lay people. By right, it is the mission of all the baptized to evangelize. Therefore, the involvement of all the baptized is necessary for evangelization. It is stated in canon law (the law that orders the Church and its people), can. 781, “Since the whole Church is by its nature missionary and the work of evangelization must be held as a fundamental duty of the people of God, all the Christian faithful, conscious of their responsibility, are to assume their part in missionary work.”

St Paul underlines the gifts received by Christians in Ephesians 4: 11-13, saying, “The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.” St. Paul includes all the people of God, meaning priest, deacon, religious and ALL the lay faithful.

The question I already mentioned earlier remains. Are Catholic Christians well equipped in Sacred Scripture to achieve the task of announcing the Good News of Jesus Christ to others? Personally, I am not sure. But, I might say, not enough. Here emerges my own experience. Baptized Catholic Christian at a young age, as were most of us, I grew up in the Catholic faith in my family and in my different schools: elementary school, high school and university. I was an altar server and then reader before going to university. Until my adult age, my knowledge of the sacred Scripture was limited to the content of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. I hadn’t read the Bible yet. This is the level of knowledge of many Catholics, and it is not enough to enable them to undertake a campaign of evangelization. In his letter to the Hebrews, St. Paul says, in Heb. 5:14, “But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.” This passage comes after he had said, in Heb. 5: 12-13, “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness.” Therefore, we need to learn the basic elements of the oracles of God, to become mature in sacred Scripture in order to stop drinking milk, and eat solid food - acquisition of the knowledge of sacred Scripture.

For the time being many programs are designed to teach sacred Scripture to adults; through Bible Study sessions, Oremus, to name a few. So, what is next?

**Pope Francis said:** “Find new ways to spread the Word of God to every corner of the world.” Looking through my own eyes, from my youth to my adulthood, as a Catholic in the Church, I was a beneficiary of many programs and activities. The question was, does that mean for me and for my spiritual growth?

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1. a new era of evangelization, “evangelization will gain its full energy if it is a commitment, not to re-evangelize but to a New Evangelization, new in its ardor, methods and expression (John Paul II, Address to CELAM 1983).
2. The Church needs her eternal Pentecost; she needs fire in her heart, words on her lips, a glance that is prophetic (General Audience, November 29, 1972).
4. Evangelizing means to bring the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new.
5. Ibid. 256.

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permanent deacon today, I humbly think that the new ways to spread the Word of God to every corner of the word, in the Catholic environment, should start earlier in school systems and worship gatherings (parishes). Future generations should grow up imbedded in sacred Scripture. They will cease drinking milk sooner and get solid food sooner as well. To do so, the teaching of religion in schools, and the content of the Sunday Schools for children should be revised and adapted to the new realities of evangelization. More important, faith sharing gatherings (in families or parishes) should be encouraged.

Hopefully, this will happen one day, and then future generations, filled with the Holy Spirit, will talk about Evangelization instead of New Evangelization to spread the Word to every corner of the world.

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On the Path of the New Evangelization continued by Deacon Gaston NK Mabaya

This has been a year of amazing accomplishments. Since I started here 3.5 years ago, we always felt a need to meet people where they are spiritually. To listen, to walk and to encourage. In our Lord’s ministries, e.g. sacramental prep, altar servers, youth events and youth groups, music has really been important. We have always shared a ton of music that young people are so familiar with today. The only catch? It’s Christian. Is it louder? Sometimes. Is it different? Yes. But the messages are rooted in Scripture. If you have ever been to an EDGE night, the hall is blacked out, there are usually music videos flashing on a giant screen and a lot of excitement to sign in and join in. If you have been to a youth conference, or a Purelife night, you may notice we are mimicking the sounds of the world. Maybe. But the challenge and invitation is different. Inviting people to worship is difficult but inviting teens to worship? Nearly impossible. Unless you meet them where they and offer a life of truth and of sacraments and traditions; then they see that you care. Last Palm Sunday, we introduced our worship team with the help of Jacob Quinlan to whom we are very thankful for the countless hours and travel he contributed. This has grown into LIFETEEN ENCOUNTER Worship - a group of young, vibrant, energetic and very talented individuals. They all have dedicated themselves to God’s music ministry in our parish.

This is an offering of praise and worship as a community, partaking in the Holy Eucharist. So next time you’re here, our hope is that you may be open or continue to be open to the Spirit, joining us in praise and worship. You’re even allowed to move a bit or even extend your hands towards Heaven. Don’t worry, nobody’s watching – except God!
Mary Rouse – Vocals
I am so honoured to be a part of St Michael’s music ministry this year. Music has always been a big part of my life but became even more important when I was growing in my faith. Praise and worship is what opened up my heart to God and I hope we can open up hearts here as well.

Jacob Patry – Acoustic
I am a graduate from Catholic Central High, and I hope to attend King’s University College for the Catholic Studies for Teachers program. In my spare time I like to read, work out, and play hockey. Being a part of the LifeTeen band has brought a sense of belonging and community, and playing has been a tremendous opportunity to showcase my skills and talents for the glory of God, while growing closer to the other band members.

Susana Rodriguez –
I’ve been a part of the Encounter Worship Band for five years and counting. I grew up in the church but this band has helped me strengthen and deepen in my faith and personal relationship with God through Music.

Joshua Rosedale – Worship leader/vocals
I currently work as a freelance audio recording engineer and live sound engineer. I was homeschooled till Grade 5, at which point I attended St Mary Choir School and continued my musical education at Catholic Central High School. I attended the Ontario Institute of Audio Recording Technology 2013-2014 to start my career in audio and music. In 2013 I decided to start a small praise and worship band to address the lack of good contemporary Christian Catholic music here in London and in our Catholic Churches. The band has grown so much, and today we are known as “The Encounter Worship Band.”

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Dominic Tomaszewski – Bass
Music has always been an integral part of my Christian identity, whether it’s singing in the congregation at Mass or just playing one on one with Jesus in the tabernacle. I pray that through playing with the LifeTeen band I can share with others the same joy and love I feel when praising God.

Michael Theriault – Violin and vocals.
I’m a parishioner here at St. Michael’s and have been for most of my life. Over the past year I’ve been playing violin for the LifeTeen Mass. I’m so blessed to be able to lead in this way, because I get to share music that is truly beautiful. We are each blessed with gifts and LifeTeen gives me the chance to offer mine back to God and His people. We are all dedicated to music that is reflective, engaging, and beautiful and it is wonderful to be a part of that every Sunday.”
By the end of 2018, our parish will have baptized over 100 children under the age of seven in addition to many children over this age as well as a number of adults. This is a great sign of the strength and life of St. Michael’s Parish but also a great sign of the presence and power of God working here among us.

For the children that are baptized, this marks the beginning of a life spent growing in faith and love for Christ together with their families. For those that are baptized at an older age, it is often God calling out to them to give themselves to God and to allow themselves to be baptized. No matter when you are baptized, the sacrament marks the beginning of a life shared with Christ. Jesus did not begin his own ministry until after he was baptized by John the Baptist at the Jordan River and so it is for us that we begin our faith journey by being baptized.

There are those that argue we shouldn’t baptize babies, that it should be a choice to receive this sacrament and to follow Christ when they get older. While it is always our choice as to whether we will follow God or not, baptism is about opening ourselves to let God’s grace in. How can we expect someone to decide they want to give themselves to God if they have not had the opportunity to get to know Him before? To not baptize a little child would be like putting a gift in front of a child but telling them they can’t open it until they can fully understand what it is. It is understandable that if we hope and desire for a child to know God that we would give them the opportunity to begin receiving that grace from the very beginning and to let them enjoy it always.

There is a way in which the Church celebrates a baptism. It is preferred that a baptism should take place during a Mass as this is the time when the community gathers together and can celebrate with the child and welcome him or her with great joy. Though it is the preferred time to celebrate a baptism, due to other limitations the sacrament can be celebrated outside of a Mass. In years past, baptisms tended to be celebrated privately and quietly but it was realized that a baptism should be a public event that brings not just parents and child but the entire community together as we are welcoming a new member to our community. For adults, their baptisms are typically celebrated at the Easter Vigil.

Baptisms always begin by calling the name of the person to be baptized. This may seem like a formality but is very important. A name is what identifies us, it becomes a part of us. Other people know us because of our name and by calling out the person’s name, be it a baby or an adult, the whole faith community is able to recognize that person.
Before the baptism itself takes place there is a first anointing with the Oil of Catechumens. This oil is used as a sign of strengthening against evil in preparation for the baptism. For a child, the parents then express their faith and the faith that they are promising to raise their child in. Adults are able to express their faith themselves.

The baptism itself then takes place. Water is poured over the person’s head three times with the words “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” The words of baptism cannot be altered. As Christians, we always baptize “In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” Any other words used here would make the baptism invalid. Almost all other Christian faiths believe this and agree to it as the belief in the Trinity is an essential part of our faith.

Though the water may have been poured, the baptism isn’t finished as the Church offers several gifts to explain what has taken place. The first is anointing with the Oil of Chrism. This perfumed oil is used at Confirmation, on the hands of a new priest, the head of a new bishop, the walls of a new church or the top of a new altar. To put it simply, this oil is used to consecrate something or make it holy. It is applied to the top of the child’s head indicating that they have been consecrated to God.

The rite then makes mention of a white garment meant to symbolize the purity of the soul. This image of the white garment can be seen in the white garment worn under a priest’s vestments and also in the large white cloth placed over the casket at a funeral. A candle is then lit from the Paschal candle. It is a great sign that the light that comes from Christ can be shared and yet never dims. The final part of the rite is the “Ephphetha” rite. This comes from the Gospel when Jesus opens the ears and mouth of a man that is deaf and mute and encourages the newly baptized to listen to God’s word and then proclaim it.

When all this is finished, the child or adult has become a member of our faith. The newly baptized children and adults are now part of our Christian family. As a parish community, we are tasked with welcoming and supporting our new brothers and sisters in Christ no matter what their age. It is important to keep welcoming them, especially the little ones and their parents. As a parish community, we are there to support them. After all, they are not just new members of our parish, they are the future of the Church.

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Dear friends of St. Michael’s Parish,

It is with great joy that I share with you one of our exciting new initiatives for young adults in the London region held right here at St. Michael’s in partnership with Vocations London and the Family Foundations Institute (FFI)!

For the past four years, in my work in vocations ministry for the Diocese of London, I have heard from countless young adults that something was needed for them in the Church today. They grew up in various youth groups and Catholic schools, but then what? How were we supporting them in their growth of faith afterwards, during the core years of their vocational discernment or first years of marriage and family life? This is when I, and other leaders from FFI, began to pray about a ministry that we had heard about a few years ago called i.d.9:16.

i.d.9:16 exists to form young adults into intentional disciples of Jesus Christ. In October 2011, a group of young adults from Ann Arbor, Michigan traveled to Harbor Springs to discern God’s will regarding Catholic young adult ministry. Peter and Debbie Herbeck of Renewal Ministries had organized the weekend in an effort to respond to the “crisis of discipleship” described by Pope Benedict XVI, particularly in the millennial generation. As a result of this weekend, i.d.9:16 began as an outreach to young adults in their 20’s and 30’s, students or working, married or single, helping them to grow in their relationship with God and to go out and share their faith with others. Growing and going are two major dimensions of being a disciple of Jesus.

Many people have asked me about the name i.d. 9:16 and what does it mean? The i.d. stands for our identity as intentional disciples of Jesus Christ. The term disciple means a student, a learner, a follower. By “intentional” we mean that our decision to follow Christ is conscious and deliberate. As intentional disciples we actively embrace Jesus’ call to holiness and mission.

The 9:16 comes from the scripture passage of 1 Corinthians 9:16: “If I preach the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for necessity has been laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel.” It is here in sharing the Gospel that disciples find their deepest identity. Evangelization is not an optional extra, but an essential element of the life of a disciple. We want to help parishes raise up young adult communities of missionary disciples who are characterized by what Pope Francis called a “missionary impulse” or a deep ache to spread the Good News.

With the gracious invitation and welcome from Fr. Murray and St. Michael’s parish team, we were able to begin our monthly disciples’ night this past September. This is a major part of the i.d.9:16 ministry. The purpose of the monthly i.d.9:16 Disciples’ Night is to help deepen personal conversion, foster communion, and grow in an understanding of what it means to be a Catholic disciple in the world today. On average we welcome between 70 to 90 young adults for
our gatherings held on the first Thursday of every month. The evening consists of Mass, dinner, and a compelling talk centered on one of the four pillars of discipleship: conversion, communion, orthodoxy and mission. The night concludes with a small group discussion and social time.

As the ministry grows and develops, we will also be starting men’s and women’s discipleship groups, which will provide a smaller environment where spiritual growth can occur and where life-giving friendships can be formed. Please consider inviting some young adults that you know to experience i.d.9:16 and keep us all in your prayers as we journey together!

Parish Dinner
The Knights of Columbus and The Catholic Women’s League are sponsoring a parish social event on Saturday, February 2nd, 2019 in the church hall. The evening will include dinner and dancing, a Silent Auction and a Share-the-Wealth draw. Please watch the weekly bulletins for details.
The repairs and re-painting of the St. Michael’s parish hall will have been completed by the time you read this article. Your Property Committee concluded that the best solution was to do a complete soda blast cleaning of the walls, back to the bare surface, and then to paint with the best quality commercial paint available. Our painting contractor started this project on October 23. The removal of the existing paint and clean-up was finished by November 8th. Painting of the walls began in mid-November with completion targeted for early December. We have also installed a new sound system and an upgraded visual system which our Knights of Columbus Council 12820 has agreed to fund from the proceeds of their parish breakfasts. Thank you so very much! We thank all of our parishioners for your interest in improving the appearance of our hall and for your patience while the work was being done.

The upgrades to the Air Handling Unit (AHU) and replacement of the outdoor condensers was also completed by the beginning of December. Over the summer, the property committee has been working with our engineering consultant, Chorley and Bissett to keep this project on track for completion before the winter. Our committee was provided with two upgrade options at a special meeting on July 24th. The next challenges were to get financial approvals from the diocese and confirmation of our chosen option from our finance committee.

When we asked Trane, the manufacturer of the original AHU, for details of our system, they provided the actual specifications from almost fifty years ago. Having this information about the AHU was a great help in getting plans and drawings completed in this age of computers and digital information requirements. The consultant prepared tendering documents for bids from contractors and these were finalized on August 16th. The bids were opened on September 13th at the offices of Chorley and Bissett. The successful bidder was Curney Mechanical of London. Equipment replacement components are from Trane, which is the same brand of heating and cooling equipment used in the rest of the church. Heating and cooling controls for the hall have been consolidated and simplified for ease of use by our staff. The work was scheduled to commence on November 12th and finish by November 30th.

We anticipate having a warm hall, painted walls and a state of the art sound system in our parish hall in time for Christmas celebrations.

This project wraps up the long list of identified major capital improvement projects that have been going on at St. Michael’s since 2014. None of these would have been possible without the incredible support of our parishioners through the Give to Grow – Foundations for Our Future campaign. Thank you to all our Archangel and Angel donors, and to every parishioner who donated to secure our building for future generation.
Christmas Bazaar 2018

by Corrie Gicante

On November 17th, St. Michael’s Church entrance and hall were transformed into a festive space. Unique gifts and products offered by vendors, crafters, woodworkers, artists, sewers and bakers were beautifully displayed. Individuals, companies and businesses donated over 130 gifts to the Draw Table and Silent Auction. The Thank You Tree created by Anita Rodrigues acknowledged their generosity. This year, the Bazaar raised $9,700 (more than $30,000, has been raised since 2015). All proceeds support our Parish Social Outreach Programs.

Behind the scenes, so many volunteers planned and prepared for this major fundraiser. A dedicated committee under the exemplary leadership of Karen Owens, Bazaar Committee Chair since 2015, started planning in June and delivered invitations to businesses and companies in August. Follow up phone calls confirmed donations. Karen also invited bakers and crafters to share their talents.

At the Bake Table, Jean Hishon and Sue Cassidy organized and sold delicious treats donated by over 50 parishioners including apple pies baked by John Paul II students. Carol Zsoldos and Karen Owens picked up donations for the Silent Auction and Draw Table and recorded and numbered over 130 items. Dan Vickery and Gil Owens set up the Silent Auction while Margaret Hutton and Carol Zsoldos organized the Draw Table. Margaret, Gil and Anita Rodrigues sold tickets. Throughout the weekend, volunteer Geoff Hutton was available. Joanne Zwolski coordinated many volunteers including several of our teenage parishioners wherever help was needed, managed the Craft Table and priced items with the help of Lynda Ducharme. Gil prepared tickets for the Draw Table and Karen the Silent Auction bidding forms.

Corrie Gicante, responsible for advertising and the 50/50 draw relied on many volunteers. The colourful Bazaar flyer created by Joanne Tremblay appeared in community newspapers, parish bulletins, on school and diocesan websites, and at Hospitality North churches and libraries. Sylvain Patry spoke to principals and students in the parish schools, Doug Manners created the mobile sign, uploaded information on TV screens and the church website, and assisted with the hall set up. Mary Egan and Jolanda Squire processed donation requests and thank you letters. Laszlo Molnar prepared the hall which has been under renovation and helped with setting up the tables. Terry McBride captured the Bazaar displays and activities in photos. At the 50/50 Draw Table, Donna Thompson and Corrie greeted close to 500 visitors and encouraged them to purchase tickets.

Several parishioners responded to Karen’s request for sewing items: Maureen Beamish, Cheryl Bridges, Carmen DiVincenzo, Carol Finkenzeller, Leslie Robichaud, Suzanne Scollard, Claire Vickery, Grace Wren, Judy Wright and Helen Yakobchuk. Karen and the sewers created quality aprons, napkins, tote bags and kitchen towels. A parish sewers guild may be in the works! Parishioners also dropped off crafts, knitting and sewing items at the office. Judy Wright’s woodworking skills were on display: charcuterie/cheese boards, small wooden benches and barbecue scrapers. Judy Wright created gift card holders, snowman tree decorations and pencil crayon holders. Others who shared their talents were Henry Komarek, Katherine Viner, Linda Round, Theresa Johnson and Adrienne Lidicky. There were many parishioners who utilized their skills and talents and contributed greatly to the success of the event. Although we have tried to mention them, we know that there are many we may have missed, including those who dropped off their creations anonymously.

Many parishioners donated new and used mason jars for the Preserve Table which was set up and run by Carol Zsoldos. Colleen Leckie, Sue Cassidy, Maureen Beamish, Susan Nicoletti, Joan Warden, Donna Thompson, Tommy Wang and Gil Owens put these to good use for their homemade jams, jellies, antipasto, salsa, chilli sauce, relishes, beets and pickles. In the kitchen, Dan Vickery, Mark Thompson and Gil Owens prepared delicious homemade chilli. Tommy and Vina Wang, who did most of the grocery shopping, prepared egg salad and salmon sandwiches. Visitors enjoyed refreshments, including hot mulled cider. Volunteer kitchen helpers along with Tommy and Vina were Colleen Leckie, Bev Arnold, Grace Wren and the “Chilli guys.”

Winners of the Silent Auction, Draw, Afghans and 50/50 Draw received a good news phone call from committee members. Donors, businesses and companies will receive a personal thank you letter from Father Murray in early December.

Thank you to our generous donors, volunteers and visitors who supported our Christmas Bazaar. What was evident and most remarkable throughout the planning and preparation for the Bazaar was the tremendous team spirit and fellowship this event created. When a community responds to the invitation and comes together to share its time, talent and treasures we ALL benefit.
For where two or more are gathered in My name, I am there among them(Matthew 18:20). This is an apt piece of sacred Scripture to describe the St. Michael’s Moms’ Group. Formed several years ago, this group of mothers meets twice a month, on Tuesday mornings from 10 am until noon. This is a drop-in program, with no registration required, and serves moms and their children from nursing age to school age.

With so many programs available to moms and preschoolers, why do women choose St. Michael’s Moms’ Group for a bi-weekly activity? In short, it is because this program is more than just an outing; it is a ministry to families. It provides the mothers with spiritual growth and the opportunity to socialize with women in a similar life phase.

The women certainly enjoy the camaraderie of chatting with moms who are experiencing the same joys and challenges of life with little ones. They can relax, seek advice, and enjoy each other’s company over a cup of tea or coffee and a treat. Long-term friendships are formed as the women partake in this time of fellowship. The long days of daily routine are enlivened by this time of adult interaction.

There is, however, a second and equally important component to the Moms’ Program, and that is spiritual growth. The women pray for each other and for their children. They often cap off their session with attendance at noon Mass. From time to time they kneel before the Blessed Sacrament in a time of prayer for their children, bringing their worries to Our Lord and learning to trust in His guidance.

Ramona Coelho has been the group’s leader for the past three years. Ramona, a busy mom herself, finds St. Michael’s to be a beautiful, giving parish and wishes to give back in her service to the group. Ramona organizes spiritual formation programs for the mothers to use to help enrich their own faith and to grow in a deeper relationship with Jesus. Some of the books and videos that have been used are Women of Grace, Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained, and Jeff Cavins’ Bible Study. The knowledge and discussion from these programmes help the women in their personal faith journeys and helps them to share the faith with their families. It is an enriching experience for women to pray with other women during this busy phase of their lives. They take nourishment from Our Lord to guide them in their parental responsibilities.

A special aspect of the Moms’ Group comes from another source volunteer babysitters. A dedicated group of parish women attend each session to care for the little ones so that the moms can relax and be free of distractions. As Ramona says, the volunteers are a gift. They provide a sense of serenity and security. They also bring a sense of wisdom, reassurance and perspective, sharing their own experience with younger mothers.

Our pastoral minister, Yana Adkinson, oversees this program and can be contacted at the Parish Office for information. Sessions are advertised in the parish bulletin, and on the website. The program is a blessing to young mothers, and through them the blessings are spread to their children and families.
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
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Doug Manners, Business Administrator
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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
Donna Thompson

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.

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
Christmas Day                 Dec 25
Feast of Mary Mother of God   Jan 1
Feast of the Epiphany         Jan 6
Marriage Prep Weekend         Feb 8, 9 & 10
Wedding Anniversary Celebration Feb 16 & 17
Family Day                     Feb 18
Ash Wednesday                 Mar 6
Easter Confessions - All Day  Apr 10
Mass of Chrism                 Apr 15
Easter Sunday                  Apr 21